

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 power of the Holy Ghost.”—I Nephi 3:187.

Volume 28

Independence, Missouri, May, 1951

Number 5

In Whom is No Variableness

God will not change; the restless
years may bring
Sunlight and shade—the glories of
the spring,
And silent gloom of winter hours—
Joy mixed with grief—sharp thorns
with fragrant flowers.
Earth's lights may shine awhile, and
then grow dim,
But God is true; there is no change
in Him.

EDITH HICKMAN DIVALL

Taken from Kansas City Star

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ZION'S ADVOCATE

Official Publication of the Church of Christ

Headquarters on the Temple Lot, Independence, Missouri

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: W. A. Sheldon, 11427 E. 16 St., Independence, Missouri.

ASSOCIATE EDITORS: Margaret E. Wheaton, 1101 W. Orchard St., Independence, Missouri, Edith Bell, 1317 N. Pleasant, Independence, Missouri.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPPLIES

	Price Each
Wee Mites, Picture Stories to color.....	\$.15
Primary, Vol. 1, No. 1, Childhood of Jesus.....	.20
Primary, Vol. 1, No. 2, Jesus' Ministry.....	.20
Primary, Vol. 1, No. 3, Jesus' Ministry, cont.....	.20
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INSTRUCTIONS IN ORDERING

Our quarterlies are not dated, but numbered, because they contain a regular course of study, and if the schools desire to make this study, they should order the quarterlies according to number so as to avail themselves of the entire course, so far as the study has been extended up to the present time. None of the courses are, as yet, complete. This is due to lack of funds.

EDITORIAL

THE CONFERENCE AND THE YEAR AHEAD

The scripture tells us that "the effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much", and how truly it is born out as we may have opportunity to prove it, or to witness the results of humble, sincere supplication before the gracious throne of our heavenly Father.

Our general church conference of 1951 is now past history, and those who were privileged to assemble at that time may well look back with a goodly degree of contentment and pleasure for the unity in the bond of fellowship in the Spirit which prevailed there. This was a result, we are sure of many righteous prayers having ascended to God, of those who could not be there as well as of those who could.

Oh, all is NOT well in "Zion", but where two or three, or more, shall meet in Jesus' name, His Spirit will be there—and so it was. Our hearts were made to rejoice, greatly, because we were thus favored, but we realize, too, that we may receive only to that extent that we demonstrate our willingness to yield obedience to Divine commandments.

So, while we are grateful for such as has been granted, we have been exhorted, and rightly so, to press on to higher ground.

The first assembly of the conference was a prayer and testimony service, and while this writer was unable to be there, we are sure it was very beneficial. What could be more pleasing to God than that the believers should, first of all, seek to approach near Him in prayer, to ask Him to consecrate their doings for their best good, for the welfare of the church, and for the glory of His Name?

The spirit of peace and brotherly love, in large measure, characterized the meetings. Anxious, righteous desire was readily discernable in the attitude of those who met there—could God withhold? Only as we have failed to make a perfect offering of our heart.

It is impossible for man, in one mighty leap, to go from the valley of contented spiritual experience to the mountain top of "hand-in-hand" communion with God. Sometimes the human body, through lack of exercise, loses its appetite or desire, for food. Just so it is with the spiritual "body", and contact with the Holy Spirit must be renewed by great effort, or—just as surely—death occurs.

The danger is increasingly apparent. Not that we note a decline in spirituality within the church (as a whole), but rather we see a greater effort to obtain needed strength. As we try harder, we begin to get a clearer picture of just how great that need is. The "flood" creeps ever nearer, and we begin to rub the slumber from our eyes, as it were. May God grant His Spirit to arouse His people sufficiently that they may escape the wrath to come.

So, we are encouraged by our observation, and more desirous to move forward in the year's work ahead, as the comforting thought of increased help of the Spirit comes to us.

Do you ask what it is that causes us to rejoice concerning the conference? As for the business meetings; the present procedure of showing only the affirmative action does not indicate the spirit with which it was done. However, those who attended will bear out the thought that in the main, there was very little to disturb the tranquil spirit which accompanied our people as they gathered from the several states. Difference of opinion, yes, but not the bitter wrangling which has characterized all too many of our conferences in past years—this to our shame. It shows the results of determination **not** to engender strife. We realize, too, that the hateful disposition of even just one person could offend the Spirit of God. Then how necessary for all to be prayerful with true meekness and humility.

The daily services of prayer and preaching were of a high order; God sanctioning by the presence of His Spirit. Our spirits were fed, and we are thankful from the bottom of our hearts.

Sunday, April 8th, was a particularly joyful and profitable time. There was a prayer and testimony meeting early in the morning, followed, at 9:45, by a sacrament service. Sunday School was dispensed with to allow more time for participation in prayer and testimony. Few moments were wasted, and the time sped swiftly, and still there were those who might have expressed themselves had time allowed. "How pleasant to behold and see, the saints of Jesus all agree, to sit around that sacred board, as members of one common Lord."

Foretaste of the glory to be revealed! One bright day will find a mighty host of the sons of man assembled at the great feast prepared by the Lord for those whom He has gathered. Surely, He has begun already. Israel begins to stir, and what about His people of this Restoration movement. Scattered and divided in understanding of doctrine, truly, but—how long?

We know not, for God moves in mysterious fashion to perform His marvelous work. Is it possible to detect any sign of a disposition toward unity among latter-day Israel? We think so. There is a noticeable tendency in that direction within the ranks of our people in the Church of Christ. It seems, also, that God is working among the other groups—and why not? We need not think Him to be just our God, the God of none other. He will assemble ALL who will allow themselves to come unto Him. That gathering **MUST** be based completely upon the righteous principles as set forth by Jesus Christ.

During the conference, three names were presented for our acceptance into fellowship once more—those who had gone out before. Their error was acknowledged, and we received them accordingly. It is possible that more will follow. Should we not rejoice and pray earnestly that honest and sincere souls, everywhere, might be drawn together as a united band against the foe of righteousness?

This—a greater unity of the faith—is the task before us in the conference year of 1951, and we can do it with the help of the Holy Spirit, if our lives are an

invitation to Him.

WILLIAM A. SHELDON

REPORT OF THE 1951 CONFERENCE

(Foreword)

The "report of the affirmative action" of the 1951 Ministers' Conference which follows is not the full minutes of that conference. The 1949 Conference ordered that only a report of those actions receiving an affirmative vote of the body should be published in the Advocate. This was designed to make easier what might prove to be rather tedious reading.

Should anyone desire more particular information from the complete minutes of the sessions, and are unable to contact the General Church Secretary, the conference has had a carbon copy of the complete minutes of the conference placed in the hands of the following people:

Secretary of the Twelve—A. M. Smith.

Secretary of the General Bishopric—LeRoy Wheaton.

General Church Historian—B. C. Flint.

The reporting of the actions of the conference will therefore be governed by the following principles:

1. Organization of the conference is condensed.
2. Opening and closing exercises are omitted.
3. Approval of minutes from session to session are omitted.
4. Ministerial reports are shown or mentioned; other reports not acted upon will be mentioned in brief only.
5. Matters referred to the committees are not shown in full.
6. The filling of office and committees will show only the final results of the elections.
7. All motions and resolutions are shown in their final adopted form. Movers and seconders of the original motions will be shown where possible. No counted votes will be shown except where the measure is to go to referendum.
8. Motions lost, tabled, or otherwise unnecessary to understanding the report are omitted.

Begging you to retain these things in mind, we urge you to earnestly consider the report of the affirmative action of the 1951 Ministers' Conference of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot).

