

# 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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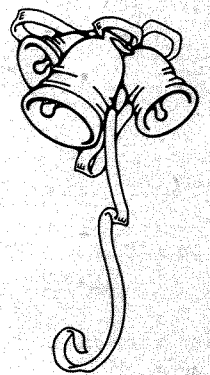
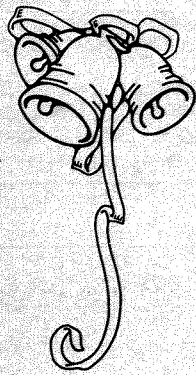
## Christmas



Christmas is a tinsled tree,  
Bright from floor to rafter,  
Carols ringing merrily,  
Candle-glow and laughter;  
A roof between us and the night,  
Walls against the weather,  
And here within the firelight  
All of us together.

But Christmas stretches farther than  
Our love for one another—  
It reaches out to every man  
And makes each one our brother;  
For Christmas is God's shining love  
Expressed in human birth  
To make us, as in Heaven above,  
One family here on earth.

—Lucille E. Langston



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## ZION'S ADVOCATE

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### GUEST EDITORIAL

It's Christmas again. In all Christendom, no other occasion is more significant. When something seems important to a man he wishes to remember it, to think of it, to speak of it, to use it to strengthen and better his life. And so we have Christmas. There is a glow about it that no other time of the year can equal.

It is a time of self-forgetting, of thoughtfulness, of generous impulses, and spontaneous sharing. It appeals to everyone because everyone understands it. It inspires kindness, brotherhood, cheerfulness and happiness.

And it doesn't matter where we are, in a frozen land of ice and snow or in a climate where warm breezes blow and flowers bloom—there will always be warmth inside us if the spirit of sharing is allowed to have full sway. Christmas is a world-wide experience and its spirit should last throughout the year.

So because The Wise Men brought gifts to lay at the feet of the baby Jesus, we give gifts to keep alive the feeling of "peace and goodwill." But we should remember that the best gift we can give to our friends and loved ones does not come wrapped in festive paper and fancy bows. The absence of this gift can not be compensated for by a diamond pin, a bicycle, a doll, or a motor boat. We can't buy this gift with money, yet everyone one can give it. It doesn't appear on any shopping list. The price is high but we can all afford it. These priceless gifts are invisible things, being kind to each other, being able and willing to understand the problems of others and willing to lend a helping hand—yes loving and serving one another, for by our faith in God and man we become strong in patience and grace. We can give friendship to those who need it, courtesy to all we meet and understanding to those who may think differently than we.

If every gift given at Christmas time is a token of personal thought and friendly feelings then the thought

and interest will remain long after the gift is forgotten. John Greenleaf Whittier said: "For somehow, not only at Christmas but all the long year through, the joy that you give to others is the joy that comes back to you."

Sometimes I think we are guilty of thinking that all the required effort of this special occasion is too exhausting and we wonder if we are going to be able to "get by" or "through" the Christmas season. But it presents a challenge to every one of us to be cheerful, friendly, sympathetic and helpful in all our associations. It may help us to remember why we have Christmas, that the spirit of it is more important than any commercial angle and that surely weariness must have been a part of that first Christmas even as it is likely to be this Christmas.

Of course there is the ever present danger of Christmas being too commercialized and of us forgetting the true meaning of the day. It should be our sacred duty to see that we and ours, do not fall into this error. We should mark well that Christmas is not just the gay wreaths in the windows, the magnificent tree glimmering with myriad colored bobbles and twinkling lights, the excitement of mysterious plans and secrets, the parties, the turkey and pumpkin pie—no it's much more than all these. It's the mysterious light of enjoyment in a child's eyes, caused as much by the excitement of seeing you open a gift from him as in seeing his own, it's happy fellowship and goodwill, it's the birth of Christ and what that has meant to the world, it's nourishment for the soul and the mind. In the words of Carl Holmes:

"We miss the true spirit of Christmas when our minds are clouded by materialistic thinking. Christmas should mean more than just a legal holiday, the getting and giving of presents, the enjoyment of things which we can see and hear, the satisfying of the senses. Christmas should have a deeply spiritual significance for all of us. It is the anniversary of the birth of Him, who brought love, joy, and peace into the world."

"The message of Christmas, "Peace on Earth to Men of Good Will" is the Golden Rule for world peace today. The two concepts, peace and good will, are inseparable. We cannot have peace without good will toward all men. Peace and good will are more than words—they are acts born of sacrifice and love. Peace on Earth inspired by good will is the noblest gift that man can bring to the world on Christmas Day."

Yes Christmas is a thrilling wonderful time of year, a time when we more nearly approach that perfect life manifested by the One whose birthday we celebrate. And we certainly agree with these words written by Bert Barnes:

"December has a music all its own—a joy not found in other months. In the great symphony of the universe, the season of Christmas rings with a melody unequalled by the gaiety of Spring or the sunlit brilliance of Summer. It is a season of significant reflection—a time when men turn to the Stars of Heaven and renew their hope for a fuller understanding of that



message given by Him who was born in an obscure manger so long ago. Christmas is the one eternal festival."

And speaking of music—no Christmas is complete without it. And whether we participate in it or just listen to it, it certainly helps us to reverence and glorify our deep-seated beliefs. Voices blended in harmony of song, in our all-time favorites, lend beauty to our worship. And whether we sing with our family and friends around the tree on Christmas Eve, whether we listen to the carols outside our window, or whether we listen to the recorded sound of such familiar strains as Joy to The World, Silent Night or Hark, The Herald Angels Sing, it is a wonderful way to express the deeper feelings of the heart. For music speaks a universal language more eloquent than mere words.

We pray that the Special Star of old, that guided the Three Kings to the manger, will guide us to the quiet assurance that the true Christmas Spirit is to be found in our fireside circle of family and friends and that the Christmas Spirit is rapture and mystery and joy, found only by loving and sharing with others.

—E. M. C.

The following directive was unanimously approved by the Council of Apostles in a Quorum meeting October. It was later sent to members of the Council who were not present at that meeting. All who have answered have approved.

A. F. B.

#### **DIRECTIVE FROM THE COUNCIL OF APOSTLES TO THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST**

The Council of Twelve by virtue of the plain and concise teachings of the Scriptures as found in the Standard Books of our faith, are the regulating and executive council of the Church of Christ, as thus provided, "That all regulated human institutions which are governed by law, must have for their maintenance certain executive authority . . . and that in the "Christian dispensation, were given Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Elders and Teachers. (See Eph. 4:10-14). Thus the Church of Christ, having received for its official guide in its earliest existence a regularly ordained ministry of the most holy and divine disposition, wherein the primitive Church of Christ, by her own precepts and practices, has established an order of ministry of divine origin, and cannot with any more safety be set aside by man, in justice to God, than any other gospel ordinance of the Church of Christ." (Granville Hedrick, in An Address, Truth Teller, July 1864, page 7. See also Articles of Faith, par. 13; Evening and Morning Star, November, 1911, page 3, etc.)

