

Zion's Advocate

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

1 Nephi 3:187

VOLUME 84

INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI—July-August 2007

NUMBER 4



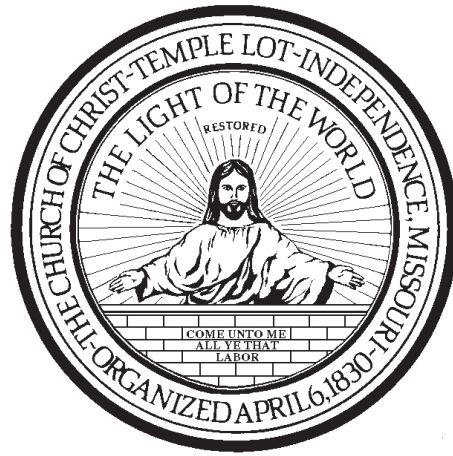
"God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that His justice cannot sleep forever."

—Thomas Jefferson

Photo courtesy of Jennifer Yates

~ In This Issue ~

SERMON—Our Responsibility as Christians - <i>Elder Nicholas Denham</i> 67	<i>Apostle William A. Sheldon</i> 74
DREAM—Entering Zion - <i>Apostle Roland Sarratt</i> 69	PATHLIGHTS—Elie Cipeng A` Cipeng's Testimony 77
SERIES—Fruit of the Spirit, Part 4 & 5: Joy & Longsuffering - <i>Elder Duane Ely</i> 71	NEWS 80
ARTICLE—Fear of the Lord -	OBITUARY—Samuel Muheeb Ayanfe 82
	OBITUARY—Archie Wesley Dubose 82
	NOTICES 63



THE APOSTLES of the CHURCH OF CHRIST

Smith N. Brickhouse, 5713 Logan Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64136; 816-356-9214; e-mail: smithbrickhouse@yahoo.com
Frank Fann, 3808 Queen Ridge, Independence, Missouri 64055; 816-373-4346; e-mail: fann212@juno.com
Placido Koyoc Matu, 99h Calle 24 x 17y 19, Yobain, Yucatan, Mexico; #011-52-991-911-3125; e-mail: p_matu@hotmail.com
Placido Koyoc Yam, 99h Calle 24 x 17y 19, Yobain, Yucatan, Mexico; #011-52-991-911-3047
Mike McGhee, 18907 E. 6th Street N., Independence, Missouri 64056; 816-796-6255; e-mail: mcgheeme@msn.com
Brian McIndoo, 18824 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-1900; e-mail: mcindoo@cox.net
Donald E. McIndoo, 18830 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85050
Alvin J. Moser, 18829 N. 29th Place, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-2414; e-mail: ajmoser3@cox.net
Roland L. Sarratt, 15910 E. 36th Terrace, Independence, Missouri 64055; 816-373-6605; e-mail: r.sarratt@earthlink.net
William A. Sheldon, 1011 S. Cottage, Independence, Missouri 64050; 816-833-3914; e-mail: cofcti@kcnet.com
Joel Yates, 2924 E. Rockwood Drive, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-9296; e-mail: jyates2@yahoo.com



GENERAL CHURCH OFFICERS

SECRETARY, COUNCIL OF APOSTLES

Apostle Smith N. Brickhouse
5713 Logan Road
Kansas City, Missouri 64136

SECRETARY, GENERAL BISHOPRIC

Elder Leslie P. Case
8312 Lee's Summit Road
Kansas City, Missouri 64139

GENERAL CHURCH SECRETARY

Harvey E. Seibel
9800 E. 32nd Street S.
Independence, Missouri 64052

GENERAL CHURCH RECORDER

Elder Jim Yates, Jr.
2919 E. Siesta Lane
Phoenix, AZ 85050

BUSINESS MANAGER

Elder Alvin L. Harris
Church of Christ
P.O. Box 472
Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

ZION'S ADVOCATE STAFF

EDITOR

Elder Gordon McCann
18808 N. 30th Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85050
E-mail: gpmccann@cox.net

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Dan Lawrence
8420 Lee's Summit Road
Kansas City, MO 64139

Marlene Oar
19012 N. 29th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85050

PRODUCTION STAFF

Harvey L. Seibel

STATUS OF PUBLISHED ARTICLES

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

ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

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

OUR RESPONSIBILITY AS Christians



By Elder Nicholas Denham

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light (Matthew 11:28-30).

These words of our Savior remind us that He is always available to us to be a comfort and guide. Often we have a tendency to be pulled into the world, just a

little at a time. If we don't watch and pray always we will stray. We also need to be reminded that God has given us the responsibility to let our light shine that we could draw others closer to Him. Do we get careless? Then we don't accomplish the purpose. We need to be always alert and think of our responsibility to God that we assumed when we went into the waters of baptism. Others look to us for an example; do they see it 100% of the time? Or do we let down our guard and say things that would shame our Heavenly Father? Or perhaps we think, “Oh well, it won't matter this one time.” If so, we set an example of shame before our fellow man.

I have taken upon me the name of Christ and I must do what He expects. But we say, “I'm human.” Is this an excuse we use when we want to do something we shouldn't? When we're baptized, we make ourselves responsible for what we do and say. We need to be reminded in order

that we may grow in grace, for He called us unto perfection. Yes, we all slip up, but we must repent when we err. We hurt inside but we renew ourselves that we may not repeat the sin.

God has called us to perfection and that's what He expects of us. It's the job of the ministry to remind us of that responsibility and perhaps form a judgement when we see others do things, but my foremost responsibility is to keep myself on the straight and narrow path. Are we sometimes “heavy laden?” Yes, of course, because we are human. But our merciful Lord is always ready to lift that burden for us.

