

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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Where is God?

*He was just a little boy, on a week's first day,
He was wandering home from Sunday School, and dawdling on the way.
He scuffed his shoes into the grass; he found a caterpillar.
He found a fluffy milkweed pod, and blew out all the "filler."*

*A bird's nest in a tree overhead, so wisely placed on high,
Was just another wonder that caught his eager eye.
A neighbor watched his zig zag course, and hailed him from the lawn,
Asked him where he'd been that day and what was going on.*

*"I've been to Bible School," he said and turned a piece of sod.
He picked up a wiggly worm replying, "I've learned a lot of God."
"M'm very fine way," the neighbor said, "for a boy to spend his time."
"If you'll tell me where God is, I'll give you a brand new dime."*

*Quick as a flash the answer came! Nor were his accents faint.
"I'll give you a dollar, Mister, if you can tell me where God ain't."*

—Author Unknown

Submitted by Alvin & Joyce Harris on the CCEG

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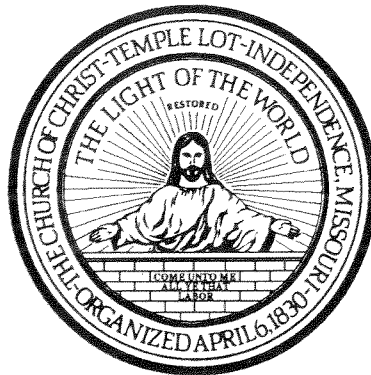
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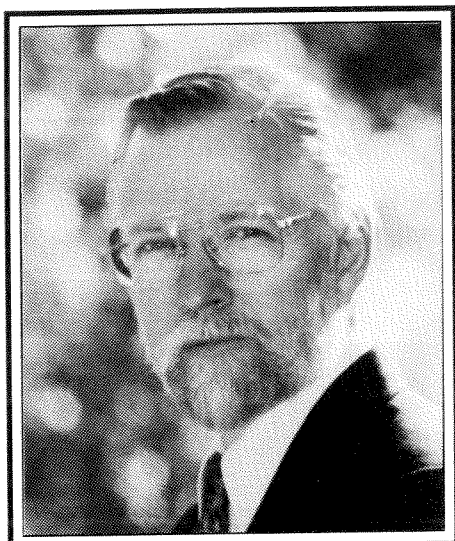
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ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

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.

ARTICLE

The Glory to Come



By Harvey E. Seibel

Concerning the House of Israel

The Situation:

“Yea, the more part of all the tribes have been led away; And they are scattered to and fro upon the isles of the sea; And whither they are, none of us knoweth, save that we know that they have been led away. And since they have been led away, these

things have been prophesied concerning them, and also concerning all those who shall hereafter be scattered and be confounded, because of the Holy One of Israel; for against him will they harden their hearts; Wherefore, they shall be scattered among all nations, and shall be hated of all men” (1 Nephi 7:8-12). This has been fulfilled.

CONFERENCE YEAR 2000 REFERENDUM RESULTS

The Referendum Committee has reported that they met on August 24, 2000, to count the 2000 referendum ballots. The reported results are as follows:

BILL #1	
Yes Votes	362
No Votes	14
BILL #2	
Yes Votes	365
No Votes	5

Both bills passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Smith N. Brickhouse
Secretary, Council of Apostles

The Prophecy:

“Nevertheless, after they have been nursed by the Gentiles, and the Lord has lifted up his hand upon the Gentiles and set them up for a standard, and their children have been carried in their arms, and their daughters have been carried upon their shoulders, behold, these things of which are spoken, are temporal: for thus are the covenants of the Lord with our fathers; And it meaneth us in the days to come, and also all our brethren who are of the house of Israel. And it meaneth that the time cometh that after all the house of Israel have been scattered and confounded, that the Lord God will raise up a mighty nation among the Gentiles, yea, even upon the face of this land; And by them shall our seed be scattered. And after our seed is scattered, the Lord God will proceed to do a marvelous work among the Gentiles, which shall be of great worth unto our seed; Wherefore, it is likened unto their being nourished by the Gentiles, and being carried in their arms, and upon their shoulders” (1 Nephi

7:13-18).

This mighty nation has been raised up and they have scattered the Lamanites. But note the statement: **“AND AFTER OUR SEED IS SCATTERED, THE LORD WILL PROCEED TO DO A MARVELOUS WORK AMONG THE GENTILES, WHICH SHALL BE OF GREAT WORTH UNTO OUR SEED.”** This scattering was not complete until the battle at Wounded Knee in 1890. More on this presently.

In speaking of the Jew we have this word:

“And they shall crucify him: For thus it behooveth our God; And there is none other nation on earth that would crucify their God. For should the mighty miracles be wrought among other nations, they would repent, and know that he be their God; But because of priestcrafts and iniquities, they at Jerusalem will stiffen their necks against him, that he be crucified. Wherefore, because of their iniquities, destructions, famines, pestilence and bloodsheds, shall come upon them; And they who shall not be destroyed, shall be

scattered among all nations. But behold, thus saith the Lord God: When the day cometh that they shall believe in me, that I am Christ, then have I covenanted with their fathers, that they shall be restored in the flesh, upon the earth, unto the lands of their inheritance” (2 Nephi 7:6-12).

Note that the Jews are not restored to their lands until after their conversion to Christ. What we have in Jerusalem today has to do with certain other prophecies concerning the future captivity of Jerusalem and the battle of Armageddon. See Zechariah 14, Matthew 24, Luke 21, and Revelation 16.

The words of Isaiah, the Restoration of Judah, and the marvelous work:

“Nevertheless, in the days that the prophecies of Isaiah shall be fulfilled, men shall know of a surety, at the times when they shall come to pass.... For I know that they shall be of great worth unto them in the last days; for in that day shall they understand them; wherefore, for their good have I written them” (2 Nephi 11:12, 14).

Christ has more to say concerning the words of Isaiah in 3 Nephi 9.

