

# Zion's Advocate

*"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day,  
for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost...."*  
1 Nephi 3:187

VOLUME 78

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NUMBER 4

## My Firstborn Son

I only have to close my eyes to see  
that tiny rosebud hand. To feel it  
clutch my finger. Warm sweet  
memories I can still command.

My firstborn son.

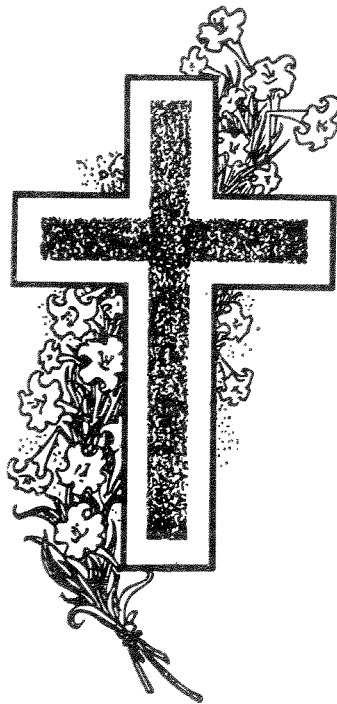
Such a beautiful small boy! Those  
eyes, long-lashed, could melt my  
heart. He loved to hear my stories  
told of God come down to take  
man's part.

My firstborn son.

He grew so fast, was wise and  
strong; then He turned water into  
wine,

Made blind to see and lame to run!

My son! My son!



And then—almost, I wished to die.  
He was condemned—a dreadful  
death. Then laid behind a  
monstrous stone.

But—hear me!—He came out,  
drew breath!

My son! My son!

And then He went away again. I  
lost Him twice. But—do you  
know?

He's mine again—in different form  
I can't quite see. But, ah, the glow!  
My Son. My Lord!

—Donna Moser

### ~ In This Issue ~

ARTICLE—Creation and Pre-Existence - <i>Apostle William A. Sheldon</i> . . . . .	59
ARTICLE—The Reality of God - <i>Harvey E. Seibel</i> . . . . .	64
PATHLIGHTS—A Stranger's Prayer - <i>Joyce Lussenden</i> . . . . .	72

PATHLIGHTS—Murmuring - <i>Liza Hedrick</i> . . . . .	73
POEM—The Crucifixion - <i>John G. Whittier</i> . . . . .	75
A POINT TO PONDER—They Missed Him! - <i>Author Unknown</i> . . . . .	76
ANNOUNCEMENTS . . . . .	77

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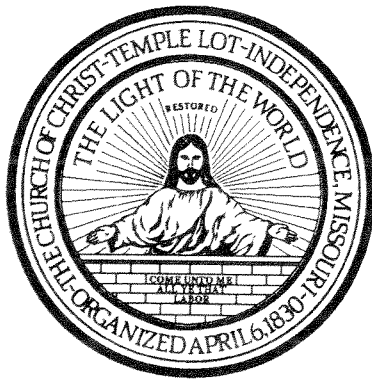
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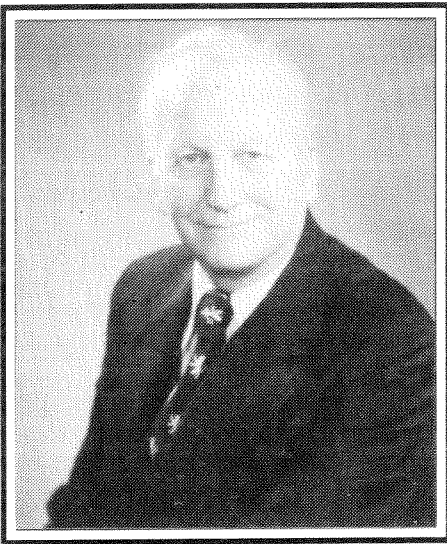
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Articles published in this paper do not necessarily reflect the teachings of the Church, nor the opinions of the editorial staff. Declarations and notices authorized by the General Conference reflect the practices and beliefs of the General Church.

## 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.

# Creation and Pre-existence



**Apostle William A. Sheldon**

This subject assumes the existence of a Creator, a divine being we normally refer to as God, and in so doing we ignore a popular concept of evolutionary process in all forms of life, including the human. Volumes have been written on both sides of the issue, and it is not our purpose here to contribute to this in any way except to aver that evolution as a general principle is utterly ri-

diculous. We will let those of the scientific community ridicule this statement to their hearts' content. We are sure that when the divine Son of God reveals Himself in the clouds of heaven in unimaginable glory, such as these will no longer exalt their human wisdom, to say the least in this matter.

This will also declare that there is ONE GOD over all; that the One we refer to as our Heavenly Father is over and above all things that exist; that He has no Superior God and that His existence is from eternity to all eternity, without beginning or end. The human mind cannot fathom such a thought so we will make no attempt to do so. It is accepted as a fact through the exercise of faith in the written word of God.

“Is there a God beside me? Yea there is no God; I know not any” (Isa. 44:8).

**...There is a common misconception that [the] creative process, so far as the human race is concerned, began with Adam and Eve.**

However, in speaking of ONE God, it is not to assume a single identity as is done in what we may term the “one-person-God” doctrine, which is a common error. This is the trinitarian concept which incorporates the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost into a single identifiable personage, and which person is the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

Much has also been stated and written on both sides of this issue, but in which we will not engage here except to affirm in simplistic terms: the godhead, or the One God, is three distinct personalities, yet being in perfect union in the creative process, the Son of God and the Holy Ghost in perfect harmony with the Divine Mind, which is our Heavenly Father. Put more simply, the Unity which is God is the pattern after which God has designed a marital relationship of a man and a woman to be. They are intended to be "one" with each other; a uniting of the spiritual and physical elements of their natures; an accord in mind-set for the production of children and for the needs of the family unit. As a man and woman may be "one," much more so are the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost ONE in purpose. Jesus said, with reference to His Heavenly Father:

"My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work" (John 4:34).

"And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone, for I do always those things that please him" (John 8:29).

And again, as pertaining to the Holy Ghost, He said:

"But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me" (John 14:26).

