

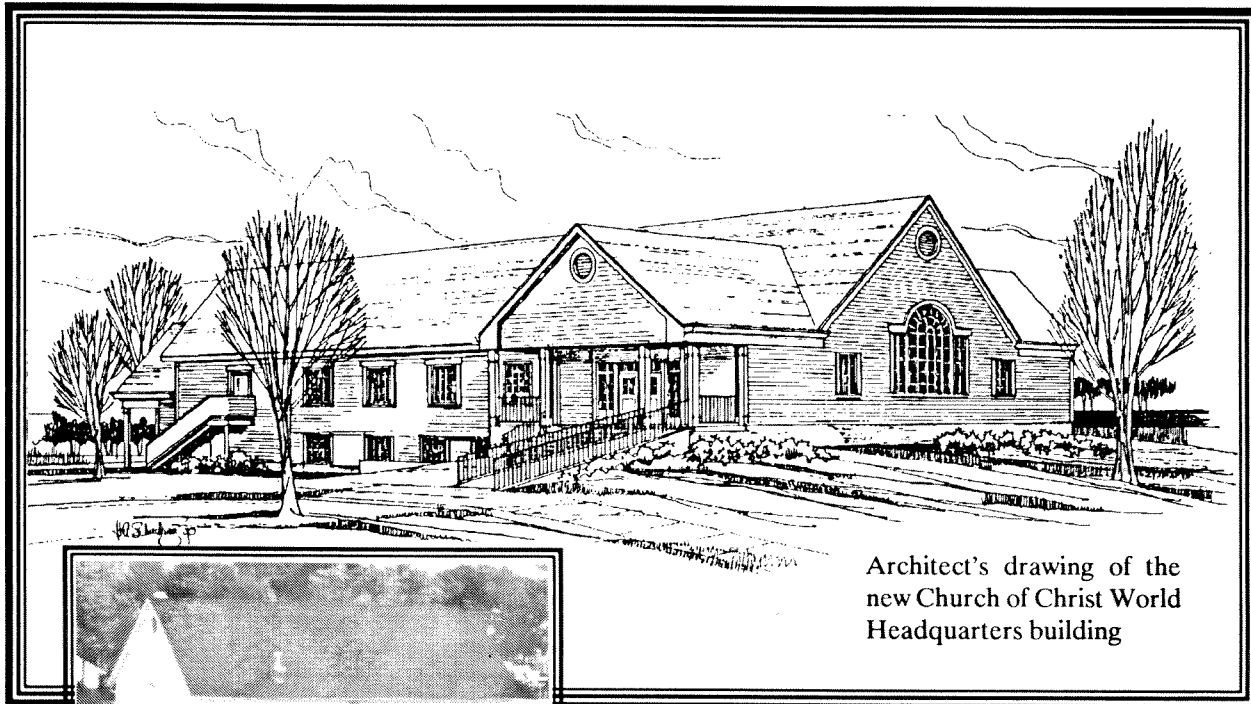
Zion's Advocate

"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

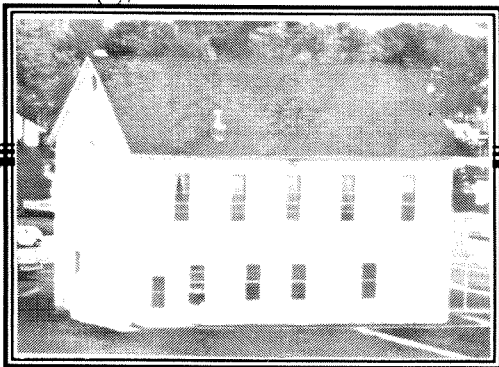
Independence, Missouri – August 1990

Number 8



Architect's drawing of the new Church of Christ World Headquarters building

SPECIAL ISSUE



Church of Christ World Headquarters
1902 to 1-1-1990

Ground-breaking ceremonies to take place August 18

Details on page 105

Construction to begin in September

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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.

Let's "Simply" Do it Together

Having been asked to write an editorial concerning the building and progress of our General Church Headquarters Building and Temple Lot Local I have prayed for guidance and considered with man's intellect, limited as mine happens to be! The phrase, "complexity is of our making - simplicity is of God" has been impressed on my mind. Complexity and Simplicity. How does man make plans complex or complicated?

There are plans to be made: architects drawings, fire and safety guide lines, building permits, materials to be ordered, workers to be paid, bills to be paid and money to be raised. These are steps to be followed and hurdles to be scaled in the building process. These may seem complex or complicated but are necessary and are not of our individual making.

God has set each of us within this body of Christ as it has pleased him (I Corinthians 12:12-27). We each have responsibilities, works to perform and talents to use serving God and our fellow man. As members of the body we are individuals with our own opinions, likes, preferences and choices. But when the body moves under the direction of God or has chosen by the voice of the people, each member's opinions, likes and preferences should be secondary to the body. If we shirk our responsibilities, allow others to perform our work, or hide our talents we choose complexity not simplicity.

I am not advocating that you or I blindly follow man but that we earnestly seek to build God's Kingdom. This is an opportunity to physically work together as one, to

spiritually draw closer to each other but more importantly draw closer to God. Each member contributing of their God given talents, being led not of self but of God.

Editorial . . .
by Priest Michael McGhee

I believe God views the inner person. Our desires which may not be readily apparent to those around us

are very much before our Heavenly Father. God has an eye to the heart of the giver more than to the value of the gift! We view the gift, even sometimes the giver, and judge. But not righteously! Our intentions to help sometimes become excuses why we are not able to help. If it were not for my family, business, health, financial distress, lack of time, etc. I would be there to help. God knows the intent of the heart;

would or would not, can or cannot, should or should not. God knows the love we have for Him and others. We sometimes are able to discern inner love but God knows. If our desires, intentions and love are not right before God; If we do not serve Him with all our heart, mind, soul and strength; if we do not love others as we love ourselves are we not choosing complexity over simplicity?

Losing our old church building, the comfort, memories, customs and traditions established there was a shock to all. To those who worked within its walls day after day, to those who met there each Sunday, to

those baptized within its shadow, to those who met there Conference Time, to each member of the Church of Christ, to friends of the Restoration and to strangers there was a sudden loss. Each shared that loss! As we begin to build again I pray and hope each will share and take part in rebuilding, The Book of Mormon states, "there must needs be an opposition in all things". Brothers, Sisters and friends let the opposition come from without and not from within our circle of friends and this Body of Christ. Choose that complexity stay without, with the opposition.

The poem on the following page entitled "We Need Each Other" speaks simply of our role one with another. As spokes in a wheel when all are 'aright' great loads can be carried, but when a spoke is broken,

... when the (Church) body moves under the direction of God or has chosen by the voice of the people, each member's opinions, likes and preferences should be secondary to the body.

bent or adjusted wrong there is a weakness. The roads we must travel soon begin to wear and eventually break the wheel. We need each other, great or small, high or low, as spokes in a wheel.

