

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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Wherefore the promises of the Lord are great unto the Gentiles, for he hath spoken it, and who can dispute? But behold, this land, saith God, shall be a land of thine inheritance; and the Gentiles shall be blessed upon the land. And this land shall be a land of liberty unto the Gentiles: and there shall be no kings upon the land, who shall raise up unto the Gentiles. And I will fortify this land against all other nations; And he that fighteth against Zion, shall perish, saith God; for he that raiseth up a king against me, shall perish. For I the Lord, the King of heaven, will be their king; and I will be a light upon them forever, that hear my words. —2 Nephi 7:16-21

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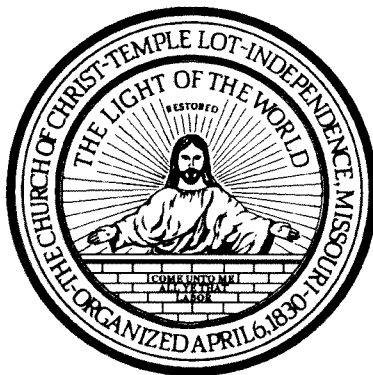
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underlining, ALL-CAPS and *italics*. The most important thing, though, is to send the material—the staff can arrange for typing or otherwise preparing anything you send.

Word Processors/Computers: We can utilize text files on IBM or compatible computer floppy disk of any size or format and nearly any word processor. If you have this capability, it is a big help to our process.

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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.

George Washington Rejects Being Crowned as King

By Elder Gordon McCann

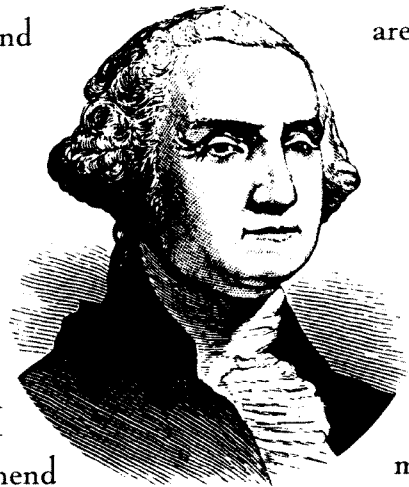
At the end of the Revolutionary War one of the officers that served in the army that ultimately liberated the colonies wrote to George Washington. The officer wrote that he doubted that a republican form of government could be successful with the colonies. He put forth the idea that a kingdom should be established and that George Washington should be the head of that kingdom. The following excerpts are of George Washington's reply to the officer's letter:

Newburgh May 22, 1782

Sir,

With a mixture of great surprise and astonishment I have read with attention the sentiments you have submitted to my perusal. Be assured sir, no occurrence in the course of the war has given me more painful sensations than your information of there being such ideas existing in the army as you have expressed, and I must view with abhorrence, and reprehend with severity...for the present, the communication of them will rest in my own bosom, unless some further agitation of the matter shall make a disclosure necessary.

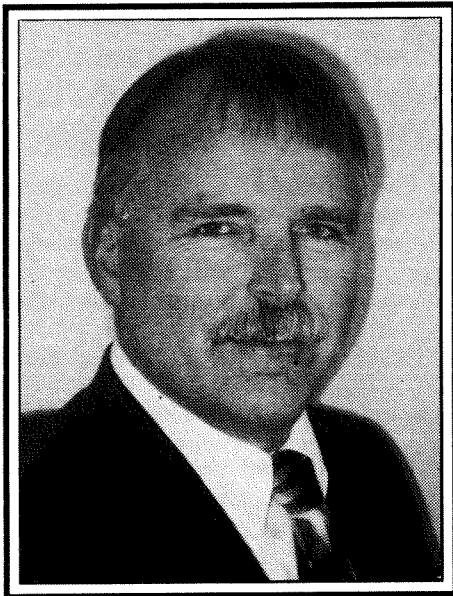
I am much at a loss to conceive what part of my conduct could have given encouragement to an address which to me seems big with the greatest mischiefs that can befall my country. If I am not deceived in the knowledge of myself, you could not have found a person to whom your schemes



are more disagreeable...at the same time in justice to my own feeling I must add, that no man possesses a more sincere wish to see ample justice done to the army than I do, and as far as my powers and influence, in a constitution, may extend, they shall be employed to the utmost of my abilities to effect it, should there be any occasion... Let me conjure you then, if you have any regard for your country...concern for yourself or posterity...or respect for me, to banish these thoughts from your mind, and never communicate, as from yourself, or anyone else, a sentiment of the like nature.

*With esteem I am Sir
Your Most Obedient Servant
G. Washington*

GOD'S WORK IN AFRICA



Priest Duane Ely

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" Matthew 24:14.

Preaching the gospel of the kingdom to the people in Africa is part of this work in these last days. We know that this is God's work and that we are only the tools He uses to assist Him. This work is just beginning and there is a great deal more to be done. God works in miraculous ways, and we know it was His guiding

hand that led us to these people in Africa. Each one of us can have a part in doing this work.

I had the opportunity to accompany Brian McIndoo on a missionary trip to Africa in April 2002. It was a wonderful experience, and the Lord blessed us in so many ways from beginning to end. We had the opportunity to preach the gospel and to meet many of our brothers and sisters on that continent. They are a lovely people who enthusiastically have a desire to serve God, and it was an honor to get to know them. I have traveled to Yucatan and now to Africa and we have a bond with all of our brothers and sisters, even though we sometimes have a language barrier. You can feel their love even if you can't always understand what they are saying. We spent a great deal of time with Moses Ohuru, Michael Otero and Margaret Moraa, and I grew to have a great deal of love and respect for them. I miss them and our other brothers and sisters there, and they are always in my prayers. Moses and Michael have a great deal of responsibility being the only two full time

ministers on the continent of Africa. They are very dedicated and loyal servants of our Lord. We need to continually pray for them and that more ministry will be called to assist them in this work. We need to pray for all of our brothers and sisters in foreign lands, and for all of the honest in heart that they will be guided by the hand of the Lord to the truth.

