

# 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

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**B**lessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Psalm 1

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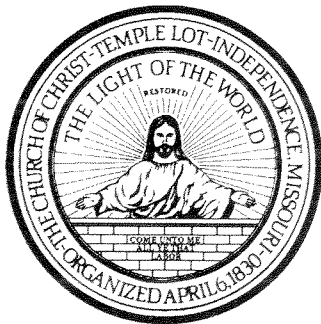
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### ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

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 Zeal of the Lord



By Harvey E. Seibel

“And they were strict to observe that there should be no iniquity among them; and whoso was found to commit iniquity, and three witnesses of the church did condemn them before the elders; *And if they repented not, and confessed not, their names were blotted out, and they were not numbered among the people of Christ;* but as oft as they repented, and sought forgiveness, with real intent, they were forgiven” (Moroni 6:7-8).

“And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life,

and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man” (Luke 21:34-36).

We have two responsibilities here, one to see that iniquity does not enter into the body of Christ, the other to take heed unto ourselves that we ourselves do not lose our way. Today we live in a time of both great wickedness and great temptation. It is a difficult time for us, especially our children. Unlike previous generations which were, more or less, shielded from so much exposure to the world's evils, our generation faces moral filth and wickedness of every description from every quarter, viz, movies, television, magazines, billboards, newspapers, computers, Internet, videos, schools, casinos, and society itself.

There are a number of scriptural admonitions we need to pay particular heed to, especially in this day in which we live. The time for procrastina-

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tion is over. The matters which the prophets of all ages have prophesied of, and looked forward to but never saw, are today upon our very doorstep. What more then do we have to do with slumber? Consider these admonitions:

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Pet 5:8). “...For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time” (Rev. 12:12). “Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Mat

26:41). Again, "Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is" (Mark 13:33). "There-

**How much better off would we be if that same time now spent in this world's entertainment were spent studying the word of God, and in prayer?**

fore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober" (1 Thess. 5:6). "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (1 Cor. 10:12).

There is another scripture which says, "as a man thinketh, so is he." Consider the media by which we are bombarded on every side, some of which we willingly take into our homes, such as television, magazines, newspapers, etc. With what are we filling our minds as various programs and commercials flit before our faces hour after hour? More, what are we allowing our children to see, taking little thought for what they might be taking in? Is it garbage in, garbage out? How much better off would we be if that same time now spent in this world's entertainment were spent studying the word of God, and in prayer? Would this reflect on our level of spirituality? Would we not have more of

the gifts of the spirit in our midst? Would the redemption of Zion and the saving of this world's people become uppermost in our minds?

I am concerned about the moral fiber of our people, and especially of our young people. Parents have the responsibility to bring up their children in the admonition and nurture of the Lord. The ministry have the responsibility to feed the flock of God, and to see that no iniquity enters among the flock. Herein is the zeal of the Lord. But there is also a word of warning:

"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted" (Gal. 6:1).

The following instruction is for all, both the members of the church as well as their children. Herein we may seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, or go the way of the world. It is a matter of self discipline, both in honoring God, his ministry, and our parents. In so doing we do as Paul, when he kept his flesh under subjection, lest by not so doing, he himself would be a castaway. By doing this we yield not to the lusts of the flesh or that of the eyes, and in this, we honor both our parents and our God, and save ourselves from death.

"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my

absence, *work out your own salvation with fear and trembling*. For it is God which worketh in you

**The spirit of adultery is abroad in our land. It is one of the most insidious temptations and one of the easiest to fall prey to if we let our baser instincts rule over our common sense.**

both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world" (Phil. 2:12-15).

The spirit of adultery is abroad in our land. It is one of the most insidious temptations and one of the easiest to fall prey to if we let our baser instincts rule over our common sense. Are our minds full of immoral thoughts and desires? Or do we think pure thoughts toward those of the opposite sex? The Scriptures admonish:

"Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication

tion sinneth against his own body. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost

**If we take upon us the dress and manners of the world, then we are no different from the world.**

which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Cor. 6:18-20). "Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband (1 Cor 7:2). "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge (Heb. 13:4). "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour" (1 Thess. 4:3-4).

But, "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath,

strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (Gal. 5:19-21). "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them" (Eph. 5:3-7).

