

# 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

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Number 6

## Mormon's Sorrow

"Oh, ye fair sons and daughters, ye fathers and mothers, ye husbands and wives ... how is it that ye could have fallen... Oh, ye fair ones, how could ye have departed from the ways of the Lord! ... behold, ye are gone and my sorrows cannot bring your return" (Mormon 3: 20, 18, 21).

It was a judgment—and a fair one.  
And yet at any given time  
It could have been appealed.  
As a nation, or just one,  
Mormon's people could have changed.  
The sick souls could have healed.

He watched them fiercely, carelessly  
Seal their fates—step after step.  
It seemed his heart would break.  
They were so strong and full of life  
And beautiful. He loved them so!  
If they would only wake!

But they did not—and so they died  
In body. And their spirits faced—  
Unready—God's decree.  
Today we look out on our world,  
Think of Mormon and almost know  
How his heartache could be.  
(And Ours)

Oh, ye fair sons and daughters of my people! Why will ye die? Father, help us to help!

*Donna Moser*

**A Need for Vision** — *by Apostle Brickhouse. Some timely Spiritual insight in this month's editorial (p. 83)*

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Look for the announcement  
about this summer's  
TEEN CHALLENGE '91  
on the back cover!



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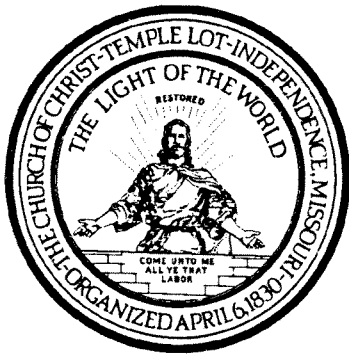
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Priesthood articles and sermons, testimonies for "Path Lights," submissions to "Apocalypse Now," and news items of Church-wide interest are requested, and should be sent to the Editor as listed above. Deadline for material requiring publication in 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 "erasable" or textured bond paper. Please avoid overuse of underlining, ALL-CAPS, and *italics*. Finally, it would be

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#### Zion's Advocate Is ...

To promote Jesus Christ as Saviour;

To promote His Teachings & His Church, the Church of Christ;

To be a voice of warning to His people; To be Zion's advocate.

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.

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Editorial . . .

# A Need for Vision

It has been said that:

**A vision without  
action is nothing  
but a dream.  
Action without a  
vision just passes  
time. However,  
action towards a  
vision will change  
the world.**

Although I should no longer be surprised, I never cease to be amazed at the perfect plan of our heavenly Father. He truly provides for us on a day by day basis and is aware of all our needs. If we would only allow ourselves to listen and understand his word we would remove many trials and burdens in our lives. In his laws and in His examples that have been preserved for us in these the last days, is a perfect plan for our everyday life, both in our personal life and our business activity.

Much has been written over the years about whether or not it is possible to be a Christian and at the same time be able to be successful in our business activities. The Lord's plan is for each and every day of our lives, he is unchangeable and his commandments are for all our ac-

tivities. Throughout modern times there have been many theories of management, text books have been written and jobs have been created to study how to manage people and business. Lately the craze seems to be "Quality Improvement," "Vision Statements," and "Employee Involvement." A reader could pick up any recent management type magazine and read reams concerning these topics.

I'm amazed as I read and hear lectures on these theories that once again I find the scriptures, those records that have been preserved for us in these last days, tell of the perfect plan of our Lord and Master.

A current theory is that in order for us to rise above our daily activities there is a need for each business to have before them a vision or a goal for the future. It has been proven that groups and individuals accomplish more and rise above their individual capabilities if they have a goal or a vision before them. We, of the Church of Christ, have a need to remember this fact and that the Lord has put before us his beautiful plan of salvation. Each of us has the opportunity to dwell with the Lord eternally in a state of heavenly bliss.

We, as a Church, as a people, have a need to keep this promise before us at all times. We need to be reminded of the beauty of that promise.



**Apostle Smith Brickhouse**

Revelation 21 says:

*And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the Holy city new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all the tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*

Mormon (Moroni 7:44) tells us:

*But behold, my beloved brethren, I judge better things of you, for I judge that ye have faith in Christ*

# A Letter To The Membership of The Church Of Christ

Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
The General Bishopric has asked me to submit an item to you through the Advocate notifying you of our need in providing for the missionary work. In order to fulfill this request, I thought it best to submit it in the form of a letter.

Years ago for many of us and days ago for some of us, when we went down into the waters of baptism, we made a promise to God to keep His commandments. Furthermore, when we partake of the sacrament of the broken body and spilled blood of Christ, we renew this same promise that we may always have His spirit to be with us.

We all slip and stumble at times and for that reason Christ taught us to pray: "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our

## From the General Bishopric

debtors." That statement carries with it both a glorious and a fearful connotation: If I forgive others, I shall in like manner be forgiven of our Heavenly Father; but if I refuse to forgive another, in like manner I shall not be forgiven of our Heavenly Father. Therefore when we fail in keeping God's commandments we lose our blessings and need greatly, with full purpose of heart, to repent and to seek His forgiveness, which comes as a result of our own forgiving others.

