

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."—1 Nephi 3:187.

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Devotions

By Evalena Sills

When the beauty of new morning
Spreads across the morning day,
Its glory touching everything
Along its destined way,
Then I know that God is there,
And I kneel in grateful prayer.

When the splendor of the noontime
Laves the earth with warmth and light,
When the glamour of day's promise
Brings fulfillment to the sight,
Then I know that God is there,
And I lift my voice in prayer.

When the calmness of the evening
Soothes a tired day to rest,
When prism colors fade away
At night's exact request,
Then I know that God is there,
And I worship Him in prayer.

In the darkness of the night-time
When tolls the latest bell,
And the raptured stars come dancing
To cast their mystic spell,
Then I know that God is there,
And I lift my soul in prayer.

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EDITORIAL

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Rev. 21:1-4.

This has been the Christian's dream of heaven throughout the ages. The history of man is the story of dreams and their fulfillment as man climbed from the cave man "age of ignorance" to the present "age of reason". Preceding every major advancement man made, was the dream of something better.

All literature was painstakingly copied by hand until Johann Gutenberg invented printing in 1450 A. D. and released the flood of pent up thoughts of men and women that now flood the world, and placed the most treasured book of all, the Bible, within the reach of the entire world.

All labor was performed by the arduous effort of men or beast until Thomas Newcomen dreaming beside his fireplace watched the steam from his singing teakettle lift and relift its lid and invented the first steam engine.

All sewing was done by hand until Elias Howe watching the flying fingers of his wife, dreamed of the bobbin and so invented the first sewing machine.

Man remained an earth bound creature with dreams of flying until the Wright brothers enthralled by that same dream invented the airplane and gave man his wings.

Every dream left abandoned is the mark of failure. And every dream realized rises upon the rubble of past failures.

Solomon said: "Where there is no vision; the people perish." Prov. 29:18. And life's gutters are filled with those who have lost, or never had, a vision.

The dream is mankind's way of calculating the future but the dream is just a shadow of the substance—the realization of which is paid for by the blood, sweat and tears of reality. As Mt. Rushmore, a sculpter's dream, rises above the rubble of rock that lies at the foot of the monument, which is the evidence of the reality that brought it into being. A jeweler viewing the rough stone and envisioning the shining jewel must bring it into reality by the painstaking care of cutting, grinding and polishing.

Changing dreams into reality is man's greatest challenge—his greatest test and his greatest privilege.

There are two tragic events that can occur in this process.

1. Some become lost from reality in their dreams of what "might be" and drift about in a dream world all their own.

2. Some become so engrossed by the pressure of reality that they forget the dream.

There were once two men busily engaged in carting away the debris of a wrecked building. When asked separately what they were doing, one replied that he was tearing down an eyesore; the other replied with glowing eyes that he was building a cathedral. He realized that he was playing a part in bringing a dream into reality.

We dream of the future—we live in reality in the present. "Today is your day and mine, the only day we have; the day in which we play our part. What our part may signify in the great whole, we may not understand; we are here to play it, and now is our time." This is the way David Starr Jordan paraphrased the great Shakespeare.

Only by living today at its best can we prepare for the best tomorrows, or as Amulek expressed it in the Book of Alma 16:228, "For behold, this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God: yea, behold, the day of this life is the day for men to perform their labors."

The vision of John on the Isle of Patmos of a new heaven and a new earth is the dream of mankind of eternal life. The reality is that we are all sinners—"and come short of the glory of God;" The gospel of Christ is the only medium we have to win that dream—"for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12.

As the hammer and chisel is the medium of the sculpter, and the emery wheel the medium of the lapidary for removing the rough from the finished statue or the polished gem, so the Gospel of Christ is the medium man **must** use in his day by day reality of life to remove the rough coating of sin and to polish his life into the Christian jewel acceptable to God.

So let us, as members of the Church of Christ, be realists with a dream. Realists that face a life that demands our constant efforts to overcome habits, desires and appetites that lead only to bondage and loss of vision where we will perish. Realists with a church affiliation that demands our constant efforts of understanding, tolerance, and forgiveness, that we may reach a unity of purpose and work together. Realists with the most powerful medium of accomplishment

given to man—" . . . the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation." Romans 1:16.

May our dream be: a united church, where each esteem the other as himself, where brotherhood is manifested in acts of love. Where differences of opinion become the mark of the individual rather than that of the heretic. A church where our service to God shall be performed in attitudes of humility acceptable before His Great Majesty. And may this vision of John, quoted above, be our personal dream of salvation, and may its realization be the **real** purpose of our life.

O. A. C.

EDITORIAL
from

The Hand of Fellowship

This morning the dew sparkles on the grass that was dry last night and a mocking bird in the top of the Eucalyptus sings in his high treble, a thank you to God for another day so bright and new! Indoors my sister's Parakeet sings, "Tweeker, you're sweet. I love you," expressing in one voice the joy of life. Such pleasures of sight and sound make any human problem seem smaller.

So infinitesimal am I, yet, like nature, I am cared for and guided by our heavenly Father. Nature trusts Him unquestioningly. Why shouldn't we? Are we lesser children of the great Creator?

Children know that God is quiet, calm, wonderful, big, kind, and interested in them. They seldom ask for more than they deserve and know no reason why the world shouldn't be mostly good. It can be. We can make it so.

As long as we live honestly and reflect in our lives our beliefs in the principles of Jesus Christ and fearlessly determine to protect all that we hold dear, then our American way of life will prosper. Our national destiny is in our own hands.

Edward E. Hale said, "I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something . . ." Only God and you know whether you are doing the most you can. We are our own task master.

Phillips Brooks said, "Bad will be the day for every man when he becomes absolutely contented with the life he is living, with the thoughts that he is thinking, with the deeds that he is doing; when there is not forever beating at the doors of his soul some great desire to do something larger, which he knows that he was meant and made to do because he is still, in spite of all, the child of God."

Complacency devours excellence; true work is sacred for it combines all the principles of goodness.

"Who is wise and understanding among you? by his good life let him show his work in the meekness of wisdom."—James 3:13.

May God be with you each in the work you have chosen to do.

—Lorraine Patterson.

PREDESTINATION

By Larry Schwarz

Either we are in a driverless car going nowhere, or there is someone behind the wheel taking us to a destination he has in mind. Either we are free to destroy ourselves or the issues of life are in the hands of God who plans to complete his creation.

We know we are free to make many choices; we also know that our liberty is limited. We can defy natural law, but we cannot break it. We can hurl ourselves from the heights, but when we hit the bottom we don't break the law of gravity; it breaks us. We can ride off in one direction but not in all four. We can choose our course, but we cannot escape the consequences.

There is evidence of an intelligent Being manifesting his will in history. Dr. Charles A. Beard summarized the lessons of history:

1. Whom the gods would destroy they first make mad with power.
2. The mills of God grind slowly, yet they grind exceedingly small.
3. The bee fertilizes the flower it robs.
4. When it is dark enough you can see the stars.

Many observers find thoughtful purpose on the pages of the past. Students find in the Bible the record of God's activities in history.

