

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.

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Storms

A storm, whether it be physical or spiritual, is always a challenge; and there is something in the heart that rises up to meet it.

No other kind of occasion calls it forth. Storms rend and mar; but they strengthen, they build, and they may bring forth serene and changeless beauty.

We are prone to lament that the world is not better. Yet the fact that it is full of trouble affords us our only chance to spend our hearts. And it is not in times and places of peace that we find our heroes and heroines. A time of prosperity is a dangerous time; the soul loafis and grows fat. Times of storms and peril are the ones that show what we are made of. Loss and grief are always life's summonses to us to be great.

—Archibald Rutledge.

CONTENTS

Editorial	Page 34	Local News (Colorado)	Page 42
What Should We Believe?	Page 35	Local News (Arizona)	Page 43
The Truth Shall Make You Free.....	Page 37	"The Living Water"—"The Bread of Life" ..	Page 43
A Seer	Page 38	Is Christianity A Failure?	Page 45
Book Review	Page 39	A Testimony	Page 46
A More Excellent Way	Page 40	What Shall I Do To Be Saved?.....	Page 47
Attention Ladies	Page 41	Appreciation	Page 48

ZION'S ADVOCATE

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EDITORIAL

As the month of April approaches, and Conference time draws near, it is time for us to take stock of ourselves. It is time to re-assess our conception of Christian values, and understanding of Gospel laws. It is time to determine whether or not we, you and I, measure up to the requirements of citizenship in the Kingdom of God, that we may exercise the privileges of that citizenship in carrying out the business of the Kingdom in accordance to the will of God, and not of man.

We believe, or claim to believe, in spiritual guidance. Are we the **only ones** so guided? Are all others misguided?

We believe, or claim to believe, in the spirit of truth? Do we use our **own** yardstick to measure that truth?

We believe, or claim to believe, in prayer and the answer to prayer. Are our prayers the only ones worthy of consideration and answer? Do we always recognize the answer when it comes?

We believe, or claim to believe, in freedom of speech. Do we use that freedom as a license to destroy all who do not see eye to eye with us? Does that freedom give us the liberty to speak harshly of and to one another and thus engender strife?

The answer to these pointed questions any many others, just as pointed, that we should ask ourselves, will become apparent to all during our next General Conference.

In the library of my boyhood town, prominently displayed, this sign confronts all who enter: "Speak gently and let thy voice be low." Where this rule is practiced, strife and confusion can not exist—though differences of opinions may. In this atmosphere of gentleness and quiet, brotherly love flourishes and differences may be resolved or compromised to the satisfaction of all so minded.

Seneca said: "Speech is the index of the mind." It is also the index of the spiritual qualities of man. For only man has the God given ability to convey his

thoughts and emotions to others through the medium of speech; and out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh, for "as a man thinketh in his heart so is he."

Surely we are mature enough to know that each thing begets its own kind, that love begets love and grows best in an atmosphere of love. That hate begets hate and flourishes in the swamps of discord.

As General Conference time approaches, the prayers of the people will be for God to rule supreme in the hearts of those who attend. Can God rule where love is not?

Will we, you and I, who attend Conference, be prepared for that prayer to be answered in us? Or will we be like the people spoken of by Ezekiel: "and as for you, O son of man, your people are gossiping about you by the walls and in the doors of the houses, and speak one to another, every one to his brother, saying, come and hear what is the word that comes forth from the Lord.

"And the people come to you and sit before you, and they hear your words, but they will not do them, because their mouths are full of falsehood and they follow after the thoughts of their own hearts, and, lo, you are to them like a song and like a pleasant voice and like the sweet sound of a harp; for they hear your words, but they do them not." Ezek. 33:30-32. Lamsa translation.

Yes, you may be sure, these questions will be answered; and you and I, must bear our share of the responsibility for the answer. Are we yet babes, that must be fed on milk, or can we arise in the maturity of true Christian conduct and measure up to the fullness of the stature of our example and leader, who is Christ Jesus?

O. A. C.

TECHNIQUE FOR LIVING

(Quoted from the book "The Faith We Live" by Albert Edward Day, a Methodist minister).

When you go into a conference of any kind, do not go merely to argue for your ready-made opinions, or to combat the motions made by your opponents. Present your own judgment. Listen to the opposition. But hold both amendable to a higher argument, a greater truth than either of you possess.

These are simple procedures, but indispensable. You will be amazed at the results if you will give them a trial, amazed at the changes in your daily program, amazed at the way situations unravel for you, amazed to see how conferences become conferences and not mere debating societies, and how belligerent minds reach common conclusions . . . it works.

But even more important than the specific result is that the man who follows such a technique finds himself becoming flexible, more and more amenable to divine suggestions, more and more pliable in the divine hands, equipped to do creative thinking, and to become in his own sphere a "pioneer of life."

WHAT SHOULD WE BELIEVE?

By Don McIndoo

I am sure that many of us in times past have considered the conflicting ideas that we are confronted with in the world today, the many doctrines of the various churches, the ideas of men who would have us vote one way or the other, believe some form of government is better than another. We have all of us been made aware that there are difficulties within our own little church, concerning the beliefs one group would have us accept as contradictory to the beliefs that another would have us accept. But everywhere about us, as long as man has been here on earth, there have arisen the conquest, and the differences of opinions, ideas and doctrines, interpretations placed upon the Scriptures and upon the meaning of life, by men and women. Personally I feel that differences of opinion and contradictory material and ideas, cannot be labeled bad. We can't just say because there are differences of opinion, or ideas, that this is bad. In matter of fact it might well be that this is good.

As an illustration, we might use the examples of our own country, and its formation. Every one knows that we have been called the melting pot of the world. What does that mean? It means that from all over the world to this country came ideas and culture, and differences in believing, dressing, worshiping and working. And out of all this confusion, and difference, I believe that we can see that with the exchange of ideas we have developed here one of the greatest countries of the world. A country which is far more rich and abundant in life than any other country. And I say that one of the primary reasons for this richness and greatness and abundance, is this huge mass of chaotic conditions that existed here in the beginning. Men learned that with all these different ideas that we must have freedom and a free exchange of ideas.

Another example that we might use, a scientific one, is the example of our universe. Scientists have studied and theorized about the beginnings of our universe. We read in the Bible that in the beginning there was a void, there was nothing, there was confusion, and chaos, and indeed the scientists tell us that this condition did exist. One of the predominant theories of the creation of our universe, and our solar system, is that every bit of matter found in our universe today was condensed into a huge sphere of matter and all else was void. Indeed it was as the Bible says, "void". And then there was a terrific stellar explosion which caused all this matter to expand and get farther and farther apart, it kept on expanding until this universe was filled with cosmic dust and hot flaming gasses that later cooled and condensed into the universe that we have today. Out of this chaos, this confusion, there came an order, a beauty, that is unsurpassed. There came a set of laws that is unsurpassed.

And so I say that differences of opinion and what appears to be confusion of ideas is not in itself necessarily bad. But certainly conflicts of beliefs when they

come in the category of religious beliefs, when both sides believe they represent God's laws and God's words, then these conflicts can become confusing and can become all out of proportion to the position they should assume in our daily life. And a person who looks about him today at all these conflicting ideas, doctrines and beliefs, might well ask: "What shall we believe?"

What shall we believe? Certainly I can't in a few minutes even if I were able, tell you what we should believe. But I would like to take one aspect of what every Christian should believe, and develop that somewhat. There are certain things which we should know and believe, upon which our faith should be firm, and unshaken. If these things take predominance in our lives, then it is my contention that some of the conflicting ideas will assume their right proportion. Then rather than being a source of distress, fear and worry, these things will come out of chaos and assume order.

But what can we believe? Well one thing that we should believe is that there is a God who is the creator and author of all that is orderly and beautiful and that which we call law, whether it be physical, social or spiritual.

