

# 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

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**O** The vainness, and the frailties, and the foolishness of men!

When they are learned, they think they are wise, and they hearken not unto the counsel of God, for they set it aside, supposing they know of themselves;

Wherefore, their wisdom is foolishness, and it profiteth them not. And they shall perish.

But to be learned is good, if they hearken unto the counsels of God.

II Nephi 6:58-61



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## ZION'S ADVOCATE

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## EDITORIAL

The world is learning more as time passes along, about balance. The farmer is learning that if he will get the most out of his farm he must balance his operation. By that he means that he must decide how much of each kind of livestock and poultry along with how much and what kind of field crops he must raise each year to bring about a minimum of expense and a maximum of income from the size farm he has.

The automobile manufacturer must learn how to balance the weight of his automobile with the power of his motor and its speed plus the gear ratio to obtain the desired speed and power he wants in his car.

We are learning that we must have a balance of fats and proteins as well as the necessary minerals in the food elements we eat if we would have healthy well nourished bodies.

We have learned that we must have a balance of the various elementary studies in our schools if we would get an education that will give us the most help in our daily walks of life.

When we study on things pertaining to Christ and His Church we must balance our learning. If we would enjoy the Gospel of Jesus Christ to its fullest we must have knowledge of the points of His doctrine, have knowledge of prophecy, have knowledge of history pertaining to God's dealings with mankind, have knowledge of the government that Christ instituted for His Church.

Likewise must the Priesthood in the Church of Christ balance their knowledge and understanding. They must understand the fundamental principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; Faith, Repentance, Baptism, Laying on of Hands, Resurrection of the Dead and Eternal Judgement. They must understand the gifts of the gospel: The Word of Wisdom, the Word of Knowledge, Faith, Gift of Healing, Working of Miracles, Prophecy, Discerning of Spirits, Divers Kinds of Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues.

They must understand the writings of the Prophets pertaining to the past, the present and the future.

They must have a knowledge and understanding of history in order to be able to show the fulfillment of prophecy. They must have a knowledge of the government of the Church of Christ, by this we mean, the officers of the Church and the duty of each one, and the laws of Christ and how they are applied.

When a farmer depends on one crop for his income and this one crop fails he will find himself in a serious position because of his lack of income.

If the automobile manufacturer should build his car with a powerful motor and a light chassis, the motor, if thrown into full power, may tear the automobile to pieces. On the other hand, if the chassis and body of the car are heavy and the motor is not powerful enough the automobile will be a failure as a vehicle.

If our diet should consist of one kind of meat and no other kind of food we eventually would become sick. If our diet should consist of one kind of vegetable and no other kind of food we again would eventually become sick. If our diet should consist of one kind of fruit or one kind of grain and no other kind of food we eventually would become sick.

If, when we went to school, we studied only one subject, when we completed our course we would not have a very broad field of knowledge. If we were called upon to figure a problem in arithmetic and our knowledge was only of spelling, we would fail to figure the problem.

If a minister for Christ makes his study and builds his sermon only on the fundamental principles of the gospel, and leaves out prophecy, history and governments, he cannot expect his ministry to be very successful. If a minister builds his sermons on and studies prophecy only and leaves out the fundamental principles of the gospel, the history necessary for proving the fulfillment of the prophecies and the government of the Church, he likewise will fall short.

The same rule applies to government, or history, pertaining to the Church. No minister, if he would serve Christ to the best of his ability, can apply his full time to one phase of the gospel of Christ and leave the others out.

We claim to be custodians of the fullness of the gospel, therefore the Ministry of the Church of Christ must be equally acquainted with every phase of His gospel. Yes, the minister of the Church of Christ must have a balanced gospel to present to all whom he contacts. If he should fail to qualify himself in one or more phases and be satisfied to remain that way, he cannot expect to hear that applaudit, "Well done".

If a person had a three-phase motor he wished to use for some particular piece of work and the power company could only furnish him with a single phase power, his motor, even though it might be the best, would be useless to him, because he lacked the two other phases which the motor required.

Some times we see people who are withholding their membership from a church because no one has explained some part of the gospel to them, and they wanted to be sure of their decision before they made it.

A. F. B.

## FROM THE MISSIONARY FIELD

### From Yucatan

We arrived here last Friday, July 23rd, after a long trip that took us by the way of New Orleans, where we had hoped to shorten our trip here by a week or more by direct trip by boat. But in this we were disappointed and had to drive all the way to Coatzacoalcos, the port of Mexico, 200 miles east of Veracruz and put our car on the train and come as far as Cam-pache by rail.

Since coming here we have been on the go constantly. Brother and Sister McIndoo had returned to the States two days before we arrived, so that he could make preparations for teaching this Fall. Sorry we missed them as we had looked forward to a happy reunion with them, as we had known and loved both of them since their childhood. We were not able to unpack our things until the 30th, and as it is things are very much in an upset, as we are not straightened up yet. Been on the go every day and night since coming here. Fernando and Brother McIndoo had been quite busy here, and there are several places wanting us to come at the same time. Yesterday July 31st, I was called on to baptize seven adults in the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico, by the request of Brother Fernando. These were the first that I have had the privilege of so administering baptism to here. There are several others who have made a similar request and we can expect a continuous trend in that direction. Work on our new church has progressed nicely, though not finished, as it has been the rainy season and they were waiting for Angela and me to come and help them decide what material to use for roofing and the floor, etc. Our present quarters for meetings is over-crowded and we here are all anxious to get into the church. We do not have the tools here to work with like at home, nor the lumber. They will have to bring in long poles, which we will have to hew and shape as best we can.

We are going to be very busy from here out. Not only preaching, teaching and writing, but building on the church. And it sure is plenty hot here in the tropics for such an effort.

Most sincerely,

Clarence L. Wheaton  
Lista de Correos  
Ticul, Yucatan, Mexico

### In the Field

Early in June we were preparing to attend the Colorado Reunion when we received a long distance call from Montfort, Wisconsin that Mr. Joseph Matthews had passed away and we were wanted to come and officiate at his funeral. Mr. Matthews was the husband of our Sister Matilda Matthews and the father of Sisters Stella Davies and Fern Sepko.

This funeral was held in the Methodist church in Montfort, and was very largely attended, the church being entirely filled. We followed our usual subject for funerals, God's loving kindness for His whole crea-

tion, and the opportunity for all mankind to sometime somewhere hear and accept the gospel. We mention this because we have just recently returned there and, in conversation with one of the business men of the village we were told that there perhaps had never been a sermon preached in that town that had elicited so much favorable comment. We trust that this may make our work better known in that community.

Returning from Wisconsin, where we remained after the funeral and visited the membership in Milwaukee on our way home we met with the saints there on Sunday and worshipped with them, it being the first Sunday in the month and consequently Communion Sunday, we made preparation to start out in our regular season's work in our field.

The first place we went was to Lamoni, Iowa where we had a very interesting time with the little group there, preaching for them on Sunday. We then made our next stop at Chambers Park, (St. Louis) where we preached three times, to a nice crowd. The Sunday service in the evening filling the church; also, on Monday evening.

Leaving St. Louis we spent the night with our Bro. Louis Boyce and wife, at Belleville, Illinois. We found Brother Boyce in a rather serious condition, almost unable to help himself. We administered to him and seemed to leave him in a much more cheerful frame of mind than we found him.

From Belleville we went directly to Puryear, Tennessee, for the reunion there. We can hardly do justice in trying to describe this meeting. It was well attended and of a very high spiritual quality. There were saints there from Wisconsin, West Virginia, and many from Missouri, especially Independence. The two Bishops Sweem and Bryant with their families from Hamilton and Cowgill lent considerable strength to the speaking force at this reunion. The wonderful southern hospitality of the small group in Puryear will ever be remembered by this missionary and his companion, and we feel that all who attended will endorse what we say here.

Upon the request of the membership there and their general missionary in charge, Apostle R. R. Robertson, we remained over the succeeding Sunday and preached a number of times. We also had the pleasure of obtaining the transfer of our esteemed Brother L. D. Wall, better known in Puryear as "The Chief," he being the village marshal, and a man of considerable influence in the community. This seems to be considered by the local membership there as quite a valuable accession to their strength. Of course, we do not claim that it was our efforts that affected this transfer, because he has been very friendly to our cause for some time; but, it did seem that an unusual type of friendship sprang up between us from the moment of our arrival there. He called on us daily, and spent long hours in profitable conversation.

