

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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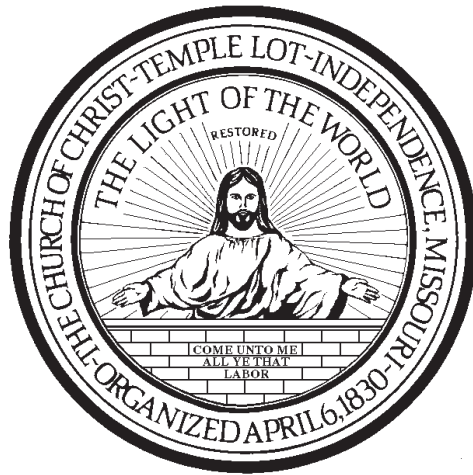


*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are
passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

2 Corinthians 5:17

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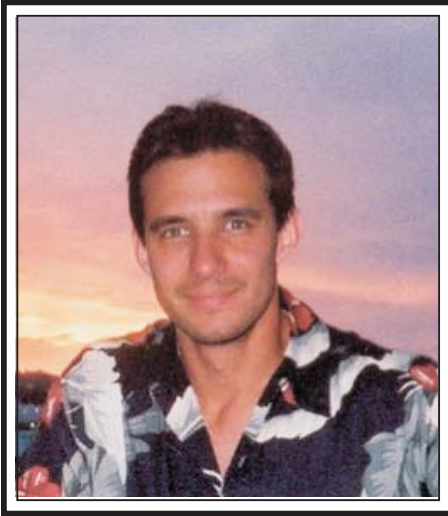
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ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

To promote Jesus Christ as our only Saviour;
 To promote His Teachings and His Church, the Church of Christ;
 To be a voice of warning to His people; to be Zion's advocate.

ARTICLE

Endure to the End



By Elder Rich Bove

A few weeks ago I did a sermon on a very important question that brothers and sisters are thinking, asking, or applying to their everyday lives - "Do I need religion in my life? If I have it in my life, will I endure to keep my covenant with God for the rest of my life?" This, brothers and sisters, is not an easy task set before us, but the reward, if we endure to the end, is eternal life. What a beautiful reward.

Before I entered into the waters of baptism the only religion I had in my life was an occasional wedding or funeral I went to at a church. I believed there was a God, but knew absolutely nothing about Him, or anything written in the Bible. Before religion came into my life, I led a lifestyle God would

not approve of. I was not aware of the life that God had planned for me. A lot of events in our lives happen every day, every minute, every second; some we can explain, while others we can't figure out why they happened. God knows...God knows your very life—year-by-year, day-by-day, and hour-by-hour. What happens in your life is God's will. He has a divine plan for each one of us. Ask yourself the question: "Are you willing to endure to the end?" or "Are you willing to give up on God?"

I would like to share a quick testimonial I gave at the Phoenix Reunion. During Desert Storm I was involved in a mid-air collision with a fighter jet. The fighter instantly crashed into the ocean right after the pilot ejected. He was recovered 3 1/2 hours later. Our refueling tanker lost 22 square feet off of its wingtip, our #4 engine was lost, and we were severely losing fuel and hydraulic fluid. Our aircraft went inverted, then in a dive straight toward the ocean. I remember praying to God to save us from a horrific death.

At that very moment, it was as though God's hand came down and grabbed our aircraft and took control, bringing us out of that dive. I thanked God for sparing our lives that day. The most terrible thing out of that whole incident was after

we had been saved only one of the seven had religion in their lives. That was the navigator; after the recovery he opened up his Bible and read. I didn't know what he was reading at the time.

That prayer I said was the only time I introduced religion into my life; how sad that was. Eleven years passed by before I stepped foot on another aircraft. I then met my wife, Karen. Her dad was a minister at our Treasure Valley Local. At that time having no religion in my life did not set well with me, but God had a plan for me that I did not know until recently.

It would have been easy for Him to give up on this world, but He didn't. Could you imagine if He did?

God did not give up on me throughout my life, nor will I give up on Him now. We have the free will to give up on religion, and we also have the free will to take upon us the name of Christ and endure to the end for ultimate salvation.

When Jesus walked upon the earth, He knew our sins, knew good from bad, and knew the sacrifice He would make for us. It would have been easy for Him to give up on this world, but He didn't. Could you imagine if He did? Where would we be if He had not endured to the end?

2 Nephi 6:44 *Oh how great the holiness of our God! For he knoweth all things, and there is not anything save he knows it.*

God knows the plan of our lives from the day we were born until the day we die. There is nothing we do that He does not already know. God has a special plan for all of us.

2 Nephi 6:45 *And he cometh into the world that he may save all men, if they will hearken unto his voice;*

Revelation 3:20-22 *Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.*

2 Nephi 6:46-50 *For behold, he suffereth the pains of all men: yea, the pains of every living creature, men, women, and children, who belong to the family of Adam. And he suffereth this, that the resurrection might pass upon all men, that all might stand before him at the great and judgment day. And he commandeth all men that they must repent, and be baptized in his name, having perfect faith in the Holy One of Israel, or they cannot be saved in the kingdom of God. And if they will not repent and believe in his name, and be baptized in his name, and endure to the end, they must be damned; For the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, has spoken it;*

Jesus knew the task before Him; He didn't give up; as hard as it was He was faithful to God; He endured.