Secondly we should believe that this God is a personal being, one who loves his creation and is concerned about the people he has created. We should believe that He so loved the world that He sent His son to us, primarily to show mankind the way they live to have the greatest joy and abundance of life that is possible.

Finally and not least we should believe that through an extension of His Holy Spirit, the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, that this God who has a concern for us, is ever present in our lives, or can be when we so direct our thinking that we can accept the extension of His Spirit into our lives. These things we should believe and these things should be foremost in our beliefs. And as Paul has said, until we have come to a unity of faith concerning these things we will be like children, driven to and fro by every kind of doctrine. But when we come to a belief in unity in these four concepts, then we shall be no longer as these children.

Now from the very beginning of the history of people it seems that men and women have been sort of high minded creatures, filled with desires for themselves, considering their own importance and welfare first of all. Consequently, by the very nature of our being, mankind has been selfish. And because of this selfishness there has been wickedness and sin and a turning away from God. From the very first of man's relationship with the Almighty, when he first realized that there was a creator above him, he has been attempting to make God in his own image. We read in the Scriptures that we have been created in the image of God. But with a little examination of the history of people we see that we have created God after our own desires, our own image and have changed His words to suit our own needs, desires and shortcomings. We have been expounding God's law all the time and changing it to accord with our own desires and pre-

cepts. This is a sad commentary upon a religious group of people.

From the beginning of time however God has chosen men who were humble and not filled with their own needs and importance, men with faith and wisdom, and through these few men He has spoken His word. Yet the result of all this hasn't been very lasting in the lives of people. We have but to look at the history of the Israelite nation to realize that even when God spoke through His prophets and told them precisely what His will was, it took them but a few years or a generation at the most to alter his meanings and interpret them to fit their own needs. It is not a condemnation of the Jews only, but men everywhere, in every age do the same. What is worse, we don't have to stone the prophets, or drive them out of our land or kill them—we can just ignore them. We can just refuse to listen or we can say: "Oh yes I believe that, but this other I don't agree with." That is much more disastrous than stoning the prophet.

So from the very beginning then I say, men and women have been weaving a web of their own making that is so fine and strong that we are unable to escape. For an example; no one wanted World War II—every nation said we must do this to prevent it, and we had a League of Nations to prevent it, and no one wanted it and every day, unalterably we drew closer and closer to the conflict we said we were going to avoid. And it was inescapable from the very rise of Hitler's regime. We wove that web and couldn't escape from it. In our world today we are now engaged in a cold war that no one wants, and yet, we are being drawn tighter and tighter by the web of our own weaving to World War III. Only God knows, we pray not, but we hear people every where say that it is inevitable. It is so real in our mind that we are preparing right now for these events.

In our church today are we approaching a conflict, a difference of opinion that we are afraid is going to split our church? Are we afraid that this thing is going to grow out of all proportion and only that which is harmful result? In our own personal life do we have full control of our life? Do you have full control over your life? Are you the person you would like to be? Or do we often say: "I just can't help it." Now it all hinges on what we believe. The four precepts that I mentioned previously, about God and His Son and the Holy Spirit, will lead us to one important conviction. When we ask, what should we believe, well this is one thing we better believe—that with the help of our Heavenly Father, a man or a group of men, **can** control their destiny. We **can** control what we become, and we don't have to say: "We are trying Lord but we just can't help it. We tried to prevent World War II but it just happened, we tried not to have a Korean War, but it just happened, we were driven to it by circumstances, we try to be good but we just are not. We try to be Christians but we just fail. I tried to get along with my wife but I just couldn't. I tried to raise my

child right, but something happened, I just couldn't help it."

Are we in control of our destiny? Now this is one thing about which we **must** have a definite belief. We **must** believe that with the help of God we can rise above our human frailities.

If we believe in the promises of the Master we remember that He said, if you know the truth the truth will make you free. What does he mean by "free"? He means that we can be free from circumstances, free from sin, free from bondage, free from all the things that hold us down and tear us apart.

In St. John 9:1-8 we read the story of the man who was blind from birth and Jesus healed him. Was this man a victim of circumstances? By the gift of God he overcame what we would say was almost unsurmountable. His sight was restored in a day when a blind man's lot was one of begging. God is just as willing to do the same within this church, within this nation, as he is to heal the body when it is injured. So often it is easy to go to God with an injury of the body, but when it comes to that spiritual peception and understanding, the growth and change of the personality, then we are rather reluctant to go to God.

Another thing we must believe in is, CHANGE. We read in Ephesians 4:11-16 that the ministry was sent into the world—until we come to a unity of the knowledge of the Son of God unto a perfect man. We're not there now. We must believe in this principle of "change" and all too often we don't. The reason we should go to church is because we believe that we can be changed—that our life can be changed, our destiny can be changed. We are not the victims of our environment and heredity. We all have habits which are bad, we all say and do things which are wrong, many times we are impatient, with our wife, husband, children or classmates. Many of us are unconcerned about other people. Do we gossip about people, do we say things better left unsaid, do we use profanity, are we dishonest, are we content to say: "I can't help it, I can't change"? These things which make up our personality are the things God is concerned with. If we correct these things all the other things will correct themselves. We should be able to change every day of our life.

Are we able as Paul admonished us, to put on the new man, or are we chained to this old fellow, that we don't particularly like? The most important thing in our whole life is to change from the undesirable habits and attitudes that we have as human beings and seek after the better.

What should we believe? That through prayer and the opening of our minds to the Spirit of God, through constant effort and a desire and a determination, we as individuals and as a church, and as a nation, can become the Captains of our own souls.

"Knowledge comes from taking things apart but wisdom comes by putting things together."

—Author Unknown.

THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE

By Archie Bell

"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, if ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

Christ brought the word of truth to earth and enough of it to carry us to eternal life. One truth alone will not save us, one truth alone is not enough to base a whole life on.

To establish a truth there must be witnesses. A surveyor needs two witnesses to prove any given point. A law to become binding must have the President's signature as well as the sanction of the House or the Senate. In the mouth of two or three witnesses will all things be established. Matt. 18:16.

The Gospel was to be preached to all the world as a witness—and then shall the end come. Matt. 24:14. God has a definite plan, a time appointed that all things take place. He knew when the Jews would be scattered and when they would start to be gathered back to their home land. He knew when the gospel was to be restored to earth again in these last days. He has a plan for all these things. Many of His plans He has revealed to man many generations before they happened. To see these prophecies come true proves to us that God has truly revealed many of His secrets to man.

III Nephi 12:16-18: The people asked Jesus what they should call the Church and Jesus told them: "Have they not read the scriptures, which say, ye must take upon you the name of Christ, which is my name? for by this name shall ye be called at the last day; and whoso taketh upon him my name, and endureth to the end, the same shall be saved at the last day."

Ezek. 37:16-19 tells of the stick or book of Judah (the Bible) and the stick or book of Joseph, (the Book of Mormon). "And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes."

Psalms 85:11, says truth shall spring out of the earth. Isaiah 19:4, says speech shall whisper out of the earth. The Book of Mormon is literally a voice from the dust for it came from the ground and is a record of the voice of peoples who lived many years ago. Then in II Nephi 83-85 "their speech shall whisper out of the dust," and "the words of the righteous shall be written." etc. In the mouth of two or three witnesses will all things be established. The coming forth of the Book of Mormon and the Gospel is part of God's truth, part of His plan.

In Rev. 20:12, in speaking of the judgment it says the books shall be opened. The word books is plural and the Bible is but one book. One definition of the word, Bible is: "the sacred writings of any religion." In this sense, the Book of Mormon is also a Bible, for it is the sacred inspired writings of another people. God tells the same things to different nations and then the testimony to each come together and are added witnesses to establish His truth. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall all things be established.

