

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 32

Independence, Missouri, April, 1955

No. 4

Unity and Love

Come Saints of Zion, all unite
In unity and love;
With Jesus as our only guide
To lead to realms above.
With bleeding hearts and streaming eyes
We've wandered sad and long;
But now the pathway is more bright,
So, let us carry on.

The sifting time has surely come,
Ye Saints of God, awake;
And follow none but Jesus lead,
False errors now forsake.
Pure, living temples, let us be.
Have faith in God, not men;
Then Zion shall in love abide,
The New Jerusalem.

The simple faith that Jesus taught
To Saints in days of old;
The old, old path our Savior trod
Leads to the Heavenly fold.
With loving hands and cheerful heart
Let service be our goal;
By kindly deed we sow the seed
That oft may save a soul.

J. L. Williams

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ZION'S ADVOCATE

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EDITORIAL

We presume that in some of the regions of northern climate, the earth is clothed in a blanket of snow. Not so here in the land of Missouri, spring seems to be upon this land in full force. Farmers in the southern part of the State are in the fields. People are cleaning their yards and spring activity of most every kind is under way. This is the time of the year, in this land, when it seems that everything is awake.

This has been the land of wonder for a good many years. People often wonder what the lure is that draws many here and at the same time they wonder why others would not live here for any consideration. Could it be that God has something to do with it?

The world looks down on this State but there is something that makes it admit that the people who come from here are considered reliable. The peoples of the Restoration movement consider this State to be highly favored of God, not from the standpoint of world's goods but they believe that He looks with favor upon it as a place and position on earth.

The Church of Christ believes that God has chosen this State for the place to set up His Zion in the last days. If this be true that God has so chosen it, then, according to David's writings in Psalms, it will be God's habitation.

Let us examine what is found here: In mining there is gold, silver, copper, zinc, iron and coal as well as traces of precious jewels. There are most all kinds of agricultural products. There are most all kinds of fruit except the tropical kinds. There are several rivers and many smaller streams.

Yes, we can believe that God has chosen this land for the nucleus of His latter day work.

Speaking of God's latter day work: That got under way in a general manner 125 years ago this spring; yes, a century and one quarter ago. We are meeting again this year on the sixth day of April, in conference capacity, to try to take care of the business that the Lord has entrusted to us. We are not to make new

laws but are to try to carry out and see to it that God's laws are kept.

How fitting it is that this conference comes in the Spring. Just as nature puts forth its new colors, so should we put forth our new colors. And even as the God given colors that nature puts out new this year are the same as the ones put out last year, so should the God given colors we put out this year be the same as the ones we put out last year only brighter.

If we attend conference this year we should plan on honoring God with out presence at as many of the services as possible. Not only should we plan on attending but also plan on taking part in them if they are the prayer and testimony type of service.

If we feel prone to find fault with, what may seem to us, a long season of kneeling in prayer, let us bring to mind that Jesus was tortured to death for us on the cross. Surely we can suffer some discomfort for Him.

We should always conduct ourselves and have our appearance in such a way that we would not be ashamed to be seen by Him if He should suddenly make His appearance. If we follow this rule in our home Local, we will have the habit developed so that we will be at ease along these lines when we are visiting in another service. Christ made the promise that where two or three meet in His name there He will be also, therefore we should always conduct ourselves like He was present.

Our meetings together are free. In fact, the best things of this life are free. Many are looking forward to the time when everything will be free. The only pay there will be, is the labor necessary to accomplish the desired result.

We have a demonstration of how this can be accomplished. We are referring to the meals during conference. Until a few years ago there was a charge made for the meals. Then it was decided to try serving meals without any charge being made. The church membership were notified. Their response was far above expectations. Not only was the expense of the meals of that conference met but there has been a surplus building up each year since.

It takes faith in God and confidence in our fellow-man to do such a task. But isn't that what we are to demonstrate to the world? Are we to follow the example set by the world or is the world to see the example demonstrated by us? Isaiah, when speaking of this subject wrote: "And many shall go and say, come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us His ways, and we will walk in His paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law," etc.

The world, when it wants to raise some funds for some cause many times will give a picnic. Everyone attending that picnic is expected to pay admission. And from the proceeds, after expenses are paid, the funds are derived.

Or, perhaps, they decide to give a dinner or a supper. Those who attend are to buy their meal, the same as mentioned above at the picnic. The world knows that it is human nature to want to pay rather

than to give. The person of the world wants to feel that he or she has gotten something for his or her money. An analysis of this thought will show us that it tends to bring about material mindedness and the spiritual side of life will be eventually lost if this is kept up.

How much better it is if all go together as the church has done with the dining hall and all contribute and all partake freely. This way no one can say, you are making your church a house of merchandise. We would place ourselves subject to this accusation if we use any of our church buildings as a place to raise funds by selling anything, be it either clothing or food.

It is a good thing for us to meet together often to eat and to visit. Many times our opinion of a person is raised many degrees by eating and visiting with him.

If the membership of a church is congenial with each other, it causes a healthier condition in the church. If the church is healthy then the membership will be healthier, physically and spiritually. A healthy church will grow. Malnutrition will stunt growth. When a church has plenty of fellowship to feed on it will grow.

We must understand the fellowship of our associates, if we would have the brotherhood of man. We must have the brotherhood of man if we would realize the fatherhood of God. If we have the fatherhood of God then we are the family or the house of God and will be the ones that the nations of the earth come up to see to learn the ways of God so they can walk in His paths.

I believe the time will come when there will be free will giving on the part of all in the work of God. I believe that there will come a time when the Bible and the Book of Mormon, also the records of the lost tribes will be obtained without price and our literature and publications will be obtained in the same way. Yes, I believe that the best things of this life are free and the more that we can add to this freedom the better this life will be. It will take plenty of faith but we understand that the time will come when faith will be exercised as did the Brother of Jared.

A. F. B.

CONFERENCE NOTICE

This is to call your attention to the opening of the Conference of the Church of Christ April 6, 1955, at ten o'clock in the morning. The Council of Twelve however will hold its first meeting March 21, at 10:00 A. M. in the Council Room in the Church of Christ building on the Temple Lot. The Council is meeting early in an effort to have all things ready, so far as it is possible to do so, before the opening day of the conference. The Council urges all those who have matters that should come before the Council, to please send them in, or bring them in as early as possible that all things might be done in order while we have plenty of time to give any problem, thus presented, proper and careful consideration. We especially ask that any petition that will have to do with the work of the Council, or their operations, be sent in at the very earliest

moment, as the Council desires very much to have its work in such order that they, the Council, may have more time to devote to the spiritual development of the Conference than it has had in the past. To this end we are asking your help.

Again we ask that the Saints, especially all local Churches of Christ, observe Sunday, April 3, as a special day of fasting and prayer to God, that He may direct the work of this Conference to the good and the upbuilding of His Church and Kingdom here on earth.

The Council calls attention to the 10th of April, which will be the only Sunday during Conference, which will be a special Sacrament Service, and we ask that the Saints keep this in mind and make this a day of prayer.

Let us suggest that we all unite in prayer throughout the Conference, remembering that prayer changes things, and if we shall come praying then we feel the satanic powers will have no influence over us and all will be well with the church.

Respectfully,

Arthur M. Smith
Secretary of the Council

FROM THE MISSIONARY FIELD

From the Southwestern States

My wife and I, in company with my brother, Hubert, and his wife, made a trip to Grand Junction, Colorado in January. We drove the seven hundred miles in one day, starting early in the morning and arriving at the home of Brother Marvin Ely at eight o'clock in the evening. Here we were met with such a warm fellowship and love that we forgot the fatigue of the long day's travel. After a pleasant two hours, Hubert and his wife, Lois, went to Brother and Sister Ted Ely's home, where arrangements had been made for them to stay.

The next three nights, and Sunday morning and night, we held preaching services in their little chapel; my brother and I taking turns occupying. We gave five talks in all. There was good attendance; and at each meeting, we felt a great portion of the Holy Spirit. We pray God will bless our efforts, and that we all may have stronger faith, more courage, humility, tolerance, long-suffering, love and hope for having met there in worship.

