

# 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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Number 5

*As we are fast approaching Mother's Day, I would like to share a writing by my 18-year-old daughter  
who presented this to me at our local last Mother's Day:*

## *My Mom*



She is a very pretty, wise, young woman.

She is someone I can relate to if I need someone to talk to, to lean on, to hold me, or to just be my friend.

If there is ever anything bothering me, she can always tell. When she does know she sometimes asks what is wrong. And there are times when she just sits back and watches me. When she doesn't say anything I know she is trusting my actions and is sure I can handle it. But if I am to fail, I know she'll always be there to catch me.

When we fight I feel like we don't love one another, but I know it is all for the better because we DO love one another. After we are done fighting we don't talk for maybe an hour, but then we are closer than ever! I guess it was meant to be that way for her and I.

She is very understanding. I know if I ever needed anyone to talk to I could go to her and she will understand and not get upset.

But all together deep down I feel that my mom is a very heartwarming person you can look up to, and a very beautiful young woman that I hope to be like when I grow up. And I will ALWAYS be here for her!

I love you, Mom!

Happy Mother's Day!

Shannon

*Respectfully submitted,  
Pam Lussenden  
Bradley Local*

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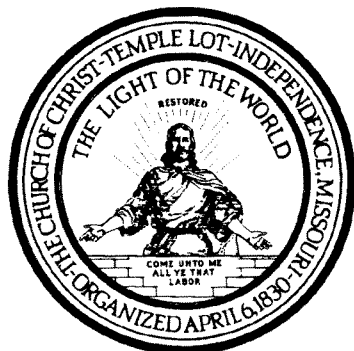
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**Zion's Advocate is ...**

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.

Editorial...

# Consider the Stone Mason

Priest Michael McGhee

**T**here are few things that men or women make, construct, or build, that will last a number of years, or that might even span generations. Rain, snow, cold and heat take their toll on anything left exposed to the elements. It is ironic that man, given the ability to create, is also the most destructive, choosing to destroy another's work to make room for his own work, hoping to produce a lasting work.

One of these works that have always impressed me is that of a wall made of natural stone laid in such a manner that a straight line is achieved from slabs of rock with no trueness or straightness of their own! Consider the stone mason picking

each rock up and sizing, sorting and selecting just the right one for each section of this magnificent wall—a wall of beauty made up of individual stones with a special beauty all their own and unique to themselves.

As each of you are aware the *Zion's Advocate* Staff has changed, with some of us assuming new roles, and others so new we are still shaping the role we will assume. As I prayerfully considered my duties, and thought on how best to solicit articles for publication, the *Advocate* was compared to a stone wall in my mind's eye. I knew that in asking for articles that each would have to be sized, sorted and selected for each month, just as the stone mason built each section of the wall.

The stone mason's wall undoubtedly had stones left over that were not in the wall, but added to the beauty of that wall! With ample stones on hand the mason did not have to leave his work to search for

each section's work. With enough store on hand the stones were piled so that the mason did not have to stoop, allowing much more wall to be laid, with strength conserved for the next section. If the wall had been built taller or longer I am sure that each stone would have had a place in this wall. With place in the wall or not, each had a PART in adding to the beauty, the straightness and the trueness of this wall.

By now you know that I am not talking about a wall, but about the *Zion's Advocate*, a wall that has been built for over seventy years with this issue. We, the Staff, solicit your articles (stones) and your prayers to continue to build straight and true.

Man considers the stones in the wall and their beauty.

God considers those stones in the wall and those stones left over.

God considers the desire.

# Prayer Of Dedication

**Editor's Note:**  
**On April 5, 1992,**  
**at 3:30 p.m.,**  
**members of the**  
**Church of Christ,**  
**Temple Lot,**  
**gathered to**  
**dedicate our new**  
**headquarters**  
**building to the**  
**Lord. Printed**  
**here are the**  
**"Prayer of**  
**Dedication" and**  
**"A Sense of**  
**Direction." "Our**  
**Heritage" and**  
**"Great Views of**  
**Things to Come"**  
**will appear in**  
**coming months.**  
**I feel that each of**  
**us left having**  
**dedicated not**  
**only a building,**  
**but also our lives**  
**anew to the**  
**service of the**  
**Lord.**

**Apostle Robert H. Jensen**

*For the New Church Building  
Constructed in 1990-1991 Sitting Next  
to the Sacred Temple Lot, Inde-  
pendence, Missouri.*

**A**lmighty God, we Thy people have gathered here this day in full reverence and humility, to bring our most earnest and heart-felt thanksgiving and praise for Thy majesty, for the gift of life, and all that Thou hast given to us and the uncounted generations who have gone before. We thank Thee dear God for the divine light of Thy Gospel that Thine Only Begotten Son Jesus Christ—even our Lord and Savior—brought to the earth to tell us of Thee, and Thy works, and the way of righteousness to walk in our mortal life, and Thy great Plan of Salvation in Thy Holy Kingdom. We praise Thy most high and holy name for the written record of Thy Words in the books of Scripture written down through the ages and preserved even until our time, and which Thou has expanded even in the time of the Latter-Day Restoration, to again bring the fullness of the Gospel to the earth in this dispensation of time. May we ever learn of Thee and Thy ways, and be aided by Thy Holy Spirit within our desire to remain faithful to Thy commandments and worthy of Thy promised reward, even ultimately unto Eternal Salvation.

