

Zion's Advocate

"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and power of the Holy Ghost."—1 Nephi 3:187.

Vol. 41

Independence, Missouri, December, 1964

No. 12

Bethlehem's Glory

○ Advocate, take this sweet story
And carry it far on white wings;
Of Bethlehem's season of glory,
And the rapture that over her rings.
Of the chorus of rhapsodized angels;
Of the shepherds asleep on the hills;
How they walked with the melody swinging,
And their wonder and glorified thrills.

Of the star that stood watching in silence,
Of the Wise Men with gifts from afar;
How they followed the light and came straightway,
By the glow of that glittering Star.
Of the mother—sweet, wise, gentle Mary,
So weary, so patient and good;
Of her thought as she watched her child, Jesus,
And did as all wise mothers should.

And the crown of that wonderful story
Was the Baby, so rosy and sweet,
From the top of his halo-less head, dear,
To the soles of his tiny pink feet;
All swaddled and wrapped as was custom
And sighing—as little ones do,
The Saviour came bringing salvation
And immortal life unto you.

No manger, no star-watch, no shepherds
Are here, in the waiting for you,
But an altar is builded and ready
For gifts, and for love old and new.
Come, let your songs ring in His honor;
Be glad of this story so true;
Bring gifts and give for your gladness,
That He brought this Salvation to you.

Let Christmas be dear for its mem'ries
And the life that He lived among men;
And the tale of His love and Salvation,
Let us tell it again, and again!

—Vida E. Smith Yates

CONTENTS

Editorial	Page 178	Can You Hear Music?	Page 185
Other Wise Man	Page 179	Selection of Apostles	Page 187
The Moon Looked Down	Page 181	Obituary	Page 192

ZION'S ADVOCATE

Official Publication of the Church of Christ

Headquarters on the Temple Lot, Independence, Missouri.
Phone: TEmple 3-3995

EDITOR: Richard R. Wheaton, 704 S. Elizabeth Road,
Independence, Missouri 64050.

ASSOCIATE EDITORS: Clarence L. Wheaton, Sr., 204 W. Sea,
Independence, Missouri 64050. Harvey E. Seibel, 8364 Midland Blvd.,
Overland, Missouri.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE CHURCH OF CHRIST (Temple
Lot), Box 472, Independence, Missouri. 64051.

Second class postage paid at Independence, Missouri.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: One Year, \$1.50. In bundles of twelve
or more, for missionary purposes, \$1.00. Canadian and all foreign
rates, \$1.75.

Send all donations for the Temple Fund, the Storehouse, Conse-
crations, Tithes, Offerings, and subscriptions for the Advocate to:
The Church of Christ, (Temple Lot), Box 472, Independence, Missouri.
64051

EDITORIAL

Follow His Star

What is Christmas to you? Is it only a time to exchange gifts, sing carols and feast? Do we celebrate only the birth of a very sweet and innocent child; and forget the real purpose for which He came into the world?

While these things are good, yet this is not the real purpose for which He took upon Himself the pains of the flesh. He did not come to work out His own salvation as you and I. He was born a babe of mean estate, so far as the world was concerned, to show you and I the way of salvation; that He might take upon Himself the sins of all mankind who would repent and come and follow Him even unto the end.

In Luke 2:28-35, we find this blessing and prophesy:

"Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him. And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

This is the thought we should hold upper most in our celebration and not just the exchange of gifts as the world does.

In Matthew 2:2 we read the declaration of the wise men from the east;

". . . Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."

This, too, should be our declaration, for when we have heard His Gospel and let it fill our hearts, "We have seen his star and have come to worship him."

We should seek His star in our youth and follow it even unto the end of our days. Christ Himself likened the kingdom of heaven unto a priceless gem, Matthew 13:45-46:

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it."

We should, each one, at this Christmas Season, re-dedicate our lives to the obtaining of that "pearl of great price," not only for our own possession, but also for all who will turn from the world and follow His star.

When we can say to Christ as Ruth did to Naomi in Ruth 1:16-17:

". . . Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me."

When we have so dedicated our lives to serving God and our fellowmen, (not only those with whom we agree, but just as readily, those who disagree with us as well) just as Christ did, we shall not only be following His star, but we shall be very close to possessing that "pearl of great price."

RAW

"AS A MAN THINKETH"

The medieval Christian—o'erflowing with zeal—
Burned witches—saw ghosts—that were vividly real—
Hanged zealots that harbored unpopular creeds—
While God seemed to sanction such barbarous deeds:
So he swelled in importance and ruled with the rod,
Himself the exponent and vassal of God.
In his brutal endeavor was satisfied quite—
That, "A man is right, if he thinks he is right!"

Submitted by James Hedrick

THE OTHER WISE MAN

(Reprint from Zion's Advocate, December, 1935)

There are few books that I read twice, but "The Other Wise Man," by Henry Van Duke, is one of them. It grows on you. It applies to the circumstances and conditions of your life, and you find yourself often making comparisons. You come to appreciate the book more and more.

In his preface, the writer intimates that the story was suggested by his own disappointments and realization that his achievements in life had not fulfilled his ambition. He was near death, and felt that he had not finished all that he had wanted to do. Then the story of "The Other Wise Man" unfolded in his mind.

"The Other Wise Man," Artaban, by name, was a Median priest of the Magi, who were followers of Zoroaster, or fire worshipers. He knew of the promises concerning the coming of a great prophet—"Around him shall shine a mighty brightness, and he shall make everlasting, incorruptible, and immortal, and the dead shall rise again." Artaban told his friends. To his father he said: "I have kept this prophecy in the secret place of my soul. Religion without a great hope would be like an altar without a living fire."

Artaban explained to his friends that in the past, which was ancient even at the time when he spoke, there were wise men in Chaldea who expected the coming of a great leader Artaban sometimes calls the Victorious One, sometimes the Deliverer, sometimes the King, or the Prince. He quotes to his father and friends the prophecy—"There shall come a star out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel."

