

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

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A Church, You Say?

How many bricks will build a church,
What in dollars will it cost?
How big the bell? How tall the spire?
No glamour should be lost.
Large massive doors must open wide,
Embossed by jewels rare.
The sides with murals fine must glow
And have our greatest care.

We want the finest pews within,
An organ nobly sweet,
Soft lights must glow, around the walls
Rich drapes the eye must meet.
Then cleanliness must reign supreme,
And every object there
Must in order ever be,
Down to each book and chair.

"Now that's a church," we hear it said,
"the finest in the land,
It's workmanship will reign supreme
Throughout the sphere of man."
"A church?" I echo in my heart.
"Well maybe - - it could be,
But churches seldom are the things
That man can see."

How many elders make a church?
What offices exist?
Do ladies' aids and conferences
All services enlist?
How many preachers serve the cause,

Devoted to their trust?
What uplift ever radiates from
Sermons much discussed?
What leadership is spent and gone,
What small attention paid
To counsel wise and humbly planned
Before our church is made?
We're organized efficiently —
"Machinery," some would say —
It carries on in spite of us
Through night and endless day.

With all of this we'll build a church.
"Or will we now?" I ask.
Well, no — to build a church I fear
Is a great and bigger task.
For people really build the church —
Not stone, or bell, or spire.
Plain folks reflect God's heavenly light
More than do vested choirs.

For every brick a hand may lay,
With a purpose and a plan,
A heart inspired by God's own word
Brings forth these deeds of man.
So we should work unceasingly
Our efforts to improve
In making God's house beautiful
Because of our great love.

A church without its people
Is an empty shell indeed.
The souls of people build the church
Regardless of the creed.
Each month should be a milestone,
Each day should bear a prayer
To be a faithful follower
Forever in His care.

For our reward is measured best
By living works and deeds,
Acknowledging our tolerance
Of other people's needs.
Now that's a church! And well we know,
The answer we have found,
The church reflects a glory when
Our hearts with love abound.

The walls, the windows — all we see,
But now they serve to show
The kind of Christians we can be
As on our way we go.
Pray God His grace may ever guide
Our feet in pathways true,
And may we pledge throughout our lives
His purpose to pursue.

Helen Anthony Ducommun

Written in honor of God's church in any town.

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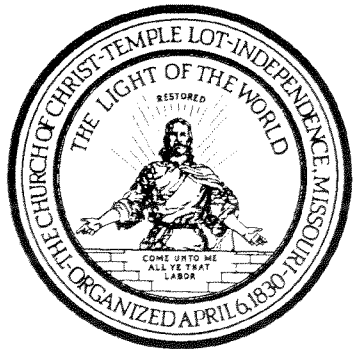
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Zion's Advocate is ...

To promote Jesus Christ as our only 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.

WRITTEN MATERIAL REQUESTED

Priesthood articles and sermons, testimonies for "Path Lights," submissions to other regular monthly Z.A. features, and news items of Church-wide interest are requested, and should be sent to the Editor as listed above. Deadline for material requiring publication in any certain month is the 10th of the previous month.

Format of Submitted Material: Please type all submissions (if possible), on one side of the paper only. Please

avoid overuse of underlining, ALL-CAPS, and *italics*. The most important thing, though, is to send the material — the staff can arrange for typing or otherwise prepare anything you send.

Word Processors/Computers: We can utilize text files on an IBM® or compatible computer floppy disk of any size or format and nearly any word processor. If you have this capability, it is a *big* help to our process.

STATUS OF PUBLISHED ARTICLES

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

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

Commitment

Apostle Alvin (Jay) Moser

There is a need for commitment in the church. All of us can see needs. Sometimes a person will feel that they should say something about the things that stand out in their minds. If a person expects their opinions about these needs to be heard and considered, then that person needs to be committed themselves. If they are not, their message will not be well received. A person who is dedicated to the work of the gospel and committed to serving his brothers and sisters, will be received and his opinions will be more highly regarded. For example if a minister who attends a reunion only to preach and then leaves without associating with the other participants in that reunion, he can not expect his sermon to be highly regarded.

Likewise, we expect those who preach repentance to us to be repentant themselves. If they are walking in the world while telling us to change our lives we probably will not listen even if they are correct. These things hold true in all things. Those who preach love must be loving. Those who desire others to talk kindly of them must speak kindly of others. Those who want to be forgiven and their sins forgotten, should forgive and forget. Those who want the church to be up and doing must be up and doing. Those who preach that the church should have a bigger, better missionary program should be supporting the one we now have. Those that encourage the missionaries to make sacrifices to spread this

gospel should be making sacrifices to that end themselves.

