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 — April 1991

Number 4

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Can I live up to His example? Will I cling to my beliefs in the face of difficulty? Can I withstand even the more subtle persecution, the disdain and aspersion any Christian can expect to encounter at work, at school, even our own homes?

I have asked myself if I am ready to meet this challenge. Frankly, I am afraid of the answer. But I do aspire to be ready.

Jennifer Cobb McClure

Don't miss the excellent compilation of early Church of Christ converts' personal testimonials with accompanying commentary by Sister McClure:

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The Zion's Advocate is ...

To promote Jesus Christ as Saviour, and His teachings; To promote His Church, the Church of Christ; To be a voice of warning to His people; To be Zion's advocate.

Please remember the editorial staff in your prayers.

WRITTEN MATERIAL REQUESTED

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

Format of Submitted Material: Please type all submissions (if possible), on one side of the paper only. Do not use "eraseable" or textured bond paper. Please avoid overuse of underlining, ALL-CAPS, and *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, please use "letter quality" or "near letter quality" print. We can utilize text files on a computer floppy disk of any size or format, if it is IBM® compatible.

STATUS OF PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Articles published in this paper do not necessarily reflect the teachings of the Church nor the opinions of the editorial staff.

Declarations and notices authorized by the General Conference reflect the practices and beliefs of the General Church.

The Thread Which Bonds

hope each of you enjoyed and gained as much as I did in reading "The Fabric of Zion," by Priest Glen Orsted, in the January, 1991, issue of Zion's Advocate.

Allow me to quote:

The founding fathers of this nation, faced seemingly overwhelming obstacles as they endeavored to build a nation for those that would leave all behind to journey to it to help build a better place. And today, like our founding fathers of generations past, we fight to build a land of sort, in seemingly impossible conditions. A land we call "Zion". As with the builders of this great nation, Zion will not come to be because of a building or a place, but rather be the result of the desires, hopes, dreams, prayers and sacrifices of a people that will work for a better place, not for themselves, but for all that would come. As the flag and this nation which it represents are the result of an attitude, so will Zion be the result of a people that will not forget the importance of spiritual needs and will sacrifice their temporal possession for something they may never see, but they hope and pray for a people that someday will.

As with anything made of fabric there must be a pattern to be followed which we have in the Bible, Book of Mormon and revelations; in short all the commandments of God. A perfect size has been determined for us in the image of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. The design of the fabric is assured through obedience to the will of God: if our will is retained or maintained the design is gaudy, busy and out of place. Each of us are the individual pieces of fabric which must be bonded or bound together to be whole and to take shape. This thread which bonds, shapes and brings about unity I wish to call charity.

As we look towards and long for Zion in our hopes, prayers, dreams and until we begin to build the reality of Zion, there must be that thread of charity to bond us together when all else fails. I Corinthians 13 states that even with the gift of prophecy, all knowledge, all mysteries made known, all faith, and being able to speak in the tongues of men and of angles; without charity we are nothing, even a tinkling cymbal. These gifts we desire and rightly so, but chapter 13 declares that prophecies, tongues, and knowledge shall have an end but "charity never faileth". Why is charity so special? What is charity? Do you and I have "enough" charity?

Moroni 7:50-53 closely follows I Corinthians 13, which is not an accident; they are of the same God speaking through holy men of his choosing! Verse 52 indicates that "... charity is the pure love of Christ, and it endureth forever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with them." The pure love of Christ is not just our love "of" him, his mission, his sacrifice, his death and triumph over death. It is being filled with the same love and compassion for man, whether a friend or an enemy, being able to perceive a soul worth saving; worth dying for! "And whoso is found possessed of it at the last day"; not possessing charity as a title or position of authority or claim to fame. Possessed of it as being "filled to the brim", allowing it to reach out to others as mere words or actions cannot. "It shall be well with them", should we allow ourselves the luxury Editorial

Priest Michael McGhee

... until we begin to build the reality of Zion, there must be that thread of charity to bond us together ... of supposing we have enough charity for the "last day"! Do you and I or we as a body of Christ have enough charity for tomorrow let alone the "last day"?

The other morning I began as I always did shaving which has become so routine I do not worry about each stroke, they are automatic until you cut yourself! After that I placed and followed and worried over each stroke, a potential cut. I believe charity is a lot like shaving. After being hurt we worry over each charitable outreach to another. The fear of getting hurt blunts charity, causes restraint, and we begin to use the intellect

to distribute charity instead of the spirit. The spirit should be in charge of our distribution of charity or love. Charity should come from a pure heart, a good conscience, and faith unfeigned.