We know that the Christ and the Holy Ghost were doing the will of the Father from before the foundation of the earth and of all heavenly bodies, and this included the whole creative process, both of the spiritual and of the physical. It is written of Christ:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him (the Word, Jesus Christ/w.a.s.); and without him was not any thing made that was made" (John 1:1-3; see also Mos. 1:102, Hel. 5:66 & 3 Ne. 4:44, 45).

These texts plainly identify Jesus Christ as the creator of all things; yet He is under the overall superintendence of His Heavenly Father.

Time is measured only to mankind and other physical bodies, but for want of a perfect means of expression,

there was a "time" when the Son of God, Jesus Christ, was not in existence; when He Himself was created, for we find Him saying of Himself:

"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty" (Rev. 1:8).

Question: Christ is the beginning and the ending of WHAT? He partially answers thus:

"...These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, THE BEGINNING OF THE CREATION OF GOD" (Rev. 3:14).

Again: Jesus Christ is termed as the ONLY BEGOTTEN OF THE FATHER. See John 1:14, 18; 3:16, 18. He was the "first begotten" and the "only begotten" of the Heavenly Father, and this certainly predates the birth of Jesus in the flesh, in which He was conceived by the Holy Ghost; it alludes to His spiritual creation in the beginning.

Apostle Paul refers to Christ as:

"...The image of the invisible God, the FIRST-BORN of every creature. For by him were all

things created, that are in heaven, and that are in the earth, **VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE** (all spirits including the holy angels and Lucifer, etc./w.a.s.), whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him" (Col. 1: 15, 16). See also Heb. 1:3-10.

We have found that the Heavenly Father is the beginning Creator, but that He has given it into the hands of His Son to otherwise complete the whole creative process (see 3 Ne. 4:44); and thus He is also called both Father and Son.

And **THEY** (the Heavenly Father and His only begotten Son/w.a.s) are one God, yea, the very eternal Father of heaven and of earth (Mos. 8:31).

They are **ONE GOD** because of:

"...The will of the Son being swallowed up in the will of the Father" (Ibid., v 34).

It has been established that Jesus Christ is the creator of mankind, but there is a common misconception that that creative process, so far as the human race is concerned, began with Adam and Eve. Indeed, it is recorded in

the scriptures concerning the "creation of Adam" (Mos. 12:23, Alma 12:114, 13:44), but we consider this to be an inadequate use of the term "creation" from a scriptural standpoint. While it is true that Adam did not exist as a man until he was formed of God, yet his spirit form was **CREATED** (came into being) before being clothed with flesh. He possibly—probably—was not known in that spirit form as Adam; nevertheless, he was a conscious, intelligent being.

A perfect example of this is found in the account of Christ having appeared to the brother of Jared as found in Ether, chapter one. There, Christ revealed Himself some 2,000 years before He came in the flesh, and He said to him:

"Seest thou that ye are created after mine own image? Yea, even **ALL MEN WERE CREATED IN THE BEGINNING**, after mine own image. Behold this body, which ye now behold, is the body of my spirit; and man have I created after the body of my spirit; and even as I appear unto thee to be in the spirit, will I appear unto my people in the flesh" (vs. 80, 81).

You will probably note

that I have made a distinction between the term "created" and the term "formed." This is an important consideration in reading Genesis, chapters one and two. Some people have been perplexed with the difference between these two chapters, in what is presumed to be two accounts of the creation story. Some have even assumed that because of what they believe is an erroneous re-telling of the creation story, that chapter two was a later insertion into Genesis by other than Moses, who is credited with having written the first five books of the Bible.

To the contrary, Genesis one is the creation account, while Genesis two is an accounting of the initial physical formation of matter to include what had been created **IN SPIRIT FORM**. More about this as we will examine both Genesis one and two.

Speaking of the formation of matter: this thought is contrary to a concept that had developed within the largest LDS body, i.e., that all physical matter is eternal; that it has always existed. This flies in the face of the term "creation," for the word "create" is defined as: cause to be; bring into being; make. This can only project the thought that what was created had no prior existence; and this is plainly contrary to

the concept that physical forms are an ASSEMBLING of existing elements which are eternal. In other words: there was a time when physical matter did not exist.

If this is correct, then under what circumstance did it come into being? By the same token, how were spirits created or brought into being? Admittedly, this is philosophical reasoning, but which is believed to be based on the revelation of God as found in the scriptures. While the subject is impenetrable from human reasoning, it is simply stated in the scriptures, and one may either accept in faith or reject it. The answer is based on the simple acceptance and faith that God is an infinite being; infinite as to His existence, His power, His wisdom, His love, His judgment and His mercy. It is said of him:

“By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. He gathered the waters of the sea together as an heap; he layeth up the depth in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood

fast” (Ps. 33:6-9).

“For behold, by the power of his word, man came upon the face of the earth; which earth was created by the power of his word. Wherefore, if God being able to speak, and the world was; and to speak, and man was created, O then, why not able to command the earth, or the workmanship of his hands upon the face of it, according to his will and pleasure” (Jacob 3:12, 13).

The above is quite plain: GOD SPOKE, and all things came into being, and they were created in their order according to the will of God. Now let us consider Genesis, chapter one. I have said this is the creation account, and that it was a spiritual creation, which is really not discernible until we get into chapter two.

Please note that each phase of the creation account begins with “And God said.” This affirms the above scriptures. We will not examine these phases except to place them in the order given: this is important so as to compare with the order as given for their physical formation as detailed in chapter two. Thus in chapter one: (1) a firmament, called heaven, (2)

waters and earth under the firmament, (3) grass, herbs and trees, (4) sun, moon and stars, (5) all living creatures in the sea, and winged fowls, (6) all living creatures upon the earth, of beast and creeping things, all after their kind, (6) and finally, all mankind—the crowning achievement of the creation of God.

“And God said, Let us (the Heavenly Father and His first begotten Son/w.a.s.) make man in our image, after our likeness...” (v. 26).

And God then commanded mankind, both men and women, to be fruitful, to multiply and replenish the earth, and gave unto them their sustenance of plant and tree life. It is significant that God gave unto both man, beast and creeping thing to eat of fruit and herbage, or plant life; nothing said about flesh. Later, upon the earth, after the fall of Adam, the consumption of flesh was permitted under certain circumstances.

Now let us examine Genesis two similarly; but please note vs. 1 and 2:

“Thus (as recorded in chapter one/w.a.s.) THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH WERE FINISHED, AND ALL THE HOST OF THEM. And

on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made."

