

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 68

Independence, Missouri — January 1991

Number 1

Today is the first day of the rest of your life!

You have total control of your destiny ... how will your new life begin?

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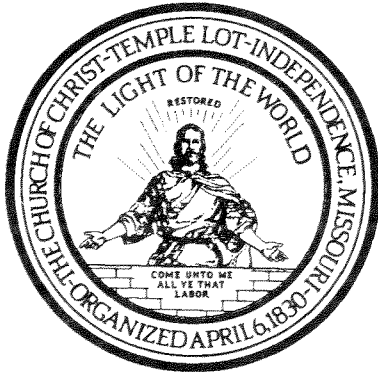
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WORLDWIDE: Contact the Secretary, Council of Apostles.



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.

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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.

A Reluctant Spirit

In recent months, interest has been heightened on such inter-related topics as the *temple of the Lord* (timing, location, etc.), *Zion*, and *latter-day revelation*. This is not surprising, for the Spirit of the Lord has been moving upon His people in a waking-up process. That is, we are waking up to a full realization that what His Priesthood has preached for decades about the approach of the end times, and what is declared in holy scripture concerning events that will take place during those "end times," is about to take place. The three topics named above cannot be separated, especially in light of this "awakening."

There is an abundance of scripture in the Bible and Book of Mormon concerning Zion, though not necessarily easy to recognize as such nor understand. There is a limited amount of scripture in the same books concerning the Temple of the Lord to be built in Zion, also not particularly easy to understand, even for those that spend more than the average amount of time studying the subject. This leaves us with an obvious need for latter-day instruction from the Lord concerning these important subjects.

Many of the revelations given to the saints during the first few years of the Restoration movement dealt with the subject of Zion (referring to those revelations given through November of 1831, at which time the instruction was given to print the revelations up to that point). A primary focus at the time was the goal of building Zion and achieving a "Zionic state of being." It is from these revelations that the bulk of our understanding about Zion and the Temple of the Lord comes.

As with any purported manifestation of God's Spirit, judgement must be made by man (with the help of gifts the Lord has given us, such as the discerning of spirits) as to whether a label of "revelation of God" can be

appropriately applied. This is also true of each of the recorded manifestations found in the Book of Commandments. Unfortunately, when we aren't present at the time a manifestation is revealed, we are left to judge using one or more of the following three criteria:

1 - based on answers to our own prayers over the matter,

2 - based on an examination of the content of the manifestation, using the stipulation that nothing therein can be contrary to the Bible and Book of Mormon, and

3 - based on those that were present that may have testified as a witness of the Spiritual quality and divine authenticity of the manifestation.

Criteria number one (prayer) should ALWAYS be used. **Number two** (examining related scripture) is a must except in those cases when the manifestation deals with "new" instruction not presently contained within the Bible and Book of Mormon. The canon of Holy scripture is not full and, therefore, latter day revelation is needed for continuing instruction, however, when all or part of a revelation deals with something already covered in either the Bible or Book of Mormon, it MUST agree or it is simply not of God. **Criteria number three** (other witnesses) can be used as criteria in making judgement when such witness is available for our consideration and when criteria number two is not valid (as explained above).

Of course, when we live in an era many years after a purported manifestation of God's Spirit has been revealed, we have the added luxury of having history as a witness; that is, if

all or part of the manifestation predicts that certain things will take place, and they, in fact, do not take place when and as predicted, then this ultimate test should leave us with no doubt that the manifestation was NOT of God.

This brings me to the subject of this article: Since we are dependent

Editorial ...

by Elder Gary A. Housknecht

upon latter-day revelation to lead us in the accomplishment of those things the Lord has required of us, and since there is obvious division of opinion in the Church about the authenticity of various past manifestations of the Spirit, we must abundantly petition the Lord to direct us. If we, as a Church body, incorrectly discern a manifestation of the Spirit (either by accepting a manifestation not of God, or not accepting one that is of God), this will not prevent the Lord's work from being accomplished. It does not necessarily mean He will find someone else to do it, either, although that is entirely possible. Rather, we must admit to a degree of lacking discernment in the past and our current lack of faith, and present ourselves humbled and repentant to the Lord for His help. We can no longer be God's people if He is RELUCTANT to reveal His truth to us.

God Is Not Blind

Fortunately for us, God is all-knowing and all-wise (omniscient). God is not going to totally neglect us

just because we have failed in the past. Even with a clouded history concerning the accuracy with which early revelations were recorded, we are still

witness concerning any certain manifestation, I must nevertheless humble myself toward the recognition that with so many different opinions

among my brethren the Priesthood, we cannot all be right — and they (the other Priesthood) use the same methods of determining truth as I, and commune with the same God as I. How could I possibly be right about all of it, all the time? I am not ashamed to admit

to this, but declare it openly in the hope that the Lord will address this people to clarify these matters, and do so in a way that will leave no doubt in our minds. Until each of us can recognize this, divided we will stay and divided we will fall.

God is Reluctant, Maybe the Priesthood is Too

I have been a member of the Priesthood of the Church of Christ since 1973, an Elder since 1975. Although this time is brief compared to many, it has been sufficient to have afforded me the opportunity to participate in numerous special meetings of the Priesthood called to make determination over a purported manifestation of the Spirit (this would include callings to the Priesthood). For the most part these have been both a privilege and a burden. The burden has come both from the requirement to be totally upright before God while seeking understanding and enlightenment, and also a burden as a result of having to listen to much of the commentary and cross-examination from the body of Priesthood in their various attempts to come to a determination of truth. Without going into detail, suffice it to say that far too much emphasis has been placed upon the peculiarity of speech, intonations of voice gleaned from listening to recordings of the re-

vealment, and even the manner of gesturing and hand and eye movement of the person having revealed the manifestation. I am not “expert” enough to say that these methods of determining truth are not valid in some instances, but I find no evidence in all of scripture that tells me such things have anything to do with a determination of divinity.

Another thing is rather alarming to me. In the past I have tried to collect any and all manifestations of the Spirit on which I could lay my hands. You may have noticed, like I have, that manifestations, purported or otherwise, have become almost non-existent in the past 15 years or so (not counting callings to the Priesthood). There continued to be manifestations even into the early 1970's, but little since. Although it was not a requirement for a Church Reunion to be deemed a “good” one, still many of the reunions prior to this period brought counsel direct from God by way of voice revelation through His Priesthood. It is an indictment upon us, not God, that these have become nearly non-existent.