He let us know we must repent of our sins and continue to be faithful also. Jesus told His disciples what we must do, and for how long, and the rewards given to the faithful. Jesus, talking to His disciples, said:

3 Nephi 12:18 *Have they not read the scriptures, which say, Ye must take upon you the name of Christ, which is my name? for by this name shall ye be called at the last day; and whoso taketh upon him my name, and endureth to the end, the same shall be saved at the last day.*

3 Nephi 12:27-32 *That as I have been lifted up by men, even so should men be lifted up by the Father, to stand before me, to be judged of their works, whether they be good or whether they be evil; And for this cause have I been lifted up; therefore, according to the power of the Father, I will draw all men unto me, that they may be judged according to their works. And it shall come to pass, that whoso repenteth and is baptized in my name, shall be filled; and if he endureth to the end, behold, him will I hold guiltless before my Father, at that day when I shall stand to judge the world. And he that endureth not unto the end, the same is he that is also hewn down and cast into the fire, from whence they can no more return, because of the justice of the Father: and this is the word which he hath given unto the children of men. And for this cause he fulfilleth the words which he hath given, and he lieth not, but fulfilleth all his words; and no unclean thing can enter into his kingdom; Therefore nothing entereth into his rest, save it be those who have washed their garments in my blood, because of their faith, and the repentance of all their sins, and their faithfulness unto the end.*

Jesus also knew that taking upon you the name of Christ would not be easy. We as Christians will be hated by others, but through Him we can overcome the hardships in our everyday lives.

Matthew 24:9-13 *Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*

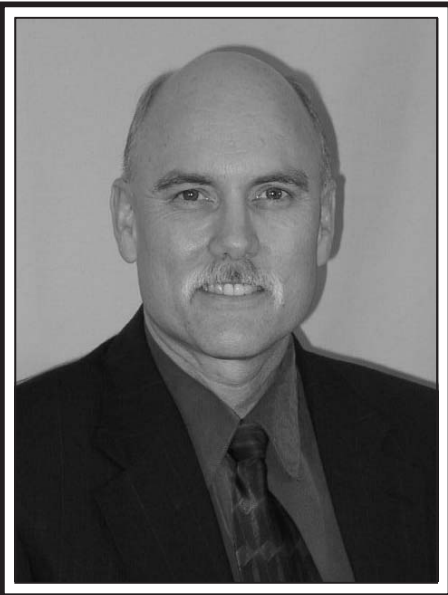
In this beautiful scripture, Jesus tells us just how to present ourselves and repent of our sins.

3 Nephi 12:19 *And behold I have given you the law and the commandments of my Father, that ye shall believe in me, and that ye shall repent of your sins, and come unto me with a broken heart and a contrite spirit.*

My beloved brothers and sisters, we are faced with many challenges throughout our lives, some good, some bad. Most of us accepted the Lord into our lives and have accepted the challenges of life. It is not enough to just go to church on Sunday and repent of our sins that we did throughout the week. We must know forever that Christ is our Savior. All He is asking of us is to repent of our sins, hold true to the faith and endure to the end. What a wonderful reward awaits us all if we do.

HABARI YAKO WADUGU NA WADADA!

(WHAT IS YOUR NEWS, BROTHERS AND SISTERS?)



By Elder Gordon McCann

The above title is the formal greeting (in the Swahili language) that would be used by a member of the Church of Christ when encountering a group of fellow members here in Kenya and in the east coast countries of the African continent.

I found out quickly that you are greeted in the most affectionate way, with a warm handshake and many times a handshake and hug at the same time. There is no doubt left in the mind of the receiver that you are truly a part of their lives, brothers and sisters in Christ.

Apostle Brian McIndoo invited me to accompany him to Africa for a month where we were to travel to the countries of the Congo, Zambia, Uganda, and Kenya. Prior to leaving for Africa we found that we could not obtain visas for the Congo and our contact in Zambia did not respond back to Brother Brian's email so our original plan had to be changed. Our time in Africa would now be spent meeting with our contact in Uganda, visiting many of the locals and missions in Kenya, and meeting with a new contact among the Maasai bordering the Kisii land where many of our church membership live.

After 28 hours of traveling we arrived in Nairobi (the capital city of Kenya) and found our hotel to rest for the night. The next morning we picked up our vehicle, took advantage of a large modern grocery store by purchasing those items that would be difficult to find in the smaller villages, and then we began our six-hour road trip to Kisii where home base would be for the coming month's activities. As we reached the outskirts of the city I spotted a small band of baboons sitting as sentries along the roadway welcoming us to the land that lay



before us. The road led us off of the high plateau down into arid



flat lands called the Mara and we soon were able to spot zebra,

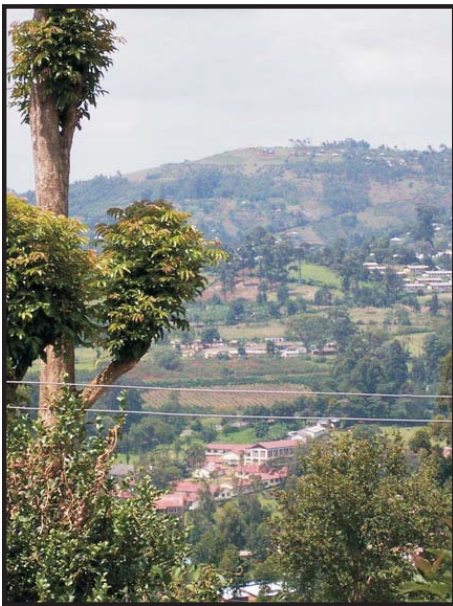


gazelle and giraffe along the roadside. Once we traveled through the Mara we began to climb up into rolling mountains and we soon entered Kisii land,

which is very fertile due to the abundance of rain. The evidence could be seen in the variety of trees, bushes and other types of lush green vegetation, along with the crops that the people were cultivating in their fields. We finally entered the



modest town of Kisii and climbed the last rough dirt road up on the side of a hill to our rented residence overlooking the city which we would call home while in Africa. The next



morning, after making a few phone calls, a meeting was scheduled for the following day with Elders Moses Ohuru, Michael Otero, and with Margaret Moraa, who functions as the church coordinator to set our agenda for our stay in Africa.