“Wherefore, the Jews shall be scattered among all nations; yea, and also Babylon shall be destroyed; wherefore, the Jews shall be scattered by other nations; And after they have been scattered, and the Lord God hath scourged them by other nations, for the space of many generations, yea, even down from generation to generation until they shall be persuaded to believe in Christ, the Son of God, and the atonement, which is infinite for all mankind; And when that day shall come, that they shall believe in Christ, and worship the Father in his name, with pure hearts, and clean hands, and look not forward anymore for another Messiah, then, at that time, the day will come that it must needs be expedient that they should believe these things, And the Lord will set his hand again the second time to restore his people from their lost and fallen state. Wherefore, he will proceed to do a marvelous work, and a wonder among the children of men. Wherefore,

he shall bring forth his words unto them, which words shall judge them at the last day; For they shall be given them for the purpose of convincing them of the true Messiah, who was rejected by them; And unto the convincing of them that they need not look forward anymore for a Messiah to come” (2 Nephi 11:25-32).

Concerning the Last Days and the Lamanite Branch of the House of Israel:

“But behold, I prophesy unto you concerning the last days; concerning the days when the Lord God shall bring these things forth unto the children of men. After my seed, and the seed of my brethren shall have dwindled in unbelief, and shall have been smitten by the Gentiles; Yea, after the Lord God shall have camped against them round about, and shall have laid siege against them with a mount, and raised forts against them; And after they shall have been brought down low in the dust, even that they are not, yet the words of the righteous shall be written, and the prayers of the faithful shall be heard, and all those who have

dwindled in unbelief, shall not be forgotten; For those who shall be destroyed shall speak unto them out of the ground, and their speech shall be low out of the dust, and their voice shall be as one that hath a familiar spirit; For the Lord God will give unto him power, that he may whisper concerning them, even as it were out of the ground; and their speech shall whisper out of the dust. For thus saith the Lord God: They shall write the things which shall be done among them, and they shall be written and sealed up in a book, and those who have dwindled in unbelief shall not have them, for they seek to destroy the things of God; Wherefore, as those who have been destroyed, have been destroyed speedily: and the multitude of their terrible ones shall be as chaff that passeth away. Yea, thus saith the Lord God: It shall be at an instant, suddenly. And it shall come to pass, that those who have dwindled in unbelief, shall be smitten by the hand of the Gentiles” (2 Nephi 11:80-89). This has been fulfilled.

The State of the World in That Day:

"But behold, in the last days, or in the days of the Gentiles; yea, behold all the nations of the Gentiles, and also the Jews, both those who shall come upon this land, and those who shall be upon other lands; yea, even upon all the lands of the earth; behold, they will be drunken with iniquity, and all manner of abominations; And when that day shall come, they shall be visited of the Lord of hosts, with thunder and with earthquake, and with a great noise, and with storm and with tempest, and with the flame of devouring fire; And all the nations that fight against Zion, and that distress her, shall be as a dream of a night vision" (2 Nephi 11:116-118).

This wickedness on the part of all nations must surely be close to that described here. The judgment of God for these things surely must not be far off.

Yet There is a Promise:

"Wo be unto the Gentiles, saith the Lord God of hosts; for notwithstanding I shall lengthen out mine arm unto them

from day to day, they will deny me; Nevertheless, I will be merciful unto them, saith the Lord God, if they will repent and come unto me; for mine arm is lengthened out all the day long, saith the Lord God of hosts. But behold, there shall be many at that day, when I shall proceed to do a marvelous work among them, that I may remember my covenants which I have made unto the children of men, that I may set my hand again the second time to recover my people, which are the house of Israel; And also, that I may remember the promises which I have made unto thee, Nephi, and also unto thy father, that I would remember your seed; and that the words of your seed should proceed forth out of my mouth unto your seed. And my words shall hiss forth unto the ends of the earth, for a standard unto my people, which are of the house of Israel" (2 Nephi 12:40-44).

This work is still in commencement and will increase greatly in the near future.

"And it shall come to pass that my people which are of the house of Israel, shall be gathered

home unto the lands of their possessions; and my word also shall be gathered in one" (2 Nephi 12:73).

The Grand Finale:

"For after the book of which I have spoken shall come forth, and be written unto the Gentiles, and sealed up again unto the Lord, there shall be many which shall believe the words which are written; and they shall carry them forth unto the remnant of our seed. And then shall the remnant of our seed know concerning us, how that we came out from Jerusalem, and that they are descendants of the Jews. And the gospel of Jesus Christ shall be declared among them; wherefore, they shall be restored unto the knowledge of their fathers, and also to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, which was had among their fathers. And then shall they rejoice; for they shall know that it is a blessing unto them from the hand of God; And their scales of darkness shall begin to fall from their eyes; and many generations shall not pass away among them, save they shall be a white and a delightsome people. And it shall come

to pass that the Jews which are scattered, also shall begin to believe in Christ: and they shall begin to gather in upon the face of the land; And as many as shall believe in Christ, shall also become a delightsome people. And it shall come to pass that the Lord God shall commence his work, among all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people, to bring about the restoration of his people upon the earth. And with righteousness shall the Lord God judge the poor, and reprove with equity, for the meek of the earth. And he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth; and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked; For the time speedily cometh, that the Lord God shall cause a great division among the people; and the wicked will he destroy; and he will spare his people, yea, even if it so be that he must destroy the wicked by fire. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. And then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf, and the young lion, and the

fatling, together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down

The work is two-fold, not only to restore the people from their lost and fallen state, but also to gather them back to the lands of their inheritance.

together, and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. Wherefore, the things of all nations shall be made known: yea, all things shall be made known unto the children of men. There is nothing which is secret, save it shall be revealed; there is no work of darkness, save it shall be made manifest in the

light; and there is nothing which is sealed upon the earth, save it shall be loosed. Wherefore, all things which have been revealed unto the children of men, shall at that day be revealed; And Satan shall have power over the hearts of the children of men no more, for a long time" (2 Nephi 12:80-99).

Concerning the Second Time

2 Nephi 11:28 and 2 Nephi 12:42 tell us that the Lord will set His hand again the second time to restore His people from their lost and fallen state. It is a time when He will commence His marvelous work among the people. In the fifth chapter of 2 Nephi we have a further word concerning the Jewish portion of the House of Israel.

"For the people of the Lord are they who wait for him: for they still wait for the coming of the Messiah. And behold, according to the words of the prophet, the Messiah will set himself again the second time, to recover them; Wherefore, he will manifest himself unto them in power and great glory, unto the destruction of their enemies, when that

day cometh when they shall believe in him; And none will he destroy that believe in him” (2 Nephi 5:35-38).

The work is two-fold, not only to restore the people from their lost and fallen state, but also to gather them back to the lands of their inheritance.

“And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth” (2 Nephi 9:126-127).