5: Now notice verses 4 and

"These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens. ***And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew...and there was not a man to till the ground.***"

We have previously stated that chapter two gives the physical formation of all things. It was to be as God envisioned and created, as found in chapter one. Now notice verse 7, referring to the physical formation of Adam, which seems to be a type of the physical appearance of all other forms of life:

"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

The following is a matter of conjecture: it would seem

that at the instant breath was given unto the man (Adam, as he was later named of God) a spirit, formerly created, was instilled. He became a living soul, a composite of spirit and flesh. However, it seems apparent that subsequently the seed of Adam, the whole human family of man, received that individual spirit at the time of conception. This is borne out, incidentally, by the account of John the Baptist leaping in his mother's womb when she heard Mary's salutation following her conception of Jesus (Luke 1:41).

Incidentally: what does this say regarding indiscriminate, deliberate abortion?

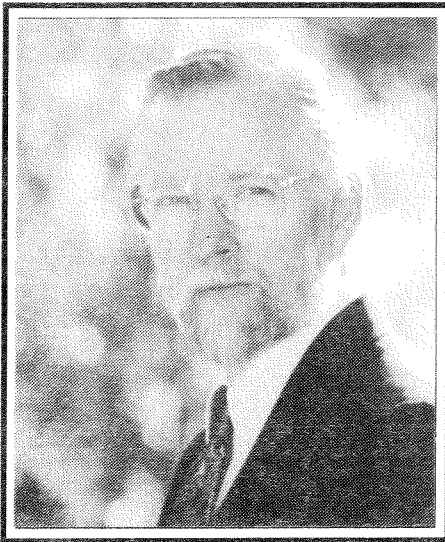
In the Genesis two account, the physical creation of the sun, moon, stars is alluded to firstly, by verse 6. Then a garden was planted by God in which Adam was placed. This is indicative of the entire formation of physical plant and tree life prepared for all forms of earth-bound living creatures. Following this is the formation from the ground of every beast and fowl, and presumably all creeping things, as shown in v. 19, and brought to Adam for naming. Then, according to vs. 20-23, Eve was formed from a rib of Adam; all this in preparation for populating the earth and to bring forth an abundant supply of vegetation and ani-

mal life for the benefit of mankind. Thus there is a somewhat different order of appearance in the physical formation of matter, from that as revealed in the first, or spiritual creation, of all things.

By the way, since the creation of ALL mankind took place in the beginning, the birth of a child is his physical formation; otherwise, there would of necessity be a creative process at each new birth. This would negate the concept of a spirit being in man, or that man has a soul, which is the union of flesh and spirit, and that there was a creation of all things in the beginning. Of course the evolutionist delights in such a negative concept, and would have it that we "eat, drink and be merry," for death is the end, there is no God, so why adhere to moral concepts or be mentally burdened with the thought of being accountable to a being called God???

There is indeed a pre-existent state of all living matter, including the whole human race, strange as it may seem to human intelligence.

# The Reality of GOD



Harvey E. Seibel

**T**hroughout history the question of God has generally been uppermost in the minds of most, if not all, of mankind. Every complexion and flavor of worship has been devised for the people, whether the one God of the Hebrews or the vast multitude of gods of the Hindus. Everything imaginable has been deified at one time or another as objects of worship. But what, if any, is the truth

of these things? Is there a God? Does He indeed exist as affirmed by the Bible? And if He does exist, what kind of a God is He? Or is the whole thing just an elaborate myth or hoax that has been palmed off on gullible humanity? More recently it was announced that God is dead. If this is true, then that would presuppose that God at one time existed. During the 19th century when the age of reason, so-called, or higher criticism was in vogue, it became fashionable to question the message of the Bible. The theory of evolution, as espoused by Charles Darwin, contributed greatly to the demise of the once simple faith in the creative acts of God and the truthfulness of the Genesis account of the Bible. Thus the idea grew that all things can be accounted for through some random chance process occurring over billions of years.

**The theory of evolution, as espoused by Charles Darwin, contributed greatly to the demise of the once simple faith in the creative acts of God and the truthfulness of the Genesis account of the Bible.**

Today there are those who claim to be agnostics, or even atheists, the former not knowing whether there is a God, the latter believing there is no God. To fully appreciate the mind of such, one must know the motivation that forms the basis for this ignorance or its complete de-



nial. The Bible says, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God" (Psalm 14:1). If this is true, then what evidence is there for God, or that He exists?

Again the Bible says,

"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them" (Psalm 139:14-16).

This describes in a most unique fashion our creative beginnings in our mother's womb, a most miraculous and amazing development of one of the most complex forms of life imaginable. But how is it done? And through what mechanism? Again the Bible says,

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork" (Psalm 19:1).

From the animate world we go to the inanimate. Again we see a marvel of creation. But how did it come into being? And by what power?

Another scripture says that if there is no God then we are not, for there could have been no creation of things. But again, what evidence is there for the existence of anything? The evolutionist who does not like to think of God, proclaims that it arose through a random chance process, that all things both life and non-life gradually came about through eons of time. But again, what is the driving force, or directing mechanism behind this supposed action?

Some other questions. Can there be a design without a designer? Where does life come from? Can the animate arise from the inanimate? What is life? Does not life always come from life? Must there not be a first cause? Is it not true that for every action there is a reaction? What governs the universe? What are the laws of nature? If there are laws, should there not also be a lawgiver? What proof do we have for any of these things? What is this problem that ails mankind? It appears that the crux of the matter revolves around whether we shall have life or

death, hope or despair, or more appropriately, whether we would 'do our own thing,' rather than submitting ourselves to the One who has a benevolent claim on us. We don't reject God because He is evil, but rather because we want our way no matter what the cost to ourselves. But consider the following:

## WHY GOD HAS BEEN REJECTED

Some of the earliest evolutionists confessed that they needed to find an alternative to special creation to account for the existence of the universe, the underlying reason being that they wanted to indulge themselves in their sexual proclivities without having to give an account to some lawgiver.

### The dilemma that noted evolutionists face, and their confessions and admissions:

■ *Charles Darwin*: "I gradually came to disbelieve in Christianity as a divine revelation.... Thus disbelief crept over me at a very slow rate, but was at last complete. The rate was so slow that I felt no distress." Note: Disbelief came first, then evolution entered to fill the void. Later, he said, "My theology is a simple muddle. I cannot look at the

universe as the result of blind chance, yet I see no evidence of beneficent design."