Our first Sunday in Africa, and our first scheduled appointment, was to travel to the Kineni Local to hold services. The drive to the local takes just over an hour on pavement and dirt road to the base of a small mountain where we park the vehicle. Now we have a ten to fifteen minute walk (depending on your physical shape and weather conditions) upon a small path through corn fields and bushes used as land boundaries for small farms. The path



leads up and over to the other side of the hill to where the church building is located. The



Kineni Local was the first Church of Christ local organized in Africa on October 15, 2000. Elder Moses Ohuru is the current pastor, and he had invited us to come and preach. Brother Brian was quick to observe the commandments of the Lord by “preferring his brother,” so I delivered the first of the two sermons offered that

day.

We entered the church to the sweet voices of the congregation singing songs anticipating our arrival. Once inside, a



few more songs were called for and then the service began with prayer. More songs were called for and time was provided for formal introductions and greetings, along with several testimonies and special songs from the children and young people. I then was given opportunity to speak to the congregation, followed by more songs and testimonies. A final prayer was offered to close the services.

We broke for lunch where the people had prepared us their traditional meal of boiled meat, rice, beans, boiled kale that was finely chopped, and ugali (steamed corn flour made into a paste). After our meal,



hot tea with milk and sugar (already added) was served, along with some good fellowship with our family in Christ. Another

service began, along with more songs, specials, greetings, testimonies and a sermon from Brother Brian.

As we started our walk back over the hill to our parked vehicle we saw the clouds building up, preparing to drop their nourishing moisture on the fields. The rain did not come until after we got into our vehicle for our drive off of the mountain back to our home.

Our next trip was to Uganda, which took one very long day of driving on some very rough and dangerous roads. We observed several trucks in ditches turned on their sides next to the roadway, stark reminders of the dangers that exist. Obstacles in the road such as various sizes of potholes, wondering animals, people, and on-coming traffic that invariably end up on your side of the roadway because they are either passing other vehicles or avoiding the same obstacles that you will soon have to avoid.



The roadways are not maintained; consequently, large potholes have developed in the asphalt. In some areas there are more holes in the street than pavement, and side roads are made by the traffic to avoid the cavernous potholes.

Our contact lived on the outskirts of Uganda's capital city of Kampala. The city borders Lake Victoria, which is the second largest fresh water lake in the world. We crossed over a bridge just before entering the city of Kampala where we could see the headwaters of the great Nile River. We spent a day and a



half discussing the gospel, the foundation of the Church of Christ, and the history of the Book of Mormon to Francis (our contact). Francis is a leader of three congregations located in the city of Busia, which borders Uganda and Kenya. We were able to clarify our differences between the other restoration factions, and answered his questions that relieved much of his fears concerning the teachings of the Book of Mormon. We left Francis with a copy of the Book of Mormon and he left us with a promise to read the book and to maintain correspondence with Brother Brian. The time had come to leave Kampala and to endure another day's journey back home to Kisii.

After a day of rest to do some laundry we began a two-day journey to the east coast of Kenya to a city called Mombasa. Mombasa sits on the

Indian Ocean where the weather can be very warm and humid. As with the trip to



Uganda, the roads were no different, maybe in some places even worse, especially approaching the city of Mombasa. The road descends a steep mountain and the road cannot be described, only experienced. When you arrive at the hotel you are ready to rest.

We have six baptized members with children who meet on a regular basis. There were more people who were interested and meeting with them but have not come because of persecution. Mombasa has a strong following of the Muslim faith and who are quite active in the area. Our members are in need of our prayers that they may continue to stay firm in the faith. Even though there were few members we had a very good meeting with songs, testimonies, and greetings. I pro-



vided the sermon for the day. After our services we visited with our brothers and sisters and returned to the hotel.

The following day we packed our bags and started our return trip to Kisii. When traveling to Mombasa from Kisii you must past through the city of Nairobi. We had scheduled a church service with our members of the Nairobi local upon our return trip from Mombasa. The time for our meeting was set without our input and the congregation expected us at 2 p.m., but leaving Mombasa by 8 a.m. we still did not arrive in Nairobi until 4:30 p.m. We were contacted by phone and one of our brothers of the Nairobi local agreed to meet us at our hotel and be our escort through the hectic and congested city streets of Nairobi. After driving



through the heart of Nairobi, which took us a good hour, we finally arrived at the local around 6:30 p.m. to find our brothers and sisters patiently waiting and singing songs to pass the time. Again we had the opening songs, greetings and testimonies, and then Brother Brian was introduced as the speaker of the hour. The congregation in Nairobi has outgrown their meeting place that they have

been renting and are presently looking for a larger place that they can grow into. Now that is faith! What they lack in funds they make up for in faith.

We left our brothers and sisters in Nairobi the following day and traveled home to Kisii to prepare for our next scheduled event, two days of Advanced Leadership training.

We met our brothers, sixteen hand-selected men who have been zealous in the work by displaying a great desire to learn and teach the gospel, and our brothers of the priesthood who have the overall care of approximately two thousand members who are scattered throughout Kenya. Our



brothers of the priesthood attended as well so we had a very good group to meet with. Brother Brian has been providing specific advanced meetings to assist in their understanding of the teachings of the Church of Christ. Prior to leaving Phoenix, Brother Brian asked me to prepare my study on the Godhead to be presented during these advanced meetings. I occupied the first day presenting the Godhead and fielding their questions. I felt the Spirit of the Lord in our meetings and could see how the Lord was working

with this group of men who have chosen to follow their Lord and the truth of the gospel. The following day Brother Brian conducted a class on the Book of Commandments, and also what the scriptures teach concerning the responsibilities of husbands to their wives, wives to their husbands, and parents to their children.

Our schedule for the day after our leader's meetings took us to two missions in the Kisii area. First stop was the Risa Mission where we have a church building and a large congregation where close to two hundred people meet. After all



of the beautiful songs, special presentations, testimonies and greetings I presented the words that the Lord helped me to prepare the night before, and the service concluded. The opportunity to feed missionaries is never missed by our people in Kenya and so we were directed to our seats and were served with all the love and care one could imagine.

