

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 35

Independence, Missouri, January, 1958

No. 1

I Know God Answers Prayer

I know not how it will be done, just how my God will answer prayer,
But I have faith that He will hear, that He will know and He will care:
As my prayer ascends to heaven, back will come the answer sure;
If I pray for strength and wholeness, He will send His strength and cure;

If my need be food and shelter, He will send His prompt supply;
If I ask for His assistance, I can best on Him rely;
Ready, He, to lead my footsteps at the branching of the road,
Ready, too, to take my burden when it seems to be a load.

I know not how He works or answers, know not how or when or why,
He has given His assurance that He's with me, ever nigh,
Giving help and love and substance when my heart lifts up its cry:
He will answer when I call Him, to my side in need will fly.

—Anonymous

CONTENTS

Editorial	Page 2	Life	Page 9
Letters	Page 3	The Holy Ghost	Page 10
News from Locals	Page 3	Key To Better Living	Page 12
What Doth God Require?.....	Page 6	Secret Societies	Page 12
What is the Gospel of Christ?.....	Page 6	Restoration of the Jews	Page 14

ZION'S ADVOCATE

Official Publication of the Church of Christ

Headquarters on the Temple Lot, Independence, Missouri

EDITOR: William A. Sheldon, 1011 South Cottage, Independence, Missouri.

ASSOCIATE EDITORS: Joseph Yates, Independence, Missouri; Metta Anderson, 619 South Chrysler Avenue, Independence, Missouri.

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

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

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

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

EDITORIAL

WHEN HE COMETH

Part Two

The second coming of Christ into the world is revealed in the Scriptures as nothing less than earth-shaking in import. It is, doubtlessly, impossible for man to attempt to reveal all things connected with, and leading up to, that time when He shall reign as "King of kings" and "Lord of lords". Even He, while here in the flesh, knew not the "day" nor the "hour" of His glorious return.

"But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father." Mark 13:32.

However, through indicated signs, and in the fulfillment of many prophecies, we may gain much information; and through faithful righteous living, we may "abide the day of His coming". (Malachi 3:2).

We have previously shown that He will be the "Prince of Peace"; that He will establish peace and righteousness in all the world, but that to do this, the earth must be cleansed of wickedness.

The Lord has perhaps three notable methods to accomplish this task. He sends His servants to warn men and to proclaim His righteous will, wherein is salvation. Upon failure of this way, He will chasten them with afflictions and even death. At times, as in the great flood, wickedness is removed by a direct act of God.

More frequently, He has used the wicked to destroy the wicked, thought they know it not, thinking that by their own power they have overcome their enemies. As proof, read from Isaiah 10:5-15.

It is this method which will be employed in the days

to come, as the world even now trembles on the very brink of war.

We should be remiss in our duty as servants of the Most High if we failed to lift up our voices, even as a trumpet, to declare the judgments of the Lord upon the nations of the earth; for so have we received commandment in these last days.

In both the Bible and the Book of Mormon, references may be found to the redemption of Jerusalem as being a part of the Lord's work.

The present build-up of Palestine, or the nation of Israel, is at best, a preliminary work. Should the Jews be permitted to pursue their present course, indefinitely, they could in no wise hope to establish themselves as a permanent nation, nor hope to attain the status in the sight of God, for which they have lamented and prayed unceasingly for many generations.

Now, we wish to call attention to a statement made by Nephi concerning the Abrahamic covenant, viz., "In thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed." He said:

"And I would, my brethren, that ye should know that all the kindreds of the earth can not be blessed unless he shall make bare his arm in th eyes of the nations. Wherefore, the Lord God will proceed to make bare his arm in the eyes of all nations, in bringing about his covenants and his gospel, unto those who are of the house of Israel," I Nephi 7:21-22.

Isaiah gives us to understand that the redemption of Jerusalem is at least one result of the Lord having bared His arm before the nations (Isa. 52:9-10).

Further elaboration of just what is meant by the Lord making "bare his arm" is found in III Nephi 9:46-106. Verses 56, page 659, states:

"And it shall come to pass, saith the Father, that the sword of my justice shall hang over them at that day; and except they repent, it shall fall upon them, saith the Father, yea even upon all nations of the Gentiles."

Now, compare this with verse 106, page 664:

"For it shall come to pass, saith the Father, that at that day, whosoever will not repent and come unto my beloved Son, them (of the Gentiles, W.A.S.) will I cut off from among my people, O house of Israel, and I will execute vengeance and fury upon them, **even as upon the heathen**, such as they have not heard."

This would certainly take in all the nations of the earth, and, according to the language used, would be the most terrible destruction in the history of the world.

The prophets Ezekiel and Zechariah have given us graphic pictures of this tragic event, as the nations shall be gathered to battle against Jerusalem (see chapters 38 and 39 of Ezekiel, and 12, 13 and 14 of Zechariah).

Space will not permit a full analysis of these prophecies, but we wish to quote certain texts to show the general nature of the destruction to be accomplished.

"And thou (Gog, W.A.S.) shalt come up against my people of Israel . . . And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord God: every man's sword shall be against his brother. And I will plead (fight, W.A.S.) against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, **and the many people that are with him**, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone." Ezek. 38:16, 21, 22.

"And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land . . . and also I will cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land . . . And it shall come to pass that in all the land, saith the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third part shall be left therein." Zech. 13:2, 8.

Judah, too, shall bear the judgment of God, as shown above, but afterward, they that remain will call upon the name of the Lord, even the Saviour, Jesus Christ, whom they shall behold as He stands upon the Mount of Olives. They shall be caused to mourn for Him who had been rejected of them, because then shall they recognize their Redeemer (Zech. 12:10; 13:6), but He shall comfort them, heal them, and be their God, and they will be His people (13:9).

Truly, the wicked will destroy the wicked, but the more righteous people of the nations will be spared; and the saints will be permitted to enjoy the fruits of righteousness and peace in the presence of the Lord.

In the future, we wish to discuss the Lord's use of signs, in the past, and in connection with this imminent battle at Jerusalem.

William A. Sheldon

LETTERS

ALONE WITH GOD

Greetings to the saints of Christ everywhere:

Alone with God: this has been our regrettable situation for several years, after 77 years of faithful service and sacrifice with the different organizations of the Restoration; first, with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Utah). Then in 1897, I transferred to the Reorganization. For forty years, our home was the staying place for the traveling missionaries, including Brother Joseph, the prophet, and his brother, Alexander.

We went to Los Angeles in 1901, where I taught the history class for fifteen years, and was president of the Young People's Class.

For several years, our home was the place for community meetings, in complying with a revelation through Brother Alexander, given two days before he died.

I went part of two years among my people, the Lamanites of the Northwest. Returning home, we realized we were growing old in years as well as in service, passing down the hillside of life.

I am now 96 years old, and my wife, 88 years. For a long time, nobody wanted us, and the missionaries passed by. Our little home is our only church. Sometimes, we were almost ready to lose our grip on the Rod of Iron, but suddenly, events brought about a change, which my pencil fails to describe: the joy that came to our little home.

We are no longer alone with God. Two of God's heavenly ordained messengers knocked at our door:

Brother Harris of the Bishopric, and Brother Bell, representing the spiritual arm of the church: one of the apostles with his lovely companion. We now have friends in Zion.

So, the admonition comes to us, as saints in the latter days: we must cement ourselves together into a unity. In that, we may be instruments in the hands of our Maker to build the Temple, the New Jerusalem on this continent.