- Says *Sir Julian Huxley* in his *Evolution in Action*: "No one would bet on anything so improbable happening, and yet it has happened." Then he asks, "How can a blind and automatic sifting process like selection, operating on a blind and undirected process like mutation, produce organs like the eye or the brain, with their almost incredible complexity and delicacy of adjustment? How can chance produce elaborate design?" Yet, says he, "Evolution guarantees nothing. It is an accidental, wholly random process" (*Earth's Most Challenging Mysteries*, Reginald Daly, p. 1.)
- "Evolution is utterly destitute of proof." - *Sir J. William Dawson* - *Canadian Geologist*.
- *Fred Hoyle* put forth the thought that empty space is the creator of the Universe, from which the Universe has been derived. He stated that "The steady origin of matter forces the Universe to expand." Further, says he, "The old queries about the beginning and end of the universe are dealt with in a surprising manner—by saying that they are meaningless, for the reason that the universe did not have a beginning and it will not have an

end" (*Frontiers of Astronomy*, p. 319).

- But *Sir Ambrose Fleming* answers by saying, "Between space, absolutely empty space, and space filled with even the most rarefied matter there is a gulf which no theory of evolution has been able to pass or explain" (*Why We Believe in Creation, Not Evolution*, p. 273).
- The problem of the gap between Mineral Matter and Living Matter is expressed by *Irwin Schroedinger*, Nobel Laureate in Physics, "Where are we when presented with the mystery of life? We find ourselves facing a granite wall which we have not even chipped" (*The Greatest Mystery of All—the Secret of Life*, New York Times).
- "There is no evidence that any major group arose from any other. There are no intermediates." - *Dr. Austin Clark* - Biologist - Smithsonian Institute.
- We "cannot prove that a single species has changed into another." - *Charles Darwin*.
- "The gap between gymnosperms and angiosperms can be crossed only by faith." - *Sir William Bateson*.
- "There are no 2-celled or 3-celled transitional forms from protozoa to metazoa." - *Richard Goldschmidt*.

The three pound brain in man is the most complex and orderly arrangement of matter in the universe!

- *Louis Pasteur* disproved Spontaneous Generation. Yet evolutionist *Haeckel* said that Spontaneous Generation is a necessary event, yet pure hypothesis, but indispensable for the consistent, non-miraculous history of creation.
  - *Herbert Spencer*: "Either there are acquired characteristics or there is no evolution." Question: Can acquired characteristics be incorporated into the Genetic pool? No! Acquired characteristics are never passed on to succeeding generations. Cutting the tails off 57 generations of mice did not result in the 58th generation being born without tails.
  - *Hugo de Vries*: "Natural Selection may explain the survival of the fittest but not the arrival of the fittest."
  - *Alexander Graham Bell*: "Natural Selection cannot produce new species. Its sole function is to prevent evolution."
  - *Prof. Coulter*: Natural Selection cannot originate characters. It only selects from characters already existing. Half formed organs result in extinction."
- Mutation is not a code, but a random process gener-

ating disorder.

Natural Selection is not a code, but a device which snuffs out the disorderly effects of the mutation process.

A truly beneficial mutation has yet to be documented. The net effect of all mutations is harmful. Mutations almost always generate misfits which soon die out. Mutations are always a subtraction from the available genetic material. Nothing is ever added, no upward progress is possible.

## THE SECOND LAW

**T**he second law of thermodynamics is the law of entropy, which is exactly the opposite of evolution. Entropy is the decrease of order while evolution is the increase of order. The former will eventually result in the end of the universe, called a heat death, in which all motion comes to a standstill. Everything runs down, decays, and dies. The latter presupposes just the opposite, that everything is evolving upward, gaining in order and energy. But this is not the case in our system as is evident every day about us. Otherwise we would not have to be continually repairing our homes, cars, highways, etc. The same is true of all physical life. Today there are 3000 defects in the human gene pool. Eventually these

defects, given enough time, will reach a lethal point in which all life will fail and become extinct. The arrow of

**...One DNA molecule weighing only 3 trillionths of an ounce has encoded information sufficient to fill a thousand volume encyclopedia.**

time is always moving downward, never upward as presumed by evolution. The availability of energy, though remaining static throughout the universe, is constantly decreasing. Thus an end is inevitable. But a beginning also is necessary. The universe is like a clock wound up. It eventually will run down. But what wound the clock up in the beginning? The power that did so had to be an infinite one, for if it was not, it too would have run down. That power also displays an astronomical level of intelligence throughout creation. For example, the seeds of a sunflower are arranged in a logarithmic spiral. There are thousands of such marvels in nature. Such an intelligent power has to be God.

## HOW ABOUT THE CODE OF LIFE?

### THE DNA MOLECULE

**T**here is far more information encoded in the simplest living system than in all the copies of all the books ever written. For example, the marvelous DNA molecule: one DNA molecule weighing only 3 trillionths of an ounce has encoded information sufficient to fill a thousand volume encyclopedia.

From whence came this code? And from whence came this vast amount of information which is bound up in this code? There is nothing random about the arrangement of this encoded information. Therefore it could not have been created through a random chance process. This bears mute evidence that intelligence was behind its creation.

*Consider the following marvel and mystery of life: The DNA molecule has information required for synthesis of specific protein molecules and also its own replication. The insuperable barrier is that DNA can only be replicated with the specific help of certain protein molecules (enzymes) which, in turn, can only be produced at the direction of DNA. Each depends*

on the other and both must be present for replication to take place.

In all organisms living today, the processes both of replication of the DNA and of the effective translation of its code require highly precise enzymes and, at the same time, the molecular structure of those same enzymes are precisely specified by the DNA itself.

Even if such a molecule (protein) could ever be formed by chance, it could never reproduce itself. The DNA molecule is necessary for reproduction and *yet it can only operate in the presence of proteins which it had previously specified and organized.*

The replication of DNA and the translation of its code require highly precise enzymes. Yet these same enzymes are precisely specified by the DNA itself. The DNA molecule and the enzymes are both extremely complex systems and each is necessary for the other. There is no known way they could have evolved from simpler chemicals.