After lunch we were off to visit the Bobaracho mission where we found a beautiful little church located upon a small hill off of the side of the road. There are more than fifty people who meet there on a regular

basis. What is unique of the



Bobaracho mission is the people got together and built their church building with their own hands and funds. When the songs and the customary introductions were concluded Brother Brian delivered the message of the hour. After the preaching service Brother Brian and I were given the opportunity to bless four little children.

Brother Brian's long awaited invitation to the Maasai land had arrived and so we picked up our two Elders Moses and Michael, Sister Margaret and several of our leaders and headed to our contact, whose name was Paul. Paul and some of his family had attended the Kineni local and had asked Brother Moses to schedule a meeting with us at his home. After several hours of driving we left the pavement and turned onto a dirt road just before we reached the small town of Kilgoris. We traveled down the dirt road until it became a cow path and then just small open fields that were sectioned off by the owners of the properties. Eventually we stopped at the edge of a cornfield not far from a cluster of trees and a couple of huts, we had arrived at



our destination. Paul had placed some chairs and makeshift benches made out of flat wooden boards for the seating arrangements, and a small table was set in front of us for our books. After Paul had introduced us to his family and relatives that had gathered for the meeting he strategically seated us under the shade of the cluster of trees. Brother Brian was



asked to speak so he delivered the gospel message restored along with the teachings of the foundation of the Church of Christ. After the service Paul was presented several Book of Mormons for him to read and share with others. Paul expressed his pleasure with what he had heard and was already making mental preparations as to how we would come to the interior of the Maasai land with him to present the restored gospel to the elders of his people. Being a gracious host, Paul ush-

ered us into one of the huts for our afternoon meal. We were served rice, boiled potatoes, boiled meat and the thick fried flour tortillas. The traditional tea with milk and sugar followed the main course, along with some fresh bread. We left Paul's place knowing that we would be back soon to enjoy his company again and to share more of the gospel of Christ with him and his family.

The following day we traveled to the Misisita local where Elder Michael is the pastor. Brother Michael has been busy in that area and the membership has outgrown their temporary building where they have been holding services. They are now busy building a larger building close by to accommodate the added growth. Brother



Michael took us on a tour of the new structure and made a promise that upon our next trip to Kenya we would be holding services in the new building.

There were several special songs performed by the several Sunday school classes. Brother Michael's wife Anna is the Sunday school teacher and had all of the young people (close to fifty children) participating either by answering scripture questions, reciting a memory



verse, or singing songs.

After the introductions and a few words from Teacher Peter Moses, Elder Moses, several of the leaders who were in attendance and Pastor Michael, Brother Brian introduced me as the speaker of the hour. At the conclusion of the services we were served a meal, and then we were presented with six children to bless and two people requested administration.

Our next trip took us to the Nyamtumbwa Mission, which is located at the edge of Kisii land that borders the Maasai land. Half of the drive is on a



paved road and the other half is dirt that winds around small villages and farms, gradually climbing to the top of a mountain. Once parked, we took a steep trail to the top of the mountain that overlooks the forested rolling mountains of Kisii land. As you continue to take in your view the forests dis-



appear and the mountains become more rounded and taper off to the low lands of the Maasai. Brother Evans is the leader for this group of about thirty-five people. They had built a square structure of lodge poles that supported a grass-covered roof with no walls. The traditional songs



and introductions were made and the young people offered several special songs. Brother Brian greeted the congregation and introduced me as the first speaker of the day. After my sermon several songs were offered and then Brother Brian delivered his message to the people. We administered to Brother Evans' father and then closed our service. A thunderstorm that had been building during Brother Brian's sermon struck as we said our last amen! We quickly took shelter, where we all were fed a delicious meal before leaving the mountain

top.

The last congregation that was on our hectic schedule to visit was the Sia Mission. Again

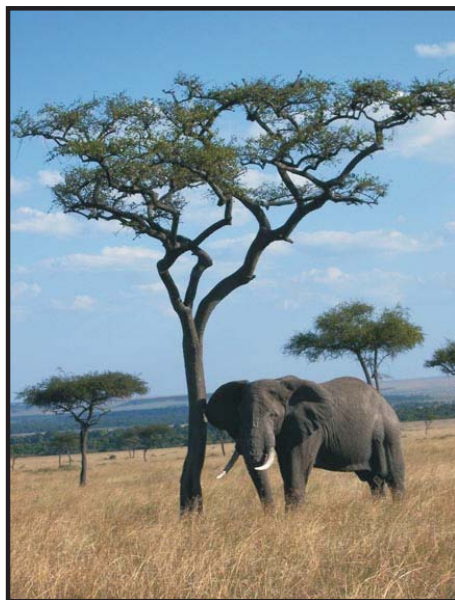


the trip took almost two hours; half of the drive was on paved road and the other half was dirt that wound around small villages and farms. Our people were assembled under a lodge pole structure covered with banana leaves to shade them from the sun. We were treated to a gracious greeting from the congregation, testimonies, and then songs from our young people. I was introduced as the speaker and was led to share a few of my testimonies and delivered the message that God had impressed upon my heart for His people that day. After our meeting we were all invited to have lunch where we were served the traditional meal and we all enjoyed our fill of delicious food and fellowship. Brian and I blessed several babies before we left, and to my surprise one of the little ones was named after me, which I found very humbling.

The time had come to get our things together and do some chores around the house before leaving. It was hard to believe that almost a month had passed by since our arrival in Africa. I



had an opportunity to stop and reflect upon all the wonderful



experiences that I had during the 30-hour flight back home to

Phoenix, Arizona. I was thankful to have had the opportunity to go and visit some of the missions in Africa, but was disappointed to have not been able to visit them all. The people in Africa had become a part of me and I believe I have become a part of them, in the Brotherhood of Christ.

