

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;"*

1 Nephi 3:187

VOLUME 72

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*"Glory to God in the highest, and on
earth peace, good will toward men"*

—In This Issue—

ARTICLE—Pride—Don't Let It
Separate You From God -
Apostle Smith Brickhouse 227

ARTICLE—Evidence for a Young
Earth - *Harvey E. Seibel* 230

ARTICLE—The Millennium, Part 2 -
Apostle William A. Sheldon 233

PATHLIGHTS—Christmas Card -
Laura G. 238

PATHLIGHTS—Life's Narrow Path -
Betsy Trudgen 239

LOCAL NEWS—Open House—
Dedication - *Bradley Local, MI.* . . . 240

LOCAL NEWS 242

ANNOUNCEMENT—Teen Challenge
Youth Camp '96 245

INDEX to Volume 72 (1995) of the
Zion's Advocate 246

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ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

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

ARTICLE

Pride—Don't Let It Separate You From God



**By Apostle
Smith Brickhouse**

Alma, when talking to the members of the Church in Alma 3:48, asks,

“Could you say, if ye were called to die at this time, within yourselves, that ye have been sufficiently humble?”

Can we today as individuals and as members of Christ's Church say that we

have removed pride from our lives? Can we say that we have been sufficiently humble? What are we actively doing to reduce this pride? What is our responsibility? What does the Lord expect? What is reasonable service? Have we kept sight of the goal of eternal life? Have we presented ourselves as the potter's clay, ready to be molded, shaped into that chosen, delicate, beautiful vessel, willing to be used as an instrument in God's hand?

I believe that each of us desires that we might be that vessel. I am, however, mindful of the fact that it isn't going to happen by itself. It takes more than our desire—it takes our actions! We have been admonished on many occasions to yield and humble ourselves. The Lord has a great work for His people to accomplish—we need to prepare ourselves in such a way that He is able to use us.

James 4:6 states:

We are admonished...to remove from our lives the pride and hardness of heart that is common to mankind.

“God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.”

We are admonished, therefore, to remove from our lives the pride and hardness of heart that is common to mankind. Mosiah 1:119,120 says,

“For the natural man is an enemy to God, and has been, from the fall of Adam, and will be, for ever and ever; (unless) But if he yieldeth to the enticings of the Holy Spirit, and putteth off the natural man, and becometh a saint, through the atonement of Christ,

the Lord, and becometh as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father." (Parenthesis S.N.B.)

If we no longer want to be an enemy of God we must act. We must yield, we must change from our natural ways. We must submit to God.

II Timothy 3:16,17 states:

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."

These scriptures that have been preserved for us today for our direction are filled with admonishments to humble ourselves before the Lord and to remove this pride and hard heartedness. Some examples are:

Proverbs 16:19: *"Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud."*

Isaiah 2:12: *"For the*

day of the Lord of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low:"

Jeremiah 13:15: *"Hear ye, and give ear; be not proud: for the Lord hath spoken."*

II Nephi 12:14-16 speaks of the day and time in which we live.

"Because of pride, and because of false teachers, and false doctrine, their churches have become corrupted; and their churches are lifted up; because of pride, they are puffed up. They rob the poor, because of their fine sanctuaries; they rob the poor, because of their fine clothing; and they persecute the meek, and the poor in heart; because in their pride, they are puffed up. They wear stiff necks and high heads; yea, and because of pride, and wickedness, and abominations, and whoredoms, they have all gone astray, save it be a few, which are the humble followers of Christ."

Further, the 18th verse states, *"O the wise, and the learned, and the rich, that are puffed up in the*

pride of their hearts, and all they that preach false doctrines, and all they that commit whoredoms, and pervert the right way of the Lord; wo, wo, wo be unto them, saith the Lord God Almighty, for they shall be thrust down to hell."

Pride is placed among the sins of the world and was pronounced against them that have this pride and have not yielded to the enticings of the Holy Spirit.

What then can and must we do as individuals of the Body of Christ that endeavor to put on Christ and to follow the example that He gave to us? How do we put off our natural tendencies to be prideful and put on this "humbleness" that is spoken of in the scriptures. Col. 3:12 states, *"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;"*

If the Lord has given these instructions He must then have given us a way to fulfill these commandments. He must have provided instructions and the way for us to be able to overcome our natural tendencies and to wear, or put on, this coat of humbleness.

The Prophet Moroni tells

us to pray for this humbleness, for this charity, with "all the energy of heart." Alma, when speaking of these things to the people of Gideon (Alma 5:38-41) says:

And now my beloved brethren, I have said these things unto you, that I might awaken you to a sense of your duty to God, that ye may walk blameless before him; that ye may walk after the holy order of God, after which ye have been received. And now I would that ye should be humble, and be submissive, and gentle; easy to be entreated; full of patience and long suffering; being temperate in all things; being diligent in keeping the commandments of God at all times; Asking for whatsoever things ye stand in need, both spiritual and temporal; always returning thanks unto God for whatsoever things you do receive, And see that ye have faith, hope, and charity, and then ye will always abound in good works;"

We are to have good works and to have faith, hope and charity.

The scriptures tell us further that we are to exercise our faith by our works and

then the Lord will bless us with the assurances that the promises of God are true. Then we can have within us the hope of the truthfulness of these things and the truthfulness of the mighty promises and power of our heavenly Father, as well as a knowledge of our own nothingness and the fact that all we have and all we are is only because of the power of God and His love for the children of men.

When we have, therefore, prayed, and have asked direction and have exercised our complete faith in Him for all things, He will immediately bless us with the garment of humbleness and submissiveness that is required to obtain eternal life, for He has stated: "God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."

We must then use the gifts that God has provided—prayer, faith, hope, charity, and to make every effort to remove from our lives any pride that we might possess, looking within our own hearts for this hardness, submitting ourselves to His will for our lives. Unless we are willing to do this and make it a conscious effort within our daily supplications to the Lord—unless we are willing to pray with "All the energy of heart" we will not have rid

ourselves of this "pride" that separates us from God.

