

# Zion's Advocate

*"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day,  
for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost;"*

I Nephi 3:187

Volume 68

Independence, Missouri — December 1991

Number 12



**I** heard the bells on Christmas Day  
**T**heir old, familiar carols play,  
**A**nd wild and sweet  
**T**he words repeat  
**O**f peace on earth,  
**G**ood-will to men!

*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

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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.

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

Guest Editorial ...

# Informed Decisions

I have noticed something in the past few years that is significant to the spiritual welfare of our nation. The people of our nation have been making decisions of the greatest importance. We have made moral decisions about things like abortion, war, Israel, homeless persons, our flag, pornography, sexual harassment, homosexuality, euthanasia, and several other questions. These issues have a direct bearing on the welfare of our nation according to the scriptures.

We have found ourselves talking about these things publicly. American citizens have sat in their homes and made decisions about these moral issues of our times. We have not asked for them but they have been forced on us by the media. I hold to the idea that all things work together to accomplish the will and purposes of God. Just as the Egyptians made their own decisions about their fate when they sought to kill the Israelites, when by their own mouths they were condemned. In like manner our nation is making judgements about things for which it is held accountable before God.

It then befalls us to be informed about these decisions for ourselves and make good value judgements. The Book of Mormon tells us in no uncertain terms to judge by the light of Christ. You must read in the light of Christ to know for yourself what is right and what is wrong.

I find also that we as a church are making these same type of judgements. Some of these decisions are about the same things and of course some are about things peculiar to us. The doctrine, moral values, business, the Temple, missionary thrust, stewardship, scriptures, past revelations, callings, etc. are all things that

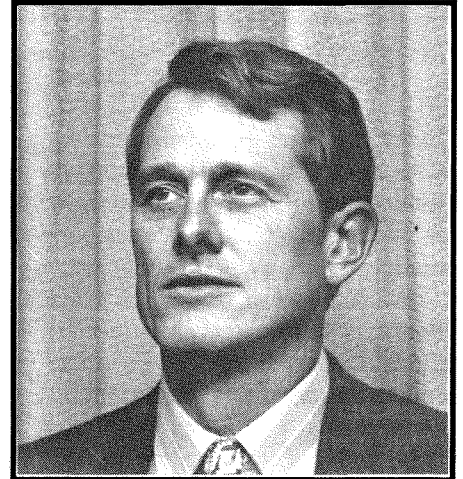
those who are concerned for the work of this gospel in the last days are thinking about. Need I say that upon these issues we are also being faced with decisions for which we will be held accountable.

In the recent senate hearings for Judge Thomas it was not him being judged but it was America on trial. We all made decisions about sexual harassment. In the church when we vote on issues or speak for or against this or that in judgement, we are being judged for our management of the kingdom of God on earth. The thought is sobering. However we must not fail to choose. Our purpose here will not be fulfilled if we fail to choose.

We shall be held accountable for our indecision that is a result of a fear of man. This need for decision does not preclude the need for wisdom and knowledge, nor does it override the need for great charity towards all men. It simply is a necessity to choose in life to fulfill God's plan. You may choose that some things are not important and do not deserve the energies placed upon them.

Sometimes we wait in our personal lives for direct answers to questions that we need. While waiting we must be busy doing, growing, and bringing forth the fruits of a good Christian. The church must also produce or it is not fulfilling its purpose.

We should apply the same rule to the church that we apply to the nation. Read the scriptures and especially the words of Christ to determine if we are breaking a commandment or just violating an interpretation placed on scripture by ourselves or others. The question remains. Have specific commandments been given on this subject or that subject? Perhaps we have given the is-



by Apostle Alvin (Jay) Moser

issues their importance. When the issues are of great importance their will be commandments concerning them.

The most important issues are moral ones. The Lord is certainly recording our decisions. Choose correctly! Your eternal welfare depends on these choices! Christianity is on trial! Shall willow the commandments of Christ? Are they relevant to us today? Can we with a clear conscience claim to be Christ's? Other churches are changing the commandments of Christ and their interpretations to make themselves acceptable to various segments of our society. Is acceptance by friends or family so important to jeopardize your own salvation or that of others who will be influenced by your decisions? These are very difficult questions and I ask them only so that you will pray and study to learn what commandments have been given to God's people on moral issues. May God bless this people with His Spirit and save us from today and save us at the last day.

ZA

# Where We Are - Where We're Going

Condensed from September 22, 1991, sermon by Elder Alvin Harris  
Temple Lot Local Pastor and General Church Business Manager.

I will recap events of this busy year for the Temple Lot Local, and the Church. In the last year and a half, the Church of Christ collected and administered more money than in the previous six or seven. It's amazing, really.

More missionaries are in the field than ever before, traveling more of the U.S. and the world. A number of Indian Reservations were visited. Several men are in the field almost continually. Two Apostles and one Bishop were set apart. Brother Ed Podhola passed on recently, and another Bishop will be set apart.



Elder Alvin Harris

The new Church and what is transpiring there, hard as it is to believe, is coming to the finish line. Soon, our presence will be back in that old place again. I will analyze where we've been, what we're doing, and where we're going, responsibilities

and coming things.