After those two God-sent messengers left for their homes, the thought came to us: Do Brother Harris and Brother Bell realize the responsibility that rests on their human shoulders to carry the everlasting Gospel to two and onehalf billion human souls?

With my earnest desire and prayer.

Your Brother and Sister in Christ,

James and Marie Anderson
855 South Palmaroes Street
Pamona, California

We are happy to receive this letter from our aged brother and sister, and sense, in a small degree, the loneliness they have endured for so many years. There are many others who will, no doubt, share their joy, in remembrance of times when the servants of God have come into their homes, and, through the enlivening help of the Holy Spirit, have brought each one (including the minister) a little nearer to God.

When Brother Anderson wonders if the brethren realize their responsibility, he expresses the question which should be in the heart of every servant of the Lord, and also every one who has taken His name upon them. Truly, "the harvest is great, but the laborers are few".

May the Lord richly bless and comfort these dear ones in their declining days, enabling them to cling firmly to that "Rod of Iron" until the end, with the assurance that, in so doing, their reward is sure. The Editors.

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

It is with reluctance that I take up my pen to attempt writing the news items for our Local, as I feel a sense of guilt for my slackness of the past months. Time is even on the wing, and it seems the summer, and fall, now too, has slipped so fast leaving much to be desired.

As the Christmas Season rolls around again, and the air is filled with the festive music of praise proclaiming the birth of Christ; we cannot but reflect that we too in our day, are looking for the coming of our Lord and Saviour. This time however instead of coming as a babe in the manger, He will come with power and majesty from on high to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords. Oh that our lamps are trimmed and burning; then when the cry goes forth, "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet Him", we may be numbered among those entering in to the marriage feast, and partake of that joy everlasting. Well might we blend our voices to the strains of the beautiful anthem:

Joy to the world; The Lord will come
And earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Saints and Angels sing.

We have been meeting together regularly with the Racine group for our Sacrament Services. Many thoughts have been expressed of the comfort and encouragement these monthly gatherings bring, and of the keen need that is felt in these times to lay aside for this while the cares of every day life, and seek out our Heavenly Master.

The September service seems to especially stand out in my memory. Before partaking of the emblems, Bro. Hunholz read the second chapter of the first epistle of John. The instructions for our daily walk contained therein is very explicit, and I was much impressed. May I quote three verses starting with the fifteenth: "Love not the world, neither the things of the world: If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all in the world that is of the lusts of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away and the lusts thereof; but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever." Here again we see the wonderful promise to those who obey.

About the middle of October we were pleased to have Brother and Sister Flint and Brother Sheldon again visit us. Due to the "flu" which had almost reached epidemic proportions here at that time, we were unable to hold as many services as we would have liked, but those we did have were much enjoyed. It was while here that Brother Flint became seriously ill and was rushed to the hospital. He had us pretty worried for a while, but through the rich blessing of our Heavenly Father, he gained strength amazingly, and was again able to return to his home in Independence. May God's peace abide with him and our dear Sister Flint.

The first Sunday in November we went to Lima Center for an all-day meeting. It was a glad reunion with our brothers and sisters there as well as the Davies family of Madison and Brother and Sister Jones of Fond-du-Lac.

Following the administering of the Sacrament, the morning hour was devoted to prayer and testimonies. Our hearts were filled with joy as we felt the presence of God's Holy Spirit with us, and heard expressed the

desires and hopes of each, and of God's goodness in the past.

Brother Sheldon was the speaker at two o'clock. He brought us a very interesting and inspiring sermon on the spirit of man, and consciousness after death. Through scriptural references used it was very clear that mankind is fully conscious after passing from this life to await the resurrection. How we use our time and talents, and the knowledge and understanding God has given us, determines whatsoever state we find ourselves in the great beyond.

Brother Flint mentioned earlier in his writings of our young Brother Gage's ordination to the priesthood which took place last August. We feel this is truly a blessing to our local, and rejoice to see another young man take his place in service to our Father.

Brother and Sister Jones' daughter, Maybelle, has recently gotten a job here in the city. We are happy to have her with us, and hope we will be seeing "Mother and Dad" more frequently now.

In our Sunday School lessons here we have been reading through the epistles of the Apostle Paul. He gives many words of instruction as well as points of doctrine, but also he warns the saints over and over to beware of false teachings. Thus we see the ever present need to carefully and prayerfully weigh that which is taught that we are not deceived.

Helen Taubert, Reporter

Maple City, Michigan, Report

Brother William A. Sheldon, Editor
Independence, Missouri
Dear Brother:

We have not been able to send in the news of the Local for some time. Here are a few items that might be of interest to some.

Our pastor, Elder Peter Price, has been attending church services, and has recovered somewhat from his sickness.

We had a program for Christmas, in charge of Sister Sylvia Mallory and Sister Thelma Polack. Gifts and candy were given out after the program.

We have had good attendance so far this winter. Brother Harold Polack preached a sermon, today, on "Prayer".

We are thankful that the Lord has blessed us spiritually and financially.

Sister Thora Scott and her husband, and two children, came from Elk Rapids to be here on Christmas Eve.

We enjoy reading the Advocate very much.

Wishing you all a happy new year, we are

Your Sister,

Minnie Price, Reporter

INDEPENDENCE DIARY

As the Christmas season is upon us we are very thankful that most of the church folks have recovered from the "flu" and accompanying ailments that so many have had. We are thankful for God's blessing of healing as we hear reports of instant relief through prayer and administration.

On the evening of November 24th we held another of our informative discussions with the leaders of the various groups within the church here. Our pastor, Brother LeRoy Wheaton, asked each if their group was accomplishing their purpose and what the needs of each group are. Here are some the things we found out:

The Bible School operates on a 3-year cycle so that if a child attends regularly and retains what is taught, the Bible school will be able to provide him with adequate answers to present the unique position of the Church of Christ in the restoration movement. We are enabled by the Bible School to introduce our church to some parents through their children. What does the Bible School need most? There are about forty children who attend Bible School each summer. Previously the seats in the upper auditorium have been moved aside and tables brought up to provide classroom space. Our new seats are not moveable. The only way to have Bible School next year is to set up a tent! So you can see that our need for a new church is critical.

Our Sunday School superintendent tells us the main need is more interest on the part of the parents in what their child is learning at Sunday School. Another need is to be on time. If a parent is 15 minutes late getting there with his children the child has just time enough to get settled down when the bell rings.

Our chorister says if a choir is wanted we should support it and make it a part of our service in praising the Lord. We should be on hand at choir practice to learn to sing together harmoniously—which thing we can't do by staying at home by ourselves.

The United Workers need more **active** members. Every woman in the church is a member of the United Workers but here in Independence there are about seven who live up to that good name. The function of the United Workers is to help members of the church, and others. They do quilting for our own members. Proceeds from collections and from quilting go into helping needy families. They collect, repair and distribute used clothing where needed. They have provided assistance at home and in foreign lands. An annual project is to furnish treats for a Navajo Indian school's Christmas program.

We will pass along some of the things the chairman of the Y.P.C.L. had to say about his group of young people. They are at a difficult age where they are forming their own opinions about their religion, about the way they want to run their lives, and about the things they look for in a mate. They try to find out why it is better to find a mate of their own faith and

interests. As they try to understand these things they study the Bible and Book of Mormon together. What is their greatest need? Their need for the older folks to realize that heated argument has an upsetting effect upon the young people and they feel it much as they would a rift between their own parents. As a child cannot grow up emotionally healthy in a home where parents are continually at war with each other so it is that we do not have need for heated argument in the church either. There is a need for more consideration of each other and a need to recognize our young people as intelligent youth with the ability of being a help in the church and with a need for good example; because our young people today will be our old people tomorrow. What they learn from us today they will use tomorrow.