In the words of King Benjamin, Mosiah 2:49:

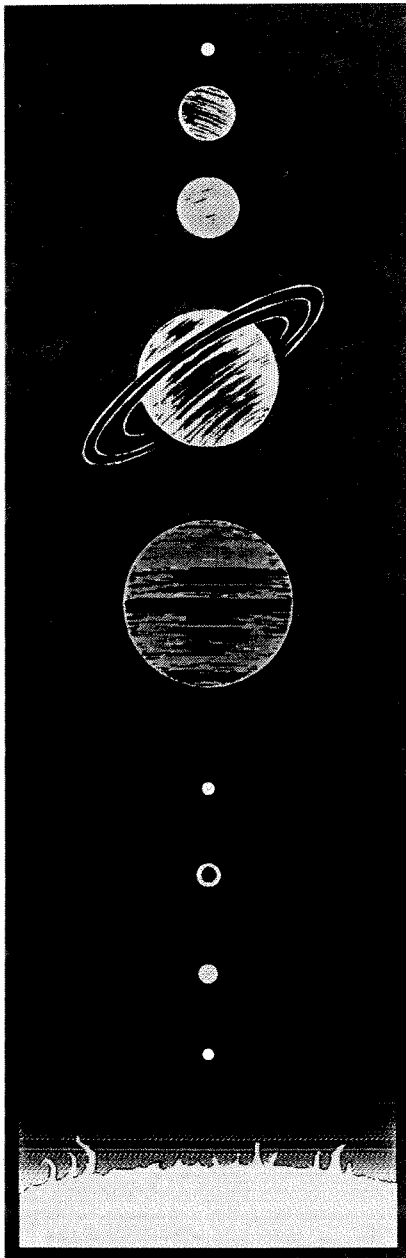
"But this much I can tell you, that if ye do not watch yourselves, and your thoughts, and your words, and your deeds, and observe to keep the commandments of God, and continue in the faith of what ye have heard concerning the coming of our Lord, even unto the end of your lives, ye must perish."

It is my prayer that each of us that read this article take time to review our own relationship with our Heavenly Father, and to petition Him in our prayers that we might be blessed and be able to remove pride from our lives, that He might direct us as to the ways that we can serve Him by being of service to our fellow man, and that this might become a focus in our lives rather than our personal temporal desires and ambitions.

ARTICLE

Evidence For A Young Earth

By Harvey E. Seibel



The evidence given below is derived from a number of scientific sources.

FACT #1: Seasonal bands of strata in the beds of the Great Lakes show an age of only a few thousand years.

FACT #2: Meteoric evidence is lacking in all but the surface rocks.

FACT #3: The oldest living trees (the Bristle Cone Pine) date back only about 5000 years.

FACT #4: There should have been at least 54 feet of cosmic dust on the moon. Instead 1/8 inch to 3 inches was found. It would have taken fewer than 8000 years to stack up.

FACT #5: All short-period comets would be gone in as little as 10,000 years. Yet there are up to 5 million comets still orbiting in our Solar

System.

FACT #6: Niagara Falls: Because of the known rate of erosion, it has taken about 5000 years to erode from its original precipice.

FACT #7: Coral Reefs: The build up of calcium carbonate remains of marine animals can be accounted for entirely in a few thousand years since the world wide flood.

FACT #8: Stalactite growth: Under the Lincoln Memorial (built in 1923) are 5 foot long stalactites.

FACT #9: A miners hat left in an abandoned mine in 1930 was found to be totally petrified in 1980.

FACT #10: The present rate of helium efflux into the upper atmosphere reduces the age of the atmosphere down to several thousand years.

FACT #11: The Earth's magnetic field: Dr. Thomas G. Barnes, Prof. of Physics at

the University of Texas in El Paso: The strength of the magnetic field has been measured carefully for 135 years. He has shown through analytical and statistical studies that it has been decaying exponentially during that period with a most probable half-life of 1400 years. This means that the magnetic field was twice as strong 1400 years ago, 4 times as strong 2800 years ago, 32 times as strong just 7000 years ago. 10,000 years ago the earth would have had a magnetic field as strong as that of a magnetic star. (Therefore, since the earth is not large enough to support such a field, the maximum age of the earth cannot exceed 10,000 years.)

FACT #12: The Carbon 12 to Carbon 14 ratio is still increasing for the reason that the required 30,000 years to reach equilibrium has not yet passed. Based on the above, the age of the present atmosphere, and probably the earth itself, is between 5000 and 10,000 years old.

FACT #13: The Human Population Problem: The average family size today, worldwide, is about 3.6 children and the average annual population growth rate is 2%. But if population increased at

only 1/2% per year for a million years and if the average family size were only 2.5 children per family for 25,000 generations, the number of people in the present generation would exceed 10 to the 2100 power, a number which is utterly impossible.

FACT #14: Evidence points to a young sun, based on the direct measurement of its diameter and indirectly through the well documented absence of the expected flux of solar neutrinos that should have been generated in its interior. The overall decline in the solar diameter is about 0.1 seconds of arc per century since early 1700s. This means that the sun's output of radiant energy is generated, not by thermonuclear fusion processes (confirmed by missing neutrinos) but from the gravitational energy released by its inward collapsing process.

FACT #15: The earth has aged from just a few thousand years to about five billion years in a little more than a century and a half, according to so-called mainstream scientists.

FACT #16: The Mississippi River Delta: Approximately 300 million cubic yards of sediment are deposited into

the gulf of Mexico by the Mississippi River each year. It has been determined that the age of the delta is about 4000 years old, based on the total weight of the delta.

FACT #17: Human skeletons and artifacts such as intricately structured gold chains have been found in coal deposits.

FACT #18: The rotation of the earth is gradually slowing due to the gravitation drag forces of the sun, moon, etc. If the earth is billions of years old, its present rotation should be zero. On the other hand, if we extrapolate backwards for several billion years, the centrifugal force would be so great that the continents would have been sent to the equatorial regions and the overall shape of the earth would have been as flat as a pancake.

