

# 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, August, 1954

Number 8



**S**EEK the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near:

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.

Isaiah 55:6-9



## CONTENTS

Editorial .....	Page 114	Original Articles .....	Page 120
From the Mission Field.....	Page 114	Sermon .....	Page 122
A Testimony .....	Page 115	Y. P. C. L. News .....	Page 127
Out of the Mail Sack.....	Page 116	Reunion News .....	Page 128
News From Locals.....	Page 118	Notices .....	Page 128

## 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.

## EDITORIAL

It is our human nature to use the monetary when we think of doing something for our church, or think of something to help another. An incident was brought to our attention a short time ago. A group of people, belonging to a country church, had decided some time ago to raise funds for the church building. They were all, or most all, poor, so the meager amount they could raise among themselves would never be sufficient to accomplish what they desired.

They decided at a meeting they called, to rent a piece of ground and all work together. Each one brought his own farm equipment when he came to work on the project. The women folks brought food. It was prepared at the site and all ate together.

A short time ago they had their first harvest. None of them missed the time and materials they furnished for the project. They had a bounteous harvest and all enjoyed themselves. Even those not directly interested in the church, joined in the spirit of the occasion and contributed supplies such as food and petroleum products.

These people made an investment in life. The work each did was not measured, but was freely given with no thought of self-exaltation. This is an example of not separating the temporal and the Spiritual sides of life.

The Spirit was given to man to enable him to contact God, for we read in the words of Christ "God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth." Note, the first spirit begins with a capital 'S'; the next spirit begins with a common 's'. The first Spirit is Divine; the second spirit is of man.

We must contact God with our spirit. This same spirit we should use in our association with one another. But, if we would fully enjoy life we cannot separate the spiritual side of our lives from the temporal. We read the account of the people in the days of Alma: "And they did walk uprightly before God, imparting to one another, both temporally and spiritually, according to their needs and their wants."

Prosperity in this world's goods does not neces-

sarily mean that a people is pleasing and acceptable to the Lord. But being poor should cause a person to examine himself, for we read in the words of King Limhi the following: "For the Lord has said, I will not succor my people in the day of their transgression; but will hedge up their ways, that they prosper not; and their doings shall be as a stumbling block before them."

A person may wonder, sometimes, why he is not more favored of the Lord. If he would examine himself he might find that he had been holding himself apart from his fellow man either spiritually or temporally or both. If we can drop our feelings toward self, and conduct ourselves in a manner similar to the church group we mentioned first, we will notice our lives will seem fuller, and being fuller, we will enjoy it more.

A. F. B.

## FROM THE MISSIONARY FIELD

### For the Master's Kingdom

We promised that there would be more later concerning the work at Sulphur Springs, Arkansas. We drove down there Sunday morning June 20. We had wanted to be there for their Sunday School but were nearly one-half hour late. Of course, being human, we thought up an excuse; it was nearly 160 miles down there and their Sunday School starts at 10 o'clock. Well, better luck next time.

The writer was the speaker at the 11 o'clock hour. At 1:30 that afternoon we met together again to hold a business meeting. The purpose of the meeting was, to help the group organize. A full organization was provided for, and the necessary officers were elected to enable this local to function properly. They selected for their Pastor, Elder L. V. Aldridge.

We believe that with the zeal which is manifest by this group and with the leadership they have chosen, they will do anything but stand still.

Sunday, July 4, we met the members at Houston. It had been several years since we had the pleasure of meeting with this group and it seemed good to be among them and refresh our friendship once more. The writer was the speaker at the 11:00 A. M. and the 8:00 P. M. hours. It was late when we arrived back home that night but we certainly felt that it was worth it and more, to have had such an enjoyable day.

Archie F. Bell

## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This is to notify you that brethren Ivan Inch and Amos Surbrook have returned to the Reorganized Church, and are no longer with the Church of Christ (Temple Lot). They, therefore, are no longer authorized to represent the Church of Christ, or to minister for it. We are sorry to have to report this. These brethren withdrew, of their own accord, from the Church. There is nothing standing against them. We wish them well and hope some day there will be a clearing away of the mists.

Sincerely, as the Missionary in Charge of Michigan,

Wm. F. Anderson

### A TESTIMONY BY AMY SHRADER

Following is an account of the experience which I received at conference time this spring. I related this somewhat to various ones and told some of it in a Wednesday evening prayer service after returning home. I was counseled by the Apostle in charge to submit it to the Advocate, as he felt that there were others who could benefit from it.

Through the blessing of the Lord I received an unexpected opportunity to visit Independence before the close of the conference. On the journey I was pervaded by an unquestionable feeling of spiritual assurance, uplift and strength. This was a new experience for me, my spiritual experience heretofore having been of a saddening, repentant, humbling or longing nature, followed often by rejoicing and even peace, but never quite this feeling of sureness. I could not help but wonder at its mission.

As many know, while I resided at Independence in the winter months of '52, and '53, I came through perhaps one of the most severe trials one may experience and received a rich spiritual blessing. This is offered us when we repent of our sins and being humbled and contrite before God, confess our sins and receive pardon and peace. I was caused to rejoice because of the working of the Lord through the saints there, and to feel a love and a fellowship for my fellowman I had never before experienced and to feel a new hope in the building up of the Kingdom of God here on earth and of the working of the Lord by the power of His Spirit amongst the saints. This was increased as others came into conference and I could see and sense the working of the Lord with them.

I was sad in the spring when it seemed wise to return to Bemidji, but even with the miles between, in my heart I felt close to the saints I had met and learned to love and I began earnestly working for the day when we can all be gathered together, preparing myself to be worthy and able to abide a Zionite condition. Many ups and downs filled the year, many struggles came to meet and master, weaknesses to overcome, old habits to cast aside. I kept hoping that at conference time I could meet again with the saints but our circumstances just didn't make available such an opportunity. So well and so unmistakably did the Lord arrange it that not only I but others also remarked at His doing so.

And so I rejoiced and as I have stated, felt a strength and assurance of the spirit new to me. After arriving at Independence on the third day before the close of conference, there came to me, a little here and a little there what amounted to a very discouraging report of what had taken place. Reports, which at one time would have filled me with despair, made no such impression; rather I found myself assuring others that things were not nearly so bad as they might look; and counseling them not to judge men's worth or the Lord's ability to influence and use them, or his choice to do so, by their erratic actions under the stress and heat of aroused tempers and emotions over disagreements which do arise when men seek to counsel together, and have not yet learned submission enough, nor obedience enough to have His Spirit abiding with

them strong enough and steady enough, that when beliefs conflict and personalities irk, they can remain master of their reactions not yielding to their natural tendencies causing the spirit to depart. These same men when subdued and calm and not agitated, agitating, have been possessors of the spirit and its gifts and have been used of the Lord in the progress of His work and can, and I believe will, be used again.

I also heard of the calls and the coming ordinations of Brothers Bell and Yates to the Quorum of Twelve. I wholeheartedly approved of the call of Brother Yates as I had been deeply impressed with him on my first meeting the year before, but let me confess, I felt a slight question concerning Brother Bell due to differences in our understandings on various points of doctrine. I had also heard of Brother Flint's testimony and was somewhat impressed but not to the place of feeling full approval. Such can be the effect of prejudice in blinding our minds.

I attended the prayer service at which the ordinations took place. The spirit was present to quite a degree, and I sat thrilled and awed at the blessing in the ordination of Brother Yates; then as Brother Bell was ordained my reservations tricked me again and I was not too impressed. After the ordinations time was given for all to give these brothers the hand of fellowship and Godspeed. Being in the back of the room I was among the last. A hymn was called for and we made our way forward singing. About half way up the room it was as though I passed under a veil of the spirit hovering over those two men as they stood there at the front. I could no longer sing nor could I keep from weeping, and I knew the spirit rested on both alike, one was as chosen as the other. All reservations melted away and I felt as eager to bid God speed to each. Now I know, too, that the blessing of the spirit which I had discerned in the one ordination was as great in the other and I mourn that I missed it because of the blindness in my mind due to my prejudice.

