

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 75

INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI—AUGUST 1998

NUMBER 8

Morning Dew

I went out early this morning
To plant some flowers—a few,
And as I gazed around me,
I noticed the morning dew.

The grass was heavy laden,
With droplets of many a hue
It sparkled like many
diamonds
Althought it was only dew.

I noticed some turn silver,
While others turned to gold,
Some were green or rosy—
Truly a joy to behold.

We take things so for granted.
If we only take time to view
The wonders of God's
creations—
We'd see everything anew.

—Doris E. Jensen
May 24, 1991

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ZION'S ADVOCATE is the official publication of the Church of Christ, with headquarters on the Temple Lot, 200 S. River Blvd., P.O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472. Telephone (816) 833-3995 or 833-3914.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Church of Christ members' subscriptions are paid from general Church funds, but donations are requested (suggested: \$4.00 each year). In bundles of 12 or more for missionary purposes: \$2.00.

Non-member rates: \$4.00 (one year); all foreign add 50¢.

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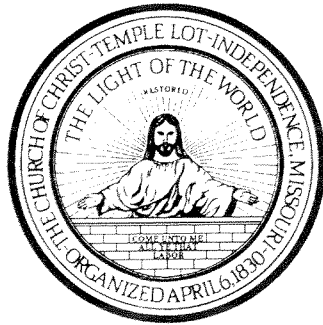
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Format of submitted material. Please type all submissions (if possible) on one side of the paper only. Please avoid overuse of underlining,

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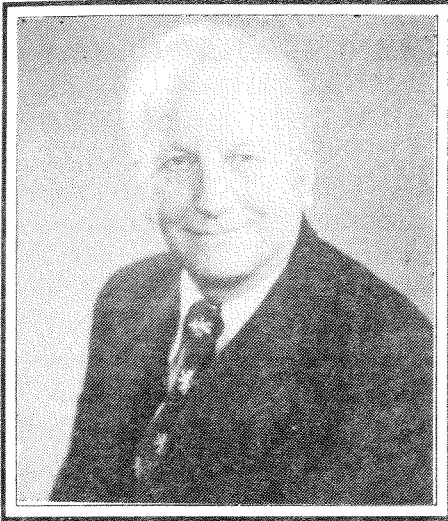
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ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

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

The Gathering

A Principle of God



By Apostle William A. Sheldon

(All scriptural emphasis mine.)

Part II

Let us be disposed to assume that Zion is only to be found in Jerusalem in the land of Canaan, consider this: a terrible destruction is predicted to come upon the wicked in the great "day of the Lord" (Joel 3:9-15),

and we are further informed that,

"The Lord shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem..." Joel 3:16.

In this text there is a distinct separation of a place called Zion from the place of Jerusalem, and this is born out by both Isaiah and Zephaniah.

"...Out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem" Isa. 2:3.

"Then shall the moon be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the Lord of hosts shall reign **in mount Zion, AND in Jerusalem,** and before his ancients gloriously" Isa. 24:23.

In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem, Fear thou not: and to Zion, Let not thine hands be slack" Zeph. 3:16.

By the foregoing, we see that Zion is referenced both as being in Jerusalem and some other place. You will recall that we have placed Joseph's inheritance as being in the Americas, especially the U.S.A. Therefore the inheritance of the other tribes of Israel is (for the most part) to be in Canaan. These are not exclusive inheritances, but generally speaking, as I have said.

Later, we will treat upon the gathering of the saints in "Joseph's land," but for now, a consideration of Israel's gathering to the "holy land" will be profitable as well. This will be

1998 Referendum Bill Results

Bill #1 Resolution to Re-establish the Committee to Study Zion.	226 Yes 106 No.	Passed
Bill #2 Statement in Opposition to Violence and Militant Groups.	267 Yes 67 No.	Passed
Bill #3 Resolution to Rescind Former Referendum Action.	301 Yes 31 No.	Passed

largely from the Bible. The "stick of Judah," which is the Bible, was to be for the children of Israel, just as was the "stick of Joseph" (the Book of Mormon). Both of these records were to be one in the Lord's hands, and to show His great concern and magnificent provision for the whole nation of Israel (see Ezek. 37th chapter) in the latter days, just as in ancient times; the glorious culmination of the words of the prophets. We cannot begin to do the matter justice in the intended limited treatment.

In order to accomplish His grand purpose of preparing a people to dwell with Him upon the earth (yes, the meek shall inherit the earth, said the Master, and He shall be in their midst, as we shall see), He must necessarily correct his people Israel, as also all nations who will humble themselves, acknowledging Him as their king. He will destroy the wicked (the wilfully disobedient), revealing Himself in great power and glory; a baptism of fire, just as there was a baptism of water in the days of Noah. While these terms are to be understood as literal conditions, yet they are also figurative baptisms.