We were blessed in so many ways on our trip. One of these blessings occurred during our safari (journey) from Nairobi to Kisii. We were driving a rental vehicle because the Land Rover was in the garage for repairs. When we were in a very remote area, we spotted a giraffe. It was a long way off but I wanted to take a picture anyway because it was the first giraffe I had seen in the wild. However, when we stopped, we smelled smoke and opened the bonnet (hood) to see that the engine was on fire. We put it out with some water, but it had already burned some wires and a large hole in the top of the battery. It had been burning for a long time, but we did not know it until we stopped. This desolate

spot would have been a bad place to be stranded. In spite of the damage to the vehicle, the engine started so we decided to continue our drive to Kisii. We arrived safely without any more problems with the vehicle. However, if we had not stopped to take a picture, the fire would have done a lot more damage before we noticed it. This was one of our many blessings.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" Proverbs 3:5-6.

We were required to put our faith and trust in the Lord every day because so many things were out of our control. God blessed us in so many ways and it was evident every day that we were there.

We had many problems with our vehicles during our trip and it is easy to see why because the roads are so rough. Many of the main roads are pot holes with a small amount of asphalt in between. But even with all the vehicle problems we were never stranded once. One day the Land Rover was running so poorly that we could only go about two miles an hour, but we still made it back safely. Another day we had three flat tires but we were able to get them repaired without being stranded. We got stuck in the mud several times, but each time we were able to get out safely. We had to diligently pray for the Lord's help, and He blessed us every day.

Kababe was one of the places where I wanted to preach because it was the place Brian saw in his dream before the work began there. It was also the place where Brian and Smith held services for the first time in Africa. When we set up our program at the beginning of our trip, I was scheduled to preach there, and while waiting for the service to begin, I was looking over the scriptures that I had chosen for this sermon. Beside each scripture I had written a few words that described it, and as I looked at these notes I could not think of any comments about any of the scriptures. It was a very strange feeling, one that I had never experienced before. I have been nervous about preaching at times, but I have never felt like I didn't want to preach. In some of our brother's and sister's testimonies, they told about how other churches in the area had been giving them a hard time about their beliefs. Obviously Satan was trying to discourage them and I think Satan was trying to discourage me also. I silently prayed to God that he would help me and give me the strength to deliver my message on hope. Brian introduced me and I stood to speak. The Lord definitely helped me and I felt the presence of the Holy Ghost more while giving this sermon than I have in any other sermon that I have preached. This is another example of how the Lord blessed us in every aspect of our trip.

Africa is very beautiful and

it is the most interesting place I have ever visited. Our people are very warm and friendly, and we had many wonderful services during our time there. Our services usually consisted of preaching, testimonies, singing hymns, and beautiful special numbers. We also had three referendum meetings so our brothers and sisters could vote on important issues facing the church. Brian taught classes on the Restoration and the Apostasy in both Kenya and Tanzania. I taught classes on the Priesthood in both of these countries. These people are very eager to learn more about their responsibilities as members of the Church of Christ. We baptized 85 new members, and it was a new experience for me to see so many people joining the church at one time. Twenty of these new members were baptized in Tanzania and we have now established the Church of Christ in that country.

People that you meet in Africa are usually more interested in hearing about the gospel than people you meet in the United States. Many of them are searching for the truth and they want to hear about our church. One of our taxi drivers asked us what we were doing in Kenya. We told him that we were missionaries and he wanted to hear about our church. One day at the marketplace it was raining real hard and we were stranded under a canopy with a large group of people. We ended up talking to a young man named

Jared about our church and he was very interested in it. We told him that he could go to the church office to get a schedule of our services, and we saw him there several days later inquiring about this. When I talked to people at my work about this missionary trip, all they wanted to know was if we were teaching the people about our church or if we were working on building projects. When I told them we were teaching about our church, they were not interested in hearing any more.

No matter where we live in this world we are going to have problems. We who live in the United States are wealthy and have many temporal things but we cannot find happiness in them. We are very spoiled and take many of our luxuries for granted; running water, electricity, improved roads, career opportunities, etc. These temporal things are only a blessing to us if we use them for the Lord. Temporal things can lead to pride, which can lead us away from the truth of the gospel if we are not careful. In Africa there is a great deal of poverty and many problems, but they seem to be happier and more content with the blessings God has given them. We can only find true happiness in our Lord, and not in the things of this world. We must always be willing to share our temporal blessings with others.

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse, for

ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in my house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it"
III Nephi 11:11-13.

We are commanded to pay tithing to our Lord, and if we are not doing this we are not fulfilling our obligation. This is one way that each one of us can have a part in this work. This scripture tells us that unless we pay our tithing and give offerings that we are robbing God. In Mosiah 2:37 we read, "...how much more just will be your condemnation, for withholding your substance, which doth not belong to you, but to God..." Everything that we have really belongs to God and it is our duty to support the church and the Lord's work with our tithes and offerings.

