

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 37

Independence, Missouri, March, 1960

No. 3

'Twas A Sheep

'Twas a sheep, not a lamb, that went astray
In the parable Jesus told;
'Twas a grown up sheep that wandered away
From the ninety and nine in the fold.
And out on the hill-tops and out in the cold
'Twas a sheep that the Good Shepherd sought,
And back to the flock, and back to the fold
'Twas a sheep that the Good Shepherd brought.
Now, why should the sheep be so carefully fed
And cared for still today?
Because there is danger if they go wrong
They will lead the lambs astray.
For the lambs will follow the sheep, you know,
Wherever they wander, wherever they go.
If the sheep go wrong, it will not be long
Till the lambs are as wrong as they.
So still with the sheep we must earnestly plead,
For the sake of the lambs today.
If the lambs are lost, what a terrible cost
Some sheep will have to pay.

Author Unknown

CONTENTS

What Does the Church Believe?.....Page 34	Local NewsPage 45
Conference NoticesPage 34	Y. P. C. L. NewsPage 47
Original Articles	Helping Hand
Marvelous Works of GodPage 40	Vacation Bible SchoolPage 48
I Dare You To Be A Christian.....Page 43	Sunday School Association Notice.....Page 48

ZION'S ADVOCATE

Official Publication of the Church of Christ

Headquarters on the Temple Lot, Independence, Missouri

EDITOR: Nicholas F. Denham, 4116 South Cottage, Independence, Missouri.

ASSOCIATE EDITORS: James A. Hedrick, 103 North 22nd Street, Blue Springs, Missouri; Lois Harris, 1920 South Osage, Independence, Missouri.

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

Second class postage paid at Independence, Missouri.

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

What Does The Church of Christ Believe?

The belief of an organization upon a given point is the sum of the beliefs of the individual members of that organization. What does the Church of Christ with headquarters on the Temple Lot believe?

On April 6, 1830, a small group of men met in New York State and organized the Church of Christ in harmony with the laws of our country. Those few men were bound together in doctrine and belief and set forth to spread the fulness of the gospel of Christ abroad on the earth.

The growth of the Church was fantastic. Within a few months it had gathered in many members and, as Jesus spoke of the net cast into the sea, it gathered in all kinds. Among those gathered in were men of influence who were also taken into the ministry where their influence was very great.

As new members were taken in, new ideas were brought in with them and within a frightfully short time the belief of the church changed so radically that the church could hardly be recognized as being the same one organized in April, 1830. These changes included the name of the church, the organization of the church, and important points of doctrine of the church.

Among organizations of the world such changes, which are common with growth, are known as progression. In the church, which is the bride of Christ who is unchangeable, such changes could only be labeled retrogression. This curse of retrogression struck the church practically at its very inception.

As time passed and the membership of the church was multiplied and the belief of the church continued to change, a small remnant, seeing the evils that had made their way into the organization, decided to seek to return to the basic principles of the church of April, 1830. It was a long, hard road back. The original

name had to be reclaimed. The intrepid fallacies had to be discarded. The original plan of organization had to be reinstated. This adjustment has required more than a century to correct the errors that came in within the short space of fifteen years, and that correction is probably not yet completed.

As a result of their determination to return to the "old paths", this group returned to Independence, Mo., in 1867 by divine direction and soon reclaimed the Temple Lot.

Since 1867 those brave individuals who dared attempt to return to the original belief of the Church of Christ, 1830, have passed on to the beyond, and their posterity have occupied in their places. As the years have passed and the personnel of the membership of the church have changed, it is not unnatural that the belief of the church has changed too, since the belief of the church is the sum of the beliefs of its individual members.

The church has gone on record, on a number of occasions, relative to its official position on its belief on various points; nevertheless, who knows what the actual belief of the church is today on the various important points, when we hear so many varied opinions and expressions of belief by the different members of the ministry on a number of important points?

Can anything be done to bring a unity of belief? Yes. Come together in humility and faith toward God and seek to be unified and that with God. Unity without God is disaster.

Conference Notices

Attention Women!

Every woman, who is a member of the Church of Christ and who will be attending the General Conference which convenes soon, is invited to attend the annual meeting of the General United Workers.

This meeting is for the purpose of learning how the members of each local organization apply the talents they possess and to exchange ideas which may contribute to the work in the family of Christ. Here also is an endeavor to unify the local groups by the discussion of worth while projects and by contributions to a common cause.

The Old Folks' Home Fund is growing a little year by year by contributions in pennies saved. Let us keep this fund growing for this very worth while cause and perhaps one day the lowly pennies will be like "pennies from Heaven" for some of the aged in the Church. Are your pennies ready to be counted into the fund at the coming meeting? Don't forget to bring them with you.

The secretary of each local organization is requested to mail or bring in a report of her local's activities for the year. If the report is mailed in, send it to:

United Workers
Church of Christ (Temple Lot)
P. O. Box 472
Independence, Mo.

Lois Harris, Secretary

Dining Hall Committee

As we look forward to the 1960 Conference, we know of one thing that will be considered. That is the bill of fare which will be before the body for discussion and action twice daily from 12:00 noon to 1:00 P. M., and 6:00 P. M. to 7:00 P. M.

As usual the topics for discussion will be donated by the body, whether it be food products or money to purchase same. Any canned goods, vegetables or fruit will be appreciated. The Dining Hall Committee, of course, will prepare the matter in digestible order so that it can be properly set before the body.

The manner of serving will be very similar to last year, that is cafeteria style.

Kay Matthews
Barney Wentworth
Leslie Case

Send all donations to:

Dining Hall Committee
Box 472
Independence, Missouri

"WONDERING"

I wonder what would happen, if God were to take a day

To go out and enjoy Himself, in a happy carefree way?

I wonder what would happen if He forgot us here

And gave His full attention to what only He held dear?

I wonder what would happen if God would take a week

To go on a vacation upon a mountain peak?

I wonder what would happen, if He did the things we do,

Forgetting responsibilities for a week or two?

I wonder what would happen if a month our God would take,

To live in quiet solitude, the tensions of life to break?

I wonder what would happen should He only think of self,

Or, instead of thinking of us, here, He only thought of self?

I wonder what would happen to this world that we live in

If God should let it go to pot, and steep in its own sin;

The sin of selfish living, and of bitterness and greed,
That people of this day and time, make their very creed?

Not only for a month, a week, or even for an hour,

If He forgot one moment to keep us in His power,

The thought of what would happen is appalling, to be sure,

For not a single living object would be able to endure.
So, when you take a little time, away from the daily grind

Don't forget our Heavenly Father, keep Him always in your mind,

And make a special effort, each and every day

To talk with Him who loves you, in a special holy way.

And when you do, get kind of chummy, in a humble sort o' way,

Ask Him to be with you, and protect you when you pray.

I'm sure He'll hear your prayer, as He does each one that's meant,

And the blessings you'll receive, will be, surely Heaven sent.

