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 — March 1991

Number 3

March: A Time To Renew Your Testimony

"This is the time to strengthen our testimony, for Nephi saw that the forces of wickedness shall soon gather together 'to fight against the Lamb of God.'

"Make for yourselves, then, times of quietness and solitude in which to study as Paul admonished, times to seek the Lord in fervent prayer as did Enos, times to contemplate the purpose of God as did Nephi. If we would be effective witnesses for God it is vital that this small body of believers be armed with personal righteousness."

D.E. McIndoo

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The Zion's Advocate is . .

To promote Jesus Christ as Saviour, and His teachings; To promote His Church, the Church of Christ;

To be a voice of warning to His people;

To be Zion's advocate.

Please remember the editorial staff in your prayers.

WRITTEN MATERIAL REQUESTED

Priesthood articles and sermons, testimonies for "Path Lights," and news items are requested, and should be sent to the Editor as listed above. Deadline for material requiring publication in any certain month is the 10th of the previous month.

Format of Submitted Material

Please type all submissions (if possible), on one side of the paper only. Do not use "eraseable" or textured bond paper. Please avoid overuse of <u>underlining</u> 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.

March: A Time To Renew Your Testimony

Whoso has felt the Spirit of the Highest Cannot confound nor doubt Him nor deny: Yes, with one voice, O world, tho' thou deniest, Stand thou on that side, for on this am I. ¹

in the spring of eighteen hundred and twenty" began a series of events which has greatly affected our lives. This was the day young Joseph went into the woods to pray. There he came into the presence of the Almighty and the "marvelous work" of the latter day had its beginning.

In March, just ten years later, the Book of Mormon was completed and ready for distribution to the world. John Gilbert of Palmyra, New York, who set the type, tells us, "The manuscript was put into our hands in August, 1829, and all printed by March, 1830." ³ As these books went out into the world little could the young men whom the Lord had chosen to have part in this mighty work of the ages have realized the impact their efforts and testimony would have upon the world and in their own

Those first witnesses to the divinity of the Book of Mormon were to find themselves, in the words of the poet, on one

lives.

side while all the world, with one voice, was arrayed against them. Yet their testimony never weakened nor did it ever change. When challenged in court many years later by an opposing lawyer, Oliver Cowdery asked that his testimony be incorporated into the court record: "I saw the angel and heard the voice from heaven. How can I deny it? I dare not, I will not." 4

Twenty years after the Book of Mormon was published, again in March, Oliver lay near death. He was attended by his old friend, and fellow witness, David Whitmer. With his dying words Oliver reminded him to

Book of More
Holy Bible

be faithful to his testimony. We know that David and Martin, like Oliver, were ever steadfast in their testimony of the marvelous, angelic experience God had given them.

Upon rare occasion, an individual, chosen of God to be a special witness, finds himself in the presence of Divinity:

Jared's brother, as he climbed

Mt. Shelem beside an unknown

Guest Editorial ... by Apostle Donald McIndoo

sea; Moses, as he sought the Lord in the Sinai desert; Nephi, as he pondered the things of God in the solitude of the Arabian desert; Alma and the sons of Mosiah as they walked the dark streets of Zarahemla; humble shepherds on a hillside in Galilee; John, Peter and James, as they accompanied Jesus into a high mountain; Paul, as he traversed the Syrian desert on the road to Damascus; Joseph Smith and his three companions, as they knelt in the woods praying.

After such encounters with the high purpose of God, ones life remains forever changed. There shall be moments of joy sublime; there shall also be times of great loneliness, perchance moments of sorrow, and there shall always be opposition from the world. The real witness of truth shall, above all, be ever in bonds to the high purpose of God.

Another March has rolled 'round and in this tumultuous year when we find ourselves called to be God's witnesses of truth, the course shall not be easy. We realize that, while

most of us have never had experiences such as the abovenamed men of God, we have had experiences and we have received testimony concerning this work and concerning the Book of Mormon. As well, it must remembered, we are

God's men and women for this momentous day.

This is the time to strengthen our testimony, for Nephi saw

that the forces let us each willingly place ourselves in bonds to the high purpose of God

of wickedness shall soon gather together "to fight against the Lamb of God." Make for yourselves, then, times of

quietness and solitude in which to study as Paul admonished, times to seek the Lord in fervent prayer as did Enos, times to contemplate the purpose of God as did Nephi. If we would be effective witnesses for God it is vital that this small body of believers be armed with personal righteousness. Finally, let us each, as did the Apostle Paul, willingly place ourselves in bonds to the high purpose of God during this final hour of labor in the vineyard of the Lord.

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- 1. "SAINT PAUL" by Frederic W. H. Myers.
- 2. An Outline History of the Church of Christ, p. 16.
- 3. The History of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Vol 1, p. 81
- 4. West, Jack H., The Trial of the Stick of Joseph, Sounds of Zion, Salt Lake City, pp. 21-22.

Illustration by Laurie Bartlett

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 referrendum 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. Funds are still needed, 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.

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. Thank you!

Conference Announcement

The 1991 April Conference of the Church of Christ will commence at 9:00 A.M., Sunday, March 31 (Easter Sunday), at the Salvation Army CAMP MOKAN, on U.S. 40 Highway just West of Lee's Summit road in Independence. This is the same location as in 1990.

