

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 — February 1991

Number 2

**Faith is sight to the blind. It
sees in darkness that which light
may later reveal to every eye.**

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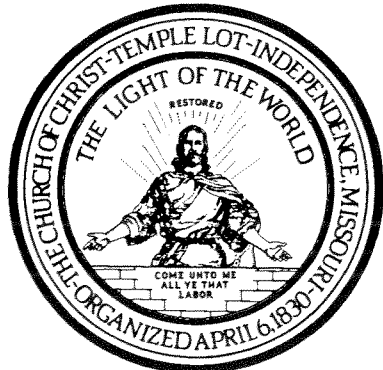
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EDITORIAL POLICY

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.



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.

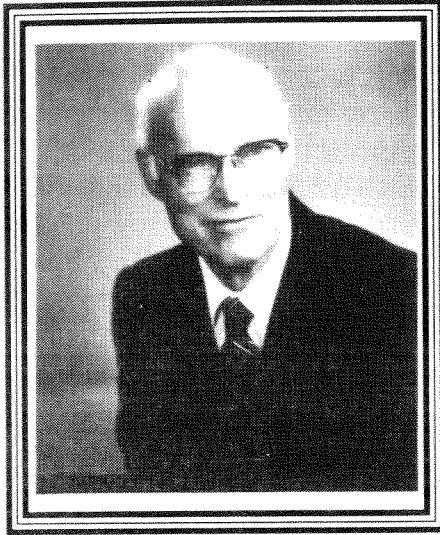
STATUS OF PUBLISHED ARTICLES

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.

Jesus

The Light of the World

Apostle Marvin Ely



Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. - John 8:12

If we follow Jesus we shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life. In 2 Nephi 11:95-96 we can read the following statement: "For behold, my beloved brethren, I say unto you, that the Lord God worketh not in darkness. He doeth not anything save it be for the benefit of the world; for he loveth the world, even that he layeth down his own life, that he may draw all men unto him." It was the desire of Jesus that mankind might be drawn unto him. In

John 14:6 Jesus said: "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." If we desire to come unto the Father, it is by Jesus.

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come unto him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the spirit saith unto the churches." (Revelation 3:20-22) Jesus is ready and willing to listen to our requests but we must open the door. We must reach out to him in faith, believing that he is mindful of our needs.

"Wherefore, he commandeth none that they shall not partake of his salvation. Behold, doth he cry unto any, saying, Depart from me? Behold, I say unto you, Nay; but he saith, Come unto me all ye ends of the earth, buy milk and honey, without money and without price. Behold, hath he commanded any that they should depart out of the synagogues, or out of the houses of worship? Behold, I say unto you, Nay. Hath he commanded any that they should not partake of his salvation? Behold, I say unto you, Nay; but

he hath given it free for all men; and he hath commanded his people that they should persuade all men unto repentance." (2 Nephi 11:97-103)

Guest Editorial

"And the first-fruits of repentance is baptism; and baptism cometh by faith, unto the fulfilling of the commandments; and the fulfilling of the commandments bringeth remission of sins; and the remission of sins bringeth meekness, and lowliness of heart; and because of meekness and lowliness of heart; cometh the visitation of the Holy Ghost, which Comforter filleth with hope and perfect love, which love endureth by diligence unto prayer, until the end shall come, when all the saints shall dwell with God." (Moroni 8:29)

Jesus plainly stressed the importance of keeping his commandments. "If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I

will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, also." (John 14:15-19) This indeed is a beautiful promise which is held out to those who believe and follow Jesus.

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." (John 14:26) In 2 Nephi 14:6 Nephi said: "For behold, again I say unto you, that if ye will enter in by the way and receive the Holy Ghost, it will shew unto you all things what ye should do." We can readily see the importance of having the

Holy Ghost functioning in our lives. It is important that we abide in Jesus and keep his commandments.

"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, That ye love one an-

other, as I have loved you." (John 15:7-12)

In Moroni 7:17-18 we can read the following words which harmonize rather well with the preceding scriptures: "And now, my brethren, seeing that ye know the light by which ye may judge, which light is the light of Christ, see that you do not judge wrongfully; for with that same judgement which ye judge, ye shall also be judged. Wherefore I beseech of you, brethren, that you should search diligently in the light of Christ, that ye may know good from evil; and if ye will lay hold upon every good thing, and condemn it not, ye certainly will be a child of Christ."

ZA

An Appeal For Contributions

By conference action in April, 1990, the Church decided 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 by referendum vote.

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 ac-

commodate 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.

Those who are able (including those who have previously made gifts of money for this project), are asked to donate to this cause. Regular offerings by many of us, though relatively small individually, if continued for several months, will likely meet the demands of this major project.

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

by L. M. Cobb

LESSON ONE: INTRODUCTION

We know from the four gospels that Jesus taught many "mysteries of the kingdom" by telling his followers parables. We have recorded in the New Testament around forty parables.

What is a parable?

(ask class to respond, list definitions on a chalkboard)

Definition:

A short simple story usually of an occurrence of a familiar kind, from which a moral or religious lesson may be drawn. An analogous comparison which illustrates one subject by another. A short narrative in which some important truth is veiled. An earthly story with a heavenly meaning.

Example (Matthew 13:31-33):

The parable of the mustard seed and the parable of the leaven. (Do not discuss their meaning now, as they are discussed in lesson #2.)

When Christ gave the parable of the sower, his disciples asked him, "**Why do you teach by parables?**" (Ask class to respond before reading his answer in Matthew 13:10-13.)