Need we mimic the world? How then shall we be a peculiar people unto the Lord? If we take upon us the dress and manners of the world, then we are no different from the world. Our dress should be modest, especially in the congregation of the Lord. How should it be if the women all wore abbreviated attire while the men came in shorts and t-shirts? How would this glorify God or edify the body of Christ? Its only appeal is to the carnal mind.

Abraham was chosen be-

cause he commanded his children and his household after him, but Eli was rejected because he failed to command his

**Abraham was chosen because he commanded his children and his household after him, but Eli was rejected because he failed to command his children.**

children. The matter was so serious that no more sacrifices for sin could be made again for his house for ever. Consider again the zeal of the Lord.

"And, behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a Midianitish woman in the sight of Moses, and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And when Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose up from among the congregation, and took a javelin in his hand; And he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel" (Num. 25:6-8).

We should have the same zeal against iniquity in the congregation of the Lord today, not in the manner as in the days of

**Do we want life and peace and happiness, or would we rather have the pleasures of sin for a season?**

Moses, but as instructed in the Book of Mormon wherein they were strict to see that there was no iniquity among them, and if they did not repent, their names were blotted out, and they were no longer numbered with the people of Christ.

How did the Lord reward Phinehas for his zeal against iniquity in the congregation of Israel?

“And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, hath turned my wrath away from the children of Israel, while he was zealous for my sake among them, that I consumed not the children of Israel in my jealousy. Wherefore say, Behold, I give unto him my covenant of peace: and he shall have it, and his seed after him, even the covenant of an everlasting priesthood; because he was zealous for his God, and made an atonement for the

children of Israel” (Num. 25:10-13).

God does not make the least degree of allowance for sin.

Do we want life and peace and happiness, or would we rather have the pleasures of sin for a season? If we sow to the flesh we will reap corruption, but if we sow to the Spirit we shall reap everlasting life. To be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life. The word to us is this:

“Repent, for except ye repent, ye can in no wise inherit the kingdom of heaven” (Alma 3:89).

“And now I say unto you, all you that are desirous to follow the voice of the good shepherd, *come ye out from the wicked, and be ye separate, and touch not their unclean things*; And behold, their names shall be blotted out, that the names of the wicked shall not be numbered among the names of the righteous, that the word of God may be fulfilled, which saith, The names of the wicked shall not be mingled with the names of my people. For the names of the righteous shall be written in the book of life; and unto them will I grant an inheritance at my right hand” (Alma 3:98-100).

“And now, I, Alma, do command you in the language of him who hath commanded me, that ye observe to do the words which

I have spoken unto you. *I speak by way of command unto you that belong to the church; and*

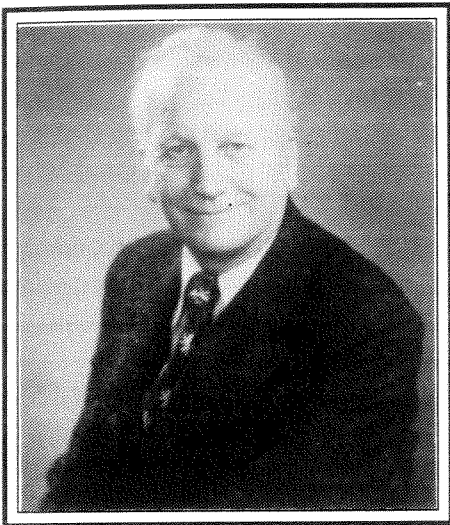
**We need not be among those who will cry unto the rocks and mountains to fall upon us. Rather, let us be among those who will be caught up to meet him in the air with rejoicing for evermore.**

*unto those who do not belong to the church, I speak by way of invitation, saying, Come, and be baptized unto repentance, that ye also may be partakers of the fruit of the tree of life”* (Alma 3:107-108).

Take heed unto yourselves, for the time is short, and the end is nigh at hand. We need not be among those who will cry unto the rocks and mountains to fall upon us. Rather, let us be among those who will be caught up to meet him in the air with rejoicing for evermore.

ARTICLE

# A SYNOPTIC HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST ON THE TEMPLE LOT DEDICATED BY JOSEPH SMITH IN INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI



By Apostle William A. Sheldon

**W**e consider ourselves as a remnant of the original Church of Christ organized April 6, 1830, by Joseph Smith and five others in Manchester, New York.