From II Nephi 54:64:—"Have ye obtained a Bible, save it were by the Jews? Know ye not that there are more nations than one? Know ye not that I, the Lord your God, have created all men, and that I remember those who are upon the isles of the sea; and that I rule in the heavens above, and in the earth beneath; And I bring forth my word unto the children of man, yea, even upon all the nations of the earth? Wherefore murmur ye, because that ye shall receive more of my word: Know ye not that the testimony of two nations is a witness unto you that I am God, that I remember one nation like unto another. And when the two nations shall run together, the testimony of the two nations shall run together also. And I do this that I may prove unto many, that I am the same yesterday, today, and for ever; and that I speak forth my words according to mine own pleasure. And because that I have spoken one word ye need not suppose that I cannot speak another; for my work is not yet finished; neither shall it be, until the end of man; neither from that time henceforth and forever."

II Nephi 19-23, The purpose of the two testimonies is for the confounding of false doctrines and laying down of contentions and establishing peace. This has not been accomplished yet but it will.

God's truth will stand forever and be established in the mouth of two or three witnesses. Man cannot stay it and it will prosper unto what He has sent it.

Know the truth and the truth shall make you free. (From a sermon delivered in Phoenix, Ariz., October 13, 1957).

FACING INTO THE WIND

A renowned musician of other days made his own violins, executing them with painstaking skill and craftsmanship. To obtain his wood, he went out into the mountains, climbed a high cliff over looking the sea, and there carefully made his choice. He always selected a tree high above the waves, where the fierce hurricanes had beat upon it, toughening the wood and making it resistant. After choosing his tree, he cut the wood for his instrument from the side exposed to the mighty blasts rushing in from the sea, for he knew that this wood was seasoned for giving out the most beautiful music.

Men, too, are made ripe for harmony by facing into the winds—or else they are bowled over by the storm and cannot thereafter regain their footing. If they survive the blasts, their souls will sing a sweeter song than if they had not been buffeted by the winds of life.

—Leo Bennett.

"Unless we are superhuman, we seldom let a day pass without denouncing someone for something he has done—scandalous, outrageous! And yet, if we were in his shoes, if we had to walk in his path, if we were seeing life from his viewpoint, maybe we would do the same as he has done."

—Mildred Seydell.

A SEER

II Nephi 2:17-18, "But a seer will I raise up out of thy loins; and unto him will I give power to bring forth my word unto the seed of thy loins; AND NOT TO THE BRINGING FORTH OF MY WORD ONLY, saith the Lord, but to the CONVINCING THEM of my word, WHICH SHALL HAVE ALREADY GONE FORTH among them."

There is to be a seer, and he will bring forth Christ's words in the latter days. No only shall he bring it forth, but he shall CONVINCING them of the word which shall have already gone forth among them.

In the following chapters, we are told that the seed of Judah, and the seed of Joseph shall write, and what they shall write shall grow together. What for? For the confounding of false doctrine, and laying down of contention, and establishing peace, and bringing their seed to a knowledge of their fathers in the latter days; and also to a knowledge of the Lord's covenants. V. 21.

The books that have already gone forth among them are the Bible and Book of Mormon. Since THEY haven't put down contention and strife, nor have they brought peace, it couldn't mean the Book of Mormon. The seer is going to CONVINCING them of the word that has ALREADY GONE FORTH among them. In verse 24, "Out of weakness he shall be made strong, in that day when my work shall commence among ALL my people, unto restoring thee, O house of Israel, saith the Lord." Verse 25, "And thus prophesied Joseph, saying: Behold that seer will the Lord bless; Verse 27, "For this promise, of which I have obtained of the Lord, of the fruit of thy loins, shall be fulfilled."

Have you ever wondered about the next verse? Listen to what Lehi says, "Behold I (Lehi) am sure of the fulfilling of this promise. And his name shall be called after me; and it shall be after the name of his father." Verses 30 and 31, "And he shall be like unto me; for the thing which the Lord shall bring forth by his hand, by the power of the Lord shall bring my people unto salvation."

Lehi says, "Yea, thus prophesied Joseph, I am sure of this thing, even as I am sure of the promise of Moses: for the Lord hath said it unto me, I will prove thy seed for ever."

In the next five verses he is telling about the calling of Moses, that he shall have a spokesman, because he is not mighty in speaking. Verse 36, "And the Lord said unto me (Lehi) also, I will raise up unto the fruit of thy loins, and I will make for him a spokesman. And I, behold, I will give unto him, that he shall WRITE the writing of the fruit of thy loins, unto the fruit of thy loins; and the SPOKESMAN of thy loins shall declare it."

In the next several verses, it goes on to say that the fruit of his loins would cry from the dust, unto the fruit of his loins, that in their weakness they would be made strong in their faith, etc.

Remember, this whole chapter is Lehi, speaking to his son Joseph. Why did he tell little Joseph all this? Since little Joseph's seed was not to be utterly destroy-

ed, we know there is some of his seed still living. Verse 44 and on, "And now, behold, my son Joseph, after this manner did my father of old prophecy. Wherefore, BECAUSE OF THIS COVENANT THOU ART BLESSED: and thy seed shall not be destroyed, for they SHALL hearken unto the words of the book. And there shall raise up one mighty AMONG THEM, who shall do much good, both in word and in deed, being an instrument in the hands of God, with exceeding faith. To work mighty wonders, and do that thing which is great in the sight of God. Unto bringing to pass much restoration UNTO THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL, and unto the REST of the seed of thy brethren. And now, blessed art thou, Joseph."

As Joseph of old received his blessing, so now little Joseph received his blessing and the foretelling of the future for his seed.

Here I wish to establish that Lehi is a direct descendant of Joseph, Alma 8:3, "And Abinadi was a direct descendant of Nephi, who was the son of Lehi, who came out of the land of Jerusalem, who was a descendant of Manassa, who was the son of Joseph, who was sold into Egypt by the hands of his brethren."

Now to III Nephi 9. Because it is lengthy I will just tell a little of what it says and hope that you will read it in its entirety. It is telling of the blessings the Gentiles will receive and the gathering of Israel. Christ is speaking of ALL Israel and the restoring of Jerusalem and Zion, and the wonderful blessings that will be theirs. He is preparing us for the time in which we live, and things that will transpire in the near future.

Verse 93, "And when these things come to pass, that thy seed shall BEGIN to know these things, it shall be a sign unto them, that they may know that the work of the Father hath already commenced unto the fulfilling of the covenant, etc. Verses 95-96, "For in that day, for my sake shall the Father work a work, which shall be a great and marvelous work among them: And there SHALL BE AMONG THEM WHO WILL NOT BELIEVE IT, although a man shall declare it unto them. But behold, the life of my servant shall be in my hand; therefore they shall not hurt him, although he shall be marred because of them. Yet I will heal him, for it will show unto them that my wisdom is greater than the cunning of the devil."

Christ goes on to say that those who will not believe his words, shall be cut off from among his people, and shall be trodden down by the remnant of Jacob. He tells of the destruction among the Gentiles at that time.

In the beginning of III Nephi 12, we are told that not a hundredth part of Christ's words to the people of this continent were written in the Book of Mormon, that what was written was to come through the Gentiles, to Jacob's seed, verse 3, "And when they shall have received this, which is expedient that they should have first, to try their faith, and if it shall so be that they shall believe these things, then shall the GREATER THINGS be made manifest unto them." II Nephi 2:18 says, they SHALL be convinced.

III Nephi 12:4, "And if it be so that they will not believe these things, then shall the greater things be withheld from them, unto their condemnation."

I have heard it said that we have ALL of the gospel, that the Book of Mormon supplied what the Bible lacked. Let me cite you to I Nephi 3:183 in which we are told that after the Gentiles do stumble because of so many plain and precious things being taken from the Bible by that great and abominable church, that God would bring forth unto them MUCH of His gospel. According to that, there is more to come.