There will be two days of Solemn Assembly immediately preceding the Conference, and all are asked to participate, at least in Spirit. For those able to attend, Solemn Assembly services will be held at the Independence East Local, starting Friday, March 29, at 9:00 A.M.

PROGRESS REPORT

Church Headquarters Building

R. D. Penner Construction, our General Contractor, is using sub-contractors available within our Church membership whenever possible. Four more church-member sub-contractors will begin working this month.

Ralph Clark will do the dry wall finish work. Ralph, Kathy and five children live in Springfield, Nebraska, 20 miles from Kathy's parents, Apostle Robert Jensen and Doris, in Bellevue. They gather in Council Bluffs, Springfield, or Bellevue for Sunday services. Kathy, her sister Marilyn, and Doris had a very successful Craft Sale this fall to add to the New Building Fund.

Dan Lawrence will install the sound system. Dan, Manon, and their son Jesse are Jean Chapman's children. Dan is an electrical engineer; however, his business is repairing stringed instruments. His electronics knowledge aids the church. He sets up sound systems for Conference, Missouri Reunions, and our local churches. He is a member of the General Church AVVAA committee, making tapes and slides available, as listed in the Zion's Advocate. Dan is a Teacher and is the Temple Lot Local Sunday School Superintendent.

Shaughn Sprague; Floyd E. Denham's sons: Floyd, Joseph, and John; Olie Denham and his brother-in-law, Guillermo Katamura, will do the interior finish work and the siding. These men are grandsons and great grandsons of Charles Denham, who laid the

foundation for the church built in 1902. Charles Denham was the son-inlaw of George Frisbey, the man who drove the first wagon over the ice on the Missouri River, when the Church of Christ came back to Missouri from the seven locals in Illinois in 1867.

Mike Smith and his brother David

at Conference time. Completion is scheduled for mid-summer.

We thank God for his guidance and ask you to continue to remember us in your prayers.

Elder Alvin Harris



Elder Alvin Harris in front of the main entrance to the new Church of Christ HQ Bldg.

are Co-owners of Builders Service, which will provide hardware. Mike's wife, Trudy, is a member of the East Independence Local and is the daughter of Elder Tony Grzincic and his wife Louise. Tony and Louise joined the Church in Michigan and moved to Independence in January, 1977.

The framing is complete, the building closed in, and the roof is on. We will be ready to give tours

HALLOWED GROUND by Sam Kidd

The Church burned — the people cried
They could no longer go inside
In this church they held so dear
But the Lord said, "I am here."

They looked at the vacant spot on the ground and in their hearts, they cried,
But the Lord said, "People do not cry, nothing here has died"

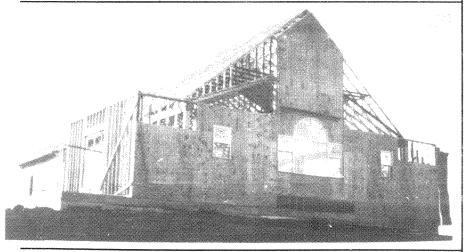
Men can do what they will,

But my spirit they will not kill
On this very hallowed ground
My spirit always will be found.

A Temple built in which to pray
For this spot is designated so
And all Restoration people know
That this is true for those that believe
And there is no reason for them to grieve
About the passing of a place of wood
For out of this will come some good.

On this ground, there will be some day,

United my people and to the World show Because of your faith, you softened the blow Of losing a structure through evil way And show them My Gospel is here to stay.



View from River Blvd. — just before the roof was put on.

Study Helps

For a long time, I took it for granted that the elementary study habits I use were common knowledge. But over the years I have discovered that many people in the Church do not know some of the basic study habits and helps that can make studying God's word a little easier — a little more pleasurable. Perhaps many of you are reluctant to consider even the thought of "study" as opposed to simply "reading" the scriptures, because you may not know how to even begin.

Now, this is nothing to be embarrassed about, especially if it were known just how commonplace your predicament may be. My wife, Neva, readily admits that she hasn't the "foggiest idea" how to even start studying — and she is part of the inspiration for this article. I want to say right off that simply "reading" the scriptures is not only quite pleasurable, but many times just as important as a careful study of a given topic; so don't discount the many hours you may have spent just reading. However, the Lord does command us to study the written word, and I hope to offer something here that may help you develop a few simple, but very helpful study habits.

ne of the most basic of all study helps is best remembered as the acronym of the title: SH! That is, "Shhh"—

quiet surroundings mean better retention of what you read. Tops on your list of rules, though, has to be prayer, if only a short silent prayer, each time you open the Bible or Book of Mormon, asking for God's help: "... and by the power of the Holy Ghost, ye may know the truth of all things." Moroni 10:5

STARTERS

1. Don't worry too much about memorizing the order of the books. Sure, it is very helpful to know the order, but this will come naturally over a period of time. Practice by trying to follow along during sermons, etc. Soon, you will find yourself becoming adept at flipping right to the approximate location your seeking. Which brings me to the second "starter" rule ...

2. Select a bible and stick with it. Page numbers in the Book of Mormon are generally the same from one copy to another (with a few exceptions, like any L.D.S. version). However, the Holy Bible is published with different size type, different size pages, by dozens of different publishers, etc., etc., such that you will rarely encounter a bible with pages laid out just like your own. Once you get used to your "own" book, you may even find yourself being able to visualize the scripture your seeking by the approximate location on the left or right page that it actually occupies. In this way, you can turn to the approximate chapter you think your scripture is in and leaf through the pages looking at the "spot" you have visualized until it pops up in front of you.