Jesus continues in verses 14 and 15 quoting from Isaiah 6:9. Christ knew that the majority of the Jews would harden their hearts to his messiahship and would neither see nor hear his

message of truth and love.

The parable is a sophisticated teaching tool and is designed to reveal a spiritual truth to the hearer (or reader) in the exact measure with which he or she is ready to grasp. The hearer must have an open and willing heart and be an active participant in seeking the hidden meanings. Only those who are interested will bother to seek a parable's interpretation. Parables are easy to recall and ponder. "A willing heart is the best spiritual hearing aid." See John 7:17.

Christ's parables used people, places, and things from the culture into which he was born. The parables fall into three groups:

1. Laws of the divine kingdom drawn from nature: Sower (Matthew 13, Mark 4, Luke 8); Wheat and tares (Matthew 13).

2. Kingdom truths drawn from life of man: Two debtors (Luke 7); Merciless servant (Matthew 18); Good Samaritan (Luke 10).

3. Theocratic or the Kingdom and its final consummation.

Summary:

Christ has been called a Master Teacher. He taught in parables to give the mysteries or insights to only those who were willing to seek for their truths.



A parable can both reveal and conceal. It is a much easier form to remember than facts and arguments. Jesus' parables have kept his "Good News" safe and fresh through the ages.

Questions To Ponder:

1. What do you think is meant by the "mysteries of the kingdom"?
2. Why would Christ wish to conceal the meaning of his parables from the Sadducees and the Pharisees?
3. What can hinder receiving spiritual truths?
4. Did Jesus teach in parables in the Americas? Why or why not?
5. Are there parables in the Old Testament? If yes, where?
6. Are we like the disciples in Matthew 13:16,17? How?
7. Why are we instructed to seek, ask, and knock?
8. What does it mean to have eyes and see not, have ears and hear not?
9. Why might it be important to view a parable against the whole of Christ's teaching?
10. It has been said that unbelief is not primarily intellectual but moral and spiritual. Why do you agree or disagree?
11. Explain how a parable projects and protects Christ's word.
12. What is a parable?

All Are Equal Before God

The following is a compilation of scriptural references as made and emphasized with underlines by the late Apostle B. C. Flint found in one of his notebooks with the above title. This compilation with many others indicates Brother Flint's great appreciation of the "plain and precious things" of the Book of Mormon. I desire to share this finding with you, and I hope that these few scriptural excerpts will give you the incentive to look them up in your own Book of Mormon to appreciate them more fully. — Roland Sarratt

1 Nephi 5:118-122

And now do ye suppose that the children of this land, who were in the land of promise, who were driven out by our fathers do ye suppose that they were righteous? Behold, I say unto you, Nay. Do ye suppose that our fathers would have been more choice than they, if they had been righteous? I say unto you, Nay; Behold, the Lord esteemeth all flesh in one. He that is righteous, is favored of God.

2 Nephi 11:112-115

And he doeth nothing save it be plain unto the children of men; And he inviteth them all to come unto him, and partake of his goodness; And he denieth none that come unto him, black and white, bond and free, male and female; And he remembereth the heathen, and all are alike unto God, both Jew and

Gentile.

Jacob 2:25-29

And now my brethren, I have spoken unto you concerning pride; and those of you which have afflicted your neighbor, and persecuted him, because ye were proud in your hearts, of the things which God hath given you, what say ye of it? Do ye not suppose that such things are abominable unto him, who created all flesh? And the one being is as precious in his sight as the other. And all flesh is of the dust; and for the self-same end hath he created them, that they should keep his commandments, and glorify him for ever.

2 Nephi 11:97-105

Wherefore, he commandeth none that they shall not partake of his salvation. Behold, doth he cry unto any, saying Depart from me? Behold, I say unto you, Nay; but he saith, Come unto me all ye ends of the earth, buy milk and honey, without money and without price. Behold, hath he commanded any that they should depart out of the synagogues, or out of the houses of worship? Behold, I say unto you, Nay. Hath he commanded any that they should not partake of his salvation? Behold, I say unto you, Nay; but he hath given it free for all men; and he hath commanded his people that they should persuade all men to repentance. Behold, hath the Lord commanded any that they should

not partake of his goodness? Behold, I say unto you, Nay; but all men are privileged the one like unto the other, and none are forbidden.

Helaman 2:161-163

And thus we see that the Nephites did begin to dwindle in unbelief, and grow in wickedness and abominations, while the Lamanites began to grow exceedingly in the knowledge of their God; yea, they did begin to keep his statutes and commandments, and to walk in truth and uprightness before him. And thus we see that the Spirit of the Lord began to withdraw from the Nephites, because of the wickedness and the hardness of their hearts. And thus we see that the Lord began to pour out his Spirit upon the Lamanites, because of their easiness and willingness to believe in his word.

Moroni 8:8-13, 25, 26

And the word of the Lord came to me by the power of the Holy Ghost, saying, Listen to the words of Christ, your Redeemer, your Lord, and your God. Behold, I came into the world not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance; the whole need no physician, but they that are sick; wherefore little children are whole, for they are not capable of committing sin; wherefore the curse of Adam is taken from them in me, that it hath no power over them; and the law of circumci-

sion is done away in me. And after this manner did the Holy Ghost manifest the word of God unto me; wherefore my beloved son, I know that it is solemn mockery before God, that ye should baptize little children.