I remember Brother Yates' remarks concerning mistakes he had made, and that he would probably make others, etc. This is true of all of us and I feel it bears up the testimony I had, not to be alarmed because of the foolish and contrary acts of men. They have made mistakes, they will again but in between the Lord finds ways to influence and use them; the work is His and it will be accomplished and as He has said in prophecy no power can stay it.

So again I returned to Bemidji enriched from mingling with the Lord's people even for such a short while. I returned home encouraged and renewed with a stronger and larger bond of fellowship and love, and I believe a wiser understanding of the Lord's power and His working in the hearts and minds of men and His ability to lead and teach; even His patience with our stumbling and our slowness of learning and His compassion for our weaknesses. And I returned with a firmer determination to set my affairs, of heart and mind and hand in order, that I may be ready when the time comes that the saints can be together where there are no prejudices and no conflicts and no blindness but only that charity which is the pure love of Christ to rule over us.

Amy Schrader

### OUT OF THE MAIL SACK

12 Wood Street  
Garden City, Gilfach, Goch  
Glam

Dear Saints:

Though I am many hundreds of miles from you, I have not forgotten you or my duty or responsibility; For looking at the calendar we notice the time of the year and are made to realize that you who are in Joseph's land are in the midst of the canning season, an experience practically unknown now, to the housewife in this land across the sea. As we think of the abundance of fruits and vegetables that are ours to enjoy, we are made to wonder how many of us really realize how fortunate we are that we should be privileged to live in this time and age, and that it was our good fortune to be born in that country which Moses spoke of as "And of Joseph he said, Blessed of the Lord be his land \* \* \*." This we are sure of, that none of us had any choice (so far as we know) as to what period, or dispensation of time, our spirits should be permitted to come to this earth to dwell. Neither had we the choice of where our destiny should be placed; but, oh how grateful we should be that we were not born behind the "Iron Curtain", or in some of the countries of the Far East, where the teaching of the Gospel has as yet had little or no effect to bring about that better way of life which was promised by Christ through obedience to His Gospel when he said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly". Surely our enjoyment of this life is measured by our obedience to His Gospel and the precepts which he has given us to observe.

And now as we speak of the canning season, we wish to suggest that we do not forget our responsibility; but, that we lay by for that day when the people shall again gather at the center place in April to make preparations for another Conference year; that we make sure that the "tithe" of our first fruits are set aside, that not only the Conference and its needs might be amply cared for, but the poor and needy, wherever they might be, might share in the blessings of our wonderful land.

On behalf of the Dining Room Committee, and all those who helped us in caring for the feeding of the Conference visitors, we want to thank those whose contributions made this task possible and a pleasant task. For just a few, it would be a big undertaking, but "many hands make light labor", so when we all do our part the "task is easy and the burden light" and I am sure God will bless us all in this work.

We came over to our field of labor (my husband and I) this time by air. We wanted to come by boat as it was not nearly so expensive, but we found all the steamship companies had all reservations filled and a long waiting list that would not permit us to get passage till late in the summer and that would be after the better part of the year for our work over here was past. So, we came by air. It was wonderful to look down on the beautiful earth the Lord has made for our abiding place, and we were filled with wonder at His creation. We flew from New York, making our first landing at Goose Bay, Labrador. Here they refueled the plane and we flew straight east across the

Atlantic to Shannon, Ireland. As we approached the island we were high above the ocean and a storm was below us, but the sun was shining up where we were (19,000 feet high). Sometimes, as we drew closer, we were permitted to catch a glimpse of the land through openings in the storm clouds, and it was dark and lashed by wind and rain. As we dropped lower and came into the clouds it was a bit rough but we landed easily.

Here again they refueled the plane. Some of the passengers left us here but others took their places. There were eighty-six passengers on the plane. After resting an hour in the airport we again took flight for London, landing at 3:30 P. M. We took the train from London to Cardiff and bus to Garden City to find shelter and a warm welcome in the home of our good friends Brother and Sister Buck. Oh, Mr. Buck is not a member of the Church but no one could treat us with more kindness than he has and our feelings toward him are one of thankfulness for the good will which he has shown towards us. To us he has been a real brother and we are glad we have been privileged to get so well acquainted with him.

We ask an earnest interest in your prayers for the work over in Wales. We are only a little group with many obstacles and trials to overcome, so, we ask that you pray God that the way may be more fully opened up that we might accomplish the good here we desire to do, and establish his church on a sure foundation, that a knowledge of the Gospel in its fulness may be preached to this people.

As ever your Sister,

Minnie C. Smith

Sister Bertha Goff (Mrs. Glen Goff), Route No. 1, Mount Morris, Pennsylvania writes the following letter to our readers. Sister Goff is the daughter of Brother Charles W. Joseph, Sr., of Morgantown, West Virginia. She has been through severe trials and we would ask that all remember her along with the many others whom it is our duty to be mindful of.

"I am writing this letter in the hospital. I have had another serious operation but I am getting along fine. I guess I will get to go home in a few days. The Lord has sure been merciful to me. I just can't think of words to express my love and devotion to Him.

"I was very despondent and sick at heart a couple of weeks after I was operated on and I didn't know which way to turn. I was sitting up in the chair and decided to go back to bed and read some literature my neighbor brought in to me. I was looking through a Sunday School paper and I found a poem that just seemed to be what I needed to revive me. It was lifting, "Jesus Never Fails". It was wonderful and always has been to know that you have some one to call on when you feel so down-hearted and discouraged.

"I sure got a big surprise on June 13, when Brother and Sister Smith walked into the hospital room to see me. We enjoyed our little visit together. Before they left I had Brother Smith to administer and to pray for me. I sure was well blessed. I have been continuing to grow stronger every day. I sure would have loved to go to the Puryear, Tennessee Reunion. I know I am going to miss a lot.

"I hope you folks will continue to pray for me that I may be able to return to the Conference next year.

"We are all trying, at our little Branch at Morgantown, West Virginia to continue on, so pray that we may be watchful and careful to do the things that the Lord wants us to do."

June 29, 1954  
Eusebio Yam  
29 # 217  
Ticul, Yucatan  
Mexico

Apostle Archie F. Bell:

Mi muy querido hermano en la fe do Cristo Jesus le saludo con amor cristiano que Dios le benga y le conceda sabiduria para ministerio que en sus manos. Gracias, hermano mio, por la publicacion de me carta anterior. Aqui escribo una parte de mi historia.

Yo vivia en una finca Vayalceh. Era yo catolico cundo recibí el santo evangelio por los adventistas del septima dia, yo lo creí el esa finca y fui con mi familia a vivir a Ticul esto sucedio en el año 1950 y en el año de 1951. Yo conocí al hermano Wheaton hasta los acompaño en Dzan para una noche buena (Christmas) pero yo no creo ada de las doctrina que trae el hermano Wheaton, sino solo creo el sabado y en la otra noche buena del año de 1953 es cuando el hermano Fernando me dio un libro de Mormon. Entonces empecé a leer el libro y gracias a Dios que me convencí y con la luz de Dios me dispuse las tinieblas y me nos convertimos con me familia a la iglesia de Cristo y fuimos bautizados el 6 de Abril de 1954, y ahora yo y Fernando estamos organizando congregaciones ya tenemos la congregacion de Pustunich se reúne numero con desirable de personas pero nos hace faltas utiles. Necesitamos sillas y luz prestamos y a veces nos niega, tenemos dos luces pero uno para Dzan y otro para Ticul y para Pustunich no tenemos y los de Vayalceh tiene una luz pero ya muy viejo. Entre tiempo habra mas bautizados con la ayuda Dios, nosotros estamos mucho a Dios por ustedes y nuestras necesidades.

Yo suplico a usted que publiquen esta me carta. Gracias a Dios.

We are very glad because our brother, Donny and his wife are with us here in Yucatan, Mexico. We are waiting our Apostle Wheaton and our sister, Mrs. Angel, God bless them.

We have congregations in another people too, Ticul City, too people Pustunich, too Vayalceh.

God bless you! God help you! By your works of gospel of Christ.