Harry S. Tordoff

Proposed Revision of Forms

From The Board of Publications

Part I

SUBJECT: The review and rewrite of all Church forms as directed by 1959 General Conference.

REMARKS: The Board of Publications met in a series of meetings to review the Church record forms and to set up a letter of procedure for the General Church Recorder.

A list of 26 forms was courteously furnished us by the Recorder and sample copies of the same were supplied us from which we were able to design our work.

In a series of five meetings we were able to recommend the discard of several forms—their function being designed into other forms already in existence. We were thus able to eliminate some 16 of the listed forms.

Again the Board was courteously benefited by the General Church Recorder. She met with us in two meetings to offer her suggestions in the rewriting of the new forms. She was able to greatly benefit the course of our labors. We are indebted to her skillful willingness.

ENCLOSED: 1. A list of the rewritten forms, the result of our deliberations.

2. A letter of instruction from the Board of Publications to the General Church Recorder in the use and distribution of the redesigned forms.

Part II

CONCLUSION: There were some questions that presented themselves in the rewriting of these forms upon which we were unable to commonly agree. Generally they are as follows:

1. Should the issuing of Certificates be the exclusive responsibility of the Recorder's office?

a. If so, the Recorder will be able to use an "Impression Seal" as decided by the action of the Board of Publications May 17, 1959.

b. If not, the Church seal will have to be printed "facsimile" on the certificates in the process of printing.

2. The question as to whose signatures the CERTIFICATE OF ORDINATION (Card) would bear was left undecided.

a. It was decided, however, that this card should have a facsimile seal printed on it since the impression seal would not show after some wear on the card. (The card is designed for the billfold).

3. Should a new member be requested to sign a statement as a witness of his belief and intent as a member of the Church of Christ?

4. Should officiating ministers, in cases of Baptism or transfer from another church in the Restoration, be required to vouch for the new member's instruction in his or her duties to the Gospel and to the Church of Christ? (This voucher to be signed with his or her signatures.

In rewriting of the forms it was decided to standardize the form size to 6 x 9 so that they might efficiently fit our present filing system. Each member of the Church of Christ is to have a 6 x 9 file folder in the General Church Recorder's office in which his personal records will be kept. Steps have already been taken to carry this out.

Respectfully submitted
 Robert L. Maley, Secretary
 BOARD OF PUBLICATIONS
 of the CHURCH OF CHRIST

To the General Church Recorder:

SUBJECT: Letter of instruction in the use of the revised church forms and certificates.
 (Reference to each individual form will be made by title and by the number assigned on the Recorder's submitted list of forms).

Form No. 1. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LOCAL CHURCH.

1. To be sent out each year to the locals by the recorder.
2. Is to be sent out February 1, and due back by March 1.
3. Recorder will summarize these reports with annual report to the Conference.
4. A list of membership with names and addresses are to be sent from each local to the General Church Recorder upon request.

Form No. 6. CERTIFICATE OF ORGANIZATION.

1. To be properly filled out and signed by Recorder and forwarded to Local Church upon receipt of satisfactory notice of New Organization from the Missionary in charge, who will submit a list of six or more members, one of whom is an Elder.

Form No. 7. REQUEST FOR TRANSFER From another Restoration organization).

1. To be filled out in full and signed by applicant and three Elders recommending the transfer, then forwarded to General Church Recorder.

Form No. 7a. ITEMS OF BAPTISM (In triplicate).

1. This form is to be issued by Officiating Elder.
2. Must be signed by Local Clerk and Pastor (or Missionary in Charge where no Local exists).
3. First copy goes to the General Recorder (via the Local Clerk).
 Second copy goes to member as a "Temporary" Baptismal Certificate.
 Third Copy is retained in the Missionary's (or Minister's) book as a stub record.

Form No. 10. ITEMS OF BLESSING.

1. To be issued by Officiating Minister and sent to General Church Recorder.

Form No. 11. CERTIFICATE OF BLESSING.

1. To be issued by General Church Recorder upon receipt of ITEMS OF BLESSING.

Form No. 12. CERTIFICATE OF BAPTISM.

1. To be issued upon receipt of ITEMS OF BAPTISM.

Form No. 18. CERTIFICATE OF ORDINATION.

1. To be issued by the General Church Recorder upon pertinent information from the Officiating Minister.

Form No. 23. MEMBERSHIP RECORD.

1. To be filled out by the General Church Recorder upon receipt of forms, REQUEST FOR TRANSFER or ITEMS OF BAPTISM, from the Local Clerk or Officiating Minister.
2. It is to be filled out in duplicate.
 - a. One copy goes in Recorder's file.
 - b. One copy goes to Local Clerk where Membership is to be held.

(Note by Conference action, each member is to be recorder under the nearest local to which he resides.)

3. In case a member transfers to another Local, Local Clerks are to forward this membership record card to member's new local.

Form No. 24. CHANGE OF RECORD NOTICE.

1. To be placed in the hands of each Pastor or Local Clerk and each Missionary in the field.
2. In case of the change of status of a member: to be filled out by Local Clerk or Minister and sent in to the General Church Recorder.
3. The Local Clerk should incorporate these changes into the member's MEMBERSHIP RECORD.

Form No. 26. CERTIFICATE OF ORDINATION (Card).

1. To be issued at the same time as CERTIFICATE OF ORDINATION.
2. Signatures are to be determined by the action of General Conference.

Supplies of all forms are to be kept by the General Church Recorder and all forms issued by anyone other than the Recorder will be furnished upon request as needed.

It was decided there would be no change in Forms No. 10 and No. 11 until the present supply of these forms is exhausted.

Form No. 26. (Billfold size card)

CERTIFICATE OF ORDINATION

Ordained;
 and is hereby authorized to perform the duties of his
 ministry as:

.....
 (Name of Office)

In The Church of Christ, Organized April 6, 1830
 Headquarters, Independence, Missouri

.....
 Signature

.....
 Signature

Form No. 1

..... Annual Report of the Local Church at.....
(Year Ending)

TO THE GENERAL CHURCH RECORDER

Date.....

Gain by Baptism
Transfer (Restoration)
Transfers Between Locals

Loss by Death
Expulsion
Withdrawals
Transfers Between Locals
Total Loss

Total Gain
Number at Last Report
Net Loss or Gain
Total Membership to Date

Number of Elders..... Priests..... Teachers..... Deacons.....

Local Pastor's Name..... City..... State.....

Address City..... State.....

Signed By Address

(Local Clerk or Secretary)

(Note): A letter of transfer received from another Local is a gain; one issued is a loss.)

Form No. 6

CERTIFICATE OF ORGANIZATION

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Temple Lot

Organized April 6, 1830

This is to Certify, that on the..... Day of
in the year of our Lord Nineteen Hundred and.....;
that a Local Church of Christ was organized at.....
(City)

County of State of

By, in harmony with the laws governing such action provided by the General Conference of the said Church of Christ.