Another rather unusual experience met us there that may also have rather far reaching results. Because of the very congested conditions in the home of Brother and Sister Overcast, where a very large part of the visiting membership were quartered, we made it a practice during the reunion to arise very early before

anyone else was up and so give room in the bathroom for others to make their toilet. We then took a walk till time for breakfast. So on Sunday morning on my stroll, I was accosted by a man in a car who wanted to know who I was and what was my errand in Puryear. We chatted a few minutes and then he drove off, but in a few minutes and after he had driven around the block, he again accosted me and said that his drive around the block had given him an idea, and that idea developed into a request for me to get in with him and go out to his place for breakfast. I rather demurred, because I felt it might be an imposition on his wife, but he insisted and we drove out to his home a few miles out from Puryear, and I really found an unexpected opportunity. This man, by the name of Anderson, was personnel manager at the Atom Corporation at Paducah, Kentucky, and a very well posted and intelligent man and I found his family to be of the same high quality. I was made unusually welcome by them all, and because of his qualifications, together with that of his family, who all joined in the conversation and spent an exceptionally interesting morning. We certainly covered ground on all matters pertaining to our work. These good people were Methodists but well informed and ready to discuss matters of religion. In short, it has been years since I felt that I had had a more profitable experience. This man's library included over two thousand volumes and he was familiar with their contents.

Anyhow, the upshot of it was that this entire family attended our morning service the following Sunday and the response they made to our effort was also rather unusual and he expressed himself as having been led to pick me up on that Sunday morning and was highly grateful for the information he had received. Also, his two boys said they thought they would now attend our Sunday School there. So much for, what to us, was an unusual experience and upon which we pray God's richest blessings. It also made quite an impression on the folks there, not only on our folks but also the Reorganized brethren.

Leaving Puryear we drove to Vandalia, Illinois, where there is a small group of saints, who though still members of the Reorganization, are dissatisfied and wished to contact us and our work. They take the Advocate and obtained a copy of our church history which they intend to use as a study basis. We left a number of application blanks with them and we will be quite surprised if we do not receive them filled out. A fine young man there is also a splendid candidate for baptism. We expect to follow up this lead. The main difficulty in all of the work both in Tennessee and Illinois was the intense heat. It was 114 degrees the day we were in Vandalia but a quite violent storm in the evening cooled things off nicely. The next morning we started out in the cool early morning and drove to Montfort, Wisconsin, a distance of about three hundred forty miles. This was rather more than I have been in the habit of trying to cover in a day but the weather was nice and so we took advantage of that fact and came clear through. Of course, our home there is with the John E. Davies family, all of whom have been among our dearest friends throughout the years. This, of course, includes the old time Matthews families. On Sunday, July 18th, we preached out to "The Ridge," east of Lancaster, (old time latter day saint territory,

where we have passed much of our early life's experiences). Then during the next week we drove over quite a lot of that section of the state calling on scattered members. Among these is a sister still in the Reorganization, but a life-long personal friend; her parents having been baptized the following summer after I had accepted the gospel. She bought a copy of the history also, and added to that, with her husband, she attended our Sunday meeting at the Davies home July 25th.

On Monday morning we drove up here to Sparta, Wisconsin, where we are now holding meetings almost nightly. This is where I met Sister Flint forty-three years ago.

This is the vicinity of that large military camp, Camp McCoy, one of the largest in the nation and at present our dear grandson Alexander H. Smith of Independence, a member of our home and a member of the National Guards from Kansas City, is now in training with his division. We were able to contact him and have about an hour's visit with him. This was a matter of mutual joy and satisfaction to both him, and us, his grandparents. This company is here for only two weeks, so they are returning to Kansas City and Alexander will resume his college work.

We will remain here over this coming week-end and then go on farther into the field on this side of the state and will doubtless run up to Minneapolis for a week-end while we are this close to the state line. It seems that the folks there expect us to do this, as we are all old time associates in the work. Some of them being natives of Wisconsin and we having lived for some time in that city.

We feel happy in the work and our health seems to be as good, or better than for some time. We feel that God seems to still have much work for us to do and we try to do it as well as we can and trust Him for the rest. Sister Flint, of course, accompanies me and I feel that this is now quite necessary, as she takes very good care of this old time missionary, and we pray God's blessings upon her as a most wonderful help in our work for the Master.

Apostle B. C. Flint

#### From Phoenix, Arizona

Yesterday, August 1, I held a preaching service in Prescott, Arizona, at the home of Edith McNew, who is a member of our church. There were eleven people present, all members of the church except two. After the service we went into the nearby mountains and had a picnic lunch. After the heat of the day was over, we returned to Phoenix.

Next Sunday I will talk in Sedona, Arizona. My sister, Ruth, lives there. We will meet in her home.

E. L. Yates

#### OUT OF THE MAIL SACK

From San Diego, California, Sister Irene F. Yates writes:

Dear Sisters and Brothers, I feel that I have a testimony to offer of God's goodness to me from day to

day. How He has helped me with my work and given me strength of body and comfort in my loneliness. I hope to live so that I can help those around me to know the truth of the Gospel and obey it. I have always wanted to write a few lines in memory of the hymn sung the day I was baptized 57 years ago.

#### OH HAPPY DAY

O happy day that fixed my choice;  
My soul with rapture did rejoice.  
I heard my Savior's loving call  
To follow Him forsaking all;  
And so my hand in His I place  
Content to trust His love and grace.  
Though dark my day and hard my lot  
I will but trust and murmur not;  
His wisdom's vast, His ways are sure,  
He tries our souls to make us pure;  
And so from childhood through the years  
In pleasures bright or sorrow's tears,  
I ask for wisdom to fulfill  
My time and labors to His will.  
I'll trust His love to see me through  
All earthly strife to life anew.

The following letter from our brother in Yucatan, was written to Apostle E. Leon Yates of Phoenix, Arizona.

June 29, 1954  
29#217

Ticul, Yucatan, Mexico

My dear apostle and brother in the faith of Jesus Christ, I greet you and your lovable family very affectionally and with Christian love. The object of the present is to manifest my satisfaction upon knowing that all brothers to God are praying for us. Well we are also praying to our Eternal Father for enlightening and forgiveness for our sins and for power to preach the Holy Gospel.

Well brother, not only in Dzan do we have congregations, also we have started in other places. We have congregations here in Ticul, in Pustunich and in Vayalceh; but we need a lot of things. Here in Pustunich we don't have chairs, benches or lights for the church. We make it with lent things, but at times such things are denied us. We pray to God that these necessities will be furnished to us. Brother Fernando and I are doing missionary work and with God's help we will come out victorious.

I am learning English with brother Fernando, but I hardly have time since I am working every day of the week, because if I lose a day of work we are unable to eat. Thanks be to God, my brother, that you keep on praying for us. I feel that we are united in love of Christ.

Even though we don't know each other we are united in spirit. Let us hope that some day we get to know each other, but if not, then we shall meet in the halls of our Savior's mansion.

(The above was written in Spanish; that which follows was in English).

My dear Apostle and brother in the faith of Christ. I am sorry because I can not to write in English. Am learning to speake in English. My teacher is our brother Fernando.

We are very glad because our brother Don and his wife are with us here in Yucatan, Mexico and we are waiting our brother Wheaton and our sister Angel.

Your brother in Christ,

Eusebio Yam

#### Here and There Among the Young People

Again this month the letters all had one thing in common—everyone was busy and sounded like they enjoyed it.

Glenn Gill wrote, introducing himself and his brothers, Harold and John. "We three were in Independence for the reunion last August. We enjoyed meeting some very fine Independence people and would like to come back and meet the rest of them. The meetings gave us a spiritual lift and will be long retained in our memories. We live on a farm 25 miles south of Minneapolis. The chief product of our farm is milk. However, Harold, as head of the "poultry division" is raising 500 turkeys for the second year now. John, being a good hand with machinery does most of the field work and is currently combining oats at a neighboring farm. I paint buildings at the University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station a few miles from home and will be going back to college at River Falls, Wisconsin in September. We attend church at Minneapolis where Brother Tom Maley is pastor. We have a very small group but are growing. We have just recently organized a class for young people to study—first, scriptures related to the six principles of the gospel and then prophecy dealing with these latter days and the coming forth of the Book of Mormon. There are only five of us in the class."