From the Opinion adopted by the Twelve in 1926-27, and later confirmed by Referendum Bill No. 2, of 1935, which adopted by a vote of 308 to 28, we quote as follows:

"Be it further resolved that the Quorum of Twelve, in having the general oversight of the whole church, shall organize and set in order the various quorums,

departments of (and) committees of the general church. In case any quorum shall be guilty of sedition, apostasy, maladministration or the projection of itself beyond its sphere into the affairs of another quorum or department of the work, the Quorum of Twelve shall take such steps as are necessary to make the proper regulations and order to protect the general church, subject to the approval of the general conference." (par. 3 of Bill No. 2).

"That the General Church is created and functions for the purpose of preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, and establishing Christian assemblies everywhere; and to **promulgate a uniform system of teaching and practice** of those virtues and ideals as set forth in the word of God and confirmed by the Holy Spirit. (Acts 14:18, 23).

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

"That when it is considered necessary by the Quorum of Twelve to counsel or correct a condition in a local church, they may convene a council of the officers of the church affected subject to the voice of the congregation affected, except in cases where the majority are in flagrant transgression and in open disregard of the constitutional law that governs the church, when it shall be necessary for the Twelve to set in order and regulate in harmony with the law of God." (Paragraphs 5, 6 and 11 of the Opinion adopted by the Twelve, September 7, 1926, and adopted by the general conference, April 6, 1927, 2:30 Session).

Therefore, by the virtue of the authority thus vested in the Council of Apostles as set forth above, and because of some misunderstandings of the following points of doctrine, we wish to cite the ministry of the Church of Christ in all the world to the following principles of belief which have been accepted by the Church:

1. "We believe in the same organization as existed in the time of Christ and His Apostles. The highest office in the Church is that of an Apostle, of whom there are twelve, who constitute special witnesses for Jesus Christ. They have the missionary supervision and the general watchcare of all the churches . . ." (Articles of Faith, Par. 13).

2. "We believe that a New Jerusalem shall be built upon this land 'unto the remnant of the seed of Joseph'; (Ether 6:6-8; III Nephi 10:1-4), which city shall be built, beginning at the Temple Lot." (D. C. 83:1).

3. "We believe a temple will be built in this generation, in Independence, Missouri, wherein Christ will reveal Himself and endow His servants whom He chooses with power to preach the gospel in all the world. . . ." (Articles of Faith, Par. 23).

4. "Revelations that have been given through Joseph Smith up to February 24, 1834, as contained in the Book of Commandments and the first edition of the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, that agree and harmonize with the Bible and Book of Mormon, are accepted as the word of God and are the Standard and Law by which this church is governed." (Old Church Record (Large), page 36; and later reaffirmed by the April Conference 1921, (See Old Church Record).

5. The Bible and the Book of Mormon teaches that all mankind will be rewarded according to their works in the flesh with various degrees of reward or punishment, and this is later emphasized in latter day revelation given through Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon on February 16, 1832, and better known as the Vision. (I Cor. 15:40-41; Book of Mormon, 1:86-87, page 695, Evening and Morning Star, Vol. 1, No. 2, page 2, July, 1832).

For the purpose of promoting a uniform system of teaching, the Council of Apostles hereby admonishes the ministry of the Church of Christ in all the world to conform their teaching and practices, relative to the foregoing beliefs, in harmony therewith, or refrain from teaching against them.

Respectfully submitted to the ministry of the Church of Christ, this 15th day of November, 1963.

Archie F. Bell, Secretary  
Council of Apostles

### A STATEMENT

This statement is offered for the purpose of clearing up a question which may be in the minds of some of the members of the Church: Why has the results of the Referendum vote, not been published? We will try to state that reason:

The Secretary of the Council of Apostles happened to stop in the home of the Editor of Zion's Advocate about the time the Report of the Referendum Committee, was received by him. In reading over this report, the Council Secretary believed there was an error in it. He asked the Editor to hold the Notice until word could be had from the Council of Apostles on the matter. The Apostles authorized their secretary to request the Editor to hold the report until they could meet in quorum action in October. This request was given to the Editor and he complied with it.

Respectfully submitted,

Archie F. Bell, Secretary  
Council of Apostles

### NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that all Bills, sent out by the 1963 Ministers Conference, passed except Bill No. 3. Bill No. 3 did not carry the required two-thirds majority to pass.

Respectfully,  
Archie F. Bell, Secretary  
Council of Apostles

### NOTICE

The following letter was received by the Council of Apostles, October 28, 1963:

September 5, 1963

To the Quorum of Twelve:—  
Gentlemen:

It is my desire to have my name removed from the records of the Church of Christ as I do not at this time conform with some of the basic teachings of said Church.

I understand that if I do not have my name removed I automatically must conform with all the rules and regulations governing membership of the Church of Christ and must stand trial before an Elders Court of said Church and answer to the charges that have been brought against me.

Sincerely,  
(signed) Elder Fernando Ojeda

The above letter was taken under consideration by the Council of Apostles. They approved of permitting Fernando Ojeda to withdraw his membership from the Church of Christ.

Respectfully,  
Archie F. Bell, Secretary  
Council of Apostles

### ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE ADDED

The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully.

And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater.

And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee; then whose shall those things be, which thou has provided?

So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

Therefore, I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what he shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on.

For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things.

But rather seek ye the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added unto you.

From the 12th chapter of St. Luke.

As the purse is emptied the heart is filled.

—Victor Hugo

They err who think Santa Claus comes down the chimney; he really enters through the heart.

—Mrs. Paul M. Ell.



(The following is a letter to the Editor, well worth passing on to our readers).

September 9, 1963

Dear Brother:

I am just home after a very long and extended journey among our dear saints. I find many hungering and thirsting after the old Jerusalem gospel of the angel message of the Restoration. They are not seeing man's tradition nor theories.

I have had some very pleasant experiences and comforting company as I pass from one locality to another.

If we can pass next Conference in quiet sojourn and behaviour I believe we can enter a new era of progress. Very happy we have been privileged to live in this day of God's hand being set to close this dispensation. Extend our love to all in your wonderful local.

In Gospel Bonds,

T. J. Jordan.

### GIFTS

What do you want for your birthday? What do you want for Christmas? What do you want God to do for you?

Maybe I should spent October and November thinking about what I want for Christmas: Shop around to find out just where I can get what I want. I might arrange to have a baby sitter for my son. I could send out my laundry and ironings: Maybe have someone come in to clean, a day or two each week. Then I could shop undisturbed: Not buy anything, just window shop.

Did you ever before read anything quite so ridiculous. But are we not neglecting some very important things? Did God mean when He said, "Search the scriptures" to search out the things God is going to do for us; and tax our puny minds trying to figure out exactly who is going to share these things, and how much—and ignore the things God has asked us to do for Him? When Jesus said, "Except ye be converted and become as little children ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven", (Matt. 18:3). was he referring to the child's way of looking forward to gifts? Any child will spend quite a bit of time and effort just before Christmas trying to find out "where" and "what". If you should ask any parent how much assistance he or she can expect from the small fry the week or so before Christmas, all you would get is a laugh!

Children reach an age where they do not expect to see Santa unload wonderful gifts from his pack on Christmas night. They like fables, but they know the difference between fables and the real thing. Occasionally a child will get lost in fantasy and that is a serious problem.

No matter how much we like to dream, we're in trouble if we refuse to distinguish between fable and the not-so-glamorous truth.