I recommend a straightforward King James Version, as most other versions and "translations" quite often change the meaning of scripture in the publisher's or translator's attempt to make their edition "more readable." And just one other piece of advice here (as this can be a very lengthy topic): An edition that has a lot of study helps

by Elder Gary A. Housknecht

and cross referencing can be nice, but can also mislead you. Too many supplemental comments and cross references border on being a "commentary" (see number 6 below for a precaution about commentaries). Try to select an edition with text that is easy on your eyes, with the words of our Lord in the New Testament Bible printed in red, and with a good amount of white space on each page; that is, fairly wide margins at the top, bottom and edges of a page are very helpful for adding

a few of your own notes occasionally. Use of inset "thumb" indexing is purely a matter of choice, as there are pros and cons either way.

3. When you start trying to memorize a few really key scripture references, do so by book name, chapter and verse — not by page number. This is not to criticize the many who know their scriptures by page number, but there are at least three good reasons for not doing so: A) You will learn the order and general location of books much faster by looking at book names rather than page numbers as you flip through the pages in your search; B) When it comes to telling someone else about a certain scripture that comes to your mind, your page number may be meaningless — even with some editions of the Book of Mormon (the LDS version of the Book of Mormon doesn't even match chapter or verse numbers with RLDS or Church of Christ editions). Knowing a scripture by book name rather than page number will make it easier to find in a different edition; and C) Names are usually easier to remember by association to the topic of your verse than are numbers.

4. A good concordance is essential. A concordance will help locate a scripture for you by just knowing one of the key words in the verse. For example, the following scripture can be found by looking up one or more of the key words in your concordance: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son," The word "begotten" is the least

common word in that verse and a concordance will point you, among a few others, right to John 3:16. If you looked it up by the word "world," you would also find it, but the concordance will list many more verses with the same word.

BEGINNEST

Deut. 16.9 time thou b. to put the sickle to corn BEGOTTEN

Num. 11.12 have I conceived, have I b. them?

Deut. 23.8 the children b. of them shall enter

Judg. 8.30 Gideon had 70 sons of his body b.

Job 38.28 or who hath b. the drops of dew

Psal. 2.7 thou art my Son, this day have I b. thee

Acts 13.33 Heb. 1.5; 5.5

Isa. 49.21 thou shalt say, who hath **b**. me these Jer. 2. *27 saying to a stone, thou hast **b**. me Hos. 5.7 for they have **b**. strange children John 1.14 the glory as of the only **b**. of the Father

18. the only b. Son, he hath declared him 3.16 God so loved, that he gave his only b. Son 18. not believed in the name of the only b. Son

ILLUSTRATION 1

Note that the word you are concerned with will appear simply as "b." (or some other appropriate letter).

In the book of John, you will notice that indentations are used to indicate more verses in the same chapter, and more chapters in the same book

Also note the reference in Jeremiah (Jer) with the asterisk (*). Each concordance may use a different symbol, but what this means is that the word noted in this verse is not the particular word you are looking for, but a word thatmeans the same. Look up Jer. 2:27 and you'll see what I mean

Some concordances also have what is called a *compendium* of the scriptures. This can also be a useful tool, since it condenses, into one very short paragraph, what each entire chapter is all about. With a compendium of the scriptures you can scan very large portions of the Bible in just a few moments.

Illustration number one (above) shows a portion of a page out of a concordance. Note that a few words are shown on either side of the "key" word (noted by a single letter) to help you pinpoint the exact verse you want.

5. A good "topical" reference book is sometimes even more helpful (but should not supplant a concordance entirely). An example of this kind of book is The Zondervan Topical Bible. The big difference between this kind of book and a concordance is that you can look up the above scripture by its general topic or subject without knowing any of the key words. For example, you can look up "sacrifice" and skim through the listings under that subject until you recognize the one you want. Another nice thing about it is that while looking up one scripture, you may see one or several others on the same topic that you can follow up on later. Books of this nature are available for both the Bible and Book of Mormon (even the Book of Commandments). A "topical" reference is about the best way to start from scratch on a given subject study.

6. Another helpful book is a Bible or Book of Mormon dictionary. This differs from either a topical reference or a concordance, in that it is simply a listing, in alphabetical order, of most key nouns (names of people, places and things) with accompanying definition and/or brief life story, historical background, etc., as appropriate. Quite often scripture references are given to clarify the given definition by example.

Some scriptural dictionaries go beyond definitions and border on being a *commentary*, which is one type of book from which I encourage you to stay away. A "commentary" is a book written by some theologian or group of theologians with their personal opinions and understanding given verse by verse. Some come in single volumes, others in complete sets with comments on virtually every verse in the Bible or Book of Mormon. Much of what is written may be accurate, but the real danger is that you may get in the habit of relying on it for understanding rather than God (or the Holy Ghost), or the faculties He gave you, or a member of the Priesthood of the Church of Christ. Then, when you read an opinion of a verse's meaning that is incorrect, you will have effectively built up a wall between you and the truth. If God thought commentaries would be needed, He would simply have caused the authors of the books within the Bible and Book of Mormon to elaborate more fully. For some reason, perhaps known only to God, He has chosen to make much of the Holy scriptures a "mystery."

STAGE TWO

So, now that you have your books laid out in front of you and have chosen a subject to study, what next?

