

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 38

Independence, Missouri, July, 1961

No. 7

Building For Eternity

We are building in sorrow or joy
A temple the world may not see,
Which time cannot mar nor destroy;
We build for eternity.

Ev'ry thought that we've ever had
Its own little place has filled;
Ev'ry deed we have done, good or bad,
Is a stone in the temple we build.

Ev'ry word that so lightly falls,
Giving some heart joy or pain,
Will shine in our temple walls,
Or ever its beauty stain.

Are you building for God alone—
Are you building in faith and love
A temple the Father will own
In the city of light above?

We are building ev'ry day,
A temple the world may not see;
Building, building ev'ry day,
Building for eternity.

—N. B. Sargent.

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ZION'S ADVOCATE

Official Publication of the Church of Christ

Headquarters on the Temple Lot, Independence, Missouri

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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, Contributions, Tithes, Offerings, and subscriptions for the Advocate to: The Church of Christ, (Temple Lot), Box 472, Independence, Missouri

EDITORIAL

"And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man". Luke 17:26.

"... Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" Luke 18:8.

"And thus commandeth the Father that I should say unto you, at that day when the Gentiles shall sin against my gospel, and shall reject the fullness of my gospel, and shall be lifted up in the pride of their hearts above all nations, and above all the people of the whole earth, and shall be filled with all manner of lyings, and of deceits, and of mischiefs, and all manner of hypocrisy, and murders and priestcrafts, and whoredoms, and of secret abominations; and if they shall do all these things, and shall reject the fullness of my gospel, behold, saith the Father, I will bring the fullness of my gospel from among them." III Nephi 7:34, 35.

Wickedness, faithlessness, pride, rejection; thus, in a word have we briefed the above statements of Christ: and faithlessness, or unbelief, is at the root.

Unconsciously perhaps, we are rather prone to draw our robes of righteousness (?) about us and say, Aha, 'tis true of the world. But if we would trouble ourselves to look again and read: "Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" and if we should bother to think about it, we really should become rather troubled, if not extremely so.

But on the other hand, since the Lord has quite accurately portrayed our day, it's much easier to say: "My Lord delayeth His coming", so I will be at ease. There is yet much prophecy to be fulfilled before He shall appear. I will have time for preparation later. Anyway, if He does come before we are ready, and we are guilty of a little sin, "God will beat us with a few stripes, and at last we shall be saved in the kingdom of God."

Is it rather shocking to consider this is at least the subconscious attitude of the whole Christian world, including the Restoration Movement, which means, also, the Church of Christ; these all, with few exceptions?

Listen to the words of Nephi who spoke "according as the Spirit hath constrained me";

"Yea, they have all gone out of the way; they have become corrupted. Because of pride, and because of false teachers, and false doctrine, their churches have become corrupted; and their churches are lifted up; because of pride, they are puffed up. They rob the poor, because of their fine sanctuaries; they rob the poor, because of their fine clothing; and they persecute the meek, and the poor in heart; because in their pride, they are puffed up. They wear stiff necks and high heads; yea, and because of pride, and wickedness, and abominations, and whoredoms, they have all gone astray, save it be a few, who are the humble followers of Christ; nevertheless, they are led, that in many instances they do err, because they are taught by the precepts of men." II Nephi 12:13-17.

I have said that unbelief is the root of the evil which characterizes our day, our nation, and of evil and error in the Church.

Do we believe that: "... The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost"? Luke 19:10.

Why then, do some effectively deny that: "All power is given to me (Christ, W.A.S.) in heaven and in earth" (Matt. 28:18) "and (I) have the keys of hell and of death"? (Rev. 1:18).

Do we believe in the word of God through His servants the prophets?

There are those who have utterly rejected the prophetic mission of Joseph Smith, and yet, incredibly, accept the book brought forth through him—The Book of Mormon.

Unbelief, again.

Stephen said: "Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted?" (Acts 7:52).

Yea, verily; and what prophet has been persecuted more than Joseph Smith, both in life and death!

Of course he made mistakes, but let us not mistake: he was still a prophet of the Lord!

Do we indeed believe that "God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets," etc?

Some, apparently, do not.

Do we really believe in the gifts of healing, diversities of tongues, of prophecy, and all the rest? Or, do we just believe they should be in the church?

If we believe in these gifts, do we pray for them with the eye of faith?

Do we believe, above all else, in the commandments of the Lord Jesus Christ, in which we must daily strive toward perfection in Him?

I am sure we must all admit, to some extent at least, our unbelief in one of more of these things; and I am just as sure that some will indignantly deny the hitherto unspoken premise that these are all fundamental, yes, essential, to the Restoration of latter days.

If the spirit of unbelief, and the tendency to reject, increases, as is indicated by the Scriptures, pride and wickedness must increase correspondingly. This, of course, can only result in rejection by God, and the pouring out of His wrath upon the careless, the faithless, the proud and the wicked.

Shall we not say, in great humility, as did one long ago, who cried out, with tears:

"Lord, I believe, help thou mine unbelief."

William A. Sheldon

REUNION NOTICE

Wisconsin Reunion

Dear Friends:

We of the Wisconsin Reunion Committee, would like to invite you to come to our annual Wisconsin Reunion held at the Sparta and Black River Falls local of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot).

Our church is located east of Sparta on Highway 16. The date for our reunion is Saturday and Sunday, August 12th and 13th.

Those desiring accommodations, please notify Elder Isaac Brockman, 812 Mill St., Sparta, or Mrs. Margie Cain, Black River Falls, Wisconsin.

Reunion Committee

Missouri Reunion

The Missouri Reunion will be held in Jackson County, Missouri, Saturday and Sunday, July 29 and 30.

The Missouri Reunion Committee

FROM YUCATAN

By E. L. Yates

I hope by the use of words to bring to your minds some of the experiences we have been privileged to enjoy during our work among our brothers and sisters in the land of Maya. As I begin to write I feel that the words at my command are poor vehicles indeed to convey to another the true comprehension of joy, love, ecstasy, humility and reverence that came to us from time to time as we observed the effect for good in the lives of those who began to accept of those words which are spirit and which giveth life. "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." These are the words of Jesus as found in St. John 6:63.

Our brothers and sisters in the great family of Christ in this land of the Maya have become our close spiritual kin through a comprehension of those words of life, "Ye must be born again." They have been quickened by the words of Jesus and they have been born again, "born of water and of the Spirit." Much of our joy has come to us as we have been privileged to observe the transition from their old life into their new life of hope through the knowledge of him whose words are spirit and whose spirit giveth life.

At nine o'clock one Sunday morning, Frances and I in company with our young brother, Raul Magana, started for the little town of Dzan to hold a morning service. Raul was called to the priesthood last year and has, through much study and devotion to the Gospel of Christ, magnified his calling until today he is an able minister of the Gospel. We had made previous arrangement for Raul to speak in Dzan on this day.

As we got in the car I asked him, "Are you ready to preach for us this morning?" The answer was, "But of course."

Shortly after leaving the house and while still in Ticul we met a young man by the name of Arnulfo Gomez. He had just come by bus from Muna twelve miles away and had come to attend service in Ticul.

We asked him to come along with us and attend church in Dzan. This he did. We drove the five miles to Dzan over roads that are so rough that it takes the better part of an hour to travel.

After entering the church and making ourselves comfortable on the little wooden benches, Arnulfo turned to Raul and in Spanish asked, "What is the difference between the Church of Christ and the Roman Church?" Here was a question from a young man who had set out that morning to attend church because he had a hunger and a thirst for righteousness. Here he was seated in the Church of Christ next to a young minister who had magnified his calling and who also spoke the same language.

It so happened that this young minister of the Gospel had chosen this very subject for his sermon on this day. In a humble way, yet speaking as one having authority, he opened the scriptures and expounded the Gospel of Jesus Christ to Arnulfo even before the service, and then afterward as he occupied the pulpit he indeed spoke under the power and influence of the spirit of Christ as is the heritage of those who have been called to be fishers of men. I am reminded of the scripture as found in Acts 8:29-31:

"Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to his chariot. And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readeest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him."