I can remember from my childhood what a miserable outcast the wicked villian was (usually a boy around the age of eight) who told somebody's little

brother that there isn't really any Santa Claus. Measures were taken by other boys to see that the culprit didn't go around making "other little kids feel just awful, like that." Some of these boys learn their lesson, and become popular, well adjusted people. Others grow up, and still make people feel "just awful" by attempting to tell some truth. Possibly some become ministers of the gospel of Christ and are still "torturing people" with plain, blunt truth. They even dare to quote the truth from God's own word!

The young child is not as close to this question of eternity as I am. He needs to know about God's promises, I agree; but there are a great many more things he will need to understand in order to serve God and his fellow man. Should I spend my time searching frantically for someone who can paint a picture of heaven for me; or some one with a better imagination than mine who can describe it to me? It might give me great comfort—but wouldn't it be a bit like window shopping while I neglected things that need so much to be done? My Saviour's answer, I'm afraid, might be, "Thou fool! this night thy soul shall be required of thee." We will hardly rush wild-eyed into God's presence with both hands out to grasp greedily the gifts he offers!

Maybe it isn't too long for me until I will face my Maker and He will tell me what He has prepared for me. Perhaps it will be more than I anticipate, more of eternal peace or more of eternal damnation. He has told me how to acquire each of these commodities. The first mentioned commodity takes a great deal of work, service, sacrifice. We can find out these things He tells us to DO, unless we try to use His word as we would a mail order catalog, or saving stamp catalog, to see what God is going to give us. Do we really "search" the scriptures to find what God wants us to do, or do we use it as a "wish book"?

Have we time to spend dreaming, even arguing about what Jesus has promised us? He said, "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 if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." (John 14:2-3).

He didn't ask us if there's anything we're allergic to. He undoubtedly thought we would trust him to "prepare a place" and that we would not panic for fear it would not be to our liking. The promise of being **in the presence of Christ!** Imagine! But the promise should enough—why imagine?

Say friend, hold my hand—Let's quit dreaming and wishing and scriptural window shopping. The pathway is rough—but with God's help maybe we can find our way together.

Irene Maley.

The best of gifts around a Christmas tree is the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other.

—Burton Hillis.

**A LETTER**

To the Advocate I send a poem I've written. I love the Ozarks, my home is at Ava, Missouri.

I am a member of the Church of Christ, as was my husband, Lester E. Bugin who passed away eleven years ago. I also have a daughter and two sons who belong to the church.

I now live in Toppenish, Washington. Brother and Sister Smith and Bro. and Sister Archie Bell were out here last year. We certainly enjoyed them and look forward to another visit from them. Pray for me and my family.

Dorothy Bugin.

**THE OZARKS**

I'm from the Ozark mountains  
Where the cool clear waters flow  
And if you've never been there  
I'm sure that you should go.

You'll hear the red birds singing  
You'll hear the whip-poor-will.  
God must have had a reason  
When He made the Ozark hills!

In the spring the dogwood blossoms  
With their petals white and soft  
And if you view them closely  
You'll see they form the cross.

Have you heard the old story  
About the dogwood tree?  
How Christ was nailed to that cross  
For such as you and me?

If you're ever back our way  
And have some time to kill  
You'll meet some friendly people  
Back in the Ozark hills.

I miss my good old home state  
I guess I always will  
And I say God made beauty  
When He made the Ozark hills.

Dorothy Bugin.

**A SOUND MIND**

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. II Timothy 1:7.

Today's world is a fearful, frustrated, deceived mixed-up world with little balance or soundness. But those who repent of their sins, are baptized and embued with God's Spirit, are the ones who have truly sound minds. The only real sanity in this world today is the sanity or soundness of mind which God imparts through His Spirit.

—Sent to the Advocate with no signature.

**STATEMENT OF DEDICATION****of  
The Collins Local**

Be it known to all interested, that I, Edward J. McIndoo, an Elder in the Church of Christ and Pastor of the local Church of Christ at Collins, Mo., do, in behalf of the members of this local of the Church of Christ, this day dedicate this church building to the service of Almighty God. Be it further known that this church building is dedicated with an open Bible and a free pulpit, and this statement of dedication will be spread on the permanent records of this local.

**CONDENSATIONS OF DEDICATION SERMONS**

By Apostle E. L. Yates

If we can do nothing more than maintain the spirit that has prevailed here today, we will have been abundantly blessed in the efforts we have put forth. However I am persuaded that as the day grows older and others blend their voices with those who have spoken before, the things said will have brought to us courage, hope and zeal to face those things and those circumstances which we must face in the future.

"Those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, they shall be filled", we are told in the Master's Sermon on the Mount. I would like to bring to our attention that because of a hunger and a thirst for righteousness in the hearts and the souls of a few faithful people, the gospel of Christ has been kept alive in Collins, Mo. I should say, the gospel of Christ as we understand it, not to belittle or offend any other people who are striving to worship their God in the way they understand. It is because of that hunger, that thirst, that determination and the faithfulness of those people, and by the grace of God that we have met here today to dedicate this building to the service of God.

As the world passes by and observes here this building they see nothing to warrant us gathering here today to dedicate this humble chapel. In comparison to mighty cathedrals that are in existence in the world, this little chapel is as alone as a lone grain of sand upon the beach. Yet what is it that makes it great. Is it the stone that forms the foundation, the boards, the nails, the paint? No it is not that. To those of you who dwell here, who have striven through the years to acquire a place of worship, it has become a place of quiet rest from the cares of the world—a place where, in the calmness of spiritual understanding we can lay our burdens at the feet of the Master and with a faith passing all understanding, receive a divine assurance that the Master cares.

Some of the words of a song we sang this morning were: "Mid restless crowds with all their noise and tumult—no rest, no leisure find our spirits there. Our vision fails our sense of life's proportions, unless we seek the quiet place of prayer." That is one of the reasons we are here today.

The Lord works in mysterious ways his wonders to



perform. He has worked in a mysterious way in order that your hunger might be filled. And we have been somewhat satisfied today in our spiritual appetites, when we have met together and have felt the bond of fellowship that is so strong that it superceeds the ties of blood relation.

I might illustrate that thought by an experience that I had in Yucatan. We were meeting with friends for the first time in their home. There had been one of that family who had had a spiritual manifestation prior to our visit. She had seen us in a dream and it was so vivid they were able to identify us upon sight. During the conversation we were told of her dream in which she saw that during a period of time when we were moved to tears because of our study and talk of the Master that a sister of hers walked into the room. And in the dream the sister asked, "Why are you crying, are you sad?" And she answered, "No we are not sad we are happy because we know that these people of another land, are our brothers and sisters in the gospel of Christ." She was telling us a dream, but before we left there that afternoon it was fulfilled to the letter. The sister walked in and the first thing she said was, "Why are you sad? Are you crying because you are sad?" And the answer was, "No we are crying because we are happy to know we are brothers and sisters in the gospel, in the family of Jesus Christ."

We are dedicating a building here today so that families by the name of Smith, Martin, Wheaton, Sar-ratt, and many other family names, can meet here together in the bond of fellowship under one name—the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. And under that name we become brothers and sisters with such a bond and such a tie that blood relationship is a minor detail.