This is physical exercise in how we spiritually desire to serve and work together. Remember: Complexity is of our making, simplicity of God.

We Need Each Other

We are simply spokes in a wheel,
And when working together aright,
Can accomplish wonderful things
And make any task seem light.

It's such an inspiring thought
That wherever we happen to be,
I am essential to you,
And you are essential to me.

For the man who is higher up
Needs the man who is lower down;
And it's just as equally true
When turned the other way 'round.

No matter where you are placed,
Whether you're great or small,
You're dependent on somebody else,
And someone on you ... that's all.

Each thing that you do will count,
So make it a boost, not a "knock" —
For you never function alone,
You're just one wheel in the clock.

So always keep doing your best,
And remember it's truer than true:
You are needing somebody else,
And someone is needing you.

— author unknown

The New 1990 Independence Edition Book of Mormon

The long-awaited Book of Mormon, as published by the Church of Christ, is now available. Please refer to the back page "Church of Christ Publications" section for pricing and ordering information.

This 1990 Independence Edition, as it is being called, is, without doubt, the most accurate and authentic edition of the Book of Mormon available anywhere, as several years, and countless man-hours went into verifying accuracy back to the most original sources known to exist. A new, more in-depth introduction has been compiled by the Board of Publications -- in addition to completely revised and expanded cross-reference notes.

PLEASE NOTE: The fire that burned the Church Headquarters building this past January, also destroyed the records that were kept as to who had donated toward this new Book of Mormon. **Please write to the General Bishopric advising of any donations you made** and they will see that you receive copies of the Book of Mormon as promised.

Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of L.D.S.
Library & Archives
Auditorium - Box 1059
Independence, Mo 64051

July 12, 1990

Church of Christ - Temple Lot
c/o Apostle William A. Sheldon
1011 S. Cottage St.
Independence, Missouri 64050

RE: Accession #7053

Dear Apostle Sheldon:

I wish to thank you and the members of your church for your donation today of a copy of your new 1990 edition of the Book of Mormon. It is a beautiful book of scripture, and we appreciate very much having a copy for our Library collection.

It has been accessioned as noted above and will be available to all interested Library & Archives users.

Sincerely,
Patricia Struble
Librarian

Elder Smith N. Brickhouse:

The poem featured on the facing page reminds me of the numerous times I have been shown that God's children are in fact "in need of each other." Often while in a service, such as a prayer

the building was a complete loss.

What should be done next? Once again, many prayers were poured out and God's plan was in full swing. Obstacles were removed, ideas came forward, testimonies from previous years were remembered and God continued to use many of our Brothers and Sisters from varied backgrounds to accomplish His tasks that were at hand. "It is such an inspiring thought that wherever we happen to be, I am

General Church Building Fund. In addition, the Temple Lot local has \$85,000 in their building fund with a commitment to contribute these funds to the General Church's fund.

God has truly blessed us in our efforts. Many individuals, families and groups have raised funds by having garage sales, soliciting for local contributions and holding miscellaneous fund-raisers. Contributions have been received from throughout the nation from people that heard of our

A Word from the General Bishopric

and testimony service, we find that one another's prayers or testimonies are similar to a problem in our life and that this, collectively, can provide us the guidance and direction to resolving a particular problem that we have been contemplating and praying about.

I have come to the realization that God uses each of us in various ways to fulfill His purpose. It is, therefore, imperative that each of us constantly strive to make ourselves available for His direction and that we listen and allow ourselves to be used for His service.

In our times of trial and adversity it is often easier to remember the need for us to bear one another's burden and to remain in daily contact with our Heavenly Father. Our recent trial, the loss of the Temple Lot building, is an excellent example of how many of us reacted to the receipt of the news of the loss of the building by fire. It is apparent that many members and friends in other churches throughout this land turned to our Heavenly Father in prayer asking in compassion for forgiveness for the deed that was done and requesting the direction for actions that needed to be taken. Many members and friends reacted to God's direction by immediately going to the scene of the fire. God's blessings were present and ensured that no one was harmed during the blaze. Most Church documents, books, equipment, etc., were salvaged by the efforts of the local fire department and volunteers. This was accomplished in spite of the fact that

essential to you and you are essential to me." Each of us are essential in God's plan. As we go forward with our building project many items are still unanswered. However, it seems that each time it appears that we can't continue or we are unable to reach an agreement as to the required action, we have been blessed with the Lord's help.

Within only two to three months after the fire we had a proposed plan and budget to present at the April 1990 conference so that we might be able to proceed with the building. This plan and budget was approved by an overwhelming majority of the members present. Since that time, detailed plans have been agreed upon and the final drawings are in process. The City of Independence Planning Board and The City Common Council have approved our site plans. For those of our readers who have had previous experience with this type of activity, you can most certainly realize that we have been blessed and have received prompt answers to many of our united prayer efforts on behalf of this project.

Although a budget was approved at the April Conference it is necessary that additional funds be raised in order to meet the budget. Through the individual and collective efforts of members and friends, funds are becoming available. To date we have \$247,000 in the

disaster by the news media. The Lord touched them and they responded. As can be imagined, we have only accomplished a small part of the work before us. We must continue in united prayer asking for the Lord's blessings. Many decisions need yet to be made, additional funds are required and we need to remember and petition our Heavenly Father for guidance and direction and pray for the blessings that can only come from Him.

Wherever possible, each of us individually needs to continue to contribute to the General Church

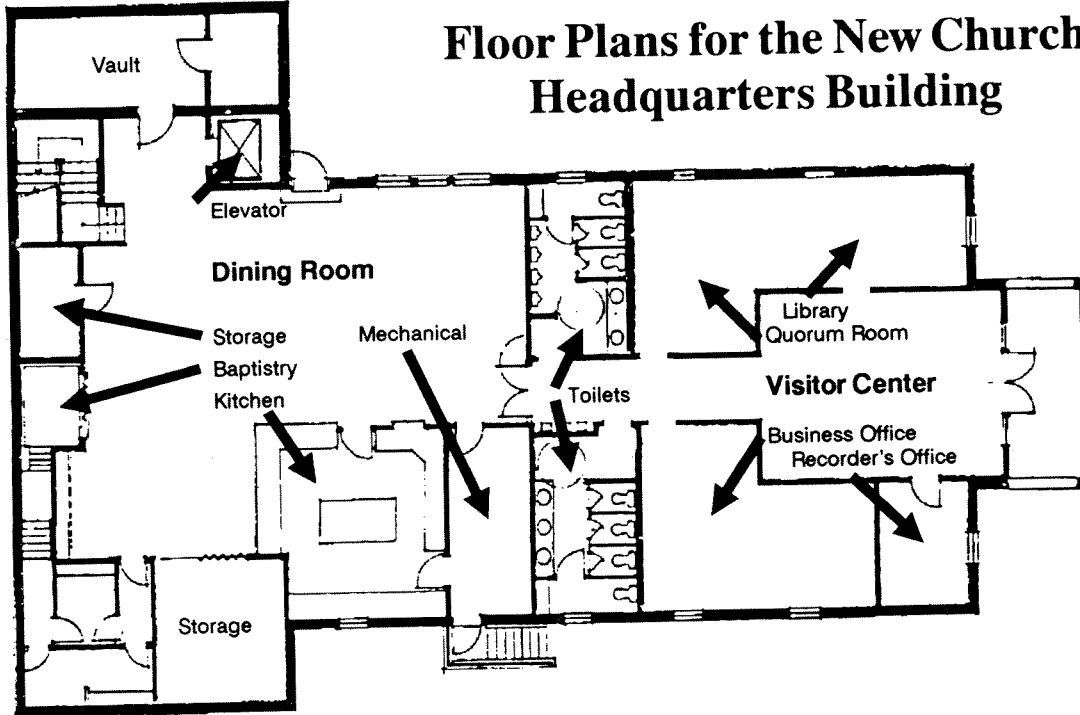
Building Fund, also remembering the need to fulfill the commandment to pay tithes. We are asked to please do this in a timely manner. The Lord has promised that if we do these things he will "open the windows of Heaven" and pour out His blessings upon us. We have a requirement to take action individually and collectively. We need to respond and He will provide.



