

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;"*

1 Nephi 3:187

Volume 68

Independence, Missouri — November 1991

Number 11

Holy Ground

With Jethro's sheep on Horeb's height
A burning bush met Moses' sight,
And drawing nigh a voice profound
Said: Bare your feet, 'Tis Holy Ground.
'Twas holy ground that Moses trod,
Amidst the bush was Israel's God,
And where the Lord is to be found,
Is ever, always, Holy Ground.

I do not doubt that Horeb stands
Serenely still in Median lands;
But whether God is to be found,
Depends on if it's Holy Ground,
The promised land where Israel dwelt
Was holy, when its people felt
The power of God, for God was found
Where Israel kept its Holy Ground.

But Israel's sin and shame was felt,
And God no longer with them dwelt,
Polluted was that Holy Ground;
Then God was not among them found.
When Israel to the Lord will turn,
His precepts and His will discern,
Jerusalem, and all around
Will once again be Holy Ground.

In Independence there's a spot,
By name it's called the Temple Lot,
But whether it is Holy Ground,
Depends if God can there be found.
Its people holy, undefiled,
With hearts so pure, and hands unsoiled
Must be, if God is there found;
For where He is, is Holy Ground.

Regardless of the past, 'tis now
God looks for holiness, and how
Can we expect him to be found,
Except the Lot be Holy Ground.
If you would climb the Holy Hill
The secret is: Just do God's will,
God never can be ever found
Except it be on Holy Ground.

O' Church of Christ! Arise, and shine!
Seek Holy Fire and Light Divine!
For Israel's God will not be found,
Except it be on Holy Ground.

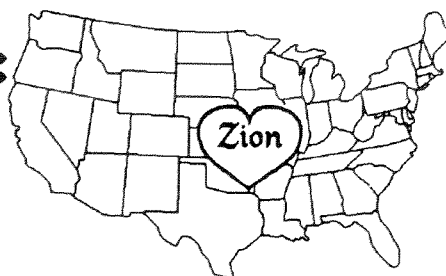
*This poem was written many years ago
by Saints in Essex, England.*

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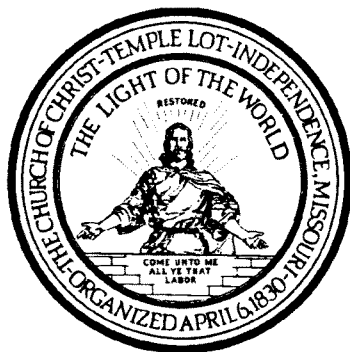
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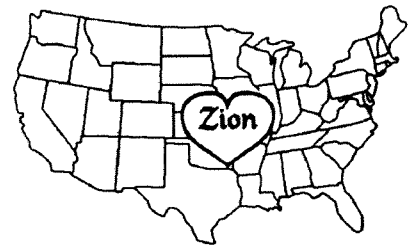
To promote His Teachings & His Church, the Church of Christ;

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.

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Onward to Zion!

The Committee to Study Zion has once again been asked to coordinate the submission of written material to *Zion's Advocate* for the express purpose of publishing articles from various Church members on the subject of Zion.

The following articles present various perspectives which include the historical commandments on establishing Zion and how we should prepare ourselves to help bring these commandments to fruition.

We are surely in the last days of time as we now know it. It is only prudent that we search our souls, read the commandments and begin to assist in the formative process of building this most special community.

Only with a concerted effort can all of this come about! Please consider the following commandments while preparing yourselves for Zion:

Book of Commandments, Chapter 10: vs. 1-5:

A great and marvelous work is about to come forth among the children of men: behold I am God and give heed to my word, which is quick and powerful, sharper than a two-edged sword, to the dividing asunder of both joints and marrow: therefore, give heed unto my word.

Behold the field is white already to harvest, therefore, whoso desireth to reap, let him thrust his sickle with his might, and reap while the day lasts, that he may treasure up for his soul everlasting salvation in the kingdom of God; yea whosoever will thrust in his sickle and reap, the same is called of God: therefore, if you

will ask of me, you shall receive; if you will knock, it shall be opened unto you.

Now as you have been asked, behold I say unto you, keep my commandments, and seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion. Seek not for riches but for wisdom, and behold the mysteries of God shall be unfolded unto you, and than shall you be made rich; behold he that hath eternal life is rich.

Verily, verily I say unto you, even as you desire of me, so shall it be done unto you, and, if you desire you shall be the means of doing much good in this generation. Say nothing but repentance unto this generation. Keep my commandments, and assist to bring forth my work according to my commandments, and you shall be blessed.

Behold thou hast a gift, or thou shalt have a gift, if thou wilt desire of me in faith, with an honest heart, believing in the power of Jesus Christ, or in my power which speaketh unto thee: for behold it is I that speaketh: behold I am the light which shineth darkness, and by my power I give these words unto thee.

As is evidenced in this commandment, halfway measures or half-heartedness on the subject of Zion will not be enough. We must direct ourselves totally to accomplish what is commanded of us.

*Elder Robert Dewaele
Chairman
Committee to Study Zion*

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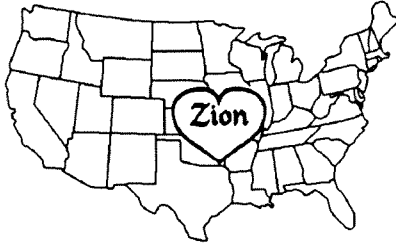
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by Amy Schrader

What is Zion?

Perhaps the simplest, shortest yet most definitive statement concerning Zion is "...for this is Zion, the pure in heart;" No truer statement was ever made. To be in Zion one must become pure in heart; yet I challenge all who quote that, to determine what scripture they are quoting.

Zion is both a condition and a place. Only those who meet the condition can abide the place. We pray, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven", that is the condition, a people subject and obedient to His will, whether on earth or in heaven. Some forty odd years ago I approached the Lord to know if Zion would become a reality in my life time that I might know how to direct the focus of my life. /the answer when it came surprised me. It was that I didn't need to know that. Whatever is required to be of the Kingdom of Heaven is the same whether on earth or in heaven. I should direct my life to that.

The Book of Mormon tells us that in our day, when the gospel is - has been - restored, there will be a people who will build a city called the New Jerusalem. 3 Nephi 10: 1-2, "But if they will repent, (having been speaking of the gentiles) and hearken unto my words, and harden not their hearts, I will establish my church among them, (has he?) and they shall come in unto the covenant, and be numbered among this the remnant of Jacob, unto whom I have given this land for their inheritance, (Joseph's land, Ephriam

and Manasseh), and they shall assist my people, the remnant of Jacob; And also, as many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem;" The gentile, the remnant of Jacob, and as many of the house of Israel as will come, these three as a group is the antecedent of the 'they' of the second verse. We, if we will, may be of that group.

The Book of Commandments chapter 48: 59-67, identifies the New Jerusalem and Zion as being the same.

Go ye forth into the western countries, call upon the inhabitants to repent, and inasmuch as they do repent, build up churches unto me; and with one heart and with one mind, gather up your riches that ye may purchase in inheritance which shall hereafter be appointed unto you, and it shall be called the New Jerusalem, a land of peace, a city of refuge, a place of safety for the saints of the most high God. And the glory of the Lord shall be there, and the terror of the Lord also shall be there, insomuch that the wicked will not come unto it: And it shall be called Zion: And it shall come to pass, among the wicked, that every man that will not take up his sword against his neighbor, must needs flee unto Zion for safety. And there shall be gathered unto it out of every nation under heaven: And it shall be the only people that shall not be at war one with another. And it shall be said among the

wicked, let us not go up to battle against Zion, for the inhabitants of Zion are terrible: wherefore we cannot stand. And it shall come to pass that the righteous shall be gathered out from among all nations, and shall come to Zion singing, with songs of everlasting joy.

That last statement iterates who will be acceptable in Zion - the righteous!

