

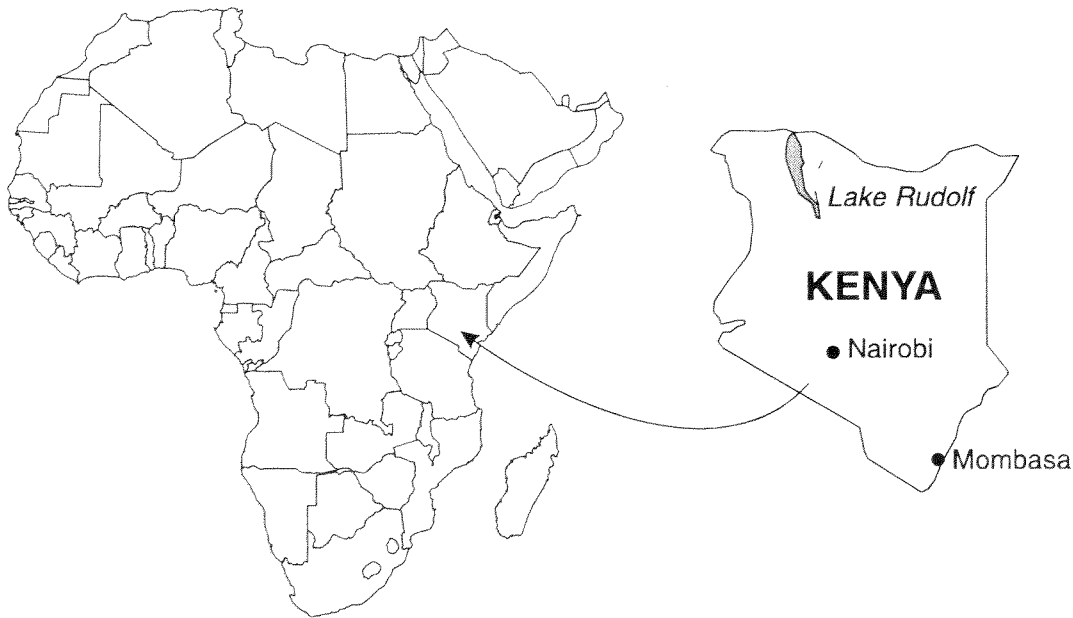
Zion's Advocate

*"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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**“And he said unto them, go ye into all the world,
and preach the gospel to every creature.”**

—Mark 16:15—

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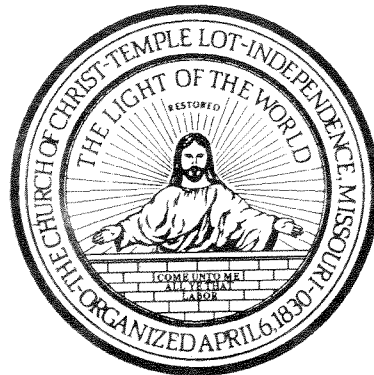
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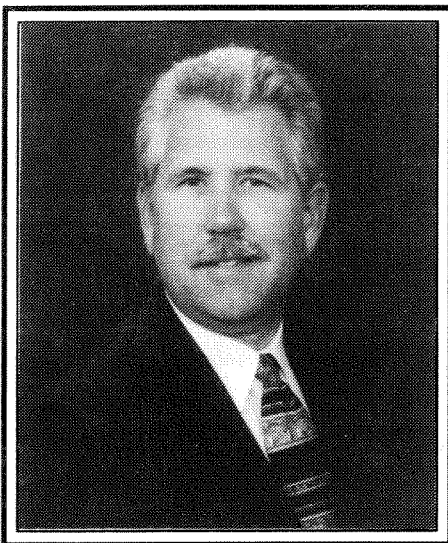
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ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

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.

KENYA

ACCORDING TO GOD'S PLAN



By Apostle Brian E. McIndoo

COMPLETE BELIEF IN GOD'S WORD

The small country of Kenya is located on the equator along the East Coast of Africa. By the scientific community, it is said to be the Cradle of Humanity where life began for Homo-sapiens or modern man. In Kenya's capitol city the Nairobi National Museum has on display the fossils and life-sized models of

ape-like creatures said to be our ancestors. But an irrefutable truth is asked by the Lord Himself: *"Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?"* Job 38:2. Many words have been written. Maybe the most well known are the writings of Charles Darwin and his *Origins of Species*, but by what evidence are such conclusions and journalism based? The Lord asked:

"Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof..." Job 38:4-8.

The fact remains that no person was present to ob-

Scripture declares that salvation comes to those who accept Jesus Christ and the sacrifice He made on the cross for all of mankind.

serve the universe when it was brought into existence. It was God who laid the foundations of the earth and created the first man. Therefore the problem of origins cannot be solved by observations or experience but only by hypothesis and theories. Most of you do not prescribe to this popular theory known as evolution, but opt to believe in God's word, which says man is a special creation, created in the very image of God. As

Paul said to the Ephesians, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works..." Ephesians 2:10.

If we insist on believing God's word about man being a special creation then we must also believe God's word regarding the plan of salvation for all men and the duty of His church to labor towards that end. Scripture declares that salvation comes to those who accept Jesus Christ and the sacrifice He made on the cross for all of mankind.

"And he doeth nothing save it be plain unto the children of men; And he inviteth them all to come unto him, and partake of his goodness; And he denieth none that come unto him, black and white, bond and free, male and female; And he remembereth the heathen, and all are alike unto God, both Jew and Gentile" 2 Ne 11:112-115.

The Apostle Peter came to understand how God loved all of mankind, and he witnesses this truth to the brethren:

"...Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of

persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him" Acts 10:34, 35.

How can every nation, every kindred, tongue and people come to Christ unless they first hear the gospel preached unto them?

How can every nation, every kindred, tongue and people come to Christ unless they first hear the gospel preached unto them? So continuing in the belief of God's word, we understand God's servants have been given an explicit responsibility. Jesus instructed:

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" Mark 16:15, 16.

ALL THINGS DONE IN ORDER

Scripture admonishes us to use wisdom in our doings:

"And see that all these things are done in wisdom and order: for it is not requisite that a man should run faster than he has strength" Mosiah 2:44.