Indeed, the Lord directed Philip and soon he was seated by the eunuch feeding him, who was hungering after righteousness, the words of the living God. Just as sure as the eunuch and Philip were brought together by the mighty hand of God so also were these two young men brought together by that same power and for the same purpose. As Philip turned to the scriptures so also did Raul and the places of the scripture which he read were these:

"Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: all therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, and love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, and greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi. But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in Heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your master, even Christ. But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted. But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither

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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.

CONTENTION OR LOVE AND PEACE

By Paul G. Mercer

As I read Sr. DeLong's piece on "Love One Another," in our Advocate, I was made to think on the scriptures, both in the Bible and the Book of Mormon, describing the conditions that exist where love is manifest and conditions where the opposite exists. The gospel as God gave it to us through His Son Jesus Christ is the light we are to walk by.

Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, says, "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour." (5:1-2).

"For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth.)" (Verses 8-9).

If we bear not that kind of fruit, dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we are not of the true vine as spoken of in John 15:1-8.

"If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you." (John 15:10-12).

"And ye will not have a mind to injure one another, but to live peaceably, and to render to every man according to that which is his due." (Mosiah 2:24).

"Thus did Alma teach his people, that every man should love his neighbor as himself; that there should be no contention among them." (Mosiah 11:16).

Now let us see what a blessed and happy people the children of God can be if we keep His commandments.

"And it came to pass in the thirty and sixth year, the people were all converted unto the Lord, upon all the face of the land, both Nephites and Lamanites, and there were no contentions and disputations among them, and every man did deal justly one with another." (IV Nephi 1:3).

"And it came to pass that there was no contention in the land, because of the love of God which did dwell in the hearts of the people. And there were no envyings, nor strifes, nor tumults, nor whoredoms, nor lyings, nor murders, nor any manner of lasciviousness; and surely there could not be a happier people among all the people who had been created by the hand of God: there were no robbers, nor murderers, neither were there Lamanites, nor any manner of ites; but they were in one, the children of Christ, and heirs to the kingdom of God; and how blessed were they, for the

Lord did bless them in all their things; yea, even they were blessed and prospered, until an hundred and ten years had passed away; and the first generation from Christ had passed away, and there was no contention in all the land." (IV Nephi 1:17-21).

"Wherefore I would speak unto you that are of the church, that are the peaceable followers of Christ, and that have obtained a sufficient hope, by which ye can enter into the rest of the Lord, from this time henceforth, until ye shall rest with him in heaven. And now my brethren, I judge these things of you because of your peaceable walk with the children of men; for I remember the word of God, which saith, By their works ye shall know them; for if their works be good, then they are good also." (Moroni 7:3-4).

The words of Solomon tell us that only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom. A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city and their contentions are like the bars of a castle.

Jesus said unto the multitude, "Hear, and understand: Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man." (Matt. 15:10-11).

Let us therefore be careful of our speech that we offend not, neither cause contention. Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.

Lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, and make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way but let it rather be healed. Follow peace with all men, and holiness without which no man shall see the Lord.

If we are born of the Spirit and are being guided by that Spirit we will have a change of heart and will not have that spirit of contention to cause division and falling away.

"If ye have experienced a change of heart, and if ye have felt to sing the song of redeeming love, I would ask, Can ye feel so now? 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? . . . Is there one among you who is not stripped of envy? . . . Is there one among you that doth make a mock of his brother, or that heapeth upon him persecutions? Wo unto such an one, for he is not prepared, and the time is at hand that he must repent, or he can not be saved." (Alma 3:46-55).

It would be good to read the entire third chapter of Alma and be found partaking of the fruit of the tree of life.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, let us walk that blood-stained straight and narrow path that leads to Eternal Life. Let there be no contentions, no divisions, no back-biting, but let the love of Christ shine forth to the world so the world can see and know that surely we are born of God and are His children.

My prayers are for each and everyone that has taken upon him the name of Christ that they will remain faithful to that covenant they made at the water's edge and be found bringing forth fruits of righteousness that they be not hewn down and cast into the fire. The good shepherd is calling—"If ye are not his sheep of what fold are you?"

"I AND MY FATHER ARE ONE"

Part Two

By Harvey E. Seibel

Thus far in our study we have only considered one witness, the record of the Jews, the stick of Judah. But, let us study God's second great witness, the Book of Mormon or the stick of Joseph. We know that the second witness does not replace the first, but only confirms it. Each of these Books is composed of smaller books which have been compiled to form the two scriptures which we love. Thus, we have been blessed with an abundance of knowledge which can be ours for the taking.

As we continue our study we shall attempt to find out whether the teachings of the Book of Mormon, concerning God, agree with those of the Bible. The purpose of this Book is clearly stated in I Nephi 3:193, "And shall make known to all kindreds, tongues, and people, that the Lamb of God is the Son of the Eternal Father, and the Savior of the world; and that all men must come unto him or they can not be saved."

III Nephi 5:91-92, "That ye may be the children of your Father who is in heaven, for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good; therefore those things which were of old time, which were under the law, in me are all fulfilled. Old things are done away, and all things have become new; therefore I would that ye should be perfect even as I, or your Father who is in heaven is perfect."

We are to be the Sons of God. And since Jesus is the Only Begotten Son then we are brethren. It was Christ's will that we should be perfect even as he himself, or his Father in heaven.

III Nephi 8:15-17, "And it came to pass that when they had knelt upon the ground, Jesus groaned within himself, and saith, Father, I am troubled because of the wickedness of the people of the house of Israel. And when he had said these words, he himself also knelt upon the earth, and behold he prayed unto the Father, and the things which he prayed, can not be written, and the multitude did bear record who heard him. And after this manner do they bear record; the eye hath never seen, neither hath ear heard, before, so great and marvelous things as we saw and heard Jesus speak unto the Father."

Was Jesus talking to himself, and if so, were not the people then deceived?

III Nephi 12:32, "Therefore nothing entereth into his rest, save it be those who have washed their garments in my blood, because of their faith, and the repentance of all their sins, and their faithfulness unto the end."

Who's rest? Who's blood? Since Jesus uses different pronouns to describe "blood" and "rest" (my blood and his rest) then he cannot in both cases be referring to himself. Consider the following which is in my opinion is self explanatory.

III Nephi 13:7, "And now behold, my joy is great, even unto fullness, because of you, and also this generation; yea, and even the Father rejoiceth, and also all the holy angels, because of you and this generation; for none of them are lost."

Moroni 7:27, "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, hath miracles ceased, because Christ hath ascended into heaven, and hath set down on the right hand of God, to claim of the Father his rights of mercy which he hath upon the children of men?"

And again in II Nephi 13:13-19, "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, can we follow Jesus, save we shall be willing to keep the commandments of the Father? AND THE FATHER SAID, repent ye, repent ye, and be baptized in the name of my beloved Son. AND ALSO, THE VOICE OF THE SON CAME UNTO ME, saying, He that is baptized in my name, to him will the Father give the Holy Ghost, like unto me; wherefore, follow me, and do the things which ye have seen me do. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, I know that if ye shall follow the Son with full purpose of heart, acting no hypocrisy and no deception before God, but with real intent, repenting of your sins, witnessing unto the Father that ye are willing to take upon you the name of Christ, by baptism: yea, by following your Lord and Saviour down into the water, according to his word; behold, then shall ye receive the Holy Ghost; yea, then cometh the baptism of fire and of the Holy Ghost; and then can ye speak with the tongue of angels, and shout praises unto the Holy One of Israel. But behold, my beloved brethren, thus came the voice of the Son unto me, saying, After ye have repented of your sins, and witnessed unto the Father that ye are willing to keep my commandments, by the baptism of water, and have received the baptism of fire and of the Holy Ghost, and can speak with a new tongue, yea, even with the tongue of angels, and after this, should deny me, it would have been better for you, that ye had not known me. And I HEARD A VOICE FROM THE FATHER, SAYING, YEA, THE WORDS OF MY BELOVED, ARE TRUE AND FAITHFUL."

How can we by any devious method make this scripture to mean that God and Christ are one individual? Who among us can truthfully say that the thought brought out in this scripture and impressed upon our minds is that God is in the singular without regard to the strange and opposite use of the language here used; a language which is clearly in conflict with this line of reasoning?

