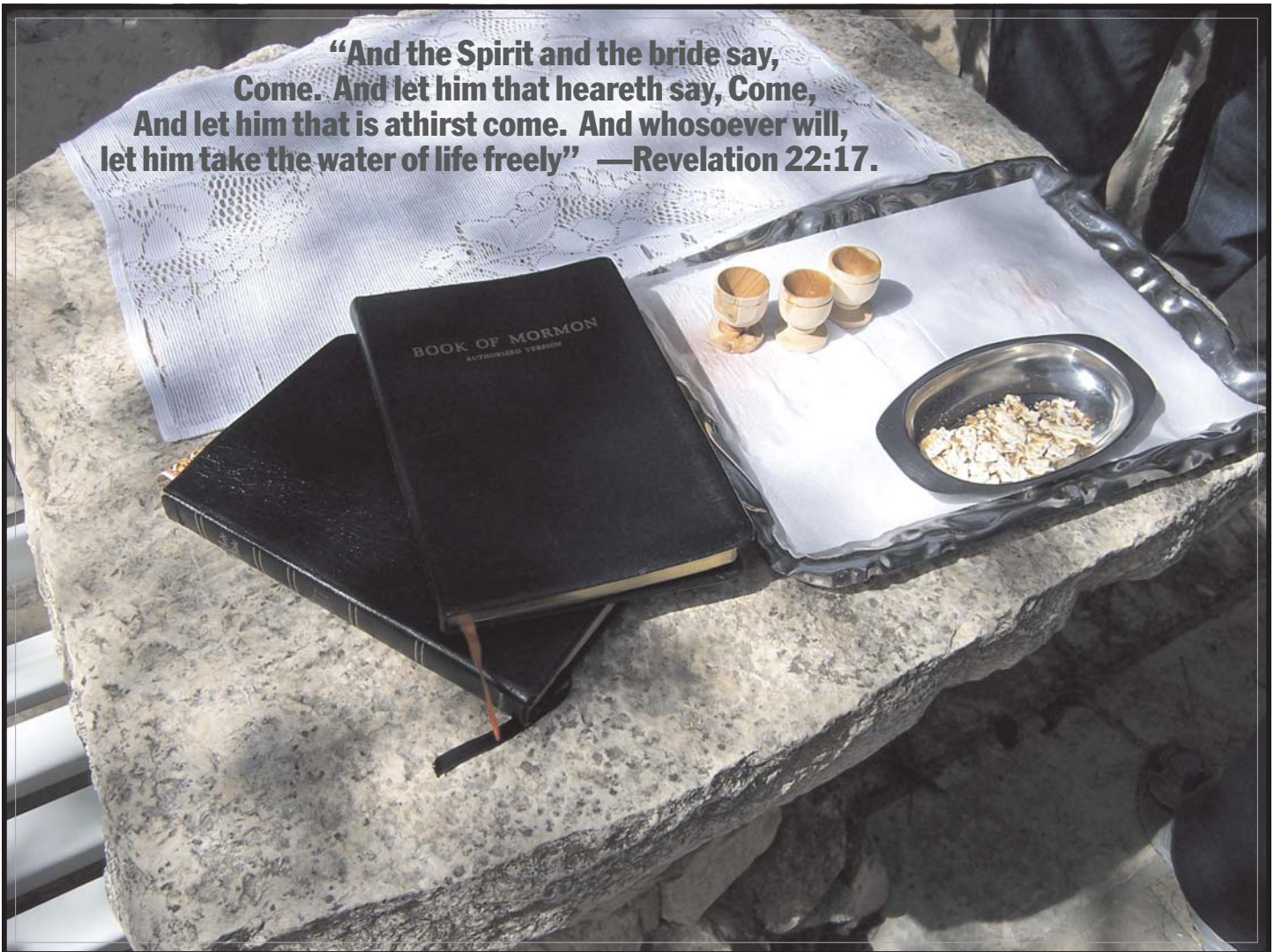


Zion's Advocate

*"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

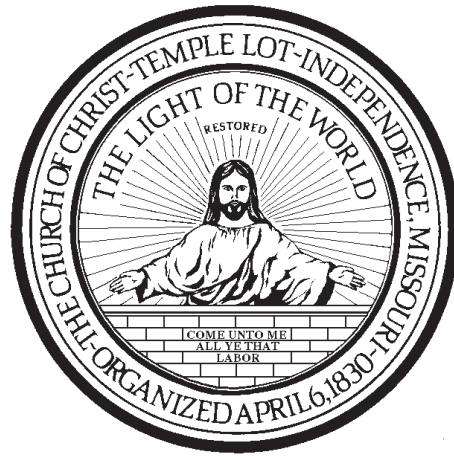
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**"And the Spirit and the bride say,
Come. And let him that heareth say, Come,
And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will,
let him take the water of life freely" —Revelation 22:17.**

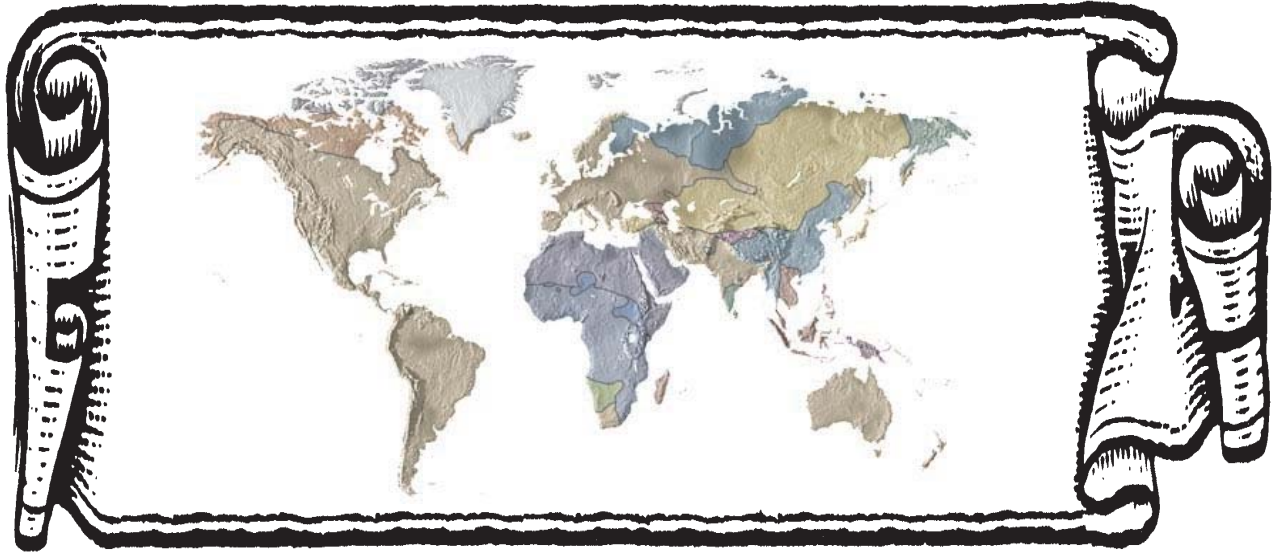
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ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

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.

Visit us at: <http://churchofchrist-tl.org/>

An INVITATION

By Elder Gordon McCann

The goal or mission statement for publishing the *Zion's Advocate* is to:

- Promote Jesus Christ as our only Saviour
- Promote His Teachings and His Church, the Church of Christ
- Be a voice of warning to His people; to be *Zion's Advocate*

To that end, this issue has been dedicated to the promoting of those goals by providing the pureness of the gospel as taught by Jesus Christ contained in the Bible and Book of Mormon.

An invitation can be found in the book of Isaiah, which is the clarion cry of the Church of Christ:

"Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ... Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David" (Isaiah 55:1, 3).

The God that we love and endeavor to serve looks into the hearts of His creation and calls out to them by His Spirit looking for the "true worshippers" of God.

