

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 9

Feed My Sheep

If you love me, feed my sheep,
Lead them to pastures green,
And give them to drink,
From still waters serene.

In times of despair,
Sing unto them my song,
for my sheep know my voice,
And for my presence they long.

Feed my sheep, feed my sheep,
If you love me, feed my sheep,
Ye shepherds of my flock,
there is no time for sleep.

Be on your guard, take heed,
The wolf is ever near,
He must not hurt the flock,
My little sheep so dear.

Lead them away from danger,
To pastures green and pure,
Your rod and staff can comfort them,
And make them feel secure.

Reach out for the lost,
Go search and then knock

Upon the door of his heart,
And return him to the flock.

Visit the widow in her sorrow,
Make the orphan rejoice,
Give to the poor and needy,
They each must hear my voice.

Preach to the rich and mighty,
Preach to the humble meek,
Each soul is precious to me,
Oh Shepherd, Hear and Speak!

Speak of the glorious gospel,
Speak of the joy divine.
Speak of my love and caring,
Speak, for the sheep are mine.

I would not want to lose,
One sheep along the way,
Because of a careless shepherd,
Who caused the sheep to stray.

If you truly love me,
These words I must repeat,
Oh, Shepherd, Shepherd, listen,
Go AND FEED MY SHEEP.

By H. H. Hansen

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CENTRAL: Roland L. Sarratt, 15910 E. 36th Terrace, Independence, Missouri 64055; Smith N. Brickhouse, 5713 Logan Road, Kansas City, MO 64136. In joint charge of Missouri and Oklahoma.

EAST: William A. Sheldon, 1011 S. Cottage, Independence, MO 64050. General Church Representative in the office. Smith N. Brickhouse, 5713 Logan Road, Kansas City, MO 64136. In joint charge of all Atlantic coast states and Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Vermont and the European field.

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SECRETARY, COUNCIL OF APOSTLES

Apostle Smith N. Brickhouse
5317 Logan Road
Kansas City, Missouri 64136

SECRETARY, COUNCIL OF BISHOPS

Elder Leslie P. Case
8312 Lee's Summit Rd.
Kansas City, Missouri 64139

GENERAL CHURCH SECRETARY

Elder Robert W. Oldham
5709 Logan Rd.
Kansas City, Missouri 64136

BUSINESS MANAGER

Elder Alvin L. Harris
Church of Christ
P. O. Box 472
Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

ZION'S ADVOCATE STAFF

EDITOR

Elder Michael McGhee
18907 E. 6th Street N.
Independence, Missouri 64056

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Ron Temple
5621 Logan Road
Kansas City, Missouri 64136

David Rudd
4917 Casey Court
Independence, Missouri 64055

FEATURE EDITOR - "Path Lights"

Melissa McGhee
2533 Glen Lane
Independence, Missouri 64052

PRODUCTION STAFF

Rickey J. Olson
Harvey L. Seibel



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- 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.

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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...

Questions Remain Unanswered

The church has been attempting to resolve many differences of opinion and of belief for more years than I have existed. Unfortunately, that statement can be fairly made by people much older than myself. I know that every active church member has prayed and fasted, to different extents, for the answer to some or all of these questions. To enumerate all the questions or even one would waste space and more important detract from the subject to be covered here.

Many years ago one of the Apostles, now gone from this life, gave instructions from God that directed the church to fasting and prayer for a year before the answers we sought could be given. The first year passed with some sporadic activity following this instruction but there was no general response and so... the questions remain unanswered. We do discuss these things in private and the August ministers' conference spends much time and effort on them each year, but the fact remains that we are deeply divided on each topic.

I have been impressed for some time with the thought that our attentions are somewhat misdirected. That God had intended the period of fasting and prayer as a

time for attitudes to change in each of us so he could answer our questions. Each day has been overshadowed with that thought and more detail has filled my thoughts with each passing day.

St. John 6:28-66 rehearses an episode in Christ's life that applies to this discussion. Let's read;

Then said they unto him, "What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?"

"God had intended the period of fasting and prayer as a time for attitudes to change in each of us so he could answer our questions."

Jesus answered and said unto them, "this is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent."

They said therefore unto him, "What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work?"

"Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

Then Jesus said unto them, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave

you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven."

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

Then said they unto him, "Lord, evermore give us this bread."

And Jesus said unto them, "I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst."

"But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not."

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

"For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me."

"And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day."

"And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day."

The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, 'I am the bread which came down from heaven.'

And they said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?"

Jesus therefore answered and

said unto them, "Murmur not among yourselves."

"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day."

"It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall be all taught of God.' Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me."

"Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father."

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life."

"I am that bread of life."

"Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead."

"This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die."

"I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

Then Jesus said unto them, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you."

"Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

"For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed."

"He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him."

"As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that

eateth me, even he shall live by me.