Date.....

(Imprint Seal)

General Church Recorder

Form No. 7a.

ITEMS OF BAPTISM

Name in Full
(Including Maiden Name if a Woman and Married)

Address: Street or Route..... City.....

State Occupation

Date of Birth..... At..... County..... State.....

Baptized By Date.....

At County State.....

Laying on of Hands: Date..... At

County State

Officiating Minister Assisted By

Receiving Local Date Received.....

Marriage Date Name of Spouse

Children:

Birthdate:

Local Pastor

Local Clerk

Date

Form No. 7

APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

Date..... (Name in Full: Please Print) (Register No.)

TO THE CHURCH OF CHRIST: I hereby confess my belief in Jesus the Christ, and in the Bible and Book of Mormon, and all Latter Day Revelation agreeing therewith. I promise to faithfully support this Gospel and to do all in my power to keep inviolate my covenant with Christ.

I am making application herewith on my original baptism and wish to have my name recorded as a member of the Church of Christ.

Signed (Write Full Christian Name)

Born..... At..... (City) County..... State.....

Date Baptized At..... County..... State

Laying on of Hands by..... Baptized By Assisted by

Date..... Place..... County..... State.....

Date of Marriage..... Are you living with spouse?..... Reg. No. if Church Member.....

Companion's Name Present Address: Street or Route..... City

State Occupation.....

Reverse of Form No. 7.

Ordained By Office Date.....

Silence: Date Cause

Excommunicated: Date Cause

Name of Receiving Local..... Date Received

Remarks Recommended for acceptance by Elders 1..... 2..... 3..... Date of Recommendation

Form No. 10 and No. 11.

The present supply of forms are to be used until exhausted.

Form No. 12.

CERTIFICATE OF BAPTISM IN THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

This is to certify that (Name In Full)

Date of Birth Place..... State.....

Was Baptized by Date.....

Place County..... State.....

Laying on of Hands by..... Date.....

Assisted by Date.....

Place County..... State.....

AND BECAME A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Imprint Seal)

Register Number General Church Recorder Date.....

Form No. 18.

CERTIFICATE OF ORDINATION

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT..... (Full Name)

WAS ORDAINED A..... in the Church of Christ (Temple Lot, Independence, Mo.) and is hereby licensed to perform the duties of his ministry.

Date of Ordination..... Place

Under the Hands of Assisted by

(Imprint Seal)

Certificate Issued By..... General Church Recorder Date

Form No. 23.

MEMBERSHIP RECORD

Local Church (Register Number)

Full Name
 (Last) (First) (Middle)

Date of Birth..... At..... County..... State.....

Baptized By Date.....
 At..... County..... State.....

Laying on of Hands by..... Assisted By
 Date At..... County State.....

Receiving Local Date.....

Companion's Name Date of Marriage..... Reg. Number if
 Church Member.....

Address: Street or Route..... City.....
 State Occupation

Transferred to Date.....

Death: Date Place.....

Place of Interment..... Date.....

Family () Ministry () or Court () records on reverse side.

Reverse of Form No. 23.

Family Record: Names of children and dates of birth.
 Ministry Record: Offices, dates ordained, officiating ministers and assistants.
 Court Records: Reference to the location of Court Records.

Form No. 24.

CHANGE OF RECORD NOTICE

Notice: The officiating minister is expected to furnish the information. He should first send this notice to clerk of local church where member is enrolled. Local clerk must enter new information upon the local record and certify thereto upon this card and promptly forward to the General Church Recorder.

Full Name Register No.....
 (Please Print)

Date of Birth At..... State.....

Marriage Date Minister

Husband or Wife's Name
 (In Full)

Ordination Date By..... Assistant.....

New Office Former Office

Expulsion Date Chairman of Court

Court Record Send to Recorder: Date

Transferred to Date.....

Transferred from

Death Record: Date..... Place

Interment Date.....

The items noted herewith have been recorded on the local church record..... Date.....
 (Clerk)

Address The Church of Christ.....

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.

Marvelous Works of God

By Joseph W. Kidd

It is my desire to try and write a few things that will cause us mortals to stop for a few moments and think upon the mighty works of God; not only the things which He has done in the past, but also the things which He is able to do even now, or at some future date.

Let us begin with this question: Just what is God able to do? I feel sure the readers will answer this question in a similar fashion, such as, "Well, I believe He can do anything!" Or maybe you will say, "He can do anything He wishes to do." On the other hand, your answer might be, "He can do what He wills to be done."

Have you ever stopped and pondered over the idea of just what His will might be? You know, in the Lord's prayer we say: "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." What do you suppose that God's will is? Now I am certain none of us know all the will of God, but we sure know a part of it. We may know some of His desires by reading the Scriptures. I shall mention some of these desires, or His will, a little further on, but right now I want to talk about the marvelous works of God.

There are so many things concerning His greatness that it is hard to find a place of beginning. One thing in particular which is on my mind, is an article which appeared in Life Magazine a few years ago. It tells the story of a few scientists, who went to some northern part of the world to try to take pictures of snow flakes. They had to have a device which would freeze the little snow flakes the instant they fell on the object they were using to catch them. To make a long story short, they wound up with 1100 pictures of different snow flakes. They blew the size of the pictures up to a large scale, so as to study their design or shape. The results were amazing. Each and every one of the 1100 snow flakes had a specific design which was geometrically correct, and not only that, they were all of a different design. No two were alike.

Yes, I suppose you have guessed my thoughts by now, but here goes anyway. I believe every snow flake that has ever fallen, or ever shall fall, will have been designed individually and differently by God. All of this might sound foolish, but that is the kind of God in which I believe. His power is unlimited. If I were to limit God in His design of the little snow flakes, or any other matter as far as that goes, whether it be designing snow flakes or designing a plan of salvation for mankind, it mattereth not what the case may be—I say, if we limit Him in anything, then He would cease to be God.

God is without end of days. He has no beginning or end. The Bible says that a thousand years is

but as a day with God. Now by this statement we cannot suppose that a day with God is exactly one thousand years. No, because a million years also is but a day with God. In other words, time is not measured unto God, but to man only.

Time will not even be measured unto man one of these days, for we read in Rev. 10:5-6: "And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, and swore my him that liveth forever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer." If time was measured to God, then He would have an end of days. Our minds cannot comprehend all of these things.

We mortals know that "The wisdom of this world is foolishness with God", as we are told in I Cor. 3:19. This means then, that anything man is able to do or think of himself is foolishness in the sight of God.

How many of us are in the Church today who think we know all the plan of salvation for mankind? I have heard, many times, various things of what others thought the plan of salvation was. His plan of salvation extends much further than we, the children of men, can know while we are here on this earth. Don't you know, Christ said to His disciples while He was here on earth, "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now." (John 16:12). Yes, I believe there are a great many things we "cannot bear" now. I have hopes we shall be able to know the mysteries of God one of these days, but until that time comes I am willing to leave all things in His hands. God is perfect and that which He does is perfect.

