

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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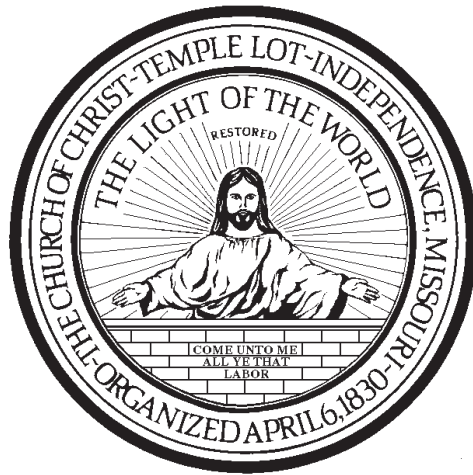
“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord;
and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.”

—Psalm 33:12—

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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.

Land of Promise



By Elder Gordon McCann

“And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles who had gone forth out of captivity did humble themselves before the Lord, and the power of the Lord was with them; And I beheld that their mother Gentiles were gathered together upon the waters, and upon the land also, to battle against them; And I beheld that the power of God was with them; and also that the wrath of God was upon all those that were gathered together against them to battle. And I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles that had gone out of captivity were delivered by the power of God out of the hands of all other nations. And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld that they did prosper in the land; And I beheld a book, and it was carried forth among them” 1 Nephi 3:152-157.

We who have accepted the Book of Mormon as a “marvelous work and wonder” from the hand of God in these last days understand fully concerning the promises that God has placed upon this land we call America. We also understand through the Book of Mormon that God had pronounced a special blessing upon the Americas after the waters had receded during the great flood in the days of Noah, where it became “*a choice land above all other lands, a chosen land of the Lord*” (Ether 6:2).

True to the nature of God, there are expectations from God to those who are given the opportunity to enjoy the “*chosen land of the Lord.*” As with all blessings that come from God, there are conditions that must be kept or a curse would soon replace the blessing.

The Blessing

“Behold, this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ who hath been manifested by the things which we have written” Ether 1:35.

The Curse

“And he had sworn in his wrath unto the Brother of Jared, that whoso should possess this land of promise, from that time hence-

forth and forever, should serve him, the true and only God, or they should be swept off when the fullness of his wrath should come upon them. And now we can behold the decrees of God concerning this land, that it is a land of promise, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall serve God, or they shall be swept off when the fullness of his wrath shall come upon them” Ether 1:30-31.

It is evident through the writings of our founding fathers that they were aware of and acknowledged God’s role in the establishment of the United States of America as a free nation under the power and authority of God. Our declaration of independence, adopted rule of law and freedoms that we enjoy were not conceived by men but were adopted from teachings that came from Christian core beliefs and practices found in the Bible. Our founding fathers were a tool in the hand of God where, by the power of God, we became a nation of free people unlike any other nation on earth. They also understood that if this nation turns its back on the God who founded it they would no longer be a free people and the justice of God’s wrath would fall upon them. The following are quotes from some of the founding fathers and prominent men who played a role in shaping our country:

George Washington

“The Hand of providence has

been so conspicuous in all this, that he must be worse than an infidel that lacks faith, and more than wicked, that has not gratitude enough to acknowledge his obligations" (*Letter to Thomas Nelson, August 20, 1778*).

"And let us with caution indulge the supposition, that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on

of Babel" (*Constitutional Convention of 1787*).

Alexander Hamilton

"For my own part, I sincerely esteem it [the Constitution] a system which without the finger of God, never could have been suggested and agreed upon by such a diversity of interests" (*After the Constitutional Convention 1787*).

"Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

John Adams

minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect, that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle" (*Farewell speech September 17, 1796*).

During his inauguration, Washington took the oath as prescribed by the Constitution but added several religious components to that official ceremony. Before taking his oath of office, he summoned a Bible on which to take the oath, added the words "So help me God!" to the end of the oath, then leaned over and kissed the Bible.

Benjamin Franklin

"God governs in the affairs of man. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured in the Sacred Writings that except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. I firmly believe this. I also believe that, without His concurring aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders

John Adams

"We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Avarice, ambition, revenge, or gallantry, would break the strongest cords of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other" (*October 11, 1798*).

"The general principles upon which the Fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity...I will avow that I believed and now believe that those general principles of Christianity are as eternal and immutable as the existence and the attributes of God" (*Letter to Thomas Jefferson June 28, 1813*).