**W**e take particular note this day of the saddening loss from an opposing force of the temporal building built by the hands of Thine earthly children in the beginning of this century on this very site, as was even the first building before it, which housed innumerable assemblies of Thy people in thanksgiving, in worship, and in petition for strength and guidance from Thee in all things. Each time, following such loss, Thy people have rebuilt a house of worship unto Thee wherein they could gather together in singleness of mind and heart, putting aside for a while the cares and labors of life, and meditating upon Thee and Thy ways; to pray, to hear the words of the Gospel preached unto them, to receive instruction, admonition, added hope and joy, and to speak one with another concerning the welfare of their souls.

We now have substantially completed this new building for the use of Thy people from far and near—even from the most distant reaches from which they shall travel to this Center Place, the land of Zion, to worship Thee in mind and heart and spirit, and to seek to do Thy bidding in all things. We have worked very hard for a long while, and have sacrificed much to raise this building in reverent diligence and humility unto Thee for Thine acceptance and blessing. May we continue to grow in all ways—not only in temporal endeavors, but more especially in spiritual service to Thee.

Wouldst Thou O God look down in Thy tender love and mercy to touch us with Thy Holy Spirit, that we might, indeed, be strengthened in mind and body and spirit, and enabled thereby to more abundantly preach unto the honest-in-heart of this generation repentance from all the sins of the world; to then impart unto them the fullness of the Gospel of righteousness and Eternal Salvation, and embrace them in fellowship before Thee; to teach them to have faith, hope and charity, and to let all their doings be done as unto Thee, for then shall they also find rest to their souls and be lifted up at the last day.

O God, may Thy blessing be particularly upon Thy chosen ministry to enable them to come together in a perfect knowledge and understanding of all of Thy words, that we might fulfill the purpose of Thine as expressed by the Apostle of old: "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine" (Eph. 4:12-14). Enable us to communicate only edifying words that may minister grace unto the people. May we go forth in Thy whole armour of truth, and righteousness, with knowledge of the Gospel, and firmness of faith, as heralds of salvation, within Thy Holy Spirit (Eph. 6).

Keep us safe we pray from the many spirits not of Thee gone forth upon the length and breadth of the land that deceive the unlearned and unsuspecting. May we continue to receive "line upon line, and precept upon precept" from Thee. Help us to feast upon Thy word in perfect understanding, that we might come to a perfect brightness of hope, and endure unto the end, even unto Eternal Life. May our prayers for all be consecrated to the good of Thy people, when proclaiming the glorious message of the

Gospel. May we be able to teach them to cry unto Thee for all their support, and to never be weary of good works, that they might receive direction from Thee in all things (Alma 17:66-69). May we always be reminded to seek the old paths, wherein is the good way, and let us walk therein and find rest for our souls (Jer. 6:16).

Dear God, may we be blessed as David the Psalmist said, as: "...the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous..." (Ps. 1:1-3,6).

We feel to exclaim this day with David of old: "...How excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens. When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: all sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas. O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!" (Ps. 8:1,3-9).

We declare also as did David: Thou art our God, our refuge, and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, neither will we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof—(because) There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of

God, the holy place of the tabernacle of the most High (Ps. 46)

Now, O God, we dedicate this house unto Thee which we have builded with our hands and materials. We most earnestly beseech from Thee, Thy Divine blessing upon it, and Thy decree that it shall be kept safe from the storms of the earth and the heavens, and from the hands of adversarial powers and the emissaries of evil that walk the earth seeking those and that which they might destroy. May Thy power rest upon it, to keep it safe for Thy people, who shall desire to come to learn of Thee, and to worship Thee, to be blessed and strengthened in their spirit, and to be guided in all things, and to testify to the world of Thy tender love and mercy and power of great majesty.

Please accept, as from our hearts, the words of the hymn sung often to Thee:

### BLESS THIS HOUSE

Bless this house Oh Lord we pray,  
Make it safe by night and day.

Bless these walls so firm and stout,  
Keeping want and trouble out.

Bless the roof and chimney tall,  
Let Thy peace lie over-all.

Bless this door that it may prove,  
Ever open to joy and love.