Our social committee needs better co-operation from the Local and would like suggestions from the members of the Local of what they would like to do.

Our Mother's Club thinks we might take a lesson from the turtle, who "progresses only when he sticks out his neck". We plan to work on the idea that if what we are doing is interesting enough we will have help in accomplishing it.

Brother LeRoy Wheaton plans to carry analysis of these organizations further at a later date and find out how we can better co-ordinate the activities of these groups.

There is a word that we don't want to mention because some of us kind of "shy" at the word. So we looked in the dictionary to see what word we might use. We found a nice, short word "specie" which means metallic currency. This gets close enough to what we want to talk about, so we will use the word "specie". Our religion, of course, can't be measured on a dollar and cents basis, but in order to tell you of our recent activities we must have a word we can slip in. I have mentioned how sadly lacking we are in space and facilities to carry on our Sunday School, Bible School, etc.; but we haven't the specie to do anything about it. We could mention many problems that arise because of this lack. But we want to tell you about our specie-raising projects. During the middle of November we had a specie-raising dinner and also had a table of handwork to sell. Our social committee, Sister Edna Smith, Sister Leona Thompson and Sister Alice Reed with the help of some of the young girls, served a much better meal than could be had any place else for the specie. Much work went into it, but a nice profit was made, to add to our slowly growing building fund.

Then on Saturday, December 7, the Mother's Club held a bake sale (with hand-made items as well as baked goods). All the women of the church spent much time in their kitchens on Friday and Saturday, donated their baked goods and hand-work and an hour or two of their time to be on hand at the store where we held our sale from 9:30 in the morning until 6:00 in the evening. Everyone entered into it wholeheartedly and at the end of the day we had a good feeling of

(continued on page 14)

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 THE OPINION OF THE AUTHOR AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE TEACHINGS OF THE CHURCH OR THE OPINIONS OF THE EDITORIAL STAFF.

WHAT DOTH GOD REQUIRE?

Scripture reading; I Cor. 15:1-4. Here we find the Apostle Paul declaring unto the Corinthians the gospel by which one can be saved if we keep in memory what he preached or in other words, what God requires of us.

In Romans 10:1-3, Paul is stating the condition of Israel trying to establish their own righteousness, not submitting themselves unto the righteousness of God, by doing those things that God hath commanded. Who should know what to do, or what is required, better than Paul after his conviction and conversion on the road to Damascus? Acts 9:1-18 and 22:1-16.

The world today seems to be in about the same condition as Israel was by not submitting themselves unto the commandments of God. Jesus said, "Have faith in God" Mark 11:22. And in Mark 1:15 Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe the gospel"; The same gospel Paul had preached to the Corinthians. The story of Zacchaeus as recorded in Luke 19:1-8 gives us the true meaning of repentance. Making right as much as in our power to do, the wrongs of our past life.

In speaking of that faith in God that Jesus said was necessary, the Apostle Paul in Galatians 3:23-26 tells us that the law was a school master to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith and no longer under the law, for we are all children of God, by faith in Jesus Christ, by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God". Rom. 8:14-17. If we are led by the Spirit of God and not by some other spirit, we will want to do the things we are commanded. We are told to try the spirits to see whether they be of God or of the devil. I John 4:1.

If that Spirit beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God, we are then heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ; if so be we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together.

In II Cor., "Therefore if any man be in Christ he is a new creature, old things are passed away, behold all things are become new." How to become a new creature; Paul tells us in his Roman letter Chapter 6:3-7, also in Gal. 3:27, that we are baptised into Christ, or buried with him by baptism into death, that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life, for if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death we shall also be in the likeness of his resurrection.

Jesus taught baptism as we find recorded in John 3:5:

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

Now turning to the other witness the Book of Mormon, page 634, verses 29-42, Reorganized Edition, and page 422, verses 451-455 Utah Edition. Space will not allow for the writing of all these scriptures, but those who have a desire to know God's will, will know what our Lord requires of us.

Matt. 20:37-39, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment, And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." "Obedience is better than sacrifice" I Samuel 15:22. Jesus said, "If ye love me keep my commandments." John 14:15. We find also in Micah 6:8, "He hath showed thee, oh man what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to justify, and love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God."

Matt. 7:21, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."

Elder Paul Mercer

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST?

It's Purpose and Mission

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." Rom. 1:16.

When Christ was here in the flesh, and began to preach His gospel, the first thing He did was to call disciples to follow Him. He made ministers of them, to preach the gospel, and said to them: "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you . . . freely ye have received, freely give".

God gave them the priesthood with it's power and authority.

"And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom". Matt. 4:23.

Jesus asked His disciples:

"Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona; for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven." Matt. 16:13-17.

Now I want you to notice what Christ said: that flesh and blood had not revealed this to Peter. Notice that there was a revealing power that told Peter that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God. Christ said that the revealing power came from the Father in heaven; and He said that upon "this rock", or foundation, He will build His church. We see that that "rock" is, God speaking to man, revealing His will and purpose, giving man the knowledge of things God wants him to know.

Jesus makes one more statement, and I would like for you to give it your prayerful and very serious consideration. He said that "upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it". Verse 18. Against what?

It could only mean that God would reveal His will, or speak, to the inhabitants of hell. Would he not build His church upon that revealing power, or rock, in hell?

The principal of revelation (God speaking to man) is one of the important parts of the gospel. In fact, we would not have the gospel if God did not speak to us; that is why He set prophets in His church.

Now let us examine further to see the purpose and works of the Gospel. We will find it has the same purpose whenever Christ takes it to man. We have shown what the gospel is, and how Christ preached the Gospel of the Kingdom. I will give one example of the working of the gospel with the Jews.

Beginning at the first verse of the third chapter of John, we read about a very important man among the Jews. He, being a Jew, came to Jesus by night to know more about the workings of the Gospel, and what man should do to obey it, or be saved. Now, let us see what Jesus' answer is:

"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Verse 3.

Nicodemus did not know of any birth except the birth of the flesh, so he questioned Jesus: How can a man be born again?

Now I want you to notice that if a man is not born again he cannot see the kingdom of God; so, then, the kingdom of God is something man can see, if he is born again.

Jesus answered Nicodemus:

"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Verse 5.

We see by this statement of Christ, that when man is born of water and of the Spirit, he can enter the kingdom of God; and if he is not born of the water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

Now, when Christ was resurrected, and went and preached the Gospel to the Nephites, the first thing He did was to call disciples and ordain them, by giving them the priesthood and the power of the same.

Let us see what happened when God restored the Gospel to the Gentiles in the latter days. John said:

"I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." Rev. 14:6-7.

When the angel came to earth, he appeared to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery, and ordained them to the priesthood, with the power and authority to bring forth and establish the Gospel and the church, and the kingdom of God, here on the earth among the Gentiles.

Now, let us see what Christ did when He went to the prison and preached to the spirits there. Would not Christ preach the same Gospel to those in prison that He preached to the Jews at Jerusalem? and the Nephite people? Would it not be the same Gospel that was given to the Gentiles by the angel of God? Now, we know that there is only one Gospel, and it has the same meaning and the same purpose wherever and whenever it is preached. It is the power of God unto salvation, and its purpose is to save man, when and wherever it is preached, even when it is preached by Christ to the spirit-man in prison. Now, let us see what Peter says about this:

"Who shall give account to Him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead. For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the Spirit." I Peter 4:5-6.