Artaban reads to his hearers from the words of Daniel, also, who is held in high esteem by the Magi. Artaban informs his father and the few friends whom he has invited that evening that the star is expected at that very time; that it has been seen once, and if it appears again, three of his brethren in the priesthood who are watching at Borsippa, in Babylonia, intended starting out to find the King whose birth they understood the star heralded. They would wait ten days for Artaban to join them. He had made all preparations to go. He had sold his possessions, and put the money in three precious jewels, a sapphire, a ruby and a pearl, which he intended to offer as a tribute to the infant King.

Artaban finds his friends incredulous and pitying, but they wish him a safe journey. Faith in a great promise seems always to be given to a few only, in the beginning, who, moved by the conviction that urges them onward, lead the way or blaze a new trail, and when success begins to appear, the crowd follows. The old father and the friends depart. Artaban is left alone. He walks out upon the terrace of the roof. He looks at the night sky. Yes, there it is, the Star. "It is the sign," he murmurs; "the king is coming, and I will go to meet him."

"The other wise man" loses no time. Early in the morning, as the songs of waking birds fill the air, Artaban starts out on his swiftest horse, Vasda. Hour after hour he glides along, expectation and eagerness throbbing within him. He is within three hours' journey of the place where he is to meet the three wise men when his horse gives signs of seeing something, and then comes to a stand-still. Artaban dismounts to find what the trouble is, and there lying across the road, is a poor Hebrew exile, about to expire with a deadly fever that ravages those marsh lands in autumn. Artaban is faced with the necessity of deciding whether he will minister to this sick man and miss his friends, or take no chance and continue his journey. It is a trying moment for Artaban, and he asks why did this have to happen when he was hurrying to his king. Ah, Artaban! Men before you and after you, out of the earnestness of a great purpose have cried out "Why?" against the causes that held them back and caused them to wait!

Artaban decides to delay his desires and minister to his fellow being in need. The Magians "were physicians as well as astronomers," the author tells us. When he has done all he can do for the sick man, after hours of watching beside him, Artaban is rewarded by seeing him revive and sit up, and Artaban resumes his journey. He is compensated to some extent because his horse is rested and can travel faster. Again hope beats high in Artaban's heart. He knows he is three days late. The other three men will have gone on. He will have to go alone, still he hopes to find the King. He has been directed where to go. He makes his way to Nazareth and to the stable. A young mother with a baby greets him, but she is not Mary and her son is not Jesus. She tells him of the strangers (the Magi) from the East. Yes, they came. They said a Star had guided them. They found Joseph and Mary and the Child. They paid reverence to Him, left their gifts, and departed. She said Joseph had taken his little family away, it was whispered, to Egypt, and since they had gone there seemed to be a strange expectancy of something terrible to happen. Even as she and Artaban conversed, sound and shrieks were heard outside, and there was a confusion of terrified women and cruel soldiers rushing through the streets. "They are killing our children!" the women cry. Artaban goes to the door, while the young women behind him clasps her babe to her breast and crouches back in the darkness of the room. The soldiers come up to Artaban. He never moves. He offers one of his precious jewels, the ruby, to the captain. The greedy captain takes it, and orders his soldiers to march on. Artaban parts with something he had sacrificed his possession to obtain that he might present it to the King, but he saves the child's life and wins the heart-felt gratitude of the young mother.

The years pass. Artaban's black hair has turned to gray. He has though all the time been searching for the King, not looking for him in palaces, but among the oppressed and down-trodden, where he had been given to

understand he would find him. He had comforted the sorrowing, fed the hungry, clothed the naked and healed the sick. He had done good wherever opportunity presented along the pathway of life. He had parted with his jewels to meet the necessities that arose. He has only the pearl left.

And now it is the time of the Passover in Jerusalem, and there is unusual excitement in the city. He inquires the cause. "We are going a place called Golgotha," he is informed, "where a man called Jesus of Nazareth is to be crucified." These are familiar terms to poor, tired Artaban. He had traversed land and sea for a lifetime, and has he at last found the King, and under such circumstances? He was troubled, but he did not give up. He would go to Golgotha, hoping this Jesus was the one who was born in Bethlehem thirty-three years ago. Perhaps he could help Him in some way. He still had his pearl. He was close to the gate of Damascus when soldiers came down the street dragging a young girl with torn dress and dishevelled hair. When she saw the Magian she broke away from the soldiers, threw herself at the feet of Artaban and implored protection for a life worse than death. Her father was a merchant of Parthia. He was dead, now, and she had been seized for his debts, and was to be sold. Artaban trembled. He could purchase her freedom with his remaining pearl. "Twice the gift which he had consecrated to the worship of religion and hand been drawn from his hand to the service of humanity. Was it his great opportunity or his last temptation?" There comes times in our lives when it is hard to decide what is best to do, when the only guide we have is the prompting of immediate duty. To our mind the story reached its greatest climax at this point. Artaban is in doubt. There is only one thing that stands out clearly. This poor girl needs him now before any other consideration. The author strikes the keynote of the problem; "it was inevitable," and he asks, "Does not the inevitable come from God?" As you go through life, often stumbling along, hardly knowing whether you have taken the right course or not, if it was the best thing you could see to do, do not worry. Trust God for the outcome.

So Artaban parted with his last jewel—"This is thy ransom, daughter! It is the last of my treasures which I kept for the King." Then the human that is in us all said to Artaban, "The quest is over and you have failed", but even so, he felt a peace in his heart. The human judges as humans do, but something speaking to his soul told him he had not failed. He had done the best he could from day today. He had been true to the light than had been given him. He had looked for more. And if he had not found it, if failure was all that came out of his life, doubtless that was the best that was possible.

Earthquake shook the ground. The walls of houses rocked, dust and clouds filled the air. A heavy tile, shaken from a roof, fell and struck the old man. As he was dying he murmured, "I have never seen thy face,

nor ministered to thee, my King." And a voice answered:

"Verily, I say unto thee, inasmuch as thou hast done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, thou hast done it unto me."

Thus the "other wise man" ended his quest. A calm, radiant joy lighted his dying face. In defeat he had found victory.