"But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. **Even thus it shall be when the Son of man is revealed**" Luke 17:29, 30.

Significantly, the Lord prepared a place for the salvation of Lot and his family while this

was going on, just as He prepared an ark for the salvation of Noah's family from the flood of water. By the same token, He has designed that an ark of salvation, so to speak, should be prepared also in the latter days, which is called Zion. We will speak of this after a further consideration of the great gathering of Israel to the holy land.

Connected with the gathering of Israel (including latter day saints, or those of the Restoration of the gospel), there is to be a final cry of repentance to the nations, so they will be left without excuse. In this process there is to be a pushing together of those who repent; a great gathering of the saints of God.

"...His horns (Joseph's/w.a.s.) are like the horns of unicorns: with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth (to Zion and to Jerusalem/w.a.s.): and **they are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and they are the thousands of Manasseh**" Deut. 33:17.

The term—"push the people together"—is rather peculiar language, but it is indicative of the impelling force of the Holy Ghost, the power of heaven, which will irresistably move the pure in heart, or those who have humbled themselves before the Lord, to go to Zion AND to a sanctified Jerusalem.

Babylon, the many-faceted spiritual and carnal systems of men is to fall (see Rev. 18 and 3 Ne. 9:101-106). Gentiles, including those of Ephraim among them, who will have re-

pented, shall be numbered with the remnant of Jacob in building the New Jerusalem in America—

"And then shall the power of heaven come down among them; and **I also** (Jesus Christ/w.a.s.) **shall be in their midst, AND THEN SHALL THE WORK OF THE FATHER COMMENCE, AT THAT DAY WHEN THIS GOSPEL SHALL BE PREACHED AMONG THE REMNANT OF THIS PEOPLE...** Yea, the work shall commence among all the dispersed of my people (the whole house of Israel/w.a.s.), with the Father, to prepare the way whereby they may come unto me, that they may call on the Father in my name. And they shall go out from all nations; and they shall not go out in haste, nor go by flight; for I will go before them, saith the Father, and I will be their rearward (to gather the stragglers/w.a.s.)..." 3 Ne. 10:4, 6, 8.

This great work of the gathering of Israel is to be done by "the ten thousands of Ephraim" and "the thousands of Manasseh," under the power of heaven, in proclamation of the gospel of repentance and of faith toward God, in obedience to the principles of baptism by immersion and the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost.

"Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within

you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh," Ezek. 36:25, 26.

Some may be surprised that Manasseh is to have a conspicuous part in this great outreach of God toward his brethren of Israel in the light of scriptural texts regarding the "remnant of Jacob" which is to go through the gentiles in a destructive capacity (see 3 Ne. 9:51-55) because of their wickedness. This is one element of the impact of the Lamanites upon gentiles in our society resulting from tactics of subversion from the beginning of the white man's colonization of the American continent; a course of action seemingly in the near future.

This course will be paralleled by the "thousands of Manasseh" engaged in a benign, but powerful impact, especially upon his own people.

"And the remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many people **as a dew from the Lord**, as the showers upon the grass..." Mic. 5:7.

The significance of this is shown in Deut. 32:2:

"My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass."

For this purpose, the Lord is to call one from among that people, a descendant of Joseph, the son of Lehi, to do a mighty work among the Lamanites in the last days.

"And there shall raise up one mighty among them, which shall do much good, both in word and in deed, being an instrument in the hands of God, with exceeding faith, To work mighty wonders, and do that thing which is great in the sight of God, unto the bringing to pass much restoration unto the house of Israel, and unto the seed of thy brethren" 2 Ne. 2:46, 47.

Some have supposed that this one is to be a "choice seer." He will have the great power of God to convince his brethren of the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon, but will not have that gift as a seer, i.e., being possessed of the Urim and Thummim in order to translate the sealed portion of the Book of Mormon plates. A seer for that purpose will be revealed among the gentiles, as is clearly indicated in Ether 1:100-101. Rather, this Nephite among the Lamanites will be the spokesman from the loins of Joseph who will bear witness of the truth of the Book of Mormon, the words written by Mormon. It was Mormon who was to "write the writings of the fruit of thy loins" (see 2 Ne. 2:37, 38), not Joseph Smith.

At this same period in which the gospel is being proclaimed in power among the remnant of Jacob (Lamanites, Indians), a powerful witness and call to repentance will be made to the gentile nations, spearheaded by one who is identified as a "marred" servant; one who is physically abused be-

cause of his testimony, yet being in the Lord's hands to preserve him throughout his appointed time of ministry. See 3 Ne. 9:79-83, 94-98. He is also referenced in Isa. 52:13-15. Some feel that this references Jesus Christ, and the abuse he suffered before His crucifixion, but Christ speaks of him as "my servant" in 2 Ne. 9:81, and that "he shall sprinkle many nations" (v. 83).