Behold I say unto you, that this thing shall ye teach, repentance and baptism unto those who are accountable and capable of committing sin; yea, teach parents that they must repent and be baptized, and humble themselves as their little children, and they shall all be saved with their little children; and their little children need no repentance, neither baptism.

Behold, baptism is unto repentance to the fulfilling the commandments unto the remission of sins. But little children are alive in Christ, even from the foundation of the world; if not so, God is a partial God, and also a changeable God, and a respecter to persons; for how many little children have died without baptism. For behold that all little children are alive in Christ, and also all they that are without the law. For the power of redemption cometh on all they that have no law; wherefore, he that is not condemned, or he that is under no condemnation, can not repent; and unto such baptism availeth nothing.

Alma 15:55,56

I ought not to harrow up in my desires, the firm decree of a just God, for I know that he granteth unto men according to their desire, whether it be unto death or unto life; yea, I know

that he allotteth unto men, yea, decreeth unto them decrees which are unalterable, according to their wills; whether they be unto salvation or unto destruction; Yea, and I know that good and evil have come before all men; or he that knoweth not good from evil is blameless; but he that knoweth good and evil, to him it is given according to his desires; whether he desireth good or evil, life or death, joy or remorse of conscience.

Alma 15:50

And thus we see how great the inequality of man is because of sin and transgression, and the power of the devil, which comes by the cunning plans which he hath devised to ensnare the hearts of men:

Helaman 5:71-74

But behold, the resurrection of Christ redeemeth mankind, yea, even all mankind, and bringeth them back into the presence of the Lord; Yea, and it bringeth to pass the conditions of repentance, that whosoever repenteth, the same is not hewn down and cast into the fire; But whosoever repenteth not, is hewn down and cast into the fire, and there cometh upon them again a spiritual death, yea, a second death, for they are cut off again as to things pertaining to righteousness; Therefore repent ye, repent ye, lest by knowing these things and not doing them, ye shall suffer yourselves to come under condemnation, and ye are brought down unto this second death.

Alma 19:109,110

And thus cometh about the salvation and redemption of men, and also their destruction and misery; therefore, O my son, whosoever will come, may come, and partake of the waters of life freely; And whosoever will not come, the same is not compelled to come; but in the last day it shall be restored unto him, according to his deeds.

2 Nephi 6:44-47

Oh how great the holiness of you God! For he knoweth all things, and there is not anything save he knows it. And he cometh into the world that he may save all men, if they will hearken unto his voice; For behold, he suffereth the pains of all men: yea, the pains of every living creature, both men, women and children, who belong to the family of Adam. And he suffereth this, that the resurrection might pass upon all men, that all might stand before him at the great and judgment day.

Helaman 2:25

Thus we may see that the Lord is merciful unto all who will in the sincerity of their hearts, call upon his holy name; yea, thus we see that the gate of heaven is open unto all, even to those who will believe on the name of Jesus Christ, who is the Son of God;

Ether 1:62,63

Now behold, O Lord, and do not be angry with thy servant because of his weakness before

thee; for we know that thou art holy, and dwellest in the heavens, and that we are unworthy before thee; Because of the fall, our natures have become evil continually; nevertheless, O Lord, thou hast given us a commandment that we must call upon thee, that from thee we may receive according to our desires.

Mosiah 2:9-11

I say unto you, if ye have come to a knowledge of the

goodness of God, and his matchless power, and his wisdom, and his patience, and his long suffering towards the children of men, And also, the atonement which has been prepared from the foundation of the world, that thereby salvation might come to him that should put his trust in the Lord, and should be diligent in keeping his commandments, and continue in the faith even unto the end of his life; I mean the life of the

mortal body;

I say, that this is the man who receiveth salvation, through the atonement which was prepared from the foundation of the world, for all mankind, which ever were, ever since the fall of Adam, or who ever shall be, even unto the end of the world; and this is the means whereby salvation cometh.

The Gettysburg Address

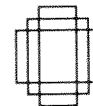
Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this; but, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate — we cannot consecrate — we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead,

who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract.

The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us — that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion — that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain — that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that govern

ment of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth.

Abraham Lincoln - 1863



Postscript for the Church of Christ, Restored:

It is for us, living in the light, to be dedicated to the great task remaining before us: that we take increased devotion to the cause of Zion — that this nation, under the temporal rule of Jesus Christ — shall have a new birth of freedom, and that the knowledge and love of God shall cover the face of the earth.

Donna Moser - 1991

King James Bible Topical Scripture Compilations

If any *Church of Christ Priesthood member* would like printed scriptural compilations for study purposes, etc., covering a topic or topics of your choice, send \$1.00 to the Editor to cover cost of postage & paper. Please be certain to be VERY specific as to the exact topic or topics you wish printed out. — gh

Our Choice

The workings of sin when first they begin
Are blind to their ultimate goal,
But once they're begun they're seldom undone
And lead to the loss of the soul.

God gives us a choice of action and voice,
To do the right thing or the wrong;
To walk with the few who manage to do
His will, or to walk with the throng.

Let's find the good way, and day after day
Keep faith with the precepts of right,
And shun every sin, salvation to win,
And walk in His beautiful light.

Evalena Sills

Inspired by a Brian McIndoo sermon,
November 18, 1990

A. Lunn once wrote a humorous parody of the dauntless faith evolutionists have despite insurmountable problems inherent in their theory, like swallowing a camel while gagging at a gnat.

Thus to Christians (Creationists):
"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

— Hebrews 11:1

But to the Evolutionist:

"Faith is the substance of fossils hoped for, the evidence of links unseen."