Let's say you want to study "baptism." Let's also assume that you have a Bible, a Book of Mormon and a concordance for each. Please note that most Bibles have an abbreviated concordance toward the back that will work just fine as a starter for many subjects; so if you can't afford a separate, unabridged concordance, use the one in your own book. The new Church of Christ 1990 Inde-

pendence edition of the Book of Mormon also has an abbreviated concordance. If you are fortunate enough to be near a local congregation of the Church, or even a good public library, most will have a concordance you can use. I won't go into specific uses of a topical reference book or a scriptural dictionary as mentioned above, since their use is somewhat self-explanatory — and also because you simply may not be able to afford these extra books.

1. Grab a scratch pad and jot down the various forms of the word "baptize" that you may want to look up, and any other associated words that might also lead you to references about baptism. For example, the following list would be a good start:

baptize baptism baptized baptizing wash washed born

The reason for words like "wash" and "born" are that some of the best scriptures on baptism may not even have a form of the word "baptize" in them. For example, looking up "born" in the concordance will lead you to a scripture like John 3:3 (quoted below) and the several verses before and after that are also talking about baptism, or being "born again." (NOTE: A "topical" Bible or Book of Mormon, as I mentioned above, would have all these listed together under the topic, "baptism," whether the word "baptize" is in the verse or not. However, a concordance indiscriminately lists each verse and only those verses having the word in it that you are looking up.)

Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

2. Next, simply open one or both concordances to the words you have listed and start looking up the scriptures referenced, one by one. A little later in this article, I will discuss some ideas about how to make notes. At this point you can steer your study in any direction you wish. You may wish, for example, to take the first reference given, look it up, and follow up on any cross references listed in your Bible or

4. Rom. 1:1; I Cor. 1:1; Heb. 5:4.

5. Mos. 9:44.

6. III Ne. 9:4.

- 43 Therefore go forth unto this people, and declare the words which I have spoken, unto the ends of the earth.
- 44 And it came to pass taht when Jesus had spoken these words unto Nephi, and to those which had been ⁴called (now the number of them which had been called and received ⁵power and authority to baptize, were ⁶twelve),
- 45 And behold he stretched forth his hand unto the multitude, and cried unto them, saying, Blessed are ye if ye shall give heed unto the words of these twelve which I have chosen from among you to minister unto you, and to be your servants;

ILLUSTRATION 2

From page 635 of the new (1990) Independence Edition of the Book of Mormon, published by the Church of Christ, note the "superscript" numbers 4, 5 & 6, all in verse 44. The marginal references simply refer you to related scriptures. Look up Mosiah 9:44 and you will see why it relates to "power" in verse 44.

Book of Mormon next to words pertaining to baptism in some way (see Illustration 2). Then, when these cross references are exhausted, go back to the concordance for the next reference. An alternative would be to look up every reference listed in the concordance first, making note of other cross-referenced verses for later examination.

3. In either case, be certain to read several verses before and after the referenced verse to help put it in better perspective. Sometimes reading the whole chapter is necessary, and even the chapter or two before and after. If you are like me, after you have done this, you may raise more questions than you have answered — but this is good because in following up and trying to answer some those new and related questions, you will have more thoroughly covered the subject of your study. After all, you can't study baptism without running into some interesting questions about "repentance," "faith," and "authority," for example.

Always try to determine what has taken place immediately prior to the moment the words in your verse are uttered or written. Know who is speaking, who is being spoken to, and even where and when the surrounding event is taking place. Also, if a third person is being referred to, try your best to determine EXACTLY who it is (in 2 Nephi chapter 2, for instance, Lehi is talking to his son Joseph about Joseph of old, the son of Jacob, and may indirectly refer to Joseph Smith and his father Joseph from the nineteenth century A.D. — all in the same chapter). Sometimes these things are hard to determine, but the more you know about the actual circumstances leading up to your verse, the better you will be able to under-



stand what is being said, and why. This general guideline should be followed in all your scriptural studies. There are numerous examples I could give to demonstrate why this is important, but space prohibits me from going into too much detail. You will better understand why this is important when you actually dig in and start studying.

MAKING NOTES

Your study sessions, be it fifteen minutes or several hours, can bear much fruit toward a long-lasting remembrance of what you learned. What will make this so, is how well you can make a few notes. Like undertaking a real "study" of God's word, making notes about that study may be just as frightening to you. However, it doesn't have to be complicated. As a matter of fact, the less complex your notes, the more practical use you will get out of them.

Think of making notes as

making an outline — where you write down only the highlights. If you develop a comfortable way of turning to just one scripture reference on a given topic, I'll show you a way to make a few notes that will allow you to follow up on that one scripture for a more detailed look — without a notebook or concordance.

I will only deal with making notes on the pages of your books. If you choose to make more extensive notes in a separate notebook, so much the better, but you will still need to make notes to yourself in your books.

» A FEW PRECAUTIONS

- 1. The pages of your Bible and Book of Mormon are very fragile, and a few words of caution about making marks on them are in order. First, NEVER use an ink pen or marker. Even if they don't bleed through at first, they most certainly will bleed and smear over a period of time. Use softlead pencils of red and black as explained a little later. Dull the point slightly before use by making circular motions on scrap paper while rotating the pencil in your fingers. A newly sharpened pencil lead may tear your page.
- 2. Make notes and cross-references in your books very judiciously. In other words, make note of only "key" references and ones you are relatively sure you want to rely on. I mention this having had practical experience doing just the opposite years ago. It got to the point where there were so many

marks on some pages, that the really important things I wanted to stand out and remember became just another scrawl on the page that didn't stand out at all. I will offer some helpful suggestions about this a little later, also.