It will also be the last time.

“And in the day that he shall set his hand again the second time to recover his people, is the day, yea, even the last time, that the servants of the Lord shall go forth in his power, to nourish and prune his vineyard; and after that,

the end soon cometh” (Jacob 4:3).

Christ Expounds These Matters

The foregoing lays the foundation for the discussion to follow. Christ went into considerable detail outlining these future events in the third book of Nephi. The Lord began to expound these matters a day earlier, but because of the weakness of the people He told them to go home and ponder on the things He had told them and to prepare their minds for the morrow. The Lord returned the following day and stated that: *“...Now I finish the commandment which the Father hath commanded me...” (3 Nephi 9:46).* If these matters were important for them back then, they are certainly important to us today when their fulfillment is surely imminent.

Christ begins by saying that when the words of Isaiah are fulfilled, then is the fulfilling of the covenant of the Father to the House of Israel.

“And then shall the remnants which shall be scattered abroad upon the face of the earth, be gathered in from the east, and from the west, and from the south, and from the

north; and they shall be brought to the knowledge of the Lord their God, who hath redeemed them” (3 Nephi 9:49).

But *“...if the Gentiles do not repent, after the blessing which they shall receive, after that they have scattered my people, then shall ye which are a remnant of the house of Jacob, go forth among them...” (3 Nephi 9:51).*

The result will be that the Lamanites shall be among the Gentiles as a lion among sheep, which if he goeth through, both treadeth down and teareth in pieces, and all their enemies will be cut off. In this process God will gather His people together, as a man gathereth his sheaves. And God will make their horn iron and their hoofs brass and they shall beat in pieces many people and Christ will consecrate their gain unto God. This is in accordance with the following scriptures: Of Joseph we read,

“His glory is like the firstling of his bullock, and his horns are like the horns of unicorns: with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth: and they are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and they are the thousands of

Manasseh" (Deuteronomy 33:17). And, "Thou art my battle axe and weapons of war: for with thee will I break in pieces the nations, and with thee will I destroy kingdoms" (Jeremiah 51:20).

Says the Father, the sword of His justice shall hang over all the nations of the Gentiles, and except they repent, it shall fall upon them. And then it shall come to pass that He will establish His people, the House of Israel. And the seed of Lehi will be established in this land (America), fulfilling the covenant made to Jacob, that it shall be a New Jerusalem. Then the powers of heaven, and Christ also, will be in their midst.

Then Christ tells them that the Father had sent Him to them first to bless them because they were the children of the covenant. Then, after they were blessed, the Father fulfilleth the covenant made to Abraham, saying,

"In thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed, unto the pouring out of the Holy Ghost through me upon the Gentiles, which blessing upon the Gentiles, shall make them mighty above all, unto the scattering of my people, O house of Is-

rael: and they shall be a scourge unto the people of this land" (America - HES) (3 Nephi 9:65).

But when the Gentiles harden their hearts against the fullness of the Gospel then God will remember the covenant made with His people and gather them again and give unto them the land of Jerusalem. THEN:

"...It shall come to pass that the time cometh when the fullness of my gospel shall be preached unto them, AND THEY SHALL BELIEVE IN ME, THAT I AM JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD, and they pray unto the Father in my name" (3 Nephi 9:69).

"THEN SHALL THEIR WATCHMEN LIFT UP THEIR VOICES; AND WITH THE VOICE TOGETHER SHALL THEY SING: FOR THEY SHALL SEE EYE TO EYE" (3 Nephi 9:70).

Then will they be gathered back to Jerusalem and break forth into joy, fulfilling the statement,

"Awake, awake again, and put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments," etc. *"...In that day they shall know that I am he that*

doth speak. And then shall they say, How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings unto them," etc. (3 Nephi 9:77-78). *"And then shall a cry go forth, Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch not that which is unclean; go ye out of the midst of her, be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the Lord. For ye shall not go out with haste, nor go by flight: for the Lord will go before you; and the God of Israel shall be your rearward. BEHOLD, MY SERVANT SHALL DEAL PRUDENTLY, HE SHALL BE EXALTED AND EXTOLLED, AND BE VERY HIGH... So shall he sprinkle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths at him: for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider"* (3 Nephi 9:79-81, 83). Then shall Jerusalem be inhabited again with my people.

The Sign

(When these things are about to take place, namely the gathering from their long dispersion and

the establishment
of Zion among
them)

The Lord, having quoted from Isaiah and expounded on those words, now provides a sign when these things are to take place. In so doing He also gives the sequence of these events. Consider:

EVENT 1 - When these things are made known unto the Gentiles concerning Lehi's seed and their record, and when these things are brought forth from the Gentiles to them and they begin to know these things, it shall be a sign to them that the work of the Father hath already commenced. (See 3 Nephi 9:86-93).

EVENT 2 - When these things transpire, kings shall shut their mouths, for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider. For in that day the Father shall do a great and marvelous work among them, though there will be some who will not believe it, although a man (the marred servant) shall declare it unto them. But the life of this servant is in God's hands and God will heal him of the wounds inflicted by his enemies. And those who will not

hear him shall be cut off from among God's people.

EVENT 3 - Then the remnant of Jacob (the seed of Lehi) will be as a lion among the Gentiles and all their enemies shall be cut off. And except the Gentiles repent, all their horses will be cut off out of the midst of them, also their chariots and cities, and all their strongholds will be thrown down. Witchcrafts and soothsayers will also be cut off, along with graven and standing images, etc. And all lyings, deceiving, envyings, strifes, priestcrafts and whoredoms shall be done away. All whoso will not repent and come unto Christ in that day will be cut off from among the people, for God will execute vengeance upon them, even as upon the heathen, such as they have not heard.

EVENT 4 - But if they will repent God will establish His church among them, and they (the Gentiles) will come in unto the covenant and be numbered with Lehi's seed. These repentant Gentiles will assist the remnant of Jacob (Lehi's seed) in building the New Jerusalem, after which they will assist them that they may be gathered in unto the New Jerusalem. This fulfills the prophetic statement concerning the

Gentiles that they were to become nursing fathers and nursing mothers to them and carry them forth upon their shoulders, etc. It is the Ephraimite portion among the Gentiles who are assisting their brethren of the seed of Manasseh.

EVENT 5 - Then shall the power of heaven come down among them and Christ also will be in their midst.

