

# 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 31

Independence, Missouri, March, 1954

Number 3



FOR the good that I would I do not; but the evil which I would not, that I do.

Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.—

Romans 7:19-23.



## CONTENTS

Editorial .....	Page 34	News From Locals .....	Page 37
The Peoples' Conference.....	Page 34	Original Articles .....	Page 40
Special Notice .....	Page 35	Sermon .....	Page 41
Out of the Mail Sack.....	Page 36	Y. C. P. L. News .....	Page 46
Conference Notices .....	Page 47		

# ZION'S ADVOCATE

Official Publication of the Church of Christ

Headquarters on the Temple Lot, Independence, Missouri

EDITOR: Archie F. Bell, Ava, Missouri.

ASSOCIATE EDITORS: Margaret E. Wheaton, 1101 W. Orchard St., Independence, Missouri; Lois Harris, 1920 South Osage, Independence, Missouri.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE BOARD OF PUBLICATION, Church of Christ (Temple Lot), Box 472, Independence, Missouri.

Entered as Second-Class Matter May 14, 1929, at the Post Office at Independence, Missouri, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: One Year, \$1.50. In bundles of twelve or more, for missionary purposes, \$1.00. Canadian and all foreign rates, \$1.75.

Send all donations for the Temple Fund, the Storehouse, Consecrations, Tithes, Offerings, and subscriptions for the Advocate to: The Church of Christ, (Temple Lot), Box 472, Independence, Missouri.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPPLIES

	Price Each
Wee Mites, Picture Stories to color, 5 sets, 1 to 13 ea.....	\$. 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
Primary, Vol 1, No. 4, Life of Jesus.....	.20
Junior, Vol 1, No. 1, Principles of the Gospel.....	.20
Junior, Vol. 1, No. 2, God's Revelments to Mankind .....	.20
Junior, Vol. 1, No. 3, Fruits of the Spirit.....	.20
Junior, Vol 1, No. 4, Sermon on the Mount.....	.20
Senior, Vol. 1, No. 1, Principles of the Gospel (Sold Out) .....	.20
Senior, Vol 1, No. 2, First Causes In Creation.....	.20
Senior, Vol. 1, No. 3, In the Beginning, and Fall of Man .....	.20
Senior, Vol. 1, No. 4, Study of Israel's Begin- ning .....	.20
Senior, Vol. 2, No. 1, Israel Under Moses.....	.20
Senior, Vol. 2, No. 2, Israel in the Promised Land....	.20
Kingdom of Heaven Tract, No. 1.....	.20

## 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.

Send ALL remittances for the Sunday School Association to: General Sunday School Ass'n. Treasurer, Church of Christ (Temple Lot), Box 472, Independence, Missouri.

## EDITORIAL

Next month (April) will be the time which we, of the Church of Christ, look forward to, from one year to another. It is the month in which we hold our Conference.

It, throughout the years, has been given different names; but regardless of what name we give it, then is the time we meet together to perform business for the general Church. It is, therefore, a general conference.

Many times in the past quarter of a century there has been talk of doing away with legislation. Without taking up discussion on the merits or the demerits of this proposition we are reminded that Article Nineteen of our Articles of Faith would have to be revised if legislation was to be done away with.

There may be some of you who will attend conference for the first time, this year. If so there are a few rules to follow if you want to get the most out of your time spent there:

First, be sure you have made arrangements for your lodging. If you do this you have a good start for an enjoyable time.

Next, read the rules or law covering the kind of conference the business will be conducted by this year. This will avoid some confusion of mind.

At the beginning of conference a program will be tend. Be on time if possible at every meeting you announced. Decide which meetings you wish to attend, just as much as you would expect to be on time if you were working for a company, in a factory, or in an office.

When a bill is before the house, try to understand it. If you do not understand it, ask a question or two to try to get it clear in your mind. Do not attempt to speak on the bill either for or against, until you understand it. Acquaint yourself with Robert's Rules of Order. It is the "Rules of Order" adopted by the Church.

If every one would observe these few simple rules much good could be accomplished. For instance: if everyone was on time at a meeting there would be no confusion of seat finding during the meeting. God is not the author of confusion. If we, through our tardiness, cause confusion in a meeting habitually, we should examine ourselves before God.

The conference is where we meet to do business for God. We should prepare ourselves spiritually ahead of time for this work, so we might be able to conduct ourselves in a way that would be pleasing and acceptable to Him.

A. F. B.

We are reprinting, for the reader's benefit, the rules for The People's Conference as published in the Zion's Advocate for May, 1939 on pages 78 and 79.

## THE PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE

1. The legislative power of the Church of Christ shall be vested in the local churches, in harmony with the instruction: "therefore this shall ye observe, and make it your law to do your business by the voice of the people." Book of Mosiah 13:36.

2. Each local church shall meet the third week in June, which shall be known as General Conference Week to consider all matters recommended to them from the conference of the ministry of the Church of Christ.

3. The acts of the minister's conference of the Church of Christ shall be reported to the local churches in the form of a supplement to the May issue of Zion's Advocate, and shall be so arranged as to provide a ballot on all measures submitted to the people's conference.

4. No discussion of the bills, and no matter other than that pertaining to the bills, shall be permitted in the supplement in which the ballots appear.

5. Local churches may initiate legislation by drafting measures to be presented to the minister's conference; and when so drafted said measures shall be presented to the conference in their original form; but after becoming the property of the conference they become subject to the same parliamentary rules that apply to all other measures. Local churches may also submit any other matter of general church interest, together with their recommendations, to the Council of Twelve, prior to the convening of the ministers' conference on April 6th of each year.

6. The Council of Twelve shall, at a convenient date, meet before the convening of the conference of the ministry to consider all matters presented to them, and to provide a tentative program for the conference of the ministry.

7. The conference of the ministry shall not be legislative; and while composed primarily of men holding the priesthood, all other members present shall be privileged to participate in the discussion of all measures, and to initiate legislation. The right to vote shall also be extended to them on all measures exempt from referendum by paragraph 8. All other acts of said conference shall be recommendations to the local churches.

8. All measures of church business adopted by the conference of the ministry shall be put to a referendum vote except matters of routine connected with the conference, appointment of missionaries by the Council of Twelve, filling of vacancies in quorums of the general ministry, either by selection or ordination, standing committees, and mere votes of sentiment.

9. All measures defeated in the conference of the ministry shall go to referendum vote if ten members of the conference of the ministry who are present when the action is taken request it of the conference.

10. No act of the conference of the ministry shall be binding upon the church until ratified by the people's conference composed of all the local churches, except as provided in paragraph 8.

11. Ballots shall be printed in such form as to provide for the individual vote, as well as the collective vote of the locals, the name and address of each voter to appear on, or to accompany the ballot supplement.

12. Scattered members may obtain ballots from the General Office, and may send their votes to their local churches, or to the General Church Recorder. Scattered members not belonging to locals should register their names with the General Recorder. Members of

locals not voting with the People's Conference may forward their ballots the same as scattered members.

13. All votes must be reported to the General Recorder not later than July 31st. No vote received after that date shall be counted.

14. The compiling and publishing of referendum bills shall be under the control of a committee of three known as the referendum committee, except that all measures submitted to the ministers' conference in writing shall be sent as adopted by the conference, including all preambles and introductory clauses not eliminated by the conference.

15. Free and proper discussion of all measures to be proposed to the ministers' conference, and of all measures adopted by the conference and submitted to the people's conference, shall be permissible in any issue of the Advocate, subject to the discretion of the Editor, or editors.

16. Measures sent out to referendum may not be altered or amended. The vote must be a straight "yes" or "no" upon any bill or measure as it appears upon the ballot form.

17. The referendum committee in conjunction with the General Recorder shall, as soon as practicable after the close of the polls on July 31st, check the count of votes, tabulate the vote according to the returns and announce the vote in the next Advocate.

### SPECIAL NOTICE

Phoenix, Arizona  
February 1, 1954

Apostle Arthur M. Smith, Secretary  
Council of Twelve Apostles  
Church of Christ (Temple Lot),  
Independence, Missouri

Dear Brother Smith:

Whereas, the rules and regulations governing the procedures of the Council of Twelve provide that, when an emergency arises, three members of the Council may call them together in emergency session, to consider the matter, therefore,

We, the undersigned, being convinced that an emergency so great confronts the whole Church, that makes it of paramount necessity for us to come together in fasting and prayer, to consider such matters as pertain to the gathering of the saints and the redemption of Zion, and a more complete setting in order of the affairs of the Church in harmony with God's holy will, that we, as the leading Council of the Church shall through this means seek to so unify ourselves before the Lord and the Church, as to present to the April conference such recommendations as may be deemed necessary in the premise.