John Hancock

"In circumstances as dark as these, it becomes us, as Men and Christians, to reflect that whilst every prudent measure should be taken to ward off the impending judgments, ...at the same time all

confidence must be withheld from the means we use; and reposed only on that God rules in the armies of Heaven, and without His whole blessing, the best human counsels are but foolishness... Resolved; ...Thursday the 11th of May...to humble themselves before God under the heavy judgments felt and feared, to confess the sins that have deserved them, to implore the Forgiveness of all our transgressions, and a spirit of repentance and reformation ...and a Blessing on the ... Union of the American Colonies in Defense of their Rights [for which hitherto we desire to thank Almighty God]... That the people of Great Britain and their rulers may have their eyes opened to discern the things that shall make for the peace of the nation...for the redress of America's many grievances, the restoration of all her invaded liberties, and their security to the latest generations" (*A Day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer, with a total abstinence from labor and recreation. Proclamation on April 15, 1775*).

Thomas Jefferson

"God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are a gift from God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, and that His justice cannot sleep forever" (*Excerpts are inscribed on the walls of the Jefferson Memorial in the nations capital*) [Source: Merrill D. Peterson, ed., *Jefferson Writings, (New York: Literary Classics of the United States, Inc., 1984), Vol. IV, p. 289. From Jefferson's Notes on the State of Virginia, Query XVIII, 1781.*].

James Madison

"We have staked the whole future of American civilization, not

upon the power of government, far from it. We've staked the future of all our political institutions upon our capacity...to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God" (1778 to the General Assembly of the State of Virginia).

At the Constitutional Convention of 1787, James Madison proposed the plan to divide the central government into three branches. He discovered this model of government from the Perfect Governor, as he read Isaiah 33:22;

*"For the LORD is our judge,
the LORD is our lawgiver,
the LORD is our king;
He will save us."*

James McHenry

"Public utility pleads most forcibly for the general distribution of the Holy Scriptures. The doctrine they preach, the obligations they impose, the punishment they threaten, the rewards they promise, the stamp and image of divinity they bear, which produces a conviction of their truths, can alone secure to society, order and peace, and to our courts of justice and constitutions of government, purity, stability and usefulness. In vain, without the Bible, we increase penal laws and draw entrenchments around our institutions. Bibles are strong entrenchments. Where they abound, men cannot pursue wicked courses, and at the same time enjoy quiet conscience" (*Signer of the Constitution*).

Jedediah Morse

"To the kindly influence of Christianity we owe that degree of civil freedom, and political and social happiness which mankind now enjoys.... Whenever the pillars of Christianity shall be overthrown, our present republican forms of government, and all blessings which flow from them, must fall

with them" (*Reverend of the Congregational Church in Charlestown*).

Noah Webster

"In my view, the Christian religion is the most important and one of the first things in which all children, under a free government ought to be instructed.... No truth is more evident to my mind than that the Christian religion must be the basis of any government intended to secure the rights and privileges of a free people" (*Source: 1828, in the preface to his American Dictionary of the English Language*).

"Let it be impressed on your mind that God commands you to choose for rulers just men who will rule in the fear of God [Exodus 18:21].... If the citizens neglect their duty and place unprincipled men in office, the government will soon be corrupted.... If our government fails to secure public prosperity and happiness, it must be because the citizens neglect the Divine commands, and elect bad men to make and administer the laws" [*Noah Webster, The History of the United States (New Haven: Durrie and Peck, 1832), pp. 336-337, 49*].

"All the miseries and evils which men suffer from vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery and war, proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible" (*Noah Webster, History, p. 339*).

"The Bible was America's basic textbook in all fields" (*Noah Webster, Our Christian Heritage p. 5*).