Let us not forget that the sec-

ond great commandment was "to love thy neighbor as thy self." A part of the expression of this love was given by the Lord to the prophet Malachi and again to the Nephites as recorded in 3rd Nephi 11:11-18 a part of which is quoted here:

*Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse, for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in my house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the window of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.*

Many of you are faithful in following this commandment, but it is evident that not all are

diligent in keeping it, because our

funds are falling off, but our needs are increasing. More missionaries are going into the field, and of course this is what we want; more people are needing help, and we do not want to see any neglected.

Have you ever heard the expression; Well, he got himself into this jam, let him get himself out? Do you agree with it? Please read the entire 2nd chapter of Mosiah with special attention to verses 30-31, I haven't space to quote it here, and get God's response to such expression. King Benjamin, as a

prophet of God, spoke God's word.

God's promise through Malachi and repeated by Christ to the Nephites is true. See the entire book of Malachi, only 55 verses, with emphasis on Chap. 3, verses 7-18 and 3rd Nephi chap. 11, verses 4-27. A number of years ago the Church in conference assembled took the position that tithing is 10% of one's net income, or the amount of the income after the cost of producing it comes out; for wage earners our take-home pay; for producers, our net profit.

It is left to us to decide if we want to rob God, or to give Him our first and our best for His glory and honor. If we honor Him first and with full purpose of heart, then He is bound to bless and prosper us.

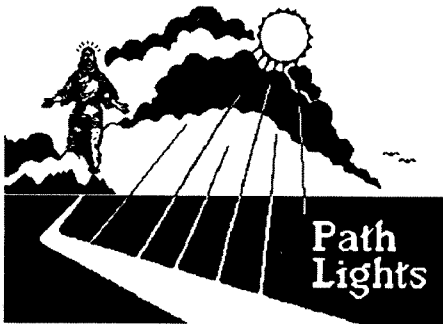
I suggest that you read I Kings, chapter 17 for a lift in faith. The Mission of the Church of Christ is to take the fullness of the gospel with its wonderful hope and promise to every nation, kindred, tongue and people, and especially to the House of Israel, and our time is growing short in which to accomplish this mission. In order to do this we must be fully obedient to God, that the signs may follow those that believe. See book of Mormon 4:87 and Mark 16:17.

Sincerely,  
Your brother in Christ,

*Elder Nicholas F. Denham*

**This** is just one of the testimonies I can relate of God's goodness. This is about my son Norman Heath.

From birth, to adulthood, Norman's health was such that he would have to be in and out of the hospital. This time, he became paralyzed from the neck down. He was taken to the Ann Arbor Hospital. I called the people I worked with in my nursing job in Muskegon and explained I might be late coming back to work until I found out how my son was. My daughter kept me posted on his condition.



Believe me, I was praying! Soon I received a call and heard the following account. When two men walked into the room to talk to the nurse, she looked up and asked "Which one is Norm Heath?" Norm replied "I am", as both he and his dad had walked in together. The nurse said "I thought you would be coming in on a stretcher." They did keep Norm to try to discover the cause of his condition.

Afterward, I again called to my workplace. They said, "You must have really prayed."

*Contributed by Lois Heath,  
Ravenna, Michigan*

**I** was sitting in church one Sunday in July of 1990, when I was a vision. It was in front of me for only a few seconds, but I will try to describe what I saw, leaving what was impressed upon my mind until afterwards. I saw a personage standing in front of a large mountain with his arms outstretched. He was wearing a radiant white robe. He had chin length medium brown hair and a short beard. He had holes in his hands and feet. To either side of him were a multitude of faces, thousands of them. The mountain behind him seemed to have large crevices in it and words or parts of words seemed to be written in them. They seemed to flow up towards the peak. It was not like looking at a photo or a scene, but more like a painting, which was done in shades of beiges and browns.

My feeling was that this was Christ and the mountain behind Him represented His government. The faces were those of God's children all down through history. As I said before, His arms were outstretched, as if to greet us, gather us or beckon us. It was strongly impressed upon my mind that He was saying (urgently) "COME UNTO ME", although I did not hear the words by way of voice. I was in such awe of the beauty of the picture that I was sure at the time that we surely must be being told to paint it and that it was something that we were to learn from and remind us of the beauty of God's plan. In relating this vision later, it all of a sudden became clear to me that

the picture had a much deeper meaning...if I was being spoken to in picture form: what was the message? Was He requesting that His people come to Him now or prepare to come to Him? To gather to His mountain? The words I saw in the crevices I felt were important scriptures, His words, the foundation of His church...were they also His direction? Is He telling us that we should be searching His scriptures for His direction? Is this the learning that I felt that we were to do with this picture? I do believe very strongly that we must delve into these questions...we must for the time is very short. Whether this vision is of my own mind or the direction of the Holy Spirit, whether it is meant for me personally or for the entire church, or in part, I cannot say for certainty. I do ask that all who hear of it to study and pray about it, for certainly in these last days, it is imperative that we be ready to do and go as He leads us! It is with the love of Christ that I write this.