But there is a factor present in the Church these same past fifteen years, not there in the past, that has a direct bearing on the two points I have made in the previous two paragraphs: TAPE RECORDED SERVICES. Could it be that the Priesthood of the Church of Christ has become “reluctant,” either consciously or unconsciously, to stand and voice what they may have discerned was a message from God for this people? And if so, is it because they have witnessed the unreasonable cross-examination and word-by-word criticism of past manifestations made possible because the manifestation was tape recorded and transcribed for our unreasonable and lengthy examination?

I find it quite possible, in fact “probable,” that God is not pleased with the practice of using electronic recording apparatus in our services.

As strongly as I might feel ... I must nevertheless humble myself toward the recognition that with so many different opinions among my brethren the Priesthood, we cannot all be right — and they (the other Priesthood) use the same methods of determining truth as I, and commune with the same God as I. How could I possibly be right about all of it, all the time?

guilty as a Church for not being able to rightly divide the truth. I am certain He is awaiting the day when we unite ourselves as a Church, and approach him with our need. The rejection of truth does not alter that truth, and if a divine message was given in the past and was ignored or rejected by the Church (with a good reason or not), God can and will reveal that truth again, or at least give clarification to that already given. Furthermore, He will do so in a manner that He knows is within the scope of our faith to accept and with the degree of unity required. Though I pray we will never be as guilty or faithless as the old testament Jews, rejecting the truth over and over again, their plight still serves as an example that God is capable of forgiving a people and giving them a second chance.

It becomes obvious that we are in need of divine help. Only the proud and stubborn cannot see that there is a problem that goes deeper than the mere fact that the Priesthood cannot unite — but it is *why* we cannot unite. Most of us have worked up opinions on the subjects mentioned at the beginning of this article, and most other subjects. Likewise, many of us have developed an opinion as to the authenticity (or lack of it) of past latter-day manifestations of the Spirit. Let us use myself as an example: As strongly as I might feel, and as much as I have what I might personally call a divine

Frailties Common to Humanity

In a 1953 revelation through the late Apostle James E. Yates, it is stated that the Lord used Joseph Smith in spite of his "frailties common to humanity." The Apostle Paul wrote to those at Corinth (I Corinthians 14:32) saying that "the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets." As I understand it, this means, at least in part, that sometimes men God chooses to reveal things through, speak with less than the flowing, articulate language you might expect, and that the manner of presentation of a Spiritual matter is subject to the human peculiarities of the spokesman. Paul, himself, admits to these same people (I Corinthians 2:4) that his "speech and (his) preaching were not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power;" By our methodical word-by-word critique of manifestations, we are trying to take away the natural humanity of the Priesthood. I don't believe God intended our determinations to be carried out in such manner as has been done the past fifteen years or so, giving as much or more weight to things determined with our pitiful intellect, than to things Spiritual.

Spontaneity is Lost

Recently, the AVVAA Committee of the Church of Christ voted not to

record prayer and testimony services in the future, choosing to record only sermons and certain special services. I have witnessed the expansion of audio PA and recording apparatus (not to mention numerous video recorders that are now usually present) with each of the past several annual Church conferences and Missouri Reunions. I will admit that it is nice to hear each testimony offered, while in the past, many were missed because I was too far away to hear, or the voice was too frail. But please give consideration to this: How many of our brothers and sisters are microphone-shy, or too slow to beat the others to the spot? How many of our people simply find all the wires and microphones to be disruptive and not conducive to the Spirit of God? More importantly, unless sitting right next to a microphone, how can any member of the Priesthood hope to stand without restraint or delay or loss of spontaneity and deliver a manifestation of the Spirit when so prompted? I have witnessed the loss of the more spontaneous and powerfully Spirit-filled prayer and testimony services as were the rule in days gone by. There is a nice orderliness, polite forbearance, and resignation to the existing status quo of our services. I don't think any of us really wish this upon ourselves, so let's do something about it.

In conclusion, I must state that I do not intend in any way for the observation about tape recordings to overshadow the fact that our faith is not sufficient, and is no doubt one of the

... let's brush aside the pride that circumvents our admission of many obvious truths, and come repentant, united, and humbled to a true communion with God.

primary reasons the Lord has withheld His voice. But I do believe the matter is an important enough factor to be addressed and decided upon by this Church. We desperately need to remove all the factors that produce our own reluctance and God's, and the barriers that restrict the working of the Spirit of God among us.

As a Church, we have thus far failed to perform the Lord's work. Our leaders are responsible, I am responsible, the Priesthood and each member are responsible. But it is said that the falling down is not the failure, but the not getting up! And get up we should — let's brush aside the pride that circumvents our admission of many obvious truths, and come repentant, united, and humbled to a true communion with God.

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<h3>A Father's Expression of Gratitude</h3>

September 24, 1990
Yobain, Yucatan, Mexico

To the Church of Christ in Phoenix, Independence, Collins and other cities in the United States:

My beloved in the Lord Jesus Christ, we greet you with all love and brotherly affection, desiring for you great happiness beneath the mighty hand of our God.

Dear brothers and sisters, our hearts overflow with joy and happiness before the presence of our God and in your presence for granting to our son, Placido, the opportunity to visit you in your homes, your churches and other precious places in your native land, and for giving him an in-

comparable treatment of love, for the provision of funds for this journey and the meeting of all his needs.

When he returned we were able to see a changed countenance which is the fruit of the love which you offered our son. This warmth of love we - my wife, my children and I - feel day and night and we shall not be able to forget. For this reason we send our greatest appreciation to each of you for this love and affection that we have received from you.

May the peace, love, the spiritual and material prosperity of our Lord, Jesus Christ be with each one of you now and forever. This is our prayer for you until the end of our lives.

Your servant, his wife and children,
Elder Placido Koyoc Yam

YOUR LETTER CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

This information is presented here in Zion's Advocate at the request of the August Ministers' Conference of the Church of Christ. The "committee" referred to herein is an August Ministers' Conference appointed committee. Contact Elder Samuel S. Gould with comments or questions. — ed.

As your committee selected to present ways and outlines to write and make our desires known to our national leaders, we submit these thoughts and plans to accomplish this end. Remember when good people do nothing, evil people rule.

PATRIOTIC QUOTE:

Posterity - you will never know how much it has cost my generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make good use of it. — John Quincy Adams

Some people think any letter to their public officials is just a waste of time, but nothing could be further from the truth. Congressmen pay attention to their mail. They have to because legislators are extremely sensitive to public opinion - they want to be re-elected you know.

WHO READS THEM?

A surprising amount of the letters to congressional offices are read carefully by the Congressmen themselves. Those that aren't are handled by key staff personnel who notify their bosses of the contents. Almost all Congressmen answer all their mail.