These two mighty servants of God will be assisted by the ten thousands of Ephraim and Manasseh as a final effort by God to bring the nations unto repentance. Many will believe, but possibly many more will harden their hearts, and thus be ripe for the immersion in the literal fire from God in destruction of the wicked.

Repentant gentiles, Israelites, and yes, of the heathen nations (for "the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea"—Isa. 11:9), shall be led, **moved, PUSHED** to the ends of the earth, to Zion in America and to Jerusalem in Canaan. Israel is to be "gathered together again to the LANDS of their inheritance," "when they shall come to the knowledge of their Redeemer" (2 Ne. 5:29).

What a glorious spectacle that will be as they come from wheresoever the Lord had scattered them, upon the isles of the seas and among the nations!

"Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that they shall no more say, The Lord liveth, which brought up the children of Is-

rael out of the land of Egypt (that event shall pale into insignificance by comparison/w.a.s.); But the Lord liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land" Jer. 23:7, 8.

And how shall they come?

"In those days, and in that time, saith the Lord, the children of Israel shall come, they and the children of Judah together, going and weeping: they shall go, and seek the Lord their God. They shall ask the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, saying, Come, and let us join ourselves to the Lord in a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten" Jer. 50:4, 5.

"The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.... 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 water break out, and streams in the desert.... 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 (no impious foot stray over it/Moffat translation); but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men though fools, shall not err therein (the unclean may not travel by it, nor fools stray along it/Jerusalem Bible). 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, 5, 6, 8-10.

Those of Israel, except Joseph's seed, will largely find inheritance in the land of Canaan:

"And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I shall bring you into the land of Israel, into the country for the which I lifted up mine hand to give it to your fathers" Ezek. 20:42.

Now see why they of Israel shall no longer say, The Lord liveth which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt (because of its comparative magnitude):

"And the Lord shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea (the Mediterranean Sea/w.a.s.); and with his mighty wind shall he shake his hand over the river, and shall smite it in the seven streams (the several rivers in their path as they come from the north of Palestine /w.a.s.), and make men go over dryshod. And there shall be an highway for the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came out of the land of Egypt" Isa. 11:15, 16.

It seems evident that the above is because of the worldwide shaking of the earth, together with that of the heavens; when the sun is darkened, the moon withdraws its shining and the stars fall as never before.

"The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly" Isa. 24:19; (read all of Isaiah 24, Matt. 24:29; Isa. 2:19, Joel 3:16).

When the work of the gathering has been completed, Jesus Christ is to reign in the midst of his people as King of kings and Lord of lords.

"Behold the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David (of his seed/w.a.s.) a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice. In his days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS."

(To be continued.)

Partakers of the Heavenly Gift

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, allow me to share with you some of the blessings I have recently received through the grace of our Heavenly Father. But let me first affirm my belief that these blessings were a direct result of God's response to the many prayers which you offered in my behalf. For this I shall always feel deeply indebted to all my dear brothers and sisters in a number of lands.

Most of you are aware that a PSA test indicated a problem with the prostate which required further tests and study. These were delayed to permit me to attend the conference we so much enjoyed. As is so often the case in this life, this conference was a collage of several sad and trying experiences for me, interspersed with rich spiritual blessings which I shall never be able to forget. Upon my arrival home, a biopsy was made and - praise be to God - there was no indication of cancer. This provided great joy to me as my principal desire was that nothing would interfere with my continued ministry in Mexico and Central America. However, the ultra sound tests showed that surgery was needed. (I'll spare you the details.)

The surgery went well. The abnormal condition seems to have been corrected. This was another great blessing. As I lay in the hospital bed connected up to a barrage of tubes I was aware of another blessing. There seemed to be an almost complete absence of pain. When I was freed from most of these plastic protuberances on the second day and allowed to get up and walk about, this freedom from pain continued. Three weeks later I got a trifle overzealous working in my yard and the Lord gave me a little demonstration of just what I had missed.

Certainly the greatest blessing I received took place on the morning after my surgery. I was alone in the room, lying in my hospital bed giving thanks to the Lord for the blessings I had received and, at the same time, thinking how frail was this human body. Suddenly my mind and soul were filled with an indescribable peace and joy. I was caused to realize that I was a member of a great family, a close community, grounded in the love of Jesus Christ. In truth, I realized that even though we might walk through the valley of the shadow of death we are never alone, for we have

not only the Lord with us always, but we also have this wonderful community of a loving and concerned family. What a blessing! My mind focused upon that verse in IV Nephi where it says, "*And they had all things common among them, therefore they were not rich and poor, bond and free, but they were all made free, and partakers of the heavenly gift. And surely there could not be a happier people among all the people who had been created by the hand of God (verse 4 & 19).*" I am thankful that this experience came to me before I had been visited by anyone but my immediate family.