FACT #19: The present rate of recession of the moon from the earth is known and clearly indicates a young age for the earth-moon systems.

FACT #20: Polystratic trees are fossil trees which extend through several layers of strata (including coal seams) often 20 feet or more in length. Such trees could not have been buried gradu-

ally over hundreds or thousands of years. Rather rapid burial is in order for such preservation to have taken place. This means that the various layers of strata also had to be laid down in rapid succession. Otherwise explain the presence of fossil leaves and even ripple marks and foot prints in fossilized form in the rocks.

FACT #21: Evolution requires billions of years of constant violations of the Second Law of Thermodynamics to be considered even remotely feasible.

FACT #22: The presence of granite all over the world shows that the earth was created cold and was never in a molten state. Granite, when once melted, does not re-solidify again into granite. The change is irreversible, like when the white of an egg is heated.

FACT #23: Star Clusters: There are presently in the universe many star clusters, the stars in each of which are moving outward from each other at enormous speeds, yet these clusters are still recognizable as star clusters. Had the universe been 4 1/2 billion years old these stars would have long ago been dispersed throughout the cosmos and

no star cluster today would be discernible.

FACT #24: Mount St. Helens: The eruption of this mountain totally disrupted the evolutionary theory for it accomplished two things not thought possible. First, it created 600 feet of strata in only 9 hours. Then, only 10 years later it had hardened to solid rock. Additionally, the eruption also created a canyon 1/40th the size of the Grand Canyon, with walls 140 feet high on both sides with a river flowing down the middle of it, and it did so in only two days and two nights. The river did not create the canyon; rather, the canyon formed the river. The lesson here is that it did not take hundreds of thousands of years (or even millions of years) to do this. This caused some evolutionary scientists to become creation scientists.

FACT #25: The fourth day of creation and Joshua's long day: In the chronology of the Bible done by my father, the length of time from Adam's creation down to Joshua's long day was shown to be 2,555 years. From that date down to Christ was an additional 1444 years for a total of 3999 years. Amazingly, an astronomer discovered that the planets were lined up

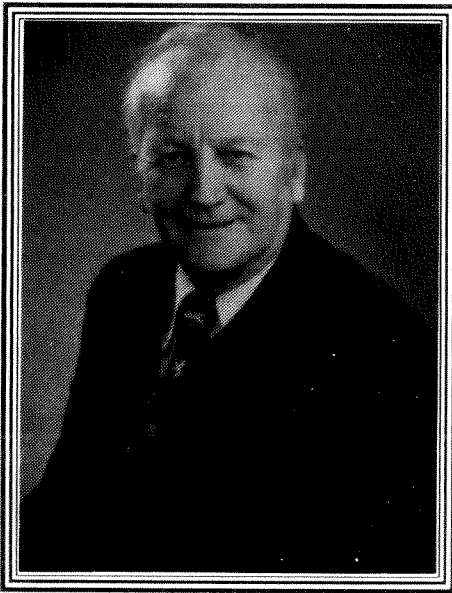
around the sun in a straight line only once in the history of the world. He placed the date of that event at 3,999 years B.C. This fact shows that the creation days were actual 24 hours days. Why? Because the alignment of the planets around the sun could not have occurred prior to the 4th day of creation because that was the day in which the sun itself was created. Adam, on the other hand, was created of the dust of the ground on the 8th day, or after God had rested on the 7th day. Since Bible chronology shows 2555 years from Adam's creation to Joshua's long day, and since the planets were placed in orbit around the sun on the 4th day of creation, also in 3999 B.C., then the creation days had to be 24 hour days, because both the 4th and 8th days were only 2555 years from the long day of Joshua.

All of the above facts show that both the earth, as well as the universe, are young, for both the sun, moon and the stars were created after the earth had been created, that is, on the 4th day of creation.



The Millennium

Part Two



**By Apostle
William A. Sheldon**

"There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God" Heb. 4:9.

"Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth" Matt. 5:5.

As quoted above, there is a rest prepared of God for His people, and it shall be on the earth. By divine wisdom

and by example, He has commanded that man should labor for six days, and to reserve the seventh as a day of rest. This is given as a type of the great week for the affairs of mankind from Adam to the coming of Christ in glory, and through that day of rest, i.e., a thousand years.

Apostle Peter has told us by the spirit of revelation that "one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day" (2 Pet. 3:8), and we are justified in the conception that as there have been nearly 6,000 years of man's labor upon earth (six "days"), and since the prophetic intimations speak clearly of the nearness of the Lord's coming again, even so we may know that the day of rest (1,000 years) comes in that connection. He will have completed his labors for the redemption of mankind through the dispensations of His word, including the gospel of Christ; He will have

cleansed the earth of wickedness, and shall rest with His saints. Then shall be the fulfillment of the prayer He gave as an example to us:

"Thy kingdom come; thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven" Matt. 6:10.

Again, Peter was filled with the spirit of revelation, saying:

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began" Acts 3:19-21.

Note that he spoke of "times of refreshing," and also "the times of restitution of all things." This will bear some examination appropriate to our subject. God did design, as evidence of times of refreshing and of restitution, that the fullness of the gospel should be restored to earth again in the latter days, after 1260 years of spiritual darkness. The pure gospel light has been revealed again, including translation of the Book of Mormon and the restoration of his holy priesthood to administer the affairs of His kingdom in preparation for the second coming of Christ. Yet, the "restitution of all things" has only begun after 165 years, and in which, lamentably, there has been a considerable clouding of that light through a latter day apostasy. Nevertheless, the light will continue to shine through a remnant of his people until He comes who is the light and life of the world!

But what else shall be restored? Wherein is the "restitution of all things"? As the earth shall be cleansed by fire, this will thus prepare "mother earth" to bring forth again into her primal state of beauty and excellence, even as she was in the beginning!