Bless these windows shining bright,  
Letting in God's heavenly light.

Bless the hearth a-blazing there,  
With smoke ascending like a prayer.

Bless the folk who dwell within,  
Keep them pure and free from sin.

Bless us all that we may be,  
Fit Oh Lord to dwell with Thee.

Bless us all that one day we,  
May dwell, Oh Lord, with Thee.

And thus we pray in Jesus Holy name,

—AMEN

# A SENSE OF DIRECTION

**O**n January 1, 1990, this Church of Christ suffered the loss of our church building by fire on this lot. The momentary shock of this unexpected loss was overcome by a miraculous resilience of will especially noted in some in the desire to reestablish ourselves on this property. As for me, a simple statement by a kind sister in the church on that fateful day gave me an optimism that overcame any doubt that might otherwise been a hindrance. That statement was, "It's in the hands of the Lord."

And surely it was in the hands of the Lord. It seemed that the Lord was at work almost immediately. Even as darkness fell upon that old charred building that New Year's day, plans were being drawn for a new building adequate for our needs.

The many inconveniences were met with few complaints. The Temple Lot Local Church moved into the local Y.M.C.A. and with the East Local Church for their regular scheduled services, and the several general church offices were set up temporarily in various homes in this area. At the same time, the members of the General Bishopric went to work in obtaining information as to our several options and within three weeks were able to make an extensive presentation to the apostles on January 19th. A preliminary decision to build a structure, very much like the one we are sitting in this day, was made unanimously by the apostles and bishops that were present at that meeting. During the April Con-

ference of 1990, the plans were voted on and accepted.

It is impossible at this point to even estimate the number of hours that the members of the General Bishopric spent in meetings and in performing of

## Apostle Roland Sarratt

the miscellaneous duties that were necessary during the time of planning and building this structure. Our brother, Elder Leslie Case, has spent much of his time in this work since his retirement which was just prior to the fire, and we are grateful for his willingness to make such a sacrifice. We are also very thankful that the Lord was with our brothers in the Bishopric throughout the best and the worst of all the situations that they faced during

A sense of direction seemed to be in the minds of this people right from the beginning...

that time. And we pray that the Lord will continue with them in their service to the church and to the Lord.

A sense of direction seemed to be in the minds of this people right from the beginning which we feel was of

God. Beyond our greatest expectations, monies, voluntary labors and special fund raisers were given for the building. It might be considered lacking on my part not to give special recognition by naming the most significant donations and the names of those who made them, but we all know what we have personally given, and we know that our gifts were only possible by the gift of prosperity from our Heavenly Father. Whether our gift was of great worth or quantity, or the "widow's mite," only God can judge the greatness of that gift by what was in our hearts when we gave it.

Therefore our thanks go to God. That is the purpose of our gathering here today. The Lord has given us a sense of direction; He has prospered us; He has given us a temporal blessing. But with that temporal blessing. He has given us a spiritual blessing wherein we have learned once more to exercise our faith in Him in the time of trial. As we contemplate this, we realize again, as we have many times before, that all good things have come from God.

We have gathered here to dedicate this building to God; in doing so we must also continue to dedicate ourselves to God to the fulfilling of His purposes and the promotion of the Gospel of Christ.

In all that we have experienced these past two years and a half, I think it should be said that our trials have been relatively small compared to those who have labored to give us the rich heritage that we have.

# Behold, The Bridegroom Cometh

## Part Three, Conclusion

By William A. Sheldon

**W**e have previously referenced the ripening in iniquity of the nations of men in the last days, emphasizing evident facts to point out that it must be very near to a fulness. So many of the prophecies relating to the second advent of Christ have already been fulfilled, with the reminder being evident on an almost daily occurrence.

In the 24th chapter of Matthew, our Lord has given us much understanding of those events, and he follows immediately in chapter 25 with the conditions to occur regarding the kingdom of heaven, just before He shall return in glory.

"Then (at that time, w.a.s.) shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom" Matt. 25:1.

There were five wise virgins and five foolish virgins; the wise had oil in their lamps, but the foolish had none. It is interesting to note that at the midnight cry, "Behold the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him", the foolish virgins requested oil of the wise, for their "lamps are gone out" (v.8). But the wise said, No; there would not be enough for both the wise and the foolish. "Go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves" (v.9).

Who are these that "sell" the oil? Who else but the sanctified Ministry of

Christ to whom we have previously referred! Those who have the authority to administer the ordinances of the gospel, who will cry, "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters (of baptism, w.a.s.), and he that hath no money; come ye, buy and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price" (Isa. 55:1).