The Lord began as early as April 1829 instructing the establishing of the 'cause' of Zion and in June of that same year, the seeking to bring forth the establishing of Zion, making the two commandments synonymous. Cause, as a noun is, "that form which anything proceeds, and without which it would not exist." (Webster) As a verb, it is, "to bring about, make happen, effect, induce, produce." (Webster) The cause of Zion? That which will produce Zion. Can it be other than that obedience to the will and commandments of God without which it cannot exist; that Zion condition met in each and every personal life of all who aspire to become part of it?

The Book of Mormon leaves a promise for those who seek to bring forth Zion. A specific promise to a specific act of obedience. I Nephi 3: 187-188:

And blessed are they which 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."

All of God's promises are on condition of obedience. "I, the Lord, am bound when ye do what I say, but when ye do not what I say, ye have no promise. (Revelation given April 1832, at Independence, Missouri)

Only to that extent that the gift and power is manifest among us can we suppose that we have been seeking to bring forth Zion. Where or when it is lacking we must confess efforts have been otherwise or elsewhere.

We find in both the Bible and Book of Mormon the record that after Christ's teaching, the church brought about a condition among themselves called 'All things common'. Acts 2: 44-45, 4: 32, 3 Nephi 12: 11, 4 Nephi 1: 4, surely we all know the references, or can check them, so I will not quote here in the interest of brevity. What is the meaning of this clause? God has said, Psalms 50: 10-12, "For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beast of the fields are mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof." and Haggai 2: 8, "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts." Strange that we claim them ours!

In the Book of Commandments we find, Oh. 52: 19-20, "For behold the beasts of the field, and the fowls of the air, and that which cometh of the earth, is ordained for the use of man, for food, and for raiment, and that he might have in abundance, but it is not given that one man should possess that which is above another; Wherefore the world lieth in sin;...." If inequality puts the world in sin, what about the Church? God is not a respecter of persons, Acts 10:34, so if the fulness of the earth is his, how could he then sanction inequality among them? Is not this then the meaning of the clause, All things common, that is, All things equal?

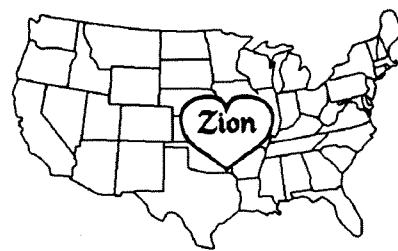
Every kingdom is governed by law. Surely the Lord's commandments are the laws that will govern His kingdom on the earth. In fact the so states. In February of 1831 he told them to assemble

to receive his law, Book of Commandments 43: 4. In the same month when they were assembled he says, "Again I say unto you, hearken and hear and obey the law which I shall give unto you;" Book of Commandments 44: 4. And he proceeded to tell them how our affairs both spiritual and material should be governed. The condition, "If thou lovest me thou shalt serve me and keep all my commandments; and behold, thou shalt consecrate all thy properties unto me, with a covenant and a deed which can not be broken; etc..." We have just rehearsed that all the fulness of the earth is his; should we demur to acknowledge his claim to it in the manner that he directs? King Benjamin said, "...ye are eternally indebted to your heavenly Father. To render to him all that ye have, and are..." Mosiah 1:76-77, I submit that one can not do either except they do both. And must it not be in the manner that the Lord has commanded?

Jesus gave two great commandments, Matthew 22: 37-40, to love the Lord with all our heart, mind and soul, and to love our neighbor as ourself. On these two hang all the law. To suppose that we do so love the Lord and yet feel these commandments are grievous; or that we so love our neighbor and yet want more for ourself than all are able to have, is to deceive ourselves about ourselves.

But the Lord has said that Zion will be whether we avail ourselves of the privilege to help bring it into being or not. Book of Commandments 52: 25-26, "But before the great day of the Lord shall come, (the day of his coming) Jacob shall flourish in the wilderness; the Lamanites shall blossom as the rose; Zion shall flourish on the hills, and rejoice upon the mountains, and shall be assembled together unto the place which I have appointed." And in the Book of Commandments 65: 39-40:

Wherefore as ye are agents, and ye are on the Lord's errand, and whatever ye do according to the will of the Lord, is the Lord's business,



and it is the Lord's business to provide for his saints in these last days, that they may obtain an inheritance in the land of Zion; And behold I the Lord declare unto you, and my words are sure and shall not fail, that they shall obtain it;

And where is the place appointed? Let the Lord speak, "Hearken O ye elders of my church, saith the Lord your God, who have assembled yourselves together, according to my commandments, in this land which is the land of Missouri, which is the land which I have appointed and consecrated for the gathering of the saints; Wherefore this is the land of promise, and the place for the city of Zion." from a revelation given July 1831 in Independence, Jackson County, Missouri.

This, then, is Zion; a people gathered together in the pure love of Christ called Charity (Moroni 7: 50-53), blessed with that abundance (Malachi 3: 10, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.") of the fulness of the earth which is the Lord's, created for the use of man, after the manner of his commandments wherein there are no rich nor poor but all are equal; over whom he will reign as King of kings, and Lord of lords when he comes.

But, who will give themselves; all they have and all they are to its accomplishment? The vaults of the heavens, the valleys of the mountains, the reaches of the seas and the empty chambers of the ages all echo, "Who?"



by Helen Jensen Dewaele

Zion in the "Latter Days"

A study of the Restoration movement reveals early and pervasive teachings of Zion as a definite place. Even before the formal organization of the Church on April 6, 1830, mention was made of Zion in a number of early revelations.

In a revelation to Oliver Cowdrey in April 1829 we read: "Now as you have asked, behold I say unto you, keep my commandments, and seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion." Book of Commandments 5: 3.

A revelation to Joseph Knight, May, 1829 states: "Now as ye have asked, behold I say unto you, keep my commandments and seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion." B. of C. 11:3

A revelation to the Church of Christ, given in the presence of six elders, in Fayette, N.Y., September, 1830 says:

And ye are called to bring to pass the gathering of mine elect, for mine elect hear my voice and harden not their hearts. Wherefore, the decree hath gone forth from the Father, that they shall be gathered in unto one place, upon the face of this land, to prepare their hearts, and be prepared in all things, against the day when tribulation and desolation are sent forth upon the wicked. (B. of C. 29: 8-10)

These revelations are in accord with the Book of Ether 5:1-8 (Book of Mormon – emphasis here and throughout by H.J.D.):

And now I, Moroni, proceed to finish my record concerning the destruction of the people of which I have been writing. For behold, they rejected all the words of Ether; for he truly told them of all things, from the beginning of man; and how that after the waters had receded from off the face of this land, it became a choice land above all over lands, a chosen land of the Lord; Wherefore the Lord would have that all men should serve him, which dwelt upon the face thereof; and that it was the place of the New Jerusalem which should come down out of heaven, and the holy sanctuary of the Lord. Behold, Ether saw the days of Christ, and he spoke concerning a New Jerusalem upon this land and he spoke also concerning the house of Israel, and the Jerusalem from whence Lehi should come; after that it should be destroyed, it should be built up again a holy city unto the Lord; Wherefore it could not be a New Jerusalem, for it had been in times of old, but it should be built up again, and become a holy city of the Lord; and it should be built up unto the house of Israel; and that a New Jerusalem should be built up upon this land, unto the remnant of the seed of Joseph, for the which thing there has been a type; for as Joseph brought his father down into the land of Egypt, even so he died there: Wherefore the Lord brought a remnant of the seed of Joseph out of the land of

Jerusalem that he might be merciful unto the seed of Joseph, that they should perish not, even as he was merciful unto the father of Joseph, that he should perish not; Wherefore the remnant of the house of Joseph shall be built upon this land; and it shall be a land of their inheritance; and they shall build up a holy city unto the Lord, like unto the Jerusalem of old: and they shall no more be confounded, until the end come, and the earth shall pass away."

In 4th Nephi 1:3-4, an account is also given of a zionic condition of the Church of Christ following his appearance on this continent. "... and there were no contentions and disputations among them, and every man did deal justly one with another; and they had all things common among them, therefore there were not rich and poor, bond and free, but they were all made free and partakers of the heavenly gift."