Respectfully yours,

FOREST E. MALEY
Secretary of the Conference

REPORT OF THE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Of the Ministers' Conference of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) convened at Independence, Missouri, April 6, 1951.

April 6, 1951 — 10:00 A. M. Session

Apostle Wm. F. Anderson in charge assisted by Apostle James E. Yates.

The conference was organized by the body in the following manner:

Secretary: Bro. Forest Maley.

Chairmanship: The members of the Council of Twelve.

Chorister: Sr. Metta Anderson, with power to select pianists.

Press Committee: Brethren Wm. A. Sheldon, James M. Case and A. M. Smith.

Ushers: Selected by those in charge.

Program for the Conference:

1. The morning hour from 9:30 to 10:45 shall be devoted to prayer and testimony service.
2. The hour from 11:00 to 12:00 shall be devoted to preaching except when other provisions have been made for special service other than preaching.
3. At 2:00 P. M. the business session shall convene.
4. The hour from 4:30 to 5:30 shall be devoted to the School of the Ministry.
5. The evening hour from 7:30 to 8:00 shall be devoted to song service, with preaching at 8:00 P. M.
6. Whenever necessary meeting of any of the Ministry shall arise, such as a meeting of the Seventy, Elders, or any of the several Quorums of the Priesthood, these meetings shall be held in the morning hours so far as possible.
7. We further recommend that all committee meetings be held in the early morning hours that all may be as free as possible throughout the business sessions of the day.
8. That when the emergency arises, these rules of regulation may be changed by a motion and vote from the conference floor.

* * *

April 6, 1951 — 2:00 P. M. Session

Apostle James E. Yates in charge assisted by Apostle Leon A. Gould.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES:

General Church Secretary: Bro. Forest E. Maley.

General Church Recorder: Sr. Metta Anderson.

General Church Historian: Bro. B. C. Flint.

Editor-in-Chief of Zion's Advocate: Bro. Wm. A. Sheldon.

Associate Editors of Zion's Advocate: Sr. Margaret Wheaton, Sr. Edith Bell.

Referendum Committee: Sr. Marion Sprague for a three year term. Other members: Sr. Ora Derry: (2) and Bro. Nicholas F. Denham (1).

Relations Committee: Bro. R. R. Robertson for a three year term. Other members: Bro. Clarence L. Wheaton (2) and Bro. A. M. Smith (1).

Library Board: Sr. Margaret Wheaton for a three year term. Other members: Bro. James M. Case (2) and Bro. A. M. Smith (1).

Board of Publications: Sr. Louise P. Sheldon and Bro. LeRoy Wheaton for three year terms. The other members: The Business Office Manager (permanent), Bro. Forest Maley (1) and Bro. Denver Chapman (1).

Committee to Revise Forms: Bro. A. M. Smith, Bro. Forest Maley, and Bro. James M. Case to continue in office until revision of forms is completed.

The recommendation from the Twelve relative to Bro. John G. Jenkins was called up for consideration:

Independence, Missouri

April 6, 1951

To the Conference of
The Church of Christ
Greetings:

Inasmuch as there has come to the hands of the Council of Twelve, material that brings us the glad news that our Brother John G. Jenkins of New Dock, Llanelly, Wales, who a few years ago became discouraged and joined the Reorganization, has now seen his mistake and by letter has expressed his desire to return to the Church of Christ and to assist in the work of the Lord so far as it is possible for him to do, we the Council of Twelve do recommend to the Conference, that Brother Jenkins be reinstated to full fellowship in the Church and that he be reinstated in his Priesthood as a Seventy, and encouraged to go forth in his ministry in that part of the vineyard which is in such great need at this time.

(Signed) ARTHUR M. SMITH
Sec'y. Council of Twelve

Bro. Wm. Postma moved to accept the recommendation of the Twelve relative to Bro. John G. Jenkins. Seconded and carried.

* * *

April 7, 1951 — 2:00 P. M. Session

Apostle Leon A. Gould in charge assisted by Apostle A. M. Smith.

The report of the General Church Historian was received and ordered spread on the minutes. This report showed that a manuscript for a Church History was completed, and listed a table of contents by chapters.

Bro. LeRoy Wheaton moved that the Board of Publications be authorized to take the introduction to the outline history and the resolution authorizing the publication of the history, and formulate a petition to be circulated throughout the church to raise funds to be held by the Bishopric for the publication of the history; and that if possible they endeavor to ascertain

the approximate cost of such publication. Seconded by Bro. Rolland Sprague. Carried.

Full Time Representative in the General Office: Bro. James M. Case for one year.

General Church Recorder: Bro. James M. Case.

Reception Committee: Brethren Nicholas F. Denham, James M. Case, and Rolland Sprague.

Report of the General Church Recorder was called up for consideration:

Independence, Missouri
April 6, 1951

To the Ministers' Conference of
The Church of Christ (Temple Lot)
Greetings:

As the General Church Recorder, I beg to report for the Conference year of 1950.

According to the records in the office the total membership of the Church is 2,273.

Ordinations for the year:

To the Quorum of Twelve—2
To the quorum of Seventy—6
To the Office of Elder—8
To the Office of Priest—3

Blessings of little children—32.

This is all that has been reported to the Recorder; I have found some that have not been reported, and placed them on the records. We also know that there are some that have not been reported that should be taken off the records.

Respectfully your brother in Christ,
(Signed) ELDER JAMES M. CASE
General Church Recorder

Bro. Wm. F. Anderson moved to accept the report of the Recorder and give the Recorder a vote of thanks. Seconded by Sr. Doris Sheldon. Carried.

* * *

April 9, 1951 — 2:00 P. M. Session

Apostle A. M. Smith in charge assisted by Apostle B. C. Flint.

Bro. LeRoy Wheaton moved that the committee to review and revise the church history shall, in consultation with the Historian, review the manuscript; and that after such review, by majority action of only the Review Committee, such revisions as deemed necessary shall be made and the History turned over to the Board of Publication for printing. Seconded by Bro. Wm. F. Anderson. Carried.

Committee to Examine Historical Manuscript: Bro. Leon A. Gould for a three year term. Other members: Bro. Clarence L. Wheaton (2) and Bro. A. M. Smith (1).

Recommendations from the Twelve on Missionary appointments was called up for consideration:

Independence, Missouri
April 9, 1951

To the Conference of
The Church of Christ
Greetings:

The Council of Twelve submits the following, as a recommendation from the Council providing for the appointment of the Apostles to their respective fields for the Conference year 1951:

WM. F. ANDERSON—be in charge of Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas and West Virginia.

JAMES E. YATES—all of the Western Slope states, including Alaska.

LEON A. GOULD—Michigan and the Northeastern states and Eastern Canada.

T. J. JORDAN—The European Mission, and Western Canada, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, and Montana.

W. F. JORDAN—to be associated with Bro. T. J. Jordan in Western Canada, North and South Dakota, Minnesota and Montana.

R. R. ROBERTSON—New Mexico, Nevada, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and the Southeastern states.

C. L. WHEATON—The Indian Mission.

B. C. FLINT—Iowa, Wisconsin, and Illinois.

A. M. Smith—Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska.

DON HOUSEKNECHT—associated with Bro. Leon A. Gould in Michigan and Northeastern states and Eastern Canada.

WM. A. SHELDON—associated with B. C. Flint and A. M. Smith.

THOMAS E. BARTON—associated with Bro. R. R. Robertson in his field.

In connection with the appointments of the Twelve, the Council further recommends that Bro. John G. Jenkins, of New Dock, Llanelly, Wales, who is a Seventy be appointed to labor as an associate with Bro. T. J. Jordan in the European Mission.