EVENT 6 - Then shall the work of the Father commence among all the dispersed of His people, those of the lost tribes, that they may come unto Christ and call upon the Father in His name.

EVENT 7 - Then shall the work commence among all nations to prepare the way whereby His people may be gathered home to the land of their inheritance. *"And they shall go out from all nations, and they shall not go out in haste, nor go by flight; for I will go before them, saith the Father, and I will be their rearward"* (3 Nephi 10:8).

In Conclusion

We know, in accordance to the several prophecies concerning the great apostasy, that God was to restore again His church in the latter day.

That restoration occurred in 1829-30. However, the little stone kingdom has barely grown at all, making little headway. It is still a little stone after 170 years. Instead, as we all know, we have suffered a grievous latter day apostasy within the ranks of the restoration. Yet God has spared his people, for it was not to be left to other people, and it was to stand forever. We also know from many prophetic scriptures that Zion and the gathering were not to take place until near the time of the end. According to the statement in 2 Nephi 7 above the marvelous work was to take place after the seed of Lehi had been scattered upon this land by this great nation. That scattering was not complete until 1890 when the last of the Indians were conquered and placed on reservations.

Concerning the sequence of events as given by Christ above we observe a peculiar thing. First the gospel is revealed to the Gentiles who, in turn, begin taking it to the seed of Lehi. It is obvious at this point that the Book of Mormon has already been translated and the Church restored as prophesied, i.e. the conclusion of the 1260 years of darkness. The next event is the appearance of one termed, '*the marred servant.*' Then, because of the refusal

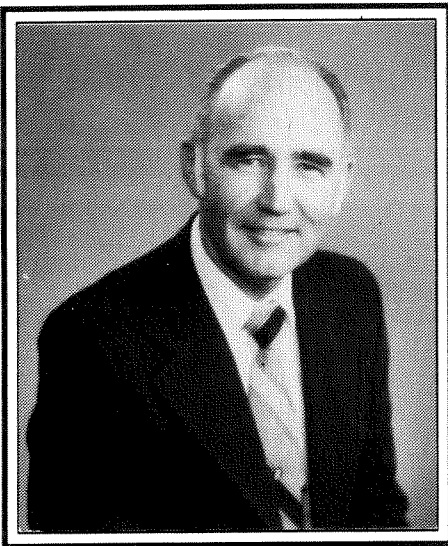
to hearken to the words of this servant, the remnant of Jacob (the Indian) shall rise up as a lion and bring down the wickedness of the Gentiles in this land. But there are those among the Gentiles who will repent, and among them the church will be established. At this point the real work will commence, the Gentiles acting as nursing fathers and mothers in assisting their brethren of Manasseh in building the New Jerusalem, and then in further assisting them to gather in unto the city.

Notice the peculiar circumstance here. First the church is restored, but immediately apostasy set in. The little stone kingdom is preserved by the power of God through this apostasy and brought back to Independence. The gospel mission among the Lamanites commenced in the 1950s in Yucatan through the work of Apostle Clarence L. Wheaton and his wife Angela. Since then it has spread to other tribes in this country, though admittedly the work is still in its infancy. But the point of this is that these successful missionary efforts have all taken place subsequent to 1890 when the last of the scattering had taken place. We have not yet arrived to the work of the *Marred Servant*. It is interesting to note that

when his work is rejected and the sword of God's justice falls upon the Gentiles in this land that there will be some Gentiles who will repent and the church shall be *established*, followed immediately by the building of the New Jerusalem. Thus, judgment will have begun and ended in the house of God. So what must be our conclusion? Though the church was restored in 1829-30 its full establishment will not take place until after those great events described above, i.e. the coming of the marred servant and the destruction of the rebellious Gentiles via the remnant of Jacob in this land.

After this, the work of the gathering will commence in earnest from out of all nations, and the people of Israel restored not only to the knowledge of Christ but also gathered back to the lands of their inheritance. When this is accomplished the Lord will reign over His saints for a thousand years. There is truly a great work ahead—and it is not in some future generation. The time is now if we will but heed.

A Book of Mormon CRITIQUE



By Apostle Don McIndoo

History of America, told in
radiant brilliance
Of wondrous and mystical
splendor:
The doctrines which the
prophets spoke
Were the flowering paths of
the Nephite.

—Renan Chuc

"HISTORY OF AMERICA, TOLD
IN RADIANT BRILLIANCE." AS
our poet has written, the his-

Part 4

tory of ancient America shines forth from the pages of the Book of Mormon with a radiant brilliance. What is the source of that brilliance? The answer to this question is found in the inspired words of the Apostle John: ***"In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not"*** (John 1:4-5). Certainly Christ is the light of this dark world and Christ is the central theme of the Book of Mormon.

...After His resurrection, Christ came to America and walked among the ancient inhabitants of the land.

"For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children, and also our brethren, to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God; And we talk of Christ, we rejoice in Christ, we preach of Christ, we prophecy of Christ, and we write according to our prophecies, that our children may know to

what source they may look for a remission of their sins. And now behold I say unto you,

As the Good Shepherd of Israel the resurrected Jesus came to America to preach the good news of salvation to the remnant of Joseph and Judah in this land.

that the right way is to believe in Christ, and deny him not; and Christ is the Holy One of Israel..." (2 Nephi 11: 43, 48, 55).

Certainly the prophets of ancient America prophesied about the mission of our Savior, Jesus Christ. But this is not all because, after His resurrection, Christ came to America and walked among the ancient inhabitants of the land. While Jesus was speaking to the Pharisees in Jerusalem, He told them, ***"And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice;***

and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd" (John 10:16).

The Pharisees of that day did not understand His words, and many wise men today do not understand them either. Many people today believe that Christ was referring to the Gentiles, but this was not the intent of His words. Jesus always spoke with clarity and He said, ***"I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel"*** (Matthew 15:24). It is true that after His rejection by the Jews, Christ sent His disciples to the Gentiles, according to the great plan of God. But it is also true that the Gentiles never heard His voice, except through the ministering of the Holy Ghost. No, Christ was referring to His ministry among the lost sheep of Israel, those that had been scattered over the face of the earth and the isles of the sea during the Diaspora. As the Good Shepherd of Israel the resurrected Jesus came to America to preach the good news of salvation to the remnant of Joseph and Judah in this land.