Many Congressmen believe that every letter they receive represents 100 or more people who didn't take the time to write to express their opinion. Just think, your letter has 100 times the impact that you think. How's that for getting the most for your efforts! The letters you write are very significant.

There is an old saying that, "The wheel that squeaks the loudest gets the most grease." This is certainly true in politics. Congressmen will listen if

their people speak loud enough. By writing and calling your local, state and national government officials, you can have a powerful influence on our national if you will only take the time to make your voice heard.

Some people have become so disgusted with politics and the politicians that they no longer are concerned. We can either IGNORE the politicians or INFLUENCE them. Thank God we can still have a voice in the kind of laws we must live under. Many people have forgotten the price our forefathers paid to gain these freedoms and we too often forget what it will take to keep them. We can't afford to ignore — **we must influence.**

Someone is going to run our country ... but will they be representing you? Don't neglect your precious constitutional rights for which billions of others in this world would die. If we have had bad government, we can blame no one but ourselves. Expressing your views to your Congressmen is your responsibility in making our "Representative Government" a success.

Attached, find a step by step approach on "how to" write your Congressmen and other public officials, both state and national. We trust you will develop the habit of writing often. Yes, your letter can make a difference!

EFFECTIVE LETTER WRITING - TO YOUR CONGRESSMEN AND OTHER PUBLIC OFFICIALS

How To Get Started - Step By Step

In order for your letter to have its maximum effectiveness, please follow these basic rules and suggested letter format.

WHEN TO SEND IT: Timing is very important. Your opinion should reach your Congressman and your Senators when the issue is active in

Congress, when committee hearings are being held, or just before they are asked to vote on the bill. Too many letters are sent *after* the critical vote has been taken instead of months before while the legislator is still formulating his opinions.

WHO TO WRITE TO: Are you sending this letter to the right person who is in the position to influence legislation on the issue you are writing about?

BE BRIEF: Limit your subject to just one topic and keep your letter to one page if possible - no more than 2 pages. Be direct and to the point.

BE ORIGINAL: Petitions and form letters without your personal comments do not carry nearly as much weight as the letter you compose and write yourself.

HOW TO START: We suggest you create a "Thought Sheet." Randomly jot down as many of your thoughts on the issue as possible prior to writing.

WHAT TO WRITE: From your "Thought Sheet," organize your points to fit into paragraphs A thru E below.

A. STATE THE ISSUE. **Be informed:** Be sure your facts are correct. Quote experts on the subject and attach copies of articles to help prove your point. Misrepresenting facts will weaken your position. Refer to the bill under discussion by its name and number.

B. EXPRESS YOUR CONCERN OVER THE ISSUE. **Be specific:** Set forth exactly why you consider a bill good or bad and how you feel it would possibly affect your community. **Be courteous:** Be firm but courteous. Don't alienate your reader by threats, warnings, preaching, or abuse. Always attack the issue not the person.

C. GIVE REASONS FOR YOUR POSITION.

D. COMMUNICATE WHAT YOU WANT YOUR PUBLIC OFFICIAL TO DO ABOUT THE ISSUE.

Request a reply: Clearly define the action you want your reader to take. Ask your legislators to state whether they are *for* or *against* the issue, and if they intend to support or oppose it and *why*.

E. SAY THANKS ... for reading your letter and hearing you out. Most people write only when they disagree. Letters to Congressmen for a job well done are altogether too rare.

YOUR FINAL DRAFT: Now write your letter from the preceding Paragraphs A thru E.

Be Legible:

Typed letters are best but handwritten letters are fine if they are neat and readable, so print where possible. A hard to read letter probably won't be read.

Use Proper Etiquette - Salutation:

"Dear Senator [last name]"; or "Dear Congressman/Congresswoman [last name]"; or appropriate salutation for other public officials.

Identify Yourself:

Be sure to sign your name legibly and supply your full mailing address.

WHERE TO SEND: Address your letter *and* envelope as follows:

To Senators:

The Honorable [first & last name]
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

To Representatives:

The Honorable [first & last name]
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The President:

President [full name]
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

You will find names and addresses of other state and local officials through your local voter registration office or Election Bureau. It would be well if you would also call your Congressman's local office.

An Appeal For Contributions

By conference action this past April 1990, the Church has determined to build a new structure to replace the headquarters building which was destroyed by fire on January 1, 1990. Approval for the use and control of this new building has been given by the Church at large.

There has been general enthusiasm and financial support in preparation to build, which is deeply appreciated by the Apostles and General Bishopric. The response has been truly remarkable in consideration of the smallness of our numbers. However, the original estimate of approximately \$488,000 to complete the structure, exclusive of internal furnishings, has necessarily been revised upward due to the incorporation of needed design changes, most of which were by the way of suggestions from members of the Church.

The funds necessary to complete the building and furnish it are still not presently available. Therefore, we appeal to each of you to sacrifice as may be needed and give to the "New Building Fund." This new building will also enable us to meet for conferences in expanded facilities to accommodate our increased numbers; in recent years, this has not been possible, and has necessitated the rental of other facilities in the Independence area

at considerable cost. As in the past, the Temple Lot Local Church will meet in the building on a regular basis and will contribute to the upkeep of the building; this congregation has already donated well over \$100,000 to the fund.

Those who are able, who have previously made gifts of money for this project, are asked to still donate further. Regular offerings by many of us, though relatively small individually, if continued for a year, would probably finish the job.

In addition to this project, let us not forget our tithes and offerings which are so essential for the regular needs of the Church.

The Lord has commanded His people to tithe and make offerings. Will you, then, make a sacrifice offering to this important project? We feel this will be pleasing to our Heavenly Father and will further the advancement of the kingdom of God. You may be sure that all your offerings will be used in a maximum effort of economy and strictly toward the purpose for which it is given.

Please send your donations to the Business Manager as listed on the inside front cover of Zion's Advocate. Mark donations for the new building project as "NEW BUILDING FUND." **Thank you!**

THE FABRIC OF ZION

Priest Glenn Orsted

Phoenix, Arizona

Our American flag has received a great deal of attention and publicity over the past several months. A great deal more attention than it has probably received in quite some time. Unfortunately, this attention is the result of a dispute over the flag itself. A dispute in which those on one side desire the right to publicly burn and desecrate the flag of at least feel that those that desire to do so should be allowed to and on the other side there are those that feel that "Old Glory" should be protected from such acts and are endeavoring to introduce legislation that would prohibit such acts.

Although this may be a political issue, there are none-the-less, ideas involved that I find concerning. It is these ideas that I desire to present and not the legalities of a political debate on such a topic.