But these foolish virgins had been those who had known of Christ, had given Him lip service, but would not yield to the obedience of Christ. (part three, page two)

"Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. When once the master of the house is risen up (He shall arise to establish His kingdom in righteousness, w.a.s.), and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence (have taken the Communion of the Lord's Supper, w.a.s.), and thou hast taught in our streets (through an uncalled Ministry, w.a.s.). But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are, depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity" (Luke 13:24-27).

Returning again to Matthew 25, we know then that the five foolish virgins had no part in the kingdom of heaven, of which Christ spoke. What about the five wise virgins? We have been of the mind that these represented those, at least, of the Church of Christ,

who had the oil of righteousness in their lamps, and would thus be privileged to go in to the marriage. This seems to be a correct analysis; but is it? Why should these be informing the foolish virgins to "go ye rather to them that sell", the Ministry of Christ? Those ministers are, of course, a part of the "body of Christ", His Church. Then, are the foolish to go elsewhere seeking oil? Of course not!

Well, let us consider more. The bridegroom is acknowledged as the Christ. Therefore, His bride is the Church of Christ having on her wedding garments, being holy, without spot. But she is "one body", not five virgins; for Christ will not be a spiritual polygamist. These five virgins are symbolic of the great multitude, over and above in number, to the 144,000 of Israel which are all to be gathered upon Mt. Zion (see Rev., chapters 7 and 14). The 144,000 represents all of Israel, ancient and modern, of human lineage and those who are spiritually begotten, which together shall reign with Christ in Zion. The additional great multitude (see Rev. 7:9-17) will be those who were among the nations, to whom the marred servant of 3 Nephi, chapter 9, shall minister, as well as the watchmen of Isa. 52:7,8 (the sanctified, empowered Ministry of Christ). This multitude will have gone through the great tribulation, and washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb. These are they that are the five virgins, with oil in their lamps, and are accounted worthy to enter into the wedding feast prepared by the Bride-

groom.

But what about the bride herself? She is they of the Church who have become the true saints of God, who will have been tested, tried in their faith, will have endured whatever chastisement God may have seen fit to impose without murmuring, will have resisted the temptations of their great adversary, and had gained the victory through the grace of Christ, having been diligent in prayer and thankful for all He has granted and laid upon them.

(see Matt. 24:29).

It seems apparent that before this cataclysmic occurrence the Lord shall gather up those who have come unto Zion, to gather them into His bosom, as it were, as He appears in glory with the saints of ages past, and with a multitude of angels. A great trump is to sound, and the bodies of those saints who are with Him shall be united with their spirits: a resurrection of the dead, called the first resurrection.

When would be a more appropri-

also included in Lamsa and Moffet translations. We are to understand by this that the wedding will have already occurred, and that subsequently the bride and groom will meet the five virgins for a wedding feast. Verse 10 says they "went in with him to the marriage, and the door was shut". This is not the time of the wedding, but of the "marriage", when the Groom will complete a union with all who have truly accepted Him.

Luke 12:35-37 speaks of this same circumstance, but please note that verse 36 speaks of it as a time of waiting, "when is (Christ, w.a.s.) will return (my emphasis, w.a.s.) from the wedding", it having already occurred. Then He shall "gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth to serve them" (v. 37). This will then fulfill what Jesus said later: "I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom" Matt. 26:29.

Can we further account for the wedding having transpired before He comes upon Mount Zion, before the wedding feast where He opens the door to those who are worthy?

We are disposed to negate the general concept of a "rapture" as advanced by many Christian fellowships, and rightly so. Of course, this term is not found in the Bible, nor any similar term of which we are aware. However, we have already referred to a scriptural text which is used as a basis for the promotion of this doctrine. The rapture theory affirms that all believers in Christ will be "raptured", or will be caught up into the air to meet Christ while a universal destruction occurs upon the earth; and that the believers would remain in the air with Christ henceforth forever.

**"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God..."**

These are they that are "accounted worthy to escape all these things (the terrible tribulation of the nations, w.a.s.) that shall come to pass, and to stand before the son of man." (Luke 21:36). These will have been gathered unto Zion, or Zion in its embryonic state, to be preserved from the wicked nations who will gather together to fight against Zion (see 1 Nephi 7:26-37 and Bk. of Com. 48:59-66). Then shall the Lord arise and make the remnant of Jacob to be as "new sharp threshing instrument having teeth (mouths/marginal reference, w.a.s.): thou shalt thresh the mountains (nations, w.a.s.) and beat them small, and shalt make the hills as chaff" (Isa. 41:15). And then shall the Lord's climactic judgments be poured upon the nations in the form of worldwide earthquakes, with the shaking of all physical elements of the universe, the sun to be darkened, the moon to become as blood, and the stars and planets shaken from their orbits, or to fall from heaven

ate time of fulfillment of Apostle Paul's prophecy declaring that the saints of the last days shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air than we have here discussed? (See 1 Thess. 4:17, which will be referenced more fully in this treatise).