Men tried in the past to explain his activities in terms of election. He chose some to be saved and some to be damned. But this is not consistent with the compassion of the Christ who prayed even for those who crucified him. The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is not arbitrary.

Others have proposed predestination in terms of foreknowledge. This implies that God has known us from the dawn of creation. He knows us so well that he knows what we will do in every situation.

Experience confirms this theory. If someone asks my spouse a question, I know she will answer it truthfully. She always has spoken the truth, and I believe she always will. There are some other people whose answers I would doubt. They have lied whenever lying was to their advantage.

Similarly, God knows what we will do in every situation. There is one big criticism of this theory. If God, who is omniscient, knows in advance what my decision will be, am I really free to choose anything else?

A much more satisfactory theory is that God intends for us all to conform to his plans. He desires that we cooperate with him, but he gives us freedom to do otherwise. He wills that all men should live in harmony with him, but he doesn't make them do it. He gives us freedom to resist, but he circumscribes our freedom. So we can temporarily thwart him, but we cannot ultimately defeat him.

We can win with God, but we cannot long prevail against him. It is good to know that the issues of life are in the hands of God.

(Missouri Ruralist, January 27, 1962).

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.

THE TIME OF THE END

By Archie F. Bell

Part 4

Cleansing of the Sanctuary

A Sanctuary is a consecrated place; a sacred and inviolable asylum; a place of refuge. (Webster). We are going to examine the sanctuary of the Lord and its cleansing.

When it was necessary for the Lord to take strong measures in the time of Noah, the entire earth and all that was on it was affected. It was termed the destruction of the earth and all that was on it. Noah and his family were redeemed from this destruction and were permitted to live on the earth again after the flood was over. It no doubt, was not a pleasant thing to look upon for quite some time after the flood.

The Lord brought about a cleansing by this flood even though there were unpleasant things to look upon. These served as a reminder of the almighty power of God. If it was necessary for the Lord to show His power at that time, it will be necessary for Him to do so when He cleanses His sanctuary.

We have noted in previous chapters how circumstances and conditions have been accumulating until it appears to have gotten out of the control of man. When it has gone so far out of control, it will be necessary for God to take a hand like He did in the time of Noah. We expect the entire earth or world to be affected at the time when the Lord cleanses His sanctuary. This will take place at the beginning of the time of the end.

Daniel 11:40, "And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and passover."

The word, At, would indicate in this quotation, that it was entering the time of the end. This shows a different procedure in the attack than has been the practice previous to this time. In former times, the king of the north started the war; in this instance, the king of the south starts it. It is indicated that the king of the north will be ready for the war because he immediately goes into fast action, through invasion, (overflow), and by air attack, (pass over).

Daniel 11:41, "He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and

Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon."

It would be necessary for some underhanded work to have been done ahead of this invasion spoken of here for it to be so successful. These three countries mentioned here would have had to be prisoners of this king if they were going to escape out of his hand. The countries of Edom, Moab and Ammon of ancient time are the countries of Jordan and Syria of today.

Daniel 11:42-43, "He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape. But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his step."

To stretch forth his hand upon the countries would mean that he would take from them their food stuffs and their materials as well as the finance. Egypt used to be financially wealthy. They may have their gold and silver and precious stones in the hands of individuals today. Wherever it is, it will fall into the hands of the king of the north.

These things are going to happen. Things do not happen because it is prophesied that it would, but rather the prophecy is given because those things are going to happen. Egypt and the Ethiopians have been playing politics with the king of the north for the past few years, the time will come when he will take his toll and it won't be small. He not only will require their treasures but he will require their armies to be under his command, (at his steps).

We find in Ezekiel 38: 5-12, that Persia, Ethiopia and Libya will be with Gog when he comes up against the people who have "Cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land." Now we see that Egypt has been in league with Gog, the king of the north, and tried to escape but failed to accomplish it.

Let us examine some of the events of today. There is quite a stir in Africa. There has been revolution and terror taking place there. It has a bearing on what we last read in Daniel. Remember the prophecies were written centuries ago. Ethiopian: "A member of one of the former five divisions of mankind, the Ethiopian race, which includes the Negro and Negrito peoples of Africa." (Webster).

We can see from the above definition, that the Ethiopian spoken of in Daniel includes the different countries of Africa which are controlled by the Negro people. The Lord could look down through the ages of time and foresee what is taking place in Africa today and give Daniel a knowledge of it to write for future generations.

Now let us examine some things about Egypt. That country was originally settled by descendants of Ham, the son of Noah. The Semetic people, descendants of Shem, a son of Noah, have migrated there through the centuries until today, the people of that country are to a large extent, a mixture of both races. The language of Egypt was changed about 300 years ago. The Arab, Semetic, has control of Egypt today and considers it the leading country of the Arabic people.

After two years of negotiations, a league of Arab states was signed March 22, 1945, by Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen. Egypt took the lead in bringing this about. The intention of the signers of this league was to bring about the independence and sovereignty of the entire Arab world. It is quite possible that there was fear in the minds of some of them over the return of the Jews to Palestine.

June 22, 1956, a man by the name of Gamal Abdel Nasser, an Arab, was approved by a national plebiscite as Egypt's president for a term of six years. July 26, the same year, he nationalized the Suez Canal company which brought about a conflict with England, France and Israel. Russia furnished the materials of war for Egypt in this conflict. April, 1958, Nasser went to the U.S.S.R. on a state visit and again in July of the same year he returned to Moscow and conferred with N. S. Krushchev. Later Nasser made speeches upholding Russia's and Red China's policies in their dealings with the free world.

We have been reviewing the above noted history to show the situation Egypt has gotten itself into through unwise decisions and acts. It is no wonder that Ezekiel prophesied such disastrous things would happen to Egypt in the time of the heathen.

Ezekiel 30:3-6, "For the day is near, even the day of the Lord is near, a cloudy day; it shall be the time of the heathen.

"And the sword shall come upon Egypt, and great pain shall be in Ethiopia, when the slain shall fall in Egypt, and they shall take away her multitude, and her foundation shall be broken down.

"Ethiopia, and Libya, and Lidia, and all the mingled people, and Chub, and the men of the land that is in league, shall fall with them by the sword.

"Thus saith the Lord; They also that uphold Egypt shall fall; and the pride of her power shall come down: from the tower of Syene shall they fall in it by the sword, saith the Lord God."

When we think of the day of a nation, we think of when they are showing their superior power in some way. When two teams meet in some sport and one of them proves far superior to the other, the expression is made that this was their day. And so it is when we say the day of the Lord: It will be a time when His power is shown to such an extent that all will recognize

that He is God and there is none like Him.

When that day of the Lord is near is the time when the heathen Gog, king of the north, will be showing his power before the world. Day and time oftentimes mean the same thing. That being the case when we say time of the heathen, we mean it will be his day. The Gentile nations will oppose that thought because they have been in the upper seat for so many centuries. They were in the upper seat for times; the heathen will only be there for one time and it will be a short one. During that time, the downfall of Egypt will be accomplished.

Daniel 11:45: "And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end and none shall help him."