Our President, George Bush, publicly leads the campaign of those that feel it should be a crime to burn the American flag. In all honesty, if it were not for the attention which these individuals have generated, I wouldn't even know that the situation existed. I do find it interesting that they are trying so hard to make illegal, what for generations has been the only way to properly dispose of the flag once it had become soiled, torn or had touched the ground; which was to burn it.

I would have to admit that seeing the conditions and attitudes arising in this nation today, if a group of people were to solemnly assemble and say that this nation and its people today are a disgrace to all that the flag has stood for and that this generation has soiled the flag and then respectfully burn the flag, I would almost have to agree. However, that is not what is happening. Those that have seen these incidents on the television newscasts, know that it is hardly a solemn moment when the flag is burned within its own nation, by its own people. It is a very distasteful sight to watch as the flag burns, while obscenities are shouted and it is kicked at and beat with sticks and spit upon while it burns.

It would therefore seem that what is objectionable is not the actual act of burning the flag, but rather the attitudes and violent expressions that seem to accompany such an action. For these are indeed actions, actions which the Supreme Court of the United States, on June 13th of this year (1990), upheld as being protected under the First Amendment to the Constitution, found in the Bill of Rights. This amendment today is claimed by many to protect the freedom of expression. They use the word "expression" so that they may broaden the interpretation of what was originally "freedom of speech". In fact, what the first article of the Bill of Rights says is: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

As I read over these words, I cannot help but feel that the authors were concerned that individuals should be able to express their thoughts and concerns free from the suppression that so many of them had felt. This objec-

tive is today available through oral presentations, pickets, marches, television interviews, books, newspaper editorials, just to name a few. As the amendment says: "freedom of speech" and it concerns me when the highest court of the land determines that an action is a form of speech and not only an action, but a violent action and protects that violence under a bill



that specifically states "peaceably to assemble." Just because an individual believes he has a statement to make, doesn't excuse his actions. Certainly most of the terrorist actions we see today are the result of individuals that are trying to make some sort of statement and I certainly wouldn't want to see these actions protected as freedom of speech.

Of course, American seems to be having a whole lot of trouble with this entire amendment, with businesses disguising themselves as religions, people gathering in what they would call peaceful assemblies, while vandalizing private property, shouting and even physically attacking their opponents and even claiming pornography to be protected under this bill.

Those that would support the rights of individuals to burn the flag are quick to point out that the flag is merely a piece of fabric and burning it will not erase what it stands for. It is indeed a piece of fabric and yet if it has no greater meaning, then there is

no statement made by its destruction and they might as well just burn their T-shirts or their socks and save the extra cost of purchasing a flag for such an activity.

If you were to tour a factory that produces flags, you would indeed see that they are fabric and are produced much like a piece of clothing. They are a product, they are carried in bundles, packaged, shipped and then displayed in stores for sale.

Not until it is purchased and displayed does it truly become flag. And this flag has been purchased. It has been bought with the sweat and the blood of millions of people, who over the generations have fought, worked and died; not for their own selves, but for the nation which they were building and for their children and grandchildren and for the nation that

God had ordained to exist as long as He was the God of the land and His commandments were adhered to. And so one might say that what makes this red, white and blue piece of cloth a flag, isn't the material from which it was made or the colors that it displays or even a law protecting it as such, but rather the work, the hope and the dreams of a people that for generations have watched it fly and remembered what it represented and what it has cost.

It is because of this that I am as concerned with the motives of those that strive to protect the flag as those that desire to see it burn. This is because I have listened to prominent politicians demand legislation to protect the piece of red, white and blue fabric they see, while they themselves destroy the flag and all it has stood for. They fight to protect a piece of cloth, while they enjoy the burning of the flag. It is hard for me to listen to an individual make a fuss over protecting the flag, while he thinks nothing of deceiving hundreds and even thousands of people out of hundreds of thousands of dollars in dishonest business dealings. It hurts to hear the flag used as a symbol by an elected official

that decides what is best for the people he is elected to represent by whoever can pay him the most money to support their desires.

We have this nation and the flag that represents it because of the sacrifices of people that were willing to give up a little or in some cases all, that someone else might have it a little easier or better; whether it was someone with them at the time or a fu-

As persecutions and opposition to the Restoration and the Book of Mormon continues to increase, it would be easy to defend our right to our church and our books and leave behind the reason they exist.

ture generation. The flag has flown because of a spiritual people that hoped, dreamed and prayed for a better way. Today that flag is ignored by a temporal people, while a piece of fabric is argued over. Legislation is desired to protect a piece of cloth, while the flag burns. Because the flag has burned for quite some time now. It burned while thousands of Americans were allowed to die in Vietnam, while businessmen and politicians made fortunes off of the military budget. The flag burns while children are abused or neglected. The flag burns while gangs fight in and control the neighborhoods of America. The flag burns while Americans sell themselves to the drug lords of the world. And the flag burns every time an American citizen is murdered before they are even allowed to be born.

This nation was formed because of people that believed in a God and moral conduct and a code of honor that believed in sacrifice and helping one another. Most of the founding fathers of this nation were killed, jailed or died in poverty; having given everything for something they couldn't see or touch, but of which they dreamed: a nation secured in liberty for their chil-

dren in service to the God they loved. Today, political leaders sacrifice future generations for the material things they can enjoy today, leaving today's children a land in debt to an amount that is unimaginable, with its rivers, lakes and lands polluted and depleted of their natural resources and in which corruption and crime are common place.

We, who are baptized members into the Restoration must take heed of what is happening around us, because if we are not careful, it would be easy to make the same mistakes. As persecutions and opposition to the Restoration and the Book of Mormon continues to increase, it would be easy to defend our right to our church and our books and leave behind the reason they exist. In times of opposition, it would be easy

to defend our buildings, our books and our activities; while leaving the gospel of Jesus Christ behind, as our politicians today strive to protect a piece of fabric, while allowing the flag to burn.

The founding fathers of this nation, faced seemingly overwhelming obstacles as they endeavored to build a nation for those that would leave all behind to journey to it to help build a better place. And today, like our founding fathers of generations past, we fight to build a land of sort, in seemingly impossible conditions. A land we call "Zion". As with the builders of this great nation, Zion will not come to be because of a building or a place, but rather be the result of the desires, hopes, dreams, prayers and sacrifices of a people that will work for a better place, not for themselves, but for all that would come.

As the flag and this nation which it represents are the result of an attitude, so will Zion be the result of a people that will not forget the importance of spiritual needs and will sacrifice their temporal possessions for something they may never see, but they hope and pray for a people that some day will.

WITH WHOM DO WE TAKE COUNSEL?