Returning again to Matt. 25:1 regarding the bride, or the Church: Assuming as we are that the parable of the ten virgins does not refer specifically to the Church of Christ, or if you will, Christ's Church, what are we to make of this seeming deletion? The King James translation of the Bible shows evidence of an error in man's judgment in the translation process, or is another indication of tampering by man with the word of God. In this verse, we are told of the ten virgins going "forth to meet the bridegroom". However, ancient Aramaic, Latin and Syriac translations inform the student that these virgins went forth to meet "the bridegroom and the bride" (emphasis mine, w.a.s.) This language is



This text follows, and is worthy of our consideration in order to seek a proper understanding of this prophecy:

"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first; Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" I Thess. 4:14-17.

Let us enumerate the salient points of this prophecy:

Verse 14:

(1) Resurrection of Jesus affirmed.

(2) Saints of God to be resurrected and return to earth with Christ.

Verse 15:

(3) Saints which are alive at the time of Christ's coming shall not, in Christ's provision for them, in any way diminish His power to resurrect the righteous dead and to bring them with Him.

Verse 16:

(4) The Lord shall descend from heaven with a loud shout, the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of a trumpet from God; this sound of the trumpet shall call forth the righteous dead, their bodies to arise from the grave and to unite with their spirits which Christ is to bring with Him.

Verse 17:

(5) Saints living upon the earth at this time will also be caught up with the righteous dead, and these all to-

gether shall meet the Lord in the air. Henceforth, these all shall be forever with the Lord.

Contrary to the rapture theory, which says that these living believers shall forever be with the Lord in the air, the context says that He is to "descend from heaven". Obviously then, after this climactic union in the heavens of all saints of all ages with their Lord, they will then descend to the earth to reign in triumph over death, darkness

of God; the inhabitants shall build and inhabit, plant and eat the fruit, with none to deny or destroy. It appears that those who have been translated from mortality to immortality shall have children, and shall yet conceive without trouble; and these children, when coming to 100 years of life, shall die; but this death shall not be as we know it; it shall be a passage from mortality to immortality in a twinkling of an eye, just as was experienced by their fore-

**"... Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."**

and evil. This will be the Zion of God in ultimate fruition, and will last for 1,000 years. Remember that Jesus said: "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth" (Matt. 5:5).

These then, the righteous resurrected dead and saints living when Christ shall come, are the 144,000 of all Israel as described in chapters 7 and 14 of the book of Revelation, standing upon Mount Zion in the presence of the Lamb of God. To these will be gathered a great multitude of all nations, having endured the terrible tribulation upon the whole earth, yet through faith toward God in a demonstration of righteous living which would not yield to the tempting power of Satan.

Then shall the Good Shepherd lead them to safe pastures. The sound of weeping and crying shall no more be heard; wild beasts shall dwell in peace with the tame, and shall no longer devour flesh; there shall be no harm in all the holy mountain (Zion)

bears at the coming of Christ (1 Cor. 15:51-55). Please read Isa. 11:6-9 and 65:17-25; 59:21; Ezek. 37:25.

The day must soon come that the midnight cry shall sound as never before; a cry of repentance and by the power of the Holy Ghost - "Behold the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him." (Matt. 25:6). He will gather His saints together to Zion before His holy arm shall fall upon the nations; and then shall be a heavenly wedding in a resurrection of the righteous, together with the living saints, translated from mortality to immortality; caught up together to meet their Bridegroom; and then shall they come to an earth, cleansed by fire, and become as Eden in all the holy mountain of God, a New Jerusalem wherein is righteousness and holiness, with their King in the midst. Surely, we should henceforth be watching and waiting for the return of our Savior in power and glory.

The year 1991 once again saw some progress in our study of Zion. In November, another issue of *Zion's Advocate* was dedi-

icated for the publication of articles and songs outlining many beliefs and aspirations toward Zion. The presence of some first time contributors was most welcome.

For the coming year, the committee hopes to submit articles on Zion at a more equal distribution throughout the year. The purpose behind this change is to keep Zion foremost in our minds. With this idea in mind, it is also our hope that we will have many other contributors. Please send any submissions on this subject to Robert Dewaele, 2326 Avenue E, Council Bluffs, IA 51501.

## *Report from the Committee to Study Zion*

During the autumn of 1991, Zion Study Committeeman, Ray Dewaele, visited a gentleman near Des Moines, Iowa, who has spent his adulthood with the thought and accomplishment of becoming self sufficient. His efforts have primarily been aimed at making devices that are powered by hydrogen, plus making farm implements.

We, too, will probably have to adopt such innovative thinking if we are going to be able to weather the many storms which confront us. If you are interested in learning more about this gentleman, please contact

Robert Dewaele at the above address.