We are told simply that the voice of the Father came unto him, also, the voice of the Son. And again the voice of the Father came stating that the words which had just been spoken by the voice of the Son were true. What are we to understand from this? What

plainer statement could we desire? I contend that if we continue to persist in a false belief in God after all this light and understanding then we do so stubbornly and are willfully blind, not discerning the truth, being carnally minded and overcome by a strong delusion. For God shall send strong delusions that those who have pleasure in unrighteousness may be damned, not being able to endure sound doctrine and to know the truth.

I once read that the flesh of Christ was the Son and that His Spirit was the Father. But let me remind you that the Son was not yet in the flesh when he spoke these words to his servant in II Nephi 13:13-19 above. The flesh of itself was not the Son but it was because of the flesh that Jesus was called the Son. Remember that Jesus pre-existed before he came in the flesh just as we did.

III Nephi 5:25-27, "And now behold, these are the words which ye shall say, calling them by name, saying: Having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. . . . And after this manner shall ye baptize in my name, for behold, verily I say unto you, that the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost are one; and I am in the Father, and the Father in me, and the Father and I are one."

We are to baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. How shall we do this unless we have a true conception of God? What is the purpose of three names if God were one individual? Remember, that God gave Christ a name which is above every name.

Consider the following logical dilemma. It states that the Father, Son and Holy Ghost are one and also that the Father and Son are one. Now think of this! If God, Christ and the Holy Ghost are one individual how then can God and Christ still be one? They would not be one but two-thirds of an individual since the other one-third is not included. If the Father, Son and Holy Ghost are one then the Holy Ghost is one-third, the Son is one-third and the Father is one-third. Therefore, the Father and Son or any two of the Godhead would be two-thirds. This certainly is an insensible way of looking at it. It is certainly more reasonable to believe that this oneness is in purpose and not number. Only in purpose could the Godhead in its entirety or in any part be termed as one. Therefore both statements (Father, Son and Holy Ghost are one and the Father and Son are one) would necessarily be true.

III Nephi 5:32-33, "Behold, verily, verily I say unto you, I will declare unto you my doctrine. And this is my doctrine, and it is the doctrine which the Father hath given unto me; and I bear record of the Father, and the Father beareth record of me, and the Holy Ghost beareth record of the Father and me, and I bear record that the Father commandeth all men, everywhere, to repent and believe in me."

We again see in what manner God is one, for they are in unity as to doctrine. It is Christ's doctrine because it was GIVEN to him from the Father, who was the originator of it. Now Jesus bears record of the Father and the Father bears record of the Son and the Holy Ghost bears record of both the Father and the Son. It would be a strange thing indeed for one indi-

vidual to refer to himself as Me, and Myself, and I. And yet, this is just what we are trying to make God do. Consider the following statement. I (the Father) bear record of myself (the Son) and I (the Son) bear record of myself (the Father) and I (the Holy Ghost) bear record of me (Son) and myself (Father).

This is not a little ridiculous. How embarrassing it must be to realize what an awful concept we had of God. We cannot say that the Father, Son and Holy Ghost refers to one individual. How could the Father (I) send Son (Myself) to earth yet at the same time remain in heaven? Since the Holy Ghost bears record of the Father and Son but does not bear record of himself then he cannot be either the Father or the Son.

III Nephi 5:36-37, "Verily, verily I say unto you, that this is my doctrine; and I bear record of it from the Father; and whoso believeth in me, believeth in the Father also; and unto him will the Father bear record of me; for he will visit him with fire and with the Holy Ghost."

Jesus says that whosoever believes in him, believeth in the Father also. This is because the Father and Son have the same gospel plan of salvation. Christ says, in addition, that his Father will bear record of him (Jesus) for he will visit him (the believer) with fire and the Holy Ghost. Jesus did not say, "I will visit him with fire and the Holy Ghost" for if he had, it would not be his Father bearing the record, but himself bearing record of himself.

III Nephi 7:22-23, "And they understood me not that I said they shall hear my voice; and they understood me not that the Gentiles should not at any time hear my voice; that I should not manifest myself unto them, save it were by the Holy Ghost. But behold, ye have both heard my voice, and seen me, and ye are my sheep, and ye are numbered among those whom the Father hath given me."

Why were the people so hard of understanding? It was because they refused to acknowledge the truth as Christ preached it, and to accept the Godship of him. Jesus says that the Gentiles were not at any time to hear his voice and that he should not manifest himself to them except by the Holy Ghost. Reading on in III Nephi 7:25-27 we find that it was possible for those in Jerusalem to gain a knowledge of the people living in this land if they but pray unto the Father in the name of Christ. Understand that it was to be by the the Holy Ghost that they were to gain this knowledge, NOT Christ.

III Nephi 9:22-23, "Father, thou hast given them the Holy Ghost, because they believe in me, and thou seest that they believe in me, because thou hearest them, and they pray unto me; and they pray unto me because I am with them. And now Father, I pray unto thee for them, and also for all those who shall believe on their words, that they may believe in me, that I may be in them, as thou, Father, art in me, that we may be one."

After the Holy Ghost was given (remember that God gave His Son also) Jesus went to pray and he thanked his Father for giving the Holy Ghost unto them. He certainly was not thanking himself for this thing. If we were to do this we would call it a bad case of conceit.

Jesus now supplies us with a choice bit of information, for he explains why the people at this time prayed unto him (Jesus) instead of his Father. The reason was because Jesus was present with them. This, however, was not the order specified by Christ in III Nephi 9:10.

Ether 2:3-4, "And in the mouth of three witnesses shall these things be established; and the testimony of three, and this work, in the which shall be shewn forth the power of God, and also his word, of which the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost beareth record; and all this shall stand as a testimony against the world, at the last day. And if it so be that they repent and come unto the Father in the name of Jesus, they shall be received into the kingdom of God."

Today we know that these three witnesses were chosen of God at the time of the coming forth of the Book of Mormon. The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost also bear record of these things. Because the three witnesses bore witness of the plates and the things which they saw, but no means amalgamated them into one except they were in agreement as to that which they testified.

In Book of Mormon 3:29 it states that the Father, Son and Holy Ghost ARE one God, NOT, "is one God."

III Nephi 2:79, "Yea, they did cry, Hosanna to the Most High God; and they did cry, Blessed be the name of the Lord God Almighty, the MOST HIGH GOD."

To whom did they cry? It was to the Most High God. And who is this Most High God? Are we not to understand that he is that God which is MOST HIGH which is even above Christ? The designation "Most High" indicates that there is a God which is not as high as the Most High God.

I Nephi 3:38-51, "As I sat pondering in mine heart I was caught away in the Spirit of the Lord, yea into an exceeding high mountain, which I never had before seen, and upon which I never had before set my foot. And the Spirit SAID unto me, Behold, what desirest thou? And I said, I desire to behold the things which my father saw. And the Spirit said unto me, Believest thou that thy father saw the tree of which he hath spoken? And I said, Yea, thou knowest that I believe all the words of my father. And when I had spoken these words, **the Spirit cried with a loud voice, SAYING, HOSANNA TO THE LORD, THE MOST HIGH GOD; FOR HE IS GOD OVER ALL THE EARTH, YEA, EVEN ABOVE ALL.** And blessed art thou, Nephi, BECAUSE THOU BELIEVEST IN THE SON OF THE MOST HIGH GOD; wherefore, thou shalt behold the things which thou hast desired. And behold, this thing shall be given unto thee for a sign, that after thou hast beheld the tree which bore the fruit which thy father tasted, thou shalt also behold a man descending out of heaven; and him shall ye witness; and after ye have witnessed him, ye shall bear record that it is the Son of God. And it came to pass that the Spirit said to me, Look! and I looked and beheld a tree; and it was like unto the tree which my father had seen; and the beauty thereof was far beyond, yea, exceeding of all beauty; and the whiteness thereof did exceed the whiteness of the driven snow. And it came to pass after I had seen the tree, I said unto the Spirit, I behold thou hast shewn unto me the tree which is precious above all. And he said unto me, What desirest thou? And I said unto

him, To know the interpretation thereof: FOR I SPAKE UNTO HIM AS A MAN SPEAKETH; FOR I BEHELD THAT HE WAS IN THE FORM OF A MAN; YET, NEVERTHELESS, I KNEW THAT IT WAS THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD: AND HE SPAKE UNTO ME AS A MAN SPEAKETH WITH ANOTHER. And it came to pass that he said unto me, Look! and I looked as if to look upon him, and I saw him not; for he had gone from before my presence."