This beautiful story symbolizes the course of life, how we are often checked and hindered in our striving towards a goal. Perhaps we have talents we have never been able to cultivate. Ill health may have held us back, or the means we would have spent to further our own interests we have felt called upon to share with others because of their misfortune or need. Few of us ever attain to that which we see in our dreams, but the lesson of the story teaches that it is nobler to do the plain homely things that present themselves, than to follow the more brilliant course of our ambitions, or the more pleasant path of our desires. When we reach the end of the way, and look back over life, its realities will stand out more clearly. We will then see that much we desired when we were young was not worth while, and there will come to us the realization that the path of the cross is, after all, the only road that leads upward to the sunlit heights of true happiness and noblest victory.

Louise P. Sheldon

If any man would give as much serious dedication to his home life as he does to his business life, he'd be twice as successful in both.—James J. O'Reilly.

THE BEST PLACE FOR CHRISTMAS

It's Christmas for the wealthy
 And it's Christmas for the poor.
 It's Christmas for the children
 Caroling from door to door.
 It's Christmas in the countryside,
 Covered with snow so white;
 It's Christmas in the churches,
 Letting in God's heavenly light.
 It's Christmas in all the windows,
 And the stores of the busy mart,
 But the finest place for Christmas
 Is deep within your heart.

—Doris LaGasse

Doctor Crane . . . "The past is the Mother of the present. Out of the womb of its purpose the present has come with great travail. And one should respect one's Mother.

"But the past must be criticized and judged, or we make no advance. We are to preceive and shun its mistakes, as every good son pleases his Mother best by profiting by her experiences."

Submitted by James Hedrick

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

NOTE: We solicit articles for this department written in an affirmative

manner. An affirmative article is one in which a belief, or an opinion, is expressed, and evidences presented to support that belief. CONTRIBUTIONS ARE THE OPINION OF THE AUTHOR AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE TEACHINGS OF THE CHURCH OR THE OPINIONS OF THE EDITORIAL STAFF.

THE MOON LOOKED DOWN ON BETHLEHEM



Panoramic view of Bethlehem with the Church of the Nativity in the right center background.

Having a desire to spend our first Christmas in the Holy Land in Bethlehem, we crossed the border of the Israeli-Jordan frontier on the morning of December 24, 1958, at 9:00 a. m., (after spending the night at the YMCA in the new city of Jerusalem, Israel, in preparation for the crossing). By previous arrangements we had reserved a room at the "Y" on the Jordanian side through Mr. J. Leslie Putnam, Secretary General of the YMCA in Jerusalem, Israel, in which to stay during our brief four day tour of Old Jerusalem and its environs.

After we had registered, settled in our quarters and freshened up a bit, we decided to lose no time in seeing as much of the Holy City and its shrines as possible, and knowing that our time would be limited, we concluded that it was wisdom to retain the services of a guide. This we were able to do in the person of Sami, an amiable Christian Arabian gentlemen who was engaged in this line of business. At his suggestion we engaged a taxi. As the first place of interest, we drove to the top of the Mount of Olives, from there to the Garden of Gethsemane. Here we were left afoot with our guide to visit the various shrines of Christendom, to which our guide directed us in a two or three hour trip. We took numerous pictures during this tour.

Needless to say this trip was not only very interesting, but very inspiring, for in this brief guided tour, we saw in addition to the Mount of Olives, a panoramic view of the Holy City from this vantage point, the Tomb of Absalom, the third son of David; then entered

for the first time the walls of the Old Jerusalem through the Sheep's Gate (now called St. Stephen's Gate,) and along the Via Dolorosa, The Way of Sorrow, along which the Roman centurians led Jesus after his arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane that fateful night when he was taken prisoner before Pilate and finally crucified.

We finished this tour in time to reach the YMCA in time for lunch and to make a hasty preparation to go to the Shepherd's Field for the Christmas program at Bethlehem where services were held—caroling, scripture reading, and short but impressive speeches, commemorating the birth of the Christ Child. Following this service we passed through the cave where we were served sandwiches made of the traditional Arabian falafel (bread) and barbecued mutton, the same as composed the simple meal of the shepherds in Bible times.

Three bus loads and a long cue of cars, full of "pilgrims", left the "Y" about 3:30 in the afternoon to make this trek to Bethlehem, over winding mountain roads, which at times dipped down below sea level and again climbed up till we could see Bethlehem on its mountain top before us; and in a bend in the road we could look back and see Jerusalem. At other times we could look down long ravines to the Dead Sea; the highway would parallel the border and we could clearly see the places where we had stood in the previous months to gaze yearningly across No Man's Land to Bethlehem and far away Hebron. It took about an

hour to make this trip by bus from Old Jerusalem to Bethlehem.

By the time we reached the Shepherd's Field on the outskirts of Bethlehem, the great round disc of an almost full moon was beginning to shine down in the twilight upon the Judean hills, where the scene of the simple Christian service we were to attend was located. Here many hundreds of people from all parts of the Christian world were gathered in the hushed moonlit fields surrounding a large cave which traditionally was the place where the shepherds were gathered that holy night so long ago when they heard the angels proclaim the birth of Christ and saw his Star in the East.

In the quiet hush and peace of that hour, between daylight and the night, our voices were mingled together in a peon of praise. While English was the predominant language, yet many sang in their native tongue, as we sang together, many of the ageless Christmas Carols and songs familiar to our youth—as one united band of humble worshippers from almost every nation under heaven,—with one accord paying homage to One King,—“The First Noel”, “Oh Come All Ye Faithful”, “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night”, “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”, and others interspersed with appropriate messages from Luke 2:1-20. Several short addresses were made by the leading Protestant ministers of Jerusalem and Bethlehem. And as the sweet strains of that old classic, “Silent Night”, floated out across the fields of Boaz from that vast congregation as the climax to this inspiring service, it was as though an Unseen Hand were conducting a heavenly symphony, for we sang together in perfect unison, though you could clearly distinguish the German, Swedish, Hugarian, Arabian and many other languages all about us, keeping perfect time, a spirit of sweet peace, and brotherly love in the midst of this land where an uneasy armistice exists between two great armed forces of the posterity of Abraham.