Now, Peter is not the only witness we have about Christ being in the prison, or hell, and His purpose in being there.

When Peter told Jesus that He was the Christ, the Son of the living God, then Christ, in answer, said that flesh and blood had not revealed it to Peter, "but my Father which is in heaven." The meaning of Christ's answer to Peter is that faith, or wisdom, of man had not revealed it to him, but God revealed the answer to Peter. Christ said He would build His church upon this revealing power, which is that God would speak to man wherever His church would be; and He said that the gates of hell shall not prevail in keeping God from speaking to man in hell. Wherever

He speaks to man, there He will be able to build His church. So, we see that Christ witnessed with Peter that God would speak to man in hell. What greater witness than Christ could we have?

David, speaking of Christ, said:

"For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption." Psalm 16:10.

He, bearing witness again, said:

"If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, beyond, thou art there." Psalm 139:8.

We see that Christ did preach the Gospel to man in the prison, or hell, and would preach the same Gospel to them that was preached to the Jews, and the Nephites, and to the Gentiles, when He restored the Gospel by the angel from heaven. The Gospel has no other purpose than to save man.

Now, I am sure some will say, that if Christ preached the same gospel to man in prison, or hell, and it was for the same purpose as for men in the flesh, then what about man being born of water, or baptized for the remission of sins? I will confess, I do not believe any man in the flesh can answer that question correctly. But, all things are possible with God, so let us leave this answer with Him; it is impossible for man to know all the mysteries of God.

What I am about to say is not meant for an answer to the above question: just something to think about. We know that in this life we have this body of flesh, but in prison, they do not have this fleshy body.

"As for thee also, by the blood of thy covenant I have sent forth thy prisoners out of the pit wherein is no water. Turn you to the stronghold, ye prisoners of hope: even today do I declare that I will render double unto thee." Zech. 9:11-12.

Notice: these prisoners are prisoners of hope. Now, none of us hope for misery, or torment. Hope is always for something better, or good.

In Ezek. 31:16, we see that the words, hell, and pit, mean the same place.

One of the purposes of the Gospel is to make men perfect. Christ says to us: "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Matt. 5:48. Now, let us say to ourselves: Am I perfect, even as God is perfect?

"Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which I am apprehended of Christ Jesus." Phil. 3:12.

When man dies, and his body goes to the grave, and to dust, and the spirit that God created goes to Paradise, is man then perfect? Or will man be perfect when Christ brings him from Paradise to earth, to receive this body of flesh, resurrected and united with the spirit to become one body? Does the resurrection end the work of Christ with man to bring him

to perfection? Has the Church of Christ finished its work with man—as a part of the church—to perfect him? Let us go to the Bible for the answers to these questions.

("He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers."

What was this for?

"For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ"; How long will this last?

"Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a **perfect man**, unto the **measure** of the **stature** of the fulness of Christ." Eph. 4:10-12.

Now, let us all examine ourselves to see if we are in oneness in the faith of the Gospel, and its workings, purpose and mission. How close or how far are we from the knowledge of the Son of God? We believe the Son of God knows all things. If we have to come up to the above standard, we are a long way from being a perfect man.

When we die in this undeveloped condition, and our spirit goes to Paradise, will we attain to this perfect condition there? I think not. Then will the resurrection make man perfect! I think not. Why do I say, I think not, to both of these questions? The answer is in Revelation 20:6.

"Blessed and holy is that which part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."

Now we find that after some are blessed to come forth in the first resurrection, that Christ will reign with them a thousand years, and a little season, that they may go on to perfection. He cannot bring us to the judgment until He has reigned with us a thousand years and a little season.

Has the church finished its work and mission with man? When man comes up in the first resurrection, we see that, at that time, he has not attained to a perfect man; so, the church has a work to do, after the resurrection of man, to perfect him.

Now, I want to call on the great apostle Paul to bear his testimony with me that it is impossible for man to attain to a perfect knowledge of the Son of God in this life.

"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." I Cor. 15:19.

Paul, knowing the mission of Christ and the church, to work with man, to perfect him after this life, said that if we had not this hope, we would be more miserable than those who did not have it. Now, let us see if we can find out the degree of perfection that man may attain in this life.

"Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment." Heb. 6:1-2.

Paul tells us that these principles of the doctrine of Christ are the foundation for us to build on, and he tells us to go on to perfection. When man obeys these principles to that extent, he has come to a saved condition, but he has not become perfect. So Paul said: Let us go on to perfection".

Man, now has a foundation to build on, and if faithful and obedient to the end of this life, he then will be prepared to go to Paradise, but he has not attained to perfection.

I do not believe that many of my brothers and sisters in the church will agree with me, fully, in my reasoning from the Scriptures. How many of your brothers and sisters do you agree with in their way of reasoning from the Scriptures? Now do you see what I have been saying about the Scriptures, and how far man is from the unity of the faith, and of the "knowledge of the Son of God unto a perfect man"?

How many times, in the Word of God, have we been told that man, in this life, cannot know all the mysteries of God and of His works? Then why does man try to put his finger on the time and place that God and Christ will cease to work with man to save and perfect him? Man must let God have His perfect work with man.

We are told that the Church of Christ will remain in its working power, with Christ, to perfect man, to bring them to the knowledge of the Son of God unto a perfect man. Read Ephesians 4:11, 12, 13.

We have shown that the Church and Christ have not brought man to "the knowledge of the Son of God unto a perfect man", until after the resurrection.

Elder Herbert F. Kidd

LIFE

Oren Caviness

Christ said: "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." John 10:10. "And men are, that they might have joy." II Nephi 1:115.

On our vacation trip this year, we saw and enjoyed many of the wonders and beauties of God's creation, both in its natural state and in the parks, gardens and yards arranged by man. Then on our return, we found this little article by Mark Van Doren, which expresses the majesty and wonder of God's creation as seen through the eyes of love and appreciation. It was written for a family who had lost all earthly possessions in a fire. Van Doren hoped to show them how many things they possessed which fire could not destroy.

I wake and hear it raining
Were I dead what would I give
Lazily to lie here,
Like this, and live?

How shall I praise them;
All the sweet beings
Eternally that outlive
Me and my dying?

Mountains, I mean; wind,
Water, air, grass,
Huge trees; clouds, flowers
And thunder, and night.

Squirrels, I mean, and toad stools
Herons, humming birds; little paths
Towns, and trout; roads, gardens,
Red berries and deer.

Lightning, I mean, and fences;
Snow; Sunrise and ferns
Waterfalls, serpents,
Green islands and sleep.

Horses, I mean, butterflies;
Whales; mosses, and stars;
Gravelly rivers and fruit,
Babies, I mean, needles and leaves.

Cats, planets, and clover,
Whirlwinds, dew, oxen, geese
But stop. Lie still.
You will never be done.
Leave them all there, Live on!

Mark Van Doren

(Ed. Note: As this poem was read the lights were turned off and on and pictures illustrating each beauty listed were flashed on a screen on the front wall. It was very effective in helping us visualize the beauty of God's creation. E.M.C.).

On a previous trip to Sunset Crater with our two grandsons, Danny and Greg, we saw the graphic story of life's first step and understood more fully the words found in Isaiah 43:18:

"For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited; I am the Lord; and there is none else."

The gentle process by which this earth was "formed to be inhabited", we saw here in the story of the lichen on the bare volcanic rock. This lichen forms an acid-like substance which breaks down the rock, helping to form soil for other plants to feed on and grow. These plants, in succession, flourish and decay, forming the earth's top soil, which, if spread evenly over our earth, would be no more than six inches deep and yet it sustains all life on the earth. In the Rain Forest, we see this pageant of life going on; the verdant life dying and forming deep, fertile, top soil. If this process were not continued it would mean the end of all life as we know it today.