"This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever."

These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum.

Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, "This

"Maybe a more difficult question is how will we act if the answer is in favor of the beliefs we hold?"

is an hard saying; who can hear it?"

When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, "Doth this offend you?"

"What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?"

"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

"But there are some of you that believe not." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.

And he said, "Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father."

From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

Our father in heaven does not wish to repeat this type of episode for any of the questions which currently dominate so much of our

time and energy. He calls on us to remember the first and great commandment, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment" (Matt 22:37-38) We must be ready to follow him with no reservations as to opinions, beliefs, or desires.

Now let us look at ourselves and view our choices once God gives us the answers to these questions. The two obvious choices are to accept or reject those answers. What will we do if the answer is in opposition to the belief we hold? Will we submit to the statement of God or will we cry foul, or worse? Maybe a more difficult question is how will we act if the answer is in favor of the beliefs we hold? How will we deal, work, or labor with those that are struggling to release ideas that have been held tightly for nearly a lifetime?

In the wild, some creatures respond to a wound by attempting to bite it out. If the creature cannot make peace with the wound and allow time for healing, infection will set in and the creature will become sick and die. Will we rise above our baser instincts or will we behave as the creature in the wild and tear at each other?

Maybe now is the time to return to Matthew 22 and read verses 39 and 40. "And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." These two verses with a

quick review of verses 37 and 38, above, give a complete, short view of what our God wants for us and wishes from us.

We have a great need to view ourselves as is depicted in I Corinthians 12. The church is one body, and as in the practice of medicine a member is not removed until it proves to be a threat to the survival of the whole body. Each person reading this article knows of a personal weakness in themselves. It may be as simple as a knee that has been injured or eyes that do not see well without the aid of glasses. It may be a more subtle thing like a mind that wanders. For each situation there is a remedy that first takes realization of the problem and then acceptance of aid.

The act of aiding another member of the body of Christ may take the form of physical assis-

tance, teaching, encouragement, or even refusing to give up as long as there is room or time for hope. All do not have strength for hard labor,

"The history of the church is a constant reminder of the fact that we can and have united to stand against a perceived common foe."

and all do not see the future, and all do not have the same talents before God. Yet, all can and must learn to work in the strength that can only be gained through the common effort of the whole body..., the whole church, striving to be ever closer to God.

The history of the church is a

constant reminder of the fact that we can and have united to stand against a perceived common foe. Now the time swiftly comes to face something much more difficult and, yes, much more awesome and frightening. We are nearing the time to unite for the common good and the privilege to call ourselves Saints. I am sure there are many who realize that when we have the answers we seek, the responsibility to banish ignorance of God and his ways from this world will be more urgent than ever before.

Let us learn and pray for the ability to love our God and our neighbor so that we may stand before our Father in heaven ready to receive and teach the answers he gives to his disciples..., his Church of Christ.

Elder John M. Case

A Clarification of the Intent of the 1991 Opinion of the Apostles

At the urging of some concerned members of the ministry, the Council of Apostles wishes to clarify some misunderstandings concerning the intent of the Opinion of the Council of Apostles as printed in the November 1991 issue of the Zion's Advocate.

It should be noted that this opinion comes as a recommendation from the Council and is not intended to restrict the ministry in their right to choose the emblems used in the Sacrament service.

Your brethren of the Council truly desire to see the church come to a unity of faith and practice in all matters and we encourage the church to pray and fast with us about this matter in harmony with a motion made in the 1981 Ministers' Conference seeking "... definite spiritual direction on this very important issue."

In consideration of the above the Council of Apostles received spiritual direction that we, and all the church, must humble ourselves more com-

pletely in order that we might receive further spiritual direction in this, as well as other matters of concern

Smith N. Brickhouse,
Secretary
Council of Apostles

SUFFER LITTLE CHILDREN

By Elder Glenn Gill

“When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things—.” (I Cor 13: 11).

“And Jesus called a little child unto him, and sat him in the midst of them, and said, verily I say unto you, except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.” (Matt 18: 2-5).

We live in a time when many adults have not matured in humility and wisdom. Children are being raised by parents who have not put away childish things. Parents who find children to be a hindrance to their own pleasure seeking and self development. Parents who do not know how to humble themselves in obedience to God as a little child humbles itself to its parents. In other words: parents who refuse to suffer little children and receive them in the name of Christ- in his pure love. These parents do not give their children the time, love and training they need to become upright, confident citizens of God's kingdom. “But Jesus said, suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: For of such is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matt 19: 14).