I was elected Sunday School teacher - again. I said, "This will fit right in with my sermon," because I've been the teacher for several years. That can't continue indefinitely, because I had another birthday this year, too. Somewhere along the line, you will have to get another teacher. Look forward to it. Be thinking about it. You ought to be looking at someone else for your Pastor. Young men have been called and have taken up the ministry. They need to step forward and take responsibility.

We need more committed people, dedicated to traveling to support other locals. We've made progress; but, we need to think of progress yet to be made. Look forward to better things.

I shared a bit of philosophy with Rodger Bruner, Assistant Pastor, about being pastor. I feel that, when we have camp outs or go somewhere else, there is a responsibility for the pastor here, rather than at that function. You may have noticed, I don't travel much. I've been to Puryear once, Collins once, and I go to Cowgill, now and then - my Mother lives there. I really should go more. But, I don't feel I can leave Independence.

I want to lay a "guilt trip" on the ministry - particularly the young men. You have to adapt this attitude. You can't think of what you want to do this weekend, but where you have to be, to do what needs to be done. Give this serious contemplation. There are scriptures for conducting our lives, thinking, and doing. I was pleased with Elder Gerry Case's sermon about charity. He used Colossians 3:1-14. Let's review two verses:

COLOSSIANS 3:1-2: "If ye then

be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."

Members, ministry, ladies, and children, should take these verses into account, to see we are doing things our Heavenly Father would have us do. "Set your affection on things above, not on things of the earth."

In past times, I collected playthings. In my younger days, I liked to be involved in all kinds of things. It made me nervous to sit still too long. I would never, wear out a couch: I don't sit on it. I have to be up and at something. I suspect you are the same way. We need priorities to be sure the things we are "up and at" will give us riches in Heaven, will store up things the Lord wants stored up, and that we are active in the Church.

It's easy to say, now, that I can organize my priorities better than I could 20 years ago, because we don't have little children at home. It's easier to say we'll dedicate Sunday to the Lord, attend all the services, and spend the afternoon studying or working church things. This year, certainly, a lot of you worked at the Church - not just weekends. You put in a lot of effort, and I would never belittle that. Now we are "on a roll," we've got to keep going. I haven't pestered the Bishops yet, but I'm trying to find some ideas for our next project, after we get the church built. We don't want to let that momentum drop. We've shown we can do it. If we raised this much money now, what are we going to build next year? Have you thought about it? Think about it! Put your pennies away. There are

lots of things to do. It will take more capital, to keep missionaries in the field. That's great! They are going places they've never gone.

I talked with Apostle Marvin Ely. He was checking to be sure things were set up for a trip he and Elder Gordon McCann are arranging. In spite of his recent affliction, he's still "in there," organizing, so they can go where they need to go. Keep that going! "Keep our affections set on things above, not on things on the earth."

Develop an attitude toward one another. Not that we don't have good attitudes, but because our worst enemy will be ourselves, in years ahead. With growing pains and success, as we move forward, the human in us will come to the top.

one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things, put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness."

I was pleased, at our Local Church Business Meeting, that we not only gave money to fund activities; but, voted to give money to the East Local, to help them in their building project. They had a building-problem stalemate, at the moment. Helping is super! That's what we ought to be doing. Every moment, be ready to jump forward, be right in the front, to see there are no problems; not only between people, but between locals. Stamp out politics - see that we are all for one and for each other. Misunderstandings will happen. Miscalculations. That

Jensen's sermon about prayer. He said the first thing to do in a prayer is give thanks, before you ask for that long list of needs. "We are all poor beggars, before our Heavenly Father." He knows that. But, before you beg, give thanks.

We are at the period of time, when we may face persecution, particularly with our new "image" attracting attention. I have no way of knowing what persecution, but there will be some, in addition to internal strife and problems I know we will face.

A colossus is being build across the street from us. I recently answered a letter, inquiring what we thought about that. I wrote, we neither condone or condemn. It's not our place. We have to admit, when

**We are at the period of time, when we may face persecution, particularly with our new "image" attracting attention ... Yes, we will attract attention. We will have to put our best foot forward. Think of the opportunity and visitors we will have. Be ready to give the testimony and witness of our faith in that promise we understand. That is our responsibility.**

We'll bump each other the wrong way. We'll have personal problems and a bigger "fight" with that, than with outside influences. Be really careful.

COLOSSIANS 3:9-10: "Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; and have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him."

I'm not accusing anybody of lying. I'm saying we will have to adopt an absolute policy of honesty. As we go forward, doing projects, we must work together, taking the other fellow into consideration. Let him know what we are doing, so we know what he is doing. Some might say, "Well, that's just good business." That's good gospel of Jesus Christ, too.

COLOSSIANS 3:13-14: "Forbearing one another, and forgiving

is easy to remedy, if we say, "Yes, I did it. Let's do it another way, or I'll help you." Forgiveness. I'm talking future. If we have trials and troubles, that's where they will be. Be on guard, alert, every moment. Look ahead. I know you can.

Paul wrote Timothy, in the time of persecution of the Christians. The world wasn't happy with them. Neighbors and friends weren't happy with them. They had problems! Paul wrote:

I TIMOTHY 2:1-2: "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."