The need is urgent for a more active interest and inquisitiveness about Zion from our mem-

bership. The time of passivity is long past. One only needs to listen to the national news or to read a newspaper to gather that the end times are indeed very close. Consequently, we are issuing a plea for all to become more actively involved in the Study of Zion. Motivation on the part of all is the key to us becoming worthy to participate in the development of Zion, once its time has come. It is of vital importance that we keep all of the Lord's commandments, one of which is the establishment of Zion.

Sincerely,  
Elder, Robert Dewaele

## *From the Archives*

If you are interested in the building up of "the waste places of Zion" and the gathering of "the pure in heart," then we hope that our efforts in advocating the principles by which this work will be done, will not be in vain, but will cause a burning desire in your hearts to help us build up the Kingdom of God on the earth. For this work is not dependent upon any one man, but each and every person that has taken upon him the name of Christ has pledged himself to do all that is in his power to help establish righteousness in the earth, so we are safe in taking up the work of advocating the cause of Zion to all men that are seeking for that city whose maker is God. If this appeals to you as one of the means by which good can be accomplished in this direction, then let your friends and neighbors know it, let them read your Advocate; send their names to us that we may be able to sent them a paper too.

—from the May 15, 1922 *Zion's Advocate*, Vol 1, Number 1.

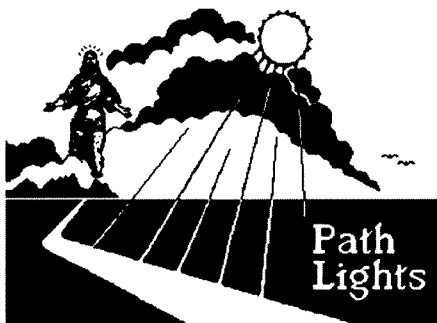
## Aren't We All Debtors to Jesus?

I have had some good things happen to me. May I always give credit to whom I believe is responsible, God and His Son, who speaks on my behalf.

The three inch scar on my forehead from the accident is barely visible. As it turns out the surgeon used to be a plastic surgeon. While in the hospital, the nurses kept commenting on what a good job he had done, and it was good. Also, my portion of the hospital bill was \$750. I sent in two payments which were returned to me with a note which stated the account was paid in full. I waited to write this hoping to find out what happened, but

apparently I have friends in high places.

I have been praying for someone new to study with, I have one steady and several starting. I am very thankful to be busy in this way.



To those who have experience with hot coals, my niece sat a bucket of ashes on the porch. The next morning, my sister went out and a perfect round hole was burned down through the porch. My sister, who is not relig-

ious, got down on her knees and thanked God. I smiled to hear that. I have heard of buildings burned completely to the ground because of coals. I am so glad the sun shines on the just and the unjust.

I started getting headaches and nausea from the accident. I had a headache Friday and Saturday, but Sunday I was able to go to church. I was administered to for a bone defect that had been found in my leg, but I felt the warmth of the Spirit in my neck and it popped, even causing me to grimace. The Lord showed me I had another need. Once again, I am in awe of His love and so happy am I to have access to Him. My witness to you, O man, God Is Love.

Debtor To Jesus  
Kathy Cloyd  
Arizona

### **"...But Joy Cometh In The Morning" Psalm 30:5**

One morning my love went out into her yard to graciously and carefully tend her flowers that shed their beauty on top of a knoll which every passer-by could view and be pleased;

All of nature's colors, tints and hues in one season or another would stand in reflected radiance from God's light of the day, and the flowers would give forth of their sweet fragrances to gladden the heart of the earnest admirer;

Many walking and riding by would stop to enjoy the uniquely gorgeous sight and to thank my love for bringing forth such beauty for their delight from among God's creations;

You see, my love is of a very tender and kindly heart, and wished to bring joy and happiness into the hearts of others. For her own dear heart has always been filled with God's love and mercy and compassion for the children of His creation.

*Apostle Robert H. Jensen*

### *Change*

I had a problem  
dealing with you;  
I prayed for a change  
in your life through.  
When he gave the answer  
to my earnest petition,  
The thing that was changed  
in the total condition,  
Was not your heart  
as far as I see—  
The change took place  
in the center of me.

*Shirley Rose Bailey*

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## LESSON FOUR: The Kingdom is Love

### THE PARABLES OF JESUS

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In Lessons One, Two, and Three, we learned some important things about the Kingdom of Heaven. We learned what it is, how it functions and its value. In Lesson Four we are going to look at three parables. One of them is perhaps the best known of Christ's parables, the Prodigal Son.

**READ:** Luke 15. Compare and contrast the three parables: The Parable of the Lost Sheep. The Parable of the Lost Coin, and the Parable of the Lost Son. In this chapter, Christ is subtly answering the criticism of the Pharisees and scribes. He was criticized for associating with publicans and sinners.