In many homes children grow up surrounded and emotionally con-

sumed by anger, abuse and neglect. They consider the things that happen around them to be normal, having no basis for comparison within their experience. The reactions and behavior they learn while trying to cope with lack of love or with physical or emotional abuse do not fit the situations they face in later life. They are left emotionally crippled, not knowing how to respond appropriately to properly expressed love and kindness. Normal human experiences will stimulate excessively defensive or aggressive responses from them or cause unexplained withdrawal. They may be unable to react to others with charity and genuine caring. As a result abuse and neglect commonly pass on from generation to generation. God spoke to Moses concerning the gods the children of Israel had put before him. He said “—for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;” (Exodus 20: 5).

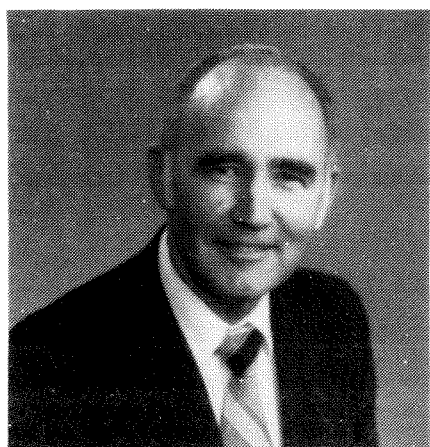
Does this mean that God wants family dysfunction to go on from generation to generation? Of course not. But God has given mankind freedom to act for itself. With that goes the freedom to suffer the consequences. What God's statement to Moses tells us is that if parents do not love the Lord and put God first in their lives the idols they worship (the attitudes and desires they put in the place of godliness) these same idols, will be worshipped by coming generations as well. How will this chain be broken? If the exist-

ing hate for godly things is replaced through obedience to his commandments, charity (the pure love of Christ) and application of the indwelling Spirit of God the chain can be broken. Even with these things it takes time and the diligent application of prayer to break the chain and guide these hurting souls out of emotional bondage.

It behooves those of the Church who are parents and grandparents to soberly consider the plight of the children and the hurt that is being passed from generation to generation even within the church family. Abuse and neglect of children always coexists with marriage problems and abounds when the adults they depend on (including grandparents) ignore them to pursue their own pleasures and aspirations. These children do not learn the pure love of Christ having no personal demonstration of it in their daily lives. Little children equate time and attention given them with love. They need time and attention from the important adults in their lives; time and attention that singles them out and builds their individual sense of worth and responsibility. They need adults around them that are willing to teach them from an early age about God, his creation and the gift of his Son; adults willing to demonstrate a godly, responsible life to them.

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Testify to the Truth of the Book



By Apostle Donald McIndoo

In a previous article in this series (August 1989) we read that 'Quetzalcoatl...is the greatest figure in the history of the New Worlds'¹ Historians and anthropologists have long been intrigued by this ethereal figure from Mesoamerica's remote Past. We who believe in the Book of Mormon have no difficulty equating the white, bearded God of ancient America with Jesus Christ who, the Scriptures tell us, visited His people in the New World after His resurrection.

Like our Lord, Jesus Christ, many volumes have been written about this epic hero of the Americas. One of the latest treatises to be published comes from Rudolfo Anaya², a professor of English at the University of New Mexico. This accomplished writer sets forth the legends and traditions which come down to us from his Native American ancestors. In this article I shall quote but ten of Anaya's descriptive excerpts from among the dozens presented about the life and ministry of Quetzalcoatl. Then, be-

neath each selection quoted there appears an analogous Passage from the Scripture that helps us place this legendary figure of American antiquity in Proper perspective.

1. "I was born in the Year Ce Acatl ... the day the morningstar appeared in the heavens." p. 49

"And behold there shall be a new star arise, such an one as ye never have beheld; and this also shall be a sign unto You." Helaman 5:59

2. "He does not believe in blood sacrifice." p. 28

"And ye shall offer up unto me no more the shedding of blood; yea, Your sacrifices and your burnt offerings shall be done away ..." 3 Nephi 4:49

3. "I have my work to do ... My work is to spread the light of my Father ... " P. 52 & 54

"My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work." John 4:34

4. "He knew he would be tempted many times while he lived in the body of a man. He knew the path he followed in the heavens, far away from the realm of man. He had come to Tollān to understand the flesh ... " p. 54

"And he shall go forth, suffering pains, and afflictions, and temptations of every kind ... that he may know according to the flesh how to succor his people according to their infirmities." Alma 5:20 & 22

5. "I cannot serve two masters..." p. 54

"No man can serve two masters ..." 3 Nephi 5:115

6. "The servants felt the quick, powerful wind and were afraid. Quetzalcoatl felt it too... He raised his hand and the wind grew quiet." p. 65

"And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm." Matthew 8:26

7. "He prayed ... for his own human desire to be subservient to his spirit." p. 86

"... take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt." Mark 14: 36

8. "... he had been called the Lord RedeemerIt was part of his destiny to take the transgressions of the Toltecs into his heart." p. 126