I am glad that the Lord put it into my heart to take training to be a school teacher. When I got in front of a group of young people in that little one room schoolhouse, I realized that they watched everything I did and said. I had to watch myself all the time. Often I would take advantage of events to teach the young ones about life's

responsibilities. I recall taking them to a corn husking contest. Since I had grown up on a farm I wanted them to see it. I hope that I was able to leave them with encouragement to help them later in life. What we do and say have a great effect on our fellow men and we have to be careful that they lead them closer to God, not farther away. I remember those who have gone before me; some good, some bad. I wonder if I slip sometimes and perhaps lead someone astray?

“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works. Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom (Matthew 16:24-28).

Brothers and sisters, I hope we understand the necessity to take up our cross daily. We hope to see the Son

of God come and I think we are approaching that time. **Are we ready?** We know not the day nor the hour when He will return, but when He does “shall He find faith on the earth” (Luke 18:8)? We know many who have no faith, but I know you have faith and that makes me happy.

Do you have evidence of the Church of Christ? I hope you do. I think of my life and the things I’ve seen; the hand of God that has no doubt saved my life. I was in the service of our country and I saw some things happen that showed God’s hand protecting me. God is true. His hand is there, and I hope that we can hold out faithful to the end.

We have an enemy who desires to drag us down to be with him. But we have a Savior who came down from heaven to redeem us, to bring us back to heaven if we want to go. The way is open: repent and be baptized and keep His commandments to the end of this, our day of probation. I have to watch myself, Nicholas Denham, all my waking hours. For almost a century I’ve been tested. We’re all tested, to prove ourselves that we will serve our Heavenly Father and receive eternal life for that service. The time of my departure is getting close and I must ask myself, am I ready? We all

must ask that question. Will we find ourselves on His side?

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

We can find rest from the problems and burdens that we have upon us. We need to pray one for another. It helps me when you pray for me, and I pray that all God’s children will hold out faithful to the end. We all have temptations every day, and we need to know how to react. Some are all right, some are adverse and some will destroy us.

I hope that I have been able to say something to help us consider the days before us, that we may prepare ourselves to come into the presence of God; that we may have a joyful entrance into God’s kingdom. I pray that we will all have the strength and determination to hold on to the rod of iron, God’s word, because His word will bring us into His glory.

Editor’s note: This sermon was given at the Temple Lot Local on October 29, 2006, in Brother Denham’s 95th year of life and 85th year as a member of the Church of Christ.

ENTERING ZION



By Apostle Roland Sarratt

On July 22, 1976, I received a dream which I feel has some significance to the church. It is one of the most inspirational dreams I have ever had and I have told it on several occasions. For that reason I decided to put it in writing to be available to those who have a hope in Zion.

As the dream began, I was standing in a road in a low place where water was backing up close by. There were several roads all intersecting at various points. Water had already covered some of the roads and the road where I stood was next to a

river. The water appeared rather still on the surface, but as I looked down into it I could discern strong currents in the deep water.

I was standing next to my car, which was an older model than I presently drive (a 1950 model). The car was sitting parallel to the river and the water was swirling over a low place in the road right in front of the car.

My family was standing behind me and in the conversation there was some mention of a young man who was having difficulty working on his car. We were somewhat amused at his problems and as I listened I reasoned in my mind that he was too young to drive or own a car.

We didn't seem to be concerned about the water and there didn't seem to be any threat that the water would get any higher than it was. For some reason I decided to drive the car out of the low area to protect it. I could have backed the car up and driven around the water that was directly in front of the car, but instead I drove down through the water to the

other side. As I did so I realized I had taken a risk because I couldn't see how deep the water was. I might have gotten the engine wet and stalled out. However I had no trouble and, without stopping, I commenced driving up a long, steep hill.

The road I was on was mostly paved but it was well worn. The wheels were wet and I could feel them slip on the pavement occasionally. Also I hit a few gravel places that made the wheels spin.

There were several roads intersecting the road that I was on. I stayed on the steep road that went straight up the hill and I did not stop until I got to the top.

As I came near to the top of the hill I saw a small white sign on the right side of the road. The lettering had faded badly. I could barely make out the word "entrance" on it.

Just beyond the sign the road leveled off and I came to several roads coming in at various angles, all intersecting with the road I was on. I couldn't tell which road was the continuation of the road

I was on. I stopped to consider which road to take.

To my right and some distance away I noticed there was a graveyard. I was looking for our home but this area was not familiar to me. I was looking at the graveyard when I awoke from the dream.

I seemed to know the meaning of the dream as soon as I awoke except for the graveyard. I represented the priesthood of the Church of Christ and the car represented the church body and organizational structure.

to me. Then I thought of something ancient being buried. It then occurred to me that the graves represented

Christ, made that determination to separate ourselves from the world, and have we started the climb to higher

...The dream indicates the increase of righteousness and holiness of the church as it rises to a higher spiritual level.

the records yet to come forth. I looked up the word antiquity in the dictionary and part of the definition is: the period from 5000 BC to 476 AD.

ground? If we haven't, I pray that we will soon do so.

Have we, the Church of Christ, made that determination to separate ourselves from the world, and have we started the climb to higher ground?

The water represented the powers of the world. The young man having difficulty with his car represented another church without true priesthood authority. The sign represented the entrance to Zion which had become obscure because of the lack of interest in Zion.

The meaning of the graveyard was not given to me until some time after I received the dream. As I pondered the possible meaning of it, the word "antiquity" came

To me the dream indicates the increase of righteousness and holiness of the church as it rises to a higher spiritual level. The priesthood was prompted to take the lead in separating the church from the dangers and the evils of the world, although, at the time, it did not appear to be in immediate danger.