This reasoning holds true in many areas of our lives. It is true also with the church. A church that is commissioned, as we are, to carry this restored gospel to all the world should live by that gospel. In the Book of Alma we read the story of Alma, the second, who left the chief

temperate (vv. 39) in all things.

Alma went to others as well. He had a great measure of success in his preaching and teaching. This success was due to the fact that he was helped by God in his ministry. He was helped in these endeavors because he was truly committed and faithful to the Lord. The Lord sent a messenger to him with these words,

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of them must speak kindly of others.
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judge's seat to dedicate all his time to the preaching of repentance to the people of the church and the land. He set out to restore his people to a remembrance of their duty by using the word of God and a pure testimony against them. His first efforts were with his kinsmen in Zarahemla who had grown wicked in a short time because of prosperity. His message (Alma ch. 3) to them was summed up by the statement (vv. 98-100) that they must come out from among the wicked and be separate and that the names of the wicked would not be numbered among those of the righteous.

He went next to a group in Sidon. This group was more righteous and he expressed his hope for them. However he desired to awaken them also to a sense of their duty by telling them to lay aside every sin (Alma 5:26). He reminded them that God does not dwell in unholy temples (vv. 36) and that they should be

"lift up thy head and rejoice ... for thou hast been faithful in keeping the commandments of God" (Alma 6:18-19). Alma was concerned enough to spend time with his brethren, showing his commitment to them. He did not his and run. It must be noted that he had the gift of revelation and prophecy with him during his ministry. One does not acquire this without true commitment to the commandments of God.

So it is with the Church and people of God. Jesus said that if we continue in his word then we are his disciples (John 8:31). Only the truly committed are those that continue in his word. It can not be legislated. It is an individual thing.

I read that the commitments of individuals were a blessing to the whole. Let us strive for that commitment. If God be with me, let it begin with myself.

ZA

Sermon by Priest Steven McGhee

Prepared for publication by Sr. Amy Schrader

Several weeks ago a scripture was brought to my attention that cut me deeply, and since then I've had a number of thoughts. Lots of thoughts because it cut me so deeply. So, I would appreciate your attention. I have wondered how come we don't hear preaching on so many of the benefits that come from the Lord. All the benefits of following Jesus Christ, the blessings He has for us; life eternal, the ones that make you feel good all over and you can go home feeling good about what the Lord has done for you. And I believe it is because we are already aware of what the Lord has done for us. If we are not aware we are blind or we are unfeeling people. If we are not aware of it now we're never going to be aware of it, that's why we stand up here and we preach on the obligations we have to the Lord, not on the obligations the Lord has to us. The Lord doesn't fall short on His obligations, we fall short on ours.

I may be a little cutting, I hope not to be too cutting, but I'm going to talk on an aspect of our obligation. How many of you were here at last Wednesday night's prayer service? I was here. I was ashamed of myself. We had fifty to sixty people here. We had the biggest group here that I can remember in a long, long time. How many testimonies did we have? Two? Three? Three testimonies. Mine wasn't there. I am truly ashamed. We all should be ashamed. It's our obligation. It is so small compared to what the Lord has given us. It's just a token. Our Brother stood before us that night, he was prepared. I must have come expecting him to do it all. It was sad, and I know the Lord was sad. It's not so difficult to tell what we're doing wrong and where we're falling short, way, way short on our end of the ob-

ligation. The Lord is not short.

I want you to pay attention to these scriptures. The Book of Mormon, the 19th chapter of Alma, page 454, I'm going to start reading on verse 104. "But there is a law given and a punishment affixed, and repentance granted; which repentance, mercy claimeth; otherwise, justice claimeth the creature," and that's you and me, "and executeth the law, and the law inflicteth the punishment; if not so, the works of justice would be destroyed, and God would cease to be God. But God ceaseth not to be God, and mercy claimeth the penitent," mercy claimeth the penitent, not necessarily those who just confess to believe in Jesus Christ, but the penitent, those who truly repent of their sins. "And mercy cometh because of the atonement; and the atonement bringeth to pass the resurrection of the dead: and the resurrection of the dead bringeth back men into the presence of God; And thus they are restored into his presence; to be judged according to their works; according to the law and justice; for behold, justice exerciseth all his demands, and also mercy claimeth all which is her own;" And this is the phrase that struck me deep, "and thus, none but the truly penitent are saved." That word, truly. Do we know what that means? Do we know what it is to be truly penitent?

That's not coming here and claiming to be sorry for what we do, or being sorry for what we did. It's not just going through the motions because it's required of us to go to heaven. There's more to being truly penitent, truly sorry. Truly sorry to whom? To the Lord. We need to feel the hurt that we caused Him when we sinned, and realizing that, become truly penitent for hurting our Lord. Not because it's a requirement that I do this to receive of the Lord, but feeling His pain, knowing the pain he must have gone

through when I sinned. That is being truly penitent.