As the bright silvery moon looked down upon this peaceful scene our hearts were made to rejoice in the Holy One of Israel, and we indeed felt that He was very close to us as we thus gathered on the side of the Judean hills near the Shepherd's Cave, to worship before Him on this spot unmarred by buildings, this wonderful Christmas Eve. It was a scene of inspiration; a time of assurance that the gospel of Jesus Christ was good for the weary who seek peace on earth and good will among men. It was a time of inspiration and hope, for a better world to come, when men shall tire of war and conquest and shall bear their swords into pruning hooks and learn war no more.

As our eyes looked out over the hills, bathed in moonlight, it was as though the fields were covered with a blanket of white snow, for the earth is barren and white at this time of year: Yet, there was no snow, and the weather was mild and pleasant.

In front of the opening to the Cave there was a natural amphitheater, where a small choir, a piano, and the

group of speakers were assembled. Over their heads was a large improvised star lighted by electricity which had been wired in from a remote generator for the occasion. The entrance to the Cave was beneath a ledge of overhanging rock, which was approximately twenty feet across. Archaeologists in exploring this cavern, discovered pottery shards and tools which indicated that this place had indeed been used for human habitation during the time of Christ, and it is believed that it was here the shepherds dwelt (as so many of their posterity do today in these same hills), when they heard the angels say:

“Fear not: for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger. (See also Isaiah 7:13 to 16.)

“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly hosts praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men.” Luke 2:11-14).

After the last strains of “Silent Night; Holy Night” had echoed across the valley, and the Judean hills, and from there had passed around the world, to the places where you, my brothers and sisters of the Church of Christ, and other humble followers of the humble Messiah, were gathered to pay homage to him. We formed a procession, (as the term line does not describe it), and passed into the Cave, received our sandwiches, and from there filed out through a passage that led us up to the upper air and out of the Shepherd's Field. Here we mingled with Bedouin shepherds and their small flocks of sheep, with people from all nations who had forgotten their racial quarrels, their political aspirations, their religious differences, and were returning quietly and with subdued voices and reluctant steps, to the buses which would carry them away from this peaceful scene, where the bright silvery moon looked down in all its splendor and bathed the earth in peace, to trek back to the far corners of the earth to recount their experiences of that memorable night, as did the wise men who had come from the East, who had seen His Star in the east and came to worship Him in this very place.

We two, also returned to Jerusalem for a brief rest and the evening meal. After supper, we, in company with four others, shared the expense of a taxi for a return trip to Bethlehem, which was the center of all religious activities for Christmas Eve. We had planned to spend the hours of the Eve in singing carols with others who were to meet in the Protestant part of the Church of the Nativity, which stands like a fortress over the spot where Christ was laid in a manger at His birth. By a mistake on the part of the good intentioned Arabian

waiter from the "Y", (who was our impromptu guide and had spent much time and effort to obtain passes for us to attend these services), we found ourselves inadvertently engulfed in a sea of humanity who were crowding and pushing to get into the Church of Nativity through a very small entrance. Police guards and soldiers were helpless to hold back the surging throng. Only those who held passes were supposed to be permitted to enter, but for every person who held a pass, there seemed to be a score of others who did not but still wanted in. It was like New Year's Eve at 12th and Main in Kansas City, or Times Square in New York, with a crowd gone wild with frenzy to get in. Never before have we witnessed such eagerness to go to church. It was an unforgettable experience. Finally when we were pushed and shoved to the entrance, (there was no other direction we could go), we waved our passes before the guards and were permitted to enter. (Hm-m-m what a relief!)

We found ourselves in a spacious hallway that literally glittered with gold and crystal. We were ushered along this and several other similar passages and finally came to the great auditorium where we supposed caroling services were to be held. We strained our ears to pick up the first strains of familiar Christmas carols which should, we thought, by this time have been underway, but heard none. When we finally entered the great nave of the Church of the Nativity, which all these people were striving to reach, we discovered too late, that we were part of a huge gathering who were there to celebrate the Christmas High Mass of the Roman Catholic Church in all its pomp and glorification. Here high up on a simulated cradle in the sanctuary they had placed the wax image of a child so life-like that it seemed alive. This image represented the child Jesus. The priests and monks were busily engaged in making ready for the event, putting on their costly robes bedecked with gold, embroidery, and precious jewels, side by side in a long row before the congregation. The high dignitaries, kings, potentates, etc., of the governments of the earth were gathered in the seats of pre-eminence in the nave. It was one of the most fantastic Hollywood shows you can imagine! It would have taxed even the imagination of a De Mille to duplicate it for one of his plays like the Ten Commandments. But as it was when Mary and Joseph wended their way to this traditional spot so long ago, there was "no place in the Inn", or in other words, in the church, no seating provisions except for the diplomats and high dignitaries of the faith. The rest of us had to stand, first on one foot and then the other, while the stage was being set, and the actors were donning their costumes for the drama which was about to unfold. By the time the Mass began, we had grown so foot sore and heartsick that we could stand it no longer, and found our way through a maze of passages out into the open air, away from the stifling atmosphere of idolatry and ritualism, which these poor deluded people called Christianity.

It was now about eleven o'clock at night as we

drove hotelward, and the moon was high in the heavens bright and beautiful. Caravans of camels loaded with olive branches for their next day's rations added a very Christmasy atmosphere to the quiet stillness as they plodded along beside the highway as if a beautiful Christmas card had suddenly come to life. The sky was studded with millions upon millions of radiant, twinkling stars, as the moon looked down from the heavens upon these contrasting scenes—one, amidst the pomp and splendor of man's invention in the conducting of the High Mass as above described; another around the Shepherd's Cave in the fields where Shepherds watched their flocks that memorable night so long ago; and the pastoral scenes of moonlit ploughed fields and vineyards, and faithful camels trudging home with their attendants after a long weary day. And as we reflected upon the contrasting experiences of humble surroundings and the pomp and splendor we have described, the query arose among us as to where the real spirit of Christmas was to be found. Was it at the High Mass? Or was it in the humble Shepherd's Field? To us it was with the gathering in the Shepherd's Field, which overlooked the fields of Boaz, the beautiful pastoral of Ruth (Ruth 2:4 to 17). There was the place where we found what we sought,—Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward All Men. Here in these Judean hills, as the bright silvery Moon looked down in all its peaceful splendor, we were made to realize more fully the fulfillment of the prophesy of Micah:

"But thou Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth that is to be ruler in Israel; who goings forth have been from old, from everlasting."—Micah 5:2.