So let us ask ourselves, how shall the Church of Christ go about such a momentous assignment as preaching in all the world, for we know there are numerous places we have not yet been, and we are but few? There needs to be a plan. So often men make plans, expend great amounts of effort and money, but see no fruit come forth. Sometimes the plans of man fail, and when we endeavor to move out in our own strength often little or nothing is accomplished. All too often this causes discouragement and promotes the idea that we are not really supposed to reach out to others but be satisfied with preaching in our congregations and letting conversions come from within by raising our children in the gospel.

There are two principles I would like to put forth on

how the Church of Christ can accomplish this commission before us. First, we must be sent according to God's plan. We find in the Bible the workers were sent. "Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you" John 20:21. Even after Jesus' day, we find the Apostles Paul and Barnabas being sent.

"As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus" Acts 13:2.

This is not to mean we should cease to reach out and testify to all those around us, for the believers are told to be a light of Christ in all places and at all times. We should not let discouragement overtake us, but be in tune to the leading of the Spirit to direct us.

Second, God has to prepare the way for us:

"But the Lord knoweth all things from the beginning; Wherefore, he prepareth a way to accomplish all his works

God will prepare the way for this little body known as the Church of Christ to go into the entire world, and preach the gospel with power to every creature even as He has appointed us.

among the children of men; for behold he hath all power unto the fulfilling of all his words" 1 Ne 2:100, 101.

Let us continue in our text from Mosiah for it gives further a warning about our approach in what we have been sent to do. "And again: it is expedient that he should be diligent, that thereby he might win the prize: therefore, all things must be done in order." Mosiah 2:45.

AN UNCHANGEABLE GOD

We know and use the scriptures that teach our God is unchangeable.

"For do we not read that God is the same yesterday, today, and for ever; and in him there is no variableness neither shadow of changing. And behold I say unto you, He changeth not; if so, he would cease to be God; and he ceaseth not to be God, and is a God of miracles" Mormon 4:68, 82.

However, much of the world today is fighting against the divinity and power of God, claiming He no longer works in power among man as He once did. Even among strong believers, in a time of discouragement, the words or thoughts surfae that God has changed His manner of operation in our day from the time of the Bible or even of the early church in the 1830's. A prophecy was given in the Book of Mormon that in like times of disbelief and discouragement God would bring forth a "marvelous work and a wonder" and restore His church on earth.

"And no one need say,

They shall not come, for they surely shall, for the Lord hath spoken it; for out of the earth shall they come, by the hand of the Lord, and none can stay it; And it shall come in a day when it shall be said that miracles are done away; and it shall come even as if one should speak from the dead. Yea, it shall come in a day when the power of God shall be denied, and churches become defiled, and shall be lifted up in the pride of their hearts; yea, even in a day when leaders of churches, and teachers, in the pride of their hearts, even to the envying of them who belong to their churches..."
Mormon 4:33-34, 36.

No one is able to stay the hand of the Lord for He has all power, and knows how to fulfill all His words. Being His Church, we must be in tune to the leading of the Holy Spirit. God will prepare the way for this little body known as the Church of Christ to go into the entire world, and preach the gospel with power to every creature even as He has appointed us.

Recently I have been privileged to experience the mighty workings of God as He put into motion His plan

and gave the Church of Christ opportunity to be obedient to the leading of the Spirit and be sent to a new

Because of God's plan and His ability to fulfill all His words, during the month of May, 2000, twenty-two men and four women who live in Kenya entered the waters of baptism and had their names numbered among those in the Church of Christ.

part of the world to preach His gospel. I would like to share with you how God's plan unfolded regarding the work in the country of Kenya on the continent of Africa. I hope you can see how the God who gave the Apostle Paul a vision to detour from his course and proceed to Macedonia to preach the gospel

there is the same unchangeable God that is working in the Church of Christ today. Because of God's plan and His ability to fulfill all His words, during the month of May, 2000, twenty-two men and four women who live in Kenya entered the waters of baptism and had their names numbered among those in the Church of Christ.

GOD'S PLAN SET INTO MOTION

In the fall of 1998, while I was still employed with the City of Phoenix Police Department, I sat at my desk one morning doing paperwork when I had an unexpected experience. In my mind I had a perfect understanding of a great work in Africa of which I was involved. I distinctly could see a large number of people coming from every direction out of a tropical jungle to a gathering place. These people came with great enthusiasm to hear the gospel taught to them by the Church of Christ. After a few moments the experience ceased, but a vivid recollection of the event remained. I pondered the scene for some time then tried to dismiss the experience, knowing full well we had no plans or contacts in Africa. I

reasoned within myself that I must have been thinking about the work in Honduras, Honduras being a tropical area where people seem to be eager to hear the gospel preached.

The memory of this event never seemed to fade from my mind. I would occasionally mention to my wife how I would be going to Africa some day, which was usually met by a response that questioned my sanity. During the following months the Lord unmistakably revealed it was time for me to retire, and since it was not a financially sound concept I would have to put my trust in Him.

In the town of Kisii, located in Kenya, lives a young mother named Margaret Moraa Osaka. Margaret had been praying and searching for a church which taught the gospel according to Christ's doctrines and not man's. As close as I can estimate, in the fall of 1998, Margaret also had an experience, which I will relate.

During the night the Lord spoke to her and directed her to go to her father's home where she would find a particular book in his library. She was to contact the church on the inside cover. Margaret recognized

the book from seeing it in her youth. She tells when she was young and lived at home her father would get her up in

It would be safe to say that every day while in Kenya we could see the hand of God at work....

the mornings to help him read and study Christian books. Margaret did not want to get up and study with her father because she wanted to grow up and be a policewoman or a nurse, so she did not need to know all this. Her father was a Methodist Bishop who desired to do much studying and needed her to help him read these books printed in English. Margaret's father, Brother Osaka, had been given this book in the 1960's by a traveling missionary named Ripley, whom we suspect belonged to the Church of Jesus Christ, (Bickertonites). When Margaret opened the book she found on the inside cover that it had been published by the Church of Christ (Temple Lot), in Independence, Missouri. Mar-

garet spoke to her father about the experience, and he encouraged her to do as the Lord had directed and contact this church.