After this experience of the spirit, there came a testimony of its validity with a flood of visitors, cards and telephone calls from all parts of the country and other countries as well. Each was appreciated, each lifted the spirit and each served to make me aware that the experience I had received that morning in the hospital was a revelation of God concerning this spiritual union of His people. May His name be ever praised! I believe I received a foretaste of the Zion to come.

*In deepest gratitude,
Don McIndoo*

1998 CONFERENCE REPORT

CONFERENCE REPORT

On March 30, the Monday preceding the 1998 Conference, our Brother and Apostle Marvin Ely died. On the following Wednesday, the Temple Lot Local, East Local, and those brothers and sisters who had already arrived from out of town, met together for prayer meeting. It was a time of great sorrow, for our hearts were broken over the sudden loss of our brother. It was right and good, though, to be gathered together. It was as though a great family had drawn together to give and receive comfort. The service seemed to focus on how God had blessed us through the friendship and ministry of this man. We were comforted that night. At the memorial service the next day, our hearts were lifted as Apostle Don McIndoo shared memories of Brother Ely and reminded us of the hope of salvation we have because of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

It was in this spirit of hope that we met at the Temple Lot on April 3, at 9:00 a.m., for the first service of Solemn Assembly. We were reminded at the beginning of the service, as well

as at the four following meetings, in a statement written by the apostles to "unite in one heart and mind, that the guidance of the Lord may be made known to us, and that the power of Pentecost may cover us...that the servants of the Lord might go forth in boldness and power and speak without fear into the utmost ends of the earth."

At the opening prayer meeting, Apostle Jay Moser informed us that the apostles had a prepared statement to be read at the Sunday morning service concerning the calls of others to the Council of Apostles. During the following services there were intense seasons of prayer that these men might have strong witnesses of the truth of their callings. Hearts were opened to God. The desire of many was that we be able to put aside our own wills, hurts and disappointments and be taught and led by God.

That spirit of prayer and great expectation continued into the Sunday morning sacrament service on April 5. Apostle Jay Moser and Rolland Sarratt presided over the service. Following the serving of sacrament

and several administrations, there was a season of prayer for the sick. Then Brother Moser read the statement from the Council calling six men to be apostles. The call had been given to the Council on March 28 and 30 before Apostle Ely's death. Those called were Elders Brian McIndoo and Joel Yates from Phoenix, Arizona; Elders Frank Fann and Mike McGhee of Independence; and Elders Placido Koyoc Yam and Placido Koyoc Matu from Yucatan.

Several hours of prayer and testimony followed, most of the testimonies witnessing to the truth of the callings. Four of the six men called were in the congregation and stood, accepting their calls and sharing their testimonies. The apostles shared with us their testimonies of the overwhelming spirit of God they had felt during their pre-conference meetings.

One brother stood and asked, "Do you recognize your place in prophecy? We're living prophecies of a thousand years ago. Remember this day, a day I hope you'll look back on the rest of your lives, that you've

witnessed the Lord speak to His people.”

It is hard to convey on paper what was felt by so many that day. Before, some had wondered if God's work could progress with so few laborers; but this day, hope replaced discouragement and doubt. Our hearts were full of praise and thanksgiving for God's mercy to us. We were glad we had come and heard the callings and the many testimonies supporting the calls. His spirit had been strong among us; and amid tears, more than one parent told their children, “Remember this day.”

In the late afternoon, special music preceded the sermon. The Senior Choir, local teenagers directed by Sister Manon Lawrence, sang “How Great Thou Art.” Then Sister Martha Bruner led the choir through a cantata called “Easter Song.”

Apostle Rolland Sarratt preached the first in a series of sermons concerning the restoration of the church and priesthood authority, the Book of Mormon, and the gathering. The sermons covered subjects that were familiar to most of us, subjects unique to the Restoration. It was good to be reminded again of God's “marvelous work and a wonder” and to know we are part of it.

Having read from Isaiah 14:24, Brother Sarratt emphasized throughout his sermon that as the Lord had “purposed it, so shall it stand.” The plan of God established from the foundation of the earth shall come about regardless of the

will of man or man's neglect. “Nothing came by accident,” he added. “The Lord was always in control. God has called this people out. You're not here by accident. You haven't learned the gospel by happenstance, just because you were born in a family that believed in it. You're responding to Him. The eternal purposes of the Lord will go on until His promises are fulfilled. He has set His work in these latter days and it will not return to Him void.”