May this be a place where the ministers called of God can occupy and declare the gospel of Christ in power and with authority. From this day forward, we have prayed and we do pray, that God in his great mercy and compassion will bless this place, that it shall be a place where all who come to worship will be fed that food that will cause the soul to live in spiritual fatness. And may they drink of that water that the Master spoke of, when he said if you drink of this water you will never again thirst.

I believe that it is necessary for those who would hereafter enjoy the purpose for which this building was dedicated, must of a necessity have a dedicated life and made their commitments to Jesus Christ. And if this people remain zealous and faithful in their search for righteousness they shall continue to be filled.

By Apostle Clarence Wheaton

Reading: I Cor. 2:9-10.

When I first came to this area some 35 years ago, I was a young man. As I look around over this congregation today I see young people with their chil-

dren who were babes in arms when I first came here. Some of them, I had the privilege of cradling in my arms, some of them I blessed as children, later I baptized some of them, still later I married some of them, and today the fourth generation of some of those who were here then are here now. And one of those dear sister, Sister James Martin, who held her torch of truth as a light in this area is long gone to her rest in the paradise of God. And I'm quite sure that if she was permitted to return to our presence here today that her heart would have reason to greatly rejoice.

In 1931, my wife and I, and our family, in an old Model T Ford, started westward—and this was our first stopping place on our six or seven years of missionary effort through the South, the West and finally up in the Northwest before returning home. Many changes have taken place in that length of time.

As I look around me today, not only do I see faces that were here in Collins at that time, but I see faces of those that we met along the way. Some of them from Phoenix, some from Colorado, some from Wisconsin, some from Minnesota—oh the list could grow long. I think of all those men who came here—Bozarth, Mohler, Smith, Denham, Anderson,, Yates, Sheldon, Wheaton, and many others. But it is the same old story that we have been reading, that: "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prospered for them that love him."

But that is the way a church is built—meeting people, becoming acquainted with them, having the opportunity to sit down at their fireside or by the side of the bed where there was sickness or affliction and hear their hearts express the things which they held dear. And these kind of experiences are the things that bind people together.

I Cor. 3:4, "For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos are ye not carnal?"

I wonder while we are dedicating this building we say, "This was done by Apollos, and this was done by Paul and we owe them the credit." Bringing it down to our day, there were Yates', there were Wheaton's, Denhams and different ones, that ministered here. But Paul says: "For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?" Who then is Clarence Wheaton, William Sheldon, Archie Bell—they are ministers of Christ, one and all. One may have planted, another watered, and another cultivated—but it is God who gives the increase.

"For we are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building." And so the building we are assembled in today is not one of just stone, mortar and nails, but is a spiritual house where the spirit of God can dwell.

There has been many disappointments along the way for all of us—the longer we live the longer the list—but after all there is hope, there is something we can look forward to with enjoyment.

I'd like to read a little poem that gives me con-

siderable uplift at times and I hope that it will do the same for you.

### THE BRIDGE BUILDER

An old man, going a lone highway,  
Came at the evening, cold and gray,  
To a chasm, vast and deep and wide,  
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.  
The old man crossed in the twilight dim—  
That sullen stream had no fears for him;  
But he turned, when he reached the other side,  
And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,  
"You are wasting strength in building here.  
Your journey will end with the ending day;  
You never again must pass this way.  
You have crossed the chasm, deep and wide,  
Why build you the bridge at the eventide?"

The builder lifted his old grey head.  
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,  
"There followeth after me today  
A youth whose feet must pass this way.  
This chasm that has been naught to me  
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.  
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;  
"Good friend, I am building the bridge for him."

—Will Allen Dromgoole.

May this poem be an answer to you of why I stand here, of why as a young man I went out to minister to the children of men. I had a dream, that some day there would be a return of the Saviour, and that there should be a people prepared for His coming. And that if I built properly, that if I was very careful of the measurement of each board that I put in that bridge that was my responsibility—that these little tots—some day will follow after me. And I wonder if my building will be secure enough that it will give them a safe footing along the way of life.

May God bless you is my prayer.

By Elder Joseph E. Yates

(Note: After the audience finished singing the first verse of "Let The Lower Lights Be Burning" at the speaker's request, he continues:)

That hymn to me is very fitting for the thoughts that have been expressed here today—for the very occasion for which we are met. The words say: "Brightly beams our Father's mercy from His lighthouse evermore; but to us He gives the keeping of the lights along the shore." In the dedication service we dedicate this church to be one of the "lights along the shore."

I heard a song a month or so ago, and the name of it was "you're going to spend eternity somewhere," and so you are—I am too. We are going to spend eternity somewhere and if this church is dedicated to

the service of God and we can become one of those little lights along the shore, we can help folks spend that eternity in the right place. We the people of this church want to conduct ourselves and to dedicate our lives in such a way that we can actually be a "light along the shore" and reflect that light from the Great Master in such a manner that it will guide people to spend eternity in that somewhere that will be pleasant for them.

We have been told here today that because someone hungered and thirsted after righteousness, had a desire to do a certain thing—it was accomplished and we now have a church. Oh its a wonderful thing, and even little folks can do big things—that hunger and thirst in the heart of man is the driving power that goads us on to success. I want to tell the children a story about a little banty hen that did a wonderful big job. It just shows us how much little people can do. If you have the will, the determination, if you believe your religion like a giant, believe in God—you can get things done.

I was just finishing up my chores one day—I had 16 or 18 head of cattle (now that's several ton of cattle) coming down through the barn yard and there in front of them was a little speckled banty hen hovering a brood of 9 or 10 baby chicks. It was muddy, and here came that rushing herd of cattle to tromp those poor little chicks to death. The mother wanted to save them so what did she do? She flew up in the face of that herd of cattle and squawked and screamed and beat her wings and drove that whole herd out of the barn lot and saved every chick she had. And when you have the desire, a driving hunger to accomplish a certain thing, you'll get that thing done.

When I was asked to be one of the speakers today, I tried to find a good scripture that would be appropriate for this occasion. And do you know what came to my mind? The exact verse that Bro. Archie Bell used as his text this morning. As I opened up my Bible and read it yesterday—I thought it was a wonderful topic for a dedication service. So I may use that text again, I'm sure it isn't worn out yet. It says, choose you this day who you will serve. And if you think it's evil why don't do it, if you think it is evil to serve God don't serve him—but you're going to take the consequences.

The Lord is not going to force you to go to heaven, nor will he force you to go to hell—but He will give you the chance to live the life that will put you in one place or the other. So Joshua said to his people: "Choose you this day who you will serve, as for me and my house we will serve the Lord." Here are some verses that fit that thought.

Know ye that every soul is free  
To choose his life what he shall be  
For this eternal truth is given  
That God will force no one to heaven.



He will call, persuade, direct aright.  
 Bless with wisdom, love and light.  
 In countless ways be good and kind  
 But never force the human mind.

—Anon.

You know it is a happy thought that none of you people were forced to come to church here today. You could have stayed home if you wanted to, but you made the choice and its a compliment to you, because here is the place where souls are fed from the divine storehouse—from His Light House evermore—we are keeping the lights along the shore.