Your brother in Christ,  
Eusebio Yam

#### Translation of Above Letter

June 29, 1954  
Eusebio Yam  
29 # 217  
Ticul, Yucatan  
Mexico

Apostle Archie F. Bell:

My very dear brother in the faith of Christ Jesus, I salute you with Christian love that God will bless you and give you wisdom for the ministry which is in your hands. Thank you, my brother, for the publication of my previous letter. Here I write a part of my story.

I lived on a farm Vayalceh. I was a Catholic when I received the holy gospel by the Seventh Day Adventists. I believed the gospel according to the Adventist, but the landlord did not like it and I left this farm and went with my family to live in Ticul. This happened in the year of 1950 and 1951. I knew Brother Wheaton after I accompanied them in Dzan for a Good Night (Christmas) but I did not believe any of the doctrines that he brought, but I only believed he knew and in the other Good Night of the year 1953 is when Brother Fernando gave me a Book of Mormon. Then I began to read the book and thanks to God, that it convinced me and with the light of God dispersed the darkness and they converted me with my family to the Church of Christ and we were baptized the 6th of April, 1954 and now I and Fernando are organizing congregations. Already we have the congregation at Pustunich which unites many with desirable persons but we make slight profit. We need chairs and light loans and sometimes it's denied us. We have two lights, but one for Dzan and the other for Ticul and for Pustunich we don't have any, and they of Vayalceh have a light, but it is already very old. In time we will have more baptisms, with the help of God, we are (praying?) much to God for you and our needs.

I ask that you publish this my letter. Thanks to God.

We are very glad because our brother, Donny and his wife are with us here in Yucatan, Mexico. We are waiting our Apostle Wheaton and our sister, Mrs. Angel, God bless them.

We have congregations in another people too, Ticul City, too people Pustunich, too Vayalceh.

God bless you! God help you! By your works of gospel of Christ.

Your brother in Christ,  
Eusebio Yam

#### Here and There Among the Young People

Ella D. Engle

The young people seem to be a working group this past month. Lovita Wentworth wrote, "I put in a real wild week-end so have been kind of resting up and taking it easy. I've been taking care of my sister-in-law. Before Conference she had her a real big baby—3½ pounds. Then, when the baby was two months old she had an operation. Vivien was home last week-end. She always comes home when we have a full schedule week-end—and she comes home for a rest! I think she goes back to the cities more tired than when she comes home."

For some people there is drama in every day work and Lovita and Cecile Davis seem to know how to appreciate it. Cecile said, "I've been to Puryear, Tennessee for the reunion last year. We really had a nice time . . . We've been pretty busy this morning, my sister Peggy and I. Mom works part time so Peg and I have the washing to do on Monday. Also we had a very sick dog on our hands. Dotty, that's our dog, is ten years old and we all love her. She's awfully weak and can hardly eat. I sure hope she snaps out of it."

It seems like some people can enjoy work for its own sake while others look outside their work and find their enjoyment there at the same time. Joe Smith was speaking of the countryside in Austria; "I bet you would like it here. The countryside is beautiful. Color-

ful. I am sitting in a patch of woods looking across a field where there is a little town. It looks like the pictures of the old Dutch towns we used to see in our history books at school. It is sure a nice day today. The sun is shining and just a few clouds floating by. The pine trees are hot and you can smell the pitch. Where we do all our training here is an old battle field. There are old bullets all over the ground left from World War II. Old German bunkers and pill-boxes all over the place. We are some place in Germany for a 20-day field maneuver."

Jimmy Hedrick had slightly the same idea on his work as Lovita—work then rest. "I didn't make it to the tulip festival in Holland. I hope to take Caroline up there though. I'm still working in the Motor Pool here doing the same think I was and more too. One fellow went home, so instead of getting some one to take his place, they just shoved it off onto me. So now I'm vehicle dispatcher plus power unit maintenance man. Two weeks from tomorrow (June 28) though, I'll have 10 days of rest and relaxation and believe me I'm going to be lazy for those ten days. That's when I will be going to Frankfort to meet Caroline when she comes in by plane. I've got an apartment or I should say a place to stay. You can't get an apartment over here because they're all controlled by the German government for the German people. The only thing you can get is a room and share the kitchen and bath with the owners."

Joyce Harris had more progress to tell of, "Alvin got his commission—so if he doesn't get his acceptance to Medical School we'll be heading for Ft. Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas, some time between September and next June. He's back in school now finishing his German."

And Augusto Ojeda is another one of the many who have too much to do for the time they have to do it in. "It sure is a wonderful thing to have Brother Don McIndoo and his wife Betty with us. Don came to our English class one night and read for us in English and after he had read he translated into Spanish, he did very well. I am now not able to study much English as I have to go out to my corn field and stay there for about fifteen days at the time because it's many miles far from here. I'm still studying about the church and hope to be baptized into it before too long."

Wanda Adams speaks of a different kind of work and a different kind of progress. "We've been having wonderful young people's meetings, especially one we had about two weeks ago. Mr. Eddy, our teacher, talked on the subject of the Resurrection of the dead, and visiting our meeting that night were some of the older people. We young people enjoyed the meeting immensely, and I heard many of the older people say how they enjoyed it. Mr. Eddy had previously talked to them on Baptism, and tonight, which is our meeting night (June 15) he is going to surprise us, but I imagine that whatever he has will be worth while listening to. I have some joyous news. Bob Eddy, president of our young people's meeting, and I, are going to get baptized this next Sunday. I'm so very happy, and I guess every body else is too. How is the young people's meetings going down there? Are you talking on any particular subject?"

As if in answer to her letter came Ronnie Yates' letter from Phoenix, Arizona. "There are not very

many young people here in our group. Only about five of our regular group are single. There are, however, about five married couples who are generally included. We have recently been having frequent volley ball games, and plan a hamburger fry and game following this coming Friday evening (June 18). Our young people's Sunday School class has been studying a Comparative Religious quarterly series with the first emphasis—in which we are presently involved—placed upon the Restoration factions. This endeavor will undoubtedly take us a number of months to complete. We are also working toward a talent program to be given at the end of the month. It will include both adults and the young people, with most of the work and talent taken from the younger set. There will be music, poetry, dramatic readings, and perhaps several other fields of expression."

In about the year 32, Matthew wrote a letter too. "For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard. And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way. Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise. And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, "Why stand ye here all the day idle? They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive.

"So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first."  
—Matthew 20:2-8.

## NEWS FROM LOCALS

### Ava Visits Again

Sermons preached for the latter part of May and June were:

May 23, Brother Archie Bell explained the division of the earth as recorded in Genesis 10:1-25, where it was divided between Noah's three sons, Ham, Shem and Japheth. Then carried the theme on down through the books, where they become the following:

1. Israelites, who worshipped the living God. Genesis 32:24-32.
2. Heathen, who worshipped idols. Leviticus 25:44.
3. Gentile, who worshipped the God of Power. Romans 15:15-24.

Many more references were given also.

May 30, Brother William Sheldon brought us a message of God's mercy and justice to all His creation. We are ever in need of the reminder to have brotherly love and charity for each other and in our consideration of the views of the several ministry.

June 13, Brother Harvey Bell was the speaker using for his text the last part of the first verse of No. 175 in the Hymnal, "Holy Spirit, feed us till the Savior comes," pointing out that the teacher, or preacher, needs the Holy Spirit in order to feed the flock; also, the mem-

bers need the Holy Spirit to understand the word of God as it is brought to them.

Brother Alex Smith was the speaker June 20, reading from Ecclesiastes 3:1-9. Quoting portions of it, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: . . . a time to get, and a time to lose," etc.; and from Luke 12:31-34, verse 33: "Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in heaven that faileth not," etc., verse 34, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

June 6th and 20th, Brother and Sister Archie Bell made a trip down to Sulphur Springs, Arkansas, at the request of a group that were interested in transferring to the Church of Christ. They, having studied the books were ready and were transferred. Brother Bell also organized a branch the 20th. There are eleven new members of this little group.

