

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 1

The morning light is breaking, The darkness disappears
The sons of earth are waking, To penitential tears;
Each breeze that sweeps the ocean, Brings tidings from afar
Of nations in commotion, Prepared for Zion's war.

Rich dews of grace come o'er us, In many a gentle shower;
And brighter scenes before us, Are opening every hour,
Each cry to heav'n ascending, Abundant answer brings;
And heav'nly gales descending, Bring peace upon their wings.

See heathen nations bending, Before the God we love,
And thousand hearts ascending, In gratitude above;
While sinners, now confessing, The gospel call obey,
And seek the Savior's blessing A nation in a day.

Blest river of salvation, Pursue thine onward way,
Flow thou to ev'ry nation, Nor in thy richness stay;
Stay not till all the lowly, Triumphant reach their home;
Stay not till all the holy, Proclaim- 'The Lord is come'.

Submitted by Apostle Robert Jensen
Saints Hymnal (1895)

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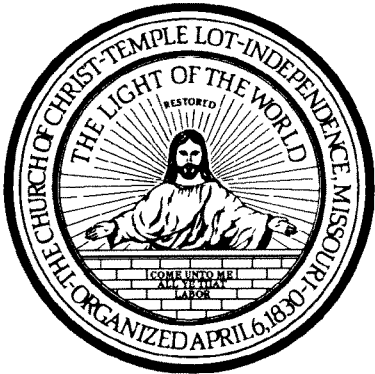
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To promote Jesus Christ as our only Saviour;
To promote His Teachings & His Church, the Church of Christ;
To be a voice of warning to His people; To be Zion's advocate.

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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.

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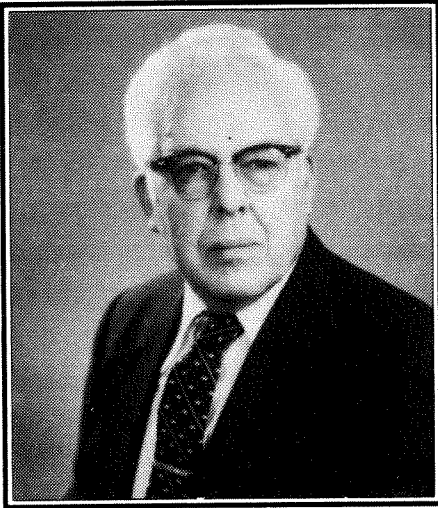
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Editorial...

"COME, LET US DECLARE IN ZION THE WORK OF THE LORD OUR GOD" -Jeremiah 51:10



Apostle Robert H. Jensen

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.” (Isaiah 2:2)

“And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in his paths; for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.” (Isa 2:3)

Millenniums have now transpired since the word of

the Lord was given to Isaiah to write for the knowledge of billions of the children of God’s creation—among whom over 5 billion walk upon the earth at this very time.

We have the greatest advantage of all people in history. The fullness of the Gospel of Christ shines forth upon the earth, and the entire record of history—both Scriptural and secular, are at hand to reveal all of the generations of the earth. These records identify the manner of God’s workings with mankind through the ages. From such we should gain in our time the most knowledge and understanding of the Divine Plan for our earthly lives and the plan of Eternal Salvation. Indeed, a magnitude of privilege not shared by any prior generation.

Concurrently with our great privilege and blessings there also accompany in the world, as prophesied by ancient worthies, sinful ways and crimes among so many that surely exceed those of Sodom and Gomorrah. Violent crimes against the peo-

ple’s rights, property, safety and life have multiplied until now it all is declared by the National Governments around the globe to be of epidemic proportions. All efforts thus far have failed to appreciably diminish its onward march.