There is one other thing which I would like to mention concerning the works of God and how He does things in great detail, even things which we might never think of, unless we ponder over His matchless power and wondrous ways. Do you know that there is a great creation in a single drop of water? Now I am not talking about the water itself, but the life which is in one drop of water. This life cannot be seen by the natural eye, but nevertheless there are thousands of tiny life particles which live in a drop of water. Count the number of drops of water in this world, and multiply that number by thousands, and you have a figure which is just a small portion of God's creation in water alone.

I would like to go into greater detail concerning God's knowledge, understanding, wisdom and might, but space would not permit and neither could I do Him justice with anything I could possibly say, for we are told in Isaiah 55:9, "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

I may marvel and wonder at the riches of God's might, but yet my mind cannot reach up to the level

of His thoughts, and I am certain our ways are not His ways, yet we are to become perfect even as He is perfect. Christ, praying to His Father in heaven said, "And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me." (John 17:22-23). Of course I don't believe we will reach this perfection, spoken of by Christ, in this life. Nevertheless, it shall come to pass at some unknown future date, for God has said: "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." (Isaiah 55:11). Let us not forget, but bear in mind, the point I am trying to make. God is perfect; the things He does are perfect; and He shall accomplish that which He pleases.

There seems to be a disagreement in our church today concerning life after this one on earth, particularly concerning the people which go to hell. Now I am not going into very much detail on this subject, but I wish to touch very lightly on what I believe to be a few of the "highlights", not for the sake of trying to prove or disprove one thing or another. I merely want us to consider the greatness of God. It is my prayer that we, the Church of Christ, might never wander away from this kind of thinking insomuch that we shall not be able to sit down together and reason one with another without the least bit of contention in our hearts.

I have hesitated many times in writing, concerning life after death, because of fear that I might teach the wrong thing. Nevertheless my words go out now with only love in mind, and that our hearts might be softened somewhat, to the extent that we, the Church of Christ, might be able to sit down together and reason one with one another. For God has said, "Come now, and let us reason together." Have you ever thought of the fact, that if we were all agreeing one with the other, then there would be no need of us "reasoning together?" No, there would be nothing to reason about. We would all be just saying to one another: Yes, that is right, or maybe one of us could do all the talking and the rest could say, amen!

Seriously, my friends, I believe God understands that there are to be differences of opinion in the salvation for mankind, therefore He tells us to "reason together." We can do this, only by beginning with the greatest commandment of all. Mark 12:30-31, "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these." I cannot stress this point enough, because I feel if we can only obey these two commandments, then surely, all will be well in Zion. And at this point we shall be in a condition to sit down and reason with one another.

Getting back to the subject of God's power; we read in Matt. 28:18, "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." Now if we accept that for just what it says, then He has the power to save all mankind. "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot

save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear." (Isaiah 59:1). Well now! I wonder if God wishes for all mankind to be saved? Luke 19:10, "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." He is seeking to save what? It says, "That which was lost." Well then, what was lost? I believe you will find that the Bible teaches, all mankind was lost. If Christ had not died for us, we would still be lost. God wishes for all mankind to be saved. John 3:17, "For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved."

Let us go back to the Bible and see if all mankind are saved. Matt. 7:13-14, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Well! what has happened? God wanted all mankind to be saved, but we find that "few" are saved and many are lost at this point. Now if this was the end, we would have to say, God has lost the battle to the adversary. On the other hand, the devil becomes the victor. After all, that is the devil's purpose: To draw as many down with him as possible. Rev. 12:12, "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." As previously quoted from Matthew, we find that the devil sure made good use of his "short time."

Now I believe in a victorious God, therefore, I do not believe this to be the final state of man because I see in Rev. 7:9-15, a picture which is altogether different from the one painted in Matt. 7:13, 14 where "few" were saved. Listen: "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them."

There are three things I wish to point out in the above quotation. 1. The number of people spoken of was called: "A great multitude, which no man could number." 2. They were all "clothed with white robes." 3. They "came out of great tribulation." Certainly a great number, which no man could number, should not be referred to as a "few", which we have found to be the number that entered the strait gate by the narrow way. (Matt. 7:13, 14). Yes, I imagine a man could number a "few." I can see why it would mean simply what it says, because we have too many ex-

amples of the word "few" in the Bible. Here is a very good example: 1 Peter 3:20, "Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water." Of course I believe there will be more than eight souls saved at the end of this world, but I certainly would not say that there will be "a great multitude, which no man could number." Do not forget that Christ said, "Narrow is the way." Yes, one wrong step and we are out of the "narrow way".

The way to eternal life is very narrow and I believe "few" will find it, while here in this life. I believe the white robes, which this great multitude wore, are self explanatory. They were now saved as we would normally put it. The thing thing to consider is: They "came out of great tribulation". There are some who believe the "great tribulation" is the suffering mankind has to endure while here on this earth. It is true that we have to suffer some while here, but could we say it is a "great tribulation?" The Bible teaches that those who obey the principles of the doctrine of Christ are to have a Comforter to abide with them. John 14:16, "And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever." Sure, the Bible teaches that we shall have peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. I don't think we can suppose that this life is the "great tribulation" spoken of, particularly if our robes are white.

The thought that arises in the minds of many is: Well then, they have a "second chance". I feel sure, if you will give this matter some thought, you will not say they have a "second chance" at all. The only real chance we have is while we live in this life; otherwise, it is just a matter of paying the "utmost farthing", or going through "great tribulation." No, there will be no chance to escape this. We should all try very hard to make good use of the only chance we have. Remember, forever must be a long time, and heaven only knows how many evers we will have to pay.

Let us go on to another thought. All mankind is a portion, or a part of God, wherever He may be, in heaven or in hell, "For in Him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also His offspring." (Acts 17:28). With this in mind, I can understand Christ's words much more clearly, when some shall say unto Him at the judgment day: "When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (God J.W.K.). (Matt. 25:38-40). Yes, all of us are a part of God. I can also understand why we should not say to anyone, "Thou Fool."

Consider now, Gen. 1:26. "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." Now being in His "image" would mean, a carved likeness, or having the same features as He has. After His likeness, would mean simply what it says: Like Him. The Bible teaches that God is spirit, therefore, in order for us to be like Him, we have to be a spirit. I might also add, the Bible tells us that we must worship Him in spirit.

Now God pronounced the spirit man "very good" (See Gen. 1:31). Of course this was before He formed

the outward man from the "dust of the ground." That is: our fleshly bodies. After God had "formed man" (the house, or flesh in which man lives—J.W.K.) He "breathed into his nostrils the breath of life (the created man which was after His likeness—J.W.K.); and man became a living soul", Gen. 2:7.