June 27th, Brother Archie Bell spoke again at the Ava local, his text being from Daniel 12:9, "And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end." For a scripture reading, Psalms 119:97-104, quoting portions, "O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day. (Do we spend even a portion of each day thinking of God's law?) Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies:—(through studying his law and keeping his commandments, through his Spirit will have more understanding of God's word etc.)—for thy testimonies are my meditation. (Must bear our testimonies often of God's goodnesses to us). How sweet are thy words . . . sweeter than honey. Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way." Then going back to the text, "sealed till the time of the end". When is the time of the end? Do we have these sealed prophesies? These are the dispensations of time:

Time of the beginning—(4000 B. C.).

Time of the flood—(2,450 B. C.).

Time of the Hebrews—(1950 B. C.).

Time of Moses—(1570 B. C.).

Time of the Christians—(1 A. D.).

Time of the Dark Ages—(570 A. D.).

Time of the Reformation—(1517 A. D.).

Time of the Restoration—(1820 A. D.).

Time of the end—the end of Civil Governments, the setting up of Christ's Government.

Visitors, May and June, were Brother and Sister William Sheldon and children, Brother and Sister Charles Reed and Alice Reed, Brother and Sister Warren Sarratt made two visits; also, Delores and Jack Bell, and Clifton Engle made several visits. Caroline Hedrick and Enid Bell were visitors and Alexander Smith, Barbara Burgin and Kathy. Lorraine, Berchie, Jewell and Jerry Welton, and Georgia, Ray and Butch Fox.

Darleen Smith

### Flint, Michigan

The members were much gladdened to read the spiritual messages of our Lamanite brothers, Howard La Hurreau and Eusebio Yam. To Brother Eusebio, we

offer our encouragement. For though you may be poor in substance, God will bless you for your treasure of love and sacrifice, and for the effort put forth to forward his glorious work.

Those from Flint, who attended the Michigan reunion, wish to express their appreciation to their hosts for the kind consideration extended to them.

We are faring, here in Flint, in our usual way of peace. May this also be the blessing of all.

Winona Adams, Reporter.

### Independence Diary

Independence is having very hot and dry weather. The lawns and gardens are burning up from the lack of rain.

The Bible School was a big success this year. There was an enrollment of 40 children. The age limit was from 3 to 12. Sister Katherine Moyer taught the little class and the lessons studied were of the creation. They colored pictures and made little things out of paper. The next age group was those of 5 and 6. There the topic of study was the Book of Mormon and Joseph Smith obtaining the plates. This class was taught by Sister Irene Case with Sister Elliott helping her. They also colored pictures to represent the lesson they were studying. The next class was those who were in the first and second grades in school. The course of study was the same as the class Irene taught. This class was taught by Sister Doris Sheldon with Sister Fern Sarratt helping. They did various little crafts that were interesting to the children. Sister Lois Harris taught the older class and their course of study was about the Apostasy, the Reformation and the Restoration. They made booklets in their class as did the other two classes. They also did craft work. Sister Alvina Bell told stories to all the pupils before they went to their classes.

I will mention the speakers that we have had speak to us this past month. June 13 being Children's Day, Brother C. L. Wheaton spoke to us during the morning service. The sermon was very appropriate for the occasion. He compared children to a garden, that if this garden isn't taken care of it will grow up into weeds, and so it is with our children if they do not receive the spiritual guidance that they need, they will not grow up into a thing of worth either.

Brother Levi Maley preached in the evening and he spoke about the adulterations in our food. He said his sermon was according to the word of wisdom.

Brother Kenneth Smith was the speaker for the morning service of June 20. He read the 7th chapter of Matthew. This chapter speaks of not judging lest we be judged by the same judgment and not giving that which is holy to dogs; also about casting the mote out of our brother's eye before removing the beam in our own eyes. I have not the space to tell you of all the good things recorded there, but you can take the Bible and read it. Brother Smith said that we must always remember that our prime concern is to save souls and not to interpret Scripture.

Brother Vance Harris spoke at the evening service.  
(continued on page 126)

## 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.

### A GREAT AND A MARVELOUS WORK

Wm. F. Anderson

The eleventh chapter of the Book of Commandments and the tenth chapter of the Doctrine and Covenants, first paragraph, refers to the above title, and many believe that refers to the bringing forth of the Book of Mormon. I am not ready to believe that, and if a study of the revelation is made, I believe we can learn that it referred to other than the Book of Mormon. "A great and a marvelous work is about to come forth among the children of men." I would crave your indulgence for a short time in the consideration of the revelation. We, as a people, should be concerned about that which the Lord has entrusted to our care. God had a definite purpose in the restoring of the gospel in these last days and it might be well to consider just what the purpose was.

Would we be going very far afield if we were to say that the purpose was that there might be a people prepared; made ready for Christ to come to in his next advent to the earth? There is much in the books to let us know that Christ is to return and as it was before he came the first time, so it will be before he returns. A preparation was to be made. John came as a preparer of the way; to make the paths straight. Evidently the paths had been made crooked or covered up. The children of Israel, and especially the Jews, had gone far afield and had their own ways. So it was in these the last days. There had been twelve hundred and sixty years of apostasy. "Gross darkness covered the world." God had been left out of the schemes of men, and in many instances mankind had arranged their own philosophy of life and salvation, and many churches sprung up. The paths had become very crooked and obscured. God had withheld his counsel. Man said that God did not speak any more and the people were left to wander here and there and to and fro.

Therefore God must needs have in some way a straightening of those paths, and out of the darkness of apostasy there came a glimmer of light through that which is referred to as the reformation (Protestantism) and the preparing of the way had begun. God was moving in behalf of benighted humanity and men were freed from the spiritual oppression of the apostate church. Thus the way was opened for God to again make himself known to mankind and be able to again make an effort to have a people made ready to receive his word in full again.

An angel was sent to a young man. Following the vision of the Father and the Son which was given to him as he knelt under a tree on his father's farm, he was told that the creeds of men were wrong and he was to unite with none of them; but, if he would be faithful and follow instructions he would be used to restore to men the gospel as it was taught by the Christ. We do not need to follow the story of those days, as all should be familiar with it. Suffice it to say that there

came forth by the power of God that which is known as the Book of Mormon, and I would in no way take away any of the marvelousness of the translating and bringing forth of that book. It was marvelous that an unlearned young man under God, was the instrument for the translating of that book.

But note, "A marvelous work and a wonder is about to come forth among the children of men." "About to come forth". Yet future.

Now, may we consider that revelation as it is, and we quote: "Now as you have asked, I say unto you, keep my commandments, and seek to bring forth and establish" (the Book of Mormon). Oh, it does not say that, does it? No, it refers to something beside the Book of Mormon. Let us read, "Seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion." The cause of Zion was that "Marvelous work" that was to come forth. The cause of Zion must come before Zion can be. Let me drop down a verse or two and quote, "No one can assist in this work (the bringing forth and establishment of the cause of Zion) except he shall be humble, and FULL OF LOVE, having faith, hope and charity." Thus the cause of Zion is first love; Full of love, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with ALL thy heart, ("full of love") and thy (brother) neighbor as thyself"; all other commandments are hinged on those two great commandments, love God first and best with our first and best love. How many are keeping that first commandment, say nothing of the second? If the first was kept, we could not help from keeping the second. If and when the cause of Zion is established, and a people developed that will put God and his work above all else, and love becomes the dominating force, then Zion will be and there will be a gathering to one place and God will be there to help and protect from the calamities that are to come. Read B. of C. 29:8, 9; also 48:29, and verses 33 to 39, Doctrine and Covenants 28: 1-2.

"Zion is the pure in heart." "Gather my saints together unto me, those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice" Psalm 50:5. When there is such a place where love is the dominating factor, and righteousness will be the outstanding virtue, then will it become a "marvelous work" and it will be the attracting sign spoken of in Isaiah, the light set on a hill as spoken by the Master in the sermon on the mount. "Seek to bring forth and establish the CAUSE of Zion." That has not yet been accomplished. The restoration peoples are divided and sub-divided. Distrust rather than love has become the dominating force. Each of the various groups are opposed to each other. We are a long way from what Christ plead for in the prayer as found in chapter 17 of John, "That they all might be ONE." We have in no way demonstrated to the world that God sent Christ into the world. We have listened to the whisperings of a different power than God and have followed the enticings of Satan rather than obeyed the counsels of God and division has been the result. It might be well to read D. and C. 63:8, last part, "And ye shall be scourged from city to city, from syna-



gogue to synagogues, and few shall stand to receive an inheritance." Also if you have a D. and C. Sec. 83:8 then take a look at the history of the restoration and find if those prophecies have been fulfilled. "Return unto me and I will return unto you" is as applicable today as it was in the day when spoken through Malachi." Come now and let us reason together saith the Lord." Isaiah 1:18. Are we willing to reason with the Lord, asking him to help us to return to him if we have gone astray? There is one thing sure, truth will not divide a people. Truth will unite. God is not the author of confusion, but of unity and peace.