"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that

worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:23-24).

It is incumbent upon each soul to humble themselves before almighty God, our Creator, and without hypocrisy seek Him who "... is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matthew 10:28).

"Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:6-7).

That is why Jesus made it very clear that "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21). Therefore those who approach God must do so in faith believing "... for he that cometh to God must believe that he is." By exercising their faith in God, desiring to understand what is required of them in this life, they will find favor before Him because "... he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6).

Much care is required by those who are seeking the truth, especially in the day that we live in, "the last days" (2 Timothy 3:1; 2 Peter 3:3). We were told that many will profess to be the mouthpiece for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Reciting the words of Christ in the Day of Judgment, "... Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have

cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?" Jesus was careful to answer those individuals by saying, "... then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matthew 7:22-23).

That is why the Apostle John warned the believers in Christ in his first epistle not to summarily believe everything that is being taught or espoused by others concerning the Gospel of Christ, but were admonished to, "... try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1).

I invite you to make it a matter of prayer, asking the Father in the name of Jesus Christ as you consider the things that you are about to read in this issue. If you will do this, acting no hypocrisy before God, but with real intent desiring to know the truth, the God that we both worship will manifest the truthfulness of these things presented by way of His Spirit. It will be no different than when Jesus walked with His disciples after His resurrection, "And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?" (Luke 24:32).

May God bless you and may He fulfill His promise to you in your quest to know the truth, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

The Restoration of the Church of Christ

April 6, 1830



Apostle Brian E. McIndoo

With more than 33,000 denominations in existence today, only the Church of Christ can claim what no other church can: it is Christ's church of which the prophets of old prophesied would come forth in the last days—having been restored by the hand of God with authority coming from Jesus

Any church claiming to be Christ's church of the last days would not only have to agree with all of Christ's doctrines, but also agree with the words of the prophets on how and when the latter-day church would be restored.

Christ.

The prophet Amos asked: "Can two walk together except they agree?" Amos 3:3. The answer is an easy one: no, they cannot. Any church claiming to be Christ's church of the last days would not only have to agree with all of Christ's doctrines, but also agree with the words of the prophets on how and when the latter-day church would be restored.

Amos also tells us, "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets" Amos 3:7.

Let us briefly examine what God hath revealed and recorded in the prophet's words and in world history to see why Christ's church would necessi-

tate a restoration in the latter days.

Jesus stated He would build His church (see Matthew 16:18), meaning He would give us the Gospel of salvation and He would call forth Priesthood and give them the authority to preach the doctrines of His Gospel and to build up His kingdom. He taught the way of salvation through obedience to His words and called men to come out of the world and follow Him. However, He also declared that only a few faithful souls would be willing to take the narrow path He laid before us. Matt 7:13-14:

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Jesus warned of those coming in to destroy the church and truth. Matthew 7:15: *"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."* Likewise, the apostles of old echoed, warned, and prophesied of a falling away, or an apostasy, of Christ's Church and the rise of an Anti-Christ before Christ would make His victorious return.

The church in Thessalonica eagerly waiting for the return of Jesus Christ asked the Apostle Paul when it would be. Paul painted a vivid picture concerning this coming apostasy and the rise of the man of sin that must take place before Christ's return. (Also foretold in the Book of Daniel 7:8, 25 and Revelation 13:5.)

II Thessalonians 2:2-4, "That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."

Verses 8-12: *"And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of*

Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

Paul also explained that a ruling power would have to be taken away to prepare the way for this man of sin to rise up. II Thessalonians 2:6-7:

"And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way."

The power hindering the rise of the man of sin and necessitating removal was the Roman government. History establishes that in 570 AD when the Lombard invaders destroyed the last vestige of the Roman Empire they also gave supremacy to the Bishop of Rome, (the Pope) to rule over not only the church but also the government of the city of Rome. With this ascendancy the Pope declared Himself to be, *"...not merely a man, but as God, the vicar of God...the pope is as God on earth"* (*Marvelous Work and a Wonder*, Pg. 56). With this the saints were delivered into the hands of papal power, as stated in Revelation 17:6: *"And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered*

with great admiration." It is evident this woman is the Holy Roman Empire and Vatican City, as we see in Revelation 17:9: *"And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth."* In John's day the world knew Rome to be the seven-hilled city.

The prophet Amos described this time of the rise of the anti-Christ as a spiritual famine when the truth would cease to exist. Amos 8:11-13, *"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it. In that day shall the fair virgins and young men faint for thirst."* History refers to this time period as the dark ages, but we shall refer to it as the Apostasy.

The Apostle John also saw and recorded in chapter 12 of the Book of Revelation concerning this falling away of the church. John speaks in the language of the prophets as he describes Christ's Church as a woman, standing upon the covenants of the Old Testament but clothed in the brightness of the New Covenant. With great travail she gives birth to a man-child, the authority of Christ's Spiritual Kingdom. Yet we see her, the Church, fleeing into the wilderness. Revelation 12:14, *"And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle,*

that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent." Prophetically a wilderness is a place of punishment away from God, see examples in Isaiah 14:17, Hosea 2:3, and Numbers 14:33, 32:13.

There in the wilderness the woman (the Church), was fed a flood of lies and deceits from the very mouth of the serpent as foretold in Daniel 7:25, Revelation 12:14-16, and 2 Thessalonians 2:8-10. As the Church fell away from truth and the man of sin rose to power it is revealed to the Apostle John that the man-child, the authority of the Kingdom of Christ, was caught up to heaven and had no place here on earth. John writes in Revelation 12:5, "And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne." At this point the spiritual famine foretold by Amos was upon the earth.

In the day of the Reformation Movement, men attempted to recover this fallen church, but the church could not be recovered; it was immersed in false doctrines and any authority had already been removed from the earth. What was required was this authority to be restored or returned from heaven to the earth to a church that was not then nor ever had been a part of the fallen church. John was taken to the wilderness where the woman fled to see what had become of her and likewise he sees God's title for

her, all those which come out of her. Revelation 17:3-5:

"So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."

Even as the prophets foretold of the Apostasy, likewise they prophesied of the Restoration of Christ's Church receiving authority returned from heaven to preach the truth of the gospel and perform the ordinances of Christ among the people. Let us examine which of those prophecies were fulfilled with the organization of the Church of Christ on April 6th, 1830.

Even as prophets told of the Apostasy, they also revealed this suppression of the truth would be for a limited time. John states it would last 1260 days. Revelation 12:6: "And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days." Then again, in the same chapter 12, he refers to the time in another manner. Vs. 14, "And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her

place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent." Interpretation of this reference would be a time is a year, times is two years and a half of times is a half year, adding up to forty-two months, as John described it in Revelation 13:5: "And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months." In the Jewish calendar each month has thirty days, so forty-two months of thirty days each totals 1260 days. The prophet Daniel used this same language to describe the event, with the exception of saying dividing of times as a half-year. Daniel 7:25: "And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time."

I did refer to the time of the apostasy as lasting 1260 years, even though the prophets are designating the times as days. To understand the time frame once again we must consider the language of the prophets, which they say a year is as a day to the Lord. II Peter 3:8, "**But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.**" See also Numbers 14:34 and Ezekiel 4:6.

As previously stated the apostasy began when the Pope was given power to rule over

Rome in the year 570 A.D. As per the prophets the apostasy would last but 1260 years, then God would restore the truth to the earth. John in his revelation put it as an angel coming from heaven returning the everlasting gospel unto the earth and giving authority to Christ's church to preach the day of God's judgment is upon the earth. Revelation 14:6-7:

"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."