Physically, the earth is in process of growth—each generation of growth leaving a richer soil for the next to grow and live on. Spiritually and mentally, the generations of man are the same—each dying generation leaves a richer soil for the following generation. Man, alone, resists the life—enriching process of God.

It is as much a decree of God that human life be enriched and ennobled through the processes of life as that the giant Red Wood should find sustenance through the processes of nature. The word of God, the Gospel of Christ, is for the very purpose of creating a reservoir or "top soil" of righteousness from which men might draw strength to act in accord with the law of love.

How can this be? Let me give an example. The Golden Gate bridge is supported by two giant cables of many thousand strands of steel. Our nation is formed of many people welded together by a Constitution of which Gladstone said: "It is the most wonderful work ever struck off at a given time by the brain and purpose of man." The people form the strength of our nation by their actions. This is the reservoir or top soil of life for our nation! The membership of the church is our reservoir of strength for our church! Every one of us shall give account of himself to God. Romans 14:12.

A. P. Bailey says: "The best bridge is one that has the weight of its load evenly distributed over its entire structure, so that when a train crosses every part of the bridge carries its share of the weight. This same problem is in many churches. Many congregations suffer from an uneven strain. Too many shirk responsibility, laying their work upon some one else already over-burdened. Help to make your church strong by taking upon yourself the share of service needed. Our attitude tells much. When the Scripture is read, a sermon preached, a prayer offered: this reveals more about our faith than most if us realize. To let our minds wander on personal affairs while the congregation is worshiping is irreverence. Not to share in the planned worship suggests an arrogant attitude toward God."

It is the responsibility of each individual to add to the strength of his church by his attendance and his participation in its activities and worship. It is also his duty to add to the strength of his nation by his intelligent vote and influence toward legislative good. Are we adding to, or taking from, the reservoir of world righteousness? Either we help and encourage, or we hinder and discourage. Are we adding to the spiritual progress of our church, or to stagnation and loss of spiritual life?

It is the purpose of God that life shall beget life, that each life should be richer and fuller than the preceding life until we all come to the fullness of abundant life promised by Christ. It is the RIGHT, the PRIVILEGE and the DUTY of each one of us to add to the abundance of life of those around us, and most certainly to those who come after us.

"O God, today make us easy to live with. Give us a long range goal to live for. Help us to earn enough food and shelter to live on. And grant us a faith deep

enough and honest enough and true enough to live by. Jesus had all these. May we too, every day." (Taken from "Hand of Fellowship"—Phoenix Branch).

THE HOLY GHOST

There is a present crying need for the greater gifts of the Holy Spirit in our individual lives and in the life of the Church of Christ. By Holy Spirit we mean that to which the scriptures refer as the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, the Spirit of God.

The effectual working of the Spirit through you in your life is the very key to unlock your every problem. Other considerations are secondary. Those who have the Spirit have all. Those who do not have it, have nothing. There is a reason.

The Spirit is as a lamp at your feet. By its illuminating power you can appraise all things and all situations of spiritual importance with accuracy. This will enable you to make wise choices, the result of which will be great benefit to yourself and to others.

The presence of the Holy Spirit is a matter of delicate balance. You may not at first notice that it is there. It comes and goes by the grace of God according to the place you make for it in your heart and mind. It does not always express itself in the same way nor appear in the same form each time.

You may not obtain the Holy Spirit by means of feverish pursuit, for it will elude you. Yet, in a moment of quietness it may come to you and rest upon you unexpectedly. It is easily offended and may leave you at once over a matter you might think insignificant. Spiritual ground once lost is regained only after a long hard struggle.

The Holy Spirit cannot be bought with money, tears, argument, debate, conference action, referendum, nor by flights of fanciful reasoning into the stratosphere of speculative theology. The ancient sage may miss it while the simple-hearted joy in its presence.

You cannot borrow the Spirit, nor can it be loaned. The parable of the ten virgins, some of whom had oil in their vessels, may well have been aimed at this point. If you are in the proper condition and in the place where the Spirit is present and working among the people, you may learn to recognize it and enjoy its workings likewise.

The presence of the Holy Spirit is not to be bargained for but a thing to be won; yet you never know ahead of time how much effort will be required to win it. It is a thing to cherish and nourish. It is an influence unto which to submit your will once it begins to have sway in your heart and mind.

Regardless of how delicate a matter it is, the presence of the Holy Spirit and its workings is very necessary to the Christian in daily living and growing in favor with God.

Without the Spirit to enlighten your thinking you become a prey to Satan and become a victim of your own, and other people's whims and fancies. Without

it, you may allow yourself to become led into a place or condition of spiritual desolation out of which it is extremely hard to find your way. Without it, the glitter of the things of the world may blind you so that you cannot see plainly the things you ought to do, nor the true value of the ideas the various forces in the world are trying to "sell" you. Without it you may find yourself spending your efforts for things of no worth.

Without the influence of the Spirit in your life, the sweet, the singing, quality of living is gone; leaving you a drab, dull, fretful and futile existence filled with those things which do not bring lasting satisfaction nor peace—a virtual wilderness of unrest and anxiety.

There is no way to measure the Holy Spirit, nor the precise degree of its presence. One person may be able to sense the presence of the Spirit somewhat and know the approximate measure of its strength. Even so, the next person in the same room may be unaffected by its presence, or sense it to a greatly different extent. This is due to the great variation in different people's response to the Spirit.

Identifying the Holy Ghost and distinguishing it from other spirits is not always easy. There also is the spirit of Satan and there is the spirit of man both of which exhibit themselves in various ways.

If your acquaintance with the Holy Ghost is small, you may easily be deceived into accepting the substitute or counterfeit spirit which the powers of darkness stand ready to supply. A counterfeit is characterized by the fact that it nearly duplicates the genuine article, which is intentional in order to defraud. If there were no similarities, the counterfeit could be readily detected and rejected.

Your only hope of safety lies in knowing the Holy Spirit well, even to the point of becoming an expert. Then you can compare any spirit with your knowledge of the Holy Spirit, then accept or reject.

Misguided human zeal and impatience can frequently fog the discernment God gives you, and you may be induced not to check thoroughly enough, and thereby accept a spirit as being divine after only a check of one or two points. Being in a hurry for a spiritual manifestation can be a veritable trap.

The Scriptures give you many identifying "earmarks" of the Holy Spirit. One place indicates that no one speaking by the Holy Spirit will call Jesus Christ accursed. That is not the only "earmark." Another place shows that the true Spirit brings peace and assurance. The Holy Spirit is light and comes from above. Those spirits which are dark, and come from beneath, are of another kind.

Some years ago, a brother had an experience which began by the visitation of a spirit which came to him in dark clothing, in darkened surroundings. It came up into his room from the lower part of the house, if we are correctly informed, and struck him on the shoulder with such force as to make it sore for some time afterward. The continued visitation of this personage led to defection and loss to the church of nearly half its membership at that time.

Another brother, who is still active in the church, related to us an experience in which, as we remember it, a vertical shaft of light appeared, during the night, in his room. A personage descended down this shaft of light and stopped just above the floor, and gave him counsel which was greatly needed; then returned up the shaft of light.