We can't fool the Lord. He knows our hearts. He knows our repentance. He is the Father ... he is the Father to us. And I know, having three boys, when they're really feeling sorry for what they've done because they know they've hurt me, or they're sorry for what they've done because they know what's coming. and I'm concerned for us that that latter reason is the reason why we're repentant and the only reason. It can be part of the reason, but if it's the only reason that is not truly penitent. It is not. And we need to get ourselves in a situation where we can become truly penitent.

I've said that the Lord knows our hearts. I'd like to turn to first John and read from the third chapter, verses 19-21, "And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things." He knows our heart, he knows the motive behind our repentance. "Beloved, if our heart condemn us not," if we're truly repentant, then we can have confidence toward God. We can have confidence before God because it says so right here in the scripture; if we're truly penitent we're going to be saved. If our hearts are not true, if we're not truly penitent we can't have that confidence. We're hypocrites, and we know, I think, we all know what the Lord thinks about a hypocrite.

I'd like to turn to Matthew the 6th chapter starting with the 16th verse, and I'm going to substitute a few words if you will give me the liberty, "Moreover when ye fast (when ye repent) be not as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear

unto men to fast (to repent). Verily I say unto you, they have their reward. But thou, when thou fastest (or repent), anoint thine head, and wash thy face; that thou appear not unto men" (to repent) just for the sake of appearing to repent before men, "but unto thy Father which is in secret", and that's Jesus Christ, "and the Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." He will forgive openly and freely if we repent in

tion of God. And now, my son, I desire that you should let these things trouble you no more, only let your sins trouble you, with that trouble that shall bring you down unto repentance. O my son, I desire that ye shall deny the justice of God no more. do not endeavor to excuse yourself in the least point, because of your sins," Am I guilty of this? Yes. And to some degree I think we're all guilty of this, making excuses. "By

we have it all? There's a list, we could go on, revelations; we can look back at the heritage, Joseph Smith, we can look back and say, Wow! Look what we've got! I believe we're smug because of it. I honestly believe that we are smug. I believe that we are a proud group of people. Proud and humble; smug and humble shouldn't be mentioned in the same breath because they can't go together. We're proud because of

***How do I become truly penitent? How do I feel sorry for that hurt that I caused the Lord?
"... let it bring you down in the dust in humility."***

such a manner.

I'm going to finish my scripture in the Book of Mormon, now, verse 107, "What, do ye suppose that mercy can rob justice? I say unto you nay; not one whit. If so, God would cease to be God. And thus God bringeth about his great and eternal purposes, which were prepared from the foundation of the world. And thus cometh about the salvation and redemption of men, and also their destruction and misery; therefore, O my son, whosoever will come, may come, and partake of the waters of life freely." Whosoever will come, whosoever will repent, truly repent may come. "And whosoever will not come, the same is not compelled to come." "The Lord is not going to make us come, it's our choice, a simple choice. It should be a simple choice. "but in the last day it shall be restored unto him, according to his deeds." If that's not convicting, if that's not a reason to start seeking out what is wrong with our obligation I know of no other. How do we get to the point that we can truly repent, truly feel sorry for hurting our Lord? To me that's what true repentance is. "And if he has desired to do evil, and has not repented in his days, behold evil shall be done unto him, according to the restora-

denying the justice of god, but do you let the justice of god, and his mercy, and his long-suffering, have full sway in your heart; but let it bring you down to the dust in humility. And now, O my son, ye are called of God to preach the word unto this people. And now, my son, go thy way, declare the word with truth and soberness, that thou mayest bring souls unto repentance, that the great plan of mercy may have claim upon them."

How do I become truly penitent? How do I feel sorry for that hurt that I caused the Lord? The key is in verse 114, written out for us plainly, it says, "let it bring you down in the dust in humility." And humility is the key; to allow the Lord to have full sway of our lives and full sway of our hearts. There is no other way.

I look at the Church, I look at our heritage, I look at the short time I've been in the church, ten years. I've been coming some twenty-one years. And I can look back and I can feel proud. I can look back and see how the Lord has blessed each of my kids, me, my father, my wife, saved a life, brought back from the dead, healed completely. Brought knowledge to us. We have an organization, we have the right organization, we have the right doctrine, we have it all! Do we? Do

what the Lord has given us. We're proud because we're a chosen people; and we are a chosen people, and yet, the only way we are going to attain His blessing is by being humble, by being penitent. When we follow the Lord's commandments, his laws, we're good people.