It has been thirty years since I received that dream. The question that I now ponder is: Have we, the Church of

Fruit of the Spirit



By Elder Duane Ely

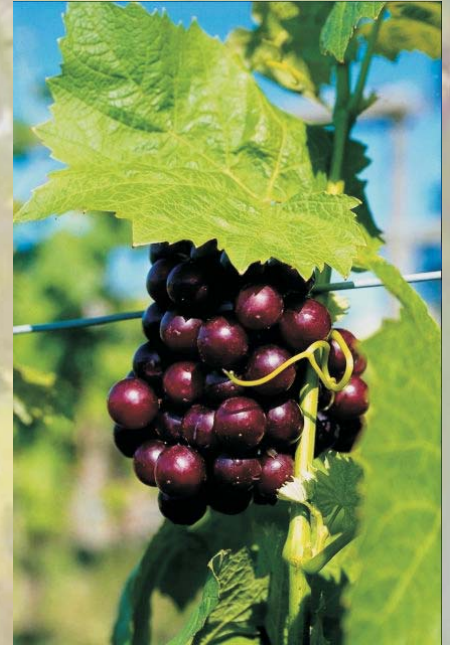
Pace is quietness. It is a state of harmony among people and freedom of mind from strife or disorder. The quietness of heart and mind is based on our belief in Christ and His plan of salvation. It is a calm, restful, tranquility of the soul.

“Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto

Peace

all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” Philippians 4: 4-7.

This scripture tells us some things that will lead us to the peace of God. We are to rejoice in serving our Lord and always live our lives in moderation. We should not worry about the cares of this life, but always put our faith and trust in God. When we have problems we shouldn't let them discourage us, but pray diligently that the Lord will help us overcome them. And when the Lord does bless us we must always be faithful



to thank Him. If we do these things we will have that peace in our hearts that can only come through Christ Jesus. This peace is something that the world cannot receive or understand.

“Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth

**“But the fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, Temperance: against such there is no law.”
Galatians 5:22-23**

me not keepth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me. These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" John 14:23-27.

It is important that we understand this scripture. If we truly love Jesus we will keep His commandments and He will surely bless us. But think about what it means if we do not keep His commandments. The people of this world who do not keep His sayings do not really love Him no matter what they say. Jesus left this world for a time but he promised that the Father would send the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost. This Comforter teaches us, it guides us through life's problems and gives us that peace of heart that the world cannot give. We need not fear the cares of this world if we are following after our Lord and listening to the leading of the Spirit. We will not be left alone as long as we are serving God, but if we choose works of darkness rather than light, the Spirit of the Lord will not always strive with us.

"Now concerning the state of

the soul between death and the resurrection: Behold, it hath been made known unto me, by an angel, that the spirits of all men, as soon as they are departed from this mortal body; yea, the spirits of all men, whether they be good or evil, are taken home to that God who gave them life. And then shall it come to pass that the spirits of those which are righteous, are received into a state of happiness, which is called paradise; a state of rest; a state of peace, where they shall rest from all their troubles, and from all care, and sorrow, etc" Alma 19:42-44.

This scripture is very plain about what happens to the souls of the righteous after they leave this mortal body. They are received into paradise where they will be in a state of peace and can rest from all the cares of this life. To be received into this state of happiness will be worth all the struggles that we have to overcome. This peace that the righteous will receive will be much greater than anything that we can understand or have in this life.

Longsuffering

Longsuffering is patience. It is long and patient endurance of problems, offenses or trouble with no thought of retaliation. It is being slow to anger. It is steadfastness and tolerance under

provocation, opposition, difficulty or adversity. Longsuffering willingly bears pain or trials calmly or without complaint.

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" Hebrews 12:1.

This life is a race that each one of us must run. It begins when we are born and it ends when we lay down this mortal body. Each one of us will run a slightly different race with our own individual trials, problems and temptations. But we must endure these things in a calm, steadfast manner, because God will hold us accountable for how we deal with them. It is important that we patiently wait on the Lord in all aspects of our lives.

"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord" Psalms 27:14.

Patience is something that many people lack. In the U.S.A., life is so fast-paced that many of us want a lot and we want it now. We want things to go right. We don't want to wait for anything and we don't want to endure any problems or discomforts. When these things happen, many of us tend to get impatient. Many spend so much effort trying to get ahead that when this pro-

cess does not go as planned, they get annoyed. When I am in Africa, I find that I have a lot more patience even though things go wrong frequently and you don't usually get what you want when you want it. I am able to focus on our missionary work without being distracted by all the cares of life that I have in the U.S.A. Our brothers and sisters in Africa focus on daily life and don't expend all their energy on trying to get ahead. They are much more patient than we are. The more we have, the more we want, and we become impatient when we don't get it fast enough. If we are caught up in this cycle, we are following the dangerous ways of the world.

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope: and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us" Romans 5:1-5.

"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing" James 1:2-4.

Trials and problems are part of life. We all have them and we will continue to have them until we pass from this life. It is how we deal with them that is important. If we handle them in a righteous, Christ-like manner, they will make us grow stronger spiritually. But if we allow them to produce anger and impatience in us, which is against God's will, these problems can lead us to destruction. Patience is being able to overcome trials and tribulations successfully by continually depending upon God for everything in our lives.

"But men drink damnation to their own souls, except they humble themselves, and become as little children, and believe that salvation was, and is, and is to come, in and through the atoning blood of Christ, the Lord Omnipotent: for the natural man is an enemy to God, and has been, from the fall of Adam, and will be forever and ever; but if he yieldeth to the enticings of the Holy Spirit, and putteth off the natural man, and becometh a saint, through the atonement of Christ, the Lord, and becometh as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father" Mosiah 1:118-120.