Hearken again to prophecy: “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, . . . having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof; . . . ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.” (II Timothy 3:1-7)

“For behold, at that day (the last days-rj) shall he (satan) rage in the hearts of the children of men, and stir them up to anger against that which is good. And others will he pacify, and lull them away into carnal security, that they will say, All is well in Zion; yea, Zion prospereth, all is well; and thus the devil cheateth their souls, and

leadeth them away carefully down to hell." (2 Nephi 12:24-26)

We must diligently study the Scriptures of God to become well aware of all warnings and directions, if we hope to be successful in preparing for all of the hazards and promises of this mortal life. "And thus it is if ye will not nourish the word, looking forward with an eye of faith to the fruit thereof, ye can never pluck of the fruit of the tree of life." (Alma 16:169) "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (II Timothy 2:15)

Let us then glory and live in the word of the Lord while we are yet on this earth in the time of the last days: "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. And if they endure unto the end, they shall be lifted up at the last day, and shall be saved in the everlasting kingdom of the Lamb." (I Nephi 3:187-188)

Our's is a sacred mission. The Lord Jesus told the people: "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be

troubled, neither let it be afraid." (John 14:27) Our responsibility to Him is to promote and establish peace upon every opportunity. We must pray for such opportunities. "And whoso shall publish peace, yea, tidings of great joy, how beautiful upon the mountains shall they be." (I Nephi 3:189)

We must diligently study the Scriptures of God to become well aware of all warnings and directions,

There was also a man named Philip Doddridge born in 1702. His gift was music, and he composed the verses to an inspirational song that later appeared in the Saint's Hymnal published in 1895- (Charles Burney composed the melody in 1769). It is a hymn of both prophecy, admonition and inspiration composed approximately 100 years before Christ's Church was restored to the earth in 1830. A man of Doddridge's time could only have written such a magnificent work then through a dedicated love of God and His divine inspiration. I am pleased to share it with you. It was published under the captions "The Saintly Life".

1. "Triumphant Zion!

Lift thy head From dust and darkness, and the dead!

Though humbled long, awake at length, And gird thee with thy Savior's strength!

2. Put all thy beauteous garments on, And let thy excellence be known!

Decked in the robes of righteousness, Thy glories shall the world confess.

3. No more shall foes unclean invade, And fill thy hallowed walls with dread;

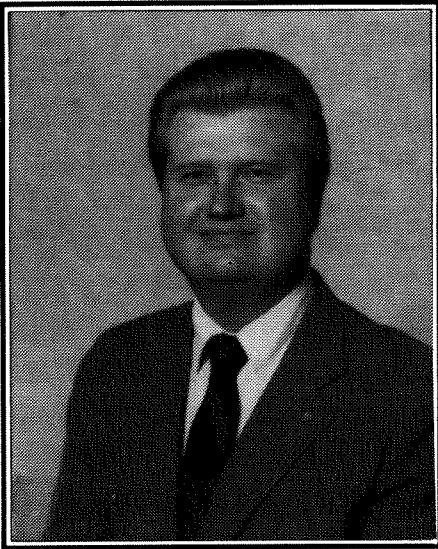
No more shall hell's insulting host Their victory and thy sorrows boast.

4. God from on high has heard thy prayer, His hand thy ruin shall repair;

Nor will thy watchful Monarch cease To guard thee in eternal peace."

An urgent instruction has been given to us in these last days to prepare for our safety through righteous living and sojourning in the land of Zion. It was a Divine Revelation given to Joseph Smith, Jr., by the Lord on March 7, 1831, while Joseph was at Kirtland, Ohio: "... And it shall come to pass, among the wicked, that every man that will not take his sword against his neighbor, must needs flee unto Zion for safety. . . ." (Book Of Commandments 48:62) ****

Baptism Anxieties



by Elder Gary A.
Housknecht

A few years ago, I helped assemble a special issue of *Zion's Advocate* covering the subject of Baptism. The staff and I realized we could not possibly cover everything there was to discuss about Baptism, but we tried to cover all the major areas, and until recently, I thought maybe we had. However, at least one very important area was omitted.

I was recently asked to talk to several Sunday School children (ages 8 through 12) concerning some questions they had about baptism. When I was handed the list of questions resulting from their class studies about baptism, it dawned on me how significant

an area we had missed in that special issue. It was evident that these children had very real anxieties about baptism ... in areas I had totally overlooked. I determined right then, that I would share these questions with others because I knew many more of our younger children would have similar anxieties; some, perhaps, unalleviated or never even voiced.