There was intense interest in the restored church regarding the exact location of Zion in the latter days. Book of Commandments 59:48, 49,69 gives Missouri as its location. A revelation in B. of C. 54:1-4 told the elders to go to Missouri where the land of their inheritance should be made known to them. On June 19, 1831, Joseph Smith and several others left Kirtland, Ohio, arriving in Missouri in mid-July. In addition thirteen pairs of missionaries were called to travel to Missouri, each pair taking a different route and preaching on the way.

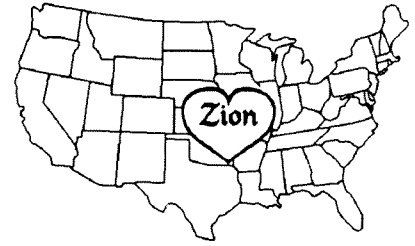
On August 2, Joseph Smith aided some who had come from Colesville, N.Y., in laying a foundation log twelve miles west of Independence in Kaw Township. The next day eight elders met where the temple is to be built. Sidney Rigdon dedicated the land, and Joseph Smith, Jr., laid the Northeast cornerstone of the temple. While an attempt to buy just the lot was unsuccessful, on December 19, 1831, a tract of 63 and a fraction acres was purchased which included the present day Temple Lot.

I will not attempt here to follow the fortunes of the early church as

problems in Missouri ultimately led to its expulsion from that state, nor of a period of relative peace and prosperity in Illinois which ended with the assassination of Joseph and Hiram Smith in 1844.

In accordance with a revelation given to Granville Hedrick, the Illinois saints began returning to Missouri in 1867. By November of that year, they were able to buy again the piece of ground known as the Temple Lot.

As years have passed, and the "latter days" have edged ever nearer to the "last days," we have total assurance the Lord's will regarding the



redemption of Zion and the building of His Temple will be accomplished. The only question is what part we as individuals and the Church of Christ as a whole will play in this all-important work.

The choice is ours!

Who Dares to Fight Against Zion?

Many times I get discouraged, when listening to some people talk, when the topic is ZION. I am amazed at some of the comments I have heard concerning this topic. Some have said; you can talk ZION, ZION. ZION, but it won't happen until this or that happens, or it doesn't do any good to talk about it because we are not ready yet.

We are supposed to be ZION'S advocates ("advocate": vocal supporter of any cause, one who pleads or recommends publicly; Webster; In this case ZION'S. A.L.H.).

If you are not for a cause, you are either 1. in the middle, maybe trying to decide or maybe not sure, or maybe you don't want to take a side or 2. you are against the cause.

I would like to help those who are in the middle or against the cause of Zion, to realize what a tragic mistake it is to feel this way. Not because Aaron feels this way, but because of what the Lord has told us. Therefore, I submit the following

few passages of scripture for your inspection and consideration in the matter:

And all which fight against Zion, shall be destroyed. I Nephi 7:30. For the time surely must come, that all they which fight against Zion, shall be cut off. I Nephi 7:43

Wherefore, they that fight against Zion and the covenant people of the Lord, shall lick up the dust of their feet; II Nephi 5:33

And he that fighteth against Zion, shall perish, saith God; ... II Nephi 7:20. Wherefore, he that fighteth against Zion, both Jew and Gentile, both bond and free, both male and female, shall perish: II Nephi 7:23.

These are just a few verses. I don't know how many are needed to prove that we are to be advocates and we should be talking Zion, Zion, Zion and we should be preparing for Zion, and if we do these things, we will be blessed.

For behold, if it so be that they

by Priest Aaron Heath

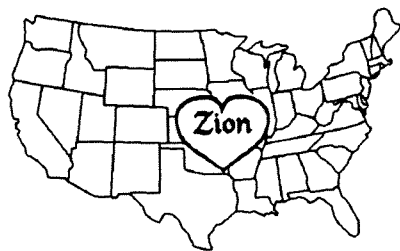
shall repent and fight not against Zion, ... they shall be saved. II Nephi 5:31.

And blessed are they which 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.

If you're not advocating it, working at it, talking about it, striving for it, how can you be for it? WHO DARES TO FIGHT AGAINST ZION AND THE LORD? Not Me — I'm for it!

Called in the name of Jesus Christ to be His servant and advocate to His children, your brother in Christ,

AH



by Elder Charles W. Brantner

When the Lord Shall Bring Again Zion

When the Lord again brings Zion - Mosiah 7:77-78, Isaiah 52:8

For the Lord hath chosen Zion; He hath desired it for His habitation - Psalms 132:13

This statement drawn from Mosiah 7:78 and Isaiah 52:8 leads us to know Zion was in times past and that it will be again, for the Lord has said He will bring it AGAIN. What a marvelous promise to us in these the latter days. This promise does carry with it requirements and labor to be accomplished on our part.

All must understand Zion starts in the heart, with the all-consuming desire to dwell in a physical Zion with those of like faith. Zion shall not be for those persons who think any less of it. It will require faith, commitment and sacrifice. The Lord will bring Zion again by His faithful disciples who seek to bring it forth with a humble desire to follow His commandments. Let me here quote 1 Nephi 3:184-187:

For behold, saith the Lamb, I will manifest myself unto thy seed, that they shall write many things which I shall minister unto them which shall be plain and precious; And after thy seed shall be destroyed and dwindle in unbelief, and also the seed of thy brethren; behold, these things shall be hid up, to come forth unto the Gentiles by the gift and power of the Lamb; And in them shall be written my gospel, saith the Lamb, and my rock and my salvation; And blessed are thy who shall seek to

bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost;

“That day” in verse 187 is referring to “to come forth unto the Gentiles” in verse 185 and is talking of the coming forth of the Book of Mormon and from that time there is a promise of a blessing for those who seek to bring forth His Zion. This scripture does not say, “Bring Zion forth,” but to “Seek to bring forth.” Some say Zion will come forth in the Lord’s time, and I fully agree with this in all things. I also know that we are told that Zion could have been since the early 1830’s. Different latter day revelations witness and verify those words and directions given to us in the Bible and Book of Mormon.

In the seventeenth verse of the first chapter of Zechariah we are told that “...Thus saith the Lord of hosts; My cities through prosperity (good) shall yet be spread abroad; and the Lord shall yet comfort Zion, and shall yet choose Jerusalem.” A prophecy of the spread of the gospel and that there shall be a Zion and Jerusalem. To go with this revelation we have very important words from Psalms 132:13-16. “For the Lord hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation. This is my rest for ever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it. I will abundantly bless her provision: I will satisfy her poor with bread. I will also clothe her priests

with salvation: and her saints shall shout aloud for joy.” Of all things voiced in this passage of scripture the fact that our Lord desires it for his habitation (seat of government) is most important for us to remember. Would any say “I don’t care to have any part in bringing forth the place of the Lord’s domain? I think and pray not.

I would like to present some more thoughts to sum up this writing about the gathering, and the Lord’s Zion, keeping in mind that no body of people have held title to this spot of ground called the Temple Lot except those called the Church of Christ.

In September 1832 there was a revelation given to this church, found in *An Outline History of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot)* on page 46 (bottom of page) listed as Sec. 83:1-2b, (emphasis throughout by C.W. B.) “...The word of the Lord concerning His church, established in the last days for the restoration of His people, as He has spoken by the mouth of His prophets, and for the gathering of His saints to stand upon Mount Zion, which shall be the city New Jerusalem; which city shall be built, beginning at the Temple Lot, which is appointed by the finger of the Lord, in the western boundaries of the State of Missouri, and dedicated by the hand of Joseph Smith, jr., and others, with whom the Lord was well pleased. Verily, this is the word of the Lord, that the city New

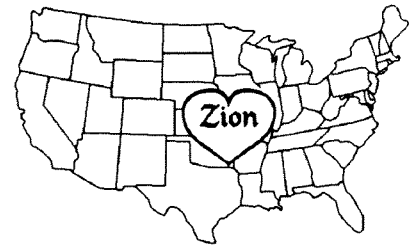
Jerusalem shall be built by the gathering of the Saints, beginning at this place, even the place of the temple, which temple shall be reared in this generation; for verily, this generation shall not all pass away until an house shall be built unto the Lord, and a cloud shall rest upon it, which cloud shall be even the glory of the Lord, which shall fill the house"

The instruction given here is very plain that Zion is to have its beginning at the Temple Lot and nothing

is to be on that lot except the Temple. Is it not reasonable then, that the Temple is to be the starting of Zion?