There are four things of special significance connected with the organization of the Church of Christ:

**I**n Translation of the Book of Mormon from ancient plates by Joseph Smith through the gift and power of the Holy Ghost. This is an ancient record of the "American Indians", a

"second" witness for Christ. The Bible is the "first" witness, and these two books ("sticks") were to be "one" in the Lord's hand. See Ezek. 37:19. This book was revealed through angelic visitation to Smith, but he was not permitted to obtain the records for three years, until he had truly realized that the real value was not in the gold plates, but in the record itself.

**2** A recognition of the apostasy, or falling away, from the pure gospel of Christ and the ancient order of the New Testament Church. See 2 Thess. 2:1-4.

**3** A "restoration" of that gospel and church order through angelic ministry according to Rev. 14:6, 7. That angel came to Smith and told him he would be an instrument in God's hand for this purpose. This was in 1829, a year before the Church was organized, while he and Oliver

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Cowdery were in the translation process.

**4** A "restoration" of priesthood or ministerial authority because of that ancient apostasy and by the grace of God. This was begun through Joseph Smith and others by the spirit of revelation (see Heb. 5:4). The holy priesthood was imparted by the above angel upon him and Cowdery at that time, which did not include the power to bestow the Holy Ghost upon believers; this greater power was given later by the

revelation of God, and under which authority the Church was organized on April 6, 1830. There is no other authority to represent the Kingdom of God on the earth in modern times, nor had there been in the churches for 1260 years prior to 1830 (the apostasy alluded to in Rev. 12).

Reluctantly, we admit there has been apostasy from the restored gospel faith, through the introduction of human doctrine and by divisions having occurred.

Among the branches of this early church there were four which developed in Illinois during Joseph's life-time, viz., at Bloomington, Crow Creek, Half Moon Prairie and Eagle Creek, as well as one at Vermillion, Indiana.

Elder David Judy was ordained in 1831, Jedidiah Owen in 1832, Zebulon Adams in 1833. These with many others became identified with those branches, which, in 1863, amalgamated under the leadership of Elder Granville Hedrick. Hedrick was baptized and ordained by Elder Hervey Green in 1843, and was set apart as the presiding elder of the Crow Creek branch in April 1857.

In June following, John E. Page, one of the Twelve during Joseph's life-time, attended that conference held by these scattered groups, investigating their claims. He had become disaffected with the Church as it had been in Nauvoo, Illinois,

even as had many others, including Emma Smith, the widow of Joseph Smith, and his eldest son, Joseph.

**Hedrick was given to know in revelation from God that a spirit of self-exaltation in Joseph Smith produced revelations(?) and introduced doctrines inconsistent with**

The reasons for this disaffection by Page and those branches (which became known as the Woodford County saints), were principally the doctrines of baptism for the dead, and polygamy.

In a conference held at Crow Creek (Hedrick's home) in November 1862, Page united with that body. At the next conference in May 1863, he ordained Hedrick, Judy, Owen and Adna C. Haldeman to the office of Apostle; this made a total of five apostles.

It was proposed to ordain someone as president of the High Priesthood at a July 1863 conference, and Page nominated Hedrick. After a general agreement, Page, in company with the other apostles, ordained Hedrick to the office of the first Presidency over the high priesthood and the

Church, "to be a prophet, seer, revelator and translator to the Church of Christ".

As we view it now, this was in keeping with an accepted error within the Church, introduced as early as 1832, without any revelation from God to do so, together with the ordained office of High Priest, which developed in 1831.

This body had accepted the 1835 edition of the Doctrine and Covenants, together with the Bible then in use (King James authorized edition) and the Book of Mormon. It was the changed revelations in the D&C (as compared with the original Book of Commandments published in 1833) which made provision for these unscriptural offices, and in which this body concurred through ignorance until repudiated in the 1920s.

However, the doctrine of lineal descent in the presidency was rejected by Hedrick, et al, in their conferences held in 1857, first with this group in Crow Creek, Illinois, and later with those, such as W. W. Blair and others of the "New Organization" at Zarahemla, Wisconsin. Nevertheless, good mutual feelings existed, and as a result of these conferences, a conclusion was reached by some in the New Organization that Hedrick had united with that body; it was later recognized as an error.