My hope in sharing this with *Zion's Advocate* readers, is that a parent or Sunday School teacher somewhere might gain some of the insight I gained about our precious children ... and maybe provide a help in answering some of these questions. No matter how elementary these questions may seem, they are very real concerns of our young children and can be stumbling blocks to the doubtful or shy child.

The following list is in the order I placed them for convenience in attempting to provide answers, and do not necessarily represent the priorities the children may have placed upon them. I won't pretend the answers I provided were as comprehensive as they could have been,

and many of these questions do not have a single definitive answer, but I tried to be open-minded and considerate of all possible family scenarios in which these children (and others) may live. In most cases, the answers have been slightly revised to address adults rather than children, for publication in *Zion's Advocate*. Please forgive inconsistencies wherein I answer some questions as if I am speaking to the child that asked the question — others I do not.

Who Can Be Baptized?

Any man, woman or child. Of course there are a few simple conditions that must be met:

1. Candidate must *believe in God and His Son, Jesus Christ*, as the only true and living saviour.

2. Must have the *desire to be baptized* and be "born again" ... to have whatever sins they have committed in their lives forgiven, forgotten and their slate wiped clean again, as when they were a new-born babe. Coupled with desire, is the need for basic *humility* ... recognizing the greatness of God and the worthlessness of ourselves

without His blessings.

3. Candidate must have reached what we call the *age of accountability*. Put as simply as I can, the child must be able to meet condition two (above), for example, and to do so the child must have a minimal knowledge of life and human emotions in order to understand what "desire" and "humility" really are — at least in their most simple terms. There is no magical age that this occurs with every child. Purported revelation found in some publications indicates this age is 8, and some in the Restoration churches use this as a rule. However, while many children may be "ready" at that age, it cannot possibly be the age all children are ready, as each child matures at their own rate. Some, for example, may be ready at 7, while others may not be ready until 10 or well beyond! The parent will know best, simply by instinct. It would be wrong to automatically assume your child is ready for baptism simply because they have reached their eighth birthday! Maybe ... maybe not. The parent can tell when their child truly knows right from wrong *beyond* simple rote memory of some rules and the consequences of their disobedience that even one-

year-old children can understand. Perhaps one could further define this readiness as having a recognition that when a rule is disobeyed (or a sin committed), consequences involve more than just some punishment, but *also* affects the "feelings" and trust of those that want and expect obedience — including God. A child cannot possibly understand the significance of being born again and having his or her life cleared of all sin with a chance to start all over again — without a *basic* understanding of the deeper consequences of sin just described.

4. Is a certain level of *knowledge about God's laws and Church history* required before one can be baptized? **Not at all.** No test will be given; no certificate from your Sunday School teacher will be required. Baptism is just one's *entrance* into the Kingdom ... a lifetime of learning about God and His laws and His Church will follow. There is not a single member of the Church of Christ that ever reaches a stage when they stop learning about God.

Do My Parents Have to be Church Members?

No.

Must I Have My Parents Permission?

Yes, as long as you are a dependent child. That usually means up to about age 18. This is true even if one or both of your parents are not members of the Church. God has given children over to parents to raise and lead correctly down the path of life, and the Church, under conditions as we know them now, will not interfere. If a child feels ready for baptism and the parents do not, a church minister may discuss the situation with the child and the parents, but ultimately, the decision is up to the parents.

Do I Have to Give a Testimony?

God has given us instruction about this matter in the Book of Mormon (Moroni 6:1-5, especially verse 2): "Behold, elders, priests, and teachers were baptized; and they were not baptized, save they brought forth fruit meet that they were worthy of it; neither did they receive any unto baptism, save they came forth with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, and witnessed unto the church that they truly repented of all their sins." In my own words, this says, "None were baptized unless

they came forth in humility and witnessed to other church members that they repented of all their sins.” Where one minister may differ from another on this point, is what constitutes that required witness. Some may feel that simply by stepping forth and asking to be baptized, the candidate has “witnessed” to the church. My *personal* opinion is that the scripture means exactly what it says, and that the baptism candidate should bear a brief testimony to those present that he or she has the desire to be baptized and has repented of their sins in preparation. This is, in part, a demonstration of the humility that is required. The minister a particular child asks to baptize them may feel a formal testimony is not needed to fulfill the requirement of Moroni 6:2. I do not believe the difference is significant enough over which to make an issue, as long as all other conditions are met. When he talks to you about baptism and makes arrangements for the event to take place, your minister will detail exactly what he will expect of you, and what you can expect from him. The main thing is to not let this be a concern over which to worry.