We noted in chapter 3, The Abomination of Desolation, of how Gog was going up against the mountains of Israel. We found them to be the 48 states of the United States. If the States are the mountains of Israel, then the United States must be the glorious holy mountain we have just read of. It would also be the glorious holy land we read of in the 41st vesre, that the king of the north was going to enter into.

Deuteronomy 33:16, we read this, ". . . And for the good will of him that dwell in the bush. . . ." We read Exodus 3:4, to find who it was that dwelt in the bush. "And when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I."

This quotation from Deuteronomy refers to the United States and we see that it has the good will of God who spoke to Moses from the midst of the bush which seemed to be on fire.

There is no other nation on the face of the earth which can qualify for this description, the good will of God, like this nation can. This nation has grown from 13 colonies with very little of this world's goods, to be the greatest nation on earth, in a little less than 200 years. Only the good will of God could have brought this about.

We have read in Daniel where the king of the north plans on building the tabernacles of his palace (Temporary Headquarters), between the seas in this land. This no doubt, is what he has in mind in getting Cuba to join his band. The peninsula of Florida is between the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico, (Seas).

We also find that the king of the north "Shall come to his end, and none shall help him." This means that not only will his armies be defeated but the principles they are working under will cease.

Let us examine what Ezekiel has to say about Gog, the king of the north coming to his end and how it comes to pass that none can help him.

Ezekiel 38:18-22, "And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord God, that my fury shall come up in my face.

"For in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel;

"So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that are upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.

"And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountain, saith the Lord God: every man's sword shall be against his brother.

"And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone."

God has permitted man to discover great sources of power in the past few years. Each of these powers could be used for the benefit of mankind. But instead they have been put to the use primarily for the destruction of their fellowman. It is doubtful if anyone knows how much material for the destruction of man is stock piled. If this were to be loosed in the period of a few days, the destruction of man and beast would be terrific. There is a passage in the scripture that gives us the belief that the time will come when the king of the north will decide to turn all of his power of destruction loose.

Daniel 11: 44, "But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: Therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many."

What these tidings out of the east and north are, we can only make a rough guess, but they apparently are to be something that greatly disturbs the king of the north. He becomes furious and decides to completely destroy everything that stands in his way. If this was permitted to happen, the outcome would be complete destruction of mankind as well as animal and fowl life. If the Almighty decides to destroy the world He will not use man as His agent. The world was destroyed once and it was accomplished by the power of God in a flood.

When man lends himself so much to the leadings of evil that he sets himself up as a god to save or destroy, it is necessary for the Almighty to take a hand if mankind is to be saved alive.

Our attention is called to the fact that the king of the north is going to set himself as a god of force, believing that none can stand against him. Then is when the God of heaven will take part in this warfare. We find in Daniel 11:19, that this will take place in the last end of His indignation.

God has surely been long-suffering. When we think of the atrocious crimes which have been committed against humanity in the past 50 years by some nations which claim to be civilized, we wonder how He

has refrained from taking a hand before now. There have certainly been sufficient transgressions to arouse His righteous indignation. With all of these transgressions against Him piling up it is no wonder that He told Ezekiel that the fury of His wrath shall come up in His face.

It would be foolish for man to even think he could resist the wrath of God. Man may have discovered great destructive power but it can in no way compare with the destruction God can bring on the earth. It took Him only six days to create the earth and all that is on it as well as all there is in the heavens above. Destructions could be much faster than creation. This "Overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone," coming at the last end of His indignation, would give us the understanding that then would be the time when it would be fulfilled of which Isaiah wrote:

Isaiah 2:4, "And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plow shares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

Christ caused His disciples to record some of the signs concerning this conflict we have been studying about and He summed it up in a few words. Matthew 24:21-22, "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." We have read in Ezekiel what could come to pass that would bring this conflict to a close.

Nephi writes of the Lord's fury, Book of Mormon, 664:106, "For it shall come to pass, saith the Father, that at that day, whosoever will not repent and come unto my beloved Son, them will I cut off from among my people, O house of Israel, and I will execute vengeance and fury upon them, even as upon the heathen, such as they have not heard."

It is too bad that so many have permitted themselves to be put to sleep through teachings of false security. It is in the minds of so many that all they have to do is say they believe that the Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, attend church when it is convenient and drop some money in the collection plate, then they can follow the pleasures of the world. If they do this He is under obligation to protect them. They cannot think of themselves as transgressors even though they know they have violated His commandments. Neither is it in their minds to repent because they think they have never been caught in any violation, by man.

Isaiah, when writing of the time which we have been studying, wrote the following, Isaiah 1:28, "And the destruction of the transgressors and of the sinners shall be together, and they that forsake the Lord shall be consumed."

We believe that it is beyond the mind of mankind to fully realize what will take place when the Lord pours

out His fury upon the followers of Gog. We know that the breaking of the Lord's commandments, the changing of His ordinance and the breaking of the everlasting covenant has caused a defilement of the earth, Isaiah 24:5. Now let us see what atheism has caused. We read in the following verse (6),

"Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left."

We can get an idea of how many will be left if we read, Ezekiel 39:1-4, 12, "Therefore, thou son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal:

"And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel:

"And I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand, and will cause thine arrows to fall out of thy right hand.

"Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands, and the people that is with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured.

"And seven months shall the house of Israel be burying of them, that they may cleanse the land."

We have been looking on the darkest picture of this world's history. Prophecy is history foretold. After the darkest hour of the night, it begins to brighten up. We believe what we are going to consider now will give us the beginning of a brighter view of things that are to come.

Daniel 12:1, "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book."

To be delivered is to be rescued from evil actual or feared. (Webster). The book spoken of here is the Book of Life. Our names are written on its pages from birth. One of our duties here in this life is to see that our names are not blotted out of that Book. We find in this reading that those whose names are still on the pages of the Book of Life will be delivered; and that by heavenly interference.

The Lord's fury was felt on this land at the time Christ was crucified. An account is found of this in the fourth chapter of III Nephi in the Authorized Version of the Book of Mormon. There was a great destruction and many of the people were slain by it. Some were spared or delivered. We will read that part.

Book of Mormon 630:66, "And it was the more righteous part of the people who were saved, and it was they who received the prophets, and stoned them not; and it was they who had not shed the blood of the saints, who were spared; . . ."

History shows that when the standards of a nation are lowered, the membership of the church of that nation are enticed to follow the same example. When it is brought to their attention, their defense usually is, "Why, it is the custom nowadays to say or do that.

If it is brought to their attention that some of the things which are done today were displeasing to the Lord in the times when the Scriptures were written, the reply is "Times have changed". This has brought about a suppression of righteousness to the extent that both the church and its membership suffer. Daniel writes of it in this way, "The sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot."

Daniel 8:13, "Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?"

This last saint which spoke is interested in the time when the sanctuary, (church), will be cleansed from imperfections. He also is interested in when the host, (membership), will put on their beautiful garments of righteousness. This would be a cleansing that would take the power of the Spirit of God to perform.