His nearest neighbor, writing to me, goes on with the theme of a busy life—Lovita Wentworth in Bemidji. "How do you like the weather? Plenty warm enough here for me. In the upper 80's and lower 90's every day and no rain. It rained a week ago Friday, 3½ inches and hasn't rained since (or before). Last Sunday we had a family picnic—Aunts, Uncles and Cousins by the dozens and food until you could not see straight. Vivian and Irene were home for the weekend. We are all in the middle of a mad rush—haying, berry picking, canning, and the usual work one finds on a farm. My sister Laura and I were picking berries all day. Alex and Darlene (Smith) and family were here last week and have gone out to Montana now to visit relatives."

And they certainly do not sound idle down in Yucatan. Augusto Ojeda writes, "Last night (August 1) Bro. Wheaton showed some pictures at church here in Ticul. Fernando has been trying to learn how to read music but hasn't been able to do as much as he wanted to. I'm doing my best in trying to learn more English but still cannot write a single letter by myself, that is without Fernando's help but am hoping to be able some day."

Back north to Phoenix and still they are busy. Ronnie Yates speaks for the group there. "We put on a church talent program the last week in June and the finals for the first session of summer school followed that. Second session is in its second week now; and so I'm getting settled down to new subjects and the old routine. Bruce Cobb and I are attending summer sessions at Arizona State College at Tempe. The weather has been miserably hot here the last few days. The late evenings are rather comfortable, however. We had a volleyball game and watermelon bust Saturday night last week, and the same on Friday night of the previous week. Sounds as though the St. Louis group may be much like our own. We spend most of our young people's class periods arguing about the importance of metaphysical subjects. They prove to be very interesting; but not very conventional."

And east to St. Louis, Doris Thompson says they were all busy there "preparing and looking forward to the reunion next month. I hope you can make it. None from here went to Tennessee this year but last year eight of us did. As you might already know I graduated on June 3rd. It was not nice enough to have it outside so it was held in the school auditorium on the stage. After graduating I went to the hospital (June 5th) and had my tonsils removed as I've had trouble with them for some time (ever since I can remember.) I was awake during the operation with only three shots to relieve the pain. One in the arm and one in each tonsil. To me it wasn't any worse than getting a tooth pulled. After a week's rest and vacation I began looking for some work, and I began working June 12th. I am a secretary-stenographer and I like my work so far."

I would like to take this opportunity to invite anyone who would like to join this group who try to get together through letters. Especially you young people who are isolated or in small groups, I would like to hear from, but I don't want to exclude any from the largest locals. We can become acquainted though we have never met, and we can be one group in spite of the miles.

Ella Engle  
1101 West Orchard  
Independence, Missouri

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## NEWS FROM LOCALS

### Flint, Michigan

Everyone had a very enjoyable time at the Sunday School picnic held Saturday, July 11, at Richfield Park. The day's activities included horseshoe games, soft ball playing and of course the eating of a sumptuous lunch.

The following Sunday morning, Brother George Petcoff was baptized at a beautiful ceremony. On June 20, Wanda Adams and Bob Eddy were baptized. They are members of the Y.P.C.L.

We are living in unity here and are desirous of an even greater unification as we strive to live close to God.

Winona Adams, Reporter

## Independence Diary

The activities of the Independence Local have been about as usual. Sunday morning, Sunday School; eleven o'clock, preaching. Sunday evening, prayer meeting and preaching at 7:30. Tuesday evening the priesthood meets. Wednesday night is our weekly prayer service. Thursday is the women's meeting and Thursday night the young people have their meeting.

Brother William Sheldon spoke Sunday, July 18, morning service. He spoke to us about our physical and our spiritual bodies. He told us we must have concern for our physical body, but be most concerned about our spiritual body. We should have that abundant life through obedience to Christ not only by complying with the principles of the Gospel of Christ but by bearing the fruit in our lives. In all our doing and believing let it not be a puny thing but a giant. Praise Christ through our daily living and finally find a place at the right hand of Christ.

Brother Denver Chapman spoke at the evening preaching service. He spoke of all truth being contained in the two sacred books. John 8:29, Christ speaking, "He that sent me is with me; Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." God desires that our soul be saved. We should have desire to spend eternal life with Christ.

July 25, Brother Maynard Case was the speaker at the morning service. He said we should look at ourselves to see what Spirit we are of. He referred to the abomination spoken of by Daniel. He said that we must test the Spirits, and be united on the teaching of God.

Brother Charles Reed occupied the evening preaching hour. He told us that the church organization was perfect and pleasing to God. He said priesthood today was the same as priesthood in Christ's time. Some say we can not live a perfect life today, but people of old did. Temptations and evil were present in that day also. Moroni 10:29-30, Come unto Christ and be perfect; love God; become holy without spot; unless we perfect ourselves we cannot see God.

August 1 was Sacrament Service. There were many good testimonies borne of Christ's blessings.

Richard Wheaton spoke at the 7:30 hour. He read chapter one of Zephaniah wherein it speaks of the days of wrath and destruction. He said that people worship money and material instead of religion. Why is destruction necessary? Because people will not bow down and worship God and establish Zion. He said that he hoped God would open up the way to establish refuge unto which to flee.

Brother Forest Maley spoke August 8th. His discourse was about prayer. He, too, told us that we can receive the spirit of God by living close to God. Prayer is one of the means of communicating with God. We must subject ourselves to His will. When we pray we must not demand, but ask in humility and meekness for God to fulfill our needs.

August 8th at the evening service, Brother Elmer Hunter being the speaker, spoke to us about going on to perfection. He read the second chapter of Colossians. This chapter gives instruction about sound doctrine.

Having made a covenant with the Lord in Baptism, we should continue steadfast and hold fast to the Rod of Iron. He said that the priesthood should be more diligent to teach as commanded.

John Christopher, the new little son of Brother and Sister Bill Morris of Lincoln, Nebraska, was blessed Sunday, July 25th, by Brother Vance Harris, assisted by Brother Leslie Case. They were visiting with the Harris family.

Carole Moyer has been sick for several days. She has had Quinsy.

I neglected to mention the arrival of a little baby girl to Brother and Sister Hardy Seevers on June 3. The baby was blessed by Brother Maynard Case assisted by Brother Leslie Case. The baby's name is Judith Ann.

Brother Ernie and Siser Orlea Premo have a new little boy born July 5, the baby's name is Douglas.

The Missouri reunion was held August 6, 7 and 8. Several of the folks from Independence were there. We had a very good time. We heard many good sermons. We appreciate the kindness extended to us by the St. Louis folks.

Brother Reed is not very well and I am sure he would like an interest in your prayers for him.

Brother Richard Wheaton is in the hospital where he underwent surgery. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Doris Sheldon, Reporter

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

#### From Independence

This month we have been quite busy and our attendance has picked up considerably.

On July 15 at our Church History class, we discussed some prophecies and the choosing of the Twelve in the Church.

Our pastor, Brother Leslie Case, talked to us, on July 28, about plans for obtaining a playground and equipment for the young people. We decided to sell Christmas and All-Occasion Cards in an effort to raise the necessary funds for the financing of such a project.

We held our social for the month on Friday evening, July 30, instead of on Thursday, our usual meeting day. We drove in convoy to Excelsior Springs where we had a swimming party in the outdoor pool. It was quite refreshing after the warm days we had been having.

On the first Thursday in August we had our regular Church History study. We reviewed some of the things we had already read and discussed, and also talked about several important dates in our history.

For our social, which was the evening of the second Thursday of the month, August 12, we decided on another swimming party. We drove to Excelsior Springs again and as the day had been cold and damp, this time we went into the indoor pool. Usually the water in the indoor pool is warm as it is heated;

but, something had gone wrong with the heaters and the water was cold, so our time in the water was shortened. This did not lessen the enjoyment of the evening.

Enid and Johnny Bell recently returned from Virginia where Johnny was stationed at Camp Belvoir. Johnny was on his way to Fort Lewis, Washington, which place he left August 6th for Korea. We will all be remembering Johnny in our prayers. Enid is once more residing in Independence.

Many of our young people journeyed to St. Louis for the Missouri Reunion, August 6, 7 and 8. Among them were Alice Fawn Hooker, Jack Bell, Barbara Babcock, Alice Reed, Enid Bell and myself; also, George Reed, who is in the Coast Guard. George came in by plane from the East Coast for a short leave from his duties. The young people of St. Louis certainly showed us a good time and we really appreciate their wonderful hospitality.

Gracie Bryant, from Cowgill, was a visitor at one of our Church History classes. She went with a group of us to the Reunion at St. Louis.

The summer will soon be over and I believe that all of us can say that the summer was not wasted for many new friendships have been established among God's children.