Can the Baptism Service be Private?

Yes. The scriptures do not seem to indicate one way or the other, since there are examples where there were few, if any, others present, and some when there were many others present. Here again, arrangements can be worked out with your minister. However, it would be well to be considerate of others. A baptism service can be spiritually uplifting to all those present — serving as a reminder of the commitment many of them made earlier in their lives. Furthermore, one child’s courage in being baptized, and the spirit that is present, can be just the inspiration another might need to also ask for baptism. So one person’s baptism service is of *benefit to many if you will allow it.*

How do I Answer When Someone Talks About Baptizing Infant Children?

I placed this question here because much of the foregoing has already answered the question. Ask yourself, first: Can an infant child qualify for baptism considering the discussion given above with the first question, “Who can be baptized?” For exam-

ple, how can an infant child *desire* to be baptized and have his or her “sins” washed away ... when an infant child is incapable of sin? Furthermore, how can an infant child express his or her desire to be baptized or belief in God and Christ? Etc., etc. *The decision to be baptized must be the child’s, not the parent’s.* Remember, you should never contend with another beyond expressing your belief and the reasons for your belief in a humble, non-combative manner. If you discuss this particular subject with someone, they probably do not believe in the Book of Mormon where there is an abundance of scripture pointing out clearly that we should not baptize infants. Therefore, you are left with the above considerations and the various Bible references about repentance before baptism, and the idea of being born again and having your sins washed away. One interesting point to be made, is that of all the numerous references on baptism in the Bible, not one indicates that young children were ever baptized. Mark 10:14-15, indicates that little children are already innocent and pure of faith (and, therefore, haven’t the need to have anything “washed away” through baptism), and Acts

8:12 speaks of many baptisms of the congregated people, "... both men and women ..." — no children. Ask any minister for a list of references if you need them — and about "blessing" infant children, which is different from baptism and the scripturally correct alternative.

When I Think I'm Ready, What Do I Do First?

Talk to your parents. Assuming your parents agree you are ready (they will probably be overjoyed that you asked), you can decide on a minister as a joint decision — although this decision normally is simply a matter of whom you prefer. Once you choose a minister, he will take care of everything from there.

Who Can Baptize?

Any ordained Priest or Elder in the Church of Christ. An Apostle is also an Elder. Neither the Bible nor Book of Mormon make it perfectly clear which priesthood members have the authority to baptize. It is for this type of thing that God continues to speak to His Church. In latter-day revelation to the restored Church (Book of Commandments 24:32-36), God gave us

the answer to that question. These verses also tell us that Elders (not Priests) may Lay-on-Hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost following Baptism. For one good example of just how important it is that the proper minister perform a baptism, read in Mosiah 9:176-180 where it tells that "... King Limhi and many of his people were desirous to be baptized; but there was none in the land that had authority from God." Even Ammon, an inspirational leader of this people (not the son of Mosiah), was there and also considered himself unworthy — such that "they did prolong the time" for their baptism until they could arrange to be with one having that special authority from God.

My Father is an Elder — Must He be the One to Baptize Me?

No. This also applies to brothers, uncles, grandfathers, etc. Your relative may have a desire to baptize you, especially your own father, as that may have special meaning for them to do so, but God does not require a person to be baptized by a relative just because one happens to be a Priest or an Elder.

Lake or River vs. Baptismal Font?

Either one. The scriptures indicate that a proper baptism is one in which the candidate is totally immersed (buried) in a body of water. That requirement can be met in either a baptismal font or in a natural body of water, like a lake or river. So it becomes a matter of personal taste and, perhaps, convenience. For instance, in a northern climate during winter months, baptism in a natural body of water is highly impractical! On the other hand, a wonderful experience can be had by all privileged to attend or participate in the natural setting of an outdoor baptism in a river or lake. That is how Jesus was baptized (river) and most other recorded baptisms in scripture.