*Contributed by  
Debbie Brantner Vogel  
Rockford, Michigan*

### Send In Your Testimonies

**Melissa needs more testimonies for this column. Surely there is a testimony you can recall and jot down on paper! Send them typed or handwritten to:**

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

## THE IMAGE TO THE BEAST or THE NEW WORLD ORDER

H. Rowan Gaither, President of the Ford Foundation in 1953 made the following statement: "During those times, and without exception, we operated under directions issued by the White House. We are continuing to be guided by just such directives, the substance of which were to the effect that we should make every effort to so alter life in the United States as to make possible a comfortable merger with the Soviet Union" (Toward a New World Order).

From the New York Times (December 1, 1989) - "U. S. President Bush and Soviet President Gorbachev arrived yesterday on this Mediterranean Island for a summit conference beginning today during which both hope to start the search for a New World Order."

"There also exists another alliance - at first glance a strange one, a surprising one - but if you think about it, one which is well grounded and easy to understand. This is the alliance between our communist leaders and your capitalists" (Alexander Solzhenitsyn).

"We deplore the division of humankind on nationalistic grounds. We have reached a turning point in human history where the best option is to transcend the limits of national sovereignty and to move toward the building of a world community..." (The Humanist Manifesto II, 1973).

### What is this New World Order?

According to the U. S. News and World Report, the March 11, 1991 issue, no one really knows what it means. President Bush, however, said at a recent newsconference, that it is to be a world community of nations living together in peaceful cooperation. He also said in a speech last fall that should the U. S. give any concessions to Iraq at all the chance for a New World Order would be lost. According to Don McAlvany in his monthly geopolitical/financial intelligence newsletter published during the Reagan Administration, Mr. Bush is the man selected (by the Liberal Eastern Establishment) to usher in the New World Order. Gorbachev has

also, on more than one occasion, publicly called for a New World Order.

So what is this New World Order? It is to be a one world economic and political union of all nations and peoples into a single international entity. The economic union of Europe in 1992 is a part of this program.

When this intended union becomes complete, the world will have witnessed the fulfillment of one of the key Biblical prophecies of the end times. Revelation 13 speaks of a two-horned beast that spake as a dragon and exercised all the power of the first beast before it. This power will cause that an image to the first beast be made and when accomplished will give it power to kill all opposition. This image will also cause all to receive a mark so that none may buy or sell without this mark. This shall be the time of Jacob's trouble but he shall be delivered out of it. It shall be the culmination of a time of trouble such as was not since the beginning nor ever shall be, the great tribulation in its fullest extent.

The moving power behind the creation of this Image is today centered within our own borders and operates through our own governmental institutions. Thus, our government has become the two-horned beast by and through which the Image is being formed. The two horns could very well represent the mixture between our Republican and Democratic forms of government.

The bottom line, then, is that when the New World Order is fully implemented, then will the image to the beast stand complete with full power of persecution. According to Larry Burkett, Christian Financial Analyst, at the present rate of increasing government indebtedness, by the year 2000, it will take the entire tax take from all the people of the U. S. just to pay the interest on the National Debt. This will bring about an economic collapse. When this occurs, those behind this move, instead of allowing everyone in debt to lose their homes, will offer to allow people to remain in



*Harvey E. Seibel*

their homes while assuming the debt on condition they accept a card and become part of the new economic system. (This last information was obtained from the Institute for Constitutional Studies located in Salt Lake City, Utah.)

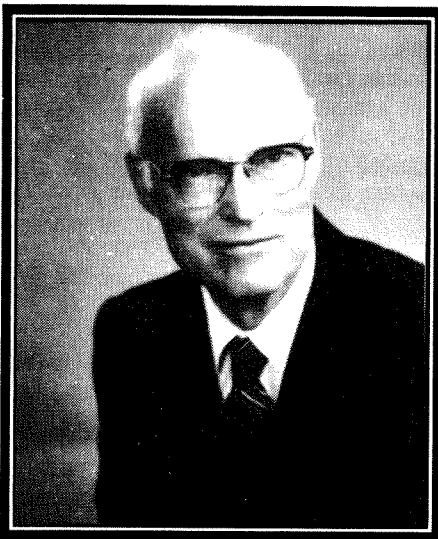
But God has promised deliverance to his saints and commanded us not to be troubled about the things that are coming but to watch, and pray for protection (See Matthew 24 and Luke 21).

Moreover God is going to use the very power built up by these same movers and shakers to bring about their downfall. For when the Soviet Union (Gog) shall come against Israel to battle then shall they think an evil thought (Ezekiel 38-39) and come against a wealthy nation (the United States). In this act of treachery they will, in effect, be double crossing their masters and their creators, thus bringing about their destruction and freeing the world from the present economic and political enslavement to which the whole world today is held in bondage. Then will Isaiah 14 be fulfilled and the actions be caused to break forth into singing, for this destruction will be the downfall of modern Babylon. For more information concerning this power which is built up to get control of all nations, and our deliverance from it, see James 5 and Ether 3:95-100.

**Watch for news articles that may reveal possible fulfillment of some scriptural prophecy. Send your material to Brother Seibel as listed on the inside front cover.**

# Parents and Children Responsibility

The responsibility of parents to their children, the children to their parents and their responsibility to God has touched me very deeply. Once during last December and again in February of this year I felt directed to preach on the above listed topic. I desire to write an article based on the above mentioned sermons.