King Saul had an experience with a spirit which was called up from somewhere beneath. Korihor in the Book of Mormon was deceived by a satanic angel who passed himself off as an angel from God. Alma 16:67. The Bible tells us that Satan will try to appear as an angel of light in order to try to deceive the very elect. Therefore, care must be used at all times lest you, for the sake of expediency, submit yourself to the influence of just any spirit which may present itself to you.

I John 4:1 tells you not to believe every spirit, but to test them, to see if they really are from God.

Once the Holy Spirit rests upon you, never try to take control of it . . . to make it do what you want. It is not a plaything, nor a mere religious curiosity. It is the very power of Christian life.

If you try to control the Holy Spirit, it will flee from you, and immediately, another and counterfeit, spirit may present itself, seeming, at first thought to be a continuation of the former spirit. It is by far the best thing for the Holy Spirit to take control of the one on whom it rests, to lead and guide and inform and encourage.

On the other hand, if you quench, restrict, reject, or neglect the Spirit, you have lost it likewise. You can suppress the presence of the Spirit in you, but you cannot make its presence greater by your own conscious will. If you quench it, you have lost it, and if you try to force it, you have lost it also. However, the latter instance is the more dangerous. It is like many things we know in this life which not only can produce good if used intelligently, but which also have a great potential for bad if misused.

The Spirit, if neglected, will produce a spiritual dry rot, which is not always noticeable to the victim nor to those about him or her. Having once been close to the "light", there is a greater responsibility and obligation laid upon those, so blessed, which comes not to others. Having once been close to the Spirit and enjoyed it, you may suffer untold damage and loss by moving away from it or by neglecting it.

Among the fruits and evidences of the Holy Spirit is peace and assurance. There is no wild excitement nor hubbub, nor ostentatious dramatics. The true Spirit brings humility. The Spirit does not always bring a revelation or a prophecy. It may bring truth to your mind in a forceful and unforgettable manner, which truth you may have formerly considered commonplace. It may appeal to the hearts of individuals to praise God. It may warn you of present perils you do not recognize. It may warn you of perils to come.

The Holy Spirit may bring you a warm, peaceful, cared-for feeling. It may bring you an admonition in

your mind, or through the mouth of another person. It may bring you calm courage in the face of trouble and adversity. It may heal your ailing body or sickened mind. It may protect you from harm. It may bring you many a blessing in time of need. It may give you a vision of things past, present, or future.

The Spirit may place in the heart and mind of a preacher the very words that someone present needs. It may prompt another to repentance, and to further righteous activity. It may melt down stubbornness and pride. It may furnish you with useful and important information otherwise unavailable to you.

It may alight as a dove, or as flames of fire, or a personage, or give a sense of its presence.

This, then, is the Spirit of God, the Holy Ghost, the Holy Spirit. Desire its presence in your life. Plead for it. Pray for it. Patiently wait for it. When you receive it, or an increase of it, respond to it. Give it a large place in your life and let it lead you to life eternal.

Without the Spirit of God, the church and your Christian endeavor is valueless.

With the Spirit of God you are rich beyond measure.

Elder Forest E. Maley

THE KEY TO BETTER LIVING

Don McIndoo

We can liken our lives to a pair of magnets which attract each other with a pull of force—nothing just happens to us; we are either attracted to, or repelled away.

I recently visited some Indians ruins with members of my class. I always view these ruins with awe, wonderment and amazement since I first accidentally found them; and the many times since, as I have visited them again by intent; with awe and wonderment to think that once, many years ago, there lived, here, men, women and children with hopes, doubts and fears as we have today. It makes no difference who, when or where we are—we have moments of joy and elation, and opportunities to make of our society a thing of beauty.

In the 16th chapter of Luke, we find the story of Lazarus and the rich man. The rich man in hell, asked that some prophet from the dead be sent to his five brothers on earth, "lest they also come into this place of torment." And the answer given him was: "If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead."

Many people think that it would have been wonderful and so much easier to live brave and strong and righteously if they could have been at Pentecost or have been with Christ at the Sea of Galilee. But the men who knew Christ, heard His voice, walked with Him, saw the prints of the nails in His hands—they had no immunity to temptation—they gave into discouragement and temptation even as we today. We can be

just as close to him today. If we keep His commandments, He will come and gather us to the city of peace and refuge. We have just as equal an opportunity to be near Him at our job tomorrow as we would if we were in Zion.

Every person has moments, days or longer periods of time, when doubts, concerning the Master, overshadow him. We see weaknesses in ourselves, our church, others around us; yet these doubts need not keep us from God or eternal life. In the simple teachings of Christ lies the key to better living. The Bible and all the revelations it contains is no insurance policy against doubt and discouragement. From the book, **Christian Doubt**, I find this statement: "A man who never doubted—never really believed." It is no honor to say: "I never doubted, or was ever discouraged." If such were the case it would but show a shallowness in our lives somewhere.

"Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then I will profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Many are called but few are chosen; it will be the doers, and not the hearers only, who will be chosen. We cannot be saved by prayer, revelation or doctrine—but only by what we do and what we say, for what we say is the measure of what we think. Being saved is a matter of now, today, at work, at home, at play. It is a matter of living. There is nothing God will fail to do for us if we use the right key. Even if some one came from the dead, if Christ walked into this room, we could still turn our backs on him by not doing the things He taught.

"He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it." We must lose ourself in the everyday practice of righteous living.

We should be engaged in a program of self improvement—improve our relationship with others, be more understanding, increase our capacity to love and to live, and be in closer communion with Christ through prayer and study. Sometimes we worry too much about the condition of the world to be properly thankful to God and aware of the beauty about us that He has created.

Perhaps it would help to make a little chart to fill out each day: How many times today have I befriended someone? Have I controlled my temper, my emotions? Have I taken time to read something good? Have I been considerate and kind to my wife or husband? Have I taken stock of God in my life and am I a better Christian today than I was yesterday? We are masters of our personality, our reward, and we have the key to unlock the door to abundant and eternal life.—(From the "Hand of Fellowship"—Phoenix Branch).

SECRET SOCIETIES

Those who study the Book of Mormon, even its enemies, will find that it presents some sharp teachings

that are not found so definitely stated in any other Scriptural source. One of these teachings is that of exposing secret societies, lodges, crafts, sects, or as it is termed in the Book, "secret combinations". Spoken of in such terms as these, the definition becomes broad enough to include all those who bind themselves in a brotherhood by the means of secret oaths and covenants and proceed to carry on their "works of darkness" under the cloak of secrecy so that they might pervert the right ways of the Lord.

Sects such as those have existed far into the dim pages of antiquity and have been strongly mingled with Christianity throughout its history. The Book of Mormon shows that such as these are an "abomination" in the sight of God, and proceeds to give a well-defined description of them and their practices. They are entered into by the administration of **secret oaths** and **covenants** which are taken upon the Name of God and upon the lives of the candidates which are to stand forfeit if ever the secrets are divulged. (733:86) To these were given **secret signs** and **words**, (564:146) that they might secretly recognize one of their brotherhood. As professed believers in God, they were found to be **idolatrous** (565:158), and were found "among those also who professed to belong to the Church of God." (553:44). Showing that their doctrines were of such a nature that they could still exist in a religious organization). Another one of their outstanding characteristics was that they aspired to high civil offices and powers so that they might pervert justice and **get gain** for themselves. Being found within a church, they might also be found aspiring to lofty ecclesiastical powers, as we well may witness of this condition in our day.