I would now like to tell you about the events that lead up to me going to Africa. It was a miracle in itself that all of the pieces would fit together so that I would be able to go. On Friday night, April 5, 2002, I received a phone call from Brian McIndoo that threw my life into a tailspin. Brian was driving home from the April Ministers' Conference and called from his cell phone. He wanted to know if I would be interested in going to Africa with him for five weeks, and if so, we would be leaving the next Thursday. Smith Brickhouse, who was scheduled to go with Brian, was unable to

go because of some medical problems. I had just gotten home from the Conference myself the day before. When I received the call, I thought it was an interesting question, and I would very much like to go, but I thought it would be impossible. I am the type of person who would take a year to plan for a trip like this because there are so many things to do, and this time I would only have five days to get ready. I talked to my wife about this and she was very supportive, but I did not think too much about it that evening because I thought it would be impossible. The next morning I got up and went about my business. Then, about 11:00 A.M., it hit me that I should call my boss to see if I could get off work for 5½ weeks starting the next Thursday. Those of us who work in corporate America know that the odds of getting this vacation approved would not be very good. I had just gotten back from a one week vacation and now I was asking for another 5½ weeks. However, when I called him, he said yes, that he thought it would be a wonderful opportunity. I had just crossed the first hurdle of this process, and then I started to get real nervous. If the way was going to be opened up by the Lord, I had a lot of work to do to get ready. There was a long list of things that needed to be done and several more hurdles to cross before I would know if I could go. I would never have been able to accomplish everything without the help of my

wife Kathy Ely, my daughter Michelle Ely and, of course, my Lord. The next step was to get a malaria pill from Becky McIndoo and take it just in case, because you are supposed to start taking them one week before you go to some foreign countries.

I had three more hurdles to cross before I would know if I could go. You will see as I continue that it could only have happened with the help of our Lord.

1 As an assistant pastor of the Phoenix Local, I had duties that I needed to complete. I called our pastor Bob Hedrick and he said that it would be all right for me to go, and that he would get these duties taken care of.

2 I would need to get an airplane ticket on short notice, and we would not know until Monday if that would be possible. Fortunately, Becky McIndoo was able to get a ticket for me on the same flight with Brian, and it was delivered on Wednesday evening, the day before we were scheduled to leave.

3 There were required immunizations that I needed to get before I could go. Sometimes it takes a long time to get an appointment, but I was able to get in two hours after I called on Monday. I had already gotten half of the shots that I would need the year before when we went to the 50th Anniversary celebration in Yucatan. I had also gotten a passport for that trip and it would have been impossible for me to get one on such short notice for this trip.

Before I went to the April Minister' Conference, I had put off doing some things until after we got back home, because I

thought that I was too busy. I did not realize that the five days after conference would turn out to be the busiest in my life. This is a good lesson to all of us not to procrastinate.

This is a list of some of the other things that had to be accomplished before I could go.

1 I had a Hand of Fellowship sermon that was due the next Wednesday, April 10. I had not even started it yet but I was able to complete it and turn it in before I left.

2 I had an appointment on Tuesday, April 9, to have my income taxes figured. I had not even started working on them yet, but I was able to complete this process and file them before I left.

3 Before I went to Conference, my truck was not starting right and I knew that the battery was going dead. On Monday morning after conference, my truck would not start because the battery was dead so I had to take the time to install a new one.

4 I had two doctor's appointments besides the one to get my immunizations.

5 I work ten hour days at my job and I had a lot of catch up work to do from the week that I was off and a lot of work to take care of that would be needed for the next five weeks.

6 There were numerous things around the house that needed to be taken care of as you can well imagine.

7 I had to pack, which is somewhat complicated for a trip like this.

8 I worked on some notes that I would use to prepare sermons and to conduct a study on the priesthood for Africa.

9 As assistant pastor, one of my duties was to assist in auditing the books for our local and I had to complete my share of this work before I left.

As you can see there were a lot of things that had to happen before I could go on this trip. I do not write about them to boast, but only to give all the glory to my Lord. This is an important part of my testimony and I know that the Lord opened the way for me to go to Africa for some reason.

There is a lot of work to do in these last days and there are only a few of us to do it. We are all being called to greater service and to greater sacrifice. Are we ready physically, mentally, and spiritually? Are we ready to do whatever it takes to be part of this work?

"If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour" John 12:26.

Our Lord has great promises for those who will faithfully serve Him to the end. Spreading this gospel to the world is God's work and each one of us can be part of it. We need to always look for ways that we can serve. We need to be a good example to the world in all that we do.

TESTIMONY

Embracing the Everlasting Gospel

The Conversion of the Stanley and Bertha Biringer Family

By Debra Biringer Brown

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue and people" Revelation 14:6.

January 25, 2003, marks the 75th anniversary of the Phoenix Local Church of Christ. In commemoration of this wonderful event, I have been asked to write the story of my family's conversion to the gospel. It is not a short story, but the road to any worthy goal is seldom short.

Both my parents were raised in Christian homes. My mother's home was a very strict one. My father's not as strict, but love and music flowed through both homes. I remember asking Dad what religion he was brought up in and he said they attended whatever church was close to home. As a child, any religion was good enough. Not so with my mother. Her parents always

taught her that there was truth and she must seek it. She was a truth seeker who believed with all her heart the scripture, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Matt 7:7). And seek truth she did throughout her lifetime. I believe it was due to her dogmatic searching for truth that brought us to find the Church of Christ in the late 1960's.

Through a mutual friend, my parents began writing one another in about 1953. My dad worked for American Airlines and was based in Phoenix, where he had moved from upstate New York. My mother was employed as a minister of religious education in the Disciples of Christ Church in Palestine, Texas. She had graduated from Phillips University with a double major in Psychology and Counseling, and went on to get her masters in Religious Education from Lexington Theological Seminary.

After several months of writing back and forth, they decided to meet. At the airport, when she stepped off

the plane, Dad said he knew she was the one and asked her then and there to be his wife. They married and Mom gave up her career as minister, counselor and missionary to become a homemaker. She and Dad firmly believed that the home was where she needed to be to nurture her future family. They started immediately having children. They really wanted a large family, but since they were both in their late 30's, and after several miscarriages, they settled for three children—Darla, Melvin and Debra. Mom was 42 when I came along.