3. If you are in a Church service or somewhere else when you encounter a very good cross-reference, especially when you don't have the right pencil handy, make a note on a scrap piece of paper. Look the scripture up later, and if you still want to insert it as a note in your book, do so at home with the right kind of pencil and at a table rather than your lap.

» RED ON BLACK & BLACK ON RED

Use a standard soft-lead black pencil (the retractable kind are the best and most convenient) to mark the areas of the New Testament Bible where the words are printed in red, as depicting the words spoken by our Lord. For all other markings, use a red lead.

» ONE "KEY" VERSE

For each subject, like "baptism," select only one scripture and let that be the one you remember — the one to which you first turn when starting to look up something about that subject. If you make notes in a separate notebook, or better yet on an inserted piece of paper in your book of scripture, all you really need is to list your topic and ONE verse. Then, in the "white space" I mentioned earlier, list other important verses from the Bible and Book

of Mormon that pertain to that subject or a related subject. See Illustration 3 from my own Bible as an example. At the location of each of the referenced verses, you need only mark your "key" verse as a reference. Later, if you happen upon one of your cross-referenced verses, it will always lead you back to your "key" verse where several others on that topic are listed.

ISAIAH

55

Zeci. 7:15

176500 516

ISA 1112

Pr: V1:28

Helamen

MO5.0 h

2 44

5 Behold, thou shalt call a nation that thou knowest not, and nations that knew not thee shall run unto thee because of the LORD, they God, and for the Holy One of Israel; for he hath glorified thee.

6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is

near;

7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God; for he will abundantly pardon.

ILLUSTRATION 3

Isaiah 55:6 is my "key" verse for the subject of the Lord being occasionally "difficult of hearing," so to speak. Further explanation of this unusual thought is referred to by the handwritten references in the margin.

At each of the verses referred to, only Isaiah 55:6 is marked as a cross-reference.

» CIRCLE GOOD REFERENCES ALREADY IN YOUR BOOK

You will find that some of the verses to which you are referred in your Bible, the ones in the middle or side margins as placed by the publisher, are very good ones that you will want to remember. At a minimum of marking in your book, simply circle the superscript letter in the verse with the appropriate colored pencil and circle the corresponding letter in the margin that lists the cross-reference you like. If the margin ref-

erence happens to list several verses, underline the one(s) you like.

» ONIONS

I don't know why they call onion-skin paper "onion-skin" paper, but in any case it can be a great help to you in making lengthy comments about a certain verse in your book. You will eventually come across a verse or chapter that is so significant (or so complicated) that you want to make some relatively lengthy comments to help you remember important points about it. Get a package of light-colored onion-skin type paper from a stationery store (yellow is fairly common, and white can be used if no color is available). This is very thin paper. If you end up with several of these inserted in your book, it will not cause stress to the binding and will not noticeably "fatten" your book. You can only type or print on one side of the paper.

Use a few very small dabs of a paper glue (like Mucilage) on the inside edge, spread wide the center open binding of the page with one hand, and carefully insert the onion-skin paper deep into the open center binding with the other hand. Immediately close the book and wait a few minutes before you re-open it. Be certain all comments you want to make are already on the insert. Also, be sure you refer to the specific verse to which your comments pertain, and make a note in your book by the same verse, like "see insert."

Herald House, the publish-

ing arm of the RLDS church, used to offer a set of chain-referenced onion-skin inserts (no longer available) for the Book of Mormon covering some latter-day archaeological finds and how they pertained to certain verses, in addition to items about references to Christ in other records, such as Quetzalcoatl among the ancient American Indian. These were meant to be inserted in your book just as I have described. The lesson here, however, is that each insert listed the verse to which it referred (as I have mentioned), AND referred you to the next

scripture reference having a similar insert. In this way, if you are really ambitious, you can insert an entire chain-reference on a topic of your choice, with many comments and notes, without burdening your book pages with an over-abundance of markings.

CONCLUSION

These study helps are only suggestions. I am just one of many ordained members of the Priesthood in the Church of Christ — and each may have their own helpful hints about how to study. Ask them. I am

certain they will be glad to offer help. There is nothing special about my suggestions, but there is one thing I pray that you gain from this article: That undertaking a study of God's Holy word need not be painful. You can make it as simple or as thorough as you wish, selecting a suggestion here and another from someone else, etc. Be selective and use only those suggestions with which you feel comfortable.

As always, make it a matter of prayer!

ZA

TESTIMONY OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN AND THE STICK OF JOSEPH

Compiled by Harvey E. Seibel

The Book of Mormon describes the ancient inhabitants of this land as possessing a very advanced civilization, a high culture.

The Mayas plotted the courses of the planets including dim and elusive Mercury. They were so accurate that they differed only slightly in degrees and minutes from those of present day astronomers. The 365 1/4 day calendar was computed and put into practice long before the Julian calendar was adopted in Rome. In addition to their observations of the movements of the sun, moon and the five known planets they compiled tables of basic eclipses and predicted the same with tremendous accuracy, all this at a time when most of our ancestors were untutored barbarians. The Maya Priest astronomers had developed their science to a mathematical precision.