I firmly believe that when we see Jerusalem completely in the hands of the Jews, that the Gentile period will be fulfilled, not until then. We are living in perilous times, and this is only a small beginning. Are our lamps filled with oil? Are we, as a church, prepared for the greater trials that are coming upon us. Let us fast and pray mightily unto the Lord, that we may be numbered among the elect.

All emphasis and parenthesis are mine.

Irene Shaw.

BOOK REVIEW

(From the Transient)

Just how many times have you breathed a sigh of dismay upon reading in R.L.D.S. literature, repeated claims that U. S. Courts have upheld that Church's claim to being the only true L.D.S. Church and legal descendant of the church founded on April 6, 1830? How many times have you heard the same parroted by unaware followers simply because their "Leaders" told them it was true? And again, how many times, hearing and reading it, have you bit your lips in silence rather than "drag out all of that dirty old laundry" and be accused through tightly drawn white lips and bulging eyes, of being a fomenter of strife and contention?

Well, here is a book every student of L.D.S. History should at least read, if not own. The subject matter so thoroughly and studiously treated upon in the text is set out by the title: "THE REORGANIZED CHURCH IN CIVIL COURTS," by Paul E. Reimann.

Himself an attorney, the author at some detail carefully guides the reader through the intricacies of court proceedings in which the R.L.D.S. Church claims a victory, i.e., the U. S. Civil Courts have upheld their claim to being the only true church of Jesus Christ of L.D.S. as founded by Joseph Smith in 1830. Displaying the proceedings, however, Mr. Reimann cuts through the flesh of this position and upon reaching the center, shows it to be a spineless presumption. In fact he, along with the rest of us, is at a loss to understand how the R.L.D.S. can still claim a victory in court actions where they have so completely lost.

Transient holds some reservations regarding technical points of early church history cited by the author as background for the main subject, but in the "meat" of what he has to say Mr. Reimann demonstrates from

the record an accurate account of "just how the old cow ate the cabbage", so to speak.

Writing in a style that to the layman may seem detailed and repetitious, he is careful to acquaint the reader with the legal parlance involved, defining "Equitable Title" and "Legal Title". He draws the line of difference between "opinion of the judge", "Finding of fact", "Conclusions of Law", "Judgment of the Court", "Decision of the Court" and "Decree of the Court". Separating them Mr. Reimann shows how, through ignorance, some leaders of the R.L.D.S. have thought the terms, in some cases, were synonymous when actually they are far from it.

The author carefully reviews two cases "the Kirtland Temple Suit and the Independence Temple Lot Case. In the first he demonstrates a fact that is applicable in both cases: "over matters of religious belief our courts have no jurisdiction", a fact that is basic in our United States' Constitution. This fact rendered the Ohio courts powerless to grant the R.L.D.S. claims (in a suit against Their Own Prophet—not against any other church), whereupon the whole case was dismissed. With the dismissal went all "claims" etc., which that church sought to establish. "In common parlance the Reorganized Church was 'thrown out of court' although no one contested the case." (Ibid).

The Independence Temple Lot Suit, it is shown, was not (nor could it have been) one contesting who might be the "legal successor" to the 1830 Church of Joseph Smith, but it was one where "The two Churches . . . claimed different sources of title." And the "Reorganized claim to title was fatally defective and utterly void." (Ibid). The Circuit Court of Judge Phillips (a decision in favor of the R.L.D.S.), it was found by the U. S. Court of Appeals, had committed reversible error and its decision was overruled, leaving "no portion of the 'decision of Judge Phillips' in effect."

Thus in two different cases the R.L.D.S. Church was stripped by the laws of the land of any grounds upon which they might try to substantiate a statement that the U. S. Courts have upheld them as the "legal" successors to Joseph Smith's 1830 Church.

Interested?

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"The least important thing you have is—a grudge. Forgive the worst, forget your grudge—take time to kneel and pray—and hope He will have mercy on **your** failures of today."

—James Metcalfe.

A MORE EXCELLENT WAY

I Cor. 12:31

I once read an interesting item in the log of a State Legislature. One of the representatives introduced a bill as an act to make the Ten Commandments of God a part of the law of the State. The representative said he was sincere in introducing the bill and that he was sure that some eager-beaver would attempt to amend the Ten Commandments of God.

It seems to me that this piece of news is worthy of comment to those of us who believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is my opinion that the representative was not entirely sincere introducing the bill although he may have a sincere belief that people should obey the commandments of God. I believe that it was a political maneuver to further his own personal interests, rather than the best interests of the people. I doubt very much if God will look at such a step with approval.

It has been proven many times that it is impossible to legislate a belief in God, or to enforce belief in certain laws of God, such as the Ten Commandments. To make an effort to enforce such a law upon the people would be stepping backward over 2,000 years. Back to the time before Christ came to teach men how to live together, according to the desires of God from within their own hearts.

I am sure that any person who believes in Christ's Gospel, and who has read of the conditions under which men lived before His advent, would have no desire to live by those terms in our days and age.

When the Representative was wondering if some eager-beaver would try to amend the Ten Commandments, I wonder if he gave any thought to the many eager-beavers who, if it were made a law, would try to enforce them to the letter, upon all the people, as they were enforced by the ancient Pharisees.

Three months after the children of Israel had departed from Egypt they camped in the wilderness in a large natural amphitheater at the foot of Mt. Sinai. They were an unruly group and Moses had a hard time trying to keep them together as a righteous people. At times their faith in God fell to such a low ebb that Moses had to ask God for help.

At one time Moses, in his desperation, cried to God, "What shall I do unto this people? They be almost ready to stone me." (Ex. 17:4). Because of Moses' faith, God caused the people to be fed when they were without food and when they were thirsty water came out of the rock so they could drink.

We would naturally think that a people who had been given so many blessings, in their time of need and had seen so many miracles performed before their very eyes would have more patience and humility before God. But those were poor, unlearned people, who had no definite law except Moses' guidance to follow, and at times in his human weakness he was so discouraged he knew not what to do.

While they were camped at Mt. Sinai, Moses again went to God for council. The Lord told him again to remind the people of all the things which He,

the Lord, had done for them and of the things they had seen. He told Moses to tell them, "Now, therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people; for all the earth is mine: and ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation." Ex. 19:5-6.

I am reminded of a remark I heard in a sermon, "It shouldn't be necessary to preach every Sunday to those who already have a knowledge of the Gospel." As we read back through thousands of years of Biblical history of God's dealings with the people of the earth, we can see how soon, in every age, people forget His commandments. Are we today much different than those of olden times?

We are different, in a way, we are supposed to have a greater understanding of how to live, through the Gospel of Christ. But Christ even had to remind His disciples, continually, lest they forget the commandments, and we are 2,000 years farther away from Christ than they.

In the early days of the Restored Church the ministry were told by direct revelation how and what to teach the people, just as God spoke to the Israelites but how long did they remember those things which God had spoken? In less than 15 years the ugly head of factionalism sprang into being and split the church into many small factions. This happened because men forgot to heed what God had spoken.

The ministry of the newly restored church were instructed by the word of God to ". . . say nothing but repentance unto this generation. Keep my commandments, and assist to bring forth my work according to my commandments, and you shall be blessed." Book of Commandments, 10:4.

If they had cast contention, selfishness and greed for personal power, aside and preached only repentance and salvation as they had been instructed, there would have been but one strong united church spreading the word of God throughout the world.

Even now, after all the examples which have gone before us in Christ's own words, ". . . yea, Satan doth stir up the hearts of the people to contention, concerning the points of my doctrine: and in these they do err, for they do wrest the scriptures, and do not understand them." (Book of Commandments 9:16).

Today another split faces the Church of Christ because the people of today through selfishness, desire for personal glory, and contention, do not heed the word of God. They too, like the ancient Israelites need to be reminded time and again without end, of their duty and their covenant with God.