If Zion is to be the habitation of the Lord and the Temple is the House of the Lord, then it has to be considered Holy Ground, for where He is or will be is Holy Ground.

Would any desire less than to endeavor to bring forth that glorious time when we might be taught from on High. That we might live within the protective boundaries of Zion,



for the day is soon to come when the Saints must gather for their well-being. Let us fast and pray for direction in this matter.

Cooperative Prosperity

This article was found in the March 1931, *The Torch of Truth*, which was written by Elder Thomas S. Maley and is being offered with his permission. It is a very fine Article and just as pertinent for us today as it was in 1931. We feel that it blends very well with the theme of the balance of those writings presented in this issue of *Zion's Advocate*. We wish to take this opportunity to thank brother Maley for allowing us the privilege of using this presentation. For the committee ...

Elder Isaac Brockman

In view of the aspect of present conditions, it is proper and logical to consider the plan we know as "All Things Common."

The world wide situation cries unheeded for a remedy. Remedies in connection with, or a part of the present economic system and the business ethics and policies, extant, are impossible. That is, remedies which will do any amount of enduring good. We are now embarked, unmistakably, in that time of great stress and trouble that Holy writ speaks of. Unrest, mistrust, are on every hand. Dishonesty has its place in the world of business-mindedness. It is creeping indelibly into our every day existence; becoming a part of us. This, coupled with the ever loosening moral bands, is too great for people in the "Church of Christ" to endure and expect to rear their children under.

To us it is given the grasp upon a

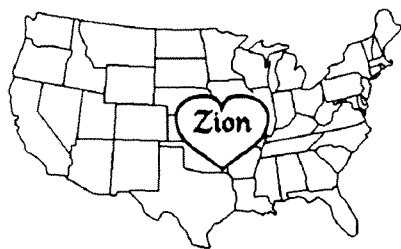
salvation from such an overwhelmingly adverse situation. The Gospel plan provides this salvation. It is no more nor no less than the plan of "All Things Common."

We may be extremely commercialized about it and call it "mass living", and that with all it implies. As mass production means cheaper manufacture with no harm to quality, this plan means cheaper living and greater quantity with no harm to quality. In fact, it means better quality, for the plan which brings it, necessitates it. This All Things Common, means the elimination from our lives of those things which are extraneous and superficial. In other words it replaces the worldliness of us with Godliness and God-like things. The very structure of the plan, permits us to have, as a group, the full proceeds of our labors rather than some individual enterprises assimilating their fraction, and delivering to us the remains according to the varied rules of the labor market. Further, it provides an insurance very sure and unique. Old age, death, your wife, your children, are all taken care of. They are provided for in turn if they see fit to follow the plan. Education will be theirs, and there is no reason why a group

of people under such a system can not build an educational institution such as has never been found before in the world. As well as doing all the above mentioned things, it provides for members from outside in spite of their financial condition, and also provides funds for worthy causes, missionary work, charity, group publications. Under such a system there should be no such thing as discontinuance of a worthy cause because of lack of funds.

We have life and happiness promised us by such a system, and only grief and hardship otherwise. Is the effort worth the pay? It surely seems so. If such is the case, then it is ours to educate "ourselves daily to be useful under such a plan and prepare to take advantage of such a scheme as soon as God permits. It can not be done in a second's time. There is room for men of every vocation. It must needs have thought and preparation, for when we establish such a system, it calls for a segregation very independence in its nature.

We are told in prophecy the exact culmination of earthly things, therefore let us prepare diligently before God that we may be able to take part in this great thing which must surely come.



Hymns of Zion

(from the *Saints' Hymnal*, 1895)

Inspired by the Holy Spirit

Selected by Apostle Robert H. Jensen

**"The song of the righteous is a prayer unto me" -
(Revelation to Joseph Smith, Jr., July 1830)**

**"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual
songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the
Lord" - (Ephesians 5:19)**

1 Guide us, O thou great Jehovah, Saints, unto the promised land;
We are weak, but thou art able,
Hold us with thy powerful hand.
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,
Feed us till the Savior comes.

Open, Jesus, Zion's fountains;
Let her richest blessings come;
Let the fiery cloudy pillar,
Guard us to that holy home;
Great Redeemer, Great Redeemer,
Bring, O bring the welcome day!

When the earth begins to tremble,
Bid our fearful thro'ts be still;
When thy judgments spread destruction,
Keep us safe on Zion's hill,
Singing praises, Singing praises,
Songs of glory, unto thee.

2 Glad are we that now the gospel,
is restored to earth again,
As 'twas said by an Apostle,
We the Spirit may obtain; By obedience,
To redemption's only plan.

God has given us his Spirit,
For we have obeyed his word;
And it whispers, saints, O hear it,
"Own him as your sovereign Lord."
Holy Spirit! Unto us thy help afford.

6 Ye nations of the earth, attend,
Let kings and princes hear,
And let the powers of darkness bend
- Messiah's reign is near"

The Savior comes! ye saints! be pure,
And fix your hearts on high;
Lift up your heads, rejoice,
for your Redemption draweth nigh.
Sing, brethren! Sing in strains divine,
Let all your voices raise;
Let heav'n and earth their anthems join,
In these, the latter days.

Editor's Note: More of these hymns selected by Brother Jensen will appear periodically in future issues of *Zion's Advocate*



GIFTS OF GOD

Sunday School Lesson for Ages 2-6

Text: Acts 2:1-21

Read text and either act it out or use stick puppets to help depict it. Explain what dreams, and speaking in tongues are.

No one can truly do these things unless it be through the power of God. These are the gifts that God. These are the gifts that God is going to give his people. If we do not see these gifts in the church it is because people don't believe God.

If Mom said she had a treat for us, and it was hidden somewhere in the house what would we do? If we believed her we would go looking for it until we could find it and receive it, and enjoy it. If we sit down and wait, will we get the treat? If we do not believe that Mom really hid a treat, will we even look for it? Then we would not receive it.

God wants us to be diligently looking for him, and finding out his rules, and the way he wants us to live. If we do, he promises he will bless us and give us gifts. We can

learn more about him by listening in Sunday School, in church, by learning to read the bible, by praying, and by talking to our parents about Him. And as we grow, if we continue to seek God, then he will give us the gifts that he promised. But we have to believe that he has gifts to give us, and that what he says is really true.

PROJECT: I made shapes that looked like rocks, and on the shapes I wrote various ways that we could seek God, such as The Book of Mormon, Bible, Revelations, and so on. Then I made white circles to depict precious gifts and wrote on them various gifts such as dreams, visions, tongues. They glue one side of the rocks on the page so that the other side opens up and one could see the gifts glued behind them. This is to depict searching everywhere for God and his ways, and finding, or receiving the gifts because of it.



Rebecca Burnett

Opinion of the Council of Apostles Concerning the Sacramental Wine

Inasmuch as there are those who have had, and may yet have, a weakness in the use of alcoholic beverages, and also because we anticipate an influx of new members in the future from those we call Indians; and because there appears to be an inherent weakness within many of that race in the use of alcohol,

We your brethren of the apostles, declare that it is not wisdom to place a stumbling stone in the way of any who have such a weakness, who are members of the body of Christ, lest they should be overcome and fall once again into the physical and spiritual entrapment of the effects of alcohol because of our use of wine in our Sacrament services which contains this element. Neither is it wise to introduce our member children to the use of alcoholic beverage in an age when such is a greatly increased temptation in our society.

"It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak." Romans 14:21

Therefore, we recommend the use of unfermented, or non-alcoholic wine as the most desirable beverage in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and urge that this become common usage in the Church.