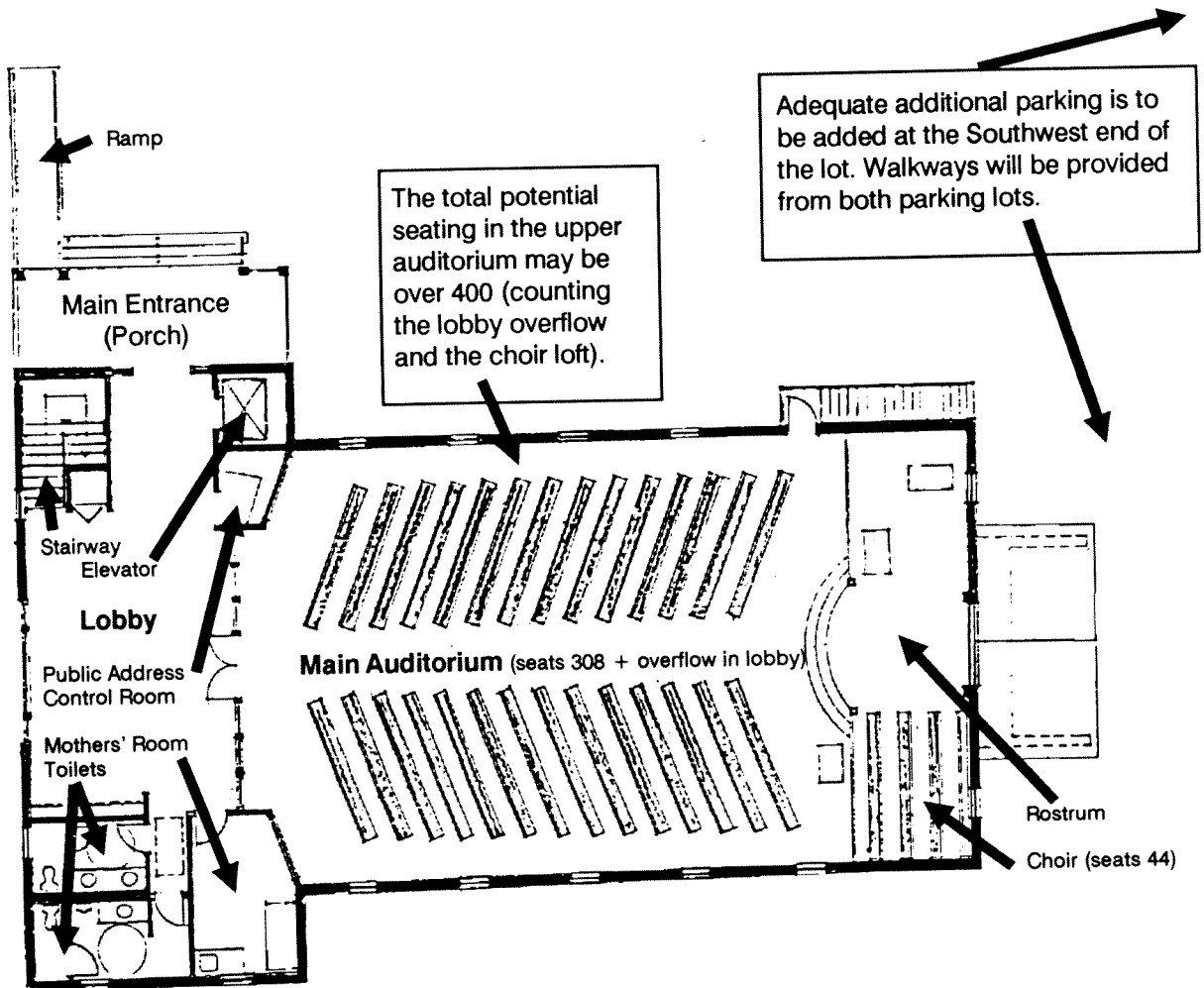
I ask that each of us take time to re-read the poem, "We Need Each Other." Contemplate the thoughts in our hearts and prayers while we ask our Heavenly Father what our essential role must be in order that His will be accomplished. We pray that each of us will be nourished, strengthened and blessed in our efforts to serve Him. We ask that the gospel be heard, understood and accepted throughout the world.

Floor Plans for the New Church Headquarters Building

LOWER LEVEL PLAN



UPPER LEVEL PLAN



Historical Perspective . . .

Concerns from the Last Time a Building was Erected on This Lot

From Volume 2, Number 2, March, 1900, issue of *Searchlight* (an early Church of Christ publication)

The first building to be erected on this lot was built in 1889, and destroyed in 1898 by fire. The second building to be erected was dedicated in 1902, and was burned to the ground on January 1, 1990.

FINISH OUR BUILDING

p. 54:

It is sincerely hoped that sufficient means will be raised at the coming conference to finish the Temple Lot building.

Remarkable progress has been made considering the financial ability of our people. We have no debt hanging over the building, and do not owe a cent on it nor the grounds. It has taken sacrifice to do this much and will take more sacrifice to complete the building; yet not so much but what it can be accomplished by our own people. All that now remains to do can be finished for less than \$300, we believe.

Let our people come to conference prepared to take the needed steps that shall insure the completion of this building, for the Lord undoubtedly has other work ahead of us; for if you remember, the building we are now occupying was to be built as

preparatory for something else. It will not take a very long nor deep consideration to determine what that "something else" is, and when one realizes the possibilities that are now lying before us it should cause his heart to leap and his blood to tingle.

Do not let these golden opportunities pass, but be fully awake to the princely heritage that now belongs to the people of God and be ready to improve the chances that God seems to be throwing in our way.