Will I "Feel" Something?

"Feeling" something by way of some physical phenomena at the in-pouring of the Holy Spirit is not necessary for the baptism to be acceptable to God. You may hear many testify as to some unique and/or unusual experience they had either during the baptism or the laying-on-of-hands, or both. This is a marvelous thing and no doubt

makes the event even more memorable — *but not more meaningful*. God chooses to grant special experiences to some, and not to others, for reasons we may not be able to comprehend. One should not feel slighted (as if you didn't receive everything entitled to you) just because you do not have a special experience.

What if Part of Me Does Not Go Under the Water?

Don't worry about it. God is not going to ignore your baptism just because an elbow peeked up out of the water and did not get buried with the rest of your body. Your minister has you in his care at this point and he will see that all is done in accordance with God's will. The act of baptism is primarily symbolic of washing away the sins from your life, and we are commanded to do it just like Jesus did, and in the same manner. But it is the "act" of being baptized — of presenting yourself to God as a repentant soul — that counts most, not a small detail as this question suggests. Again, don't worry about it!

Am I Required to have the Hand of Fellowship?

No. This is, of course, referring to the lines of people coming up to shake the hand of the newly baptized member after the laying-on-of-hands. This entire process can be quite moving, spiritually, but it is not scripturally required. It is a tradition that has been practiced in the Church for many years. While we are warned in the scriptures about the potential dangers of following traditions simply for the sake of tradition, this is one that is not harmful. As often as not, the Hand of Fellowship is for the benefit of family and friends who have shared in your joy. So, perhaps you should be as considerate of others for this tradition, as I suggested for your decision about whether or not you have a "private" service.

What are the Benefits?

This sounds like a question asked of an employer by a prospective employee. While it may appear humorous, it merits a serious answer. Actually, the main benefit will be known by the baptism candidate once they understand what baptism really is about — because the main benefit is

having the satisfaction of having obeyed one of the most fundamental laws of God and reaping a new lease on life and the proverbial "clean slate." There are definite "sick" benefits, but no real vacation plan — the retirement plan, though, is out of this world! The ultimate reward is eternal life, as long as one realizes that baptism is only the first step, the "gate" allowing entrance into the Kingdom of God. Each member would probably throw emphasis on something different in answer to this question, which may be part of the answer itself: experiencing a true personal spiritual *joy* in whatever form that might take — a joy the world cannot know! Of course, baptized members may vote in all local and general church business meetings, and partaking of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper is a privilege also reserved for baptized members.

What Will be Required of Me Afterward?

With entrance into God's kingdom, comes responsibility — even for children. No one is ever going to grade or test you on this except God, but you will be responsible for obedience of all God's laws. Some laws state things we should *not* do, while others

state things we *should* do. An example of the "should do" type of commands is to visit the sick and elderly, the widows and orphans and the just plain lonely. There is more you will learn about, but you will find that fulfilling these Christian responsibilities is very much a part of the *joy* you will experience as I mentioned earlier. God said that obeying His commands will not be burdensome — and only through your own test of that promise will you learn that it is true.

Will I Make Mistakes After Baptism?

Yes. Most likely. The scriptures indicate that we all come short of the glory of God ... with some sin in our lives. This is, unfortunately, true *after* baptism as well as before.

We don't stop being human — subject to the weaknesses common to the "natural" man or child. We may have entered through the gate into the kingdom of God, but just as I indicated earlier that our job has just begun, so has the Devil's. Satan considers us prime targets for temptations and deceptions. It is almost as if the Devil takes our entrance through the "gate" of baptism as a challenge: The further along the divine pathway we come, the more the Devil would like to have us as his trophy. So, "yes," we will make mistakes. This is why the Lord, Jesus Christ, allowed himself to be nailed to a wooden cross to die. As Jesus rose from the grave three days later to set himself free, so, too, can we free ourselves from sin through the avenue of

humble, prayerful repentance. This would not be possible were it not for the sacrifice — the atonement — Jesus made on the cross. Understanding how our personal sins deeply hurt Jesus — like nailing Him over and over to the cross — is part of that special understanding of how sin involves a lot more than just some punishment that will likely follow from our parents. Having a small gleam of that understanding is what constitutes reaching that "age of accountability" discussed earlier. And that gleam will broaden into greater depths of love and understanding of our Lord once we enter the precious waters of baptism.