Years ago, when Dick Wheaton came back from the army, I heard him express these thoughts in a testimony: "In the perplexity and temptation and the turmoil you're forced to face in the service you need something to tie to" and he said, "I thought of this little white church many times, this little church where my mother and father brought me, where they taught me things about God." Why that little church was one of the lights along the shore, that guided the young man when he was faced with temptations all around him. He thought of that little white church, where he learned about Christ where he learned to pray. He thought of that monument—the church—a dedicated place.

Yes we know that we owe much to folks in the olden days, for keeping the work alive in Collins, but we must not forget the responsibility of the **now**. So in keeping with this thought I offer the following poem written by my Dad but which I have changed slightly to fit the here and now.

Is there a city we may call your town  
 In the dull and common now  
 Where scarce there seems a worth need  
 For heroic act or vow?

There was a city known as olden time  
 In the far and distant past  
 Where the glamour of her majesty  
 Our fancy said would last.

There were noble deed and valiant folk  
 In that far off olden-time.  
 How fortunate were they to live  
 In a city so sublime.

How grand to have been a Joseph of old,  
 I thought while in this muse,  
 Sold into Egyptian bondage,  
 A Holy life to choose.

How fine to have been a Daniel man,  
 Serene in a lion's den.  
 What common ways the now-a-days  
 What glory times were then!

How sweet to have been a Bible Ruth,  
 A gleaner of the sheeves.  
 To leave a pure sweet life of truth,  
 Inscribed on sacred leaves.

What a holy thrill our lives to fill  
 To have lived in Galilee  
 And heard the choice in loving voice—  
 "Come thou and follow me."

But what renown in our old town,  
 In the common place today,  
 Where the golden time of the olden-time  
 Seems—oh so far away.

Begone such trouting muses these  
 Deceivers they, every one  
 There is no greater day than now,  
 Since mankind saw the sun.

Old yesterday has passed away,  
 Tomorrow is not sure  
 Now is the time for deeds sublime,  
 Make them to endure.

Let the ancient year then disappear  
 Our need for virtue we can see  
 And the time to do, we say to you—  
 Is nineteen sixty-three.

So its Collin's town you see, not Galilee,  
 Is best by test while we are in it  
 And the timely notch by the tick of the watch  
 Is just this passing minute!

#### AN ANCIENT CHINESE PHILOSOPHY

If there is righteousness in the heart, there will be beauty in the character. If there is beauty in the character, there will be harmony in the home. If there is harmony in the home, there will be order in the nation. When there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world.

#### TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?

Sermon Elder Don McIndoo

Life here on earth is a continuous round of decision-making. Daily we are confronted with strains, stresses, and trials; with sin, and with wrong doing, endeavoring to lead us in its way.

All of us at times need to look to someone else for help, for encouragement and consolation, even those who are equipped with training, education and much experience. When we find ourselves in need of such help, to whom shall we turn? Where shall we put our trust in times of trial, difficulty, discouragement, and decision-making? The psalmist, David, answers some of those questions for us.

Praise ye the Lord. Praise the Lord, O my soul.  
 While I live will I praise the Lord: I will sing  
 praises unto my God while I have any being.  
 Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of  
 man, in whom there is no help. . . .

Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God:  
 Which made heaven, and earth, the sea, and all that therein is: which keepeth truth for ever:  
 Which executeth judgment for the oppressed: which giveth food to the hungry. The Lord looseth the prisoners:  
 The Lord openeth the eyes of the blind: the Lord raiseth them that are bowed down: the Lord loveth the righteous:  
 The Lord preserveth the strangers: he relieveth the fatherless and widow: but the way of the wicked he turneth upside down.  
 The Lord shall reign for ever, even thy God, O Zion, unto all generations. Praise ye the Lord.

—Psalms 146.

In life's everyday problems most of us react pretty much the same. For example: If my son should break his arm, I would find myself, because of lack of experience, unable to cope with the situation, and I would then need the help of an expert physician who could X-ray, set and restore the broken bone to its right position so that it could heal properly. Or, if my automobile quit running, what would I do if I were unable to find the trouble myself? I would take it to someone who was trained to listen to it, look at it, and tell me very quickly and simply what's wrong with it, and what needs to be done to remedy the trouble. If my wife and I were having problems that we were unable to resolve ourselves, and we decided to go to someone for professional guidance, (a marriage counselor) how silly it would be if we went to a counsellor who was a bachelor! It wouldn't make sense. Most of us wouldn't do it. We would go to someone who had had experience—someone who is qualified to give us help—someone in whom we can have confidence.

In things pertaining to our spiritual lives, to whom do we go for help? All too often we are willing to turn to a casual friend, or neighbor for advice on what to do on Sunday. Should we go to church? What activity should we engage in on Sunday? Where should we spend our time? Too often advice pertaining to these important things comes from a wrong source.

A friend of mine, whose daughter is a student at Arizona State University, is worried about some of the advice she is receiving in that institution, and well he might be. In one of her classes, where she is studying to learn a good philosophy of life, her instructor, a Major in Psychology, or some other related field, is telling her and countless other students, that religion is unnecessary, that a belief in God is relatively unimportant in our world today. How easily we listen to teachers, professors at school, friends or acquaintances who attempt to tell us about the vital affairs of life! How often we let the movie stars set for us and our children an example of behavior which is an unworthy example! How easy it is for people to let

advertisements of TV, radio, newspapers or magazines influence us on how to be happy! This kind of cigarette in one hand, and this kind of beer in the other, telling us how live the good life!

Too often we allow all of these unqualified people to affect our spiritual well-being, those things that are a matter of life and death.

Who should help us make up our mind about things of lasting value? One who has had experience in life, in spiritual affairs, and with God, not someone who is devoid of that experience, and therefore unqualified to give us advice or counsel. We need to go to someone or to an organization that has had vital experience with God, with spiritual things, as well as with life and the problems of life.

In the Book of Proverbs we find the writings of one such man, Solomon, a man who indeed had experience with life. He knew the world; he knew the ways of life; he knew the sins that so easily beset men and women, for they beset Solomon also, and there were times in his life, we must admit, when he yielded to wrong doing, but he also had experience with spiritual things and experience with God. Let's listen to some of Solomon's words: "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (Prov. 14:12).

Yes, there are ways that seem intelligent, that seem right and good, but we need to realize, as Solomon pointed out, that the end thereof leads to death and destruction.

Paul was another man who had experience with the world. He was educated, sophisticated and wise. He was a leader among men, but in his early years he persecuted the saints, who were in search of Christ. He watched, approvingly, as they were stoned to death, for he was convinced that this was the way for him, a wise and intelligent youth, to behave. Then he had an experience with God—an experience that qualifies him to give counsel and advice to you and me today.

When you go home today, read about the wonderful experience Paul, then called Saul, had with God. It is found in Acts 9. In this experience, Paul heard the voice of the Lord instructing him what to do. He was blinded by the great light from heaven, physically blinded, but later he received again his eyesight, as well as the spiritual light to know that Jesus is the Christ. He was shown things that would happen even unto our own time, so that he is now qualified to give us advice and counsel in spiritual matters. Here is some of that advice about things of lasting spiritual value:

Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. . . . in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.



Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

—Philippians 4:4-8.

Notice what he says about those who keep these things: "the peace of God which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." This is a wonderful promise.

In temporal things as well as spiritual, following the right rules produces the best results. The scientific farmer gets better results than the haphazard one. Health is the reward of those who pay attention to the laws of health and hygiene. Bad eating habits, too much strenuous exercise without the proper rest, and use of cigarettes and alcohol, and other abuses can bring only less than good health.