In this regard, we cite the following commandment given to the Church as of February, 1831, to-wit:

"Hearken, O ye elders of my church whom I have called: Behold I give unto you a commandment, that ye shall assemble yourselves together to agree upon my word, and by the prayer of your faith ye shall receive my law, that ye may know how to govern my church, and have all things right before me."—Book of Commandments, 43:3-4.

During this period of fasting and prayer before the Lord, we would that the whole Church be notified through the Advocate of such deliberations, and set this same period apart as a time of fasting and prayer with us, in their homes and local churches, . . . "only let thy food be prepared in singleness of heart, that thy fasting may be perfect, or in other words, that thy joy may be full. Verily this is fasting and prayer; or, in other words, rejoicing and prayer." (Book of Commandments 60:22-23).

For this period, we recommend to all that as a church we refrain from all worldly activities which are not conducive to spiritual preparation for receiving the blessing of the Lord we thus seek.

In harmony with the above call, we hereby set the time as March 22nd to April 3rd, 1954; said meetings to convene in the quorum room of the Council of Twelve, on the Temple Lot, Independence, Missouri; and further, that on April 1st the General Bishops be invited to meet with us in joint session for deliberations affecting their work; and that on April 2nd and 3rd the Seventies be invited to join this council to consider jointly the extension of missionary work in their office and calling.

Your brethren in Christ,

Clarence L. Wheaton  
D. W. Housknecht  
Leon A. Gould

#### OUT OF THE MAIL SACK

Sister Irene Yates of Phoenix, Arizona writes a few words, thus:

"We are sad to relate that my dear husband, James E. Yates, is very sick at Phoenix, Arizona. I also have not been well and am under doctor's care.

"We ask an interest in your prayers and hope we may soon be better, God willing."

From Woodwell, Oklahoma, Sister Alzada Massey writes that the last week in January,

"Apostles Gould and Housknecht were our guests this week and left Thursday morning for Phoenix, Arizona. We certainly enjoyed their visit."

The following letter from Hot Springs, Montana, comes to us from Brother and Sister Earl Darlington. We rejoice with them that God does protect His own.

"Our hearts are full of rejoicing at the return of my father and mother, Apostle and Sister Arthur M. Smith. They, as you know, have been doing God's work in England and have been a source of worry to us, as we have heard over the radio about the death dealing fogs over England. We prayed that God would keep them safe. We know how much He cares, and how He watches over His own. Now they are back in the States. We are very, very happy and know that many of you are also happy to have these beloved workers of God back again. Though time went fast, we have missed them a great deal.

"We know they were sent over there to do God's

work and pray they have been successful. We know how the people over there must have need of leadership and help; still, we can't help but be a little selfish in feeling glad they are home. May we here in the States remember the saints in far away England in our prayers, and lend them courage in their time of need. God bless His children and lead them with a gentle but firm hand."

Phoenix, Arizona  
February 11, 1954

Archie F. Bell, Editor  
Zion's Advocate,  
Independence, Missouri

Dear Brother Bell:

The readers of The Advocate may find inspiration, as we did, in the enclosed copy of a letter from Brother Fernando O'Jeda, of Yucatan.

Sincerely your sister,

Evalena Campbell

Ticul, Yucatan, Mexico  
February 2, 1954

Dear Sister Evalena:

I would like to first ask your forgiveness for not having written sooner. I enjoyed your beautiful Christmas card a lot. I liked Arizona ever since the first time I saw it and that was why I liked and still like the little scene in that card. Thanks!

By this time I think Don and Brother Wheaton had got back there again after the wonderful time we all had together with your Lamanite brothers and sisters in this land of mystery and tradition, Yucatan, the land of the Mayas!

We all miss them both very much.

I was so sorry to learn of your Dad's illness and also of Sister Irene's, his wife. I felt a very deep impression at the first time I met this couple of nice persons, and I've been thinking a lot of them.

In the loneliness of our tropical nights, I have raised up my eyes and looked up to such clear and beautiful scenes above, sometimes, looking at our beautiful moon, so other times when it would not show up; I've looked up to the millions and millions of bright stars scattered all over the endless space, and have lifted up my heart in a silent prayer to the Great Author of everything, with the hope of being heard by Him, but fearing to be heard by anybody else, and asked for help, courage, consolation and blessing for each one of us in this life, and I always remembered that respectful gentleman, through whom I was called to serve the only true God.

I know his trouble was, or is, an eye one. He cannot see the light of the sun, but I know that he can see a much brighter, much more wonderful, much more desirable and Eternal light; the light of God, the Eternal Father! The light which more and more people lack!

It surely is a great blessing to walk in the light of God, isn't it?

The Lord has blessed me abundantly, and I know that each of us, who seek His ways, has been too.

We are soon to build a nice little church here by which we are very thankful to the Lord and to you folks in the States also, and we hope to see it finished before so long and filled up with God's people, people who will be willing to serve Him with the depth of their heart, living in the purity of the love of our Master, Jesus Christ.

May God bless you all, is my fervent prayer.

Yours in Christ,  
(Signed) Fernando O'Jeda

---

## NEWS FROM LOCALS

### From Over the Sea

At the Church of Christ, Gilfach Goch., on January 10, 1954, Brother and Sister A. M. Smith gave a farewell social for the saints, on their departure to the United States. We all had a very happy time together.

After the social a service of songs was held. Sister A. M. Smith took charge.

Hymn 248, "How Gentle God's Commands".

Prayer offered by the pastor of the Church of Christ, Brother S. Mason of Llanelly.

No. 1 Song, "National Anthem" sung by Natalie Mary Buck in Welsh.

No. 2 Solo, sung by John David Jenkins, Kenfigil, "Onward Christian Soldiers."

No. 3 Recitation by Sister Edwards Trealaw, "The Three Bidders".

No. 4 Solo by Elder George Allen, "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations".

No. 5 Solo by Sister M. A. Buck, "God Will Take Care of You".

No. 6 Solo by the pastor of the Church of Christ, S. Mason, Llanelly, "Bless This House."

The meeting was handed over to Apostle A. M. Smith, U.S.A., who gave an address. The pastor S. Mason also gave an address. We enjoyed both of them. It was wonderful.

Sisters Edward, Trealaw, recited a few verses of farewell to our Brother and Sister A. M. Smith.

Altogether there were about thirty-six in number, including the children, and folks that came in after tea.

We sang all together, "We'll Never Say Goodbye in Heaven".

A vote of thanks was passed to Brother and Sister Smith for the wonderful tea they gave.

The closing hymn 89, "God Be With You Till We Meet Again".

The pianist was Sister S. Mason of Llanelly.  
Pastor S. Mason closed in prayer.

Sister M. A. Buck  
Sec.-Treas. of Church of Christ

### Ava Visits Advocate

The evening of January 17, we met in our Study Hour, Brother Alex Smith opened the meeting, then Brother Archie Bell was in charge of the study period. He asked for questions,—any question that we had studied over, or wondered what the meaning of said question was. Then the questions would be arranged and tabulated for study and answering in future meetings, by the ministry. There were three questions asked this first meeting:

- 1.—What Is Spiritual Wickedness?
- 2.—What Is Grace?
- 3.—What Is Zion and How Shall It Be Redeemed?

Wednesday, the 20th, Brother Don Housknecht and Brother Leon Gould arrived at the home of Brother and Sister Alex Smith, staying overnight and then driving to Houston Thursday morning, returning Saturday evening to spend Sunday with the Ava Local, before starting on their way west for extended missionary work.

Sunday School, Sunday morning was in charge of the new Superintendent, Brother Harvey Bell. We spent a pleasant hour in study and then Brother Leon Gould occupied the 11 o'clock preaching hour. His text was the admonition given to himself years ago, and now he gave unto us the same admonition, "that he (we) would live to see the preparation of the coming of Christ and to see the prophecies fulfilled, ancient prophecies and latter day prophecies," and then he brought to our minds many of these prophecies, that had been and were being fulfilled.

The evening hour was given over to Brother Don Housknecht, who warned us of the urgent need of our continued fasting and prayer that we, as individuals, and that we, as a church, may be able to endure the trying times of these last days.