Margaret composed a letter asking for information on the beliefs of the Church of Christ, (Temple Lot), and mailed it off to the P. O. Box listed in the book. Apostle William Sheldon received the letter at the Visitors' Center and responded to the request by sending several church tracts, including The Articles of Faith and Practice. Margaret learned from these tracts of our belief in the Book of Mormon. She knew her father had one in his library and the two of them got the book out to look it over. Brother Osaka began to read the Book of Mormon and found many wonderful and comforting words in it. Then he began to share scripture from the Book of Mormon with others in the Kisii area. This enraged the people of his village, who believed the Book of Mormon to be a devil-worshipping book. One night the Lord revealed to him that there were people laying in wait to kill him when he left his house. This revelation was true; inasmuch as a band of men divided into four groups had surrounded his



home so he could not escape. He went out of his house with only a torch (flashlight). The men threw a spear and a knife and shot an arrow at him but all missed. He shined the light at them and they ran in fear.

Back in America, William Sheldon had given Margaret's name and address to Apostle Smith Brickhouse, secretary for the Council of Apostles. Apostle Brickhouse began writing Margaret and sent a letter telling her he was sending a copy of the Book of Mormon.

Meanwhile the persecutions in Kisii were getting worse for those using the Book of Mormon. Margaret was afraid to pick up the package containing the Book of Mormon, since the Post Office there opens all packages to examine their contents. Her father told her not to

worry, but to go get the book and they would read it together. So she got the book and they read it and found it taught the gospel of Christ, not devil worshipping. Further communications were made and the Church of Christ was invited to Kisii to teach them the gospel.

We sent notice that the Church of Christ would accept the invitation and come to Kenya. Margaret went to the villages surrounding Kisii, telling the leaders of independent groups meeting together and worshipping that they needed to hear what the Church of Christ was bringing to Kisii, and how the Lord had directed her to contact us. With some reluctance, because we believed in the Book of Mormon, they agreed to meet us.

On May 7th, 2000, Brother Smith Brickhouse

and I attended the first service in Kisii, Kenya. We met with Margaret, her husband Samwel, her father Osaka and mother Nina in the village of Kababe. We walked out across a field cleared out of a tropical jungle, to a congregation of about a hundred people who came from their villages located in all directions around Kababe. I marveled, as I now looked upon the very image I had experienced and had ingrained in my mind since the fall of 1998.

THE WORK DONE IN KENYA

Most of these villages have regular services which are conducted by one man they call their pastor. Some of the pastors are self-appointed while others have attended seminaries. Several of these pas-



tors who met with us at the first service in Kababe attended a series of meetings we conducted during our first week. In this series we taught: the Organization of the Church of Christ; the coming forth of the Book of Mormon; the need for the Book of Mormon; a comparison of the doctrines in the Book of Mormon and the Bible; the doctrines of the Church of Christ; and priesthood authority.

It would be safe to say that every day while in Kenya we could see the hand of God at work, but I would like to tell of one particular instance. While we were conducting our classes during

the first week, the other churches in the Kisii area were continuing to tell their members we were there to bring in devil worshipping and they should avoid us. During the second week there, we were taken to a funeral service. As is customary in Kisii, everyone from a village and neighboring villages go to a funeral, as does a representative from each denomination. Although we did not know this, Margaret did, and she took us there as ministry of the Church of Christ. We were seated on the front row of ministry facing a congregation of more than 300 people. Each one of the denominations would be

allowed to take a few moments for comments, but one minister would be selected to speak and comfort the family, and another would give the funeral service. Much to the displeasure of the other denominations' ministry and most of the deceased family, I was given time to comfort the family and Brother Brickhouse preached the funeral service. The Lord had provided us the opportunity to preach the gospel and hope in Jesus Christ to these people, in the presence of our false accusers, negating the idea we were devil worshippers.

During our time in Kenya we preached seven sermons and two funerals.



Seven days of our trip we held all day classes. We set one day aside for fasting and prayer with a good attendance from those who had been meeting regularly with us. On our last day we held a Sacrament service with every member of the Church of Christ in the country in attendance, as well as eighteen non-members. We conducted five administrations, and held three separate baptismal services, wherein we baptized and confirmed twenty-six people, four women and twenty-two men. We also had two meetings with an elected committee of representatives from the various villages in order to plan and arrange for

meetings and the continuation of the work in our absence. We conservatively estimate we ministered to more than 1500 people while in Kenya, and many of them we ministered to several times. Most all are waiting for our return so they can receive further teachings.

There was a group of about twenty that followed us and attended almost every meeting, class and service we conducted. We hired a compact pick-up truck to pick them up at the main road and bring them to the meetings. We found that many of them had to walk between two and five miles, usually in the mud, to get to the main road to

meet the truck. At the end of the day they made the same walk back home from the main road where the truck dropped them off. Often walking home was done in the rain, and on some occasions they never made it all the way home because of the adverse weather conditions. It was inspiring to see many of these men and women present at every service, class or meeting in spite of the extreme difficulty they endured to get there.

ABOUT THE AREA OF KISHII

Kenya is a country along the east coast of the African conti-



nent which gained independence from Great Britain in the 1960's. There are 42 tribes in Kenya. The Kisii tribe is the largest, and they live in what is called the Kisii highlands, which cover about 50 square miles and has a population of 3.6 million people. The Kisii tribe speak the Kisii language first and Swahili second. English is the third language and not all are able to speak it. All of our meetings were conducted with one of them acting as an interpreter to give the message in the Kisii language. Most everyone has their own small farm of one or two acres where they raise food to eat. They have no other employ-

ment so to get cash they sell part of their crop along the sides of the roads. It goes without saying that these people live in poverty, living in small mud huts with grass or tin roofs, with no electricity or running water. Their only income is from selling part of the produce grown on their small farms. These few shillings have to pay for all their children's education, beginning with the first grade until they no longer go to school. All their medications and hospital bills, clothing and anything they can not grow on their farm come from these few shillings they make along the roadside.

Sickness is frequent and

often times terminal because medications are expensive—if even available. Hospitals are rare, and sometimes four people are placed in a bed. Again, the cost is prohibitive. Our brother Moses had to sell his cow to pay his wife's hospital bill, and now his child is sickly because of the lack of milk. The most serious health problem is malaria. An article found in the Daily National paper of Nairobi reported in 1998 that there were five times as many malaria cases reported as tuberculosis, AIDS, measles, and leprosy combined. Mosquitoes spread malaria, and bites are frequent from lack of

mosquito nets, insecticides and repellents.