The historian, K. S. Latourette, wrote, ***"Jesus is the most influential life ever lived on this planet."*** It is true that the world has been changed completely by His presence. In this same

manner, if Christ appeared here in the Americas, we should expect to encounter His influence among the na-

...If Christ appeared here in the Americas, we should expect to encounter His influence among the nations of the Native Americans. And so we do....

tions of the Native Americans. And so we do; the anthropologist, Laurette Sejourne, calls the White God of the Native Americans, ***"...the greatest figure in the history of the New World."***¹

We are able to trace the footsteps of Christ in the traditions of the tribes of Native Americans. Almost all of the prophecies in the Book of Mormon relating to Christ and all the stories told of His ministry in America are found in their ancient traditions. Beginning with the prophecy of His birth, the anthropologist, Karena Shields, writes of the tradition of the Maya: ***"We are the Maya. We came from the east, we came out of the morning..."***

*Hunab Ku, the All-God, was the only one who knew. He saw, and sent Itzamná his son to earth to teach man.... Itzamná was made into child and then man, with a hand that blessed, and in turn the earth blessed him.”*²

Samuel, a Lamanite prophet in the Book of Mormon, prophesied about some of the signs of the birth of Christ on the other side of the great sea. *“And behold there shall be a new star arise, such an one as ye never have beheld; and this also shall be a sign unto you”* (Helaman 5:59). The anthropologist, L. Taylor Hansen, writes of a tradition of the indigenous people of the state of Oklahoma. The God of the Americas *“told them that He was born across the ocean, in a land where all men were bearded. In this land He was born of a virgin on a night when a bright star came out of the heavens and stood over His city. Here, too, the heavens opened and down came winged beings singing chants of exquisite beauty.”*³

In the Book of Mormon, Alma prophesied about the life of the Savior who should come into the world: *“And he shall go forth, suffering pains, and afflictions,*

and temptations of every kind; And he will take upon him their infirmities, that his bowels may

We are able to trace the footsteps of Christ in the traditions of the tribes of Native Americans. Almost all of the prophecies in the Book of Mormon relating to Christ and all the stories told of His ministry in America are found in their ancient traditions.

be filled with mercy, according to the flesh, that he may know according to the flesh how to succor his people according to their infirmities” (Alma 5:20 and 22). Rudolfo Anaya, a professor at the University of New Mexico, wrote of the traditions of the God of his ancestors in old Mexico. *“He knew he would be tempted many times while he lived in the body of a man. He knew the path he followed*

*in the heavens, far away from the realm of man. He had come to Tollán to understand the flesh.”*⁴

The Book of Mormon tells us that when Christ made His first appearance among the people of America, ministering to them, He told them, *“My bowels are filled with mercy; for I perceive that ye desire that I should shew unto you what I have done unto your brethren at Jerusalem, for I see that your faith is sufficient, that I should heal you. And it came to pass that when he had thus spoken, all the multitude, with one accord, did go forth, with their sick, and their afflicted, and their lame, and with their blind, and with their dumb, and with all they that were afflicted in any manner; and he did heal them every one as they were brought forth unto him...”* (3 Nephi 8:8 and 9). All the great tribes of Central America and South America have their traditions which tell of the God of miracles who walked among the inhabitants of the land. The Maya say that there were presented before Itzamná *“...the sick, the halt, and the dead, and he healed and restored them all to life by the touch of his hand....”*⁵

When Christ established His church here in the New World, He began by choosing twelve disciples the same way

All the great tribes of Central America and South America have their traditions which tell of the God of miracles who walked among the inhabitants of the land.

He had chosen twelve apostles in Israel. In 3 Nephi 5:44, we read, *"And it came to pass that when Jesus had spoken these words unto Nephi, and to those who had been called, (now the number of them who had been called and received power and authority to baptize, were twelve)...."* The Book of Mormon always refers to these twelve as disciples. In the traditions of ancient Mexico, we read about the time when their God was about to depart: *"The ultimate signs of His departure began to crowd upon them. He had chosen one of the Priesthood (from the fa-*

*vored Twelve who were always around Him) to be His successor."*⁶

The prophet Samuel spoke of the birth of the Christ child and the signs that would accompany that birth as we have previously read. He also prophesied about the death of Christ and of His resurrection after three days. We can read this prophecy in the fifth chapter of the Book of Helaman. During the Conquest of Mexico the Bishop of Chiapas, in the land of the Maya, wrote of their tradition: *"About the Son, they say he was killed and lashed and a crown of thorns put on him, and that he was placed on a timber with his arms stretched out. They did not understand that he was nailed, but rather they thought that he had been tied, and there he died. And he was dead for three days, and on the third day he came to life and went up to heaven, and that he is there with his father."*⁷

We conclude this section concerning the traditions that relate to Christ in ancient America with a marvelous promise. In the Bible we have many beautiful promises made by the Lord, but none of them gives us more hope than the promise that He will once again return to

the earth. Christ said, *"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto my-*

In the Bible we have many beautiful promises made by the Lord, but none of them gives us more hope than the promise that He will once again return to the earth.

self; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:3). Some of the last words of Christ to His disciples here in America contain the same promise: *"...even until all things shall be fulfilled, according to the will of the Father, when I shall come in my glory, with the powers of heaven..."* (3 Nephi 13:18).

Throughout the ages every believer has hoped to see the fulfillment of this promise during his or her lifetime. But in the last few years there has appeared a notable change. Today there are many, including Protestant ministers, Catholic

priests, students of the Bible and professors of religion who no longer believe in this promise. Many think these

...God has caused the Book of Mormon to come to us as another witness to the truth.

words were the creation of the apostles and that Christ never promised to return. In truth, many of these persons do not believe that Christ was even resurrected from the dead. For just such reasons God has caused the Book of Mormon to come to us as another witness to the truth.

When Isaiah, in chapter 29, prophesied about the Book of Mormon, God had in mind just this modern attitude of skepticism by the scholarly. *"Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, even a marvelous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid"* (Isaiah 29:14).