The last week in January, Jack Bell, Barbara Burgin and Cathy, all of Independence, were visitors here, Jack Bell visiting with his parents, Brother and Sister Archie Bell; Sister Barbara Burgin and daughter, Cathy, visiting in the home of Barbara's brother, Alex Smith.

January 31st, our Sunday School lesson was in Nephi, where we are told of the books that are to come forth, that will convince not only the remnant of the seed of Nephi, but also the convincing of the Gentile and Jew, that Christ is the Son of God.

Brother Alex Smith occupied the preaching hour, with Brother Archie Bell in charge of the service. Brother Alex Smith read from the Book of Nephi 12-29, "And it shall come to pass, that whoso repenteth and is baptized in my name, shall be filled; and if he endureth to the end, behold, him will I hold guiltless before my Father, at that day when I shall stand to judge the world." Then reading from chapter 13, verses 5 and 6, "ask and ye shall receive: knock, and it shall be opened unto you", etc, going on to Matt. 6:16, where we are told, that if we forgive men their trespasses, God will forgive us; but if we forgive not, then God will not forgive us our trespasses. Also Matt. 23-20 speaking of the Pharisees and Scribes, who were careful in paying tithes and forgot the more important things of the laws, such as mercy, faith, judgment, etc. He warned us that we might also be as Scribes, guilty

of keeping a material law and neglecting to keep the law that is written in the "fleshy tablets of the heart", the spiritual law.

The evening study hour was devoted to the study and answering of the questions formulated at an earlier meeting: "What is Spiritual Wickedness?" and "What is Grace? The discussion and Bible references, also Book of Mormon references helped us to a much better understanding of what these mean.

Monday evening, the first of February, the Ministry met in a Priesthood meeting.

February 7, being the first Sunday of the month, we had the joy of again partaking in the Sacrament and renewing our covenant with our Lord, to again pledge our lives to His service.

We were glad to welcome to our midst, Sister Caroline Hedrick, Brother John Bell and Sister Enid Morris, who were visiting Brother and Sister Harvey Bell. Also from Independence were Clifton and Ella Engle visiting at the home of Brother and Sister Archie Bell.

Having studied and hungered for ways that we, the lay members, might be of service to our heavenly Father, I was glad to read in the last Advocate, in the notice of the coming Conference, the reminder that we members, that may not be able to attend this year still have an important privilege, in that we can remember in our prayers the coming Conference, and also during the time it is in session. That we have within our reach this means of aiding in God's work, that through our combined prayers, the force and power of God can bring about the needed good to the furtherance of His work. Let us not underestimate the importance of this force or the strength for good that is generated when we unite our desires in prayer to God.

Darleen Smith, Reporter

### Houston Local

Since our last contribution of news from our local, many months have passed. We hope in the future you may hear from us more often.

Our pastor, Elder P. G. Mercer, in humbleness and sincerity, delivered a helpful sermon to the saints here. After the morning services of the first Sunday of each month is our time to meditate upon the covenant which we made with our heavenly Father through the waters of baptism. We are reminded of that covenant by partaking of the bread and wine that we may always remember Him and keep His commandments. Let us not forget, you and I have a responsibility for the endeavor to unify our forces in righteousness that we may know God's will, of which there is much need. And in our struggle, in our weak way, is He not willing to come to our rescue and help us to understand? Let us strive to do our part and become what God would have us to become.

Sister Myrtle Darrah was a guest in the home of Sister Anna Kenney Thanksgiving day and of Mrs. Stella Bates Christmas day.

Sister Mary Jane Ware and son, Johnny, of Licking, Missouri, Brother Ireatess, Kenney, of Columbia, Mis-

souri, Brother and Sister Walter Kommer and daughter of St. Louis, Missouri, Brother and Sister Harold Massey and son, Billy, of Goodwell, Oklahoma, spent their Christmas vacation with their parents, Brother and Sister Ernest Keeney. While there, the two small grandchildren, Jane Ann Kommer and John Charles Ware, were brought before Elder P. G. Mercer to be blessed in the home of the grandparents. May these fond parents realize their responsibility that rests upon them in teaching these precious little ones the spiritual way of life as well as the physical way. May God's grace abound in them as they walk His pathway under the guidance of His spirit.

Though few in number at this place, the Church of Christ members here have been favored by a most delightful visit from Apostles Leon Gould and Don H. Housknecht. Although their visit was far too short, we feel much good was done. We enjoyed a very good sermon Friday night by Brother Gould. He stressed the fact to not judge unless it is a righteous judgment. Brother Housknecht was the speaker Saturday night. His subject was "Fasting and Prayer." He stressed the need of sincere, humble and constant fasting and prayer by the Lord's people that they may be able to overcome all evil in these last days. Many thoughts were brought before us that were much appreciated. We hope that each of us will think often upon them and heed the admonition.

Sister Mary Jane Ware and son of Licking, Missouri, come over to attend services each first Sunday.

Sister Mercer has been ill and unable to teach school for a few days, but we are happy to report that she is to be in the school room again.

Our weather has not been of much benefit in combating colds and flu. We have experienced cold, fog and dampness as well as balmy days of spring-like weather. We are still badly in need of moisture that we may be able to have water in our ponds and in the ground for our spring crops.

This local is looking forward to visits from the ministry of other locals and missionaries. Hoping that the future holds much in store of continued prosperity for all because of faithful endeavor in that which is spiritual.

Anna Keeney, Reporter

### Banks Local

We are a new Branch organized November 8, 1953, with 7 members and 21 in attendance. Elder Arthur Eugene Gould, pastor; Gilbert H. Schultz, priest, assistant.

We are all truly grateful to God that He has seen fit to establish a branch of His beloved church here.

Brother Anderson's mission was indeed miraculous in nature. When Sister A. E. Gould told me he was coming I had a great longing to meet him. My family and I had gone over to the Fetting movement about twelve years ago, but I did not feel contented there and lost considerable favor with God. Even though I held the office of an Elder I never made one convert. It seems I was like an old book placed on a shelf cov-

ered with dust, and when Brother Anderson came he brushed off the dust and placed it back with the rest of the books.

After I shook hands with Brother Anderson, we talked a few words and then he asked me, "Brother Schultz, why don't you come back?"

I said, "I have been thinking about it." He said, "Do you want to come back?" I said, "yes". He said, "I can fix it right now. That's what I'm here for."

Well, my wife, sons Harland and Marvin and I all came back. My son, Raymond, was a member so we had a business meeting and organized a branch. We also had a Sunday School. We meet in the homes of the members. We hold Prayer Service every Wednesday.

Yes, God works in a mysterious way His wonders to perform.

I was chosen secretary of the branch and my wife, Josephine Schultz, treasurer.

The Sunday School Officers are: Gilbert H. Schultz, Superintendent; Raymond G. Schultz, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Raymond G. Schultz, Secretary; and Mrs. Harland L. Schultz, Treasurer.

We ask an interest in your prayers for this part of the vineyard.

We are more fortunate however, than those poor innocent souls in Yucatan, Mexico, but for how long only God holds the answer.

It seems unbelievable that a church claiming to represent Christ; a church that was persecuted by the communists and the K.K.K.'s would use the same tactics.

Dear saints in Yucatan, we are praying mightily in your behalf that God will send an angel to protect you. We pray for you at eventide, at all our services, and whenever we think of you. Carry on; your Jesus and mine overcame the world. These are signs that you are in the right way.

### The Way

To every man there openeth a way and ways and a way.

And the high soul climbs the high way and the low soul gropes the low.

And in between the misty flats the rest drift to and fro; But to every man there openeth a high way and a low. And every man decideth the way his soul shall go.

Yours in gospel bonds, Banks Local Church of Christ (Temple Lot).

Gilbert H. Schultz, Reporter

### Independence Diary

January 15, Sister Edith Case and Sister Ella Engle were hostesses for a bridal shower given in honor of Sister Joyce Sprague. Sister Sprague received many pretty and useful gifts and many, many wishes for happiness.

Brother Harris was our speaker the morning of January 17. His subject was on faith. He read from the Book of Mormon about the faith that the brother of Jared exercised, when he brought the eight stones and asked the Lord to touch them so that they would give light for their vessels. Then from the Bible, he read

of the faith Abraham had when he prepared to offer up his son as a burnt offering. Brother Harris suggested that we study the Articles of Faith and Practice so that we will know what it is that we say we believe. That evening hour was occupied by Brother Marvin Case. He read from the scriptures in many places, where we are told that the only way to the kingdom of heaven is through the gate of baptism and then continue up the straight and narrow way.