Hedrick was given to know in revelation from God that a spirit of self-exaltation in Joseph Smith produced revelations(?) and introduced doctrines inconsistent with the



word of God as found in the Bible and Book of Mormon. As a result, Hedrick declared Smith to be a "fallen prophet". It was later that this Church found the changes in the revelations providing for High Priests and a First Presidency of the High Priesthood.

The true spirit of revelation from God had diminished and was supplanted by human imagination, leading to such doctrinal deviation as previously mentioned, as well as: God once a man, exaltation of men as gods, Adam-God and eternal marriage. Because of such, the Church has, in later years, declared the Bible and Book of Mormon as our standard of faith, and only such latter-day revelation as may harmonize therewith.

This body was isolated from developments at Nauvoo, and so was shielded from the doctrinal deviations which occurred there, but when they heard in 1852 of the practice of polygamy by the body at Salt Lake City, they were alarmed. Therefore, in 1857 they published "A Declaration Of Independence And Separation" from them "or any such person or persons who teach or practice the doctrine of polygamy under any system whatever, or anything like unto it...."

Many saints had gathered to Independence, Missouri, as the center place of Zion, or a "New Jerusalem", because of revelation through Joseph Smith, but were driven out in 1833; and later, in 1838, the

whole body of the church was driven from the state of Missouri. On August 3, 1831, Smith and others had dedicated

**...The Church has, in later years, declared the Bible and Book of Mormon as our standard of faith, and only such latter-day revelation as may harmonize therewith.**

a "spot" for the Lord's temple, placing a stone to mark the northeast corner.

Much of the reason for this intolerance was due to prejudice, the slavery issue and fear that the saints would dominate the political scene. However, Church members were not without fault, declaring that God had given them this land as an inheritance, and would drive out their enemies before them. However, according to a warning revelation to them, they did in fact "pollute my holy land" (given September 22, 1832). As a result, and because some had taken up arms, contrary to previous revelation, many were "scourged from city to city, and from synagogue to synagogue" (Book of Commandments 64:30-32).

In 1864, a revelation through Hedrick directed this people to return to Independence and Jackson County,

Missouri, in 1867, to initiate a re-gathering of saints; that the Lord would prepare the way before them. In consideration that the Civil War was still in progress, that Independence became a battlefield, and that the saints had only been driven out of Independence 31 years before, they exercised much faith through their obedience. About 60 returned in the winter of 1866-67 by covered wagons, the first to do so of any "latter day saint" body. Their primary objective was to obtain the "spot" dedicated by Joseph Smith, and by 1877 they had purchased eight lots which included that spot.

In 1891, the RLDS Church sued this Church for the "temple lot".

It resulted favorably toward that Church, but being appealed to a federal circuit court, the decision was overturned in favor of the Church of Christ. We have occupied it since as our world headquarters site.

For a number of years in the early 1900s there was a "working harmony agreement" engaged with the RLDS Church, but it was broken off when they became aware that we favored the Book of Commandments over the Doctrine & Covenants, in respect to the same revelations. While renewed efforts have been made, there is no longer such communication on an institutional level.

In the 1920s, principally because of the doctrine of "supreme directional control" in-

troduced by the presidency of the RLDS Church, many became spiritually depressed and found a haven in the Church of Christ.

**The thought has developed that we are custodians of the Temple Lot. We feel, as an extension to this, that it is not simply a physical custody, but that the Church of Christ has a spiritual custody of the Kingdom of God....**

This organic deviation from the scriptural provision of twelve apostles to head the church under Christ caused serious reflection in the body. Therefore, in 1926, resulting from much prayer and fasting, the Lord called seven as apostles. This Council increased to twelve as time passed, and while the number has fluctuated, it has been the order ever since.

In 1929 the Church undertook the building of the temple, and excavated the basement area. Some who had returned in 1867 were among those driven from Independence in 1833, and so they knew where the "spot" was located. In this excavation, the laborers turned up the stone placed by Joseph in marking the northeast corner of the temple, having thereupon

an original inscription. About a month later, they turned up a second stone approximately 90 feet to the south, also inscribed, indicating the southeast corner. This gave the width of the temple as ninety feet. Revelation to at least three in the Church gave the length of the temple as twice the width.