Most travel is done by foot, but taxis (small pick-ups with camper shells, used to transport about 25 people at a time) are available on the main roads, once they walk the one to five miles necessary to get to the main roads. Taking a taxi from an outlying village into Kisii or to another village could cost 30 to 100 shillings one way. To rent a vehicle for a day costs 5000 shillings (about \$70 U. S. dollars). If one is walking or driving anything but a four-wheel drive vehicle there is a race to get to and from the destination before about 3:00 p.m. Each day at mid-afternoon heavy rain rolls in, causing their red clay roads to become rutted rivers so slick that vehicles slide off the road. Transportation is very difficult for these people and proved to be our biggest expense on this trip.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

As I took my flight home I had occasion to sit next to a young lady returning from Rome. We engaged in conversation as to where we had been, and what I had been doing in Kenya. She asked me the question that weighs heavily

on the minds of so many people of this generation. "Why does everyone want to save their souls? Don't you think

Saving souls is the primary function of God's servants, and it is the utmost desire of God that His creation have eternal life.

they would appreciate a plate of food to eat more?" Her philosophy is a very popular one: take care of the physical and material, which gives immediate gratification, while at the same time making one feel good about themselves and admired by others for being so charitable.

The temporal aspect of life should not be overlooked, but contemplate the profound words of Christ about the priorities of our existence:

"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in ex-

change for his soul?"
Matt. 16:26.

Saving souls is the primary function of God's servants, and it is the utmost desire of God that His creation have eternal life. However, after we have spiritually fed them with the food that saves the soul, then we must also have charity. As King Benjamin said:

"I would that ye should impart of your substance to the poor, every man according to that which he hath, such as feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick, and administering to their relief, both spiritually and temporally, according to their wants, And see that all these things are done in wisdom and order: for it is not requisite that a man should run faster than he has strength. And again: it is expedient that he should be diligent, that thereby he might win the prize: therefore, all things must be done in order" Mosiah 2:43-45.

Since Brother Brickhouse and I returned home from Kenya we have had several opportunities to share our experiences with different groups and congrega-

tions. We have often been met with inquiries of how they can help the work and the people in Kenya. I will take this opportunity to tell you some of the needs and show how you can help if you so desire.

After the baptism of twenty-six brothers and sisters, Margaret's grandfather, a Seventh Day Adventist, stood and told us how he had heard that the Book of Mormon taught devil worshipping. He had come to our first week of classes and heard us teach the true doctrines of God. He testified that we were doing a good work in Kenya. He also stood to testify before the Seventh Day Adventist church, which had been teaching their people that we were devil worshippers, and that the missionaries of the Church of Christ and the Book of Mormon were not the devil's tools, but that we were teaching the gospel of Christ and God. He then donated the large spot of land in the village of Kababe where we had held our first meeting on May 7th for the building of a chapel for the Church of Christ. The enthusiastic members have since drawn blueprints and begun to donate sand, timbers, food and

labor, and are ready to begin building. They still lack funds to purchase some of the materials, and there is a need for financial help in that area.

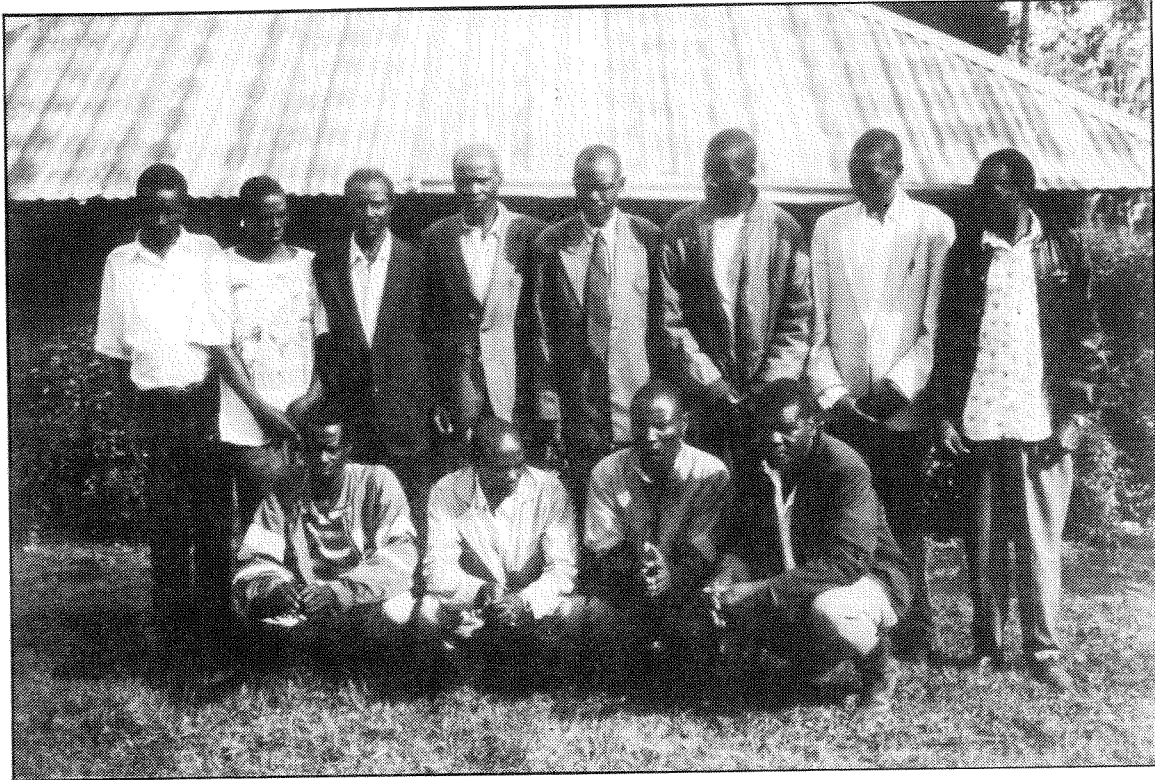
We found transportation to be our largest expense in Kenya, but even with the amount we spent it was still inadequate to be able to minister to everyone that we could have. It seems that purchasing a suitable vehicle for the work in Kenya would be a better use of money and would help in improving the work. We are looking for a way to be able to accomplish this.