## THE LAW OF AFTER ITS KIND

**T**he DNA molecule contains the genetic code for nearly every living organism, excepting a few viruses

which contain RNA. It is God's computer program that assures that the law contained in Genesis of 'after its kind' is faithfully followed. This negates any possibility of one kind becoming another kind. But even more interesting is the fact that this molecule weighs no more than 1/3 trillionths of an ounce and contains enough encoded information to fill a thousand volume encyclopedia. That coded information did not just happen as evolutionists would like us to believe. This evidence is proof positive that a master intelligence was behind its creation. No one would ever believe that today's sophisticated computer systems just happened, and nor should we naively think that DNA, the master molecule of the universe, just happened, especially if we consider that if all the information encoded in all the trillions of DNA in each of our bodies were translated into books, it would fill the Grand Canyon 40 times.

## SOME MORE CONFESSIONS FROM EVOLUTIONISTS

■ *Watson*: "The theory of Evolution is universally accepted not because it can be proved by logically coherent evidence to be

true but because the only alternative, special creation is clearly incredible.

■ *L. T. More*: "The only alternative to Evolution is the doctrine of special creation, which may be true, but is irrational."

■ *Sir Fred Hoyle* (1981) reversed himself on the origin of life. He and co-author Chandra Wickramasinghe stated that, although atheists all their lives, they had come to the conclusion that the high degree of order and specificity in the universe demanded pre-existing intelligence, even to the limit of God."

■ *Dr. George Wald* (1967 Nobel Peace Prize in Science): "As to the origin of life—only two possibilities—creation or spontaneous generation. There is no third way. Spontaneous Generation was disproved a 100 years ago but that leads us only to one other conclusion: that of supernatural creation. We cannot accept that on philosophical grounds; therefore we choose to believe the impossible that life arose spontaneously by chance."

■ "The question of God's existence was still on Darwin's mind during the last year of his life. . . . 'In the course of that conversation I said to Mr. Darwin, with reference to some of his own remarkable works on the "fertilization of Orchids," and upon "The Earth-

worms," and various other observations he made of the wonderful contrivances for certain purposes in nature—I said it was impossible to look at these without seeing that they were the effect and the expression of mind. I shall never forget Mr. Darwin's answer. He looked at me very hard and said, 'Well that often comes over me with overwhelming force; but at other times,' and he shook his head vaguely, adding, 'it seems to go away.'"

## SOME MARVELS OF CREATION—GOD'S HANDIWORK

"One case in point is the sea horse, called scientifically Hippocampus. This tiny creature is one of the weird mysteries of ocean biology and presents many fascinating problems for the investigator. In the first place, to be strictly correct it must be classed as a marsupial. This is the order of life that has the abdominal pouch for the carrying of the young, as in the case with the Australian kangaroo, or the American opossum. But while Hippocampus has this abdominal pouch in which the young mature, the sea horse is a fish in the true sense of the word! In the second place, we note that the

abdominal pouch on Hippocampus is possessed by the male, and not by the female! This startling anomaly cannot be explained by the theory of evolution. The female sea horse lays her eggs in the pouch of the male, and he brings forth the young. At what stage in evolution, when, where, and by what variants was the marsupial pouch transferred from the female to the male? These questions are unanswerable: Hippocampus is a living evidence of the fact of special creation; most certainly he was made that way" (*Modern Science and the Genesis Record*, Harry Rimmer, pp. 99-100).

"One of the most amazing examples of insect-plant dependence is the Yucca-moth (*Pronuba*) and the yucca. Riley discovered this relationship in 1872. The pollen is sticky and agglutinates in masses which cannot get to the stigma without help. The nectar of the yucca is secreted at the base of the pistil, where it is unhelpful. The flowers are borne high, with a strong odour. The *Pronuba* moth mounts a stamen, makes a pollen ball and packs it against the under side of its head by means of a specially developed maxillary tentacle, not developed in other moths. In gathering pollen the moth hooks its tongue over the end

of the stamen. After loading on its pollen, it flies to another flower, lands on the pistil and thrusts its ovipositor through the wall of the ovary to lay one egg. Then it climbs the pistil and rubs pollen carefully down the inner side of the stigmatic surface. The process goes on till each of the six lines of ovules has one egg and pollination has been achieved as often. The larvae hatch among the developing seeds and eat them. But they *never eat all the seeds* before they escape from the seed-pod. If they did this there would be no new yuccas. How considerate of these maggots to diet so cautiously! Then they squeeze out a thread which drops them to the ground to hibernate for the winter; they come out as mature moths next summer at the time the Yucca flowers. The mature moth seems not to eat. Kellogg says; 'It seems certain that it is prompted to place the pollen in the stigmatic tube after each act of oviposition solely by the instinct to provide for its young, for it is readily understood that if the ovules are not fertilized the seeds would not develop and the larvae would be without food. The Yucca prohibits self-pollination by its tubular stigmas and its relatively short and reflexed stamens. Moreover, the *Pronuba* moth always

cross-pollinates by securing pollen from one flower, then flying to another to lay its eggs!" (ibid., pp. 117-118).

Which evolved first? The moth or the Yucca? Isn't it too convenient to say that they both evolved simultaneously? This would mean planning was involved to insure the survival of both organisms which means that intelligence was involved and not some blind random chance process.

"A little wooden boat, with a simple stick for a mast and a triangular piece of cloth for a sail, requires nothing more than a boy who can use a knife, a hammer, and perhaps a bit of glue; but he must have wisdom to design and power to build. An automobile is much more complicated. It requires big factories and thousands of trained workers to produce it. On the other hand, a rocket ship capable of flying to the moon, or a shuttle that can be carried piggyback into outer space and return safely to earth again, requires thousands of highly trained technicians of all kinds, with elaborate equipment at their command.

**"But what about the most complicated 'machine' of all—man? The human eye with more than a million nerves functioning in perfect co-**

**ordination demands Someone with wisdom to design it and power to build it. The human brain, more intricate than a mammoth stadium filled with computers, demands Someone with wisdom to design it and power to build what the design calls for. When I remember that all this came about through the union of two microscopic elements, the human egg and the fertilizing sperm, I am left speechless with amazement! Excuse me for being so blunt, but the belief that the marvelous human 'machine' gradually evolved from lower forms of life, without any Creator, is the height of foolishness"** (ibid., p. 34).