Christ's Love

Love such as Christ has
Is something we must gain,
we must exercise it in our lives
God's Spirit to obtain

By living it through our actions
Our thoughts and vibrations too
Love will return to us by others
Our efforts, be blessed anew.

God's Spirit will truly increase
But the fullest cannot be Thine,
Unless we love God and our neighbor
With all our heart, strength and mind.

Let us put forth every effort
To have in our hearts, Christ's Love,
May we help encourage a neighbor
To share in that home above.

Ruth Randall, Independence Mo.



TESTIMONIES FROM THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF YOBAIN, YUCATAN

My Personal Testimony:

I have known Jesus since my early childhood as I was born in a Christian home. My parents were the ones who helped me know Christ. Now I am very happy for having known Christ. He has blessed me, together with my parents, brothers and sisters, very much.

For now I am not a member of the church, but I am planning to be baptized soon, in order to serve Him faithfully until the last day of my existence.

Now my desire is that God would love and bless you and fill your heart with joy, for He came to die for you and me, free us from sin and give us eternal life.

These are my desires,
Esmeralda Koytoc Matu (age 11)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I have known Jesus since I was very little. My parents always took me to church. Now I have received many blessings from God. When a person in my family was sick we always prayed to God and He helped us. He is always quick to hear us.

He always kept us from the dangers that exist in this world, and He always guides us in the good way. For this reason I understand that He loves us and died for each one of us.

Heidi Floriceli Pech Tuyub (age 12)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I was acquainted with Jesus since a little child. My parents were those who brought me to Jesus Christ. He has given me many blessings. He is always at my side and has freed me from many of the evils of this world. I always thank Him for my life, my health and the years He has given me, and for the Light that shines brightly in this world. I will serve Him with all my heart, my soul and my mind and I am grateful for the love of Christ which he demonstrated on the cross. Thank you, oh Lord, for bringing me life and salvation.

Yany Dianely Us Ucan (age 13)

Dear Friends,

I desire to share with you a beautiful blessing which I received from God. For many years I have attended church with no discouragement or weakness because I always wanted to continue in the road of truth. I always pray to God to guide me and show me the good things of life.

I began to serve God in my home for at this time we did not have a church in Yobain. But as time passed, thanks be to God, we now have a special place to worship the Lord. In this church we have a Pastor who teaches us many words of the Lord each day. He teaches us stories from the Bible and of Jesus when He performed miracles among our forefathers. He also teaches us about repentance and the things we need to do in order to achieve salvation in the day Jesus said that He would return to judge the world.

When I accepted Jesus as my Savior, I felt a joy because He blesses me each day and protects me from the dangers that are in the world; for example, I want to tell you of something that took place. I do not know if you see poisonous snakes from time to time, but where I live there are many of them. A short time ago, I was walking without paying attention to my steps. Suddenly I looked at my feet and saw one of these reptiles beside me. I was not able to do anything, but thanks I give to God for watching over me for the reptile moved away. I am aware that God loves each one of us and am sure that He has blessed you as He has me.

I desire that each one of you continue to pray to God with faith that He would keep us each from all danger.

Jose' Santiago Pech Tuyub (age 16)

My Personal Testimony

With these few lines I would like to share with you the grandest blessing I have received in my life. I give thanks to the Lord that He permitted me to be born in a Christian home, in which I am able to enjoy the harmony that exists in a Christian family. I always have the support of my parents and my brothers and sisters.

I am happy attending services and being active in our church. I have seen great problems and illness in my family, but we have come through with the help of God. I have a sister who was very sick in the past year. She was at the edge of death, but with the help of our Savior today she is in good health and attending all the services. We are constantly praying to God for her health and He has blessed her until this time. Because of this I am able to say that God loves us for He blesses me, He blesses you and all the world.

