

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 33

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No. 4

Easter Morn

Surely the sun must have shown that morning
With glorious brightness;
Surely the breezes sang through the trees
With happier lightness.

All nature must have awakened that day
In joyous singing.
"For lo! He is risen!" The angel said,
The echoes ringing.

There came to His tomb, with oil and spices
At earliest daybreak,
Two women who loved Him, came there to mourn,
To ease their heartache.

But what did they find when they reached the tomb?
The stone rolled away!
And angels were waiting to welcome them,
"Be not afraid!" said they.

"For lo! He is risen! He is not here.
Rejoice! Go on your way!
Tell those who are mourning to dry their tears.
They will see Him today!"

So soar, all you birds this Easter morn,
With eager fleetness!
Flowers, fill the air on Easter Day
With extra sweetness!

For Christ came to show us there is no death
Through His own life's story.
He rises forever through all the heights
To eternal glory.

By Viola Hening

CONTENTS

Editorial	Page 50	News From Locals.....	Page 58
A Trip Into Yucatan.....	Page 51	Y. P. C. L. News.....	Page 63
Out of the Mail Sack.....	Page 55	Wedding	Page 63
Original Articles	Page 56	Obituaries	Page 63

ZION'S ADVOCATE

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EDITORIAL

We can recall reading a poem quite a number of years ago. The title, we believe, was: Supposing Jesus Should Come. Then we recall that many times we have heard a song sung, entitled: When Jesus Came Into My Heart. We have been considering these two thoughts.

Let us just suppose that Jesus of Nazareth should suddenly be noticed standing on our doorstep. Supposing we went to the door to answer the knocking we heard there and found that it was He.

Would our mind and our conscience permit us to whole-heartedly welcome Him or would we quickly make a mental survey of our home to see if we could determine what He might find there that we would be ashamed for Him to know about. We would not want to ask Him to excuse us until we had looked around, so we would have to invite Him in.

While we are supposing, let us just suppose that conditions were the same as when the two disciples were walking and talking with Him along the road: "But their eyes were holden that they should not know Him." Supposing His appearance was such that we did not recognize Him and He requested us to keep His identity a secret for a while. Would we regard this request as an honor or would we be in mental anguish for fear that He would discover things that we would not want Him to know about?

Supposing we had been thinking aloud. Would our thinking be such that we would not want Him to hear?

Supposing that after we invited Him into our home, we told Him to make Himself at home, like we tell our earthly friends. We have many reasons to believe that He likes music and songs. We think then, He might go over to the music case or the piano and look through the music and songs that we have there. Would our heart or mind be troubled because of the things He would find there?

He has asked us to increase our knowledge. We believe then He would stroll over to our library and look through the books and magazines that we have

there. Would we be at ease or would we fear lest He run across some of the reading matter that we had been excusing our family for reading?

He was our guest for a period of time and had asked us to live our lives like we had been before He came. There was an entertainment planned for that night; the guests were invited and would be there in a few hours. It was not to be the kind of a party that we would want to invite Christ to, but here He was in our house and we at a loss to know what to do. Try to imagine the embarrassment of such a situation.

There was a Prayer Meeting held at our church each mid-week. We had not been attending. Now Jesus was in our home and surely would expect us to go and take Him with us. Would we feel free or would we be fearful that someone would mention that it seemed nice to see us starting to attend Prayer Meeting?

Sunday came and we knew that we would be expected to attend services. We had been in the habit of attending Sunday School and then leaving before the following service began. We had been in the habit of staying home whenever we had guests in the home before, and now . . . What were we going to do?

Conference was beginning the following week and we knew that Jesus would want to attend. We could not refuse to take Him but we were afraid that He would not approve of some of the things that might take place. For that reason we prayed earnestly and fasted that the conference might be conducted in every respect in harmony with His will. We prayed that there would be no disputations nor contentions in anger, neither would there be any resolution passed that would be out of harmony with His will.

While this might be passed over as just a supposition, let us see if we can make it apply.

Jesus plainly told the Nephites, "Whatsoever ye shall do, ye shall do it in my name". We also find recorded in the Scriptures the words of Christ, "Behold I stand at the door, and knock: If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and sup with him, and he with me."

We are prone to read these passages of Scripture and forget them. Perhaps we should read more of the Bible from which this one passage was taken: "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand."

If the time was at hand to apply the words of Christ then, it surely must be at hand now, nearly nineteen hundred years later. If Christ was knocking at His people's door then, He is now; and He also wants to come into their home. He is ever present if we permit Him to be. He left the promise with us: "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." That is not an imaginary promise but is literal and is real.

Even though we may not invite Him into our home He knows what goes on there. He knows whether we take time to humbly and reverently thank Him for our food and ask His blessing upon it before we eat it.

He knows if we humbly bow the knee in our home,

not just when we have trouble or sickness, but at all times. Should we not thank Him for the things we enjoy in life as well as ask Him for His protection?

He hears our every conversation and either approves or disapproves of everything we say. Yes, our words, thoughts, and deeds are written in His Book, (the Lamb's Book of Life).

He hears the songs we sing, whether we be in church, at home or among those of the world. He hears the music we play. He knows the kind of songs and type of music that appeals to us. He hears and understands whether it honors Him or not.

He knows the books or magazines we enjoy reading. Our desires are not hidden from Him even though we may be in a room by ourselves, in a place that we may think is secret or if we be thousands of miles from home and those who know us. Our reading matter cannot be hidden from Him.

He knows the pleasures our hearts are set on. We may find all kinds of excuses for doing the things we want to do that are not in harmony with the will of Christ, but that does not justify us for doing them.

He knows if we do not attend His services as we should. He knows if we are physically able or not. He knows if we have allowed our spiritual man to deteriorate and the reason we allowed it.

He knows those who attend conference and those who take part. He knows who earnestly contend for the faith, because they will do so with regard for their brother's feelings. They will not want to injure him even though there may be a wide difference in their positions as to the understanding of the Gospel.

He knows who contends in anger with his brother. Christ knows this and has spoken plainly against it: "And there shall be no disputations among you, as there hath hitherto been; neither shall there be disputations among you concerning the points of my doctrine, as there hath hitherto been;

"For verily, verily I say unto you, he that hath the spirit of contention, is not of me, but is of the devil, who is the father of contention and he that stirreth up the hearts of men to contend with anger one with another;

"Behold this is not my doctrine, to stir up the hearts of men with anger one against another; but this is my doctrine, that such things should be done away."

There is much good can be accomplished at our conferences and the devil knows it, and for that reason he does his best to make a division among the people of Christ. His best weapon is to try to get them to contend one with another in anger over things they both think they are in the right on. If they reason together as brethren the devil is defeated.

Even as we would have to invite Christ into our home if He appeared in person, so must we invite Him into our every word, thought or deed. We must invite Him into our meetings. If we feared lest He should hear something contrary to His will if He were there in person and we earnestly fasted and prayed that all would be said and done to harmonize with His will,

so should we be just as earnest in our fasting and praying even though He be just invited in Spirit.

When we are tempted to say things we ought not, sing songs we ought not, read books and magazines we ought not, stay away from services we ought to attend or in fine when we are tempted to live in any way contrary to God, let us stop and think of the words of Christ: "Behold I stand at the door, and knock: If any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him, and sup with him, and he with me."

This is a great promise and is meant for each of us if we will only hear His knock.

A. F. B.

A TRIP INTO YUCATAN

The time is November 25, 1956. The place is Phoenix, Arizona. It is the first day of a three-day reunion. So begins my story.

As we met that first morning in a prayer service, the spirit of the Lord was felt in great power, and that spirit remained to bless our people by it's ministering, through the entire three-day reunion. I am sure that each one who attended was able to go to their different homes in company with a portion of that same spirit.