Let us as a people strive for that which was the purpose of the Restoration and establish the "cause of Zion" that we might be worthy to meet Christ when he comes, a people "Prepared." "But who shall be called my Zion—my habitation and through whom shall I execute my purpose? Shall it not be among those whose hearts are found pure and whose eyes shall be single?"

We of the Church of Christ, let us forget our differences, our misunderstandings and endeavor to so live that God may use us for the bringing of unity out of the scattered forces of the Restoration. Do not condemn those who differ with us but strive for a better understanding. It is much later than we think. Is it possible that we are just three or four minutes from midnight? Have we oil in our lamps? If we permit the least bit of hate or ill will to take possession of us, we will not be among those who have oil in their vessels. Love is that oil, and to have that love we must have the Spirit of God in our lives.

We need counsel from on high and if we will seek in sincerity and earnestness God will not turn a deaf ear. It is of greater importance that we do it God's way than to be each running in our own way, "Return unto me" is pertinent now. May God help us to get closer to him and learn more fully his way.

Satan has divided; he has injected seeming truths and caused changes to be made and the "Cause of Zion" has suffered as a result. "Ask for the old paths and walk therein."

### THE CHURCH

By Apostle B. C. Flint

"The Church." There perhaps is no term in our religious philosophy, that is more loosely used than the term: "the church." This is doubtless true because few take the time to stop and try to analyze what we really mean when we speak of the church. In other words "What is the church?" And in this connection we are speaking about the physically organized church as an organization of and among men; an institution.

Among peoples of the restoration, the above truth is doubtless owing to the fact, that we are committed to the idea of there having been a restoration of primitive Christianity again being committed to man and introduced by the advent of an angel, and in which the idea of a physical church organization would be a component part.

In this concept it would naturally follow that since it would be a God ordered institution, that it would conform in all of its parts to a divine plan. This we

believe to be the only logical conclusion. However, even with this concept there is nothing about the idea of a divinely constituted church organization, that would even hint at the thought of God removing the human element of the right of choice in mankind, and taking over such personal control himself that there would be no possibility of there ever being any error or misconception as to God's laws or commandments.

Because of the above idea of a divinely organized church being a part of our religious philosophy, it becomes so easy to go a step further and come to regard the church as being SO authoritative in its nature, as to become the court of last appeal, and to regard its enactments or pronouncements as being infallibly the mind and will of God. To take this extreme view of the purpose of the existence of the physical church, is always the first ground work towards apostasy. The great Roman Catholic church speaks of herself, as, "the infallible teaching head." And we of the Church of Christ emphasize the statement found in the Book of Commandments, chapter four, verse five, which says that: "And thus IF the people of this generation HARDEN NOT THEIR HEARTS, I will work a reformation among them \* \* \* and I will establish my church, like unto the church which was taught by my disciples in days of old." (Emphasis mine B.C.F.) Why this caution if God intended to keep complete control in his own hands? Furthermore, the fact that this entire verse is absent from this chapter when it is later published in the Doctrine and Covenants, and because of which we of the Church of Christ, insist proves that changes WERE MADE later which rendered this verse superfluous, because we claim that a situation was created that made the church dissimilar to the church as "taught by my disciples in days of old".

Again in chapter 9 and verse 17 we read: "Behold this is my doctrine: whosoever repenteth, and cometh unto me, the same is my church: whosoever declareth more or less than this, the same is not of me, but is against me: therefore he is not of my church." Then the Master himself, in Matthew 15:13, says: "Every plant which my heavenly Father hath not planted shall be rooted up".

Added to all of the above, we have a very definite statement in the Book of Mormon, concerning the degree to which the church can claim to be the true Church of Christ. III Nephi 12, and the last part of verse 20, which reads: "but if it be called in my name, then it is my church, IF IT SO BE THAT THEY ARE BUILT UPON MY GOSPEL." (Emphasis mine B.C.F.). This then definitely defines the scope of the claims for the church being a representative of the mind and will of God. It is further stated in this same chapter when the church qualifies as stated above: "Then will the Father show forth his own works in it". Verse 22.

Now nothing that is said above is designed to minimize nor detract from the importance of a physical church organization. What IS designed is to give the church as a physical organization its proper place in our concept of the term, "the church."

We as the Church of Christ, have presented to the world a document called: Articles of Faith and Practice. This is intended to give to inquirers a brief outline of our fundamental beliefs. This document is also a revision of a former declaration of principles of belief called: "An Epitome of Faith," and we insist that

there should be no effort to make a conflict between these two sets of a declaration of our faith. This is all very well and all faithful members of the church should be willing to try to keep within the scope of what is here given as an outline of our belief; but, in this let it be remembered that NEVER has the church of the restoration regarded these principles as thus set forth as being anything other than an outline, because they are subject to change, if found necessary, (and we believe much besides what is contained therein). Further, since we of the Church of Christ, with headquarters on the Temple Lot, claim to be a legal continuation of the Church of Christ organized April 6th, 1830, it naturally follows that we should keep our connection with that early restoration intact, and in scanning our history we find that a SET group of principles such as this "Epitome," was NEVER regarded as essential nor over important. In fact, we find no attempt at such a declaration until years after the formal organization of the church. It was in 1842 that Joseph Smith in answer to a request from a Mr. John Wentworth, editor of the Chicago Democrat, in which a desire was expressed to know concerning the teachings of the restoration church, and in which, after quite a detailed exposition of the faith closed his answer with the old, and only original Epitome of Faith; and to which he, Joseph Smith, signed his name as indicating that he himself was sponsoring this outline; set of Articles of Faith. All old time members of the restoration know that our claim has been, and it almost amounts to a boast that: "OUR CREED IS ALL TRUTH."

So while we might insist that to be good church members we should be loyal to any pronouncements concerning doctrine and faith, it is vastly more important to see to it that the church organization itself is loyal to the teachings of the Christ, the divine Master, "Because then is it my church when it is built upon my gospel", and there is no promise of the "Father showing forth his own works in it", unless it so qualifies.

The angel of Revelation 14:6-7 did not bring a physical church organization to the young seer of Palmyra. He brought the only thing he could bring, the only thing that was lost through apostasy, and that was the authority of the priesthood, or the "man child" of Revelation 12:5, whose power was to function in performing the ordinances of the gospel, and as a result of which men and women were again baptized into Christ as in former days, and as a further condition that, when sufficient such material was at hand, the church could come into being as an organization, and as already stated, God, himself, would superintend that organization. Book of Commandments 4:5.

Much more could be said, but we feel that the above should assist us in properly evaluating the church and what it should mean to us.

#### SERMON BY APOSTLE R. R. ROBERTSON

II Peter 1:1-21: Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through

the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure:

For if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.

Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance;

Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.

Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.

For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eye-witnesses of his majesty.

For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

I am extremely happy tonight to see so many of you here and especially those of friends who have come in that I met a few years ago. I am sure, then as of now, we are going to still meditate upon the things that would tend for peace and joy. That which

the gospel brings to each and everyone who has learned to love the truth and abide therein. I can assure you tonight that without the Spirit of God in your heart and mine, that we are not going to be benefitted a great deal in our coming together. I have always believed in all faith pertaining to God and His righteousness that we should be endued with a portion of his divine power that we might be able, then altogether, to look to him; separating ourselves from the things of the outside world, and coming a little closer to God, with a desire in our hearts to be fed from on high.