That's everybody. Not just us; but our enemies, those around us. It reminds me of Apostle Robert

it's done, it's going to be a grand edifice to the world. It's going to be a "shot in the arm" for Independence tourism. The whole area, around the Square, is "glowing" green, thanks to our landscapers. It's attractive. Coming with that will be the curious; ones with hands out; ones with the axe to grind; the would-be prophets, to help us run it and tell us what to do, if we let them.

Yes, we will attract attention. We will have to "put our best foot forward." Think of the opportunity and visitors we will have. Be ready to give the testimony and witness of our faith in that promise we understand. That is our responsibility.

COLOSSIANS 2:16 - 22:

*Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holy day, or of the new moon or of the Sabbath days: which are a shadow of things to come; but*

*the body is of Christ. Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, and not holding the Head, from which all the body (The Head being Christ, and all the body, the Church of Christ. - A.H.) by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God. Wherefore, if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, (Touch not; taste not; handle not; which are to perish with the using; - A.H.) after the commandments and doctrines of men.*

What did we read? Don't let the world sidetrack you with having to prove things by touching, tasting, and knowing, from a scientific or personal standpoint. Exercise faith in things you meet, in days ahead, because you will recognize they are from God. There are still ministering Angels: things we studied and learned are real. God is real and still speaks to us. He can bless us and heal us. All these things the "world" says "don't happen any more." Yes, they still happen. Keep that faith, to face things that will come. Verse 22 said all the worldly things are out there to contaminate and sway you, to get you to question: Maybe it's not true? Maybe it's watered down? Maybe it doesn't really happen? It said, "which all are to perish with the using; after the commandments and doctrines of men." Remember, "You can't take it with you." All worldly things are going to perish. Set your sites on Godly things that are of Heaven, not on any things of the world.

Jacob's discourse in the *Book of Mormon* is about the very things I am talking about:

II NEPHI 6:60: "Wherefore, their wisdom is foolishness, and it profiteth them not. Wherefore, they

shall perish. But to be learned is good, if it so be that they hearken unto the counsels of God."

Education is good, if you use it for God. The question you have to answer, in your heart, is an individual responsibility. If you say, "I'm doing this, or pursuing that, and I'm going to use it for God." Then, do it! Only you know, in your heart, if you really are: until it bears fruit, then the world may know.

Verse 62-63: "But wo unto the rich, which are rich as to things of the world. ("Rich can mean power and control, not just money.) For because they are rich, they despise the poor and they persecute the meek, and their hearts are upon their treasures: wherefore, their treasure is their God. And behold, their treasure shall perish with them also."

We have a new building. Compared to the old one and our status in the community, we've "come uptown." We're going to "stick out." I really want to say, we can't let it go to our heads. The Temple Lot Local holds a unique position in the church, in that we're a little like the Levitical priesthood, who, when the Israelites got to their promised land, didn't have any "ground" of their own. The Lord said (in my words) he wanted 100 percent of their concentration, effort, and output on what they were doing, that they should not be bothered with mundane, day-to-day living. Because of their duties, the other tribes took care of them. They took care of each other. In that sense, we are the same. We are responsible for looking after a building, what goes on there, day-to-day surveillance and oversight. Frankly, we don't know yet what that responsibility will bring. But, we are not just representing our Local, we are representing the entire church organization and, more importantly, The Church of Christ. At that point, it's not "organizational," it's scriptural. An awesome responsibility.

GALATIANS 6:4-5: "But let every man prove his own work, and

then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For every man shall bear his own burden."

That's the "flip side." We have a work, as a unit; but, also one individually focused. Everyone has something to do. You don't have to be pastor to have something to do. The organization, just for getting our services "off the ground," once we get back home, may be overwhelming, at first. There is something for everybody to do. "Let every man prove his own work, and then he shall have rejoicing in himself alone." Not just in the church, physically; but socially, when we have trials and problems. Help your brother, but remember "every man shall bear his own burden." That means: you should help your brother bear his burdens, but he will bear his own sins or actions.

Verses 9-10: "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

You've had many sermons on loving one another. We are supposed to love all men. But, we have a little more responsibility toward the "household of faith," who have already accepted Christ. The reason: to back one another up - to hold unity together. So we are, indeed, together. Not that you aren't to love others, but the "household of faith" is a "Prime Responsibility." The second responsibility is to other people.

"Let us not be weary in well doing." Things moved so fast this year, not just for us, but in the world. We've seen something generated, progress, finish soon. That's wonderful, when it goes fast; but, when something takes longer, when it runs several years - 20 or 30 - we get weary. Like the children of Israel, when they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years, I know they got

weariness. They wondered if there would ever be an end. When it's not "flashy," and ceases to be "fun," it gets down to just work, every day. Then, you still have to keep going. We may come to that, once we get where we are going. At first, it will be new, and flashy; but, it's like the honeymoon. The glow wears off rap-

kids may - maybe they won't. That's not the point. The point is "sticking to it," on a day-to-day basis.

I want to leave you with three scriptures:

I NEPHI 7:50-51:

*For the time speedily shall come, that all churches which are built*

great is that darkness!"

"Keep your eye on the doughnut, not on the hole!" Be "single" minded. Don't compromise.

LUKE 12:31: "But rather seek ye the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added unto you."