This scripture makes it plain that men drink damnation to their own souls unless they become as little children. One of the elements in becom-

ing as a little child is patience. We see how important patience is. It is something that we are required to have, and not just something that we would like to have. But we cannot obtain patience, or any other virtue, on our own. They are only produced in us when we put off the natural man and allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives.

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" II Peter 3:9.

God is very patient with us and He gives us plenty of chances to follow His commandments. Some of us receive more chances than we deserve. God wants everyone to obtain salvation and He shows us that by His longsuffering towards us. This world we live in is sinful and rebellious and it tests God's longsuffering every day. We must patiently endure the problems and circumstances that we face in life. God set the example of longsuffering that we are required to follow.

ARTICLE

FEAR of the LORD



By Apostle William A. Sheldon

“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters” Rev. 14:6, 7.

This text is a favorite to all who delve into the scriptures to advance this latter day work of God in a restoration of the fulness of the gospel of Christ, for it describes a

fact not generally recognized in the Christian world, but which was literally fulfilled by angelic visitation to Joseph Smith. Most of us have assumed its fulfillment with the angelic visit to him which led to his finding and translation of the ancient record of the Nephites and others, and was called the Book of Mormon. However, it was most literally fulfilled by another angel who ordained Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery to the holy priesthood of God, setting up the establishment of the Church of Christ, and for the preaching of that “everlasting gospel.”

We often sing from a hymn:

We thank thee O God for thy Spirit to guide us in these latter days. We thank thee for sending the gospel to lighten our minds with its rays. We thank thee for every blessing bestowed by thy bounteous hands. We feel it a pleasure to serve thee and love to obey thy commands.

This nicely and lovingly illustrates the command to “fear God and give glory to

him” when sung in deepest reverence and with real intent. But is it sung because most others present are singing it, and it is the expected thing to do? Do I really have the spirit of worship?

Is there truly a recognition that there is One who is greater than I, One who created us by divine power through His spoken word? It is not possible for humanity to do likewise. Any intelligent person knows this without conscious thought. Are you able to see a Divine Architect in all of visible matter, or are you so blind as to suppose that matter has always existed and that by chance an arrangement has occurred in the development of the simplest form of inert matter into the extreme complexity of all forms of matter, both inanimate and living?

But in consideration of life—whether of plant, animal, fish, bird or human, or whether it be innumerable species of bugs, insects or undetectable forms by the human senses, and only by highly developed scientific instruments—from what source is the spark that gen-

erated such marvelous complexity? A chemical reaction by chance? Come now! this takes more faith in an unprovable theory than is needed in accepting the evidence of a Divine Creator/ Architect!

Yet there is none of them but which acknowledge human scientific design in the development of scientific apparatus. It really smacks of desperate effort to justify oneself in indulgence of carnal appetite, most especially that of sexual immorality, with no thought of divine retribution, yet in a hope to escape even human judgment. That this is so has been demonstrated by inquiry into the lives and dying moments of such theoretical proponents and deniers of a supreme being as Voltaire of France, Darwin of England and the famous(?) Ingersoll who mightily decried the Bible as the word of God.

It is recorded by witnesses at the agonizing death of Voltaire in his mental and emotional disturbance as voiced by him, in shouted affirmation of his life-long harangue in denial of divinity, and followed by a crushed recognition of his foolishness, and then again in the opposite direction, etc., until his decease, his agony beyond real description. Darwin never reached a final conclu-

sion of his theory of evolution and even expressed doubts in some areas of his research, but did admit that his basic denial of God enabled him to feel free in immoral sexuality.

thereof” Psalm 19:1-6.

“For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the

Is there truly a recognition that there is One who is greater than I, One who created us by divine power through His spoken word?

Is the evidence favoring a divine intelligence not sufficient in human intelligence, though men of notoriety exalt themselves foolishly (to reasonable men) and in vain denial?

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat

things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:...and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools” Rom. 1:20-22.

This text is directed toward professed believers in a deity who turn to idols, and is appropriate also to so-called atheism, a form of idolatry, for such in reality worship mankind with his achievements; **and what will we do with the glorification of those in the various entertainment fields?** It is one thing to appreciate excellence or exceptional talent in our fellow man, but such recognition more often than not exceeds the wisdom possible from God:

“Fear God, and give glory to him.”

As a nation of Israel (Jo-

seph's land: see Deut. 33:13-16), the following through the prophet Isaiah is appropriate and should be viewed in its descriptive terms as symbols of our modern world:

be exalted in that day. For the day of the Lord of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low: And upon all

silver, and his idols of gold, which they made each one for himself to worship, to the moles and to the bats; To go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth” (Isaiah 2:7-19; Note: Compare previous quote in Isaiah with 2 Nephi 8:24-35).

“The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day.”

“Their land also is full of silver and gold, neither is there any end of their treasures; their land is also full of horses (oil & coal, electric, atomic, etc., powered vehicles/w.a.s.), neither is there any end of their chariots (airplanes, cars, trucks, etc./w.a.s): Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made: And the mean man boweth down (to idols/w.a.s.), and the great man humbleth himself (before idols/w.a.s): therefore forgive them not. Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of his majesty. The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the Lord alone shall

the cedars of Lebanon, that are high and lifted up, and upon all the oaks of Bashan, And upon all the high mountains (nations/w.a.s.), and upon all the hills that are lifted up, And upon every high tower, and upon every fenced wall, And upon all the ships of Tarshish (means for commerce/w.a.s.), and upon all pleasant pictures. And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. And the idols he shall utterly abolish. And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth. In that day a man shall cast his idols of

ELIE CIPENG A' CIPENG'S TESTIMONY



By Elie CIPENG A' CIPENG.