**Apostle Marvin Ely**

During the Phoenix Church Reunion in November of 1990, the thing that touched us most was the families that are having marital problems. Several of these were brought to our attention. Some are getting divorces, some have separated and others have had difficulties in their homes. People reached out in compassion for these special

needs. On two occasions we had special seasons of prayer for those contemplating divorce. We are reminded that when our nation was founded it was done by those with strong homes.

Today it seems in many instances there has been a deterioration in the homes. The devil is ever trying to chip away at our very foundation. Strong nations are built upon the basis of strong homes and those who serve God.

The testimonies, on numerous occasions during the Phoenix Reunion, stressed the importance of early training in the homes. One elderly sister said: I knew about God as a small child. She also said that she knew about Christ and the resurrection as a child. Another sister said: My mother taught me as a child the things I should do and to believe God. A brother stated that as a teenager he knew there was power in these things referring to the testimonies he had heard. Another brother said he was raised in the church and even though he has slipped many times the Lord still reaches out to him. One young sister said at one time she drank a lot but she moved to Phoenix where she attends the Church of Christ and her life has now changed. One brother said that he has been able to have a good attitude because of God's help. Another

said that parents having trouble upsets their children. One of our sisters said in growing up the things that she remembered most were church things and a hope of the hereafter. In one of the sermons the question was asked: is the pure love of Christ taught in your homes?

Parents have a definite responsibility to their children. At this time I would like to refer to the advice of a father to his son found in Proverbs 3:1-7.

*My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man. Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil.*

The above information is valuable not alone to the children and youth but also to the parents.

Alma was a wise father and gave important commandments to his son, Helaman, to follow: *My son, give ear to my words; for I swear unto you, that inasmuch as ye shall keep the commandments of God, ye shall prosper in the land. I would that ye should*

do as I have done, in remembering the captivity of our fathers; for they were in bondage, and none could deliver them, except it was the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob: and he surely did deliver them in their afflictions. And now, O my son Helaman, behold thou art in thy youth, and therefore I beseech of thee that thou wilt hear my words, and learn of me; for I do know that whosoever shall put their trust in God, shall be supported in their trials, and their troubles, and their afflictions, and shall be lifted up at the last day; - Alma 17:1-3

Alma had this testimony, not of the temporal, but of the spiritual, for he had been supported on the trials and troubles of every kind and in all manner of afflictions, for he had been delivered from prison, and bonds, and from death. (See Alma 17:25-28).

If we will look to our day, I would like to refer to a vision which was had by Evangelist Placido Koyoc which refers in part to parent and children responsibility.

*On December 28, 1988, Evangelist Placido Koyoc awoke early in the morning. While praying over the day's activities, a vision appeared before him. He first saw his family, then all his brothers and sisters in his congregation which represented to him the church at large. He was overcome with the impression that there was a great need within the church. With this awareness the vision faded and, as he pondered the significance of what he had seen, there came into his mind, one by one, a list of needs for*

*which he thought he should be praying. He listed them together with a few scriptures that came to his mind.*

I only desire to refer to three of the eight needs presented as they refer directly to this article. These three needs follow:

"3. Pray for the responsibility of parents to God and to their children. Ephesians 6:4, Mosiah 2:25-27."

"4. Pray for duties of our youth toward God and their parents. Ecclesiastes 12:1; Ephesians 6:1-2."

"5. Pray for our little ones, their duties to God and to their parents. Colossians 3:20."

At this time I would like to reference number 3, which refers to the responsibility of parents to God and to their children. "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4. In Mosiah 2:25-27 King Benjamin gives the following advice: "And ye will not suffer your children, that they go hungry, or naked; Neither will ye suffer that they transgress the laws of God, and fight and quarrel one with another, and serve the devil, who is the master of sin, or who is the evil spirit which hath been spoken of by our fathers; he being an enemy to all righteousness; But ye will teach them to walk in the ways of truth and soberness; ye will teach them to love one another, and to serve one another."

Alma gave the following advice to his son, Helaman: "O remember my son, and learn

wisdom in thy youth; yea, learn in thy youth to keep the commandments of God; yea, and cry unto God for all thy support; Yea, let all thy doings be unto the Lord, and withersoever thou goest, let it be in the Lord; yea, let thy thoughts be directed unto the Lord; yea let the affections of thy heart be placed upon the Lord forever; counsel the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for good." Alma 17:68-69.

Jesus said unto the multitude of the people: "Behold, verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye must watch and pray always, lest ye enter into temptation; For Satan desireth to have you, that he may sift you as wheat; therefore ye must always pray unto the Father in my name; and whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, which is right, believing that ye shall receive, behold it shall be given unto you. Pray in your families unto the Father, always in name, that your wives and your children may be blessed." 3 Nephi 8:50-52.

Now I would like to touch upon number 4, which asks us to pray for duties of our youth toward God and their parents. The following reference shows a duty of youth: "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;" Ecclesiastes 12:1.

In Ephesians 6:1-3 we can read about a duty of children: "Children obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment



with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.”

The number 5 need asks us to pray over our little ones, their duties to God and their parents. In Colossians 3:20 we can read the following: “Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.” Another good reference is found in 2 Nephi 11:43&48: “For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children, and also our brethren, to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God; And we talk of Christ, we rejoice in Christ, we preach of Christ, we prophesy of Christ, and we write according to our prophecies, that our children may know to what source they may look for a remission of their sins.”