To meet the needs of an illiterate people, just liberated from slavery, God manifested himself in a spectacular way. There was thunder and lightning, thick clouds enveloped the mountain top. Then with a great voice God gave them ten brief, authoritative precepts. These statutes were written by the finger of God on tables of stone to be used as a guide for the

godly living of a simple people who had very little understanding of how to live peaceably together.

Paul said, "For unto us was the gospel preached as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it." Heb. 4:2.

Because of transgression and loss of faith the preached gospel did not profit the Israelites, the majority of the people did not have the understanding to accept the free gospel as taught by Christ.

Paul tells us that ". . . the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith." Gal. 3:24.

Two thousand years ago, with the authority of God, Christ amended the schoolmaster law. He qualified His act by saying ". . . the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me." John 14:24.

To amend a law does not mean to destroy it. According to the dictionary to amend is to change for the better, a correction of a fault or faults. Christ said, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the Prophets, but to fulfill . . . ye have heard it has been said of them of old time, thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: but I say unto you, that whosoever is angry with his brother, shall be in danger of the judgment . . . ye have heard that it hath been said of them of old time, thou shalt love thy neighbor and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you; . . . Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." (From the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5th chapter).

There can be no doubt that Christ changed the old schoolmaster law into a perfect law of life and liberty. Paul said, of this new freedom from the law, "For brethren ye have been called unto liberty, only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled, even in this, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself . . . If we live in spirit, let us walk in the spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another . . . bear ye one other's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." (From Gal. 5 and 6).

On the 6th day of April the 1963 Conference of the Church of Christ convenes and there will be many difficult problems to face. Many of them will become so complex that it will take a miracle to attain a solution which will be pleasing in the sight of God.

In the Book of Ether (5:130) we find these words, "If there be no faith among the children of men God can do no miracles."

God has done many things for the people of faith throughout history, but sometimes we forget the power of God and our faith weakens. But if we keep in mind the greatness of God, that He is the creator of all things, the Great Physician, with the ability to heal the body as well as the soul, our faith and confidence grows.

Having faith first is a pre-requisite to receiving the blessings of God.

Let us paraphrase Moroni's statement of faith to a simple, positive statement which we can apply directly to ourselves.

"If there be faith, among the children of men God can do miracles." (E.J.M.)

Prayer is the life line to God. Faith is the strong rope by which we are rescued. His co-operation depends upon these conditions.

"And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight." John 3:22.

Let us see a miracle come to pass at Conference. "According to your faith be it unto you." Matt. 9:29.

E. J. M.

ATTENTION LADIES!

Another year—another penny!

The Old Folks Home Fund has grown throughout the years we have saved our pennies for it, but we are still many pennies short of the goal. Let us not forget this worthy project and have our accumulation of pennies ready to count at our annual meeting.

It will not be known until after the convening of the 1963 Conference the exact time and date of the annual meeting of the General United Workers Organization, but be alerted to the announcement which will be given at that time.

Remember sisters, all who are members of the Church of Christ are eligible for membership in this United Workers Auxiliary whether or not you are affiliated with a local organization; therefore, if you are attending the Conference, your attendance is requested at this meeting.

Reports of Local United Workers Organization activities for the past year to be read at the general meeting will be appreciated. Send all reports to: Lois Harris, 1920 South Osage, Independence, Missouri.

Lois Harris, Secretary.

YOUTH

"Fortunately, there is always an element in the world too young to worry. There is always a buoyant surge of life coming up from below, strong, confident, happy—and ignorant. But part of youth's ignorance is a blessing in disguise; for the difficulties and complexities which we older ones have watched accumulating over the years present, for them, a normal problem. This they proceed to attack with forces we no longer possess and, as a result, somehow the world keeps turning. And to help them, there is always in the background "a divinity that shapes our ends", an all-wise, all-holy, and all-powerful God, who has a very mysterious and wonderful way of bringing good out of evil."

Robert I. Gannon.

GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO NEWS

It has been some time since news has been sent from our Grand Junction Local, so I will attempt to bring you up on the events which have taken place during the past several months.

As most of you know, the year 1962 brought us our long hoped for wish of holding services in our new church building. Through these cold days, Brothers Harvey Bell and Ted Ely have been making it a daily task to do some of the finishing work on the interior of the building and others have been working on their days off from their regular job. As a result, a great deal has been accomplished. We are looking forward to the day when it will be completed but are truly happy to have it, even though unfinished. Our United Workers group is making plans at present to use our funds for the purchase of drapes in the near future. Also, through a stamp project under the supervision of Sister Martha Deniston, we successfully achieved our goal and now have a table and chairs for our primary classroom.

The year 1962 also brought us the joy of having our first Bible School, held in our new church. Our committee in charge, Sister Enid Bell, Sister Vievea Shaw and Sister Margie Downs, with the help of Sister Sybil Ely are to be commended for their efforts in making it a success. Also, we would not forget our Juniors, Janice and Patsy Ely, who contributed much time and effort towards achieving that success. The decision was made to hold the Bible School for only one week and perhaps next time for two weeks. Several families outside of the church attended and we were glad for this. A night program was held in conclusion and many interesting crafts were displayed at that time.

Our officers in charge at the present time are, Pastor, Brother Marvin Ely; Church Secretary and Treasurer, Sister Enid Bell; Sunday School Superintendent, Brother Johnny Bell; Sunday School Secretary and Treasurer, Sister Shirley Ely; Chorister, Sister Enid Bell; and Pianist, Sister Vievea Shaw.

A new service was started in our group by Brother Marvin Ely which is a young people's service held from 6:30 to 7:30 each Sunday evening. I think this is a fine and worthwhile addition to our regular services which include two Sunday morning services and evening services on Sundays and Wednesdays. We alternate our Wednesday evening services with prayer services and Book of Mormon study.

Through the summer months, we again enjoyed the visit of Brother and Sister Don McIndoo and family and also Brother and Sister Jim Hedrick and family. Whenever possible, Brother and Sister Tommie Barton, Jr., travel a great distance to be with us at our Sunday services. It makes us very happy knowing they put forth such effort to attend our meetings. At fruit harvest time, it was a pleasure to have Edward Cowboy and son, Homer, stop for a visit at the T. R. Ely residence. Their trip was prompted due to the health of Homer and it is our prayer that he is en-

joying good health at this time. We were very happy to have Brother and Sister Lowell Larson and family of Gurley, Nebraska visiting at Thanksgiving time. And, we are always glad to have the visiting apostles, our most recent one being Brother Archie Bell and his wife Sister Martha Bell. Others visiting in the past few months have been Brother and Sister Leon Yates, Brother Thomas Barton, and Brother and Sister Clarence Wheaton. Interesting slides were shown on Brother and Sister Wheaton's visit.

It was with sadness that we said our good-byes to Brother and Sister Rhondal Shaw when they departed from our group right after Christmas to take up their new residence at Louisburg, Missouri. They will be missed by all.

At the suggestion of some of our members here, I am sending this poem which was written by our daughter, Patsy Ely, age 17. It was written at the time of the Cuban crisis and, as indicated, if we kneel to God in prayer we will never lose hope for HE is our only hope in all things.

Shirley Ely, Reporter.

Tell me, is this the end of the world
Will the American flag no longer be furled?

Our President has taken a very firm stand
To show his love for this, our vast land.

The crisis has been rising for so many years
And now at its peak, we all share our fears.

If we enter a war, what can be done?
After its over, who will have won?

Will the battle be fought on land or on sea
Will it mean freedom for you and freedom for me?

If it should happen within a few days
Will it change our whole life and all of our ways?

Will it mean that the rivers, the brooks and the streams
No more will shine with the suns radiant beams?

Will it tell that on picnics we'll ne'er again go
With our girl friends and boy friends, those we love so?

Will we then know who our true friends are
Whether they're here or somewhere afar?

My friends, as we all sit here and wait,
Some of us think about the Pearly Gate.

Others still wonder about life here on earth
And ask themselves "What is the worth?"