One of the great Mayan observatories, excavated in Uaxactum, Northern Guatemala was occupied for 561 years, from A.D. 618 to A.D. 629. Between 12 and 18 observatories have so far been discovered. The question which puzzles modern scholars is how these people could reach such accurate results without a telescope or even the astrolobe. Yet the Mavan calendar correction formulas were slightly more accurate than our own Gregorian leap year correction, which was introduced nearly 1000 years after the Mayan. Pope Gregory's correction is 3/10,000 of a day too long. The ancient Maya correction was only 2/10,000 of a day too short.

We are told further that some time between the third or fourth centuries before Christ the ancient Maya priests devised a simple numerical system which today, after more than 2000 years, stands as one of the most brilliant achievements of the human mind. The Maya

priests for the first time in the history of the human race devised a system of numeration by position, involving the conception and use of the mathematical quantity of zero. The Mayas' system of positional mathematics was based upon 20 as its unit of progression instead of 10. Theirs was a vigesimal system while ours is the decimal. The vigesimal system had come into use among the Mayans 1000 years before the decimal system had been invented in the Old World by the Hindoos and nearly 2000 years before its use in Europe among our own an-

These facts and others of the same vein have moved one student of Indian achievements to voice, without fear of contradiction, the opinion that the ancient Mayas are the most brilliant aboriginal people on this planet.

Sahagun relates that the Toltecs were proficient in all they set their hands to, that all was delicate and elegant. Their

Continued on p. 45 ...

Conference time has always been a very busy time for our family since Bob was elected the General Church Secretary. There is a lot of preparation that goes into getting ready for the business sessions. At the time of this experience, the church had not set up as many committees as they have now and a lot more duties and responsibilities were on the shoulders of the Secretary.

I had gone to choir practice on Sunday afternoon and in the course of the practice, several complaints were voiced about the arrangements that had been made for conference that year. I was already tired, too sensitive and got my feelings hurt. Especially since so much of our family's time had already gone into the preparations. I went home and couldn't shake the hurt. I cried and complained and finally went to bed.

The next morning I woke up with a heavy heart. My family all left for their daily activities of school and work and I found myself at home alone. I again

was aware of my hurt feelings as I started thinking about the upcoming and I felt guilty that I had let myself become offended. I wanted to come to the Sacrament service prepared, but I still couldn't shake the hurt I felt. I was so miserable



by Jennifer Oldham

that I knelt down in the middle of the kitchen and poured my heart out to my Heavenly Father, asking Him to soften my heart and help me to be prepared.

As I was praying, I had a vision. In this vision all of the church people were gathered at the site where we were going to have conference that year. We were all outside in a group. I was there with my children. Sud-

denly, I was aware that Christ was walking into our midst. People were pressing forward to be near Him and to see Him. I immediately started pressing my children forward and holding them up so that they could be near Jesus. As He neared, I felt the warmth and glow of love that radiated from Him. I no longer just wanted to push my children to him, but I realized that the hurt feelings dwindled to nothing in His presence. The great love that emanated from Him, over powered any problem that I might have.

The vision ended and I arose from my prayer. I no longer had any hurt feelings. I didn't have to worry about preparing for the sacrament service, I couldn't wait to be there. I looked forward to it with anxious expectation.

I thank God for the vision and the lesson he gave me through that vision. That was the only vision I have ever had. I consider it a gift from God and I praise His name and thank Him!

Grand Junction Local News

We started off the New Year with our Local elections. Marvin Carroll was reelected as our Pastor, Bob Ely Assistant Pastor. Bob is also our Sunday Sunday Superintendent, with David Larsen as the Assistant Superintendent. I was elected as Advocate reporter, a position very new to me. I don't feel especially qualified, but I'll do the best I can.

Johnny Bell is recovering after back surgery. He is doing well, but as of yet, has not been able to sit long enough to attend Church. Enid Bell was in Texas, Briefly, for her own treatments on her neck. Their pew seemed so big, and empty. Enid is back to fill some of the void, but there's still an emptiness until Johnny returns again. Alvina Bell, Grandma to many, is looking wonderful. She is

able to attend Church regularly. Her smile, and the sparkle in her eyes, fills us with such a warmth not easily described, but felt by our small congregation when she enters the room. Welcome back Grandma! Lloyd and Edith Arden moved to Whitewater, from Clifton. They still live close enough to attend Church, when work permits. Whitewater provides a smaller community atmosphere which the Arden's desired.

We've held special prayer services for the service men, and women, serving in the Persian Gulf. Our trials, and heartaches, seem to increase with each year. Even in our little Local, of 35 members, we are not immune from it. As I listened to all the names presented to us, in need of our prayers, I was watching the icicles drip off the eaves outside the window. I thought that no matter how small the drop of water, I can see a rainbow in it. Our

problems may seem insurmountable, but with faith, patience, and allot of prayer, you can not be defeated.

God's love and guidance be with all of you ... Kathy Larsen

1991 Colorado Reunion

On June 14, 15 and 16, 1991, the Church of Christ, 3233 B1/2 Road, Grand Junction, Colorado, is the place to be for our annual Colorado Reunion.

Reunion committee names and addresses will appear in future announcements.