"For these are they whose sins he hath borne; these are they for whom he hath died, to redeem them from their transgressions." Mosiah 8:44

9 "The Toltecs knew that Quetzalcoatl had died for their sins, he had loved his people so dearly he had given up his own life for them. p. 133

"... being filled with compassion toward the children of men ... having broken the bands of death, taking upon himself their iniquity and their transgressions; having redeemed them, and satisfied the demands of Justice. Mosiah 8:36-37

10. "... but one day I will return to you ." p. 142

"And he did expound all things, even from the beginning until the time that he should come in his glory." 3 Nephi 11:30

(Continued on page 154)

ADDED TESTIMONY FOR THE BOOK OF MORMON

By Sister Edna R. Smith

I have noticed here of late quite a few articles in the Zion's Advocate proclaiming the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon. I like that for it is a beginning, as I see it, that we as a Christian body are all going back to our roots as true believers in Jesus Christ, the only begotten of our Heavenly Father. That there was a complete restoration of the Gospel, not as some religious creed, but as God's way of life for His people.

I would like to add my testimony as to the truthfulness of this dear sacred record by telling a few of the experiences given me as a young woman traveling with my parents, Apostle and Mrs. B. C. Flint, among the Indians in Ontario, Canada. The opening was made possible by an old Indian by the name of O. Joseph coming to Independence, Missouri and stating that he had a message to deliver to the church. While in Independence he requested my Dad to baptize him, not in the font on the Temple Lot, but in Douts' Lake. The font was too man made, he declared. After he was baptized and ready to go back home, he invited my parents and I to come to the reserve where he lived and tell his friends and neighbors the Gospel story. These good people had not heard the Gospel in its purity. Although we found that the elders of another restoration church had given out a lot of Book of Mormons, it had not been read. Those elders had not been moral men and had foolishly defiled their teenage girls. Thus the Indians wanted nothing to do

with the Book of Mormon, but for some reason they had kept those that had been given them. When we went there and they saw that Dad was a moral man and had his family with him, the ice was broken and they began to open up and talk with him.

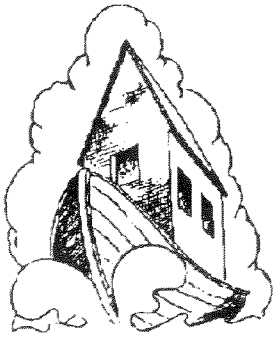
Mr. Harry Loft, where we stayed, had a big old fashioned farm house and a large table in the dining room. I can see yet in my mind's eye us setting with a group of those Indians and Dad telling the gospel story. They began asking questions, first one then another, and Dad tried to have them tell their tradition concerning the events they spoke of then answering them by reading from the Book of Mormon.

One day in particular comes to mind when a Mr. Frank Lickers was present and he turned to Dad and asked, "Mr. Flint, is there anything in that book you claim is the Indians' bible about three good men who never die?" Dad asked for the tradition and this is what was said: An old Indian chief lay dying and Indians believe it is bad luck for the family to look upon death so they left him in one part of the long togan or teepee and went to the far end, away from the dying Indian. They heard him mumbling and soon he appeared among them and told them he was not going to die. As he lay there three young warriors came and cared for his needs. They fed him fresh fruit and vegetables and blessed him saying he would not die. When Mr. Lickers finished, Dad picked up Mr. Lickers' Book of Mormon and read the

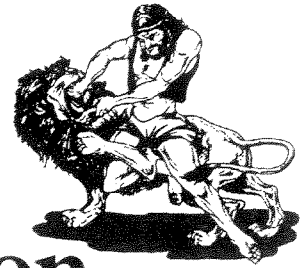
story of the three Nephites. All exclaimed, "That's the story and told better than our tradition." There were several such incidents, but that was the one that made the biggest impression on me. The childlike faith those strong men showed and the spirit present when Dad preached to those people was just the thing for me to firmly cement my faith in for the Gospel. I saw for myself God working among His people and it was wonderful.

One other time a young man asked Dad about Jesus the Christ and told this story. It seems a young virgin (Indian Maiden) gave birth to a man child. Her grandmother, feeling that her grand daughter had dishonored the family, tried three times to drown the babe but each time the babe had power of itself to come out of the watery grave and she was made to know what her granddaughter had brought forth was a God and would do much good among the people. Dad read to him the story of Christ's birth and I can still see that young man yet with tears running down his face thanking Dad for making the birth of Jesus Christ beautiful, not a sad story as what he had been told.