As the world changes more each day I pray that each of us do not feel out of place where we work choosing to be honest and forthright, in school believing that man's knowledge and intellect are God given and are below him as our creator, at home having a family unit secure in love and nurtured with Christ at the head. As the world changes we will feel more out place but this Body of Christ, this Church of Christ has a

"firm foundation" in Jesus Christ. Let us reach out to each other and to those in the world with charity allowing the spirit to distribute and not fearing the hurt.

"Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith." — Proverbs 15:17

"Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectionate one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another;" — Romans 12: 9-10

ZA

To Help Zion On Its Way

We would like to start a new column in *Zion's Advocate* under the title, "To Help Zion On Its Way."

In keeping with the editorial policies of this paper, namely, to be an "advocate" for the establishment of Zion, we desire this column to deal with 24-hour day-to-day living in this world, while struggling to achieve and maintain Zion's requisite divine conditions.

Perhaps you have a family tradition, or some personal habits that especially contribute to spiritual growth. How do you deal with your children's peer pressure at school – while trying to instill Christian values? Have you ruled television out of your life and, if so, do you have noticeable positive results that you can share?

The scriptures tell us that (among other things) righteous-

ness, a firm belief in Christ, charity, and having the pure love of Christ for one another, are all required before Zion can exist. Can you share with ZA readers some of the ways that you and/or your family are striving to achieve these divine conditions?

There may be others struggling in their preparations for Zion ... and some of your successful (or even UNsuccessful) methods may help. But you'll have to share them first!

Please keep the length of submissions at one typewritten page, or two handwritten pages (if you don't have a typewriter), or less.

Send to the Editor (see inside front cover), but mark it as a submission to: "To Help Zion on its Way."

The Editorial Staff

Special Issue of ZA on Baptism

The ZA Editorial staff is planning a special issue in August, dedicated to the subject of baptism.

We hope this issue will offer a rather comprehensive view of the subject of baptism(s) and shed a positive outlook on the subject. And, while it may be directed primarily toward children and teens, material for parents and other adults will also be needed.

Baptism-related testimonies, articles, lessons, and suggestions from a past Zion's Advocate, Searchlight, Torch of Truth, etc., are all solicited.

We cannot possibly use all of the dozens of submissions we expect, but we will consider each one very prayerfully. Thanks!

The Editorial Staff

IS THE LIGHT ON?

where are we in the world? Many ask this question. With all the millions of lost souls in the world striving to find the truth, do we, who claim to be the Church closest to the whole truth, have the light on so all who search can find it? Are we truly putting our hands to the plow, spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ?

You may think, "Here is a young minister with some fire, but he will settle down after a couple of years." First of all, may the fire or desire to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ never settle down or die out for any of the ministry or membership of the Church of Christ. We have a precious story to tell to the nations.

The going can be rough and discouraging. The world has been besieged with the knowledge and technologies of mankind with Satan's help, of course. Man boasts the strengths of his own flesh, the works of his hands, his accomplishments and advancements of science. We must hold fast and endure and maintain a vessel fit for the Masters use. It's a hard thing to do, to go out and provide for ourselves and function within this worldly condition in which we live, without its ill effects shedding upon us.

Matthew 15:8-9 describes a lot of religions today – do they have the correct foundation, manifestations of gifts, truth

and proofs? You'll eliminate many of them by these measurements. Also, in Matthew 15:11, Jesus said it's "not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth the man." This is true, but Jesus is not saying that we should subject ourselves to evil or wade through the teachings of man to find that which is good. We do need to hold fast to that which is good; to trust in the Lord for our strength and His way to prevail. We need to seek his counselings and directions to the Church.

we keep His commandments, then we are His, a peculiar people who bear the light of the gospel in love. Just think if we were only to savor it all



for ourselves, why was it so important for the Book of Mormon to come forth as another witness to the truth? And the many prophesies in the scriptures concerning a latter day

Priest Adam Porter

In the Book of Mormon, 2nd Nephi 12:1-17, some of the conditions within the world today are described, and in 16 & 17 we are told they have all gone astray save a few who are the humble followers of Christ. Even if we are his humble followers, we can, in many instances, stumble. I do not, however, believe this to be an excuse for slackness in spreading the Lord's precious truth. We need to labor with all our mights, with prayer and trust in God, for the effectual working of the Holy Spirit and the guidance that brings to our lives.

We are his followers if we do what? Keep His commandments! "... then ye are mine." We need to remember this: If

restoration? It must, therefore, be important to the Lord and to all mankind, right?

Maybe we can't answer some of the world's great technological questions, but we don't need to. First of all God's ways are not man's and man's wisdom is but foolishness to God. We need to seek Him on His terms if we are to reach Him. We who are but the dust of the earth cannot dictate to God but only ask Him in humility to partake of the heavenly gifts.

If we submit ourselves to God as Lehi's family did with the compass in the wilderness, we will be led as a people with direction. Let us seek that direction.

May God Bless you!