William A. Sheldon, Secretary
Council of Apostles

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Correction: The Missouri Reunion report that appeared in the October 1991 issue of Zion's Advocate, erroneously listed a quilt as having been donated by Georgia Tate. The name should have been Georgia Smith, as Georgia has legally reclaimed her maiden name of Smith. My apologies ... Ella

PRAISE GOD

Condensed from an April 29, 1990, sermon, by the Independence East Local Pastor, who is also a General Church Bishop, and member of the "Traveling Ministry."

Elder Frank Fann

What would bring us closer to Christ, one step closer to eternal life?

PHILIPPIANS 3: 14: I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

PSALM 92: 1: It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High.

At Sacrament Service, I thought, "Do I have anything to offer?" I sat there. . . and sat there. . . the service closed, and I sat there. "Why?" I've come to expect blessings as commonplace. If it's not spectacular, I have nothing to say. I heard little things God had blessed people in, and thought, "Me too always." Remember the watch-care times, small blessings, not high on a "one-to-ten." Remember to praise God. I failed to do that - maybe you've failed, too. "What big thing happened I can stand and praise God for?" There were probably a hundred! If we weren't accustomed to daily blessings, we'd think were miracles?

PSALM 96:

O sing unto the LORD a new song: sing unto the Lord, all the earth. Sing unto the LORD, bless his name; shew forth his salvation

from day to day.

Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people. For the LORD is great, and greatly to be praised: he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the LORD made the heavens.

Honor and majesty are before him: strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. Give unto the LORD, O ye kindred of the people, give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts.

O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth. Say among the heathen that the LORD reigneth: the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved: he shall judge the people righteously.

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fullness thereof. Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the LORD: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.

Praise God! Why praise this individual, this unknown being?

DEUTERONOMY 10: 17: For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward:

II SAMUEL 7: 22: Wherefore thou art great, O LORD God: for there is none like thee, neither is there any God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our

ears.

There is one God in Heaven. All we are, or have, or ever hope to be, we owe that being, God.

PSALM 47:2: . . . the Lord . . . is a great King.

TITUS 2:11-14: For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Are we peculiar, zealous people, of good works? God gave a way to attain salvation. He gave his son, to die on the cross, for you and I. He is concerned about our daily lives: he answers prayer. We know the world we live in; of sin, degradation, and unholiness; yet God, in his goodness, gave us opportunity to live here righteously, if we follow the commandments of Jesus Christ.

I NEPHI 3:43: . . . for he is God over all the earth, yea, even above all.

GENESIS 1:1: In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Look out the window. See green grass, trees, flowers, and birds: he created them. Does he deserve praise for giving the life around us? Does he desire praise? He tells us, all through the Bible and Book of Mormon, to praise him.

GENESIS 1: 26-30: God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that

creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

We've done that, yet do we praise him, give him the honor and glory, he so richly deserves?

And God said, behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

And it was so. We need to get down our knees, daily, and thank God for things we have.

JEREMIAH 9: 23-24: . . . Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches:

We know people, who glory in their own might, minds, and riches. Don't be taken in by that.

But let him that glorieth, glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercises lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.

Can those who glory in their own minds, strengths, and might do us any good? Should we sit in awe of them? Or, should we sit in awe, glory, and praise of our Heavenly Father, who has given us lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness?

PSALM 100: Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness; come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thank-

ful unto him, and bless his name.

For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

Know the LORD is truly a being, mindful of our daily lives. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture. What does a shepherd do? Tends his sheep: they rely on him 100 percent for safety, protection, and being fed out of the best pasture; just as we rely on our Heavenly Father for food, protection, and all good things.

ALMA 16: 177 - 184:

Do ye remember to have read what Zenos, the prophet of old, hath said concerning prayer or worship? For he saith, Thou art merciful O God, for thou hast heard my prayer, even when I was in the wilderness: yea, thou was merciful when I prayed concerning those which were mine enemies, and thou didst turn them to me: Yea, O God, and thou was merciful unto me when I did cry unto thee in my field: when I did cry unto thee in my prayer, and thou didst hear me. And again, O God, when I did turn to my house thou didst hear me in my prayer. And when I did turn unto my closet, O Lord, and prayed unto thee, thou didst hear me; yea, thou art merciful unto thy children when they cry unto thee to be heard of thee, and not of men, and thou wilt hear them; Yea, O God, thou hast been merciful unto me and heard my cries in the midst of thy congregations; yea, and thou hast also heard me when I have been cast out, and have been despised by mine enemies; Yea, thou didst hear my cries, and was angry with mine enemies, and thou didst visit them in thine anger, with speedy destruction: and thou didst hear me because of mine afflictions and my sincerity; And it is because of thy Son that thou has been thus merciful unto me; therefore I will cry unto thee in all mine afflictions; for in thee is my joy; for thou hast turned thy judg-

ments away from me, because of thy Son.

Praise him for answered prayer. Everyone has had answered prayer, in our job or our home. Did we remember to praise his holy name?

At work, we were repairing a piece of equipment - a very, large bearing (costing about \$45,000) that we had to heat and put on a shaft. We only had one chance. I had a colored fellow working for me, not the best repairman I ever saw in my life, but willing. I directed him, explaining a half-dozen times how to go about this, so we didn't ruin this \$45,000 bearing. Finally, he said, "Mista Fann, would it be alright to pray?" You bet - we did, and it went alright - you knew it would. This fellow wasn't relying on my knowledge, or his skill: he relied on our Heavenly Father's skill, who knows and does all. You know what he said, after that bearing slipped on? "**PRAISE THE LORD!**" And he meant it. We've all had prayer answered. "**PRAISE THE LORD!**"

Zenos talked about "God being merciful unto me." Do we need mercy? Do we sin? You bet! Do we live up to God's command? No. Do we fall short? Yes, we do. Do we live in harmony? Do we have contentions us? A few. Praise our Heavenly Father and ask for mercy.

TITUS 3: 8-9: This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men. BUT, avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and striving about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain.

We have time on our hands: to contend, to argue. What can we put in it's place? Praise. Prayer. Thanksgiving. Take up that time. Unfortunately, we do have contentions. Test me on this: Fill your mind with praise, there will be no room for contention. See if I'm not telling you the truth. Fill your mind

with thanksgiving - for things God has given us, individually and as a Church. Contentions will disappear. They'll fly away. Our minds will be centered on Christ.

II NEPHI 5:29 - 30 . .there shall be no disputations among you concerning points of my doctrine . . he that hath the spirit of contention, is not of me.

Verse 31: Behold, this is not my doctrine, to stir up the hearts of men with anger one against another; but this is my doctrine, that such things should be done away.

This is repeated two or three times - it's important - God wants us to do it, "Ye must repent and become as a little child." Trust in our Heavenly Father. Do away with our strengths, prejudices, thoughts, and wills. Give ourselves completely to Jesus Christ. My grandson is wholly dependent on his mother. If she left him alone, he'd die: he could not fend for himself. If we leave our Heavenly parent, we die, spiritually, don't we?

PSALM 100: We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

We should understand the Bible and Book of Mormon, and have a oneness with Jesus Christ.

JAMES 1: 5 - 6: If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea, driven with the wind and tossed.

We have this special privilege. Do it in praise!

JAMES 1: 27: Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

We need mercy. If we get down on our knees, thank and praise our Heavenly Father, we have a chance for mercy.

JAMES 5:8: Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman

waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

If it was "drawing nigh" then, how much closer is it, now? How much time to praise our Heavenly Father and be thankful? We don't know. Let's live our lives, so that, if he came tonight, we'd be ready, not ashamed. We could say, "We have glorified your holy being."

James 5:9 - 11: Grudge not one against another brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door. Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction and of patience. Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

The advise Paul wrote Timothy is good advise to us:

I TIMOTHY 4: 11 These things command and teach. Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Take head unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

Praise the Lord for his well doing, for the words in these two books, words he had written: How to live, to conduct business, to have relationship with our Heavenly Father. Praise him.