**DISCUSSION:** The first two parables are building a concept of love that exists in heaven when one person repents. Also, extra energy is extended toward the lost sheep and the lost coin. Christ uses in the first parable a shepherd and then in the second parable a housewife. He is relating to both men and women. Then Christ moves to a universal theme that all can identify with—the relationship between a parent and a child. This is a relationship we can understand at the literal level. The symbolic or analogous message is one of a loving heavenly father, a father in heaven who doesn't want to

lose any of his children to the world or satan. His love is full of mercy and he offers complete forgiveness.



**QUESTIONS:** 1. Why did the son want his inheritance now? (Son's will vs. Father's will.) 2. What did he do with the 4? 3. What does it mean when it says the son "came to himself?" 4. How do we know that the prodigal son blames no one but himself? 5. Does he expect to be reinstated in his father's household? 6. Why is the father's compassion and the kiss he gives his son important in our symbolic interpretation? 7. How do we know that the son has repented? 8.

How do we know that the son received complete forgiveness? 9. How does the son who remained with the father react to the celebration being prepared for the Prodigal Son? 10. How does the father reason with the son who has remained? 11. Who do you think the son, which remained, represents? 12. How is this son's love different than the father's?

**SUMMARY:** At the time of Christ, Judahian society had become very legalistic and judgemental. The society was stratified economically and religiously. Christ was criticized for associating with the common man and known sinners. In Luke 15, Christ is revealing what God is like as our creator and our father. He is telling us that we are of worth and God is interested in us—particularly if we are alienated from him. His love is expressed in His compassion, His mercy, and His forgiveness. He gives us hope that even if we have become lost and have lost our relationship with Him because of sin that God the Father, if we repent, will reinstate us back into his Kingdom with all the rights, privileges, and gifts promised to his children. "The Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" Luke 19:10.

## The Epistle of the Intermediate Class of the Temple Lot Local to our Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Peace be unto you. May God protect you. We believe in Jesus Christ. We don't care if people make fun of us. We still won't leave Jesus. God is everyone's God, not just ours. Let's not continue sinning. Don't participate in bad things. Don't enjoy watching people do bad things. God is strong enough to make sinful people truthful people. Trust in God during your hard times, and you'll have more patience. Don't think about worldly things. When things look bad, trust in God and He will help you. Don't let anything separate you from God. Love, don't just pretend to. Don't be lazy in your work. Be kind to each other. Help the poor. Live in peace with all people. Be honest. Help your enemies.

Christ be with you,

*Debbie Vogel, Jenny Aftholder, Amy Case, Paul Case,*

*Milo Housknecht, Jesse Lawrence, Leslie Hill,*

*Lisa Case, Heather Palmer, David Welch.*

# News

April 5, 1992

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We at the Farmington local would like to take this time to extend a hand of fellowship and encourage all to worship with us in our household of faith, formed on July 28, 1991, under the guidance of Apostle Robert Jensen.

Following a lovely Sunday service and meal at Elder Merlin and Eva Lin Eddy's residence, members of the Church of Christ voted to establish another local in Minnesota. Services have been held at the mentioned household since its organization with Elder Merlin Eddy presiding as pastor.

We welcome all members and ministry alike to come and share the gospel of Jesus Christ with us. Since its formation, the Farmington local has already enjoyed visits from ministers such as: Apostle Robert Jensen, Elder Glen Gill, and Priest John Gill.

In an attempt to announce the angel message, our local has organized programs jointly with the Minneapolis local that included a church booth at the Dakota Country State Fair and the 1991 Tri-State Reunion held at White Water State Park. The baptism of Isaac Ferrier and blessing of Katrina Harpster took place at the Tri-State Reunion as well as many blessings from God. The Tri-State Reunion will again be held on Labor Day weekend at White Water State Park.

October brought the union of Ronnie Allen Gill and Joanne Marie Sedlak in the bonds of holy matrimony, as well as the blessing of Tristan Michael Gould.

This past February, we again held a business meeting where officers were elected for church functions in order to aid this local's growth.

All are welcome to come and enjoy God's bounty with us at a luncheon gathering the last Sunday of every month following a preaching service.

*Joanne Gill and Patricia Gould*

March 21, 1992

Greetings from Ravenna, Michigan, Church of Christ Local.

Brother and Sister Max Spencer went to Florida in January with friends for two weeks. At our sacrament meeting February 2nd, our Pastor Bro. Gale Brantner preached about the Gentiles, whosoever repenting, may build a new city. Sr. Debbie Vogel told in her testimony of having a dream, and that she had seen her mother-in-law being immersed. Brother Gale has visited her and administered to her. We surely hope that dream comes true.