The type, cases, etc, used some time past for the SEARCHLIGHT, have been moved into the west room on the ground floor of our new build-

ing, and doubtless the next paper printed by the Church of Christ will be issued from the Temple Lot. All we lack now is a press suitable to print on, and when that is obtained we will be very well equipped for printing a small paper.

It is not the purpose of our people to attempt the publication of anything elaborate in the way of a paper, but rather to print a small sheet and endeavor to make it as interesting as our limited abilities will allow. We feel sure that some day and perhaps not very far into the future, a paper will be printed and go forth from the Temple Lot that will bear glad tidings to many souls who have long fed upon hope. Of course we hope to be among the number who shall control and direct such a publication, yet willing to help hold up the hands of others should God choose to so direct.

WORK ON BUILDING PROGRESSES

p. 53:

Two more rooms have been finished in our Temple Lot building, and for the present have been thrown into one room which is being used as a place of worship. It is a significant fact that in this room (built under

diving guidance for the purposes of a council room) was held the council between the six Reorganized elders and the six elders of the Church of Christ.

It is doubtful whether even those participating in that council realized the gravity of the situation or the

results likely to follow its determinations.

It is hoped that sufficient money will be raised at the coming conference to finish the entire interior, which, when completed, will give us a building admirably adapted to our needs.

The Lord Can Turn a Trial Into a Blessing

by Apostle Roland Saratt

The building of a new structure at the Temple Lot is a subject of much concern throughout the Church of Christ. And well it should be. The undertaking of such a project should not be entered into carelessly or without prayerfully seeking the Lord's guidance.

As we all know, the necessity of making such plans came upon us suddenly by the destruction of our old building by fire. No one was fully prepared for such a tragedy except the Lord, and He guided the hands of some to prevent even greater loss. Therefore with the confidence that the Lord is with us we have

moved forward in making plans to rebuild what would be adequate to our needs and yet within our means.

For the first six months of this year (1990) the Church of Christ has met a trial unlike anything most of us have experienced in our generation. The church has been without an official place to meet the public. This has always been an important aspect of our church activities inasmuch as we have a special message to present to the world and particularly to other "restoration" peoples.

Our presence at that "spot" of ground is necessary in the defense

of the truth as has been revealed to us by the word of the Lord. We are His stewards and caretakers of the designated place of His temple. Such a responsibility should not be taken lightly nor unwillingly.

Another part of this trial has been the necessary displacement of the Temple Lot Local Church whose presence at that location has played an important part in meeting the world with the fullness of the gospel for many years. The dispersion of general church offices and records into our various homes has been a great concern and inconvenience as well. We can say that the total effect of this tragic event has been somewhat detrimental to the gospel work.

However we have learned from experience that the Lord can turn a trial into a blessing in the end. This is our hope, that we will soon be able to resume our rightful place in the community and that we will have a building even more adequate to our needs than before. More im-

portant than that however is the hope that through the attention we have received as a result of the unfortunate loss that we will be able to shed our light to this community and to the world with greater effect. Our determination to not let this loss deter us in this gospel work is indeed a light to others.

We are aware that the Lord has already blessed us and compensated for much of our loss. He has shown His hand in the preservation of our lives and the church records. He has given us a sense of direction and a course of action to take. Our view of

the future is generally optimistic in that we know that the Lord is watching over us.

Lest we forget too quickly let us remember that we are facing destructive forces today just as in times of old that can come against us in varied ways. We are subject to confront both physical and spiritual powers that threaten us with acts of violence or influence us deceptively. Our efforts to reestablish ourselves on that property will only be possible with the help of the Lord. It behooves us to be prayerful over every act we make in that effort.

The building of a structure is not in any sense equal to the saving of souls, but for the purpose of having an official presence in the community as we have been afforded in years past, a building for church business and church activities seems necessary.

Although this is not the most important function or act of the church, it is nonetheless important enough for us to seek the Lord for His continual guidance and His protection over this project from beginning to end. Also it is an honorable and worthy cause for the church to unitedly pursue. Perhaps little needs to be said in this regard as voluntary efforts and support has come from all over both from within and from without the church. Already the Lord has touched many hearts for this cause.



As we rally round this worthy cause let us remember to keep our personal ambitions and wants in check that the building may reflect the sacredness and simplicity that would be compatible to the Lord's purposes. We are not to compete with other churches nor pattern ourselves after them. Modern conveniences and adornments are not necessarily practical for long range plans.

Dedication and sacrifice in this project is only a small part of what the Lord's people will experience in the future.

This building will be a secondary building to the Lord's temple that is yet to be built. According to revela-

appropriate for the Lord's temple.

As we rally round this worthy cause let us remember to keep our personal ambitions and wants in check . . .

Therefore let us keep in mind that this is only a small part of a much greater work that is yet to be ac-

tion given at an earlier time, this building should be for church business and other activities not necessarily

complished in these last days. May God bless us to that end is my prayer.

Temple Lot Church To Break Ground

Excerpts from a news release given to local press:

The Church of Christ "Temple Lot" will have a ground-breaking ceremony on Saturday, August 18th, on the familiar Temple Lot property at the southwest corner of River and Lexington streets in Independence, Missouri. The service is to be held at 10:00 a.m. and will be conducted by Robert H. Jensen of the Council of Apostles, from Bellevue, Nebraska. William A Sheldon, who is Secretary of the Council, and Lesley P. Case, who is Secretary of the General Bishopric, will break ground. These two officials are from the greater Kansas City area.

The new building, which is ex-

pected to be started in September, will be the General Church's headquarters, and will also serve the needs of the local congregation as before. The former building had 3000 square feet on two floors, while the new structure is to have nearly 10,000 square feet on two floors.

The new building is designed for walk-in access to both floors to accommodate the handicapped. Various offices, kitchen and dining facilities, a visitor center and a baptistry will be on the lower floor. Seating capacity in the upper floor sanctuary will be for approximately 300 persons. Facilities for audio equipment and a nursery will be provided. Expanded car-parking space will be on the North and West sides of the property.

The "Temple Lot" property is significant as the place where Joseph

Smith, Jr., who was the founder of the Church of Christ, placed a stone to mark the Northeast corner of a Temple on August 3, 1831. It is believed that this was done because of a revelation from God pointing out the exact spot. This stone was found in 1929, with original inscription thereon, and is on display in a temporary visitors center on the grounds. The Temple Lot property is registered as a National Historic Site.

Addendum (not part of the news release): The Temple to be erected some time in the future, as may be further revealed, is expected to be the seat of the government of the Kingdom of Christ upon His return to earth, and a focal point for the gathering of God's people. The expected area of the Temple will remain open for that structure.

Provided by Apostle Sheldon

Let Us Have Peace

The 1990 August Ministers' Conference (Priesthood only) will be held Wednesday through Friday, August 15-17, during the week following the Missouri Reunion concludes. You are each asked to attend and to come in an attitude of fasting and prayer.

The following, as I (editor) feel is pertinent thereto, is taken (as excerpts) from an article entitled, "Let Us Have Peace" in Volume 5, Number 1, 1900, of *Searchlight*, p. 49:

Notwithstanding the different questions at issue between the believers in the Book of Mormon, there is certainly a large common ground upon which all stand.