*Kwa herini Wadugu na Wadada,
(Good-Bye, Brothers and Sisters)
Ndugu Gordon*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

APRIL MINISTERS' CONFERENCE 2005

As instructed by the 1964 April Ministers' Conference be advised that the 2005 April Ministers' Conference will begin on Monday, April 4, 2005; "Conference Sunday," will be Sunday, April 3, 2005. The first business session will begin at 9:00 a.m. Monday, April 4, 2005, at the General Church Building on the Temple Lot. According to action taken during the 2004 April Ministers' Conference, Solemn Assembly will be held Friday, April 1st, and Saturday, April 2nd,

2005, 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 2005 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:

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*Your brother in the Lord's work,
Harvey E. Seibel,
2004 April Ministers'
Conference Secretary
Church of Christ*

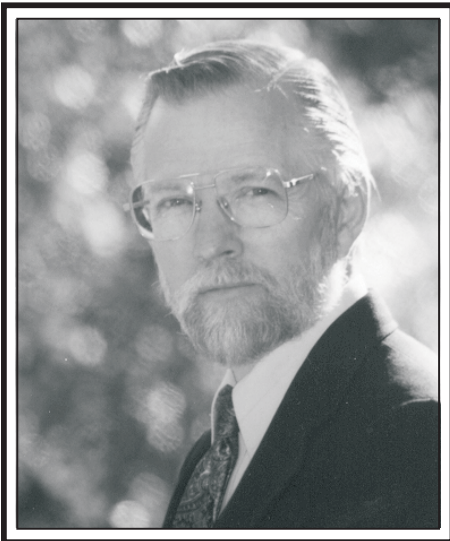
2004 REFERENDUM RESULTS

■ Bill # 1 1784 for 22 opposed. Bill # 2 1752 for and 3 opposed.

THE GREAT APOSTASY AND THE RESTORATION

ATTENTION YOUNG PEOPLE AND OTHER INQUIRERS AFTER THE TRUTH

PERTAINING TO THE CHURCH OF CHRIST WITH HEADQUARTERS IN INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI
THE ONLY CHURCH ESTABLISHED THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF ANGELS



By Harvey E. Seibel

Have you ever thought, “Why is our Church any different or better than any other church?” Or, “What difference does it make what church I join—don’t they all basically teach the same thing? And if they do, then why does it matter which church I join?” If these or similar questions have caused you to wonder about these things, perhaps the information below can give you



PART 1

a reason by which you may judge for yourself of these questions.

The best way to begin is by going to God’s word. Our Lord Jesus Christ came to the earth about 2000 years ago as a Babe in the manger. He came to bring salvation to His people, as well as to everyone that would believe and repent and be baptized in His name. He also called special servants, called apostles, and other ministry, and commanded them to preach the gospel in all the world. In this way He established His church among them.

But what happened to that church? Did it continue down until our day?

Have you ever thought, “Why is our Church any different or better than any other church?” Or, “What difference does it make what church I join—don’t they all basically teach the same thing?”

THE WARNING FROM PAUL AND CHRIST

THE WORDS OF THE PROPHETS
CONCERNING A COMING APOSTASY

If we go to Acts 20:28-31 we read:

“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you

overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears" (Acts 20:28-31).

Paul is warning the ministry that enemies will enter among them (the church) and destroy the people. These would be false teachers who would lead the people astray. Jesus also warned of this in Matthew 11:12:

*"And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and **the violent take it by force.**"*

Now we can be sure that the wicked could never take the kingdom of heaven, where God is, by force. Yes, there was war in heaven between Michael and Satan, but Satan lost that war and was cast down to the earth along with his angels. So the kingdom in Matthew 11:12 must mean His earthly kingdom, His church.

Paul again warns of the taking of this earthly kingdom in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12:

"Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our

gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

*"Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For **the mystery of iniquity doth already work:** only he who now letteth will let, **until he be taken out of the way.**"*

*"And **then shall that Wicked be revealed,** whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who be-*

lieved not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

This may be a little hard to understand, but perhaps we can make it plain. Paul is telling the people of the church that before Christ would come again there would first come a falling away, or a departure, from the faith. Then one called the 'man of sin' would appear and sit in the temple (the church) of God, claiming to be God. Paul goes on to say that this 'mystery of iniquity' was already at work in his day, but a power was at that time preventing its appearing. But when that hindering power was removed then he, the man of sin, would appear.

The phrase above, 'he who now letteth will let' is a bit confusing. The terms 'letteth' and 'let' mean 'to hinder,' which is the opposite of their meaning today, which is 'to permit.' It is an obsolete English form. So when the power which hindered or prevented the appearance of this 'man of sin' is removed, we can expect to see the fulfillment of this prophecy.

For the sake of brevity we will cite only a few sources to show the fulfillment of each part of this prophecy. These sources will generally be taken from outside the restoration; that is, from Protestant, Catholic or other sources predating the Restoration movement. God has provided much evidence in support of this work.

THE DESCENT INTO
APOSTASY

Question 1 - *Was this mystery of iniquity indeed already at work in Paul's day?*

"We have been apt to imagine that the primitive church was all excellence and perfection! And such without all doubt the first Christian church, which commenced at the day of Pentecost was. But how soon did the fine gold become dim. How soon was the wine mixed with water! How little time elapsed before the god of this world so far regained his empire that Christians in general were scarce distinguishable from heathens save by their opinion and modes of worship. And if the state of the church in the very first century was so bad we cannot suppose it was any better in the second. Undoubtedly it grew worse" (*John Wesley, sermon 66*).