As I said before, the spirit man (or inward man) God called good. This inward man strives with the outward man to do good, as you will see from Paul's writings. Romans 7:18-25, "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it (the inward man—J.W.K.), but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members (flesh—J.W.K.). O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin."

Now we see from the foregoing that the created man is a part of God, which is good. This created man, or good man, must suffer for the evils of the flesh if he does not "overcome". But surely God will not utterly destroy a part of Himself.

I suppose many questions are now arising in the mind of the reader at this point. I can think of a few which might be asked: How about the devil? This would include him wouldn't it? What about the ones who commit the unpardonable sin? After all, the Bible says that if they shall fall away, it will be impossible for them to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put Him to an open shame (see Heb. 6). Also Heb. 10:26 tells us, "For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins." Now how about that? You see there is no more sacrifice which can be offered to remove our sins! We cannot renew them again unto repentance, so how, pray tell, can they ever be saved?

Well, let's see if we can find an answer to all this. I would say if they cannot offer sacrifice for their sins, and neither can they repent and have forgiveness, then they will have to do exactly what the book says in Matt. 5:26, "Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means (sacrifice or repentance—J.W.K.) come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing." If a person in our land today commits a murder and is taken before the judge, who finds him guilty, I don't suppose the judge will let him go free by repenting. No, but he must pay and when the leaves the prison, he has not left because of his repentance but in that he paid. Yes, the "uttermost farthing."

Well! says one, the Bible says they will be punished forever! Now my question is: Just how long is forever? Maybe you would answer: Forever means just what it says, it has no end. Well, I could not agree with that because the Bible speaks of forever and ever. You see, after forever has expired, then we shall have "ever". I don't know what will come after that. Maybe another "ever". To total all of them, we would say:

Forever and ever and ever. As the old saying goes—this could go on forever (evers, I mean). I don't know I don't know how many evers it will take to pay the uttermost farthing after repentance, but I feel sure the justice of God could eventually be satisfied.

Speaking of the justice of God—I am sure you all will agree that His justice is far, far greater than yours or mine. With this in mind, how many evers would you make these people, who had committed the unpardonable sin, pay? One thousand? One million? Ten million? Maybe you would just double all the time I have said so far. Remember, forever must be a long time. The point I am trying to make now is: Can you comprehend any length of time that would satisfy your justice? Remember Christ's words, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you, (Matt. 5:44). Do you suppose Christ would practice what He preached? I think so. Yes, if we could eventually satisfy our demands of justice, much more so could God.

Now concerning repentance—I am sure all will have to repent of their sins, even though repentance would not bring them out. I feel that all will repent because we are told in Phil. 2:10-11, "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." From the above, I conclude that the devil will also "bow" if he has knees. I feel sure he has a tongue. Of this I have no doubt, and with that tongue, one day, he will "confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Yes, with all the punishment that he has coming, I feel sure he will "wise up" sometime in the far distant future. Give him credit for having that much sense anyway.

Another thought which could be connected along these lines is found in I Cor. 15:25-28, "For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all." How can God be all in all with a part of Him in hell? As long as there is one soul in hell, death has not as yet been put under Christ's feet. Therefore, as the Scripture says: "He must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet." As long as one man is in hell, the power of darkness which holds that man is an enemy to God which He has not yet put down. As you will also note: The Scripture says that death shall be destroyed. Now I ask: If one man is in hell, has death been destroyed?

The Bible teaches that death is a spiritual separation from God. We find this to be true wherein God told Adam, "For in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." (See Gen. 2:17). Now if Adam died that every day, we can only suppose the death to mean a spiritual separation from God, as Adam once walked and talked with God, he could no longer do so, but was cast out of God's presence. We also know that the ones who go to hell and are brought out of

hell, back into the presence of God, for the eternal judgment, and again cast back into the lake of fire; this is called "the second death" (See Rev. 20:14). You see death, again in this instance, is a spiritual separation from God and is still in existence, or in other words, death has not yet been put under Christ's feet. But we are told that He must reign until this "death" has been destroyed. The only way to destroy this death is to bring back every portion or part of God into His presence, and then, and then only, can God become "all in all".

I could carry this subject much further, but it shall suffice me to give only one more thought. Christ speaking: "The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened." (Matt. 13:33).

I Dare You To Be a Christian

By Rolland D. Sprague

The way this subject is worded it may appear to some to be a new thought, but it is really just as old as mortal man's dominion of the earth.

When the Lord said to Adam, "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." (Gen. 2:17). Only a loving warning was given, but when the serpent said "Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as god's, knowing good and evil." (Gen. 3:4-5). Then temptation entered in and Adam was dared to be a Christian. He failed and all mankind became a lost and fallen people.

Today the situation is very different. Now because of the atonement of Christ each person is responsible for his own condition, either to dare to be a Christian or to yield to temptation and suffer eternal death.

When our Savior said, "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved" (Matt. 10:22), He was not hiding anything from us or making the thorny path seem a bed of roses. He was promising eternal life to those who would dare to face the hate of all men to the end of this life.

Then again the Saviour speaks, "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.

"If ye were of the world, the world would love his own; but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

"Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his Lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my sayings, they will keep yours also.

"But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.

"If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloak for their sin.

"He that hateth me hateth my Father also". (John 15:18-23). Please read all of the chapter.

This tells us that to dare to be a Christian each person must dare to tell the world by word and deed of the

sin in the world, knowing the world hated our Saviour for doing it and will love the Christian no more than He.

What is required of me to become a Christian, is the question which has caused much thought, study and prayer to search out the answer. By the help of the Holy Spirit I believe I have found a good deal of the answer.

First of all, one must be converted to believe in a fact that is not possible to be seen by the mortal eye or felt by mortal hands, which is, that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. This has the effect of turning the weakest, most fearful mortal into the bravest of men. He will naturally believe in the Gospel and study it. He will believe in prayer and trust its outcome. He will apply the good works to his life. He will be humble, and always willing to repent of any error in his life. Because the promise of eternal life is so important to him, he will prove all things and hold fast to that which is good.

We cannot emphasize too much the great quality and great strength of much prayer, fervent prayer. I have learned that just bowing the head, closing the eyes and saying, "Our Father who art in Heaven . . ." etc., is not necessarily a prayer. One must feel the inner need, the burning desire to speak these words or any other words of a prayer to God. One must believe that to pray to God and not keep his commands is mockery and will only bring damnation to the soul. To assist himself in these things he will be found often in the gatherings of Christians. For to dare to be a Christian, one must have the moral support of those who likewise are daring.

A true Christian must pass through and overcome the shocking knowledge that the world has produced an imitation Christian. As the Scriptures tell us, they have a zeal toward God but deny the power thereof. In our day this deception is in abundance. The world is an enemy of God, how much stronger can it show its hate, after killing the Saviour, then to lead the souls of men down to hell by imitating just enough of the Gospel to get men to follow. While the Scripture teaches us, that only the truly penitent shall be saved, the world is also teaching us that there shall be a condition of imitation penitence.