Start every day, every activity, every meal, and when you go to bed

**"Let us not be weary in well doing." Things moved so fast this year, not just for us, but in the world. We've seen something generated, progress, finish soon. That's wonderful when it goes fast, but, when something takes longer ... When it's not flashy, and ceases to be "fun," ... Then, you still have to keep going. The glow wears off rapidly, and you get down to the mundane getting along, day-to-day, and getting the job done. That's the trial ....**

idly, and you get down to the mundane getting along, day-to-day, and getting the job done. That's the trial, the real test of love, when you find out, if you really made the right decision. Right, young people?

The reason for all this, and why it will work:

I TIMOTHY 2:5-6 "There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time."

That makes the world go around, right now. That's what the Gulf War was all about. That's what the Crusades were all about. That's what "life" in general is all about. We have a God, who put us here, and one mediator between us, Jesus Christ. We have to believe He is the Son of God, and He is going to come again. I may not see it happen. My

*up to get gain, and all they which are built up to get power over the flesh, and they which are built up to become popular in the eyes of the world, and they which seek the lusts of the flesh and the things of the world, and to do all manner of iniquity: Yea, in fine, all they which belong to the kingdom of the devil: it is they which need fear, and tremble, and quake.*

There are only two spirits commanding things, the Spirit of God and the spirit of the devil. We need faith, joy, courage, and confidence in where we are.

MATTHEW 6:22- 23: "The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But, if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how

at night, with a prayer, "in supplications and give thanks." Ask for strength, to be "single," focused, that we can be united, love one another, and get the job done.

Remember, the road won't be easy. It will have bumps, knocks, turns, twists; but, with prayer, we can get over those. We will succeed. There is the promise of salvation from our Heavenly Father. Think ahead to decisions you will have to make. Other men, than those you see all the time, will take on new challenge, make new decisions. That's good! We can't stand still. I trust we will pray for one another, for insight, to be able to carry this off, with the success our Heavenly Father would have us show.

ZA

### The Saints' Hymnal (1895) #7

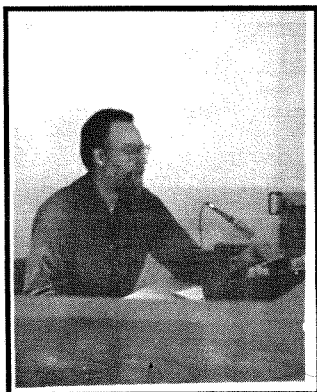
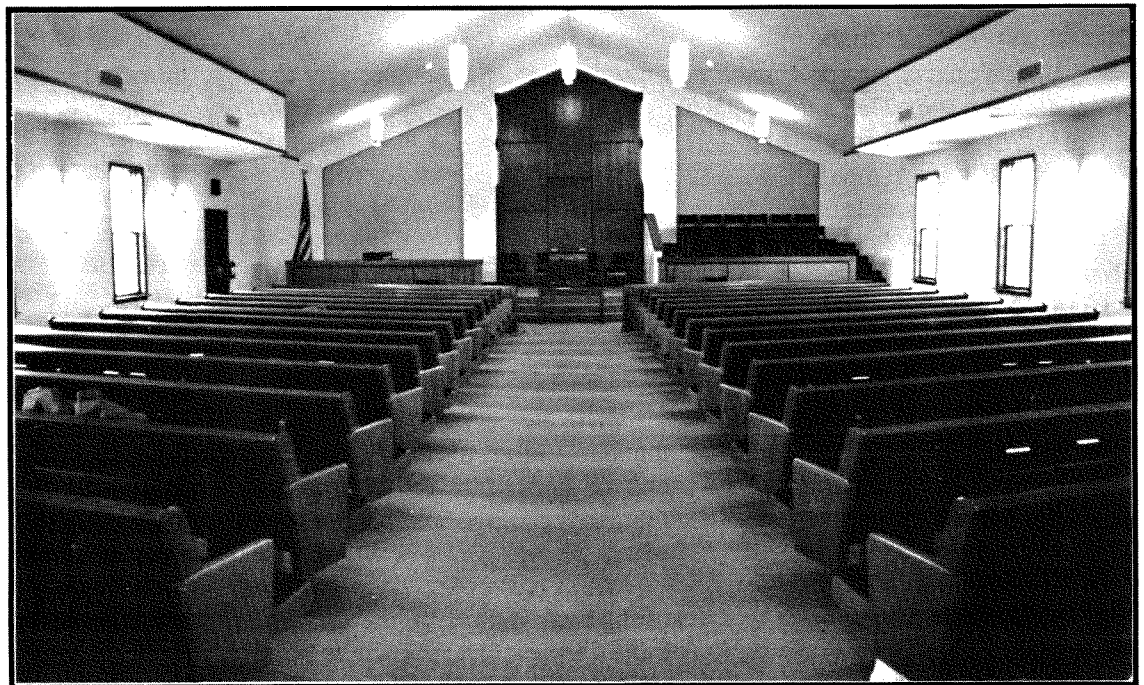
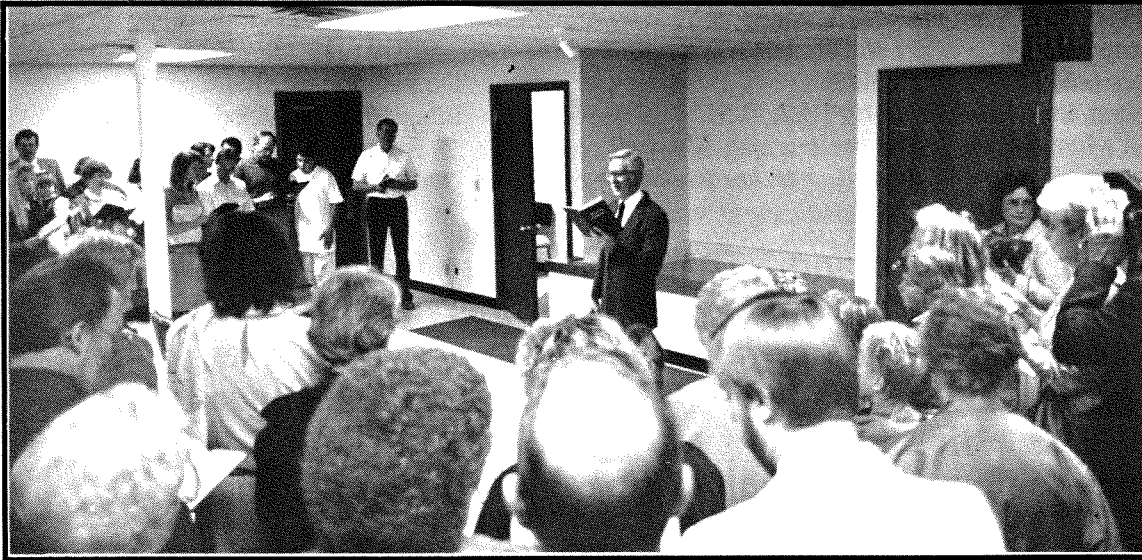
The Lord our Savior will appear; His day is nigh at hand; The signs bespeak his coming near, And all may understand.