Most Bible students of today are predicting that the coming of Christ is near at hand. Some believe that when He comes, it will be the end of the world. Others believe that He will make his appearance before that time. They all believe He will come. Most people can't feature His coming during their life time. It may be because they fear the thought of facing Him in this life. They may fear that they would be required to give up too much of the pleasures of this life if He were to come. They may feel that these pleasures are not—too bad but perhaps, not acceptable to Him and they may feel that life without these pleasures might be just a little dull. And still we all want Christ to fully accept us; no reservations on His part.

The time when the announcement of the arrival of Christ is near will be the time when those who have covenanted with Him to follow after His example, will be slumbering and sleeping, if we accept the words of Christ as recorded in Matthew 25:5.

To slumber is to be either unaware or indifferent. We might be unaware from not having a knowledge of a certain thing. We might have a knowledge and refuse to acknowledge its nearness. We might be indifferent to a thing by thinking something else will probably turn up at the last minute and the trouble will all be avoided. Or we might think that the wise men of the world will find an answer.

To sleep is to be in a state of complete inactivity. That kind of a person will not even make an effort to prove whether a thing is true or false.

There are times when a person may not be the only one to blame for his failure to do as he should. The teachings a person has received has much bearing on how he will apply himself. We may hear the statement that all have the scriptures, that should teach them what they ought to know.

Concerning that, the same thing applies today as did in the day of Philip, when he approached the chariot and asked the man of Ethiopia if he understood what he was reading. The Ethiopian answered, "How can I, except same man should guide me?" Philip, by using the power that God had given him, guided this man into the channels of truth. If that man would have had his own interpretation set up there would have been very little that Philip could have done.

Paul wrote to the Romans on this subject on this wise. Romans 10: 13-15, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? . . ."

If there was no responsibility placed on the preacher, then he would never have been called or sent. It is not only the missionary which is sent. Everyone called of God is sent. If he fails to qualify, he may not be chosen. Jacob wrote concerning this.

Book of Mormon 168: 19, 20, "And we did magnify our office unto the Lord, taking upon us the responsibility, answering the sins of the people upon our own heads, if we did not teach them the word of God with all diligence;

"Wherefore, by laboring with our mights, their blood might not come upon our garments; otherwise, their blood would come upon our garments, and we would not be found spotless at the last day."

We find according to the above reading, that accepting an ordination to represent God is one of the most serious responsibilities that a man can take. He must work diligently if he would keep his garments free from sin. Matthew records an example in this account of when Jesus called Peter and Andrew. This was before he called His Apostles.

Matthew 4: 20, "And they straightway left their nets, and followed him." They did not say, "When you get ready to ordain me an Apostle, I will start my work of qualifying." No. They started qualifying themselves right away. It is the same today. Whether a man is called to be a Teacher, a Priest or an Elder, when that call comes, it is because the Lord has use for him in that work, then. And he must straightway start qualifying himself for that work whereunto he is called.

The lack of proper qualification on the part of some of those who are called, has brought about the condition foretold in the writings of Nephi.

Book of Mormon 154: 16, 17, ". . . They have all gone astray, save it be a few, who are humble followers of Christ; Nevertheless, they are led, that in many instances they do err, because they are taught by the precepts of men." The precepts of men have no place mixed with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The time is at hand for the fulfilling of the admonition found in Isaiah 51: 7-9, "Harken unto me, ye that

know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings.

"For the moth shall eat them up like a garment, and the worm shall eat them like wool: but my righteousness shall be forever, and my salvation from generation to generation.

"Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the Lord; awake, as in ancient days, in the generations of old. . . ."

No one should be able to know better the law of the Lord; no one should know better the law of righteousness; no one should know better the reproach of men; and no one has more cause to be afraid of the revilings of men than those who have heard and accepted the gospel of Jesus Christ which has been restored in these latter days. But, the admonition is to awake, and put on the strength that is supposed to be theirs and to be the arm of the Lord. That arm which He will use to do His work.

We have learned that the king of the north will go forth under the influence of the abomination of desolation which is the most evil of all secret combinations on the earth. We believe that is what Moroni was referring to when he wrote the admonition to the Gentiles, Book of Mormon 734: 98.

"Wherefore the Lord commandeth you, when ye shall see these things come among you, that ye shall awake to a sense of your awful situation, because of this secret combination which shall be among you, or wo be unto it, because of the blood of them who have been slain; for they cry from the dust for vengeance upon it, and also upon those who build it up.

For it cometh to pass that whoso buildeth it up, seeketh to overthrow the freedom of all lands, nations and countries."

If we awake to a sense of our awful situation, we will not only desire the cleansing of the earth but will desire a cleansing of the church as well. If the land is cleansed, it will be an enjoyable place to live on. If the church is cleansed, the gifts and blessings of God will flow freely. With these two things accomplished, how wonderful life would be.

There has been a time appointed for the cleansing of the sanctuary or church. It will take place in the last end of the Lord's indignation. The Lord is indignant because His Kingdom on earth and His earthly creation, are receiving unworthy and unjust treatment. Let us see if we can determine when the sanctuary is to be cleansed.

Daniel 8:13-14, "Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?

"And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed."

We are interested primarily, in the cleansing of the

sanctuary. We can see that it is to be at a time appointed. A certain year has been determined in which this cleansing is to begin. Let us see if we can determine about when that year will be. First let us consider something that should clear our minds on this matter. The sanctuary must first be on earth and become impure before there would be any cause for it to be cleansed.

The Church was restored over 130 years ago. The same ordinances were established that were in the Church which Christ instituted when He told them what they would have to do to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. If it was the Kingdom of Heaven then, it is now.

If the church, the sanctuary and the kingdom of heaven are the same thing and if it was to be cleansed in the latter days, then surely Christ would have spoken of it some where in His teachings or the foretelling of the sign which would proceed His coming.

Matthew 13:40-41, "As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

"The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity."

This is to take place "In the end of this world." In the end would be during the time of the end. We notice, the Lord is going to use His angels, the same as in the second and third chapters of Revelation. These angels are going to gather out of His kingdom. If it was something the Lord wanted in His kingdom, He would have had it gathered into it. But this is being gathered out.

He is having gathered out, all things that offend. We found in the writings of Nephi that in the latter days some of the humble followers of Christ will err because they are taught by the "precepts of men." This would offend Christ, therefore the things that offend which are to be gathered out of Christ's kingdom, are the "precepts of men."

Most people understand what a doer of iniquity is, but they usually are thought of as someone outside of the church or kingdom. An evildoer would be considered a worker of iniquity. Let us look at those which do iniquity who will be gathered out.

Matthew 24:48-51, "But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My Lord delayeth his coming;

"And shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken;

"The Lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of,

"And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

This shows us that being a member of the kingdom and even being considered a servant is not sufficient. Our conduct in all things must meet with the approval

of our Master. There is no doubt that some will be gathered out that man may have believed would be left in, and some will be left in that man may have believed would have been gathered out. We are fortunate that we have such an all-wise Judge who will determine who goes out and who stays in the kingdom:

Now let us turn our thoughts once more to the time appointed for the cleansing of the sanctuary. The answer given to Daniel was 2300 days. If we apply the measuring rod in Ezekiel 4:6, of a day for a year, we will have 2300 years. This doesn't mean much to us unless we have a point or a year to start our reckoning from.