Question 2 - *What was the hindering power that for a time prevented the manifestation of that Wicked called the Man of Sin?*

Tertullian, who flourished towards the end of the second century, says:

"Now the mystery of iniquity worketh, only he who letteth will let till he be taken out of the way. **WHAT IS THIS BUT THE ROMAN EMPIRE**" (*De Resurr. Carnis, chap. 24*,

cited in The Fall of Babylon, p. 91).

The early Christians were well aware of this in their day, for they knew that what was preventing the rise of the 'man of sin' was their own Roman Government. They even prayed for Rome's continuance, even though they were being persecuted by that power, because they knew that when Rome fell another power much more sinister and much more dangerous would rise to take its place. They did not want to see that take place in their lifetime. And so we further read,

"Christians are under a particular necessity of praying for the Emperor (of Rome) and for the continued state of the empire; because we know that dreadful power which hangs over the world, and the conclusion of the age (of primitive Christianity) which threatens the most horrible evils, is restrained by the continuance of the time appointed by the Roman Empire' (Tertullian's Apology, chapter 32)" (*ibid., p. 92*).

Question 3 - *Who was that Wicked or 'man of sin' that was to appear upon the fall of the Roman Empire?*

"Doctor Collir, in his outlines of General History, pp. 69, 70, says: 'Side by side with the Lombard kingdom and the Exarchate, a power had been growing up at Rome, destined to a life and influ-

ence incalculably greater than these. **THIS WAS THE PAPAL POWER**'" (*ibid., p. 94*).

"Take first the case of the reformer Luther. Early in the year 1520, he wrote to Spalatinus thus: 'I am extremely distressed in my mind. I have not much doubt but the pope is the real Antichrist. In the autumn of the same year he printed a treatise on the "Babylonish" Captivity of the Church...in this animated production Luther called the Papacy 'the kingdom of Babylon'" (*Romanism and the Reformation, p. 140*).

"All the other English reformers, including Latimer, Ri Cranmer, Bradford, and Jewell, held the pope of Rome to be the man of sin. So did John Knox in Scotland" (*ibid., p. 147*).

"The Westminster Confession of Faith endorsed the historical interpretation of prophecy and declared the Roman pontiff to be the predicted 'man of sin.'" (*Guiness: End of the Age, ibid., pp. 168*).

Ridley, the English reformer, wrote, "The see of Rome is the seat of Satan, and the bishop of the same, that maintaineth the abominations thereof, is Antichrist himself indeed" (*Romanism and the Reformation, p. 149*).

Question 4 - Part 1 - Did this man of sin sit in the temple of God?

“He is represented as seated in the temple or house of God; i.e. the Church, ‘the habitation of God through the Spirit,’ God’s dwelling-place—a sacred sphere, the most sacred on earth. There in the midst, exalted and enthroned, sits a sinful mortal, an enemy of God, a ‘man of sin,’ engaged in receiving from a multitude of deluded apostate Christians worshipful submission and adoration. Beneath him, like a dark cloud or vapour, out of which he has arisen, is a ‘mystery of iniquity’” (Romanism and the Reformation, p. 53).

“To Paul emphatically the temple of God was the Church of Christ. This is the temple in which his prophetic eye saw the man of sin seated. It is no question of his bodily location in any structure of wood and stone, but of something far higher. The temple of God is that ‘spiritual house’ in which He dwells. It is built of ‘living stones,’ of true believers. It is here that the man of sin was to usurp the place of God. This is the ‘mystery,’ the dread danger, the deadly evil, predicted by the Apostle. It is no person in a temple of stone, but a power in the Christian Church” (*ibid.*, p.

56).

Question 4 - Part 2 - Did this man of sin show himself to be God?

“In the summary of things concerning the dignity, authority, and infallibility of the pope, set forth by Boniface VIII, are these words: ‘The pope is of so great dignity and excellence, that he is not merely man, but as if God, and the vicar of God. The pope alone is called most holy, divine monarch, and supreme emperor, and king of kings. The pope is of so great dignity and power, and he constitutes one and the same tribunal with Christ, so that whatsoever the pope does seems to proceed from the mouth of God. The pope is as God on earth’ - Guinness; Romanism and the Reformation, pp. 25, 26 (*ibid.*, p. 56).

“Look at the Sicilian ambassadors prostrated before him (pope Martin IV) with the cry thrice repeated, ‘Lamb of God! that takes away the sins of the world!’ It was the famous Gerson’s declaration: ‘The people think of the pope as the one God that has power over all things in earth and heaven’” - Elliott’s *Horae Apocalypticae*, vol. 3, p. 189 (*ibid.*, p. 56).

“The bishop of Rome hath authority to judge all men and especially the arti-

cles of faith and that without any councils.... But no man hath authority to judge him.... It is not lawful for any man to dispute of his power.... The bishop of Rome may compel princes to receive his laws.... Forasmuch as he is called God he may be judged of no man, for God may be judged of no man.... He that acknowledgeth not himself to be under the bishop of Rome and that the bishop of Rome is ordained by God to have primacy over all the world, is a heretic and cannot be saved” *Cranmer’s Collection of Tenets from the Canon Law; History and Revelation*, vol. 3, p. 379, Reverend J. H. Braund (*ibid.*, pp. 56-57).

“All the names which are attributed to Christ in scripture, implying His supremacy over the Church are also attributed to the Pope” - Bellarmine, *On the Authority of Councils*, book 2, chapter 17; *In our Day*, p. 147 (*ibid.*, p. 57).

ANNOUNCEMENT

2005 SOLEMN ASSEMBLY

The purpose of the 2005 Solemn Assembly will be to bring ourselves closer to the Lord by dedicating our time and efforts in worshipping Him as described in Moroni 6:9: *"And their meetings were conducted by the church, after the manner of the workings of the Spirit, and by the power of the Holy Ghost; for as the power of the Holy Ghost led them whether to preach or exhort, or to pray, or to supplicate, or to sing, even so it was done."*

The needs of the Church of Christ today are many, but at this time we do not know what our specific needs will be at the appointed time on April 1, 2005. It is wisdom to allow the "workings of the Spirit" to dictate our order of service at the time that we meet. As in all occasions, we have reason to give special thanks and praise to God for His blessings throughout the year. This should be our primary purpose. We also should seek to give the Lord opportunity to give direction and guidance to His Church since He already knows our needs.