As I enjoyed the wonderful spirit and the blessings of that reunion with the Saints, I never dreamed of the great experiences and blessings the Lord had in store for me, in what was then the very near future. At the close of one of the meetings, Brother Wheaton came to me and asked if I would go to Yucatan with him. This request came as a great surprise to me. I wanted to go. In fact I have had a great desire to go to those people in Yucatan for some time. For the life of me, I could not see how I could possibly do it. First I would have to secure a leave of absence from my regular job as a fireman of the City of Phoenix. To get such a leave, sometimes takes a bit of doing. Then there was the problem of the family expenses. Bills must be paid even when the pay check stops. I need not go into detail as to my family expenses, but because of certain unfortunate circumstances, my experiences were such that it seemed it would be unwise for me to take a leave without pay at this time. Of course there are many problems that must be solved before a man can leave his family and job and go off into a strange land, but I trust in the Lord and have learned to take my problems to him in prayer.

I find in the Scripture, that in days of old, the Lord directed His servants and His people in many wonderful ways. He has directed them in dreams, visions, by the visitation of angels, and by that still small voice that speaks to the souls of men. I read in the Book of Mormon, page 775, verse 7, these wonderful words. "Wherefore I would exhort you, that ye deny not the power of God; for he worketh by power, according to the faith of the children of men, the same today and tomorrow, and forever."

I testify that I do not deny the power of God, and I know He can and does direct the children of men today as in the days of old, in accord with their faith.

After several days prayer, I still felt it would be unwise to go with Brother Wheaton to Yucatan. It seemed that the Lord did not deem it wise to reveal His will unto me. I told Brother Wheaton I would not go with him, yet I did not cease to pray over the question. A day or so after this as I retired for the night while on duty at the fire station, I again made it a matter of prayer. I did not have a vision or a dream, and as I awoke in the morning I was disappointed to think that the Lord had not revealed His will in some manner, and then all of a sudden there appeared in my mind that scripture as found in Mark 10:21, "Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, one thing thou lackest; go thy way; sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up thy cross, and follow me."

Here, that still small voice that speaks to the souls of men, was speaking in the silence of the room, and while there was no sound that could be heard, yet my soul was listening to the voice of God as He was directing me to do His will. Immediately my mind was at ease. I had no further doubts or fears as to my personal problems.

I called Brother Wheaton and told him I would go with him. I asked the city officials for a leave of absence and it was granted. It took a few days to set my affairs in order, but I went about doing so with peace and confidence in my heart. As I was at my desk one night, writing checks to pay some last minute bills, I noticed a little black book lying on my desk. I had never seen the book before. As I finished my work I picked it up. It was a small new Testament. Without thinking, I opened the book, and the first words that met my eyes were, "Sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasures in heaven: and come, take up thy cross, and follow Me."

On the morning of December 8, we left Phoenix for Yucatan. The trip down was most interesting. We enjoyed traveling through a strange and beautiful land but all was not a bed of roses. If you have never traveled in a land where the people speak a different language than your own, and you are unable to speak theirs, it would be most impossible for me to convey to you by written word some of the exasperating and difficult circumstances one can get into.

We reached Ticul, Yucatan on December 23, and on Christmas Eve we went to Dzan, where I spoke in our little church there. I felt blessed with the spirit in great power as I spoke, but it is not the sermon that I wish to tell you about. I want to tell you about your brothers and sisters in Yucatan who love each one of you with a love that is born in their knowledge of the Gospel of Christ. That love I saw expressed in their eyes as I saw them for the first time. I felt it in their handclasp, and I comprehended it in the softness of their voices even though I understood not their words. I did not feel as though they were strangers and that I was meeting them for the first time. I felt as though I had known and loved them forever. I felt all the joy and happiness of one who had been separated from his loved ones and was coming home into the comfort of their love after a long absence.

In the course of our activities there, we were privileged to meet them in prayer services. Again I say, though I was unable to understand their words, yet I did understand their spirits. I have never heard such prayers. The desire, the humility, the devotion, the love, and their great faith can be clearly discerned as one listens to them pray in their quiet and orderly manner. I have never before witnessed such great faith. At the close of their prayer and testimony meetings, it is a common thing for many men, women, and children to come forward and ask to be administered to. At one service, fifteen came forward and asked for the laying on of hands and the anointing with oil for the purpose of healing. The Lord has blessed them in great measure in the gift of healing. This gift is one of their greatest needs.

On one occasion, Brother Wheaton, Fernando and I went over to Dzan to do some work on the church building. At the same time a number of our men folks came to move a small house from one location on the church grounds to another where it could better be used as a class room to teach the little ones on Sundays. I had been working for some time on the roof and I came down to get some material. As I walked into the church where the material was, I noticed an Indian woman kneeling in prayer. We soon found that she was praying for the Lord to bless and heal her little child who was very sick at home. She asked if we would administer to the little one. Of course our answer was yes. She said it would be wisdom if she would bring the child to the church, because it would be dangerous for us to go into the part of town where she lived. In about two hours she brought the child to the church. All the workmen layed their tools down and came into the church. We had a prayer and then administered to the child. After this every one just sat down and there was about five minutes of quiet. Then some one said let us pray, and we all knelt in prayer. We did not get off our knees until almost all had offered up a prayer for the little one. The child was healed. At our next meeting the father and mother of this child bore their testimony and with tears streaming down their faces told of the goodness of God.

When we would attend church in Dzan, our brother Sabino and his good wife, who live near the church, would invite us to eat in their humble house. As I sat for the first time at his table, in a small house about eight by fourteen feet, made of sticks and mud with a palm leaf roof, I felt the spirit of God present in such power I could hardly speak or eat. I knew that the others in the room felt that Spirit also.

I asked Fernando to tell Sabino how much we appreciated his kindness and hospitality. He did so, and brother Sabino said that anything he had was ours, and then he began to relate a vision which he had been given. Yes, the Spirit of God was in that room, and I doubt if ever a kings' palace was graced with such spirit as we felt there. I am sure of one thing and that is, that we were dining in the presence of Royalty, for the Spirit of God was there; yes and dear old Bro. Sabino was there and he wore the cloak of humility after the manner of a child of the King. Let

me add, that most of our brothers and sisters of the Maya people wear that clock with equal dignity.

As to brother Sabino's vision, I will not relate it here but I will say, it was given to him that he might have courage and strength to withstand the terrible persecutions that he must endure because of his love for Christ. He states that after the vision in which he saw himself in the hands of a mob, he was taken by a mob, dragged through the streets and thrown into jail. He did not fight back or even offer resistance because he had been shown that they would not be permitted to harm him.

Our people of Yucatan are being blessed in great measure with dreams and visions. The gifts of the Gospel are very much in evidence among them. While they are poor in this world's goods, they most certainly are rich in spirit.

Speaking of this world's goods, it is impossible to comprehend the poverty of these people until one sees it, and then it is hard to believe. They live in small houses made of mud, sticks and rocks with a palm leaf roof and dirt floors. Very few of their houses are larger than ten feet wide by twenty feet long. They have very few clothes. The clothes the men wear in the fields are so patched that it is doubtful in some cases if there is any of the original garment left at all.

Their main food is corn, squash and fruit. This is grown on what they call plantations or farms. These farms are often more than fifty miles from their homes. They go to and from these farms on foot. All the farm produce is carried to their homes or to market on their backs, or on the backs of little horses. Most of the people do not own a horse.

None of the houses are heated and when they have cold nights the people really suffer. They sleep in hammocks and hardly anyone has more than one thin cotton blanket.

These people are in great need. Those of us in this country who feel we do not have much are living in luxury in comparison. Some of us think we are poor, but let me tell you something; we do not know what poverty is until we have seen the condition under which our brothers and sisters of Yucatan live. They do not complain, but they are reaching out for every opportunity to learn and to better their condition. I know that some times it seems to them it is hopeless to keep trying. It is up to us not only to pray that God may bless them but we must do more than pray. We must impart of our substance or we will be held accountable before God for failure to do so. It is our prayers and our substance that has kept that hope alive within them. When I left them there was one message they wanted me to give to each of you. In their own words I give it here. "Tell all our brothers and sisters of the United States, their prayers, their sacrifices, and their substance that they have given have not been in vain."