I'd like to turn to the 22nd, chapter of Matthew and read something that probably nine tenths of us can quote off the top of our heads. Starting with the 36th verse, "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all they heart, and with all they soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and prophets." On these two commandments. If we are not keeping, if we are not observing these two commandments all that heritage, all those ordinances, all those laws, that is what it says, all those things we've been given are for naught if we don't first observe these. Are we observing these? To love the Lord they God with all thy heart, do we feel that pain when we sin because we've hurt the Lord? When you hurt your mother, when you hurt your fa-

ther, does it hurt you because of what you've done to them? Do we feel the same pain when we sin, even the least degree? Don't excuse yourself the little sin, it still hurts the Lord. I'm not going to answer the question for you. If we don't feel that pain we don't love the Lord enough. If he is not real enough to us for us to realize that we are hurting him, we don't love him enough. And the scriptures tell us that sin causes him sadness and pain. Do we believe it? or is it just so many words? It's not so many words; it's true.

There is only one way that we can achieve this, and that is to turn our hearts over to him; because if it's our flesh and spirit that is ruling we're going to sin, and we're going to hurt him over and over again. If we seek and allow his spirit to be in control of our lives we're going to be filled with his love, we're going to be filled with Christ's love; we're not going to offend our brother in the church or out of the church, and maybe more important we are not going to be so easily offended. Are we easily offended? If we are we don't have enough of the love of Christ in us.

Think, just think of the number of people that are not in our midst now. Why are they not here? Is it because of our doctrines and our teaching and our laws? That's not the reason they're not here. That is not the reason, but because we haven't allowed humility and love to come into us enough that others can see it. We are not going to offend other people if we have that in our hearts and express it, we are not going to become offended by people. That's the way it is. I don't know how more straight I can put it, but it's the truth. There's no other reason, and to me, that is what the 22nd chapter of Matthew is speaking of.

I'd like to turn to Luke, I'm going to read starting with the 25th verse of the 10th chapter, and it's a parable. "And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said unto him, What is

written in the law? How readiest thou? And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all the strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself. And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do and thou shalt live. And he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus," he didn't truly understand, "And who is my neighbor? And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem unto Jericho, and fell among thieves which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest", priest, that's me. "that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite," that's you, that's you guys out there, that's believers, "when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him." he was a humble man, "And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast," a humble man, "and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbor unto him that fell among thieves? And he said, He that sheweth mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise." He was a humble man, he had compassion in his heart. He had nothing to gain by helping this man but he had it in his heart, that humility and goodness in his heart.

Frank's not here. I'll talk about him (Frank Fann). He says, "The proof is in the pudding." And it's true. The proof is in our actions. We can repent in words all we want, and we can repent for each other all we

want, but the proof is in our hearts and the Lord knows it. We need to be penitent. We need to be like this Samaritan; this priest and this Levite had all the laws, had the ordinances, performed all these things, just like we have. They had a great heritage, an unbelievable heritage; they had the gifts, they were a chosen people; we are a chosen people. Which one is going to be a Samaritan? To do this we have to realize our obligation. We have to humble ourselves, become penitent, realize that when we sin we are hurting our Lord. To realize that and correct ourselves and allow his Spirit to enter in. His Spirit will not enter into a proud man. His Spirit wont! It will enter into a humble man, a humble people. We don't have enough of his Spirit with us because we're smug; because we're proud. If we will bring our lives; our flesh and our will, to the Lord and allow him to rule in our lives, we're going to hold on to our people. Partly because this is the right church; we have the organization and we have the authority, and we have the things that the Lord has given to us, freely, but we'll hold on to them because they'll recognize and realize that we are humble and have the love of Jesus Christ in us and we share it.

Then our numbers will grow. Then our spirituality will grow. Then we will receive more. Then we will receive the spiritual gifts that we need. I'm not so sure that they'll be the gifts which we desire right now, but there will be more spiritual gifts.

I pray that next week when we sit in the Wednesday evening prayer service that you're going to recognize that small token that you can offer for the Lord, and you can also, I hope, realize that when you do not offer that small token that you just pained and caused our Lord to hurt. I hope that I haven't offended anybody, it was not my intention to offend anyone. It is my intention to help us, to bring us closer, that our souls might not be lost. Thank you.

To Whom is This Warning Given?

It is true today, as in past ages, that prophetic warnings given to the people of God go unheeded by those to whom they are spoken, and it remains for some later generation to garnish their tombs, and to honor them as prophets. In a recent Advocate appeared a timely article under a heading similar to the above, calling attention to warnings given in the past to those who were once professed believers in God and Christ, but who had begun to drift away, and the writer drew a line between the common sinner of the world, and those who had once been enlightened, but had lost that, exemplifying the truth of the statement made by the Christ: "If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!" Matt. 6:23.

It was to those who had lost that light of the gospel that once flooded their souls, to whom Alma addressed this question: "If ye have felt to sing the song of redeeming love, I would ask, Can ye do so now?"-Alma 3:46.