Behold, he comes! he comes to reign, On earth with all his saints; Jesus, the Lamb of God, once slain, Will end our long complaints.

The prince of darkness he will bind; The hosts of hell O'erthrow; Satan, in the abyss confined, The power of Christ shall know.

Then, those who've suffered for his name, And have obeyed his word, Shall rise in glory, and proclaim The goodness of their Lord.

## A Photo Essay of the First Day's Services at the New



**TOP:** Hardly a finer way to break in a new church! Four baptisms were performed by Brethren Al Harris & Jim Case with Elder Glenn Gill in charge. No lower level chairs yet, though. **MIDDLE:** Meanwhile, the upper sanctuary sat patiently awaiting its first occupants. **LEFT:** Brother Dan Lawrence mans the audio control room at the rear corner of the sanctuary. **RIGHT:** The Childrens Choir, under the direction of Sister Manon Lawrence, graces the new church with their angelic voices in the early stages of the Sacrament service.





## Church of Christ Headquarters & Church (December 1, 1991)



**ABOVE:** Filled three-quarters to capacity, the emblems of the Lord's Supper prepared, the new sanctuary is "baptized" with the people that truly make it a Church!

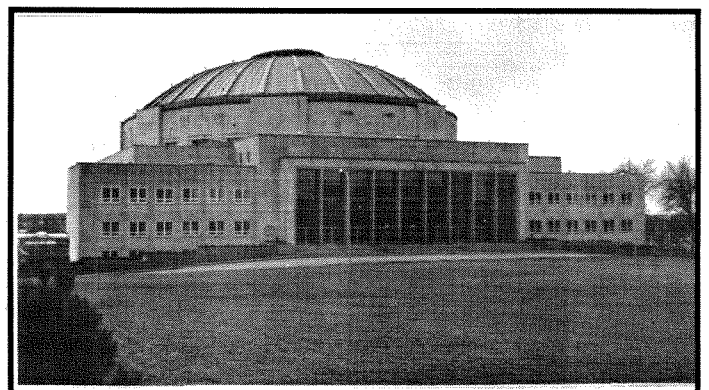
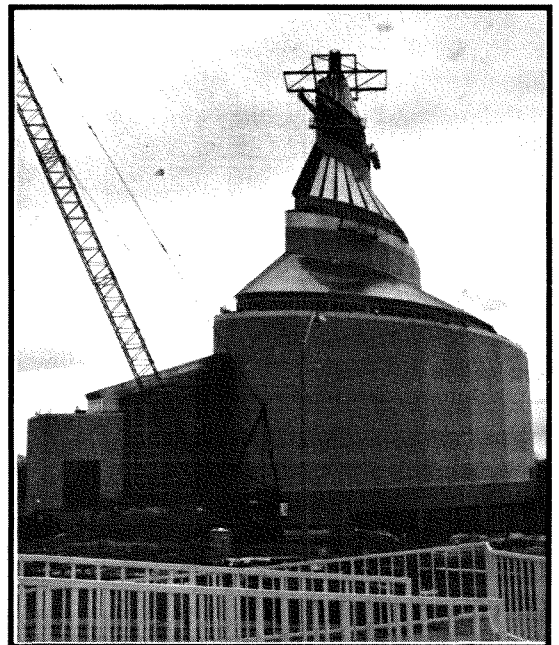
Unheeded by the worshippers inside the Church of Christ, these RLDS church edifices silently occupy neighboring real estate:

To the East, The new "temple" still under construction (right)

To the South, the "auditorium" (below, right)

To the North, the "stone church" (below, left)

*The Utah-based "Mormon's" visitors' center occupies the land to the Southeast (not shown). Only the land to the West sits unadorned with some other Restoration church ... each paying careful attention to the goings-on at the Temple Lot.*



Whom do men say that I am?