Abraham Lincoln

"At what point shall we expect the approach of danger? By what means shall we fortify against it? Shall we expect some transatlantic military giant, to step the Ocean, and crush us at a blow? Never! All the armies of Europe, Asia and Africa combined, with all the treasure

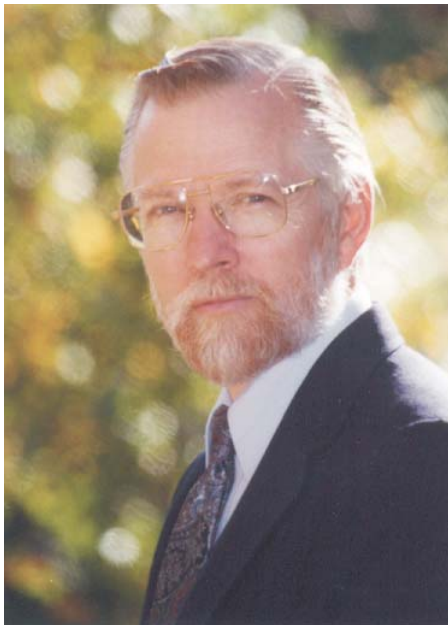
of the earth (our own excepted) in their military chest; with a Buonaparte for a commander, could not by force, take a drink from the Ohio, or make a track on the Blue Ridge, in a trial of a thousand years. At what point, then, is the approach of danger to be expected? I answer, if it ever reach us it must spring up amongst us. It cannot come from abroad. If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. **As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time, or die by suicide**" [*The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln, edited by Roy P. Basler, Volume I, "Address Before the Young Men's Lyceum, of Springfield, Illinois (January 27, 1838), p. 109.*].

*"Adam fell, that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy. And the Messiah cometh in the fullness of time, that he may redeem the children of men from the fall. And because that they are redeemed from the fall, they have become free for ever, knowing good from evil; To act for themselves, and not to be acted upon, save it be by the punishment of the Lord, at the great and last day, according to the commandments which God hath given. Wherefore, men are free according to the flesh; and all things are given them which are expedient unto man. **And they are free to choose liberty and eternal life, through the great mediation of all men, or to choose captivity and death, according to the captivity and power of the devil...**" (2 Nephi 1:115-120).*

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

ELIAS MUST FIRST COME

*“Behold, I will send you
Elijah the prophet before the
coming of the great and*



PART 7

*dreadful day of the LORD:
And he shall turn the heart of
the fathers to the children,
and the heart of the children
to their fathers, lest I come
and smite the earth with a
curse” (Malachi 4:5-6).*

“When the disciples had been on the mount of transfiguration, and returning from thence, finding that Elias, who had appeared to them on the mount did not accompany them down, naturally asked,

why the scribes said that Elias must first come. Christ took his opportunity, in answering their question, to discover to them the double meaning of the prophecy: ‘And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come and restore all things’ (Matthew 17:11). John the Baptist had already come, and they had done unto him what they listed; that is, they had taken his life, and though he had come ‘in the power and spirit of Elias,’ yet here is an express declaration, that truly Elias should yet first come and restore all things. It is evident that John did not by his coming, restore all things, but after John’s death and burial Christ says, truly Elias shall first come and restore all things. - *The Second Advent*, pp. 93,94,

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED HOW THE CHURCH OF CHRIST DIFFERS FROM OTHER CHURCHES? OR HOW OUR CHURCH IS BETTER THAN ANY OTHER? DOES IT REALLY MATTER WHAT CHURCH WE JOIN? IF THESE OR SIMILAR QUESTIONS HAVE COME TO MIND THEN THE MATERIAL PRESENTED IN THIS SERIES SHOULD BE HELPFUL.

Fenton and Hutchinson, 1815” (*A Marvelous Work and a Wonder*, p. 197).

“Now this prophecy, Malachi 4:5, 6, although it might be and was in part fulfilled by the appearance of John the Baptist, has certainly respect to times to come, because in the first place our Savior speaks of the future appearance of Elijah, even after the Baptist was beheaded. And then, secondly, the Elias whom he said should come was to do that which it cannot be pretended the Baptist did, for our Savior assures us that Elias shall restore all things. This seems to be the time of restitution of all things which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets, since the world began...Elijah then shall restore the true worship of God. - Reverend Samuel Hardy, *On the Prophecies*, pp. 90, 92, 1770 AD.” (*Ibid.*, pp. 197-198).

“Thus our Lord declares that ‘Elias shall indeed first come and restore all things’; but states that, with regard to one fulfillment, he had ‘already come’ in John the Baptist. And as that coming was not literal, but ‘in the spirit and power of Elias,’ the other coming of Elias hereafter may be of the same kind; and not improbable, inasmuch as it is expressed in the same words at the same time...Elias has twice appeared, and is come a third time. - *The Apocalypse*, p. 181, Reverend Isaac Williams, B.D.” (*Ibid.*, p. 197).