Daniel 8:2-7, "And I saw in a vision; and it came to pass, when I saw, that I was at Shushan in the palace, which is in the province of Elam; and I saw in a vision, and I was by the river of Ulai.

"Then I lifted up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there stood before the river a ram which had two horns: and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher came up last.

"I saw the ram pushing westward, and northward, and southward; so that no beast might stand before him, neither was there any that could deliver out of his hand; but he did according to his will, and became great.

"And as I was considering, behold, a he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground: and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes.

"And he come to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing before the river, and ran unto him in the fury of his power.

"And I saw him come closer unto the ram, and he was moved with choler against him, and smote the ram, and brake his two horns: and there was no power in the ram to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground, and stamped upon him: and there was none that could deliver the ram out of his hand."

We will find out first who the ram was. Verse 20, "The ram, which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia."

Next we find out who the goat was. Verse 21, "And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king."

Now let us find out when the battle took place between Media-Persia and Grecia. Alexander the Great was the first king of the Grecian Empire. Speaking of him, the Funk and Wagnalls New Standard Encyclopedia has this to say, vol. 1, page 233, "In the spring of 334 (B.C.) he crossed the Hellespont with 35,000. At the river Granicus in Northwest Asia Minor, near the ancient Troy, he attacked a Persian force of 20,000 cavalry and 20,000 Greek mercenaries under Memnon. He defeated them with a loss of only 110; after this all the states of Asia Minor submitted."

We find from the above reading that the battle between Media-Persia and Grecia did take place as foretold it would. It took place on the banks of a river the

same as where the ram was standing when he was attacked by the goat. Greece, the he goat made the attack as Daniel prophesied he would. It was a decisive battle, bringing about the complete defeat of the Media-Persian Empire. It took place in the year 334 B.C.

It appears that the year 334 B.C. would be our starting point for the beginning of the 2300 year period. Let us examine this and see what date in history it will give us.

2300 Years. Then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.
-334 B.C. Battle between Grecia and Media-Persia.

1966 A.D. Cleansing of the sanctuary to take place.

This cleansing of the sanctuary will bring about perfection in the Church of Christ. Isaiah speaks of it in this way: Isaiah 18:5, "For afore the harvest, when the bud is perfect, and the sour grape is ripening in the flower, he shall both cut off the sprigs with pruning hooks, and take away and cut down the branches."

We notice in this reading that the bud has become perfect. The "Bud" is an organization on the vine of the restoration movement, which has never come to the blooming stage until just before the harvest. The sour grape is another organization on the same vine, which has bloomed and soured. The sprigs are the iniquitous individuals who will be gathered out of Christ's kingdom. The branches are the precepts of men that some individuals will stubbornly hang on to.

I Peter 4:17-18, "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?"

"And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinners appear."

If our deductions be correct as to the time of the cleansing of the sanctuary, then there is no time to be wasted. We can see that when this cleansing shall come, we as individuals will be judged as to whether we are worthy to stay in the kingdom of God or whether we will be among those who will be gathered out. Just because we are members of a certain church organization will not be sufficient, we must individually qualify before God.

ETERNAL LIFE

By Larry Shaw

Christ came to earth to bring life more abundant. He gave us a plan whereby we might achieve life eternal. In John 3:16 we read: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Roy L. Smith said, "It should be no more difficult to believe in eternal life than to understand how it all began." But there is a lot involved in the word, "believe." Just believing isn't enough—if I'm to preach

the gospel as we have been commanded—my life should be a sermon illustrating what I teach. It has been said: "Good actions are the hinges on the door to heaven."

Some people believe that the promise of eternal life is a poor reason for a Christian to live a good life.

That may be true to a degree but what should be our motivating force? What do we hope to gain by Christian living? Many sociologists, psychologists, and intelligent people the world over, agree that the principles laid down by Christ are the finest men can live by to achieve the greatest happiness and personal satisfaction. That may be hard for some people to believe when they are engaged in living the life of physical pleasures and find it hard to understand spiritual security. But God expects us to have faith. We are told blessed are they who have seen Christ and believed but more blessed are they who have but received the witnesses of Christ and still believed. You and I are in that category—and our degree of blessing is in ratio with the degree to which we have accepted God's word.

How are these words related: Heaven, hell, eternity, immortality and paradise? Eternity is time without end in which it is possible for us to live everlastingly. Immortality is the state or condition in which we will live. Heaven and Hell in their degrees will be where we spend eternity. Paradise according to the Scriptures is the place of waiting before the judgment. And what about everlasting life? We are caught up in everlasting life the moment we are conceived. It isn't a gift or a promise, but a condition.

A man I was talking to recently, expressed the thought that he wondered if Heaven was worth working for since the Scriptures taught it was a place where there would be no families, no marriage or giving in marriage, etc. He said it would be alien to him and that he was perfectly satisfied and happy on earth with his family, loved ones, job activities, etc. But the point is that whether he is aware of it, likes it, or is interested or not, he is still involved in eternal life.

There are certain conditions which must be fulfilled in our quest for eternal life. We will be judged according to the way we have lived. Some people think that the gospel is a little too hard to live up to and that God will be lenient with them as earthly parents are—but not so, I believe every soul will have the opportunity to hear and know the gospel and it is up to him whether he obeys or not. If he does not he will be punished accordingly. To what degree I don't know—nor is it my business to know—some day I may find out the hard way.

From an article by Leon Gould in the October Advocate I read: "Wittingly or unwittingly we are each building our spiritual structure for eternity whether we know it or not; whether we desire to do so or not; whether intentionally, or unintentionally and to us as individuals the results of that building unintentionally are unavoidable. And it behooves us to beware how we build."

The question is where, and under what conditions will we spend eternity. The Scriptures teach that there is such a thing as spiritual death—but the opportunity to live eternally is had by every person.

Is it necessary that all men should be perfect in order to participate in eternal life? I quote John: "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God and there is none perfect—no not one." But Paul said we should go on unto perfection. And eternal life is available to all men.

I close with this thought. Everlasting life, eternity, and heaven are not to be looked on as rewards but as the natural effect of a religious life.

EXCERPTS FROM SERMON

By Elder Vance Harris

(Colorado Reunion 1958)

You may expect to hear a great deal about finances from me as a representative of the bishopric. I need not tell you how to pay or how much to pay. If you read your books you can determine it. A man who is converted will pay tithes. If you still have questions about it get down on your knees and ask the one who is able to answer all things.

"Wherefore, if a man have faith, he must needs have hope; for without faith there cannot be any hope. And again, behold I say unto you, that he can not have faith and hope, save he shall be meek and lowly of heart; if so, his faith and hope are vain, for none is acceptable before God, save the meek and lowly of heart; and if a man be meek and lowly in heart, and confesses by the power of the Holy Ghost, that Jesus is the Christ, he must needs have charity; for if he have not charity he is nothing; wherefore he must needs have charity. And charity suffereth long, and is kind and envieth not, and is not puffed up, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, and rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things; wherefore, my beloved brethren, if ye have not charity, ye are nothing, for charity never faileth. Wherefore, cleave unto charity, which is the greatest of all, for all things must fail; but charity is the pure love of Christ, and it endureth forever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with them. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love which he hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of His Son Jesus Christ, that ye may become the sons of God, that when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is, that we may have this hope, that we may be purified even as he is pure." Moroni 7:48-53.