Another event that had to take place at the time of Restoration is found in the writings of the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah 29:10, *"For the LORD hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered."* To recover from this obscurity and the deep sleep of the apostasy God would have to do a marvelous work and a wonder; a book was to come forth, bringing sight to the spiritually blind and allowing the spiritual deaf to hear truth once again. The humble people, willing to hear the truth of the book, will increase their joy for having received it, see Isaiah 29:10-24. This book, containing the fullness of the gospel, putting down the false doctrines and precepts

of men, came forth when the angel which flew from the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel, revealed to Joseph Smith, Jr. the location of an ancient record containing the history of God's workings among the inhabitants of the American continent. Joseph was given the Urim and Thummim, which enabled him to translate the ancient record we know as the Book of Mormon. 1 Nephi 7:17, *"And after our seed is scattered, the Lord God will proceed to do a marvelous work and a wonder among the Gentiles, which shall be a great worth to our seed;..."*

As Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery did this work of translating the ancient record they were instructed by an angel not only to be baptized by each other, but also conveyed upon them the authority of the priesthood. Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery were among the six men who were instructed to organize the Church of Christ on April 6th, 1830.

The prophet Daniel who referred to the apostasy lasting for a period of forty-two months gave us another insight to events that would take place at the time God would set up or RESTORE His kingdom on earth.

As Daniel was summoned by King Nebuchadnezzar to interpret a dream the king had, he told the king his dream concerned the last days. Daniel 2:28 *"But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days..."* Daniel

proceeded to explain how the king saw a great image or statue of a man that stood, each part comprised of a different metal representing a different kingdom. The importance of this vision is what would happen when all the kingdoms of the image stood in completeness, having all kingdoms of the image in power upon the earth at the same time. In that day God would set up His kingdom, which would be everlasting. Daniel 2:44, *"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever."* History tells us this image stood complete only once in history, being a short period of time between 1829 and 1830.

God has revealed to the prophets His plan for Christ's Church, a restoration of truth and Priesthood authority here on earth. The Church of Christ (TL) is the one church that can walk in agreement with all these prophecies.

Daniel 7:27: *"And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him."*

UPGRADING OUR PERSPECTIVE



By Apostle Don McIndoo

The Book of Mormon narrative tells about the high degree of civilization of those who were led to America by the Lord about 600 years before Christ: *“And I did teach my people that they should build buildings, and that they should work in all manner of wood, and of iron, and of copper, and of brass, and of steel, and of gold, and of silver, and of precious ores, which were in great abundance”* (2 Nephi 4:21). And again in 3 Nephi 3:8 we read,



Labná, Yucatan

“And it came to pass that there were many cities built anew, and there were many old cities repaired, and there were many highways cast up, and many roads made, which led from city to city, and from land to land, and from place to place.”

Now the pertinent question comes down to this: “What did Americans, in 1829, really know about the first indigenous inhabitants of the land that

could have helped the unlettered Joseph Smith write such a description of a great civilization?” For the great and beautiful cities of the ancient Maya civilization were not rediscovered until 1839, ten years after the publication of the Book of Mormon. They were discovered by a New York lawyer who had become a world traveler. Three years later John L. Stephens published his book, beautifully

illustrated by artist Frederick Catherwood, who had accompanied him on his explorations to Mexico and Central America.

“Archaeologist, Victor Von Hagen, in his biography of Stephens, describes the attitude of Americans toward the Native American people and cultures at the time the Book of Mormon was published:

“No one dreamed that throughout the tablelands of Mexico, in the tangled scrub-jungles of Yucatan, there stood, covered by jungle verdure, ruins of temples, acropolises, and stone causeways of a civilization as great in extent as Egypt’s.

“The acceptance of an ‘Indian civilization’ demanded, to an American living in 1839, an entire reorientation; for to him an Indian was one of those barbaric half-naked tepee-dwellers against whom wars were constantly waged. Nor did one ever think of calling the other indigenous inhabitants of the continent ‘civilized’”.

Yet nine years before Stephen’s discovery of such ancient magnificence, the Book of Mormon revealed exactly the high state of civilization which would one day be discovered. An article in *National Geographic* compares the marvels of the Maya to their counterparts in the Old World:

“Early travelers, dazzled by the culture of the Maya, compared them to the Greeks because of their science, to the Romans because of well-drained, paved roads and to the Egyptians because of their pyramids.”

For nine years Joseph Smith had been ridiculed for the Book of Mormon’s description of a high civilization in an-

cient America. Now more than 160 years have passed since that description was vindicated by Stephen’s publication of his discoveries, and every passing year brings new finds that demonstrate the accuracy of the culture and history portrayed by the Book of Mormon.

The last writer in the narrative of the Nephite and Lamanite history wrote of the great destruction of the Nephite people. Then he goes on to tell of what followed: “*And behold also, the Lamanites are at war one with another; and the whole face of this land is one continual round of murder and bloodshed; and no one knoweth the end of the war*” (Book of Mormon 4:10).

Such a statement is completely at variance with the picture of Mayan social life developed by modern archaeologists. Since their findings are at odds with the Book of Mormon narrative, let’s pay particular attention to what they say:

T. W. F. Gann, in his book, *History of the Maya*, wrote, “The Maya, judging by the scenes depicted upon the stelae, were one of the least warlike nations who ever existed.” In *Ancient Life in Mexico and Central America*, another archaeologist writes, “Among general characteristics to be noticed is the absence of war implements and signs of combat in the sculptures, indicating a people living at peace with their neighbors.”

And so, in 1991, Vanderbilt University anthropologist, Arthur Demarest, had to write, “Until recent years scholars

tended to idealize the Mayas as a peaceful and industrious people. The only warfare was supposed to be limited, ritualized battles between rulers as part of dynastic struggles, but rarely involving common people.”

Once again, it had become obvious that there was a great disparity between the story told in the Book of Mormon and the picture portrayed by early archaeologists. But that was about to change. In an article entitled “*Secrets of the Mayas*,” written in May of 1993, Michael Lemonick wrote, “The latest discovery announced just this week, underscores how quickly Maya archaeology is changing. Among the first myths about this population to be debunked is that they were a peaceful race.” To what new discoveries is he referring?

From Guatemala comes this report from Arthur Demarest: “The kingdom collapsed into warfare far more destructive than we had ever imagined. The landscape and settlement pattern became almost medieval as many smaller states fought for survival.”

Now this appears from Belize: “Uncontrolled warfare was probably one of the main causes for the Maya’s eventual downfall. In the centuries after 250 A.D...the skirmishes that were common among competing city-states escalated into full-fledged, vicious wars that turned the proud cities into ghost towns.” We can easily see how this new, more accurate description of ancient Central America culture coincides

hand-in-glove with the account found in the Book of Mormon. We also see how new discoveries demand a change in the perspective of historians and archaeologists. There is also a good lesson for us in these new discoveries.

In my mind there is an-

other very important lesson here for those of us who believe in the authenticity of the Book of Mormon. The lesson is this: When men of science propose concepts that are in opposition to our faith and the Holy Scriptures, we are called to exercise our patience. Future discover-

ies and events will bring about another dramatic change in their perspective.

EVIDENCE of the BOOK OF MORMON

THE PROMISE TO RETURN

By Apostle Don McIndoo

In the Third Book of Nephi we can read some of the last words Jesus spoke to His followers in ancient America. He made them a promise that one day He would return.

"And he did expound all things, even from the beginning until the time that he should come in his glory;..."
(3 Nephi 11:30).

Any such profound and important statement should have been passed along to future generations in their written history and in their traditions. We realize that most of their written history was burned by Spanish priests during the Inquisition. Only three codices remain intact. Interestingly, a recent discovery in Yucatan has revealed

hundreds of written documents. They must be tested for validity and then translated. But oral traditions are numerous among many tribes. Let's consider a few of them:

"...[T]he White God left his people with a solemn promise that he would one day come back." (Honoré, Pierre, *In Search of the White God*, p. 17.)