One of the apostles had begun to give messages supposedly through visitation by John the Baptist, in which the Church acquiesced for a time, seeing nothing of a suspicious nature. Details of the temple were given, and the work was begun in 1929. However, the messages were later repudiated for what is felt to be good and substantial reason. Nevertheless, many of those details had been given through inspiration to others in the Church. Work on the project halted because of the national depression of 1929, and eventually the hole was filled.

In retrospect, we feel the spiritual status of the church in general was less than required for this holy project; but at least the spot is definitely fixed. Sad to say: this spiritual disruption caused division and separation. We wait in prayerful hope for further revelation from God in this, with the continued gathering of the pure in heart.

The thought has developed that we are custodians of the Temple Lot. We feel, as an extension to this, that it is not simply a physical custody, but that the Church of Christ has a spiritual custody of the King-

dom of God, and that this is implied in the revelation which states: "...the city New Jerusalem shall be built, beginning at this place, even the place of the temple...."

**...We are a remnant of the Church as it was in 1830, having the same name, the same doctrine, and the apostolic form of government as originally intended; and we have been neither disorganized nor reorganized.**

For this purpose, and especially because of the fundamentally scriptural stance we have assumed, even by discarding innovations mentioned, the Lord saw fit to give us this custody. We hope and pray to yet qualify more fully as a nucleus for the gathering of the saints in the establishment of Zion. Additionally, as stated before: we are a remnant of the Church as it was in 1830, having the same name, the same doctrine, and the apostolic form of government as originally intended; and we have been neither disorganized nor reorganized.

## VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL

# Vacation Church School

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Church of Christ,

“For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways”  
Psalms 91:11.

I rejoice, thanking our heavenly Father for Elder Adam Porter's recent article “Encouragement for the Isolated.” It dawned on me that this November we will be fifteen years removed from Independence. Returning for Grandma Sister Bertha Case's funeral, and attending dinner Sunday at the Temple Lot, I was challenged by faces that have grown up and matured. Bless you all for your steadfast commitment to Christ!

I have an idea to share which has brought much happiness to our family. To some degree I believe it also played a part in the decision of our sons to enter into the waters of baptism. As a young out-of-Independence family, we could not afford to attend Vacation Church School with our local. So, with God's help, I created one at home. The peaceful spirit we gained carried us through the summer and helped the boys prepare for the coming school year.

I chose to begin our church school the second week of sum-

mer vacation. The first week was a buffer from the world, a time to let the kids switch over to “summer mode.” During the “First week,” my children accompanied me to the Christian book store. We found attendance cards and stickers like real Bible School. The year we lived in Prior Lake, Minnesota, I came across a price reduced figurine of an angel protecting children crossing a bridge, which decorates my kitchen today and reminds us of our happy days together learning about Jesus.

I modeled our home church school after the one in Independence. It was to be a week long (Monday through Friday) in the morning between nine and noon. I prayed for direction. I would research for a scripture verse to go with our theme, write it on a banner and hang it carefully in an open space on our dining room wall.

A spiral notebook was my trusty companion. In it I planned out the week's lessons, scriptures and activities. We began our service with an opening song, prayer, and a song request from each of us. Sometimes I jotted down the numbers or the titles of the songs. I did record names or initials so I remembered everyone got a turn to pray for a different activity each day. When

the boys were small I copied the verses of songs on large lined poster paper for us to sing to. Songs were chosen from the old *Children's Hymnal*, *Songs of God and Me*, and *Zion's Hymnal*. Visiting Independence one year my husband and I purchased each of our boys their own copy of *Zion's Hymnal*. Each son already had his own King James version of the Bible and personal Book of Mormon.

After we concluded about fifteen minutes of singing Bible School songs, we had our second prayer to open a plus or minus forty-five minute Bible study. Usually the references coincided with our theme. I divided chapter verses between the four of us. When a difficult word was confronted I encouraged the child to sound it out. The others were taught to be patient, silent and listen. In subsequent passages I could hear that the listeners learned from their brother's success. Neat discussions followed! Once in a while I was asked if we could read the previous and/or succeeding chapter.