We attended one of the Disciples of Christ churches, Phoenix Central Christian, for several years. My mother was in charge of the Vacation Church School, taught Sunday School, and was Director of the Summer Youth Camp sessions. Dad was a deacon and also served as an usher. All seemed to be going smoothly until political unrest in the church began to bother Mom's conscience. Ordinances and church doctrine was altered that had never changed in the church since its in-

ception by William Campbell in the 1800's (the Church of Christ Campbellites are known for not using musical instruments in their worship. The Disciples of Christ was a sister organization that did use instruments and was not generally as strict.) One thing that Mom felt she could stand on was church doctrine. The church was originally set up to resemble the church that Christ set up when He walked the earth. Now that stable foundation was being rocked to the core. This upset both of my parents and they began to earnestly pray about what they should do.

As she had been taught, Mom began to seek the truth. Was there a church on earth that was the right one, a church that taught the gospel the Lord brought, and was set up like the church of the New Testament? Mom set out on a spiritual journey to find out. She began a letter writing campaign that would touch all the major religions of the world. After praying and fasting, she came up with a list of questions that she sent out to many organizations. She felt the Lord told her that the church that answered all those questions correctly, according to scripture, would be His church. We started attending church after church. For a little kid, those times were depressing, never feeling at home, always feeling like a stranger. But Mom was on a truth quest, and she felt she could not rest until the truth was found. Only then would she be free. "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

Many churches sent letters on beautiful letterhead stationary, but

none answered those questions to her satisfaction. Then she received a letter from the LDS church. Unbelievably, they answered most all her questions correctly. This astounded her, as her masters thesis in college was written on the evils of Mormonism. She never read the book itself, merely quoted from other authors. How ironic that years later the Lord was perhaps pointing to this as His truth.

We began to attend a Mormon church near our home. It was certainly strange compared to other churches we had attended. The LDS missionaries began coming to study with us. My mother began a month long fast of grapes and grape juice that she might discern the truth about the Book of Mormon. She put to the test the scripture she had found in the 10th chapter of Moroni, "And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the eternal father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true." Her answer came when we were at our cabin in the woods. She told Andrew, my son, of her experience years later, and I was thrilled remembering that time.

Mom awoke one morning early. No one else was stirring. She got up and went outside to take a morning walk. As she was rejoicing in God's beautiful creation she said the Spirit of the Living God descended on her like no other time she could ever remember. She said she felt a burning sensation as she was told in a still, small voice (not audibly) that the truth she sought was contained in the pages of the Book of Mormon. It was indeed a record of His people

here in the Americas. She said it was as simple as that. Mom felt for the next three days that she was walking on air. She told our family about her experience and she decided she must now know the truth, that the LDS church was God's church on earth.

She continued in learning about the LDS doctrine and prepared for baptism. Then she became a little disturbed that they wanted to baptize all of us at the same time. I was only 8 then, and she knew I was not spiritually knowledgeable enough to take this step. Dad had not had the same experience and he still had questions. One Sunday morning, Mom attended a class she had not gone to before. The subject matter was on baptism for the dead. This really upset Mom and she asked the teacher for scriptural proof of that ordinance and where Christ practiced this doctrine. The teacher was alarmed and asked her what ward she normally attended. She told him she was just studying for baptism and did not yet belong to the church. She was ushered from the room with a promise that the missionaries would come and straighten this all out.

That led to many strange doctrines and beliefs coming to light, like the First Presidency and polygamy, and sealed marriages. My Mom was devastated. She and Dad were a bit shook up. She knew with all her heart that her experience about the Book of Mormon was real and that it was scripture no different than the Bible. She began praying and fasting again. The Truth Seeker began doing a little detective work.

She went to the library and to a Christian bookstore and found a list, to her surprise, of all the churches purported to believe in the Book of Mormon. She found the RLDS, the Church of Jesus Christ, the Dravites, the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) and even a Baptist church that claimed the Book of Mormon as divine scripture, and many more.

Out came that letter with the questions about the organization of Christ's church on earth and His doctrine. One by one we started on the rounds to visit the restoration churches as she received responses back. Each church had some similarities, but none of them could answer all the questions correctly. Finally, after some time, Mom received a letter from a man by the name of Leon Yates.

Now at this point I must tell you a little about his letter. When my brother and I were cleaning out my parents house after the death of my father, we found a piece of luggage filled to the brim with letters. If you know my mother, you know you must go through everything with a fine-tooth comb as there may be hidden treasures. In that suitcase were the responses of the letters she had written so many years before. We opened up several. They were professional looking, embossed on beautiful paper. But they were devoid of the truth. Then we came upon one with the return address of our dear brother, Apostle Leon (Skeet) Yates. It was indeed a hidden treasure and I have it among my most valued possessions today. It was written on a simple piece of paper with what looked like an old

Underwood typewriter. There were mistakes throughout that had been corrected. The appearance of the letter itself was not at all professional. But it answered correctly, according to scripture, every question my mother had asked.

Several more letters flew back and forth and Brother Yates referred Mom to a Don McIndoo or a Hubert Yates in Phoenix. When Mom and Dad asked where we might attend a church service, we were astounded to learn that the Church of Christ on Harvard Street was not three blocks from our home.

I remember that first morning we attended very clearly. We walked in, went to Sunday School and then listened to a sermon. After the service, we were enveloped with curious and friendly church members that made us feel welcome. Later that evening, my dad and mom were talking to us about the day. My dad really said it best, "Honey, I feel like we've come home." We all felt from that very first day that our pilgrimage had ended. We had sought the truth diligently and the Lord was faithful to reward our righteous endeavors.