Please take note that the Reunion is one week later than we have held it in the past. We hope many of you can come and join with us in our beautiful area to worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Enid E. Bell, Secretary

Collins Local News

Today is the first day of February. The weather is beginning to warm some. Soon it will be time to plant our gardens and mow the yards again. It seems only a short time ago that we were finishing up our summer chores. World events are changing and moving, much as our seasons hurry along. Our country is at war in the middle east. Our prayers are offered to God for His guidance over all this turmoil. But still time pushes on and days roll by. God is our refuge and He is in control. Hold tightly to His hand and He will get us through.

December 16th was the time for our community Christmas celebration. Brother Allen Kauffman was the speaker that evening. Each year the attendance seems to increase and I believe this must have been a record. I heard many comments as to how much the service was enjoyed. It wasn't just a social function. The people came to rejoice and celebrate Jesus' birth. Although our beliefs vary, for a short time, at least, they were the

Testimony of the American Indian — continued from p. 43 ...

houses were very beautiful, highly decorated and exquisitely made. So remarkable were they that they knew all mechanical skills. They were painters, stone workers, carpenters, bricklayers, masons, architects, metal workers, workers in feathers and ceramic, spinners and weavers. They also had knowledge of herbs and medicines; they sang well, composed songs, were great orators and were very devout and drawn to virtue. They were polished and expert in everything.

The colors which were applied to various cups, vessels and utensils, etc., are bright and fresh after a lapse of centuries. Chemicals have little effect upon the pigments used, resisting the action of all ordinary solvents. No one has been able to

same. One lady said to me that it was a shame we couldn't fill all our church houses like this every Sunday and all worship together. Was this the "Spirit of Christmas" at work? or should I say, the spirit of Christ?

Our attendance has increased recently. In spite of ice covered roads and terrible cold temperatures, our brother in Christ, Romey Harrison, makes his way to church. When possible, his wife, Nancy, and son, Wesley, accompany him. However, Nancy's work prevents her from coming sometimes. Romey and Nancy live in Independence, but also have a home over in the Preston area. Their son, Wesley, lives in Urbana. Rick and Beth Vaught also are coming to worship with us. they were baptized at the same time as Romey, by Brother Hubert Yates, as was also Butone Livingston. Butone has recently undergone cancer surgery and is recovering now at home. Her son, Randy, called for the elders to go and visit her and administer to her while she was in the hospital at Springfield. We hope to see her soon and know she's doing bet-

learn the secret of their composition or to duplicate them. Textiles are another area of marvelous accomplishment. The most wonderful textiles in the world come from ancient Peru, far surpassing the best modern work; as one author states, they were the world's most beautiful fabrics. The Kansas City Star (April 13, 1947) contained a Jone's Store advertisement that its "First Lady" bed sheets of 140 threads to the inch were the best in Kansas City. The fabrics of ancient Peru, however, were found to contain up to 300 weft yarn to the inch.

The Incas were immensely wealthy, having probably the greatest accumulation of gold the world has ever known prior to the conquest. The Temple of the Sun at Cuzco is one of the most remarkable buildings in the entire world (being one of

Here are some quotes from my sermon notes:

- * Push on! Peter would never have walked on the water if he hadn't got out of the boat.
- * If we don't judge right from wrong, we will follow the path of least resistance.
- * The plan of God was set down from the foundation of the world and God hasn't changed that plan.
- * God will not force anyone to do right, but to those who will, He gives peace to their souls.
- * We are Christ's emissaries. What example do people see?
- * The straight and narrow path doesn't get broad.

God bless us everyone, Czerna Kauffman

the greatest single structures ever reared by ancient man). It was built of immense blocks of perfectly fitted stone, no two of which are exactly alike in shape or size. They are so accurately designed and cut that the circular interior with its radii is mathematically and geometrically perfect. This temple was so richly adorned that it would have (says the historian) made Aladdin's cave look tawdry by comparison. The foundation was gold; the walls inside and out were completely covered with plates of gold. Even the woodwork was held together with gold nails which when extracted were worth over half a million dollars. The gardens were filled with trees, shrubs and plants of silver and gold; among them were birds, animals and insects of gold and silver; the tools and implements of the gardener's trade were of the same metals.

WHAT WE NEED NOW IS FAITH

by Jeff Butts

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we can have the faith that we need if we will keep all of Christs commandments, and ask our God in faith believing that God will give us the faith that we need at this time. Now let us go to God in prayer, all of us united together, and ask our God in faith believing, and God will give us the faith that we need.

I would like us now to remember together some words of faith found in the Book of Mormon, the Holy Word of God. Moroni 7:26 "And as sure as Christ liveth, he spake these words unto our fathers, saying, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, which is Good, in faith believing that ye shall receive, behold it shall be done unto you."

I don't like to skip verses but I will to keep it short. I hope that all will get out their own book and read all the verses. Vs. 28: "For he hath answered the ends of the law, and he claimeth all those who have faith in him; and they who have faith in him, will cleave unto every good thing; wherefore he advocateth the cause of the children of men; and he dwelleth eternally in the heavens." Vs. 31: "For behold, they are subject unto him, to minister according to the word of his command, shewing themselves unto them of strong faith and a firm mind, in every form of godliness." Vs. 35: "And Christ hath said, If ye will have faith in me, ye shall have power to do whatsoever thing is expedient in

me." vs. 36 "And we hath said, Repent all ye ends of the earth, and come unto me and be baptized in my Name, and have faith in me, that ye may be saved."