“The figurative allusion made to the fate of John the

Baptist, Matthew 17:12, appears to be merely by way of reproach, and to exemplify the disregard and perverseness with which men had already, and would, in all probability,

of Jerome, looked for a coming of the actual Elijah. - *Elements of Prophetic Interpretation*, p. 90, Reverend J. W. Brooks, *Literalist*, vol. 2” (*ibid.*, pp. 197-198).

With the return of authority to minister in the ordinances of the gospel, the return of the church from the wilderness of apostasy, and the coming forth of the fullness of the gospel, the way is thus prepared for the fulfilling of Matthew’s prophecy, which states, “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).

again receive the same kind of mission, upon which Elias is still to come, as declared by our Lord in the preceding eleventh verse, and foreshown before his birth by Malachi, chapter 4:4, 5. - *Daniel’s Metallic Image*, pp. 285, 286. Reverends Rivington and Hatchard, published 1810” (*ibid.*, p. 197).

“Judging from Matthew 17:11: ‘Elias truly shall first come and restore all things’ - spoken by our Lord before he passed on to speak of John the Baptist—a coming of the actual Elijah is still to be expected. For it would be contradictory in our Lord to speak of it as a thing future (‘Elias truly shall first come’) and as of a thing past (‘But I say unto you, that Elias is come already,’) in the same breath. Certainly the fathers of the primitive Christian church, down to the time

“Victorinus who lived in the early part of the fourth century in his commentary on the book of Revelation says of 14:6: ‘The angel flying in the midst of heaven is Elias.’ - *Discourses on the Prophecies*, preached before the University of Dublin by J. H. Todd, D.D., p. 282” (*ibid.*, p. 198).

“Justin Martyr of the early fathers in his dialogue with Trypho: ‘I demanded of him, Doth not the word of God declare by Malachi that Elias shall come before the great and terrible day of the Lord? To which he answered, Most certainly! ...Then must we not understand the word of God as foretelling that Elias shall be the forerunner of that great and terrible day that is of his second coming? Certainly! Replied Trypho.’ - *Principal Prophecies*, p. 355, Reverend Samuel Hardy, D.D.” (*Ibid.*, p.

198).

“He (Justin Martyr) intimates further his expectation of Elias coming literally and personally before Christ’s second advent. - *Horae Apocalypticae*, E. B. Elliott, vol. 4, p. 278” (*ibid.*, p. 198).

“Charles Wesley, who with his brother John was the father of Methodism, was so enraptured with the next coming of Elijah that he vented his sentiments in song. This used to be sung in the earlier days of Methodism, but for some reason or other it has been taken out of their hymn books.

‘Once he in the Baptist came,
And virtue’s path restored;
Pointed sinners to the Lamb
Forerunner of his Lord.

‘Sent again from Paradise,
Elijah shall the tidings bring:
“Jesus comes! Ye saints, arise,
And meet your heavenly king.”

‘Previous to the dreadful day,
Which shall thy foes consume;
Jesus, to prepare thy way,
Let the last prophet come.

- *Prophetic Times*, vol. 2,
No.9, 1864” (*ibid.*, p. 198).

According to the testimony of history that Elias has already come in the form of John the Baptist to Joseph and Oliver and restored the Holy Priesthood on the earth again. And this priesthood would not be taken again until the sons of Levi offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness as prophesied. The angel flying in the midst of heaven was Moroni

who brought back the gospel of the kingdom, a second witness to the record of the twelve apostles of the Lamb as contained in the Bible. With the return of authority to minister in the ordinances of the gospel, the return of the church from the wilderness of apostasy, and the coming forth of the fullness of the gospel, the way is thus prepared for the fulfilling of Matthew’s prophecy, which states,

“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).

Psalm 85:11 is also fulfilled in these things, for with the coming forth of the holy record from the ground is fulfilled the word that “Truth shall spring out of the earth” and with the blessings of heaven again being poured out upon the children of men, the angel flying in the midst of heaven having the everlasting gospel to preach with the authority to do so, and the revelations of the Lord, etc., is fulfilled the latter statement that “righteousness shall look down from heaven.” And because this unlearned man (Joseph Smith) was enabled to translate this record by the Urim & Thummim with which he was provided in order to accomplish this work, and this through the power of God, he became a seer, fulfilling another scripture found in Ezra 2:63 and Nehemiah 7:65 which states: “And the Tirshatha said

unto them, that they should not eat of the most holy things, till there stood up a priest with Urim and with Thummim.” This instrument was lost to the people of Israel on the Old Continent from the time of their captivity in the days of Jeremiah the prophet and was not had among them from that time forth.