I say, that once we are aware of the condition of our people in Yucatan and then fail to do anything about it, or to do all that is in our power, then our worship of God is in vain. This not only holds true of our attitude and action in the case of our people

there but it holds true in every case. Whenever and wherever we find a place and a need to serve mankind we must strive with all our power, our love and our substance. We profess to be Christians; then we should understand that to serve mankind is to serve God. "To whom much is given, much is required."

Among the many wonderful experiences I had while in Yucatan, there is one more I would like to relate before I end my story. On January 9 Fernando and I made a trip into the jungle. There is a family of Indians by the name of Cocom who live back in the jungle some twenty-five miles. We wanted to call on this family. The only way in was by jungle trail. Fernando said we would have to walk in. I suggested we go in on bicycle. He thought it could be done. So early one morning Brother Wheaton took us by truck sixty miles to where the trail began. We arrived at the trail about noon and immediately tied our packs on the bicycles and set forth to conquer the jungle. We each carried one blanket, one hammock, and a little food. I also carried my books.

Right from the start the trail was narrow and rough. In many places the jungle made a solid wall on both sides of the trail. The trees even came together over our heads. It was almost like riding through a tunnel. We could hardly ever ride over a few hundred feet at a time. Sometimes only just a few feet, then get off and push up over steep rocky parts of the trail that was difficult just for walking, to say nothing of pushing those bicycles up and over as well. Fernando had been over the trail before but all jungle trails look alike. Ever so often we would come to a fork in the trail. First we would take the left and next we would take the right. Soon we were lost.

The weather was hot and we had brought no water. Riding a bicycle on a hot day in the jungle without water is just dandy. After three hours of wandering around we found a small grass hut, but no one was home. We went in and found a small jug of water. This we used to wet our tongues and soon we went on our way.

After a little more wandering around we got back on the right trail. Just before sundown we came to a jungle water-hole. You should have seen that water. I found out later than even the natives will not drink it unless they boil it. Well sir, you know, we just laid down and drank our fill. Never tasted better water in all my days. So far we have had no bad effects from it.

The sun finally went down and we were some distance from our destination. We tied our hammocks between two trees and retired for the night. Did you ever try to sleep in a hammock on a cold night? If not, it would be useless for me to relate here my sad experience, for I am sure you could not believe such fantastic truth.

The same sun that had so cruelly left us to the darkness and cold of the jungle night crept so silently through the jungle and seemingly without force brought the world into a new dawn. After the shades and dangers of the night had retreated into the unknown, we again set forth in our puny strength to penetrate the mighty jungle.

It seems that a hurricane went through this part of the country a few months ago. It was not hard for us to detect its passing through these woods. There were places that the trees were down in such confusion that it was almost impossible for man to get through, to say nothing of a couple of poor old bicycles that seemed to be utterly inexperienced in the ways of the jungle.

We had carried those bicycles over and under downed trees until we had begun to think there would never be an end to such punishment. For hours we had heard nothing but the usual noises of the jungle, and then all of a sudden we heard a most beautiful sound. You might ask, what was that sound that had in its tone such melody? That music that come so sweet and clear to our ears was the crow of a rooster. In this case the crow of a rooster meant that there were people near by and that meant we had reached our destination.

As I rode over a small rise in the trail there opened to my view a picture I shall never forget. There in a small clearing in the jungle were five or six small Indian huts. There were Indians going about their daily activities in about the exact way in which they had in ages past. It seemed that time had turned back several hundred years and I was permitted to see a living page cut from the history of an ancient people.

These people greeted us with open arms and this I mean literally. One Indian man came up to me and threw his arms around me and greeted me as though I was his long lost brother. He had tears in his eyes and I can honestly say that there were tears in mine as well. It seemed as though I had known him forever, and though I was only there a day and a night I know that those people are my true friends and I love them with all my heart.

I had to talk to them through an interpreter. Fernando served me well in this capacity. When I asked one young man his name he replied by giving me his name and added, "I am your servant." I told him I did not come to be served but rather to serve them in the capacity of a minister of the Gospel of Christ.

As soon as we arrived among them they began to talk one to another in great excitement. After a little while Fernando told me why they were so excited. Here is the story as he unfolded it to me.

One young woman had seen us in a dream of the night. She said that in her dream she saw that we brought a basket of good fruit from which they were fed. Another woman dreamed that we brought a basket of good bread from which they did eat. They had told their dreams to one another before we arrived. They said they knew we were coming. They had no way of knowing this other than by the power of God.

That night I spoke to them under the stars with the jungle standing in silence as the walls of our cathedral. Candles gave light by which we were able to read the Scripture, but the Spirit of God gave light to our spiritual understanding. I told them that indeed we had brought a basket of good bread, which bread was the word of God and was food for the soul. I then read to them the Scripture, "Man shall not live by bread alone,

but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." I also pointed out to them how in times past, God had dealt with men through dreams and visions. As I mentioned this, one old Indian got to his feet and began to talk. He said that as I had mentioned dreams it had caused him to remember what he had dreamed. He said that he had seen his family standing in a group as though they were in readiness for a group picture. He said they were exactly grouped as I had grouped them that day for a picture.

After the service we were given one of their little houses to sleep in. We hung our hammocks and retired. Again my experience with the hammock was a fantastic one. Let me here give you a description of our bedroom. It was made of sticks about the size of a man's thumb and approximately five feet long. These were standing on end in an upright position. These formed the walls. There was no mortar or mud whatsoever. Above this was the palm-leaf roof. Standing on the inside against the north wall there was a large bin of corn. In the east end there were four very sweet looking little hens setting on their eggs, with that motherly look in their eyes, patiently waiting for that blessed event. In the southeast corner were several little puppies who had lost their mother only a few days before. Against the west wall another little hen endured the cold of the night while the warmth of her body brought forth the miracle of life from the eggs beneath her feathered breast.

During the night, because of the cold, it became necessary that I get up and stir around a little. As I looked around, I could see through the walls of our small house and see all the other little huts, and in each one there was a small fire burning in one corner, and from the fires the natives had taken live coals and placed them under their hammocks.

The next day we visited some ruins that were near there. We got some good pictures of these. We were told of an ancient city that was a seven mile trip through the jungle from there. We did not have time to go see this ancient city as it would take several days to make the round trip. Seven miles of jungle where one must cut his way through is more than we could undertake at the time.

The time to depart from our friends of the jungle came all too soon. It may be hard to believe, but in our short stay there we made ties of friendship that will last a life time. We made up our packs, said good-bye, and with mingled feelings of both joy and sorrow we set out on our return journey. I say mingled feelings of joy and sorrow; we were made happy in the warmth of their hospitality and fellowship and we were made sorrowful because we had to leave so soon those whom we had learned to love in the bonds of the Gospel of Christ.

The trip out was much like the trip in, however this time we did not get lost. We met Brother Wheaton at the appointed time and place. Fernando and I were certainly glad to see his smiling face and to get a chance again to ride in that old missionary car. You know, one really appreciates the luxury of a car more than ever after a jungle trip on a bicycle. You should try it some time.