# The Difference

by Mike Kelley

“What is the difference between Jesus Christ and, say, Confucius, or Mohammed, or Buddha?” a friend asked me several years ago.

Unprepared, I gave a vague answer and was not convincing, though I knew there were many differences. After much thought and study I began to realize that the differences were dramatic and that Jesus and His divinity far outshines the others!

## PROPHECY

The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken...

Behold I am Jesus Christ, of whom the prophets testified should come into the world

And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet...

They pierced my hands and my feet. I may tell all my bones: they look and stare at me. They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.

Yea, even six hundred years from the time that my father left Jerusalem, a prophet would the Lord God raise up among the Jews, even a Messiah; or, in other words, a Savior of the world.

Behold, I give unto you a sign: for five more years cometh, and behold, then cometh the Son of God ... there shall be great lights in heaven, insomuch that in the night before he cometh, there shall be no darkness ...

Lift up your head and be of good cheer, for behold, the time is at hand, and on this night shall be given, and on the morrow come I into the

world. For behold at the going down of the sun, there was no darkness, and the people began to be astonished.

## TYPES AND SHADOWS

And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering ...

He was led as a sheep to slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth ...

Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

It is manna: for they wist not what it was. And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the LORD hath given you to eat.

For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world ... and Jesus said unto them ...

I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger And thou shall smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink

But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst. And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up. Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. And there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. Destroy his temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

## VIRGIN BIRTH

Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. And he said unto

me: Behold, the virgin whom thou seest is the mother of the Son of God, after the manner of flesh. The Holy Ghost shalt come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them ... the angel said unto them I bring you good tidings of great joy ... for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

## GOD'S

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which saith,

Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased. And Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John ... up an high mountain ... and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light ... and behold a voice out of the cloud which said ...

This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. And they did look steadfastly towards heaven, from whence the sound came. And behold, the third time they did understand the voice which they heard; and it said ...

Behold my Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, in whom I have glorified my name - hear ye him.

## MIRACLES AND SIGNS

And he put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will: be thou clean. And immediately the leprosy departed from him. And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish. Then he

arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased ... And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea ... they cried out for fear but Jesus spoke unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

But Jesus said unto them, They need not depart; give ye them to eat. And they said unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes ... And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children.

In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them: they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

### POWER OVER DEATH

And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother.

Martha ... saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days ... He cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with grave-clothes.

Therefore doth my father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it up again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down myself I have power to lay it down and I have power to take it again.

And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost. And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

### THE ATONEMENT

For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement ...

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

### MANY WITNESSES

But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: and ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once ...

And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost.

Wherefore by the words of three, God hath said, I will establish my word. Nevertheless God sendeth more witnesses, and he proveth all his words.

These scriptures that I have quoted and paraphrased are but a small sample of the grand story of the life of Jesus Christ. He brought much more than just a gospel of

peace or of proverbs. He was foretold centuries before his birth, born of a virgin, gave many gifts and miracles to men, offered himself for our sins and rose from the grave. I find many admirable things with other peoples and their religions, but I wonder if any of their prophets have exhibited even one of the many divine attributes of Jesus Christ.

ZA

## Evolutionists Disillusioned

**If evolution is true, why do we not see it happening today? Where are the various stages of evolving life forms today? If one-celled organisms evolved into multicellular organisms, invertebrates into vertebrates, amphibians into reptiles, reptiles into mammals, apes to man, etc., why do we not see this process still in progress today?**

**Further, why do the so-called primitive early forms such as the one celled organisms which supposedly began the process still exist today? In other words if they evolved into higher forms, why do they still exist in any sort of viable form today considering the theory of survival of the fittest? — h.e.s.**

## Let's Look Back

50 Years Ago

**Zion's Advocate**  
**December 1941**

LETTERS  
Grand Junction, Colorado

### Divine Evidence

I would like to tell you of an experience I had before I became a member of this Church (the Church of Christ). It was, I believe, in the year of 1926. At this time, *my mind was greatly troubled because of the division in the (Reorganized - RLDS) church caused by Supreme Directional Control.*

At first, I was very determined to believe that whatever the president said was right. My sister came to stay with me and brought with her the *Torch of Truth* (an early Church of Christ publication). She read this to me from time to time. *I told her I did not care to hear what she had to read. I felt God had chosen Frederick M. Smith to be president of the church and whatever he said would surely be right.* But my sister was very determined. Soon I was reading and investigating for myself.