Vs. 41: "Behold I say unto you, Nay, for it is by faith that miracles are wrought; and it is by faith that angels appear and minister unto men; vs. 42 Wherefore if these things have ceased, wo be unto the children of men, for it is because of unbelief, and all is vain; for no man can be saved, according to the words of Christ, save they shall have faith in his name; vs. 43 Wherefore, if these things have ceased, then has faith ceased also; and awful is the state of man; for they are as though there had been no redemption made."

This great nation is at war now and we need to all go together to God in mighty prayer, uniting our voices that God will protect all our forces in the Middle East, and comfort the ones here at home that have loved ones in the war, and giving them faith to hold on till their loved ones come home safe and sound.

I think it would be good for us now to remember the "sons" of Helaman, and some of the words we have about them. Alma 26:96: "Yea, and even according to their faith, it was done unto them; and I did remember the words which they said unto me that their mothers had taught them." Vs. 103: And we do justly ascribe it to the miraculous power of God, because of their exceeding faith in that which they had been taught to believe, that there was a just God; and whosoever did not

doubt, that they should be preserved by his marvelous power. Vs. 104: Now this was the faith of these of whom I have spoken; they are young, and their minds are firm; and they do put their trust in God continually."

Vs. 165: "And those sons of the people of Ammon of whom I have so highly spoken, are with me in the city of Manti; and the Lord has supported them, yea, and kept them from falling by the sword, insomuch that even one soul has not been slain. Vs. 166 But behold they have received many wounds; nevertheless they stand fast in that liberty wherewith God has made them free; vs. 167 And they are strict to remember the Lord their God, from day to day; yea, they do observe to keep his statutes, and his judgements, and his commandments continually; and their faith is strong in the prophecies concerning that which is to come."

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we know by what we have read that God kept the sons of Helaman, and we need together to have the faith that God will keep our loved ones, and all that are in the Middle East, that not one more soul would be lost.

We need to unite our voices together in mighty prayer ...

in faith believing that God will take care of our troops in the Middle East and comfort their loved ones here at home, for we are told by Christ on III Nephi 6:19 "Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be

opened unto you." Let us ask and we shall receive, if we ask in faith for Christ has told us this and I believe Him for He cannot lie.

I know the troops in the Middle East need our prayers for I was in a war, and when you are at war you need a lot of prayers that God will bring you home to your loved ones alive, and their loved ones here need our

prayers that God will give them strength to hold on, and the faith to trust in God that he will bring their loved ones home safe. Moroni 10:17:

And Christ truly said unto our fathers, If ye have faith, ye can do all things which are expedient unto me.

Let us band together in this time of trouble, and pray unto God in faith believing, with love for God and love for each other and God will see us through these troublesome times.

ZA

Editor's Note: Brother Butts' prayers, along with your own, must have already worked. As this issue of Zion's Advocate goes to press, the crisis in the Middle East is already in the "clean-up" stage, and our boys will soon come home. – gh

1990 Tennessee Rally

The 1990 Tennessee Rally held here last October is one we will long remember. We were able to see once again those we hadn't seen in some time and were able also to meet and greet several new faces that we hadn't met before and we hope our welcome and warmth were taken back with everyone so that they will once again return to us.

Our Rally started Friday October the 12th with and evening gathering of the few who arrived early. Elder Sam Gould led us with prayer and songs and then put forth the question "How do we know that there is a God?" There were some very interesting answers because each and ever one had to give an answer. Then Elder Bob Oldham put forth the question: "What can we do each day for Christ? Once again many thoughtful answers were given to make each of us think a little more of what we can do each day. I hope that those of you who read this

report will think and answer these questions also.

Then on Saturday morning we had prayer service, song and Testimonies. The service was led by Elder Glenn Gill and Priest Peter Gould. Then Teacher Dan Lawarence gave us many things to think over with his sermon. Then at 2:30 services were led by Elder Sam Gould and Priest Peter Gould with a really moving sermon by Elder Sam Gould. At 6:30 Saturday night we had a music program with the Bruner's and Kauffman's, and I think everyone knows how good they are! And the last service of the evening was lead by Elders Sam Gould and Glenn Gill, with a great sermon by Elder Glenn Gill.

Sunday morning's service, conducted by Elders Rodger Bruner and Allen Kauffman, was begun with Sacrament, Season of prayer, and Testimonies. At 11:30 services were conducted by Priests Randy Sheldon and Steve McGhee. We had 2 song specials with Dan Lawrence and his

family which sang a really moving song and then my brother Gary Vaughn sang a song that he had wrote himself. Preaching then followed with Priest Steve McGhee, this was the first time for us to hear Steve and we still talk about how good he was and we hope him and his wife will come visit us again.

Then after lunch as many sad good byes were said, those of us left closed out the day with a slide presentation, by Priest Peter Gould called "Mexico a land of Contrast."

We here, the few that there are, want to thank those who traveled so far and brought to us the love and support that we so much needed. We hope to have a 1991 Rally, and we hope to see as many again, as can make it. You're in our thoughts and prayers.

Your sister in Christ, Robin Cox



In coming months ...

More Path Lights testimonies;

Historical Perspectives on the early days of the Restoration – researched by Jennifer Cobb McClure; What is Zion? Why is Zion? – by Elder Gale Brantner;

Trust - by Apostle Roland Sarratt;

Sunday School Association lessons on the Parables of Jesus.

Dring Each

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. (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.

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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.

 $\underline{\text{Out of the Dust}}$ (45 minutes) - Tells the story found within the Book of Mormon.

<u>Light at Evening</u> (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

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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.