We of the Phoenix branch have learned to love deeply the Colorado saints; but our love does not stop there. Through the Gospel of Christ, we are learning to love all mankind, but especially those of the faith. We have found, wherever we go among those who follow after the teachings of the Master, that we find the same brand of divine love. It is felt in the hand clasp, the spoken word, and in the action of the saints toward one another. It can even be seen in the expression of the eyes, and can be felt in the tone of the

voice. We can even feel that love for others and from others as we read the humble letters from our brothers in far-away Yucatan. Indeed there is a tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; I feel it even now as I pen these words. It is the tie that makes the body of Christ (the church) one, though its members are separated by continents and oceans. We are told, "unless ye are one, ye are not mine, sayeth the Lord." As I listen to the whisperings of the spirit of love, I am forcibly struck with the great truth: the saints of Yucatan and other distant places are our brothers and sisters by stronger ties than even those of blood relation.

My wife and I remained in Brother Marvin Ely's home during our stay in Grand Junction. Our fellowship was so pleasant and enjoyable, that it was with a touch of sadness that we left them on the next Monday to return to our home.

When we arrived back in Phoenix, we found an urgent call from Sister Harper of Ontario, California. My wife, Frances, had to stay home this trip because of sickness; but my brother and wife went with me. We arrived in Ontario the afternoon of the same day, and went directly to Sister Harper's. We found her ill and weak but strong in the faith of Christ. Our visit with her, and with her son and daughters, was very pleasant and uplifting. She is in her eighties; and all of her children are grown.

One of the things that remains with me is a dream she related to us. I don't think she would mind if I related it. I will do so in my own words, as I remember it.

I seemed to be sitting in my front room and pondering on the promises of the Lord to those who would remain faithful to the end. I was feeling rather sad and discouraged because I could not think of anything of importance I had done that would cause me to be worthy of the promises. I asked, "What have I done, oh Lord, that is worthy; and what will be my reward?" Then I saw two persons appear before me. They were dressed in white. They told me to follow them, and as I did, I noticed that I, too, was dressed in white.

They led me up a beautiful hill and as we reached the top, there was a vast view unfolded before me. On one side, a little beneath where I stood, I could see a dark and fearsome gulf; and on the other side of it, I could see the world with its people and houses. On the other side of me, I could see a beautiful spot of ground with grass and flowers in abundance. At one side of this beautiful spot stood a giant tree that reached to the moon, and its branches over-shadowed this garden spot. As I looked, I saw a man standing there looking my way and beckoning me to come over his way. It seemed he was not only calling to me, but was also calling to others, even though I could not see anyone other than my two guides. I seemed to know his name was John but what the significance of the name was I do not know.

As I stood, a voice said, "There is your reward; but you cannot receive it now. It will be yours later."

Sister Harper said this experience had been a great comfort to her, but she did not understand what the dark gulf meant. Also she did not understand the meaning of the tree.

When she was relating this experience to me, the vision of Nephi came to my mind. I turned to I Nephi, 3-127 and read to her: "And a great and terrible gulf divideth them: yea even the word of the justice of God, of whom the Holy Ghost beareth record, from the beginning of the world until this time, and from this time henceforth and forever." Then I turned to I Nephi 4-46, "And I said unto them that it was an awful gulf which separateth the wicked from the tree of life, and also from the saints of God." Then in verse 62: "Wherefore the wicked are rejected from the righteous and also from that tree of life, whose fruit is most precious and most desirable above all other fruits."

I am sure she saw in her dream the same gulf that Nephi saw. She saw the same tree of life, the word of God; and indeed those who live by its fruit shall be divided from the wicked; and they shall dwell in one of the great mansions of glory that He, Christ, has gone to prepare for those who will love and serve the Lord.

After we talked of her dream and read the scripture she was greatly comforted and asked for administration. We knelt in prayer after which my brother, Hubert, and myself administered to her.

We then departed and went to San Bernardino for the night. The next day after calling on Brother Fred Clapp and Brother Doright of San Bernardino, we again called on Sister Harper. We found her much improved. She was even able to get out of bed and walk without help. By the look in her face, and the tone of her voice, we could easily perceive the Lord had surely given her comfort of mind and body.

As to what she has done to receive her reward, let me say: I can remember when I was a boy, over thirty years ago, that she would open her home for the young people to meet to practice church singing. Also her home has always been a haven of rest to travel-worn and weary missionaries. They were not only welcome at all times but they could, and did, use her home for holding meetings upon many occasions. She is kind, long-suffering, patient, tolerant, filled with humility, and has a love for God and man that refuses to dim with age, but rather grows stronger as the years go by.

I am reminded of the two great laws: "Love God with all thy might, mind and strength: and the second is like unto it, love thy neighbor as thyself." This she has done. Is it any wonder the Lord has shown her that she will some day live in the shadow of that great tree of life, and that she will be separated from all that is evil, by a great gulf?

Leaving her home on the afternoon of Saturday, February 5, we called on Brother and Sister James Anderson of Romona. Here we had a very pleasant visit and Brother Anderson related many of his experiences in the gospel. He has grown old in the work and still has a zeal and a desire to do the Lord's will in all things.

We then proceeded to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Kirby of Baldwin Park. Mrs. Kirby is the daughter of my oldest brother. We made their home our head-

quarters for two days while we called on a number of the isolated saints in that area.

We called on Lena Salter of Pico, who is 91 years of age. She asked for administration and we asked God to continue to bless and comfort her. She is lonely, and would like to hear from the saints and although she cannot read any more, because of failing eyes, should any of you write to her, the letter would be read to her. She would be helped more than any of you may realize. Her address is: 5126 Richmond Drive, Pico, California.

Others visited were: Mrs. Boyd DeLong, Long Beach; Brother Robert Ash, Burbank; Brother Frank Ball, Los Angeles. We had overlooked Brother Ball and night had come. We were miles from his home, and were going to Baldwin Park for the night when my brother's wife, in going over the list of names, said to me, "What about this Frank Ball? Why didn't we call on him when we were in that part of Los Angeles?" I said we had overlooked him by mistake but that as it was getting late, and his home was so far, we would just let it go for this time. Somehow, after I had said this, my mind was disturbed and I could not get him out of my thoughts; however, I did not know him. I did not know if he was old or young. I did not know anything about him yet I seemed to have a strong feeling that we should go to see him. I said, "We will go back now and look him up."

After driving miles through the Los Angeles traffic we at last found the right street, but there was no such address. We looked and looked. We talked to a city policeman but he could not help us. We were about to give up, when the thought struck me to add one number in front of the address we had, and then go to that house number. The number had was: 122 West 81st Place. We placed the numeral one (1) before 122 and then we had 1122. At this address we found Brother Ball. He was very ill—helpless from having had a stroke some weeks before. He could not even speak; however, his mind was alert. He had come home from the hospital only a few days before. His wife is his sole nurse and help. She is giving him the best of care. God bless her and aid her, in this hour of trial, is our prayer. We asked if he desired to be administered to. With his eyes and a nod of his head, he let us know his desire. We knelt in prayer, after which we layed our hands on his head and anointed him with oil, and asked our kind heavenly Father to remember His child, in mercy and love, and give him relief from pain, and to comfort him. We hope God will answer our prayers. We have hope that He will. Our brother seemed so overjoyed with our visit we were reluctant to leave him, but it was getting late, and we had a long drive. We returned to Baldwin Park for the night, feeling that our efforts of the day had been guided.

The morning of February 8, we called on Brother Fred Daiken of Santa Ana. He is a fine man, strong in the faith. We received a spiritual lift in talking and praying with him.

Our next stop was at Brother Rollo Clapp's home, just outside of Escondedo, where we arranged to hold meetings in the home of a neighbor, Mrs. Grove. She and her family do not belong to the Church, but their

welcome and hospitality was unlimited. We hope we have planted the seed of truth in their hearts.

In San Diego, we made our headquarters in the home of Mother Irene Yates. We called on several saints in that locality: Sister C. Oday, Mrs. L. Lang, Mrs. M. Earl, Brother and Sister Elmer Frishkorn.

While in the home of Irene Thorp, who is the granddaughter of Irene Yates, we blessed her little son, Charles Alfred Thorp.

February 12, we drove the 400 miles to Phoenix. Thus ends a happy three weeks and completed over 3,000 mile of driving. We pray God to bless our efforts. We also ask each and every member of the body of Christ to remember our aged and isolated members, the sick, and those who have the care over them, our saints in distant lands, our ministry, who must feed the sheep, and the church in its entirety.

"Let us, rejoice with them that rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate."

E. L. Yates

GLEANINGS BY THE WAY

We returned to Independence, our home, the evening of December 16, after one of the most interesting and busy missionary trips we have made in a long time. We arrived in Yucatan, Mexico, on July 23, 1954, and before we could set up housekeeping and settle down for the several months' active labors ahead, we were engaged in the missionary activities of the area.