When the Spirit had heard the words of Nephi he cried with a loud voice, saying, "Hosanna to the Lord, THE MOST HIGH GOD," and Nephi was blessed because he believed in the Son of the MOST HIGH GOD. Nephi also beheld that the Spirit was in the form of a man and he spoke to him face to face as a man speaketh with another. Is it reasonable to assume that Nephi was speaking to a mere power? Or can we assume that Nephi was really speaking to Jesus or even to the Father? We cannot suppose that God would deceive us in such manner. When Jesus is speaking he tells us it is his Father in heaven which sent him. When it is the Father who is speaking he tells us to believe in his beloved Son whom he hath sent. When the Holy Ghost is speaking we are told that we must believe in Jesus the Son of the MOST HIGH GOD.

We have covered many of the more plain teachings of the Book of Mormon regarding God and his Son and his Holy Spirit. But, there seems to be a great stumbling block in this book. Let us remember that Christ is the great Creator of the heavens and the earth. And BECAUSE GOD HATH GIVEN ALL THINGS INTO HIS HANDS he is the Father of the heavens and the earth and all things therein. As we continue this study it is important that we keep these things in mind as we are likely to fail all together in seeing the point we are about to make. I am going to start by taking the strongest argument used in support of the one God belief.

Mosiah 8:28-37, "And now Abinadi said unto them, I would that ye should understand that God himself shall come down among the children of men, and shall redeem his people; and because he dwelleth in flesh, he shall be called the Son of God: and having subjected the flesh to the will of the Father, being the Father and the Son; the Father because he was conceived by the power of God; and the Son, because of the flesh; thus becoming the Father and Son: and they are one God, yea, the very eternal Father of heaven and of earth; and thus the flesh becoming subject to the Spirit, or the Son to the Father, being one God, suffereth temptation, and yieldeth not to the temptation, but suffereth himself to be mocked, and scourged and cast out, and disowned by his people. And after all this, and after working many mighty miracles among the children of men, he shall be led, even as Isaiah said, as a sheep before the shearer is dumb, so he opened not his mouth; yea, even so he shall be led, crucified and slain, the flesh becoming subject even unto death, the will of the Son being swallowed up in the will of the Father; and thus God breaketh the bands of death; having gained the victory over death; giving the Son power to make intercession for the children of men: having ascended into heaven; having the bowels of mercy; being filled with compassion toward the children of men; standing betwixt them and justice; hav-

ing broken the bands of death, taken upon himself their iniquity and their transgressions; having redeemed them, and satisfied the demands of justice." Now read all of Heb. 1:1-14.

The extract of this quotation, "And having subjected the flesh to the will of the Father, being the Father and the Son; the Father because he was conceived by the power of God;" should be punctuated as follows for better clarity: "And having subjected the flesh to the will of the Father, (being the Father and the Son); the Father because he was conceived by the power of God."

For an understanding of this scripture let us consider the following points carefully.

1. God himself (meaning Christ) was to come down among men and redeem them.

2. And because he dwelleth in the flesh, he shall be called the Son of God. It was at this time that Christ took on a Son to the Father relationship with his God.

3. Jesus subjected his flesh to his Father, not to himself.

4. "And having subjected the flesh to the will of the Father (being the Father and the Son)" means simply that, and Jesus having subjected the flesh to the will of the Father his God (being the Father and the Son) or in other words the two Gods being the Father (the most high) and the Son (Jesus).

5. (Being the Father and the Son) the Father because he was conceived by the power of God; and the Son because of the flesh. The two Gods being the Father and Son; the Father (the most high) because Jesus was conceived by his power and the Son because of the flesh, or the Son because he (Jesus) had taken upon himself a body of flesh, thus becoming the Father and Son, or in other words because of these things they (the two Gods) became the Father and the Son. "And THEY ARE ONE GOD, yea, the very eternal Father of heaven and of earth."

6. And the flesh becoming subject to the Spirit, or the Son (Jesus) to the Father (the most high), NOT to the Spirit within Christ. For the spirit within Christ was neither the Holy Ghost for the Holy Ghost was in heaven at that time nor the most high God for he was also in heaven. But Jesus subjected his body of flesh to the will of his Father just as we are also commanded to do.

For those who still believe that God consists of one person, consider what would have happened if Jesus had failed in his mission. We would be doomed to an everlasting hell without hope of salvation because our great Redeemer had failed. What do you think would have happened to Jesus? What would God his Father have done? And lastly who would doom us to this terrible fate? Surely Jesus couldn't.

Let us review some further statements found in this book which are used in support of a single-person Godhead.

Mosiah 1:97, "For behold, the time cometh, and is not far distant, that with power, the Lord Omnipotent who reigneth, who was, and is from all eternity to all eternity, shall come down from heaven, among the children of men, and shall dwell in a tabernacle of clay."

Mosiah 1:102, "And he shall be called Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of heaven and earth, the Creator of all things, from the beginning; and his mother shall be called Mary."

And again in III Nephi 4:44, "Behold I am Jesus Christ, the son of God. I created the heavens and the earth, and all things that in them are."

II Nephi 11:21, "But, behold, they shall have wars, and rumors of wars; and when the day cometh that the Only Begotten of the Father, yea, even the Father of heaven and of earth, shall manifest himself unto them in the flesh, behold, they will reject him," etc.

Helaman 5:66, "And also that ye might know of the coming of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of heaven and of earth, the Creator of all things, from the beginning, and that ye might know of the signs of his coming, to the intent that ye might believe on his name."

And lastly in Ether 1:101, "And in that day that they shall exercise faith in me, saith the Lord, even as the brother of Jared did, that they may become sanctified in me, then will I manifest unto them the things which the brother of Jared saw, even to the unfolding unto them all my revelations, saith Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of the heavens and of the earth, and all things that in them are."

What can be our sole conclusion on these things? What are we to understand? Is it not true that Jesus Christ is the SON OF GOD, THE FATHER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, THE CREATOR OF ALL THINGS? Does not this make Jesus both Father and Son? Let's see what Jesus himself has to say about it in Ether 1:77, "Behold, I am he who was prepared from the foundation of the world to redeem my people. Behold, I am Jesus Christ. I am the Father and the Son."

And again in Book of Mormon 4:71, "Behold, he created Adam; and by Adam came the fall of man. And because of the fall of man, came Jesus Christ, even the Father and the Son."

God says that he will send strong delusions so that they may believe a lie, who love not the truth, etc. A simple statement such that Jesus is the Father and the Son then becomes a stumbling block (delusion) to those who love not the truth. This is God's delusion to those who desire to believe in a one-person God. We cannot base our beliefs on a few verses of scripture. If we love the truth then God will not send us a strong delusion and we will easily understand that Jesus is the Father and the Son, the Father of the Heavens and the Earth and the Son of God.

Ether 1:107-108, "I am the same that leadeth men to all good; he that will not believe my words, will not believe me, that I am; and he that will not believe me, will not believe the Father who sent me. For behold, I am the Father, I am the light, and the life, and the truth of the world."

Christ is merely stating that those who will not believe his words will not believe that he (Christ) is, and that those who do not believe in him (Christ) will not believe in the God who sent him. Then Jesus goes on to state the fact that he is the Father of the world, also the light and life and truth of the world. Do not misunderstand, Jesus was by no means claiming to be that Father who sent him. He was only showing

again as he has done many times the distinction between God as his Father and himself as the Father of the world.

III Nephi 5:14, "And it came to pass that the Lord spake unto them, saying, Arise and come forth unto me, that ye may thrust your hands into my side, and also that ye may feel the prints of the nails in my hands, and in my feet, that ye may know that I am the God of Israel, and the God of the whole earth, and have been slain for the sins of the world."