"One of the most intriguing mysteries among marine creatures is found in the truly remarkable sea slug. The sea slug lives along the sea coast within the tidal zone where it feeds primarily on sea anemones. Sea anemones are not exactly the most inviting of dinners as they are equipped with thousands of small stinging cells on their tentacles which explode at the slightest touch, plunging poisoned harpoons into intruders. The speared intruder is paralyzed and drawn into the anemone's stomach to be digested.

"Although this is an impressive defense system, the remarkable sea slug is able to eat sea anemones without being stung, exploding the stinging cells, or digesting them. One of the most fascinating mysteries in nature is what the sea slug does with the poor anemone's stinging cells. The undigested stinging cells are swept along through ciliated tubes which are connected to the stomach and end in pouches. The stinging cells are arranged and stored in these pouches to be used for the sea slug's defense! And so, whenever the sea slug is attacked, it defends itself using the stinging cells which the ill fated anemone manufactured for its own protection.

"The highly complicated series of modifications that would have had to occur to produce this incredible relationship completely defies evolutionary explanation. First of all, in order to prevent the stinging cells from exploding, the sea slug would have to evolve some sort of chemical means to temporarily neutralize them. The sea slug would also have to evolve a new digestive system, which would digest the tissues of the anemone but not the stinging cells. The sea slug would also have to cleverly evolve the sophisticated ciliated tubes and pouches as

well as a highly complex mechanism for arranging, storing, and maintaining the stinging cells. Finally, and contrary to evolutionary expectations, the anemone would have to endorse the sea slug's plans by refraining from evolving countermeasures.

"Obviously, there is no satisfactory evolutionary explanation for the existence of such extraordinary adaptive design. The only reasonable solution to this fascinating relationship is offered by Biblical creationism. These organisms were specifically created and carefully designed by their Creator to fit into their respective ecological niches" (*The Collapse of Evolution*, pp. 74-75).

## A CONCLUDING THOUGHT

**I**t has been scientifically determined that there are 160 exponential bits of information in the makeup of the earth. This is the amount of information resident in the material composition of our world. For the solar system it is 170 bits. It takes 235 bits of information to form the entire universe. To understand this, 270 bits is equal to 10 to the 80th power in bits of information. This is the number ten (10) followed by eighty zeros. It is an astro-

nomical figure. This is almost the information required to fully construct our material inanimate universe. But when we come to life forms it is a whole new ball game. There are 1500 bits of information in a single non-reproducing protein molecule. What does this mean? Just this! It requires 1500 bits of information to form a single non-reproducing protein molecule. Yet the entire universe contains only 235 bits of information. There is not enough information in the entire universe to form one such protein molecule. From whence then comes this astronomical increase in information? Suppose there was an alphabet containing just five letters. Only a limited amount of information could be conveyed with such an alphabet. It could not express any information outside of its bounds. Just so with the information contained in the universe. All it has is 235 building blocks of information. It does not have the required 1500 building blocks of information. Therefore it is impossible for a single protein molecule to be derived from information resident in the inorganic universe. Again, another analogy. You have a set of building blocks sufficient to construct a small cottage. But you do not have blocks

enough to construct a 100 story skyscraper. No matter how you arrange these blocks you can never build anything more than a cottage at the most. To build a structure as grand as a skyscraper would require an enormous increase in number of building blocks. But these you do not have, nor the steel, and concrete. So without outside help you can go no further. But the matter is even more complicated than that. There are 7 million bits of information in a single E coli bacterium, and 20 BILLION bits in one human cell. This is such an astronomical gain in information that it is beyond the human mind to comprehend. Thus we can easily see the utter impossibility of life arising from non-life. It is God who supplies the needed increase in information to create life in all its wondrous forms. It could in no way have evolved from either the dust of the ground or from any one celled organism. And even if it were possible for an organic body to be formed in such a chance manner, it would still take the power of God (the Reality of God) to bring it to life, otherwise decay would set in immediately.

# A Stranger's Prayer

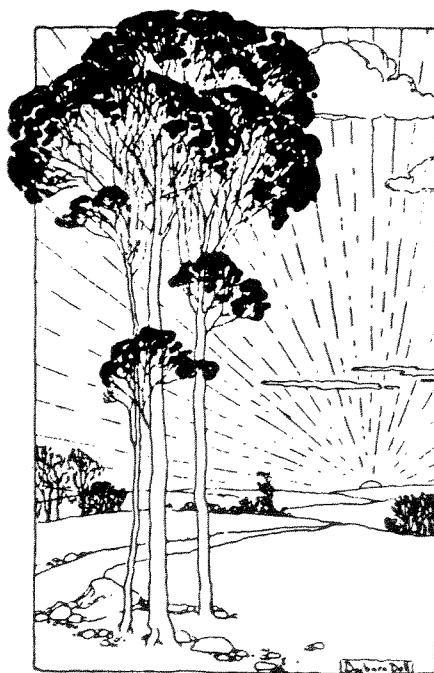
This is not my testimony but a testimony that my mother told me as a child many times. As I am now 67 years old, you can see this was many years ago, but never forgotten.

I was born during the depression and my parents lived with my mother's brother on a farm at the edge of a small town in Michigan. One day as my father and uncle were working in the barn a knock came at the door.

My mother answered the door and a man asked if there was any work that he could do around the farm. My mother said no, but felt impressed to ask him in for a bite to eat. He thanked her and came in. She had something cooking and gave him some. She noticed that he bowed his head and offered a prayer over the food.

While he ate she went to another room to get something; on her return she saw him by my crib, which was in the kitchen, with his head bowed and offering a prayer. He thanked her for her kindness and left. A few moments later she went to the door to see where he was going. There was

no sign of him, and no footsteps in the new snow. My mother told me of this experience many times, and told me



PATHLIGHTS

not to forget it. She felt it was something special for me to remember.

After leaving the farm my parents moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan, and my father drove a truck and was gone weeks at a time. My mother had been raised Dutch Reform by her parents. When her mother became ill she called for

the elders of the church, as she had been reading the Bible and found the passage in James. The elders of the church came, but told her that the church didn't do that. She pondered this and other things that she felt the church was missing. She gathered her children together just before she passed away and told them, "all these years we have been deceived; find the right church."