All that spring and summer I read and studied but could not come to any definite conclusion. I spent much time in earnest prayer to God for light. In fact I prayed more about this matter than I ever prayed for anything else in all my life. Then, the Reorganized Church held a reunion in a tent not far from our home and of course I attended. I was told at this time that Apostle Paul M. Hanson, who also attended the reunion, was not wholly in accord with the New Supreme Directional Control program. Many will recall that *Brother Hanson did not approve at that time of certain conditions existing in the Reorganized Church.*

One sunny afternoon, at a sacramental service, Brother Hanson sat

in front on a platform with two or three other missionaries. As I sat looking at these men I was remembering that Brother Hanson did not believe as did the others. And in my heart I had a great desire to know which of them, Brother Hanson or the others, was nearest in the right, and as I said to myself, "Oh, I wish I knew which of them is the nearest to the right." *The tent instantly became darkened and everywhere in the tent it was dark twilight, except where Brother Hanson sat there was no darkness at all.* And a voice said to me as plain as if some one near by was speaking. "Look, see how much more Hanson is in the light than the others," and then a moment later where Brother Hanson sat it began to grow dark also. And the voice spoke again. "Look, see Hanson is not wholly in the light neither."

After these words were spoken the tent became light again and was as it had been before the darkness came. At the time I did not understand why Brother Hanson was not wholly in the light, but as the years went by and he continued with a program which was not of God, I have been made to understand.

May God lead us into all truth is my prayer.

Your sister in Christ,

*Mrs. J. R. Ely*

### 1941 World News

At 11:55 A.M., Missouri Time, December 7, 1941, nearly 200 Japanese aircraft attacked the United States at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, leaving the entire U.S. in shock and listening with rapt attention to their radios. The nearly two-hour attack killed 3,000, destroyed 200 U.S. aircraft and sunk or damaged a major portion of the U.S. Pacific Fleet. At President Roosevelt's request, Congress formally declared war the next day.

25 Years Ago

**Zion's Advocate**  
**December 1966**

Temple Lot Local:

We have a dedicated Sister in our group here who has been repairing the song books. Thank you, Jean Chapman. The Sunday School class of Brother Warren Johnson went on a hayride together and had a good time. Brother and Sister Maynard Case and Sister Bertice Aldridge were on their way to southern Missouri and Arkansas when they had a bad car accident. Their car was demolished but they came out quite well with mostly bruises and some whiplash, which was a tremendous blessing, don't you think?

*Katie Moyer*

Conversation in Ink ...

From Sister Margret Gill: Don Housknecht gave a marvelous sermon (at the Wisconsin Reunion). His subject was something about the G.O.P., "Get Off and Push." He said we are basically a do-nothing group at present. We need to present ourselves in humility and faith, and offer to get off and push, and do something towards our own salvation and towards helping others. The Church won't save us.

### 1966 World News

A 48 hour Christmas truce is observed in the Vietnam war; Walt Disney dies at age 66; A U.S. B-52 crashes near the coast of Spain and 4 unarmed hydrogen bombs are dropped (all are recovered after three months desparate search).

## Apocalypse Now!

by Harvey E. Seibel

### Our Time in History

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matthew 24:24).

"And it came to pass that the Lord of the vineyard sent his servant; and the servant went and did as the Lord had commanded him, and brought other servants; and they were few. And the Lord of the vineyard saith unto them, Go to, and labor in the vineyard, with your mights. For behold, this is the lastly time that I shall nourish my vineyard; for the end is nigh at hand..." (Jacob 3:136-138).

"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be" (Matthew 24:21).

"And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book" (Daniel 12:1).

"Immediately after the tribulation for those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" (Matthew 24:29-30).

"Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come" (Matthew 24:42).

"And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares" (Luke 21:34).

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night" (2 Peter

3:10).

"For when they shall say peace, safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them...But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief...but let us watch and be sober" (1 Thessalonians 5:3,4,6).

"The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the Lord come. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered" (Joel 2:31-32).

"And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood...For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" (Revelation 6:12 & 17).

"Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to this temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth?" (Malachi 3:1-2).

So where do we stand today? We are in that period referred to as the great tribulation which is equivalent to the fifth seal of Revelation 6. The events of this seal will end with the signs in the sun, moon and stars as we saw in Matthew 24 above. These signs (constituting the opening of the sixth seal) signals both the end of the great tribulation (the fifth seal) and the return of Christ to the earth. The appearance of our Lord will also signal the arrival of the day of the Lord or the day of wrath as it is given in Revelation 6 which is a thing separate and apart from the tribulation period. This is made clear when we consider that the tribulation is terminated by the heavenly signs as stated in Matthew 24 and Revelation 6 but which at the same time signals the arrival of the Day of the Lord as stated in Joel 2:31.

We are today residing in the latter

end of the fifth seal and not far from the opening of the sixth seal. The climax of the tribulation period will soon be upon us with the establishment of the image to the beast and the accompanying economic enslavement, a time when they shall proclaim peace and safety. This will be the time of the long awaited New World Order.

### Path Lights

It was October 22, 1990, at North County Hospital in Bemidji, Minnesota, my husband, Ernest Chevalier had two knee replacements. I had prayed for months that all would go well and that we had made the right choice of doctor and hospital. It seemed every time we would talk about it, the thought would enter my mind, Dr Miller and Bemidji.

The surgery went great. His bones were strong, shiny and clean so they did not have to remove but only the worn ends of knee bone. Fours hours on the table, my sister, Kathryn was sitting with me, but all the time my mind and heart was praying "skill the hands of the doctor and nurses," and God did. All went fine.