PSALM 113: Praise ye the LORD. Praise, O ye servants of the LORD, praise the name of the

LORD. Blessed by the name of the Lord from this time forth and for evermore. From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same, the LORD's name is to be praised. The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens.

MATTHEW 18: Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Nephi said, "I glory in plainness, I glory in truth, I glory in my Jesus, for he hath redeemed my soul." So should we. He has, through our obedience to him, redeemed our soul from Hell. That's the reason we have taken upon us the name of Jesus Christ, to redeem our soul, to have Eternal life. Praise be the name of my LORD, Jesus Christ.

I will close with a poem by Helen Steiner Rice:

SO MANY REASONS TO LOVE THE LORD

Thank you God for little things that come unexpectedly

To brighten up a dreary day that dawned so dismally.

Thank you God for sending a happy thought my way,

To blot out my depressions on a disappointing day.

Thank you God for brushing the dark clouds from my mind

And leaving only sunshine and joy a part behind.

O God, the list is endless of things to thank you for,

But I take them all for granted and unconscientiously ignore

That everything I think or do - each movement that I make

Each measured, rhythmic heart-beat, each breath of life I take

Is something you have given me, for which there is no way

For me, in all my smallness, to in any way repay.

ZA

Let's Look Back

50 Years Ago

**Zion's Advocate
November 1941:**

LETTERS

Knoxville, Tennessee

To the Advocate: I have preached here each evening, except last Thursday evening, for two weeks, and tomorrow will be the third Sunday. The crowds have been small, but all who have attended the services say they have enjoyed the meetings very much. One good Methodist brother told Elder Kidd that he would rather hear that man preach than any preacher he had ever heard. But he stays out of the fold of his Lord. My heart is still weak. I can not do much walking. Have had three light attacks since I have been here. But I think I am getting stronger, and hope soon to be back to normal again.

We have only seven members here, but they are strong in the faith, and are ready to do all that is possible for them to do for the advancement of the work. We must not expect the Holy Spirit to guide us, unless we are moving. Let's Go.

J E Bozarth

Success, Missouri

Dear Advocate: I want to tell the saints how much I enjoyed the Ava reunion, due to the tireless efforts of Sister A.M. Smith and other sisters there. Apostle B.C. Flint gave us a rare treat; a rousing missionary sermon. Afternoon another wonderful sermon was preached by Bro. Smith.

Mrs. Anna Keeney

YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT Independence Y.P.C.L. Activities

On one of the nights for our Church History last month Apostle C.L. Wheaton was unable to come, so Bro. Joe Yates consented to speak for us. Afterward we had a round table discussion and asked questions about his topic and questions that were doubtful in our

minds about Church History.

Sister Edna Smith, Orlea Derry, and William Sheldon were elected to see about the Christmas play.

Orlea Derry

The following are the new officers (of the YPCL): General Chairman, LeRoy Wheaton; Vice-General Chairman, Eugene Gould; General Secretary, Virginia Sheldon; General Treasurer, Doris Winiger (as spelled in the 11/41 Advocate - Editor); General Advocate Reporter, Amy Gould.

Independence Items

The marriage of Sister Jean Ritchison and Denver Chapman was solemnized at 2 o'clock on Sunday, September 28, in the upper auditorium of the Church ... with Apostle A.M. Smith officiating.

(On October 6) a tornado struck this community, killing 3 persons and injuring more than 100. Although the path it traveled lay very close to the homes of some of our people, none were harmed by it; for which we are very thankful to a kind and provident Heavenly Father.

Marion Sprague

1941 World News:

Germans advance to outskirts of Leningrad and continue towards Moscow; they take Kiev, Orel, Odessa, and Kharkov; Russian government evacuated. Construction of Gatun Locks, Panama Canal, begins. Grand Coulee Dam, Washington, starts operation.

25 Years Ago

**Zion's Advocate
November 1966:**

Local News:

Grand Junction, Colorado

Each day (of this year's Colorado Reunion) the hours of 9 A.M. to 12 Noon were spent in prayer and testimony and song. These hours passed swiftly; the Spirits influence was

manifested in the prayers and testimonies and songs.

Our speakers this year were our brethren Marvin Ely, Leon Yates, John Jones, Tom Jordan, Archie Bell and Don McIndoo in the order named.

Alvina Bell

Personal Righteousness

(excerpt from a sermon by E. L. Yates given at Grand Junction, Colorado, June 10, 1966)

(Brother Yates had just told about one of our Spanish-speaking members who, when one or more of his children did something wrong, would take the guilty party or parties and go off a ways where he would teach them to pray.) But he said, "I am kneeling with them. And finally I watch, and soon they are tired of kneeling on their knees. They begin to hurt being on their knees. And they say, 'Papa, why don't you let us get up? And also Papa, why are you kneeling with us?' I tell them, 'Children, your sin is on my head. Some where along the line I have missed tutoring you after the law of correction and righteousness. I have been mistaken somewhere and therefore I must pray also.'"

... many times the church is under condemnation because the leaders have failed to feed the sheep. And when the sheep go astray, the leaders better bow in humility and beg for wisdom that exceedeth knowledge and understanding, to come from the Spirit of God Almighty. Yet, it does not exonerate anyone who has violated the law.

1966 World News:

Communist Red Guard demonstrates in China against Western (American) influences. Vietnam war rages on. Roman Catholic bishops rule that U.S. Catholics need no longer abstain from eating meat on Fridays except during Lent. Edwin Aldrin, Jr., U.S. astronaut, steps out of the Gemini 12 spacecraft for 129 minutes.

Floods ravage northern Italy; thousands of art treasures ruined. Miniskirts come into fashion.

When They Shall Say "Peace, Peace"

President Bush ... announced ... that the United States would eliminate land based tactical nuclear weapons and remove all short-range atomic arms from U. S. submarines and ships...

The proposals outlined by Bush would ... dismantle about half the U. S. nuclear arsenal, including all long-range bombers, the entire naval stockpile and the tactical weapons designed to defend against a Soviet invasion of Europe (The Cincinnati Enquirer, September 28, 1991).

Paul Harvey of ABC News stated that President Bush has discontinued the country's round the clock flights, grounded the B-52s, and put the cruise missiles back into storage.

According to the October 1, 1991 edition of the Kansas City Star Bush announced that the U. S. would eliminate all its ground-launched, short-range nuclear weapons; withdraw all tactical nuclear arms from U. S. ships, take strategic bombers off alert and cancel the development of the mobile MX missile.

These are the latest of a series of events which began about two years ago. And so we were told in a recent news report that the cold war is now over. The real gist of these astounding events is the creation of a New World Order or world government which President Bush stated is to be a community of nations cooperatively working together. The ultimate aim is world peace. It appears that for a time they may even suc-

ceed, at least, to the extent that they will say that peace in our time has been achieved. It will be during this interval that the image to the beast will be fully implemented and economic bondage be in full sway. However it also appears that this will be a short lived period for two prophetic reasons.



by Harvey E. Seibel

The first is found in 1 Thessalonians 5:3, "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child and they shall not escape." The second, from the Book of Mormon, is a promise to the righteous in that evil

time. "For he will not suffer that the wicked shall destroy the righteous. Wherefore, he will preserve the righteous by his power, even if it so be that the fullness of his wrath must come, and the righteous be preserved, even unto the destruction of their enemies by fire" (1 Nephi 7:35-36).

Nevertheless the surprising events of the past two years, namely, the fall of the iron curtain, the removal of the Berlin Wall and German reunification, and the fall of so many so-called hard-line regimes in eastern Europe was all accomplished according to a blueprint published in 1984 by Major Anatoly Goletz in his book, 'New Lies For Old', a former agent of the Soviet KGB. His boss at the time was Yuri Andropov. The source for this information was taken from a radio interview of Don McAlvany, Editor of the McAlvany Intelligence Advisor. Larry Abraham, who co-authored the book entitled, 'None Dare Call It Conspiracy' in 1972, and who has on several occasions been interviewed on Christian Radio, published in his January 1990 newsletter the entire scenario of the amazing events that have just recently transpired in the Soviet Union. Said he, that country would be broken up into a federation while the Baltic states would regain their independence. The coup was staged jointly by Gorbachev and Yeltsin and constituted a further step in the program begun two years ago, the express purpose of which is to consummate the plan for the New World Order.