Now read Hebrew 1:1-14 and see if this isn't verified and that Jesus was called God even by his own Father.

Alma 8:93-94, "Now Zeezrom saith again unto him, Is the Son of God the very eternal Father? And Amulek said unto him, Yea, he is the very eternal Father of heaven and of earth, and all things which in them is."

Now read Isaiah 9:6 or II Nephi 9:66 and see if this is not what he was called and that he also was to be called the mighty God, the Prince of Peace.

II Nephi 10:34-37, "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! Art thou cut down to the ground, which did weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thy heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit."

Satan says he will be like the most high, that is, the Father of Christ. Would it have been necessary for him to say he would be like Christ since both he and Christ were at one time sons of the morning?

Book of Mormon 3:27, "Know ye that ye must come to the knowledge of your fathers, and repent of all your sins and iniquities, and believe in Jesus Christ, that he is the Son of God, and that he was slain by the Jews, and by the power of the Father he hath risen again, whereby he hath gained the victory over the grave; and also in him is the sting of death swallowed up."

In conclusion consider Moroni 10:4-5, "And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost; and by the power of the Holy Ghost, ye may know the truth of all things."

LET US OPEN OUR EYES

By Claressa O'Day

I hear via the grapevine that there are disputations in my beloved Church of Christ. How can there be? We have so many enemies without our doors we shall be utterly destroyed if the enemy is within.

The commandment is to preach nothing but repentance. If we repent, love each other and our enemies (not just tolerate and ignore them), then the truths will come forth within each of us with such full force that we won't need any contention whatsoever.

I may believe in reincarnation, astrology, Swedenborg's teachings, Rosecrucian, Theosophy, or what have you. And again I may not. I wouldn't dream of

forcing these beliefs upon another being. Tomorrow I may abandon these beliefs. In our searchings if we pray to God not to let us believe anything we shouldn't and to point the way clearly, He will do so. I know we can belong to God's Church and make all kinds of mistakes. We learn through them. If our motives are pure we are completely safe. It's when we act through impure motives that we get into trouble.

Evolution and regeneration come slowly. I used to try to convert everyone to the Restoration Movement, not realizing that some people just can't see it and must stay in a lesser church because they wouldn't be comfortable and wouldn't do well in one with more light. Until they evolve to it they couldn't accept it, or don't want to.

Now as to the enemy without. This world is a chess board, the white forces making a move, then the black forces making a move. The Armagedden is in sight. We will have to take a stand—for God and Christ—or we will be lost.

You say, "How can we be prepared?" How can we know one of the black forces? We are on the dark side when love doesn't exist within us, when our motives are purely selfish and we are beset with pride of all kinds (if not a material pride, a spiritual one). We sit in sactimonious pride, saying we have the gospel, blind to our own faults, and not giving credit to those not of our own particular faith. While all this is going on, others outside the church are fighting all the battles for the white side.

Now is the time! Cataclysmic things are happening now, all round us. Let us open our eyes and see. What are we waiting for? Soon it will be too late. We will have wasted all our time in contention, self-aggrandizement, self-pity, self-sufficiency, self-approval, self-self.

You say, "How can we do more? How can we get this love for our enemy, our neighbor, our family, our fellow church members, those who differ with us and make us feel unimportant?" Pray, Pray, Pray. Pray that God will give us that love. We can't manufacture it out of our own selves. He will give it to us because we desire it. Then watch the Kingdom of Heaven evidence itself. Through this love we will be brought face to face with our faults. We won't, then, shove them back into our subconscious, saying, "I don't have this fault, others have it, but not I." We will bring it forward, examine it, recognize it, realize gratefully that everyone else has it to overcome too, or has had it to overcome, admit it secretly and openly that we have it. We can solve problems only if we face them first.

Preach nothing but repentance. If we truly repent, sin after sin, fault after fault, and don't do it again, pretty soon we are purified to the point of transition. Impossible you say? If it were impossible why would Christ say it is possible? Try it and see. Pray that whatever move we make, it will be God's and will not yours. Asking God to forgive us of our faults in general won't help. We must pinpoint them, saying, "I have the fault of hatred, or the fault of lust, or the fault of jealousy, etc.," and pray on that particular fault, and wonders upon wonders, it will finally be overcome. We will receive tests now and again but gradually it will go.

We must read everything we can on other religions. Swedenborg's Heaven and Hell will give an insight to the kingdoms that nothing else will. We must pray that God will open our vision and not let us accept anything wrong and then go fearlessly into any book, because if armed with the truth and God we can't lose, we can only gain. If we don't learn the truth from other sources or the evils and falsities too, how do we know how to distinguish. We say the three books have it all. Yes, they do, but we can't always understand the spiritual significance of the three books if we don't have a wider vision. How do we know we don't believe anything unless we study what we say we don't believe? This is ignorance. The libraries have a great many wonderful books on philosophy, try them and see. Read all you can.

In California we are thrown in all kinds of sects, religions, and metaphysical societies. It is extremely necessary to survive spiritually, to know something about these things. At present I am thrown in with people on the psychic level, dabbling in black magic mediumistic seances, crystal-gazing, hypnotism, mental telepathy, thought-power type of things, etc., which is on a very low level and very dangerous to indulge in. We must learn about these things because there is quite a trend towards them. We have to know **why** they are dangerous so we can tell others and warn them, especially of hypnotism. To be hypnotized is to put yourself in a negative position, for all kinds of evil entities to enter in. Giving up your beautiful, God-given will, at any time for any reason, is pure folly, as it is extremely difficult to gain back complete possession. Hypnotism cures nothing, has no good results as it doesn't get to the cause of any ill only to the effect. Only **you** can do that in your right senses and with God's help. All true occultists know what it does.

Let's get outside of ourselves, our little group and world and see what the rest of the world is doing. We can't afford not to. It means our very existence and salvation, not only ours but for the rest of the world.

KINGS? HAPPY? WHO?

By Forest E. Maley

The world is so full
Of such wonderful things
I'm sure we should all
Be as happy as kings.

But of course, so few are.

From the great mass of ideas, personal services, quick-frozen foods and pre-stressed institutions, it would seem ridiculously easy to choose that which would make everybody happy.

Wherefore this widespread frustrated reaching and never grasping? How is it that the pursuit of happiness so many times decays into a daft chase after a swamp will-o-the-wisp, never to be captured?

Could it be in this land of the free and home of the brave that there is a hidden string attached to the object of our ambitions with some clown pulling the other end?

Take a few cagey looks around. Exercise a little common-sense doubt. Look under the rug, so to speak. Reach your own conclusions.

Among the first places, take a good long look at what some are pleased to call our communications and entertainment media: books, magazines, newspapers, movies, radio, television, billboards, and don't forget your mailbox. Drift through a few stores. Cock an ear at the "barkers" on the carnival midway. Watch a political rally.

Everyone is peddling something.

All that din is aimed at gaining control of at least part of the minds and pocketbooks of everyone within earshot and eyeshot.

For what purpose?

It is a good solid money-making bet that these all are out to separate the people from their wages and their loyalties; and to turn these things to the profit of the peddler; let the scruples fall where they may. The great natural resource, the public, is being mined with a will and a ready hand.

When you get to thinking how enormous is the tidal wave of stuff, nonsense, and merchandise which is directed at the free and the brave, it is enough to prompt a body to start laying about with any handy fire-axe to kind of clear a place to breathe . . . all due respect to the shade of Carrie Nation. Another less jolly alternative is to resign as a member of the human race and play solitary . . . be a hermit.

A few of the ideas and tom-foolery being carefully and cleverly urged for public acceptance, in short, are these:

(1) We must be alike to a hair . . . peas in a pod . . . sardines in neat little category cans with a fancy labels and plenty of sauce, capable of only one function: following a leader; any leader.

(2) The making of money is a prime virtue, covering a multitude of sins.

(3) There is a dollar equivalent for every other value, moral, ethical, spiritual, patriotic, or material. Enough money can buy anything or anybody; a privilege of those who have money.