In the December 1990 *Readers' Digest* there is an article which bears careful consideration. It is entitled “How to Raise Happy Kids” by John K. Rosemond. In his article he lists several myths in raising children. Some of these myths I would like to touch upon. One myth he mentions is that a family is a democracy. The most common form of wishing takes place when parents argue with young children. He further indicates that no matter how correct your explanation, children see only one point of view which is their own. It is far better to say without threat or apology, to say simply, “Because I said so.” This author wrote that as a child he could not stand these four words and promised himself he would never say “Because I said so” to his children.

When he came almost to the brink of disaster with his first child these words became a part of his vocabulary. He further states that making decisions is the responsibility of parents. “The fact is, a family is not a democracy. Eventually someone has to have the final say, and that someone better be an adult, or everyone is in trouble.”

*Another myth is that frustration is bad for children. He states that parents work hard to protect their children from this terrible scourge. “But the truth is, life involves many frustrations, and it’s only through experience with frustration that we develop a tolerance for it.”*

He further states that parents should learn to say no to their children and they should not give their children all that they ask for. “We accustom our children to a material standard completely out of kilter with what they can expect as adults. Consider that most of them attain this level of affluence not by working or sacrificing, but by whining, demanding and manipulating. We teach them that something can be had for nothing— one of the most destructive attitudes a person can acquire.” So it is important that parents learn to say no.

Many parents think that “the more toys kids have, the better”

but this also is a myth. “A typical child’s home has toys strewn all over the place, yet children still complain, “I’m bored!” They are bored precisely because parents provide them with so many things. A child can’t decide what to do next because the clutter presents too many options. “The reason many children are bored is because a lot of the toys are not creative and do little to stimulate the child’s imagination. Mr. Rosemond further states: “Truly creative toys encourage a child to use something to represent something else.”

Still another myth according to Mr. Rosemond is when parents state: “My kids don’t watch too much TV.” He said parents generally underestimate their children’s television viewing time by 50 percent. “Your child’s preschool years are formative ones during which he develops the skills needed to become creative and competent. Next time he is watching television, ask yourself, “What is he doing?” The answer is, nothing. Not one skill is being exercised.”

We can readily see that parents and children have a responsibility to each other. Not only do they have a responsibility to one another but they have a responsibility to God. In closing I would like to use the following quotation: “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil.” Proverbs 3:5-7.

## The Parables of Jesus

by Sister Marlene Cobb

### Lesson Two: *The Kingdom of Heaven is like...*

In lesson One we used the parables of the "Mustard Seed" and "The Leaven" as examples of a parable's structure. In lesson Two we want to find out what the Kingdom of Heaven is like. Read: Matt. 13:31-33

**Discussion:** We know that a mustard seed is very small but produces a large tree. If you have ever used yeast or leaven in cooking you know it grows and causes the ingredients you combine (usually dough) to expand. Growth of the Kingdom will happen first by small beginnings, but has the power within its seed (faith or belief) to grow to an encompassing size. This growth penetrates, expands and transforms one's environment. The gospel, or the word, when we take it to ourselves gives us an inner capacity to grow in spiritual understanding and strength. This is the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Luke 9:21 verifies that this growing Kingdom of God is within us.

**Read:** Matt 9:14-20

**Discussion:** Here Christ is being questioned by the followers of John and the Pharisees as to why his disciples do not fast. What is Jesus telling these two critical groups about himself and his doctrine? Who is the groom? Who are the children of the bridegroom? Do you think these groups understood Christ's spiritual truths? Why or

Why not?

Christ's Kingdom of Heaven or his gospel was different than the old legalistic law the Jews were living under. His kingdom is ruled by the law of love.

What is the "new" in the parable? What is the "old"? Why do you think Jesus used the comparison between the old and the new?



The "fast" in Christ time had become a ritualized activity often done for the demonstration of one's piety or religious merit. Outward appearances are important within a judgmental legal system. They had forgotten the intent of the law.

**Summary:** The Kingdom of Heaven begins with small beginnings, but something should happen within the individual who embraces the gospel. There should commence a spiritual growth, a change of attitudes, and a production of the fruits of the spirit. These new dimensions do not happen overnight. Growth in the physical and spiritual realms take time and nurturing. It is a life long on-going process. Not outward

ritualized religion, but internal changes of the heart and spirit are what Christ states are the dynamics of this Kingdom.

### Questions to Ponder:

**1** Why are the laws of nature and effective analogy for the laws of the spiritual world?

**2** We have identified the Bridegroom and the Bridegroom's children. Who is the Bride according to the New Testament?

**3** Is it logical to think that once we accept Christ as our Savior that all is done? Why or why not?

**4** In 2 Nephi we are reminded that we learn line upon line and precept upon precept. How does that concept verify or nullify these first three parables studied?

**5** If you are witnessing for Christ during your daily life—should you expect immediate accepting responses from those around you? Why or why not? (what does witnessing mean?)

**6** What does this statement mean to you? "We only discover who we are when we find out whose we are."

**7** Can you state a spiritual law concerning what the Kingdom of Heaven is like?

**8** Even though the gospel was new—or Good News, how did our Lord's ministry build on the Mosaic Law or fulfill the law?