INTRODUCTION

I, Elie CIPENG A' CIPENG, born on July 27th, 1972, at CHIBAMBO, a village located south-east of Katanga province in D.R. Congo. I'm the first born of a family of nine children, among them three girls and six boys. My father's name is CIPENG and my mother's name is CHANDWE. All of our family held to the belief of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of

Latter Days Saints where I got my first baptism in 1988. At this period, regardless I was at reasonable age, I didn't understand really that the baptism could give a great signification for me, being not sufficiently taught on this subject. What I was supposed to know was only to be immersed in the water and this gave me the capacity to become a member of the Reorganized Church, and after that I assumed the position of the Secretary in the Christian Education Committee of my congregation.

Although of my duty of a teacher in charge of the Sunday School and in other worship services, I didn't have enough knowledge on the Book of Mormon. I only knew that in addition to the Bible and the Doctrine and Covenants (another book used by the Reorganized Church as also the sacred book) the Book of Mormon was also considered as the Word of God. Nevertheless, I didn't have enough arguments enabling me to give any right answers to all the questions which were asked me on this subject. The church leaders themselves did not give an answer as clear as possible to convince people about the

Book of Mormon and of its divine origin.

This lack of knowledge from the leaders and other members of the Church on the Book of Mormon was because the Missionaries of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints spoke superficially on the book and didn't open it often—or never when they had to preach or to teach. However we were members of the church with a statement of belief that the Bible and the Book of Mormon are both the Word of God.

MY INTEREST

One of many trips to our country, the D.R. Congo, the missionaries of the Reorganized Church informed us concerning the change of the name of the Church. They told us that the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints had to bear the name of the "Community of Christ," the name which was to reflect the original name as it was in 1830. They told also that the very name was the "Church of Christ," but as this church was already in the USA, it seems to adopt another

denomination most closer to the Church which was founded in 1830. As most of the members didn't want to abandon the traditional name of the church, fearing to see the church to be divided, they adopted to combine these two names of the church, as: the "Community of Christ, Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints."

These kinds of things used to raise many questions to which required more light. Why did the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints adopt this name, leaving that of the Church of Christ? What is this Church of Christ and what are her teachings? Does it belong to the Restoration Movement? Why its preference to keep the original name since 1830 as it was given to Joseph Smith?

These were the questions, among others, which were still in my mind. And this "Church of Christ" began to become interesting for me although I continued to attend the Community of Christ.

I felt now a deep desire to learn more of the Restoration Movement. Unfortunately for me, most of the books which were available to me were published in the English language and it was not easy for me to read or to understand the content. In fact, even though I did understand English, all these books were published by the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ and more information were for them than for other

organizations of the Restoration Movement.

However, one day I discovered a book in French relating the History of the Church from the origin to the 1860 year. While reading a chapter explaining the division of the churches of the res-

toration movement I discovered the name of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) mentioned, and other denominations. This reading showed me that it was this Church of Christ which kept the teachings and doctrines since the origin of the church in 1830. It was from this time that my decision became firm to look where and how to find this Church.

MY CONVERSION

Some years later I decided to leave the Reorganized Church and other people joined me. We used to meet together in prayers and we attracted others to join us. One day, while surfing on the website based on the Restoration Movement, I got the chance to discover the site of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot). This was a great joy for me and I couldn't keep silence on my discovery. While relating my experience of this discovery to other people, they encouraged me to write and I finally wrote

promptly.

After a long period of correspondence with an Apostle of the Church of Christ we agreed to make a trip to Zambia and we met there the ministers of God at Mansa. This was for me a joy to meet the Apostles of the Church

He told me not to be afraid, for the Book of Mormon, together with the Bible, is the true Word of God.

of Christ, Brian McIndoo and Smith Brickhouse, at Mansa Hôtel in Zambia. It was there we got the very first teachings concerning the Church of Christ. After one year, we received the Apostle Smith Brickhouse and Elder Rickey Olson in our country, the D.R. Congo; their message was verily persuasive.

I began to be convinced to belong to a church which keeps the same NAME since 1830 after a long period of apostasy. At the time of the New Testament Christ told His disciples that He will build His church on the rock of the divine knowledge that Peter Simon got: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." This same church that Christ founded at that time of the New Testament should remain the same church in its structure and organization, bearing the same Gospel, because God did not change.

In 1830, after a long period of 1260 years of apostasy, Christ restored this same church with the same doctrine and the same

Gospel, which should be testified by the history of another branch of the house of Israel. This branch was the offspring of Joseph (whom was sold in Egypt) and which the Bible said through the patriarch Jacob his father: "Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall" (Genesis 49:22).

This branch did so testify on the divinity of Jesus Christ and on the Gospel He taught on this land (of America), as He told when He was in Jerusalem with His disciples: "And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice, and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd."

Then, it was a wonderful teaching not only because it increased my knowledge about the Book of Mormon, but also enlightened my intelligence on God's promises from the Bible.

I didn't resist at this vibrant call of the Lord. I knew now that in spite of my baptism in the Reorganized Church I was still without the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I had to accept the Gospel, to convert myself in the Church of Christ through baptism by the hands of God's servant, mandated by Christ. Then I was baptized in the Church bearing the name of Christ, and the organization and doctrine and the same structure and authority as it was in the New Testament time. So I decided to go in water and to be immersed by the minister of God;

Rickey Olson baptized me in the same manner as Jesus Christ, the Son of God, whom was baptized by John the Baptist in Jordan river 2000 years ago. Many others, convinced, were also baptized.