For here in the house of Boaz, who had taken Ruth for his wife, was born Obed, "And Obed begat Jesse, and Jesse begat David," (Ruth 4:22), and of this lineage, Joseph, the husband of Mary the mother of Jesus, was born, (Matt. 1:1 to 17).

Yes, he that was to come, The Messiah, Shilo, even Jesus Christ came forth from Bethlehem just as it was foretold he would. He it was who was to guide the destiny of Israel, not as a temporal ruler but as the spiritual King of kings, and Lord of lords, the Son of God.

Now, in our day, the Lord God, Jehovah, has set his hand again the second time to recover Israel, and make her great. To make her great in the pre millennium church and kingdom of God. From the Diaspora He is gathering them home. Will they respond to this call, lay aside that which has had its fulfillment and use this new day of grace to serve Him under the leadership of their true King, the son of David, even Christ the Lord? Or will they look for another? We have heard Arabians say, "Nassar is the Messiah, soon he will put these Jews in their place." Some Jews say, "Herzl was the Messiah, look what he has done for us, and

look what we of ourselves have made of our nation." Yet, Nassar shall never die on a cross, nor have wounds in his side and hands, and he will never bring peace to Jew or Arab, both of whom are the seed of Abraham. Herzl, though a great liberator for the Jews, was not the Messiah. He rests in his grave on Mount Herzl, but neither peace nor good will has as yet come to Israel, for on this Christmas night of which we are writing, we found a No Man's Land, across whose borders armed soldiers lie in wait for each other. Herzl does not lie in a martyr's grave. Jesus was martyred, buried in a sealed tomb, yet burst the bands of death and arose on the third day to proclaim the resurrection of all mankind. He it is that will stand upon the Mount of Olives:

"And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then shall he answer, Those with which I was wounded in house of my friends." Zechariah 13:6.

"And his feet shall stand at that day upon the Mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof towards the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

"And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with thee." Zechariah 14:4-5.

From the days of Moses to then, He, "Whose going forth has been from old, from everlasting", had been foretold. And when Israel shall awake from her long spiritual slumber and realize the truth and force of those facts and accept them, and shall cease to look for another Messiah, other than her own son, The Lord Jesus Christ, she will arise in all her splendor to bless the nations of the earth as the seed of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob according to the promise.

Today the Jews are prohibited from visiting the holy places of Israel in Trans-Jordan Palestine. It is therefore our fervent prayer that the day will not be too far away when, they accept the true Messiah, cease to look for another, and again shall be permitted to visit their shrines which will have a new meaning for them and all the world. For Jesus Christ, the Son of God, being born of woman in Bethlehem, was a Jew. He is the Savior of all men, both Jew and Gentile. In His kingdom they shall neither be Jew nor Gentile, neither bond nor free, neither male nor female, and regardless of race or color, shall be one in Christ. And if we be in Christ are we Abraham's seed, and heirs accord to the promise. (Galatians 3:28-29). But if we persist in rejecting Christ, then we too shall be rejected, and fall short of the common salvation.

So, as we left the Shepherd's Field, on this Christmas Eve, 1958, it was our humble silent prayer, that those who have custody of this Field and its Cave, shall keep it consecrated and sacred as **a place of worship**, and **not a place to worship**.

It was good to be there, and a place where we wish every Christian person in the world, regardless of creed, race or color, could go for at least once in his life and have the peace of Christ renewed in his heart. Where on Christmas Eve the moon looks down and sheds its silvery light upon Bethlehem and the peaceful fields of Boaz, just as it did on that first Christmas Eve so long ago.

Thus we have brought you the story of Christmas and what it means to us to have been permitted by the grace of God to walk where Jesus was born, and to thrill to the experiences which we had there, and may these words be an inspiration and a Christmas Greeting to you wherever you may be.

Clarence and Angela Wheaton

THE INN-KEEPER MAKES EXCUSE

"Oh, if I had only known,"

Said the Keeper of the inn,

"But no hint to me was shown
And I did not let them in.

"Yes, a star gleamed overhead,

But I could not read the skies,
And I'd given every bed
To the very rich and wise.

"And she was so poorly clad,
And he had not much to say;
But no room for them I had,
So I ordered them away.

"Had I turned some rich man out
Just to make a place for them,
T'would have killed, beyond a doubt,
All my trade at Bethlehem.

"Then there came wise men three
To the stable with the morn,
Who announced they'd come to see
The great King who'd been born.

"And they brought Him gifts of myrrh,
Costly frankincense, and gold.
And a great light shone on her
In the stable bleak and cold.

"All my patrons now are dead
And forgotten, but today
All the world to peace may be led,
By the ones I turned away.

"It was my unlucky fate
To be born that inn to own.
Against Christ I shut my gate.
Oh, if I had only known!"

—Author Unknown

"CAN YOU HEAR THE MUSIC"

A number of years ago, Thomas Dreier, philosopher and writer, penned a little story about Christmas that has become a classic. There is inspiration and deep truth in it for these times and all times. Here is the story:

The parents had taken their little boy with them on a Christmas shopping tour. As they were about to enter the swinging door of a big department store the little boy stopped and said, "Oh, listen to the music!"

His parents listened. They heard no music. All they heard was the honking of the automobiles and the roar of their engines, the sound of thousands of shoes scraping the sidewalk, the loud talk of the men and women, the swish of doors as they turned, and the raucous city noises.

But the little boy repeated, "Listen! Can't you hear the beautiful music?"

And the parents, trying with all their might, kept the rattle and roar and racket out of their ears, and suddenly, as if by some magic, they heard the sound of little silver bells tinkling. Looking up, they saw the toy bells above the doorway of the store. Once heard, the little bells seem to become as loud as cathedral chimes.