Our first few days in Ticul, were spent at the Casa de Conchita Hotel, in the quarters vacated only a few days before by Elder Donald E. McIndoo, and his wife Betty, who found it necessary to return to the States before we arrived. They had left on the ship which sailed two days before our arrival, hoping to meet us at Veracruz, where we were expected to take the same ship back to Yucatan. Due to our inability to correspond during the fast moving days that preceded our arrival in Yucatan, it was impossible for him to let us know of their plans. We were very much disappointed in this turn of affairs, as we had looked forward with pleasure to a reunion with these young folks whom we have known since their childhood. However, on every hand, we heard nothing but praise and admiration for our young missionaries, who thus received their initiation into such service here in a foreign land amidst much opposition. We were very thankful that they had left when they did, for we were later informed that a plot had been conceived to ambush and massacre the McIndoos, Wheatons and Elder Fernando Ojeda, by hostile people, who later attempted to kill three of us as we returned late at night after a meeting in our new church at Dzan. A report of this unfortunate incident was previously reported in the Advocate.

A few days after our arrival in Ticul, we took a load of our Maya friends to the beach at Progreso for a baptismal service, at which time, by the invitation of Brother Ojeda, I baptized seven men and women. Most

of them from Dzan. At subsequent times, I also baptised eighteen more at the same place, making a total of twenty-six in all. These were the first members I had personally baptized, as we had left such labors to Brother Fernando. However, there seemed to have been a relaxation of the rules governing such services, as we were informed that so long as we are thus requested to act by the minister in charge of our work there, it would be all right.

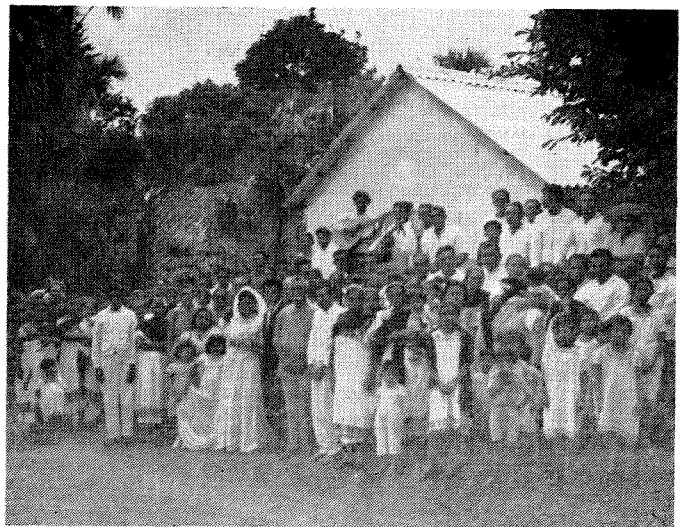
After we were comfortably established in the house, which we have usually occupied while there in Ticul, we made the rounds with Fernando to all the places where church activities were being carried on. We found that Fernando and Don had been very busy, and many new friends to the cause of Christ had been made by their efforts, as reflected by the number of new converts baptized after our arrival. Regular meetings were being conducted at Dzan, Ticul and Pustench, and new openings were being made in several outlying villages. All of which goes to show what can be done when a group of the ministry settle down to an earnest effort to teach the gospel to a spiritually hungry people.

We were very anxious to inspect the new church structure at Dzan, to see what progress had been made. To our delight we found, that despite the rainy season, local persecutions and threats of violence, the work had progressed to the point where the chapel was ready for a roof, and necessary carpentry to provide doors and windows. We learned that the local brethren, through donations from members of the Church of Christ in the States, and by their own contributions had just about enough money accumulated in the bank at Merida to purchase the materials for the roof. There was not sufficient to finish enclosing it, nor for seats and a floor. So a request was made of the Bishopric, and to the members of the church who had expressed a desire to help us in the work there, for additional funds. The response was very gratifying from both sources. In the meantime, we held services within the structure in the evenings under the stars and a bright new moon as ceiling decorations. We did not waste time waiting for a response to our request for financial help, but exhorted the people, in the words of the prophet, Nehemiah, when he returned to rebuild Jerusalem, that "The God of heaven, He will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build." (Nehemiah 2:20.) For having faith in the membership of the church and their great interest in this mission I did not have the least doubt but what all the necessary funds would be available to complete the task before us.

Accordingly we sought a carpenter who could take charge of the work, and speak the language, and who had the necessary tools for such construction. A good one was found in Ticul, and though a Catholic, he was very friendly, and stayed with the job amidst threats and the ridicule of his fellow church members. We decided upon a substantial roof of corrugated asbestos-cement material, which was heat-resistant, fire-proof, and practically unbreakable except by explosives. This was a new material to the people there, and a source of much interest. Some tested a piece of it with their teeth, thinking that if they could not break it that way, that it must be very substantial. It stood the test of the bite and chew method, for it was pronounced

durable. We had told them that it would not burn, and that it would be hard to break with stones. These qualities were also tested, and the net result was that everyone was pleased with it. Some boys had to throw rocks on the roof for their test, and were greatly surprised that the rocks just bounced off. We are made to wonder just what diversion they will have now, that they can not throw rocks through a thatched roof made of palms, as they had done in the older church during services. However, the church was finished and a dozen benches were in use before we left for the States. At the last report, we learned that the members put in a new cement floor, a rostrum, and the windows. We had seen to it that the doors and window casings were in before leaving there.

On Sunday, October 31, 1954, the membership of the church from Ticul and Dzan assembled in the new church. The floors had been covered with clean white sand, taken from a cavern near by, and all of our ministry were present on the stand with Brother Fernando and myself. A sacrament service was held, and during this service we dedicated the new chapel to the services of the Lord. We had a fine attendance and felt happy in seeing this milestone of accomplishment. For here, midst persecution, violence, tears, heartaches, and many inspiring gospel experiences, we had erected and dedicated the first chapel on the peninsula of Yucatan, to the Restoration Church of Christ, the first house of the Lord in all that land where the Book of Mormon with its companion the Holy Bible, could witness for Jesus Christ. It was a substantial structure, made of stone. Many of the stones had been dug out of the old ruins of an ancient Maya temple, which was located on the grounds. With reverence these humble people, members of the Iglesia de Cristo, (Church of Christ), spoke in quiet words of respect, and said, in effect, "This temple is built of the stones of our old temples, again we can worship the true God and His Son Jesus Christ." In this church will be found a carved stone. On it is the red hand of Itzamna, "the one who healed the sick by the laying on of hands." In accepting the Restoration, these people

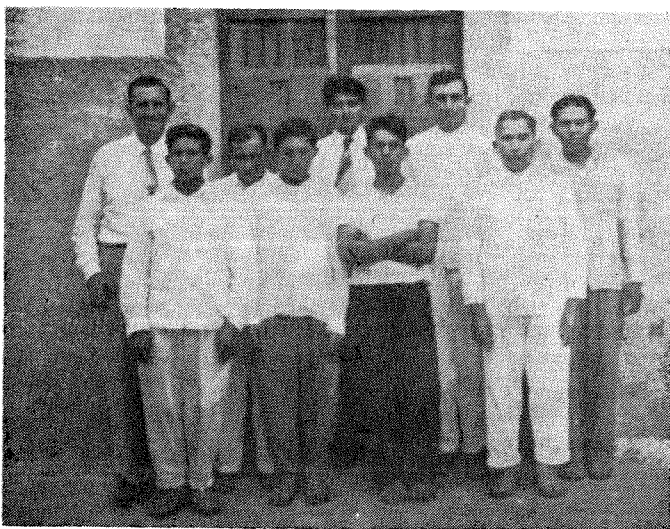


The Iglesia de Cristo, at Dzan, Yucatan, Mexico, with part of the two hundred or more people in attendance at the wedding of Brother and Sister Manuel Cabrera.

have also accepted the teaching of "laving on of hands for the healing of the sick"; a principle in which they believe, and which they rely upon. A recent letter from Brother Eusebio Yam tells of many being thus healed, and that they have been blessed also with dreams and visions and the gift of prophecy. Surely the Lord is remembering His people, who for many ages have wandered in darkness and bondage. Surely that work will carry on, even after we who took this message to them, have been long forgotten, and the consummation of all things spoken of in the scriptures shall be accomplished and the faithful among them shall be gathered with the redeemed to Zion, the city of our God.