WHAT IS ZION? WHY IS ZION?

ject of Zion has been discussed within the Church of Christ, and in all the factions that have separated themselves therefrom. That discussion still goes on this day, unfulfilled. I am convinced that part of the reason for this is that we, as a

by Elder Gale Brantner

whole body, need to study all the scriptures with a prayerful heart, in search of the answers to these significant questions. It is necessary that we fast and pray for divine assistance and direction in our study; then, we need to be willing to accept the divine assistance we receive, even if it alters our own preconceived ideas. Lastly, we need not fear the answer to these questions, and we need not fear the reality of Zion when it comes, Hearken to the divine promise: "And blessed are they (who? -we! Yes, blessed are WE! -gb) who seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they (WE -gb) shall have the gift and power of the Holy Ghost;" (INephi 3:187).

We could probably ask ten different people this question, and get ten different answers; and so the discussion has simply continued. But consider this: We must ask GOD instead of ten different people! We must be willing, in spite of our preconceived ideas, to accept what

God has revealed and continues to reveal to us, in whatever manner He chooses.

It is amazing how often we ask and how seldom we listen! I am reminded of 3 Nephi 4:58 and Matt 23:37:

"O ye house of Israel, whom I have spared, how oft will I gather you as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, if you will repent and return unto me with full purpose of heart."

"O Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!" We must not be like these unwilling chickens.

Let us consider now, something that happened on the 21st of September 1823. You can read the account in "An Outline History of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot)", pages 21-22, of how Joseph Smith received a vision on that night. It is important to us to consider some very interesting things about this vision. First of all, the messenger said that he was sent from the presence of God to Joseph. If the messenger was truly sent from the presence of God with this message, then we must accept this message verbatim without reservation, without qualification, and without hesitation. If the messenger was not sent from God, then we would have to reject the message and everything that grew out of it,

or as a result of it. In other words, we would have to reject the Book of Mormon, the priest-hood and it's authority, and indeed the Church of Christ itself, with all of it's blessings, baptisms, ordinations, and members that have ever existed since that message. Thank God for the truthfulness of that message and all of it's testimonies.

Secondly, it is important to remember that this vision was given three times that same night, and each time it was the same as before, with only added instruction to Joseph, as to what he should do with the information. This, in and of itself, should give us added support for the divinity of the message. It is evident that the contents of this message was the very important reason for the repetition, and God wanted no misunderstanding of this importance. That is why it was given three times in one night. this being evident, we should study the contents very carefully and prayerfully.

We are told that the messenger quoted prophecies from the Old Testament; some with variation from what they are in our bibles, and some without change. It is in this part of the message (the prophecies quoted) that we need to make an in-depth study. Why were these verses quoted? Why were changes made in some of them? What is the significance of these changes? What is the significance of the overall message as

quoted in these Scriptures? Specifically, what does God want us to understand about the scriptures quoted in this message given three times in that one night 167 years ago? The answers to our questions of Zion will be found in these scriptures. The answer may surprise some!

We need to clearly get into our minds what are these scriptures as they were quoted and corrected, and the order in which they were quoted. Mal 3: quoted in part; Mal 4: all quoted with some significant changes; Isaiah 11: all quoted about to be fulfilled according to the messenger: Acts 3:22-23 the messenger stated that the prophet is Christ, and that the day will soon come when "they who would not hear His voice should be cut off from among the people"; Joel 2:28-32 soon to be fulfilled according to the messenger.

I shall now quote these scriptures given on that eventful night, so that we may all read them in order and in context, as quoted by Joseph's heavenly visitor. I pray that all will read these verses over and over, that we will fast and pray for understanding, that we will "ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and up-braideth not", that we will listen for an answer with an open mind, and that we will thank God for His Holy spirit of Discernment.

Malachi 3:1, 3, 5, 7, 16, 18: (We are not told what parts of Malachi 3: are quoted by the messenger, so only those verses are quoted which are felt to be highly significant; you are encouraged to read all of Chapter 3 at your leisure):

"Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me; and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in; behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

"And I will come near to you to judgement; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the Lord of Hosts. Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of Hosts....

"Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another; and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name. Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not."

Malachi 4: all: "For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud. yea, and all that do wickedly, shall burn as stubble: for they that cometh shall burn them saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. But unto you that fear my name shall the Son of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts."

"Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgements. Behold, I will reveal unto the priesthood by the hand of Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: And he shall plant in the hearts of the children the promises made to the fathers, and the hearts of the children shall turn to their fathers, if it were not so the whole earth would be utterly wasted at his coming."

Isaiah 11: all: "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, and the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite

the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed: their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hold of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

"And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to cover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.

"And he shall set up an sign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim. But they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west; they shall spoil

them of the east together: they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them. And the Lord shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea; and with his mighty wind shall he shake his hand over the river, and shall smite it in the seven stream, and make men go over dryshod. And there shall be an highway for the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt."