Let us consider some Scriptures that will outline some of the mortal combat that a Christian must pass through.

"Hearken, O, ye Gentiles, and hear the words of Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, which he hath commanded me that I should speak concerning you, for, behold he commandeth me that I should write, saying,

"Turn all ye Gentiles, from your wicked ways, and repent of your evil doings, of your lyings and deceivings, and of your whoredoms, and of your secret abominations, and your idolatries, and of your murders, and your priestcrafts, and your envyings, and your strifes, and from all your wickedness and abominations,

"And come unto me, and be baptized in my name, that ye may receive a remission of your sins, and be filled with the Holy Ghost, that ye may be numbered with my people, who are of the house of Israel." III Nephi, chapter 14.

"Yea, I say unto you, Come and fear not, and lay aside every sin, which easily doth beset you, which doth bind you down to destruction;

"Yea, come and go forth, and shew unto your God that ye are willing to repent of your sins, and enter into a covenant with him to keep his commandments, and witness it unto him this day, by going into the waters of baptism;

"And whosoever doeth this, and keepeth the commandments of God from thenceforth, the same will remember that I say unto him, yea, he will remember that I have said unto him, he shall have eternal life, according to the testimony of the Holy Spirit, which testifieth in me." Alma 5:26-28.

"And he doth not dwell in unholy temples; neither can filthiness, or anything which is unclean be received into the kingdom of God;

"Therefore I say unto you, The time shall come, yea, and it shall be at the last day, that he who is filthy, shall remain in his filthiness.

"And now my beloved brethren, I have said these things unto you, that I might awaken you to a sense of your duty to God, that ye may walk blameless before him; that ye may walk after the holy order of God, after which ye have been received.

"And now I would that ye should be humble, and be submissive, and gentle; easy to be entreated; full of patience and long suffering; being temperate in all things; being diligent in keeping the commandments of God at all times;

"Asking for whatsoever things ye stand in need, both spiritual and temporal; always returning thanks unto God for whatsoever things ye do receive,

"And see that ye have faith, hope and charity, and then ye will always abound in good works." Alma 5:36-41.

The mortal man is naturally an enemy to God, and it is in this sense that I have used the phrase, mortal combat. The Gospel helps the spirit bring the mortal body under subjection to the will of God, or causes a man to dare to be a Christian.

To dare to be a Christian one must understand as many of the phases of his warfare as it is possible to learn. For those who may not already know about some of the following commands in III Nephi, chapter 14, let us study them together.

1. Lyings and deceivings: One who pretends to be a Christian but is not, is both lying and deceiving. The smallest fib ever told is still a lie. Although a small fib may not have any bad effect on another, unless repented of in this life it brings only eternal death to the fibber. To deceive, one must bring another mortal into it and one deception may destroy two or more souls. It must be repented of in this life. A lie is anything other than truth. Deception is attempting to make a lie look like truth. They are "wicked ways."

2. Whoredoms: Adultery, Fornication, sexual lusts by the physical sense. It also means having other gods besides the Father in heaven. "Yea, thou shalt have no other gods before me." The world is full of spiritual whoredoms today. Moral statistics show that the United States has more adultery than any other country in the world. Sexual relations outside of legally married persons is adultery, or fornication. The Master said that to look on a woman with sexual desire

was adultery, the same is true of a woman who so looks at a man. No man or woman can continue to live in adultery and at the same time repent of it. Repentance is turning from it. The Saviour said, "turn all ye Gentiles, from your wicked ways." To turn from a thing one must put it from oneself. Prayerful, self-study and submission to God's will, is the only way to clean oneself from any or all phases of whoredoms.

3. Secret Abominations: This wicked way can be followed by one or a group of persons. The Scriptures teach that secret orders are an abomination in the sight of the Lord. Yet many Christian-claiming organizations today partake of and support secret orders. Daring to stand against these is no easy matter. If in our private life we have habits which we must keep secret because we are ashamed of others knowing, they are secrets only from mortals, God's eye sees all. I have known members who would "steal" a smoke when they thought no other member could see. Also when in the presence of strangers and under stress, swear words would pour through their lips. Yes, we need a constant vigil on our lives through prayer and study. The story of the Navajo who thought to do something which he knew was wrong when no one else was around goes like this: He would look to the right, and then to the left and then he would look up to see if the Great Spirit was watching. It would be well if we had more of the conscience of a Navajo. Too often we look to the right and the left and fail to look up.

4. Idolatries: It is both material and spiritual. A graven image can have any form, a figurine, a material cross, a house, a car, and on and on we could go. Some of these things are always an idol, others only by the mental value one puts on them. Never worship anything but God, to do so is a wicked way.

5. Murders: Can be either physical or spiritual. To take a mortal life without cause is murder. To teach a person false doctrine and encourage him to follow it, is spiritual murder. This can only be done by adding to or taking from the Scripture. "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple." (Psalms 19:7).

6. Priestcrafts: A practice by men whose interests are more or less than that found in the Gospel, of which Paul in speaking said, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." (Gal. 1:8). The Gentiles of today or of our time are loaded with this wicked way. The sad part is that it has crept into the Church of Christ. The Saviour said, "repent ye and turn away," so turn we must or die the eternal death. Dare to be a Christian, learn that which is good, hold it, seek out all that is evil and cast it off.

7. Envyings and Strifes: I bring these two together for us to look at because the spirit of both have much in common and they are related closely to pride. These two conditions are the chief source of most of the world's trouble today, men's hearts are full of it. Of this condition and its related other subjects we read the following warning and council for he who will dare to be a Christian.

"Have ye walked, keeping yourselves blameless before God?

"Could ye say, if ye were called to die at this time, within yourselves, that ye have been sufficiently humble?

"That your garments have been cleansed and made white, through the blood of Christ, who will come to redeem His people from their sins?

"Behold, are ye stripped of pride? I say unto you, If ye are not, ye are not prepared to meet God.

"Behold ye must prepare quickly, for the kingdom of heaven is soon at hand, and such an one hath not eternal life.

"Behold, I say, Is there one among you who is not stripped of envy?

"I say unto you, that such an one is not prepared, and I would that he should prepare quickly, for the hour is close at hand, and he knoweth not when the time shall come; for such an one is not found guiltless." Alma 3:47-53.

This whole chapter must be studied by all who will dare to be Christian.

I have but barely opened the well spring of life contained in the Bible and Book of Mormon, for in them is contained the fulness of the Gospel. Yes, I dare you to be a Christian and you can win if you try. Your final end will be that of great joy and eternal life.

NEWS FROM THE LOCALS

Collins, Missouri

Bro. and Sr. Archie Bell were with us in November and we enjoyed his sermon and their visit. We appreciated his help in getting the work started on the church here in Collins.