On Wednesday, November 10, 1954, we held the first wedding in the church at Dzan. It was a beautiful service in which the altar was decorated with palms in the form of an arch. The bride, Maria Lorenza Manrique, and the groom, Manuel Cabrera, standing together in the left center of the picture, are both members of the church. They are both young people of whom we are all very happy to have numbered with us. Elder Ojeda and I conducted the service. Angela sang "Because", which Fernando translated into the Spanish. Following the wedding, a feast was served at the home of the groom, where they will make their home. Due to the courtesy and consideration of the Governor of Yucatan, an armed guard of three State Police accompanied us to Dzan, and attended the feast, to prevent a recurrence of the attempt upon our lives. These men were very courteous and considerate of the feelings of our people, and did not seek to make themselves too prominent, but kept a watchful eye upon all comers. Space will not here permit giving more details of this experience, so perhaps we can relate it when we see you at conference or in your local churches where we may visit.

PRIESTHOOD MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN THE YUCATAN MISSION.



Left to right: Clarence L. Wheaton, of the Council of Twelve, Missionary-in-Charge of the Mexican Mission; Elder Miguel Tzuc; Fortuna Cabrera, Deacon; Elder Philemon Manrique; Elder Fernando Ojeda, General Conference Missionary Appointee; Elder Francisco Castro; Marcus Perez, Priest; Sabino Cabrera, Priest; and Elder Eusebio Yam. Elder McIndoo not present.

We are very pleased to be able to report to you that we now have two organized local churches and one mission in Yucatan, and members and friends in several other villages and the city of Merida. Our first local was organized in Dzan in the summer of 1953, with 32 baptized members, three Elders, two Priests, and a Deacon. Since that time, our membership has more than doubled, and we have close to eighty members and eight members of the priesthood there to administer to them. These ministers are devoted to the work, and are earnest in their efforts to serve the church, as attested by their testimonies which you have read in the Advocate from time to time. Most of them are young men, just about the ages of the early elders who met on April 6, 1830 and organized the Church of Christ at Fayette, New York.

We arrived back in the United States in November, 1954, hoping to reach Phoenix, Arizona, for Thanksgiving Day. That evening we stopped at a restaurant for a lunch and Angela ate a piece of pie. Evidently it had been cut too long and was not fresh. The next day, at the home of Brother and Sister Ed McIndoo, she became very sick, from food poisoning and an attack of a virulent form of dysentery. By midnight we rushed her to the hospital for emergency treatment as her condition had become quite acute and dangerous. It was two weeks before we could leave the hospitable home of the McIndoos and resume our journey home. From there we went to Sedona to visit the Willard family, and received a large assortment of used clothing to take to some of our Navajo friends. These we left with Mrs. Till, former teacher at Manuelito School, who was teaching at a place nearer to Gallup. From there we went to Albuquerque for a brief stop with the family of Sister Viola Henning. We had planned other stops, but time and illness made it necessary for us to cut our journey short and get home ahead of threatened winter storms. On December 19, I was entered at the Independence Sanitarium for an operation. Then it was that I learned that my health had been declining more than I realized. The operation and loss of much blood left me in a very weakened condition. My recovery has been slow, but gratifying, and a few days ago the doctor released me and said I could resume my normal activities again. In the meantime, we have been busily engaged here at home. We are both regaining our health and hope by conference time to be ready for the usual round of church activities and missionary work. We thank all our friends for their prayers and well wishes during our sicknesses. Vaya con Dios, and Hasta la Vista, till we meet again. The Wheatons.

To the above we wish to add a further note. During our stay in Yucatan this last time, we wrote three new tracts, based upon the Articles of Faith and a brief history of the early establishment of the church. These were translated into the Spanish by Fernando, and later printed on our Duplicator which we had taken with us. We hope to have these tracts, both English and Spanish versions, approved and printed in quantity by the Board of Publications. Now we have these tracts, and a song book composed of some

(continued on page 64)

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 BOUNTIFUL HARVEST WITH A SCARCITY OF LABORERS

L. V. Aldridge

"But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, the harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest." Matthew 9:36-38.

With this read Book of Commandments 5:2, where God speaks to Oliver Cowdery, "Behold the field is white already to harvest, therefore whoso desireth to reap, let him thrust in his sickle with his might and reap while the day lasts"

After 1800 years conditions have not changed. "The world", says God, in Book of Commandments 15:5, "is ripening in iniquity, and it must needs be, that the children of men are stirred up unto repentance."

Jesus used a very well know illustration, when He was here, to carry home the urgency of the need for His servants to strive to bring His gospel to the world. Most people today who have traveled or lived in the great wheat producing section of the country have seen the fields of ripened grain ready and waiting for the harvesters. Years ago before the advent of modern machinery such as combines, harvesting depended to a great extent on the number of men which could be secured for stacking, hauling and threshing the grain. In event of not securing the man power, and rains and winds came, the loss sometimes was great since the wheat was blown down and rotted from being wet.

Jesus must have sought to urge His disciples to realize that it was not a time for waiting, but the time to harvest was then at hand; the fields were ready for harvest; the laborers were few; therefore pray their Father that He would send forth laborers into His field; but, more especially that they would set to and labor with all their might to save as much as they could.

There was a time perhaps when the time of harvest was future, but not anymore. Fields (the world) are ripe. Iniquity abounds on every hand. If men are to be saved from this awful deluge of sin, it must be now. With this condition confronting the Church of Christ, today as yesterday, God does not force any to go into the fields to labor. The matter is left to each individual. However, God says in latter-day revelation, "Whoso desireth to reap, let him thrust in his sickle with his might and reap while the day lasts."

Since we are living in the world's last days, of necessity the time is shortened when we may labor in His vineyard, for as He said we can reap only "while the day lasts". The call for reapers is to all. None are excused among the members of the church. If we, says Christ, have a desire to reap, let us thrust

in our sickle with our might. No time for half-way labor. We must put everything into the saving of men which we possess. It cannot be that we depend altogether on what the other fellow does for saving men. There is something each of us can do in this great harvest of souls.

History shows that the early church became self-complacent and satisfied. The fact that Jesus commanded His disciples to remain in Jerusalem until they be endued with power, they seemed to continue there while the world was perishing, and it took a great persecution of the church so as to scatter them away from Jerusalem in order to get the gospel of the kingdom to others.

It seems that in many instances the church has flourished and grown under persecution, more so than when all is well. On the other hand, when we have passed through periods of great persecution, we should all the more strive to bring our friends and acquaintances to the knowledge of the church and the gospel. Surely all of us can see on every hand the need for laboring in the vineyard of our Master. We have the most wonderful story to tell; a story no other people on earth can tell; the beautiful story of the fulness of the gospel. Others may tell a part, but only we, the true believers in the great restoration of the church in these the last days, and who believe in it in its purity without the admixture of false teachings and practice, can tell it all.

May this year of 1955 be the year when every member of the Church of Christ, seeing the great need and realizing the shortness of time, will thrust in our sickles with our might and reap while the day lasts gathering souls into His kingdom treasuring for our souls everlasting salvation in the Kingdom of God.

AN APPEAL TO ALL DIVISIONS OF THE RESTORATION

William F. Anderson

As we view the Christian world of today, we see it divided into many sects, and we refer to it as Denominationalism, and that they figure in the terms of their own group, and not in the terms of unity; yet, we see, or rather read, where an effort is being made to unite the various denominations into at least a closer bond.