We need your help!

Since this column, "Apocalypse Now!", was started a few months ago, we have received very little response, and no material submitted that directly pertains to the purpose established. If usable material is not submitted, upon which Brother Seibel may base a submission to "Apocalypse Now!", we will have no choice but to discontinue the column.

The purpose of the column is to demonstrate partial or complete fulfillment of prophecy relative to our day. This prophecy may be from the Bible, Book of Mormon, or latter-day revelation. For that matter, you may not know exactly where a prophecy is to be found that is applicable to some material you have

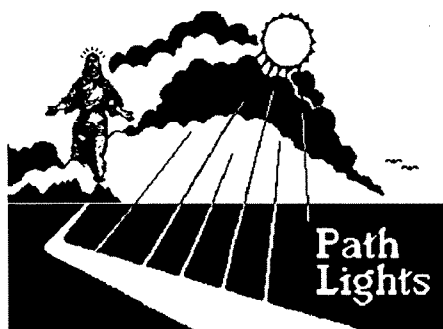
found ... send it in anyway! Brother Seibel will attempt to find applicable scripture and then present your material with some insight as to how it may be at least a partial fulfillment of some prophecy. You may submit your own commentary if desired.

The "material" of which I speak, is any news item found in any reputable magazine, newspaper, book, or even items from radio or television. Anything from the last decade or so is fine. If you only have a *hunch* that it may pertain to some prophecy about our day, send it in! Perhaps Sunday School teachers could make this a class project occasionally. Please state your source, date, etc. - if it is not obvious. Thanks - Editor

I know our accident and recovery is are old news to many of you. I'd like to report what I feel are the big testimonies in my life.

A Christian must turn to God especially during their tribulations. When your body has been messed up, you are no longer sure what your capabilities are, or if it will be complete again when the healing process is finished. I have heard that broken femurs are very painful, but mine has not been. Problems that could have come upon me, did not. I will not be able to sleep on my right side for a year, but I am not upset because of these things. I can drive

again, my children are whole and I almost am. I can bear the loss of my



dear friend all because of my Lord. The depth of the love of God surpasses temporal understanding. So

does the love of my brothers and sisters. Thank you all for mourning with me and rejoicing with me.

*Sister Kathy Cloyd
Phoenix, Arizona*

We Need Your Testimonies!

Don't think *any* blessing from the Lord is insignificant. Short or long, typed or hand-written, please send them in. There is someone out there who needs to hear your story. Send them to Sister Melissa McGhee at the address listed on the inside front cover.

**East Independence
Local Report**

The East Independence local of the Church of Christ is more than a building located at 78 highway and Holke Road. It is a spiritual family that is a part of the greater body of Christ. Together we meet to worship the Lord, pray for one another, and share each others burdens. This is our spiritual home and our refuge from the world. We can feast upon God's word and Spirit. Here we have found a place to love and to serve.

Elder Frank Fann is our Pastor and Priest Michael McGhee is the Assistant Pastor. Several ministry from our local, not only minister to us, but also travel to other locals to preach. Priests Steve McGhee and Bic Brockman make a special outreach by holding Wednesday night prayer meetings in the homes of our beloved sisters, Ruth Randall and Edna Smith.

The burning of the general church building was a tragedy, yet our local has been blessed these past 22 months. It has been a privilege to host Wednesday and Sunday night services for our brothers and sisters of the Temple Lot Local. What a wonderful opportunity it's been for us to worship together and get to

know and love one an other better. We will miss them when the new building is completed. Hopefully our locals will continue to have joint services often.

As 1991 draws to a close we'll look back on the year and recall several special events. Last January both locals met for the Annual Chili Cook-Off sponsored by the Young People's organization. It was a well attended activity where young and old enjoyed each other. In February, the East local hosted a Pre-Quiz for the newly formed Book of Mormon Quiz Team. The teams were made up of five restoration groups and a team from the Church of Christ. The purpose of the Quiz was to better acquaint the youth with the Book of Mormon.

Working on the annex to our building was an other special endeavor this year. We had several money making projects as well as work days on the addition. This winter plans to be busy with our annual money making project of putting up Christmas decorations for businesses. We hope to be able to use the annex by the first of the year.

One of those special money making events took place on May 11th. It was the Mystery Dinner! After ordering (which was no easy task) and eat-

ing our meal, we enjoyed a short play. In April, Kody and William Zabriski and Josh and Sarah Brumble entered the waters of baptism. Then in June, Jason Oldham made his covenant with the Lord. Our prayers are with these young people that they may serve the Lord all the days of lives. On the 4th of July the local enjoyed a picnic at the home of Ron and Darl Temple. Each couple that attended went through the Picnic Olympics (water balloon toss, bowling with a spare tire etc.) The proud winners were Gary and Neva Housknecht. The evening was spent singing patriotic songs, visiting, and setting off fire works. August was a busy month with the Youth Camp, Missouri Reunion, and Minister's Conference. This fall some members from our local had the privilege of attending the yearly canoe trip at the Camp For All Ages and the Cider Press at Don and Bonnie Case's home.

Whether it is attending a service or a church sponsored social event, time spent with the Lord and His people gives us a spiritual advantage. It is, indeed, a blessing to be a part of the family of God.

Becky Sheldon

Bradley Local News

Kendra Sue Trudgen was baptized May 26, 1991 at a lake in Belding, MI where her sister and brother-in-law, Laurie and Mike Jones, live. The baptism and confirmation by Elder LaVerne Lussenden.

This was also a lovely day for fellowship as church services, the Hand of Fellowship, and potluck dinner followed the baptism at Mike and Laurie's home.

In late June Brother Norman and Sisters Georgia and Kendra Trudgen traveled across the miles to visit their family in Australia. Dennis and Betsy Trudgen and the newest member to the family, Amanda, have been in Australia on assignment for nearly 2 years now.

Our local was blessed, once again, with the word of God being spread by songs of praise by the Bruners and Kauffmans. "Thanks" is not enough for the effort that was put forth for their gospel program in our little local.

Bill and Karin Malone were with us for fellowship and Brother Bill gave us Christ's word on Sunday. What a joy to share gospel bonds with our brothers and sisters.

September 28, 1991, was the date set aside for Ted Lee and Carol Lussenden to exchange wedding vows before about 100 guests. The ceremony was performed by Priest Adam Porter. The Lord graced them with a beautiful fall day to start their new lives together.

We close in asking for our heavenly Father's blessings to continue upon our little local here at Bradley, Michigan, and all of his Church. In Gospel Bonds ...

Sister Pam Lussenden

Collins Local News

I nearly always begin my news with a weather report or season change. Well, today I was sitting outside on my back porch in the warm afternoon sun, writing a letter when I got thunked head by a walnut. It must be fall!

Besides falling walnuts, this time of year brings several church activities to which many of us look forward to attending. There's the cider press at Don and Bonnie Case's, the Tennessee Reunion, the Collins Rally, and the Harvest Festival at Harold and Dora Adams' farm. Good folks, good fun. God has blessed us with a bountiful harvest.

July was the month that Brother Leslie Case came to be our guest speaker. We had an exceptional number of guests that day. One of the pillars of this local, Esther Caviness, brightened our day with a visit. Her daughter, Sharon Kelley accompanied her. Then Sharon's daughter, Patty, and husband, Mike Riebel and family came in. It certainly was a pleasure to see them all again. Also on hand that day were Marlene Cobb with Two of her grand daughters and Francis Yates, and a vacationing family, Gerry and Cindy Case, on their way to Branson. I think our guests almost outnumbered our regulars.

Later that afternoon, several came to our house to see the tape Brother Dick Wheaton made for us of our visit to Yucatan in February. Brother Leslie and Sister Irene were

among those who came. Brother Case helped Allen narrate and explain things as we went along. It's kind of funny how we can get so excited at what, to some, are only pictures, but to us now, are precious friends.