Acts 3:22-23: "For Moses truly said unto the fathers, a prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people."

Joel 2:28-32: "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord

hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call."

I will close now with only three more scriptures for us to consider on this topic of Zion. Possibly hundreds could be listed, in fact this article could be ten times longer, but I will just ask you to consider only these three more. Joel 3:16-17, 20-21. "The Lord also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the Lord will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel. So shall ye know that I am the Lord your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her anymore. But Judah shall dwell for ever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation. For I will cleanse their blood that I have not cleansed: for the Lord dwelleth in Zion."

1 Nephi 3:187-188: "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; And if they endure unto the end, they shall be lifted up at the last day, and shall be saved in the everlasting kingdom of the Lamb;"

2 Nephi 7:23-25: "Wherefore, he that fighteth against Zion, both Jew and Gentile, both bond and free, both male and female, shall perish: For they are they who are the whore of all the earth; for they who are not for me, are against me, saith our God."

May God bless us all as we "seek to bring forth Zion."

Parable of the Sower

Luke 8:5-8 For ages 2 -5

Props—pan of soil, some rocks, sticks, seeds, and healthy looking plants—these depict the various objects in the story.

As you tell the story place the objects in place in the box. Go back and explain the meaning. The seed is the word of God.

If we hear the word of god but don't pay attention to it that is like the seed that fell by the wayside. A real life example would be when we hear mom call us in to dinner but we don't pay any attention and go on playing. If we never paid attention to mom nothing would ever get done and we couldn't learn to be good people.

If we hear God's word and say "Oh, neat!" and are good for a little while but then go back to old ways, we are like the seed on the rocks. Seed that falls on rocks cant grow very big. If we wanted to learn to play piano but never practiced we could never learn to play very well. Of if we heard mom say, clean the room and we started but didn't finish the

room wouldn't get clean and mom wouldn't be pleased. We must continue to obey in order to be pleasing to God.

If we hear the word of God but do not follow God's instruction because we are too worried about worldly things we are like the seed that falls into the thorns. If mom said share your toys and you were so worried



that you wouldn't get your turn that it caused you not to share you would be like seed in the thorns. Your own wants would keep you from being a good person.

Seed that falls into good ground is like listening and doing God's word. When mom tells us to do something we should do it without a fuss. then we will learn and grow to be good people.

Have two big pictures of trees, one a dead looking tree one a nice looking tree. Have

papers in the shapes of thorns, and papers in the shapes of fruit. On a thorn and a fruit write a real life instance such as Mom wants me to take a nap.

As a class decide what a thorn (bad person) would do in such an instance. Draw their answer in simple stick figures on the thorn and have a child tape it to the dead tree. Then decide what a fruit (good person) would do. Draw the answer in simple stick figures on the fruit and have a child tape it on the good tree.

Suggestions for more fruit and thorns:

- > Mom says share
- > Little brother has your favorite toy
- > It is time for the speaker to talk in church
- > It is morning and you want to get up but mom is still sleeping
- > The cookies are in sight but mom says no
- > Mom says pick up the toys
- > Brother just hit you
- > Mom says play quietly
- > Mom says watch little sister while you play outside
- > Mom is talking on the phone

PROJECT: Have a fruit shape and have children draw themselves doing something good.

Temple Lot Local Youth Outreach Retreat Missouri Camp for All Ages

The Missouri Camp for All Ages will join with the Temple Lot Local's Youth Outreach Retreat this spring for fellowship and spiritual enrichment at Knob Noster State Park, Camp Shawnee, near Warrensburg, on May 17-19.

More detailed information will be sent to

local congregations in Missouri soon. Please plan to attend with us.

For more information, contact:

Don Case, 2400 Highway Blvd., Higginsville, MO 64037. Telephone 816-584-2429; or

Mike Smith, 5701 Logan Rd., Kansas City, MO 64136. Telephone 816-737-0846.

Early Restoration Days Revisited

A compilation of excerpts from journals and diaries of early Church of Christ converts. Research and commentary by Jennifer Cobb McClure: "... (this is) ultimately, my testimony regarding the research I did at BYU."

Statements set apart with quotation marks or in italics denote actual excerpts from the personal journals and diaries.

wo years ago, I met a number of men and women who shared their life stories with me. I grew close to them and their families. When they rejoiced, I rejoiced. When they suffered, I suffered. Their heartaches broke my heart. Rarely have I felt such empathy — especially not for people who have been dead for decades.

I didn't meet these men and women in person. I met them in a library. On a long pine table in the archive room of the Harold B. Lee Library at Brigham Young University, I spread out the pages of their journals and diaries which recorded their lives. I struggled to read their handwriting. My eyes grew tired and my muscles stiffened from sitting too long, but I could not stop reading the firstperson narratives of some of the Church of Christ's first converts.