"...[T]he remembered words of the resurrected Quetzalcoatl: '...one day I will return to you.'" (Anaya, Rudolfo, *Lord of the Dawn*, p. 143.)

"...[A] god who manifested himself as a white, bearded man, taught the peoples all the arts and sciences of civilization, and then disappeared with the promise to return some day in the year of his birth, Ce Acatl." (Waters, Frank, *Mexico Mystique*, p. 5.)

Archaeologist Gene Stuart writes of what took place in that

prophesied year. It arrived in 1519, the year when Cortés, leader of the bearded white strangers from Spain, arrived on the coast of Mexico. The Aztec monarch, Moctezuma, sent messengers to meet him, saying,

"If it is really Quetzalcoatl greet him on my behalf and give him these gifts..." (*The Mighty Aztecs*, National Geographic Society, 1981, p. 153.)

The Church of Christ



By Apostle Smith Brickhouse

The Church of Christ traces its history back to the original organization that was established by Jesus Christ in the first century AD. That original Church had Jesus Christ as its head and twelve Apostles that had the oversight of the Church organization on the earth. The ancient New Testament Church taught the pure, simple gospel of Christ. Please go to <http://www.churchofchrist-tl.org/about.html> to read of our history.

Fundamental to the beliefs of the Church of Christ is our belief in the unchangeability of

God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ:

"For I am the Lord, I change not..."
(Malachi 3:6, 3 Nephi 11:9).

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (James 1:17).

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8).

Therefore His Church today must have the same **name**, **doctrine**, **structure**, and **practices** as the church had when Christ built it.

Name of His Church

With the explosion of newly formed Christian churches that has occurred, especially since the 19th century, it can be very confusing as to which one is the true representative of Christ on earth today. Sorting through the list alone would be a daunting task, to say the least. Thanks be to our God where we have His written Word to help us in our search.

We find in the writings of the Apostle Paul to the church in Colossae, referring to the kingdom of God's "dear Son,"

he wrote the following:

"And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; that in all things he might have the pre-eminence" (Colossians 1:18).

In another letter found in the book of Hebrews we find the following:

"To the general assembly and church of the first-born, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all..." (Hebrews 12:23).

To the Romans Paul writes the following greeting:

"Salute one another with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you" (Romans 16:16).

In each scripture referenced above a common thought can be understood that the church that was established by Christ was His and that He is the head of it.

"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ..." (Ephesians 5:23-24).

As the wife takes the name of her husband and is known by his name, so are those who unite themselves with Christ;

they take upon them His name.

"And they who were baptized in the name of Jesus, were called the church of Christ" (3 Nephi 12:13).

Jesus Christ, understanding our nature, weak and easily swayed, answered the following question that was put to Him after much fasting and prayer by His disciples:

"Lord, we will that thou wouldst tell us the name whereby we shall call this church; for there are disputations among the people concerning this matter" (3 Nephi 12:14-16).

Jesus answered their question first with a question which pointed them to the written Word of God.

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

"Therefore, whatsoever ye shall do, ye shall do it in my name; therefore ye shall call the church in my name; and ye shall call upon the Father in my name, that he will bless the church for my sake; and how be it my church, save it be called in my name?"

"For if a church be called in Moses' name, then it be Moses' church; or if it be called in the name of a man, then it be the church of a man; but if it be called in my name, then it is my church, if it so be that they are built upon my gospel" (3 Nephi 12:18-20).

Doctrine/Gospel as Taught in His Church

Towards the end of the "Sermon on the Mount" as recorded in the book of Matthew, Jesus concludes with a warning:

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

"Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name: and in thy name have cast out devils: and in thy name done many wonderful works:

"And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you; depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock," (Matthew 7:21-24).

It is important to note that there are many false prophets and teachers, but there is only one Messiah who is the Son of God who came in the flesh according to the will of His Father to be lifted up upon the cross that He might draw all men unto Him to stand before Him to be judged of their works, whether they be good or evil, according to those things that have been written.

"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works" (Revelation 20:12).

Christ made it plain

through His walk in the flesh and in His teachings that if we truly loved Him we would keep His commandments and do the things that He did with the promise that we could become one with Him and His Father (John 14:15-23). Jesus calls us to *"Enter ye in at the strait gate... Because strait is the gate and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it"* (Matthew 7:13-14).

The very first example that Jesus gave us is when He came from Galilee to Jordan to be baptized of John, who knew that the Son of God stood before him and that he needed to be baptized by Jesus.

"Suffer it to be so now; for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

"And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

"And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved son, in who I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:13-17).

This example clearly points to that straightness of the path and the narrowness of the gate by which we should enter, Jesus having set the example.

The following is the doctrine that is taught in the Church of Christ from the recorded words of the resurrected Son of God, Jesus Christ:

"Behold, verily, verily I say unto you, I will declare unto you my doctrine. And this is my doctrine, and it is the doctrine which the Father hath given unto me;

"And I bear record of the Father, and the Father beareth record of me, and the Holy Ghost beareth record of the Father and me, and I bear record that the Father commandeth all men, everywhere, to repent and believe in me;

"And whoso believeth in me, and is baptized, the same shall be saved; and they are they which shall inherit the kingdom of God.

"And whoso believeth not in me, and is not baptized, shall be damned.

"Verily, verily I say unto you, that this is my doctrine; and I bear record of it from the Father; and whoso believeth in me, believeth in the Father also;

"And unto him will the Father bear record of me; for he will visit him with fire and with the Holy Ghost;

"And thus will the Father bear record of me; and the Holy Ghost will bear record unto him of the Father and me; for the Father, and I, and the Holy Ghost, are one.

"And again I say unto you, Ye must repent, and become as a little child, and be baptized in my name, or ye can in no wise receive these things.

"And again I say unto you, Ye must repent, and be baptized in my name, and become as a little child, or ye can in nowise inherit the kingdom of God.

"Verily, verily I say unto you, that this is my doctrine; and whoso buildeth upon this, buildeth upon my rock; and the gates of hell shall not

prevail against them.

"And whoso shall declare more or less than this, and establish it for my doctrine, the same cometh of evil, and is not built upon my rock, but he buildeth upon a sandy foundation, and the gates of hell standeth open to receive such, when the floods come, and the winds beat upon them.

"Therefore go forth unto this people, and declare the words which I have spoken, unto the ends of the earth" (3 Nephi 5:32-43).

Structure of His Church

The church that truly represents Christ on earth today must have the same organization as was established by Christ in the beginning or it cannot be the Church of Christ, unless we are willing to accept the concept that God changes with the passing of time, but clearly God "with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (James 1:17) is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

The Apostle Paul helps the believer to see the complete structure or body of Christ, with all its functional parts, from the newest baptized member to the highest office, with Christ at the head.

"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).

It is important to note that this structure has order and is a complete functional organization with a single purpose to help the children of men come to the:

- Unity of Faith
- Knowledge of the Son of God
- Perfecting of the Saints
- Protection against False Doctrine

Practices of His Church

I invite you to take the time to review our Faith and Practices at the following link and compare them with the life and teachings of Christ found in the written Word of God: www.churchofchrist-tl.org/basicBeliefs.html

"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

PROPHECY FULFILLED



By Elder Gordon McCann

In 1952 Apostle Clarence Wheaton was invited to the home of the Mayan cacique, Nemensio Xiu, in Ticul, located on the Mayan peninsula of Yucatan, along with the leading Mayan elders from the surrounding villages. After reading in the fifth chapter of the third book of Nephi, Nemensio Xiu and the Mayan elders compared what they had heard with the traditions that they held concerning the Fair God of their ancestors. Nemensio Xiu said it was the same account written in the ancient records of their people which had been destroyed by “the black robed priests” at ancient Mani. He then held the book in his hand before the people gathered at his home and said in Maya: “This is our Book. It is ours!” (Wheaton, C.L.). Following this event in 1953, thirty people from the small town of Dzan were baptized into the Church of Christ and from among them the Lord called an Indian ministry; a new royal priesthood

The BOOK OF MORMON and GOSPEL Return to a REMNANT OF JOSEPH

had been established in the same generation which saw the 900 year reign of the Xiu caciques come to an end with the death of Nemensio.