Health care, medications, precautionary health aids and materials could greatly improve the quality of the people's lives in Kenya. Many items, such as mosquito nets, sprays and mosquito coils are available in Kenya but unaffordable to most.

We are going to research the feasibility of bringing other items, such as clothing, medications, glasses, etc. into the country with us. As of now, we do not know if the government will allow us to do this. The government does support churches coming into Kenya, but they do monitor their activities closely and we desire to be in

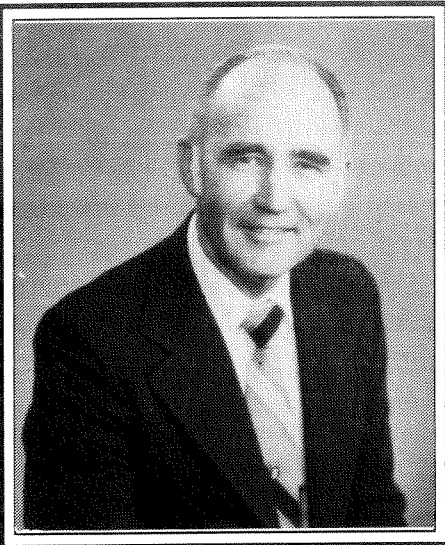
complete compliance with their rules.

For those who desire to financially help the work in Kenya, a fund has been established and is being maintained by the Phoenix local. Contributions can be made to this fund by sending it to the Phoenix local treasurer @ Church of Christ, 2929 E. Siesta Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85050. Indicate that the contribution is to be for the "Africa Fund," or give contributions directly to Brother Smith Brickhouse or myself. Receipts will be issued unless told otherwise.



MEMBERS OF THE KANISA LA KRISTO IN KENYA

A Book of Mormon CRITIQUE



By Apostle Don McIndoo

Eternal book, thou art hidden
In Cumorah's lonely hill;
Plates of immortal wisdom
Revealing the story of the past.

—Renan Chuc

“PLATES...REVEALING THE STORY OF THE PAST.” The prophecies of the Holy Bible are full of the mysteries of God concerning His ancient people, the house of Israel. Jacob, father of the twelve tribes of Israel, spoke to his sons, one by

Part 2

one, about the things ***“which shall befall you in the last days.”*** To his son Joseph he prophesied in this manner:

“Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall: The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on

The prophecies of the Holy Bible are full of the mysteries of God concerning His ancient people, the house of Israel.

the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren.” (Genesis 49:22 and 26)

The tribe of Joseph shall be as a fruitful bough; its descendants shall multiply and extend themselves over a “wall.” What would constitute such a wall? This word, figuratively, signifies something that separates or isolates. The house of Israel was isolated from other nations of the world by the great deserts to

the east and by the ocean to the west. In order to understand what "wall" over which Joseph would pass, we turn again to the scriptures. In Psalms 80:11 we find the answer to this enigma. Once again, speaking of the tribe of Joseph (see verse one), it says, "***She sent out her boughs unto the sea....***" By this we understand that the "wall" referred to the sea, and that the descendants of Joseph would cross over the sea.

Another question immediately assails us. To what place would they travel when they crossed the sea? Jacob spoke of the "***everlasting hills.***" Ah, we have encountered another enigma. What is the significance of this expression, the everlasting hills? The prophet Moses also spoke of the house of Joseph and the land that his people would inherit:

"And of Joseph he said, Blessed of the Lord be his land, for the precious things of heaven, for the dew, and for the deep that coucheth beneath, And for the precious fruits brought forth by the sun, and for the precious things put forth by the moon, And for the chief things of the ancient mountains, and for the precious things of the lasting hills...." (Deuteronomy 33:13-15)

Now we are able to understand that the distinguishing feature of land of Joseph would be its ancient mountains and everlasting hills. The prophets understood that great mountains are not eternal, for they are reduced by the elements and the erosion caused by them. For this reason the prophet Habakkuk wrote, "***He stood, and measured the earth: he beheld, and drove asunder the nations; and the everlasting mountains were scattered, the perpetual hills did bow: his ways are everlasting.***" (Hab. 3:6)

From this we understand that the prophet was not speaking of mountains and hills that exist eternally, so his use of the word "everlasting" must have another meaning; hence, a chain of mountains and hills that ran from one end of the land to the other would distinguish the land of Joseph. In the entire world only the Americas fits this description, with a chain of mountains beginning in Alaska, to the north, and extending to the southern tip of Argentina. America, a land of everlasting mountains and filled with natural riches shall be the inheritance of Joseph.

This remnant of the house of Israel that journeyed to America was not to be forgotten by God. They were guided by the Holy Spirit and blessed throughout the ages. The Book of Mormon is the history of this ancient people of the

house of Israel that left Jerusalem about 600 years before the birth of Christ and arrived here in America. It also contains the history of a group from the house of Judah that arrived in America after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Chaldeans shortly after 600 B.C. There is a third short history of some of the refugees from the ancient tower destroyed by God some 2000 years before the birth of Christ. The Book of Mormon informs us that these groups of pilgrims crossed the great oceans to arrive in the Americas. One of these groups crossed the Atlantic Ocean, while the other two crossed the Pacific.

Many critics of the Book of Mormon oppose this history, saying that all the ancestors of Native Americans came by way of the land bridge at the Bering Straits between Asia and North America some 10,000 years ago. They tell us that during the subsequent centuries there occurred a gradual development and evolution of the tribes as they moved farther and farther southward. In reality, these critics do not take into consideration the histories, nor oral traditions, of the Maya and other tribes. We also see that many times they often seem to ignore the new discoveries of other archaeologists.