David Pettegrew was one of those early church converts. He lived on a farm in Indiana with his wife and eight children. In this excerpt from his journal, Pettegrew describes his homestead, "We procured a good living for our family, having a good farm, an orchard and many other conveniences for which we felt grateful." He was a member of the Methodist Church. The church meetings and classes, some of which Pettegrew taught, were held in his home.

My house was the preaching place for many years, therefore, I had the greater opportunity to converse with men, and ministers of the gospel, and to obtain all the spiritual good I could attain, but there was a lack I could not account for, and I frequently cried unto the Lord that he would make me understand the scripture more fully.

David's prayers would be answered. On January 1, 1832, he held the Book of Mormon in his hands for the first time.

I opened the book, it was the 2nd book of Nephi, and the 5th chapter. I read on a while, my thoughts were very active. What to think I knew not. It was entirely a new thing to me, and I began to mind what I was reading, although I observed to my wife that I did not think that it was the words of him who had a devil.

In his journal, David writes about his reaction after reading the entire Book of Mormon:

I cried unto the Lord for help and to give me the understanding which would guide me to my duty and that I might get rid of my office in the (Methodist Church) class, for my mind was now enlightened and I

thought it would not do for me to partake of the Sacrament administered in the Methodist Church, as formerly. I kept this to myself and pondered well over these things in my heart. Soon after I was advised by Or. Oglesby to withdraw from my class. My place in the class was soon filled by another and I was accordingly released to my heart's desire, and was loosed from the church without any difficulty on my part. These things caused me to draw nearer to the Lord and He to me, and He witnessed to me that He had now begun His work for the last days, and that the Book of Mormon was true, and by it I saw that the Lord was the same Lord, and its gospel was the same, and its ordinances were the same as those I had been taught to observe. But man, poor man, had changed or transgressed the law, changed the ordinances and had broken the everlasting covenant, and yet the Lord had spared the earth, notwithstanding the many ways, parties and sects we had been divided into, and yet none right but all had gone astray.

Pettegrew sold his productive farm and family house for far less than it was worth because, as he put it, "I had heard that the people who believed in the Book of Mormon were gathering in the upper part of the State of Missouri, thither I was determined to go." He and his family left a comfortable life, an established farm, friends and family, because of their desire to live with others who believed

in the Book of Mormon.

Such a sacrifice was not uncommon among these early believers. Parley P. Pratt had an experience similar to that of David Pettegrew. Like Pettegrew, Parley Pratt felt something was missing from his religious experience and the various churches he had attended. But Pratt knew what that "something" — was the fundamental teachings of Jesus Christ and the authority to minister in "holy things." Pratt attended a neighborhood meeting to hear a religious reformist who had broken with the Baptist Church,

... and what was my astonishment when I found he preached faith in Jesus Christ, repentance towards God, and baptism for remission of sins, with the promise of the gift of the Holy Ghost to all who would come forward, with all their hearts, and obey this doctrine! Here was the ancient gospel in due form. Here were the very principles which I had discovered years before; but could find no one to minister in. But still one great link was wanting to complete the chain of the ancient order of things; and that was, the authority to minister in holy things—the apostleship, the power which should accompany the form.

Pratt said the speaker claimed no new commission by revelation, or vision from the Lord, "However we were thankful for even these forms of truth, as none could claim the power, and authority, and gifts of the Holy Ghost—at least so far as we knew."

After this experience, Pratt felt compelled to sell his farm so he could seek out the truth and, ultimately, share it with others. Pratt left his wife with friends and told her, "I will come soon, but how soon I know not; for I have a work to do in this region of country, and what it is or how long it will take to perform it, I know not; but I will come when it is performed."

riences with the Book of Mormon.

Peter Holbrook walked to a meeting four miles from his home to learn more about the Book of Mormon, "I met the young men in the floor of the

As I read, the spirit of the Lord was upon me, and I knew and comprehended that the book (of Mormon) was true

Soon after, Pratt started walking the back roads of New York, near Albany. He met An old Baptist deacon who told Pratt about "a very strange book" he had in his possession. Pratt said the man, "promised me the perusal of it, at his house the next day, if I would call. I felt a strange interest in the book."

When Pratt returned the next day, he opened the book with eagerness and read its title page:

I then read the testimony of several witnesses in relation to the manner of its being found and translated. After this I commenced its contents by course. I read all day; eating was a burden, I had no desire for food; sleep was a burden when the night came, for I preferred reading to sleep.

As I read, the spirit of the Lord was upon me, and I knew and comprehended that the book was true, as plainly and manifestly as a man comprehends and knows that he exists. My joy was now full, as it were and I rejoiced sufficiently to more than pay me for all the sorrows, sacrifices and toils of my life.