There were two brothers, Susano and Sabino Cabrera, who attended the meeting, along with the leaders from many towns in the area. They also provided their testimony of an event that took place in 1914 where a personage appeared before them who was tall and fair with long blond hair and a beard. He spoke to them about God and told them he was going to the town of Yaxche (Yash-chay’). When he left them he quickly disappeared over a little hill. They endeavored to catch up with him but could not. Upon arriving at Yaxche they were told that the prophet had already come and departed for Bolonchen. They arrived in the evening at Bolonchen and found that the bearded stranger had arrived and would speak to the people in the morning. He told the people that “God has sent me” and that “I come to tell you the truth, and all they who believe shall have salvation.”

He continued and prophesied many things that would happen, then he prophesied concerning the town of Ticul that, “You shall know that one day the gospel shall be brought to the house of Nemensio Xiu.” (Note: these historic accounts were taken from *The Last Maya King and the Liberation of Jerusalem* by Apostle Donald McIndoo).

It must be pointed out that there were no other restoration churches working among the Maya on the Yucatan peninsula in 1953. It is also important to note that by the testimonies of Nemensio Xiu, Sabino and Susano Cabrera, and the other tribal elders assembled, that the Book of Mormon is their record, which clearly identifies them as a remnant of Israel, more specifically of Manasseh, the seed of Joseph (Alma 8:3).

This event was a significant turning point where God’s focus was evident toward the recovery or restoration of His people, the house of Israel, that had been broken off and scattered into every nation, fulfilling the prophecy given to Isaiah, “*And it shall*



Top Row Left to Right: 1st - Brother Sabino Cabrera; 2nd - Brother Susano Cabrera

come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left" (Isaiah 11:11). It was also the fulfillment of prophecy found in the Book of Mormon:

"...That in the latter days, when

our seed shall have dwindled in unbelief, yea, for the space of many years and many generations, after the Messiah shall be manifested in body unto the children of men, then shall the fullness of the gospel of the Messiah come unto the Gentiles, and from the Gentiles unto the remnant of our seed; And at that day shall the rem-

nant of our seed know that they are of the house of Israel, and that they are the covenant people of the Lord... Wherefore, they shall come to the knowledge of their Redeemer, and the very points of his doctrine, that they may know how to come unto him and be saved" (1 Nephi 4:16-17, 19).

The SIX DAY WAR, the Fulfillment of the TIMES OF THE GENTILES

By Elder Gordon McCann

Prior to the war that took place between the State of Israel and the Arab countries on June 6, 1967, there was a common belief among

the restoration sects that the prophecy given by Jesus Christ as recorded in Luke 21:24 had been fulfilled in 1948 with the establishment of the State of Israel.

A closer evaluation of the prophecy, *"And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the time of the Gentiles be fulfilled"* (Luke 21:24) would reveal that the events that took place in 1967 matches perfectly with the prophecy given by Jesus Christ.

The war in June of 1967 was a decisive victory for the Jewish nation by regaining much of the land given them of God from the days of Moses. Israel had established itself as a Nation, a homeland for Jewish immigrants who have flooded into her, bolstering their military and society as a whole. More importantly they regained possession of the city of Jerusalem, solidifying their claim that Jerusalem is the capital of the State of Israel. Where Jerusalem had been divided by way of an armistice line between Israel and Jordan, Jerusalem is now in Israel's control as their proclaimed capital, no more *"trodden down"* by the Gentile nations (www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Peace/jerutime.html). Israel obtained the Temple Mount and the Western Wall after the quick victory over her enemies which brought "Jerusalem's holiest site under Jewish control for the first time in 2000 years" according to Commander Motta Gur when speaking to his brigade after the recapture of Jerusalem and the Holy sites (www.sixdaywar.org/content/ReunificationJerusalem.asp).

We know that through prophecy found in the Book of Mormon that it would be *"through the fullness of the Gentiles"* (1 Nephi 4:16-24) that the gospel would be restored to the remnant of Joseph's seed which occurred in 1953 among the Maya in Yucatan. This thought is also supported in the Bible *"For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in"* (Romans 11:25). The gospel went to our Maya brethren in 1953, which had to take place during *"the fullness of the Gentiles"* for the prophecy found in 1 Nephi 4:16-24 to be true. That would mean that the events in 1948 could not have been the fulfillment of *"the time of the Gentiles...."* The last remaining aspect of the prophecy by Jesus Christ that was left to be fulfilled was the regaining of the city of Jerusalem by Israel *"and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the time of the Gentiles be fulfilled"*; this event ended or fulfilled *"the times of the Gentiles...."*

It must be understood that God has returned Jerusalem back to Israel but the fight is not over and another prophecy will unfold prior to *"the day of the Lord"* where God *"will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city"* (Zechariah 14:1-2). When this prophecy was given by the prophet Zechariah around 520 to 508 BC, Jerusalem had been an occu-

pied city from the days of the Babylonians who destroyed it in 586 BC then by the Persians who took it away from the Babylonians in 539 BC. Jerusalem would continue to be *"trodden down"* until its liberation in 1967. God has set the stage, with Israel's occupation of the city of Jerusalem, for the prophecy of Zechariah to come to pass where *"half of the city shall go forth into captivity."* God will ultimately settle the dispute over Jerusalem, honoring His covenant with Israel. *"Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle"* (Zechariah 14:3).

ARTICLE



The Work of the Church in the Last Day

Apostle Don McIndoo

Our generation has seen some great changes take place in mankind's political, social and economic structure. We have seen spectacular changes in the realms of scientific, technological and medical advancement. But most importantly, we are living in a very special time in relation to our Lord's timetable of events. This last era of man's dominion on the earth began with the fulfillment of Apostle John's vision, as recorded in the Book of Revelation. He had seen in vision the apostasy of the Church of Christ for which he had given his life. Now he was shown the restoration of Christ's true church:

"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" (Revelation 14:6, 7).

This description of our work began 184 years ago. We can see there is a great deal yet to be accomplished. We must each be praying earnestly to the Lord for His guidance and direction. We must also be diligent in giving our tithing to aid the church in this great endeavor. In verse 7 of John's vision we are told that we are living in the era of God's judgment. We can see it growing throughout the world. Jesus

confirmed this concept while He was teaching in ancient America: *"And it shall come to pass, saith the Father, that the sword of my justice shall hang over them at that day; and except they repent, it shall fall upon them, saith the Father, yea, even upon all the nations of the Gentiles"* (3 Nephi 9:56). Jesus was speaking of our day, so one of our great responsibilities is to prepare people for the events unfolding upon the earth.

Because Israel had turned away from the Lord, the twelve tribes have been scattered among the nations from one end of the earth to the other. Where they are is known only to the Lord. There is one thing we know for certain about our God: His anger does not last forever, for He is merciful and

kind. We also know that He has made a covenant with His people, Israel. Jesus spoke of it as He condemned the hardness of the hearts of many Gentile people. He told what would happen if they rejected His Gospel:

“And if they shall do all these things, and shall reject the fullness of my gospel, behold, saith the Father, I will bring the fullness of my gospel from among them; And then will I remember my covenant which I have made unto my people, O house of Israel, and I will bring my gospel unto them;...” (3 Nephi 7:35, 36).