Somewhere I've heard it said, "Never Lose Hope."
So, don't, even though through darkness we grope

And, remember the Bible, for God does care
So let's kneel to Him and give our prayer.

Patsy Ely.

FROM THE PHOENIX LOCAL

(We reprint a few news items taken from the January issue of *The Hand of Fellowship*. Ed.).

"This party is going to cost you", we were told before our Christmas party. The price?—one can of food. The party was a real success. There were lots of games and food. Even Santa's helpers, Brian McIndoo and David Jones, came to the party, whisks and all. The cans of food were given to the "Sherriif's Pantry", for which we received a prompt thank you letter from the Sheriff himself, Cal Boise.

Our Christmas program this year was a pantomime. It was the story of the nativity from a slightly different angle, the Inkeeper's view. The children came through like real Thespians.

Dave and Charlot Hinkle dropped out of the desert sky again for a visit with Betty and Don McIndoo and all of us here at church. It's always so much fun to see their smiling faces and hear their friendly voices.

Were we ever glad to hear and see the Bells, the Archie Bells that is! Apostle Bell is a very interesting speaker and we enjoyed three of his excellent sermons, which we will be passing on to you in this paper. We shared several wonderful days with them. They seemed so much like part of the family.

Evalena and Clem Sills spent some pleasant days visiting with Brand and Viola Henning and their charming daughter Cathy. They were on their way home to Albuquerque, New Mexico, after spending Christmas with mother, Ency Jamison, in San Diego, California.

Reported by Sharon Kelley.

"THE LIVING WATER" AND "THE BREAD OF LIFE"

From a sermon by Don W. Housknecht.

Text: St. John 4:1-27 (This is the story of the woman of Samaria at the well giving a drink of water to Jesus. The 14th verse reads: "But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." Ed.).

I am sure that most of us here today have drunk of this living water of which Christ spoke. If you have, let me ask you, is it quenching your thirst? If we continue to thirst then there must arise the question in our minds, and I hope it startles us when we realize the truth of it—if we still thirst, there is something wrong, for if we drink of this living water we shall not thirst again.

Christ also speaks of himself as being the Bread of Life. I would like to relate a spiritual dream or vision. The person having the dream saw themselves in a large and spacious building. She was on the lowest level of the building and the ceiling seemed to be much lower than she had known it to be, so low that she had to stoop down and remove spider webs from her way as she passed. Then she saw on tables and on the floor, remains of bread, whole and broken pieces, and all of it stale. The scene changed and

this time she saw a much more humble building, nice and clean, and herself entering, and she saw many saints gathered there. They were at a prayer meeting and to her amazement she again saw evidences of the dried and unused bread, on tables, on the floor and in the aisles. Others seemed to be aware of the fact. Here was bread, for the use of the people and it had not been used. Someone requested that they kneel in prayer, and the prayer heard was that the people there would receive the bread of life, the word of God that Master had spoken of. Others prayed for the same thing. They arose, and suddenly ministers began going about picking up this bread, all of it, and placed it upon a platter and gave it to the man who was apparently in charge of the meeting. As he held it out and the people began to take of the bread, it no longer had the appearance of staleness. After the people took the bread they were filled with the power of God and seemed to be two or three inches off the floor. As they sang, the power of the music flowed from the building on to the street and the people outside hearing it, come into the building and partook of the bread also.

This is a message to you and me. We have and may even presently be allowing that bread of life to lay on the floor unused. The bread in this instance is the word of God. "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh unto me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." John 6:35.

So we see that it is not bread alone but the water of life also that we must use to obtain strength. What kind of strength? When I was 16 years old I was hired by the Buick Motor Co., and worked for them for 25 years. My work was such that the muscles of my arms and back became extremely strong and it was not difficult for me to lift 300 pounds from the floor, up over my head with one hand only. I had acquired that strength, but of what particular good was it to me? There were times when I was very proud that I could take a man 250 pounds or more by the ankles and put him up over my head just to show what I could do. But when I came to know that God had work for me to do that I hadn't known of before, I realized there was another kind of strength necessary. I prayed heartily unto God that I would be able to receive this living water in such a way that I never again would thirst. Likewise that it would quench my thirst for other things that I had formerly desired. Strength is a wonderful thing if it is properly used. I no longer desired to show off the might of my muscles, but I desired to show the might of the word of God. I began to teach the word of God and I was brought into the priesthood when I was 17 years of age. If we eat of this living bread it will give us a strength that we might well be proud of, but we should not be boastful of that strength as I was of my physical strength.

John 7:32, "In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, if any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink." He is not neces-

sarily coming to us—we must come to him. We cannot sit idly or calmly by and think, "well if He comes by I'll ask Him to give me some"—no rather we are to go to Him. And as we go, what do we take with us to purchase this bread and water? There is a cost involved, but it is not money. In Isaiah 55 we read: "Ho, everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price." We give ourself, our life, our talents to the cause of Christ.

The upbuilding of Zion is a daily thing and not just feeling uplifted and joyous until some one says something we dislike and then going to pieces. What are the idle things in our lives that do not purchase this bread? Satan has come into our midst at various times both in our place of worship and in our homes, and in our daily lives. We come home many times contaminated with things we have heard—yes there is a great need of this living water, to sustain us throughout all of life.

We don't only receive this bread and water at church, we can receive it in the home as well. We must establish our family altars and remember to seek the Lord, with the aid of his ministry as they visit in our homes to give advice and council that you need. Some of this living water can be supplied through the spiritual leadership of men set apart by God for this very purpose. We are familiar with the covenants that God has made with his people, but are we mindful of the covenants that we have made to God? The greatest covenant you made to God was when you came from that water's edge and there promised to give your life and your talents to Christ.

The following is a spiritual version of the famous Gettysburg Address.

"One hundred and thirty years ago, our fathers brought forth unto this world, the Old Gospel, conceived in revelation, and dedicated for the purpose for which Christ taught. We are always engaged in a great contest against evil, because that Gospel so conceived and so dedicated must endure.

We are met together on a great battlefield of that conflict, we have come to bring to remembrance the things which the brave men who lived long ago, bore record of. It is altogether fitting and proper that we do this. But let us remember that we cannot change, we cannot misconstrue, this record. The divinely directed men of long ago have born record far above our poor power to add to or to detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here but it can never forget what they stood for.

It is for us the living rather to be here dedicated to the unfinished work which they who fought before us have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be dedicated to the task remaining before us, that from these great disciples we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion. That we here highly resolve that these men shall not have died in vain, that this gospel of God

which has a new birth, that this ministry of Christ from God for the people, shall not perish from the earth." This is living water, this is the bread that is offered to us as often as we have gathered ourselves together.

We have pointed out the benefit of having this living water, it shall ever supply our need and we shall not thirst again, and let me tell you, that you shall not be bothered with doctrines of men, but we will be so concerned about our soul salvation that that will be the only thing we will dwell upon.

I Cor. 2nd. chapter Paul says, "For I am determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified." I don't believe our need for this living water can be over emphasized. And though you may have thought you have partaken of it I would like to ask you again: do you thirst?

Truly the perils we have read about are feeble compared to the destruction that will come upon our souls when we fail to partake of that living water and let it become a thing of strength to us. Not just here in church but in our homes. Go to visit others in their homes, invite them into yours, and there talk about the gospel of Jesus Christ which is the word of God, that living bread, that living water. We must not isolate ourselves from each other.

We as a people have not yet proven our faith to God by putting into obedience, commandments given to us long ago, let alone the commandments He has given us in latter days. We can't expect God to speak to us in any way until we have put into obedience the commandments given to us in the past. Yes we have well remembered the covenants that God has made with us but have we remembered our covenants with God?

In the words of the song we love so well, "Unto God who knows our every weakness, with faith we lift our hearts in prayer, asking in humility and meekness, his love, his direction, and his care. Lord accept the humble consecration of our lives, our talents to thy cause, till thy word is preached in every nation, and men have a knowledge of thy laws." Is there any end to our labors? Is there any end for our desire to partake of the living water?