I came across yet another testimony, that of a Peter Holbrook, which amazed me because of its similarity to Pettegrew and Pratt's individual expeschoolhouse and asked them where I could get a book of Mormon they said they did not know, I then told them I would go fifty miles the next day to get one if they could direct me where."

Holbrook's cousin, who was also at the meeting and overheard this request, told him he could borrow her Book of Mormon after she was finished reading it. For two weeks, Holbrook waited anxiously for the opportunity to read the book, "I thought much of Mormonism. I believed all I had heard or seen. I felt much to rejoice, for these words came often to my mind, blessed are ye for ye believe and have not seen."

Finally, the two weeks passed and Holbrook sat down to read the Book of Mormon:

I commenced reading that evening but being brought up not to spend any time a weekday to read I thought I must work and as my cart was in the field where I left it the day before where I was digging potatoes, I went to digging potatoes but soon found I could not content my mind at work. I returned to the house took the book of Mormon and read a few hours but as this was so unusual a thing for me to stop work to read in the day time my wife became alarmed and thought I had better be at work than

spending my time reading such deception, which called my attention again to my potato digging. I had not dug long before I wished with all my heart I knew all there was in that book. I went out into a huge place near by where the thistles were very large and thick. I knelt down to pray. I no sooner closed my eyes that it seemed as though the whole thistle plantation was in motion. I opened my eyes I could see nothing the matter. I closed my eyes the second time when it seemed as if there was a wild wind among the thistles yet I felt no wind. I continued my prayer for the forgiveness of my sins and for the Lord to lead me right and show me the truth of Mormonism when I arose I said I would go to the house and read the book of Mormon, work or no work. This was in the after part of the day on Saturday. I read that day and night late, and on Sunday I read again, my wife taking the child in the morning going about 3/4 of a mile to her brothers saying she would not be in the house and hear such nonsense. I read and prayed a number of times that day being all alone and marveled much that the thistle should be so troubled at my prayers and that my wife should be so disturbed she could not stay at home for she was always fond of having me to sit down and read of evenings and Sundays. I read it, the book of Mormon through in 2 days and 3 nights and carried it home on a Monday morning to my cousin Mary Ann Angell. She asked me what I thought of it. I told her I believed it was true and that God was at the bottom of the work. She said she felt glad for she believed also but had not said much about it ... I thanked her and told her I was now ready to fulfill my promise to her some years before that I would have religion when the right kind came along and I believed this was the right kind.

Originally, the purpose of my study of the early church members' diaries and journals was to compose a scholarly article assigned by one of my history professors. I shared my academic conclusions with him. Now, I would like to share my more personal, spiritual conclusions with you.

First, all three of these men from very different backgrounds and places felt something missing from their religious experience. All three were seeking some sort of religious truth and/or the "right" church. Surely, there must still be people in this day and age who feel something missing from their religious experience and who are seeking the truth. I hope and pray that they will be guided and directed toward the Book of Mormon and the Church of Christ. I pray also that we, individual members and the ministry, will have wisdom and heed the Lord's guidance in our contact with such people. I have seen the evidence that the Lord prepared people's hearts and minds for His truth and His work more than 150 years ago when He brought forth the Book of Mormon. I am confident he has not stopped making such preparations. I believe it's important, however, to remember that the Lord has his own timetable, i.e., we must be patient, but always willing to do His work.

Second, when each one of these men read the Book of Mormon he was profoundly affected, so much so that he could not put the book down even to eat, sleep or work. For me, the similar nature of these experiences affirms the tremendous power of the Book of Mormon. The simplicity and clarity of its message pierces the hearts and minds of those who read it sincerely seeking the truth. Indeed, Moroni exhorts every reader to ask God, in the name of Christ, if the book's contents are true. "And if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost; and by the power of the Holy Ghost, ye may know the truth of all things." (Moroni 10:5) The truth of that promise is poignantly demonstrated in the personal histories of these men.

Finally, all of these early converts made significant sacrifices, such as giving up their established farms and family homes for a fraction of their worth, so they could pursue and share the truth about Christ's Church and man's salvation as clarified by the Book of Mormon. Indeed, they and other early believers would be called upon to make even greater sacrifices than those I've told you about. Believers, such as David Pettegrew, poured into Independence after the designation of the Temple Lot and began to form a prosperous farm community. The area's old settlers feared this new community's potential political power and its "foreign" religious practices. After a series of incidents, hostilities exploded. An armed mob comprised of some of these old settlers attacked the homes of David and his fellow believers.