Mankind was the very crown of God's labor of creation, and all was "very good"

(Gen. 1:31). When Adam was placed upon this globe and given a mate, there was nothing but peace with goodness and plenty for physical desire and need. A garden was planted for his dwelling, with "every tree that is pleasant to

When Adam was placed upon this globe and given a mate, there was nothing but peace with goodness and plenty for physical

the sight, and good for food" (Gen. 2:9), including the "tree of life." He was permitted to partake of that tree, but commanded not to eat of the "tree of knowledge of good and evil," lest he die. We know the story: Adam and Eve disobeyed and ate of that tree; were cast out of the garden and no longer permitted to eat of the tree of life, etc. As a result, death came, not only to them, but to all of creation, with sickness and disease. The thorn and thistle came up in the midst of the herbs of the field, and he must thereafter eat his bread by the sweat of his brow. The animals had come to him and he named them and had dominion over them, but now

there was enmity and fear between man and beast, and between beast and beast.

Man has polluted the elements of the earth, the sky and the waters, himself and his religion, so that now it is nigh to perish. Only God can bring the restitution of all things; and so it will be.

"The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing...Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes. And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it...fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall

go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away" Isa. 35:1, 2, 5-10.

The curse of God is to be removed and the abundance of peace be revealed; but is this to be world-wide in scope? Or rather, is this initially to be in mount Zion and in Jerusalem?

"The Lord also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the Lord will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel. So shall ye know that I am the Lord your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a

fountain shall come forth of the house of the Lord, and shall water the valley of Shittim" Joel 3:16-18.

While the land of Judah (Jerusalem) is to be blessed in abundance, yet— *"Egypt shall be a desolation, and Edom shall be a desolate wilderness, for the violence against the children of Judah, because they have shed innocent blood in their land"* (ibid., v. 19).

To give further evidence of God's favor to Israel, and specifically to Judah and Jerusalem, please read Zech. 14. In contrast to the divine favor to be revealed to God's people while His curse remains on others, we read:

"And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the Lord will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles" Zech. 14:17, 18.

It is evident that the impetus which will result in the families of the earth coming to Jerusalem to "worship the

King" is from the preaching of the gospel in power unto them; and this applies also to Zion, or the New Jerusalem, as we see in Isa. 2:2, for *"out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."* This thought could easily be expanded by appeal to other prophets of old, but this is aside from our principle consideration here.

To further show the marvelous transformation of nature to occur at Zion (the New Jerusalem), and including the land of Palestine (the Jerusalem of old), which will be the beginning of the millennium, we read of cataclysmic convulsions of the earth (earthquakes) which will be world-wide.

"Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it" Isa. 40:4, 5.

"And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so

mighty an earthquake, and so great...And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found" Rev. 16:18, 20.

"Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate: but thou shalt be called Hephzibah, and thy land Beulah: for the Lord delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married" Isa. 62:4.

This world-wide earthquake will cause the land to be "married," and thus the land masses shall once again come together (for the earth was divided in the days of Peleg—Gen. 10:25); therefore, also, shall the great seas and oceans come together.

It seems apparent from our study thus far in connection also with the establishment of Zion (or the building of the city New Jerusalem and the Lord's temple, which we are only mentioning incidentally), that this establishment shall have transpired prior to the transformation of the earth by earthquake and fire, in preparation for its renewal to an Edenic state. We might ask: How then could the temple and New Jerusalem survive those apocalyptic disasters? Our only answer:

We can only dimly (certainly in no way, fully) comprehend the great power of God to save and to destroy as He wills to do. A clue is found in 2 Nephi 12:90 (but read verses 87-95):

"For the time speedily cometh, that the Lord God shall cause a great division among the people; and the wicked will he destroy; and he will spare his people, yea, even if it so be that he must destroy the wicked by fire."

Now we wish you to ponder Isa. 4:2-6:

"In that day shall the branch of the Lord be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel. And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem (note the two places/w.a.s.) shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem: When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burn-

ing. And the Lord will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory (of Zion/2 Ne. 8:69) shall be a defense. And there shall be a tabernacle (a temple/w.a.s.) for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain."

The "branch of the Lord" shall be beautiful. This is called "the branch of my planting" (a righteous people) in Isa. 60:21. This will be a people who have become "Zion." They are the "fruit of the earth...excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel" (those who have been freed from captivity and gathered to Zion)—Isa. 4:2.

The Lord will separate from his saints those not qualified (see Matt. 13:41), so that there shall be in Zion and Jerusalem only the pure in heart—verses 3, 4. This will be accomplished "by the spirit of judgment and by the spirit of burning."

Just as the Lord delivered ancient Israel from Egypt and led them by a cloud of smoke by day and a flaming

fire by night, so also will He brood over His saints in the New Jerusalem, for upon all the glory of Zion shall be a defense; this will be the great and revealed power of God.

There is to be a tabernacle (temple) in the New Jerusalem, and please note that it shall be as a "shadow...from heat...a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain" (v. 6). This all alludes to divine protection from their enemies, and preservation from the unleashing of divine judgment upon the wicked; I believe this includes the world-shaking earthquakes and burning occurring with the universal shaking of the heavens, spoken of by Christ (Matt. 24:29), by Isaiah (chap. 24), by Joel (3:15,16) and by Peter (2 Pet. 10-12). Of its burning, we read:

"And there shall be upon every high mountain, and upon every high hill (this alludes to nations/w.a.s.), rivers and streams of waters (refers to a powerful witness of God's ministry, a final call to repentance/w.a.s. - see v. 28) in the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall. Moreover the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the

light of seven days, in the day that the Lord bindeth up the breach of his people, and healeth the stroke of their wound" Isa. 30:25, 26.

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days

Just as the Lord delivered ancient Israel from Egypt and led them by a cloud of smoke by day and by night, so also will He brood over His saints in the New Jerusalem...

shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" Matt. 24:29, 30.