In these days of change, unrest, and insecurity, too many of us fail to hear the tiny silver bells of the things that are unchanging and secure. There are truths that seek to find their way into our minds and hearts. We shut them out by listening only to the clamor of what is temporary. We fail to hear the real music.

Sunshine Magazine

TEMPLE LOT LOCAL NEWS

Now that the weather has turned cold, the first snow has fallen and the cold wind is blustering outside, we are thankful for the warmth of the church and its fellowship in which to partake of God's Holy Word. We are also thankful for the opportunity to learn of the many wondrous things of God's Word taught by the brethren of the church.

Our guest speaker and visitor on November 22, from Fenton, Michigan was Apostle Don Housknecht. Other visitors have been Sr. Laura Lamb and son, Bruce, and Sr. Hester Wentworth from Bemidji, Minnesota, who came to spend a few days visiting their families.

Sr. Ritchison has just returned from a trip to Tampa, Florida where she spent some time with her brother, Spencer Harrod, who is ill.

Goblins and witches appeared in full array for the Halloween festivities held at the home of Bro. and Sr. Virgil Rudd. Prizes were given for the best costumes, refreshments were served, and all had a spooky good time.

A Thanksgiving dinner and all-day meeting at the church were held Sunday, November 29 to commemorate the Thanksgiving season. Let us each go forward in prayer to God for the blessings He has bestowed on us throughout this past year.

Judy Sprague and Margret Gill, Reporters

NEWS OF EAST LOCAL OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Indian Summer is nearly over, but today is a beautiful day, one more for us to enjoy before the cold winds of winter start blowing. Just a reminder that another year is drawing swiftly to a close. The years go by so fast. Do you get the things done that you should do? the things that really need to be done? Or are we letting the days slip past and our work not done and soon it will be too late?

During the summer Bro. and Sr. Wm. Anderson entertained her brother Fredrick A. Robly and his wife from Providence, R. I. and while they were here their daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Dickens of Dallas, Texas also visited them.

Sr. Darl Sheldon spent several weeks in Michigan this summer at the home of Bro. and Sr. Housknecht, she is now attending Central Missouri State College here at home.

Sr. Helen Talbert and family of Milwaukee stopped in Independence on her way for a visit with her father Bro. Leon Gould in Long Lane, Missouri.

Bro. and Sr. Frank Fann and family and Bro. and Sr. Wm. Nast and two younger daughters visited Bro. Fann's parents at Wheatland, Missouri. A few days later they, the Fann's, were called to his father's home by his serious illness. Frank brought his father to the hospital where they found he was bleeding internally from ulcers, after two weeks at the hospital he has returned home much improved in health.

Many of our members had the pleasure of attending the different reunions this year. Some going to Grand Junction in Colorado, others to Sparta, Wisconsin and Houston, Missouri, and still others to the Tennessee reunion. But though they all went different ways, they all report having fine meetings with God's spirit being present in a marked degree.

Bro. K. J. Smith went to the Tennessee reunion with his father Bro. Arthur Smith and his wife and after the reunion they visited relatives in Illinois that Kenneth had not seen for many years.

Sr. Larry Shaw had an aunt from Arizona (Mrs. Keith Rodgers) visiting her this summer.

Sr. Helen Kidd and Sr. Betty Martin have spent

much time at Collins, Missouri at their parents home during the last illness and death of their father, Bro. Martin. Our prayers and heartfelt sympathy has been with them during their sorrow.

Bro. and Sr. Randall's children, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Testerman, Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Randall and daughter Joyce Ann and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Randall and family visited them on Sunday and the next day, October 19, they celebrated their 43rd. wedding anniversary.

Bro. and Sr. Joe Yates of Preston, Missouri were week-end visitors with Bro. and Sr. Curtis Yates and on Sunday all went to Columbia, Missouri to visit the Wayburn Yates family. Wayburn, son of Curtis, is attending college there.

Bro. and Sr. McCubbins and family visited relatives in Sedalia, Missouri several times during the summer and fall.

There must be building in the air for three of our group are doing just that. Bro. and Sr. Randall are building a front porch on their home. The Sheldon's are adding a new room on their home which will be used as a library and music room, and Bro. and Sr. Curtis Yates are adding a new kitchen and living room, with a fireplace.

We are sorry to report the passing of one of oldest members, Bro. Louis P. Caldwell who was 94. He answered the call on a Sunday morning, October 25, 1964. He was one of the charter members of the East Local and had been a member of the Restoration for many years.

Bro. and Sr. Randall's granddaughter who was in the hospital for several weeks after an auto accident is getting along fine and we are thankful to see her playing around again.

Sr. Darl Sheldon and Sr. Jennifer Nast gave a bridal shower for Geraldine (Welton) Speers.

We were pleased to see Jewel bring her little son, Phillip to church and have his great grandfather, Arthur Smith, and great uncle Kenneth Smith, bless the little fellow, asking God's protecting care to be over him throughout his life. He is a son of Sr. Jewel (Weldon) Beam and her husband, Larry.

Sr. Gladys Nast had the pleasure of entertaining a sister, Mrs. Zella Clemens and a friend, Mrs. Pearl Hendricks of Marshalltown, Iowa and another sister Mrs. Mary Zirbes of Minneapolis, Minnesota during the summer.

Bro. and Sr. Roland Sarratt are the proud parents of a new son, Stephen Andrew, born November 10, 1964. Congratulations to the happy couple.

Our local priesthood and visiting ministers are all telling us, warning us, pleading with us, that the time is growing shorter, that we should be up and doing our Father's business, not to put it off until it will be

too late for us. It will soon be a new year and so let's all make a new start with a determination to do our very best every day.

It's a little early but I hope you each and every one have a very Happy Christmas and a New Year filled with hope and courage to carry on the work that our Heavenly Father has given us to do.

Ora Derry

NEWS FROM PHOENIX LOCAL

The following from a recent letter from Don McIndoo of Phoenix, Arizona:

"... Our group here is fine and endeavoring to carry on as well as possible. Brother Elmer Hunter has not been able to attend services for the past few weeks, but he seems to be as well as usual. Sunday we shall have two baptisms. They are a young couple that Hubert and Louise Yates befriended and interested in the Gospel. The couple have attended church several times; the other evening Hube invited us and Bro. Housknecht, who is here this week, over for the evening and in the course of our discussion Ron Connors said he wished to be baptized as soon as possible. Hubert, Sr. will perform the ceremony. . . ."