Once again Pettegrew gave up his prosperous farm, only

this time it was not by choice. David wrote:

It was impossible to do otherwise but to flee before our enemies. I now saw my family in the streets houseless, we must go or die. I bid them to march on as well as they could. I then returned to my house, endeavoring to take what I possibly could with me. No one can tell, or imagine, the feelings of my heart upon re-entering, in that once dear and cherished home. I looked around to see what I could take with me. The Book of Mormon, my Bible a razor and a decanter of composition which my wife had requested me to bring were all I took. After leaving everything I bid farewell to my home and hastened to overtake my family.

In David's vivid description of his persecution, I find an unspoken challenge. Can I live up to his example? Will I cling to my beliefs in the face of difficulty? Could I make such a sacrifice? Can I withstand even the more subtle persecution, the disdain and aspersion any Christian can expect to encounter at work, at school, even in our own homes? I have asked myself if I am ready to meet this challenge. Frankly, I am afraid of the answer. But I do aspire to be ready.

Parley P. Pratt was ready to make great sacrifices on behalf of his religious convictions. In his own words, he described represents the height of worldly possession changes with great frequency. But the thing which must not be changeable is the

... all of these early converts made significant sacrifices, such as giving up their established farms and family homes for a fraction of their worth, so they could pursue and share the truth about Christ's Church

what I believe is the foundation upon which his willingness to make sacrifices was built. After reading the last page of the Book of Mormon this was how he felt:

I esteemed the Book, or the information contained in it, more than all the riches of the world. Yes, I verily believe that I would not at any time have exchanged the knowledge I then possessed, for a legal title to all the beautiful farms, houses, villages and property which passed in review before me, on my journey through one of the most flourishing settlements of western New York.

To Pratt, those houses and farms represented the height of worldly possession. We might substitute something else in their place now, because what attitude of sacrifice expressed by Pratt — that he would not give up his knowledge of the fullness of the gospel for the best of what the world had to offer. Only with this kind of attitude can one begin to be ready, if called upon, to make the necessary sacrifices.

ZA

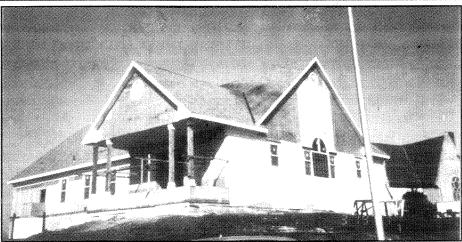
Editor's note:

Sister McClure (granddaughter of the Late Apostle E. Leon Yates, and daughter of Sister Marlene Cobb) states that she has much more material like that found in this article. Let's encourage her to submit more of it to Zion's Advocate!

New Building Update ...



View of the nearly completed exterior of the Church of Christ Headquarters from across the Temple Lot. – March 1991



On March 19, 1991, the siding was being applied. The building has retained many similarities to the previous structure, including the siding and windows.

I'd like to relate just one of many experiences where the Lord has provided for us at an instant's notice, perhaps even anticipated our need.

My husband, Bill's, mother stayed with us during her illness until she passed away. Shortly after, a friend of hers came to visit us. She, her husband, their daughter and son-in-law dropped by. They wanted to hear about Bill's mother and her last days with us.

Now, I must say, in those days, we had kids at home and the cupboard was really bare by Friday evening. It had been my intention to go to the store before Bill left for his bowling league so I could fix him something to eat, but with the company there, Bill just fixed a sandwich and was off. I was mulling over in my mind just what I might offer our guests to eat, but I didn't have a thing on hand.

About this time, they said they had better be going. I got

their coats for them, but I was feeling bad that I couldn't ask them to stay for dinner, as they had traveled a long way. As they put their coats on, I couldn't stand it any longer and on impulse, I said "take your coats"



by Gladys Nast

off, I'm going to fix you something to eat." So they sat back down and began talking while I went out to the kitchen and prayed "Dear Lord, help me so that I don't send them away hungry." I looked in the refrigerator and found a little cheese, a jar of pickles. I checked downstairs in the fruit room, but found nothing! I made coffee and said again "Lord, I'm waiting." A second later, I heard a

knock at the back door and there stood my next door neighbor man with a kettle in his hand. He asked if I could use this? Referring to the kettle of soup he held. "I don't know what is the matter with my wife. She cooked this kettle of chicken and noodles, but now says she doesn't want any but wants to go out to eat!"

The Lord had answered my prayer! Well, I put this on the table and called my guests to come. After sat down, with fervent thanks in my heart, I asked the blessing over the food. When I looked up, I saw a surprised look on their faces, then a smile and then the husband said, "we are catholic and not supposed to eat meat on Friday, but I'm sure after that blessing, we will be forgiven." All I could do was smile and think to myself how good God is to us!

Please send your testimonies to Melissa McGhee, 2533 Glen Lane, Independence, MO 64052

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. However, 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.

Your inquiry and plans may be addressed to Thomas Maley, 13021 Rich Valley Boulevard, Rosemount, Minnesota 55068.

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

Please plan to attend!