Therefore, I want to tell you, young people of this church, to know Jesus Christ is the most beautiful thing in this world, because without Him we would be nothing. I hope that you are enjoying His blessings. May God bless you always and help in all of your goals.

Your Friend and your Brother
in the family of our Savior,
Efrain Koyoc Matu (age 17)

IN LOVING MEMORY OF ANNETTA LUBBE 1908 -1993

We have had the rare privilege of knowing and loving Annetta Lubbe as a friend for sixty-two years, and, also as a dear sister in Christ. She daily demonstrated her faith in a sweet spirit by loving, caring, and sharing with others. She was a living example of a true Christian unselfish and generous in every way.

We who were fortunate enough to know her couldn't help but benefit from the Holy Spirit that resided in her. She entirely turned her life over to the Lord, and because of that, she was truly at peace.

It is our hope that we can live and enjoy our lives in the manner that she lived hers. We can only strive to be the inspiration to others that she was to us.

The Dewaele Family
Council Bluffs, Iowa

In Loving Memory Of Jim Maher

All of us in the Church of Christ lost a good and faithful servant of our Lord. Family and Friends lost a loving and wonderful man. But the Lord has gained a precious soul. All who knew Jim, loved him. He was a wonderful man, husband, father, and friend. As for our family we loved him and will miss him very much. Jim was very special to our family as he was to many others. To us he was not only a brother in Christ but a life long friend, and our hearts grieve at his loss. Jim loved everyone and he lived everyday to serve our Lord. There are so many good things to say about this man. Those of us that knew him well know that he indeed endured to the end . He fought the fight and never forsook our Lord and Savior. What great joy he must feel now, in the arms of our Lord. So this is not good bye but just a parting for awhile. Our love goes out to his family and we pray that our Lord will comfort and strengthen them in this time of sorrow. Until we see you again, Jim, we love you and we will miss you. Thanks for the example you showed and the many wonderful memories you have left behind. Jim was a cowboy, and always swung a big loop. We know that those that knew him, know that he has left this life with a clean run.

Friends Forever
Kirk, Margaret
Kody, Bubba, and Justin

NEWS

Farmington Local

The month of November was a blessed month for the Farmington local as we heard , with thanksgiving, a revelation given through Elder Merlin Eddy, and participated in a variety of other events.

In a sermon, several months ago, Merlin was directed, by the Holy Spirit. to read Jacob 3:11

“And no man knoweth of his ways. save it be the revealed unto him; wherefore, brethren, despise

not the revelations of God.”

As Merlin was praying, he asked our Father to help Debbie Gilbertson's baby, Joani Gill's unborn, (and without even realizing what he was saying, Merlin added), “and Patty's unborn.” God had Merlin say this before Enoch and I even confirmed the possibility of me being pregnant. Will you please do as God showed Merlin and pray for Debbie's, Joani's and my baby?

Although Merlin had prayed the mentioned prayer in October , it was not until the sacrament service in November that I even knew

he had prayed concerning Enoch's and my unborn. Or that others (who had heard him pray) knew that what Merlin prayed was a revelation as no one including me, knew I was pregnant.

The sacrament services, in October and November were very touching times as the Holy Spirit met with us. Overwhelming concerns, that had weighed upon our hearts for a long time were able to be relieved through testimonies. We were also able to express how God had helped and delivered us and others from hopeless circum-

stances over the past months. Prior to the November sacrament service, while Merlin became unexpectedly occupied, Priest John Gill was led to offer additional time for testimonies.

In the October sacrament service it was stressed to step-out in faith and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. Some expressed thankfulness at being present at the October and November services. Seasons of prayer were called for, and some of the children asked for specific hymns.

The children in the area helped prepare Thanksgiving dinner at Ronnie and Joani Gill's home, on November 17th. On November 18th the children took part in a birthday party for John Michael Gill, and a baby shower, held for Joani Gill, given by her mother-in-law Nana Gill, at John and Nana's house.