Something over a hundred years ago, a few of those denominations decided to unite in a great revival for the converting of the sinner. At the close of that revival a contention arose as to which of these churches was the one, and among those who had become concerned as to his Eternal Salvation was a lad of around fifteen years of age. He became confused because of the various claims and was at a loss as to what he should do; which of the churches he should join. In his dilemma he turned to the Bible and as he

read, he came to James, first chapter, where he read, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not." The lad followed the advice given by James, and he repaired to a quiet spot on his father's farm where he knelt down and asked God to help him in his hour of need. All believers of the restoration are acquainted with that which transpired there. The lad was told to join none of them, that their creeds (teachings) were wrong, and that if he would be true he would become an instrument in the hands of God to bring back the true gospel, and the true Church of Christ. All believers know the story, and there is no need to rehearse it here. Christianity was then, and is now, divided, and the peoples of the restoration endeavor to point to the need of a united church. At the time of the rise of the church in these last days there was but one church under the leadership of Joseph Smith, and for some fourteen years there was but one church; but, during that fourteen years things, or teachings, that were foreign to that which is found in the teachings of Jesus in both the Bible and the Book of Mormon, and as a result of that which entered in, the Lord in 1832 spoke to the church and said, "And your minds in times past have been darkened because of unbelief, and because you have treated lightly the things you have received, which vanity and unbelief hath brought the whole church under condemnation. And this condemnation resteth upon the children of Zion, even all; and they shall remain under this condemnation until they repent and remember the new covenant, even the Book of Mormon and the former commandments which I have given them, not only to say, but to do according to THAT WHICH I HAVE WRITTEN, that may bring forth fruit meet for their Father's kingdom, otherwise there remaineth a scourge and a judgment to be poured out upon the children of Zion; for, shall the children of the kingdom pollute my holy land? Verily I say unto you, Nay". D. & C. 83:8 Reorg.; 84:54, Utah Ed. This revelation was given September 22, 1832, just two years and a few months after the church was organized, and we find the whole church under condemnation. It is evident there was no repentance, for, if history records facts, the saints were driven out of Independence the following year, and settled for a short time at Far West and were driven out of there in a short time after, going to Nauvoo where they established themselves for a time, and tragedy struck again; the prophet was killed and the church was scattered and many factions arose; men claiming to be the legal successor to Joseph; thus denominationalism arose in that which is termed the restoration. There were many divisions each claiming the others to be apostate. It may be needness to call attention that there were many doctrines interjected into the church at Nauvoo—Adam as God, Polygamy, Marriage for Eternity, Baptism for the Dead, and other things; and so the people of the restoration became divided, and each contending against the other and claiming all but themselves to be out of the way.

"Come now and let us reason together saith the Lord." Surely God is not the author of the division, and it cannot be that truth is the cause of it. Surely truth would not divide, so we must conclude error is the cause, and Satan the author. If the various divisions in all sincerity believe they are the ones that

have the truth, and are the ones accepted, and they are interested in the salvation of the rest of those who believe in the restoration, and would be interested in saving them, why would it not be a good gesture to at least make an effort to learn which is the right way. Time has shown us that of ourselves we have not been able to bring about the understanding that is needed, so there is but one source left, God. Surely we at least ought to be willing to give the others credit of being sincere in their position. Is it possible that we could lose by appealing to God together, with a willingness to abide by His decision as to which of the groups is right? It could be that all have gone astray, and needful that they find the "Old, Old Path". All hope for the redemption of Zion, and its establishment. If there are errors it is to the advantage of all that we find that which is error and be willing to repudiate it and become one. As it is at present the restoration is in the same condition as were the various creeds when Joseph Smith went into the woods to pray. Let us at least think of what it might be like if it were possible to have all the divisions of the restoration come together in what might be termed a great revival in an endeavor to get folks to believe the restoration, and at the close of that revival the various divisions were to contend over which was the church accepted, just what would be the status of those who had been persuaded to believe? Would not the same question arise? Which of these believers, in that which they claim a restoration, is right? We would be just where it was when Joseph Smith went to the woods to pray. Brethren, come and let us reason together with God and seek to learn His way. All have become so set in their own particular way that it seems that there is no wish to appeal to Him who sent to us the Restoration of the Gospel and the plan for setting up His church.

Jesus in His prayer just before He was betrayed plead with God for not only those who were there with Him, but for all who would believe on Him through their words, that they all might be one, that the world might believe that God had sent Him, that they all might be one; they and us, that we would be one with them. That can only be accomplished by coming to the knowledge of their words. That which is not in harmony with the Bible or Book of Mormon is not to be relied on, and it would be well for us all to let God set us right. We cannot accomplish that which was intended in the restoration in our divided condition.

The writer likes to think that each division is sincere in its claim to being the true church. One thing is sure, we can not all be right, and we may all be off of the trail. I am sure it would not be hurtful to any of us to appeal to the Giver of all good that we might become "one as God and Christ are one."

As a united people we will be able to demonstrate to the world that God has again spoken in these Latter Days. Not that all would accept but that it might be a witness for or against.

"There is a way which seemeth right unto man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." That applies to each division of the restoration, and that group that is unwilling to ask God is afraid that they might be told they were entertaining error in their teachings.

Eternal life is the most important thing for all, and it should be our first consideration, as to how it can be attained. We can only obtain it in God's way.

We are looking for Christ to return to earth again. If He were to come within the next few months, or a year, to which group of the restoration would He come? Or would He pass us all by, because we had not made ourselves ready? Would it be possible that He might beckon to one here and there from among the various groups and leave the rest out? Ten virgins, five were wise, five foolish; which group would we be in?

"Come unto Me" is just as applicable today as it was when spoken. We need to go to Christ not to man or men.

Are we so steeped in our own particular denomination that we can see no good elsewhere, and so fully persuaded that we and we alone are the accepted ones?

Denominationalism has been the ruin of Christianity.

Denominationalism is the ruin of the restoration. We have gotten into the same rut as all other Christian believers. To be a Christian is to believe only that which Christ taught. "To the law and to the testimony, if they speak not according to this, there is no truth in them". Some place along the line there has been a departure from the "Things that were written", and it is our job to find where and what that departure is and when it entered in.

"Behold I have manifested unto you, by My Spirit in many instances, that the things which you have written are true; and if you know they are true, behold, I give unto you a commandment, that you rely upon the things which are written; (not that which was to be written) for in them are all things written concerning My church, My gospel, and My rock; wherefore, if ye shall build My church upon My gospel and My rock, the gates of hell shall not prevail against you." D. & C. 16.

"Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord".

Let us turn to God in this the crucial time of world conditions, and ask him to set us right.

This is the prayer of one who loves the restoration.

FAITH — HOPE — CHARITY

Faith is the force which buoys us in our progress toward the ends we hope for.

Ends of true worth are best achieved with the tool of Charity.

Charity: God's love; prime concern for others and their welfare: It is eternal.

Ends achieved without Charity are: works of death; and destroy the creature. They bring death.

With Charity, the ends achieved are eternal as the tool with which they are made, and bring Life.

Thomas S. Maley

OUT OF THE MAIL SACK

1448 Anaheim Pl.
Long Beach 4, California
February 21, 1955

It is nearing conference time. I wish I was going to be there, but as it is impossible I want to do a little something to encourage others.

I recall the last conference I attended and I want to give you some thoughts or "helps", we might call them.

I sat toward the back of the church because I have always loved the study of faces and human actions, and in so doing I have learned that nobody is really good; and nobody is all bad; I would say we are all so-so. If we examine ourselves we discover we have a decided mixture of good and at times not so good desires, your inner welter of courage and cowardice, honey and vinegar, gold and clay, and when we go out to meet men and women; remember they are much the same. In doing this we are going to understand the art of friendship, and we will take people just as they are and not wait until we see ideals before starting to make friends. When we have learned this art we will also have learned how to reset creaking souls (as it were). For one little drop of the oil of kindness will often silence the squeaking or creaking of a rusted soul, and will smooth the friction of heated hearts. Remember, "Every Friendly Gesture, Pays". It stimulates a heart warming love for each other, and love has everything to do with success.

Have you ever stopped to think that love is not a side-show of life, but rather is it the main tent. Men are slowly finding out that no great success can be built upon just anything, upon any foundation, except "love", and how very necessary that we have it in the "Church of Christ",

The greatest discovery of the nineteenth century was co-operation, and as we co-operate we advance. When we engage in conflict we go backward. Can we not say, speaking in terms of church conduct, co-operation is but another name for love?

Someone has said, love is blind, which is untrue, for love is the only thing that can see, and when we can see and still love, we need not fear the strength of that love.

Can you justly criticize a book unless you have read it and know its contents? Likewise we should withhold judgment of those whom we may not feel to like (speaking of humans) because in such an instance we may discover that our judgment is biased regarding such an one.