Mary Lois Harris, Reporter

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### MISSOURI REUNION

The Missouri Reunion met this year in St. Louis, Friday, August 6. It opened with a prayer meeting with Brother Alton Shankle in charge assisted by Brother Archie Bell.

Brother William Anderson of Independence was the speaker at the 11 o'clock hour. Brother Anderson spoke on the greatest commandment, "Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart." He used the quotations from the song, "What a Friend We have in Jesus," to emphasize the points in his discourse. He also brought out that we must establish the cause of Zion.

We had a very delicious dinner in Brother and Sister Shankle's back yard. All the meals of the day were held in their yard.

The evening service started with a song fest conducted by Sister Metta Anderson. Brother James M. Case of Independence was the speaker of the evening. He spoke on the History of the Church of Christ. He began with, when Christ started it. He showed what it contained. The kind of officers and their position. He used the record written by historians to show that there had been a falling away. He used prophetic references to establish the fact that the kingdom would be set up, putting emphasis on Daniel 2:37-44. He then showed how Joseph Smith was used as an instrument in restoring the gospel and setting up the kingdom. He also brought out history pertaining to the bringing forth of the Book of Mormon.

Saturday, August 7, started with a prayer meeting. Brother L. V. Aldrich of Sulphur Springs, Arkansas, assisted by Brother Leroy Wheaton of Independence.

(continued on page 142)

## 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.

### ARE WE READY TO LIVE UNDER THE LAW OF CONSECRATION AND DO AWAY WITH TITHING?

**READ FIRST:**—Alma 9:37, etc., to 10:1-17. Because Adam and Eve transgressed the first commandments as to things which were temporal, they placed themselves in a state to act according to their wills and pleasures; knowing good and evil. Therefore, God gave them commandments, after having made known unto them the plan of redemption which had been prepared from the foundation of the world, through his only begotten Son, that whosoever repents shall have claim through him, unto a remission of their sins. So, this gave unto man a time to prepare to meet God; a probationary state; a space granted unto man in which he might repent. This preparation to enter into the rest of God was prepared according to his word.

Alma says in chapter 9:62, "And again: my brethren, I would cite your minds FORWARD to the time which the Lord God gave these commandments unto his children." (See verses 51-60).

We have an example in Christ having to go through a preparatory state before he accomplished his mission in establishing the plan of redemption among men. God could have sent him as a man to establish the plan of redemption; but, he did not. Therefore, we have the example in Christ to start with; **THE PREPARATORY STATE.**

Christ established the plan of redemption through **GOD CALLING HIM TO BE A HIGH PRIEST AFTER THE ORDER OF MELCHISEDEC**, IT being after the order of his Son, which order was from the foundation of the world, without beginning of days or ending of years; prepared from eternity to all eternity, according to his foreknowledge of all things. Those priests who were ordained after the order of the Son were an example of what the people had to look forward to, **IN CHRIST, AS THE SON**, for redemption. This holy calling was prepared from the foundation of the world, for such as would not harden their hearts, through the atonement of Christ. In other words, the people were to look forward to Christ for redemption, the same as it had been given to the high priesthood after the holy order of God, who taught His commandments unto men, that **THEY ALSO** might enter into his rest. Those high priests, of whom there were many, before and after Melchisedec, were called to this holy order because of their righteousness; and, they were sanctified through the Holy Ghost and their garments were washed white through the blood of the Lamb. This Melchisedec was so much greater than Abraham that even the patriarch Abraham paid tithes of one-tenth part of all he possessed to Melchisedec.

Alma says in 10:9, 10, that these **ORDINANCES** were given after this manner, that the people who were looking forward to Christ's coming for a remission of their sins; that they might enter into the rest of the

Lord. Would not these have to be the ordinances of the gospel? The gospel was preached unto Abraham (Gal. 3:7-9); and, unto the Jews were committed the oracles of God (Rom. 3:2); Oracles and ordinances: A divine command; a law or command of God.

Take notice of Alma's closing words in verses 16, 17, of chapter 10. "Now I need not rehearse the matter; what I have said, may suffice. Behold, the scriptures are before you; if ye will wrest them it shall be to your own destruction."

Genesis 28:13-15. When Isaac blessed Jacob and sent him out to take a wife, he tarried at a certain place overnight, and he had a dream. The Lord said to Jacob: "I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; and thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth," etc., "And in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land, for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of."

Notice, the Lord makes a promise to Jacob first. When Jacob awoke from sleep, he also had a **SPIRITUAL AWAKENING**. He said: "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I knew it not." He was filled with fear and dread, realizing that the Lord was there in that place. He said: "This is none other but the house of God, and this is the **GATE OF HEAVEN**." Notice what it says, **HOUSE OF GOD—GATE OF HEAVEN!** He took the stone he had used for a pillow, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon it, and he called the name of the place Bethel (which is: **HOUSE OF GOD**). Here we have a type of Christ and his anointing (see Gen. 49:24; I Cor. 10:1-4; Luke 4:14-22; Isa. 61). Because of the promise Jacob received from God, he vowed a vow, etc. He in turn promised to give a tenth of all that the Lord would give him.

III Nephi 11 and 12—Christ said in III Nephi 11:29, "These scriptures which ye had not with you, **THE FATHER COMMANDED THAT I SHOULD GIVE UNTO YOU**, for it was wisdom in him that they should be given unto future generations." Nephi says that not even a hundredth part of the things which Jesus did truly teach unto the people could be written in this book, etc., Chapter 12:2-4. "These things have I written, which are a lesser part of the things which he (Jesus) taught the people; and I have written them to the intent that they may be brought again unto this people, **FROM THE GENTILES, ACCORDING TO THE WORDS WHICH JESUS HATH SPOKEN. AND WHEN THEY SHALL HAVE RECEIVED THIS, WHICH IS EXPEDIENT THAT THEY SHALL HAVE FIRST, TO TRY THEIR FAITH, AND IF IT SHALL SO BE THAT THEY SHALL BELIEVE THESE THINGS, THEN SHALL THE GREATER THINGS BE MADE MANIFEST UNTO THEM. AND IF IT SO BE THAT THEY WILL NOT BELIEVE THESE THINGS, THEN SHALL THE GREATER THINGS**



BE WITHHELD FROM THEM, UNTO THEIR CONDEMNATION." Nephi says he was about to write all which was upon the plates of Nephi, but the Lord forbid it, saying: "I WILL TRY THE FAITH OF MY PEOPLE."

Doc. and Cov. 64:5, 6; Book of Commandments 65:30-43. "Behold, NOW IT IS CALLED TODAY, AND VERILY IT IS A DAY OF SACRIFICE, AND A DAY FOR THE TITHING OF MY PEOPLE; . . . FOR AFTER TODAY COMETH THE BURNING." Compare this with Mal. 3 and 4; and Heb. 3. ". . . ALL THINGS MUST COME TO PASS IN ITS TIME; WHEREFORE BE NOT WEARY IN WELL DOING, FOR YE ARE LAYING THE FOUNDATION OF A GREAT WORK, AND OUT OF SMALL THINGS PROCEEDETH THAT WHICH IS GREAT."

We must remember, the promise of Christ was according to the flesh; also, the covenant. (Acts 2:29-31; Rom. 1:3; Gen. 17:9-21, etc.; II Nephi 7:1-4). We know, in Christ, circumcision had an end (Gal. 5:1-6). And we know Christ came to fulfill the law; but, he said: "Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. WHOSOEVER THEREFORE SHALL BREAK ONE OF THESE LEAST COMMANDMENTS, AND SHALL TEACH MEN SO, HE SHALL BE CALLED THE LEAST IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN: BUT WHOSOEVER SHALL DO AND TEACH THEM, THE SAME SHALL BE CALLED GREAT IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN (Matthew 5:17-19)." The covenant is not all fulfilled yet (III Nephi 7:1-12).

By this time we must realize that tithing did not originate in the Law of Moses; for, if we are to believe the scripture, we must believe it was part of the gospel that was taught to Abraham (Gal. 3:7-9). We have a record of the ordinances that were done away with; and no longer was anyone bound to keep the law, for that ruling power was overcome by faith in Christ. But there were ordinances of divine service that have not been done away with yet, until the covenant is completely fulfilled. In Matt. 5:17, Christ says: "I am not come to destroy the law, but to fulfill." And none of it shall be done away with until ALL is fulfilled. We are told plainly by Paul that the law was added because of transgressions, etc. But nowhere can we find that tithing was added or taken away.