Sister Esther Caviness, her daughter, Sister Sharon Kelley and baby son, and Brother James Smith (Spider) from Phoenix, Arizona were guests in the home of Brother and Sister Richard Wheaton. Sister Caviness is the mother of Sister Wheaton. They came to get acquainted with the new member of the Wheaton family, Richard A. (Rickie), born the third of January.

January 24, Brother LeRoy Wheaton was the speaker for the eleven o'clock hour. He instructed parents to teach their little ones to love and serve God. He, also, impressed upon us the need for our children to learn the principles of the gospel while they are young. He spoke in terms that even the very young could understand how they could serve and please their Lord. Brother Nicholas Denham was the evening speaker. He read St. Matthew 6:21, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." He warned us against making excuses for our lack of interest or understanding of the Lord and His teachings. We cannot serve two masters.

Brother Flint occupied the morning hour of January 31. He warned us that we must watch the happenings around us so that we are not found sleeping. He read from some late publications that are proof of fulfillment of prophecy. Brother Johnny Bell was the speaker for the evening service. He used Proverbs 4:1-15 for the scripture reading. Let me quote the seventh verse: "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding." Brother Johnny reminded us that in the Bible and Book of Mormon are all things written that are necessary for our salvation, so we must study and if we will seek God for wisdom and understanding, He will guide us to an eternal life with Him.

We met for our regular sacrament service, February 7, and solemnly renewed our covenant with the Lord. In the afternoon some of the ministry took the sacrament to some of the sick and aged members, who could not attend the service at church.

Brother Flint occupied the morning hour of January of the seventh. He used chapter 53 of Isaiah for the scripture reading. He brought to our minds the wonderful story of the kingdom of God being set up again on the earth in these latter days, a kingdom that shall never be destroyed or left to other peoples. We are a most fortunate people because we have the gospel; and because we do have the gospel, we, also have a very great responsibility. Let us strive harder to do God's will.

We have been having beautiful spring-like weather the last few weeks. Though we enjoy the sunshine, still we are troubled because we have not received the moisture that is so needed for the farm crops; in fact there is not sufficient water for animals or people in many communities near here. We pray that we, and

(continued on page 46)

## ORIGINAL ARTICLES

**NOTE: We solicit articles for this department written in an affirmative manner. An affirmative article is one in which a belief, or an opinion, is expressed, and evidences presented to support that belief. Contributions are to originate with the author and do not necessarily reflect the teachings of the Church or the opinions of the editorial staff.**

### YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE

Rolland D. Sprague

Considering that the author of this statement, "ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free", is our Saviour, we have every reason to believe that all who want freedom should explore everything pertaining to the Master, that we may purchase our freedom. One writer puts it this way, "buy the truth and sell it not."

Our history holds up as one of the famous statements of our time, "Give me liberty or give me death," by Patrick Henry. To have liberty taken from a nation or a person does in effect render at least a partial death. However great we may consider Patrick Henry's heroic cry it can only be considered a faint murmur compared to "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." St. John 8:32.

There is only one way you or I can become free and that is to have from within a desire to know the truth. It has often been said, "There is no way to lift the top of your head and pour this wisdom in; you must get it yourself."

Countless thousands of efforts have been made to create a desire in the minds of all people to want to know the truth. As far as the whole is concerned these efforts have been fruitless, for it is true that most people are more content to have others think for them, and so long as this contentment shall continue there will be no true freedom.

The ability of the body to move about unrestrained, to act, or to refrain from acting, is not the meaning of freedom. I am sure this is not the understanding the Saviour wanted us to obtain.

The truth that shall set us free is that plan for which Christ gave His life to insure its testimony unto us, that which shall form Christ in us. This truth can only be received through much effort and sacrifice. Paul says in Galatians 4:19, "My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you." Webster says that travail means, "labor with pain, serve toil." If it was necessary for Paul to labor with severe toil, then need those who serve God today think they shall have the truth without effort?

We are very much aware that for every word of truth contained in the Gospel of Christ there have been many additions and subtractions cunningly applied to deceive the easy going, the more fearful, the "wishful thinker", the "I am in favor of the crowd" kind, just to name a few of the type who will have an opportunity to know the truth and become free, but will pass it by.

The Church of Christ is an "oasis" in a world without life. Those who really know her value have become aware of their hunger and thirst, and of the prison without walls in which they had existed. Picture in your mind, the traveler on a great desert out of water and very thirsty. He has been told that at a certain

point of the campo is a green, cool place with lots of fresh, cool water. He has been told that it will take lots of careful thinking, lots of courage, and most of all faith in the promise of salvation, if he is to reach the life-giving water. (It is written, Rev. 22:17, "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.") Along the way of his toil and tribulation there appears the unreal or what is called the "mirage", just over the hill, or what seems to be only a little way of that which would appear to be much easier to attain. Now if he is wise, if he has set his course, made his election sure, this imitation will not cause him to lose his life. Should he lack the courage and desire to know the true way, his bones would soon bleach on the burning sands. The "mirage" of Christianity, of which there are many today, gives the hungry and thirsty who will not follow completely the instructions in the Bible and the added witness, the Book of Mormon, the feeling of reality. There are thousands of just such people in the so-called Restoration movement today. By the precepts of men they have built an "oasis" which they feel sure outshines the lowly Church of Christ. How appallingly true is the prophecy, that in the last days there shall be a famine in the land, not for food and water, but for hearing the word of the Lord. Amos 8:11-12. It is because of this famine that countless millions of people are in bondage, rushing here and there chasing the "mirage".

It has been said in latter day revelation that the Church of Christ is to be as Joseph. Joseph was the means the Lord used to save His people to whom he had made a promise. The Church of Christ is the means the Lord has made available to all who will come in and be numbered with the house of Jacob, to be heirs of that promise. Joseph made known to his family beyond all shadow of a doubt that he was fulfilling the will of the Lord. Just so it must be also with the Church of Christ in the last days.

To every member of the Church of Christ is laid the responsibility of good news bearer, to spread abroad the fact that stored up in its granaries is the spiritual food to bring about everlasting life. The means of spreading this news is available to all through tracts which may be had by writing to the Office Manager, Church of Christ (Temple Lot), box 472, Independence, Missouri. To name some of these tracts we have: The Church of Christ; Faith; Repentance; Baptism; Laying On of Hands; The Church of Christ, Where Is it, How Shall I Know it?; then we have the Advocate, 12 copies for one dollar which can be given or loaned to twelve neighbors each month. If there are ten members who can afford one dollar each month, these ten can reach at least 120 with this good news, to assist in fulfilling the promise "you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." Let us get busy then and get this news out.

The appalling horror of destruction that came upon the house of Israel caused them to go up to the place of supply where also was the scepter of the Lord of righteousness maintained in Joseph. In these, the last



days, this scepter of righteousness is maintained in the Church of Christ. The appalling horror standing in the holy places today, is the cause of the great drouth of the truth.

It is not intended in this article to detail this "truth", but rather to urge every member of this Church of Christ who is acquainted with this "truth" to make it known to others.

As Jesus told the Jews which believed, He would also tell us, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the Truth and the Truth shall make you free."

Finally let us sum it up this way. Jesus has said, "He that followeth me, shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life." Then if we will be truly illumined we must follow His teachings, His manner of living, then we shall not have blindness of heart. We must supplant our present thoughts, if they be not upon the teachings of Christ, with the virtue and spiritual strength of Christ's teachings which are greater than those of angels or saints. Then we will have the inner eyes of our soul opened to the gospel of Christ and in there will find food for the soul.

What manner of persons ought we then to be? There can only be one answer; humble, meek, and willing to obey. For if we please not the Holy Spirit it will withdraw from us, and if it does, how shall we place our prayer before Christ that He may be our mediator before God?

Let us think not of ourselves to be anything, for we were lost and never could have found our way back to God but for the Grace of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

### SERMON BY BROTHER WILLIAM SHELDON

November 22, 1953

I wish to refer to a reading from Psalms, chapter 107, as a lesson, and I believe that it can be considered a lesson to us. We normally look upon the Psalms as perhaps not being so much in the way of a scripture lesson; but if we will read those things and get the beauty that is there, it can be a very wonderful lesson, to each of us. I will cite portions of it because it is a bit lengthy and I do not want to take up too much space in quotations.