Now, that being true, thus how important then it is that each of us should pray that we might receive and have His Holy Spirit in our hearts, in our lives, that we might be prone to be led by the Spirit of truth. It seems to me that the greatest need among all people today, and especially may I say among those who have learned to know that God again has spoken from on high, and restored once again to man the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, is to go out and preach the glad tidings of great joy. There is need that they may be equal to that, by the Spirit of truth, that God ordained that it should be.

Sometimes we do a lot of trying to find what the trouble is with us. I know there are many ills; there is no doubt about that. We have been rather sick, we have been afflicted and we are still so in a measure, but I believe that we have only ourselves to blame for that. Surely God is merciful; surely God loves the world today just as much as He did when He sent His beloved Son into the world, that He might give His life for the salvation of mankind.

We ought to warrant that Holy Spirit today that would lead you and me out into the world to proclaim these everlasting truths of the gospel of Christ in much power and assurance.

We talk a great deal sometimes about the gathering. You know I love that word very much. I can understand that in the broadest sense of the term in which the Master sent forth his apostles of old, into all the world to preach the gospel, making it of a surety that those who would believe the gospel and be baptized. Those were the ones that would be saved, and by and by they would be gathered home. Now today there are thousands upon thousands of people scattered throughout this world who need the gospel, they do not need it perhaps in the terms in which we have been trying to preach it, but they do need it preached to them by the power of the Comforter, of the Holy Spirit and that's what we have lacked.

Oh we have all come a little ways down here according to our scripture lesson tonight, we have believed in God, we have known that God has answered our prayers in times past and we have a hope that he is going to answer them again. We know that we must come to Him in a state of humility and we must repent, if you please, of the things that have separated us from God and that has driven the Spirit, the Comforter from us; that has prevented us from proclaiming these truths with power and with certainty. We must do that, just the letter of the gospel is not sufficient.

I can go along with the apostle Paul and I am quite sure that every elder of the Church of Christ, everyone who has a post, has a testimony. Life has given him a work to do. He knows full well that he first must

have the power and the love of God in his heart before he can accomplish that which the Lord has commissioned him to do.

We do need in the preaching of the gospel, power; the power of God. Why, even the apostles of old who so well knew the story were admonished not to go out, though they had been commissioned to do so, until they were first indued with power from on high. That would make it possible for them to bear the testimony of Jesus Christ under the power of the Holy Spirit. That would be convincing; that would cause people to cry out, "Men and brethren, what shall we do."

Why can't we do that now? Oh we might blame these folks and some other folks, and I don't think we are justified in doing that. The only thing of it is, we have failed to add to our faith these virtues by which we would be able to see and to know the truth, and under the power of the Holy Spirit be able to preach the gospel with conviction, with power, with authority.

Why in the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, in that man John sent of God from heaven, we hear him saying to that people, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is nigh unto you." How could he say a lesser thing than that? If we fail to say that and fail to be able to say it, under the power of the spirit of God, then we are very poor servants of Jesus Christ.

We must learn to lay hold upon eternal life. Make ourselves, if you please, submissive with God's will and in attune with his spirit, by which we could say to the people, when we have preached the gospel, brother, sister the kingdom of heaven has come nigh to you. Why can't we do that? We could if we preached the gospel of peace, if we preached the gospel of righteousness, of peace and of joy. And when we do that the Holy Spirit will bear witness of that work and then we will have the kingdom of God in reality. That's our work, we should do that, everywhere we go.

We may not be able to convert everyone of course, not by any means, but we will have the power to be able to bring to them the truths of the gospel of Christ, in such measure that many of the frivolous things that are preached for the gospel of Christ would not be any longer sufficient. Now we are not sufficient to say anything of ourselves, and I mean the ministry of the Church of Christ, but our sufficiency is of God, if we are God's servants and if we are preaching the gospel by the Comforter ordained of God, by which supply, by what means the gospel is to be preached, then we can truly say God is my helper, and through his help and through the leading of that divine spirit sent from on high I will proclaim the gospel of the Son of God. Yes we need repentance in the church and outside of the church.

We need to find out about those things that will make for peace and for unity. I know sometimes we almost become weary of hearing those words, and because we usually go right on in such a way, our deportment is such, that we destroy that unity. I don't believe God has allowed that kind of faith. That is of the spirit that spoils progress. That is not sponsored by the Holy Spirit, because it does not bring forth the proper kind of fruit. The Holy Spirit will bring forth to each and everyone who will be led by God and Jesus and it will establish us in the righteous-

ness of God, and make it possible for us to be a people who are destined, I believe, and called to be the light to shine in the world and will disperse the darkness that is so dense today, in so many places that we just grope around at noonday as though at midnight.

Now that is a sad situation. No fault of God's, no fault of the gospel. The gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God unto salvation, and that's what we need; more of that kind of gospel.

You know God has again spoken from on high; the priesthood has been restored; men have been called to proclaim this gospel; and because of that the adversary was quite busy sending forth his messages of deception; spirits that would lead them to do other than that which God purposed them to do as his ministry, as the elders of the church.

The Lord says in chapter 53 of the Book of Commandments, although I am reading the same words from the Doctrine and Covenants.

"Wherefore, let every man beware lest he do that which is not in truth and righteousness before me." That was the admonition to the eldership of the church, when it was but seven months old. "And now come saith the Lord, by the Spirit, unto the elders of his church, and let us reason together that we may understand:"

Now there was something there that they did not understand. The Lord was willing to reason with them. Do you think he is not willing to reason with us today? I believe he is. Are we willing to come; are we willing to reason with the Lord; find out just what the trouble is? Let us see what it says a little farther here.

"Let us reason even as a man reasoneth one with another face to face: Now when a man reasoneth, he is understood of man; because he reasoneth as a man; even so will I the Lord reason with you that you may understand: Wherefore I the Lord asketh you this question, unto what were ye ordained?"

Oh that's a very important, pertinent question to us. Unto what were you ordained? Not unto some of the things that you have been doing, I am quite sure of that. No but let the Lord say what it is. He answers here.

"To preach my gospel by the Spirit, even the Comforter which was sent forth to teach the truth:"

They had not at that time been able to get hold of that Spirit the Comforter, that would enable them to preach the truth in its purity, which goes back to the salvation of the church and of the souls of men.

Let's turn over here and see what we find further. Something takes place here. I wonder if that's what is the matter with us. Let's read it:

"And then receive the spirits which ye could not understand, and received them to be of God. In this are ye justified?"

A thousand times no my friends; no we are not justified either, when we allow spirits to enter in and dictate to us the terms by which we shall do thus and so, when it has the tendency to divide brethren. To bring into their hearts envy and many times hatred. Oh we know where that all comes from, I wouldn't

have to tell you that. If we have been suffering with that kind of sickness then we had better do something about it. Don't you think we had? And there is something we can do.

We don't have to build a great big house to get busy at it. I don't believe we will. Listen.

"Behold ye shall answer this question yourselves, Nevertheless I will be merciful unto you: He that is weak among you hereafter shall be made strong. Verily I say unto you."

Now I believe it is applicable to us today in the Church of Christ.

"Verily I say unto you, he that is ordained of me and sent forth to preach the word of truth, by the Comforter, in the spirit of truth, doth he preach it by the spirit of truth, or some other way?"

Folks how have we been doing it? Have we been preaching this gospel of Jesus Christ by the spirit of truth? And lean upon this spirit of truth to give us utterance by which we could bring forth the gospel to the dying souls of men and women throughout this broad land, or have we been doing it some other way? You can answer that question for yourself. Listen.

"And if it be by some other way," and it could be, "and if it be by some other way, it be not of God." Now that will be just as true of us folks as it was back there, God doesn't change. Faith is everlasting. The fundamentals of righteousness, yes it's firmly placed upon the rock, and you can't move it. It is immovable!

"And again, he that receiveth the word of truth, doth he receive it by the spirit of truth, or some other way?" You see how important that is. Then when one stands up in the spirit of humility, relying upon the spirit to give unto him the utterance and the power to bring forth a message to the people, that same spirit should be in the heart of each and every individual that they might receive it as it is preached by the spirit of truth, and if you receive it in some other way then it isn't of God because God isn't in it. God has ordained that this gospel must be preached by the Comforter, by the spirit that is sent forth by the Master to preach the spirit of truth.