We oftentimes wonder why a mother is drawn toward a wayward child, truth is, her affection enables her to see the good qualities in that child which we may not understand are there. And this love is the thing that develops and brings out the best in the child. In fact we do not love things because they are perfect, but rather that they are imperfect and our love rises as a challenge, and because of it we make many sacrifices. Every one of us must learn that there is no real righteousness without "love". It is impossible to

do right without love in our hearts. Jesus, with His supreme skill of hearts, beat the whole body of ancient laws into one sword of steel; two-edged with "love". Don't economize in love. Love guides our minds to right thinking. Right thinking directs our minds to the channels of truth regarding everything and every person. Our minds must be able to weigh facts, balance probabilities, and come to their conclusions with liberty of freedom from constraint. The only man, or person, whose opinion is of value is the man, or person, who refuses to form an opinion before he has got hold of the materials with which to properly form the opinion. Truth, and nothing but "truth" can clarify anything. Truth is always the surest, the greatest known force. Truth is the only real reformer; is the only gospel that ever saved anybody. We don't need to battle for that which is truth, we need to know it, live it, love it, tell it, and it will defend us. Nobody can afford to believe a thing that is not so, no matter how pleasant or convincing it may sound. There is no peace in any sort of delusion. The devil is the father of lies. Peace, joy, comfort, content, happiness, are all permanent boarders in the house of truth. Do you know that a lie can't really hurt you? It is only the truth that hurts. A lie may hurt your reputation, but it is your character that counts, and knowing you are innocent of false charges, makes you feel sorry for those who would bemean you. A test to our earnestness, and our faith comes when some one tries to misinform another, thus hindering our work in the cause of Christ. But the soul that is steadfast, the soul that is true, doesn't hesitate. That soul will adjust itself to whatever occurs. He is well-ballasted. The blast of a hurricane may strike his ship, and tip it upon its beam ends, but it repeatedly and speedily rights itself.

Let love and truth have their way; the two greatest things in the world. It is well for us to remember that there are some things which are unshakable. People as a rule are fair. They always will be. No injustice can continue forever, because by and by every wrong decays and falls. All things come to test our faith, either it weakens it or strengthens it. We must remember that faith is the one thing that enables people to keep going, and the best faith is the faith in God and one's self. Don't let yourself become utterly discouraged. Did you ever stop to think that discouragement usually takes place when things go against us, but in most instances that is the very time we should take courage, take hold upon our faith. Look for the beautiful, look for the good.

Let us say, a little child came back from the rose bush and said that the bush was full of horrid thorns, another child returned and said, how beautiful the roses were.

Discouragement is sometimes caused by perverted habit. We get into the way of looking for kicks and bricks, and out of the way of looking for the delightful. Anyone of us can get along if things go as schedule. I know from experience, as too often I get way down in the dumps, as they say, when something happens to knock my plans into a top hat. Then is the time to look at myself and see what manner of person I am. It is time to pin that badge of faith back on, let it shine out to every one to see, then place another badge next

to it, patience, and believe and know that the most patient Being in the whole universe is God, who is the strongest. Study and realize His forbearance and then try with all your strength to be patient and forbearing in all things. Time is too short to wear the expression of gloom, there is so much to be done and it will take our united effort. We must realize within ourselves is a certain power. God has placed every one here to do a certain something, let us never cease to seek for that task, and once having found it, go to with all our might, and all the forces of God will be behind us to bless our efforts.

In the book "Mirror of the Sea", a story is told of a convoy of vessels returning to England from a long voyage. Near the Azores they suddenly became becalmed. All the vessels were splendidly manned, and well-equipped; all sails and tackle were in good order; but the "living thing" that caused movement and progress was lacking. After waiting a day or two, the wind suddenly arose and all the vessels, large and small, with their precious cargo, went bounding into port. What is the application of this picture? If the Church of Christ is to "carry her rich blessings to the world", she must have the Spirit of God to give her the power and strength.

Christ said that A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another. By this all men "know" that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. Love worketh no ill to his neighbor.

The God who rolls up the sun every morning, makes the acorn grow into huge oaks, paints the rose, fruitifies the vine, carries water from the great reservoir of the sea, to irrigate the fields, carries on the processes of life in all His people and in the beasts and fowls; this God is the same who is working for us, giving us all the rich treasures of His abounding love, patiently helping each of us, and breathing upon us the breath of life that we might not only live and see the beauties of this universe, but the promise is unto those who serve Him to enter into that more glorious life.

I ask you, isn't it worth all we can give, isn't it worth striving for?

I was given the promise under the hands of my Grandfather Derry, were I faithful I should have power with God, and with mankind, and when I have tried earnestly to serve God that promise has been verified. I pray that you will pray with me every morning, (that is the time when our thoughts are clear), to present ourselves to God in behalf of the people of God, and in our own welfare, start the day aright and see what added strength we will feel.

Your Sister,

Ollie Derry DeLong

February 16, 1955

Dear Friends:

It would be a great pleasure to meet with you in person. The next best thing is keeping in touch with those of like faith through the church paper. It is a blessing especially to those who are isolated. The con-

structive nature of the paper sows the seed in, no one knows how many hearts. I know it was largely through the editorials and other fine articles that I became interested in the Temple Lot Church quite a while before I returned.

Our little daughter was sick with rheumatic fever from before Christmas a year ago until late last summer. I want to take this opportunity to thank those who were so kind to remember her in prayers. We know the prayers of so many, and of so many different faiths, helped her to get well enough to return to school until Christmas. She is sick again now though, and we humbly ask a continuance of your prayers in her behalf, that, if it is God's will she will not be ill for so long a time again.

We know that there is a great deal of evil in the world. But after an experience such as we had, where so many people were kind in so many ways, we can't help but realize how much good there is in the world, too. I often think of what a kindergarten training teacher told us once in a philosophy class. Someone had asked if the world was getting better or worse. She replied that it seemed evil forces were growing stronger; but, that at the same time, forces for good were increasing too. In other words, it is a time of culmination of powers, but that eventually after great trials the good had to triumph.

I have followed with interest the missionary work of the Wheatons as for several years I have made a hobby of learning what I can of the ancient cultures of Middle America. It makes the Book of Mormon come to life and is often a means of interesting others in the work. I did not write to them for some time as I assumed they were very busy. But I had two dreams that since came true. The first: I thought I was standing on the sidewalk just north of the Temple Lot, looking up onto the lawn. I saw groups of people there, standing about visiting as they might be between meetings. I had a great urge to join them but was afraid to. Just then Angela Wheaton came to me, smiled and held out her hand to help me up to join the others. In meaning, if not literally this has come true. For when I finally wrote, she answered so kindly, then later stopped by on the way to Phoenix.

In the other dream, which was also before I wrote to the Wheatons, I dreamed I saw the two of them standing at our door. It was with great joy that I welcomed them into our home. It looked as if this dream would not come true, that the two of them would come together. As Sister Wheaton has come by, and as I said before, and Brother Wheaton planned to stop by later. But through a change of circumstances they did come back together, and many of our friends have been interested in the talks that have been given, and the pictures shown in our home.

We would be most happy to hear from any of our brothers and sisters, and I know Kathy would like to hear from some of the children. Our faith is strengthened through hearing from each other even when we can't meet personally.

Viola Hening
1925 Five Points Road, S. W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico

NEWS FROM LOCALS

Maple City, Michigan

We are glad to report that we are enjoying the Spirit of God in abundance, and the saints are coming into a closer communion one with another.

Our attendance is increasing, so we feel very much the need of added seating capacity; also, the need of more hymn books.

We had a penny supper, Friday night, the 25th, proceeds going toward providing more seats.

Brother Harold Polack was in charge of our annual Sunday School business meeting, which convened January 19. The same good spirit prevailed as in our Church business meeting. Officers and teachers were chosen as follows: Superintendent, Lowell Scott; Assistant Superintendent, Ernie Premoe, who is now acting Superintendent, due to the absence of Lowell; Secretary, Jerry Mallory; Treasurer, Ann Polack; Organist, Lucinda Scott; Chorister, Otto Polack; Librarian, Marian Scott. Teachers: Adult class, L. Scott; Young People's Class, H. Polack; the last three classes, S. Mallory and May Polack, associate teachers; Irma Trumbull, and Edith Mallory.

Leta Trumbull, and Marian Scott acted as tellers for the meeting.

We are pleased to have the attendance of a Lamanite mother and her five sons, also her father and sister, who seem to be very interested in the church. The Lord spoke to this Lamanite family through the Spirit, at our Wednesday night prayer service. February 16, there was also a message given to the saints in general.

Sunday, February 20, we received words of council through two members of the branch, and it seemed that each of us had a different appearance than usual; as though we each carried that seal of the Holy Spirit spoken of in the first chapter of Ephesians. There was the feeling that we were shut off completely from the outside world. Bro. Price was sick that Sunday, therefore unable to attend this prayer service, but while alone at home he was given a vision, which included two of our local boys; namely: Nolan Trumbull, son of Brother and Sister Don Trumbull; and Gordon Chippawa, son of the Lamanite mother previously mentioned. God is reaching out to the young people and children, making them realize how necessary it is for them to bear their testimony, that they might help to strengthen the older members.

We are pleased to report that Brother and Sister Harold Polack have a new member added to their family; a baby girl, named Amanda May, in honor of her two grandmothers.