Step by step Brother Sarratt went through the scriptures, showing us God's plan. He read how God had sent His Son to redeem man, that His church was established, and disciples commissioned to take the gospel to all the world. Using Acts 20:28, 29 and Amos 8:11, 12, he pointed out that it was prophesied that there would be a falling away, a spiritual famine, an apostasy. The scriptures and interpretation indicate that the church would be taken away for 1,260 years.

Revelation 14:6, 7 gave the hope of a restoration of the fullness of the gospel. Brother Sarratt continued by reminding us of Ezekiel 37 where two sticks are spoken of, the stick of Judah and the stick of Joseph. These sticks representing the Bible and the Book of Mormon were to become one in God's hand. He told briefly of how God used Joseph Smith, Jr. as an instrument in restoring the church and translating the Book of Mormon, and he concluded by admonishing us to yield to God

and His ways, so that we might fulfill His purpose for us.

Monday began with an early morning prayer service preceding the first business session. Hearts were still focused on seeking God's guidance on the calls given to us the day before. The apostles and elders were to meet on Tuesday to consider them. Usually there is time for testimonies, but at Monday's meeting, as well as on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, the people's desire, their need, was to pray.

The usual business meetings convened at 9:00 a.m. each day and certain groups—the United Workers, General Sunday School Association, YPCL, and Jr. YPCL—had meetings woven into the conference schedule.

Preceding each evening service there was a song service. It was a time for congregational singing and musical specials by brothers and sisters from all over. We rejoiced as we were ministered to by young and old, solos and groups, all with the desire to give glory to God with the talents He'd given them.

Monday, April 6, was the 168th anniversary of the organization of the church in the latter days. Apostle Smith Brickhouse preached that evening concerning authority in the restoration. Brother Brickhouse went back through history and scripture, explaining the apostasy, reformation, and restoration of the church. The main point of his sermon was “to show that God gave, sent, and

set up His kingdom and the power and authority to represent Him on earth and to show where that authority lies today.”

He pointed out that the authority to represent Christ on earth was restored in 1829 and the church set in place again in 1830. Soon afterwards, though, men began again to put their own doctrines and practices into the church. After Joseph Smith, Jr.'s death, the restored church split into six main factions, eventually resulting in the 200 plus we have today.

How do we recognize His church today? Brother Brickhouse answered, “By its teachings, practices, doctrines, and comparing them to the teachings of the Bible and the Book of Mormon.”

He concluded his sermon by telling how the Church of Christ at the Temple Lot has endeavored throughout the years to return to the simple truth of the church restored in 1830 by searching the scriptures and revelations. “The church repudiated its belief in the structural innovations of man (i.e.: the presiding elder or president and the office of high priest) and took a stance that all past, present, and future revelations must be in harmony with the Bible and Book of Mormon.” Believing the authority restored by God has continued to reside with the remnant called the Church of Christ, Brother Brickhouse gave invitation to the honest of heart who are searching for truth and have a

desire to be part of the body of Christ.

“According to the scriptures, this can only be accomplished through baptism by one having authority given by God. That authority by decree of God Himself resides within the Church of Christ....”

The apostles and elders met the next day, Tuesday, April 7, to pray and consider the calls. Their approval was presented to the conference the next day and approved by the body. Tuesday evening, Apostle Don McIndoo preached concerning the Book of Mormon. For those of us who cherish the book, that night's sermon strengthened our belief in its divinity. For those who were unsure, the sermon was a challenge, as Brother McIndoo unfolded scriptures and history before us.

He warned us that modern man has looked for alternative answers to spiritual happenings. When Jesus was resurrected, the chief priests instructed the guards who had watched the tomb to lie about what they had witnessed. Sceptics still believe the lie. When young Joseph Smith, Jr. was visited by an angel and told about a hidden record, there were sceptics, too. They tried to contrive explanations to replace the truth of an angel visit.

“I say there is an infallible test of the validity of the Book of Mormon as we look at prophecies that are only explained and understood or fulfilled by the coming forth of this book. In addition to that test of

scriptural prophecy, there is another test that the Master of Men tells us about. He says, ‘In the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.’ That has been God's way of dealing with the people from the beginning.”

He then preceded to point out prophecies from the Book of Mormon concerning its purpose and the purpose of this land. In III Nephi 7:34-36, Jesus warned the people that if they rejected the gospel after receiving it, it would be taken from them. “Think about America today,” Brother McIndoo said. “This isn't a Christian nation. We worship at the alter of diversification today. What's the fastest growing religion in our country? It is the Moslem religion.... A vast majority of the people in this nation believe in these things as opposed to the plan of God Almighty as revealed in the Bible.”