Respectfully submitted,

Sec'y. Council of Twelve
ARTHUR M. SMITH

A petition from the Bemidji local was read. It asked the return of Bro. Gould to his home field.

Bro. Forest Maley moved to approve the missionary appointments as stated in the recommendations from the Twelve. Seconded by Bro. Ivan Inch. Carried.

Bro. LeRoy Wheaton moved that we instruct the secretary of the conference to write the Bemidji Local that we appreciate the petition by that Local in regard to the appointment of Bro. Gould to that field: but that the Twelve and the conference feel the urgency of the work in Michigan still exists and for the time being we feel Bro. Gould should be appointed to that field. Seconded by Bro. Wm. F. Anderson. Carried.

* * *

April 10, 1951 — 2:00 P. M. Session

Apostle B. C. Flint in charge assisted by Apostle R. R. Robertson.

Legislation from the Phoenix Local relative to our attitude on war and military service was called up for consideration.

Bro. James E. Yates moved that the Conference submit this resolution from Phoenix to a committee of three to draft a proper statement of the matter for this conference to decide upon. Seconded by Sr. Stella Hedrick. Carried.

The Committee to draft statement: Bro. LeRoy Wheaton, Bro. A. M. Smilth and Bro. Leon A. Gould.

Report of the Board of Publications was read stating that there is now a good possibility of getting 1,000 copies of the Book of Mormon with the name of the Church on the title page; as ordered by the 1950 conference.

* * *

April 11, 1951 — 2:00 P. M. Session

Apostle R. R. Robertson in charge assisted by Apostle Don W. Housknecht.

The report on the 1,000 copies of the Book of Mormon was under consideration.

Bro. Archie F. Bell moved that we rescind the action of the 1950 Conference pertaining to the purchase of 1,000 copies of the Authorized Book of Mormon from the Herald Publishing House and that we release the Board of Publications from soliciting any more funds for the purchase of these books; and that the Business Manager should have purchased a rubber stamp stating "Presented by the Church of Christ (Temple Lot), Independence, Missouri." This stamp to be placed on any books purchased by us to be presented to the world. Seconded by Bro. Denver Chapman. Carried.

Sr. Minnie Smith made verbal report of the 1951 Conference activities of the Dining Hall Committee which to date resulted in a cash balance of \$61.54 and noted donations of food and money.

Bro. LeRoy Wheaton moved that we accept and approve this Dining Hall Committee report and that we give that committee and those who helped in the Dining Hall and those who made offerings of food, supplies, and money for the meals during this conference, a vote of thanks. Seconded by Bro. B. C. Flint. Carried unanimously by a standing vote.

The restatement of our attitude toward military service was called up for consideration:

Independence, Missouri
April 11, 1951

To the Conference
Church of Christ

Greetings:

The committee to consider the resolution concerning our stand on war beg to present the following resolution:

"Whereas, we, the Church of Christ, with headquarters on the Temple Lot, at Independence, Missouri, are opposed to war as declared in our Articles of Faith and Practice, paragraph 21, which reads as follows:

'We are opposed to war. Men are not justified in taking up arms against their fellows except as a last resort in defense of their lives and to preserve their liberty.'

Therefore be it

Resolved, that this Church of Christ shall ever promote the proposition that war is in opposition to the best interests of man and God, whose will it is that man shall not kill, and that this Church of Christ does hereby lodge with the government of this country a proclamation of its stand upon these principles;

And be it further

Resolved, that this Church of Christ shall ever actively endeavor, through the medium of correspondence, or if it be necessary, through the efforts of special delegations, to gain for its people the right and privilege to be exempt from active combat duty, if they so choose, and to give their service, when called upon, in non-combatant positions, whereby they can render a greater and more complete service to God, to mankind, and to their country.

(Signed) ARTHUR M. SMITH
CLARENCE L. WHEATON, JR.
LEON A. GOULD

Bro. Rolland Sprague moved that we approve the report of the committee on a statement on war, and concur in the resolution; and that we send it out to referendum as bill number one. Seconded by Bro. B. C. Flint. Carried 17 to 0 with only the ministry voting.

* * *

April 12, 1951 — 10:00 A. M. Session

Apostle Don W. Housknecht in charge assisted by Apostle Wm. A. Sheldon.

Business Office Manager and Secretary to Transportation: Bro. Nicholas F. Denham.

Recommendation of the Twelve relative to Bro. and Sr. Stone was called up for consideration:

Independence, Missouri
April 11, 1951

To the Conference of
The Church of Christ

Greetings:

Inasmuch as Brother Ralph E. Stone did come before the Council of Twelve during the morning session of the Council, and did make a satisfactory statement to them, confessing his error, inasmuch as he did leave the church by being rebaptized with the Fetting group, and whereas he has now repudiated and is sorry for this grave mistake that he and his wife made at that time, and now, they both desire to be reunited with the Church of Christ.

We, the Council of Twelve, do hereby recommend to the Conference that Bro. Ralph E. Stone and his wife, Sr. Amy Maude Stone, of Independence, Missouri, be now restored to full fellowship in the Church of Christ.

The Council further recommends that Brother Stone shall be reinstated in his priesthood as an Elder and a

license be granted to him.

(Signed) ARTHUR M. SMITH
Secretary of the Twelve

Bro. Wm. F. Anderson moved as a substitute that we approve the report from the Quorum of Twelve and concur in its recommendations. Seconded by Bro. Clyde Babcock. Carried.

Committee on Jurisprudence: Brethren Nicholas F. Denham, James M. Case, Arthur M. Smith, Rolland D. Sprague and Forest E. Maley. This committee to give final report to the 1952 conference.

Auditing Committee: Sr. Dorothy Denham for a three year term: Other members: Bro. Rolland Sprague (2) and Bro. James M. Case (1).

Building Committee: Bro. Richard Wheaton for three year term. Other members: Bro. Vance Harris (2) (Chairman) and Bro. Archie F. Bell (1).

* * *

April 12, 1951 — 2:00 P. M. Session

Apostle Wm. A. Sheldon in charge assisted by Apostle Wm. F. Anderson.

Sr. Doris Sheldon moved that the members of the Twelve present at the time the minutes of the morning and afternoon sessions of April 12, 1951 are completed be empowered to examine, correct, and approve those minutes in behalf of the conference. Seconded by Sr. Miriam Mason. Carried.

Dining Hall Committee: Sisters Ora Derry, Minnie Smith, Bertha Case, Doris Hedrick, and Stella Hedrick.

The Auditor's Report and the Financial Report of the Bishopric were called up for consideration. See other pages of the Advocate for the Auditor's Report. The Financial Report follows:

Independence, Missouri
April 11, 1951

To the Conference Assembled
Church of Christ

Greetings:

There are a few things the General Bishopric would like to bring to the attention of the conference.

1. During the past fiscal year the receipts of tithing were nearly double that of the previous year being in 1949-50 \$5,521.68 and in 1950-51 \$9,804.37.

2. The total income for the past fiscal year was \$12,133.02 compared to that of the previous year of \$7,170.11.

We believe the increase in income is due largely to the following facts:

1. Increased missionary activity.
2. The clear and concise stand token by the 1950 conference on tithing.
3. The publishing of a budget of expenses.

An examination of the disbursements will show that in some cases we exceeded our budget and in other cases we under ran the budget. In general, however,

we stayed fairly close to the budget.

We, your servants, are pleased to have seen the response given by the membership of the church to the needs of the church.