**9** What does this scripture mean to you? "Fear not little flock for it is your father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom." (Luke 12:30)

# PROGRESS

by  
Priest  
Aaron  
Heath

Dear Brothers and Sisters;

I would like to start by defining the word progress (according to Websters dictionary - ALH), which states, that progress is: moving forward; advancement; development; onward movement or to improve.

I believe, it is time, that we each take a long view of ourselves, as the children of God, and decide whether or not, we are progressing. Are we moving ahead as we should, are we raising our values, are we improving or developing?

These questions, need to be answered, for if we answer them with a "NO," then we need to do something about it!

In many states in this country, we read road signs that say: "PROGRESS AS PROMISED." I feel, that when we read these signs, that we should use them to jog our remembrance of when we walked into the waters of baptism, and made a promise and a commitment to our Heavenly Father, that we would forsake the sins

of the world and follow Him. We should remember, that the promise wasn't for a day or a week or a year, but for always and if we make good our promise, then we will receive of the promise of eternal life.

Let us read what happens when we forget to look to the Lord for guidance and direction:

*And it came to pass in the eighth year of the reign of the judges, that the people of the church began to wax proud, because of their exceeding riches, and their fine silks, and their fine twined linen,*

*And because of their many flocks and herds, and their gold, and their silver, and all manner of precious things, which they had obtained by their industry;*

*And in all these things were they lifted up in the pride of their eyes, for they began to wear very costly apparel.*

*Now this was the cause of much affliction to Alma, yea, and to many of the people which Alma had consecrated to be teachers, and priests, and elders, over the church;*

*Yea, many of them were sorely grieved for the wickedness which they saw had begun to be among their people.*

*For they saw and beheld with great sorrow, that the people of the church began to be lifted up in the pride of their eyes, and to set their hearts upon riches and upon the vain things of the world:*

*That they began to be scornful, one towards another, and they began to persecute those that did not believe according to their own will and pleasure.*

*And thus in this eighth year of the reign of the Judges, there began to be great contentions among the people of the church;*

*Yea, there were envyings, and strifes, and malice, and persecutions, and pride, even to exceed the pride of those who did not belong to the church of God.*

*And thus ended the eighth year of the reign of the Judges; and the wickedness of the church was a great stumbling block to those who did not belong to the church; **and thus the church began to fail in its progress.** - Alma 2:8-17 (emphasis throughout article by A. L. H.)*

Please read also: Mosiah 1:22-26 and Alma 17:71-84

Now I would like to quote the following transcriptions of shorthand notes taken at a sacrament meeting on Sunday, March 3, 1935, at Phoenix, Arizona.

From the testimony of E. Leon Yates:

*I recently heard a story over the radio which brings out a point I would like to express here. It is about the master violin player. It brought to my mind what we as human beings forget. The story is this. "One time there was a master violinist who was to play one evening. People for miles around came to the appointed place to hear him. There was a large*

crowd. He came out on the stage, and began to play. His music touched the people. He could express all kinds of human feelings. He expressed love, joy, sorrow. His music touched their very souls, and brought out their deepest emotions. When the master violinist had finished, every one was quiet for an instant, and then they broke into loud clapping. They showed their appreciation by clapping, and clapping, until the master appeared again on the stage, and taking the violin upon which he had just finished playing such inspiring music, he smashed it to pieces before the vast crowd. The people were aghast. It took them by surprise. Then he told them that violin had cost but \$2.65.

"It isn't the violin," he said, "it is the touch of the master."

He wanted to prove that it was his art of playing, not the violin. I would like to put this interpretation on that story: That is that we are like the \$2.65 violin. People don't amount to much until they have God, the Master, to control and handle their lives. People forget this. I was reminded of this when I heard this beautiful story. If we could remember that we are cheap violins! It takes the touch of the master to produce harmony in our lives. We will enjoy more of the finer feelings if we remember that.

From the testimony of Keith Rogers:

*The illustration that Leon mentioned, of the violin, is very apt. It brings the lesson clearly. I believe we can take the illustration farther. The violin does require the touch of the Master to bring out*

*its best. Individuals are different in that they can say whether or not they will be touched by the Master. Individuals can either accept the opportunities that are placed before them or they can reject them. We are responsible whether we will be as the \$2.65 violin, or a more expensive one. He who accepts, the Master will come in and sup with him. Otherwise he will not. Also, I believe there is another thought to be gained in this story. While there are cheap violins, there are also different ones. We might use this: The Master might play and use me for one thing and use some one else for some other thing. Each one has different talents, and by the touch of the Master, we may have these talents developed. – Quoted from the Zion's Advocate, June 1, 1936.*

Let us ponder these thoughts in our hearts, and also these words:

*And now, my brethren, I would that after ye have received so many witnesses, seeing that the holy scriptures testify of these things, come forth and bring fruit unto repentance;*

*Yea, I would that ye would come forth and harden not your hearts any longer; for behold, now is the time, and the day of your salvation; and therefore, if ye will repent and harden not your hearts, immediately shall the great plan of redemption be brought about unto you.*

*For behold, this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God: yea, behold, the day of this life is the day for men to perform their labors.*

*And now as I said unto you be-*

*fore, as ye have had so many witnesses, therefore I beseech of you, that ye do not procrastinate the day of your repentance until the end;*

*For after this day of life, which is given us to prepare for eternity, behold, if we do not improve our time while in this life, then cometh the night of darkness, wherein there can be no labor performed. – ALMA 16:226-230.*

Yes brothers and sisters, now is the time to improve or progress in preparation to meet God and to be ready to greet our Saviour Jesus Christ, when He returns to us.