The fullness of the Gospel is today being preached in twelve nations; six in Africa, two in Asia, two in Central America and two in North America. In past years it has been carried to several countries of Europe, West Africa, South America and Israel. For God’s purposes to be fulfilled in Israel, they must hear and receive the fullness of the Gospel. Consider the words of Nephi:

“And now, my beloved brethren, all they which are of the house of Israel, and all ye ends of the earth, I speak unto you, as the voice of one crying from the dust: I have charity for the Jew: I say Jew, because I mean them from whence I came. I also have charity for the Gentiles. But behold, for none of these can I hope, except they shall be reconciled unto Christ, and enter into the narrow gate, and walk in the straight path, which leads to life, and continue in the path until the

end of the day of probation” (2 Nephi 15: 16, 9, 10).

This shows us the extent of our work as the Church of Christ. Another great event that will take place was spoken of by many of the prophets.

“And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth” (Isaiah 11:11, 12).

There is a sequential nature to this work. The Book of Mormon clearly shows it will begin with the house of Joseph upon this land. Consider the words of Jesus to those of the house of Joseph to whom He was speaking:

“And when these things come to pass, that thy seed shall begin to know these things, it shall be a sign unto them, that they may know that the work of the Father hath already commenced unto the fulfilling of the covenant which he hath made unto the people which are of the house of Israel” (3 Nephi 9:93).

This great work within the house of Joseph began in 1953, when an elder had been ordained and the first 26 people of the Maya were bap-

tized. The work is growing and has spread to four states. We know, therefore, that this work of the Lord has begun and the Gospel must be carried to the other tribes of Israel. This is our mission.

There is another great event which shall shortly take place that was spoken of by Jesus Christ:

“But if they (the Gentiles – dem) will repent, and hearken unto my words, and harden not their hearts, I will establish my church among them, and they shall come in unto the covenant, and be numbered among this the remnant of Jacob, unto whom I have given this land for their inheritance, and they shall assist my people, the remnant of Jacob; And also, as many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem; And then shall they assist my people that they may be gathered in, which are scattered upon all the face of the land, in unto the New Jerusalem” (3 Nephi 10:1-3).

This is a brief review of those things which lie before us in this latter-day. The other tribes to which we are to carry the Gospel will be gathered home to the Zion of latter-day Israel.

TESTIMONY



Koba Wolde, from Gambella, Ethiopia

Gambella region of Ethiopia is a region where people lead dark lives. Killings, suicide, rape and robbery are common phenomena in rural villages. The region is divided into 3 provinces that are further divided into 13 districts. These 13 districts are again divided into 444 villages. I was a school teacher in a village called Dunchai of Godare district in Majangir province. Godare district has 14 villages, of which Dunchai is one. Godare district is known for its coffee in Gambella. As coffee is one of the best cash crops in Ethiopia, Godare has attracted many immigrants from all corners of the country. These immigrants have brought mainly Islam, orthodox Christianity and Lutheran faiths which they themselves worship. The indigenous people, on the other hand, follow tribal religions. So the majority of the people in the rural villages know nothing about Christ. Such a dark life results in killings, suicide, rape and robbery. When it comes to Dunchai, this is fueled by

excess alcoholism. I, too, used to drink, and led a dark life like any ordinary person. While leading that life, a war broke out between the local people and other immigrants in 2003. Government defense force intervened and killed 1,400 local people in Godare and elsewhere in Gambella. Then most of the educated people fled to Kakuma refugee camp in northern Kenya. I was one of these people. There we joined Sudanese refugees and stayed for three months. While living in the camp, one day on Sunday morning a friend I got introduced to in the camp approached me and asked me if I could go to his church with him. I was idle and accepted his invitation and went with him. He told me that the church was called “Church of Christ.” I spent two hours and shared gospel with the refugee congregation. Since then I loved the name Church of Christ. Unfortunately, after two days some men came from the Ethiopian embassy in Nairobi and convinced us to go

back home, and we returned home four days after I went to that church.

After coming back from Kakuma, I led the same life as before in Dunchai. However, since the incident of meeting that friend the name “Church of Christ” always came to my mind whenever people rose about religion. Once during coffee season, I sold my coffee and went to Teppi to drink beer. When I was drinking in a hotel and become drunk, a friend called Getachew came and advised me to stop drinking and join a Full Gospel Church in Teppi, a church he used to go to. Getachew is my best friend since our childhood and so his advice touched my heart. Though I was half-hearted, I didn’t join him, but I thought about the name I loved. On some other day, Getachew had also called my close relative called Petros Baddy (now vice leader of our Odda mission). Petros used to work with a witch doctor in a village called Geelesha, adjacent to Dunchai. Petros joined

Getachew for few months in Full Gospel church. One day early in the morning, Petros came to my house and asked me earnestly if I could work with him in bringing some church that relieve us and our community from the miserable life of the world. When Petros was talking, some special feeling overwhelmed me and I sent Petros somehow. Later on the same day, my heart pushed me to go to an internet house in Teppi, just to read about the name I love. I went to the internet and typed "Church of Christ" on the search bar and found Church of Christ Temple Lot. In that I read about a mission work in

Kenya. With much happiness and joy I sent a message that I need this church for myself and for my people in Ethiopia. Some hours later, I received a reply from Brother Donald McIndoo with a copy to Brother Brian. I then continued communication with brother Brian. During every communication my heart was full of joy and confidence. In one of my letters I requested him if he could meet me in Addis Ababa. I didn't believe myself when reading about his coming all that distance to Addis Ababa to see someone he didn't know in person. With full confidence I shared the message with Petros and Getachew. Getachew

promised to go with me to Addis Ababa and he did it. Their flight was late than the time he told me to arrive in Addis Ababa. As they delayed longer my heart was floating but still with much confidence. While running from one edge of the airport to the other edge, I saw a person similar to the one on the website. I didn't believe myself! Finally Church of Christ arrived in Odda. Glory be to Him! The gospel is spreading and all the villagers are joining.

TESTIMONY



Maybis Zepeda, from Honduras

I cannot say exactly how the Book of Mormon has affected my life because it has been a part of my life since I was seven years old. But one thing I know for sure, no one can ever make me believe that the Book of Mormon is false! Every

time I read it I feel like I am one of the characters in the book; reading it is like living it.

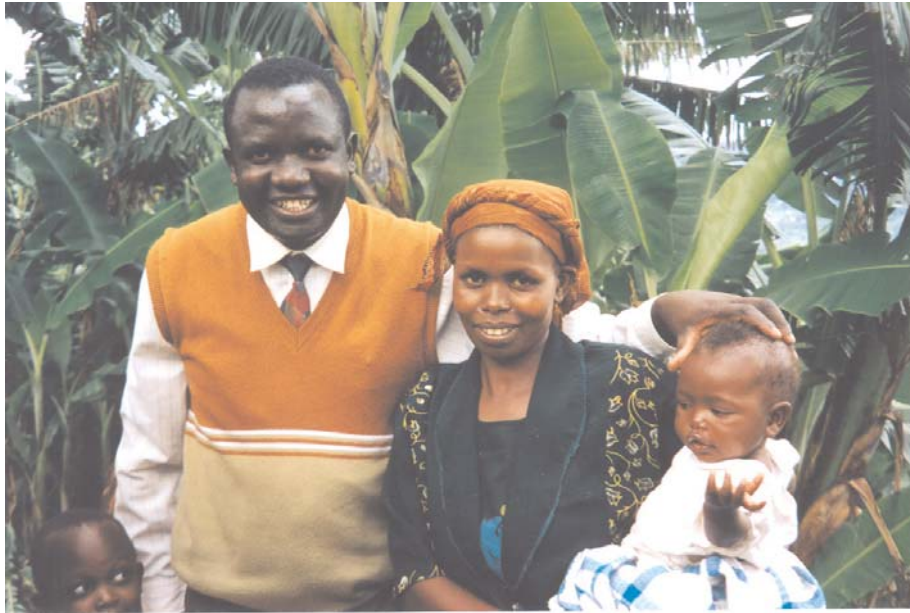
With the Book of Mormon I have learned to strongly trust in God, and I don't remember ever doubting His power. Whenever I have difficult situations, the words of the Book of Mormon give me comfort and make me feel like all I have to do is open the book and God is talking to me face to face. I cannot imagine my life without such a beautiful book as the Book of Mormon.