We submit the following budget for the year 1951-52:

Family Allowance	\$ 8,300
Elders' Expense	900
Aid	850
Advocate	1,620
Books and Tracts	400
General Ledger	730
TOTAL.....	\$12,800

It is the hope and prayer of the General Bishopric that each member of the Church will prayerfully consider his responsibilities in forwarding the work of Christ and will accordingly give of that which God has given him that the work may go forward.

Your brethren in Christ,
The General Bishopric
(Signed) CLARENCE L. WHEATON, JR.
Secretary

Bro. Forest Maley moved to approve the Auditor's Report and the Bishops' Financial Report. Seconded by Bro. A. M. Smith. Carried.

The question had arisen about showing payments to individuals on the Elders' Expense.

Bro. A. M. Smith moved that this matter of the report of Elders' Expense be left to the discretion of the Bishopric. Seconded by Bro. B. C. Flint. Carried.

Bro. Wm. F. Anderson moved that when this conference does adjourn, that it does so to meet on April 6, 1952 at 10:00 A. M. in this building on the Temple Lot. Seconded by Bro. A. M. Smith. Carried.

* * *

The above and foregoing is the secretary's report of the affirmative action of the Ministers' Conference of the Church of Christ with headquarters on the Temple Lot, Independence, Missouri; which conference was had and held from April 6 to April 12, 1951 on the Temple Lot. I wish to express my gratitude to Bro. LeRoy Wheaton for his assistance in making the conference record.

Respectfully,
FOREST E. MALEY
Secretary of the Conference and
General Church Secretary.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

April 9, 1951

Bishop C. L. Wheaton, Jr.
Church of Christ, Temple Lot,
Independence, Missouri.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with your instructions, I have made an audit of the cash receipts and disbursements for the Church of Christ, Temple Lot, Independence, Missouri, for the period from March 16, 1950 to March 15, 1951, and submit as my report the following statements:

EXHIBIT
 Cash Receipts and Disbursements,
 From March 16, 1950 to March 15, 1951 "A"
 General Ledger Trial Balance,
 As at March 15, 1951..... "B"

the checks drawn and paid during the period under review and by examining the receipted bills. The Elders' expenses were not supported by itemized reports.

The cash on hand at the close of the period was deposited in the First National Bank, Independence, Missouri.

The trial balance of the general ledger accounts was not further verified.

COMMENTS

The cash receipts were verified by examination of the stubs of receipts issued during the period under review and tracing the amounts into the bank after checking their proper entry in the cash book. The tithers were shown less the checks returned for insufficient funds.

The cash disbursements were verified by auditing

Respectfully submitted,

ROY A. GUYTON
 Certified Public Accountant

CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

From March 16, 1950 to March 15, 1951

EXHIBIT "A"

RECEIPTS

Advocate Subscriptions	\$ 389.50
Offerings	740.62
Tithing	9,804.37
Sale of Books and Tracts	63.10
Sale of Linotype	300.00
Special Fund:	
Sunday School Quarterly	1.60
Dining Hall Committee	139.00
Indian Mission	4.00
Mexican Mission	58.00
Missionary	118.88
Refund from Bender Expense	315.79
Collection of A. S. Wheaton Note	170.00
Temple Fund	28.16
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$12,133.02

DISBURSEMENTS

Printing of Advocate	\$1,679.75
Advocate Expense	24.30
Elders' Family Expense:	
Mrs. Wm. F. Anderson	\$1,040.00
Mrs. J. M. Case	1,070.00
Mrs. B. C. Flint	1,040.00
Mrs. Leon A. Gould	1,040.00
Mrs. A. M. Smith	1,170.00
Mrs. James E. Yates	1,040.00
Mrs. C. L. Wheaton	1,040.00
Mrs. R. R. Robertson	1,040.00
Mrs. B. A. Winegar	80.00
Elders' Expenses	8,560.00
Elders' Expenses	832.00
General Church Expense:	
Labor and Mowing	267.04
Repairs and Supplies	158.61
Insurance	112.23
General Office Expense:	537.88
Telephone	81.78
Postage and Box Rent	18.00
Auditing and Bond Premium	47.50
Printing, Stationery, Etc.	57.74
Repair of Safe	65.00
.....	270.02

Printing of Books and Tracts	303.20	
Linotype Parts Purchased	60.95	
Special Fund—Aid	750.00	
Special Fund—Dining Hall—Supplies	95.09	
Special Fund—Manuelits	10.00	
Special Fund—Mexican Mission	58.00	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		\$13,181.19
Excess of Disbursements over Receipts		\$ 1,048.17
Cash in Bank March 15, 1950		\$ 6,386.40
Cash in Bank March 15, 1951,		
General Fund	3,143.43	
Temple Fund	2,194.80	\$ 5,338.23

EXHIBIT "B"

GENERAL LEDGER

Trial Balance, (After Closing) at March 15, 1951

	Debit	Credit
First National Bank, Independence, Missouri	\$5,338.23	
Temple Fund		\$2,194.80
Dining Hall Equipment	1.00	
Office Furniture and Fixtures	85.14	
Temple Equipment—Organ	50.25	
General Church Property	56.43	
Real Estate—Stark Acres, Independence, Missouri	1.00	
Real Estate—Temple Lot	1.00	
Present Worth		3,338.25
TOTALS	\$5,533.05	\$5,533.05

REPORT OF THE GENERAL CHURCH HISTORIAN

At the 1949 Conference, the undersigned was elected General Church Historian. I was just out of the hospital at the time, and was under doctor's care, so was unable to attend the conference, and when I learned of their action, I was strongly inclined to decline to act, as I felt my inability and lack of qualifications, for so important an assignment. However, since I have never felt justified in refusing to do what might be asked of me during my long life of missionary experience, I reluctantly undertook the work. Later in the season I continued my missionary work, and immediately began to collect material from which to obtain data for a brief church history.

In the autumn, when we returned from our mission field, I began active work, and from the Introduction to this contemplated history, which I append to this report, it will be seen that I have obtained practically all material now in existence and while it required extensive study, I began to write and continued this work throughout the winter months here at home.

During the last summer season, I resumed my regular missionary activities, continuing until quite late in the fall; but when we again returned, I began my study and again began writing until now I have a brief history of the restoration movement down to about the year 1950. There are twenty-one chapters and one hundred-forty pages.

This is not an exhaustive history, but a brief outline history of the work. In this I have obtained practically all available source material, and have checked and double checked my manuscript against all this material, so I believe that I now have it about as accurate as it is possible to make it. In going over this vast volume of material, I found many discrepancies that took considerable rechecking in order to arrive at a conclusion, as to just what, and when a certain incident may have occurred.

Added to this, since the conference that gave me this assignment provided a committee of three to examine my work with a view to establishing its correctness, I have made copies of the work as I went along, and furnished each member of this committee with a copy, so they have been able to follow me concurrently.

Last July I published in the Advocate a brief summary of the work finished at that date. This resulted in my receiving considerable correspondence of inquiry from all over the church, and all of it earnestly solicitous as to the probable outcome of the project, and which also contained financial aid in the publication of this history. I now have on hand the sum of forty-five dollars (\$45.00) that I will turn over to the Board of Publications, as soon as they indicate a desire for it to use in publication. Added to this a number of others have offered me more funds, that I have refused to receive, telling them that I felt they had

better keep it until the church finally made provision for the publication. I have felt that my sole responsibility was to carry out the order of the conference that appointed me, and the matter of publication was none of my business. I have tried faithfully to carry out my responsibility in the matter.