My prayer is, that we each might try harder to soften our hearts and humble ourselves before the Lord, that we might become clean vessels in which our Heavenly Father might be able to use us to His honor and glory.

ZA

## We're Late!

Don't blame your mail service ... your Z.A. Editor's computer "crashed" and has been down nearly a full month. This issue is going to press June 20, and in the mail the week following.

I hope to get closer to a normal publication schedule by the July issue, and, with your prayers, totally back on schedule by August. Thanks for your patience. – gh

## TESTIMONY OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN AND THE STICK OF JOSEPH

Compiled by Harvey E. Seibel

### Conclusion ...

Victor W. Van Hogan also expresses his amazement when he wonderingly asks the question of how the Inca mason was able to obtain such minute precision in which the enormous stone had to be lifted and set down a hundred times before the massive stone fitted perfectly on its sides like a bottle stopper. Prescott, in speaking of this marvelous accomplishment, says:

"The fortress, the walls, the galleries were all built of stone, the heavy blocks of which were not laid in regular courses, but so disposed that the small ones might fill up the interstices between the great. They formed a sort of rustic work, being roughhewn except towards the edges, which were finely wrought; and, though no cement was used, the several blocks were adjusted with so much exactness and united so closely, that it was impossible to introduce even the blade of a knife between them. Many of these stones were of vast size; some of them being full thirty-eight feet long, by eighteen feet broad, and six feet thick.

"We are filled with astonishment, when we consider, that these enormous masses were hewn from their native bed and fashioned into shape, by a people ignorant of the use of iron; that they were brought from quarries, from four to fifteen leagues distant, without the aid of beasts of burden; were transported across rivers and ravines, raised to their elevated position on the Sierra, and finally adjusted there with the nicest accuracy, without knowledge of tool and machinery familiar to the European" (William Hickling Prescott, *The Conquest of Peru*, pp. 740-741).

Prescott goes on to make the following interesting comment:

"That they should have accomplished these difficult works with such tools as they possessed, is truly wonderful. It was comparatively easy to cast and even to sculpture metallic substances, both of which they did

with consummate skill. But that they should have shown the like facility in cutting the hardest substances, as emeralds and other precious stones, is not so easy to explain. Emeralds, they obtained in considerable quantity from the barren district of Atacames, and this inflexible material seems to have been almost as ductile in the hands of the Peruvian artist as if it had been made of clay. Yet the natives were unacquainted with the use of iron, though the soil was largely impregnated with it. The tools used were of stone, or more frequently of copper. But the material on which they relied for the execution of their most difficult tasks was formed by combining a very small portion of tin with copper. This composition gave a hardness to the metal which seems to have been little inferior to that of steel. With the aid of it, not only did the Peruvian artisan hew into shape porphyry and granite, but by his patent industry accomplished works which the European would not have ventured to undertake. Among the remains of the monuments of Cannar may be seen movable rings in the muzzles of animals, all nicely sculptured of one entire block of granite. It is worthy of remark, that the Egyptians, the Mexicans, and the Peruvians, in their progress towards civilization, should never have detected the use of iron, which lay around them in abundance; and that they should each without any knowledge of the other, have found a substitute for it in such a curious composition of metals as gave to their tools almost the temper of steel; a secret that has been lost - or, to speak more correctly, has never been discovered by the civilized European" (Prescott, *The Conquest of Peru*, pp. 809-810).

It should not be construed that the knowledge and use of iron was unknown among them. Mr. Verrill makes the clear statement that he found a steel or hardened iron implement 5 1/2 feet below the temple site of which he was excavating. He stated it was so hard that it was scarcely touched by a file and that it would scratch glass. With such an instrument it would be a simple matter to cut and carve the hardest stone.

One other area of grand achievement among the early Peruvians was their irrigation systems. In Peru there

were great artificial rivers or canals bringing water for hundreds of miles across mountains and deserts. Many were carried over ravines and canyons on stone viaducts which today are still in use. Branching from the main canals was a complex but perfect network of canals and ditches covering thousands of square miles.

This completes our study of the ancient culture of the Americas and their record, the stick of Joseph.

### A concluding comment:

The Indians had a system of time measurement which was based upon the rotational orbits of Venus and the Earth around the sun. The planet Venus makes thirteen revolutions to eight revolutions of the Earth. To bring the two planets around to their original position requires 104 years or eight thirteens. This represents a full cycle. A half cycle is 52 years. (See L. Taylor Hansen, *He Walked the Americas*, p. 223).