The latter was quoted by Scott M. Huse in his book, "The Collapse of Evolution," from Evan Shute's, "Flaws in the Theory of Evolution," page 468, published in 1961.

Harvey E. Seibel

In Your Favor?

The men of old proclaimed it this way: "To walk forward in a newness of life." (Romans 6:4)

What a blessing to begin again; Perhaps to set aside our erring from the path of good and truth.

Within us all, whatever our lot or station, there is that feeling, or sense, of that good which might have been. In ways, it is the personal measure of our success in living.

Our particular path of faith insists upon an inward look, and speaks of an indwelling spirit affording sight to know the truth of that which we encounter.

In our own unaided sight we can and do rationalize (justify) action or course founded in ill and wrong, leading to moral and spiritual disaster, even wrecked lives and, perhaps, misery in the lives of those associated with us. We need a better sight!

That indwelling Spirit of God provides aiding vision for the step forward "In newness of Life."

What better way to step from the past, knowing the past for what it is and able to see the impact of the present as it presents itself event by event?

The Gospel of Jesus Christ promises that indwelling Spirit to obedient souls. Believers rejoice in its presence and it is theirs with which to walk forward in newness of life.

Elder Thomas Maley

Published in Zion's Advocate at the request of Apostle Robert Jensen.
From the Spring 1990 Church of Christ Reporter, Minneapolis, Minnesota).

TESTIMONY OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN AND THE STICK OF JOSEPH

Compiled by Harvey E. Seibel

They knew of the creation of the world, etc.

"The Tultecas understood and knew of the creation of the world and how God created it, and the other things that are in it, such as planets, mountains, animals, etc., and in the same manner they knew how God created a man and a woman from whom men descended and multiplied.

"And they say that the world was created in the year of the ce Tecpatl, and this epoch up to the deluge they called Atonatiuh, which means, age of the sun of water, because the world was destroyed by the deluge; and it is found in the Tultecal histories that this age and first world, as they called it, lasted 1716 years: (the King James Bible says it was 1656 years which is a remarkably close accounting, HES) that men were destroyed by very great storms and lightnings from Heaven, and the whole world without a thing remaining, and the highest mountains, which are fifteen cubits, were covered with water; and how men began to multiply from a few that escaped this destruction with a Toplipetlacalli, which almost means closed ark.

"And how afterwards men, multiplying, made a very tall and strong Zacualli, which means the very high tower, in order to shelter themselves in it when the second world should be destroyed.

"When things were at their best, their languages were changed and, not understanding each other, they went to different parts of the world" (Works of Ixtlilxochitl, cited in Thomas Stuart Ferguson, *One Fold and One Shepherd*, p. 41).

According to Lewis Spence in "The Gods of Mexico" (pp. 103ff., 190), Tezcatlipoca deceived the first woman who committed sin. Ixnextli sinned by plucking forbidden roses and was cast out of a paradise with her husband. (See Roy Weldon, *Other Sheep*, p. 27).

"It is impossible when reading what Mexican Mythology records of the war in heaven and the fall of Zontemonque and other rebellious spirits; of the creation of light by the word of Tonacatecotl; and of the division of the waters, of the sin of Xztiacoliuqu, and his blindness and nakedness; of the temptation of Suchiquecal and her disobedience in gathering roses from a tree and the consequent misery and disgrace of herself and all her posterity not to recognize scriptural analogies. But the Mexican tradition of the deluge is that which bears the most unequivocal marks of having been derived from a Hebrew source" (Lord Kingsborough, *Mexican Antiquities*, vol. 4, p. 401, cited in Roy Weldon, *Other Sheep*, p. 28).

Christ said, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you, I go to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2).

Ixtlilxochitl tells us that the Lord after having created all things, created the first parents

from whence all the rest of mankind and that the MANSION AND HABITATION THAT HE GAVE THEM WAS THE WORLD.

They knew and practiced the rite of communion.

"Their surprise was heightened, when they witnessed a religious rite which reminded them of the Christian communion. On these occasions an image of the tutelary deity of the Aztecs was made of the flour of maize, mixed with blood, and, after consecration by the priests, was distributed among the people, who, as they ate it, showed signs of humiliation and sorrow, declaring it was the flesh of the deity!" (Prescott, *the Conquest of Mexico and the Conquest of Peru*, p. 696).

Alvin Colton tells us in his "Origin of the American Indians" (London, 1833) that some of the tribes used to build an altar of twelve stones in memory of a great ancestor of theirs who had twelve sons. They believed that all Indian tribes descended from this ancestor and that someday they (the Indians) will yet recover the same dominion and influence as this ancestor once had.

The ancient American had some interesting traditions of the soul and the life to come which are worthy of comment.

"These people have always believed in the immortality of the soul, in greater degree than many other nations, even though they were not so civilized; they believed that after death, there was another life better than this, which the soul enjoyed after leaving the body.

This future life they said, was divided into good and evil...The torments of the evil life which they said awaited the wicked, lay in going to an evil place below the other, and which they called Metnal meaning hell...Also they said that those good and evil after-lives had no end, because the soul itself had none" (Diego de Landa, Yucatan Before and After the Conquest, pp. 57, 58, cited in Harold Velt, America's Lost Civilization, p. 127).

"In Nayarit we come upon the Mexican idea of different heavens, determined by the mode of death" (Hubert H. Bancroft, Native Races, vol. 3, p. 529).