But Mom and Dad were cautious and rightfully so. They had been fooled before. So we began a weekly study with Hubert Yates. It really is true that the Church of Christ is not looking for numbers, it is looking for those who are truly converted. And you all know how diligent Hubert is to make sure you really understand the gospel! We marveled again when we studied church history. The church that Sidney Rigdon came from was the same church that my great-great grand-

parents joined in the middle 1800's. But they stayed put and would not read the "evil book" (Book of Mormon). Again, how ironic that my mother ended up finding the truth that her own family, and later Sidney Rigdon had rejected.

Once a week we also had a family fasting and prayer day. I remember each of the five of us kneeling in the living room under the picture of Christ in Gethsemane that Mom had painted. We fervently poured out our hearts and God was faithful again to answer. Within a few weeks my father was the next one to be touched by the hand of God.

Dad told us this experience that he treasured until the day he died. He and Mom had said prayers together and gone to bed as usual. He said sometime later he was awakened to a bright light entering his room. Their bedroom was on the corner of the house near the street, so he thought it was car lights. But the light did not go away. It continued to get brighter and brighter. He said it was one of the most brilliant white lights he had ever seen. And as the light grew, he began to feel a glowing inside that he knew was the pure love of God. Never before in his life had he experienced anything like this. Knowing how my mother craved just such an experience, he tried to awaken her, but she would not wake up. Slowly the light faded and he often wondered if there would have been more if he had not tried to wake up Mom. But he was ecstatic for days afterward and marveled that God would stoop down to earth to reveal Himself to an average human man who just wanted to

know the truth. It was a valuable lesson for us to contemplate that all souls are precious to God.

Then, several months later, I, too, was blessed with a spiritual experience. I still get emotional when I recount the happenings of that day. I believe I was about 9 years old. I awoke early one morning. Sitting on the end of my bed was a person wrapped in what looked like a sheet. I thought at first it must be my brother who sometimes wandered in the night. But the personage stood and began to turn around. His robes glowed with a pure, brilliant light. He was bearded and looked like the picture of Christ that my mother had painted. By now I was more than a little scared. A family cat that slept around my head had jumped up on the pillow and was flattened against the headboard. I tried, in vain, to wake up my sister. The personage held his hands out to me and said that the truth we sought was in the Book of Mormon and that the Church of Christ was the true church on earth. Then, without another word, he ascended up through my bedroom ceiling.

I was shaking afterwards and ran to my parent's room to tell them. They listened carefully and then Mom explained that I had just had a marvelous experience I would probably never forget, one that I could never deny, one that I would depend on when my life was in peril. I was disturbed and embarrassed because I had been afraid. She gently reminded me that even the shepherds in the field were afraid of the angel who came to proclaim the birth of Christ. And Balaam's donkey was

afraid to pass the angel just as my cat had seen and been afraid of the angel messenger.

This experience and the ones that each of my parents were given sealed our hearts with the knowledge that we had found the truth. We were all baptized shortly afterward. Once we were truly converted, we then set about the task to be committed and endure to the end.

I was most blessed to be born of goodly parents as was Nephi. My father taught me to love unconditionally. My mother taught me to always go back to the scriptures to find the truth, and to not depend on the arm of flesh. Her devoted prayer and fasting have taken a place in my life today. I pray I can continue the rich spiritual heritage left to me and pass it on to the next generation. I weep as I write this most marvelous memory. Never can it be taken from me, this precious angel message. I suppose I know what hymn is on your lips as you read. The same one that I will forever proclaim as my testimony:

"I have found the glorious gospel that was taught in former years with its gifts and blessings all so full and free; And my soul is thrilled with gladness, and banished are my fears, Since the precious angel message came to me.

"Now for celestial glory, in the presence of the Lord, I will work and watch and humbly bow the knee; No longer faith but knowledge, in true and

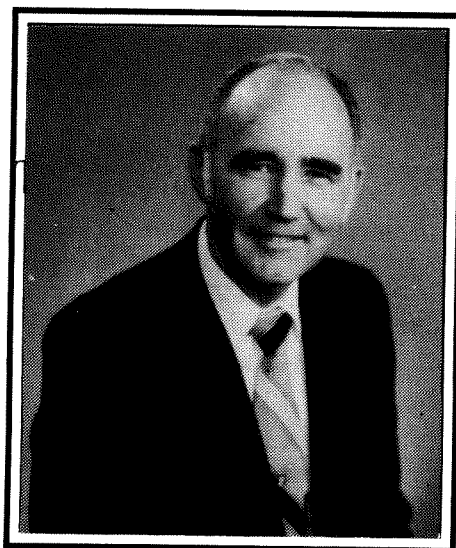
sweet accord, Has the precious angel message brought to me.

"Then praise the Lord, O my soul! Abundant mercy, oh how free! In joyful song my spirit doth accord, since the precious angel message came to me."

"This is my story, this is my song Praising my Savior all the day long!"

*With love in gospel bonds,
Debra Biringer Brown
Darla Biringer Warfield
Melvin D. Biringer*

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST TO THE APOSTLE JOHN



By Apostle Don McIndoo

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

As John begins chapter fifteen he sees the seven last angels having the seven last plagues that will be poured out upon the earth. These last seven plagues are described in Chapter 16, so this interlude is introductory to these last vials of God's wrath. Although these vials seem to be poured out in

SECTION FIFTEEN A PRELUDE

rapid succession, they appear to cover several centuries of world history.

In verses two, three and four we are shown again (as in chapter four) a "sea of glass." This sea of glass is symbolic of the peace, majesty and dominion of God. Upon this sea John saw standing the saints of God; those who had overcome the wiles, deception and power of the beast, and all the enemies of God and Jesus Christ.