"The Warning" was given to those of former days, as well as to those of latter days. "This warning" is given especially to those of today whose light has become darkness, and who are in danger of becoming such as can no longer "sing the song of redeeming love."

Warnings are given from time to time in order that men might turn from their wicked ways and live; for the Lord has said: "As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his wicked way and live." Ezekiel 33:11. So it becomes incumbent upon all the "watchmen" of the "walls of Zion", or those who are stationed round about, who become cognizant of the warning voice, to "cry aloud" lest by his failure to warn, the wicked

"died in his iniquity" and "his blood will I require of thine hand."

This warning, then, I present by permission.

mandments; walk in my way, that ye may enter the straight gate, that your feet may be found in the narrow way, which leadeth to the tree

Zion's Advocate from the past ...

Son of man, write unto my children gathered in the region around my Zion; for thus speaketh He whom ye call Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ: Owing to conditions that have prevailed, lo, these many days, you must be counselled, If you would be my children in very deed. You have followed, in many ways, the traditions of men; for of a truth your ways have not been my ways, nor your thoughts my thoughts; and I must needs admonish you to repent. Repent ye, and turn unto me and live.) Can ye not discern the times in which ye live? Can ye not see that I have set my hand to gather my covenant people from all lands back to their land of inheritance; yea, from lands unknown to you? For even at this day I am preparing my children whom ye know not where they are; but they are known unto me; and are long they shall be returned unto their inheritance, and be joined to those who have already returned, and I shall have a united people.

Therefore be admonished to repent of your errors and return to the old paths wherein is the good way, that I may direct you from time to time ere Zion can be redeemed. Follow not the precepts and devices of men; but hearken to my voice as I have directed, and rely upon the things I have commanded which are in your possession. Go ye then to my word which is before you; keep all my com-

of life which is in me, saith the Lord.

Give heed to my counsel; keep my commandments; and when thus you return from the error of your ways, I will return unto you, and be in your midst by the power of my Spirit; and then, and only then, will I hearken to your pleadings and prayers before me. Be ye admonished, that I may yet honor you as my children in very deed. Of a truth it has been said, To obey is better than sacrifice. Be ye not rebellious and say, as has been said, Wherein have we stepped aside? Wherein have we not obeyed thy counsel? for of a truth you have followed in the error of your own hearts, and sought to counsel me. At the appointed time all my words shall be fulfilled; and the hands or devices of men cannot stay my words; for they shall not return unto me void."

Thus I have been commanded to write even so. Amen.

Apostle T. J. Jordan
Regina, Saskatchewan
January 5, 1957

Behold, the Bridegroom Cometh

Apostle William A. Sheldon

Part Two

I have previously touched upon the coming of Elijah the prophet (John the Baptist) before the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

The appearance of this angel to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery ushered in the latter day dispensation of the fulness of the gospel of Christ to prepare a people for His coming. Because of Gentile rejection of that gospel, a final call to repentance is to be given by an endowed ministry of Christ. Following that testimony, those who will yet reject the gospel of Christ will be visited with fire from God (see Isa. 10:16-18), and the very foundations of the universe shall be shaken (see Matt. 24:29), including a world-wide earthquake.

"Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."

This final call to repentance will succeed with many, even a great number from all nations, as we shall see later.

And then shall a cry go forth, "Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence (get out of Babylon, or the world; go unto Zion, w.a.s.), touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord" (Isa. 52:11).

The Lord is to gather together his elect from the four quarters of the earth through a sanctified ministry.

A servant of God shall prosper,

"deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high", so as to "sprinkle many nations" with the gospel of repentance; kings are to shut their mouths at him, "for that which had not been told them shall they see, and that which they had not heard shall they consider" (ibid., v. 13, 15).

Not only will the Lord send teachers to the nations, but the spirit of revelation shall be given, turning the hearts and feet of many toward Zion.

"And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers: And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left". Isa. 30:20-21.

Those Gentiles who will repent will be numbered with the house of Israel to build a city New Jerusalem (3 Nephi 10:1-3); but many will not repent and will seek the life of this great prophet among the Gentiles.

"But behold the life of my servant shall be in my hand; therefore they shall not hurt him, although he shall be marred because of them. Yet I will heal him, for I will shew unto them that my wisdom is greater than the cunning of the devil. Therefore it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not believe in my words, which am Jesus Christ, which the Father shall cause him to bring forth unto the Gentiles, and shall give unto him power that he shall bring them forth unto the Gentiles (it shall be done even as Moses said), they shall be cut off from among my people which are of the covenant." 3 Nephi 9:96-98.

This final rejection of the fulness of the gospel will result in the fury of

God's wrath being poured out upon the Gentiles; His judgements will cause that the nations of earth shall be destroyed. When the Lord shall have called out of Babylon (worldly civil, economic and religious systems, with all her vanities) those who have been watching and waiting for Him, then Babylon shall fall, and great shall it be!