"The future abode of the Mexicans had three divisions to which the dead were admitted according to their rank in life and manner of death. Glorious as was the fate of the warrior who died in the cause of his country, on the battle-field, or in the hands of the enemy's priests, still more glorious was the destiny that awaited the soul. The fallen Viking was carried...to the bright plains of the Sun House, in the eastern part of the heavens, where shady groves, trees loaded with luscious fruit, and flowers steeped in honey, vied with the attractions of vast hunting-parks to make his time pass happily...

"The second place of bliss was Tlaclocan, the abode of Tlalaoc, a terrestrial paradise, the source of the rivers and all the nourishment of the earth, where joy reigns and sorrow is unknown, where every imaginable product of the field and

garden grows in profusion beneath a perpetual summer sky. This paradise appears to have been erected on the ideal reminiscences of the happy Tollan, the cradle of the race, where their fathers revelled in riches and splendor...

"The third destination of the dead, provided for those who died of ordinary disease or old age, and accordingly for the great majority, was Mictlan, 'the place of the dead,' which is described as a vast, pathless place, a land of darkness and desolation, where the dead after their time of probation are sunk in a sleep that knows no waking. In addressing the corpse, they spoke of this place of Mictlan as a 'most obscure land, where light cometh not, and whence none can ever return.' ...there were nine divisions in Mictlan..." (Hubert Howe Bancroft, Native Races, vol. 3, pp. 532-535).

Laurette Sejourne, in her book "Burning Water" (67), says that "according to the Aztec wise men when the time of life came to an end they did not die but woke from a dream they had lived. Then, some of these departed spirits were transformed into the sun, others into the moon, and others into various planets..." (This is reminiscent of the glory of the sun, moon and the stars, HES).

Prescott tells us, concerning the Mexican tradition, that "They imagined three separate states of existence in the future life. The wicked, comprehending the greater part of mankind, were to expiate their sins in a place of everlasting darkness.

Another class, with no other merit than that of having died of certain diseases, capriciously selected, were to enjoy a negative existence of indolent contentment. The highest place was reserved, as in most warlike nations, for the heroes who fell in battle, or in sacrifice. They passed, at once, into the presence of the Sun, whom they accompanied with songs and choral dances, in his bright progress through the heavens; and, after some years, their spirits went to animate the clouds and singing birds of beautiful plumage, and to revel amidst the rich blossoms and odors of the gardens of paradise" (William Hickling Prescott, the Conquest of Mexico and the Conquest of Peru, p. 40).

The Peruvian tradition is as follows: "Their ideas in respect to a future state of being deserve more attention. They admitted the existence of a soul hereafter, and connected with this a belief in the resurrection of the body. They assigned two distinct places for the residence of the good and of the wicked, the latter of which they fixed in the centre of the earth. The good they supposed were to pass a luxurious life of tranquility and ease, which comprehended their highest notions of happiness. The wicked were to expiate their crimes by ages of wearisome labor. They associated with these ideas a belief in an evil principle or spirit, bearing the name of Cupay, whom they did not attempt to propitiate by sacrifices, and who seems to have been a shadowy personification of sin, that exercised little influence over their conduct" (William Prescott, *ibid.*, p. 776-777).

PROGRESS ON THE NEW BUILDING

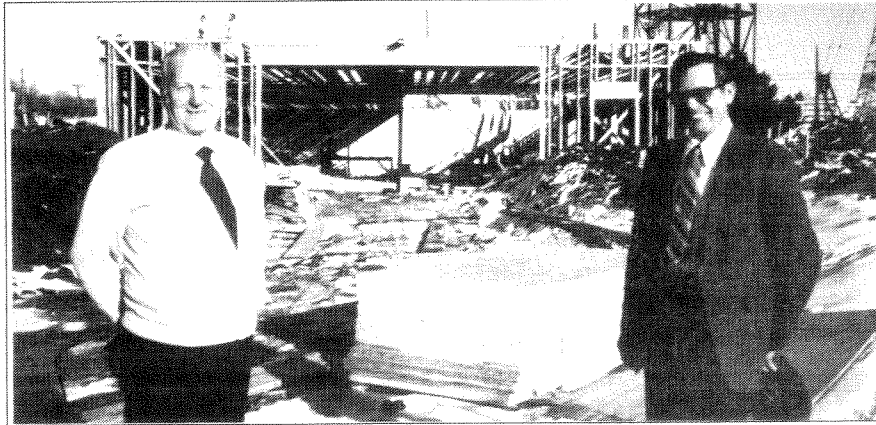
The icy conditions we have endured the past month are finally melting away. The foundation and lower-level walls were poured, the structural steel in place, and rough-in ready to begin by the 13th of December. The stormy weather called the "Alberta Express" blew down from the frozen north and derailed progress.

January 13th rough-in finally began. Apostle William Sheldon, secretary of the Apostles, and Elder Leslie Case, secretary of the Bishops, keep an eye on the construction progress. Leslie retired from Kansas City Power and Light this past year, and he is available to oversee the contractor's

project manager. Bill is at the Visitor's Center every day and enjoys being "sidewalk superintendent."

When rough-in is completed, the heating and air-conditioning

The scene pictured here is taken from the west looking toward the entrance to the new Visitors Center. The construction tower in the background (right) is for the RLDS Temple.



Apostle Wm. Sheldon (left) & Elder Leslie Case stand at the West end of the new Church of Christ Headquarters building presently under construction.

system is to be installed by one of several of our church-member sub-contractors. Elder Jack Martin, pastor of the Collins, Missouri Local, will begin that phase of the construction about the end of February.

workers, and God's Spirit to guide us.