But verse two tells us that at this point in time, that sea of glass was "**mingled with fire.**" The color of flames reflected in that sea of glass gives us a more complete description of that time period, for it indi-

"And thus God bringeth about his great and eternal purposes, which were prepared from the foundation of the world."

cates the wrath of God as it is being poured out upon the wicked. This fiery color gives us, as well, a more complete description of the nature of the Almighty. Not only is He a God of mercy and grace, slow to anger and quick to forgive, but now we can see an analogy of the justice of God as it finally comes into play.

The demands of God's justice are clearly stated in the Book of Mormon:

“Now the work of justice could not be destroyed: if so God would cease to be God. What, do ye suppose that mercy can rob justice? I say unto you, Nay; not one whit. If so, God would cease to be God. And thus God bringeth about his great and eternal purposes, which were prepared from the foundation of the world. And thus cometh about the salvation and redemption of men, and also their destruction and misery...” (*Alma 19:95, 107-109*).

Even as the justice of God was being carried out, the saints standing upon that sea of glass, perhaps more accurately stated—standing within the “city,” were singing the Song of Moses, a song of thanksgiving and praise for their delivery (see Exodus 15:1-19 and Deuteronomy 31:19-22).

In verse eight John saw that **“the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power.”** The presence of such smoke has


long been associated with the power and presence of God. In Exodus 19:18 we read, **“And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly.”**

“And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke” (*Isaiah 6:3, 4*).

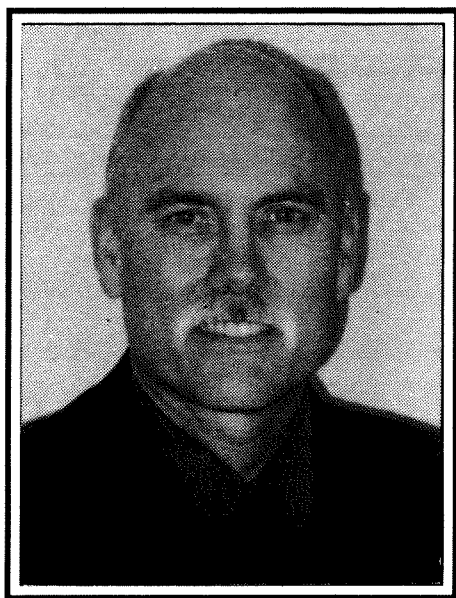
Verse eight also tells us that such was the presence and power of God that **“no man was able to enter into the temple”**; in other words, no one could enter in order to make intercession, or divert God from His demand for justice.

The seven angels, God’s agents, had now been sent forth and would not return **“till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.”** As

Alma had told his son, **“the work of justice could not be destroyed”** (19:95).



Articles of Faith & Practice



**A continuing study by
Elder Gordon McCann**

ARTICLE #2

We believe in Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, the manifestation of God in flesh, who lived, suffered, and died for all mankind; whom we own as our only Leader, Witness and Commander.

From the very beginning, as recorded in the first book of the Bible, the believer can find evidence that Jesus Christ was with the Father when the creation of all things began. *"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness"* (Genesis 1:26).

The Brother of Jared was given an opportunity to behold Jesus Christ face to face because he believed in the Word of God. The Son of God spoke

with the Brother of Jared, as a man would speak with another man, and made the following statements:

"And never have I shewed myself unto man whom I have created, for never has man believed in me as thou hast. Seest thou that ye are created after mine own image? Yea, even all men were created in the beginning, after mine own image" (Ether 1:79-80).

The Apostle John provides us with a good understanding of the relationship between Jesus Christ and his Father. John taught the believer, as he was lead by the Holy Spirit, that:

"All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made" (John 1:3).

"He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not" (John 1:10).

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

The Apostle Paul takes what John taught and builds upon those words to amplify our understanding concerning the Deity of Jesus Christ.

"Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or

powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist" (Colossians 1:15-17).

The Book of Mormon provides the recorded words of Christ as a testimony to the student that answers the question, Who is Jesus Christ?

"Behold I am Jesus Christ, the son of God. I created the heavens and the earth, and all things that in them are. I was with the Father from the beginning. I am in the Father, and the Father in me; and in me hath the Father glorified his name" (3 Nephi 4:44-45).

"...Behold I am Jesus Christ, of whom the prophets testified should come into the world: And behold I am the light and the life of the world, and I have drunk out of that bitter cup which the Father hath given me, and have glorified the Father in taking upon me the sins of the world, in the which I have suffered the will of the Father in all things, from the beginning" (3 Ne 5:11-12).

Jesus Christ is the true believer's only Leader, Witness and Commander.

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me..." (John 10:27).

TOUGH NUT TO CRACK

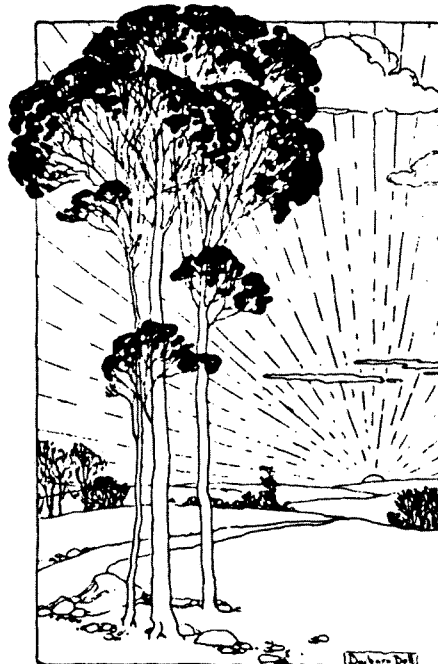
Last Fall I had the opportunity to help clean up all the walnuts that had fallen in Bill Sheldon's yard. There were six of us and the job went quickly. Bill offered to make a donation to the Y.P.C.L. but we decided that his delicious hot chocolate and his prayers for us were more than enough compensation. His warm smile and the joy you can only find when you are serving another left with us that afternoon.