February 9th another good sermon enjoyed by all, that of Brother Priest Aaron Heath on sin. God is against it! Many quotes from the Book of Mormon. We are glad to have Sister Debbie back after her Florida vacation.

Our next sacrament meeting, we were blessed to have the Andrew Brantner family, and he was preacher of the hour. We all enjoy hearing Andrew. Several good testimonies and prayers were heard. Sr. Marie told of a great blessing. Her doctor first thought she had some kind of cancer. She was administered to and returned for a check-up. There was no sign of cancer, so she realized she had received a great blessing.

We have another blessing for the local, that of Bro. Max Spencer accepting his call to office of Elder. We voted and he received a majority vote. On March 15th, friends and relatives gathered at the church. Fifty-five in number came to see and enjoy his ordination. First, Bro. Gale opened the meeting and gave a short talk, then called for Max to come up, and Brother Conley Addington, and they proceeded to lay hands on Brother Max to ordain him. So now he is officially an elder in the Church of Christ. A line was formed till everyone had congratulated him and welcomed him. Almost immediately, Bro. Gale put him to work. Bro. Conley asked for administration, so Bro. Gale gave Bro. Max oil and let him put some on Bro. Conley and start the administration. Then Bro. Gale let Bro. Max open the next meeting for Bro. Conley. After a few remarks he introduced Bro. Conley. He said he was the first witness in Max's calling, and he was first one for Max to administer to. He said truly the Lord was with us today. Brother Max looked good behind the pulpit. We truly had a day of rejoicing, as I had prayed we would.

*Sr. Lois Heath, reporter*

# Reunion Notices

## 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.

## Colorado Reunion

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.

## 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 (Father's 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

## Arizona Camp For All Ages

The Arizona Camp For All Ages will be held again this year at Walnut Ranch near Heber, Arizona. The camp will begin on Friday, July 3, 1992 at 2:00 and end Sunday, July 5

As before, there will be a camp fee for those who are able to pay. The fee is not mandatory.

This will be a special camp. We will be celebrating our tenth anniversary so be prepared for great spiritual growth and physical fun! We also hope to sell commemorative T-shirts.

If you have any questions or if you are planning to attend, please contact:

Jim Yates, Jr.  
Coordinator  
1449 E. Rockwood Drive  
Phoenix, AZ 85024  
(602) 582-4163

John Yates  
Assistant Coordinator  
18648 N. 30th Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85024

## Missouri Reunion

The Missouri Reunion Committee would like to invite all to attend the 1992 Missouri Reunion, which will be held August 14th, 15th and 16th, 1992. Our meetings will be held in Independence, Missouri, at the Temple Lot Church of Christ. Noon and evening meals will be served Friday and Saturday, with a noon meal only being served on Sunday.

For the out-of-town guest, we will reserve a group of motel rooms in one of the local motels. For information concerning reservations, please contact:

Isaac Brockman, Sr.  
1203 Baker Dr.  
Independence, MO 64050  
(816) 254-8190

Roland Sarratt  
15910 E. 36th Terr.  
Independence, MO 64055  
(816) 363-6605

Smith "Buzz" Brickhouse  
5613 Logan Road  
Kansas City, MO 64136  
(816) 356-9214

## Tri-State Reunion

The 1992 Tri-State Reunion to be held on September 4, 5, & 6, will be held at the Whitewater State Park Group Camp eight miles north of St. Charles, Minnesota on road number 74.

The camp is the site of our first Tri-State Reunion years ago and has proved well as a place to entertain people for a faith tryst.

Come! A required use-stamp for your car is available at the park office at entry.

Bring some plain warm clothes, bedding (cots with sanitary mattresses are furnished), and yourselves. Friends are also welcome.

Address inquiries to Merlin Eddy, 3370 West 203rd, Farmington, MN 65728. Phone 612-463-2218.

The Minneapolis, Minnesota Church of Christ;

The Farmington, Minnesota Church of Christ.

### CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 1993 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 4. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M., Monday, April 5. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, April 2 and 3. 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
Book of Mormon (1990 Independence Edition - Leather)	24.00
Book of Mormon Concordance	8.00
Outline History of the Church of Christ	4.00
Book of Commandments (paper bound)	4.00
Book of Commandments (plastic bound)	5.00
Book of Commandments (hard bound)	9.00
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
- Jesus' Life and Teachings - 4 quarterlies for ages 8-10
- Who Am I? - Bible game on cards; Free to Sunday Schools / \$1.30 individuals.

### CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

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

ZION'S ADVOCATE  
(USPS 6993-0000)  
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Independence, Mo 64051-0472

Second Class Postage Paid  
Independence, Mo 64051

Mrs. Kenneth J. Smith  
2908 Claremont  
Independence, MO 64052

### 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 Ron Temple, 5621 Logan Rd., Kansas City, MO 64136. 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.