The following is a brief summary of the work done to date. For the benefit of our members who may read this, we wish to give them a brief outline of the work as done down to date. We have given names to each chapter and we will give a list of them here so you may all see what will be included. Following the introduction which we include here:

Chapter 1—Early Beginnings.

Chapter 2—Joseph Smith's Second Vision, And What Came of It.

Chapter 3—The Book of Mormon.

Chapter 4—The Book of Mormon, The Stick of Joseph.

Chapter 5—The Church of Christ Is Organized, Or Restored.

Chapter 6—The Church Grows.

Chapter 7—The Idea of Zion, The Temple.

Chapter 8—Publication Begins. In this chapter we discuss the work of Joseph Smith and his associates in bringing into existence the Book of Commandments, as the first publication of the Revelations given to the church through the Prophet Joseph Smith. This shows conclusively that the revelations as they came from the hands of the Prophet, and published in the Book of Commandments, are the genuine revelations as given, and as having his endorsement, and dedication by prayer and consecration.

Chapter 9—Persecution Increases.

Chapter 10—The Human Side. Here we discuss briefly the various innovations that entered early into the latter day work, and which later was responsible for the divisions that overtook the work.

Chapter 11—The Church Expands.

Chapter 12—An Asylum in Illinois.

Chapter 13—Nauvoo.

Chapter 14—The Martyrdom And What Followed.

Chapter 15—Factionalism Arises.

Chapter 16—The New Organization. In this chapter we discuss the rise of the "Reorganized" church in southern Wisconsin.

Chapter 17—The Church Continues. In this chapter we discuss the work of the old time saints, near and around Bloomington, Illinois.

Chapter 18—The Return. In this chapter we discuss the return of the saints in accordance with a revelation to Granville Hedrick in 1864, to Independence, Missouri, and their obtaining possession of the sacred Temple Lot, dedicated by Joseph Smith and others, in August 1831. This includes the diagram of the Temple

Lot Abstract and Deeds.

Chapter 19—Through the Years. This chapter gives a brief resume of the work of the little group who had returned and made the Temple Lot their headquarters, and the attitudes they held toward the Restoration movement as a whole.

Chapter 20—Comed the Years From 1916 to 1926. This needs no analysis here, as much of the incidents of that period are still familiar to most of our members.

Chapter 21—Factionalism Follows Success. This gives an account of the defections that have troubled the body, which includes Fettingism, Woodism, and the other "isms" that have sprung up in recent years.

By all this it will be seen that while major matters of interest have been given place, the work will still be a condensed or outline history of the great restoration.

We will also append a copy of the "Introduction" to the work, which may or may not be read according to the desires of the body.

* * *

An Outline History Of the Church of Christ, Temple Lot

Introduction

Webster defines the word "history" to mean, 'A learning by inquiry', taken from the Greek word 'historia'. 'That branch of knowledge which deals with events that have taken place in the world's existence; the study or investigation of the past; a narrative or an account of an event or a series of events in the life of a nation, or that have marked the progress or existence of any community or institution; a narrative; an account of things that exist, etc.'

This definition imposes upon us the responsibility of being as accurate as possible in any attempt to give an account of what we might present as being the history of the great Restoration of the gospel, and the church of these Latter Days.

There are already in evidence a number of histories written by the various groups into which the church broke up at the death of the Prophet Joseph Smith. These give much of the detail of events transpiring from the inception of the work down to more recent times. Because of this fact, we feel, since these are available, that to spend too much time on incidents not strictly in line with the real activity and progress of the movement, would be merely a repetition of what is already available. Also from the fact, that a short concise history that can be placed in the hands of readers and students as soon as possible, is primarily the object of this publication.

However, in studying closely historical works, we find that oftentimes because of the factional, partisan interests that these historical works represent, that there sometimes appear discrepancies. This makes necessary a very careful comparison between them in order to ascertain exactly just what did happen at a certain given time. This is not said with any desire to reflect discredit upon the authors of such histories, but because we feel a deep sense of responsibility concerning our regard for this great latter day restoration as a divine institution. This impels us to desire to

make this present production as accurate as it can possibly be made. In this we wish to remain as far removed from any partisan bias as possible, and to tell the story as dispassionately as possible, letting the responsibility for error in conduct, if there be such, rest exactly where it belongs, giving special favor to none, and that might include ourselves. For instance, we are now living in the year 1951, and we realize that between this date and the date 1820 when a young prophet went to the woods to pray, that a record was being made. A history was in the making. It is this story of that record so made that we will try to tell as briefly and accurately as possible, realizing that in this, as in all of ministerial labors through a long life of gospel service, we are not laboring to please any man or set of men, but we **are** laboring in the interests of God's work and to Him we are amenable first of all. It is to Him that we realize we will have to give final account.

In this work we are using as source material such recognized historical works as; "Joseph Smith the Prophet, And His Progenitors" by his mother, Lucy Smith; "The Life of Joseph Smith the Prophet" by Tullidge; "An Address To All Believers in Christ" by David Whitmer; "Reorganized Church History" (four volumes); "A New Church History" by the Utah Church; "Teachings of Joseph Smith the Prophet" by Joseph Fielding Smith—This last is a compilation of the teachings and sermons of Joseph Smith during his lifetime. It is claimed that it is verbatim and unedited. It is drawn from such works as "Manuscript History", "Journal History of the Church", "Documentary History of the Church", "The Evening and Morning Star", "Times and Seasons", "Far West Record", "Messenger and Advocate", etc. Added to these we have the old reprint of the "Evening and Morning Star", seven various editions of the "Doctrine and Covenants", including the second European edition published in Liverpool in 1849. Then we have the "Book of Commandments", "A New Witness for Christ in America" by Kirkham, "A Young People's History" by Vida Smith Yates and others of like character.

As we proceed we will seek to bring to aid every available work that we can find. Our effort being to give our readers as brief but reliable and truthful a history as it is possible to produce, yet not giving undue attention to any one phase of the work; but in as brief a space as possible tell our story.

We lay no claim to literary excellence, not to being an outstanding authority on the matters treated, but to present to our readers, in a humble and God-fearing manner, this work, praying His blessing in recognition to be upon us as we write, and upon those who may read, and all in the interest of truth. May God bless you and it.

Your humble servant,

ELDER B. C. FLINT
General Church Historian
Church of Christ (Temple Lot)

April 11, 1951

To the Ministers' Conference:

During the conference period, to date, the School of the Ministry have held five sessions, at which matters of interest have been freely discussed.

A resolution concerning the attitude or posture in prayer was adopted as the concensus of opinion of the School of the Ministry, and referred to the conference for its action.

Officers chosen for the coming year were: Apostle R. R. Robertson (Chairman), Apostle Don Housknecht (Asst. Chairman), and Apostle Leon A. Gould (Secretary).

The following resolution was also adopted: "We of the ministry of the Church of Christ, wish to go on record as approving only the method of baptism contained in III Nephi 5:24. This method was: The officiating minister to be standing in the water during the ordinance of baptism."

Respectfully submitted,
(Signed) LEON A. GOULD, Secretary

REPORT OF THE UNITED WORKERS

Independence, Missouri
April 10, 1951

To the Church of Christ
In Conference Assembled

Greetings:

As the Secretary of the General Organization of the "United Workers" Auxiliary to the Church, I wish to report that there are two organized groups: Ava, Missouri and Independence, Missouri.

The ladies of other local churches are interested and do some work but are not organized.

Our finances are as follows:

Cash on Hand—April 10, 1950.....	\$14.15
Paid to Sr. Angela Wheaton for postage on clothing sent to Indians.....	10.00
Balance on hand.....	\$ 4.15
Collection April 10, 1951.....	\$ 4.39
Balance on hand	\$ 8.54

New Officers elected:

Chairman—Sr. Minnie Smith.