I have heard some of our people say that they sought the counsel of the world's psychologists. Let's look at some scriptures that may apply. "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful." (Psalms 1:1), and "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." (Colossians 2:8), and "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God..." (I Corinthians 3:19), and "...but I have chosen you out of the world..." (John 15:19). So, some have clamored to hear direction from Christian psychologists and pastors of other churches. These may have good, sound advice, but do we rely so much on their wisdom, quoting them and depending on them so much that we lose our perspective and discernment? After all, they do not have the full light of Christ's words as we, at least, have available.

We know that the sectarian churches came out of the "Great and Abominable Church." Others are a perversion of the only true church - The Church of Christ! The Lord told Joseph Smith that their creeds were an abomination in His sight. At best, the Christian psychologists and pastors have only part of the truth, and anything else they expound is of man. "In vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Mark 7:7), and "...for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he is made, ye make him two fold more the child of hell than yourselves." (Matthew 23:14). No one other than the ministry of the Church of Christ has that authority to preach the gospel. Those other ministry can offer us nothing beyond that which we should already know or be able to obtain from the Lord.

We have witnessed many familiar

spirits that are of the world. They seem good. They are close to the truth. "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (Proverbs 14:12). For example, in my opinion, it is manifest in the type of music to which some are becoming accustomed, that talks of Jesus and good works, but is not inspiring. That music is not of the restoration or zionic

Teacher Ronald W. Temple

in nature, but appeals to the carnal mind in tune and in beat.

Many times we are taken by catchy phrases and pat scriptures of the sectarian churches. Most glaring and offensive are the doctrines foreign to what the Church of Christ has stood for from its beginning such as, the Temple of the Lord being within us. This sectarian belief says that there will be no physical temple or physical place of Zion. But we know from scriptures that there will be a temple built on the Temple Lot and Zion will be established.

The devil can appear as an angel of light. "...Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works." (II Corinthians 11:14-15). We deceive ourselves when we think we can immerse ourselves in these vain doctrines and not be affected in our worship. We won't be the peculiar people we have been commanded to be if we continue to hear their preaching and listen to and sing their songs day after day, week after week. When we do that, we will hear that which is false, and we will be affected in our ways and thoughts toward that which is false.

Why is it that we don't have the gifts of the spirit that were once had in the church? Moroni (10:18-20) says that it is because of unbelief. Do we

think that we don't have unbelief? This same scripture indicates that it will probably happen among God's people. We are living in the last days. We know that the Devil will try to deceive us because we are the children of light, or should be. Maybe this is how he is doing it. I John 4:1 - "Beloved, believe not every spirit but try the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out in the world." We do not want to be among those about whom Paul prophesies in I Timothy 4:1: "... in the latter times, some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits ..."

We do have the true church! We do have the fullness of the gospel! We do have the authority! We had better be careful what we listen to and adhere to from the outside. Just because others preach Christ doesn't mean all they say is true. "For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many." (Matthew 24:5). Satan is very deceitful. Let's pray for discernment that we won't be caught up with his deceitful spirits. We need to, "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." (Matthew 24:42).

We deceive ourselves when we think we can immerse ourselves in these vain doctrines and not be affected in our worship.

"Unto you therefore which believe, he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone (Christ - r.t.) which the builders disallowed, the same is made head of the corner. And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of

offense, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people: that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:" (I Peter 2:7-9). Let us use that light that we have and not be plunged into darkness by those deceitful spirits that are all around us.

ZA

TEMPLE LOT LOCAL NEWS

Membership list updates: Just when some are home to stay, others are transferred.

Dick and Velma Wheaton moved home to Inde-

came the parents of Savannah Jasmine. Grandparents are Jack and Judy Sprague (Savannah was born on their 32nd wedding anniversary) and Floyd and Betty Den-

ham. Great grandparents are Rolland and Marion Sprague and Ernie and Laura Chevalier.

At long last, Independence members and friends are excitedly watching the new Church building take shape. Excavation began November 6th. The four remaining trees came down and were cut by members for firewood. Footings and foundation walls were complete by November 28th. The cement floor was poured December 11 - when it dries, rough-in will begin.

By the time this news goes to press, much more will have been done, although winter weather is setting in.

We thank God for his many blessings in 1990 and look with faith and hope to 1991!

Sincerely,
Joyce Harris, Reporter

pendence in time to celebrate Thanksgiving. Dick retired from the Federal Government. For the past 11 years they have lived in Utah and New Mexico. Dick was Temple Lot Local pastor twice - ten years total. We welcome them home!

Benny and Patsy Case are on temporary assignment for IBM (that stands for "I've Been Moved") in Delray Beach, Florida. They and are hoping for re-assignment back in Kansas City.

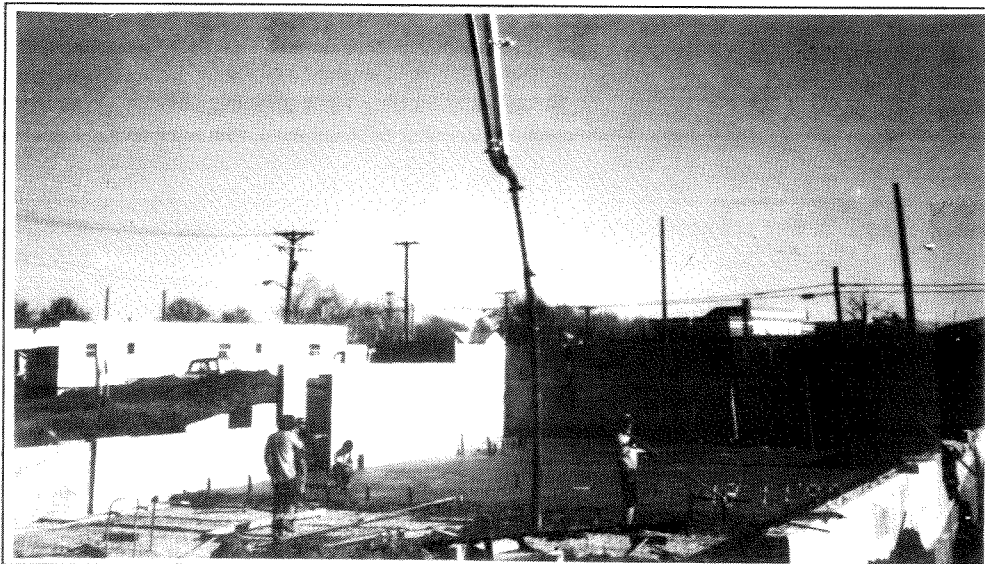
Greg and Denise Rudd moved to St. James, MO. Denise is teaching at Boys' Town of Missouri.

Nick Adams left his parents, Geri and Gary Adams, basking in the California sun and moved back to Missouri.