That the scope of this ground may be largely increased, we believe can be demonstrated whenever those holding different views are willing to meet together for a proper discussion of the differences in faith, doctrine, etc.

Meeting together for the pur-

pose of arguing and displaying the learning possessed by each will have but little effect towards attaining the desired end. . . .

To reach proper conclusions, all interested must possess profound humility, coupled with deep faith and the broadest of broad charity. . . . let all who have the hope of Zion at heart, endeavor to promulgate a spirit of peace and good feeling towards all who have a common cause.

TESTIMONY OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN AND THE STICK OF JOSEPH

Compiled by Harvey E. Seibel

The Book of Mormon says that the people of God had peace and prosperity for 200 years following the coming of Christ to them. Then in the 201st year there began to be some who were lifted up in pride (4 Nephi 1:27) and by the 260th year secret orders began to be established again (4 Nephi 1:49-50). Then by the year 305 the whole land had become wicked (4 Nephi 1:54-56). In 321 a war broke out between the Lamanites and the Nephites, which war was the beginning of a series of conflicts resulting in the eventual destruction of the whole of the Nephite nation.

"It was 305 years since the sun and moon had eclipsed (at the time of the death of Christ, HES)...when Chalcatzin and Tlacamihtzin, very great gentlemen, descendants of the royal house of Tultecs, began to desire to usurp the kingdom, wanting to take it away from the legitimate successor, after having been for many years in quiet peace. They were exiled and had some wars, being driven out of the city of Tlachicalzincan, in the region of Huehuetlapallan, their country, with all their allies and families, men as well as women. There was a great number of them and they left during the year that followed the year Ce tecpatl - banished from all the land, as will be seen in what follows" (Works of Ixtlilxochitl, cited in Thomas Stuart Ferguson, One Fold and One Shepherd, p. 216).

"...there were two principal

leaders and five other minor ones" (Works of Ixtlilxochitl, cited in Ferguson, *ibid.*, p. 311).

The two principal leaders were the Nephites and the Lamanites. The five minor ones were the Lemuelites, Ishmaelites, Josephites, Jacobites, and Zoramites.

"And Matzin (Mormon, HES) went on to tell them that thus it was not convenient for them to stay there so near their enemies. Besides, he found in his astrology that the land toward the rising of the sun was extensive and prosperous, where the Quinametzin (the giants) had lived for many years, and it had been many years since they had been destroyed and it was unsettled."

"These and many other things Matzin declared and these two leaders and the other minor ones thought it good and agreed on it, carrying it all out. And Hue-Matzin told them that if they were different from the other and were good, they should remain a few days, supplying themselves for everything for what was ahead. At the time they left this land it had been eleven years since they left their country (339 A.D.), because they were near their country eight years, making war, until they were entirely driven out, and three years in this land which they called Tlapallanconce" (Works of Ixtlilxochitl, cited in Thomas Stuart Ferguson, *One Fold and One Shepherd*, p. 313).

The meeting of minds above was concerning the possession of lands toward the rising sun away from their enemies. Also that it would give them an opportunity for supplying themselves for everything that was ahead. They left their country in 339 A.D. and it had been eleven years since, making it in the year of 350 A.D.

when this decision was made.

The Book of Mormon says, "And in the three hundred and fiftieth year, we made a treaty with the Lamanites and the robbers of Gadianton, in which we did get the lands of our inheritance divided. And the Lamanites did give unto us the land northward; yea, even to the narrow passage which led into the land southward. And it came to pass that the Lamanites did not come to battle again until ten years more had passed away" (Mormon 1:60-63).

Ixtlilxochitl continues to relate the forced flight from the year 350 on down to 385 A.D., men women and children, all loaded. They traveled for many days at a time. Each country they came to was named after one their captains. Our final quotation shows the state of things toward the conclusion of that time.

"And then they took their road and travelled 18 days journey, which must have been some 80 leagues in different parts, until they arrived at Zactlan. The discoverer was Hactzin, likewise one of the two principal leaders. And the first year they arrived here was the year Ce Acatl (378 A.D.), at which year they counted a Ziuhtlalpilli since they had begun their wars against their kindred nation (which was in 326 A.D.).

"And there was born at this time a son of his and because it was such a significant year they named the son after the land and he was called Zacapantzin. At that time it was 52 years since they had begun to have wars one with the other. And they stayed here 7 years (385 A.D.)" (Works of Ixtlilxochitl, cited in Hunter and Ferguson, pp. 360-361).

Continued next month ...

Zion's Temple

The House Of The Lord

Part Two

In the first part, devoted to this subject, I gave only brief highlights of the history from 1831 through the 1930s, for the purpose of reiterating to the Church membership, especially for those of our younger generation, having united to the Church in succeeding decades. From the 1940s to the present, the ministry in the Church have concentrated their teaching upon the fundamental principles of the gospel of Christ - and rightly so - but the quest for the establishment of Zion and a continuing for the building of the temple dwindled significantly so that, to the present, only occasionally is reference made to the gathering of the saints to the "center place" of Zion, and almost nothing said of the temple. Consequently, it seems that but few of the saints today have this awareness, to say nothing of a vital concern for fulfillment of these objectives, which were dear to the hearts of former "latter day saints".

Evolutionary trends develop in human society, inevitably it seems, and usually for the intention of improvement, but in many instances the direction of change is degenerative (downward) rather than upward. Never is this more evident than in the field of religion, especially the faith of Christ. It will be acknowledged that God does things right; that the Son of God built His Church correctly; but how quickly has man changed the divine provision, ostensibly to improve his own relationship with God, and to gain divine favor. The result has been a proliferation of churches of men, while the divine institution has declined by the same degree. This was true, with the ancient Church of Christ, both in the Holy

Land and upon the American continent, and is easily discerned by the few earnest seekers for truth, subsequent to the restoration of the fulness of the gospel of Christ, shall we say, in the 1820s and into 1830. How quickly after the Church was organized on April 6, 1830 did it begin this downward trend; and yet, elements of the truth have remained; and the Lord yet works with whom He may, or who will remain true in their hearts to basic or fundamental concepts. Just so with the vision of Zion and the Lord's temple.

With the driving of the saints in the 1830s, first from Independence and Jackson County, and then from other counties of Missouri, they soon forgot the Lord's direction that, despite the human frailties evident in the Church, and for which reason the Lord had permitted their enemies to have power over them, the Lord was to "contend with Zion and plead with her strong ones, and chasten her until she overcomes and is clean before me; FOR SHE SHALL NOT BE REMOVED OUT OF HER PLACE". D&C 87:8.

The center place of Zion was specified as being in Independence, Missouri (D&C 57:1). It was to be filled up "until the day cometh when there is found no more room for them; and then I have other places which I will appoint unto them, and they shall be called stakes, for the curtains, or strength of Zion" (D&C 98:4). What was true concerning Zion applied also to the temple in Zion.