"O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good; for his mercy endureth forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy: And gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south. They wandered in the wilderness in a solitary way; they found no city to dwell in. Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them. Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them out of their distresses. And he led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city of habitation. Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.

"Fools because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, are afflicted. Their soul abhorreth all manner of meat; and they draw near unto the gates of death. Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble,

and he saveth them out of their distresses. He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.

"Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! Let them exalt him also in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders. He turneth rivers into a wilderness, and the watersprings into dry ground; A fruitful land into barrenness, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein. He turneth the wilderness into a standing water, and dry ground into watersprings. And there he maketh the hungry to dwell, that they may prepare a city for habitation; And sow the fields, and plant vineyards, which may yield fruits of increase. He blesseth them also, so that they are multiplied greatly; and suffereth not their cattle to decrease. Again, they are minished and brought low through oppression, affliction, and sorrow. He poureth contempt upon princes and causeth them to wander in the wilderness, where there is no way. Yet setteth he the poor on high from affliction, and maketh him families like a flock. The righteous shall see it, and rejoice; and all iniquity shall stop her mouth. Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the loving-kindness of the Lord."

When this country has set aside a season to give thanks to our heavenly Father for the abundance of his mercies and temporal blessings that he gives to us in this land, I believe it is quite fitting that we should meet in such a capacity, for services.

I believe that it is fitting, more particularly, when we will look into the scriptures, which we hope to do today, and see the promises, the multitude of blessings, both temporal and spiritual, that God has promised to the people who inhabit this land. I want to emphasize particularly the spiritual blessings to which we may fall heir as a result of the goodness, the loving kindness of God toward us.

We are too often prone, as human beings, to look upon the things that we receive at the hand of God in the way of physical blessings, and forget the blessings of God that can come to us in far greater measure as a result of our obedience to those commandments that He has given, and thus be raised up and given spiritual life as well as to have that temporal life because of those blessings. I say, we are too prone to look upon those physical things, and consider them as being the paramount thing in our life; Yet, when we understand the scriptures, and recognize life as we see it around us today and see the shortness thereof, we can begin to understand, to some extent at least, just how important it is that we seek to submerge those things which are of a temporal nature, or those temporal desires, beneath the spiritual desires.

Now, I mention the blessings of God as pertaining to this land, and we hope to go into that to some extent in the scripture which has been given to us in these last days. I refer particularly to Ether, chapter one, where we find some very interesting facts that have been recorded for our profit and learning.

To most of us, this is familiar, but nevertheless it is good that we go over these things and perhaps we may come to an even greater understanding. Through diligent study of the scriptures, we can gain every time we read those scriptures, when we seek in the proper way.

There was a people, who had assembled themselves together and built the tower of Babel, as we find it recorded in the Bible. And they were all of one language; they were all the same people at that time. But because of the hardness of their hearts, and because of the increase of wickedness amongst them, the Lord saw fit to scatter them. To do that he confounded their language, as the Bible informs us, and he scattered them upon all the face of the land. We find in the Book of Mormon, a record of those people who were scattered, or of a portion of those people who were scattered. They were brought to this land, by the direction of God, because they had importuned God that he might not confound their language, and that he might bless them; though they recognized that they would also have to be scattered, as would all those who were with them in that place. And so, according to their faith and the goodness of God, He led this group of people to this land, and established them upon this continent. In the words of the prophet Ether, of that people, we find these words, beginning in verse 29:

"And the Lord would not suffer that they should stop beyond the sea in the wilderness, but he would that they should come forth even unto the land of promise, which was choice above all other lands," that is this land of ours; a land of promise; choice above all other lands, "which the Lord God had preserved for a righteous people;

"And he had sworn in his wrath unto the brother of Jared, that whoso should possess this land of promise, from that time henceforth and forever, should serve him, the true and only God, or they should be swept off when the fullness of his wrath should come upon them."

They must serve the God of the land, or be swept off when the fullness of his wrath should come upon them. And I want us to understand that applies to whatsoever nation should possess this land. Let us keep that thought in mind.

"And now we can behold the decrees of God concerning this land, that it is a land of promise, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall serve God, or they shall be swept off when the fullness of his wrath shall come upon them.

"And the fullness of his wrath cometh upon them when they are ripened in iniquity; for behold, this is a land which is choice above all other lands; wherefore he that doth possess it shall serve God, or shall be swept off; for it is the everlasting decree of God.

"And it is not until the fullness of iniquity among the children of the land, that they are swept off.

"And this cometh unto you, O ye Gentiles, that ye may know the decrees of God, that ye may repent, and not continue in your iniquities until the fullness come, that ye may not bring down the fullness of the wrath of God upon you, as the inhabitants of the land have hitherto done.

"Behold, this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven." (But there is a qualification) "if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ who hath been manifested by the things, which we have written."

The qualifications are there for the blessings of God upon the people; whatsoever people shall inherit this land. If they will serve the God of the land who is Jesus Christ, they will be kept from captivity, and from all other people. This pertains to us today, because we as a nation are afraid. Are there any who will dispute that fact? We are afraid of the other nations of the earth today, and well we might, because of the facts that we have not adhered to this admonition which is contained in both the Bible and the Book of Mormon: we must serve God, or suffer his wrath to come upon us.

This nation is not serving the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ, though its people say within their hearts, and confess with their mouth, that they believe upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

They go to their churches and their synagogues and make a pretense of worshiping God. When I say "they", I don't believe we can exclude everyone of the Church of Christ, and say that everyone else must receive that condemnation; that we ourselves are holy and pure in the sight of God, in every respect, and that it does not apply to us. I do not believe we can say that.

"In every nation he that feareth God, is accepted with him."

That is what the scripture says: "He that feareth God"; And, so it is with us today. Do we fear God? If we do, we are accepted of God, and if not, we are not accepted of Him. It does not make any difference if our names are upon the records of the Church of Christ.

Let me go on to another thought, which the scripture, as we find it in the Bible, brings to our attention. We hope to tie it in with those thoughts already presented, concerning the blessings of those who would inherit this land. In the days of the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, God caused a special blessing to come upon them because of the faith that was manifested by Abraham. The Lord made a promise to Abraham, which was repeated to Isaac and Jacob; and the promise was, that in them and their seed should all nations of the earth be blessed. It gives us to understand that it was given because of the faith that was there manifested, and the yielding of obedience to the will of God. They were to receive this special recognition from God; they would become a multitude of nations. This blessing came down through the sons of Jacob, whom God had named Israel, which means chosen of God, or prince of God. Through Israel, then, we find that blessing coming to his twelve sons. In particular, it was given to Joseph and his seed.

In Genesis, chapter 48 we see Jacob, who was Israel, had been brought down into the land of Egypt, and there, as an old man, he blessed the sons of Joseph, his son. These sons of Joseph were Ephraim and Manasseh. And we find this language:

"And he blessed Joseph, and said, God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac did walk."

There is the thought, "Before whom they did walk."

"The God which fed me all my life long unto this day . . ." We are desiring to give thanks unto God because we have been fed temporally; and shall we not give thanks to God because we are being fed spiritually, too? But let us read on:

"... the angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth."

I am calling attention to those temporal blessings that were to come upon the children of Israel. We recognize that, because of their righteousness, God would bless according to the blessing that Jacob gave to the children of Israel, or his sons. God recognized that blessing, and the history of the world proves it. And history will yet prove the blessings of God to be upon them, and that too, because of their faith and their righteousness.

But let us refer to Deuteronomy chapter 33, and find there an additional blessing given by Moses to the children of Israel, and this blessing is to the whole house of Joseph.

"And of Joseph he said, Blessed of the Lord be his land, for the precious things of heaven, for the dew, and for the deep that coucheth beneath,

"And for the precious fruits brought forth by the sun, and for the precious things put forth by the moon,

"And for the chief things of the ancient mountains, and the precious things of the lasting hills, And for the precious things of the earth and fullness thereof  
.....

What a blessing! Incidentally, I could go on and read all of the blessings that were given to the children of Israel but you will not find one, to the other sons of Israel, which compares to that given Joseph, and consequently, to his sons, Ephraim and Manasseh. But let us go on:

"... and for the good will of him that dwelt in the bush: let the blessing come upon the head of Joseph, and upon the top of the head of him that separated from his brethren.

"His glory is like the firstling of his bullock, and his horns are like the horns of unicorns: with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth: and they are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and they are the thousands of Manasseh."