If we understand this Gospel we must have something to help us, and this charity spoken of is the thing that will help. You are going to have to do some seeking to try to find out what is expected of you. Have we really accepted Christ? Does it show in our lives?

Christ came to this world and told mankind that he was the light and the way. He was crucified but he left man to carry on his work. Soon, however, deviations crept in, changes came until now there are 2,000 variations in church structure in the United States.

In 1830 a witness was brought forth to aid us. We are unfortunate in that some have tampered with both records. The churches of the Restoration have received some so-called revelations not in accord with Scripture. Though we claim to be the remnant of the true church, mistakes have crept in. We have a Conference each year and we legislate and legislate till we have more legislation than we need for all our civil governments. Here in this reunion we can get down on our knees and commune with the Lord.

We are given the right to think for ourselves. Not all of us will see things in the same way. We must maintain a feeling of charity towards one another. God can show us the way if we go to him on our knees. We must learn tolerance for those who believe differently.

Jesus counseled his disciples with these words, "Let not your heart be troubled: Ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Fathers' house are many mansions: if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you . . . And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me." In the book of Mosiah we are given further instruction: "Believe in God; believe that he is, and that he created all things, both in heaven and in earth; believe that he has all wisdom, and all power, both in heaven and in earth; believe that man doth not comprehend all things which the Lord can comprehend."

If we believe the Scriptures, how about doing what they say? If we do not believe, how about trying to find out?

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

Eternal Spirit, we pause to thank Thee for sunshine, wind and rain; for wide-bosomed seas and the everlasting hills; for high sailing clouds and clear shining stars; for springing flowers and tall, stately trees; for lakes and streams and all waters.

Help us to drink to the full the beauty and strength of the world and to know they come as gifts of love from Thee to be enjoyed by all men.

We thank Thee for the sacrament of life; for its great adventure and glorious opportunities; for its zeal, its triumphs; for the failures that test us; for the pains and sorrows that spur us on; for the unfulfilled desires which goad us on.

Teach us to know and value the sacrament of all life and so to sense the brotherhood of all mankind that we may realize the folly of haughtiness, of contempt, of superiority.

Help us to forge those links that bind us close to the needs of fellow life and hence to Thee, we pray. Amen.

—Maeterlinck.

". . . A MORE EXCELLENT WAY."

(I Cor. 12:31)

At a recent Gem and Mineral Show, the crowd was so large we could hardly get to the counters on which the beautiful gems were displayed. But the struggle was well worth the effort. I had never before seen such an array of beautiful gems. It took a lot of careful and patient work to bring out the beauty of the once ugly rocks.

There are many millions of rocks scattered over the earth and to the untrained eye they look very much alike. But there is a difference. Those which cut and polish into really valuable gems are very rare. Those which can be worked into semi-precious gems are more numerous. Many others can be cut and polished into beautiful stones. Even common river rocks are beautiful when polished.

There are millions of rocks that will not polish at all. They are too soft. They cannot stand the strain which the lapidary exerts upon them so they crumble and fall to pieces.

God likened men to rocks when He said, ". . . They shall be mine in that day when I make up my jewels."

He is speaking to those people who will stand the stress and strain which the Master Lapidary exerts upon them—those who possess the stability to polish into rare jewels.

All will not attain the high quality of rare jewels, but those who love God, to Him, become jewels and precious stones.

The great difference between men and rocks is the fact that a rock has no power to act. A rare gem can lie unnoticed forever and be just a rock. But we as men and women, boys and girls, created in the image of God, have the agency and power to act. By the grace of God, we are our own lapidary and have the power to create within ourselves a beautiful and worthwhile life that we might become jewels in the sight of God. It is determined by our own individual actions and personal righteousness whether or not we become jewels reflecting the light of God, or like soft decomposed granite crumble into dust.

In the 10th chapter of I Cor., Paul said, "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and did all eat the same spiritual meat; and did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Neither be ye idolators as were some of them; as it is written, the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." I Cor. 10:1-7.

The idolators of whom he spoke, melted gold and made golden calves which they bowed before and

worshipped. But in our day, money, houses, cars, television, sports and many other things which we allow to dominate our time and thoughts can be just as much an idol as a golden calf.

Paul cited this example, ". . . the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." Their only thoughts were of eating, drinking and entertainment, instead of the more important things of life. Today there are more empty seats in the churches than in the theaters. The big advertisers go after the Sunday evening spots on T. V. because of the large viewing audiences. So we can assume a great many people prefer entertainment to God.

Paul continued, "Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. Now all these things happened to them for ensamples: and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." I Cor. 10:8-12.

We cannot continue to eat, drink and be merry, tempting Christ, and ignoring our duty to God and fool anybody—especially God. We cannot continue to contend like spoiled children over the gifts of the gospel which God has so graciously promised us and escape the danger of falling. So we should be careful of thinking too much of ourselves lest we fall.

Some one said, "There is nothing easier than not to write a book." It is just as easy to do nothing about our Christian duties. We cannot expect other people, or God, to do our work for us. When a person does nothing about his religion he allows his privilege to be a citizen of the Kingdom of God to lapse. Gradually he loses possession of his religious life.

The soul must be fed by Christian activities and association which glorify God or it will starve for lack of nourishment.

Again Paul said, "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken of by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; how can we escape if we neglect so great salvation . . .?" Heb. 2:1-3.

How shall we escape? Only by living strictly according to the Gospel of Christ, and by paying our every obligation to God—and man.

The starting point is the place where we now stand. Not some place in the dim, dead past, nor some day in the future, but now—today.

Solomon said, "In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil." Prov. 3:6-7.

Acknowledge Him in everything we do or think.

Do not leave Him out of anything. Make Him a living part of our lives.

Christ came into the world as a perfect jewel that He might reflect the light of God to all people. By following His example of living, and obedience to the laws of God, we too, might reflect some of God's light to those with whom we come in contact.

We are like many stones in the great "tumble polisher of God", going round and round and around, rubbing against our fellow beings. Each time we come in contact with our neighbor a little roughness wears off. Our service adds a little polish to him, and it also adds luster to our own soul. The greater and more constant our service to others the nearer to perfection we come.

God doesn't expect us to be perfect. But he does expect us to set perfection as our ultimate goal. He expects us to conduct our lives in such a manner that we are continually progressing toward perfection.

In considering new methods of rating industrial employees it was brought out that in the past they had been rated one against the other. They should have been rated against the job to be done. There is no point for us, in the service of God, to rationalize our failures by comparing what I do against what you do. The real issue is for each of us to rate ourselves against the job to be done. Rate what we have done in comparison with what we could do.

The final rating ". . . . In that day when God makes up His jewels" will not be whether others have failed to do more than I, but what use I have made of my talents, and how did I take advantage of my opportunities to serve God and my fellowmen.