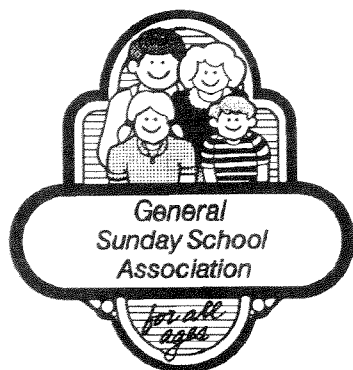
December 1, 1990
Shaughn and Angelita (Denham) Sprague be-



The tower framework at the upper right (background) is the base of the new RLDS spiraling "temple."



Be conscious every possible waking moment of the annual Church of Christ general conference which is only about 90 days away as this issue of Zion's Advocate goes to press. Beside the preparation of budget requests, reports, announcements, etc., that are necessary to conduct the Lord's business, give extra special emphasis upon the spiritual requirements that take first priority when conducting business for the King! — gh



The Difference Between the Church of Christ and other Christian Religions

The East Independence Local Sunday School class, ages 16-25, was asked what subject they most wanted to study, and the subject of this month's lesson is what they chose. The following is a capitalized version of the lesson given over several weeks by their teacher, Priest Randy Sheldon.

I We believe, as the Church of Christ, that the Gospel was removed from the earth (and later restored) because men loved darkness rather than light, and that they could not endure sound doctrine (II Thessalonians 2:3; II Timothy 4:3; Revelations 12:6; and Revelations 14:6). Most other forms of Christian religions trace their roots

directly to the Catholic church. The Church of Christ has no such connection.

II We believe that God still reveals himself to man because He hasn't changed (James 1:17; II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:21). Most other churches believe God spoke His last words two thousand years ago.

III Christ said, "I will build my church" ... and He did. It was to be built upon the foundation of the twelve Apostles (Ephesians 2:20). Other religions usually have a pastor or minister or possibly a prophet as the presiding minister of their church.

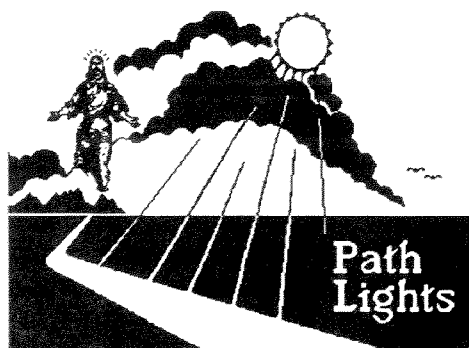
IV In Christ's Church, there was (and is) to be found living spiritual gifts such as the gift of faith, healing, working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, tongues, and interpretation of tongues (I Corinthians 12:8-10; Ephesians 4:8,13). Most of these gifts are non-existent in other Christian-religion denominations, but in some of the charismatic denominations, some of these gifts may be practiced, especially speaking in tongues. The Bible says, however, that tongues are a sign to the unbeliever and that there should be an interpretation of that tongue, else it should not be given (I Corinthians 12:22,28). Paul wrote to the Corinthians to warn them because they were abusing this

gift.

V The Church of Christ believes that baptism by immersion is commanded and necessary for salvation to those who hear this command (John 3:5; Matthew 3:15; III Nephi 5:26). We believe little children need no repentance nor baptism (Moroni 8:11). Many religions feel baptism is optional, some baptize little children, some use a sprinkling method rather than full immersion in a body of water, etc.

VI We believe in the laying-on-of-hands for ordination to the Priesthood, administration of the sick, setting apart for special reason, exorcism of evil spirits, and bestowal of the Holy Ghost (Hebrews 6:2; Acts 8:17-18). Many main line denominations don't have this ordinance, though some lay on hands to set apart a minister, and some may use it for healing.

VII We believe in the harmonious relationship of "works" and "grace." We understand that, ultimately, it is grace that saves us but that there is required some effort on our part such as repentance, baptism, righteousness, ministering to the poor, sick and widowed, etc. (James 2:17,24; James 1:27; II Nephi 11:44). Some denominations are totally work oriented (you achieve your way to



The Big Hill

I'd like to share some thoughts that I had at work today with everyone, but particularly the young people. I'm a salesman for an insulation company. People call in and I go out and measure their houses and give them bids for different material that

we handle. This call that I had to make this particular day, took me so far back in the country, back by a lake, that I didn't think I would ever get there. I had to park my car at the top of a hill (a big hill) and walk down to the house because the gate was locked. As I walked down that hill, I couldn't help but think that I was going to have to walk back up again later.

Well, time came that there I was at the foot of the hill, (that big hill) looking up and I thought of a scripture in the Book of Mormon about looking beyond the mark. In Jacob 3:22-23, it says: "But behold, the Jews were a stiff-necked people; and they despised the words of plainness, and killed the prophets, and sought for things that

they could not understand. Wherefore, because of their blindness, which blindness came by looking beyond the mark, they must needs fall."

About half way up the hill, all out of breath, hardly able to move, I looked up again and I thought how I'd like to just give up, sit down and stay right where I was, but I knew that I couldn't do that. So I thought, "well, just put one foot in front of the other, don't look at the top, but keep my mind on one step at a time" and I went on to the top. When I reached the top of the hill I looked back and I thought, "well, that wasn't so bad after all."

Then I thought about my spiritual life and the spiritual life of the young people in the church. When we're

heaven), while others feel that work is not necessary for salvation. We believe you are saved when you've endured to the end and "fought the good fight" (Matthew 24:13; II Timothy 4:7). God does not violate your agency to choose, even until death. If you have experienced His grace and reject it, that is your choice, not His (II Peter 2:20; Hebrews 6:4-6). Many other denominations feel that if you simply "believe," you are saved, regardless of what you do.

VIII We believe that when you die you go to God immediately, whether you are good or bad (Alma 19:43). Some beliefs teach that when you die you simply remain in the grave, body and spirit, until the resurrection.

IX We believe in a Zion and a New Jerusalem here in America as well as in old Jerusalem (III Nephi 9:58-59). It is to be a time of spiritual power, refuge and peace with the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 2:3-4; Isaiah 11:6-9; Zechariah 14:9), a place for the "Holy sanctuary of the Lord" (Ether 6:3; Ezekiel 37:26-28). Most other Christian denomination beliefs do not have these tenets.

X We believe we will be here when the "tribulation" begins. It is after the days of tribulation that "the Son of Man appears" (Matthew

24:29). Then we can look for our redemption, and we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air (I Thessalonians 4:17). Some churches teach that no saints (saved person) will have to endure the tribulation, but will be raptured away while riding their motorcycle or while between putts on the golf course.