I had never harvested walnuts before so the afternoon was a learning experience for me. Growing up in the desert I learned how to harvest water from a cactus instead. Well, I thought I would tell you the things that were on my mind concerning this new frontier as a letter to the *Advocate*.

It is written that we shall be known by our fruits. Sitting in Church last Sunday I guess I was concerned for all the onions and walnuts in attendance. Buzz gave a sermon once about how we are all a little bit like an onion (bear with me), in that God has to keep peeling off the layers that are inedible, even though it may hurt or make us cry a little bit, in order to get to the fruit in the center of all of us. My heart and prayers, however, go out to all the walnuts in the world.

I hope I never fall away from the tree of life and lie there decom-

posing in the world, subject to all the elements it has to lure us away. There are those whose hearts have been callused, and being bruised too



PATHLIGHTS

many times they've buried their good fruit within an impregnable shell. Many of these people are with us in our services every week. They are with us because God has reached out to them with powerful hands. With the tiniest fissures in their shells He has worked with their broken hearts and contrite spirits and now we all benefit from the fruits therein. I think the Apostle Paul is the best example of a walnut.

I remember growing up

watching cartoons after school with Jared Ely when I picked up one of Kathy's walnuts she had on the coffee table. I squeezed as hard as I could for half an hour during one of my less favorite shows and I couldn't crack it. Not even when I put the nutcracker down and pushed on my chin and forehead with my free hands (I had a big mouth back then). So I put the nut back in the dish.

If God ever thinks I taste like an onion or a walnut I hope He sends someone a lot stronger than I was to crack my shell. Meanwhile, I'll try to feast on the fruits of the spirit, and when the world starts to drive me nuts: I'll buy a big can of cashews (they come from cans, right?) and think about Kathy's walnut so long ago.

Some of our members have been through hardships I could never endure and they've put behind them the things in this world I still struggle with. I look up to and rely on your faith and example.

*Sincerely,
Daniel Malone*

ADVERTISEMENT

PROSPECTIVE CIT'S

It may seem odd to say; however, Teen Challenge 2003 is fast approaching. We are calling out to all prospective CIT's who would like to take the Challenge and sign up for Camp.

It may seem early to sign up for camp; however, we need your help from the very start of this important service. As taken from Mosiah 1:49: "...that ye may learn that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings, ye are only in the service of your God." We are CHALLENGING you to be in SERVICE of your God. WE NEED YOU!!! Below are a few details that relate to Camp:

WHEN IS CAMP?

Camp will be held this year from July 27th through August 1st, 2003.

HOW DO YOU SIGN UP?

That is the easy part. Please e-mail Bro. Bob Hedrick at (bobnliza@juno.com), or call at (602) 494-9661.

WHEN DO YOU NEED TO SIGN UP BY?

We are asking that you sign up to be a CIT no later than May 10th. We need your help in setting up classes, and taking part in the planning process of Camp.

DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS GREAT OPPORTUNITY! Additionally, be thinking about any suggestions or ideas that you may have for a class at Camp!

Don't delay; sign up today! We look forward to seeing you there!

May God Bless,

Brothers Robert Hedrick and Jeff Oldham

P. S. Keep in mind the Camp Theme for this year:

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" 1 Peter 3:15.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESOLUTION FOR THE 2003 SOLEMN ASSEMBLY

The Council of Apostles recommends for adoption the following: Be it resolved that a Solemn Assembly be held at the Temple Lot the two days preceding the April Ministers' Conference, on **April 4th and 5th, 2003**, and that the Council of Apostles submit the specific purpose of this assembly to

the *Zion's Advocate* for publication by January 2003. Resolved, that all members of this Church of Christ, who are hindered by circumstances beyond their control from assembling on the Temple Lot, are encouraged to dedicate the same period to fasting and prayer in their locals or in their homes, that

the whole Church may be united in one heart and one mind.

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

APRIL MINISTERS' CONFERENCE 2003

As instructed by the 1964 April Ministers' Conference, be advised that the 2003 April Ministers' Conference will begin on **Monday, April 7, 2003**; "Conference Sunday," beginning **Sunday, April 6, 2003**. The first business session will begin at **9:00 a.m. Monday, April 7, 2003**, at the General Church Building on the Temple Lot. According to action taken during the 2002 April Ministers' Conference, Solemn Assembly will be held **Friday, April 4th**, and **Saturday, April 5th, 2003**, 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 desiring to be placed before the 2003 April Ministers' Conference be forwarded in advance of the first business meeting so that document packets may be completed for distribution.

The mailing address for the above requested

information is:

**Harvey E. Seibel,
April Ministers'
Conference Secretary
9800 E. 32nd Street S.
Independence, MO
64052**

*Your Brother in the Lord's
Work,
Harvey E. Seibel,
2003 April Ministers'
Conference Secretary
Church of Christ
(Temple Lot)*

ANNOUNCEMENT

Resolution for the 2003 Solemn Assembly

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Council of Apostles wishes to submit the following purpose for the 2003 Solemn Assembly to be held on the Temple Lot on April 4th and 5th, in accordance with the instructions given us by the 2002 April Ministers' Conference.

Throughout history the people of the church have been called to fast and pray concerning some of the needs of their day. Moroni 6:6 tells us, "And the church did meet together oft, to fast and to pray, and to speak one with another concerning the welfare of their souls...." We are living in a time of great promises, many concerns, and several needs. We desire that each of you would join with us in remembering several items of great importance in this dispensation of time.