MY COMMITMENT

As I know now, I belong to the Church of Christ with Headquarters on the Temple Lot, Independence, Missouri, USA. After a long night of apostasy, this church was restored to the earth in 1830. I'm now a member of the body of Christ, a citizen of the Kingdom of God. The teachings I continue to benefit from each time the ministers of God visit us, continue to lighten my understanding about the Gospel. No man can come unto me, said Jesus, except it were given unto him of my father. I know that it is the will of the Father that I belong now to the Church of Christ. After my baptism in water, the Apostle Smith Brickhouse and Elder Rickey Olson laid their hands on my head to confer upon me the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Since then the Spirit of God bears testimony with my spirit that I'm a son of God. What a wonderful thing that I can say, Abba! which means Father!

As I am a son of God in His Kingdom, which is the Church of Christ, I'm committed to announce these wonderful things which were taught to me, and I would like to give testimony of my

conversion to Christ. My first experience was that I shared Christ's teachings with someone from another confession. She found it very hard to believe the Restored Gospel, but with the help of the Holy Ghost she believed the message of the Restoration and was baptized the following year by the hands of Apostle Brian McIndoo and was confirmed by the Laying on of Hands by the same Apostle, assisted by the other (Apostle Brickhouse) during their visit to the D.R. Congo. By the grace of God this person became of late my fiancée and resolved to assist me in all circumstances when the time will come that the Lord will allow that we will be in the union of marriage. Yobocam Dada Kanjinga (that's the name of my future wife) and I continue to attend the Church of Christ with the strong belief on the Restored Gospel. We share the same faith, the same baptism and we have Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, as our Lord.

To join our faith to the psalmist and Paul the Apostle, we say: "We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak" (II Corinthians 4:13).

Yea, we believe the Gospel of Christ and we are resolved to speak about it to anyone who will give opportunity to hear us. May the Lord continue to bless His Church.

INDEPENDENCE EAST LOCAL REPORT



By Sr. Deb Haines

Our love and best wishes to all from the East Independence Local! Once again we have many blessings to share with you by way of this report. The Lord has kept this little flock in His watch care; for this we are very grateful! There is sometimes a sadness as some things change, but we know the Lord has His reasons and we must trust in Him always.

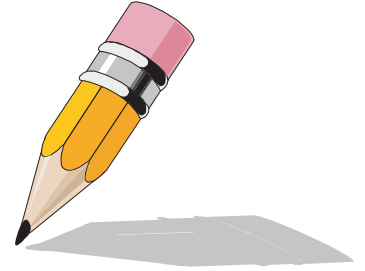
I report with sadness that our sister Amy Schrader has left us to live with family in Bemidji, Minnesota. During our "Dinner Sunday" in March we surprised her with a card shower. We tried to extend to her our love and best wishes as she prepared to move following Conference. We hope she realizes how much we all will miss her, and that she is able to

come back for a visit soon.

Apostles Frank Fann and Mike McGhee returned from a missionary trip to the Philippines just shortly before Conference. Br. Mike had been scheduled for eye surgery upon their return. We missed seeing him at the General Conference, but we are thankful he was blessed with a speedy recovery.

Church Conference was somewhat lower in attendance this year, but we still greatly enjoyed the fellowship of all those who were able to attend. The meetings went well and the work of the Lord will carry on as we pray for His will to be done. Our East Local's Women's Department once again hosted a pancake dinner at the local IHOP Sunday evening. This event has been well attended since its inception, for the enjoyment of dining together, giving the ladies in the kitchen a break, and for the raising of funds for missionary work. The ladies' General United Workers Luncheon took place on Tuesday at the East Local annex. This is a real nice time of fellowship with our sisters from near and far.

Sr. Ruth Seibel and Br. Ken Vick, both from Independence, were united in marriage at the Temple Lot Church on Saturday, April 7th. Sr. Ruth is the daughter of Br. Harvey E. and Sr. Irene Seibel. Br. Ken is the



son of Sr. Pat Savage.

A wedding shower for Stephani Almai (and Br. Justin Stancil) took place April 19th at the East Local annex. They were united in marriage on May 5th. Br. Justin is the son of Sr. Jane Ann and Br. Craig Carmichael, and the grandson of Sr. Florence Kommer.

Our East Local Business Meeting and Sunday School Business Meeting took place the evening of April 23rd. Our officers for this coming year are: Pastor-Elder Larry Beem; Asst. Pastor-Elder Isaac Brockman, Jr.; Secretary-Sr. Diane Brockman; Treasurer-Br. Harvey L. Seibel; Auditor-Elder Steve McGhee; Sunday School Superintendent-Br. Bruce Haines; Asst. Sunday School Superintendent-Priest Rusty Granger; Sunday School Secretary-Sr. Deb Haines; and MANY others volunteered for varied responsibilities and generously give of their time and talents.

The East Local Women's Department hosted a Mother-Daughter

Banquet on May 8th. We enjoyed a nice luncheon and were entertained by the Independence Police Department Quartet. It was a sweet time for all.

Sr. Lindsey Rudd, daughter of Sr. Becky and Br. David Rudd, graduated from Truman High School this year. The family held an open house in her honor at their home on May 12th. Also graduating (May 11th) was Trevor Sarratt, son of Br. Steven and Sr. Karey Sarratt and grandson of Br. Roland and Sr. June Sarratt.

Apostle Smith "Buzz" Brickhouse left for a missionary trip to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in late April. Elder Rick Olson joined him there later to assist with the work. They were greatly blessed during this trip and also with a safe return in mid-May.

A wedding shower for Liz Nacke (and Br. Jason Oldham) took place at the East Local annex on May 17th.

Br. Jason is the son of Elder Bob and Sr. Jennifer Oldham. Their wedding took place on June 16th.

A Church garage sale took place at the home of Sr. Holly Cook on May 19th. This was a very successful fundraiser for the foreign missions. We thank all of those who participated!