The darkening of the heavens is to be followed by power and great glory restored seven-fold to the sun and moon. This event will be

the immediate sign of the appearance of Christ in the heavens.

Our only purpose in thus briefly referring to this time of divine wrath and judgment at the appearance of Christ in the heavens is to emphasize the concurrent preservation of the saints in preparation for the millennial reign of Christ.

It is not to be supposed that all peoples of the nations will be destroyed; rather, those who are most wicked will be destroyed, as typified at the time of the resurrection of Christ on the American continent, wherein "it was the more righteous part of the people that were saved" (3 Ne. 4:66). We have previously referenced the nations being required to come to Jerusalem to worship the Lord, or else to suffer his wrath further (Zech. 14); and of those coming to mount Zion to be taught; all this in preparation for that wonderful time of peace when—
"...they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" Isa. 2:4.

(to be continued)

PATHLIGHTS

This year I wanted a Christmas card that told a few certain things—that told of Jesus, of His love and all His sufferings. A card that took you to that day and made you tremble, quake, and say, "For surely He was the King of Kings. Such love as this I've never seen!" I wanted a card that would tell you just how He bled and died—a card that made you feel the shame as when to His God He cried, "Oh Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." What card could ever tell you? What word could e'er express? The love that flowed from these, His words, such truth, such tenderness. I searched through all the bookstores and ne'er a card did I find, that could fully express His love or His plan divine. None I found could tell you of the pain He felt so dear when they yelled, "Crucify him!" in that fateful year. None could tell the glory that His followers saw that day, when He was resurrected by the ways that none could say. None could express the stirring that leapt



from heart to heart; as one by one believed His word and trusted Him in their part. Then, finally, I FOUND IT and long it is indeed! You see, God from the beginning has planted His holy seed. And one by one down through the years, men have written of their days by God's holy word. And so, dear friends, I found it after my great search. The bookstores didn't have it and in the Wal-Mart I looked, too. You'd never guess where I found it for I suppose you have it, too. For it's two precious little books, that I found in my very room! You see, my friends, I on my own couldn't find the words to express such truth and understanding, such love and tenderness. But our dear God has found them and from the beginning of time did send us all a Christmas card that is always yours and mine.

Written by Laura G.-Sept. 26, 1995

Life's Narrow Path

I was not raised in the Church of Christ and was baptized shortly after getting married. As long as I've been a member we have been away and unable to attend church regularly, or have sacrament monthly. We are without strength in numbers and fellowship.

Living near Washington D.C., we run into many college graduates and supposedly highly educated individuals. Many of these drop their children off at day care centers and public schools, stopping after work for rental movies, Nintendo and Sega games, or shopping, before picking them up again. We see a world where they hire their lawns mowed, houses cleaned, and babysitters so they can run errands without kids. I go to their garage sales where they sell those have-to-have items for a tenth of their original cost. They are over-worked and can see no end. Their children are spoiled with gifts of guilt from parents wishing to spend more time. Yet they

buy more items, bigger houses, a bigger car, or maybe two.

I used to wish we had a bigger house, or a second car, until I noticed in our 3-bedroom house we were all separated. Dad in the family room watching sermons, our 5-year-old in our bedroom watching TV, and myself in the living room reading—all of us completely unaware of what each of us was doing. I began thinking of early Americans in their one room homes, all doing separate things in one room—Mom sewing, Dad reading, children playing—all completely aware of the other's doings. Today our houses are bigger. Children watch unsupervised TV in their own rooms, while Mom and Dad catch up on chores, read or watch something on TV. We wonder why we can't get along, or wonder where our children pick things up.

I began to give thanks for our house, that it wasn't any bigger, and thankful for our one car.

I called our 5-year-old downstairs, "Let's play a game or puzzle in the room Daddy is in" —thinking to myself, *we can all be aware of the other's doings and still do our own things*. We all now try to make the effort—no matter how different our interests are—to do them in the same room.

Since we started home schooling, the games, videos and songs we used to play, watch, and sing, have been switched. Now we make sure of their value in learning and about God.

I would like to hear from others through the *Zion's Advocate* of their motivation to raise their children such as Hannah did Samuel.

Remind others to write their ideals of family life in the Church newsletters for examples for those like us.

*Your sister in Christ,
Betsy Trudgen
Stafford, VA*

LOCAL NEWS

OPEN HOUSE - DEDICATION

BRADLEY, MICHIGAN

In April we were given our Temporary Occupancy Permit, and were permitted to hold services in our new building. Our first service was on Easter Sunday. The feeling was that we were "Home" again and on such a special day. Our hearts were

full of love and thanks to God for all he had done for us.

We felt sure that we would soon be ready for our "Open House." Time flew by as one "finishing" job led to another. Finally, most of the inside work was done, and we even had tables and chairs in the dining room. Next came the outside: sidewalks, parking lot drain and paving, and even grass, shrubs and flowers. It all seemed never-end-

ing!

At Last! We set the dates: Sunday, Sept. 24, at 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. for an "Open House" for the community, and a Special Day of Dedication, with Sacrament Service, Pot Luck, and a Dedication Service on Sunday, Oct. 1, 1995. We had our final cleaning bee and even the surprise of our new sign, which was quickly put up. The bell to the left of the new sign is from



our old church building. All was ready, we looked back on all the months of frustration, joy, planning, disappointments, hard work, excitement, working together as a local, prayer, much prayer, and always the wonder at what God was allowing us to have. It was like a favorite song, *It Took a Miracle of Love and Grace*. Through it all we never forgot our thankfulness to all our dear church brothers and sisters, who had encouraged us with their prayers, words and monies.

The community "Open House" was well received. Most of our local was there, giving tours, answering questions, and serving coffee and cookies. We had been given an organ from a local church and several came to see and hear it in it's new home.