The taste which God shows for these is evident in the statements found in the Book of Ether (734) . . . "which combination is most abominable and wicked above all, in the sight of God: (93) . . . For the Lord worketh not in secret combinations . . . (95) . . . And **whatsoever nation** shall uphold such **secret combinations** . . . until they shall spread over the nation, behold, **they shall be destroyed** . . . (96) Wherefore, O ye **Gentiles**, it is wisdom in God that these things should be shewn (shown) unto **you** . . ." etc. In this last verse we see God bringing this rebuke to focus upon **us**, the Gentiles, for He saw that we have a particular need for these facts, that we might not be taken in the snares of this particular sort of deception.

In the pages of the histories of the Restoration, from New York State, to Far West, from there to Nauvoo and to the land of the Great Salt Lake, and in the pages that you and I are writing at this time, the turbulent history of this Restored Gospel has been written with glimpses of these sects existing within the church. The results have been much the same as we might expect from such "abominations". Strife, destruction, murder, unrest, false doctrine, priestcraft, sedition and seizing control of the church over the will of the people . . . all of these might be closely associated with the existence of these sects amongst the children of God.

Is it any wonder the Restoration has suffered so greatly, at the cost of many souls, when Satan has obtained such a sway upon the hearts of those who pro-

fessed to "lead" or "govern" the churches, who have been infested with this sort of thing? Will we persist in these abominations while we stand upon the very threshold of our destruction because of our co-habitation with them?

So it is, the light of the truth has once more come to mankind through this great gift, the Book of Mormon. It was not the mission of this great work to come to earth and seek a quarrel with the beliefs of men, but it came bearing the light of truth with such brilliancy and plainness that those who were humble and contrite enough to be searching for the Kingdom of Heaven might be able to find it without wading through all of the deception that had been sown in the paths of those who sought this glorious goal. The light exposed the thorns and snares for what they were, therefore they need not deceive us further.

Before, the thorns and briars caused us to turn aside into forbidden paths in which we find the Purgatories, the two-caste moral systems, polygamies, spirit-wives, blood atonements, secret combinations, works of darkness, mutilated scriptures, universalisms, and those who say that there "is no hell"; the sprinklings, the Ecclesiastical Monarchies, presidencies and papal power, among the other great devices that Satan will use to ensnare the unwary. These things **all** show themselves to be steps in a well-worn staircase which descends into the depths of apostasy, the fruits of which feed the insatiable appetite of Hell.

Dear friend, the light we have, (the Book of Mormon) was sent that we might, by the precious light it brought to us, be able to avoid these treacherous depths. With the truth that is in the Bible, it brought the Gospel to its fullness, which is a keenly-graduated scale with which we might measure **all** doctrine, whether it be **our own** teaching or that of the churches of the world. By this means we will be able to see whether they measure to be "more" or "less" than the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Again, coupled together with the Bible, the Book of Mormon embraces the fullness of the Gospel, with the greater burden of truth being found in the pages of the Book of Mormon, as the Book affirms in its own testimony in I Nephi 4:16, wherein this Book is referred to as the "fullness of the gospel."

The challenge of this great testimony that the Book of Mormon has to offer, rests in the words of Christ, which lays before **us** a sacred charge, "At that day when the Gentiles **shall sin** against my gospel, and **shall reject the fullness of my gospel**, etc . . . I will bring the fullness of my gospel from among them . . . But if the Gentiles **will repent** and **RETURN** (how shall we return lest we have strayed? R.L.M.) unto me saith the Father, behold they shall be numbered among my people, etc . . ." III Nephi 7:34-45.

Along this same vein of thought, consider these prophecies also, wherein it speaks specifically of **OUR DAY**.

153:13 . . . "Yea, they have **all GONE OUT OF THE WAY**; they have **become** corrupted."

154:16 . . . "They have **all gone astray**, save it be a few, who are the humble followers of Christ;

(17) . . . Nevertheless, **they** are lead that in many instances they do **err** because they are taught by the **precepts of men.**"

708:48 . . . "And there are **none**, save a few only, who do not lift themselves up in the pride of their hearts."

(49) . . . And your churches, yea, **even every one**, have **become polluted** because of the pride of your hearts."

In conclusion, please entertain one more thought and another question: Herein have been stated some of the boundary markers of the city of Spiritual Confusion known to us as Spiritual Babylon. Our God has spoken an admonition to us, "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." Rev. 18:4.

Dear Friend, Dear Brother, can we stand the measure? Are we supple enough to shed our iniquities and false doctrines, and to search out and **conform** to the fullness of the Gospel," or have we become so jaded by this false doctrine and the effort to conform to the Gospel would crack us into small pieces? **WE STAND IN THE MOMENT OF A GREAT DECISION.**

(Elder) Robert L. Maley

THE RESTORATION OF THE JEWS

Says the Apostle, "I would not that ye should be ignorant of this mystery that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in: and all Israel shall be saved." Romans 11:25.

Few commentators extend the time for restoration or conversion of the Jews beyond the year 1866. Of the fact of their conversion, none who believe the New Testament can doubt. But the precise time, and the way and the manner in which this will be effected, the Lord has reserved to himself, and it must be expected, that the opinions of men in regard to it will be various, and in many instances contradictory. In all probability, it will take place near the time of the thousand years of peace and rest, foretold in the Revelation, when Satan shall be bound, and not permitted to deceive the nations any more till the thousand years are finished.

The Lord, and not man, will have the glory of bringing about this event, and all the efforts and undertakings of men to accomplish it will prove unavailing, as heretofore has been the case down to present time. "A Jew once said to me", says Adam Clarke, "There are some of you Christians who are making wonderful efforts to convert the Jews. Ah, there is none but God Almighty that can convert a Jew." Adam Clarke remarks, "Truly I believe him. Only God can convert any man; and if there be a peculiar difficulty to convert any soul, that difficulty must be in the conversion of the Jew." (Reformer).

Remarks: Neither the house of Joseph in America, nor the Jews among all the nations, nor the Ten Tribes which went into that country "where never mankind dwelt," can be converted by ministers, though the Gentiles are: for God has said to his Son, in the Psalms: "Thy people (Israel) shall be willing in the day of thy power" (that is when He comes in the clouds of heaven, and all the tribes mourn, [the whole 12], they will be ready and willing to receive the Messiah'.

The Evening and The Morning Star, August, 1832.

INDEPENDENCE DIARY

(continued from page 5)

accomplishment as well as a sizeable amount to add to our building fund. Most expressed surprise at the amount of the proceeds.

We begin to believe that if we look at things realistically we might say the word MONEY right out loud! We might then accumulate enough of it to build a church where we can teach the beautiful and precious gospel of Christ more effectively.

The Mother's Club held their election of officers and Christmas party at the home of Sister Orlea Premoe on December 12. Our present chairman, Irene Maley and our present Secretary-Treasurer, Sister Doris Sheldon were re-elected to serve next year. We have not previously had an Assistant Chairman, but we have need for one, and Sister Gladys Nast was elected to fill this need. Our committees elected were: Program Committee, Sister Leona Thompson and Sister Marion Sprague; "Money-raising Committee, Sister Edna Smith, Sister Orlea Premoe and Sister Velma Wheaton. We recently had the pleasure of outfitting two little girls with school clothing, and plan to furnish clothing for other members of the family and also a Christmas basket of food and gifts.

Each department has been very busy getting ready for Christmas. Through all these endeavors we pray that we might be pleasing in the sight of Him we seek to serve. We pray that we may all grow in love and understanding of each other, for then will we accomplish His purpose as the Church of Christ.

Irene Maley, Reporter

SPECIAL NOTICE

We have received our first shipment of the Book of Mormon which has been published for us. This is the Authorized Edition, the same as published by the Herald House, except with the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) fly leaf, and published by permission of the copy-right owner.