Elder Bob Oldham left for a missionary trip to Honduras the end of May; he will be joining Apostle Don McIndoo in the work there.

Apostle Frank Fann will not be able to make the next missionary

trip scheduled for the Philippines because of health problems. We ask for your prayers on his behalf. It has been discovered that he has cancer in an adrenal gland (attached to a kidney) and a blockage in a bile duct. The blockage and the adrenal gland will be removed as soon as possible. We pray for God's blessings to be with him for a sure healing! Elder Charles Brantner will be joining Apostle Mike McGhee on the next trip to the Philippines, scheduled for June 26 through July 17.

During the last few months there has been surgery for Sr. Deb Haines, Br. Mike Kimball, Br. Mike Smith and Elder Gerald Cox. Elder Steve McGhee also made a recent trip to the hospital for a stint. Sr. Jeanne Brantner will be receiving chemo maintenance therapy; we ask also for your prayers on her behalf. All have been blessed with the comforting spirit of the Lord's healing hand upon them. We are so thankful for all of His blessings! We give all thanks and glory unto Him! May God bless you all is our prayer.

In closing, I feel led to share a tidbit from a sermon we heard recently, as a reminder to all: Our goal should be for salvation. Beyond that we must strive for perfection, spiritual perfection. To have a tender heart, like Christ our Savior, is to have spiritual perfection. Do we have a love for all mankind? His spirit will lead us IF we will let it. We need to let loose of our own plan and goal, and

follow HIS. When He shall appear we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is (He will know us and recognize His spirit in US). Be meek in this world, yet strong in Christ. We are to be filled with His love! Put away our own wants, our own wills and do HIS—then you are perfect. Have a "tender heart" and be perfected in the love of Christ and go on to salvation.



OBITUARIES

Samuel Muheeb Ayanfe

Samuel Muheeb Ayanfe, who, until his death (June 2007), was the Leader of one of the Church of Christ assemblies in Olosha Oko, Ibadan Oyo State, Nigeria.

Samuel Ayanfe joined the Church of Christ in 2003 August when the missionaries made the first trip to Nigeria, and was baptized in 2003 by emersion performed by Apostle Brian E. McIndoo. Ever since 2003 Samuel has been a very active member/leader in the services and church activities over the speculated period aforementioned.

The deceased Samuel is survived by wife, children, family and friends. Death visited his home and took away Samuel unexpectedly.



We need to see to his immediate family left behind on how we can assist them due to the sudden incident prior till they will be able to overcome the ugly incident.

*Respectfully submitted by,
David Olanrewaju Ismaila
Committee Member
(Church of Christ, Nigeria)*

Archie Wesley Dubose

Archie was born March 31, 1929 and died in Florida Memorial Hospital, Florida, Alabama, May 15, 2007, at the age of 78 years, 1 month and 15 days. Funeral services were held at Keahey Funeral Home Chapel in Andalusia, Alabama, May 16, 2007, with Elder Marvin Case officiating.

Archie was buried in River Falls Cemetery. The military sent an honor guard to play taps and fold the Flag that was draped

over his casket, which Eloise received.

Archie was a faithful member of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot). He and his wife always furnished a place for the visiting ministry to stay and to hold services for the group in his area. He had suffered from Parkinson's disease for many years, but even with this he and his wife were faithful in their efforts to assist the Elders when they came.

Archie is survived by his be-

loved wife Evelyn Eloise Dubose, children, family and a host of friends that loved him very much.

NOTICES

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Ladies 18 and over: Plan now to attend the 2007 Women's Retreat, October 5th and 6th, at Lake Maurer Retreat Center, Excelsior Springs, Missouri. The cost is \$30.00, which includes one night's accommodations and three meals. There is absolutely no "kitchen duty." This is your time to relax and fellowship with your sisters in Christ. Join a group leaving the Temple Lot at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, October 5, to eat together on the way to the retreat center or go directly to Lake Maurer anytime after 2:00 p.m. for an afternoon of fellowship. There will be scrapbooking supplies and instruction available at that time for those interested. Supper will be served between 5:00-7:00 p.m. The opening session begins at 7:30 p.m. This year's theme is "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me" Psalms 51:10. Over fifty women attended the 2006 Women's retreat. Come and join us this year. For more information or a registration form contact:

Carrie Geier
14609 East Phelps Court,
Independence, MO 64055
(816) 836-0035

Accept this year's challenge: Before the retreat, read the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John from the Bible.

NOTICES

NEW YORK REUNION

- July 13-15, 2007
- Hogsburg, New York
- For more information please contact:

IN CANADA:

Wayne and Susan Miller
868 Tollgate Road
Cornwall, Ontario
Canada K6H5R6
(613) 933-5469

wmiller12@cogeco.ca

IN THE UNITED STATES:

Brandon and Tara Tarbell
PO Box 940
37 Pearl Street
Hogsburg, NY 13655
(518) 358-9153

btarbell@bearsdentradepost.com

Eli and Gretchen Tarbell
PO Box 21
600 State Route 37
Hogsburg, New York 13655
(518) 358-2911

egtarbell@hotmail.com

Dale and Terry Waldruff
429 County Road 34
Canton, New York 13617
(315) 265-1221
terrwald@slc.com

SCRIPTURE ADVENTURE

- Thursday, July 26, 2007
- 8:45 a.m. Door Registration
- 9:00 a.m. Day Camp Begins
- 1:00 p.m. End of Camp—Pick Up

- The Church of Christ East Independence Local, 78 Highway and East Holke Road, Independence, Missouri 64050
- For children between 5 and 11 years old. A \$5 donation per family is requested for attending the Camp. Lunch will be provided and a minister will be in attendance.
- For more information please contact:

Jennifer Yates
(602) 790-0852
hometeaching@cox.net
Aimee Brockman
aimee.brockman@tmcmcd.org

MISSOURI REUNION

- July 27-29, 2007
- Temple Lot, Independence, Missouri
- For more information please contact:

Roland Sarratt
15910 E. 37th Terr.
Independence, MO 64055
(816) 373-6605
r.sarratt@comcast.net
Michael McGhee
18907 E. 6th St. North
Independence, MO 64056
(816) 796-6255

WOMEN'S RETREAT

- October 5-6, 2007
- Lake Maurer Retreat Center,

- Excelsior Springs, MO
 - The retreat program will start at 7:30 p.m. Friday evening.
 - Cost: \$30/person (includes one night's accommodation and three meals)
 - Scrapbooking supplies and instruction available on Friday afternoon. Bring photos and join the fun or just sit and fellowship.
 - For more information please contact:
- Carrie Geier**
14609 E. Phelps Ct.
Independence, MO 64055
(816) 836-0035

PHOENIX REUNION

- November 23-25, 2007
 - For information please contact:
- Pastor Duane Ely**
18814 N. 30th St.
Phoenix, AZ 85050
(602) 569-1516
duanekathyely@aol.com
Assistant Pastor Bob Hedrick
2908 E. Rockwood Dr.
Phoenix, AZ 85050
(602) 494-9661
bobnliza@cox.net
Assistant Pastor Glenn Orsted
1327 E. Wescott Dr.
Phoenix, AZ 85024
(623) 780-8764
borsted@cox.net

PRIESTHOOD VISITATION

If you or someone you know (member or non-member) would like to be visited by a member of the Priesthood of the Church of Christ, please call or write to the Council of Apostles at Church Headquarters in Independence. The phone numbers and addresses are listed on the inside front cover.



Church of Christ

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS TEMPLE LOT
200 S RIVER BLVD PO BOX 472
INDEPENDENCE MO 64051-0472

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
INDEP., MO
PERMIT NO. 259



CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

Zion's Advocate Subscription Rate Members (optional)	\$4.00
Zion's Advocate Subscription Rate Non-Members.	12.00
Babylon's Fall and the Way of Escape.	1.85
Book of Commandments (plastic bound)	6.00
Book of Commandments Controversy Reviewed	4.00
Book of Mormon (1990 Independence Edition—plastic)	12.00
Book of Mormon (1990 Independence Edition reprint—leatherette)	46.00
Book of Mormon Companion, A (plastic)	5.00
Book of Mormon Companion, A (hard bound)	12.00
Book of Mormon Concordance	8.00
Changing of the Revelations50
Libro De Mormon (Spanish)	7.00
Marvelous Work and a Wonder, A, by Daniel MacGregor.	4.50
Outline History of the Church of Christ.	9.65
Temple Lot Deed30
What the Restoration Teaches Concerning God.	2.50
Zion's Hymnal (members)	15.00
Zion's Hymnal (non-members)	18.00

THE FOLLOWING GENERAL CHURCH PUBLICATIONS ARE FREE OF CHARGE:*

- Ancient Prophecies Fulfilled in 1830
- Apostasy from the New Testament Church
- Articles of Faith & Practice of the Church of Christ
- Article of Faith, #1 (concerning God; earliest Restoration history)
- Article of Faith, #9 - (concerning the Bible and Book of Mormon)
- Baptism for the Dead—A Fallacy
- The Book of Commandments - Its Role in the History of the Restoration
- Brief Commentary: Book of Commandments & Doctrine and Covenants
- A Brief History of the Church of Christ
- A Call to National Repentance - Hearken to the Words of Jesus Christ
- The Christian Sabbath is the Lord's Day - Sunday
- Colored Tracts to Native Americans: 1) Book in the Stone Box, 2) Did you Know?, 3) Epistle to American Indians, 4) Promises of God and Straight Talk
- Concerning Marriage and Polygamy
- The Cost of Salvation
- Does it Make a Difference to Which Church You Belong?
- El Libro De Mondamientos - Su Funcion En La Historia De La Restauracion De
- La Iglesia De Cristo (Spanish Book of Commandments Commentary)
- Evidences of the Book of Mormon
- First Presidency or First Apostles?
- God's Promises to Israel
- God's Purpose in America
- The Great Plan of Redemption
- Is Marriage for Time and Eternity?—A Fallacy
- The Last Maya King and the Liberation of Jerusalem
- A Latter Day Apostasy
- The Latter Day Restoration
- Priesthood—Divine Authority
- Principles of the Gospel—Baptism
- Principles of the Gospel—Faith & Repentance
- Principles of the Gospel—Laying on of Hands
- Resurrection and Eternal Judgement
- Sermonettes on the Teachings of Jesus
- Some Misconceptions about the Book of Mormon
- A Synopsis (Compares beliefs of three Restoration churches)
- That Sacred Spot is Definitely Located
- What about the Book of Mormon?
- Why? (Amplifies absence of a First Presidency in Scripture)
- Zion and the Temple of the Lord

*Donations will be accepted to cover postage & printing costs. (Multiple copies available: 6-50¢/100-\$5.85 plus postage.)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTICE

To insure your membership records remain as current as possible when moving or relocating, fill out this form and return it to the Church of Christ (Temple Lot), Attn: General Church Recorder, P.O. Box 472, Independence, MO 64050-0472, or e-mail the information to cofcrecorder@sbcglobal.net. One form per family, please.

MEMBER'S NAME: (First) _____ (Middle) _____ (Last) _____

OLD ADDRESS: (Street address) _____

(City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____

NEW ADDRESS: (Street address) _____

(City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____

NAMES of all Church of Christ (Temple Lot) members residing at new address: _____

CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

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