Where are we going to place our confidence—in the theories of scientists that op-

pose the Word of God in the Holy Bible, or in the written histories of Native Americans and their ancient leaders? Let's consider a few of the records and traditions of the ancient Maya:

a. *"I...first Ahzib Quiché, write here on this paper of the coming of our fathers and grandfathers from the other side of the sea whence the sun rises."*¹

b. *"Now on the 28th of September we sign this attestation in which we have written that which by tradition our ancestors told us, who came from the other part of the sea, from Civan-Tulan, bordering on Babytonia."*²

c. *"Together these tribes came from the other part of the sea, from the East, from Pa Tulan, Pa Civan. These, then, were the three nations of the Quichés, and they came from where the sun rises, descendants of Israel, of the same language and same customs."*³

According to the traditions of the Maya, these people are of Israel and crossed over the sea to arrive in America. Such traditions of Native Americans are identical to the story found in the Book of Mormon. Are such traditions to be counted only as myths?

This has been the case most often in the past, but perhaps a new attitude is now dawning.

There are also many discoveries made by men of science that provide evidence of the truthfulness of the history revealed in this ancient book [the Book of Mormon].

On December 11, 1997, the Canadian Supreme Court ruled that native claims to vast areas of Canadian territory are more valid than the current laws recognize:

"One of the most important aspects of the judges' opinion is the way it clears up a long-standing dispute over traditional claims...."

"The Supreme Court specifically rejected a lower court ruling in which native claims to land in British Columbia were denied. In the course of those proceedings, native people came to court to perform traditional ceremonies, chanting and dancing in ancient ways to relate the histories that had

*been passed down for untold generations about how they came to be on the land. Thursday, the justices made it clear that the lower court had erred in rejecting the oral evidence."*⁴

There are also many discoveries made by men of science that provide evidence of the truthfulness of the history revealed in this ancient book. Consider this Maya tradition: *"The Mayas claimed that their ancestors came from distant regions in two bands. The largest and most ancient immigration was from the East, across, or rather, through the ocean. The second band less in number and later in time came from the West...."*⁵ This story supports the narrative of the Book of Mormon concerning the Nephite people and the people of Zarahemla.

As we have mentioned, the critics of the Book of Mormon argue that the ancestors of the Maya and other tribes came from the north about 10,000 years ago and their cultures evolved gradually as they traveled southward. The discoveries of many archaeologists indicate something quite different, for they uphold the story as found in the Book of Mormon.

According to the noted Americanist, A. Hyatt Verrill, the coming of the Maya was

*“an abrupt and entirely revolutionary order of things, exactly as though the laws, customs, arts, sciences, industries and social organization of the new regime had been brought, ready-made and fully developed, from another sphere or unknown land.”*⁶

According to the words of this archaeologist, we can see this people arrived with their civilization fully developed, not in a state of gradual evolution. This is what the Book of Mormon records. And what do the archaeologists say about their time of arrival?

*“With their calendrical system already in working order the Mayas appear on the threshold of history 600 years before the Christian era....”*⁷ Here we find the same time frame identified in the beginning of the narration of the Book of Mormon.

New discoveries continue to support this time frame. Richard Hansen of UCLA began excavations of the ancient Mayan city of Nakbé in 1989. His findings created a stir among scholars. I quote the results of his study: *“The discovery, described by scholars as surprising and exciting, puts the emergence of an elaborate Mayan civilization with large cities back to at least 600 BC.”*⁸

Interestingly, such studies caused one scholar, David Freidel, to write, *“Maya civilization banged into existence in its own way and time.... It is unsettling. For it violates the tacit rules of diffusion, and, even worse, the tacit rules of gradual evolution espoused by modern archaeology.”*⁹

For just such reasons we are able to say with all confidence, as did the poet, that the

Book of Mormon contains
“Plates of immortal wisdom,
Revealing the story of the
past.”

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6. A. Hyatt Verrill, *Ancient Civilizations of the New World*, 1938, p. 289.
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8. *The Witness*, Fall 1993, p. 5.
9. *The Witness*, Fall 1993, p. 5.



NOTICE

All Church of Christ locals in the United States who have active Sunday School departments are invited to participate in a project sponsored by the General Sunday School Association to provide consumable supplies to our eleven locals in Mexico and Central America. Each participating U. S. local will be matched with a local in the other countries and will be asked to provide \$30.00 a year to help maintain a supply of crayons, paper, etc. The children of our U. S. locals are encouraged to send a packet of their pictures, artwork, and letters to share with the local they are sponsoring. If you have a desire to share in this effort please send your \$30.00 check and packet to Apostle Don E. McIndoo, who is coordinating the project. His address is: 18830 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85050. Thank you for your help with this project.

Debbie Vogel
GSSA Secretary

64th Michigan State Reunion Church of Christ

June 24th and 25th, 2000

It was a beautiful morning for us "Longing For the Gathering" to "Go To the House of the Lord," on Saturday, June 24th.

The 10 A.M. prayer service was opened by Elder Charles Brantner at the Bradley Local. Elder Adam Porter then welcomed us and read the Reunion schedule. He read from Alma 9:13-16 and Moroni 10:8-14. He then admonished us to seek God in humbleness, and led us in a season of prayer. Songs and testimonies praising our God followed. Brother Charles gave us the closing prayer.

The 11 A.M. preaching service was opened by Elder Adam Porter with prayer, after which he introduced our preacher for the hour, Elder Aaron Heath. Brother Aaron read a poem for the reunion program about welcoming people with a smile. He greeted us with enthusiasm. He then read "Entrance Into Tula" from the book *He Walked the Americas*, by L. Taylor Hansen. This tells us how the people prepared in advance for Christ's visit there. Brother Aaron then read from II Nephi 12: 87-90; Alma 19:108-114, and 42-46. He asked if we are preparing for Christ's return, either individually or as

a people? We must correct things in our lives. He read Rev. 20:7-15 and Alma 8:28, explaining that we are ripe for destruction if we don't prepare to meet Christ. He read from Alma 19:18-26 and asked how much is it worth to see Christ's return?

It's FREE. Would you stand in line to see Him, or invite Him in? He read from James 1:21-25: "be doers of the word," and from II Corinthians 6:17-18: "BE YE SEPARATE." Closing prayer was given by Elder Adam Porter.

The afternoon service began with Elder Max Spencer opening in prayer, then introducing our preacher, Apostle Smith "Buzz" Brickhouse. Brother Buzz greeted us and began with a "Missionary Report." He encouraged us: our prayers are being heard. Our Heavenly Father is commencing great works in the world: in Honduras, Guatemala, Yucatan, Africa, Canada, Idaho and Alaska we are making much progress. People are being led to the Church of Christ. We must encourage our youth and support our youth camps, for among them are the leaders of the church in years to come.