(4) The pursuit of fun, pleasure, self indulgence or ease is the same as the pursuit of happiness. It is to be given top priority in life and is best attained by buying a certain product or idea.

(5) To be sociable, respectable, popular, financially secure, romantic (and whatever else it is for which mankind hankers), you have just go to use the products of certain distilleries, tobacco factories, insurance companies, and wash your unmentionables in certain suds.

(6) Answering nature's biological come-hither is the highest achievement of humans.

(7) There is no real value to a belief in God or in Jesus Christ. Religion is an illusion and an opiate of the people—merely a handy tranquilizer.

That's the package. Let us all open it up.

The brassy blast of propaganda heard throughout the land is the result of long years of meticulous analysis by those with hot little brains, cauterized consciences, deft fingers, and cold instruments. Now it is known

where just about all the pushbuttons are in this mortal coil and just how hard they have to be pushed to get a "desirable reaction." A great advance on the art of puppetry.

Projected into the future, such a program promises to produce high-type trained apes, all with duplicate push-buttons, unfailling in response to manipulation of the controls. Mashed potato men, all average, who can be pushed unresisting into any kind of a mold, or be milked of their money and loyalties without due process of law, or soap box oratory.

It's about time for the free and the brave to tell the merchandisers of hard-goods and human souls to get off and walk . . . this is the end of the free ride.

It's about time for one of the most astounding break-throughs of the century . . . the discovery and use of integrity. The discovery and use of God's Holy Spirit. It would be dynamite.

Already people are becoming glassy-eyed and numb to the commercial clamor for their attention. That "push-button" gets caloused with everybody pushing on it. In spite of everything humanity tends to learn and remember. So?

A well known specialist has made piles of money telling peddlers what shape and color to make packages; how to make people want to buy on impulse. Now he has lately gone so far as to admit that the buying public has become jaded by all this advertising so carefully planned to push all those little motivational buttons with which we come factory equipped. The advertising bubble and its equally fat basket of intangibles is about to "bust."

This is what to ask, "Does anybody really believe advertising any more?" Does anybody believe anything any more? Does anybody believe in God and His promises?

Things could get dangerous for everybody when nobody believes either what they read, or what they hear, or what they see, or what they know. It is then that everybody separates himself from everybody else by little walls of misunderstanding and distrust built solidly to form the only protection he can devise. It is then that the line between right and wrong gets mighty fuzzy.

You know, such a thing could inadvertently play right into the grimy little hands of a whole bunch of purveyors of international ill-will who would be just delighted to see all religion and the U. S. A. go plop. Go further and think a bit about the joyous jiggling of the minions in Hell in such case.

Turn it over in your own mind and imagine the situation when no one trusts spoken or written language to mean what it appears to mean; when ideas and ideals are only the means to a fast buck, political advantage, or social status.

O. K., so how are a few million people, each within his own wall of distrust, no reliable means of communication, and no belief in God, going to stand up against a well organized bunch who understands each other perfectly when they say one thing and mean something far different?

Right now, who knows for sure what the Marxists and opportunity-seeking fellow-travelers really mean

when they mouth the words "peace", "democratic" or "imperialism?" On the other hand, ask anybody on the street what is meant by "truth," "righteousness," or "salvation."

Do you suppose the decay of our means of communication might be a little bit intentional? If you bother to look, you will find, at the present time, definite influences are being exerted on the means by which we let each other know what we think. You will find spirituality and common sense being sold for intellectualism.

If you think somebody hasn't sold a birthright for a mess of pottage and sown distrust, turn to a few back issues of the newspapers and scan the scandals which rocked both TV and radio. Now, there may be nothing wrong in rigging a television quiz, or in taking "payola" for listing somebody's phonograph record as the top of a favorite list as long as you don't claim to be doing it on the up and up.

However! That old fast buck is still a great temptation. That old political or social advantage is still a great incentive.

Now pull back the rug and take a quick disgusted peek at the garbage wagon the most of movies have become. Each one seems to try to outdo the others in "realism" in just one narrow segment of life . . . moral decay. The patter of the little feet of television are not far behind. Considering the reports of the lives and personal standards of the more notorious denizens of the film colony, they should be the authority on moral decay. Is it any wonder that some of it should show up in what is produced there? This blighted industry thrusts upon us the preachment that there is no such thing as morality . . . only common practice. What everyone happens to be doing is the standard of acceptability.

But surely there are more stops on the great pipe-organ of life than moral decay!

What of decency, honor, the spiritual life?

The scripture interrupts here with a passage indicating that one does not harvest grapes from thorns, nor figs from thistles. (Matt. 7:16.) Nor does a well bring forth both bitter water and sweet. (Jas. 3:11).

After awhile maybe you get to wondering where all the money comes from to pay the bill to bombard the brain of poor old homo sapiens. What is the merchandise that is being so widely hawked for consumption of the public? Into whose coffers do the profits go?

For an answer, take a listen to some of the radio stations who feature rock and roll music and its successors in office. What are the products pushed as acceptable, and who are the ones who listen most to that type of program, and buy the records? It may shock you.

The psychologist is well aware that even a strange and revolting idea can at first be made familiar, and finally acceptable, to a subject by repeated exposure. Strange doctrines are "sold" that way. Furniture for a house and habits (the furnishing of life) can be sold that way. That is the meat of the advertising business. "Now step right up folks and hear this testimonial from a man who has tried our snake-bite remedy and knows it works."

Another parcel in this big package sale is the pursuit of pleasure, the avoidance of discipline and the shunning of responsibility. It comes in assorted shapes and sizes and different colored wrappings, but it is the same old sticky shelf-worn taffy . . . "Thou shalt not surely die."

The self-seekers are not the only ones helping to make this witch's brew simmer. You will find a lot of stuff handed out as the latest and most intellectually advanced educational methods; which would curl the hair on the back of your neck should you discover their origin. A Mr. Freud got some of it started; others jumped on the bandwagon and took the reins. Notions like never disappointing or frustrating a child's impulses because you might give the poor thing a complex for life. Teach them to read and they'll learn the alphabet and how to spell automatically by themselves. Let a child choose what it wants to eat. Give them easy courses so they can graduate. Don't ever tell anybody about Hell, because God is too loving and kind to send anybody to there.

All we had to do was to wreck one whole generation to develop the clinical data to prove how wrong were some of these crack-pot, self-styled intellectual theories. Some of his successors now think Freud himself should have had his head examined. Our dear institutions of learning seem also to be smitten by the Fad bug once in a while. All because someone who should have known better decided too write a book on this or that newly discovered but untried theory. And because some seem to think it necessary to jump on every new bandwagon that comes along in order to prove how up to date they are, we now have some choice, large economy size problems in education, juvenile delinquency and spiritual apathy.

Meanwhile, back at the peddler's cart, the barker is letting all the folks know think they can gain a whole range of benefits from successful romantic pursuits to the power to think for one's self and lasting peace . . . all by first buying and then smoking a cigarette. No place does even little, fine print say anything about lung cancer, or nicotine fits. Once in a while you hear something about lung cancer in the papers. But that just makes people buy filter-tip cigarettes like crazy for the illusion of safety offered. Haw! About as safe as a screen door on a submarine. Arthur Godfrey can tell you a story about that, minus a lung.

But it makes a lot of money for somebody, and the government rakes in a pile of taxes therefrom. It's good for business. It provides jobs.

Move over to another peddler's medicine show. Here you find out that if you wish to seem high-toned, gracious, sociable, and end up a young financial tycoon, there just one thing you need to do. Buy and drink, and hand out to those you're trying to impress, a certain highly distilled and aged swill. The unspoken inference is that the swill will bring you the gracious surroundings. Mountain Dew probably makes a half fallen down mountain shack seem like Buckingham Palace when administered in doses of proper size and frequency. Do liquor ads ever feature a drunken sot?

But it makes a lot of money for somebody, with

which to buy more advertising space, and the government rakes in a raft of tax money. It's good for business. It provides jobs.

On the very classy bottles you will not even find fine print making mention of moderation, chronic alcoholism, or the telephone number of the local chapter of Alcoholics Anonymous. That is the responsibility of the "customers."