Assistant Chairman—Sr. Ora Derry.

Secretary—Sr. Miriam Mason.

Treasurer—Sr. Bertha Case.

Member at Large—Sr. Irene Yates.

The subject of Vacation Bible School was discussed. A motion was made by Sr. Irene Maley, seconded by Sr. Stella Hedrick that we elect a committee to work with the secretary to formulate plans for a Vacation Bible School in our local churches, this committee to work in conjunction with the pastor and Sunday School Superintendent.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL OF THE MINISTRY

Independence, Missouri

Vacation Bible School Committee elected are: Sr. Bertha Case, Sr. Ora Derry and Sr. Arra Gentry.

Secretary—MIRIAN MASON
Chairman—MINNIE SMITH

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Independence, Missouri
April 7, 1951

To the Ministers' Conference
Church of Christ (Temple Lot)
Independence, Missouri.

Greetings:

The General Sunday School Assqciation met in conference at 9:45 A. M., April 7, 1951 and wish to report their actions as follows:

The Treasurer's report was received as follows:

April 7, 1951

To the General Sunday School Association
Greetings:

I beg to report as the General Sunday School Association Treasurer.

The amount brought forward from 1949.....	\$146.84
The amount received from sale of quarterlies for 1950-51	37.60
Total	\$184.44
Paid Out	76.35
Total Balance	\$108.09
Quarterlies Printed, Lambert & Moon.....	\$ 75.00
Postage For Mailing Quarterlies	1.35
Total	\$ 76.35
Total Balance Forward of the 1/10 from the Local Sunday Schools.....	\$ 31.01
Total Amount Received for the Years 1950-51	47.56
Total	\$ 78.57
Paid Out	2.20
Total Amount of 1/10.....	\$ 76.37
Paid out for file boxes and stationery.....	2.20
Total Amount in the General Sunday School
Treasury	\$184.46

Sincerely,

The General Sunday School Treasurer
ELDER JAMES M. CASE

The Secretary's report was read and approved. They received reports from the Sunday Schools at Sand Lake, Michigan; Collins, Mo.; Houston, Mo.; Morgantown, West Virginia; Fenton, Michigan; and from Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Quarterly Committee's report was read and approved.

Resolved that the officers of the General Sunday

School shall supply each member of the Quorum of the Twelve with a folder of samples of all quarterlies, and the General Sunday School resolutions and instructions for ordering and for cooperation with the Sunday School by each local Sunday School. Asking that they shall present to each Church School our needs and ask them to use what we have and that we instruct the Quarterly Committee to compile a prospectus of the quarterlies setting forth briefly the synopsis of the study contained in each quarterly, its price, and the general purpose and use of quarterlies to be published in a form in a sufficient quantity to be sent to all the Sunday Schools as needed:

The previous officers were reinstated. They were:

Superintendent—Bro. Denver Chapman.

Assistant Superintendent—Bro. James M. Case.

Secretary—Sr. Mary Case.

Treasurer—It was resolved that the Full Time Representative in the office act as Treasurer.

The Quarterly Committee as selected were: Bro. L. A. Gould, Sr. B. C. Flint, Sr. Ora Derry, Sr. Margaret Wheaton, Sr. Marion Sprague.

The report of the meeting was read and accepted.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) MARY CASE
General Sunday School Ass'n.

LETTERS

March 28, 1951

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I want to thank you for sending on the Advocate when I know it must be expired long ago. It has been a wonderful help to me, especially the ones here lately. I'd miss it very much if it didn't come.

The article, "With the Church in an Early Day", is wonderful. I read it some time ago, and now I'm reading it again.

"My Testimony", by Donna Moser is an experience I love to read. It brings God closer to us, gives us more faith to know of strong faith like that. I feel encouraged to trust more in God in times of sickness. There is going to be a time when we will have to, so why not start now.

Time seems so short to get ready for Jesus' coming. We need to watch and pray always.

May this Conference bring much enlightenment to us all is my prayer.

MRS NORMA COOK
Collins, Missouri

Littleton, Colorado
February 27, 1951

Dear Bro. Sheldon:

I've been planning to write again to the Adovcate for some time. I enjoy getting it each month so very much; it brings the Church activities and the experi-

ences of others to those of us who have no chance of attending the services in our own church. It is indeed a great help and a blessing.

I had planned to write of some of the experiences we have had in my own family testifying to the goodness of our God. However, I received a letter from my sister, yesterday, which far outweighs anything I could say. I'd like to pass it on to the readers of the Advocate. I believe it will be good for each one, as it has been for me, personally.

"Dear Meredyth:

When we came home and went to bed at about midnight, I dozed for a while, and Marlene woke me up about three times. After the last time I was more wide awake than I usually am in the morning. I lay awake until 3:30, gave up and got up. I showered, swept the floor and made breakfast preparations. At five o'clock I went back to bed and slept till eight, when the children woke me up. Believe it or not, now at eleven-thirty, I am as alert as I ever have been in my life. I will tell you why, and thereby hangs the tale.

I believe that this, the most wakeful night I have ever spent in my life, was meant to be so. I lay and pondered and worried and grieved over the various things that have been in my mind lately. There was the dreadful uncertainty of the world situation, and the fear of personal suffering involved. I don't fear death or hardship for myself, but the thought of my children being afraid and hungry frightened me greatly. Then too, in my mind was a strong consciousness of the unhappiness in the lives of people I know, as well as the dreadful suffering of the people in warring and poverty-stricken countries. Then there was a very personal grief that has been much in my mind of late for the childish but very real emotional upsets that must come to children who are taught as mine are and will seem to be "different" from the crowd. As I lay awake for hours, I worried and grieved and prayed about all of these things. I prayed for faith to be unafraid and I prayed for strength to do my part well, and I prayed for Divine blessing on our personal lives and problems, and I prayed that the suffering in the world would be short. Then a feeling came over me that a presence from God was with me, and I fairly tingled with awareness of His nearness. For an hour or more this feeling remained with me and I had many different sorts of feelings, all reassuring! I seemed to know that I would be given strength and wisdom to live my life well; I seemed to know that I need not fear for our own welfare; and best of all I seemed to have a vivid sensation that just barely beyond my vision was a glimpse into Heaven! I had a momentary foresight of the holocaust that must come to the world, of its shortness of duration, and of the wild exultation that we will know immediately afterward when we **look up and see Him** coming in glory indescribable—coming at last to give us the life He has promised to the world; a life that is freed of pain and fear and sorrow and evil. Even now, as I write, I am trembling with the excitement that the experience left with me.

I feel, today, that my life is very full and very rewarding!

Love, Donna."

Yours in Gospel Bonds,
MRS. MEREDYTH MALONE

(My sister is Mrs. Donna Moser, of Sedona, Arizona).

Dear Readers of the Advocate:

Many times I have thought of writing a testimony to the truth of the statement in Mark 16:17-18 beginning "And these signs shall follow them that believe." Feeling that I am not gifted in writing I have put it off. But having received added faith from the written experiences of others and also finding myself again in need of a blessing for my own health I want to tell of a few experiences of the past lest I put off this duty and privilege too long.

I was reared in a Christian home but I first heard the restored gospel preached when 18 years old and was baptized when 20, having my membership in the Reorganized Church, only a few years before transferring to the Church of Christ on the Temple Lot. Having been taught in my youth that the blessings of the early day Saints were done away, I was happy to find the gospel and its blessings to be the same in this age as in the beginning. So I was attracted to the testimonies of the miraculous healings, gifts of tongues and other miracles and gifts that have been experienced by "them that believe". I still love to hear of these blessings and for this reason I am making this effort in the hope that others may be strengthened and I might give Glory and Honor unto Him to whom it is due.