XI We believe that between the covers of the Bible and Book of Mormon lie the fullness of the Gospel (Ezekiel 37:16-19; Isaiah 8:20; II Nephi 2:19-21). Most denominations do not believe the Book of Mormon is of God, and most of those that do, have used in addition to these two, another "standard" or more.

These eleven differences described above are not exhaustive, but there is enough information to occupy the student in one or more sessions.

Priest Randy Sheldon

Do These Differences Make a Difference?

If some part of this lesson about what makes the Church of Christ different from the rest of professed Christianity raises a question or sparks some interest in the general readership of Zion's Advocate, please contact a Church of Christ representative as listed on the inside front cover.

This is another in a series of lesson/articles prepared by and for the General Sunday School Association of the Church of Christ. Please contact Becky Sheldon if you have questions or submissions.

young and we look at life it can be overwhelming; the responsibility of life, growing up, getting a job, marriage, baptism, having kids, paying bills, just to name a few. It's like being at the foot of that hill and looking all the way to the top. Then we start out in life, or "up the hill", and we get half way up and we're tired, tired of life in general and we want to just sit down and give up. That comes from looking beyond the mark. We can become overwhelmed and discouraged of trying to be a Christian if we're not careful.

Galatians 6:9-10 says,
And let us not be weary in well-doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore

opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

We have to take one step at a time. There is a scripture in Matthew 6:34 to consider:

Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Yes, we have to plan our future, but prepare ourselves one day at a time so that when we, as Christians, get to the "top of the hill", we can look back and say, "That wasn't so bad after all."

I hope that someone can gain from

these thoughts as I did. It made the rest of my day more enjoyable and pleasant. May God bless us all as we strive and toil in this life, and may we let Him bless us and guide our lives. As Christians today we don't want to look beyond the mark, looking for Zion or better life to come, and forget that it takes daily living to be able to reach that time and that place. So, don't look at the "top of the hill" and be discouraged, but climb that hill, putting one foot in front of the other, making sure that each foot is planted on the solid rock, Jesus Christ.

Allen Kauffman
Houston, Missouri

TESTIMONY OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN AND THE STICK OF JOSEPH

Compiled by Harvey E. Seibel

CHRISTIAN EVIDENCES AMONG THE ANCIENT INHABITANTS OF THIS LAND

Laurette Sejourne, in her book "Burning Water - Thought and Religion in Ancient Mexico" (pp. 69-70), quotes from a manuscript written in Nahuatl shortly after the Conquest and published in Spanish under the title "Legend of the Sun." The following excerpt gives an account of Quetzalcoatl's descent into hell.

"But there went Quetzalcoatl; he came to the Kingdom of the Dead, to the Lord and Lady of the Kingdom of the Dead. Thereupon he said: 'Behold why I have come. Thou art concealing precious bones. I have come to fetch them.' But the King of the Dead told him: 'What wilt thou do, Quetzalcoatl?' And he answered again, 'the gods are troubled about who shall inhabit the earth.'

"The Lord of the Kingdom of the Dead said, 'It is well...'

"Again said the Lord of the Kingdom of the Dead: 'It is well, take the bones!' But he told his vassals the dead: 'Yet tell him, oh gods, that he must leave them behind!' But Quetzalcoatl answered: 'No, I shall take them for ever.' But his double said to him, 'Tell them I shall come to take them!' With this he was able to return upward, and he took the precious bones. In one place were the bones of a man, in another of a woman. He gathered them up, he made a bundle, and he took them with him...

"And when he reached Tamoanohan, Quilaztli ground them down again; he threw the ground bones into a precious earthen pot, and upon them Quetzalcoatl threw his blood...and then all the gods...said: 'Those worthy of the gods are born, since for us they did deserving penance.'"

Note: The bones no doubt represent both men and women. His double could be his Father. The penance could very well be the 'few stripes' mentioned in Luke.

The Indian not only knew of the flood but also of the end of the world.

"...They had among them information of the Flood and of the end of the world,...And so they believe that another Butic is about to come which is another flood and judgment, not of water, but of fire which they say will be the end of the world..." (Bartolome de Las Casas, *Apologetica Historia de las Indias*, Cap. CCXXXV, cited in Milton R. Hunter, *Archaeology and the Book of Mormon*, p. 45).

They were of the house of Israel.

In the northern Andes, according to J. Fitzgerald Lee in his book "The Great Migration," a Dutch Jew named Aaron Levy met with a tribe of Indians who claimed that their forefathers were Abram, Esaak and Yakoob and that the name of their tribe was Rooben.

They knew of baptism.

Mr. P. DeRoo tells us, "That these Indians, and probably several more congenial tribes were Christians, in the broad sense of the word, at the time of their landing on American soil, can scarcely be doubted. They knew and worshipped the one eternal, spiritual, and Ubiquitous God, who 'caused' or created the heavens and the earth and all they contain; they knew of the happiness of our first parents eating the 'fat fruit' of Eden, and of the 'bad spirit' who brought them to sin, misfortune, and death; and as they were acquainted with the circumstance of the dire tragedy, we may readily infer that they were not altogether ignorant of its most important particular: the promise of a Redeemer, which constitutes the deepest foundation of Christianity" (*History of America Before Columbus*, vol. 1, pp. 111-112).

P. DeRoo further tells us "...these missionaries, however, and other writers of that time assure us that baptism was administered in several American districts from time immemorial.

"...Baptism was conferred in the territories of Campoala, Tezcuco, Tlacopan and throughout the vast empire of Mexico...Sahagun writes that when the holy bishop of Chiapas arrived at Campeche, in the year 1554, on his way to his diocese, in company with several Dominican friars, he not only saw what Montejo had written about the baptism of the Yucatecs, but also learned that all the natives of that country were baptized, no one being allowed to marry before the sacred ceremonies had been performed on him. It was the duty of all the Mayas

to have their children baptized, for they believed that by this ablution they received a pure nature, were protected against evil spirits, and possible misfortunes. They held, moreover, that an unbaptized person, whether a man or woman could not lead a good life or do anything well.

"Baptism was in the Mexican empire of Religious ceremony, which in Yucatan was called 'Zihil,' signifying to be born again; and the Nahua nations freely admitted that it would cleanse the soul from all sin, as will soon appear from the ceremonies with which it was administered" (*History of America Before Columbus*, pp. 466-467).

Hubert Bancroft states that baptism ran back to a period far pre-Christian among the Mexican, Maya, and other American nations (*Native Races*, vol. 3, p. 119).

They knew of the flood.