*Elder Alvin Harris,
Bishop/Business Manager*

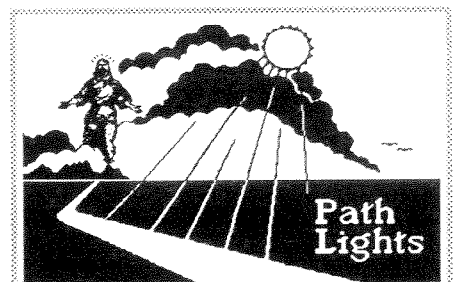
Church Arsonist Convicted

January 15, 1991:

A Jackson County Jury convicted Jordan Smith on two felony counts for the January 1, 1990, burning of the Headquarters of the Church of Christ. He can be sentenced to one year and a fine, to be determined by the judge, for burglary and four years plus a fine for arson. He is in the Jackson County jail awaiting final sentencing on March 1, 1991.

In direct testimony and cross examination Smith detailed his actions in setting the fire. He expressed no remorse for his conduct.

The State of Missouri, not the arson victim, prosecutes all arson cases. Apostle William Sheldon and Bishop Alvin Harris were called upon to testify. Our church's beliefs and feelings received the utmost respect from both attorneys.



No Path Lights This Month

Please Help support this column! Submit your testimonies to:

**Melissa McGhee
2533 Glen Lane
Independence, Mo 64052**

Obituaries

Alzada & Harold Massey

Services for former Texas County (Missouri) resident, Alzada Keeney Massey, were 2 P.M., Friday, November 9, 1990, at Houston, Missouri; Elder Larry Beem officiated.

Sister Massey, 68, and her husband, Harold Massey, were killed November 3, 1990, in a four vehicle accident near Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Sister Massey, daughter of Charles Ernest Keeney and Anna Mae Cox Keeney, was born July 17, 1922, at Houston. She was a 1939 graduate of Houston High School and received her Bachelor's degree from Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield.

Sister Alzada met Harold Massey while both were teaching at Licking High School and left Texas County in the late 1940's. They eventually settled in Goodwell and then Weatherford, both in Oklahoma.

Sister Massey was a retired teacher (with a Masters Degree), having worked in migrant worker education in the Oklahoma area. She also served as president of the Retired Teachers of Oklahoma and was a member of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) in Oklahoma City. (Zion's Advocate readers will remember her well-written and insightful news reports for her local church - ed.)

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her father. Surviving are one son, Wm. Ernest Massey, of Dallas, Texas; one daughter, Marilyn Sue Massey, of Stillwater, Ok.; her mother; two sisters, Mary Jane Medders of Houston, Mo., and Florence Marie Kommer, of Springfield, Mo.; one brother, Dr. I.C. Keeney, of Houston, Mo.

Burial was in the Pine Lawn Cemetary at Houston, Mo.

Tribute to a dear sister and brother-in-law:

Gratitude was the beautiful flower that grew in their hearts. Other flowers may have more delicate beauty, but none with more sweeter fragrance. This gratitude is a heart flower and only those who bring gifts of love and service find the cool nook where they grow.

Alzada and Harold planted and tended this flowers well and they reaped a life full and running over with love and joy and gladness.

I'm sure God recognized these two beautiful flowers, as they entered His beautiful garden gate.

They took me in when I needed help. I went to Goodwell, Oklahoma to finish my college work when a young girl. I will be ever grateful for the guidance and help they gave me. They weren't looking to what they would get, but what they gave. Their kind deeds proved their worth. They helped me bear my burdens, that made their own seem

lighter. Their hearts were sincere and true. They gave the world their very best.

As teachers they had enthusiasm - that faith in action! They led every child to understand that school is a wonderful adventure.

They inspired children to have initiative and to overcome difficulties. They listened to each child with patience. Each child was considered a special individual.

They tried to instill youth to be exact, to complete every task undertaken, and to understand that the quality of work was more important than speed.

They gave special attention to the child who was slow to learn or a bit indifferent about school. They realized that such a child was only "a diamond in the rough," who with the proper help and guidance would shine brilliantly. I am sure, no matter what the occasion or what decision they had to make, they were fair to everyone. This gave them respect from students as well as colleagues.

Most of all, God gave them strength to instill in the lives of youth high ideals and courage.

I will forever see the glow of light they left shining. As Alzada's younger sister, I tried to follow the light that she kept shining before me. Harold was my high school teacher that all students adored, as well as myself. We have beautiful memories that will last all our lives.

My prayer is, that I will leave a glow of light behind me, as Alzada and Harold.

A teacher affects eternity; we can never tell where our influence stops.

The family of Alzada and Harold Massey wish to thank all our brothers and sisters for all their love, prayers, flowers, cards and gifts that were given to the "Church Pew Fund" in memory of Alzada.

**Bill and Marilyn Massey
Anna Keeney
Dr. I. C. Keeney and family
Florence Kommer and family
Mary Jane Medders and family**

Mabel A. Matthews

Mabel A. Matthews of 140 Adams St, Lancaster, Wisconsin, passed from this life on Saturday, December 15, 1990 at Finley Hospital in Dubuque, Iowa, after a serious illness, at the age of 80 years.

She was born on June 13, 1910 in Clark, South Dakota, the daughter of Joseph and Clara Muncy. She married Oscar Matthews on September 19, 1938.