Sunday before Thanksgiving the children sang some songs and Bro. Joseph Yates gave us a good short talk on Thanksgiving Day. Then Bro. Bell continued with a sermon, telling us how much we should be thankful for the light of the gospel and Christ's church which was perfect. The result of its ministry did not always produce perfect results due to the weakness of the flesh. He ended his good sermon by reading the song, "We thank thee, O God, for Thy Spirit," number 415 in the Hymnal, which brought to our minds many good thoughts.

The next Sunday Bro. and Sr. Warren Sarratt and children of Wichita, Kansas, worshipped with us and we are enjoying having the children of Bro. Vincent Yates in our services too, as they are staying with their grandparents, Bro. and Sr. Joseph Yates.

We think back on our Christmas, which we enjoyed so much with a party at Sr. Cook's home, where all received presents and the children their treats. Bro. and Sr. Joseph Yates (our pastor and wife) were each presented a gift from the local here. Christmas carols and other songs were sung, pieces were spoken and plenty of good things were available to eat, all of which made a merry time for us all. Our Christmas program on Sunday was very good considering the short time we had to prepare it.

Perhaps I can tell you a few of the many good things that are brought out to us in Bro. Joseph Yate's sermons, as he depends wholly on God's spirit to guide him in the things he presents. It is more blessed to give than to receive, in gifts, in offerings for God's work, in heaped up and running over measurements and in giving good friendly Christian thoughts to others.

A soft answer turneth away wrath, and we should remember that, when we are defending the right, lest we offend. Everyone influences others for good or evil so if we are diligently seeking Christ and trying to follow His good example, we will let our light influence others for good and receive a rich reward. If God directs our way then He dwells in us and we do His will in all things which makes us happy and contented. Prayer is the path to travel to God, not to inform Him of anything but in humility seek for His divine guidance. We should obey the command to meet together oft and diligently search the Scriptures and apply them to our own lives' experiences, for their message is more important than anything else to help build good useful lives.

We are made to rejoice and thank God for His healing power in the families of the sons of Bro. and Sr. Yates from the awful disease of polio, and the other healings among us. His spirit is felt so much in our Sacrament services and we felt the need of asking God for protection from the flu that is almost every place now.

The passing of Bro. L. V. Aldridge was sad news to all of us here and it's a loss to the Church because of the wonderful testimony that he had of the truthfulness of this Church of Christ.

This year's election of officers for Church and Sunday School resulted in a vote to sustain all present officers.

Sr. L. M. Sarratt, Reporter

Independence Diary

Our winter has been cold enough but we have been the hole in the doughnut as far as much snow is concerned.

The season of flu has not left our group untouched. Several families have been afflicted with it.

Our 8:00 P. M. meeting of February 7 was a panel discussion on "Faith". Bro. Marvin Case was moderator and the panel consisted of Bro. C. LeRoy Wheaton, Jr., Bro. Nicholas F. Denham, Bro. Forest Maley, and Bro. Richard Wheaton. They discussed these points.

1. Faith is intangible. "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Substance is the material that all things are made of—the essential part of anything. Faith is a gift.

2. Without faith it is impossible to please God. Our purpose in life is to prepare ourselves for that which is to come and if we desire to attain eternal life, which is a gift from God, it is necessary for us to please God. Therefore, it is essential for us to have this faith.

3. Faith comes by hearing. If we desire to gain faith we must go to the source (God) and pay the price He asks, which is not subject to discounts. The price requires that we sacrifice skepticism and previously conceived limitations on ourselves and God. We must have an uncluttered mind and sacrifice the human fear of the unseen. To attain faith it is wise to associate with those who have faith. When we go to God for faith we should take a clean vessel.

4. God has given a measure of faith to all men. A sample to lead us to a sustaining faith. But faith without works is dead and in this way we can lose even our sample or seed. There is no one who cannot receive faith if they pay the price.

Our speakers have been Bro. Vance Harris, Bro. J. Maynard Case, Bro. Levi Maley, Bro. C. LeRoy Wheaton, Jr., Bro. Forest Maley, Bro. Leslie P. Case, and Bro. Clarence Thompson.

Thoughts gleaned from our services:

"Take heed that no man deceive you. . . ." This places on each individual the responsibility of studying the scriptures. "Cursed is man who putteth his trust in man and maketh flesh his arm and hardens his heart to the Lord."

God wants the fruit of His vineyard. He wants the love of mankind. If we love God we will keep His words. Love has an element of faith. We trust those we love.

We should check our reasons for obedience. Do we look to God as the father of our friend (Jesus Christ) who will be pained by our disobedience, or as an orge who holds all the high cards and will put us where we belong if we disobey.

It was a sheep that went astray not a lamb. We must find the lost sheep so that the lambs will not follow the sheep astray.

Is it right that the church should be in competition with the things of the world? Some churches of the day offer door prizes and other rewards to those who help them gain attendance and finances to build bigger and finer churches. Anytime we offer a different course we are in competition. We are to love the things of God and despise the things of the world.

There are but two churches, the church of the Lamb of God, and the church of the devil. Churches built up to get gain, to get power over the flesh, to become popular in the eyes of the world, and those who seek the lusts of the flesh and the things of the world will be burned as stubble. We are unable to find any instance in the Bible or Book of Mormon where great numbers of people were converted when they were gathered in merry-making or social pleasure.

Can we afford to let ourselves be torn by the competition of the world?

When Alma's son wandered in forbidden paths, Alma did not go to him with threats or promises to persuade him to repent but prayed to God for him. We have this responsibility to pray for the wayward.

We have put our light under a bushel or as the foolish virgins we have let our lamp run out of oil so that we have no light to put upon a candlestick. Let us get oil for our lamp while there is yet time—not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together in fasting and prayer and "God will give the increase."

There is no confusion with humility.

Caroline Hedrick, Reporter

Black River Falls, and Sparta, Wisconsin

These are your reporters from Sparta and Black River Falls again and we are going to try to give you as much news from this part of the country as possible. Seeing that we haven't written for a long time we are going to give you the news for several months in this one writing.

We had our Christmas program on Sunday night, Dec. 20, in our new church and had a very nice pro-

gram. We had Christmas plays and songs by the children of our little group, and we must say that all the children did very well in their parts and songs. We must not forget Mrs. L. Clifton and Mrs. H. L. Stavlo for putting in a lot of time in arranging the program and spending time in practicing with the children. We had a closing prayer by Mr. Glenn Gill and then the presents were passed and then we sang Christmas carols for a while before retiring to our homes.

We had a wonderful Christmas here and all of us tried to remember the real reason for our Christmas. Bro. Clyde and Beatrice Babcock ate Christmas dinner at the home of Viola Petries and also myself and the children since my wife Ruth had to work that day. We all had a very good meal and enjoyed ourselves.