(continued on page 152)



General Sunday School Association



SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHING TEENS

1. Demand their respect. Have order in the classroom.
2. Believe what you are teaching.
3. Request God's blessing and inspiration.
4. Scriptures have to be made alive, relate with their world.
5. They must see how the gospel has helped you triumph, cope.
6. They need to see that the Lord loves his children and intervenes in their behalf.
7. Variety is necessary/declare whole council of God.
8. Don't just read, but break readings down bit by bit and extract every shred.
9. Let the scriptures speak don't wrest them or make them say more than is there.
10. Don't be afraid to discuss absolutely anything.
11. Don't be afraid to get off the subject if it is pertinent to the gospel/God.
12. If you are wrong and corrected, don't be offended or make excuses. Be honest.
13. You must love them or all else fails.
14. Bring in magazine articles, newspaper stories, facts, surveys, TV/radio news to relate to the scriptures.
15. Use blackboards to draw schemes/thoughts.
16. Sometimes give a test.
17. Prepare for each class by reading/praying before hand.
18. Don't ask, "What do you want to talk about?" Have the topic all ready. Feel free to veer from it depending on how the discussion develops.
19. Tell lots of personal stories and examples/testimonies of others.
20. Don't be afraid to show emotion in class.
21. You must be a little uninhibited.

Randy Sheldon



2 Timothy, 3:15

And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Testify to the Truth of the Book

(Continued from page 149)

Such a comparison of the mystical Quetzalcoatl of Indian tradition with the Jesus of history and prophecy, leaves no doubt in my mind that they were one and the same person. It confirms again the fact that the prophecies and history found in the Book of Mormon and Bible were known among the Indian people.

1. Sejourne, Laurette, *Burning Water; Thought and Religion of Ancient America*, Shambala, 1976.
2. Anaya, Rudolfo A., *Lord of the Dawn: The legend of Quetzalcoatl*, Univ. of N. M. Press, Albuquerque, 1987.

ADDED TESTIMONY FOR THE BOOK OF MORMON ADDED TESTIMONY FOR THE BOOK OF MORMON

(Continued from page 150)

Seeing all this at a tender age and feeling God's warm spirit leading and directing His work is something money can not buy away from me. I know the Gospel is true and He did bring forth the Book of Mormon as an added strength for us along with the Bible. To believe that the people in Jerusalem were the only ones to receive a written word from God would make one believe in a partial and discriminating person, one given to favoritism. That I do not believe for the Book of Mormon plainly states, "Other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice, and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd." (3 Nephi 7:20)

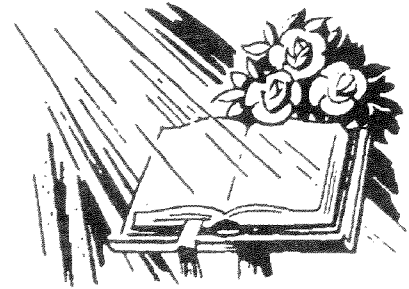
I firmly believe in a living God and He is the same yesterday, today and forever no matter what men say to the contrary. I see Him manifested when I view His handy work. Man cannot match or duplicate the beauties of nature no matter how much they try. I thank God daily for the privilege of talking with Him in prayer. He has sustained me for over

SUFFER LITTLE CHILDREN

(Continued from page 148)

Jesus initiated a wonderful demonstration of this understanding in a series of events described in the Book of Mormon. He surrounded himself with children, and taking them one by one he blessed them and prayed for each one. These events are recorded in Third Nephi chapter 8 verses 12 through 27. Every parent should bless their children with this kind of attention and hold them up individually in prayer to God. What Jesus did on that occasion had far reaching results. A reading of Fourth Nephi 1: 1-3 and 11-14 will show the wonderful conditions in which those children grew up because of the affect Jesus had on their parents. A reading of Fourth Nephi 1: 15-21 will show what kind of society those children Jesus blessed and prayed for built for their children to enjoy. Every church parent should find those verses, read them and mark them for future reference. The beautiful scene and radiant promise they portray will be an indelible source of encouragement. Our children and grandchildren can become a blessed and righteous generation as well through the application of prayer, loving individual attention and godly example. "And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (Eph 6: 4).

WILLIAM AUGUST NAST



William August Nast was born December 19, 1912, in St. Paul, Minnesota to Susan and William Nast. He had one sister, Lucille McCusker who preceded him in death by two days on July 22, 1993.

He was married to Gladys Davis on January 9, 1933. They spent the first years of their marriage in St. Paul, Minnesota where their daughters' Donna Mae, Lois Jean and Carolyn Sue were born. It was during this time the Lord called Lois and Donna home.

They moved to Bemidji, Minnesota where Jennifer Lynn was born. There they resided until 1947.

They moved to Independence, Missouri where they were welcomed by a loving church family and were blessed with three more daughters, Belinda Ann, Melissa Jo and Michele Kay.

In 1949, Bill was baptized into the Church of Christ (Temple Lot).

They have resided in Independence where they have been surrounded by family and friends ever since.

He made a living as a painter and paper hanger. In later years, he enjoyed working as an Assistant Golf Pro at Rockwood Golf Course.