About thirty years ago our country suffered a bad depression. A political slogan of the day was "A chicken in every pot, and a car in every garage." Today, we not only have a chicken in every pot, and a car in every garage, but we have two chickens in every pot, and two cars in every garage, as well as a boat and perhaps a trailer with much camping equipment. But are we happy and well? Do we have that peace that Paul promised us, through inspiration?

In trying to evaluate the health and well-being and happiness of our nation, a young lawyer used the following four criteria: (1) suicide, (2) crime, (3) alcoholism and (4) mental disorder.

Considering these four criteria upon which to make a judgment, he decided that no well, happy nation would have a high incidence of suicide; that no well, happy nation would have crimes of violence; that a well, happy nation has no need for escape in alcoholism, and last, that a well, happy nation does not become mentally ill, as the unfortunate people do who live in some of the oppressed nations of the world.

In spite of our democratic way of life, and the very high standard of living, we have the evidences of sickness and unhappiness with us.

Most every manufactured item we have today is accompanied with a manual of instructions, giving the rules to go by in order to get the best and longest use of that particular thing. This is true of automobiles, refrigerators, and any number of commodities. A book of rules, or a handbook comes with them.

Our Creator has given us some rules in His inspired handbooks, the Bible and the Book of Mormon. From the latter handbook, we may learn that a people who occupied this continent many years ago lived so close to the rules of the handbook that they were as well and as happy as any people had ever been. "And surely there could not be a happier people among all the people who had been created by the hand of God." IV Nephi 1:19.

By reading the verses just before the one quoted above, we learn just what it was which qualified them to be such a happy people.

"The people were all converted unto the Lord, and there were no contentions and disputations among them, and every man did deal justly one with another."

We, too, must follow the rules in order to be among the happiest people in all the world.

It is good to search in God's handbooks for the places where the rules are condensed, easily read and understood. Such a place is found in Paul's writings, where he says:

For I say, through the grace given unto me to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. . . .

Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another;

Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit serving the Lord; . . .

If it be possible, as much as lieth in you; live peaceably with all men.

—Romans 12:3-18.

We may think that some of God's rules are not important, but all of them are important. A scientific woman once walked from coast to coast, a 3,000 mile journey over rugged mountains, swift rivers, sandy deserts and scorching plains. Of all the hardships she had, she named as the most difficult one, the little grains of sand which kept getting in her shoes. Perhaps the little (or seemingly little) rules of kindness and patience may seem unimportant, but they, like the grains of sand, might be most vexing ones, and the hardest to overcome.

In all things we need to measure our conduct, our thinking, our daily life by the handbooks of God, his inspired word, if we would be well, happy and achieve Eternal Life. Let us always be found walking in His paths.

#### **THERE ARE THREE WITNESSES**

In writing to the Galatians, the Apostle Paul said:

"This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established." Gal. 13.1.

A witness is a person who has heard discussions, or seen events, or situations, which have impressed themselves upon his or her mind to that degree that it registers as an outstanding experience which cannot be easily erased from his or her mind or thoughts. Therefore to free one's self from the responsibility of such an experience, he must unburden his thoughts to others.

Thus, I come to you, the Church, as a witness of several events or experiences which I have been impressed to share with you, that you too may be partakers of the joys which have been confirmed to me.

As a foreword to what I am about to witness to you, I wish to recall that several times in late years, I have heard the expression used, "We do not enjoy the gifts of the gospel as we once did years ago." Or, "Miracles do not take place as they did when I was younger in the work." These and similar statements have caused me to ponder much over such expressions, for there is but one commentary to be made, if such be the truth, That comment is expressed in the words of Moroni, in his farewell address to the Lamanites:

"And I would exhort you, my beloved brethren, that ye remember that every good gift cometh from Christ.

And I would exhort you, my beloved brethren, that ye remember that he is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and that **all these gifts of which I have spoken, which are spiritual, never will be done away, even as long as the world shall stand, only according to the unbelief of the children of men.**" Book of Moroni, 10:13-14. (Underscoring mine for emphasis, CLW).

Here is a challenge to your faith, my faith, and the faith of every Christian person in this generation of time, which we must either accept, or face the fact that we are unbelieving. So what is your personal conviction and answer? Are you a true believer in Christ, enjoying the gifts and blessings of the Gospel? Or, are you an unbeliever, rendering lip service in a profession of belief, yet not being able to witness the display of His bounteous blessings to those who are men and women of faith? You are in one or the other of these categories. Therefore the question arises, How shall we know whether we are true believers or just plain unbelievers? Thus you are challenged to give a reason for your hope or lack of hope.

I have received three witnesses, which confirm to me, that the promises of the Lord are sure; that He is the same God yesterday, today, and forever, and that "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."—James 1:17.

During recent weeks, in company with my wife, and two grand-daughters, I have attended and taken part in three widely separated Reunions of the Church of Christ; the Missouri State Reunion at Houston, Missouri, the Michigan State Reunion at Flint, Michigan, and the Wisconsin State Reunion at Sparta, Wisconsin. These are my three witnesses, that testify to my soul that the gifts and blessings of the Gospel have not been done away, and that they are still being manifest among men of Good Will. In each of these Reunions, it was my privilege to mingle with, and talk with many members of the Church of Christ from widely separated parts of the country. There were those who at-

tended these gatherings from Arizona, California, Colorado, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Tennessee, Michigan, Missouri, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Canada, Illinois and many other places. These good people left their labors, their responsibilities, their homes, and occupations temporarily, that they might attend these Reunions. And their purpose was not just to enjoy social contacts, but for the reason that they were searching for spiritual food and sustenance by which their souls would be nourished, and they could continue, if possible their witness for Christ. Many of those who thus came were from isolated areas, who were denied the privilege of fellowship with others except at the Reunions. Others were from areas where well organized and well attended local churches were located. So why did they gather?

Judging each of them by my own motives, I would say that they each came for the purpose of gaining spiritual blessings, and to share with others those blessings they had received. It was truly inspiring to see that the prayer and sacrament services were the most largely attended. Each day witnessed an early morning prayer service, usually of two or three hours in length, then followed preaching services. The Sacrament Service at Houston lasted three hours. During this time many prayers and testimonies were given; several requested administration, and the spirit of love and fellowship prevailed. The day before arriving at the Houston gathering, I had strained my back lifting some heavy power equipment and was in so much pain that I could hardly sit still. I was moved on to ask for administration, and through the mercies of God, I was blessed above measure in such a remarkable degree, that as I arose to bear a testimony shortly afterwards, I was amazed to feel and know that all the pain and distress of my body had completely left, and from that day to this have had no relapse. At the Flint, Michigan Reunion the Sacrament service, lasted for three hours, when only two hours were scheduled with a preaching service to follow. Apostle Don Housknecht, graciously yielded his preaching hour so that this wonderful prayer service could continue. Here again we witnessed the gifts of healing, the spirit of fellowship. The Sacrament Service at Sparta lasted four hours, and then many were unable to take part because of the time to adjourn for the noon hour, and the marvelous repast the sisters had prepared. During this period, many of the gifts of the gospel were manifest: the gift of tongues, and the interpretation of the same, prophesy, the gift of healing, the calling of several of the brethren to the ministry, and above all the gift of God's Holy Spirit to melt and fuse together the hearts of each one into a most wonderful fellowship. Truly as the hymn goes, "Look for the beautiful look for the true: Sunshine and shadows are all around you; Looking at evil you grope in the night, Looking at Jesus you walk in the light," was a rewarding experience in each Reunion.