That has been the trouble all of the way along, in every part of this great restoration, as I see it. Not altogether in the lacking of doing some things that we might refer to, but first of all we must be established; yes in this glorious gospel of Christ. Know something about the kingdom of God and his righteousness before we are going to be fitted to preach this gospel by the power that God has ordained that it should be. Now listen to what he said here:

"Wherefore, he that preacheth and he that receiveth, understandeth one another, and both are edified and rejoice together."

Now that can be so here tonight. That can be so in every preaching service that is to be held here in this coming conference or throughout the years to come. If that preaching is by the Comforter ordained, if you please, to preach the truth, and those who assemble, if they can receive it that way they will be edified. And that which does not edify is not of God, just mark that down. I don't care whether we are in a confer-

ence session or what kind of a session or what kind of a place we get into, you can rest assured that those things that come that do not edify, God is not the author of. It may be man and man might allow some other spirit foreign to that of the spirit of truth to enter in and bring in something there would be bitter, that would be something that would grind you down and make your soul sick. That wouldn't edify you, you wouldn't rejoice in it, you couldn't feel good if you tried. That's not of God. Listen:

"That which doth not edify, is not of God, and is darkness:

"That which is of God is light, and he that receiveth light and continueth in God."

I want us to get that.

"He that receiveth light and continueth in God, receiveth more light, and that light groweth brighter and brighter, until the perfect day."

Why we don't need to go around sleeping. We don't need to go feeling that something terrible has happened to us. We don't need to feel it, we just do it don't we. But we don't do it because God wants us to do it. He is not trying to teach us any lesson by our suffering under these conditions, because that is not the kingdom. If we are going to come into the church, or out of the church and proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is at hand, (and the kingdom of God is here), why we are not going to have any confusion at all. We could not have confusion could we, if the kingdom is here, and we are in it.

Oh of course, I would have to use the definition of the apostle Paul for that, and it's just as true now as it was when he spoke. The kingdom, yes the kingdom of God, is not meat and drink, but it is righteousness and peace and joy and comfort in the Holy Ghost. That is the condition we ought to be in. We do not need to have any long faces at all. We do not need to think that somebody else is giving us lots of trouble. Our whole trouble is just within, and if we will just clean house and let the spirit of God come in we will receive the light that God is willing to give to us and continue in Him. Why is not the promise just as good now as it ever was?

When we will receive more light, and if we will keep at it, the light will not grow dimmer, not at all, but it will grow brighter, and brighter until the perfect day. Why, that is just like God would do. Why sure. Sure folks, let us get back to the truth of it, and be established in the things ordained of God, by which we would be able to shine, if you please, as lights in the world, that people would be bound to say,

"That people, know God." That people have had communication with God. Yes, their God is a living God. And Jesus Christ truly lives and has given unto them the knowledge of his kingdom, and the power to go about and proclaim the everlasting gospel to people of all walks of life."

You know, I have learned a great many things, out in my mission that I had not appreciated before, I might have known a little something about. You know there was a time when I just about liked those who liked me. And when I found someone that I thought just did not like me, I could just not like him too. That

is not quite the way we ought to be do you think? No we should not be that way. That is not the spirit of Christ. That was not God at all. God is not that kind of a being. He loves the world. Now the world hated him, they rejected the gift of life when he sent it to them.

God still loved the world. And I have learned this one thing, to love the souls of mankind, to love every soul. Why, when I see a poor person even though he may have been a drunkard he may have just partially faded out and laid in the gutter, so to speak, I do not hate him. I feel to pity him; why that soul belongs to God. He is the same as you and me. We just some how ought to feel glad that we have learned the better way of life, and we should be able to try and do something that would help that individual, yes to find that higher ground. Folks, to me that is the great work whereunto we are called to do.

Oh, I know sometimes we are very ambitious and we think we ought to build a great masterpiece of some kind. Institutionally or otherwise, but you know we have to get back and do it God's way. That is the only way we are ever going to do it.

Just before Christ ascended into heaven, He had met the apostles by appointment. He had taught them the things pertaining to the kingdom, the kingdom of heaven, the kingdom of God, and they knew a great deal about the things which had been prophesied to come some time and it will still come, but they were anxious about it. They would have, of course, at that time, had Christ been made king. They thought he would be, as you all know. But that was not the will of God. Yet we do not condemn them. They had one question, you will recall that without me reading it I am sure, recorded here in the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, when they said to him Lord will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel? Will you? You know the answer don't you? Sure, I do to. It is not for you to know the times nor the seasons, in which the Father hath put in his own time. Not then; not now. But what was it for them there? That you shall receive power, yes, after the Holy Ghost has come, and you shall be able to go out and preach repentance, yes unto the world even unto the uttermost parts of the world, he told them.

Did you ever do that under the power, under the leadership of the Spirit sent forth from on high, to preach the gospel? Now that is just as true in this restoration as it was then. Just the same, God has empowered the ministry that he has called into the vineyard today and it is your prerogative, your privilege and mine, yes to lay hold upon eternal life and go out into the world and proclaim the gospel. And I want to tell you that God will take care of the rest.

You know I can't think that Christ died in vain, and neither do you. But sometimes the way we talk about the church, you would almost think that He just wasted the purchase; the price He paid for it. And He purchased the church with His own blood. No it is not in vain, not at all. I am not worrying about that, not at all. But I am worrying about the souls of men. I am worrying about those that perhaps through our carelessness are just running around here and there, if I could use that term, or idling our time away might be better, that might be a better expression. And just letting oth-

ers just go by the way, thinking all is all right among us, but just letting other folks go by, thinking the time is about gone and we could not do anything about it. Folks that is wrong. That is why we don't grow, that is why we do not do the things God wants us to do. But if you have the power and if we have the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in our hearts, we would not for one moment take that view of the situation. But we would take it upon ourselves under the power of God and go forth and proclaim these things with power and with certainty and with conviction. I believe that with all of my heart.

We do have a great deal of work to do, all of us, but what do you think the first requirement would be, for us to achieve the purpose that God really has called us all to do, all together. Well I think we could say preparation. Preparation. Preparation of all of those things that we have been talking about, all of the way along, all have to be preparation. Preparation, add to that meditation. Preparation, meditation, dedication. Oh that is what we need here in the Church of Christ. That is what they need all over.

Preparation, Meditation, Dedication. If we can bring that when we come into our prayer meetings, when we come into our services, or whatever we do, if we have made the proper preparation before God, and then with the meditation that is found the very purpose of our coming together, under the spirit of the Master, we will be able to dedicate the service and all that is said and done to the glory of God. We could do that. There is no reason why we can not.

I believe I had better give you just a little more of scripture here. The time is about gone. May I digress just for a moment. Some one asked me how long I was going to preach, I said I did not know.

I learned one little thing down through the south country; in some parts they have pumps down there. Water has been scarce in some parts and they have to carry it. And they have a pump there and they will have the bucket and some of the kiddies, girls and boys together, they go over and one will get hold and pump. When the bucket is full they quit pumping. Yes they do not just keep pumping and let it spill all over and waste it, you know. I learned something else.

It is about the same way in preaching. There is not a bit of use in me getting up here or any other man and just keep pumping away and pumping away and have the vessel full and all that run over and spill all over the floor. But as long as the vessel will receive more, then I like to just keep pumping along. Folks, if we have the spirit of God we are not going to just twist around and be doing something else but we will be able to receive that which comes as God would have it come to us. I want to go over and examine just a little something if I may, that we might be able to see just a little more clearly here what the Lord would expect of us.

In this chapter over here, but I believe I did quote one verse of this, wherein we are not sufficient as of ourselves to say anything of ourselves, but our sufficiency is of God. Not only the ministry of the Church of Christ, every ministry should be able to say that and really mean it and know that to be true.

"Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth." What? Are we not to have life in the church? If we are to bring life to the people outside of the church, we have to become able ministers not just of the letter in the way of argument. Not at all. A lot of that might kill but if we can be able ministers of Christ of the Spirit, we will be able then to bring in some souls to Christ. And how happy we would be with them in that kingdom to come. I am glad of that statement there. But you know there are some others over here that we could refer to. I believe that I will call your attention to this one right here. And I think this has to do with us too. It says here.