The remnant of Jacob upon this continent who are descended from Lehi, Nephi, Laman and Lemuel, shall arise and thresh this Gentile nation of the U.S.A. with all others upon the American continent. Even now do we see the evidence of those of Indian blood arising to throw off the shackles with which they have been bound, asserting themselves and demanding the righting of wrongs they have suffered. The unrest is seen in Central America and South America, with the flood of those from Mexico into the U.S. scarcely contained; increased demands are made by those within both the U.S. and Canada.

"And I say unto you, that if the Gentiles do not repent, after the blessing which they shall receive, after that they have scattered my people, then shall ye which are a remnant of the house of Jacob, go forth among them; And ye shall be in the midst of them, which shall be many; and ye shall be among them, as a lion among the beasts of the forests, and as a young lion among the flocks of sheep, who, if he goeth through, both treadeth down and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver. Thy hand shall be lifted up upon thine adversaries, and all thine enemies shall be cut off". 3 Nephi 9: 51-53. See also vs. 99-100.

The following is a lengthy quotation, but is vital to our awareness of what must shortly come to pass be-

fore conditions will have developed to produce the humility and righteousness which will be recognized of God and will be essential for the development of Zion and the reign of Christ upon the earth.

"Yea, wo be unto the Gentiles, except they repent, for it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Father, that I will cut off thy horses out of the midst of thee, and I will destroy thy chariots (cars, w.a.s.), and I will cut off the cities of thy land, and throw down all thy strongholds (munitions of war, etc., w.a.s.) And I will cut off witchcrafts out of thy hand, and thou shalt have no more soothsayers: Thy graven images I will also cut off and thy standing images out of the midst of thee; and thou shalt no more worship the works of thy hands: And I will pluck up thy groves (places of worship of idols in ancient times, w.a.s.) out of the midst of thee; so will I destroy thy cities. And it shall come to pass that all lyings, and deceivings, and envyings, and strifes, and priestcrafts

(the use of religion for monetary gain, w.a.s.) and whoredoms, shall be done away. For it shall come to pass, saith the Father, that at that day, whosoever will not repent and come unto my beloved Son, them will I cut off from among my people, O house of Israel, and I will execute vengeance and fury upon them, even as upon the heathen, such as they have not heard." 3 Nephi 9: 101-106.

The terrible conditions which now exist, but are to get worse until there is no remedy by man, when wickedness has reached the point so as to fulfill the sayings of Christ, wherein He said that "as it was in the days of Noah", and "as it was in the days of Lot" ... "even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed" (see Luke 17:26-30) - when the world is fully ripened in iniquity so that the imagination of men's hearts is only evil continually and the earth is filled with violence (see Gen. 6:5,11); when the gross sin of homo-sexuality has become like unto that in Lot's days at Sodom -

then shall be the time of fulfillment of Dan. 2:34,35,44. We have rightly declared that the stone which was to be cut out of the mountain without hands was the supernatural work of God in the establishment of His Kingdom in the latter days - the Church of Christ coming into being through divine command and angelic ministrations, carved from within this "mountain" of the U.S.A. While the stone has been revealed, it has not yet fallen upon the feet of the image, representing 14 distinct nations, in which it is to "break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms" (v. 44). The endowed ministry of Christ, including the "marred" servant, shall preach by the power of God in a final testimony and warning of divine justice, and to be followed by the physical destruction of the wicked nations of men; all this in preparation to fully establish the Kingdom of God in power and glory.

(Conclusion next month ...)

1992 Michigan Reunion

The Michigan Reunion will be held at the Ravenna Local Church of Christ. We are looking forward to many spiritual meetings and hosting this joyous event. Please come and join us for, I'm sure, a very uplifting time. Jot down the time and place so you don't forget, because we love each of you dearly and want to see your smiling faces again.

Date: June 19-21 (Fathers Day weekend)

Address: 750 S. Ravenna Rd., Ravenna, Michigan 49451

Once again, there is plenty of room for campers of any size at the church, and other housing is available by contacting:

**Elder Gale Brantner
3604 LO-AL Drive
Ravenna, MI 49451
telephone (616) 853-2123**

Temple Lot Local News

Most of us welcomed the New Year with the "second annual" New Year's Eve music talent program, followed by food and visiting. East Local and Temple Lot Local musicians performed and Sam Kidd recited one of his humorous poems. I, unfortunately, enjoyed the program later on tape at home. I brought the New Year in with coughs and sniffles, as did lots of folks. The flu bug had big teeth this winter.