It would be nice to hear from all the other Local Pastors or reporters throughout the church. It is by such means as this that we draw closer to one another.

Editor.

Y. P. C. L. NEWS

I know it's been some time since there has been a report of our activities in the Advocate—but this does not mean we have not been busy, because we certainly have!

August 29th and 30th the Y. P. C. L. group here in Independence took our annual outing down on the co-op farm in south Missouri near Preston.

We certainly had ourselves a busy two days! Our thanks go to our adult Leaders, Jim and Caroline Hedrick and Kay and Nolan Matthews. We swam in the Little Niangua River in a lovely old swimming hole fed by a rushing river and under water springs and shaded by huge sycamores, fragrant river willow, majestic oak and feathery maple trees. We had horses to ride, owned by my Uncle Skeet (E. Leon Yates), who devoted his day to all of us who love to ride and don't often get a chance, even though he had his family from out of state visiting him. We, all of us, want to extend our utmost thanks to him for his generosity and good humor to us all day Saturday. We played volley ball and took a hike to investigate a cave on my Uncle Joe Yates' farm. My granddad, Oren Caviness, hitched a wagon on his tractor and took us for a hay ride and how we enjoyed the beautiful Ozark country! Later that night we took a trip, through pictures of granddad's to Zion's Canyon, Brice Canyon, Mexico City, Mexico and enjoyed pictures of beautiful desert

flowers. After pictures we all stuffed on home grown pop corn. We'd like to thank them again through this report for their graciousness and wonderful hospitality. We can think of no better way for young people to get better acquainted with one another than an outing such as this. Sunday morning we all attended our own services with my Dad, Richard Wheaton, and our Leader, Jim Hedrick in charge. We had questions and answers that vitally concern young people today and everyone took an active part which made it seem no time until time to close.

The rest of the day was spent in swimming, volley ball and packing for our return trip home.

All of the girls took turns in preparing the meals and cleaning up and the boys set up camp and took it down and packed up—so there was no one or two persons who had an extra load to bear.

This year our outing was very well attended and was the most enjoyed! We are looking forward to next year's.

We meet every Sunday afternoon and we have study class sometimes and sometimes we have educationals. On one educational we took a trip to the Kansas City Museum.

On October 30, we joined with the two Local Churches here in Independence for a Halloween party in masquerade at the home of Virgil and Grace Rudd. We really had a fun night and topped it off with cider and donuts.

On November 22, we will have a Thanksgiving dinner at the Temple Lot Local and all-day services are scheduled too. While these plans are in the future as I write, they will be past history by the time everyone reads this.

One of our young people, Sylvia Seibel, began nurses training at the Independence Sanitarium and Hospital this fall. In a Capping ceremony held at the Stone Church, she and her classmates received their caps, the nurses badge. She will begin to put into practice some of the things she has been learning. Good luck to you, Sylvia.

Christmas season will soon be here and our local Y.P.C.L. have been practicing songs under the leadership of our new leader, Bro. Glen Gill. We will probably do some caroling.

Our new officers for the coming year are: Leader, Glen Gill and Assistant Leader, Jim Hedrick; Secretary, Karma Wheaton; Treasurer, Konie Wheaton; Reporter-Recorder, (Brad) Chipper Wheaton; Parliamentarian, Don Case; Pianist, Nola Kay Matthews; Auditing Committee, Randy Sheldon, Jim Case and Jody Wheaton; Planning and Social Committee, Donna Gill—2 months, Darl Sheldon—1 month, and Randy Sheldon—3 months; Social Committee member, Nola Kay Matthews and Paper Staff, Lovita Siebel, Nola Kay Matthews and Karma Wheaton.

We hope the other Y.P.C.L. groups throughout the

Church are as busy as we here in Independence are, and would certainly enjoy hearing from them too. Our group here publishes a little paper for the young people which we mail out to those interested. Perhaps some of you other young people would like to write or send in things for our paper?

Hope you all have a lovely Holiday.

Brad Wheaton

SELECTION OF APOSTLES

(1829-30 compared with 1925-26)

It is written:

"And thus, if the people of this generation harden not their hearts, I will work a reformation among them, and I will put down all lyings, and deceivings, and priestcrafts, and envyings, and strifes, and idolatries, and sorceries, and all manner of iniquities, and I will establish my church, LIKE UNTO THE CHURCH WHICH WAS TAUGHT BY MY DISCIPLES IN THE DAYS OF OLD." Book of Commandments, 4:5.

The Church "in the days of old," according to the Apostle Paul, had in it "First Apostles". It was according to this pattern that the Old Jerusalem Church was planted. It was also according to this pattern that the ancient Nephite Church was established. True to this ancient pattern the Church of 1829-30 was organized.

It is written:

"And now behold, there are **others** which are called to declare my gospel, both unto Gentile and unto Jew: Yea, even unto twelve:

"And the twelve shall be my disciples, and they shall take upon them my name:" Book of Commandments, 15: 27-28.

But what was it that occasioned the use of the words: "There are OTHERS?" Chapter 15 of the Book of Commandments is prefaced with the following:

"A revelation to Joseph, Oliver and David, making known the calling of twelve disciples in these last days, and also, instructions relative to building up the church of Christ, according to the fullness of the gospel: given in Fayette, New York, June, 1829."

Paragraphs 10 and 11 read:

"And now Oliver, I speak unto you, and also unto David, by way of commandment:

"For behold I command all men everywhere to repent, and I speak unto you as unto Paul mine apostle, for you are called even with THE SAME CALLING WITH WHICH HE WAS CALLED."

Paragraph 42 reads:

"And now behold I give unto you, Oliver, and also unto David, that YOU shall search out the twelve which shall have the desires of which I have spoken;"

The Committee. It is thus clearly to be seen that God appointed a committee of two to select men who were

to serve as a quorum of twelve. Moreover, God evidently intended that these two men, Oliver Cowdery and David Whitmer, were to be a part of the quorum, for he nominated them as apostles. They could not with propriety nominate themselves, and surely no reasonable person would feel disposed to argue that there was any irregularity because God nominated them after delegating the selection of the apostles to them.