The calling forth of new apostles as looked for by some of the reformers confirms the New Testament scriptures concerning this office in the church and their purpose.

“And God hath set some in the church **FIRST APOSTLES**, secondarily prophets (not first) *thirdly teachers*” (1 Corinthians 12:28).

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive” (Ephesians 4:11-14).

WISE KING BENJAMIN

Like all men, one day King Benjamin grew old. He called his sons to him. “Sons, you must remember to teach the people the word of God handed down to us on the metal plates. If we did not have these sacred records we would have forgotten God!” Then he spoke to his son Mosiah. “Son, I am old and will soon die. The kingdom is yours. Rule it righteously and keep carefully these sacred records.” King Benjamin gave Mosiah the sword of Laban handed down by Nephi. Into Mosiah’s hands his father also placed the Liahona, which had led Lehi in the wilderness so long ago. King Benjamin had a request. “I want to speak to the people one last time. Send messengers throughout the land. Tell them to gather at the Temple tomorrow. I have a message for them.”

Messengers went throughout the land of Zarahemla. “Come to the Temple tomorrow to hear the King!” The good people of Zarahemla loved King Benjamin. They packed up their families and came quickly. When they arrived at the Temple each family set up a tent and eagerly waited. What did King Benjamin have to tell them?

King Benjamin looked out at the great crowd. “There are so many. They will not be able to see and hear me. Build a tower for me to stand on.” Soon a tower was built and old King Benjamin climbed the tower to say goodbye to his people.

“My people,” said the wise old king, “I have grown old and will soon go to my God. I want to talk to you this last time. In the night an angel of the Lord came to me. He told me that Jesus Christ, the Son of God is soon coming to earth. I want to teach you how to live righteously so that you will be ready for Him. Pray every day. Help those who need your help. When you serve them you are serving God. Husbands and wives love each other. Parents teach your children not to fight and quarrel but to serve one another.”

“Do you believe my words?” King Benjamin asked. “We believe!” the people cried. The people believed so much that they made a covenant to serve God. A covenant is when you make a promise to God and He makes a promise to you. You promise to follow God all your life and He promises to bless you.



EVIDENCES OF THE BOOK OF MORMON

THE FIRST GENTILES

By Apostle Donald McIndoo

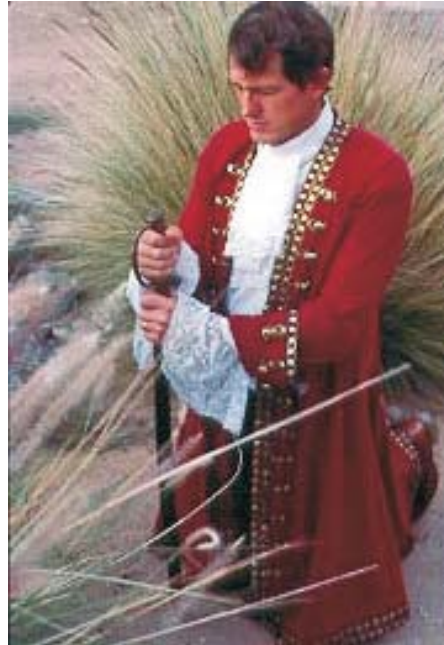
There is a prophecy in the Book of Mormon which refers to the coming of the first Gentiles from Europe to arrive in America:

“And it came to pass that I looked and beheld many waters; and they divided the Gentiles from the seed of my brethren. And I looked and beheld a man among the Gentiles, who was separated from the seed of my brethren by the many waters; and I beheld the Spirit of God, that it came down and wrought upon the man; and he went forth upon the many waters, even unto the seed of my brethren, who were in the promised land” (1 Nephi 3:145, 147).

What man was it who Nephi saw in his vision? Surely it was Christopher Columbus. The discovery of a New World by Christopher Columbus during the pre-dawn hours of October 12th, 1492, is a scene with which every American school child is familiar.

The only problem being that we have seldom read that he was inspired by the Spirit of God, nor even that he was a highly religious person. This vision of Nephi gives us a very different description of the man, Columbus, than we have found in our textbooks. Which description is the more exact? Let's

read the words of his biographers.