Gerry and Cindy Case had a baby boy January 24th. Jeremiah James Case weighed in at 7 lbs., 11.8 oz. We are thankful for the health of baby and Mom. Big sisters and brother are Amy, Suzanna, and Caleb, who were brimming over with descriptions of "little, tiny feet," etc.

Caroline Hedrick was blessed to have only broken her leg in a fall down the basement stairs. As she was leaving for the Sunday evening service, she caught her heel in the hem of her coat and fell, head-over-heels, landing on her shoulder and back at the bottom of the stairs. She managed to get back up the stairs and phone her daughter, Carrie, who took her to the Emergency Room. They put a splint on her leg and sent her home with instructions to go to the doctor for a cast the next day. The Emergency Room no longer puts on casts. She did not suffer undue pain and, because the ankle was not involved in the break, she has a shoe cast and doesn't require crutches. She drove herself to work on Wednesday. We are very thankful for her blessing of healing and that she didn't break her shoulder, back, - or head!

Scott and Catherine Harris, with Sam, Jessica and Ryan moved to Monett, Missouri, where Catherine's parents, Albert and Joy Leighton-Floyd, live. They attend the Pineville, Missouri local. We know that local is thrilled to have them, but we miss them very much.

We have a new Baptism class started. Elder Glenn Gill teaches the class and Alvin Harris assists. The class is in our home on Friday evenings. We have enjoyed getting to know these people better, as well as sharing the gospel with them.

We didn't have one flake of snow in January. The weatherman commented about "April in January." We certainly hope we don't make up for it by having January in April. We are looking forward to Conference, when everyone can join us in the new church for the dedication.

Joyce Harris, Reporter

Colorado Reunion 1992

The 1992 Colorado Reunion will be held on June 12, 13 and 14 at the Church of Christ, 3233 B1/2 Road, Grand Junction, Colorado

Please notify one of our Reunion Committee if you plan to come. The members are:

Robert Ely
3201 B1/2 Road
Grand Junction, CO 81503
303 434-8090

Allen Downs
P. O. Box 30166
Grand Junction, CO 81503
303 245-8344

Marvin Ely
236 - 32 Road
Grand Junction, CO 81503
303 434-8149

Please contact us as soon as you can so we can plan for meals and accommodations.

We look forward to greeting you each in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Enid E. Bell, Secretary

Recipes Wanted

Many more recipes are needed for the next edition of the *Church of Christ Cookbook* now being prepared for publication. Many of us have sampled the countless mouth-watering dishes prepared for various rallies and reunions over the years, so we know all you cooks out there are about the best source we could turn to for fine recipes.

Please send some of your favorites that were not included in the first cookbook published a few years ago.

Send to:

Cheryl Taylor
1210 W. Waldo

Independence, MO 64050

Your earliest possible response to our desperate need will be greatly appreciated!

Thank you.

Houston Rally

Sunday, May 24, 1992

We welcome all who can come to our annual Rally Day at Houston, Missouri, on Sunday, May 24, 1992 - Memorial Day Weekend.

We will enjoy a day of worship together and fellowship with one another. We will open with a prayer service at 9:00 A.M., and preaching services at 10:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. Dinner will be served about noon, to be followed by an afternoon preaching service to close the day.

We will be pleased to see you here with us.

New Editor & Staff

Priest Michael McGhee, who has been Associate Editor of *Zion's Advocate* for the past several years, is the new Editor starting next issue. Mike and his new staff would highly treasure your prayers, support & written contributions - in equal measure!

TO THE DOLLAR

by Roland Sarratt

Here in my hand I hold you, A
printed paper note, One of mil-
lions, billions or maybe trillions;
A one dollar bill, legal tender of the
U. S. of A.

Where have you been, you worn
and dog-eared piece of paper?
How many have held you as I do
now?

How many cash registers, purses,
piggy banks and vaults have been
your temporary home?

Though you will pass from my hand
to another as you have been
passed countless times before, I
take this moment to ponder your
existence and our chance encounter.

No way can I ever know whose
hands have held you as I do now,
nor would any such knowledge be
beneficial, yet I would guess that
your life has been well spent.

You might have helped buy break-
fast yesterday, or been the waiter's
tip.

You might have been part of the
change from a fifty which bought
a couple of bags of groceries.

You might have helped buy
a little girl's dress or a boy's
sweater or a Sunday paper.

Or, you might have helped buy a
beer at the local pub, a bet on a
horse, a pack of cigarettes, a fix for
a junkie or a pornographic magazine.

I know, its not your fault how you
are used. You have written on you,
"In God We Trust."

But whatever the human mind thinks
to put a price on, you are part of
that price.

Yes, you are used for good and bad.
You are given to the poor widow and

the down and out soul who needs a
hot meal.

You are dropped in the collection
plate at church.

You buy gas for the missionary's car.
You help pay the doctor's bill and
the overdue light bill.