The night of February 4, we had a pot luck supper in honor of Lowell Scott, who left for basic training the following Monday morning, at Lackland A.F.B., San Antonio, Texas. We did not know at the time that Alvin Polack, son of Earl and Ann Polack, was going

to enlist, otherwise, he would have been included in the honors. We were so pleased that he and my son, Lowell, could be together for their basic training.

I was very much upset when Lowell told me he was going to enlist; but God has shown me that that is the way He wants to use my son to work for Him.

If there is a Church of Christ near by where the boys are stationed, they would like to know. I will give my son's address, so he can be contacted: A/B Lowell D. Scott AF 16 495635; Flight 223, Box 1507; Lackland A.F.B., San Antonio, Texas.

Lucinda Scott, Reporter

St. Louis, Missouri

It being the first Sunday of the month, we had Sacrament service. There were many good songs and testimonies.

On February 13, Brother William Sheldon was here to visit us. Brother Nichols had a letter from Brother Bell. He will be with us all next week. We will probably have services every night of that week.

Brother William Sheldon was our speaker of the morning. He leaves this afternoon by bus. He spoke on the difference between Churchianity and Christianity. He spoke of the valley of decision where you decide whether to be righteous or unrighteous, to have life or death. He quoted from Hebrews 11:6. But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. He also said that we have to decide who we are going to serve God or man. He spoke of: faith, repentance, baptism, laying on of hands, resurrection, eternal judgment. His closing thought was from the Book of Revelation 3:14-22.

I know we all enjoyed him very much. He brought many good thoughts and I know they will be very helpful to us. We hope Brother Sheldon will come again soon. We sure enjoyed having him with us.

Sister Cecille Davis received her cap in nurse's training February 17. Congratulations Cecille. Mary and Nancy Clark are back here to live again. They were living in Detroit, Michigan. Very glad to have you both back again.

Brother Archie Bell and his wife arrived Saturday, February 19. Brother Bell will conduct classes every night this week, starting tonight at 7:00. He said they will run in series.

Brother Bell was the speaker of the morning service. He spoke on the Kingdom of God. How we can inherit the Kingdom of God. He explained what a kingdom is: king, subject, territory and government. He quoted that all things were created by Him, for Him; also, that the Lord's subjects will inherit the Kingdom of God. He told us we had to know evil before we know what good is, also bitter before sweet.

We started our classes Sunday night. They are very interesting. We hope that our classes will grow as we progress. They are sure to help us gain a greater knowledge. We studied about Manasseh and

Ephraim. We studied of how Jacob gave Ephraim and Manasseh his blessing. Also how Ephraim would be a multitude of nations and Manasseh as a people. We traced Mannasseh on through the Bible and the Book of Mormon. Manasseh as a people is the Indians as we proved.

Monday night, we studied Ephraim and traced him through the Bible and the Book of Mormon and proved his identity as a multitude of nations.

Tuesday night, yesterday, more of Ephraim; how Ephraim would be identified.

Wednesday night, we finished our study of Ephraim and we proved the Book of Mormon.

Thursday night, we studied the Gentile and how they came into being. The Gentiles are of the wild olive tree. The Gentiles are descendants of Ham. In the Book of Mormon, in Jacob 3:45: "Wherefore, go thy way; watch the tree, and nourish it, according to my words". Brother Bell told us that the Lord was speaking to the Priesthood.

Friday night, we studied of Manasseh as a part of the wild olive tree. The Gentiles will accept the restored gospel about the same time as the Indians. We studied the parable of the sower from the Bible. Also the people who have accepted the Lord will be gathered in.

Saturday and Sunday we studied Zion. Brother Bell asked each one what they thought Zion was. Here are some of the answers he got:

1. Gathering place of the Lord's people.
2. City of God.
3. Designated place.
4. Gathering place of the pure in heart.
5. Place of holy people.
6. Condition—Garden of Eden.
7. Government of the Lord complete.
8. Redeemed into the Lord only.
9. Lord's habitation.

We studied and talked of the Rock and what is contained in it. Revelation, authority, words, power, and gifts are the five things contained in it.

Brother Bell was the speaker of the morning. He spoke on preparation. He said whenever he speaks before a group he likes to try and bring them something old and something new. He spoke of how we are now in the time of preparations. Different things that are happening show us this fact and it can be proved by the Bible. Brother Bell used III Nephi 9:8. He also spoke of how the word that goes out of the Lord's mouth shall not return void.

We are very glad that Brother Bell and his wife were here. Thanks very much for coming. I'm sure everyone gained a greater knowledge by your classes.

Edith Frey, Reporter

Ava Visiting, Aloha

There isn't much going on around Ava this month.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Smith came home February 21 then they went to Independence the twenty-sixth where Mr. Smith was to be the speaker the next day.

Mr. and Mrs. Archie Bell and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Smith went to Houston, March 5. Mr. and Mrs. Alex Smith went to Houston March 6 for the all-day meeting.

We have had Sunday School about every Sunday this month.

Visitors in Ava March 5 and 6 were Leslie Case and his two boys Jimmy and Donnie. Leslie was on his way to Houston for the meeting March 5. Leslie and the boys visited at Ava with Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Bell. Also visiting in Ava March 5 and 6 were Cliff and Ella Engle and Delores Bell who visited at the home of Archie Bell and with Russell and Oma Lathrop, Cliff's sister and brother-in-law. Leslie, Jimmy, Donnie, Cliff, Ella, and Delores all returned to Independence Sunday afternoon.

Jack Bell, Reporter

Independence Diary

The Scripture reading used by Brother J. M. Case in the morning service of February 20 was St. Matthew 5:1-20, a portion of the Sermon on the Mount. Many preachers of today mutilate the Scriptures to suit the purpose of the individual speaker. However, if we examine the records of such things as healing, we will discover the true meaning of the Scriptures. "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Hebrews 11:6. Faith comes by hearing and studying the word of God. In James 1:5, the Lord was trying to give us some way to exercise our faith and find out things for ourselves. The falling away of Christ's church was because the false teachings of man entered in among the people. Iniquities keep us from enjoying many of the blessings that have been promised to His people.

In the evening service of February 20, Brother Forest Maley stated ". . . it is by faith that miracles are wrought; and it is by faith that angels appear and minister unto men; Wherefore, if these things have ceased, woe be unto the children of men, for it is because of unbelief, and all is vain." Moroni 7:41-42. Unbelief is a neutral word used to describe the lukewarm condition of some "Christians." Hesitancy describes our position. Many people think they can do as they please and not have to suffer the consequences. The record of Nephi tells of the children being scattered because of unbelief. Can we expect anything different ourselves if we continue in unbelief? Now is the time when we must get a true measure of ourselves that our light might shine before the world. Charity is the greatest measure of our true selves. Even though we have the right organization and doctrine, if we have not charity we are nothing. Will we be satisfied with moth-eaten, second-hand salvation or do we want the best? Let us get away from this unbelief. As we

travel our road to spiritual progress, let us think about these problems. How do we recognize sin, temptations, or leadings of the Holy Spirit? Do we hold back just a little from asking God to grant us wisdom?

The semi-annual business meeting of the local Sunday School was held on Tuesday evening, February 22. The following officers were elected: Superintendent, Richard Wheaton; Assistant Superintendent, Denver Chapman; Secretary, Enid Bell; Assistant Secretary, Carolyn Nast; Treasurer, Frank Elliott; Pianist, Alice Fawn Hooker; Choister, Mary Lois Harris; Librarian, Jim Moyer; Associate Librarian, Jim Wheaton.

We have added another class to our Sunday School. It is a class in every-day problems, with solutions in Scriptural teachings for young married couples.

The regular monthly all-day meeting was held on February 27. The speaker of the morning was Brother B. C. Flint. This was the first time Brother Flint had spoken since the first Sunday of October last year in Wisconsin. His Scripture reading was James 1. There is a great deal of religious division in the world today; but truth is never divided, only error is divided. Light is the opposite of darkness. Christ brought light into the world, as recorded in St. John 8:12. "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." Christ came to atone for the original sin. The real demonstration of His power, however, is in the lives of those who profess His name. In the story of the Good Samaritan, it was the deeds of the man that showed who was the Christian. The world around us has lost comprehension of real values. The Gospel is comprehensive; it is the evidence of light. The Lord is not the author of incomprehensive things.