We are grateful to our Lord that we have another witness of such truths. We have yet a third witness of

this marvelous promise of Jesus Christ. This third witness is found in the traditions of indigenous peoples. If Christ walked in America and made such statements, surely the ancient cultural wisdom of the Native Americans would reflect this promise.

a. The anthropologist, Honoré, wrote, *"Everywhere in the Indian states of Central and South America the legend of the White God is known, and it always ends in the same way: the White God left his people with a solemn promise that he would one day come back."*⁸

b. Professor Anaya, in his description of the ministry of Quetzalcoatl, ends his narration in the following manner: *"His story is still told by the people, they keep it in their hearts. A vital part of that story are the remembered words of the resurrected Quetzalcoatl: '...one day I will return to you.'"*⁹

c. A very respected anthropologist is Frank Waters. He writes of Quetzalcoatl, *"...a god who manifested himself as a white, bearded man, taught the people all the arts*

*and sciences of civilization, and then disappeared with the promise to return some day in the year of his birth, Ce Acatl."*¹⁰

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Into the Wild Blue Yonder

**A series of testimonies taken
from Nicholas Denham and
written by Jim Gordon**

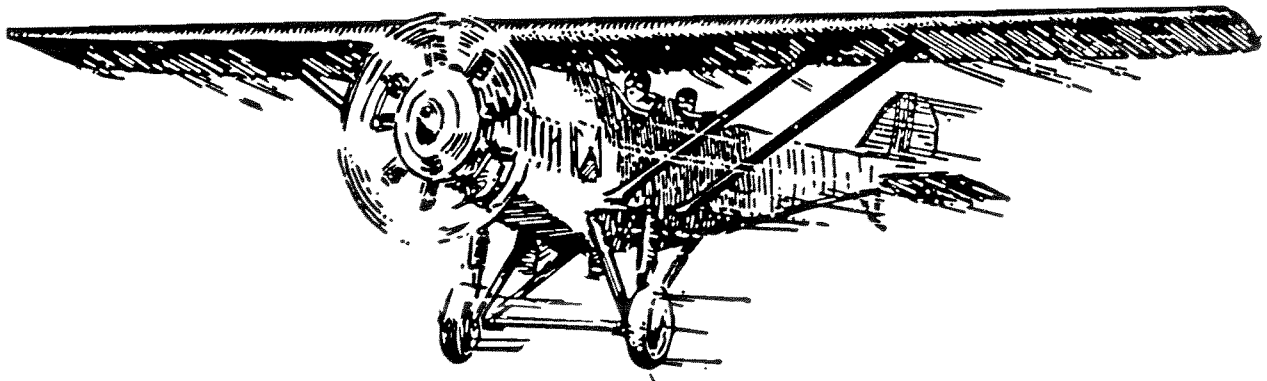
The year was 1919. After World War I the military sold the planes they had used to the pilots that flew them or other civilians. This ushered in the barnstorming era. These pilots flew their planes at carnivals and fairs. They put on air shows or gave people rides to pay their way as they crossed the country back and forth. This was in the day of the biplane and most of

these barnstorming planes were the Curtiss JN4-D, nicknamed the flying jennie.

One day in 1919 as three of them passed over Independence one of them developed engine trouble and they had to land. A small boy named Nicholas Denham and his brother Charles were hoeing crops on the family farm near McCoy and Charles Streets. They dropped their hoes and crossed the railroad tracks to where the planes were. (Today this is near 25th Terrace and Glen streets). Nicholas said they

weren't on the ground long before the plane was fixed and they were on their way.

The area where they were was then a pasture from the railroad tracks to Crysler, and they took off toward Crysler. Nicholas said they knew what airplanes were in those days, but to his knowledge none had ever landed in Independence before. This was his first contact with aircraft but it wouldn't be his last. The boy grew up loving aviation, and this incident was just one of the things that contributed to this



love affair—and therein lies our story.

During the Conference of 1941, Nicholas Denham was called to the office of elder. He refused the call because he was already a teacher, and he felt that it was in conflict with the scripture, "Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called" I Cor. 7:20.

As he walked to the Temple Lot Church the next morning a voice spoke to him and said, "You accept this responsibility and you will be protected; you refuse and you have no promise." Nicholas didn't know what he needed to be protected from, but it was obvious God wanted him to accept this call, so he did.

Nicholas had a brother who owned a private plane which the government wanted. Nicholas, who was encouraged by his brother, started flying lessons. After he soloed the government took him, his brother, one other man and the plane into the Civil Air Patrol which was under the Army Air Corps. This was September 1941, five months after his ordination to the office of elder.

They left Kansas City in the afternoon and landed in St. Louis. Did they have God's protection? You be the judge.

They landed in St. Louis with all of that heavy air traffic without any lights whatever on that

plane after sunset. The man in the control tower was about to climb all over Nicholas' brother until he was told that this was a private plane recently commandeered by the military.

The next morning they left St. Louis for Memphis. As they were flying they noticed oil spots on the windshield, and they continued to get worse. The pilot told Nicholas to watch for pastures they could land in as they progressed. Finally the oil gauge dropped to zero, and the pilot shut off the engine. The man, who had been dozing in the back seat, sat up and asked what was wrong. The pilot told him they had no oil pressure. He replied, "Well there's an airfield." The pilot banked right, and made a dead stick landing in what turned out to be the air port in West Memphis, Arkansas. The men in the front seat hadn't seen it. Again the Lord's protection.

While Nicholas and his friends spent the night in Memphis, Tennessee, the ground crew fixed the plane. The head bolts had loosened and the engine had lost all of its oil.

That night they torqued the head bolts down and secured them, and the next morning our party was off to New Orleans.

They stopped for fuel in McComb, Mississippi. This was little more than a pasture with a wind sock and a fuel pump.

The plane was so heavily loaded and the field so short that with full flaps and throttle they cleared the fence by only three feet, and barely cleared the trees beyond the fence too. That afternoon they landed in New Orleans, and the next day they flew to Grand Isle, which would become their new home base. Their job was to patrol the coast around New Orleans for submarines. In the month before the government started these patrols, before Nicholas arrived, the Germans had sunk 33 ships in this area.

Grand Isle was a sand bar off the coast of the gulf shore. It was seven miles long and one half mile wide. It was connected to the shore by a bridge so you could drive to New Orleans, but it was mostly sand. When the wind blew the sand got into everything. In the living quarters it was simply a nuisance, but when sand got into the fuel it became a hazard to aviation. Another danger was that the fuel would accumulate water and it would freeze at high altitude.

Once this had serious consequences for Nicholas. They were flying a patrol searching for submarines forty miles out from the coast. The engine of the airplane coughed and then quit. There was an emergency door that was rigged to fall from the plane when the catch was released, and

Nicholas was in the back with his hand on the trigger. As the plane glided down toward the water, he looked at his watch; it was 10:00 Sunday morning, and he realized the people at the Temple Lot were praying for him. The engine started and regained its brisk R.P.M. with no coughing, and they flew home without further

incident.