My mother always remembered what her mother had told them. By being in Grand Rapids, she had the opportunity to walk to several different churches, trying to find the one that her mother had read about in the Bible. I was a toddler at the time. She did this every Sunday. One Sunday as she was sitting on the porch she heard people singing hymns. She took me by the hand and followed the music. It was coming from a house down the block. She walked back and forth and finally got the courage to knock on the door.

That was the beginning; she had found the Church of Christ. She then spread the good news to her brother and



sisters, who also came into the church. All but one of these, my Aunt Marian, have passed away, but are represented by their children and grandchildren, and even great grandchildren, that still attend the Bradley, Michigan, Local of the Church of Christ.

I feel very fortunate to have been in the church all my life. My happiest times are when I am in church surrounded by my children, grandchildren, and yes, even my great grandchildren. God also blessed me with a young man that accepted the

gospel. We had the joy of being baptized together and a couple months later were married. This year we will celebrate 50 years together. Not only is he my husband but he has been an elder in the church for over 30 years. He was the pastor of the Bradley, Michigan, local for over 30 years.

When we retired from our jobs and the children were grown, we prayed that someone would come to take his place so that we could travel and not have to leave the local unattended. God answered that

prayer and sent us a nice young man, Elder Adam Porter and his family. We are now able to come to Florida for five months each winter and hold services each Sunday at our home here.

I often remember my mother telling me that God had a special life for me and it has certainly come true.

*Joyce Lussenden  
Bradley, Michigan, Local*

—Posted on the CCEG

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# Murmuring

I would like to share with everyone a testimony of a sin that I have let sneak into my life.

Through recognizing this sin, I also have learned just how Satan works. He sneaks in when you aren't looking, and you always need to be on the lookout for those things in your life that aren't pleasing to our Heavenly Father. I think I have allowed this sin in my life for years without even seeing it, and I know it was the Lord that showed it to me. I am thankful that He loves us even when we don't exactly walk in His foot-

steps.

After I was baptized I knew that when I married I wanted the person I married to serve the Lord as much as I did. God brought Bob and I together and I knew from his life and the example that he set that he was the Lord's servant. He was called to be a priest while we were writing each other and today he is an elder in the church. I love my husband and enjoy his company—we can be pulling weeds in our yard or taking a walk. I like spending time with him. As a minister, he continued to have growing responsi-

bilities for the church, and our family grew also. I am not sure at what point I allowed this sin in my life, but it has been there a while and I never recognized it.

Each time Bob was called away for studying with someone or working with someone on a class, I started feeling frustrated. Every time Bob would tell me about something he needed to do, I never actually told him in words, but I made sure he knew I wasn't happy. I just felt he never had enough time to help with the kids or just be with us. Well, after years

of doing this it hasn't been until recently that I have been shown what I have been doing. I was murmuring just like the many examples in the Book of Mormon and the Bible.

Last Sunday Bob was working. I felt like I had a particularly trying day with two boys under the age of three. My attitude had suffered greatly that day. I have known that I have had a problem with my attitude, but I thought I had it under control. God showed me otherwise. I had a bad day and after we got home that night I called Bob and I think I complained about everything I could think of. I knew that I was making Bob feel bad that he wasn't there to help, but I felt bad and I thought he needed too also. I knew I shouldn't be complaining, but it didn't stop me.

A couple days later Bob called me from work to see if we had anything planned for Saturday so he could sign up for overtime. We didn't have anything planned, but I wasn't thrilled that he was going to be working, even if it would help this summer when he has to take off so much time for reunions and camp.

That evening I called him and I remember saying, "I guess I just need to get used to you having all these responsibili-

ties!" Again I was complaining, and I think that the Lord showed me then and there just what I was doing. The Lord showed me that I have been murmuring—just like Nephi's brothers when they were commanded to go and get the plates from Laban. They murmured because they felt it was a hard thing that the Lord required them to do. I was murmuring every time that I made Bob feel bad that he wasn't spending enough time with us. I felt it was too hard for me to have the kids all the time, or that Bob would have to spend an hour studying with someone.

The Lord showed me I was sinning. I have been standing in the way of my husband serving the Lord. I can only think of how much harder that I have made it for him to serve others and the Lord—that maybe every time he needed to do something that he thought of me and how upset I might be. The more I think of it the more ashamed I am. I was not being the support or strength my husband needed me to be to serve the Lord with all his heart. The Lord needs to come first in my husband's life, not me. I have been terribly selfish.

The most amazing thing to me is that I didn't see myself as sinning, and I think that is where old Satan comes in tell-

ing us all is well. I have been wrong and it has affected my husband, my life and service to the Lord, but most importantly the Lord's work. Satan is trying to stop the Lord's work in some way or another. He's like a thief in the night. I have learned that I can't coast in my spiritual life. I need to be constantly looking for anything that isn't pleasing to our Heavenly Father.

I need to remember the words Nephi told his father in 1 Nephi 1:65, "I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing that he commandeth them." Instead of murmuring I need to praise the Lord for the work being done to spread the gospel. My husband is in the service of the King and I am going to work at being the support and strength to my husband as God intended me to be.

*Liza Hedrick*

—Posted on the CCEG

# THE CRUCIFIXION

Sunlight upon Judea's hill!  
And on the waves of Galilee  
On Jordan's stream and on the rills  
That gathered to the sleeping sea!  
Most freshly from the green wood springs  
The light breeze on its scented wings;  
And gayly quiver in the sun  
The cedar tops of Lebanon!

A few more hours—a change hath come  
Dark as a brooding thunder-cloud!  
The shouts of wrath and joy are dumb,  
And proud knees unto earth are bow'd:  
A change is on the hill of Death,  
The helmed watchers pant for breath,  
And turn with wild and maniac eyes  
From the dark scene of sacrifice!

That Sacrifice—the death of Him—  
The High and ever Holy One—  
Well may the conscious Heaven grow dim,  
And blacken the beholding Sun!  
The wonted light had fled away,  
Night settles on the middle day,  
And Earthquake from his cavern'd bed  
Is waking with a thrill of dread!

The dead are waking underneath!  
Their prison door is rent away!  
And, ghastly with the seal of death,  
They wander in the eye of day!  
The temple of the cherubim—  
The House of God—is cold and dim;  
A curse is on its trembling walls,  
Its mighty veil asunder falls!