Sunday, January 22, was the last Sunday I spent in Yucatan. We went to church in Dzan in the morning and after church every man, woman, and child came to me and gave me the most beautiful goodbyes I have ever experienced in all my life. That night we had our church in our own house in Ticul. After the service every one just sat down as though there were to be more of the service. In a minute or two some said, "Let us pray". We all knelt and there on their knees they offered up many wonderful prayers to God. They thanked God that He had been so merciful as to give unto them an understanding of His great Gospel. They asked God to go with me on my journey home, and they prayed that I might be able to find my family well and happy. They prayed many other wonderful things. After the prayers, my dear old Brother Cocom who had come with his family fifty miles out of the jungle, came from the back of the room and with tears streaming down his face he took me in his arms and told me goodbye. (I called him brother. He is not yet a member of the church, but indeed he is my brother). After his goodbye every man, woman and child in that room came to me with the same beautiful spirit to bid me goodbye. Each person would talk to me in their native tongue and then Fernando would tell me what they said.

They not only love those of us who have been privileged to labor among them, but they love each of their brothers and sisters of the Gospel of Christ. While you have not been privileged to experience a demonstration of their love, let me assure you that I have heard them pray in your behalf with all the fervor and strength of their souls.

It was almost midnight before all goodbyes were said. It was a day to be remembered. I hope God will answer their prayers and mine; and that is, that He will be with us and guide us, and that we will all walk upright before Him until we meet again.

I took the plane the next day in Merida and on January 24 I was in Phoenix with my family. Yes, I was happy to be home, but I have found out one thing, and that is, that Phoenix is not my only home. Whenever and wherever one is with those who are filled with the love of God, he is at home. The word "home" makes me think of the word "family". All those who understand and accept the Gospel of Christ are of one family. I left some of my brothers and sisters when I left Yucatan and while I was with them I was at home.

May God continue to bless them is my prayer.

E. L. Yates

OUT OF THE MAIL SACK

Ticul, Yucatan, Mexico
March 6, 1956

Dear Saints:

You may have been wondering how things are progressing down here now as we have rather neg-

lected our writing during the last couple of months or so.

First we are grateful to have had the opportunity of having Apostles C. L. Wheaton and E. L. Yates with us even for a short stay. Nevertheless, the remembrance of the experiences we were permitted to have with these our brethren will stay fresh in our memories for a long time. They have encouraged our members very much in this part of the Lord's vineyard and helped too on a few more steps in the knowledge of the Gospel of Christ, our Redeemer.

Since last December a few more members have been added to the church and we praise God because the new Christians are very faithful to the covenant they just made in the waters of baptism, in spite of so much suffering that some of them have to endure because of their love for Him who first loved the sinner and gave His life to save those who would be obedient to His commandments.

Among those new in the Kingdom who really do need the prayers of all is Sister Ana Tzue, who is the mother of three children and the sister of one of our Elders in the church at Dzan. This sister's husband threatened to throw her out if she was baptized, but this very courageous woman trusted in the Almighty God and decided to join in spite of her husband's threat.

She had to stay with her relatives for a few days before her husband would take her back to his home, after she came in, and mistreats her very much because of the church, but she is very humble and has put her whole trust in our most great Heavenly Father.

In the last few weeks we have been trying very hard to better organize our Local here in Ticul. We now lack a place for our gatherings as the place we now use is not fit for the purpose. It is a long walk for our people, especially for the sisters who have to carry their babies in their arms and have to do a lot of walking when they go to the market before church. However, it is a peaceful place because we do not have very many people living very close and this is one good thing about it.

Someone took advantage of when we were away from the place one night and broke into it. They stole a few items and took the organ apart, sent us by the Phoenix, Arizona group, thinking it was a trunk which might contain money or valuables. He got the surprise of his life when he saw the keys of the organ like the "shining teeth of a dragon" looking up at him. That discouraged the poor soul and he left.

We are indeed very thankful that the damage was not very great, for he could have stolen more things than he did as our missionaries had left many of their things down here to use when they or some one else comes down in the future.

We are hoping to see our mission school established before long and we are praying for a place where we can have a little pool or a fount of some sort where people could be baptized and save the pain it takes to fill up the fount we have at Dzan or the long
(continued on page 58)

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.

STEWARDSHIP

By Elder Lewis E. Welch

Steward—"One who manages an estate for another."—Webster.

A Christian steward would, then, be one that managed an estate for God. For God is the owner of all things as we read in Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

Then in Genesis 1:26-30, we have the account of God giving man dominion over all the earth. In this first chapter of the Bible, we find God as the maker, owner and giver of all things, and man the steward of all things of the world.

In Psalms 8:3-9, "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;

"What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

"For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.

"Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:

"All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beast of the field;

"The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and what soever passeth through the paths of the seas,

"O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!"

And, now for another one we turn to Psalms 24:1. Here we find the Psalmist saying,

"The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein."

And God warned the children of Israel, for fear they would forget that he (God) was the owner of all things, and spoke to them in language like this, "Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God, in not keeping His commandments, and His judgments, and His statutes, which I command thee this day:

"Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein;

"And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied;

"Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the Lord thy God."—Deut. 8:11-14.

This same warning still rings down through the ages even to our time. In the Old Testament, steward-

ship often was a matter of law and command, and because of this God often called their attention to the fact that he (God) was the maker, owner, and giver of all things.

God did not need stewardship for his own needs. But, God knew that man needed stewardship in order to develop his soul, and that "we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." I John 3:2.

All through the Book of Amos we read of conditions as they confront us today. He said, "That with the paying of their tithes alone would not atone for selfishness, and wickedness of their lives. Even the songs of worship were an abomination of God, because of the oppression of their fellowmen." (Read the whole book of Amos).

Christ looked upon stewardship as taught in the Old Testament as being inadequate to the developing of man's soul. He knew the law that had been taught, for he said, "think not that I am come to destroy the law or the prophets. I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill."

We note he said, "Not to destroy but to fulfill." In his birth the words of the prophet Isaiah were fulfilled and by his coming he fulfilled the law, thus the law became of no effect, for he became the "Mediator of a better Covenant, (or Law), which was established upon better promises." Hebrews 8:6.

But as we follow his teachings, especially in all his parables we find him affirming that God is not only maker and owner, but Father of all.

And we read where Paul says, Romans 8:14-17, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God, . . . but ye have received the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father." That makes us heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ.

And, as such, we must heed the command God gave our first parents, Adam and Eve, Genesis 1:28, "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth."

The Lord Jesus taught us the Golden Rule in the parable of the Good Samaritan, also that a man's life consisteth not in the things that he possesseth; in the parable of the rich man that had no room for the abundant yield of his ground, as we read in Luke 12:16-21, and again in Luke 16:1-15, also the story of Lazarus and a certain rich man in verses 19-26. And in Matthew 20:1-15, this parable shows the equity in giving each laborer, (or steward) an equal reward for faithful service.

Another parable, we read in Luke 19:11-27, shows

that Jesus understood all about stewardship, for in this scripture we are shown how strict our accountability will be when asked to render an account of our stewardship.

We are told (we Christians), we are not our own we have been bought with a price, "the precious blood of Christ." I Peter 1:19. That makes us accountable to God for our stewardship. But some will say, times have changed, we are living in a modern age; which is true—Jesus knew all this would take place, and for that reason he made provision for just such conditions when he said in words like this, Luke 21:33, "Heaven and earth shall pass away; but my words shall not pass away." We are still our brother's keeper. We are held responsible not only to our brother, but to the bettering of conditions that cause poverty and disease.

In I Corinthians 4:1-2, we find Paul talking to the ministers saying, "Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."

Also in II Peter 4:10, "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the some one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

Here we find the ministers are stewards of the mysteries of God, an holy responsibility. Some may think that all we have to account for is our soul, but remember all belongs to God, all we have in our possession belongs to him, and we will be held responsible for what we do with it. The steward must use his possessions of whatever they might be, so that God's great plan of redemption can be worked out. We are only trustees having custody of the Lord's property.

Ownership is the state of being an owner. Between man and man, there is a condition which we call ownership. We say we own a home, yet when we look into the legal sense of our ownership, the state requires us to pay taxes at certain dates and places. If we fail then our ownership ceases; that is why the Lord, when asked the question, Matthew 22:17-21, "Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?" answered them, "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's."