The Council of Apostles feels that we have allowed tradition to dictate the order of

service to the point that we have locked ourselves into a routine, which hinders the Spirit of God. We feel it is necessary to give greater freedom in our services as they did in times past and hope to be united in the Spirit. If there be those who have special requests for prayer or a special testimony, we feel opportunity should be given.

We feel those conducting the services have freedom to be led of the Spirit to give exhortation to the body, or to change the order of service to preaching, etc., with the wisdom and guidance of the Holy Ghost. Most especially we desire any spiritual gifts from God, which are given to edify the body, might have place in our services. This includes calls to the ministry, the gifts of tongues, revelation and prophecy, etc.

We encourage greater dedication and concentration on the activities of each meeting, especially when we pray. We feel respect for the occasion and the place of worship is of vital importance at all times. Every service should be done reverently with an eye single to the Glory of God, because we come before

Him. We should avoid entering or leaving the sanctuary during times of prayer and preaching. We realize there are needs which cannot wait, but we ask all to care for them quietly so as not to disturb the Spirit of the service. Remember the Lord has promised to be "in the midst" of his people when they meet in His name.

We suggest we come in an attitude of fasting and prayer, but if there are those who cannot fast from food we only ask that you come in a fast from the cares and the things of the world. There will be no meals served in the building during these special meetings.

We invite all to come in an attitude of repentance and humility, and participate in this special time of worship with the hope that we may experience the workings of the Spirit of God in our midst. If you cannot attend, please support the effort with your prayers, and may God bless you according to your special needs.

*Council of Apostles,
Church of Christ*

TREASURE VALLEY, IDAHO

Greetings from the Treasure Valley Local, located in Eagle, Idaho. We've had a lot of good things happen to our local since June that we would like to share with you. Just prior to our Idaho Reunion in June we were informed by Apostle Brian McIndoo of the possibility of callings at the Reunion and that we should prepare ourselves for these callings. This caused us much rejoicing, especially for Roy who has been ministering to the local for over 15 years, which can be a heavy burden to carry alone.

We had an excellent Reunion with weather that couldn't be better. We enjoyed Christian fellowship, campfires, and attended services to hear sermons by Elders Ken Oar, Bob Oldham, Priest Glenn Orsted and Apostle Rolland Sarratt. Apostles Joel Yates and Brian McIndoo led the Sacrament service and at the end of this service we were told that they felt there were two callings but for some unknown reason they were not yet to be given and that we should continue to prepare ourselves and seek to serve the Lord in whatever ways we could.

While we really enjoyed the Reunion, we were all very discouraged that the callings we so much longed for were not forthcoming. The following week Rich and Karen Bove went to the Colorado Reunion while we had our regular service. During Sunday School class I wanted to speak of what happened at the Idaho Reunion but was not sure if we should, so I asked the others what they wanted to study and they also wanted to discuss the Reunion. Since I knew this could be difficult I quoted the scripture:

Ephesians 4:30-32 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

I then asked for a season of prayer and we all prayed, including a brother who has never prayed publicly in our group. This brother's humble prayer just melted our hearts and set the tone for the meeting. We were able to discuss some minor differences and misunderstandings, as well as some distractions that occurred during the Reunion that we thought might have contributed to the Callings not happening. Most importantly during this meeting we were able to set aside some bad feelings and restore harmony to our group. The Holy Spirit was in our group in great power, such as I have not experienced in many years. Just as we were ready to finish we received a call from CJ who said there were two callings at the Colorado Reunion with Rich Bove being called as an elder and Andrew Brown as a teacher with many witnesses. Oh what rejoicing we had that day!

This brings to my mind the great importance of doing things God's way. When we set aside our differences, arguments, and negative attitudes and reach out to each other in charity, God is able to work with us with such speed and power as to leave us amazed.

Isaiah 65:24 And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

Romans 12:10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.

The following week we had Rich's ordination service with Apostle Brian McIndoo and Elder Roy Coon performing the ordination. Others of our local, including myself, Karen Bove, Mary Coon, CJ and Charlie Brain offered our testimonies of witness to Rich's calling. We were blessed with a warm and beautiful presence of God during the whole service. During this service the Lord gave me some comforting thoughts to share with a family who has been going through many trials, which I was able to share with them later.

Rich has preached several sermons since then and is a real asset to our local.

Remarkably, one of the witnesses he had was a dream where he preached a specific sermon in Phoenix. He did not share the details of this with us until just recently when he was called upon to preach at the upcoming Phoenix Reunion.

We've also had several visitors recently with Elder Marvin Carroll, Elder Rodger Bruner and Brother Bruce Haines visiting and offering sermons. Later Apostle Brian McIndoo paid us a visit and also told us that he will visit us again with Moses and Michael from Africa in the spring. We really look forward to that. Some of the highlights I remember from these visits are:

- *We should be Scriptural converts rather than Historical converts. Many are brought into the Restoration by family ties or the teachings of Joseph Smith. Because historically men and leaders make mistakes this can lead to differences of opinion and contradictory doctrines. By following the teachings and examples of Jesus Christ we can begin to come to a unity of faith and a sound understanding of the truth.*
- *Being doctrinally correct is good, but being behaviorally correct is much more important. Dealing with each other in charity will soften the hearts of others and differences of opinion can be resolved.*

We just had our elections of officers with Roy Coon continuing as Pastor and Rich Bove as assistant Pastor. Our local being small as it is pretty much everybody has something to do; I've been elected Advocate Reporter and will send more updates from time to time.