Well may the cavern—depths of Earth  
Be shaken, and her mountains nod;  
Well may the sheeted dead come forth  
To gaze upon a suffering God!  
Well may the temple—shrine grow dim,  
And shadows veil the Cherubim,  
When He, the chosen One of Heaven,  
A sacrifice for guilt is given!

And shall the sinful heart, alone,  
Behold unmov'd th' atoning hour,  
When Nature trembles on her throne,  
And death resigns his iron power?  
Oh, shall the heart—whose sinfulness  
Gave keenness to His sore distress,  
And added to His tears of blood—  
Refuse its trembling gratitude!

—John G. Whittier

# They Missed Him!

They were looking for a lion,  
He came as a Lamb, and they missed  
Him.

They were looking for a warrior,  
He came as a Peacemaker, and they  
missed Him.

They were looking for a king,  
He came as a Servant, and they  
missed Him.

They were looking for liberation from  
Rome,  
He submitted to the Roman stake,  
and they missed Him.

They were looking for a fit to their  
mold,  
He was the mold maker, and they  
missed Him.

What are you looking for? Lion?  
Warrior? King? Liberator? What  
are you looking for?

They were looking for their temporal  
needs to be met,  
He came to meet their eternal need,  
and they missed Him.

He came as a Lamb to be sacrificed  
for your sin. Will you miss Him?

He came to make peace between God  
and man. Will you miss Him?

He came to model servanthood for all  
mankind. Will you miss Him?

He came that we might have true  
liberty. Will you miss Him?

He came to give you eternal life. Will  
you miss Him?

When we submit to the Lamb, we  
will meet the Lion.  
Join with the Peacemaker, and we  
will meet the Warrior.

Work with the Servant, and we will  
meet the King.  
Walk with the Submitted, and we will  
meet the Liberator.  
Concern ourselves with the eternal,  
and we will have the temporal.

If Jesus is not fitting into the mold  
you have, then come to the mold  
maker and get a new one. Submit  
to His plan for your life and you  
will see the eternal need met first;  
then all the other things you have  
need of will be taken care of as well.

—Author unknown.  
—Contributed by Scott Harris

—Posted on the CCEG

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

# PANCAKE DINNER

**WHEN: APRIL 1, 2001**

**WHERE: CHURCH OF CHRIST (EAST LOCAL)**

**TIME: AFTER THE CLOSE OF THE AFTERNOON SERVICE,  
APPROXIMATELY 5:00-7:30 P.M.**

**COST: ADULTS \$4.00; CHILDREN \$2.00**

**MENU: PANCAKES, SAUSAGE, JUICE, MILK, COFFEE  
TICKETS: AVAILABLE FROM THE LADIES OF THE EAST  
LOCAL WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT**

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# APRIL MINISTERS' CONFERENCE 2001

As instructed by the 1964 April Ministers' Conference, be advised that the 2001 April Ministers' Conference will begin on Monday, April 2, 2001, "Conference Sunday," beginning Sunday, April 1, 2001. The first business session will begin at 9:00 a.m. Monday, April 2, 2001, at the General Church Building on the Temple Lot.

According to action taken during the 1999 April Ministers' Conference, Solemn Assembly will be held Friday, March 30th and Saturday, March 31st,

2001, at the General Church Building on the Temple Lot.

All committee reports should be forwarded to the Conference Secretary at least two (2) weeks in advance of the beginning of the first business session. As is always the case, it is requested that any business desired to be placed before the 2001 April Ministers' Conference should be forwarded in advance of the first business meeting so that document packets may be completed for distribution.

Mailing address for the

above requested information is:

**Elder R. W. Oldham**  
**April Ministers'**  
**Conference Secretary**  
**5709 Logan Road**  
**Kansas City, MO 64136**

*Your Brother in Gospel Bonds,*  
*Elder R. W. Oldham*  
*2001 April Ministers'*  
*Conference Secretary*  
*Church of Christ*

## *Young People*

# YOUTH FORUM 2001

DATE: MONDAY, APRIL 2, 2001

TIME: 4:00-6:00 P.M.

PLACE: EAST LOCAL

**Y**OUTH OF THE AGE OF 22 AND YOUNGER ARE INVITED TO SHARE AND COLLECT THOUGHTS TO BRING BEFORE THE GENERAL CHURCH CONFERENCE, AS WELL AS TO REPORT ACTIVITIES FROM THE PAST YEAR AND ANNOUNCE ACTIVITIES FOR THE PRESENT YEAR. PLEASE BRING YOUR SCRIPTURES.

### CONTACTS:

ELDER ANDY BROWN..... (602) 569-9745  
ELDER RICK OLSON..... (816) 358-8530  
MATTHEW CASE..... (970) 203-9183

ANNOUNCEMENT

# Resolution for the 2001 Solemn Assembly

The Council of Apostles recommends for adoption the following:

Be it resolved that a Solemn Assembly be held the two days preceding the April Ministers' Conference, on March 30th and March 31st, 2001, and the following statements will comprise our purpose:

Whereas, By numerous prophecies we know that the day of the Lord is nigh at hand, and

Whereas, We know that great tribulation shall come upon the earth before the great and dreadful day of the Lord, and

Whereas, We have the example of the church as found in Moroni 6:6: "*And the church did meet together oft, to fast and to pray, and to speak one with another concerning the welfare of their souls:...*"

Therefore, Resolved, That the whole membership of the Church of Christ, from the youngest child to the oldest member, be called to a solemn assembly, that a period of fasting may be sanctified unto our God.

Resolved, that this period of fasting and prayer be held on the Temple Lot,

Resolved, That we seek to lay hold on the promise recorded in Joel 2:32, "*And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call.*"

Resolved, that all members of this Church of Christ, who are hindered by circumstances beyond their control from assembling on the Temple Lot, will dedicate the same period to fasting and prayer in their locals or in their homes, that the whole church be united in one heart and one mind, that the direction of the Lord be revealed to us, that the power of the Holy Ghost cover us as the waters cover the sea, that the servants of the Lord might go forth in boldness and power, preaching the word with authority unto the uttermost ends of the earth.

*Respectfully submitted,  
(Signed)  
Smith N. Brickhouse, Secy.  
Council of Apostles*

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