The following Sunday was our "Dedication Service." We had about 100 in attendance. During the morning service the electricity went off. We later found it was a major outage. The ladies of our locals, after the first panic, took this in stride and by flashlight took things from electric roasters and kept the gas stove and oven busy. Everyone was able to enjoy a wonderful meal—no coffee—but a lovely cake with a church in frosting on top.

There were many of our

brothers and sisters from all over Michigan, as well as our special guests, Leslie and Irene Case, from Independence, who arrived Saturday in order to spend this special day with us, and had to leave on Monday.

The electricity came on about ten minutes before the afternoon service, just in time for the organ, microphones, and tape players needed for the program. The program was filled with many thanks to God and all He has done for us, as well as singing, piano and organ, solos and duets, coronet, clarinet, guitar and singing, poems, and reports. What a special and beautiful day God has given us! Our hearts were full. We were sorry to see the day end, but what a memory! We wish you all could have been with us.

Just a note: our local is hosting the Michigan Reunion next June. Come if you can.

We look at our beautiful new church home and realize that it is only a building, yes, only a building that has been built by man, but man could never have accomplished this. But God could and did. As we ponder and marvel at this, we know that God has a purpose in all things, and there must be a reason we are so blessed. Each time we en-

ter the doors of our church home, we feel the joy of what God has allowed us to have. I hope we never lose that feeling.

This has been a long and busy time for us, especially since we did so much of the work ourselves. We pray that we don't think our work is over, but just beginning, and remember that God has a purpose in all things.

Pray that we will remain busy and about our Father's work.

Bradley Local, MI

LOCAL NEWS

RAVENNA, MICHIGAN

Hello from the Ravenna local:

Winter visited us early this year. A number of our congregation have already left for warmer climates, and a few are getting ready to leave. We wish them a safe trip and will be anxious for their return in the spring. Each one of them has a special place in our hearts and they will be missed.

Some of our congregation met at Ryans in Grand Rapids for dinner on Saturday, the 18th of November. It was fun to get together for good

food and fellowship.

We also have a Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner planned on December sixteenth. My daughter Sue and I are roasting a turkey and all the trimmings. We hope to have a large attendance and hope to have an enjoyable time. Thanksgiving is just what its name implies. We thank the Lord for all He has given us, which is so much that our list is endless. It seems like Thanksgiving is more or less passed over in favor of Christmas. This would be fine if we would all remember what Christmas is all about.

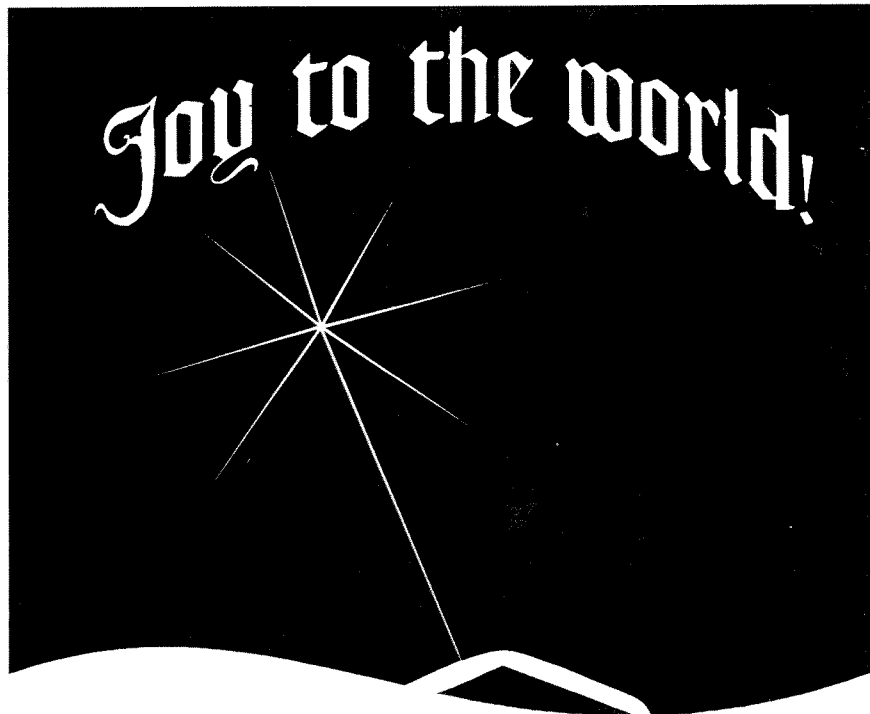
◆ Gratefulness overcomes selfish-

ness

- ◆ Let's give our loving thanks, for our Lord's lavish gifts.
- ◆ We learned to say "thank you."
- ◆ When we were young and small;
- ◆ But do we thank our Father,
- ◆ Whose gifts are best of all?

I wish you all our Father's blessings and hope you have a Merry Christmas.

Your reporter,
Norma Keith



LOCAL NEWS

FARMINGTON, MINNESOTA

Dear Brothers and Sisters, In case you might have been wondering, the Farmington Local is alive and pretty well. I am very sorry that I haven't written to you earlier. I did have a letter written to you sometime this summer to send to you but it somehow got lost in the computer, and after that, time was playing games with me. But, I'm writing now anyway.

Many of the young people in our local (including myself!) were able to attend the Youth Camp in August, and I am happy to say that it was wonderful this year and very uplifting. Not only were we able to attend the Youth Camp but we were also blessed to be able to attend the Missouri Reunion, and that in itself was as much uplifting as the Youth Camp. I only wish our whole local could've been there to joy in the presence of the Lord that was in those meetings.

The weeks up here now consist of Sunday night and Wednesday night meetings (which beforehand we were not so blessed with). The Sunday night meetings we hold in the home of Brother and Sister Ronnie and Joani

Gill. We are currently studying the works of the Bible. We have a family from Wisconsin who joins us, and it always livens things. Our Wednesday night meetings are held at Elder Tom Maley's house. Because of the conditions of Sister Ruth Maley it is not possible for them to come to church, so we have made a way for the church to come to them, and I am thankful of that blessing for them. Our last few sermons have been wonderful, inspiring ones. Last week Elder Merlin Eddy spoke about what we must put on (long-suffering, kindness, gentleness, charity, etc.) and what we must put off (jealousy, hate, envy, strife, etc.). I also have a few notes from a sermon preached by Brother John Gill on 9-17-95, and I'll leave you with them. I hope your days are as numbered as the sand in the sea.