The missionary copy, with marginal references and in black, flexible binding, is \$1.25 per copy, post-paid, or in lots of five or more at one dollar per copy.

Send check or money order made out to Church of Christ, (Temple Lot), and mail to Box 472, Independence, Missouri, care of Business Manager.

NOTICE

To the Membership of the Church

(Continued from December Advocate)

AN OPINION ADOPTED BY THE TWELVE

September 6-7, 1926

In order to clear the atmosphere relative to some of the perplexing problems that confront us, the following proposal is presented for consideration:

Be it resolved that it is the opinion of the members of the Quorum of Twelve that we should give to all the churches of this church a statement endorsed by this quorum relative to general church and local church rights as follows:

(1) That the Church of Christ in its broadest sense includes the "whole family (of God) in heaven and earth who, having obeyed the Gospel of Christ shall in the fullness of time be gathered together in one in Christ, (Eph. 1:10) and shall be known as "the general assembly and church of the first born." (Heb. 12:23).

(2) That the administration of the laws of the spiritual kingdom of God is under the immediate supervision of Jesus Christ, whom God "gave to be the Head over all things to the church which is his body."

(3) That because of the fact and circumstance that the members of the Church of Christ are not in the same geographical location, it is therefore necessary to separate the scope and functions of the work of the church into two divisions, namely; the General and the Local; each functioning in harmony with the law of God and each other within the sphere in which they are placed.

(4) That the General church is created and functions for the purpose of preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every nation, kindred, tongue and people, and establishing Christian assemblies everywhere; and to promulgate a uniform system of teaching and practice of those virtues and ideals as set forth in the Word of God and confirmed by the Holy Spirit. (Acts 14:19-23).

(5) That in order to accomplish this object on the earth, God has placed in the church immediately under the direction of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, the Quorum of Twelve Apostles who have the general oversight and watchcare of all the churches; and in case of sedition or apostasy from the faith, to regulate and set in order as they may be directed by the word of God and the Holy Ghost.

(6) That the Local Church is created and functions as a matter of convenience for the purpose of providing means of assembling Christian believers into bodies where they may worship, receive instruction, and have the association of those of like faith in the practice of those virtues, and enjoyment of those blessings that are provided for in the gospel law. (Mosiah 11:97-102).

(7) That a local congregation, which may be composed of as few as six members, represents the church

in that locality. If there were only six members in all the world then they would represent the church exclusively. Not so however, if there be other congregations, great or small, elsewhere. The aggregation of members, baptized believers . . . whether attached or unattached to local congregations or organizations compose the membership of the Church of Christ on earth.

(8) That a Local Church may be composed of as few as six members, one of whom is an Elder. The scope of this Local Church may be extended in harmony with the law of God from this small nucleus to a perfectly developed organization composed of Bishops, Elders, Priests, Teachers and Deacons, and its several departments of activities. But it is never to be interpreted to mean that it shall project itself beyond it's sphere into the affairs of another local church or to assume the prerogatives of the church as a whole; for each local church is independent from other local churches to the extent of selecting its own officers and the development of its own members, and is self-governing in harmony with the universal laws of the church.

(9) That in addition to the regular General Conference of the church, that it shall be considered within the province of the Twelve to call a special conference of the church at a time and place they may deem most prudent, to adjust the emergency that may arise.

(10) That it shall be within the province of any such General Conference to determine the advisability of taking a referendum on any matter that may come before it.

(11) That when it is considered necessary by the Quorum of Twelve to counsel or correct a condition in a local church, they may convene a council of the officers of the church affected and offer such advice and recommendations as is expedient, to become effective subject to the voice of the congregation affected . . . except in cases where the majority are in flagrant transgression, and in open disregard of the Constitutional Law that governs the church, when it shall be necessary for the Twelve to set in order and regulate in harmony with the law of God.

(12) That when matters of importance to the local church arise to be considered, the bishops and elders shall either of their own initiative or the petition of six or more members in good standing convene a local conference of ministry and members, and take such action as is expedient for the promotion of their welfare, but never to legislate upon matters that effect other churches or the church at large except such as are referred to them by the General Conference for consideration and action.

(13) That Independence, Missouri, "the Central place", is the headquarters of the church, and the place of the gathering of the saints of Latter-days. That a Temple will be built at this place on the sacred Temple Lots according to the revelations. Said Temple Lots which is the property of the Church of Christ is held as the site of the future Temple and for no other purpose.

Adopted September 6th and 7th, 1926, and subject to ratification of General Conference at Independence, Missouri, April 6, 1927.

H. E. Moler,
Samuel Wood,
Daniel McGregor,
Otto Fetting,
Clarence L. Wheaton,
Norris Headding,
Of the Quorum of Twelve.

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to write me at the Church, P. O. Box at Independence, Missouri.

In gospel bonds,
Forest E. Maley
General Church Secretary

OBITUARY

Edith Garrett Caldwell was born April 16, 1872, in Allegheny, Pennsylvania. She was baptized into The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, January 31, 1886, by Elder G. T. Griffiths, and confirmed by Elders W. H. Kelley and G. T. Griffiths. She was married to Louis P. Caldwell April 6, 1893.

Sister Caldwell was always an active member of the church, whenever possible. She resided in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, from 1920 to 1927, where she did much to assist in the church work at that time. Her father, William H. Garrett was in the Presidency of the Independence Stake, when first organized, always accomplishing much good in his labors for the church. She came by a fine heritage.

Sister Caldwell passed away on December 5, 1957 at Independence, Missouri. She is survived by her husband, Louis P. Caldwell; three sons, William J. Caldwell, Donald G. Caldwell, and Preston C. Caldwell; two daughters, Mrs. Margaret Wohlt and Mrs. Louise Emmert; two sisters, Mrs. Nell Clarke and Mrs. Alice Beaty; eight grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren.

Sister Caldwell leaves behind a fine record of fine achievement and a host of friends.

OBITUARY

Earl C. Polack

Earl C. Polack was born October 26, 1911 in Kasson Township, Michigan. He died at his residence, 518 2nd Street, Traverse City, Michigan. He leaves to mourn his father, Otto H. Polack; two brothers, Harold H. and Otto L. Polack; one son, Corp. Alvin R. Polack of the U. S. Air Force; two daughters, Glenda, and Teresa A. Polack. Elder D. W. Housknecht was in charge of the funeral.

GOD'S MEASURE

God doesn't measure a man,
By the size of his hat,
Nor the shoes upon his feet.
He measures a man by his daily walk,
At home, and on the street.

He doesn't measure a man,
By his wisdom here,
Nor by his worldly fame,
He measures a man by the way
He carries his cross.
All in Jesus' name.

He doesn't measure a man
By the size of his farm,
Nor by the size of his bank roll.
He measures a man by the
Love in his heart,
And the purity of his soul.

THE LOVING GOD UNDERSTANDS

Ye shall not hurt the weaklings of the flock!
Ye shall not trample on the sore beset
Or weaponless, the immature in years
Or gifts. They, too, are men, and sorely need
A share and chance and air and sun and hearth..
God is their Daysman, and will watch for them
And stand between them and all sullen greed,
And hear their clamors ere they come to voice.
His gentleness shall surely make them great.
Wherefore, all we of high or low degree
Who hire a helper in our daily deed
This shall we hear and never more forget:
The deep beatitude of God abides
On such as ever play the man with men.
And God's stern summons to all sons of earth
Against encroachment is: "Thou shalt not."

—William A. Quayle

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
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