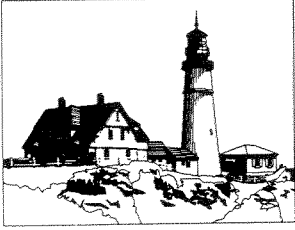
Bill enjoyed many activities in life. Fishing, bowling, golf and in recent years, bridge at the local community center, but his greatest enjoy-

ment in life came from his family.

Bill and Gladys enjoyed the privilege of celebrating 60 years of marriage in January of this year, 1993, with an open-house celebration. The following is an excerpt of a poem that was written and read at the anniversary.

How we loved our daddy
Who loved each of us best.
And always convinced each of us,
We're more special than the rest.
He taught us to work,
And do it with pride.
For in this world,
There is no free ride.
And now even though
We are all grown.
He's the very best DAD
The world's ever known.

He is survived by his wife Gladys, five daughters, fourteen grandchildren and seven great grand children.



Path Lights

“DAD”

“Many happy returns of the day of thy birth. May sunshine and gladness be given. And may the dear Savior prepare thee on earth, for a beautiful birthday in heaven.”

The words of this verse so often spoken to help a loved one celebrate his birthday, took on new meaning for me when my father, passed from this earth July 24, 1993, and celebrated his first birthday in heaven.

As I pondered how to share with others what kind of person my father was, and the kind of love we feel for him, I felt unequal to the task. It seemed words could not express that kind of love. But then, one word came to mind. “Charity, the pure love of Christ.” Please, let me explain, for in using that phrase, I do not want to lessen the preciousness of the scripture, or the love of our Savior, but dad had charity.

My dad was a quiet man. Unless you stayed in our home, or came for a visit, you may not have had opportunity to know him very well. Since I can never remember a year without church guests staying in our home, many have come to know my dad.

Dad wasn't a preacher, and yet many people know of his kind gentle nature. I've never known dad to be unkind in word or deed to anyone. Dad wasn't a scholar, but yet he was wise. He would always say, “The Nast name has never known shame.” With those few words, we knew we would always live up to that simple code of ethics because we could never be the one to break that quote and thus his heart. I never knew dad to deliver a lecture and yet he taught us so much during our life. He was always a hard worker and often talked with pleasure about completing a particularly hard job. We learned the

satisfaction that is felt from a job well done. Dad gave each of us a gift that I wish all children could have. Every child wishes to be someone's favorite. I was dad's favorite. Of course, so was Carol, Jennifer, Belinda and Michele. The way dad explained it was “Well, you were my favorite, at the moment.” There was never any doubting his special love for each of us. In fact, I never knew a child that dad didn't love. And children loved him.

Dad's love of family was great. Growing up in a rather dysfunctional family, made him all the more aware of how precious a close family is. He was proud of his children, son-in-laws, grandchildren and great grandchildren. This was one area he was never hesitant to tell about.

Dad never served in the armed forces, but he deserved a medal for bravery above and beyond the call of duty. He suffered and endured much, for the love of his family. He had three heart/open chest surgeries. He was on a diabetic diet and for the last 2 years, suffered kidney failure and was on dialysis three times a week. It was in one of our last discussions that dad said, he only had the last surgery and the kidney dialysis because we (the family) didn't want him to leave us, so at 79 he endured major surgery and still 8 more months of dialysis.

Dad wasn't vocal about church, and yet he loved the Lord, acknowledged his blessings, and loved all his church family. It often seemed as if dad knew that it came easier for mom to stand and give a testimony, and he was content to let her be the spokesperson for them both. Dad loved mom. He always showed it, but his last compliment to her was that she was “perfect.”

During the week that we knew would be dad's last, it was he that opened up and spoke of all the things that he'd felt and known for years. He spoke of God's love and how very very blessed he felt. He'd hold our hand and tell us not to worry. He told us he was not afraid, that he knew that God had a place for him. He longed to see his two other “favorite” girls waiting for him there. It was he who comforted us. He was overflowing with praise and thanks to our Heavenly Father, not once ever wavering or doubting. When he was too weak to eat, or hardly swallow, small whispers of wonder still escaped from his lips, marveling even then, at his blessings.

No, dad was not a preacher, or a teacher, but he taught us how to live with dignity, that honor is something within us. That no matter what, it cannot be taken from us, but can only be lost if we give it away. He taught us how to enjoy hard work. He taught us how to walk uprightly before God and mind our mother. He showed us how to die, with full trust in God, doubting nothing. But most of all, he taught us how to love. Give love. Show love. Teach love ... Charity?

Good-bye dad, till we have our birthday in heaven. We'll miss you, but for now, we have a lot of loving to live up to.