Next came recreation. Being at home opened doors to interesting possibilities. We could run around the block. Our railing on the front porch in Rochester, Minnesota, enabled me to tie a long rope for the kids to jump. We played hopscotch on

the sidewalk and croquet in the backyard. One year we met new neighbors riding our bikes. Another year, the wife of a co-worker of my husband asked if I could babysit. I explained we were having church school at our home. She said that was okay. All the children were thrilled. We made huge soap bubbles with glycerin and bent coat hangers (a recipe I found in a Shari Lewis book in the library). Still, another year, next door neighbors to the west had relatives visiting from Australia. Their children joined ours frolicking in the yard. That day they sat and had their very first Kool Aid with us.

I am a mom who bakes cookies. One of the different things we did to make church school special is that I BOUGHT cookies! We also popped popcorn or ate fruit. I could have used cups from home, but we used Styrofoam (as was the practice of convenience at church). A child would help prepare refreshments (with Mom's assistance). We had our third prayer over the food. Another took his turn to clean up. Our wiggle-time and snack were approximately fifteen minutes each, which gave us a half hour break.

The fourth prayer was said

to draw our minds back to the Lord. We continued with a plus or minus forty-five minute Book of Mormon study that reinforced the earlier Bible study. Some of the chapters are lengthy, so we switched readers after a couple of verses. We may have read popcorn (a method in which the reader picks the next reader) which gave the boys an opportunity to call on each other to read. Occasionally we got into discussions which carried on later in the day or when Daddy came home. My husband, I believe, relished these moments to participate with us.

Our class was not complete without thirty minutes of crafts. The children always had input in these plans. They liked to paint! We spread easels around the backyard. My son reminded me we always had a scriptural tie to our handwork. Indoors during a wet year they copied lighthouses from the pictures on postage stamps. We were studying the Light of God. Dried pictures were posted on the walls in the kitchen, dining room, and bedrooms. At times we displayed items on a towel on the buffet "because it was neat" to see our creations together. Then again, it made the boys happy to have what they had made on display next to their

own bed. The boys also enjoyed helping in the kitchen. So we made homemade bread from scratch. I even purchased kosher salt to let them sprinkle pretzels they had made themselves.

Often, our lessons adjourned with a song that related to our theme. Following the melody our closing prayer was given. Our family had a lot of fun together. The Friday of church school was the grand finale. We pulled out all the stops. Water balloons were tossed. A picnic was in order. While at the park we might play baseball on a diamond (not just catch), go swimming, visit a nearby zoo or take a good hike.

Christian education is very important. It begins at home. I am sure if your children have the opportunity to attend a local Church of Christ Vacation Church School they will. I also hope you know you can contribute and adapt my experience to nurture your family. My prayer is that you will be inspired to light your children's spiritual candles. Let God know you need His help. He is only a prayer away.

*God be with you,  
Your Sister in Christ,  
Barbara E. Case  
Loveland, CO*



Sing to the tune of #96  
in the red hymnal.

The end times are drawing nearer.  
For each other let us pray:  
Lest we stray in mists of darkness,  
And we lose the narrow way.  
Take the rod of iron and hold it.  
For it keeps us in God's way:  
And we'll share our Father's triumph,  
When it dawns eternal day.

Evil burgeons all around us.  
Right and goodness seem so lame:  
Public speeches full of poison,  
If they could they'd give us shame.  
Towers built without foundations,  
They have erred in all their ways:  
They shall crumble and men perish,  
On that awful judgement day.

Brothers now take heart and heed me,  
Jesus soon shall come again:  
Let us heed His every counsel,  
And remain His truest friend.  
We will sit down in the garden,  
With the loved ones we have known:  
And we'll eat the fruit of Lehi,  
Reap the goodness we have sown.

Repeat music on last two lines to these words:

They we'll hear our Savior calling,  
Sweetest voice that ere was known:  
Son come sit at My great supper,  
Dwell in My eternal home.

—Jim Gordon  
January 17, 1999  
From Book of Mormon text: Nephi 3

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# YOUNG PEOPLE!!!



## **WE WANT YOU FOR THE 1999 YOUTH FORUM!!!**

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**Where:** East Local, Independence, MO  
**When:** April 5th, 1999, at 4 p.m.