Brother McIndoo then addressed three claims of the Book of Mormon: (1) that it is a divine history, (2) that it is a historical and religious record, and (3) that it was revealed and translated by the power of God. He presented detailed evidence supporting each claim, using archeological and anthropological proofs, literary styles, comparisons to the traditions of native Americans, and results of tests to support the claims.

He concluded by sharing the story of the gospel being brought to the Mayan people through Clarence and Angela Wheaton. In his final words,

Brother McIndoo urged us to get ourselves ready, spiritually and mentally, for the work and the sacrifice we face. "I want us to be inspired by the fact that we have been privileged to know the Lord Jesus Christ, a living Jesus Christ, that has called us at a special moment of history. Be ready to answer the call."

"We lay hands upon you to ordain you an apostle of Jesus Christ." Four men sat before us Wednesday evening. Brothers Frank Fann, Mike McGhee, Brian McIndoo, and Joel Yates were ordained through the laying on of hands. One by one, they were set aside by those with authority, to be special witnesses of Jesus Christ, to represent Him and witness of Him to all the world. Following the ordinations, the four were joined up front by their wives, and they were greeted by the congregation. Words of support and encouragement were exchanged amid tears of joy.

Following the ordinations, Apostle William Sheldon preached about the gathering. Brother Sheldon began with the reading of Ephesians 1:9-10 which states that in the "dispensation of Christ he might gather together in one all things in Christ...." He continued through prophecies in Jeremiah that spoke of the Lord bringing scattered Israel back to the lands of their fathers. "We wonder how it can possibly be. What? This little Church of Christ has a part, be the focal point of bringing the children of

Israel back together in one body where Christ will reign?" He preceded to explain not just our role, but the role of the seed of Joseph.

According to Deuteronomy 33:17, the Lord is going to use His people, especially Ephraim and Manasseh to "push the people together." "Our Indian brethren are going to be used as a mighty force, an instrument of God...all of this with the purpose of bringing about a gathering of the saints of God and the House of Israel. God is going to use Manasseh to do a mighty work for the Lord." Brother Sheldon also spoke of the gathering to the Church of Christ of those in the Restoration who are true in heart. He referred to a vision given to Elder George D. Cole near 1870, found on pg. 131 of the *Outline of History*.

In the last part of his sermon, Brother Sheldon gave us three points to ponder: (1) The gathering of the saints is inextricably tied to the establishment of Zion, (2) The gathering of the saints is also tied to the building of the New Jerusalem and the Holy Temple of the Lord, (3) Zion can only be a reality through the principle amongst the Church of Christ of all things common. He gave examples of the church in Jerusalem and among the Nephites in this land. "This developed because of the love of God that came into their hearts in which they could not stand that their brothers and sisters were in want, and they would reach out to them and supply their needs

as they were able to do. Zion will never be until that comes about, and this is all a part of the gathering."

In order to be part of that gathering, we will need to "come out of Babylon." Brother Sheldon described Babylon as things of this world that are contrary to God. "We must change our mind-set from carnal to spiritual."

He closed by listing 13 steps in coming out of Babylon. A detailed list with scripture reference can be requested from Brother Sheldon. Quickly, though, they are listed: Rule out the belief that other churches were equally acceptable to God; If having a choice, refuse to break the Sabbath for work or pleasure; Do not engage in pleasure that separates us from the body or fellowship; Shun association on a personal basis with those of little or no moral direction; Refuse to watch or allow children to watch suggestive programs of sex, loose marital insinuations, etc.; Restrict music that has unwholesome themes; Ephesians 5:3-6: Shun physical, mental, verbal fighting; Narrow financial credit to only essential needs, eventually eliminating all debt; If possible, do not invest in stocks, bonds, interest system; Do not yield to gambling, lottery, races, etc.; Do not use alcohol, drugs, tobacco; and avoid involvement in secret societies.

Brother Sheldon left us with this encouragement. "I believe we are living in a very exciting, tremendous time, in

which the Lord has set His hand for the gathering of His saints, and the House of Israel. We have the privilege of having a part of that if we will commit ourselves with all of our heart, might, mind, and strength to the love of God and His son Jesus Christ. The keeping of His commandments will qualify us to be numbered with His saints of the last days."

It is a difficult thing to try to give a synopsis of sermons. I have given you only a few highlights in hope that you will read these sermons when they are printed in more detail in the *Advocate*, or that you will contact Brother Ron Temple for a tape.

The 1998 conference was one of many highlights. As

usual, it was a time for business to be conducted, sermons to be preached and for us to gather again to renew and strengthen friendships. It was a time to meet new brothers and sisters, to share laughter, family news, and concerns while sharing meals. It was a time for our young people to gather together in fellowship. Those are annual blessings of conference. This was a special year, though, to me and to others. It was a strength to witness the calls and ordinations of men to the Council of Apostles. It was amazing to hear testimony after testimony that Sunday morning of the truth of the calls. It was a conference of encouragement and challenge. We left feeling we had a divine purpose that we

must prepare for and accomplish. We thank God for all that we experienced, and agree with the words of Apostle Sheldon when he said, "Haven't we had a marvelous time together with the Spirit of God!"