On Wednesday night, January 13, Brn. Clyde and Glenn came down and we went to look at some pews. We picked out eight of the best ones and Earl Petrie and myself went down and bought them and brought them out to our church the following Saturday. It sure made a difference in the appearance of the inside of our church. We also installed three news lights in the main part of the church. So, we have it all completed inside except for making the curtains and putting them up. And then we have to try and get one more door for one of our class rooms. And, we only have some small jobs to finish on the outside.

We had Sunday School and preaching services at Mrs. L. Clifton's. Bro. Glenn preached an excellent sermon and the spirit of God was with us. This was Sunday, January 17.

I forgot to mention that we had Sacrament service at Mrs. Stavlo's Sunday, January 10. We had a very good meeting and also a good attendance with the Spirit of God attending abundantly. There were prayers, testimonies and songs. The meeting was officiated by both Bro. Clyde and Bro. Glenn. After the meeting we had a wonderful lunch and then visited for a while and then we all retired to our homes feeling greatly refreshed spiritually, thanks to our Heavenly Father.

Wednesday, Jan. 20, in the evening all of us from Sparta went to Black River Falls to gather with the saints up there for our usual study class. We met at Bro. and Sr. C. Eddie's home. We studied out of the Church History and read some of the references that it gives in the Book of Commandments and the Book of Mormon. Both are very interesting and educational. I sincerely believe that we all should look back and find out what our church was like in the beginning of the restoration and their beliefs then, and then look at ourselves now. And, see to it that we are in accord with what they taught then, and if not get ourselves in line the way we should be. So that the wrath of God doesn't have to come upon us as punishment for being out of line with the Gospel, as it has always been taught. After our meeting we had a nice lunch, and discussed the buying of the curtains for our church. Then after a nice visit we all departed to our homes.

We plan on having Sacrament service in our church this Sunday, Feb. 6, if our nice weather holds out. We'll build a fire in it Saturday and by Sunday it should be fairly warm. Wednesday night we plan on going to Black River Falls again for another study class unless we get some bad weather before then.

Well, I guess that is about all the news from here this time and I'll try and write again next month and give everyone our reunion date and also the date of the dedication of our new church.

God bless you all,
Isaac Brockman and Beverly Hesse
Reporters

Y.P.C.L. News

Independence, Missouri

Sr. Margret Harris and Bro. Jim Wheaton conducted a debate on Jan. 24. The topic of the debate was "Degeneration". The debate was scheduled because the members disagreed concerning the degeneration of man as the word was defined. Reviewing this definition, degeneration means a growing worse mentally or physically and a falling away spiritually. We cannot say that man has steady degenerated since the time of Adam for according to Scripture there have been periods of time when man was full of the knowledge and wisdom of God. Each time disobedience caused a falling away. Many periods in history have shown that cultures have risen and fallen at different times. Since history records that man lived many years longer before the time of Christ than he does now we may say that there has possibly been a degeneration physically in man. In our present day with the increase of wickedness man is degenerating morally and spiritually although the intelligence of man worldly is increasing and the statistics of science tell us that man is progressing physically. Since God created a perfect man he must evolve to perfection spiritually and by so doing will reach the mental, moral and physical perfection.

On January 23 the young people had a skating party for their January social. After the party, all went to the home of our chairman, Bro. Harold Gill, and enjoyed refreshments of popcorn and hot chocolate.

We all met at the church on January 24 where we gathered around the piano and enjoyed an afternoon of singing songs in praise of our Heavenly Father.

Sr. Jennifer Nast was in charge of our study class on February 7. Our topic for this lesson was "Reincarnation". It was defined as the belief that when one dies his soul comes back or is transferred to another human being or to an animal, depending upon the standing of the person in society while alive. This process is continued until the soul is purified for the kingdom. This is also called "animal worship". We used Exodus 37 for our scripture lesson, where it speaks concerning the Israelites worshipping the golden calf.

Sr. Katherine Moyer welcomed the young people to her home February 13 for their monthly social. It was a pizza party. We all enjoyed making and eating the pizzas. Songs were sung during the course of the evening.

We met on February 14 at the church for an educational meeting. At this time we wrote letters to some of the many scattered young people. We are in hopes of doing this again soon so we may reach those missed this time.

Margret Harris, Reporter

HELPING HAND

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

A Valuable Tool For the Do-It-Yourself Project of Christian Living

By Irene Maley

Our school child's summer vacation is three month's long: three months of vigorous exercising of young bodies, as well as a time of lazy sunning, while he stores up knowledge of the wonderful world about him. Doesn't it seem but yesterday that same growing boy or girl of yours was wearing a little cross-strapped sunsuit or ruffled pinafore? Tomorrow he will be wearing many responsibilities. Now is the only time we have to work with him. What better way can we help him to find the strong character and spiritual values he is going to need tomorrow than through the Vacation Bible School? It is one of our strongest and best tools in promoting the joyous gospel of Christ.

What Can a Good Vacation Bible School Do For Your Local Church?

1. Gives the youngest age group a chance to find out that Church is not just a place to keep quiet and sit still.
He is a joyous little part of it all! He learns by doing.
2. Gives a united use of talent on the part of the teachers.
3. Provides a definite program of study at each child's age level including music, stories and handcraft in additions to lessons from the word of God.
4. A means of reaching families through their children. (Each child is welcome and urged to invite any friends he wishes to.)
5. Good, Christian fellowship.

Those who have established a Vacation Bible School in their local church will be able to add many more benefits that you find listed here.

Any church where there are children, has a definite need for a Bible School. Any local church which has Sunday School teachers, anyone interested in handcraft for children and who knows the value of it in teaching, anyone who can sing (our aim is not metropolitan opera stars!), anyone who loves a good story, anyone who loves children, anyone who loves the story of the gospel of Christ—any local church which has any or most of these has the ingredients for organizing a good, profitable Vacation Bible School!

While we are ordering our spring seed and bulb catalogues this spring, while there is yet time, let's give some thought to the young "sprouts" in our midst who are growing up now. When you meet together consider and plan a Vacation Bible School this year. The fruits will repay well for the effort put forth and will continue to yield many-fold through future years.

We hope to present a suggested outline of procedure in this column for your help in setting up a Vacation Bible School.

Notice

As directed by the 1959 General Conference, the General Sunday School Association will convene in general assembly April 5, 1960, at 10:00 A. M. We urge that you attend so that all business may promptly and successfully be taken care of.

One again we come to the close of another year of church and Sunday School work. This means writing reports, we would like to have one from each local Sunday School, and sending in obligations and collections for the financial support of the general organization.

Reports should not only be of a statistical nature but should also contain a brief resume of accomplishments of the past year and the goal and hopes for the future in Sunday School work. These should be sent to the general secretary or brought in person so that they may be presented to the general assembly.

General Sunday School Ass'n. Officers
Caroline Hedrick, Sec.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPPLIES

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.

	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
History and Religion—chart.....	1.50