If we accept that this was a true revelation from God, its provisions still apply, for certainly, the center place of Zion has not become filled

with the saints of God, neither a holy temple built to the glory of God. But, as formerly stated, the Church in Joseph's day forgot this direction, and soon made other provisions, thinking the Lord was slack in His promises and requirements; and they sought to improve upon God's design. A single temple in Zion, the House of the Lord, was felt to be insufficient, for lo, plans were sent from Kirkland, Ohio, calling for 24 temples, incorporated in a plat for the city of

by Apostle William A. Sheldon

Zion, and which included a temple for the presidency, etc. This was in 1833.

In this same year was the saints driven from Jackson County, and by 1838-39 from the whole state of Missouri. Failing in this attempt to build Zion and to erroneously include the several temples, the Kirtland temple was built in 1837. With the Church's decline there and the Missouri expulsion of 1838-39, the center of activity shifted to Mauvoo, Illinois, and therein, another temple built, but never fully completed.

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.

All of this has placed a damper upon the idea of building a temple, but as is so often the case, overindulgence satiates. Food taken in moderation is good and healthful, but even good food in excess of bodily need is harmful; much more so, the absorption of doctrine not given of God leads to spiritual destruction.

Latter day revelations through Joseph Smith, once accepted almost without question in the early Church, have come under close scrutiny since his death and the breaking up of the Church into factions; and this scrutiny has brought denouncement in part by some to total rejection by others. These revelations included directions concerning the gathering of the saints, the establishment of Zion and the building of the temple, as previously noted. With declining acceptance and even a rejection of the revelations, came a spirit of doubt concerning the temple.

The realization in later years that the early revelations as published in the Book of Commandments were drastically changed as they were incorporated into the Doctrine and Covenants, has added to the disbelief in latter day revelations. Nevertheless, human interjection into the revelatory process of God's relationship to man, deplorable as it is, ought not to besmirch the truly divine communication. There must needs be a separation of the wheat from the chaff, so to speak, and this requires

at least these elements:

(1) A conviction that a living Church cannot survive except through a process of continuing revelation from God; hence, a need of the gifts of prophecy and revelation.

(2) A diligent search of the word of God as found in the scriptures of the Bible and the Book of Mormon, reconciling the one to the other as a means of determining the mind of God in matters relative to His kingdom, in points of doctrine, the organic structure of the Church, and in any attempt to interpret the word of prophecy.

(3) A true spirit of discernment from God, without which an understanding of the truth or the ability to detect error in any of the above areas is impossible; this can come only through humble consistent prayer to God, through the very fountain of light and life, our Lord Jesus Christ.

If Joseph Smith was not a true prophet of God, despite his human frailties which at times injected human thoughts - yes, errors - into the recorded revelations coming through him; if the only revelation of God through him was the translation of the Book of Mormon, a record of ancient inhabitants of America, then there has not been a living, vibrant Church of Christ upon earth in these latter days. We reject such a thought! True, there were others during his time, and from then to the

present, who have been moved by the spirit of revelation, who have spoken the present word of God; in this we rejoice. But is it not absurd and presumptuous to suppose, even unwittingly, that God has revealed himself to me (and others of our time), but did not do so to Joseph Smith! Should we not beware of rejecting the prophets, even as our forefathers of ancient Israel rejected those whom God sent to them? Could it be possible that any of us may be guilty of denying the revelations of the Lord (see 3 Ne. 13:59)? And could this be a reason why that some of the spiritual gifts are not so prevalent, or are practically non-existent, by comparison to our recorded history in which it is seen that these gifts were abundantly given from the beginning of this latter day work?

My purpose in all this is an attempt to reestablish a belief in the fact of divine revelation having occurred from the inception of this restored gospel and Church of Christ, and that at least some of those early concepts were true, including that of Zion and the building of a holy temple unto the Lord.

In my next presentation, I hope to justify such latter day revelation by an appeal to prophecies in the scriptures as contained in the Bible and Book of Mormon, especially as related to a temple in Zion, or the New Jerusalem.

(to be continued)

THE TRI-STATE REUNION 1990

We have succeeded in reserving the Youth Camp at Whitewater State Park north of St. Charles, Minnesota, for our 1990 Tri-State Reunion. The days will be August 31 through September 2.

The very minimal fee will be for a vehicle use tax stamp at the park office. We would like to fill the camp to its capacity of 120 people.

If you have not been there before, you will need to know that sleeping quarters are in clean cabins, on

double-deck bunks, mattresses furnished. You bring bedding. Meals are without charge, but on a contribution basis. Sanitary and bathing facilities are in a separate building with hot and cold water.

Questions? Contact:

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**1990 MICHIGAN
STATE REUNION**

It was truly a joy to gather again this year at the Ravenna Local for the 54th Michigan State Reunion! Once again our hearts were so filled with the love of the Holy Spirit and love for each other that we rejoiced in the blessings that were bestowed upon us!

Friday, June 15, Brother Gale Brantner spoke of the purpose of this reunion, the schedule of events for the next few days, and then went on to quote from II Nephi 15:9-12 admonishing that it is thru man's unbelief, wickedness, ignorance, and lack of willingness to search and to understand, even when it is given to them in plainness, even as plain as words can be. We must harken unto the spirit and pray, for it is the evil spirit that teaches a man not to pray, and it is thru that prayer to our Father in Heaven that He delighteth in us, blesses us, and protects us. A season of many prayers, testimonies, and songs got the reunion off to a beautiful beginning. Sister Thelma Smart received administration by the laying on of hands of the Elders.

After lunch many voices were lifted in a song service to our Lord, with specials from Elder Joel, sister Jennifer, and sister Wanda Yates, plus a solo from sister Ruth Dine.

The afternoon Preacher was Elder Smith (Buzz) Brickhouse. He spoke to us concerning that strait and narrow path that will lead us to everlasting life, admonishing us to press forward with steadfastness, having a brightness of hope, because in no other way can salvation be found but thru Christ. Brother Buzz then gave us some visual stimulation using a white board to point out what our goal is: ETERNAL LIFE and ZION. What can we do to achieve our goal? SEEK: God and His ways, CHOOSE: righteousness, SERVE: helping mankind, STAND: position ourselves in an upright, righteous position. HOW? By praying for strength, by planning, by listening, and by separating ourselves from evil.

Following the days events we enjoyed a wiener roast and fellowship with our brothers and sisters around the campfire.

At the Saturday, June 16, morn-

ing prayer and testimony service, Brother Emery Pinder reminded us that we should be serious yet joyous in this occasion. We began with a season of prayer in which many voices were lifted. Elder Max Lee was administered to and many songs and testimonies were offered in praise and thanksgiving to our Lord. Elder Gale Brantner, told us of receiving revelation from the Lord, and made a calling of Brother Adam Porter to the office of Priest. We returned to a season of prayer after which many testimonies and witnesses to the calling were given. Brother Johnny Reed received administration by the laying on of hands.