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► **Plan on attending the 1999 Youth Forum.**  
**This year's forum will be filled with  
great food and fellowship.**  
**DON'T MISS IT!!!**

If you have any questions, please write or call:  
Bob Hedrick.....602-494-9661.....e-mail: bobnliza@juno.com  
Jeff Oldham.....816-358-4940.....e-mail: jnmham@juno.com

**NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

ATTENTION PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS AND TEENS ~

# TEEN CHALLENGE

AUGUST 1-6

**P**lan now to attend! Camp is for all Youth ages 12 through 18 and will again be held at Camp Far Westa near Cameron, Missouri. Additional information will be presented in future issues of the Zion's Advocate. Now is the time to make your plans. For additional information contact:

**Sue & Buzz Brickhouse**  
5713 Logan Road  
Kansas City, MO 64136  
(816) 356-9214

## COLORADO REUNION

**O**n June 11, 12, and 13, 1999, the Colorado Reunion will be held at the Church of Christ, 3233 B½ Road, Grand Junction, Colorado.

Our meal planners very much appreciate knowing in advance how many to expect. Please contact one of the following people for lodging arrangements, or other information.

**John E. Bell**  
572 34 Road  
Clifton, CO 81520  
(970) 434-7100

**Karen L. Bell**  
P. O. Box 1137  
Palisade, CO 81526  
(970) 464-4624  
kbell@bwn.net

**Allen D. Downs**  
515 - 28½ Road  
Grand Junction, CO 81501  
(970) 245-8344

We look forward to seeing all who can come to meet with us in the worship of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

*Enid E. Bell, Secretary*

### EAST INDEPENDENCE LOCAL, MISSOURI

**G**reetings from the Independence East Local! We have enjoyed our mild winter weather here in Independence, but still we look forward to the warm breezes and the blossoms of spring.

On January 19 we held a Box Supper Social to raise money for our newly remodeled basement. It was a fun time with good entertainment, fantastic food, and a substantial \$719.00 contributed.

We had a special prayer service February 21, for Debbie Aududell, a friend of Sr. Jennifer Oldham who hasn't been able to eat

orally for some time, and was going in for an operation to remedy this.

We have had many edifying sermons these last months, and have truly been fed spiritually. These are some thoughts gleaned from these sermons:

- *Each member of the Church of Christ should daily build up and edify one another. We should speak things to restore hope and build testimonies—we must serve and bless everyone we meet.*
- *We need to be doing a work for the Lord. The things that we allow to come between us and the Lord we must get rid of.*
- *Pride will stop us from serving God. Even a small amount of pride is*

*dangerous—out of pride many sins are committed. We cannot be afraid to be a fool for God.*

- *As we seek to better ourselves, remember that change for the sake of change serves no purpose, and often equals confusion. But change for value or meaning equals improvement.*
- *In every situation, say, "Lord, let me look at the blessing in this situation." We must glory in tribulation, knowing that all things work to good to them that love God.*

Congratulations to Apostle Frank Fann on his recent retirement!

*In Gospel Bonds~  
Melissa M. Seibel*

### CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

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

### CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 1999 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 4. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 5. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, on April 2 & 3. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

The 1999 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, August 9, 10 and 11, at Independence, Missouri.

### CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

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

Zion's Advocate Subscription Rate:	Price Each <sup>†</sup>
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### THE BALANCE OF THESE GENERAL CHURCH PUBLICATIONS ARE FREE OF CHARGE:\*

- Ancient Prophecies Fulfilled in 1830
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- Christian Sabbath is the Lord's Day, The
- Concerning Marriage and Polygamy
- Cost of Salvation, The
- Does it Make a Difference to Which Church You Belong?
- First Presidency or First Apostles?
- God's Purpose in America
- Great Plan of Redemption, The
- Is Marriage for Time and Eternity?—A Fallacy
- Last Maya King and the Liberation of Jerusalem, The
- Latter Day Restoration, The
- Priesthood—Divine Authority
- Principles of the Gospel—Baptism
- Principles of the Gospel—Faith & Repentance
- Principles of the Gospel—Laying on of Hands
- Resurrection and Eternal Judgement
- Sermonettes on the Teachings of Jesus
- Synopsis, A (Compares beliefs of 3 Restoration churches)
- What about the Book of Mormon
- Why? (Amplifies absence of a "First Presidency" in Scripture)
- Zion and the Temple of the Lord

\*Note: Donations will be accepted to cover postage & printing costs. (Multiple copies available: 6-50¢ / 100-\$5.85 plus postage)

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

#### SLIDE PROGRAMS WITH TAPED NARRATION

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

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

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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

### 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.

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