Melissa

A SPIRITUAL MESSAGE

The following is a spiritual message received on December 1, 1992, by a member of the Church, Margaret Smith, who lives in the faraway location of Columbia Falls, at the very foot of Glacier National Park. The message was received following a most earnest prayerful petition to know concerning Zion in these Latter Days - the promised place and elements of refuge for God's people - when the conditions in the world become so difficult, that the pure in heart shall no longer be able to exist in peace and safety, and when the evils thereof shall mount to their greatest opposition against all that is righteous.

We are now living in a time when the societal norms and other conditions have become of great concern to all the Lord's people, even to the farthest reaches of the entire earth. Crime and suffering have never been greater. It is now the "Latter Time", when haste must be made in preparation through righteousness, where there shall be "neither spot nor blemish", for that which shall be fulfilled by God within this era of time.

The moral fabric of many habitations has become so thinly worn as to no longer protect the innocent and the pure. The Scriptures, and the Commandments and invitations of modern times, must be diligently studied and learned and lived in order to become worthy to receive the fullest measure of the mercy, justice, love, compassion and Divine Providence from the God of all creation.

I urge everyone to prayerfully take these things to heart, that no one shall be overcome by the sins and dangers of the world.

Apostle Robert H. Jensen

I had been reading various things about the establishment of Zion and as my thoughts were on this, I was praying about it - more just a talking to the Lord about Zion and asking if I would be able to have any part in the building of Zion in these last days. This was on the evening of December 1, 1992. In answer to my ques-

tions, I received the following:

"Margaret, I would that all my people - all those who sincerely seek me and seek to serve me - would take part in the establishing of my Zion, that Zion might be that place of refuge to which my children can be gathered as the storm clouds gather and the storm rages throughout this land; my cleansing storm. The hearts of my people are far from me. The hearts of my people are weighed and burdened by the cares of this world. Each heart, I call to come to be healed in me that each might be freed from worldliness and made whole in me. Only then can I use my people to establish my Zion in these last days before I come with vengeance to cleanse my land of the wickedness which ascends as a great stink to heaven.

Oh, my people, how they flounder in the wickedness of the world. I hardly know my church anymore, which calls itself mine, for it is so polluted and filled with the world that in name only is it mine. Yes, there are those whose hearts still turn ever to me, but many of these are so weak and broken and filled with fear that they behold my face only dimly and have lost the understanding and the belief of who I, their God, really am. They have forgotten, in their weakness, the power of God. My Will, will be done. Naught can hinder it, but oh my people, my sick, sick people. They walk about saying they are mine, patting themselves on the back, and turning up their noses at those who are not of their membership, never realizing that many of these souls they regard as lost or inferior to them, know me better than they do. They are steeped in unbelief as they point the finger of accusation at others and accuse them of the ill which they themselves bear deep in their hearts and souls. Much healing, much cleansing is needed. Wolves have come in and scattered my flock. My people, my people, my poor sick and lost sheep have grown deaf to the sound of the Shepherd's voice for they no longer desire above all else to hear me and obey. They want comfort and ease and I have called them to battle; to put on the armor of battle to fight a war for me that must be fought. Will my angels alone

make up the ranks? Will my people cling to their worldly ease and desert me at the last hour? Awake! Oh children of Zion. Gird on the armor of righteousness and join the ranks of my army that I might use you in the fulfilling of my purposes; in the establishing of my kingdom on earth. Would ye build my Zion? Would ye dwell in my Zion? Come out of your comfort, believe, and arm yourselves for this great battle against the wickedness that would devour you before it is too late and you are eaten up and no longer my sheep."

After receiving the above, I spent the next two days wondering and praying about what I was supposed to do with this message. I knew it was meant for me, but it also seemed apparently to be meant for others. On the evening of December 3, 1992, I received the following as my answer:

"Margaret, the message I gave you is a message my people have heard before, but they heed it not for no one believes it means them. They all believe I speak of some other member of their congregation. When will my people look within themselves and see the shattered, sick condition of their own hearts and souls and know I speak to them - to each one, not to the one who sits beside them, whose faults they can so readily see?

Give this message to my people. If only one looks within to see I speak to him, then I have not spoken in vain. And the angels in heaven will rejoice over even one who comes weeping before me to be made whole that I might use even that one to help establish my Zion. Fear not to do as I say for if this is rejected by all, it is me, their God, they yet reject again, not you."

Margaret Smith
Columbia Falls



Farmington Local July 24, 1993

In the trust of the blessings of Jesus Christ in each of our Ivies, the Church of Christ Farmington local also adds its testimony in this monthly report. The song "The star-spangled Banner" with wording, "May the heaven rescued land praise the Power that has made and preserved us a nation," were very suitable words, for our nation, for the celebration of Flag Day, on June 14th, because it has only been God's power that has preserved our nation as stated in Ether chapter 1 verse 35:

"Behold, this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ who hath been manifested by the things which we have written."