Brother Joel Yates, as the preacher for the next service, related that working as a fireman in Phoenix, Arizona, he realizes even more than most people that life is a gift ... a gift from God. And that all have a calling in life ... to serve our fellow man. He reminded us that it's the things that come out of man that defile him, that which comes out of a mans heart. Next he admonished us to be true, and to be on the outside what you are on the inside and not to let your children partake of the things that are spiritually destructive, but teach them respect as God called us to respect each other, our elders, and especially God. Remember we chasten someone for their behavior because we love them, stand up for what is right.

We met later for the Business meeting, while the children were outside "flying kites" with Brother Adam and Sister Sue Porter supervising. They also had a craft session in which the children each made an Indian weaving. Thank you so much, Sue and Adam, from all of us for volunteering to help with the children's activities!

At the afternoon service we were blessed with a special, "Lord Plant My Feet on Higher Ground," by Brothers Bob Oldham, Joel Yates, Andrew Brantner, Buzz Brickhouse, and Joe Grandchamp. Elder Andrew Brantner told us, in his sermon, that we should all feel very grateful for every single blessing we have received, owing it all to our Father. Next he used II Corinthians 3:1-3 to explain that the credentials of God's ministers is living life Godly, the willingness to serve, etc. not the titles of "BA", "MA", "DR." or "REV", and that TRUTH IS TRUTH wherever or

whatever package you find it in. Using John 6:44 he explained that no man can come unto the Father except he doeth the will of the Father, and that faith without works is dead. Using John 7:17 he reminded us that if any man shall do His will he shall know the doctrine of Christ. Brother Andrew admonished us to bury the hatchet, to search the prophets, to have hope and faith for "Behold ye are little children, and ye can not bear all things now, ye must grow in the grace and in the knowledge of the truth" (Book of Commandments page 97,53:37). Let us strive to GROW TO ZION.

Brother Sam Gould began the next sermon by telling us as it says in John 1:4-5 "that light shineth before the world and the world receiveth it not" and that our worldly concerns drive away our discernment of God, and that Revelations 18:1-5 accurately tells of the world today. He admonishes us to "Come out of Babylon, Oh ye my People" as we are told in the scriptures, for he that walketh in the world and does not repent will loose His light. Be a humble man, for he is strengthened because he depends on God. Using II Nephi 12:35-38, Brother Sam explains that there are never enough words of God, that He continues line upon line, precept upon precept ... and that you will receive more when you receive that which was given. We need to lead the church out of obscurity and take joy in the light of God and harken to walk in His ways.

At the Sunday, June 17, Sacrament Service, Elder Bob Oldam admonished us to do as we are told in the Book of Mormon, page 218 verses 119-120 ... "yield to the enticings of the Holy Spirit, and put off the natural man, and become a saint, through the atonement of Christ, the Lord, and become as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon us, even as a child doth submit to his father". Sacrament emblems were then blessed and served, followed by a season of prayer, songs, and testimonies as the Holy Spirit lead. Many voices were lifted in praise of our Lord.

A wonderful lunch was again served and following it a song service with Sister June and Ken Haines singing "He Carried the Cross for

Me", Sister Wanda and Brother Joel Yates singing "I Surrender All", and Brother LaVerne and Sister Joyce Lussendon sang "Just as the Sun Went Down".

We were blessed with a song special by Brother Joel and Sister Jennifer Yates singing "Zion Will Be Beautiful," prior to the final sermon of the reunion by Elder Charles Brantner. Before he spoke, however, the Ravenna local presented Charles Pollack with the gift of a new Bible he earned by his attendance at Sunday School, our fourth child to earn such an award! Elder Brantner related to us that he felt like he was a "relief pitcher" because already we had been told: by Brother Bob Oldham, that our separation from God is only because of ourselves; by Brother Buzz, how to accomplish what we need for eternal life; by Brother Joel, the things we need to do and that we'd better get on the bandwagon;

by Brother Andrew, to not seal God into any covers of any book but into our hearts; by Brother Sam, to prepare to come to the world of Zion and that someday Zion will be the only world. Elder Charles spoke of there being no "safeguards," that the world's civilizations could collapse at any time. He told us of waking up in the night repeating over and over the phrase in John 21:15-17, "Feed my Lambs - Feed my sheep" meaning to him that the Priesthood have been lax in feeding the needs of Zion. But that Zion can be a reality at any time if we all desire and strive for it. We must prepare, for "The Lord whom you seek shall suddenly come to His Temple" (III Malachi). And in Psalms). And in Psalms 132:13. we are told that the Lord has chosen Zion for the place of His Temple. In III Nephi 10, we are told that if we repent and harken unto the Lord's words and harden not our hearts, He

will establish His Church ... and we will work together as the remnant of Jacob in building the city of New Jerusalem, and he shall gather in his people who are scattered upon all the face of the land, in unto the New Jerusalem (Zion).

Once again we reluctantly closed our Reunion, and even though we are very sad to part, we can joyfully look forward to next years Reunion and enjoy the blessings that this year has brought us. We thankfully praise our Father in Heaven, His Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit that was abiding with us through out the reunion and safely guiding those who traveled to be with us. We missed those who could not attend, but pray that they will be able to join us next year. May God bless and keep you safe until we meet again.

Your Reunion Reporter and Sister in Christ, Debbie Brantner Vogel

Oklahoma News

Greeting from all of us where the wind blows freely o'er the plains and where on a hot summer day, you can almost see the heat rising from the land! We don't care if it is not, for we are happy families striving to be good Christians.

For a good while now, we have been meeting in Dr. Larry Beem's office in Norman. It is an excellent place to meet. It is comfortable, clean, attractive, and the location is just fine. We like meeting at the same location each Sunday. Sometimes, we have the waiting room in Dr. Larry's office filled with folks. At other times, we are but few. It doesn't seem to make any difference for Brother Larry speaks just as interestingly and just as interestingly and

just as convincing to a few as to many.

Some of the things Brother Larry has pointed out to us is: We have the opportunity to be led by the spirit to pray, to speak, or to sing (at a sacrament service). Get rid of all the gloomy thoughts which darkens the soul. We need to surround ourselves with positive thoughts and be positive people. Try not to be troubled, not to be afraid, and not be overwhelmed with problems of life. You are what you think about all day long.

Stephen Kimball graduated from high school this spring and was awarded a scholarship to one of Oklahoma's universities. Larry Beem, Jr. and his family have moved next door to his parents in Norman. Don't you know that Grandma Jewel will have a glorious time! Brother Jack Martin blessed his Great grandson at

one of our services recently. The mother is Mike's daughter, Missy. This was a happy moment for Grandma Betty, too! At this writing, Laura (Martin) Elwell is in Europe studying French. We are all proud of Laura and we are convinced she is Oklahoma's best foreign language teacher.

Independence priesthood members continue to support us. Not only do they come a month but they come twice a month. A bushel of thanks to all of you.