But the meaning of ownership as affecting a Christian steward is that life, and all that pertains to it, time, energy, talent, personality, and possessions, belong to God.

O, but one says, "I never knew that it meant all this to be a Christian." I have already quoted I Cor. 6:19-20, "Ye are not your own, but ye are bought with a price." So few realize the responsibility they take upon themselves when they accept the Lord and His saving grace.

If more would do as the Lord said we should do, as we read in Luke 12:26-33, we would find it more than being a church member, and more than paying one-tenth of our income. To be a real Christian steward means we must consecrate all to God. And in Psalms 50:10-12, we find God speaking, saying: "For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. I know all the fowls of the mountains; and the wild beasts of the field are mine. If I were

hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof." And the prophet Haggai warns us, Haggai 2:8, "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts."

It is a common opinion that God promised the land of Canaan to Abraham and his seed forever. But by a careful study of that scripture, we find that God gave the land of Canaan to Abraham and his seed for an everlasting possession. Genesis 17:8.

This shows that God did not relinquish his claim on the promised land. And when the Jews rejected Christ and forgot God, their land became a deserted land and Jerusalem became a heap. Matthew 24:1-2. Joel 1, the entire chapter tells the condition of the land of promise, but chapter 2 tells the glad news of the return of the Jews to their possession (the promised land) and its return to be a fruitful field. So the Jews, or Israel, will have to give an accounting of their stewardship over the promised land, the same as we will have to account for our stewardship.

"Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice." Psalms 50:5. This scripture is often read and used as a text by the ministry when urging the people to contribute to the church funds.

But let us study this quotation real close, for the Lord warned, St. John 5:39, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they which testify of me." (They that search the scriptures).

First, there is to be a gathering of saints. Second, those that have made a covenant (a promise or agreement formally made). Third, it is made by sacrifice (to give to God that which belongs to Him) even all we have in our possession. And, in so doing we fulfill the greatest commandment, Acts 2:41-45, "and all that believed (and were baptized) were together, and had all things common; and sold their possessions and goods, (those things God had made them stewards over) and parted them to all men, as every man had need."

A life of consecration is necessary to learn God's plan. We must be in communion with God so that we may have a spiritual vision. A willingness to obey God is the greatest requisite we need in conforming our lives to God's requirements. If we are willing to consecrate our lives and our all to the service of God, then God's plan of stewardship will be our plan of life.

If we study the New Testament scriptures closely, we will find that the Lord Jesus, and the Apostles taught stewardship in its fullness. Paul says in I Corinthians 9:16-17, "For though I preach the Gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the Gospel!"

"For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward." The attitude we render our stewardship must be of a willing mind, because of our love for God and our fellowmen.

And in II Cor. 9:7, he warns again, as follows: "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God

loveth a cheerful giver." (Not because of some fixed law or command). We have placed an emphasis on the word stewardship as being material, a thing we should refrain from for we read in I Corinthians 2:10-14, "But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit; for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea the deep things of God.

"For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the Spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

"Now we (Christians) have received, not the Spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

"Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom (or learning) teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

"But the natural (carnal) man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

So it was on that Pentecost day when the power of the Holy Ghost came on the Church, that the Apostles remembered what the Lord had commanded them.

Matthew 28:19-20, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

And by that Holy Ghost they learned what real Stewardship was, and complied with it.

OUT OF THE MAIL SACK

(continued from page 55)

trip to the beach whenever someone wants to be baptized.

We have a couple of very zealous members in a place called Ozkutzcab. These people have been scattering our message in that town and have roused the interest of some of their friends and relatives. During the last two weeks they invited us of the Ticul Local to go hold services in their little place they live in. A group of people were waiting and had been waiting for us a long time before we arrived.

Bro. Vincent Poot, now an Elder in the church and the one who writes, went to Ozkutzcab where we very trustingly told them our story of the Restored Gospel and after we had spoken, the brother who had been working so hard to make a new opening in his town got to his feet and with tears in his eyes told those present of his recent illness and how, through administration, he had been made well. He told them of the wonderful promises of the Lord and of the gifts and blessings that we can again enjoy in these days as the result of the restoration of the Kingdom of God on earth.

We have been to talk to these people twice and are happy to report that two of them have made a request for baptism. We pray God that others will listen to that still small voice that speaks to the hearts of men and calls them to repentance and obedience to the law of God that they may gain therefrom Eternal Life and abide with God forever.

Most Sincerely,
Your Brother in Christ,
Fernando Ojeda

NEWS FROM LOCALS

St. Louis, Missouri

We had our Sacrament Service the first Sunday in February. There were many good testimonies.

Brother Alton Shankle's text for his sermon was on kindness. Matthew 5:38-45, and in Matthew 8:22, "But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead." Mark 10:25-30 contains instructions for following Christ which is more important than anything else. Matthew 25:31-46, and Luke 6:35-45, if we are good to our fellowmen, we have done good unto the Lord. We all desire kindness so we should show kindness to others. Luke 10:25-37 is the story of the Good Samaritan. Each man shall pay for his own wrong. What we sow we shall reap.

Brother Shankle spoke of how Aaron was called by God to be Moses's mouthpiece. The Lord speaks of the seventy in Luke 10:1-11.

February 19, Brother Alton Shankle's text was "Rewards". When we die our spirit goes back to God and our body goes back to dust. We will receive our rewards according to the good we do on earth. If we so much as give a drink of water in the name of Christ we will receive a reward, but without faith we cannot please God. Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Baptism is for the remission of sin, St. John 3:5, except a man be born of water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

The laying on of hands is for the sick and for the receiving of the Holy Ghost. Acts 19:1-7.

On February 26, Sister Keeney with her daughter and son-in-law and her two grandchildren came to visit us.

Brother L. Nichols was our speaker of the morning. His text was: What is meant by a redeemer? According to the dictionary the word redeem means: to buy back something that had been sold.

The serpent told Eve to eat of the fruit and she would know good from evil. When she ate of the fruit man's soul was lost to evil. God sent His Son to save us from our sins. Our Redeemer is Christ. Exodus 6:6-7; Job 19:25-26; Luke 1:68-74; Galatians 3:13-14 and Philippians 2:7-11. However, we cannot enter into heaven unless we have been baptized of the water and of the Spirit. Those who are baptized and believe (Jude 1:5), and endure to the end, the same shall be saved. We shall die if we do not endure to the end.

Edith Frey, Reporter

Houston, Texas



This is a group of church folks and their friends who met with us February 5, 1956, in the home of Sister Alma Landrum and her good husband down in Houston, Texas. There were only eight Church of Christ members in the group but the others were interested in our message, and we had a lovely day and a good spirit was present with us. There were a few from the Reorganized Church who were very much interested in the message of the Church of Christ. Brother L. V. Aldridge had come up from Valasco, about 60 miles south from Houston, to be with us. Elder R. L. Spiller, who had transferred to the Church of Christ just a few days previous, took the picture of the group out in the yard of this pleasant home.

We had come to Houston by invitation and were making our home with Brother Spiller. We had tried to contact all the members of the church in and around Houston and this was the result of our first good meeting. We feel sure this is but a beginning, and that much good work can be accomplished in this great city. This portion of the field was cared for in the years past by brethren R. M. Maloney and E. E. Long, and still later was visited by Brother C. L. Wheaton; but, in the years that have elapsed some have drifted away and others have become indifferent. Now it seems time that we should "Break up your fallow ground" and resow the field, for the harvest time draweth nigh. We left these good people with a promise that we would return if possible, and help reestablish the work in this place. Three of those in this picture are the daughters of Sister Yarbrough of Fort Worth, well known to some of the Saints for her steadfast faith, courage and devotion to the Church of Christ throughout the long years of isolation.

We enjoyed our work in Texas and learned to love the Saints very much even in our short stay with them.