Other very welcome guests have been Brother Marvin and Sister Edith Case, Brother Jim and Sister Jan O'Haro, the long awaited for, Brother Frank and Sister Carolyn Fann, and Brother Rodger and Sister Martha Bruner.

I have a few thoughts and quotes from some recent sermons I'd like to share with you:

- ◆ My soul is the REAL ME.
- ◆ The commandments of God are designed to make men happy—not take away their privileges.
- ◆ You can never say it's okay to do wrong.
- ◆ God's influence is always there. It's just up to us to recognize it and use it.
- ◆ Attending services does not make you spiritual.
- ◆ God hasn't changed anything in the gospel—aren't we thankful!
- ◆ Are we a strong pillar or a weak, stumbling block?
- ◆ Poem: "Listen in Silence If You Would Hear"... for only in a quiet place can man behold God face to face.

Czerma Kauffman

Flint Local News

We pray the Lord has been good to you with many blessings. We have much to be thankful for here. On Saturday October 5th we all gathered together with many from outside our area, at Dawn and Randy Hyde's home. There was a big Bonfire for warmth and hotdogs with many other good things to eat. We then gathered around the fire to sing hymns. The night was cold, but the warmth we felt from the friendship made up for it. Sunday October 6th was the Harvest dinner. many came from all over the State to worship with us and partake the Sacrament. We enjoyed all the wonderful testimonies from everyone. After dinner we had another treat, our Brother Art Burmeister had

brought his brand crafted dulcimer instrument with him. So he along with 6 others performed many hymns for our enjoyment and praise of our Heavenly father.

Each of us have a gift given to us by God. They should be exercised for the enjoyment and good of others. We were all glade to meet together in the name of Jesus Christ and take the time to share with others of Gods goodness to each one.

Ted Wayne Lee and Carol Lynne Lussendon were united in the Holy covenant of Marriage on the 28th of September 1991. The ceremony took place in the town of Hopkins Michigan, near the Bradley Local by Priest Adam Porter. May our Lord bless this union. Your Brother through Christ ...

Priest Adam Porter

Temple Lot Local News

Elder Alvin Harris began his 12th year as Pastor, September 17th. The Local authorizes the Pastor to choose an assistant. Elder Rodger Bruner will again accept that responsibility. Dan Lawrence, Teacher, continues as Sunday School Superintendent. Alvin put on his General Church Business Manager "hat," and told the Local to "Plan a big Thanksgiving!" He had good news and bad news. The good news is, the City of Independence should sign off on the new church headquarters building in October. The bad news is, the pews won't arrive until November 13th. Patience. Have we had patience lessons!

At our business meeting, we received the membership of Neva Housknecht, Oliver Housknecht, and Debbie Vogel. Neva went right to work as Sunday School Chorister, and Debbie serves as a Sunday School teacher. Their talents and friendship are welcome.

We will sponsor a 2nd Youth Outreach Camp, at Knob Noster Park, near Warrensburg, next May. Elder Glenn Gill will be in charge of the camping weekend. Date and details later. The first camp, last May, was well attended. We hope to see even larger participation.

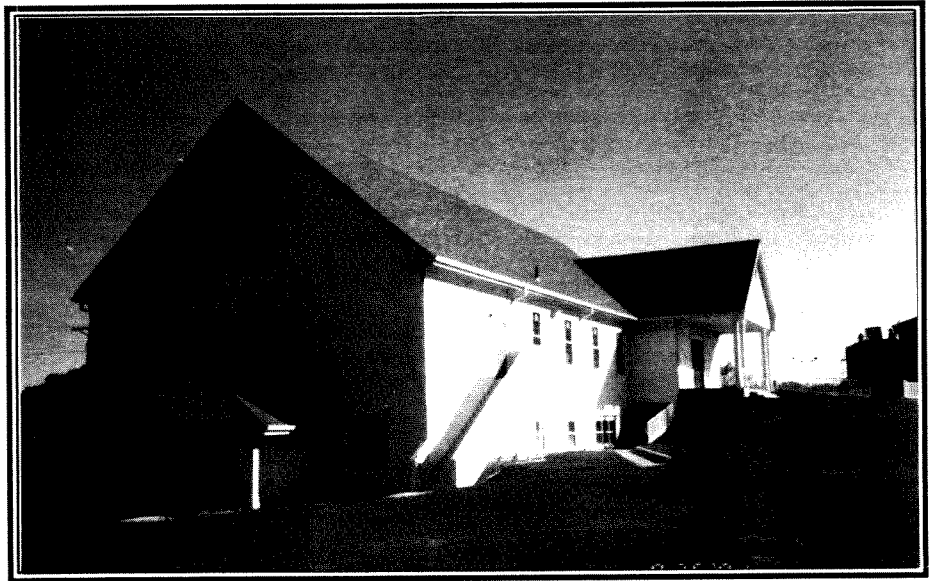
Manon Lawrence, Chorister, reconvened the Children's Choir, September 20th, after a summer break. They meet in Manon's music room at her home. They are getting ready for that "Big Thanksgiving," and for a Christmas Program. Children participating are grade-school age. Thankfully, we have lots of kids. The East Local children are part of this choir.

Elder Dick Wheaton, his wife Velma, and Elder/Bishop LeRoy Wheaton have been away much of the summer. Dick and Velma (and daughter Nanette), spent several weeks with the churches in Yucatan, returned home, picked up LeRoy, and headed west to the Navajo Indian Fair, to contact those interested in the church there and at other reservations. Phoenix Local ministry met them in Gallup, and all worked at the Fair. Dick is retired, and can now realize his dream of giving missionary service to the Indian

people. He purchased a motor home, for lodging, and will spend all the time the Lord will allow in missionary work, LeRoy has accompanied Elder/Bishop Charles Brantner on trips to the Indian Reservations. He flew home from Gallup, to join Charles in a trip to the Cherokee Reservation, in Tennessee.

Rodger and Martha Bruner, with Allen and Czerna Kauffman, were invited to do a Gospel Music program at the Bradley/Hopkins Local, in Michigan, September 29th. Church members

Case was ordained a priest Dec. 1, 1974 and an Elder Oct. 21, 1979. He and Cindy have three children, a fourth due Jan. 26th. Gerry is an Industrial Nurse at ARMCO. He does an occasional 2nd shift or weekend in a hospital Crisis Intervention Unit, treating drug and alcohol abuse and depression. As a seven-year member of the "Visiting Ministry," directed by Apostle Roland Sarratt, Gerry travels to Missouri locals. He voluntarily holds Wednesday prayer services, at his home in Odessa, Mo., for members living east of a Inde-



September 25th snapshot (by Sister Joyce Harris) of the new Church of Christ Headquarters building and home to the Temple Lot Local. This view shows the Visitors Center at the rear of the main structure. It is hoped to hold the first services in the new building this December.

and town people attended and gave a donation for our New Building Fund. Sadly, Rodger's father, Clarence Bruner, passed from this life while Rodger was in Michigan. Mr. Bruner had been hospitalized about six weeks, following a stroke. The Bruners and Kauffmans sang in Uniontown, Kansas, at Rodger's church, and were also given a building-fund donation there. They have several more music programs scheduled, this fall.

Companies give "Employee of the Month" awards, to motivate by example, and to recognize performance. We suggest a "Servant of the Month Award," to show what can be done, by people too busy to do it. Elder Gerry

pendence. Before he was 30, he saw many people hang on to life or give up life in Emergency Rooms and Intensive Care Units; his nursing ministered to the dying and the grieving, gave hope in suffering; and developed a one-on-one ability, to pull up God's strength in people, struggling to endure. Now, we see him as a "seasoned" example of Romans 12:1 Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. We encourage others to give examples, to motivate us, to give the time we think we just don't have. . . "a living sacrifice. . . reasonable service."

Joyce Harris

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. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

The 1992 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 19 through 21, at Independence, Missouri.

CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

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

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- Does it Make a Difference to Which Church You Belong?

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

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

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

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.

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PRIESTHOOD VISITATION

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