In rearing our family, sickness has often come of so serious a nature that we are certain only through the intervention of our Heavenly Father were our loved ones spared to us. To recall all of them would claim a great deal of our Advocate space so will give but two at this time.

When our daughter, Edith, was 3½ years old she became very ill one Saturday night. After about two hours she seemed to be better and we laid it to a digestive disturbance due to something she had eaten, although she was not subject to such. But the following two days she merely tasted food and would lie down again. In the afternoon of the second day I noticed that she always drew up her right knee and having read or heard that this was a symptom of appendicitis I called this to the attention of my companion's mother, who with his father were visiting us at the time. She advised calling our doctor. His diagnosis was acute appendicitis and advised sending word to her father who was working about thirty miles from home and was home only for week ends. I went to a neighbor to telephone to friends who could reach him. By this time the child had a high temperature and I was filled with anxiety and prayed while I walked. All at once an assurance came to me that she would be spared. It was about 7:30 before my companion could reach home and our doctor had called in another doctor for consultation and they agreed that an operation at once was necessary. The assurance that came to me was so strong that I was able to reassure my companion as we were transferring her to the hospital. Her appendix had been ruptured and peritonitis set in. The rest of the night after

her operation it required the watchfulness of several adults to keep the delirious child in bed. The next day drugs quieted her for a time but in the afternoon she again became so excitable that my companion telephoned to his brother, Archie, the nearest Elder, 150 miles or more distant, asking him to come. Immediately after she quieted. Bro. Archie and his wife were delayed by bad roads and heavy rain but arrived about 2:00 A. M. and came immediately to the hospital and Bro. Archie administered to Edith. In the morning when the nurse came to take her temperature she could not believe her eyes, but took it again, for it registered normal and from that time on she could be heard laughing and talking by other patients like any healthy child and our only trouble was to keep her entertained and happy in bed until time for the stitches to be removed so she could be taken home. We learned later, through my sister-in-law who was a friend of the head nurse, that the doctors and nurses had no hope for the child the night of her operation.

A few years later, when our family numbered five daughters our son was born. When he was two days old he became very sick. His temperature going up between 105 and 106 degrees. The doctor termed the trouble "congestion of the lungs" but to others he said it was pneumonia. At that time, seventeen and a half years ago, in that high climate, pneumonia was considered fatal for a young baby. This was during the depression when neither we or our people had money to help travel expenses if there had been time to call an Elder for we were isolated and the nearest Elder three hundred miles away. So my companion sent a telegram to the Church on the Temple Lot asking for their prayers. A few hours later I could see our tiny son growing worse by the minute and a pinched look coming on the little face that told the angel of Death was hovering near. In my heart I was continually in prayer that God might interevne, as I am sure were my companion and his mother, who was caring for us. When suddenly a change came and he grew better, as we watched, as swiftly as he had grown worse and in a short time his temperature was normal. We could not doubt that it was in answer to the prayers of "them that believe."

A number of experiences have come to me through the years since I obeyed the restored gospel. When I look back over the years of my weak and faulty ways and sometimes wavering faith it is wonderful to "count my many blessings and see what God hath done." So I will close with the prayer that God will bless all His people everywhere with added faith and strength that we may be permitted to see His work go forward in these last days.

Your Sister in Gospel Bonds,
ALVINA C. BELL

BLACK RIVER FALLS AND SPARTA NEWS

With the beautiful spring weather coming, it makes one feel like singing; especially after such a hard winter. Read the other local news and certainly enjoyed them all.

Our business meeting was held at Brother Babcock's home; officers were re-elected. The rest of the evening was devoted to the discussion of building our

church. It was voted that the church be built in Sparta. The land is being donated by Bro. and Sister P. Marquette. Bro. Babcock closed the meeting with prayer. After the meeting, Sister Babcock served a very lovely lunch.

Sacrament service was held at the home of Bro. and Sr. Muth, Black River Falls, Wisconsin. I am sorry that this is all we can say about this as both your reporters were unable to be there.

Sister Wilson's husband, Sgt. Jess E. Wilson, called her from Korea where he has been in combat since the beginning of the Korean War. He informed her that he is no longer on the front lines but is now in the rear echelon. You can well imagine how Sister Wilson welcomed this wonderful news, as she and other loved ones, have been praying for his safety. All those boys have our prayers. May this terrible conflict be over and our boys back home with their loved ones.

Our pastor and his wife, Brother Clyde Babcock and Sister Beatrice Babcock, are attending conference at this writing, and are visiting their daughter and son-in-law, the Wm. Sheldons.

Bro. and Sister Chas. Eddy and daughter, Dorothy Wilson, motored to Manhattan, Kansas to see their son, Merlin, and family, but most particularly to see their new grandson, Merlin, Junior. Their intentions were to attend conference, but due to flood conditions, thought it best to start homeward.

We are looking hopefully for our visit from our Missionary in charge, Bro. Flint and Sister Flint. Our prayers are that they will be able to make it again this summer, as we all enjoy their companionship so much.

May the Lord's blessings be with you all, is our prayer.

Until next time,
STAVLO AND JONES

INDEPENDENCE ITEMS

At the local business meeting in March, Bro. C. LeRoy Wheaton, Jr., was continued as our pastor for the coming six months. Elected along with him were Forest E. Maley, secretary; Leslie Case, treasurer; Nicholas F. Denham, chorister; Ella Bell, pianist; Marion Sprague, reporter.

On March 16 a lovely baby daughter was born to Bro. and Sr. N. F. Denham. She weighed seven pounds and seven ounces, and was given the name of Dorothy Ann. On February twenty-seventh a little son was born to Bro. William Anderson, Jr., and his wife, Opal. He weighed in at six pounds and ten ounces, and was named William Forest Anderson, Third. To these tiny buds of promise we extend our best wishes and to the parents, congratulations. We ask your prayers and God's blessings to be upon them.

Two sons of Bro. and Sr. J. M. Case received ministerial calls, and were ordained under the hands of the elders on April 1. Bro. Leslie Case was given the Melchisedec Priesthood, and Bro. Marvin Case was given the Aaronic Priesthood and the office of Priest.

We are thankful that the Lord has given us these young men of strength to assist us in our struggle to attain unto salvation. May they be abundantly blessed in their service to God. Pray for them.

The Conference, as always when the Spirit attends, was a feast of good gospel experiences, for which we rejoice and give thanks. The attendance was so good that at times it seemed we would have need of an overflow room. We are always joyful for the opportunity to meet our brothers and sisters of other locals. Nevertheless we do miss all those whom we have already learned to love and who did not come. To all those who did not get here we say, "As we gathered at the family board we sorrowed at your empty chair." How wonderful and glorious the day that shall bring the gathering from which there shall be no more need of parting.

Word is received from Bro. Albert Cooper that his mother, whom he is visiting in England, is greatly improved in health. He is now on his way back to his home in Independence.

Bro. Ernie Premoe is recovering from a recent abdominal operation at the Divine Bros. Clinic in Kansas City. We are glad to report that he is doing well. We ask your prayers that he may continue to receive God's good blessings and go on to perfect health.

We are happy to announce the betrothal and approaching marriage of Sr. Edith Bell and Bro. Marvin Case. Sr. Edith, an associate editor of Zion's Advocate, is a daughter of Bro. and Sr. Harvey Bell of Ava, Missouri. Bro. Marvin is a son of Bro. and Sr. J. M. Case of Independence. The wedding is to take place in August. We extend to these young people our very best wishes, and offer up to God our prayers for their happiness throughout a long life together.