A covered dish dinner was served in the dining room of the church, and a service was held in the afternoon. Brother Leslie Case was the speaker. The Y. P. C. L. had charge of the afternoon and evening services. Our speaker quoted the following wise saying from Proverbs 4:5-7: "Get Wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee. Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding." From the time a child starts to understand, he is seeking wisdom as to why he does things. A system of schools has been set up to seek understanding of the world. Just what kind of knowledge do we get in the schools? We learn to read, but what do we read? If we cannot understand the Scriptures we read, our duty is to ask for knowledge and wisdom; and we shall receive it if we ask in faith, not doubting. We are here to work out our salvation to be partakers of the kingdom of God. The first step toward evil is usually a small step and is usually the easiest. The easiest place to draw the line is before we start, and never cross. As young people, we are molding our minds and bodies and we have to use everything in Scriptures to help us. When Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden of Eden, the Lord told them they would have to earn their bread by the sweat of their brows. This is the reason we labor with our hands, and this is the reason we have to

be trained. Our future should be planned seriously. The Articles of Faith state that we are stewards under God and responsible to Him not only for the use to which our money is put, but also how that money is earned.

The speaker of the evening service of February 27 was Brother Marvin Case. He asked us to consider why we are members of the Church of Christ. Many Scriptures were referred to that foretold the things that have come to pass in this Latter Day, and the reasons for the Restoration of the Gospel. In bringing forth these prophecies and their fulfillments, he told how he had come to know the truth and had joined the church.

On Tuesday evening, March 1, the Temple Lot Local Church held its semi-annual business meeting. Results of the election of officers was as follows: Pastor, C. LeRoy Wheaton; Secretary, Joyce Harris; Treasurer, Virgil Rudd; Chorister and Advocate Reporter, Enid Bell; and Pianist, Mary Lois Harris.

The morning service of March 6 was our regular monthly Sacrament service. This was a beautiful sunny Sabbath morning after we had had several days of chilly weather. Brother C. LeRoy Wheaton was in charge of this service, and read from Hebrews 9:11-28.

In the evening service of March 6, Brother William F. Anderson asked, "How much faith are we representing?" Somewhere and somehow God will develop a people that will do only His will. Are we willing to be this people? How much do we consider this? One outstanding wish of Solomon in his dedication prayer was for wisdom. We need this wisdom today. We are not exercising the faith that would bring to us the things we are in need of. We should ask ourselves if our faith has really been tested; could we stand as great a test as Abraham's when he went up into the mount to offer Isaac as a sacrifice? Nothing will be asked of us that is impossible. We have a responsibility second to none. Have we faith enough to bring ourselves to an acceptable position? If we cannot offer a higher spiritual status to the Restoration and to the world than they already have, then we are no better. When we are full of love, no power under heaven will hinder the advancement of His work. Our outstanding need at the present is personal righteousness.

Enid Bell, Reporter

Y. P. C. L. NEWS

From Independence

On February 17 we had a regular Church History study. We discussed the temple that had been at Nauvoo and then each expressed his belief concerning the building of a temple in Independence. This led to a discussion of the second coming of Christ and the establishment of Zion. We read Micah 4, Malachi 3, Ezekiel 17:23, and Isaiah 2:2.

At our parliamentary procedure study class, Febru-

ary 24, at the suggestion of our instructor, we formed the rules to a game that we hope in the future will enable us to put into practice those things we have learned in the past several months. We hope it will be both educational and enjoyable.

On Sunday, February 27, the Y. P. C. L. were given the privilege of having charge of all the services of an all-day meeting with the exception of the morning preaching service. At the afternoon preaching service we requested that our pastor, Brother Leslie Case, speak in the absence of one of our own members, Jack Sprague, who had been scheduled to speak. We also had charge of the evening prayer service and then at the evening preaching service we asked our chairman, Brother Marvin Case, to speak. I think giving us the responsibility of being in charge of services is good experience for us all.

On our Church History study night, March 3, we discussed two subjects. We talked about the choosing of the original twelve apostles in the restoration and who they were. We also discussed Latter Day revelation and how to judge its merits by comparison with the Bible and Book of Mormon and not just because it did or did not come through a certain man. "Thus saith the Lord; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord." Jeremiah 17:5.

On March 10 we held our regular semi-annual business meeting. Our officers for the following six months are as follows: Chairman, Marvin Case; Assistant Chairman, Jim Moyer; Secretary, Delores Bell; Assistant secretary, Carole Moyer; Treasurer, Barbara Babcock; Pianist, Enid Bell; Reporter, Carolyn Nast; Recorder, Jim Wheaton.

We decided to continue having our Church History classes on the first and third Thursdays of each month with Brother Maynard Case continuing as teacher. Although we feel we have gained much from the parliamentary procedure classes of the past six months, we voted to discontinue these classes and return again to the practice of having a study night each month with a variety of subjects and different teachers.

Plans are being made for a conference gathering of the young people sometime during the week-end of the ninth of April. I would like to take this opportunity to invite all of you to conference. We all need to get better acquainted.

As this is the last news I will be writing as the Y. P. C. L. reporter, I would like to tell you how much I have enjoyed this job and meeting all the many young people in so many different places through letters and other local news reports. I hope these friendships will continue among all the young people as it is such seemingly small things that will help us all have a better united Church in the future.

Mary Lois Harris, Reporter

TODAY

There is no other time given for the things we must do today. There is no other person destined or intended to do the things I can do today.

Today is the day for me to fulfill the promise that is in me.

That which I am today I shall see in the day I meet the Lord.

If the spirit of righteousness is mine today, so shall it be in the day of my judgment.

Today, then, is my promise of hope.

Without the promise of "Today"; I am lost.

He, whom I serve this day, shall be my Master in eternity.

"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." Matt. 6:24.

Note that His statement is from the aspect of him who serves. No note is made of the edict of God or of mammon in the matter; only concern is shown as to the activity of the man.

Choose you this day whom ye will serve! (Joshua).

Thomas S. Maley.

I VISITED ANOTHER CHURCH

Have you ever attended another church and felt as though the Lord was not present?

This past summer, on my vacation, I attended another church. It was a Sunday night service. They held it in the basement of the church because of the hot weather. About fifty people attended the service. The service started promptly at eight. Their preacher spoke on how to approach the Lord.

Whenever I attend another church I always like to see what the people are doing in the service. I was surprised to see one lady knitting, others were thumbing through hymn books and their Bibles. The group I was sitting with were looking at the pictures in each other's billfolds.

I thought their preacher spoke on a very interesting subject although it seemed as though he may have been talking to himself. Sometimes a few people would look up at him as though maybe they were listening. The service lasted only an hour.

After church my friend took me up in the church. It was really beautiful. She said they had a very good attendance each Sunday.

Whenever I attend a church I like to see the people listening with all their attention. That is what we are there for; to listen and gain a greater knowledge of what the Lord wants us to do.

Edith Frey

GLEANINGS BY THE WAY

(continued from page 55)

57 hymns; among others many of the Restoration songs. Old, Old Path, Book of Mormon, When Earth in Bondage Long Had Lain, and others were so translated and included in these selections.

Just before the last conference, the Board of Publi-

cations approved and had our booklet, Historical Facts Concerning the Temple Lot, published. It has proven a very valuable treatise on the background of the temple lot suit brought by the Reorganized Church against us in the 1890s. It also contains a historical review of the origin and rise of the Reorganized Church and some of their claims for Succession in the Presidency and to the original church. A copy of this booklet should be in the hands of all the ministry of the Church of Christ. It has received favorable mention in the Missouri Historical Review, and the first edition is going well, being called for by many of the Reorganized Church and also of the Latter Day Saints in Utah. You can get your copy by requesting it from the church office or directly from us, or your missionary in the field where you live. We have been advised that a new reprint may be necessary before long. No charge is being made for this booklet, but if you wish to make a donation for publishing the same it will be accepted by the General Bishopric.

MISSOURI, ARKANSAS, AND LOUISIANA REUNION

In the January Advocate we promised further information, in the April issue, concerning the Missouri, Arkansas, and Louisiana District Reunion for 1955. This year we will gather at Ava, Missouri, on July 15, 16 and 17, (Friday, Saturday and Sunday). This time may be extended if it seems wise. We are planning what some of you know as an old fashioned camp meeting, and what all will remember as a wonderful, spiritual, sociable, and enjoyable time together with services to be held in a tent. We are looking forward to see many if not all of you from this area, and as many as can come from every where, there in south Missouri, this summer.

Reunion Committee

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.

Send ALL remittances for the Sunday School Association to: General Sunday School Association 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 Mankind20
Junior, Vol. 1, No. 3, Fruits of the Spirit.....	.20
Junior, Vol. 1, No. 4, Sermon on the Mount.....	.20