She leaves to mourn her passing, her husband Oscar of Lancaster; one daughter, Peggy; son-in-law, David Hoff; grandson Chris; granddaughters Kim and Keli Hoff, all of Madison, SD. Also surviving are two brothers, Ralph Muncy of Pine City, MN, and Levi Muncy of Watertown, SD; and three sisters, Ethel Samuelson, Redfield, S.D., Martha Christenson, Westport, WA, and Lois McMillian of Huron, S.D. She also leaves many other relatives, friends and neighbors to mourn her passing.

She embraced the Gospel of Jesus Christ, was baptized and became a member of the Church of Christ, with headquarters of the Temple Lot in Independence, Missouri on September 9, 1979.

She was a 24-year member and past chaplain of Tom Cox #47 Women's Relief Corp in Lancaster.

Services were held at the O'Rourke-Schwartz Funeral Home in Lancaster, December 18, 1990. Interment was in the Hillside Cemetery, also in Lancaster, with Elder Isaac Brockman, Sr., of Independence, Missouri, officiating.

Late Bulletin:

On Sunday Morning, January 27, 1991, Sisters Kathy Molloy and Cathy Cloyd, both of the Mogollon Local Church of Christ in Arizona, were involved in a head-on auto collision on the way to Church services. Our dear Sister Kathy Molloy was killed and Cathy Cloyd was seriously injured to include a broken arm, leg and ribs. Four of their children were also in the car and miraculously survived with various injuries more minor in nature.

Please pray for these two families.

News, Notices & Announcements

Ravenna Local News

Greetings to all!

The beginning of a New Year brings thoughts of the past year (and how fast the time does fly!) and accomplishments along with plans for the new year. 1990 has been a 'quieter' year for our local, having the building up and comfortably settled into. We enjoyed our first wedding (that of Marie weaver and Alan Piatt), we have had many blessings throughout the year, a very successful Michigan State Reunion, a craft bazaar & baked goods sale and a yard sale. Now we can begin to finish our lower level.

Thanksgiving brought us a group of "Nephite sisters" this year as our children's Sunday School group performed for us. For Christmas our children's class built and made figures for a Nativity scene to put on our front table.

The New Year was brought in with our annual Fondue dinner and midnight prayer service. Once again for the new year, 1991, we are looking forward to the Michigan State Reunion in June and our heartfelt desire to see all those we hold dear. Until then may God bless you and keep you safe.

Your sister in Christ,

Debbie Brantner Vogel

Reporter, Ravenna Local

Temple Lot News

December 23rd, our last service of 1990, had a standing-room-only congregation. The Sunday School Christmas program took both Sunday School and preaching service time. We were entertained and taught by talented members. That evening, we shared the talents of the folks at the East Local. We were thankful for this day of service - a demonstration of the real meaning of Christmas.

Tradition shows the New Year coming in as a baby. Jon and Carrie (Hedrick) Geier helped us with that. On New Year's Eve, Noah Paul Geier was born. He checked in at 7 lbs, 19 1/2 inches. Noah was supposed to be here for Christmas, but his schedule changed. He is Caroline Hedrick's first grandchild. Paternal grandparents are Paul and Sharon Leikness (East Independence Local). Maternal great grandmothers are Doris Ratterree (T.L.) and Alvina Bell (Grand Junction Local). He was blessed by the Lord at the hands of Elders Leslie Case and Rodger Bruner at the January 6th Sacrament Service.

We welcome David and Debbie Vogel, who moved here just before Christmas. They have been an active part of the Phoenix Local for the past eight years. Our Sunday School teachers are very happy to see their three children: David-Andrew (11), Kate (7), and Hannah (7

Months).

The C.A.R.E. Group (Christian Adults Recreation and Education) began New Year's Eve with a prayer service focused on our children, our marriages, and those involved in Operation Desert Shield (Kuwait conflict). Ten couples shared testimonies of blessings of friendship during the past year. Bonnie Case expressed appreciation to have our friend and brother, Cletus Wiley, come to work at their veterinary clinic. Kim Yates (here for the holidays from Phoenix) told how friendship had developed after she married Jim and moved to Phoenix. Debbie Vogel told how much she had taken friendships for granted in Phoenix until she was leaving to move here. Often we have friends we don't realize we have. The evening ended singing songs, visiting, and sharing goodies,

The C.A.R.E. Group formed under direction of ministers Steve McGhee (E.L.) and Glen Gill (T.L.) in the Spring of 1989. The only "officer" is Becky Sheldon, who records activities. The group is made up of Y.P.C.L. alumni and anyone else wishing to concentrate on daily living, marriage, children, finances, dealing with the world, etc. Families bring their children. Once a month there is an in-home meeting to study and socialize. One Sunday a month they have a prayer service for our country - all church members are asked to meet for this

concentrated effort to request God's help with concerns in the United States.

Scattered members holding meetings in homes look forward to having a church building. We now have some home meetings, since our building was destroyed, and are reminded of the warmth that exists in home meetings. Priesthood meetings are in our home. We are blessed with 10 to 12 members of the priesthood. Recently, we've had a class for people interested in baptism in our home. Glen Gill is the teacher. Alvin has enjoyed home meetings for General Church responsibilities he shares with the Bishops. So many meetings for all the necessary planning this past year allowed them to be much closer friends.

We have so many blessings, but I can't begin to detail everything. I trust God is blessing all of you, as well. We would love to see more news and testimonies in Zion's Advocate.

Joyce Harris, Reporter

Wake Up Camp Anniversary

Due to mounting sentiment and repeated request, 1991 will see a 25th anniversary gathering in memory of the Wake Up Camp.