Can we say that out of the many priests ordained, before and after Melchisedec, that he was the only one who received tithes? No, for the scriptures says it is an unchangeable priesthood. And when Christ came he restored that priesthood; it cannot be changed, if so, then God's word can be changed. In Heb. 7, and in numerous places in the Old Testament, we have an example of the sons of Levi taking tithes ACCORDING TO THE LAW. We are also told how tithes were taken according to the MELCHISEDEC PRIESTHOOD. TITHES WERE TAKEN AFTER THE ORDER OF EACH PRIESTHOOD. HERE, MEN THAT RECEIVE TITHES, ARE SUBJECT TO DEATH; and they were many, before and after Melchisedec. Let us take particular notice of verse 8. "And here men that die receive tithes (here on earth, is the place where men die); but there He receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth (Christ is in heaven, and was, when Paul wrote this)," and he says that Christ receives them (tithes) of those who were witnesses that he arose from the dead,

and that he lives. Who are those witnesses? We have the answer in Acts 1:1-9, and 10:38-43. THE APOSTLES THAT CHRIST CHOSE. SO, CHRIST RECEIVES TITHES THROUGH THE APOSTLES. Judas held the office of bishop (Acts 1:20).

"In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established (II Cor. 13:1)." We have three witnesses besides Christ: (1) PAUL, AS AN APOSTLE TO THE GENTILES (Rom. 11:13; Acts 9:10-16); (2) Nephi, one of the 12 disciples that Christ chose; (3) and Alma, as a priest after the order of the Son of God. Each of these men point us forward to the same thing in Christ: TITHING.

There was only one plan of redemption laid. . . . We Gentiles must follow that plan; for we have to go through the same preparatory state. In Gal. 3, we are told that Christ was made a curse, that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles; that we might receive the promise of the spirit through faith.

There were poor saints spoken of by Paul, Rom. 15:25-28; II Cor. 8:1-15 with Ex. 16:13-18; compare these chapters very carefully. In verse 36, an omer is the tenth part of an ephah (e-fah); notice verses 32-34.

II Nephi 11:58-59. Nephi says, "After Christ shall have risen from the dead, he shall shew himself unto you, my children, and my beloved brethren; AND THE WORDS WHICH HE SHALL SPEAK UNTO YOU, SHALL BE THE LAW WHICH YE SHALL DO."

The plan of redemption was laid from the foundation of the world; but, because the children of Israel had gone away from the ordinances that God had given to their fathers, they were cursed. The cause of that curse was: THEY HAD ROBBED GOD IN FAILING TO PAY TITHES AND OFFERINGS. STUDY THESE WORDS OF MALACHI WHICH BECAME THE WORDS OF CHRIST WHEN HE GAVE THEM TO THE NEPHITES.

Are the saints afraid to test God's words? If so, it is the lack of faith which Christ speaks of in III Nephi 12:5.

Paul, in Heb. 5:5, etc.; speaking of Christ being called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec: ". . . Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, SEEING YE ARE DULL OF HEARING; FOR WHEN FOR THE TIME YE AUGHT TO BE TEACHERS, YE HAVE NEED THAT ONE TEACH YOU AGAIN WHICH BE THE FIRST PRINCIPLES OF THE ORACLES OF GOD; AND ARE BECOME SUCH AS HAVE NEED OF MILK, AND NOT OF STRONG MEAT. FOR EVERYONE THAT USETH MILK IS UNSKILFUL IN THE WORD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, FOR HE IS A BABE. BUT STRONG MEAT BELONGETH TO THEM THAT ARE OF FULL AGE, EVEN THOSE WHO BY REASON OF USE HAVE THEIR SENSES EXERCISED TO DISCERN BOTH GOOD AND EVIL."

In Acts 2:41, etc., and 4:32, etc., we have an example of what it will be like when the saints are gathered in one, and are of one heart and one soul. This is a condition we saints have to look forward to when we are prepared for it.

Doc. and Cov. 52:1; Book of Commandments 54:1. The Lord speaks of a future time that he will consecrate this land unto his people, which are a remnant of

Jacob, etc. (See III Nephi 9:46-59).

Here is a list of four FIRST things we must remember:

- (1). We must go through a preparatory state.
- (2). Do the things of today, then comes the things of tomorrow.
- (3). Small things, then the great things.
- (4). The milk, then the meat.

"PROVE ALL THINGS; HOLD FAST THAT WHICH IS GOOD." I Thess. 5:21.

Lucinda Scott

### A GOD OF MIRACLES

By Elder E. L. Yates

Scripture reading: Book of Mormon, verses 75 to 82, page 711.

Once upon a time there was a small boy who attended the local churches in his neighborhood. Some taught one thing and some taught another. He became confused.

After reading James 1:5, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." He went into the woods and prayed. At which time two personages appeared to him. One said to the other, "This is my beloved son, hear ye him."

At this point in telling this story people will look at you as though you were touched in the head. "Angels appear to men now days? Pooh!"

He was told to join no church, that all their creeds were an abomination in His (God's) sight. That they drew nigh with their lips but their hearts were far from him.

He told a local minister of his experience. The minister said it was from the Devil, that all visions were done away. Now here is a strange thing. A man professes himself to be a minister of the gospel, denying the power of God to perform a miracle, and yet in the same breath confessing that the Devil had power to perform such a miracle. Let me state that I, the writer of this article, believe in, and preach a God of miracles.

The boy testified to the world that from time to time angels, or heavenly messengers appeared unto him. He states that on September 21, 1823, a personage appeared unto him and stated that he was Moroni. (Those who have read the Book of Mormon will recognize him as the last man who wrote in the ancient record). This messenger told the boy of the ancient record, and the fullness of the gospel which was written thereon. And he told him also of an ancient instrument called the Urim and Thummim to be used to interpret the ancient record.

At this point in the story some listeners are convinced that those who believe such are crazy. Therefore, I will proceed no further with this story, but let me ask this question. "Do you believe in a God of miracles?" If you do not, and yet profess to be a Christian,

you do not know what the word Christian means.

Dear reader—because of the length of the scripture it is not here quoted, but you will do well to read from the Book of Moroni the recorded word of the very messenger who appeared unto the small boy, Joseph Smith. This is found in the Book of Moroni—verses 27 to 42. Page 766 of the Book of Mormon.

Some will say, "This Urim and Thummim—I can not go for that." If you can not go for this, you can not go for the Bible. The word, "Urim," is listed five times in your Bible concordance. Also, two columns are given to the word, "Thummim." If you are in doubt as to whether this instrument was used in Bible times, I refer you to the second chapter of Ezra, verse 63.

Revelation from God to man, in any manner, is a miracle. According to Christ's own words, he would build his church upon that rock—(revelation).

When Joseph Smith founded the Church of Christ in 1830, it was the only church in the world that claimed to be organized by the direct Spirit of Revelation. If the Church of Christ is on earth today, it could not possibly have come into being except by miraculous birth.

The church in which I have been called of God to preach the gospel, was born through the miracle of Revelation by the Spirit of an unchangeable God. The Church of Christ today enjoys the gifts that were promised: Prophecies, Dreams, Visions, Healings, Tongues, Interpretations and many others.

Anyone denying the fact that it is possible to have these spiritual gifts today as in days of old, has not read the scripture, or does not understand them.

I quote from the Book of Mormon, chapter 4, page 710, verses 66 to 69, "And again I speak unto you, who deny the revelations of God, and say that they are done away, that there are no revelations, nor prophecies, nor gifts, nor healing, nor speaking with tongues, and the interpretation of tongues. Behold I say unto you, he that denieth these things, knoweth not the gospel of Christ; yea, he has not read the scriptures; if so he does not understand them. For do we not read that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever; and in him there is no variableness neither shadow of changing. And now, if we have imagined up unto yourselves a God who doth vary, and in him there is shadow of changing, then have ye imagined up unto yourselves a God who is not a God of miracles."

Now we shall read some of the last recorded words of the Moroni who appeared unto Joseph Smith—words that were written just before he hid up the record, to be hid from the eyes of the world for so many years.