And now, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." (Colossians 3:16)

Alzada Massey, Reporter

Flint Local News

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
We would like to share once again all the good things God has shared with us. First we are thankful for the Ravenna Local being able put on such a successful Michigan reunion this year. Everyone enjoyed themselves including the children. They participated in kite flying and a craft project of God's Eyes, which kept them busy Satur-

day afternoon. The manifestation of the Holy Spirit in the services filled our hearts with joy. In the Saturday AM prayer service Brother Adam Porter was called to the priesthood by the Holy Spirit thru Elder Gale Brantner. Many stood to witness of the calling and in support and words of wisdom. Brother Adam did not accept the calling at the time although he believed it to be of God and asked for an interest in everyone's prayers for his witness. Our prayers are with the Ravenna local for

strength in spreading the Gospel story.

On Saturday June 23rd, Brother Emery Pinder Jr. and Carol Johnson were united in marriage at the Church of Christ by priest Emery Pinder Sr. A very nice reception followed. Our prayers go with them for a long and joyous life together walking with the Lord. On Sunday 6/24, at the beginning of our church service Brother. Adam Porter stood to bear his witness to his calling to the priesthood. After much prayer and con-

sideration he believes to have been given his answer from the Lord. A vote was asked for from the congregation by Elder Edward Toulouse to accept the calling and it was accepted. During the following week we were pleased to have a visit from Elders Hubert and Jim Yates, who were on their way through to the Sioux reservation in South Dakota. We enjoyed the slide presentation of the "Proofs of the Book of Mormon" they presented to us. On Sunday, July 1st, we had a pretty full day starting with a 9:00 meeting at the church to car pool to a special spot for the baptism of Sister Amy Pinder by her father-in-law Priest Emery Pinder Sr., with a waters edge sermon by Evangelist Hubert Yates. We then gathered at the church for a Sunday School class and church service. Many came from the Ravenna local, Ken and Junes Haines from Roscommon and Sr. Mabel Bergey to partake of the sacrament and witness the many ordinances to be performed this Sunday. First there was the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost for Sister Amy by Evangelist Hubert Yates and Elder Jim Yates. Then came the blessing Chuck and Amy's children, Kelly and Amanda. Emery and Carol also brought their 2 boys, Kevin and Keith forward to be blessed. Then we witnessed the ordination of Brother Adam L. Porter to the office of Priest by Elders Edward Toulouse and Gale Brantner. Brother Adam then stood to offer his testimony in thanksgiving and praise to God and recognizing the labors that lie ahead. Brother Emery Pinder followed with his heartfelt testimony as did many others to offer praise and thanksgiving unto the Lord for his many blessings. It was so joyous to witness so many ordinances done in the name of the Lord Jesus this day. Afterward we enjoyed fellowship and a potluck dinner together. We pray for many more days as full and joyous as this one through Jesus Christ.

May God Bless you all!
Priest Adam Porter

Grand Junction Local News

On Easter Sunday, 4-15, we were pleasantly surprised by the attendance of a neighbor lady and her

two boys at our morning service. After the service we had a church picnic at Cactus Park, which is a popular desert wilderness area.

On Sunday, May 6, Brother Sam Gould visited our local and on Wednesday evening he brought a co-worker to our scripture study.

Deanne Hinkle visited her mother, Sister Charlotte Hinkle, and attended services on Mother's Day, May 13. We were greatly concerned to hear of Deanne's illness. We continue to pray for her.

Brother Marvin Ely's sermon on Mother's Day expressed the need and importance for us to keep the commandments of the Lord, for children to obey their parents in the Lord and our responsibility to teach the children "that if they did not doubt, that God would deliver them." (Alma 26:56)

Report on 1990 Colorado Reunion - June 8-10: We were blessed with fellowship in the peace of God throughout our reunion services. We are thankful for this and for God's watchful care over all our brothers and sisters during their travels, keeping them from harm. Prayers concerning the weather were answered as there was not the excessive heat and wind we have had before and after the reunion.

Each morning we had prayer and testimony service. Shared were testimonies of thankfulness for the blessings received from God, not only daily but also the blessing of answered prayer; how we affect the lives of those around us even though we are not aware of it; the urgent need to teach our children to pray, to be instant in prayer - "pray a-running" for we will not always have the time to kneel in times of need. We must be prepared and have our hearts drawn out to God at all times; to be prepared, for we do not know when our time on this earth will be over; raise a child in the way of the Lord and he will not depart from it when he grows old.

Sacrament service on Sunday was blessed with the love and peace of God. Testimonies of our responsibility to teach the children and of blessings received from God.

June 8 Sermons:

Brother Marvin Ely — Whoever repents and comes unto Christ as a little child shall be received, for of

such is the kingdom of God. Very blessed are those who keep the covenant of the Lord. He will gather the scattered of the house of Israel. The fulness of the Lord's wrath shall come upon the wicked.

Brother LaVern Lussenden — Exhorted us to read and study the scriptures and compare them with the present time; to study the 24th chapter of Matthew; to remember the blessings promised the house of Israel and all those who diligently observe to keep all the commandments of the Lord. The fulness of God's wrath shall come upon the wicked.

June 9 Sermons:

Brother Alvin Harris — Gave a report on the building plans and efforts for rebuilding the church headquarters on the Temple Lot. God's judgments are just; all shall stand before God to be judged according to their works. We must make our decision to serve God and stand by it.

Brother Jay Moser — Exhorted us to contemplate the question of our own personal righteousness. Except we keep the commandments of the Lord we cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven. It is our choice to make, but if we make the wrong one we do so to our own destruction. The work the Gentiles will do among the house of Israel. We do have an effect on people around us; do they see Christ in our lives?

June 10 Sermon: Brother Don McIndoo — We must prepare ourselves with the word of God in order to withstand those who fight against Zion, attacking the Book of Mormon and those who believe in it. Warning of some of the factions and leaders who are fighting against Zion; we must keep ourselves informed. Some history of the Indian people and their religion which confirms the records in the Book of Mormon.

At the Saturday evening song service we were blessed with a performance by the very talented quartet of Roger and Martha Bruner and Allen and Czerna Kauffman. Not only is their music beautiful but it comes from the heart and touches the hearts of those who hear.

On July 1st we had an enjoyable church picnic at a park near town. We welcome Jan Banta and her two boys back in our midst; we continue to remember them in our prayers.

Joan Larsen, Advocate Reporter

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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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.

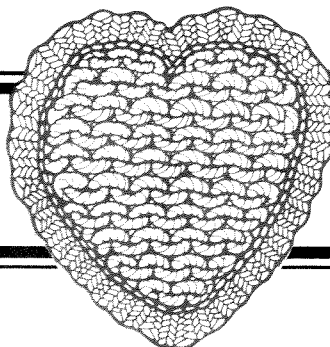
Mexico, Land of Contrast (39 minutes) — Illustrates how modern archeological finds in the Americas lend credence to the Book of Mormon and the story it tells of the continents' former inhabitants.

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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.

KNIT TOGETHER



IN LOVE