An old and well worn scriptural statement; but yet, what a promise. When we stop and consider who these people are, that are here represented as Ephraim and Manasseh; and take into account that they were to be blessed insomuch that they would become a multitude of people in the midst of the earth, then we can truly see the workings of God's hand, as far as this people upon this land is concerned. I believe it could be very well proved that the land spoken of is this land and we might refer to it once again. "Blessed of the Lord be his land," or Joseph's land; and it says, "for the precious things of heaven," etc.

When we consider the blessings that have been poured out upon this land in mineral wealth, and in every way, we know there is no nation upon the face of the earth that has been blessed like this country has or as this land has been. We can not just limit it to these United States of America, but this whole land has been blessed because it is Joseph's land; and being Joseph's land, it is the land of Ephraim and Manasseh. Ephraim is inhabiting this continent right now, and Manasseh also; the blessings were to come upon the

head of Joseph and upon the head of him that was separated from his brethren.

The Book of Mormon is primarily a record of a people who were descendants of Manasseh. This people were known as the people of Nephi. They came upon this continent many hundreds of years after the people of Jared had inhabited this continent.

Incidentally, just in passing, and in referring to the Jaredites, I want to point out this thought in regard to that people: inasmuch as they served God they were blessed, but when the time came that they turned from their service to God, and began to worship idols, they became lifted up in the pride of their hearts and became ripened in their iniquity. And when that time came, they were swept off, just as the word of the Lord said they would be. They were swept off when the fullness of his wrath came upon them. They were destroyed by their own evil ways. Brother killed brother, insomuch that there was just one left from that great destruction of people.

Let us go back again to our consideration of the people of Nephi. Nephi was the son of Lehi who had been warned of God to flee from Jerusalem, because of the destruction that was to come upon that city, and upon that people. On page 6 of the Book of Mormon, we find these words that were given to Nephi through the operation of the Holy Spirit of God:

"And it came to pass that the Lord spake unto me, saying, Blessed art thou Nephi, because of thy faith, for thou hast sought me diligently," (thou hast sought me diligently) "with lowliness of heart.

"And inasmuch as ye shall keep my commandments . . . ." Do you get the lesson there?

"And inasmuch as ye shall keep my commandments, ye shall prosper, and shall be led to a land of promise; yea, even a land which I have prepared for you; yea, a land which is choice above all other lands.

"And inasmuch as thy brethren shall rebel against thee, they shall be cut off from the presence of the Lord."

Yes, his brethren were led here too, just the same as Nephi, though the record tells us that they did not have the faith and the righteousness that Lehi and Nephi had. They were led here by the hand of God. And I wonder if there was not a purpose in that. God knew what kind of people they would be—these people of the brethren of Nephi. He knew they would be a wicked people, but he led them here for the self-same purpose—that they might be blessed upon the land—if they would but worship him, who was Jesus Christ. But he knew, full well, that they would not worship him; that they would become a wicked and idolatrous people; that they would become loathsome, lazy and indolent. And I wonder, when I think upon these things, if God did not also have a purpose there. We are told in the scriptures that when we serve God and keep his commandments, that he blesses us, but when we begin to forget God; when we begin to be lax in our ways, in our worship, in our diligence, in our faith, in our desires toward him; then it becomes necessary that He chastise us. It becomes necessary for us to be afflicted, that we might begin to realize more fully that we must seek him, to walk in his ways.

And so it was with this people of the brethren of Nephi.

"And inasmuch as thy brethren shall rebel against thee, they shall be cut off from the presence of the Lord.

"And inasmuch as thou shalt keep my commandments, thou shalt be made a ruler and a teacher over thy brethren.

"For behold, in that day that they shall rebel against me, I will curse them even with a sore curse, and they shall have no power over thy seed, except they shall rebel against me also."

There is the thought. When the people of Nephi, who were the seed of Nephi, should rebel against God, then those who were wicked should have power over them.

"And if it so be that they rebel against me, they shall be a scourge unto thy seed, to stir them up in the ways of remembrance."

That is the way God works. He brings one people against another, that he might bring them to a remembrance of the ways of righteousness. And then the Lord will turn around and use that people whom he has used as a lash or a whip, and he will chastise and whip that nation whom he used. But why? Not because he would not do otherwise; not because he desires to give greater glory, greater blessings, greater honor unto one people than another—no, not because of that, but because they turn their hearts from him. Then it becomes necessary that he bring these chastisements upon them for their rebellion.

We find another example of the workings of God's power; He will bring a people upon a promised land, or upon a choice land, and will pour out blessings upon them inasmuch as they seek his face and seek to become submissive to all his commandments. And so it was with the children of Nephi.

Let us go over a little bit further in the scripture where we find that the Lord's spirit has come to Nephi once more, and he makes him to understand many things that would come to pass upon this land. He gives him an understanding of the blessings, and persecutions, and tribulations of his own seed; that is Nephi's seed. He also tells him concerning a people who would subsequently, or thereafter, inherit this land. On page 34, verse 145, we find the things that he saw:

"And it came to pass that I looked and beheld many waters; and they divided the Gentiles from the seed of my brethren."

Now, we would like to point out, in passing, that whereas the descendants of Nephi had previously been blessed, temporally and spiritually, upon this land, because of their righteousness; yet, in process of time, the very thing we referred to a while ago—that if they forgot the Lord their God they would be rebuked, and He would bring destruction upon them—we find that thing did happen. And so, they were destroyed as a people. And there was left upon the land, then for the most part at least, only those of the brethren of Nephi, that is, their seed. So, that is who is referred to when, because of their wickedness it says, "Behold the wrath of God is upon the seed of thy brethren."

"And I looked and beheld a man among the Gentiles, who was separated from the seed of my brethren by the many waters; and I beheld the Spirit of God, that it came down and wrought upon the man; and he went forth upon the many waters, even unto the seed of my brethren, who were in the promised land."

This has reference to Christopher Columbus, who came to this land; and it says that because of the workings of the Spirit of God upon him, he came from across the waters, among the Gentiles, to this promised land; to the seed of the brethren of Nephi.

"And it came to pass that I beheld the Spirit of God, that it wrought upon other Gentiles; and they went forth out of captivity, upon the many waters."

Get the thought: "Out of captivity".

"And it came to pass that I beheld many multitudes of the Gentiles upon the land of promise;

"And I beheld the wrath of God that it was upon the seed of my brethren; and they were scattered before the Gentiles; and were smitten."

That is plain history. All we have to do is go back into our history of these United States and see the fulfillment of that very thing; that the Lamanites, or the seed of the brethren of Nephi, would be scattered and smitten and destroyed.

"And I beheld the Spirit of the Lord, that it was upon the Gentiles; that they did prosper, and obtain the land for their inheritance; and I beheld that they were white, and exceeding fair and beautiful, like unto my people before they were slain.

"And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld the Gentiles who had gone forth out of captivity did humble themselves before the Lord, and the power of the Lord was with them."

I want to emphasize the thought in our minds, that those people did humble themselves before the Lord and thus the power of God was with them.

"And I beheld that their mother Gentiles were gathered together upon the waters and upon the land also, to battle against them."

"And I beheld that the power of God was with them;"

And God was with this people of the Gentiles upon this land for it says,

"And I beheld that the power of God was with them;"

"And also that the wrath of God was upon all those that were gathered together against them in battle.

"And I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles that had gone out of captivity were delivered by the power of God out of the hands of all other nations."

Now, I want to refer back to the statement from the Book of Ether, that whatsoever nation should possess this land, if they served God, they would be kept from captivity and from all other nations. And that comes right down just as surely today, as it applied to the people of Ether, and just as it applied to the people of Nephi, and of Laman, and all of their brethren. That promise is the same. Because God is the same yesterday, today and forever, and changes not,

only according to the desires of the children of men toward him, If their desires are toward him, then is his face toward them, but if they turn their hearts from him, then does he turn from them also. And so we find that there came upon this land a people whom God led out of captivity, and they scattered their enemies before them; any power that was brought against them was smitten, or, it had no effect upon our forefathers who came upon this continent, insomuch that there was established, upon this land, a free and independent government; blessed of God because He led the people here and they humbled themselves in such a way that his blessings could rest upon them. When we think back into our history and consider these early men who had part in the formation of this government, and even before the formation of this government; they began to see it was necessary that they should separate themselves from the parent countries.