The Smiths

Georgeville, Missouri

On January 22, we had several visitors. Brother and Sister LeRoy Wheaton and boys, Brother Nicholas

Denham, Sister Angela Wheaton, and Brother Vance Harris and daughters were all here from Independence.

Our morning speaker for January 22 was Brother LeRoy Wheaton. Brother Wheaton began by reading one of our opening songs; number 239, "Where Wilt Thou Put Thy Trust." He also read from the Book of Mormon. "Behold I am the light; I have set an example for you." (III Nephi 8:49). "Yea, humble yourselves, and continue in prayer unto him; cry unto him when ye are in your fields; yea, over all your flocks; cry unto him in your houses, yea, over all your household, both morning, mid-day, and evening; yea, cry unto him against the power of your enemies; yea, cry unto him against the devil, who is an enemy to all righteousness. Cry unto him over the crops of your fields, that ye may prosper in them: cry over the flocks of your fields, that they may increase. But this is not all: ye must pour out your souls in your closets, and your secret places, and in your wilderness; Yea, and when you do not cry unto the Lord, let your hearts be full, drawn out in prayer unto him continually for your welfare, and also for the welfare of those who are around you." (Alma 16:219-222).

He also read Moroni 6:6-9. "And the church did meet together oft, to fast and to pray, and to speak with one another concerning the welfare of their souls: and they did meet together oft to partake of bread and wine, in remembrance of the Lord Jesus;" (Moroni 6:6).

We, too, should meet together often. "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." (I Cor. 15:19).

Prayer is a power, a mighty force for good. "Where wilt thou put thy trust?" Rely not in humanity, but use prayer. The paths may seem close especially to the young. As a child we want to be our own boss. We never are our own boss. We must always do the will of the Father.

"And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation. And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him." (Luke 22:40-43). There are ministering angels to look for the beautiful.

Brother LeRoy Wheaton read a few words from the second song we had sung; number 209, "Look for the Beautiful." James 5:14. "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him." We must pray always.

We should each establish the habit of prayer in our lives, especially the young. We who would serve God must become a praying people. Brother Wheaton closed by reading Job 42:8-17. We all know the story of Job and how God gave him more than he had originally possessed. Job trusted in the Lord. "Where wilt thou put thy trust?"

On Sunday evening Brother Nicholas Denham was the speaker. His Scripture lesson was II Tim 2. Brother Denham told of attending a conference of a church of another denomination. The things said there were amazing because of the little light they have and what we are supposed to have. They had great zeal. Do we? We need to be disturbed. We must show by our faith and works that we have been with God or have we? We have something superior.

We have accepted the fulness of the Gospel of the Lord. There is a difference between the Gospel and the fulness of the Gospel. If we claim something superior we should have something to prove it. We should be more zealous in getting it to others. We need to fast and pray. We need to pray always.

"Now I would that ye should understand that the word of God was liberal unto all; that none were deprived of the privilege of assembling themselves together to hear the word of God; Nevertheless the children of God were commanded that they should gather themselves together oft, and join in fasting and mighty prayer, in behalf of the welfare of the souls of those who knew not God." (Alma 4:5-6). We must have mighty, fervent, earnest prayer.

Do we let our light shine in our daily lives? If we are faithful God's promises are sure. We do have something and we should show that it is worthwhile. "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (II Tim. 2:15). This is our anchor, but the anchors of the church are being strained.

"And there shall be no disputations among you, as that hath hitherto been; neither shall there be disputations among you concerning the points of my doctrine, as there hath hitherto been; For verily, verily I say unto you, He that hath the spirit of contention, is not of me, but is of the devil, who is the father of contention, and he stirreth up the hearts of men to contend with anger one with another; Behold, this is not my doctrine, to stir up the hearts of men with anger one against another; but this is my doctrine, that such things should be done away." (III Nephi 5:29-31).

Our mission is peace and love. If God be for us who can be against us. Are we causing someone to use us as an excuse? How important are our words and actions? We are our brother's keeper.

The morning speaker of January 29 was Brother Ray Bryant. As Scripture lessons he read Joshua 1 and Deut. 33. Everything works together for the good of those that love God. The Lord is strict. We should meditate and pray. Is not the mighty God of Jacob with us? His eye is over the righteous but he is against those who do wickedly.

"Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feeble-minded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men. Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus con-

cerning you. Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it. Brethren, pray for us. Greet all the brethren with an holy kiss. I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you." (I Thess. 5:14-28). We must live to bring no reproach upon the work.

In going over the sermons for this month I noticed one particular thing that they all have in common. They all stress prayer. When I think of prayer I always think of the refrain of one of the songs in our book, number 327, "Oh, how praying rests the weary! Prayer will change the night to day; So when life gets dark and dreary, Don't forget to pray."

On the first Sunday of February following Sunday School, we enjoyed a Sacrament meeting with Brother John Sweem in charge. He admonished us to continue in love or we would be cut off from the spiritual nourishment given to us through the love of Christ.

Our speaker for that evening was Brother Ray Bryant. He continued the theme of the day by using as his Scripture reading a phrase from I John 4:16, "God is love." We must have love to have unity. We regard many of the Lord's commandments too lightly. We must bring ourselves into subjection to the God of love. I John 4:10-20 and St. John 14:21. We praise God but do we love our brother? Matthew 5:38-46. We must forgive others if God is to forgive us. In closing Brother Bryant quoted Moroni 7:51-53 and St. John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Brother John Sweem was the morning speaker on February 12. He read the song, "Praise Ye the Lord", and quoted Matthew 6:25. We should trust in the Lord. Christ came to bring peace of mind to those who obey. We do not have to be judged by man. We know if we are serving God. God is unchangeable. Noah's ark was a type of eternal salvation. "And the Lord said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteousness before me in this generation." Genesis 7:1. Will we hear that which was said to Noah? We must work out our salvation with fear and trembling. If we love God we will serve Him. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation.

At our evening service Brother Ray Bryant was the speaker. He quoted several Scriptures: Matthew 16:26, Galatians 1:8, II John 9, St. John 8:32 and Matthew 4:4 which says, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." We must go on unto perfection. The fear of God is the beginning of knowledge. We are working for the riches of eternity.

Brother Ray Bryant was once again the speaker of the morning service of February 19. As a Scripture lesson he read Psalm 40 and chapter 6 of Daniel. In one, David praises the Lord for deliverance from "an

horrible pit"; and in the other, Daniel was not hurt because he "believed in his God." Then in Moroni 7:30-35 we find, "Neither have angels ceased to minister unto the children of men . . . If ye will have faith in me, ye shall have power to do whatsoever thing is expedient in me." Brother Bryant quoted Matthew 28:20 and Romans 8:28. Christ is the Rock. The Lord will never leave or forsake us. We need an increase in faith. Mark 11:22-24, If we ask in faith, believing we shall receive, it shall be done unto us.

Brother John Sweem spoke to us at the evening service. He read from the song, "I Have Found the Glorious Gospel", and several passages of Scripture concerning the Holy Ghost: St. John 16:7, St. John 7:39, a portion of chapter 2 of Acts and part of chapter 6 of Hebrews. The Holy Spirit is the light. If we contain the Spirit it will show its effect. We should allow ourselves to be led by the Spirit if we are working for God.

At the morning service of February 26, we once again heard from Brother Ray Bryant. He read a portion of Hebrews 11 and quoted Job 28:28. By faith people are able to listen to God. Our lives are as a vapor that appears for a moment and then fades away. Are we pleasing the Lord by our lives? We lay hold on eternal life by faith. The sermon was closed by the reading of Ether 5:1-10, and verse 10 reads, "Wherefore ye may also have hope, and be partakers of the gift, if ye will but have faith."

Brother John Sweem spoke at our evening service on February 26. He read a portion of the song, "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations," Romans 10:12-15, St. John 20:20-22 and Matthew 16:19. As we come in we become more acquainted with the Scriptures. We must preach Christ. He is the door. Hebrews 5:4-6. If we come in the Father's name we are not received and neither was Christ. If one comes in his own name he will be received. We have a message of truth and light to bring to the nations.