May God help you and me and all His children, to honestly, sincerely discover what it is that we have covenanted with God to do. And when we have so discovered what our task is, may we say: "Though the task be great that lies before us, we trust in one divinely strong, knowing well, at last we'll be victorious, and we pray that the time may not be long."

GOOD ADVICE

Do not complain in the face of unjust opposition, violent argument, or personal abuse; hold yourself in poise, knowing that truth is infallible. A genial temper, broad charity, and quiet equanimity, under all circumstances, will give you mastery of yourself and the situation.

—Grenville Kleiser.

IS CHRISTIANITY A FAILURE?

Christianity has not converted the world. It has not unified those who profess it. It has been torn by disensions and cursed by schism from its very beginning. Wickedness in high places, both within and without the church, and sins and heresies and false doctrines of every character have plagued and corrupted the church in every place where it has existence, and apostasy has repeatedly eclipsed the glory and beauty of its most blessed light. In view of all this, has Christianity been a failure? If so, we have the spectacle of God the Father and Jesus Christ his Son, projecting upon the world, the most gigantic failure ever known in any undertaking.

Christianity has not yet reached the goal of its destiny, but to assert that because of its painfully slow processes that it is therefore a failure is to accuse the Master of a universal blunder so stupendous that the reasoning and intelligent mind could not possibly fix a firm faith, even in God.

No, the little struggling Church founded by Christ and his Apostles was not a failure. True, its numbers were few. Its unity, and even its purity was not at any time more than comparative. From time to time wolves entered in "not sparing the flock." And as was predicted in prophecy: of its own self men arose "speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after them." Acts 20:28-31.

False teachers with "itching ears" turned many away from the truth, and were turned into fables.—II Tim. 4:3-4.

Immediately after being converted to the message of Jesus men "soon" were removed from the teachings and doctrines of Christ to "another gospel." Galatians 1:6-10.

"The mystery of iniquity" was active among the members of the Church established by Jesus and his Apostles.—II Tim. 2:7.

Many of the members of the church "turned aside after Satan." II Tim. 5:15.

Paul marveled that part of the Church could "so soon be removed from him that called you unto the grace of Christ, unto another gospel."—Gal. 1:6-7. Part of the early Church even went into polygamy on the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes.—Rev. 2:15.

The whole Church, or "kingdom of heaven" was finally captured and taken by the evil force, as Jesus had said would be.—Matt. 11:12. In the disaster of the apostasy or "falling away" the power of the "Man of sin" which finally secured supreme control in the Church, gradually transformed that which once was the Church of Christ, until at last the word of the Lord designates it as "The mother of harlots and abomination of the earth." See II Thess. 2:3-7, and Rev. 17:5.

The Church passed through all these sad things. But out of that which may look to man like a failure, God has brought, and will bring most triumphant victory and success. Individual men and groups of men, in and out of the Church, through all past time have made failures, and have occasioned great loss to the

Church, but to infer that because of this the Church is a failure is the height of folly.

Showing forth what the ultimatum of the final victorious Church would be, Jesus said; "The gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Some critics of Christianity wail that "for nearly twenty centuries" the theology of Christ has been promoted, but that "war still curses men." These critics argue from this that Christianity has therefore been a failure all through the years. What an incompetent measurement of Christianity! Did not Christ himself foretell that the success of his theology would not be in the conversion of great numbers? He said: Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way that leadeth to life, and FEW there be that find it. He foretold that wars would come and that they would increase in fury. He did not assert that his message would unite the seekers after God in all religions. He foretold right the opposite and said that his message would even divide asunder the members of the household.—Matt. 10:36.

As long as Satan remains a prince in this world, and before he is finally to be bound, true Christianity will do that very thing,—that is: it will cause great divisions rather than accomplish unity.

But today, the mother Church, professing to be that body which Christ organized, boasts of its unity, its riches, its catholicity, and its two hundred and twenty-five millions of communicants. In the light of what the Christ foretold, is this the measure of present day "success" in Christianity? Yet some seem to think there must be some such sweeping and spectacular movement in order to register success for Christianity.

Disunion, the "Man of Sin," struggles, schisms, fallings away, restoration, and continued struggles with wickedness in high places, these must come. If all these things which Christ predicted concerning his "Little Flock" should fail, then, and then only might Christianity be registered as a failure.

The Church of the Latter Day Restoration

This "Little Flock," the Church of the Latter Day Restoration, has also made, and is making its struggle against the world, the flesh and the devil. It has been, and is "few" in numbers, poor in this world's goods, torn at times by ravenous wolves, plagued by having to give battle to heresies, and by schisms, wickedness, and deflections into apostasy. Does all this indicate that the Church of the Restoration is a failure? Or are not these some the very marks by which the true Church may be traced and indentified? Speaking of true spiritual success, which kind of a church is it that fills the word of scriptural prophecy as that body approved by the Lord? Is it a rich and powerful one with an unbroken historic succession through the centuries back to the days of Christ, or one brought into being by restoration in the Latter Days? Is it a church so at peace with the world and so content in its wealth and its tranquility that the world having entered into it, is content to give it favor rather than persecution? Or is it a Church whose numbers are still pathetically few, and

in, and about which, Satan's battles are still fiercely waged? Which? Let those who answer that question remember that if it is not answered according to the word of the Lord it is because there is no light in them.

Some are now charging that the Church of the Restoration, or "Mormonism" so called, has proven to be a "colossal failure."

True, this Church has experienced divisions, heresies, wickedness in high places, and earlier and later slumps into positive apostasy similar to the experiences of the early Church, and all this as an evidence of Satan's war against that which is of God. But the assertion that the Church of the Restoration is a colossal failure is judgment without discernment and an assumption destitute of truth.

The Church of the Latter Day Restoration has been the Lord's organic instrument by which hundreds of thousands have been brought to salvation in holy relationship with God through the Gospel. Through lives of true piety, devotion to God, sacrifice and service, these have lived and died bearing testimony to saving knowledge of God and Christ.

Aside from the spiritual illumination through the gospel to those becoming members of the Latter Day Church, there has been a distinct superiority of doctrine and of theological concept disseminated around the world, and among many people, as a result of the Restoration of 1830. It is impossible that a message so superior could have been here for over a hundred years without much of that superiority of content being effective in a general way in every nation where this distinctive message has gone.

Those who know the Latter Day Message well know that it has a superiority in many points above any religion on the face of the earth. They know also that much of good has entered into the life and souls of many who have not outwardly accepted the specific claim that God did truly restore the gospel in these last days. This must be taken into account by those who would assume that the Restoration is a failure, and when they do so fairly, it will be discovered that this accusation of Latter Day Church failure is not founded in fact. Honest efforts of honest men to promote that which is true can never be a failure even though their numbers be ever so few, and the masses unresponsive. For all the works of God have their foundation in truth, and "The foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his."

So let none be alarmed, if by reason of clouded vision, men imagine that Christianity, or the Church is a failure, merely because those called to be standard bearers of righteousness at different times have wrought so imperfectly, and at times entirely betrayed their holy trust.

But in patience may we possess our souls; and "Let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."—II Tim. 2:19.

The Torch of Truth.

A TESTIMONY

The late Elder L. V. Aldridge, for several years published a little paper called, Friendly Visitor. From one of these papers we quote the following:

On one of our visits we discussed the coming forth of the church; how it was the only church in all the world coming forth by direct command of God. There is another difference between our church and all other churches; that is our belief in present day revelation. Remember the preacher told Joseph Smith that God had not spoken to man in 1800 years. In the mob violence against the saints in 1831-33, one of the charges made against them was this: "They claim to hold converse with God, by receiving revelations from him; as well as pretending to heal the sick by laying on of hands."