There has come to my mind a thought that was presented in the Declaration of Independence. If I may, I would like to quote some of the opening thought, and it is the basis upon which they were going to establish their government:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal."

Is that not the way God would have it to be?

"That they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights. That among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Those were the thoughts which inspired our forefathers in the inception of this country; that they might be able to raise up a nation unto this land, which would serve God, and be able to obtain unto themselves those blessings of life and liberty and the pursuit of happiness; as well as the temporal things God would give them because of this land being a choice land. I believe we can say that certainly God's power and Spirit was upon them, that they were able to so ordain and establish a constitution and a government upon this land in such a manner that it would be instituted upon principles of righteousness and in belief toward God. Any nation that is founded upon any other principles must fail; they cannot long endure. And so, I believe that we are a blessed people above any nation upon the face of the earth, today, because of the fact that there has been that faithfulness manifested by our forefathers; and inasmuch as we ourselves have manifested faith toward God we have received the bounties of the goodness of God, insomuch that we enjoy the blessings of life and liberty and the pursuit of happiness that we do today. But I greatly fear because of things that we see in the nation, and among all of the nations of the earth. But we are primarily concerned because of conditions that exist here in this country. We do not want to dwell to extensively upon that, because as you may well see by reading your newspapers, and what you hear upon your radios, and what you see in every day life round about you, concerning the spiritual condition of the people in this country. We do not want to dwell too extensively upon worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." And their hearts are far from God. We find that condition existing today. We find a people turning from the true worship of God, and having only a form of godliness. That condition does exist, and yet, we are confident that inasmuch as there is a people, be they great or small, who will serve the Lord their God,

who will keep his commandments, who will flee from all evil, that the Lord's blessing is, yet, and will be, upon them just to that extent. But, if the time comes that his nation becomes too steeped in iniquity, and the Book of Mormon refers very specifically to some of the conditions that would be raised up amongst the people and gain a great hold upon them, then this nation is ripening for destruction.

We might just refer to that thought as it is recorded in the book of Ether, in chapter 3:

"And now I, Moroni, do not write the manner of their oaths and combinations. . . ."

He is speaking concerning the oaths and combinations of that ancient people which first inhabited this land.

". . . for it hath been made known unto me that they are had among all people, and they are had among the Lamanites, and they have caused the destruction of this people of whom I am now speaking, and also the destruction of the people of Nephi:

"And whatsoever nation shall uphold such secret combinations, to get power and gain until they shall spread over the nation, behold, they shall be destroyed, for the Lord will not suffer that the blood of his saints which shall be shed by them, shall always cry unto him from the ground for vengeance upon them, and yet he avenge them not;

"Wherefore, O ye Gentiles," Now this is for us, "it is wisdom in God that these things should be shewn unto you, that thereby ye may repent of your sins, and suffer not that these murderous combinations shall get above you, which are built up to get power and gain, and the work, yea, even the work of destruction come upon you;

"Yea, even the sword of the justice of the eternal God, shall fall upon you, to your overflow and destruction, if ye shall suffer these things to be;

"Wherefore the Lord commandeth you, when ye shall see these things come among you. . . ."

And do we see these things come among us? We certainly can, if we are not blind.

". . . that ye shall awake to a sense of your awful situation, because of this secret combination which shall be among you, or wo be unto it, because of the blood of them who have been slain; for they cry from the dust for vengeance upon it, and also upon those who build it up.

"For it cometh to pass that whoso buildeth it up, seeketh to overthrow the freedom of all lands, nations and countries:

"And it bringeth to pass the destruction of all people, for it is built up by the devil, who is the father of all lies; even that the same liar who beguiled our first parents;

"Yea, even that same liar who hath caused man to commit murder from the beginning; who hath hardened the hearts of men, that they have murdered the prophets, and stoned them, and cast them out from the beginning.

"Wherefore I, Moroni, am commanded to write these things, that evil may be done away, and that the time may come that Satan may have no power upon the hearts of the children of men, but that they may be persuaded to do good continually, that they may come unto the fountain of all righteousness and be saved."

So, we see these things in the land, today, and perhaps we should begin to wonder at these things. I mean to wonder just how long we can expect the judgments of God be withheld from this nation. Just as surely as we go on in wickedness and permit these things to come to pass, and to grow within this country, just that surely can we expect the judgments of God to come upon this nation.

I do not want us to get the idea that we should become downcast, or less thankful, or in any degree discouraged because of conditions that we see. But rather, inasmuch as we, ourselves, can become that peculiar people that the scripture says we should be and walk according to the light that has been given in the scriptures by the Master of men, we can expect that God's blessing will be upon us. We can expect to find a hiding place in Christ where we can be preserved from those judgments of God that are coming upon this nation and upon all of the nations of the Gentiles, due to their disobedience. I believe we can lift up our heads and, yes, rejoice, because of the mercies of God toward us. We are made aware of those things, and have been given the gospel of Christ, which, to us, is greater food than the food we need for our bodies. We can rejoice because we have been given that bread from heaven, which is Christ, and which is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit through who we are strengthened and nourished unto life eternal.

For that we are thankful, but yet, we must realize that we ought, from this day to put on that soberness of thought, and faith toward God, and to develop righteousness within ourselves whereby we can let the world and the nation, this nation, go its way, as far as evil is concerned. Yes, we can pray for the nation and we ought to pray that God's Spirit would continue with it as long as possible. But we ought to pray for ourselves that we might be able to overcome evil, and to keep ourselves clean and unspotted from the world. The scripture says that we should come out of Babylon and be separated from her, that we might be able to escape the fiery darts which will be brought to bear against all evil.

We look forward to the time when this land will become an even more choice land in the sight of God; when there will be established that Zion of God, and righteous principles in the hearts of the children of men; where God himself can come down and be our God, as the scripture says He will.

So, let us lift up our heads, and rejoice in these things, and go forth in all soberness and thankfulness and desire toward God; that day by day we will look within ourselves and say, "Lord, help me this day that I may not be a partaker of evil ways, that I may not partake of the destruction that will come because of it.

---

#### Independence Diary

(continued from page 39)

all the people of this country, will turn to God so that we will be worthy of the blessing that our land so greatly needs.

Irene Case, Reporter.

---

#### Y. P. C. L. NEWS

##### From Phoenix, Arizona

The Phoenix group has recently been enlarged by

the return of Ervin Smith from Japan and Bruce Cobb from Korea. Both were discharged from the army and plan to return to college in February. Marlene Yates Cobb also plans to continue college at night school.

Hubert Yates, Jr., returned on a 30-day holiday leave from his station in Alaska. There was a young people's Spanish dinner given in his honor and also an all-day picnic and hiking trip.

About 50 people attended a New Year's Eve party at the home of E. L. Yates. Crepe paper and balloons gave the affair a gala atmosphere.

Until the cold weather began there were volley ball games every Thursday night. They will continue soon.

Ronald Yates, Reporter

---

#### From Independence, Missouri

We started the New Year with a Church History meeting on January 7.

The second Thursday in January we devoted to a study of Biblical characters and events by means of a question and answer game.

Because of a gas shortage, leaving the church without heat, our Church History study of the 21st was cancelled.

Our social for January was held in the basement of the church. We played several games pertaining to characters, events, and places in the Bible and prizes of chocolate candy were awarded. Popcorn balls were served as refreshments.

Joe Smith was in Independence from Fort Riley the week-end of the 10th. It was his last leave before being shipped to Austria.

On February 4, we had a Church History study after which we retired to the basement of the church where we had ice cream and cake as a farewell to Johnny Bell who was called into the Service. He was taken to Fort Riley, Kansas, but as yet does not know where he will be sent for his basic training.

The second Thursday in February we spent the hour in singing. We learned several new songs and also sang many of our old favorites.

We wish to extend a cordial invitation to all to attend the Conference which convenes April 6. The Y.P.C.L. is making plans for some young people's activities. We hope to see a lot of old and new friends.

Mary Lois Harris, Reporter.

---

#### From Flint, Michigan

A group of our young people had a desire to start having some kind of activity here. Consequently on January 26, 1954, a meeting was held at the home of our pastor and wife to discuss what could be done and to organize if possible. They did organize and the following officers were chosen:

President—Bob Eddy, Secretary—Audrey Eddy, Treasurer—Faye Edwards, Sponsor—Mabel Bergery.

We have planned to have a study period each meeting except one each month. On this evening we plan to have some sort of recreation.