Nicholas flew these patrols for about a year, and then he transferred to the Navy at Pensacola, Florida. The Navy sent him to navigation school, and because of his teaching background made an instructor of him. Most of the danger was past at this point. If they had made a combat

pilot of him we would no doubt have more testimonies. I am convinced that we may all face perilous times in the future. I also feel the Lord can protect us just like he did Nicholas Denham, but we must be obedient to God's will before it can happen.

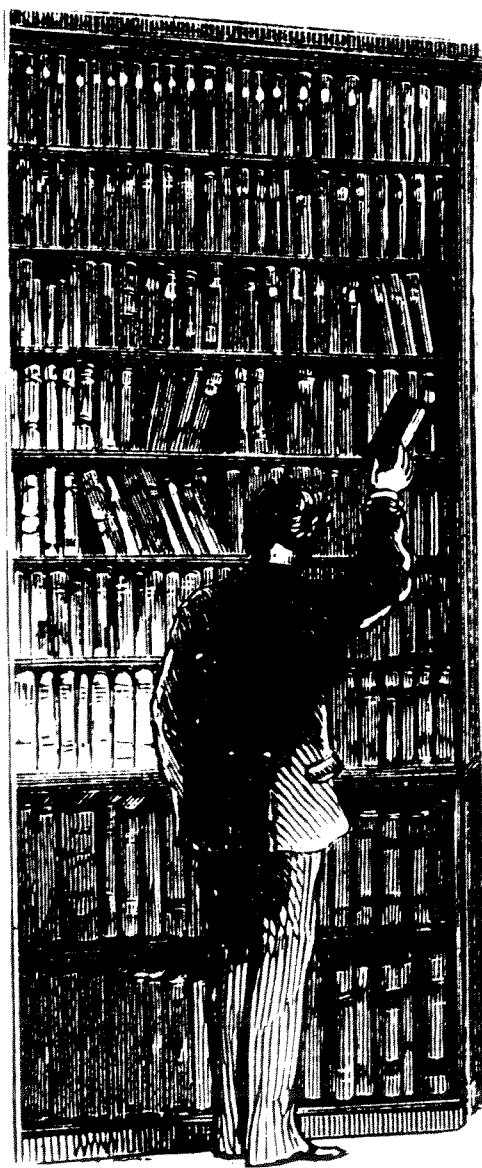
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The Archive Committee of the Church of Christ is collecting items appropriate to be preserved for the church. We are asking all members and supportive non-members to contribute items in your possession that you feel worthy to be preserved for posterity.

Items considered for the archives are historical artifacts, books, pictures, documents, records, tracts, church publications and periodicals. Pictures, records and documents can be copied if you want to retain the originals. Arrangements will be made to copy them with you present if you so desire.

Please help us make this worthwhile project a success.

Becky Rudd, Alvin Harris and Roland Sarratt



An Answer to Prayer

This testimony of Bro. Isidro Koyoc is one that I will never forget. It was told in Maya at a prayer meeting years ago and translated for us into Spanish. Most of the elderly people from little villages speak very little Spanish.

Bro. Isidro related:

When I was a boy I had my first experience with the power of God. My family worked and lived on a hennequin plantation where they were virtually slaves to the Spanish landowners.

In order to grow their crop of corn, which is the staple food of the Maya, the people had to go outside the rock fence of the plantation, cut the forest, then burn the cut trees and brush. The following year we could plant our seed on the burned area. Occasionally, the fires would get out of control and spread onto the plantation, burning the hennequin plants. In order to discourage this practice, the landowners made it punishable by hanging to let a fire get onto the plantation.

On this particular day, I went with my father to burn the trees on our land. We were burning on a calm day when suddenly

a strong wind arose and blew our fires directly toward the plantation. The flames were soon



PATHLIGHTS

moving out of control toward the fence. My father cut some branches from a special fire-resistant tree. With these branches we tried to beat out the flames, but it soon became evident that we were not going to be able to control the fire and keep it from entering the fields. When the flames were just a few meters from the edge of the plantation, my father dropped his branch and spoke. "Son, we

cannot control the fire and surely we will be put to death! Let us bow down and pray to God for His help."

We knelt there on the smoldering earth and prayed with all our hearts. Tears ran down our faces. When enough time had passed for the fire to enter the plantation, we ended our prayers and looked up. Just then, we felt a strong wind begin to blow from the opposite direction! It drove the fire back over the burned ground, and that which didn't die burned off into the forest in the other direction.

When we told others of the miracle they said it was just "luck," or an "accident," but I knew it was a miracle from God.

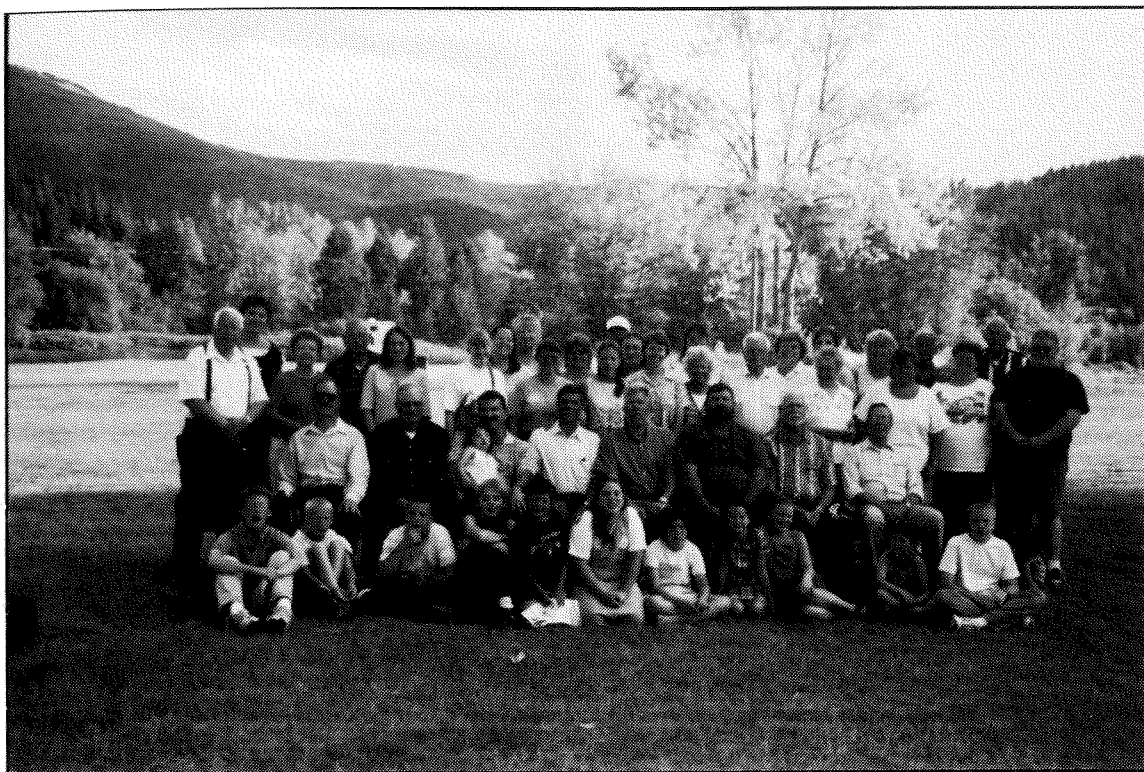
(When the gospel was first preached in Uayalceh many years later, it found a receptive heart in Isidro Koyoc. To this day he is faithful to that God Who saved his life so many years ago.)