The old site at Bemidji is not available, and the Reed family is no longer there so the Tri-State Reunion will provide time and place for being together. Release time and social schedule in the Reunion will allow ample occasion for reminiscing. George and Lovita Reed plan to attend. Meet them there.

Your inquiry and plans may be addressed to:

**Thomas Maley
13021 Rich Valley Boulevard
Rosemount, Mn 55068**

The date for the Reunion is August 30 - September 1, and the place is Whitewater Youth Camp at Whitewater State Park, Altura, Minnesota, about 8 miles north of St. Charles.

1991 April Conference of the Church of Christ

The 1991 April Conference of the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, March 31. Two days of Solemn Assembly will precede the Conference.

(Locations and times will be announced.)

LOOKING AHEAD

A Time to Renew Your Testimony

- Editorial commentary by Apostle McIndoo

Sunday School Lessons

- More lessons from the General Sunday School Association

Testimony of the American Indian and the Stick of Joseph

- Part 23 in the series by Harvey E. Seibel

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

Price Each

Zion's Advocate Subscription Rate:	
Members (optional)	\$ 4.00
Non-Members	4.00
Foreign	4.50
Book of Mormon (1908 Authorized Edition - Missionary)	5.00
Book of Mormon (1908 Authorized Edition - Leather)	20.00
Book of Mormon (1990 Independence Edition - Missionary)	7.00
Book of Mormon (1990 Independence Edition - Cloth)	18.00
Book of Mormon (1990 Independence Edition - Leather)	24.00
Book of Mormon Concordance	8.00
Outline History of the Church of Christ	4.00
Book of Commandments (paper bound)	4.00
Book of Commandments Controversy Reviewed	4.00
The Marvelous Work and a Wonder - by D. McGregor	3.50
What the Restoration Teaches Concerning God	2.50
Historical Facts Concerning the Temple Lot	1.30
Temple Lot Deed	.30
Changing of the Revelations	.50
Comprehensive Comparison of Changes to the Revelations	1.30

The balance of these General Church Publications are free of charge:

- A Brief History of the Church of Christ
- The Principles of the Gospel - Faith & Repentance
- The Principles of the Gospel - Laying on of Hands
- The Principles of the Gospel - Baptism
- The Latter Day Restoration
- Apostasy or Succession, Which?
- The Book of Mormon (tract)
- Articles of Faith & Practice of the Church of Christ
- Articles of Faith & Practice (Spanish)
- Article #9 Amplified: Bible & Book of Mormon
- Article #20 Amplified: Marriage
- Sermonettes on the Teachings of Jesus
- What the Church teaches about Matrimony (Spanish)
- Mighty Acts of the Ages (Spanish)
- Priesthood - Divine Authority
- Why? (Amplifies absence of a "First Presidency" in Scripture)
- A Synopsis (Compares beliefs of 3 Restoration churches)
- First Presidency or First Apostles?
- Marriage for Time and Eternity? - A Fallacy
- Baptism for the Dead? - A Fallacy
- Zion and the Temple of the Lord

NOTE: Donations accepted to cover postage & printing costs.
(Multiple copies available: 6-50¢ / 100-\$5.85 plus postage)

Sunday School Materials

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

- Church History for Juniors - Includes a Teachers Guide
- The Book in the Stone Box - About the Book of Mormon
- Bible Stories to Grow By - 52 lessons about God and Jesus for ages 5-7; Free to local Sunday Schools only.
- Jesus' Life and Teachings - 4 quarterlies for ages 8-10
- We sing and We Talk about Jesus -14 Primary lessons with pictures and songs on cassette; For "loan" only.
- Who Am I? - Bible game on cards with many uses; Free to Local Sunday Schools - \$1.30 for individuals.

CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

Speed delivery of your "Advocate" by sending us your new address immediately. Mail to address listed below.

Each undeliverable "Advocate" is now costing the church 30¢. We would rather spend this on delivering your paper than on its return to us.

<p>ZION'S ADVOCATE (USPS 6993-0000) P.O. Box 472 Independence, Mo 64051-0472</p>	<p>Second Class Postage Paid Independence, Mo 64051</p>
<p>Mr & Mrs Aaron Heath 159 E. Beech Fruitport, MI 49415</p>	

AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS

The following materials are available on loan to members of the Church of Christ from the Audio, Video, Visual-Aid and Archeology Committee.

● **Slide Programs with Taped Narration**

Specify program(s) wanted, anticipated dates of use, and the make of your projector. Slide projectors and tape players are not provided except in the Independence or Phoenix areas.

Allow adequate advance time for handling and shipping, and for your own preview of the programs. For more information on these slide/tape programs, see the March 1984 issue of the Zion's Advocate, page 47. To order a slide program, write to Gary Housknecht, 11308 E. 78th St, Raytown, Mo 64138.

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

Out of the Dust (45 minutes) — Tells the story found within the Book of Mormon.

Light at Evening (27 minutes) — Story of the bringing forth of the Book of Mormon and the restoration of the Church of Christ in the 1820's and 1830.

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

● **Holy Scriptures on Audio Cassette Tapes**

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

● **Sermons on Audio Cassette Tapes**

For a sermon on cassette tape write to Mike Kelley, 1949 E. Libby St., Phoenix, AZ 85022, or Ron Temple, 5621 Logan Rd., K.C., MO 64136.

PRIESTHOOD VISITATION

If you or someone you know (member or non-member) would like to be visited by a member of the Priesthood of the Church of Christ, please call or write to the Council of Apostles at Church Headquarters in Independence, Missouri. The phone number and address are listed on the inside front cover.