E. J. M.

A DOZEN WAYS TO KILL AN ORGANIZATION

1. Don't go to any of the meetings.
2. But if you go, go late.
3. If the weather doesn't suit you, don't think of going.
4. If you do attend, find fault with the work of the officers and members.
5. Never accept an office. It is much easier to criticize than to do things.
6. Get sore if you are not appointed on a committee. Should you be appointed, don't attend any of the meetings.
7. If you are asked your opinion on some matter, tell the chairman you have nothing to say. After the meeting is over, tell everyone how it should be done.
8. Do nothing more than is absolutely necessary. When others roll up their sleeves and unselfishly use their ability to help matters along, howl that the organization is run by a clique.
9. Hold back your dues as long as possible, or don't pay them at all.
10. Make no effort to get new members.

11. Don't be sociable either within or outside of the organization.

12. If you should get a good idea, smother it at once.

—The Right Hand.

THE LEHI STONE

Among the many stones, or stelae, with religious carvings, that have been found in Middle American areas, there is one that is of great interest to all Book of Mormon students. This is a "Tree of Life" carving, discovered by Dr. Matthew W. Stirling in 1941. Dr. Jakeman, of the Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, has made a most interesting interpretation of the stone, which is a carving 8 feet high and 5 feet wide.

Similar Tree of Life carvings were known in Mesopotamia. But this particular stone has different characteristics. Dr. Jakeman says this stone could well be the story of Lehi's vision. You will recall the "Rod of Iron" vision which Lehi told to his family while they were traveling in the wilderness.

I saw a plaster cast of this carving at Brigham Young University last summer. There is the growing tree, with its fruit as described by Lehi. Dr. Stirling described a river of water on the stone, and it is plainly discernible. A straight line, running to the tree. . . . the rod of iron? And a thin line that could be the narrow path.

Although there are various symbolic figures, there seems to be principally six mortal ones. Among them is an old man with a beard, facing the tree, apparently speaking to the others. A young man seems to be recording what is said, for he holds what could be a stylus, and has before him on the ground a rectangular object, no doubt a plate of metal, or tablet. Another figure holds a sort of parasol over the head of the one holding the stylus. A similar figure, wearing a bead necklace, is holding a standard above the head of the old man. Two figures lean against the tree, backs to it, also seated. (The brothers who rejected the vision?)

Dr. Jakeman has written a detailed study of this carving which may be ordered from the archaeology department, Brigham Young University . . . Stela 5 Izapa, Chiapas, Mexico.: A Major Archaeological Discovery of the New World. 1958. \$2.00 per copy.

These are wonderful, if awesome days in which we live, as we see many of the mysteries of ancient America unfolding, to tell us more of the story of our Book of Mormon peoples.

There is the story of the young man who was cast ashore on the eastern Yucatan coast. Miraculously, he was able to make his way along the coast, discovering many previously unknown ruins of a great civilization. Others in Maya countries are coming to light frequently.

Among the largest group of ruins, are those being explored by Brigham Young University archaeology students in Campeche. These are remains of a huge

walled city, which may well have been Bountiful as local names translate to this meaning, and there are many similarities to Book of Mormon descriptions of that great city.

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1132 Aztec Road N. W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico

"LITTLE CHILDREN, LOVE ONE ANOTHER"

There was once a city wherein were to be found treasures so great that just to look upon them made of the inhabitants of that city a better people, full of the real meaning of life, more loving toward each other, and kindly disposed to all living creatures. But such a bright light radiated from these treasures that there were some who fell away because they could not stand such brilliance.

There were some to whom it was most precious and they said, "We must build a wall to protect our treasures. We will then mount the wall and become watchmen to guard this treasure." Some servants built a moat outside the wall because the watchmen found that indeed there were even imposters who sought to add clever baubles which caught reflections from the real gems and seemed beautiful but their rays were found to be deadly! But the people wanted these baubles because they served to reduce the searching glare of the brilliant gems.

The servants who saw these things happening began to run in a frenzied manner atop the wall. There was a confusion of voices shouting warning. Indeed, so frenzied did their running and shouting become that the people watched in amazement! No single voice was distinguishable. The curious sound became much as the oceans roar—majestic perhaps, but meaningless and disturbing! Occasionally a servant lost his footing and plunged into the moat. The other servants paused momentarily to watch his struggles and say, "Ha, I knew he would do that! He didn't heed my warning!"

There was an old man who was so very feeble that he had to be carried about. He possessed much wisdom. He could see the baubles and their deadly rays; but he could remember also the brilliance of the treasures. He could remember how just looking upon their purity and beauty flooded one's very soul with love and kindness. He asked to be carried about among the people because he had a message that would cure all ills. Because of the frenzied shouting the feeble old man had difficulty making himself heard; but as the people near him caught the message they began to say, "S-ssh! S-ssh! This man has something to say!"

The frenzied shouting little by little subsided and eventually the people stood silently with tears streaming down their cheeks. The still, small voice was saying, "Little children love one another." Suddenly their eyes were clear and they watched in amazement as the baubles were consumed by the fire from the genuine gems of their treasures.

Note: This is fiction. The only truth in it is the quiet, simple message which can still work miracles if applied. The treasures? We may find them if we can bear the sight!

Irene Maley.

NEW PROHIBITION LAW

"By 1965 or 1970, there will be a new law prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors," declares Dr. Andrew C. Ivy, head of the Department of Clinical Sciences at the University of Illinois. "Because," the eminent Dr. Ivy continues, "alcoholics are on the increase. One out of nine persons who drink becomes an alcoholic, which at the present rate of increase will occur from 1965 to 1970, the people will revolt, and the traffic will be voted out." He divides the United States roughly into three groups: 1. The 40 million abstainers. 2. The 8 million alcoholics (the worst advertising the liquor industry has.) 3. The 52 million Americans who are now moderate drinkers. The last group are the people who are the real problem.. They are "on the way" and setting a devastating example before their children."

There are about 500,000 Americans dying each year from alcoholism, according to Dr. Ivy, but there are 200,000 new ones over and above the number who die. Until educators allow complete scientific facts about alcohol to be given to America's youth, this country faces a moral, social, economical and political crisis of devastating proportions. I regard total abstinence as the sensible, clear-cut attitude to be adopted by everyone who believes in the greatness and beauty of life."

Sunshine Magazine.

LOCAL NEWS

Collins, Missouri

Sunday, July 8th was a red-letter day for us here in Collins. Andrew Wendel Martin and Laura Mae Martin, son and daughter of Jack and Betty Martin, recently from California, were baptized on that day. It was a beautiful service—the background of the spiritual climax of the rebirth of these two sincere young people, was a fresh green outdoor spot chosen for the ceremony. Across the shady pool in the quiet secluded spot, rose a rugged grey stone cliff as a back drop. The only sound breaking the silence of the tree lined stream was the song of birds and the occasional hum of insects. Mother Nature seemed to add her benediction of beauty to the sacredness of the occasion. Elder Joe Yates officiated in the baptism. Confirmation was by Bro. Yates and Bro. Anderson.