One biographer of Columbus wrote the following: *“He was man alone with God...Always with God though; in that his biographers were right; for God is with men who for a good cause put their faith in Him. ...There can be no doubt that the faith of Columbus was genuine and sincere, and that his frequent communion with forces unseen was a vital element in his achievement”* (Morison, Samuel, *Admiral of the Ocean Sea*, pp. 46, 47.).

Another biographer worded it in this manner: *“He was Moses, he was the chosen leader, chosen by God. There is no doubt that Columbus was a fanatic...a person believing himself to have been divinely inspired”* (Bradford, *Cristóbal Colón*, pp. 111-112.).

Another historian writes of Columbus, *“He looked upon himself as in the hand of God, chosen from among men for the accomplishment of his high purpose. He supposed that he saw foretold in the Holy Writ his contemplated discovery, shadowed forth in the revelations of the prophets”* (Brownell, *The New World*, Vol. 1, p. 31.).

Now we turn to the words of Columbus, himself. In his personal diary which has only been recently discovered Columbus wrote, *“It was the Lord who put into my mind (I could feel his hand upon me) the fact that it would be possible to sail from here to the Indies. All who heard of my project rejected it with laughter, ridiculing me. There is no question that the inspiration was from the Holy Spirit, because He comforted me with rays of marvelous inspiration from the Holy Scriptures...”* (Marshall, Peter and Manuel, David, *The Light and the Glory*, p. 42.).

From such testimony of Columbus and his biographers, we clearly see the words of Nephi found in the Book of Mormon give us a more accurate description of Columbus and his discovery than do the majority of textbooks used in today's schools.

PATHLIGHTS

Rio Abajo, Monte Limar

May 2, 2005

My name is Felix Isidro Rodriguez. My testimony is that my life was lost. I walked in paths that were not correct. I liked to play soccer. I liked to drink. I wasted my money on things that did not please God. My wife suffered much, along with my older children.

Then one day I decided to accept the things of God and attended the Prince of Peace Church. I attended a number of years and later became a member. I only lasted five months because I had a great financial crisis. I did not know which path to take because I had to pay tithes and offerings and sustain the pastor. I had nothing. So I decided to go to work in Danli. I found a job as a watchman at a sawmill at night. In the day I came home to work; and, later in the afternoon, I went back to Danli. This I did every day. And so the brethren did not recognize me as a brother because I did not go to the meetings. Only my wife went. And so I said that I would not return to any church because I did not know which was the true church.

At the time I had a sister-in-law who met with Brother Ronnie and requested of my father to lend his house one Sunday for a meeting. But my parents do not treasure the things of God, and even now continue doing what, to me, is sad. Later my sister-in-law no longer continued to meet with Brother Ronnie. She asked my wife to have the meeting in our house the following Sunday. But I was not there.



► Luis (Felix Isidro Rodriguez) and part of the group in Upper River where he lives. He is the one holding the Scriptures. His wife is on the far right.

On Monday when I returned from Danli my wife told me what Ronnie had preached about, and told me that if I wanted to attend I should ask for the day off from work. I received permission and met with Brother Ronnie. I studied all that he said and liked it very much. I continued to do this every Sunday.

I feel grateful to God and with Brother Ronnie because he is like a father to me. And his wife, Sister Joani, also strove to help us get married. I now have two years of being married and I live happily with my wife and children, though it is with trials and struggles. I pray to my God that I will never grow faint. The blessings that He gives me are incomparable. I have had many miraculous healings because I choose to

not go to doctors of this world. My doctor is our Heavenly Father. I trust in His promises. I feel thankful that my brethren in the far away United States always remember us. I ask that you carry us in prayer. I am a father and have 11 children. I am self employed. I do not work for others, not even one day.

—Translated by Sister Joani Gill

REPORT

THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN MESISITA



The Church of Christ commenced in the month of May 14th, 2000, at the home of Elder Michael Otero by the following apostles: Smith Brickhouse and Brian McIndoo.

During this day Apostle Brian delivered the sermon of the day, and indeed many people gave deep attention to the reading from both the Bi-

ble and the Book of Mormon. The following second week people did not attend the meeting and therefore began to criticize the church with false accusations that it was demonic. They tried to discourage us. By that time we were two families, i.e.: Brother John's family and mine.

On that Sunday I decided to go to a nearby market (Suneka) where I

met Brother Moses in a hotel sitting there. I tried to explain to him about the Church of Christ and in return he asked me questions. I tried to answer him and afterwards I brought him to Kisii Guest House at the meeting we had with missionaries.