MARION SPRAGUE, Reporter.

WITH THE CHURCH IN AN EARLY DAY

(In the last chapter, Mr. and Mrs. Clark withdrew from the church of their life-long association because its doctrines were incompatible with their understanding of the Bible. A spiritual manifestation was given to him showing that God was about to move in establishing His work anew. A stranger came to them, telling of Joseph Smith and the Book of Mormon. They begin to journey to Kirtland.—W.A.S.).

Chapter IV THE VISIT TO KIRTLAND

Early the next morning, long before the sun had risen, while the dew lay fresh and sparkling upon the bushes by the roadside and the forest was vocal with the song of birds, our travelers resumed their journey.

As the day advanced, the road occasionally led them where, from an eminence, the blue waters of Lake Erie could be seen in the distance, with here and there a vessel showing like a speck upon its surface. As the miles grew less, which separated them from the end of their journey, the intensity of their feelings increased, and an unspoken anxiety took possession of their hearts. They had undertaken this journey wholly upon the information obtained from a stranger,

and what if they had been misled? Even if this information should prove to be correct they still had no assurance that they should find what they were seeking.

It had now been some four years since they had left the Methodist Church, and though they had never regretted what they had done, yet at times they had been lonely, and they longed for church privileges and fellowship. Were they to be disappointed, and if so, how much longer might they have to wait?

They were near the village now, and a turn in the road soon disclosed it. Quiet, unassuming, with nothing to especially distinguish it from other villages of its size, could it be that in this place God had a prophet and a people? and yet why should this seem so strange? A prophet was but as any other man unto whom God made known His will, and the Jews had never been wont to treat them with any great respect while they were alive, though as soon as they had killed them, they would garnish their sepulchers and show great respect to their bones.

But these people were not Jews, and such a thing as a prophet among the Gentiles had never been heard of. Once it had crossed the mind of Mrs. Clark to wonder if her husband could possibly have been deceived, but the time had come to test this.

The village was built upon the hill overlooking the little river Chagrin, which wound its quiet way along like a thread of silver between its verdant banks. Driving along the principal street, Mr. Clark stopped in front of the tavern, and assisting his wife out, he gave his team in charge of the hostler, while they went within to seek a few moments of rest and refreshment, before searching further for the object of their visit. Leaving his wife in the sitting-room, Mr. Clark joined a number of men, who were in the main room, in order to make inquiries, and found to his satisfaction that he had not been misinformed, but that there was a large number of people here called "Mormons", and they did believe "Joe Smith" to be a prophet.

Mr. Clark was scrutinized closely by these men, but they were too polite to ask his business with this people, and thanking them for their information, he rejoined his wife. After partaking of an early supper, they left the tavern and proceeded towards the house which had been pointed out to them as the one in which Mr. Smith lived. As they came near enough to observe what was taking place around it, they saw many groups scattered here and there under the shade of trees, while teams and horses hitched outside the yard indicated that many others, like themselves, were in quest of information. The building was a plain wooden one, and upon rapping at the door they were admitted by an elderly man whose hair was sprinkled with gray, but whose mild, dark eyes beamed with intelligence and kindness. Perceiving them to be strangers, after the customary salutation he invited them to walk in.

"Is your name Smith?" said Mr. Clark.

"It is, Joseph Smith," was the answer.

"My name is Clark, and this is my wife. We have come from Pennsylvania purposely to see you."

"Perhaps you mean my son, whose name also is

Joseph. He is not at home now, but is in New York on business, and will not be back for some two or three weeks."

"I am sorry to learn this, as I can not remain from home so long, and am very anxious to see him."

"It is possible that if I knew your business I might be of service to you."

"My business has reference entirely to things of religion. I have heard that your son claims to be a prophet, and is propagating a new faith. Is it correct?"

"It is correct that he claims to be a prophet, but as to propagating a new faith, that is a mistake, for the doctrine he preaches is very old."

"Does he not claim to have found and translated a new Bible?"

"No, not a Bible, but simply a record of the people who once inhabited this continent. This record contains the history of the prophets and kings who lived among them, and also tells of the visit of Christ to this continent, after His crucifixion at Jerusalem. It is called the Book of Mormon, and we hold it sacred."

"Do you believe the Bible?"

"Certainly we do, which is more than other Christians can honestly claim, and the Book of Mormon is a strong testimony to the Bible."

"What do you mean by saying, 'This is more than other Christians can honestly claim?' All Christians believe the Bible."

"That depends upon how you present it to them," said Mr. Smith, with a quiet smile. "If it is closed they believe it, but if it is open, they not only repudiate it, but cry delusion, imposture, and yet harder names, of those who do believe it."

"I am not sure that I understand you," said Mr. Clark, not feeling willing to renounce all his old faith and belief in the church of which he had for years been a member, and which of course was included in the term of Christians. For a moment he suffered a spirit of antagonism to master him, forgetting what the voice had told him, and the declaration that instead of preaching his gospel, they were teaching the commandments of men. This, however, lasted but a moment, and he was ready to receive any message which might come to him from God.

"May I ask," said Mr. Smith, continuing the conversation, "if you are a church member?"

"I am not now, but have been a Methodist from my childhood until a few years since."

"Very good; did you ever hear them explain the last chapter of Mark, where Christ gave commissions to His disciples and sent them out to preach?" and opening the Bible he read:

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents, and if they drink any deadly

thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. So then, after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word with signs following. Amen."—Mark 26:15-20.

Mr. Clark remembered that upon more than one occasion when he had asked to have these same passages explained to him, he had been told that such things were not needed now and were therefore done away, and he answered accordingly.

(To be continued)

I had written Elder James M. Case during the afternoon, asking him to make known to the missionary in charge of the Southern States, my knowledge of six years standing, of a family in Magnolia, N. C., who are waiting to hear the Gospel. In the evening, feeling impressed to write, the following poem was written.

Into the light of my purpose in truth
I have gathered to me, aged and youth;
My purpose thou knowest . . . gather in one,
Those who are obedient unto my Son . . .
And, never have I let one call in vain
For their redemption, from sin's dark stain;

And therefore, not these, shall be now unheard
By Him is their faith and their hope, the Lord;
Although to their call none gave their response
Of those who sought not many soul's defense,
My servants will hear and answer thy plea,
Through them thou hast brought, for them, to me;

I will give answer to them who long have known
My doctrine, which unto them thou hast shown;
Thy prayers, long ascending before my face,
Thus, I will acknowledge borne up by grace,
And by my Witness of truth, there, will go
One reaping my Vineyard where others sow:

'Twas not for the faithless to labor for me
In the lands where thy loved friends now be,
And yet, though long waiting, my servant's voice
Shall be to them, a glad call to rejoice;
For I have seen virtue in thy appeal,
And my promise here given, I will seal:

By my Spirit I've given that thou write
These words of truth, shall increase their delight,
For, by gifts and blessings from Heaven flown,
Among these my people shall then be known;
With gladness, their voices shall then arise
To praise their Redeemer unto the skies;

Truth's flaming there shall set a torch alight
To shine over them,—and into the night
Of many of them,—by faith and works
Equal unto it, though the earth shakes,
Firmly and steadfast, these, mine, shall remain
E'en though yon mountains are leveled—a plain.

HERVEY A. SCOTT

Western Slope Reunion where the Silver Colorado wends its way, June 9, 9, 10.

Orchard Mesa, T. R. Ely, Grand Junction, Colorado.