Adding to the pleasure of the day was our association with our special visitors from the Independence Local, Brother and Sister Wm. Anderson and Brother Roland Sarratt. Brother Roland visits here in Collins quite often but we were especially glad to see him this time for it gave us opportunity to tell him how happy we are for him in his recent decision to be baptized.

Brother Anderson baptized him recently at the Temple Lot Church in Independence. He always did seem like one of the family to us here but even doubly so now. Other visitors within the past month have been Bro. and Sister Dick Wheaton and family, Bro. and Sr. Kidd, and Betty Martin—all from Independence Locals.

Bro. Anderson was our speaker after the Sunday School and baptismal service. It was a real pleasure to hear him once again. We discovered that his ability to preach the Gospel has only increased, even though his physical powers and his eyesight have greatly decreased with the years. We marvel at his accuracy in quoting Scripture from memory and at his keenness of intellect in spite of his 91 years! In this lighter vein we pass on a little poem sent to Bro. Anderson by W. E. Welsh of Columbus. It was signed: Selected—By W. E. Welsh.

I AIN'T DEAD YET

My hair is white and I'm almost blind,
The days of my youth are far behind.
My neck's so stiff, can't turn my head,
Can't hear half that's being said.
My legs are wobbly, can hardly walk,
But glory be, I can surely talk.
And this is the message I want you to get,
I'm still a kickin'—I ain't dead yet.
My joints are stiff, won't move in their sockets,
And nary a dime is left in my pockets.
So, maybe you think I'm a total wreck;
To tell the truth, I look like heck.
But still I have loads of fun,
And my heart with joy is overrun.
I've lots of friends, so kind and sweet,
And many more, I never meet.
Oh! this is a wonderful world of ours,
Shade and sunshine and beautiful flowers;
So, you just take it from me, you bet,
I'm glad I'm livin'—and not dead yet.
I go to Church and Sunday School, too,
For I love the story that is ever new.
And when I reach the end of my row,
I hope to my Heavenly Home I'll go.
Then when I leave my house of clay,
If you listen closely, I'm apt to say,
"Well folks, I've left you, but don't forget,
I've just passed on, but I ain't dead yet."

—Selected by W. E. Welsh.

But I would not miss the most important part—the context of his message. I report some of the ideas as I remember them at this late date.

The most important part in the "redemption of Zion" is personal righteousness, we were told, and he paraphrased Christ when he said, that unless your righteousness exceed the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees, you cannot see the Kingdom of Heaven—by saying, that unless our personal righteousness ex-

ceeds the righteousness of other religious groups, we shall not see the Kingdom of Heaven.

He said he didn't worry so much about the great calamities coming on the earth, as he did about the condition in the lives of the saints. Why do we shy away from the idea or thought of being perfect? and say it is impossible—for we are told, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Perfection is possible and it should be our aim.

He quoted the Beatitudes, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God" . . . etc. Saying we are not pure in heart when he have enmity or hate for a brother.

He emphasized the fact that we should study to show ourselves approved of God. And he gave special instruction to the newly baptized members, cautioning them that baptism was but the first step and just the beginning of the hard work of becoming a good Christian.

We were admonished to be "lively stones" in the work of the Lord, and to put God's work **first** and place the importance of our "little sealed homes" in second place.

It was also a pleasure to us all to see Metta Anderson looking so well after her recent illness.

E. M. C.

THIS HOUR IS MINE

I know not what this day may bring,
Or to what end it may incline,
But present time is all I need—
This hour is mine.

This hour is one that I must fill
With promise, courage, faith, and hope,
And seeking, I shall find the light
For which I grope.

There may be many years ahead
In which to grasp their hidden dower,
But I must live as if this were
My one last hour.

—Agnes Davenport Bond.

"Behind every advance of the human race is a germ of creation growing in the mind of some lone individual. An individual whose dreams waken him in the night while others lie contentedly asleep."

Crawford H. Greenewalt.

GIFTS

"The best thing to give to your enemy is forgiveness; to a customer, service; to an opponent, tolerance; to a friend, your heart; to your child, a good example; to a father, reverence; to your mother, conduct that will make her proud of you; to yourself, respect; to all men, charity." The Right Hand.

REUNION NOTICE

The Puryear, Tennessee Reunion will be held at the Local Church of Christ located on Foundry Hill, approximately two miles south of Puryear, Tennessee. The dates are set for the 31st of August 1st and 2nd of September. The third being a holiday will give those needing traveling time a day to get back home. We urge all interested parties to contact Mrs. R. R. Robertson, or Elder T. W. Paschall, both of Route 2, Puryear, Tennessee, for further information if needed, also that preparations may be made for lodging. If anyone has a tent please bring the same so we shall have it on hand if needed.

All are welcome to worship with us. Let us prepare our minds and our hearts for a spiritual feast and I am sure our Father in Heaven will supply our every need.

We ask those of you who cannot attend to please be with us at the appointed time in spirit, praying for the success of our Reunion. Thank you, and may God pour out a blessing upon all His people.

(Ed. Note: The author of this notice forgot to sign his name—but the information speaks for itself.)

"Fellow citizens, we cannot escape history. We will be remembered in spite of ourselves. No personal significance or insignificance can spare one or another of us. The fiery trial through which we pass will light us in honor or dishonor to the latest generation."

—Abraham Lincoln.

THE LIGHTHOUSE

A lonely sentinel on the rocks
Absorbing the ocean's mighty shocks,
Standing alert—through wind and rain
Warning the sailor of rocky terrain.
Flashing a signal for ALL to see
Whether on land—or on the sea.
A bullwark of strength for the man at the wheel
Something to go by—living and real.
To guide him past the treacherous shoals
That lie in wait for helpless souls.
The lighthouse stands—aloof and alone
Doing a job—in a world of its own.

And as the lighthouse throws its ray
To guide the sailor on his way,
Another light—far more intense
Guides man toward his recompense.
Reward that far exceeds his worth
For what he did while here on earth.
But—that's the way with God above
If we—BUT TRY—to earn His love.
Like the lighthouse on the shore
He'll guide His people evermore,
Keeping them off the treacherous shoals
And helping them to save their souls.

Written by: Harry S. Tordoff
Church of Christ, Cranston, R. I.

Henry Jensen
288 Benton
Council Bluffs, Iowa

CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

Send all orders to: Church of Christ (Temple Lot), Box 472, Independence, Missouri.

Table with 2 columns: Publication Title and Price Each. Includes items like Book of Commandments—Paper Cover, Book of Commandments—Leatherette, Outline Church History, Book of Mormon—Missionary Edition, Book of Mormon—Cloth Binding, Book of Commandments Controversy Reviewed.

There are a few Books of Mormon available in Morocco leather binding. Please write for price.

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.

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.

Table with 2 columns: Publication Title and Price Each. Includes items like Primary, Vol. 1, No. 1, Childhood of Jesus, Primary, Vol. 1, No. 2, Jesus' Ministry, Primary, Vol. 1, No. 3, Jesus' Ministry cont't., Primary, Vol. 1, No. 4, Life of Jesus, Sunday School Record Book, Records of the Bible, Records of the Book of Mormon, History and Religion—Chart.