A teacher is chosen to teach for at least three consecutive times, extended time to be granted when needed to complete a subject. Brother Frank Eddy is the teacher this period and he has been asked to teach about the origin of the Church of Christ. He has done a fine job so far and has commanded a good interest.

The group is anxious to correspond with other young people of the church. Is there some way in which we could get some pen-pals?

We would appreciate hints and advice on the activities of other groups throughout the church, as this is a new venture for us.

Ever praying that our young people will see the need of a closer association.

Mabel B. Bergey

### CONFERENCE NOTICES From the Dining Committee

Dear Saints:

Looking up at the calendar we are made to realize something of the passing of time, and that it is time that we should be "about my Father's business", for it is not long till we shall be gathering in for the Conference of the Church of Christ which should be to all of us "my Father's business". During the past few years we have taken care of the feeding of the Conference visitors without a charge for these meals. It has been generally agreed that this method of caring for those who have attended Conference, has been quite helpful in promoting a more friendly, brotherly feeling among us, which feeling has been reflected even in the business sessions of the Conference.

It is in the hope of continuing this way (which we believe is the proper way) of caring for the feeding of the Conference visitors that we now send you this greeting. We have just recently returned from our work in the British Mission field, and we feel certain that if we could bring to you, in some way, the real value of the many blessings you, who live here in America enjoy, simply because fate or wise providence cast your life upon this side of the sea; and if we could but bring to you in some small way the great need, the people who live in these far away countries have for the gospel, and the hopelessness of their ever hearing it, except it should come from Zion; then we are certain you would say with us, "wist ye not that I should be about my Father's business"?, and join with us in doing your part in the work of the church to build up the cause and establish Zion here in the heart of Joseph's land, that it truly might become a place of refuge for all those who seek after righteousness; for this is the work of the church, and the Conference is the place where this work is provided for. Thus it becomes your Conference even if you are not privileged to attend, yet by your contribution others may be permitted to attend and be benefitted by so doing.

Thus we come to you now and ask that you remember the Conference and send in your contributions, that the good work may go on. We can use all kinds of canned goods, fruits, vegetables, and canned meats. We have to run the dining room just the same as you

run your meals at home, and we need just the same things that you need only in much greater quantities. Time is short now and we must plan and work fast if we shall be ready by April 6, 1954. You who live quite some distance away should be sure to send your contributions in plenty of time. It may be possible to send them part way if not all the way with some missionary who may be passing near you. Any one of them will be glad to help. Those who live so far away that it would be expensive to send materials, can send their contributions in money since there is always some things we have to buy. Contributions can be sent at any time now and we assure you they shall be properly cared for and appreciated.

So let us be "about my Father's business". Let us "count our blessings, name them one by one" and give to His cause, even as He has given to us. Last year, the contributions were wonderful. It truly was inspiring to see the happy Saints as they gathered around the table, one happy family, as truly we should be who are of the household of God. And so, we are looking to you to help us make this coming Conference better than the last one, that the physical man may be cared for even as the spiritual man may hope to be fed and built up by our assembling together.

Your contribution should be sent to Bishop Nicholas F. Denham, 810 South Liberty Street, Independence, Missouri, or the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) P. O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri. Hoping to see you all at the Conference, I remain as ever, your Sister in the bonds of the Gospel of Christ.

Respectfully,

Minnie C. Smith  
Ava, Missouri

### From the Sunday School Quarterly Committee

How do you think and study?

Perhaps this may seem like a foolish question, but think for one moment and analyze its possibilities. Just what does the question mean?

First of all, let us break this question into parts and make two instead of one. No. 1. How do you think? No. 2. How do you study? They are two separate and distinct questions, although they are related very much as we shall see.

Question No. 1. "How do you think?" or stated another way, "In what manner do you control and manage your mental processes?" The power to reason is a God-given ability allowed only to humans. This fact, in itself, confers a great deal of responsibility. It gives us the advantage of being able to understand our condition, and to plan and calculate measures to change those same conditions. Not only does the power to reason give us a command of our lives but also of the world around us, the animals and vegetation that happen to dwell in our sphere. This power and responsibility are God-given; consequently, we should remember how much we influence, and how many.

In order for one to think, or carry mental processes, in a logical and constructive manner, there must be an object for such activity. This object may be the needs of the body, such as food, clothing and shelter; self-esteem or admiration by the people with whom

one lives; or the salvation of the soul. The latter goal is the one we, as Christian people, should be very, very interested in.

After the object or goal has been established, a pattern of thinking must be laid out, very much in the same manner as a blue print. If a pattern is not developed, then a great deal of energy will be spent in the resulting confusion. Futile effort will be used on unimportant facts that become useless or errorful conclusions. To use a hackneyed expression "one will not be able to see the forest for the trees".

Now let us look at the second question. How do you study? The study means the mental process of obtaining knowledge about a subject or art. In other words the process of examining, with the mind, in order to understand all of the intimate details of a subject or art.

So we see that in many cases the process of thinking or studying will be one and the same.

To us, as Christians, the gospel of Christ is the most important subject we study. The subject we study, first by reading, or hearing, then by thinking about it. By what pattern do you think? Study? One cannot wander aimlessly through the Bible and Book of Mormon. Aimless wandering yields an abundance of disconnected facts that form as many disconnected conclusions.

The question in the title is uppermost in the minds of the Sunday School Quarterly Committee. How do you think and study? Everyone has a pattern which they use for themselves or as a guide for their children. Take a few minutes of your time and write us a letter. Tell us how you go about your study, or how you guide your children. Perhaps from your letters, we on the committee, will be able to construct patterns of study that will help others.

To use another overworked expression, "United we stand, divided we fall." Perhaps we might put it another way, "United we find salvation, divided we wander in confusion."

Please let us hear from you. Address your letters to the Quarterly Committee in care of the Church of Christ, (Temple Lot).

Bob Case, Acting Chairman  
Sunday School Quarterly Committee

### To the Sunday Schools

To all Church of Christ (Temple Lot) Sunday Schools:

This is a reminder for each local Sunday School to prepare a report to be presented at the General Sunday School meeting which will be held during the coming Conference. Subjects of interest to all to be included in these reports may be, the number of attendants and whether they are children or adults; the type of study used; number of classes and how they are handled; and activities and projects.

If the reports cannot be sent in by someone coming to the conference, please mail them to the General Sunday School Secretary, Lois Harris. Send money to Rolland D. Sprague, who is our Treasurer. Address

all communications to Box 472, Independence, Missouri.

Lois Harris, Secretary

### United Workers Attention

To the United Workers throughout the Church:

The reports of your activities for this Conference year should be in the hands of your general secretary, Lois Harris, 1920 South Osage, Independence, Missouri, by the first of April if possible. If you are coming to the conference, plan to attend the general United Workers meeting.

Lois Harris, Secretary

### Notice to the Quorum of Seventy

We would like to have as many of the Quorum of Seventy here at the Conference as possible, that we can meet as a quorum and elect officers.

Have all reports in by April 1st that they may be arranged for reporting to the Conference.

James M. Case, Recording Secretary  
Quorum of Seventy  
P. O. Box 472, Independence, Mo.

### LIFE IS A GARDEN

O, life is a garden where the bad and the good  
Must grow up together till well understood  
By knowing the evil its curse and its stain,  
We see it is well from the bad to refrain.

The good we enjoy when in contrast to bad,  
Relief is a blessing when trouble we've had.  
When we've been afflicted, mistreated and sad  
We feel for another who trouble has had.

By tasting the bitter and also the sweet  
We know better then how another to treat  
When lost in the anguish of sin and its pain  
And then the fair portals of virtue regain.

We reach for another with love in the heart  
And help him from error and evil depart,  
Forgetting the sorrow and sin that is past  
We walk with our dear ones with love that will last.

Oliver D. Shirk

### A FAMILY REUNION

After eighteen years the five daughters of the late Elder John and Amy Harris, of California, met in San Diego, and National City for a visit. The last time the five sisters were together was July 25, 1936, one year after their father's death; and at the 80th birthday of their mother. You must know we had a blessed time together.

Sister Irene F. Yates of San Diego, Calif., Sister Gertrude Lang of National City, Calif., Sister Amy Crawford of Oakland, Calif., Sister Grace Sugrue of San Lorenzo, Calif., and Sister Edera Floto of Alpine, Calif., all are members of the Restoration Gospel and enjoyed the spirit in praise and glory.

Yours in faith,

Irene Yates