Since he was traveling from very far he decided to stay at my house for more studies from the Bible and the



Book of Mormon for three weeks. Due to this factor of traveling from very far, we had to look for a central place of worship, and so we found Getuka being the central place. So Peter Moses tried to ask somebody to give us land, and fortunately Francis Onyando was spiritually touched and finally agreed to give us a place for worship. After a few months we arranged to have an open-air meeting at Mesisita and we did so in that very year 2000.

Those who were present that time were Elder Moses, Sister Margaret and other members from Getuka. During that time we had pressure

from the surrounding churches whereby the church leaders told them not to join that church, that it was a demonic denomination. We continued to pray and be faithful in the Lord even though people tried to discourage us. Afterward we got some new members who joined the Church of Christ.

October 21st, 2001, I was called and ordained as an Elder of the Church of Christ. So Mesisita was organized as a local church in the same date.

Later on the Church of Christ from abroad gave us some funds to purchase land and construct the

church building here in Mesisita, Africa. As soon as the funds arrived we began to build the church, and really God helped us until we have accomplished the building. So we sincerely thank the missionaries in charge of Africa for the donations from the brothers and sisters in America.

We appreciate it. God bless thee abundantly.

*Yours faithfully,
Elder Michael Otero*

OBITUARY

Lovita Reed

(1935 – 2005)

Lovita was born the youngest of nine Wentworth children on May 26, 1935. She completed eight grades of elementary school in the one room school on Three Island Lake and went on to graduate from Bemidji High School in 1953.

She began her varied working career cleaning cabins at Birchmont Beach Hotel and Resort, Bemidji, Minnesota, and working at Montgomery Wards. She wanted a car so she worked at Bell Telephone in Minneapolis, Minnesota, earning enough one summer to buy her first car, a 1939 Ford sedan. When her mother married Hester Reed in 1957, she met Hester's son George. He had come to Bemidji to be best man at his father's wedding.

George and Lovita began dating and were married in 1958. They made their home in Independence, Missouri, for some time before returning to northern Minnesota where they ran a resort from 1965 to 1979. Their home was always open to friends, and a number of foster children graced their home. During this time they hosted a church youth camp yearly. This pro-



vided fellowship and cherished memories for many young people. The lovely setting on the lake made it ideal for such activities.

In 1981 they packed their car and drove to Alaska. Their history there is written in the hearts and lives of those they met and loved. They lived in Anchorage until their retirement. They then took up residence in Palmer, Alaska, where Lovita loved the view of the surrounding mountains.

Lovita's life reflected her love for people and was shown by the warm hospitality she and George extended to

others. She had a strong faith in God that was shown by her daily walk. They often held Christian studies in their home.

George passed away in April, 2003, and Lovita joined him on March 6, 2005, after an extended illness. Her parents, three brothers, her stepmother and an infant sister preceded her in death. She is survived by her sisters Laura Chevalier, Kathryn Erion, Irene Grovem, Vivian Wentworth and Alice Mann, and two sisters-in-law, Ina Wentworth and Ruth Wentworth.

A memorial service was held at Palmer, Alaska, on March 14, 2005, with Elders Rodger Bruner and Mark Hill officiating. Lovita and George both loved the grandeur of Alaska where their ashes were scattered over Pioneer Peak, while their spirits have returned to the Creator of this grandeur.

—Contributed by Vivian Wentworth



Church of Christ

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CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The **2005 Ministers' Conference** (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, August 1, 2 and 3, at Independence, Missouri.

The **2006 Ministers' Conference** (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 2. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 3. A **Solemn Assembly** will be held prior to the conference, on March 31 and April 1. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

2005 CHURCH OF CHRIST REUNIONS

MAY

Scripture Theme Camp

- ▶ May 13-15, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ Camp Shawnee Camp Area at Knob Noster State Park.
- ▶ For information contact:
Mark Hill, Jesse Lawrence, Randy Sheldon, Dan Lawrence, Dan Malone.