Book of Moroni—Chapter 10—Verse 8 to 14—Page 775, "And again I exhort you, my brethren, that ye deny not the gifts of God, for they are many; and they come from the same God. And there are different ways that these gifts are administered; but it is the same God who worketh all in all and they are given by the manifestations of the spirit of God unto men, to profit them. For behold, to one is given by the spirit of God, that he may teach the word of wisdom; and to another, that he may teach the word of knowledge by the same spirit; and to another exceeding great faith;

and to another, the gifts of healing by the same spirit. And again, to another, that he may work mighty miracles; and again to another, that he may prophesy concerning all things; and again to another, the beholding of angels and ministering spirits; and again, to another, all kinds of tongues; and again, to another, the interpretation of languages and of divers kinds of tongues. And all these gifts come by the spirit of Christ; and they come unto every man severally, according as his will. And I would exhort ye my beloved brethren, that ye remember that every good gift cometh of Christ. And I would exhort you, my beloved brethren, that ye remember that he is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and that all these gifts of which I have spoken, which are spiritual, never will be done away, even as long as the world shall stand, only according to the unbelief of the children of men."

Yes, we believe in a God of miracles, and an unchangeable God. Men are living. Men are living in the very midst of miracles—the sunlight has the power of life and death—seeds from the same earth have the power to produce after their own kind. The flower, and the thorn bush grow side by side, drawing from the same earth to build after its own kind.

Miracles? God is the author of miracles.

No one will ever believe the gospel of Christ unless he first believes in miracles. When men come in contact with the story of Christ's church restored on earth, they will not be able to comprehend its greatness as long as they doubt God's miraculous power, and his unchangeableness.

In the ninth chapter of Acts, we find the story of Saul. There is a lesson in this chapter. Saul did not believe, he was a doubter of miracles, but Christ, through a miracle, caused him to believe. But men should not have to be struck to earth, and blinded, as was Saul, before they will believe.

Any man can start a church. And many men have, until today we have many churches. But no man could organize Christ's church on earth unless he were chosen of God to do so, and then, only through the miraculous power of revelation.

I quote a modern day revelation taken from the Book of Commandments—Page 4—verses 4 and 5. "Wherefore I the Lord, knowing the calamity which should come upon the inhabitants of the earth, called upon my servant Joseph, and spake unto him from heaven, and gave him commandments; and also gave commandments to others, that they should proclaim these things unto the world, and all this that it might be fulfilled, which was written by the prophets: the weak things of the world should come forth and break down the mighty and strong ones; that man should not counsel his fellow man, neither trust in the arm of flesh, but that every man might speak in the name of God, the Lord, even the Savior of the world; that faith also might increase in the earth; that mine everlasting covenant might be established; that the fullness of my gospel might be proclaimed by the weak and the simple, unto the ends of the world; and before kings and rulers. Behold I am God and have spoken it: these commandments are of me, and were given unto my servants in their weakness, after the manner of their language, that

they might come to understanding; and inasmuch as they erred, it might be made known; and inasmuch as they sought wisdom they might be instructed; and inasmuch as they sinned, they might be chastened, that they might repent; and inasmuch as they were humble, they might be made strong, and blessed from on high, and receive knowledge from time to time: after they, have received the record of the Nephites; yea, even my servant Joseph might have power to translate through the mercy of God, by the power of God, the Book of Mormon: and also, those to whom these commandments were given, might have power to lay the foundation of this church, and to bring it forth out of obscurity, and out of darkness, the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth, with which I the Lord am well pleased, speaking unto the church collectively and not individually, for I the Lord cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance: nevertheless he that repenteth and doeth the commandments of the Lord, shall be forgiven, and he that repenteth not from him shall be taken even the light which he hath received, for my spirit shall not always strive with man, saith the Lord of hosts."

The above is modern day revelation from God to man—a miracle, if you please.

It was given that we might have understanding—that if we erred it might be made known; and if we sought wisdom, we might have instruction; if we sinned, we might be chastened and that we might repent; and if we be humble, we might be made strong and receive instruction from on high from time to time.

Remember that it was Christ who said, "Upon this rock I shall build my church." These things are not fairy tales, but if you do not believe in a God of miracles, you might as well read Aesop's Fables.

If you are in doubt, yet hunger and thirst after righteousness, go into your closet and after you have shut the door, think well on these words, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

#### SERMON BY BROTHER CHAS. REED

SCRIPTURE READING: MATTHEW 13:47-50.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:

Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.

So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,

And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

Tonight I have no apologies to offer for being your speaker. It was not my choice. Being obedient, as the scripture says, to the powers that be. Our pastor asked me to be the speaker, therefore I am here.

In chapter 14 of St. John and verse 15 we read:

"If ye love me keep my commandments."

Jesus the Christ spoke these words. And when he did so he did not mean just part of his commandments but all of them. For Christ never did anything by halves, he went all the way.

Tonight I hope I shall be permitted to bring to you some thoughts that will be both edifying and educational, the Lord being willing. Sometime ago, oh, not so long ago, just a few short weeks, some of us here were privileged to meet with those good folks in Puryear, Tennessee. I am quite sure that each one that attended that reunion will bear a testimony in the affirmative, that we had a wonderful time.

As I was doing a little bit of studying along the lines of what I might be able to present tonight, a thought came to me I heard some time ago in a sermon. At the outset of his discourse the brother made this remark; "There are none of us perfect as yet, if we were I am quite sure we would not be here."

Now with that statement I want to say this, concerning it. Part of it I believe, part of it I do not. And I spoke to the good brother today, and told him that I was going to refer to that in his sermon. He said, "Very well, I do not have any copyright on my sermons. Neither does anyone else except Christ." That was a very good attitude, a good answer. But I want to say this in regard to that statement. I agree with the good brother, that none of us are perfect as yet, but I can not agree with him on the last half, that if we were we would not be here; Because, I find that in the scriptures, that numerous men of the past, even back before the flood and after, men have become perfect and remained on earth to do a work for God. We are commanded in chapter 5 of Matthew and in verse 48, Jesus speaking:

"Be ye therefore perfect as your father in heaven is perfect." That my friends was a commandment of the Son of God.

"If ye love me keep my commandments."

It is possible to reach that stage of perfection and yet remain on the earth to do work for God. Men have done it. Later on I will prove that statement by the scripture.

We heard this morning a sermon among sermons. I might say, at least in my estimation. Repeating the question that is often asked, Of what spirit are we? If we are the children of God with membership in the Church of Christ, and as we have been taught and have learned, the church upon earth, not its individual members, but the church, then the organization is a perfect organization and is pleasing in the sight of God.

In the very beginning, I might say this, that the crux of the restoration hinged upon the very thought that the Son of God told a young man when he went to pray; when he made inquiry as to what church he should join, the Master said, join none of them, because their creeds are an abomination in my sight. Has there been any change along that line in the past 124 years? I have not been able in my time with the Restoration to locate many changes. They still declare the same creeds. That being the case, aren't they in the same condition now as they were then? And if so the Lord

said he would set up a kingdom upon this earth, and that kingdom would be pleasing in the sight of God. If he set it up, it had to be, because he made no mistakes. And looking at the situation that way, then it must needs be according to his commandments that we as children of His, must endeavor to come to that state of perfection whereunto he has declared. And if we do not, well, I am quite confident that you all know the answer to that. But if we as children of Christ desire to have part in that which is to come, it is vitally necessary that we strive diligently to reach that state of perfection that the Master has commanded us to reach.

This being the church that Christ set up on earth when he was here, and having gone into apostasy as the scriptures and history teach us, and then at the end of a period of time set by God, this church came out of the wilderness and was again brought forth among the children of men in this day and time. It is the same church that was organized by Christ. If it were not, history would be wrong, scriptures would be wrong, and all else would be wrong. But thank God it is right.

You have often heard the statement that figures never tell a lie. According to the historians, many of them, the church went into apostasy in 570 or thereabout. In chapter 12 of Revelation we read where the church went into the wilderness for a period of time. One thousand two hundred and three score days, or 1,260 days. Adding those two groups of figures together, what does it add up to? 570 plus 1,260, the way I figure it, comes out 1830. Had it come out any other way it would not have been right.

All of the prophets, or most of them, somewhere along the line have spoken concerning this thing. That the gospel would be restored; that it would go into apostasy and then be restored. And we also have that which tells us that never again will the priesthood be taken from the earth.

I would like to make another remark concerning a thought that has been presented to me. Was the gospel restored, or was just the priesthood restored? Take the priesthood away from the church and what have we? What kind of a gospel do we have? What kind of gospel did they have when the young man went into the woods to pray? They had that which was not pleasing to God. I firmly believe that the gospel of Jesus Christ that we as a ministry uphold today, is the same that was delivered unto man by the Son of God. I firmly believe that. And that being so, then it is necessary for us to qualify for those promises that were made to us by the Master of men. They are recorded not only in the Bible but also in the Book of Mormon.