Not far away a performer is flipping over, like a fish out of water, on the communications media trying to convince the bystanders that nobody can tell right from wrong, good from bad, whether an idea is "worth the money," or even whether or not they like a thing . . . without the counsel of the guy who has something on which to make a fast buck, or an organization to promote.

That is a little hard to swallow . . . like a bowling ball? Think so?

Well now, let us take our little lorgnette in hand and take a good look at what is passing for and being sold as Art, at a terrific mark-up. Again the inference is that if an artist did it, and it can be sold for a lot of money, it qualifies as good art . . . no matter how much it increases the demand for aspirin. And you better like it, or you're just a peasant, a boor, a philistine. Many's the hand that would have been far better graced the steering wheel of a truck than the handle of a brush.

Now the nation has just passed through the throes of being told very expertly that one man can serve the nation better as president, than another because of the political party to which he belongs. The voters were given a secondary choice of candidates, in the nominating of which they had little voice. The vote was taken, but that did not elect the president. That was done by a near useless old antique called an electoral college. It nearly happened that the man with the most popular votes was not elected at all. How do you like that? Preposterous . . . like a giraffe, but it's sitting right on our front porch.

What a situation!

Cure? Sure!

There are as many cures as there are platform speakers. None of the quick and easy ones are likely to work. Such plans usually involve handing over a lot of power to a few people. Those few don't like to give it back and that type of cure could be worse than the original ailment. Satan never let go of anyone easily, either.

From over here it looks as though the only sure permanent cure is for the great majority of us to take a little time out from TV, toughen up our minds, and trust God for something. Don't depend on the experts to do all your thinking. Examine the scripture for yourself. Get just a little hard-nosed like in the days when "religious freedom" and "liberty" had sweet, heady sounds which were worth a bit of sacrifice and loyalty.

It has been well said that the price of freedom is eternal vigilance. Amen. Again, we must all hang together for there are those out to hang us separately. This vigilance stuff is good for the citizen to take regularly. It's just as good for the union member.

And it's mighty nourishing for any who hold membership in churches, or other associations, where the individual is supposed to have a voice in the goings-on. It's good for both internal and external use.

While it may look as if something has sort of slipped up on the most of us unaware, the situation is not yet beyond recovery if enough people get aroused about it. No need to ask that great omnipotent thing called "government" to do anything about it. Most who inhabit government and other offices are inclined to maintain a status quo, no matter what . . . come rain, come snow, come dark of night and high water. It would only touch off a whole series of long, tiresome congressional investigations. Might even spawn a huge, new government bureau with regional directors, section co-ordinator, reams of reports, etc.

No, there's a far better thing to do.

Do it yourself. There's no real reason to hand over your birthright, or stewardship before God (however briefly) for someone else to manage. They might keep it. Nor is it necessary to let someone, not responsible to you, dictate the form of world in which you will have to spend the rest of your natural life.

Put a good stout cover over all those emotional push-buttons that all these "merchants" have been playing like a cash register. Bolt it down.

Start letting people know that you're on the prowl for anybody who is trying to put something over on you. Let your merchants know about it. Your P.T.A. Let the ward captain know. Let your mayor know. Let your minister know. Let your newspapers know. Let them know that you're not asleep and are mighty edgy about encroachments on the freedoms guaranteed you by the Constitution of these United States of America, and will continue to so do.

You know something? You just might be surprised how many "fed-up" people are standing by waiting for the first move of that sort, so they can join in and maintain their franchise as human beings and citizens. Free men. Free to choose their own ways of life. Free to replace those who do not serve them satisfactorily. Free to worship God after the dictates of their own individual consciences.

It still looks as though, with a measure of caution, a good deal of prayer and the pepper of alertness, we could still be as happy as kings . . . citizens of God's kingdom.

Let's.

FROM YUCATAN

(continued from page 99)

suffer ye them that are entering to go in. Woe unto you, scribes and pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation." Matt. 23:1-14.

Next he read, I Cor. 12:18-26.

"But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee:

nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: and those members of the body which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: that there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it."

Next he read Eph. 4:11-24:

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 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: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk in the vanity of their minds, having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their hearts: who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But ye have not so learned Christ: if so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: that ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

The above scriptures are only a part of those which he brought out.

During the sermon I thought of the scripture we have in the Book of Mormon, II Nephi 13:4-5: "For my soul delighteth in plainness: for after this manner doth the Lord God work among the children of men. For the Lord God giveth light unto the understanding: for he speaketh unto men according to their language, unto their understanding."

After the sermon I pointed out to them that God had called men of their own language and had given unto them, in accord with their desires, and understanding of the gospel that they might bring to those who hunger and thirst after righteousness the words of Christ in their own tongue. I read the entire 13th chapter of II Nephi, but I quote here only a few verses:

"And now if the Lamb of God, he being holy, should

have need to be baptized by water to fulfill all righteousness, O then, how much more need have we, being unholy, to be baptized, yea, even by water." Verse 7.

"And again: It sheweth unto the children of men the straightness of the path, and the narrowness of the gate by which they should enter, he having set the example before them." Verse 11.

"For the gate by which ye should enter is repentance and baptism by water: and then cometh a remission of your sins by fire, and by the Holy Ghost." Verse 24.

"Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life. And now behold, my beloved brethren, this is the way; and there is none other way nor name given under heaven, whereby man can be saved in the kingdom of God." Verses 30, 31.

After I took my seat, Raul stood and read a letter he had received from a brother in the States. It was a most beautiful letter and it gave the people great courage. I quote here one paragraph from this letter.

"If I had a message to deliver to your people, it would be this: In your belief in God and His only Begotten Son, be earnest, be sincere, be humble, be patient in all things before him, and love one another that you may always be worthy to be called his children."

Up to this point in our service most everything that had been said had been spoken in Spanish, however there were some present who could not understand Spanish. Now the spirit could be felt in great power, and our brother, Miguel Tzuk, arose to his feet and began to relate in the Maya tongue all that had been said and he admonished the people to continue in the love of Christ and continue to pray for those who stand in need that we might remain worthy of God's blessings in our hours of need.

After the service we were asked to dinner at the home of our old brother, Sabino, who lives next to the church. As we walked into that little humble home I felt again that same sweet spirit that I have experienced each time I have visited there in the years that have gone. I believe that because of the humble appreciation for the wonderful love of God that lies deep in the hearts of this old brother and his wife that their home has become a constant dwelling place for a great portion of God's Spirit.

When Arnulfo walked into that little house of sticks I am sure that he too was overshadowed by that same sweet spirit. He stood silent for a few moments and then spoke to Raul in his native tongue. Raul turned to me and said, "Arnulfo wishes me to translate a message to you. He wishes to be baptized and he wants to know how soon you will be able to baptize him."

Many years have passed since the eunuch said unto Philip, "See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?" But the power of a changeless God still is active among the children of men and another soul has said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." Another has heard that still small voice that speaks to the souls of men. Yes indeed, "there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding."

On the next Thursday, Arnulfo did go down into the water, and he did experience that new birth, and he did become a new man.

"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." John 3:5.

Many of our spiritual experiences here have come to us as we visited in the little one-room brush houses with our people. We have a very dear friend here whose mother, father and one brother are members of the Church. She and her husband have been regular attendants. On one occasion, after a sermon on the wonderful gifts and blessings promised to those who will believe, they brought their little baby forward. The child was desperately ill. They asked that we administer to the child. This we did and the child received a wonderful blessing. In this healing she was able to see and comprehend the great power and love Christ has for his children.

Later as we visited with her in her home she told us of a talk she had with her husband. In trying to persuade him to enter the waters of baptism with her, she spoke to him in the following manner:

"You know how our lives were before we came in contact with this Church of Christ. We were like the leaves, driven and tossed with the wind. We could find no rest, but now through the knowledge we have received of the gospel of Christ we have found order and purpose in our lives." She asked him, "Do you want to return to the way of life that we have known before, wherein there has been no joy, or do you wish to continue in the way of life that has already brought us out of disorder?"