We have many wonderful meetings and can tell others about the things we learn through the church paper but it is impossible to put on paper the Spirit of God that we enjoy.

Mary Lois Bryant, Reporter

Independence Diary

Brother William Sheldon occupied the evening hour February 5. We are and should be a sober thinking people. We must ever strive to obtain a greater understanding of the gospel of Christ. I Nephi 3:214, "For the time cometh, said the Lamb of God, that I will work a great and marvelous work among the children of men". This great and marvelous work has begun. It started when the Gospel was restored. There are many things to warn us that the time of the end is drawing near. If we look around us, we can see and hear these voices of warning. Be sure that you are building your house upon the rock and not on sandy soil, for there is to be a cleansing and only the structure that is built upon the rock will endure. I Nephi

3:220-237 tells us that there are but two churches, the church of the Lamb of God and the church of the devil. When the wrath of God is poured out upon the mother of harlots, which is the great and abominable church, then will the work of the Father begin in preparing the way for the fulfilling of His covenants which He has made to the house of Israel. Hebrews 12:13, "And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; . . ."

February 10, Sister Margaret Mann and Sister Edith Case gave a bridal shower in honor of Judy Tompkins. Judy will become the bride of Brother Bob Hedrick, February 24.

February 12, Brother Leslie Case occupied the eleven o'clock hour. II Timothy 4:7-8, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." Mosiah 2:21, "And humble yourselves even in the depths of humility, calling on the name of the Lord daily, and standing steadfastly in the faith of that which is to come, which was spoken by the mouth of the angel." Paul kept the faith until the end; because of this, he knew his reward was sure.

Galatians 5:19-26 tells us what the works of the flesh are and what the fruits of the spirit are. I Timothy 3:6 speaks of pride. Pride, which is self-esteem or arrogance, is the first step out of the narrow path and down the broad way. Matthew 5:6, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." Do we hunger and thirst after righteous? When we are hungry for food, we are at the table every time a meal is prepared. Are we taking advantage of every opportunity to partake of spiritual bread? We cannot let pride stand in our way of obtaining spiritual food, for it is only for the humble and meek. We cannot be humble with pride in our heart. Let us be humble, prayerful, willing to lend a helping hand, and keep the faith to the end, so that when we stand before the judge, we can say as Paul said, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness . . ."

Brother Denver Chapman occupied the evening hour February 12. Jeremiah 9:23-24, "Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise loving kindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord."

God desires that we understand His will toward us, His people. If this were not so, He would not have striven with us so long. Through prayerful, careful study we can understand His will toward us. There is a heavy darkness gathering around us, but the Church of Christ is to be a light set upon a hill that cannot be hid. We have tasted the goodness of God, therefore we have a greater responsibility in life. To do any task well we must understand it, so to help the work

of the Lord we must understand His will. If we do not understand, we will cause differences and quarrelings. Our lack of understanding, of light and our lack of effort has slowed the work of God. We need to think, to pray, to study so that the Holy Spirit will give us understanding of God's will. Then we will be unified and able to do the will of our Father.

Some of our local families are unable to attend services lately because of childhood diseases and other sickness. Winter and its troubles will soon be over. With Spring comes conference time. We hope to see many of you then.

It is a sad note on which we open the report of this month, for on February 18, a good friend and brother, Brother Charles Reed, was called home to his rest. He is greatly missed by all. We extend our deepest sympathy and prayers for comfort to Sister Reed, George and Alice.

Sunday morning, February 19 Brother Vance Harris was our speaker. The topic of his sermon was judgment. John 5:24-47 and II Nephi 6:44-56 were read. Man has made laws in an effort to control man's physical motives, actions and deeds. If we obey these laws, which are printed in large volumes for our benefit, we are not brought under judgment by them. For our spiritual lives we have been given the laws to guide us. These laws are in the Bible and the Book of Mormon. We are to study and learn and obey these laws or suffer the penalty.

Apostle Archie Bell occupied the evening hour February 19. The Scripture lesson was John 15:1-14. The text, Matthew 22:32, "I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. God is not the God of the dead, but of the living."

God will fulfill His promises in the time appointed. Abraham saw God, Genesis 12:7, and was promised the land of Canaan for his seed. God appeared to Isaac, Genesis 26:2, and told him that in his seed would all nations of the earth be blessed. Genesis 32:24-30. Jacob's name was changed to Israel, which means, "for as a prince thou hast power with God . . ." A prince is a son of a king. Israel does not mean blood relationship, but is a qualification. Jacob qualified, then he said that he had seen God. John 1:12. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." We have the opportunity to qualify, to become sons and daughters of God.

Sisters Enid Bell and Irene Case were hostesses for a baby shower in honor of Sister Mary Hedrick Drennan. Since the Drennans have made their home in Washington, the gifts were brought unwrapped to the shower. After the gifts were shown to the guests, they were wrapped, boxed and mailed to Mary and Jim with our best wishes.

Sister Margaret Mann requested that her name be put back in the membership of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot). Some years ago she left to become associated with the group at Shell City, Missouri; but for some time has attended services on the Temple Lot and has assisted greatly with the music of the ser-

vices. We are happy and thankful that she desired to again be numbered with the Church of Christ.

February 26 at 11 A. M. Elder Richard Wheaton spoke using Mormon 4:27-34 as a scripture reading, which tells us to search the prophecies of Isaiah and speaks of the covenant with the people on this land. Isaiah 1:16-20, in part, "Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow."

Brother Wheaton asked us if we spent as much time in preparation and planning a spiritual meal, such as Sacrament service, as we do Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner. Then he reminded us of the Scripture which tells us to make ready, for the Bridegroom cometh. Let us not seek after the lusts of the flesh or for power, but seek the Lord and His righteousness.

The evening of February 26, Brother Johnny Bell, who had just returned from Japan, spoke to us. He used as a text the parable of the talents as found in Matthew 25:14-30. The Lord, when he returned, expected not only the talents he had placed in the care of his servants but also the increase from them. "For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath."

If we have five talents, we are expected to return five more souls which we have encouraged to serve God. We do not have to labor alone, for God will go with us, whether it be to a mission field or a job of physical labor. Christ gave His life for us. How much is it worth to us, one day a week, five years, ten years, or seventy-two years of labor with our talents in His service?

Tuesday night, February 28, was the Sunday School business meeting and election of officers. Brother Marvin Case was re-elected as superintendent and Brother Johnny Bell was elected assistant superintendent. It was decided that beginning September 1, 1956, election of officers would be held annually instead of semi-annually.

March 4 was our monthly Sacrament Service. Apostles William Anderson and A. M. Smith were in charge. In the opening remarks, we were told of the need to keep our minds centered upon the service. Satan cleverly brings other things to our minds in an effort to separate us from God. We need to make prayerful, thoughtful and humble preparation for this service. Some of the thoughts from the testimonies were these: We, who have the privilege of regular services, do not seem to know, understand or take advantage of the opportunity which we have.

The young men and women of today will soon have the responsibility of carrying on this work to its completion. There will be many burdens to bear. The nearer we come to the coming of Christ, the greater Satan's efforts will be to stop the work of the Lord. The young must prepare now, if they will do the work God would have them do. Many testified of the truthfulness of the Gospel and the surety of God's promises.

Janice Sprague was severely burned when a bowl of hot gravy spilled on her arm. She was administered to soon after and received relief from a lot of the intense pain. Though she is unable to go to school, the burn is healing nicely. It is our prayer that God will continue to bless her and that she will soon be able to go about her work and play.