*Your Brother in Christ,
Michael Kelley*

INDEPENDENCE EAST LOCAL, MISSOURI

Hello to all from the East Local in Independence. The last few months have brought our local many blessings which we would like to share with you.

We now have two new priests and a new elder in our local. Br. Isaac (Bic) Brockman, Jr. (formerly a priest) was ordained to the office of elder on August 8th by Apostles Frank Fann and Buzz Brickhouse. Br. Kevin McGhee and Br. Rusty Granger were ordained to the office of priest on August 15th by Apostle William Sheldon. We pray these men will be good strong examples as they do the work of carrying forth the Gospel and ministering to the Lord's people. May God Bless you!

Twin daughters were born to Br. Kevin and Anna McGhee on August 16th, 2004. Amelia Claire was born weighing in at 4 lbs. 14 ozs., and Lilian Grace was born weighing 7 lbs. even. These beautiful babies were blessed September 26th by their grandpa, Elder Steve McGhee, who was assisted by their great uncle, Apostle Frank Fann. Grandparents are Steve and Melissa McGhee. These sweet babies are such a blessing and we pray they will be greatly blessed by God.

Nathaniel and Gina Seibel have a new baby girl. Emily Chung Seibel was born November 4th and weighed in at 8 lbs. 9 ozs. Br. Harvey E. and Sr. Irene Seibel are the happy grandparents!

Sr. Elizabeth and husband Matt Gahner are the proud parents of another son, Andrew Christopher. Lit-

tle Andrew was born November 24th, weighing in at 7 lbs. 9 ozs. Big brother Alex is excited about having a new baby brother in the family. The happy grandparents are Sr. Belinda and Br. Mike Smith. How wonderful it is to see our local growing!

On October 16th the East Local Social Committee hosted a Chili Supper in the church annex. Also, on October 23rd the first activity for a new group took place: a roller skating outing for the young adults, with 35 attending.

In September our local began having a Study Class on Monday evenings at 7 p.m. in the church basement. Elder Rick Olson began the class with studying the 'Articles of Faith and Practice.'

We have also added another Sunday School Class, which now makes three adult classes going each Sunday. The "Basic Beliefs" class is being taught by Elders Andrew Brantner and Rick Olson in the church annex. Many of our young people are enjoying this new class.

About 40 of our local members enjoyed a "Progressive Dinner" which was held December 4th. Hosting the event in their respective homes were: Darl & Jeff Williams, Irene & Danny Datweiler, and Wendy & Rusty Granger (at the Carmichael's home). It was a very enjoyable evening!

Our missionaries have been very active in the foreign fields: Apostle Smith "Buzz" Brickhouse has been ministering to those in Kenya and

Tanzania once again; Elder Bob Oldham has traveled ministering to those in Honduras and Kenya; Apostle Frank Fann and Elder Steve McGhee have been ministering to those in the Philippines. Also, many of our other missionaries have continued to minister with much traveling within the USA. We are so thankful for God's safety about them, and that the work of the Gospel is going forth to so many.

We pray that God's blessings will be upon His church and those who earnestly seek Him while He may be found.

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

OBITUARY

Elder Virgil Addie

June 4, 1917~September 23, 2004

Elder Virgil Victor Addie was born June 4, 1917, in Emerald Grove, Wisconsin, to Rollo and Clarice Addie. He left this life to begin another on Thursday, September 23, 2004, at 8:56 p.m., at the age of 87 years, due to complications after a heart attack. At his side were his wife Sylvia Addie and son Martin Addie and his wife Janeen.

His mother and father, two brothers, and his first wife, Mary Addie, preceded Virgil in death.

Dad found joy in having seven children: Cheryl Renly of Janesville, Wisconsin; Jeannette Rogers of Waunakee, Wisconsin; Jerrold Addie of Menomonee, Wisconsin; Michael Addie of Moreno Valley, California; Walter Addie of Madison, Wisconsin; Martin Addie of Springfield, Missouri; James Addie of Springfield, Missouri, and 11 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister Bonita Rubitksy of Winter Park, Florida.

Virgil and Mary moved with their two youngest sons to Houston, Missouri, in May of 1978 from Rio, Wisconsin, to be close to a local of the Church of Christ, of which he has been a part of for most of his life. Dad's mother and father

joined the church in September of 1916, and his father Rollo was ordained an elder in February of 1917. Virgil was called to be an elder and later ordained in 1979. I receive great comfort being a third generation member of the ministry in our family.

Virgil was lonely for several years after Mary died (Christmas 1982) until he met Sylvia (Seibel), who became his wife on July 23, 1988. They found much joy and happiness in over 16 years of marriage. She enriched his last years and filled them with love and companionship.

Dad was one of the hardest working people I have known. He worked in the construction fields for many years. He drove trucks before and after WWII. He was in the 760th Field Artillery Battalion of the Army, with duty in New Guinea and the Philippines, and also was in Japan for a short time at the end of the war. Virgil was a true entrepreneur. He owned several different businesses over the years until a couple of strokes several years ago forced him to slow down.

His priorities in his life were caring for his family and he never let us down. He also enjoyed his work in the church and a life of helping

others when he saw a need somewhere. There must be many people that count it a privilege to have known him.

I never heard him complain about his lot in life, even when there would have been reasons to.

He raised each of us to be honest and to do what is right in life. He set a wonderful example in his life of his faith and belief in being a good Christian.

I remember about 20 or so years ago as he was packing to go help one of the family who was having some difficulties. I asked him if he thought that we would ever grow up enough to not need him. His answer gave me pause to think. He said, "I hope not, because my kids needing me is what keeps me going." I will spend the rest of my life needing him and living after the example he set, with faith that he is in a better place.

*Lovingly,
Priest Martin Addie*

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