JUNE

Idaho Reunion

- ▶ June 3-5, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ The Southwestern Idaho Senior Citizen's Recreation Association, Inc. (S.I.S.C.R.A.).
- ▶ For information contact:
Roy Coon
3995 County Line Road
Emmett, Idaho 83617
(208) 365-34109
racoont21@juno.com or
racoont21@earthlink.net

Colorado Reunion

- ▶ June 10-12, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ The Orchard Mesa Local, 3233 B½ Road, Grand Junction, Colorado
- ▶ For information contact:
Karen Bell
PO Box 1137
Palisade, CO 81526
(970) 464-4624
kbell@gvii.net
- John Bell**
572 34 Road
Clifton, CO 81520
(970) 434-7100
jeeb54@gvii.net
- Allen Downs**
515 28½ Road
Grand Junction, CO 81501
(970) 245-8344
addowns@hotmail.com

Michigan Reunion

- ▶ June 25-26, Saturday-Sunday
- ▶ Bradley Local, Michigan
- ▶ For information, contact:
Duane Lee
2053 Fawn Ave.
Middleville, MI 49333
(269) 795-7420
- Randy Lee**
2953 Wing Rd.
Hastings, MI 49058-9537
(269) 948-8971

Springfield Rally

- ▶ June 26th, Sunday
- ▶ 2251 N. Golden; Springfield, Missouri.
- ▶ For information contact:
Elder Matt Case
(417) 832-8349
tabianhdmatt@hotmail.com
- Priest Martin Addie**
(417) 862-2255
ec05959@earthlink.net

JULY

Wake Up Camp 2005

- ▶ July 1-3, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ Bemidji Local Church, Bemidji, Minnesota
- ▶ For information contact:
Hannah Gould
(218) 586-2774
- Sam Gould**
(218) 586-3759

New York Reunion

- ▶ July 8-10, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ Hogansburg, New York
- ▶ For information contact:
In Canada:
Wayne and Susan Miller
868 Tollgate Road
Cornwall, Ontario
Canada K6H5R6
(613) 933-5469
- In the United States:
Eli and Gretchen Tarbell
PO Box 21
600 State Route 37
Hogansburg, New York 13655
(518) 358-2911
egtarbell@hotmail.com
- Dale and Terry Waldruff**
429 Country Road 34
Canton, New York 113617
(315) 265-1221
terrwald@slc.com

Church of Christ Teen Camp

- ▶ July 24-29, Sunday-Friday
- ▶ Camp Far Westa, near Stewartsville, Missouri
- ▶ For kids ages 12-18
- ▶ Camp Cost: \$115.00
- ▶ For information contact:
Michelle Oldham
5811 Duggleby
Davenport, IA 52807
(563) 359-1693
jnmham@mchsi.com

Scripture Adventure Camp

- ▶ July 28, Thursday
- ▶ Independence, Missouri
- ▶ For kids ages 5-11
- ▶ For information contact:
Randy and Becky Sheldon
(816) 229-6712
r-bsheldon@juno.com
- Jennifer Yates**
(602) 569-9296
a2zyates@cox.net

Missouri Reunion

- ▶ July 29-31, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ Church of Christ headquarters building located on the Temple Lot in Independence, Missouri
- ▶ For information contact:
Roland Sarratt
15910 E. 36th Terr.
Independence, MO 64055
(816) 373-6605
r.sarratt@earthlink.net

Michael McGhee

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

SEPTEMBER

Camp for All Ages

- ▶ September 16-18, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ The Pinnacles, about ten miles north of Columbia, Missouri
- ▶ For information contact:
Jesse Lawrence
jesselawrence@earthlink.net

Women's Retreat

- ▶ September 30-October 1, Friday-Saturday
- ▶ Lake Mauer Retreat Center in Excelsior Springs, Missouri.
- ▶ For women ages 18 and up
- ▶ Cost: \$45.00/person (includes one night accommodation and 3 meals)
- ▶ For information contact:
Carrie Geier
14609 E. Phelps
Independence, MO 64055
(816) 836-0035
geiers@kcnet.com
- Geri Adams**
2804 Westbrooke Circle
Blue Springs, MO 64015
(816) 228-8283
admsgeri@cs.com

NOVEMBER

Phoenix Reunion

- ▶ November 25-27, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ Phoenix, Arizona
- ▶ For information contact:
Pastor Bob Hedrick
2908 E Rockwood Dr
Phoenix, AZ 85050
(602) 494-9661
bobnliza@cox.net
- Assistant Pastors:**
Duane Ely
18814 N 30th St
Phoenix, AZ 85050
duanekathyely@aol.com
- Gordon McCann**
18808 N 30th St
Phoenix, AZ 85050
gjmccann@cox.net