Debbie Vogel

For a taped copy of a Conference sermon, contact Ron Temple, 5621 Logan Road, Kansas City, MO 64136.

FROM the ARCHIVES

The Old, Old Path

Let's go back to the old, old path,
The path Saints of old have trod,
The path of the Gospel of Jesus Christ
Restored by an Angel of God.

So far have we gone from the old, old path
That the glory of it grows dim.
When we follow the ways and the schemes of
men
They lead into ways of sin.

In the old, old path is truth divine,
No matter what men may say.
Its ways are bright, eternal the plan
That will save you and I today.

So let us get back to the old, old path,
With God there to walk hand in hand;
His Spirit to lead and direct our steps,
And His will and His ways understand.

If led by His Spirit in all things in life
We grow closer and closer each day;
More beauty we find in the old, old Path
As it leads from the world away.

~W. P. Buckley
Zion's Advocate, Vol 3, #3

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRADLEY, MICHIGAN

Hello!!! The Bradley Local is doing well. We planned and prepared for our reunion, which was held July 18th and 19th. Bradley enjoyed seeing all of you who were able to attend this weekend of Christian fellowship!

Please add these names to your prayer list: Sharon Salter, Joyce Lussenden, and Alicia Lee. Sharon has an on-going battle with diabetes and needs your prayers for her vision problems. Joyce Lussenden is still struggling with a nerve problem in her back which affects her mobility. Alicia Lee has persistent headaches and is in need of a cure.

Michigan has been struck with violent storms and terrible weather conditions. Many people have lost their homes. We thank God that all the Church people have been spared from harm and blessed with God's protection.

Some of the teens from our Bradley Local attended Teen Challenge in Missouri again this year. Many also attended the Missouri Reunion. Our prayers are for spiritual growth in all of our lives!

God Bless you all!

*Kallie Jones & Emily Porter
Bradley Church of Christ Advocate Reporters*

HOUSTON, MISSOURI

Hello from Houston! We are all enjoying fine, warm weather, and the many visiting ministers who have graced our local on Sunday mornings.

Our local has a new member: Daniel Edwin Carney. Daniel, Joe and Alice Carney's 22-year-old son, was baptized at Dog's Bluff and confirmed at the church by Elder Virgil Addie on July 5.

All of the Carney family is now living around this area, except for Aaron Carney, who still lives in Delaware.

Andy and Jessica Carney gave birth to a beautiful daughter, Sabrina Renae Carney, on May 3, in Delaware. She weighed six pounds one ounce, and was nineteen inches long. Sabrina was blessed on Thursday, May 14, at the Carney farm by Elder Virgil Addie.

Marvin and Berniece Ely's daughter, Janice, has moved back to Houston to live.

Our local was excited about Vacation Bible School. It was held July 8-10, from 6-8 p.m., with a nutritious meal at 5:30 p.m. We had about 23 kids signed up from ages 3 to 14 years old. Our themes were "The Old, Old Path" and "Walk with Jesus." [Next month will yield more information.]

This little local of ours is still receiving the blessing of Marvin Ely. We are still using lessons he had supplied for Sunday School before he left for the Ministers' Conference.

Please keep our local and its members in your prayers.

Tracie Gill

1998 PHOENIX REUNION

The 1998 Phoenix Reunion will be held **Friday, November 27th, through Sunday, November 29th, 1998.** We invite everyone to come and worship the Lord with us.

■ ANYONE PLANNING TO ATTEND OR WANTING INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Pastor Apostle Joel Yates
2924 E. Rockwood Dr.
Phoenix, AZ 85050
(602) 569-9296

Asst. Pastor Apostle Brian McIndoo
18824 N. 30th St.
Phoenix, AZ 85050
(602) 569-1900

We hope to see you there!

Make note of this ...

MISSOURI CAMP FOR ALL AGES

DATE: September 26 & 27, 1998

TIME: Activities start 10:00 am Sat.

- ** Lunch at Noon
- ** Evening Campfire Service
- ** Sunday Breakfast 7:30 am
- ** Sunday School 9:30 am
- ** Church Service 11:00 am
- ** Lunch at 1:00 pm

PLACE: Talley Bend Park ... 5 mi.
east on County Rd. C off Hwy 13
about 13 miles south of Clinton
just north of Lowry City.

Call Fred Campbell
(816-358-1575)
or Pat Fisher
(816-358-5682)
for more information.