Ixtlilxochitl tells us that the world was destroyed by the deluge and how that men began to multiply from a few that escaped this destruction with a Toptlipetlacalle, which almost means closed ark. (See *Works of Ixtlilxochitl* as cited in Milton R. Hunter and Thomas Stuart Ferguson, *Ancient America and the Book of Mormon*, pp. 18, 22).

They practiced christian virtues.

"These said Toltecs were good men and friends of virtue. They did not tell lies, and their way of speaking and greeting each other was 'Sir' and 'sir, brother...' and 'Sir, older brother' and 'Sir, younger brother.' Their speech, instead of swearing was 'It is true,' 'thus it is,' it is ascertained,' and 'yes' for yea, and 'no' for no..." (*Works of Ixtlilxochitl*, *ibid*, p. 323, cited in Hunter, *Christ in Ancient America*, p. 64).

Collins Local News

Greetings to you all. I hope this special time of year finds you counting your many blessings and rejoicing in the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ. I also have many things to be thankful for. Among them is the privilege of traveling with Rodger and Martha Bruner to visit with some of our people. We have had opportunity to visit and attend services with La Vern and Joyce Lussenden in Michigan, Warren and Mary Johnson in St. Louis, all the folks at the Tennessee Rally, and our

brothers and sisters in Houston, Missouri. We have enjoyed these special visits so much. The people have shared their homes and many testimonies with us. We have been blessed.

Speaking of traveling, Bob and Jo Eddy are leaving today for an eight day visit with their oldest son, Perry, in Hawaii. Yes, we're having cold, icy winds and snow flurries here in Missouri, so Hawaii will be a welcome relief, won't it?

Also away from home are Jack and Betty Martin. They've gone to northern Michigan to their grandson, Darrel's wedding. Darrel is the oldest son of Mike Martin of Oklahoma. Jack and Betty should be home this week, weather permitting, and I must say, home just isn't the same without them and I miss our Sunday evening visits over fresh popcorn.

Allen and I just got back from the Phoenix Reunion. As the years have passed and we have been able to attend several reunions we have grown ever closer to our brothers and sisters in the gospel. This is another of the blessings God has granted me and has taught me to enjoy new experiences and not fear them. He is ever patient with me.

The Collins Rally opened early this year with prayer service beginning at 8:30 A.M., followed by four 30 minute sermons, lunch, and a final sermon afterward. Our guest speakers for the rally were Apostle Roland Sarratt, Elders Bob Oldham, Alvin Harris and Marvin Case. Our thanks to all who came and helped make the rally an up lifting time for all.

Other guests have been Gerry and Cindy Case and family, Dan and Mannon and Jessie Lawrence, and Loren and Mary Lois Bryant. Thank you, too, for coming here to share the gospel with us.

A few sermon quotes to close with:

Christ is so much a better teacher than us, but He needs His tools to work with.

There are temptations we might welcome with open arms, not thinking them to be wrong.

What is it we have a taste for; things of God or things of man?

What is really important is that we follow the Word; not that we have success or grand edifices. Our success is that we know what we're doing and where we're going; who we're following.

Step by step, little by little we're

marching to Zion.

We, as individuals, are the Church. People see Jesus Christ through your eyes; through your words and deeds.

May we continue to pray for each other and trust in God for our blessings in this new year of 1991.

Your reporter,
Czerna Kauffman

Hello from the Flint Local

Wanted to share some more news with all of you. This past Sunday (11/4) we had our annual Harvest dinner. Much work went towards it's success. Such as the group that met on the Saturday before spearheaded by Sister Velma Porter to rake and clean the churchyard and decorate the church basement for the upcoming days event. All efforts were appreciated. Many came from all over Michigan to attend, including Beverly and Jeff Butts and sons from Bradley, Ken and June Haines with Mabel Bergey from Roscommon, Noni Onstatt, Opal and Pam Adams with friend Todd from Marion. Also Ed Padola from Detroit was able to be with us. We were thankful to have them all plus those of our own local in fellowship sweet. The children's Sunday school class enjoyed going up front to tell us all what they were thankful for. Brother Adam Porter was the speaker for the service, the sermon was about "The Harvest of Souls". We then partook of the sacrament in remembrance of the Lord Jesus. Testimonies were then offered in thanksgiving to God. We then enjoyed a potluck and fellowship together. Our praise and thanks to the Lord for a spiritually up-lifting time for all.

Birth Announcement:

Shawn Michael Pinder born November 16, 1990 weighing in at 8 pounds, 7 oz 22 inches. Proud parents are Emery and Carol Pinder. Shawn joins brothers Keith and Kevin.

Your Brother in Christ,
Adam Porter

Greetings from the Mogollon Local

I'm just happy this moment to re-

port that this little seed the Lord has planted is continuing to endure month after month, year after year. It is only the power and grace of God that keeps these small bands across our nation together. How many people in this world are alone with the Lord tonight. His word is a two edged sword, separating families and friends. If the world hated Christ, they will hate you, they are lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. The Lord alone will feed and protect each one of you, will He not?

We've had many visitors from the Phoenix Local. You know Hubert Yates has a special place in my heart. It was he that guided me through my first live journey into time through the Bible and Book of Mormon. He that buried me and my sins in the water. The scriptures were alive to me then, History all fit together. The Book of Mormon was so powerful, so moving, the scriptures still keep me in awe today. To see the way that men try to distort and change them today is sad. God was very plain about His gospel and what He expects of us. People act as if He were trying to trick or deceive or make hard the saving of our souls, or the understanding of His words. Our ministry has laid it out from the scriptures, know and understand the word of God so you won't be fooled. Prove what is that good and acceptable will of God. Study, pray, and apply the commandments to your life.

We were so glad to have Apostle and Brother Jay Moser, Chris and the kids with Glen and Beth Orsted come and hold services with us here in Show Low. We had such a good day with the Lord. Our prayers go with each one for I know they are all laborers indeed for the Lords work, We pray for their family and all families who are separated for the gospel work.

Winter, and a new decade are upon us. Imminent Thunder rings in the air. Should we not be really glad that the Lord is going to do something about the condition of this world. To humble men and take away their vices and stumbling blocks. That those who will may repent and turn unto Him. For His eternal purpose is to bring souls unto Him. May the Lord give us courage as unto David's.

Sister Kathy Cloyd

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 1991 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 21 through 23 at Independence, Missouri.

CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

Send all orders to the Church of Christ, P.O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

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NOTE: Donations accepted to cover postage & printing costs.
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Send orders for SS Materials to Becky Sheldon, 31607 E. Major Rd, Grain Valley, Mo 64029. All materials are free of charge to members of the Church of Christ except as noted. Donations accepted to cover postage.

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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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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.