The above mentioned song also more familiarly goes, "Oh, say, can you see, by the dawns early light...." However, there was not much light, in many states of our country, in June, as the sky was overshadowed with clouds which brought much rain, causing severe storms and floods.

In spite of all the storms, God protected all the members of the Farmington local here in Minnesota, even though some of us were trapped out in the storm and some had a tree trapping their home. Our

family was driving, just a short distance from home, when an unexpected, severe, storm began rocking our car with very strong winds. Rain and hail beat down on our car as we prayed for our Heavenly Fathers protection. When visibility was a little better, we began returning home only to see: electric poles and lines knocked down, (a pole had even fallen on a car on the road), fallen trees, (a tree fell on a neighbor's mobile home almost directly behind our home), and branches torn off of trees and strewn on the ground. When we returned home, we were thankful to see that the only damage to our home was a window that had been pushed out by the winds.

Needless to say, shortly after returning home, Jeannine Gould called to say that her home had a tree fall on it. Jeannine and John Gould's home had a corner pole knocked out of alignment because of the tree. Several of John and Jeannine's shade trees fell. One of the trees also fell on their car. Jeannine later stated that the tree on their roof is probably what prevented their home from blowing away. Although the fallen tree may have served as a blessing, John and Jeannine could use your prayers that their insurance will cover the cost of the damages.

Another blessing our family re-

ceived was that my children and I arrived home, after visiting my parents in Wisconsin, a couple hours before the storm hit. I am extremely thankful, to our Lord, that I did not have to combat the storm without my husband on our journey.

Members from the Farmington local took a journey to the Bemidji local when Elder Merlin Eddy ordained Peter Gould to the office of an elder, in Christ's Church, on June 27th. We are thankful for Peter's calling as the "Lord of the harvest" (Luke 10:2) has sent forth another laborer into His harvest. A continuing duty of Elder Peter Gould will be to preach when led by "The power of the Holy Ghost" (Moroni 6:9).

Priest John Gill spoke on that topic when he opened the service for Elder Merlin Eddy. John exclaimed, "A sermon is for us individually but is an essay as well for the entire audience, as it states in the scriptures the foolishness of preaching." I Corinthians chapter 1 verse 21 states:

"For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."

I found John's opening words to be exactly what took place. Although Merlin's focus, in the preaching service, was, "We must have the love of God for all men

to add to our faith, repentance, and baptism. Then we will be the children and people of God." Yet individually, the words I especially needed to hear were to endure to the end.

Ronnie Gill opened a Preaching service for his father, John Gill, on Father's Day. Ronnie will have the experience of being a father soon. Please pray for

Ronnie and Joane Gill's baby. We cannot wait until the baby makes his/her arrival into a new world and be able to join with us as we share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Sarah Hawkinson was able to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with the Farmington local, in June, when she joined us in a sacrament service. During the sacrament service, "Awakening Chorus," was

selected by Joe Eddy, and its wording is very appropriate to close this report. "Awake! Awake! and let your song of praise arise."

Your sister in Christ.
Patricia Gould

Ravenna Michigan local

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Some good advice from one of our Ministry. In Hebrews 10:22; "Let us draw near, with a true heart, in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."

At a recent prayer meeting I shed tears of joy as my son, Elder Aaron Heath, bore testimony of wanting so much to be an Elder so he could administer and help the people more.

Sister Vivian and Brother Max Spencer are back from their vacation to Canada and New York, visiting Church people also.

Our church looks very nice now, the flowers, several nice shrubs and the grass being cut.

Brother Loren Devries is back to church, after being in the hospital. Elders Gale Brantner and Aaron Heath made a trip to Detroit and Canada doing missionary work. Several mem-

bers of Ravenna Local are planning on going to the Missouri Church Reunion, some are going to help with Youth Camp project and some are going also to the August Ministers' Conference.

We enjoyed having visitors from Warrensburg recently. Sisters Sarah Brantner and Jeanette Cunningham.

Sr Lois Heath, reporter:

ANNOUNCEMENT

As a complement to the announcement given in the June, 1993 Zion's Advocate regarding the renaming of the Council Bluffs, IA. Local to the Springfield-Bellevue Nebraska Local, we the scattered members of the Church of Christ, (Temple Lot), who reside in Council Bluffs, IA, wish to extend a warm welcome to those who might be traveling through our vicinity to visit us or to attend one of our meetings as you might see fit.

If you are interested, please notify,

Elder, Robert Dewaele
2326 Avenue E
Council Bluffs, IA.
Telephone, (712) 322—7675

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 1993 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 18 through 20, at Independence, Missouri.

CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

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

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Members (optional)	\$ 4.00
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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
- Resurrection and Eternal Judgement
- Did You Know?

*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
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PRIESTHOOD VISITATION

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