*With Love,
Sister Laura Gill*

- ◆ You are a physical body and a living soul.
- ◆ Giving love involves doing.
- ◆ We need to have contact with God morning, mid-day and night.
- ◆ You have to really believe God exists, so much so that you are afraid to do the wrong thing.

- ◆ Man does not automatically do what he should do. (We are totally interdependent on one another, but totally unpredictable.)
- ◆ If you really believe in God your performance would reflect it. (Study to show thyself approved.)
- ◆ You have to grow as a person, but choose wisely the direction in which you grow.

LOCAL NEWS

COLLINS, MISSOURI

Last week we had temperatures in the seventies, and literally overnight our highs dropped to the forties. It's the time of year when sudden change is fairly common. The leaves have all turned brown and most have fallen and blown away in the wind. We have even seen a few snow flurries. Yes, it's that time of year.

Speaking of sudden changes, about a month ago (October), my husband, Allen Kauffman, had a light stroke while he was at work. He was hospitalized over night. His recovery is complete, with all credit and thanks being given to God. His lifestyle, however, has had to take on some "unpleasant" changes, such as diet and exercise, which so far are going very well. He has received several cards and calls from people everywhere. He said he had no idea so many people cared. We want to thank you all for your prayers and concern. It has made all the difference and God has answered quickly.

Brother Alma Camp from Rolla, Missouri, area had to have his foot ampu-

tated because of an infection that would not heal due to his diabetic condition. He came through the surgery very well and with a positive attitude for going on with life.

Sister Jo Eddy has had a good report from her doctor in Omaha. She is second on the liver transplant list and could be called at any time. Her doctor says she is in very good condition for this surgery.

Please remember Sister Jo and Brother Alma and the changes that are taking place in their lives. We are one another's support through prayer, and God is our strength.

The Collin's Rally was held October 15th, beginning with a prayer and testimony service, followed by four short sermons by Brothers Steve McGhee, Joe Smith, Roland Sarratt, and Allen Kauffman. After lunch we also enjoyed a sermon from Brother Loren Bryant. The day just flew by and too soon we were hugging our guests good-bye and looking forward to our next meeting together.

Time is a precious commodity that, perhaps more than anything we have, is most wasted and unused. How often I look back on my

day and see that I have accomplished virtually nothing. Time is also filled with sudden change, as we have been witness to with the assassination of Israel's Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin. Along with all these things that time entails, time is short. We must watch and pray always.

In closing, here are a few sermon quotes I want to share with you:

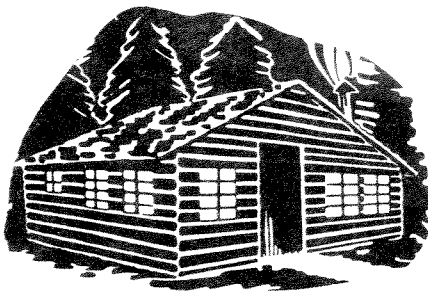
- ◆ We can handle nothing on our own.
- ◆ Forgiveness brings a release to you, a mighty change in your heart.
- ◆ You have to set your foot in His path and walk it.
- ◆ As long as Satan keeps us divided, he has us where he wants us.
- ◆ We don't "plan" to serve sin, but do we "plan" to serve Him—(God)?
- ◆ Do you consider yourself a working, active tool for the Lord?
- ◆ How many hours are we in church? How many hours are we in the world?
- ◆ Make a decision in your mind—is this the kingdom of God or the kingdom of man?
- ◆ We cannot inherit salvation of mortals.
- ◆ Being "almost" persuaded is not enough.

*Your reporter,
Czerna Kauffman*

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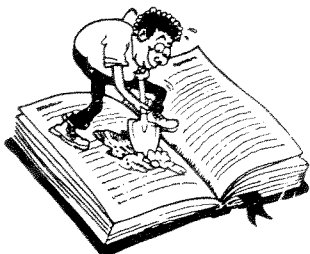
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Index to Volume 72 (1995)

Title/Author	No.	Pg.	Title/Author	No.	Pg.
ARTICLES					
Another View of the Glories— <i>Apostle William A. Sheldon</i>	6	113	Pride—Don't Let It Separate You From God— <i>Apostle Smith Brickbouse</i>	12	227
Aspects of Forgiveness— <i>Sister Margret Gill</i>	4	68	What About the Rapture?— <i>Apostle Marvin E. Ely</i>	10	198
Blessed are the Meek— <i>Elder Arthur G. Smith</i>	11	217	What Shall We Do?— <i>Elder Joseph F. Smith</i>	2	21
Burdens and their Purpose in our Lives— <i>Elder Robert S. Dewaele</i>	10	204	Wise Purposes of the Lord, Part 1— <i>Apostle Roland Sarratt</i>	3	47
Comfort of the Spirit— <i>Elder Arthur G. Smith</i>	9	181	Wise Purposes of the Lord, Part 2— <i>Apostle Roland Sarratt</i>	4	71
End of the Sixth Day, The— <i>Harvey E. Seibel</i>	1	4	EDITORIALS		
Envy— <i>Apostle Alvin Moser (Jay)</i>	11	211	Closed Communion— <i>Apostle Jay Moser</i>	10	191
Evidence for a Young Earth— <i>Harvey E. Seibel</i>	12	230	Conscience or Mental Illness?— <i>Apostle Alvan J. Moser</i>	3	39
Glories! The— <i>Elder Joseph F. Smith</i>	4	63	This is a Day— <i>Harvey L. Seibel</i>	7	130
Humility— <i>Elder Arthur G. Smith</i>	8	151	Untitled— <i>Apostle Smith Brickbouse</i>	1	3
It is Near—The Last Sign— <i>Harvey E. Seibel</i>	8	153	FROM THE ARCHIVES		
Just Shall Live by Faith, The— <i>Elder Arthur G. Smith</i>	2	19	Historical Excerpts Concerning the Book of Mormon—(from <i>A Voice of Warning and Instruction to All People</i> , by Parley P. Pratt)	4	74
Look Up and Rejoice— <i>Elder Richard A. Wheaton</i>	9	171	Watch Your Littlest Pink Finger— <i>Irene Maley</i> (from <i>Zion's Advocate</i> September 1963)	3	51
Millennium, Part I— <i>Apostle William A. Sheldon</i>	11	215	FROM THE FILES		
Millennium, Part II— <i>Apostle William A. Sheldon</i>	12	233	Apostle Leon Gould— <i>A Daughter</i>	2	29
Our Day of Probation— <i>Apostle Roland Sarratt</i>	10	193	Living Faith— <i>Leon Gould</i>	4	80
Our Vital Human Relationships: Part I, The Body of Christ— <i>Apostle Don McIndoo</i>	5	91	GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION		
Our Vital Human Relationships: Part II, The Enduring Covenant— <i>Apostle Donald McIndoo</i>	6	107	Untitled—A synopsis of all materials available from the GSSA	5	99
Our Vital Human Relationships: Part III, Duties of Wives— <i>Apostle Donald McIndoo</i>	7	131			
Our Vital Human Relationships: Part IV, Duties of Husbands— <i>Apostle Donald McIndoo</i>	8	157			