Each person who came to the reunions was fed ac-



ording to what he sought from the menu set before us in these spiritual feasts. If they did not find spiritual food, it was because they chose the wrong thing, for they had a choice. Often this is the case when we sit down to eat, we choose the wrong entree, and then go away disgruntled and unhappy with the "management." In other instances, the choice brought delightful surprises. For my part, I received many delightful surprises, that were heart warming and soul satisfying. For instance, several years ago, I passed through Minneapolis. There in the home of Brother Tom Maley, we found his beloved wife, Tizzy, an invalid, in a wheel chair, with a woman companion to assist her during the day. Tom, thus worried, and with a job to hold, was doing his best to keep up the home and make her condition bearable. Tizzy was much discouraged, yet was able to smile and laugh with us. We administered to her with somewhat of misgiving, that perhaps we might not be worthy before God of so great a blessing as she stood in need of. But nevertheless, we administered, and commended her to the mercies of a loving Father in heaven. Imagine our delight, and surprise, during the Sacrament service there at Sparta, to see among others who were arriving after the service had been underway for some time, our good brother Tom, with Tizzy walking beside him, without the aid of cane, crutches or other device to assist her. Just Tizzy, on her own two feet, with that broad contagious smile on her face that was so constantly with her during her affliction. This sight brought a thrill to every one in the room who knew her. It was difficult for many of us to suppress the desire to rush to her and greet her. To me, this was a marvelous demonstration of the love of God in action among the children of men. Was this not a miracle? Was this not a witness to us that God is the same today, as well as in former years? I think so. For I can truly testify to you that on that winter's day when we administered to Tizzy, I had some reservations as to her ever walking again without some mechanical aid. Yet, with God there was not the least bit of uncertainty, for the processes of faith, prayer and healing had been put in motion, and the result was a demonstration of the miraculous power of God in our day and time.

During that unforgettable service, four persons were administered to at one time, and intermittently during the morning several others come forward for the same blessing. The gift of tongues was given and interpreted. A young brother Rolland Sarratt (since ordained as an elder) was called during this gift, to the priesthood, and through another interpretation was given that he was to be ordained to the Eldership and was to prepare himself for future missionary work. Others were spoken to that they might prepare and qualify themselves for future service, and one brother was designated to go into the Council of Seventies. At the Houston, Missouri Reunion, several were baptized, and at Sparta Apostle Flint, at eight-three years of age, led three young people down into the crystal clear waters of the Sparta River for baptism.

Thus was the Spirit of God manifested in these three widely separated places, testifying to the souls of all who attended, that God still works with his people according to their faith. Not only were the afflicted bodies of many thus healed, but in some very outstanding cases, which may be testified of later, there were souls healed in a spiritual way, and misunderstandings of past years were resolved, and the spirit of fellowship and love prevailed to a very large degree. These three Reunions, then become my Witnesses to the fact that if we search for truth and the spirit of reconciliation we can find it. And what a marvelous thing it is, that these many people from far away places with some divergent ideas could thus come together, and as one person, be able to testify to the eternal goodness and love of God. It was an experience never to be forgotten. One that fills the soul with a longing, which words cannot express, for the gathering of the saints of God; for the redemption of Zion; and the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to reign for a millenium of peace and good will among men upon the earth. What a wonderful conference we could have, if every one came in the same spirit of love and fellowship that was experienced in these Reunions. Surely it would move the cause of Zion with mighty power.

The inspiration come to me during these reunions, that in the heart of each one of us is a garden. And in this garden we cultivate and treasure our memories and best desires. Some of these memories are beautiful and fragrant like roses and primroses fresh with the dew of morning upon them. Like flowers they brighten our days, and fill our thoughts with comfort and cheer. There may be other plants growing there also, which are like weeds, memories that canker our souls, and cause us to be suspicious, envious, jealous, and hateful toward others. If we allow these weeds to grow, in time they will choke out the beautiful flowers we cherish. Therefore as wise gardeners, we should cultivate the roses, the primroses, etc., which are love, brotherly kindness, gentleness, etc., with tender care, and carefully uproot and remove the weeds from our natures that take the nourishment and moisture from soil to the detriment of our garden. So, in this garden of our hearts, let us remove the weeds of hate, envy, jealousy, evil speaking and back-biting one toward another and watch the result of how much more beautiful and fragrant our garden of spiritual things becomes. Let the Spirit of God work from within and through us, as in the case of the little girl's marigolds spoken of recently in the Advocate, in which she asked her mother why the flower bud she tried to open with her fingers was not as pretty as the one God made, and then answering her own question, said, "I know, God works from within." The results will be marvelous to us and those around us. Here is what one man found in his garden of meditation, at a time when he was passing through a most bitter and trying experience:

**LOVE**

(From a Sermon by the late Bishop J. F. Kerr, RLDS, on the Temple Lot, 1925).

While sauntering in the valley of meditation,  
Where the air is laden with perfume of flowers;  
Where the hillsides are carpeted with great rugs  
Of variegated shades of gold and green,  
And above were the fleecy white clouds,  
Like a sheet of shimmering gold;  
As the sunbeams played upon them from behind the  
mountain,  
Here I busied myself by gathering this beautiful  
bouquet,  
Which I want to place in the vase of your heart.

God is love.

Where love reigns there is harmony.

Harmony is the grouping of forces, sometimes antagonistic, in such relationship to each other as to cause a perfect blending.

Love is energizing, inspiring, health producing, unselfish, produces humility of mind and gentleness of manner.

Love elevates, enlarges our vision, dispels doubt, darkness and despair.

Love solves every human problem, liberates slaves,

destroys caste, and establishes equality.

The flower of love is desire, but the fruit of desire is action.

Love can only be expressed in terms of action. When it is not, the flower withers and dies, having lost its fragrance and beauty.

Love kills enmity, makes friends, obscures faults, enlarges virtues, develops sympathy, and draws men together in the spirit of mutual helpfulness.

Love is seen in the eye, felt in the handshake, heard in the voice, and then the very atmosphere seems impregnated with its perfume.

Love insures happiness, ends wars, builds homes, cements families, and stabilizes civilization.

LOVE—what is it? It is universal concord. It is the life of God in action in the hearts of men, for God is love.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his Only Begotten Son, That whosoever believed in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”—John 3:16.

Since penning the above words, we attended another Reunion in Tennessee. Here we found the same forces at work, The love of God in the lives of men.

Clarence L. Wheaton, Sr.

**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.

**ROME IN THE LIGHT OF THE BIBLE**

Apostle T. J. Jordan  
(Part Two)

In closing our recent article regarding Peter's whereabouts up to the year 55 A.D.—we left him at Jerusalem or in that region. We now proceed to examine his sojourn from that date to the year 66 A.D. which was the year of his martyrdom. We shall follow the Douay and King James versions.

In the former article we followed the Bible only and not history or tradition.