1991 Colorado Reunion

On June 14, 15 and 16, 1991, the Church of Christ, 3233 B1/2 Road, Grand Junction, is the place to be for our annual Colorado Reunion. The following members make up our Reunion Committee. Please notify one of them to let us know when to expect you.

Robert Ely (303-434-8090) 3201 B1/2 Road Grand Junction, Co 81503

Allen Downs P.O. Box 30166 Grand Junction, Co 81503

Marvin Ely (303-434-8149) 236 - 32 Grand Junction, Co 81503

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

Flint Local News

We are glad to share some news with you. First I think we should all be very thankful for the Lord's guidance and protection in the war situation. Many prayers were answered for all the lives that were spared. May God comfort the families of those who lost loved ones. Also for the turmoil caused in the countries ravaged by war, the homeless, hungry, the families broken up, the little children

left behind to fend for themselves.

In the Flint Journal here lately, an article about the Church of Christ was submitted, resulting with interviews and a profile done regarding Christ's Church. We pray it helped spread the news about Jesus. In February, Sister Lisa Burmeister had surgery on her back, an interest in your prayers along with ours for her continued recovery would be appreciated. The prayer list here is long and will always be, we need to pray for each others well being.

I want each one on the prayer list to know we do take your request for prayers seriously and we think of each of you for your comforts and cares and healing, you are part of the family of Jesus Christ. Lately the ice was a weather problem keeping some from attending Church, but with better weather towards spring and the Lord's guidance we will be meeting together with our brothers and sisters soon.

Priest Adam Porter

Grand Junction News

February's weather has shown us a promise that spring will come to us again this year. The Mesa, which is still white, reminds us that it is still winter, but the warmth of the sun tells us, "not for long".

We had a visitor this month. Bob Oldham was a welcome sight. If anyone else takes a notion to come, the doors are always open. Johnny Bell is able to attend some of the meetings, again, after having back surgery. It is good to see him back. Any time one person is gone, it is real noticeable.

February, and March, are full of birthdays in our little local. Our Pastor Marvin Carroll, and his son Kenneth, celebrated birthdays this month, as well as Russell Bell, and Jean Larsen. March birthdays were Aric Downs, my son John Larsen, and his Grandmother

Alice Larsen. And, last but not least, Bob Ely. And to catch up, my daughter Erin Larsen, and my aunt Enid Bell have April birthdays. I, and my husband David, celebrated our anniversary in February. Johnny And Enid Bell, and their daughter Jane, and Toby, Pennell celebrate anniversaries in April.

A warm hi to all our friends, relatives, and brothers, and sisters, in Christ.

Love, Kathy Larsen

Mogollon Local News

It's good to report and say, "hello," to you all again. We recently had our elections and Tom Karas will continue as our pastor, with Andy Brown as assistant.

As most of you know, a very bad accident befell our little local. I want to say thank you my loved ones for your many prayers and all the wonderful cards and letters we received. I would like to take the space here to write an obituary for our beloved sister Kathy Molloy. Kathy was a secretary for the state compensation as well as for our Mogollon Local. She was born in Phoenix and had

lived in Show Low for about 14 years. She was 43 years old and is survived by 3 sons, Michael, 18, Steven, 16, and Eric, 12. Her parents, Ed and Beverly Langevin, of Phoenix; and 2 brothers, Bob, of Chicago and Ed Langevin, of California and one sister, Cindy Waddell, of Phoenix. She died on Sunday January 27, 1991, and was buried in Show Low, January 30th.

We were on our way to church in Payson when the head-on collision happened about 40 miles from our home in Show Low. Kathy died instantly but, glory to God, our four children in the back had only minor injuries. We can rest assured that Kathy has no more

burdens to bear.

Many friends here continue their prayers for the survivors and will continue them for the welfare of Kathy's children. Kathy had been my neighbor and only friend in the church that lived in Show Low. I will always miss her loving advice and indeed look forward to the day I may embrace her again. From the very moment I heard of Kathy's death I felt assured her death was not in vain. I really feel some good will come of this. We can endure all things with the help of Jesus and one another. It's good to always have so many shoulders to lean

Your sister, Kathy Cloyd

CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 1992 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 5. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M., Monday, April 6. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, April 3 and 4.

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

Zion's Advocate Subscription Rate	Price Each
Zion's Advocate Subscription Rate:	\$ 4.00 4.00 4.50 5.00 20.00 7.00 18.00 24.00 8.00 4.00 4.00 4.00 3.50 2.50 1.30
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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

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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, Missouri, or Phoenix, Arizona, areas.

Allow adequate advance time for handling and shipping, and for your own preview of the programs. 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.

<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.

A Lamp Unto My Feet (32 minutes) — Directed specifically toward American Indian viewers, compiled from the three programs listed above.

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 previously 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.