I was speaking a little bit ago concerning perfection. I believe that we as the children of Christ are deeply interested in the thought that we are very desirous of being among those that will be chosen as children of the Master when he comes. That being true, then it is necessary that, as I said in the beginning, we observe all of the commandments of Christ. But I will say this. If we hope to achieve our goal we can not take just a part which suits us and go along with it and none other and hope to obtain eternal life. The only way possible to obtain eternal life is to obey all of the commandments of Jesus Christ that were given

by His Father. Therefore it is necessary, vitally necessary, that we strive diligently to come to that state of perfection whereby God would be pleased with us. As I said before, men have done it, and what men have done before, can be done again, through faith in God, through prayer, striving to do the things that God would have us to do.

Someone might say it is impossible though, Brother Reed, to live a perfect life today. Is it? I ask you, is it? What is different about living a perfect life today than it was hundreds of years ago?

Ever since God ejected Adam and Eve from the garden, sin has been among men. They have had their trials, their temptations, equally as much as we do today. Oh, someone might say, well they did not have all of the things around them like we have. As far as they were concerned at that time, and as far as we are concerned today, evil is evil, righteousness is righteousness. There has been a fight between the two ever since our first parents left the garden of Eden. And so it will be until Christ puts every enemy under his feet. So we can not wait for a better opportunity. Today is the day of salvation, says the scripture, and now is the accepted time.

If we as a church expect to accomplish the things that God has required at our hands, then it is going to be necessary for us to make the first move. We must prepare ourselves and place ourselves on the road to perfection. It can not be done? Well, the apostle Paul said in chapter 6 of Hebrews and in verse one:

"Therefore leaving the principles of the gospel of Christ let us go on to (what) perfection."

I do not think Paul made a mistake in this quotation. I do not think he spoke out of turn. No. In chapter 4 of Ephesians and about verse 13, we find more concerning perfection, in telling us how long the officers of the church would remain; till we all become perfect. Oh, that's different isn't it. There is a possibility then of us becoming perfect. Oh, I don't think as soon as we reach that stage that we will be taken away immediately for fear we would not remain in that state. No I do not think that at all. The scriptures do not indicate that, but they do indicate something different. That we have a work to do, and only we of the Church of Christ can accomplish that particular work.

There are a few more things that I want to say. One of them is this. I want to ask again, and quote from the question so many times asked: "Of what spirit are we?" I believe it is high time that we were taking note of the mile posts that we are passing by. As someone coined the phrase, "It's later than you think." Procrastination is a thief of time. Five of the ten virgins procrastinated getting oil for their lamps, and what happened? Oh, they were left outside. It is possible, friends, for us to reach perfection and work for Christ.

The scriptures that I have used thus far have all come from the Bible. Now there are a couple, just two of them I am interested in at this time from the Book of Mormon, III Nephi 5; last half of verse 92.

"Therefore I would that ye should be perfect even

as I, or your Father who is in heaven is perfect."

In reading this, you will recall that it was similar to what I quoted to you from Matthew 5:48 only in this reading the Master of men referred to himself as well as the Father. In Matthew it does not read that way. Be that as it may, it still is a commandment of Christ. And if we love him, then we will keep his commandments, and by so doing, as the scripture puts it, we shall learn, here a little, there a little, line upon line, precept upon precept, until we can come to the state of perfection. When we do that; when we reach that stage of service before God, then, my friends, will you see things happen, that never happened before. Then will we be blessed with blessings that are almost unbelievable. But as long as doubt and malice and enmity, yes, and even hatred (I dislike that word very much. Especially among the children of Christ, because it should not be there. There are several words equally as obnoxious to me as hatred. I know that there is jealousy. These things ought not to be) remain we shall never reach perfection. It is up to us whether or not we wish to reach perfection. It is all up to us. I cannot answer for you, neither can you answer for me. Each individual must answer for his own sins. And you know that I am glad that it is that way.

Reading in chapter 10 of Moroni beginning with verse 29. We shall read verses 29 and 30.

"Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind and strength then is his grace sufficient for you, that by his grace ye may be perfect in Christ; and if by the grace of God ye are perfect in Christ, ye can in no wise deny the power of God.

And again, if ye, by the grace of God, are perfect in Christ, and deny not his power, then are ye sanctified in Christ by the grace of God, through the shedding of the blood of Christ, which is in the covenant of the Father, unto the remission of your sins, that ye become holy without spot."

I do not think that that scripture needs much comment. I think it speaks for itself. It carries with it the thought that we can come to that state of perfection and only by so doing can we hope to enter into the presence of God. Now there is one more statement, one more scripture, that I wish to call. I told you in the beginning that I would prove something, maybe yes, maybe no, maybe all people don't look at this as I do. But that doesn't change the scripture. As a man once said in a debate; he had read a passage of scripture and he said, "Thank God it is still there." The scripture I want to use in closing you will find in chapter 6, verse 9 of Genesis.

"These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God."

See what I mean? He was a perfect man in his generation and he lived 950 years. The history tells us that nothing much was known or heard of Noah until he was 500 years old. Sometime during the time between the 500 years and the 950 years he perfected himself and walked with God pleasing in his sight. I

I did not have the thought, I should have done it. I should have looked up how old Noah was when he built the ark. And when he preached for 120 years. He had time to perfect himself didn't he? So do we. Unless we perfect ourselves we will not be able to enter into the presence of God because the scripture plainly says that God cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance. Rather a hard row isn't it? But that is the way it is. It is still there. I did not put it there. We must keep the commandments of Christ if we love him.

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### MISSOURI REUNION

(continued from page 135)

Brother John Sweem of Hamilton was the speaker of the 11 o'clock hour. He spoke on the door to the kingdom of heaven. He brought out an example using the fundamental principle of the gospel as the combination lock on the door. Turn the combination one way to faith, back to repentance, forward to baptism and back to laying on of the hands. He said when the combination was properly worked it would unlock the door to the kingdom of God. He brought out the quotation that Christ was the door.

After preaching service we went to Sister and Brother Shankle's back yard for dinner. It was very enjoyable.

In the afternoon they held the business meeting at 2:30. The decision was reached to invite all locals of the district to join together for the 1955 reunion. There are at present six locals in this district.

Following the business meeting we went to the Alton Dam for the baptism of Sue Heidleburg and Jessie Clark of St. Louis. Elder Alton Shankle baptized them. It was really wonderful and a beautiful day for the baptism. May God bless you both.

After the baptism we went back to Brother and Sister Shankle's for supper.

In the evening before the preaching service, Sister Heidleburg and Sister Clark were confirmed. Brother Anderson and Brother Bryant confirmed Sister Heidleburg. Brother Vance Harris and Brother Richard Wheaton confirmed Sister Clark. Then in a formal manner every one extended the right hand of fellowship.

After Sister Heidleburg and Sister Clark were confirmed we went into the preaching service; Brother William Sheldon as our speaker. He spoke on the thoughts concerning the fall of man and the life and death of our spirit.

After the preaching service the young people held a short meeting to decide where to go Sunday afternoon. They decided to go to Chain of Rocks park.

Sunday, August 8, Brother Aldrich of Sulphur Springs, Arkansas was the speaker of the morning. He spoke on the sure word of God. He brought out a good many quotations from prophecy and he proved their fulfillment by happenings of history. One was the foretelling of Christ: Isa. 9:6. Another was the coming forth of the Book of Mormon as spoken of in Isaiah,

29th chapter where it speaks of after the coming forth of the book speaking out of the dust, only a few years would elapse until Lebanon would be a fruitful field. He showed us from history that the former and latter rains returned to Palestine in 1852 and 1853; about a quarter century after the coming forth of the Book of Mormon. He then spoke of the revelation of 1864 to return to Missouri in 1867. He showed us from history that this was fulfilled.

Brother Sprague was the speaker of the 11 o'clock hour. He emphasized that we should be honest with ourself in putting out of our lives the things that should not belong there.

The speaker of the afternoon service was Brother Leroy Wheaton. His theme was the fact that from the days of Noah until now the Lord has used a remnant to carry forth His work. From the beginning the Lord has commanded His people to replenish the earth and subdue it. This commandment is still in effect.

After the afternoon service, the young people left for Chain of Rocks.

Brother and Sister Shankle served supper at their house.