The scriptures tell us that we are living in perilous times. The world is ever encroaching on the Church of Christ, and we are engaged in a fierce battle to keep from being overcome by it. Let us pray for each other, our marriages, our families, and the whole church that we might have the strength of God to be victorious in this battle, and to be able to reject this world and attain a more Godly life.

There has been a continual need for additional ministry in the Church since it was first established by Christ. The Church of Christ is no different today as we see and feel a great need for additional ministry in every office of the priesthood. Christ commanded the Church long ago to bring this need up in prayer. Luke 10:2: "Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest." Let us pray and fast for the great need we have for ministry, and let's pray that the Lord would be preparing the hearts of men for this great responsibility, and that He would use His servants to make the call according to His time and purpose.

The Lord has been pouring out His blessings on us, and we have been receiving more contacts desiring to know more about us as a Church. Some of these contacts are in foreign fields where it will take a great amount of time and finances to visit and reach out more fully to them. The Council of Apostles and traveling ministry need discernment as to which contacts we need to expend more of our efforts upon, and we need to be directed by the Lord in our efforts to spread the gospel to all the world. Let's pray that the Lord will bless our efforts to spread the gospel, and give us discernment and wisdom that we might labor within His great plan, and not in our own strength. Let us pray further that the Lord would empower us with the gifts of His Spirit and show forth His power in our ministrations to our people and the world.

It is our earnest hope that as many as are able will join with us and remember these needs in fasting and prayer on April 4th and 5th, and as often as possible.

In gospel bonds,

The Council of Apostles

OBITUARY

Doris Lena Housknecht

October 6, 1916—January 5, 2003

Sister Doris Lena Housknecht passed from this life on January 5, 2003, at the age of 86. She was born Doris Lena Sager on October 6, 1916, at Flint, Michigan, to Louis and Sarah Sager. Doris grew up in Flint with one older sister, Florence Temple, and two younger twin brothers, Rolland and Raymond, who preceded her in death.

Doris was baptized into the Church of Christ on June 9, 1929, and was a faithful member and devoted to her Heavenly Father throughout her life. She was an active member of the Flint local with the youth group and other church sponsored activities as a young girl, and later served as pianist.

As a young woman, Doris worked in her father's furniture store, and in 1935 graduated from Northern High School with honors magna cum laude.

She met her future husband, Don W. Housknecht, through Church, and on April 15, 1939, they were united in marriage. From this union were born five children—Donna Jeanne (Gill-Green), Victor Wade, Barbara Carole (Kimball), Gary Alan and Rhea Kaye. Don and Doris were blessed with 11 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren (with 2 more under construction). One granddaughter, Nicole Leanne Housknecht, preceded her in death.



When Doris married Don he was already a minister in the Church of Christ, and in 1950 was called to the office of apostle. At this time they had three children and one on the way. Doris became the primary caretaker of five children and financial support as Don devoted many years to traveling in the missionary field. Doris did what she could to support the family by taking in laundry and ironing. Doris was an accomplished seamstress, making most of the children's clothes, including Donna and Barbara's wedding dresses and bridesmaid dresses. As the children grew older Doris eventually started work at a local supermarket as

a cashier until 1973, when she and Don moved to Phoenix, Arizona. Upon arriving in Phoenix, Doris found employment with McGraw-Edison Company and retired five years later.

Doris will be remembered affectionately as a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and friend. She was a very patient and soft-spoken woman and was a strong influence in the lives of her children by the way she lived her life. She had a wonderful sense of humor which came in handy with five children and a husband who loved to tease her.

Don preceded Doris in death on October 5, 1992, after 53 years of marriage. Eventually Doris moved into a new home near the Phoenix local with her daughter Rhea where she lived until our Heavenly Father took her home.

She had a special way that warmed the hearts of everyone who knew her and qualities that made her the wonderful person she was, and has left us all with many beautiful memories. Our Heavenly Father is caring for her now as tenderly and lovingly as she always cared for her family.

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The **2003 Ministers' Conference** (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 6. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 7. A **Solemn Assembly** will be held prior to the conference, on April 4 & 5. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

The **2003 Ministers' Conference** (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, August 4, 5 and 6, at Independence, Missouri.

CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

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

Zion's Advocate Subscription Rate:	Price Each†
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Apostasy from the New Testament Church	Evidences of the Book of Mormon
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Baptism for the Dead—A Fallacy	God's Purpose in America
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	Synopsis, A (Compares beliefs of three Restoration churches)
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Church of Christ

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Allow adequate advance time for handling and shipping, and for your own preview of the programs. Write to the AVVAA Committee, Church of Christ, P.O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472.

LAMP UNTO MY FEET, A (32 minutes)—Directed specifically toward American Indian viewers, compiled from three other programs.

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Complete set narrating the King James Version of the Bible New Testament and a set of the entire Book of Mormon. Write to Dan Lawrence, 8420 Lee's Summit Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64139. Specify which set is desired and the estimated length of time you expect to use it.

SERMONS ON AUDIO & VIDEO CASSETTE TAPES

For a sermon on cassette tape write to Dan Lawrence, 8420 Lee's Summit Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64139; on video tape contact your local missionary.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS

Send orders for Sunday School materials to Debbie Vogel, 403 West Colonel Drive, Independence, Missouri 64050. All materials are free of charge to members of the Church of Christ, except as noted. Donations will be accepted to cover postage.

Bible Stories to Grow By—52 Lessons about God and Jesus for ages 5-7

Book in the Stone Box, The—About the Book of Mormon

Church History for Juniors—Includes a Teacher's Guide

Jesus' Life and Teachings—4 Quarterlies for ages 8-10

Who Am I?—Bible game on cards; free to Sunday Schools/\$1.30 to individuals.