The Indians had a tradition among them that when the white men came to their shores they would come in suits of shining metal with rods which made much noise and killed at a distance. The Pale One had told them that these white ones would have but one love, for weapons. These weapons would become ever more horrible until they should reach for the one which is ultimate. After using that there would be no forgiveness, for this weapon would be used to make man over, thus reaching into space for the God-Head. The time during which the white man would be permitted to have dominion in this land would extend (from the time of the coming of the Spaniards) for five full cycles of the dawn star. During this time the rule of the warring strangers would continue on to greater and greater orgies of destruction. Be certain that the end will come in five cycles or 520 years. As a sign that the end is nearing, the Pale One told them, "My Father's temple will be uncovered." After that would come the New Heaven and Earth, and Tula, their ancient city, would be rebuilt and become the center of culture" (see L. Taylor Hansen, *He Walked the Americas*, pp. 167-169).

ZZ

Thanks, Brother Seibel, for a long, but interesting and fact-filled series! - Editor

## Phoenix Quartet

Join in singing your favorite songs from the Saint's Hymnal with the new tape "Zion's Praises" from the Phoenix Women's Quartet with piano accompaniment by Kim Yates. Donations of \$5.00 per tape will be earmarked for the General Church Building Fund. Still available, are previous tapes: "Gift of Love" (Christmas), and "Hear My Voice!" (Variety Gospel), also at \$5.00 per tape.

To order, send \$5.00 (plus \$1.00 for postage would be appreciated) to:

**Church of Christ**  
**2929 E. Siesta Lane**  
**Phoenix, Arizona 85024.**

Please indicate choice and quantity of tapes desired.

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## Flint Local News

Dear Brothers and Sisters;

We would like to share with you some of Gods blessings with us. Conference news was shared by those who attended this year. Our prayers are always for the church's direction to be guided by the Lord and for his will to be done in all things. We pray that the Lord will guide and direct our newly called Apostle Smith Brickhouse; that he may be strengthened and filled with purpose in spreading the gospel story to mankind, as also our other Apostles and ministry. The importance of each in the ministry is the same, all are important for a house of order.

Lately we had our annual business meeting, Saturday May 4th. We had a sloppy joe dinner and fellowship before the meeting. We pray for a successful full year of spreading God's word and enjoying his many blessings as we did for all of you. On Sunday, May 5th, Brother Emery Pinder spoke to us before we received sacrament and engaged in testimonies and season of prayer. After service the younger peoples had a lunch and caravanned to the roller rink for a good time with their church friends.

My God Guide your ways ....

**Priest Adam Porter**

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## Obituaries

### ROSETTA MAE LUSSENDEN

Rosetta Mae Lussenden, of Bowens Mills, MI, passed away after a long illness on March 13, 1991 in Wayland, MI.

Rosetta was preceded in death by Wayne Lussenden who passed away on January 13, 1987 after suffering a long illness. They were married on May 17, 1927.

Together Wayne and Rosetta were active members in Church. Rosetta was a Sunday School teacher for many years. They both enjoyed church activities and took an active part in the upkeep of the church.

Rosetta made homemaking her lifes work. She and Wayne raised chickens for most of their lives and farmed the land that provided for their two sons, Delbert and Elder LaVerne Lussenden who pastors the Bradley Local, MI.

The funeral service was conducted by Elder LaVerne Lussenden with a few words spoken by his brother, Delbert Lussenden on March 16, 1991 at 1:00 p.m. at Archer-Hampel Funeral Home in Wayland, MI.

### HARRY ROBERT GREEN

Harry Robert Green, son of Frank and Nancy (Frisbey) Green, was born February 16, 1911, in Independence, Missouri, and died March 27, 1991, in Springfield, Missouri, of a heart attack.

Graveside service and interment was held March 30, 1991, at Akard Cemetery, Fairplay, Missouri. Robert, a grandson of George P. Frisbey and brother to Arra Gentry, was baptized in the Church of Christ, July 19, 1938, by Apostle J. E. Bozarth, at Dunegan, Missouri. He held to his faith in Christ through many hardships and trials.

He is survived by a son, Robert Green, and two grandchildren of Halfway, Missouri.

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Please see the announcement for  
TEEN CHALLENGE '91  
on the back cover >>>>>>

# Teen Challenge '91

### CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

Speed delivery of your "Advocate" by sending us your new address immediately. Each undeliverable "Advocate" costs the church more than the value of a first class stamp.

Teen Challenge for 1991, the second annual Church of Christ sponsored summer youth camp, will be held August 4 through 9, at Camp Far Westa (same as last year), one hour north of Kansas City, Missouri. The camp is for young men and women in Junior and Senior High School, ages 12 through 18. Church of Christ affiliation is not required.

Transportation will be provided to the Missouri Reunion immediately following the Camp. Please plan to attend and make some memories that will last a lifetime.

For information concerning costs, what to bring, etc., contact:

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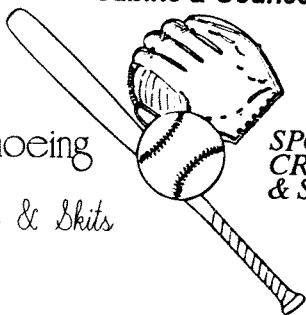
New Friends  
&  
Old Friends



Fun & Fellowship

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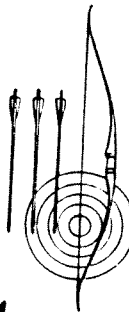


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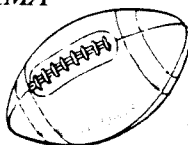
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