When we remember that God promised to restore His church like as it was taught by His disciples of old, this would include the restoring of the Spiritual Gifts as set out in I Cor. 12. When this church was restored there was not a church anywhere who taught these principles.

I bear my testimony, that not only have I been blessed through the laying on of hands of the elders, but I have seen the sick raised up after I have anointed them with oil and prayed for them.. I have seen them healed instantly, not every one, but many have been healed. Brother, Sister—God is still the same today as he was yesterday, and will be tomorrow to those whose minds are stayed on him. Remember—"Signs followed them that believed." 'Twas true then, it's true today.

The Book of Mormon

The Book of Mormon, we sometimes hear one say: "If the name of the book was changed, people would believe it." We ask, would they? From what we learn through the records the name of the book had but little effect on the people 135 years ago. The real objection was that it was another Bible. This was planted in their minds by the preachers of the day, who told the people that "The Bible said, if we add to the words of the Bible, the plagues would be added to us." But one thing they did not tell the people was this: when that statement was penned by John there was no such book in existence as our Bible. John was told to write the revelations he had received and the things he had witnessed in the spirit while on Patmos, which he did about twenty years later, while at Ephesus. So the reference can be to none other than the very book he was commanded to write. Some preachers today try to make the people believe that the Book of Mormon is another Bible instead of simply the record of the people who lived on this continent from B. C. 2500 to A. D. 420. Ever so often there flows from printing presses falsehoods and vituperations about the American Prophet and the church restored in these last days on earth. Satan sees to it that each generation get its share of these falsehoods. Well did the Angel know, when he told the lad (Joseph Smith) that his name would be had for both good and bad among all nations. I have a copy of a highly colored paper

published in this state (Missouri) for boys and girls in a certain church, which poisons the minds of the young people with vile falsehoods, old women's tales retold. It tells them the Book of Mormon is the old Spaulding Romance manuscript story retold. This accusation has been exploded years ago, but the young minds know nothing of that so Satan rehashes these old lies to make more enemies to the truth.

Angels Appear to Men in These Days

Men scoff at the idea, but because the village preacher had never seen an angel, does not prove other have not seen them. An angel appeared along the road to Balaam, but he never saw him until the Ass spoke to him and then he saw the angel with drawn sword in the path. Angels appeared to Adam; God spoke direct to Abraham; Moses was spoken to out of the burning bush; angels announced the birth of Christ to the shepherds, should they not do the same in the ushering in of the Restoration of His Church again on the earth along with the priesthood, the authority to represent God on earth?

WHAT SHALL I DO TO BE SAVED?

By Wm. F. Anderson

"What must I do to be saved?" is an age old question which stands out today as one of the most important questions of life. Various answers have been given by men. Some tell us one thing, some another, and the earnest seeker is confused. With the "lo, here, lo there," he does not know which way to turn.

If all seekers were willing to accept the plain statements as found in the Bible as given by Christ and the Apostles who were the authorized teachers of the way of salvation, there would be fewer isms and less confusion. Surely God is not the author of confusion.

Let me invite you to read your Bibles as I cite you to a few passages. First, let me suggest that we are endeavoring to find an answer to the above question. Turn to Acts 16:30. Paul and Silas were in prison. An earthquake had freed them and opened the prison doors, yet they remained. The keeper of the prison, alarmed, was about to kill himself. Paul told him not to harm himself. In fear and amazement the man cried out, "What must I do to be saved?" That this jailor had not been a believer in Christ is evident from the conversation, and the first thing Paul did was to tell him to believe.

People in that day did not readily believe Christ to be the son of God; it was hard to convince them. The prison keeper had witnessed a miracle. Paul and Silas were in prison because of their belief and preaching, and the jailor was no doubt convinced that God was with them, hence his question. In verse 31 we find the answer: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ." Some tell us that is all we have to do, simply believe. Paul did not say that, and he was surely qualified to answer the question. He, himself, had once asked the same question. Read Acts 9:1-6. In astonishment he had asked, "Who art thou, Lord?" Answer: "I am

Jesus whom thou persecutest." "What wilt thou have have me to do?" "Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do." Continuing in this same chapter we find that a man came to Saul to tell him what he must do.

Paul, then, was qualified to answer the question of the jailer, and we find that the jailer took the prisoners to his home, and there they told the jailer and his household the story and teachings of Jesus. Evidently there was more to what Paul and Silas taught than simply to believe, for we read in the 33rd verse of the 16th chapter of Acts that the jailer and his household were baptized.

Let us notice an experience Peter had on one occasion. Turn and read Acts 10:1-5. A good man was desirous of knowing how to be saved. The Lord, in a vision, told him how to find out. Peter had a vision concerning this same man. Let us follow Peter on his journey down to verses 24-48. Peter taught Christ to these Gentiles, but he had to have a vision and see the Holy Ghost rest on these Gentiles to convince him that the Jews were not the only ones who would be accepted of God and again we find baptism is an important factor in what men should do to be saved.

Now let us turn to Acts 2:1-47. Peter there taught Christ to the multitude. Not only Peter, but the rest of the apostles spoke. Finally the people "were pricked in their heart" and they cried out, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Peter had been with Christ in his ministry and had been taught by Him, and now under the power of the Holy Ghost he answers their question, verses 37 and 38. He did not say anything about believing. They already believed what the apostles had told them about Christ, the Saviour, and they wanted to know what to do to be saved. Read carefully the answer in the 38th verse, then ask yourself, can I obtain salvation any other way?

May I now invite you to read John 3:1-5. Here we have a conversation between Nicodemus and Christ, one the seeker after truth, the other the instructor. The question, "How can a man be born when he is old?" is still a pertinent question. "Born of water and of the Spirit," was the answer. Men have tried to make it appear that Jesus did not mean what he said on this occasion, but He has never changed his answer or retracted it. It is still his answer to the age old question.

You might now turn and read carefully Romans 6:1-6. Paul again teaches and explains baptism. Also read Colossians 2:12-13. Now turn and read Mark 16:14-20, and Matthew 28:16-20, where you will find the instruction given by Christ to his ministry, what they were to preach, and do. Also read Luke 24:45-49. It might be well to read in connection the expressions of Paul in Gal. 1:6-10.

The Christ taught his ministry what to preach, and as we follow them we do not find them teaching differently from that which the Master told them. We have the record of the teachings of Christ and His apostles with us today. Will you, dear reader, accept

those teachings, or do you prefer to follow the perverted (changed) doctrines of men, who do not agree among themselves? "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord" is good advice for us. Why not, dear reader, go into your own chamber, and ask God to give you light and direction? If you desire to know more on this subject of the gospel of salvation, write to the Church of Christ, Temple Lot, Box 472, Independence, Missouri.

APPRECIATION

It seems very apparent that the news of my recent very serious hospital experience together with the major operation, has become so widely known among the saints everywhere, that I have received an avalanche of cards, letters, gifts of money and otherwise, and above all the united prayers for my recovery, that it has become practically impossible to acknowledge them all individually so I take this means of expressing my deep appreciation to one and all, and in turn ask God's richest blessings upon you all.

As a result of a lifetime spent in gospel service I have long since learned that the great love of the saints of God one for the other is the richest and most cherished possession one can have in this life. Especially when it is so evident that it springs from a close and evidently personal contact with our Divine Master.

I was ten days in the Osteopathic Hospital in Kansas City, where I certainly received the best of care from doctors, nurses, and all connected with that institution. My appreciation for this care and treatment is also due that group of devoted workers, in the interest of human welfare.

May God richly bless all is my prayer.

Your sister in Christ,

Sister B. C. Flint.

P. S.: Naturally Brother Flint, and the rest of the family, concerned in this matter, are associated with me in this expression of appreciation.

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Sunshine Magazine.

"If you lose your temper it is a sign that you have wrong on your side."

—Chinese Proverb.

Vivian Olson M
 Route 1
 Bemidji, Minnesota

Handwritten initials

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