Don McIndoo

—Posted on the CCEG

Idaho Reunion

July 2000



The Treasure Valley Local had its 2nd Reunion in Cataldo, Idaho, at Stan and Phyllis Wilk's R V. Campground on the Coeur D'Alene River. It is a beautiful place to meet and the spirit of the Lord was with us. Friday evening we arrived, with Phyllis having a great chili feed for all of us. Then we gathered around for a wonderful fellowship with one another.

On Saturday morning, Elder Roy Coon and Elder Bill Zabriskie opened our first service with a prayer and testimony service. Bill is from Idaho, before moving to Missouri. Bill's thoughts were that we must repent and change our lives, be bold in our testimony for Christ and put on the full armor of Christ, not getting caught up in the things of the world and

setting apart time to be with Jesus. We had wonderful testimonies, which lifted us all.

For our second service Elder David Larson was our speaker with Elder John Bell assisting. They are both from Grand Junction, Colorado. David's thoughts were on God's creation and living Christ's examples, examples that we should follow. Also he spoke of working in the light of God and

bearing our cross.

Our last service on Saturday was with Apostle Frank Fann, assisted by Elder Rodger Bruner. Frank's message asked, "How do we stand with God?"

1 Have you been spiritually born of God?

2 Can people tell by looking at you that you are a child of God?

3 Have you been able to say, "I am different?"

4 Do you partake of the things of the world?

5 Have you put off the old man and put on the new man?

6 Can you look at God with clean hands and a pure heart?

7 Have you been humble? Are you stripped of pride?

8 Have you done good and loved your neighbor?

9 Have you repented?

What powerful questions we should be asking ourselves! He then concluded with a poem.

That evening we had a wonderful dinner and great fellowship around the camp fire.

On Sunday morning we held a Sacrament Service with Elders Merlin Eddy and Trevor Wratt in charge, with Priests Bill Malone and Jim Yates, Jr.

servicing the emblems. Elder Eddy's thoughts were about our covenant we made with the Lord and how we must fast, pray always and have charity. He also told of a testimony of a lady that was shot and then healed by the Lord. Trevor's testimony was on how God had healed him and the blessings he had received.

We had many testimonies on healings and how the Lord had worked in each of our lives. Many names were mentioned for special needs and healings and for our isolated members. Brother Bill Zabriskie gave a testimony of his great love for Jesus Christ. Our service was very spiritually uplifting.

After lunch we had a special song service, with Martha Bruner at the keyboard. Jenny Yates sang a special entitled, *When You Call Me I Will Go*. Then our young peoples group sang another special. The songs were beautiful; thanks to all of them that shared with us.

Our last service was with Apostle Brian McIndoo, assisted by Apostle Joel Yates. Brian's thoughts were that There is a Battle Going On. There will come a time that there will be but two churches...one will be the Church of Christ and the other will be the Church of the Devil. Satan's church is of the

world and will fight against the doctrines of Christ (I Nephi 3:219). Christ's Church will be upon all the face of the land. Our commission is to take the gospel to all of the world. God is opening the way for this to take place. We have to be ready to hear God's voice. The power of the Lord is with us. The first seal has been opened. The world churches are giving up Christ's doctrine and uniting together. The second seal will be violence. Ezekiel 13:1-14 warns the ministry to teach God's word. God gave us the tools to take His gospel to the four corners of the earth. And we are warned to stand and be watchful.

We want to thank all of you that came so far to be part of our reunion. It was very special to have three of our apostles with us. You made it a great success. Thanks to Stan and Phyllis for sharing their beautiful park with us. Also thanks to all of you for all the good food, testimonies, prayers and fellowship.

Please come and be a part of our 2001 reunion, to be held at the same place on July 14 & 15, 2001.

*May God Bless You All,
Sister Mary Coon*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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
calle 24 #99 H x 17 y 19
Yobain Yucatan Mexico
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.

OVERCOMER'S CONVENTION

- October 21st & 22nd, Saturday and Sunday
- Pineville, Missouri Local
- Classes start at 9:00 a.m. Saturday and end Sunday noon after dinner.
- Meals will be provided Saturday noon and evening, Sunday breakfast (continental) and lunch. Donations will be appreciated.

If you have overcome something, I know how you did it, and can teach others how you did it, you will be given time to instruct and teach. Call ahead! There will be classes on overcoming, classes on the human nature and how it works, how to use the teachings of Jesus to overcome evil thinking, how to become a servant to others, how to change your heart, and much more.

If you need help with transparency films for your presentation call ahead and we will try to work something out. There will be a 50-watt amplifier so all can hear, and we will try to make tapes of everything.

We have room for campers and tents, a house for the boys, and a house for the girls. Bring your own bedding. If it rains we'll have it in the garage.

RSVP (Let us know if you are coming.)

E-mail: hittdo@olemac.net, or call (417) 233-4949.

Love to all,
Don and Barbara Hitt.

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CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 2001 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 1. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 2. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, on March 30 & 31. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

The 2001 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, August 6, 7 and 8, at Independence, Missouri.

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