"Zion's Children" also participated in a sermon given by Merlin Eddy, concerning "choices". Alyssa Gould recognized the fact that several choices are made on a daily basis, even selecting which clothes one should wear. James Brown related his realization of how elderly people have a greater respect for a young person who fulfills his or her responsibilities over one who neglects their job. Jakey Eddy commented on the choice of taking drugs or total abstinence. Joe Eddy added that doing homework or not doing home work

is a choice. Bill Brown cited possible punishment affixed by some parents for not doing home work.

Just as Bill recognized that there are consequences to the choices one makes, Merlin ended his sermon with the following words which show the end result of our choices in life:

"We need to be open to receive that which God has for us that we order our life according to His will. If we do that the end result is everlasting life, or if we don't do that damnation."

The Farmington local was also thankful to have Joe Miles as a new visitor. It is a blessing to have Joe with us again.

Your sister in Christ
Patricia Gould.

Ravenna Local

Greetings From Ravenna, Michigan Local- Church of Christ.

Elder Max Spencer, his wife Vivian and myself are home after a long journey. Visiting several relatives and various church people, and others who are not members. We took food to some in need, had prayer for the sick and dying. We went on our way to Arizona for the church reunion, the first time for me. I met some brothers and sisters

for the first time. I asked for prayers for my sister in Louisiana. They have sent her home to die and I believe it's only a matter of time.

Our pastor Gale Brantner is back home, from visiting in Warrensburg Mo. He baptized a nephew and blessed a baby too! Dec. 8th. Elder Max Spencer gave a reading from 103 Psalm. 'Give the Lord all thanks and praise for his goodness.' December 12th after preaching by Elder Gale on Baptizing, we sang the song "Ye Must Be Born Again". Then all but myself went to the lake to baptize Erica Trybe. After one verse and a prayer Elder Aaron Heath led Erica into the waters of Baptism, breading ice as they went. He baptized her then they came back to the Church for Confirmation and laying on of hands. Everyone welcomed her into the Church of Christ. Elder Gale Brantner and Elder Max Spencer laid hands on her and Elder Gale gave the Confirmation. Also on Nov. 13th Aaron and Sue's niece was married at the Church of Christ by Elder Aaron Heath. November 18th Elder Gale Married Erica and Jerry Trybe.

Sr. Lois Heath
Reporter.

CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 1994 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 3. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M., Monday, April 4. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, April 1 and 2. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

The 1994 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 10 through 12, 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
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Book of Commandments (hard bound)	9.00
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Historical Facts Concerning the Temple Lot	1.30
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What the Restoration Teaches Concerning God	2.50

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

- Ancient Prophecies Fulfilled in 1830
- Articles of Faith & Practice of the Church of Christ
- Articles of Faith & Practice (Spanish)
- Baptism for the Dead? - A Fallacy
- The Book of Mormon (tract)
- A Brief History of the Church of Christ
- The Cost of Salvation
- Does it Make a Difference to Which Church You Belong?
- First Presidency or First Apostles?
- God's Purpose in America
- The Great Plan of Redemption
- The Latter Day Restoration
- Marriage for Time and Eternity? - A Fallacy
- Mighty Acts of the Ages (Spanish)
- Priesthood - Divine Authority
- The Principles of the Gospel - Baptism
- The Principles of the Gospel - Faith & Repentance
- The Principles of the Gospel - Laying on of Hands
- Resurrection and Eternal Judgement
- Sermonettes on the Teachings of Jesus
- A Synopsis (Compares beliefs of 3 Restoration churches)
- What about the Book of Mormon
- What the Church teaches about Matrimony (Spanish)
- Why? (Amplifies absence of a "First Presidency" in Scripture)
- Zion and the Temple of the Lord

*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.

- Bible Stories to Grow By - 52 Lessons about God and Jesus for ages 5-7
- Book in the Stone Box, The - About the Book of Mormon
- Church History for Juniors - Includes a Teachers Guide
- Jesus' Life and Teachings - 4 Quarterlies for Ages 8-10
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AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS

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

Slide Programs with Taped Narration

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

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

LAMP UNTO MY FEET, A (32 minutes) — Directed specifically toward American Indian viewers, compiled from three other programs.

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.

OUT OF THE DUST (45 minutes) — Tells the story found within the Book of Mormon.

RETURN, THE (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 addresses are listed on the inside front cover.