The evening service started with a song fest, conducted by Sister Enid Bell. We made our own selections. Brother Archie Bell was our speaker for the last preaching service of the reunion. He spoke on this gospel of the kingdom, that the people of the earth are going to be pushed together by the word of the Lord which is the sword of His mouth rather than by the military sword. The Lord is going to use from Ephraim and Manasseh as Joseph to push the people together in the last days. Manasseh are the descendants of Lehi and Ephraim are the English speaking Gentiles. The Lord will use His kingdom which was set up in 1830 to bring about His purposes of restoring all of His people to the lands of their inheritance. His servants shall be few but they shall labor with all their might. They shall labor having been endued with the power from heaven and they shall preach the gospel of the kingdom not only in word but in power and the holy ghost, and with much assurance.

On Sunday we had a record attendance for as long as the building has been established. We had three states represented; Iowa, Arkansas, Missouri. We had planned on having Sunday School at 9:30 Sunday morning but because of the record attendance we felt it would be better to have a speaker than try to conduct classes.

Edith Frey

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### BY MEDITATION AND PRAYER

Whilst you vision earth's travailing,  
 Whilst you view developments  
 Of the plan of ages, swelling  
 To bear fruit of God's intents,  
 Know that Israel and prophets  
 Saw with wondering surprise  
 As thou seest now enacted,  
 Passing onward 'fore thy eyes.

Centuries in passing gave their  
Soils and elements to growth,  
Continents to nations giving  
Place for nurture of its truth,  
Waiting, waiting till the harvest  
Time prolonged, draws together  
Sifted out and shaken sorely,  
All are known to God the Father.

Fret thee not, knowing that His will  
Will be done as He has planned;  
Though the works of man may hinder  
And delay; His mighty hand  
Is stretched out to hold in safety  
As He wills, though man defies  
Every law He gave, and broken  
'Neath their feet His intent lies.

Mightily, as thou hast visioned  
In the past years, He will move  
To the 'complishment of His purpose,  
Yet, He will His own preserve;  
Jacob's seed of promise, think you,  
Planted, shall uprooted be?  
Nay, and gathered, they shall bring forth  
A fit off'ring to Me.

Judah's dispersed, and the scattered  
Ones to islands of the seas,  
Shall together yield their homage  
Fulfilling their Lord's decrees;  
Judah shall not reap destruction  
Yielding to their deathless urge,  
Though they shall be greatly troubled  
These will sing the Arab's dirge.

Favored Abram's seed must, gathered  
To his promised her'tage be;  
For my promise, to Me voided  
Shall not return; thou wilt see;  
Yet 'tis given to My people,  
That in yielding righteousness  
They shall lift up love's petitions—  
Israel's cause that I will bless.

Many designated Israel,  
Of the Gentiles adopted,  
Bound in spirit now are pleading  
That my hast'ning time be sped,  
And by faith their long entreating  
Shall prevail; and Israel  
A united nation 'stablished  
Shine a light upon a hill.

See th' footsteps of The Eternal  
O'er the sands of time now run,  
See the prophets' aged predictions  
Fulfilling beneath the sun  
Sinking near the eve's horizon,  
See the labors unperformed,  
Must be taken in the hands of  
Many, that all men be warned.

For the signs, so long foretold  
Are revealed before men's eyes,  
Making place for the advance of  
Ling'ring filling of the dies  
Cast in the mind of Creation;  
Hidden things be brought to light  
As the wise will of the Father  
Shall break up the powers and might.

Of the minnions of all darkness;  
This His glory and delight;  
Search the Scriptures full of promise  
And be of a gladsome heart,  
Trusting to thy God the future,  
(He turns not from wisdom's ways),  
In His arm is power unweakened—  
He is the Ancient of Days.

May 30, 1848

### SWEET COMMUNION

When you woke from sleep this morning,  
Though the hour was rather late,  
Did you stop to speak with Jesus,  
And His benediction wait?  
Did you thank Him for His mercy,  
For His care through all the night,  
That no evil had befallen,  
That no tears now dim your sight?

Did you ask Him for the blessing  
Of His presence through the day,  
For His leading safely onward,  
For His guiding, lest you'd stray?  
Did you tell Him that you'd gladly  
Go wherever He should lead;  
That you'd try to do His bidding,  
Helping every soul in need?

If you go without these blessings  
As you start another day,  
Be assured your strength will fail you,  
And you'll faint along the way.  
O, live closer to the Master;  
For unless you're very near,  
Words of love He whispers to you  
Will not reach your listening ear.

—Selected.

### FIRST TO CAST A STONE

If there's one who often falters  
By the wayside in despair,  
Seems unusual his short comings,  
Do you hold him up in PRAYER?  
If the weak should stumble, brethren,  
If he cannot stand alone,  
Let the PERFECT one among you  
Be the first to throw a stone.

If so often he has wavered,  
You cannot believe him true,  
Have you mentioned it to Jesus  
As the strong one ought to do?  
Do you ever stop, to consider?  
Have you no faults of your own?  
Let the PERFECT one among you  
Be the first to throw a stone.

Is there one with crosses heavy,  
Seems he cannot carry all?  
And he don't keep step as we do  
If he ever chance to fall,  
Do you plead with God for mercy  
Till He answers from the throne?  
Let the PERFECT one among you  
Be the first to throw a stone.

—Anonymous.

MERCY

Who crieth for judgement and for justice;
And who requireth that man do the right?
I will have mercy, saith Christ Jesus,
And on thine own acts a little light.

I thought that I was in a humble way,
And I thought that my own walk would buy,
But when I prayed him, the Lord spake, nay!
And on mercy I was forced to rely.

I have been a trouble to thee, Lord;
I thought to be correct—I demanded
That my brother follow so, in ev'ry word,
And forsook the mercy you commanded.
Earle E. Root.

CHRIST'S CHURCH VS. MAN'S CHURCH

Man's advice is; go to church—somewhere!
It makes no difference as long as you're there.
Regardless of what is said in The Word,
They fail to see it, and let it be heard.
We see many sign posts placed here and there,
Pointing the way to churches who ne'er
Believe in God's plan, and fail to obey
The words given Christ,—which is our stay.

When Christ built his church, he did not say
To some of the sects of that former day;
Come, follow me; or, if you desire,
It makes no difference, I do not require
Any of you, to follow my way
Nor need you heed any thing I say;
We'll build the new—upon the old
And pray to God that it will hold.

WHAT DID CHRIST SAY?—let's ask the question—
For in His Word, there's more than suggestion.
HE POS'TIVELY SAID; AWAY! WITH THE OLD,
AND FOLLOW ME! AS YOU'VE BEEN TOLD!
I SAID IN MATTHEW, MY CHURCH I WOULD BUILD!
And you'll find it PURE, without gloss or gild;
Very plain truths you'll find within,
TO WASH AWAY ALL GUILT AND SIN.

Regards to BAPTISM:—Some churches say,
It matters not; do just as you may.
Now, I ask you sincerely; follow Christ's way;
BE HEARERS AND DOERS! be glad to obey
His words in John 3; and do not delay
To be born again, as Christ points the way.
For if HIS KINGDOM you would inherit,
YOU MUST BE BORN OF WATER AND SPIRIT.

Christ built his church and laid the plan,
So, FOLLOW HIS WORD! not that of man.
In Ephesians 4, we'll find that Christ said;
WALK IN MY WAY, AND YOU WILL BE FED!
In chapter 5, He also said;

AWAKE! YOU THAT SLEEP, AWAKE FROM THE
DEAD!
FOLLOW THE LIGHT, AND YOU WILL BE LED!
And you'll become perfect; WITH ME AS YOUR
HEAD!

Lucinda Scott

REFERENDUM REPORT

Independence, Missouri
August 11, 1954

To the Church of Christ (Temple Lot)
Greetings:

We, the Referendum Committee for 1954, this day
met and counted the ballots cast relative to Bill No. 1,
of the 1954 Ministers' Conference, and report the fol-
lowing result:

- In Favor of the Bill.....102
Opposed to the Bill..... 11

One local submitted a ballot with a statement to the
effect that they felt the Bill was unnecessary and they,
therefore, cast no vote. Another local failed to indicate
their vote, also failed to post it before the deadline.

Respectfully submitted,
Ora L. Derry
Marion Sprague
Nicholas F. Denham

INSTRUCTIONS IN ORDERING

Our quarterlies are not dated, but numbered, be-
cause 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 them-
selves 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 Asso-
ciation to: General Sunday School Ass'n. Treasurer,
Church of Christ (Temple Lot), Box 472, Independence,
Missouri.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Table with 2 columns: Item Name and Price Each. Includes items like 'Wee Mites. Picture Stories to color', 'Primary, Vol. 1, No. 1, Childhood of Jesus', etc.