Brother Buzz told us much about the missionary trip to Kenya, Africa, that

he and Apostle Brian McIndoo just returned from. He told us it was such a blessing that there is no doubt that God opened many doors for them.

Many things happened to them along the way, they could feel our prayers, and knew that God was preparing the way for them and for His work to be done. We were able to view photos of our 26 new brothers and sisters there. (Brother Buzz told us that there will be articles about their trip written for the Advocate, so I won't go into any more detail here. I'm sure that you will thoroughly enjoy reading about their trip, just as we enjoyed hearing about it.)

Brother Buzz admonished us that we must prepare for His coming and prepare to do the work that we are led and directed to do. He told us to never be afraid to testify or witness, no matter what the response. It is God who will touch those when He may. Stand on the gospel and you will never go wrong! Brother Buzz read from III Nephi where it tells us there will be a sign given when He will begin to gather, that sign being when He takes the Book of Mormon back to His people—this has already happened. It happened many years ago, when Elder Clarence Wheaton took

the Book of Mormon to Yucatan and the people there recognized it as being their book. Brother Buzz admonished us that WE have to get the work done. God will bless the work provided WE give the time, the effort, and the funds. WE are the ones that Christ commands to carry out HIS work; we are HIS instruments!

Elder Max Spencer gave us the closing prayer.

Those that were able to then went to Gun Lake for a picnic for all. Reports were that it was a very enjoyable gathering, and a beautiful day for it. God has blessed us once again.

Sunday, June 25th, was another beautiful morning as we gathered in to the house of the Lord to once again partake of His Spirit.

The Sacrament Service was opened by Elder Adam Porter, who again warmly welcomed us. There was an administration and then an opening prayer given by Brother Adam.

Apostle Smith "Buzz" Brickhouse welcomed us in Swahili (Carabu). He then read from Isaiah 55:1-13, where we are told to diligently seek the Lord while He may be found. The Lord will tell us what to do and, if we do it, He promises that we will be greatly blessed. Brother Buzz asked, "How often do we petition our Heavenly Father that He mold us to remove our own unwillingness, the natural man instincts?" We need to commit our lives and our thoughts to Him. We need to pray for direction and guidance, so as to not get caught up in things that will bear no fruit for the Lord. Take time to separate yourselves from the world. Satan uses our time as a weapon of distraction against Christ, thus using up our time

unwisely. It strengthens us to come together. Brother Buzz read from Matthew 26:26-29; I Corinthians 11:23-30; III Nephi 8:32-49 and admonished us to be submissive unto God and HE will strengthen and protect us.

Elder Adam Porter admonished us to examine ourselves, repent of our sins and be of a firm mind to discontinue those sins before partaking of the Sacrament, lest we drink damnation to our souls. The emblems were blessed and served and we partook of the broken body and the spilt blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This was followed by time which is set aside for song, testimony or prayer as the Spirit leads. Many voices were heard in praise and thanksgiving to our Lord. Closing prayer was given by Brother Adam.

After another wonderful meal we gathered again in the sanctuary for another song service. We were given an opening prayer by Elder La Verne Lussenden. There were many wonderful voices and musical instruments lifted in joyful praise unto our Heavenly Father.

The afternoon service was opened with prayer given by Apostle Smith "Buzz" Brickhouse. He introduced Elder Adam Porter who would give us a sermon, the last sermon of the 64th Michigan State Reunion.

Elder Adam Porter admonished us to rely upon the Lord for all things. He read from Ephesians 2:1-22 where it tells us that *quicken*ing is to be made alive—alive in Christ. We are saved by grace: it IS a gift of God. If we are the godly people God desires us to be, then we will want to do good works. We are transformed through Christ and were created in His image also. We are to

"grow unto an holy temple in the Lord."

There is no person here that shouldn't be here. He loves each and every one of us.

Apostle "Buzz" Brickhouse gave the closing prayer of this year's reunion.

We then had the opportunity to gather into the dining hall for fellowship and desserts, and were very pleased to be able to view a video that brother Buzz had brought with him. We were able to see our new brothers and sisters in Kenya, watch portions of different services they held with them there, and to see the children dance and sing praising the Lord. A joyful time was had by all.

We are thankful for the time of feasting on God's word, as well as the time of fellowship that we had with our loved ones. We were well fed both spiritually and physically once again. We were saddened that the 2000 reunion was coming to a close, yet thankful that another is already being planned for next year. We give special thanks to the Bradley Local for hosting this year's reunion, and for providing us with such nice meals. Next year's reunion will take place at the Bradley Local on June 23rd & 24th of 2001! Please make arrangements to join us!

*In Love and Gospel Bonds,
Your Reporter,
Sr. Debra Haines*

NEWS FROM THE NORTH

June 18, Father's Day, we enjoyed having Charles and Jeanne Brantner worship with us. They were in Michigan visiting family and attending the Michigan State Reunion. We are also looking forward to having Sister Jeanette Cunningham, from Missouri, worship with us during the month of July while in Michigan visiting her family and attending the Hoskins' family reunion.

We have been blessed with some very good sermons from our local ministry. Following are a few brief comments and admonitions which we should keep in mind:

In his sermon on May 7, Elder Max Spencer quoted from I John, chapter 4, in which we are advised to "try the spirits, whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." This scripture also tells us that we must love one another because "if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another." There is no fear in love; perfect love casteth out fear.

In his sermon on May 14, Elder Aaron Heath quoted from the 3rd chapter of Alma that asks the question, "Have ye spiritually been born of God?" and states "for there can no man be saved except his garments are washed white." The Bible tells us that in the last days children will be disrespectful to parents and others, not only to those we are in contact with but to our Heavenly Father.

If we don't have respect for those around us, we won't have respect for Him. It was pointed out that we have to change our lives, come away from the wicked things of the world, treat one another with respect. We have to be able to endure.