I don't particularly like to

read, but when I refer to the Bible and the Book of Mormon I am enthusiastic.

For me the Book of Mormon is the rod of iron and the path that leads to the tree of life. Although we have the Bible, as the water is to the fish, the Book of Mormon is to the Bible. The Bible cannot be complete without the Book of Mormon. I can honestly say that the Book of Mormon has helped me greatly.

TESTIMONY



Elder Moses Ohuru, from Kenya

I want to praise God for making it possible for me to be a member and minister of the Church of Christ. At first I never knew about the Church of Christ (TL) which believes both the Bible and the Book of Mormon as the true and divine word of God. I came across the book of Mormon when I was in a seminary here in Kenya. They had many books, like the Koran, and many more for criticism purpose. I tried to read most of them but one day I read the Book of Mormon and it was so interesting and so touching. I remember one day when we were discussing about this book I found myself standing up and saying one day I will be a believer of the Book of Mormon, and that was the year 1989. So that desire to know more about the book was in me, but the problem was that most of the people were speaking against the book. So after my completion I came home to serve the Lord. Also I remember telling my wife Norah that I will not continue to be a member of the Baptist church, that soon my church will come. She

thought I was joking and she rebuked me for saying that, because the Baptist church is built in my father's land. So we continue until the year 2000.

One of the ministers in another church, who is the father of sister Magret, invited us to his home. When we arrived there he told us that her daughter has a church called the Church of Christ which believes in the book of Mormon and their missionaries were on their way to Kenya. Many people were surprised to hear about the book, but to me I was happy to meet with those missionaries so that I can learn more about their beliefs and teachings. On the month of May, 2000, the first two missionaries arrived here in Kenya who were Apostle Brian McIndoo and Apostle Smith Brickhouse. During that time there were not very many people who believed in the book of Mormon. Therefore many were afraid of it, and even some ran away from our group. I thank God for the plan that the missionaries had for the

church. We took one week holding a class in Kisii town to be taught more about the book and why we should believe it and use it together with the Bible. To my side it was a wonderful opportunity to learn and for God to fulfill my heart's desire. I remember we asked a lot of hard questions and we were answered fully. As I can remember God was preparing me for the work that I was going to do for HIM.

I did not join the church with my wife during our first meetings, but I continued requesting her to join also. She came to join after my baptism. My heart rejoiced during that time and decided to join that church and be a member in it. God blessed us with some brothers and sisters going round teaching and preaching the restored gospel using the two books.

I continued since then until the month of October 4, 2000, when I was called and ordained in the church in the office of an elder. I have never regretted why I joined the church, despite many persecu-

tions we have faced through those who haven't believed in the Book of Mormon. From time to time I had been encouraged with the word of God which we find both in the Holy Bible and the Book of Mormon. God had been revealing to me that He wants to use me as His instrument to carry His gospel to the end of the world.

God has blessed me with one wife and seven children, five of them are girls and two are boys. Currently I am a pastor in one of the local churches here in Kisii and I have seen the hand of God working so mightily since I joined the

church. May God's name be glorified forever. I pray that you remember me in your prayers, brothers and sisters, so that God may help me to serve him until the end. I want to thank those who have been encouraging me by word and also by prayer. I personally believe that the Church of Christ is the only true church on earth. I believe that God calls people through revelation whether learned or unlearned so that He teaches them through the Holy Spirit. Also I believe that God speaks to men through revelation so that they can know God's will. Because of GOD'S plan He revealed

to some men that the work of God through the Church of Christ should be started here in Africa so that He can reach me. I have learned many things that I didn't know, even I couldn't understand when I read them. May our God bless His work all over the world. AMEN.

LIFE TESTIMONY



Priest Arturo Superio, from Mindanao, Philippines

I was born on May 9, 1962. I grew up without a father's guidance since he left us when I was in my mother's womb. My mother took care of my three younger brother and sister till I was born.

I lived without a father's support and my mother was having hard time feeding us until my brothers and sisters were capable of working; they work far

away without having educational attainment.

In my life I never received a father's help, especially on finances, because he had a new family to take care of.

My mother and I traveled far away to a place where our relatives live, the place called Mapaso, New Bataan, Com Val Province. I was six years of age at that time, and we lived to-

gether with my grandparents. As time went by, I learned to work on farms, plowing the fields with just a buffalo, maintaining the fields of my grandparents.

And my mother left me to my grandparents; I strive to work on farms, transferring buffalo into another place from time to time, at the same time plowing the fields without earning money

because I live together with my grandparents and they feed me. And when I reach the age of 10, I dreamed of going school and learning because my childhood friends went there, some of them are on grade 1 and grade 2, but my grandparents wouldn't allow me.

My mother was with another man, and no one took care of me; in my life I longed for a parent's love, I longed for their hugs.

While I'm getting matured I always think of going to school and learning. In 1973 I made my decision to go school without any parents by my side; I enrolled by myself to step on grade 1. And when I finished grade 1 I received fourth honor award and only my classmate put ribbon on me in the stage (award for being fourth in class) because no parents are there to do it.

In 1974, I enrolled for grade 2, as usual no parents, all by myself. As I go to school, no one supports me, especially in what I should wear; I got no money to buy myself food in school so I always starved. Until I finished my second year of school which is grade 2, then 3rd grade 1975, fourth grade 1976, and on my fourth grade, I have an ambition; one day me and my childhood friends were having some conversation and went up to asking what course should we get when we go to college, one friend said he wants to be a Doctor, the other one said Engineer, the other said Lawyer, then they ask me, and I told them I want to be a Priest because I want everyone to put my hands on their forehead as a sign

of respect (bless), I want a lot of people listening to me when I talk, I want them to do confessions on me just like a priest does in catholic churches, I want to earn money in a very easy way, these are my ambitions while I'm a grade 4 student. When I finished grade 4 I stopped because I have other things in mind.

I heard the word of God through Pastor Ben Retanal and he convinced me to go to Bible school and become a Pastor and I did. So when I go to Bible School my grade is only 4, so can't read most of English words. And I studied for about three years, I learned how to pray and fast, sermons, play guitar, sing, song leader, how to face the crowd, all of them through Ben Retanal's teaching until I finished my study at the year of 1979 in the month of December.

I married my wife Melanie on December 1979, and became a Pastor on the year 1980 to 1983, only for three years because life of a pastor is hard, especially when you have kids to support. So I go find a living in General Santos City, I live there for about six years, and these years 1996 -1999 Ben Retanal has been calling me to come back and lead the people in Kahayag, New Bataan, and I'm still not sure about doing it because being a pastor is really hard, especially in finances. Then on the year 1999 I decided to go back to Kahayag in the month of November, 1999. At year 2000 I started to work as a pastor in Kahayag and struggled so much due to lack of finances for our

food and for my kids going to school. Then on the year 2000 Ben Retanal convinced me to join and listen about the Church of Christ (Temple Lot). In the same year I joined a Reunion in Compostela lead by Tobias Operio and I ask a lot of questions about the Church of Christ; that time it was Frank Fann, Mike McGhee and Charles Brantner who gave a message. I received the words of God into my heart and I continued as a pastor under the banner of Church of Christ until the year of 2005 when Charles Brantner ordained me as a Priest in the Church of Christ.

Then I remember my ambition as a Priest when I was at grade 4. I did not continue to grade 5 because no parents that will look after me and support me, but nevertheless God has granted my ambition as a Priest and now I am a proud Priest in the Church of Christ since 2005 up to present. This is my life story from 1962 up to 2014, no mother and no father to support and care for me, but there is God and He knows everything, He knows our hearts, all glory and honor for Him alone, our Lord and Mighty Savior Jesus Christ! Amen.