Brother Rolland Sprague occupied the evening hour March 4. The Scripture reading is found in II Nephi 1:56-73. Verse 73 was used as a text, ". . . there is no flesh that can dwell in the presence of God, save it be through the merits, and mercy, and grace of the holy Messiah." Peter 1:15, "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation". Our conversation should be such that we will never need to be ashamed. Alma 16:230-232, "For after this day of life, which is given us to prepare for eternity, behold, if we do not improve our time while in this life, then cometh the night of darkness, wherein there can be no labor performed. Ye cannot say, when ye are brought to that awful crisis, that I will repent, that I will return to my God. Nay, ye can not say this; for that same spirit which doth possess your bodies at the time that ye go out of this life, that same spirit will have power to possess your body in that eternal world."

March 6 was our local church business meeting and election of officers. Brother LeRoy Wheaton was re-elected as pastor. It was decided that beginning September 1, 1956, officers would be elected once a year instead of every six months.

March 11 at 11 o'clock, our pastor, Brother LeRoy Wheaton was the speaker. II Peter 3 was the Scripture reading. He emphasized verses 1 and 9, which speak of stirring up our pure minds by way of remembrance. "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness, but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

Brother Wheaton told how our forefathers were rebuked and driven from their promised land, beginning at Independence and regions round about, because they did not please God with their lives nor the manner in which they did not do what they were commanded. We were reminded of the solemn assembly called for March 20, and the need for all our prayers that we may know God's will for us in this day.

The evening of March 11 Brother J. M. Case spoke. John 17:1-3 and John 3:34-36 were read. These readings tell of Christ finishing the work God had given Him on earth, and that eternal life would be for those who know and obey God. We must study the Scriptures, have faith to believe and obey. Some of the false beliefs of the world are the devil's way of trying to confuse the true Gospel in the minds of the people.

So let us study prayerfully that we will understand the truth.

Let us walk in the light if we are indeed the children of Light. May our thoughts be pure and our ambitions holy.

Irene Case, Reporter

Y. P. C. L. NEWS

Independence, Missouri

The Young People's meeting of February 16 was a completion of the study of Chapter 20 of "An Outline History of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot)". We also read Chapter 21, which deals with the publications of the church. In connection with this, our teacher, Brother Sprague, gave us an assignment in the Zion's Advocate for January and February of this year. We were to read the complete papers, and particularly the editorials. The article "Walk with the Lord" from the January issue was called to our attention, as it was written by someone in the same age group as ourselves.

On February 23, the Young People held a prayer meeting. This meeting was well attended and we felt the Spirit was there in abundance. There were prayers and many testimonies of the goodness of God to us. We feel this type of meeting is of great benefit to us and we hope to have them more often.

Since March 1 was the first Thursday of the month, it was another History study. Chapter 22, "Through the Years," was read and discussed at this meeting. Some of the dealings of the church, including missionary activities, are recorded here.

March 8 was devoted to our regular semi-annual business meeting. New officers were elected as follows: chairman, Marvin Case; assistant chairman, Johnny Bell; secretary, Grace Bryant; treasurer, Alice Reed; pianist, Martha Harris; reporter to the Advocate, Caroline Hedrick; recorder, Delores Bell. We voted to continue our Church History study and re-elected Brother Rolland Sprague as our teacher.

There was discussion of the wishes of the group in connection with the social gathering to be held at the coming General Conference. Our committee on this activity is working to try to make this an enjoyable and profitable activity.

Enid Bell, Reporter

KENNEDY-McDONALD

Saturday, February 18, 1956, Miss Beverly Jean Kennedy and Mr. Karl McDonald were united in marriage by Elder Benjamin Bowman. The bride is a granddaughter of Elder and Mrs. Benjamin Bowman.

OBITUARIES

Irene Frishkorn Yates

Irene Frishkorn Yates, the daughter of John and Amy Harris, was born in Hegewisch, Illinois, May 8, 1882, and departed this life February 11, 1956, at the home of her daughter, Myrtle Earl, San Diego, California.

She was baptized into Christ in Chicago, Illinois,

at an early age and has always been active in the service of her Lord.

She married Apostle James E. Yates, March 24, 1946, and traveled with him in his missionary work until his death on April 7, 1954.

She leaves three daughters: Myrtle Earl, San Diego; Ruth Gill of Rosemont, Minnesota; Winnette Frishkorn of San Bernadino, California; and one son, Elmer Frishkorn, Jamul, California; four sisters: Gertrude Lang and Edeva Flots of National City, California; Grace Sugrue of San Lorenzo, California; and Amy Crawford, Oakland, California; twelve grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; also six step-children: Mrs. Ruth Willard, Sedona, Arizona; Mrs. Evalena Campbell, Mrs. Esther Caviness, and E. Leon Yates, Phoenix, Arizona; Hubert Yates, Heber, Arizona; and Joseph Yates, of Independence, Missouri.

Funeral services were conducted by Elders E. Leon Yates and Orin Caviness of Phoenix, Arizona, February 15, 1956, at the Greenwood Memorial Chapel in San Diego, California.

Charles Albert Reed

Charles Albert Reed was born January 3, 1891, at Virden, Illinois, the son of Isaac Charles and Hester Adaline Reed. Brother Reed passed from this life February 18, 1956, at the age of 65 years, one month, and 15 days.

Services were from the Speaks Funeral Home Tuesday, February 21, 1956, at Independence, Missouri, with Elder James M. Case in charge.

Brother Reed came to Independence, Missouri, in August of 1932, and resided here until the time of his death.

He was united in marriage on March 5, 1933, to Hester Elizabeth Howell. To this union were born two children: George E. Reed, U. S. Coast Guard, Long Island, New York; and Alice I. Reed, of the home.

Brother Reed was baptized in to Christ November 26, 1916, and remained faithful to his covenant as a member of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot). On May 10, 1953, he was called and ordained to the office of a Teacher in the ministry of Christ.

He leaves to mourn his passing, other than his wife and children, two sisters; Hester L. Netz of Independence, Missouri; and Lula Turnipseed, Richland Center, Wisconsin; and many nieces and nephews, and a host of friends.

His father and mother, and one brother William Wood, and one sister, Minnie McBane all preceded him in death. Interment was in Wood Lawn Cemetery in Independence.

Samuel Benjamin Martin

Samuel Benjamin Martin was born near Collins, Missouri, on February 3, 1871, and passed from this life February 16, 1956, at the age of 85 years and 13 days.

Services were from the Beckwith Funeral Home, Humansville, Missouri, February 20, 1956, in the charge of Elder James M. Case.

Brother Martin was married to Armintha Eckert February 3, 1895. She preceeded him in death in January, 1943. They were the parents of four children, all of whom survive: Essie Miller of Pasadena, California; Ina Dunn of Independence, Missouri; Opal Truit and Ray M. Martin of Humansville, Missouri; also eleven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; one sister, Lizzie Guy, Elmira, Missouri; and a brother, James Martin, of Collins, Missouri; and a host of nieces and nephews.

He was baptized into the Church of Christ on August 16, 1953, by Elder James M. Case.

He had lived practically all his life in St. Clair County, Missouri. Ever a kind loving father, his form and voice will be sadly missed. Interment was at the Robinson Cemetery, Collins, Missouri.

Please send all Articles, Missionary Reports, Bishop's Reports, Activities from the School of the Ministry, Questions and Miscellaneous Items to Archie F. Bell, 1101 West Orchard, Independence, Missouri.

Send Letters and Reports from Locals to Lois Harris, 1920 South Osage, Independence, Missouri.

Send all Poems and Reports from Auxiliaries (Sunday Schools, United Workers, Young Peoples' Christian League) to Marion Sprague, 424 East Walnut, Independence, Missouri.

May we urge all who have material to be published in the Advocate to be sure to have it in the hands of the Editors by the 15th of the month previous to its mailing. Example: Material for the August issue should be in the hands of the Editors by July 15. This will help us to get the paper out on time.

The Editors

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
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