After surgery, while Dr. Miller had to attend a meeting, he put his partner in charge until he got back. Dr. Johnson read the report wrong, gave the wrong medication and we nearly lost my husband. I was sure God didn't take us through all this to have it end in death. The set back made an extra week, but once more, we were on the way to coming home, which we did the 17th of November, 1990. We were to be one week in the hospital and two weeks in rehabilitation. Every night, I prayed "Dear Lord, don't let it snow until we get home." (As I would have to drive him home).

The 17th came and we were packed and ready and got home around 2:00 P.M. I unloaded our van and got Ernest settled in. Thank God from a full heart, no snow, we are home and all is well!

Not until Monday morning when we were going to go to Hibling, did I know how much God had blessed us. The starter was out on the van. Not only did he hold back the snow, but he held up our van.

Oh my God, How I've loved Him through the years. Through the joy, the pain, the hurt and anger He has held me close in His Arms of Love. Thank you God.

*Laura Wentworth Chevalier  
Pongilly, Minnesota*

### Grand Junction News

It's hard to believe, with this cold, snowy weather, that we were picnicking just three weeks ago. We had three picnics in October. The second picnic, Don and Betty McIndoo were the guests of honor. They earned it. Don helped us paint our Church. Bob Ely, Marvin Carol, and Don did a great job! At our third picnic, Gordan McCann and Andy Brown were our guests of honor. Andy had to get back home right away, but not without being our guest speaker for Sunday morning's service. Gordan spoke Sunday evening, then he left with Marvin Ely on Marvin's missionary field.

Our Local was smaller for a while. Johnny and Enid Bell just returned from vacation. They went from Texas, to see Jack Bell, to Tennessee, to their Reunion, to Missouri. Aunt Enid said they had a wonderful time, and ate too much. Sounds like the perfect vacation to me.

Alvina and Lois Bell spent a couple of weeks in Missouri. Grandma got to catch up on all her kids, grandkids, and great grandkids.

Wedding bells will chime around here. Russell Bell has asked a local gal, Karen Bunte, to be his bride. They met where they both worked, in Palisade. No date has been set at this time.

While on the Subject of weddings, Happy November Anniversary to Bob and Shirley Ely. Happy

December Anniversary to Marvin and Berniece Ely.

November is bursting with Birthdays. Happy Birthday to Becky Downs, my husband David, my youngest daughter Sarah, Alvina Bell, Shirley Ely, and Marje Downs.

Happy December Birthday to my oldest daughter Mary, and Marvin Ely.

I hope everyone had a warm and wonderful Thanksgiving, and that your Christmas is joyous.

Love,

*Kathy Larsen*

### Ravenna News

A warm Hello to everyone from the Ravenna Local, Michigan.

Since I have been quite remiss at getting newsletters in this year, I will do my best to make up for the lost time....We have all been quite busy this past year. We had raised the needed funds to finish off our buildings lower level by having yard sales, craft bazaars, etc., and were able to get most of the work completed just in time for our hosting the Michigan State Reunion last June. We enjoy the Reunion so much and now it's even nicer with a more comfortable area for fellowshiping with our guests. The Reunion seems to be the highlight of the year for our local. We are so blessed to have a nice comfortable building to have it in, after all the years of meeting in homes and in rented buildings.

Our local has also been blessed with having many visitors from other locals (in and out of Michigan) and many of us were able to do some traveling also. We had quite a group go to Missouri for Conference in April and an even larger group went down for the Missouri Reunion last August. There were some who made trips to the Tri-State Reunion, Tennessee, Florida, Cherokee Fair, Canada, New York, and Iowa.

We were overjoyed at having a baptism just before the Reunion last June, that of Loren DeVries....A warm welcome to our new brother!

Many prayers for brother Loren have been asked and he is blessed with gaining strength over his illness. Our dear brother and sister, John and Irene Reed, have been on our prayer list for quite some time now. Brother Johnny's illness is progressing and he had a bad fall which broke his hip last August. He's in a nursing home now, please include both brother and sister Reed in your prayers. Sister Bernice Scott is recovering from surgery she had on her neck last May and she was able to travel to Missouri, etc. in August. Sister Marie Weaver Piatt has been quite ill of late, so please remember her in your prayers also. God be willing, by the time this goes to print she'll be on her feet again. Also Brother Cleo Heath was hospitalized last winter, we are all praying that God will bless these and keep all in good health and safe this coming year.

Our Children's Sunday School Class has been busy earning "special gifts" for their attendance. For each gift they must attend for 32 Sundays. Since we started this incentive program Bibles have been given to 7 children, a Book of Mormon has been given to 4 children, and a Tote bag to carry their books to church in has been earned by 1 child so far. Next they will be earning a set of highlighters to help them in their studies. The children really enjoy "earning" their "special gifts".

Here I am trying to count our blessings, which are so abundant, there is so much to be Thankful for (even in a world of turmoil and chaos). We have Our Father, Christ Our Lord, and Our comforter the Holy Spirit to lean on. In this season of Thanksgiving and of celebration of Our Lord's birth we must always remember that it is to HIM that we are Thankful. For everything we are and everything we have is ultimately from God. We are told that every good thing is from above so we must show our gratitude for everything great or small.

May God continue to bless us all,  
Your reporter and sister in Christ,

*Debbie Brantner Vogel*

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