Elder Max Spencer, in his sermon on June 11, quoted from 2nd Nephi, chapter 7, in which Jacob prophesies of the coming of Christ and His crucifixion, also of the scattering of the Jews among all nations and the gathering in from the isles of the sea and from the four parts of the earth. He also speaks of the destruction among the Jews and points out in chapter 11 that "Never hath any of them been destroyed, save it were foretold them by the prophets of the Lord."

Elder Aaron Heath, in his sermon on June 18, read from 1st Nephi, chapter 5, in which the Lord told Nephi that He would prepare a way for them to the promised land if they would keep His commandments. This same promise applies to us. When the Lord asks us to do something we should not question it, because He will provide a way for us to do whatever we are instructed to do. Brother Aaron read further from Matthew 22:36-37, in which, when asked which is the great commandment, Jesus told them, "thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and

with all thy mind." We must love Him as He loves us; our heavenly Father is always there for us.

We had a good turn out at the Michigan State Reunion the weekend of June 24-25. One of the highlights of the reunion was the report by Apostle "Buzz" Brickhouse on his and Apostle Brian McIndoo's missionary trip to Kenya. We are looking forward to a complete report in the *Advocate* very soon. We were blessed with good weather and a wonderful spirit throughout the reunion, and we want to thank the Bradley Local for the great job they did of making us all feel welcome and being such good hosts.

We want to thank you all for your prayers for our Sister Norma Keith, who is home recovering from her recent surgery. Please continue to keep her in your prayers that God will grant her a complete recovery.

Until next time, may God bless and watch over each and every one of you.

*Your sister in Christ,
June Haines,
Reporter, Ravenna Local*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSOURI REUNION

The Missouri Reunion Committee would like to invite all to attend the 2000 Missouri Reunion, which will be held August 4th, 5th and 6th, 2000. All meetings will be held at the Church of Christ headquarters building located on the Temple Lot in

Independence, Missouri.

We will again organize an ice cream social for Saturday evening after the final preaching service of the day. The social will be held either just outside the Visitors Center or in the basement.

For information please contact:

Roland Sarratt

15910 E. 36th Terr.
Independence, MO 64055
(816) 373-6605

Mike McGhee

18907 E. 6th St. North
Independence, MO 64056
(816) 796-6255

TRI-STATE REUNION 2000

The Minnesota locals of the Church of Christ invite all to attend and worship with us at the Tri-State Reunion.

The reunion will again be held at the indoor group camp in beauti-

ful Whitewater State Park. The park is about seven miles north of St. Charles, Minnesota. The camp will be open for our use from noon Friday, September 1, through noon Monday, September 4.

Lodging is available at the camp. Bring your own bedding.

For more information contact:

Merlin Eddy

3370 203rd St. W.
Farmington, MN 55024
(651) 463-2218
spikeeddy@aol.com

PHOENIX REUNION

"O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain: O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!

"He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his

bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young" Isaiah 40:9, 11.

The Phoenix Local wishes to invite all to come and join us in worshipping our Lord on Friday, November 24th through Sunday, November 26th, for our annual reunion.

Please contact the following people to help you make preparations for your visit with us:

Gordon McCann, Pastor

18808 N. 30th St.
Phoenix, AZ 85050
(602) 569-2341

Bob Hedrick

2908 E. Rockwood
Phoenix, AZ 85050
(602) 494-9661

Glenn Orsted

1327 E. Wescott Dr.
Phoenix, AZ 85024
(623) 780-8764

YUCATAN REUNION

We invite you to our reunion to celebrate our 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Church in Mexico.

This event will be held in the city of Merida, on the 25th of February, 2001, beginning at 9:00 a.m. There will be preaching services and a special music program.

Please let us know if you are coming. For more information contact:

Placido Koyoc Matu

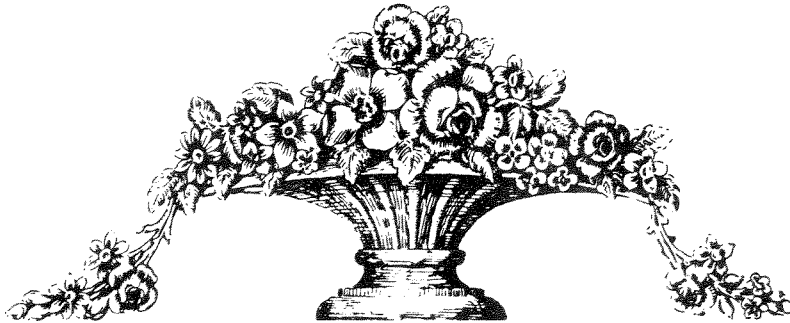
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Phone: 50-14-42
e-mail: p_matu@hotmail.com

We're looking forward to seeing you. Please come and worship with us on this special day.

OBITUARY

Charles Robert Ballantyne

December 21, 1908—July 4, 2000



Charles Robert Ballantyne, 602 E. Locust, Rogers, Arkansas, passed away July 4, 2000, at St. Mary's Hospital in Rogers. He was 91 years of age. He was born on December 21, 1908, in Monona City, Iowa, to C. R. and Josephine LeSeur Ballantyne.

Charles was baptized into the R.L.D.S. Church by his father on December 25, 1916. On March 29th, 1936, he transferred his membership to the Church of Christ. He was a faithful member of this church throughout the remainder of his life.

Charles graduated from the University of Iowa with his masters degree in 1931.

Charles accepted a teaching position at Tarkin college in Tarkin, Missouri, until the depression closed his department. Charles accepted a position in Iowa working in the Department of Agriculture in soil and water conservation, serving for 15 years. Iowa State University contacted him and asked him to help with their adult education and agronomy department. In 1953 he became an Associate Professor of Agronomic and was instrumental in the pioneering of Soil and Water conservation. He also helped develop new teaching techniques used in the public schools today in Iowa. Charles retired in 1968.

Charles married Dorothy Evans in 1971 in Florida and they made their home in Ames, Iowa. Charles moved to the Rogers area in 1973 from Ames, Iowa. In 1977 Charles founded the Wood Carvers of Northwest Arkansas.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, of the home.

Charles was cremated and interred in Ames, Iowa. Local arrangements were by Callison-Lough funeral service of Rogers, Arkansas.

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CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 2000 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 2. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 3. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, on March 31 & April 1. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

The 2000 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, August 7, 8 and 9, at Independence, Missouri.

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