These are good questions. They are questions that she had already asked of herself and now she was striving hard to help her husband; striving to lend him strength and courage, hoping and praying that they both might enter by the door and cling to that which had brought order and purpose to their lives so they might no longer be tossed as leaves before the wind.

From memory I cannot relate to you exactly in detail the story of understanding that fell from her lips, but I testify to you, "There is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding." The spirit in this woman had, by the inspiration of the Almighty, been given understanding and a new world of hope was beginning to unfold to her spiritual vision.

Deep in the jungle of Quintana Roo we have two families that belong to the church. We make regular trips by previous arrangement into this place. Each time there we hold services at night for two nights out under the big trees. The meetings are well attended, but during the day between the two night services we hold a prayer meeting for our members and anyone else who cares to attend.

Christ is no respecter of persons, and He will commune with man in the mountain fastness, in the mighty forests, in desert places, in majestic cathedrals or in a lowly hut made of sticks and mud. His only requirements are a broken heart and a contrite spirit, humility, and a hunger and thirst after righteousness. As I write these lines I can, with the power of memory, project my mind back. I am seated again on a little wooden bench. On my left is Fernando Ojeda, an

Elder in the Gospel. On my right is Vincente Poot, who is also an Elder.

Before us seated on small benches is the family of Vincente, a wife and three children. There is our brother Maurico, his wife and two children. Also present are my wife and several non-members. All have been touched by the Divine Spirit and have felt the need to draw apart from the world for a while and worship God in a quiet way. My memory is keen, and I comprehend all my immediate surroundings. I am able to see through the wall of sticks in any direction. I see a horse tied close to the house. I can hear the snapping of the twigs as he strips the leaves from the branches that have been cut from the Ramon trees for his food.

I can see and hear chickens, turkeys and pigs as they go about their daily forage for food. At my feet are two very small chickens carefully eyeing each small speck on the dirt floor and testing each with their bills in the hope that one may prove to be a bit of corn or perhaps a delicate bug. On the wall at my left there are a set of shelves made entirely of small sticks tied together with a tough jungle vine, similar to a heavy twine. On the shelves I see a candle, bottle of medicine, six eggs, and hanging from the shelves there is a rifle and a machete, both of which play a very important part in the lives of these jungle people.

As I look toward the back of the room I see a hammock stretched across the room and in its soft folds there lies sleeping, a small baby who is unaware of her great fortune; that of having been born to parents who have embraced the Gospel of Christ.

But memory brings to me a greater reward than the consciousness of these things mentioned. I relive again that wonderful influence of the spirit that flooded that room and how it grew in magnitude as each one praised God in prayer and testimony. Again we heard how the knowledge of the gospel of Christ had brought order and purpose where before there had been only trouble and disorder.

Our last service in Yucatan was held in Ticul. Being the last service it was decided it should be a prayer service as this would give all a chance to take part who would desire. The first part of the meeting was given over to the confirming of four new members. This is always a beautiful service. The church was filled to overflowing this night. After the confirmation the new members kept their seats in front. While songs were sung the entire membership present, and others as well, filed by and with great emotion each one would welcome them into the great family of Christ. Then followed a season of prayer. As fast as one would complete his prayer another would take part. There were so many that wished to pour out their hearts to God it became necessary after about thirty minutes to arise. We sang a song, and there was another long season of prayer.

After the prayers many testimonies were given. I bring you some of those testimonies. Of course they will not be in detail, but I hope they will bring you the same spirit of joy and courage they brought to us.

The following is the first testimony of a new brother:

"I am so grateful that after rolling one way and then another, being lost for so long, I finally found the

true church of Christ. I had not become aware of its existence until I was so close to it, attending services. I feel now as though I have let down a big burden. We must work toward bringing others into the kingdom where real equality and true brotherhood is found. We must pray for our missionaries, for their protection, guidance and safe journey home."

This from a sister: "I am glad to have found the Church of Christ. In it I have found true brotherhood which to me is a sign of the presence of God. Unlike the other churches, I have found harmony within this church. Pray that we may be able to preserve this unity, and pray for them that leave us tomorrow, for their safety."

From another sister: "I am thankful to be here for prayer meeting. Each time I am learning that the way to real Christianity is love. Love must be allowed to operate. Lip love is harmful. Most of the time we do not have to say it but demonstrate it that it may be more genuine."

From another sister: "I am very happy to see others come into the family of Christ. We need to pray for them that they may realize how narrow this way is, and be given strength to endure to the end. It is through trial and suffering for the things that are good, that we inherit the Kingdom of God. We feel sad about the departure of our brother and sister. Why? Because they will be separated from us, we do know how long, but faith encloses love, and love has no limits."

After three hours the meeting was brought to a close, not because the spirit had slackened in any degree, but because of weariness.

My parting words to my brothers and sisters were on this wise. "I have come to you not to bring the words or the doctrine of men, but to bring the words and doctrine of Christ." I read again these words of Christ, John 6:63: "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." "Yes, it is the spirit that quickeneth, and the words of Christ that we have brought, they are spirit and they are life."

Then from the Book of Mormon, II Nephi 13:30, I read this great advice to all men: "Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life."

I am happy to report that during the last two weeks of our stay in Yucatan, there were nine who entered through the waters of baptism after having feasted upon the words of Christ, which are the words of life.

I hope that by the use of words, I have been able to bring you into a closer kinship with your brothers and sisters in Maya land. They love you each and everyone with a love that has but one source, and that source is Christ. Their new hope, their new love, their new life has come to them because they have feasted upon the word of Christ.

My message to all who may read my feeble words is to do likewise for the words of the Master are above the imperfections of men, for "they are spirit, and they are life."

"Wherefore, I said unto you, Feast upon the words of Christ; for behold the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do." II Nephi 14:4.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Ravenna, Michigan
April 25, 1961

When I first became acquainted with the Church of Christ (Temple Lot), I met a young man who was a minister in this church. His name was Cleo Heath.

In trying to convince me of the Church of Christ, he said, "Now before you make up your mind I want you to go with me to talk with another minister who can explain some things better than I." That minister was Bro. L. E. Welch. I had about made up my mind that I would accept but was hoping I might have some evidence from the Lord.

Cleo and I were married in November, 1934.

One night I felt like I was wide awake and that my pillow around my head was something other than a pillow. My eyes opened and there in one corner of our bedroom I saw Christ, and that glorious light around His head; then my eyes closed. When I awoke the next morning I knew I had had a vision and that my pillow had been filled with His Spirit and that I had seen my evidence. On July 7, 1935, I walked into the waters of baptism.

One thing that strongly convinced me was the idea that my mother, who passed away in 1932, would have a chance. I know the things taught to me then were and still are the gospel of Christ.

It would do each of us good to do as the song of admonition says,

Be ye not deceived. Remember
I have sworn to execute.
All my purpose naught can hinder
Vain what man may institute.

Your Sister in Christ,
Lois Heath

Y. P. C. L. NEWS

On May 18, we held a study class at the church.

On May 25, there was a Pizza Supper at Bro. and Sr. Harold Gill's home. We played volley ball and charades and enjoyed ourselves very much. Visitors were Nancy Dodson and Fernando Ojeda.

There was no meeting on June 1st, but on June 8th there was a study class at the church. Bro. Harold Gill conducted the class, using righteousness as his topic. We had a very interesting discussion. Sr. Bonnie Gill, Bro. Harold Gill's sister, attended our meeting. She is visiting her brother and will be here till sometime in July.

Also at this meeting we elected the committee for our annual outing. We elected the following: Caroline Hedrick, Duane Wheaton, and Martha Harris. We are all eagerly awaiting the weekend of camping.

Congratulations to the new Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Gill who were married June 3, at the Independence Temple Lot Church. Sr. Gill is the former Sr. Margret Harris of Independence.

Janice Sprague, Reporter

Robert H. Jensen
2230 Clay
Bellevue, Nebraska
M

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In compliance with the action taken at the 1960 General Sunday School Association General Assembly, all publications printed by the Association will be sent free of charge. Send ALL orders to: General Sunday School Association Treasurer, Church of Christ (Temple Lot); Box 472, Independence, Missouri.

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