TESTIMONY

Chris Moran, from the USA

I am truly thankful for this opportunity to share how God brought me to the Church of Christ. I know that the testimony God has given me is not one-of-a-kind, but I hope all members of the Church of Christ, no matter how they were brought in, are thankful for the circumstances surrounding their conversion. I give all praise to God and this is the testimony He has given me.

During most of my childhood and early adult years up to the age of 24 I attended a Baptist church, followed by an Evangelical Mennonite church. After marrying my wife, I then attended a Lutheran church until I was 29 years old. During my time in the Lutheran church I started to question the doctrines I had heard at these various churches. I wanted to determine what I really believed regarding the different doctrines I had been exposed to and try to blend together the correct things I heard at these churches.

After much consideration and study, one day while I was at home two elders from the LDS church rang my doorbell. I had a good discussion with them and we talked about various subjects. They also gave me a copy of their Book of Mormon. Immediately after they left I opened up the

Book of Mormon and read various passages. I also found the section on baptism, which is found in Moroni chapter 8 of our 1990 Independence Edition. Prior to that, I had spent a great deal of time trying to understand baptism. The Spirit testified to me that this passage in the Book of Mormon was from God. It had answered all of my questions and had also corrected some of the things I had then believed that were wrong. God had answered my prayers and was directing my paths.

I could not accept some of the things that the LDS church taught. Therefore, I did not unite myself with that church, but I am truly thankful for how the Lord used them as instruments in my situation. It was no coincidence that they arrived on my doorstep at the exact time I was looking for truth. I do have a love for the people in the LDS church and I desire that one day we will see eye to eye.

During this same period of time my wife and I decided to leave the Lutheran church for various reasons. We started visiting other churches, including non-denominational, Pentecostal, Apostolic, Churches of God, Churches of Christ, etc. It was truly an eye-opening experience visiting all of these different de-

nominations. There were other churches we already knew we didn't agree with and we stayed away from those churches entirely.

While visiting many of these churches I continued to reflect on the Book of Mormon. I started reading literature, books, and websites about the different restoration groups. I found myself again trying to narrow down the church that was most correct. Eventually I came across David Whitmer's writings. In it, he mentioned one "Church of Christ" group that he had been associated with. I then started to search for existing "Church of Christ" denominations that used the Book of Mormon. The Lord directed me to the website for this Church of Christ (Temple Lot). Though I continued to investigate other churches, I knew deep down that this was the church I was supposed to join the same day the Lord showed it to me for the first time.

I eventually decided to contact the Church of Christ and I first spoke with Br. Bill Sheldon on the phone. I then went out to Independence to meet him in person and also see the church headquarters. During that time, I also met Br. Roland Sarratt for the first time. Both of these brothers were a great help to me

in explaining Church of Christ beliefs and answering my questions. I have a great love for them.

I read (or at least skimmed through) the Book of Mormon two times. I could not find anything I questioned that the brothers were not able to answer for me. I also saw that the Church of Christ was experiencing signs, revelations, visions, etc., and that also helped to persuade me. I believed that Christ's true church would be experiencing these things. I then decided to take a second trip out to Independence to be baptized and receive the laying on of hands.

Prior to being baptized and having the laying on of hands, I was fearful that I would not feel the presence of the Holy Ghost after becoming a member of the Church of Christ. I felt it was something that the scriptures conveyed was part of the conversion experience and I believed the true church would be able to provide it, assuming the true church still existed. I had actually been baptized as an in-

fant in the Catholic church and then later in the Baptist church at the age of 8. I did not feel the Abiding Comforter as a result of those two baptisms.

Immediately after my baptism in the Church of Christ, I did feel the comforting presence and knew what I had done was right. If I had not received the Holy Ghost and felt that presence, I do not know if I would be still be in the Church of Christ, because it has always witnessed to me of the truth of this Church of Christ during times of difficulty. Had I not received the Holy Ghost, I may have questioned the Church of Christ and perhaps left it. I knew I couldn't deny that presence that I now had.

God has answered my prayers in ways that have truly amazed me. I continue to learn new things about God and how His ways are greater than my ways. I pray that I will never deny the Church of Christ in the future no matter what happens, and that God will be able to use me even with all my shortcomings. I have many faults. Please forgive me

now and in the future for these things that you brothers and sisters know I fall short on.

With all this said, I testify to you that this is Christ's church, and you will not find it anywhere else. You can get close with a few other churches that exist, but you will not find the authority that this Church of Christ has. Nor will you find another church that teaches the doctrine of Jesus Christ and has the same organizational structure that we read of in our scriptures. No matter how hard other churches try to get back to the pure gospel, they will not be able to because God has already restored Christ's church in the Church of Christ. I humbly declare to you that this is Christ's church. Consider my words carefully. Do not rely on them, but instead, rely on the testimony that the Holy Ghost will give you if you are considering this Church of Christ.

NOTICES

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NOVEMBER 28-30
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Jim Yates, Jr.:
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 (602) 692-4205 (cell)
Gary Jacobsen:
 (602) 421-4606
Aadam Yates:
 (602) 300-9013

THE HOPE of ZION

The Board of Publications has made available a copy of the report from the Committee to Study Zion entitled, *The Hope of Zion*. Contact Elder Robert Oldham at rwoldham1@sbcglobal.net, or any member of the Board.

AVA WEBSITE

On the Church of Christ AVA web site you will be able to access media such as archived sermons in video and audio formats, past issues of *Zion's Advocate*, searchable Bible and Book of Mormon studies and Sunday School lessons. Real time live streamed sermons are broadcast every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. central time, which can also be accessed from the site. We invite you to take a look and discover what a useful tool this site can be in expanding your knowledge and faith. The address is www.cocsermons.net.

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The General Church Correspondence Committee would like to extend the opportunity for any who wish to communicate through written correspondence to contact one of the following three committee members:

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 725 S. Pickwick
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 Clare, MI 48617
PAT MCCANN
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 Phoenix, AZ 85050

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.

TESTIMONY

Edgar Diaz Tus, Yucatan, Mexico


When I began to read the Book of Mormon I doubted that it was the word of God. Like many people, I didn't know the book and discovered it in ignorance. One day I decided to begin to read it, but not without first asking God in the name of Jesus if it was His word.

Indeed He showed me that the book did not contradict the Bible or Jesus Christ. It has

now become a part of my life and I would like to investigate more regarding this book since it belongs to one of the branches of the house of Joseph, of which many of us are a part.

I am gratified to know that God has not forgotten those on this side of the world. I recommend to all my brothers and sisters that they read the Book of Mormon and have a

greater communion with God, such that they can approach Him in difficult times when the devil comes to rob, kill and destroy all that we have. Without a doubt, the Bible and Book of Mormon are the most important books in the lives of the human race.




TESTIMONY

Nubia Pech, from Yucatan, Mexico

I made a decision to be baptized when I attended a youth camp. I remember at that time we had a study about baptism, and I also remember that others were going to be baptized, but I didn't feel I was ready for that decision. I felt that I wasn't prepared, but one afternoon I was sitting under an orange tree, I heard a voice, "What are you waiting for?" At that moment I didn't pay much importance to that, but during the day I was hearing

that voice in my mind, "What are you waiting for?" Immediately I understood that God was calling me to be prepared for baptism. Then I felt a necessity and gladness in my heart that I cannot explain. Then I told my parents that I made a decision to be baptized. I spoke with the pastor and told him about my experiences and I wanted to be baptized. It was Wednesday, July 26, 1996. At that time I was 14 years old. It has been 18

years ago since I became a member of the church. Since that time God has blessed me so much. I am always receiving blessings now with my son, and my husband. I am so happy to be a member of the Church of Christ!



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