Gal. 2:6-9, "But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision (Gentile) was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision (Jews) was unto Peter; For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles: And when James, Cephas, (Peter) and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision."

From this text of Holy Writ we learn that Paul was

especially commissioned to go to the Gentiles with the gospel while Peter was especially commissioned to go to the Jews. This agrees with Acts 23:11. "And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome." So now dear reader, God himself had especially appointed Paul to go to Rome but not a word about Peter going there. But Peter was especially appointed to go in the opposite direction to the Jews, as we learn from the following texts. Acts 8:1-14.

"And Saul was consenting unto his (Stephen's) death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles."

Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:"

Here again we learn that Peter is still in Jerusalem and not Rome, and he was sent with John down into Samaria by the other apostles. This text also shows Peter had no supremacy over the other apostles—by this we also see they were all equal. The foregoing



proves that Peter never was in Rome up to this date the year 60 A.D. It also proves Peter never was a Pope nor a President nor any such like. He never held any supremacy of any sort over the other apostles but it also shows after the endowment at Pentecost he became a stalwart in proclaiming the teachings of his Lord—even if he did previously deny Jesus and forsake him for a season.

Dear readers let us not be deceived and misled by men's traditions. Paul tells us: "For other foundation can no man lay." Let us build on the foundation laid by Jesus Christ in order to enjoy our part in God's Kingdom which is everlasting and has no end.

Much more could be written on this subject for we have the evidence at hand. If any desire more we will gladly supply.

### ESSAYS ON: "AS I LIVED IN MEXICO"

#### Number V: Religion and Politics

By Floyd L. Rader, Jr.

(Morelia, Michoacan, Mexico)

It is with some reluctance that I delve into the aspects of religion in Mexico, but nevertheless, I find it can be a picturesque and worthy subject. To most of the natives, it is an integral part of their lives; bred into them at birth to nourish them throughout their lives and to pave the way for them as they cross the river Styx into the world beyond. It gives them hope, faith and the courage they need to sustain them in this land that has been so ravaged by wars, revolutions, internal strife and poverty. The latter, which is so evident in the loins of this struggling young Republic, can be said to have fostered and nourished the desire for something a little better. Thus the church supplies the spiritual food for the spirit and often the material food for the body.

Throughout the countryside, one can see the brightly tiled domes of the churches gleaming spotlessly in the sun. The architecture may be Greek, Gothic, Colonial or even an Arabic element, but whatever the style, each can add up to an interesting subject for the artist or the photographer. With bell towers, graciously sculptured in stone and rising majestically skyward, they stand in bold relief against the natural element of trees and nopal cactus, burros and adobe huts.

If these stone monuments to God, were able to communicate audibly, what a vivid story would come forth. Stories of the sweat and tears of the blood and sacrifice that the people made to erect them. Stories of the lust and greed of the men who fought to bring this land, her independence. Tales of the pillage and plunder; the rape and the toil; the life and death, both of people and of the land. These are the stories the churches would tell and each one has left, somewhere, a vivid scar to grimly remind this land of her historical past.

In a recent issue of a local newspaper, statistical figures on a recent poll were given. This poll pertained to the religious divisions of Mexico. As quoted in the newspaper, some 78,000 persons claim membership in Protestant churches. This is the combined

total of all the different Protestant churches in Mexico. Baptists, Methodists, Mormons, Presbyterians, and numerous other factions were all represented by this figure.

Another 131,000 persons profess to be atheists. Almost double the number of Protestants. An interesting logic to this is the number of these that will become willful converts as they stand at death's door. It is noteworthy to mention here that few atheists ever die, and to use a worn expression, "they just fade away."

The remaining thirty-four million plus, profess allegiance to the Catholic church. Here then poses a puzzling aspect of the political forefront. It is a known fact that Mexico is dominated, controlled, ruled and governed by one-party system, and that this party can predict many months preceding the election, who will be the next president, ministers in the cabinet, governors, all the way down to the chief of police in smallest pueblo, with extreme accuracy. This party is known as PRI.

There is in Mexico, another party, that has official candidates running in the various elections, who can boast of an occasional victory, if the office for which he is running is not in the sights of a PRI man. This party is known as PAN and is backed by and large, by the Catholic church.

It should be noted however, that the Catholic church does not profess to be directly connected with PAN, and only because the country is some ninety-eight per cent Catholic, is the cause and effect of the influence of Catholicism in PAN. Because of this percentage, and a request from the Pope that all good Catholics affiliate themselves with a political party that is not fighting the church, there can be but one conclusion—a superiority in numbers at least, in the PAN party. Still, PRI runs the government.

There is yet a third group, great in numbers but having little or no significance in the general elections. These are known as the Sinardhista. But though they lack prominence, they are, along with the Communists, worthy of recognition.

It would be almost impossible to mention politics and completely ignore, Communism. Mexico could not remain immune to this threat to free men the world over, and because the Mexican people are free, they must accept that giving each the right to believe in his own concepts of what is best for the people, is an open invitation to Communism.

(to be continued)

### THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

The four panels of a door in your home have in relief the sign of the Cross. This is no accident. The Woodcraftment's Guild in England in the Middle Ages took as their motto the words of Christ, "I am the Door." Then they wrought in each door the sign of the Cross. It is a beautiful pattern, suiting both the hand and the eye.

Along the Way.

**OBITUARY**

Ency E. Jamison 81 years of age, a member of the Church of Christ for many years, passed on September 27, just two weeks after having a heart attack. She had been living in San Diego the past few years, but had returned to Albuquerque, New Mexico in May.

She is survived by all four of her children: Mrs. Faust Matthews, Springfield, Missouri; Mrs. Brand Hening, Albuquerque, N. M.; Verl Jamison, Kansas City, Missouri; Marshall V. Jamison, Pacific Palisades, California: two sisters, two brothers; nine grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Sister Jamison, ever a firm believer in the Restoration gospel, was born in rural Nebraska, descendent of a pioneer family who had fled Nauvoo at the time of the dispersion there.

She will be remembered not only for her practical Christianity, but for the many beautiful gardens she made throughout her long life, including a last lovely rose garden in San Diego last spring. So, it was most appropriate that the final services were under the pines, with lots of colorful autumn flowers, may dear friends, and a comforting service, full of the hope that Christ promised, given by the husband of an old friend, Dr. Joseph Hansell.

**TWO VIEWPOINTS**

By Ardy Hanes, Sr.

Two sets of books are on my shelf,  
By authors who convinced themselves,  
Their arguments could not be shaken.  
Both proved the other mistaken.  
As far apart as whim and reason,  
As Winter and the summer season.

I read the first man's through and through  
Feeling all he said was surely true.  
I found him brilliant and clever  
And if I had stayed with him forever  
Thinking there could be no other  
Would have lost the view point of the other.

But when the other set I scanned,  
As a man on opposite side to stand  
He tore the first man's facts asunder  
And strangely I began to wonder.  
The different scenes his books were made of  
Was material I had never thought of.

Now its my whim to help to gather  
These two old sages bound in leather.  
And side by side upon a shelf  
An object lesson to myself—  
When men o'er truth begin to wrangle,  
They should seek the truth from every angle.

M

Mrs. Bert C. Krause  
Box 44  
Lamberton, Minnesota

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