"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord: and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake." And listen to this next verse.

"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

God has commanded the light to shine out of darkness. And so if you and I have been able to let that light come into our souls and our hearts, and if we will continue in that light, continue in God, we can rest assured that this admonition over here will have its fulfillment to our joy and to our peace in righteousness and in truth.

I am just happy to be able to bear my testimony that I believe that we should be just as busy as we can be just preaching the gospel of Christ and preach it with the Spirit of God that he will give unto us if we ask him for it. And we do need it. Oh, we need it so badly that it would heal all of our wounds. We would be able to chase darkness from the midst of us.

If I had read another verse here in this over here, that is what it would have told us to do. Yes we ought to chase darkness from us. Well, what is that darkness? That which edifieth not is darkness. You know what it says. Yes, that which does not edify is darkness and there is no God in darkness.

Folks, let us believe the gospel, let us believe in the Lord, let us have faith in God. Let us add unto the faith just those living virtues that will make us, that we will not be unfruitful in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### INDEPENDENCE DIARY

(continued from page 119)

The theme of his sermon was prayer and that prayer was the avenue to God. We should always remember to pray for all that need our prayers. He said that God never fails us but we sometimes fail him.

Brother Leroy Wheaton, as the speaker June 27 at the morning service, spoke of trying to understand each other more and trying to get ourselves so we can work more harmonious together. The greater part of his discourse was seeking to bring forth Zion.

Brother Marvin Case gave us a good sermon that evening. He used Revelation 14:6, "And I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth." He spoke of the falling away and the coming forth of the Restoration.

The morning of July 4th was sacrament service. I cannot report about the service here as our family attended the Puryear, Tennessee reunion. I can say that we had a very good sacrament service there.

The evening of July 4th, Brother Rolland Sprague was our speaker. His talk was about having more courage and not having so many doubts and fears. He also spoke some of the resurrection.

Brother Archie Bell, of Ava, Missouri occupied the pulpit during the morning service of July 11. He referred to the text in Isaiah, chapter 24, speaking of the corruption of the earth because they had transgressed the laws, changed the ordinances, and broken the everlasting covenant. He quoted from Matthew 24:37, "But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." He said there would be a few righteous but that there would be faith on the earth when He came. He spoke of the establishment of the mountain of the Lord's house in the top of the mountain.

Brother Leslie Case was the speaker during the evening hour and he spoke how children learned bad language when they mingle with other children but they must be taught what to say and how to decide for themselves what is right and what is wrong. He used as a parable a car with two lights, one being faith and one being charity. He said we must go on and put more lights on our car, that we can see clearly the road which we are traveling.

Brother and Sister Vance Harris have just returned from a little vacation. They went to the Tennessee reunion and then went on to Morgantown, West Virginia.

Brother and Sister Everett Martin and family have returned from California. Sister Gussie had a growth removed from her throat and is getting along just fine.

Brother and Sister Archie Bell have been visiting in Independence. It is not often that Sister Bell gets up here so we were all glad to see her. They live in Ava, Missouri.

Doris Sheldon, Reporter.

---

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

---

#### From Independence

Our attendance this month has fluctuated due to the fact that many have picked this time for their vacations.

On June 24 there was such a small group that we decided to spend our time in singing. We sang many of our favorite hymns and then made plans for a quartet to sing a special the following Sunday morning for church.

July 1 was our regular Church History night. Although there was a very small group we had a very interesting lesson. Many questions were asked of our teacher concerning the name of the church and various important dates in the history of its progress.

The smallest attendance was on July 8. The group that was present purchased a water melon and then went to one of the homes to eat it and enjoy the company of each other.

We have missed all those who have been on vacation but hope they all had a very enjoyable time. Carol and Jimmy Moyer and Mary Hedrick spent some time in Toledo, Ohio. Barbara Babcock has been in Black River Falls, Wisconsin. Barbara Babcock, Alice Reed, and I attended the Tennessee Reunion on July 3, 4, and 5. I am sure they will agree with me when I say it was a wonderful experience. All present were certainly united in thought and God poured out His blessings abundantly.

We are very sorry to lose, for a while, two members of our group who have gone to join their husbands who are in the service. Enid Bell drove to Fort Belvoir, Virginia, to be with Johnny, and Caroline Hedrick went by plane to Germany to be with Jimmy. We are glad they can be together.

Here is another name for the pen-pal seekers:

Barbara Johnson (age 16)  
425 East Court Street  
Flint, Michigan

I would appreciate hearing from some about the friendships you may establish through these name.

Mary Lois Harris, Reporter

---

### Y. P. C. L. Open Letter

This month we would like to pay loving tribute to some one who seems very worthy in our eyes. He is a patient and kindly man who has devoted his time and talents in careful research and prayer, that he might bring the gospel message to the young. He also performs many other worth-while duties, among them is; conducting the adult Sunday school class and mid-week prayer meeting.

He has been responsible for the drawing of many precious souls to the waters of baptism. We do not number his achievements for in our limited way we cannot know of them all. But we are comforted to know that they are written in the indestructible annals on high.

He is humbled to know that he could do nothing were it not for God and to Him he ascribes the honor. He has and knows of his weaknesses, but we know that he is forgiven in that he strives as he has striven.

His design is to throw off his worldly weights and pour his whole ardor into the service of God, to the exclusion of all strange gods. He desires to go out into the world as the visiting preachers of old, taking his rest and sustenance wherever grace may guide him, seeking not for luxuries, but trusting his God to provide. In a few weeks now, he will be leaving us

to put forward his foot, and to extend a hand and a voice of hope to the scattered few who will receive it.

Brother Frank Eddy, we salute you as beloved of God and man. To all of us you are "Uncle" Frank, and we love you and want to write this letter to encourage you. We regret to see you go but we realize that the project which you are about to launch upon is more needful of your attention, for it concerns the "world", and we know that with reliance upon God, you are able.

May we, as we wave a temporary farewell, thank you for your tender and spiritual teaching, and too, may we sincerely add that we will miss you.

May God be with you and bless you in Spirit and power, as you serve Him, wherever you may journey. And when you leave this life, may you be among the numbered, is our prayer.

The Youth of Flint  
Winona Adams, Reporter

**PURYEAR, TENNESSEE REUNION**



On Friday, July 2, saints from Missouri, Wisconsin and West Virginia started rolling into Puryear, Tennessee for the Reunion to be held at Foundry Hill. Services were opened Friday evening at 7:30 with song, No. 27, "Praise Ye the Lord!" Prayer by Brother W. A. Sheldon of Independence, Missouri. Remarks by missionaries B. C. Flint and R. R. Robertson, and by our pastor, Rony Overcast followed.

Saturday morning at 9:30 was a prayer service with Brethren Vance H. Harris and Clyde Babcock in charge. Brother John Sweem of Hamilton, Missouri, occupied the pulpit at 11:00 a. m.; Brother James M. Case of Independence in the afternoon and Brother B. C. Flint in the evening service.

Sunday morning at 9 o'clock was Sacrament and prayer service with Brethren B. C. Flint and W. A. Sheldon in charge. Brother Sheldon preached to us at 11 o'clock; Brother Joe Yates in the afternoon and Brother Vance Harris in the evening.

Monday, beginning at 9:30, was a prayer service with Brethren Babcock and Yates in charge. Brother Ray Bryant of Cowgill, Mo., was the preacher following the prayer service. Brother John Sweem occupied in the afternoon and Brother R. R. Robertson in the evening, concluding the services of the Reunion.

Sister Metta Anderson was in charge of the singing. We enjoyed very much the quartets, the songs of the young folks and the Cherokee Indian boys.

Lunch was served each day at the church in the shade of the oak trees. The Holy Spirit was present at each of the services.

May God's richest blessing be with all, and my prayer is, that all reached their homes safely.

Elizabeth Paschall, Secretary

**WISCONSIN REUNION NOTICE**

The Wisconsin State Reunion will be held the last week-end in August at Lima Center. This will be the 28th and 29th of August.

For the Committee,  
John E. Davies

**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.

**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