Almost miraculously, you are there
to help the needy.

You help send our kids to college;
You help build highways, and our
vehicles to drive on them.

You help build skyscrapers, missiles,
factories, hospitals, computers.

You are a part of our income -
wages earned, pensions, social
security, welfare and unemploy-
ment benefits;
You help pay our insurance benefits.

You are an intricate part of our lives.
We can't buy lunch without you.

But, How sad! How sad!
You are used for evil!

You are the idol of the greedy, a part
of the payment for murder or the
price for fornication.

You have been held by the addict's
shaky hand; you have laid on the
gambler's table.

You have been possessed by the
miser, the thief, the robber, the
fraudulent, the cheat, the liar.

You have went where we dare not
go, the secret places where the
covenants of hell are made;

Where man's life is worth nothing;
Where your power is the power of
the criminal minded, the tyrant,
the ruthless.

Through the wills and weaknesses
of men, you have the power to
influence, to enslave, even to
control nations and peoples.

You have been created of man and
in turn you possess him, though
he know it not.

Man labors to own you only to have
you own him. He is your slave.

You give the rich pride, the
poor misery.
But you can give the charitable
power to give and the poverty
stricken humility to receive.

But, Old Dollar, you are worth
nothing, and even less than
nothing, without a worthy
backing.

You would lie moldering in the dust,
trampled under the feet of men,
without the precious metals or
merchandise, or the labor, the
technology, the skills and services
of man.

Like all material things, you will
have an end; your purpose will
have been fulfilled.

Though you have traveled the earth,
been exchanged in foreign lands,
Though you may have circled the
earth in the astronaut's pocket, or
went into the depths of the earth
or sea,

There is yet a place on this earth that
you will never go,
And there is an establishment yet to
be made in which you will have
no part:

You will never go to Zion;
You will never buy nor contribute to
the joy that will be there.

And yes, there is One who will
never possess you;
You will never feel the touch
of the Master's hand.

Sorry! Path Lights & more Sunday School submissions (including some
correspondence from a Temple Lot local junior class) will appear next month. — Editor

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

	Price Each
Zion's Advocate Subscription Rate:	
Members (optional)	\$ 4.00
Non-Members	4.00
Foreign	4.50
Book of Mormon (1908 Authorized Edition - Leather)	20.00
Book of Mormon (1990 Independence Edition - Missionary)	7.00
Book of Mormon (1990 Independence Edition - Cloth)	18.00
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Book of Mormon Concordance	8.00
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Book of Commandments (paper bound)	4.00
Book of Commandments Controversy Reviewed	4.00
The Marvelous Work and a Wonder - by Daniel MacGregor	3.50
What the Restoration Teaches Concerning God	2.50
Historical Facts Concerning the Temple Lot	1.30
Temple Lot Deed	.30
Changing of the Revelations	.50
Comprehensive Comparison of Changes to the Revelations	1.30

The balance of these General Church Publications are free of charge.*

- A Brief History of the Church of Christ
- The Principles of the Gospel - Faith & Repentance
- The Principles of the Gospel - Laying on of Hands
- The Principles of the Gospel - Baptism
- The Latter Day Restoration
- The Book of Mormon (tract)
- Articles of Faith & Practice of the Church of Christ
- Articles of Faith & Practice (Spanish)
- Sermonettes on the Teachings of Jesus
- What the Church teaches about Matrimony (Spanish)
- Mighty Acts of the Ages (Spanish)
- Priesthood - Divine Authority
- Why? (Amplifies absence of a "First Presidency" in Scripture)
- A Synopsis (Compares beliefs of 3 Restoration churches)
- First Presidency or First Apostles?
- Marriage for Time and Eternity? - A Fallacy
- Baptism for the Dead? - A Fallacy
- Zion and the Temple of the Lord
- Does it Make a Difference to Which Church You Belong?
- God's Purpose in America
- The Great Plan of Redemption
- The Cost of Salvation

*NOTE: Donations will be 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

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AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS

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

Slide Programs with Taped Narration

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

Allow adequate advance time for handling and shipping, and for your own preview of the programs. Write to the AVVAA Committee, Church of Christ, P.O. Box 472, Independence, MO 64051.

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 three other programs.

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 set narrating the King James Version of the Bible New Testament and a set for the entire Book of Mormon. Write to Dan Lawrence, 8420 Lee's Summit Rd., Kansas City, MO 64139. Specify which set is desired and the estimated length of time you expect to use it

Sermons on Audio Cassette Tapes

For a sermon on cassette tape write to Mike Kelley, 1949 E. Libby St., Phoenix, AZ 85022, or Ron Temple, 5621 Logan Rd., Kansas City, MO 64136.

PRIESTHOOD VISITATION

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