Camp sites (electric) are \$12
per night, per family. Be sure
Fred or Pat know you are
coming so a site will be
reserved for your family.

Please plan to attend!

OBITUARY

Craig Wayne Yates

Craig Wayne Yates of Preston, Missouri, passed away after an extensive illness Sunday morning, July 5th, 1998, at his home. Craig was a resident of Hickory County his entire life. He was a 1984 graduate of Skyline High School. Craig grew up and roamed the hills of Almon Valley as an avid hunter and fisherman who loved the outdoors. Craig truly enjoyed driving his Monte Carlo car and his four-wheeler until his health declined in 1985 and he became restricted to the confines of his wheelchair.

Even so, Craig's good spirits and good humor prevailed. He was always quick to smile and ready to visit with anyone who could stop by. Craig's family was always such a source of

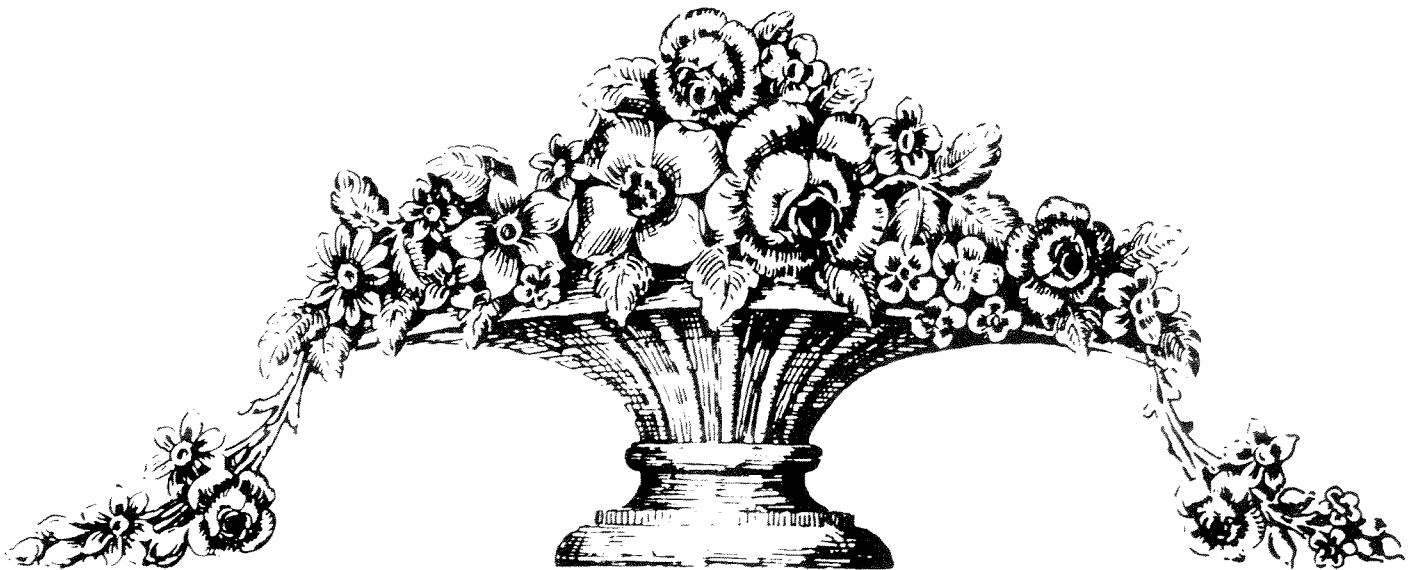
support for him—but Craig himself was the REAL inspiration to everyone who met him. Craig had an obvious love for children, as it always showed on his face. He never complained. His gentle spirit, his generous and loving heart, his goodness, his sense of honor, his character, his insight, his conviction, his motivation, and his love of life made him a young man that can never be replaced to each of us who knew him. Our loss is God's gain!

Craig was baptized into the Church of Christ on Easter Sunday, 1993, in Collins, Missouri.

Craig is survived by his parents, Wallace and Geraldine Yates of Preston, two sisters—Beth Yates of Camdenton and Janelle Yates of Osage Beach, his maternal grandpar-

ents, Dorothy and Harold Morgan of Preston, and a numerous amount of aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. Craig was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Mildred and Vincent Yates.

Craig's time of struggling, suffering, watching, waiting, and sickness is done. What he was to each of us will never be forgotten. He accomplished on this earth what God intended for him—and endured to the very end. Now he has earned his reward of peace, joy, and everlasting life as a whole person once again. Craig was very special and there will be no other like him. So even in our grief—we are thankful for our time with him and for the encouragement and inspiration he left behind.



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CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 1998 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 5. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 6. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, on April 3 & 4. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

The 1998 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, August 10, 11 and 12 at Independence, Missouri.

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