1995 INDEX

Index to Volume 72 (1995)

Title/Author	No.	Pg.	Title/Author	No.	Pg.
LETTER					
Letter to Rabbi Charles Kluge— <i>Apostle</i> <i>William A. Sheldon</i>	2	26	Through the Eyes of a Child— <i>Elder Andrew</i> <i>Brantner</i>	4	82
MISCELLANEOUS					
Church of Christ Michigan Reunion News— <i>Deb Brantner Vogel</i>	8	163	Untitled— <i>Marlene Oar</i>	5	95
Father— <i>selected</i>	6	116	Will God's Miracles Ever Cease? Part II— <i>Patricia Gould</i>	6	121
Open House—Dedication— <i>Bradley Local</i>	12	240	POEM		
Report on the 1995 Missouri Reunion— <i>Apostle Marvin Ely</i>	9	185	Appointment, The— <i>Sam Kidd</i>	11	219
OBITUARIES					
Cogan, L. G. Elton (Died 1/17/1995)	3	59	Builder— <i>submitted by Jennifer Yates</i>	3	37
Keeney, Anna (6/28/1902—1/22/1995)	3	58	Family of God— <i>submitted by Donna W.</i> <i>Moser</i>	9	169
Randall, Ruth Mae (4/17/1904—4/22/1995). 6	6	126	He Hears and Answers— <i>Donna Moser</i>	9	184
PATHLIGHTS					
Awakened Gratitude— <i>Gary A. Housknecht</i>	3	56	It Matters Not	3	46
Christmas Card— <i>Laura G.</i>	12	239	Love, or the Lack of It— <i>Sam Kidd</i>	2	32
Could You Find the Way?— <i>Sister Betsy</i> <i>Trudgen</i>	11	220	My Mother's Apron— <i>Ruth Mae Randall</i>	6	127
Do You Believe in Guardian Angels?— <i>Sister Norma Keith</i>	6	119	Poem— <i>Hellen Carroll</i>	7	139
Does Jesus Care— <i>Jennifer Yates</i>	3	54	Praise for the Old, and the New Year— Anon., submitted by <i>Sister Vida Filley</i>	1	1
First Step, The— <i>Donna Moser</i>	9	184	Presence of the Lord— <i>Sam Kidd</i>	9	183
Heaven on Earth— <i>John C. Morris</i>	2	30	Prophecy of an American Indian, The— <i>J. Warren Harper</i>	7	136
Hunger— <i>Diana Dewaele</i>	6	117	Rally, The— <i>Sam Kidd</i>	6	118
Life's Narrow Path— <i>Betsy Trudgen</i>	12	240	Talk to the Shepherd— <i>Sam Kidd</i>	5	89
My Book of Mormon Testimony— <i>Lois Harris</i>	1	14	This I Know— <i>submitted by Sister Vida Filley</i>	1	15
My Personal Religion On Being Isolated— <i>Meredyth Malone</i>	11	220	Three Nephites, The— <i>Vida E. Smith Yates</i>	4	84
My Personal Religion On Parent's Responsibility to Children— <i>Meredyth</i> <i>Malone</i>	10	205	So Close to the End— <i>Jacquelyn Marie</i> <i>Brain</i>	2	32
			Woman's Heart, A— <i>Vida E. Smith Yates</i>		
			5 98		
			SONG		
			Call to Zion, A— <i>Stephen S. Gould</i>		
			4 61		
			Saints of Our Lord— <i>Sister Laura Gill</i>		
			4 81		
			Song written on 2-7-93— <i>Stephen Gould</i>		
			1 12		
			Words— <i>Kathy Cloyd</i>		
			7 139		

CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 1996 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, March 31. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 1. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, on March 29 & 30. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

The 1996 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 21 through 23, at Independence, Missouri.

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 Principles of the Gospel, The—Laying on of Hands
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SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS

Send orders for SS materials to Debbie Vogel, 403 Colonel Drive, Independence, Missouri 64050. 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 Teacher's Guide
Jesus' Life and Teachings—4 Quarterlies for ages 8-10
Who Am I?—Bible game on cards; free to Sunday Schools/\$1.30 to individuals.

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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 AVAA Committee, Church of Christ, P.O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472.

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 TAPE

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 Road, Kansas City, Missouri 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 Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85022, or Ron Temple, 5621 Logan Road, Kansas city, Missouri 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.