The mouthpiece in this case, namely, Joseph Smith, was the third apostle nominated by the Lord. His office as an apostle is clearly pointed out in the revelations. See Doc. & Cov. 17:1; 19:3; 26:3.

How to Know the Twelve. The highest priesthood among men for the ministry of the gospel of Christ is the Melchisedec priesthood. An apostle is an elder. The group of twelve men evidently represent a special missionary committee who are set aside to devote their time during the remainder of their lives, or until relieved for good and sufficient reasons, in missionary work. The rule for selecting these men is as follows:

"And the twelve are they which shall desire to take upon them my name, with full purpose of heart: And if they desire to take upon them my name, with full purpose of heart, they are called to go into all the world to preach my gospel unto every creature." Book of Commandments, 15:29-30.

"And now behold I give unto you, Oliver, and also unto David, that you shall search out the twelve which shall have the desires of which I have spoken; and by their desires and their works, you shall know them." Ibid, verse 42.

God evidently intended to assist the committee and he gave them directions by which they might judge as to the worthiness of men to act in the apostolic office.

Witnesses of the Risen Christ. It is claimed that no man is qualified to act as an apostle unless he has been a witness of the risen Christ. If this position is to be recognized as the rule, then the writers of the gospels must be judged as having erred, for long before the resurrection of the Christ, the twelve men selected by Christ were called "apostles," and were sent out as apostles. However, it will readily be conceded that the problem of the Jerusalem apostles was very difficult, and considering the nature and character of the people they had to deal with, God mercifully provided that the seal of their apostleship was later augmented or reinforced with the personal visitation of the risen Christ.

Among the Gentiles of our day, the resurrection of the Christ is readily accepted. There has been a shifting of emphasis with the shifting of time. There will come a time, and perhaps it is about at hand, when those who have been chosen will be sent to Israel. But before that day comes, the endowment will be given, and with that endowment will undoubtedly be experienced the personal visitation of Christ to his servants.

Our Action

Thursday afternoon, October 8th, 1925, it was resolved:

"Whereas the conference has by its vote expressed its determination to further perfect the organization of the church in harmony with the teachings of the Bible and the Book of Mormon, and whereas, the Bible and the Book of Mormon both provide that apostles shall be in the church: Therefore, be it resolved, that we petition the Lord for direction as to the choosing of the apostles, and such other matters as He may see fit to impart unto us."

After fasting and prayer the word of the Lord came as follows:

"Verily thus saith the Spirit, in order that the Church of Christ may be prepared to more effectively occupy, it is my wish that my servants Moler and Wipper shall be a committee, to select a committee of three, who shall serve as apostles before me."

The committee appointed to carry out the instructions of the Lord met frequently following their appointment, and it was decided by the conference that until they were prepared to report on the selection of apostles, a committee of five should be elected to have the general charge of the work of the Church.

Just before the April conference in 1926, the committee of five met to consider problems confronting them, and it was decided to recommend the following to the general conference:

"Moved that it is the sense of this council, that the matter of having 'first apostles' in the Church should be our first, main and great consideration and to make it possible for us to focus our entire attention upon the matter of first putting the Church in order in this way, therefore,

"Be it further resolved, that the consideration of all other offices and officers be deferred until apostles are properly set in their places."

This was adopted by the general conference. It was recognized that it would be folly to attempt to solve other problems until the matter of having "first apostles" was securely anchored through divine approval.

Following this decision fasting and prayer became the rule for all. Earnest men and women, and even children, focused their attention upon this matter, and were blessed in the prayer meetings. On Friday morning, April 9th, Elder Thomas Nerren, of Denver, Colorado, spoke in an unknown tongue. It was beautifully delivered, carrying with it conviction. After a season of prayer Elder Otto Fetting, of Port Huron, Michigan, gave the following portion of the interpretation:

"Thus saith the Spirit to my people: Behold I have heard your prayers. I have looked upon you and I have recognized you as my children. Behold I have a work that you must do. My Spirit has been hovering over you, but because of contention that has been among you, my Spirit has not come and has not given you the light that you stood in need of. But the time has come that my work shall be established. I have chosen those my servants that shall make a selection, but because of the strife that

has existed among you, I have withheld the light that should come to them."

"Behold, if you will cease to be contentious and try to be humble before me, I will send you light. Behold, I have only chosen five that shall occupy at this time in the quorum of twelve. I have others outside of this church who have a work that they shall perform, and in due time I shall choose them, and they shall occupy to perform my work."

"Behold I have spoken to you in times that are past. I have asked you to be humble and to keep by commandments, but you have continued to transgress my law and have not hearkened unto the things I have given you. Inasmuch as you shall be humble, the heavens shall be opened and I will pour out my Spirit upon you that shall enlighten your minds, and you shall know the course that you should pursue."

Travailing in Birth

It is written:

"And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of TWELVE STARS: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered." Rev. 12:1-2.

The Church of Christ of 1925-1926, in common with similar previous experiences, agonized in the hour of deliverance. Conflicting views on vital problems could seemingly not be fused into a oneness, or welded into a cohesive whole, without heat. But God spoke and said, "Peace be still," and there was peace. Under the focused glow of revelation which lingered momentarily in October, 1925, a unanimity of understanding prevailed as to the meaning of the revealed will of God, but as soon as this intensity languished, there was borne an element of confusion which persisted until this glow returned with its former intensity. The iron which was thus left rigid and cold in 1925, could now be shaped into the form and pattern of God.

The instruction of the Lord in 1926 clarified the problem of 1925. In 1925 two were appointed to select three. It had been a question as to whether or not the two were recognized as apostles by the Lord, and thus as apostles by nomination of God, were to select three more who were to act as apostles. Now the Lord clearly declares:

"Behold I have only chosen five that shall occupy at this time."

The two appointed by the Lord in 1829, namely, Oliver Cowdery and David Whitmer, were directly nominated to be apostles, and as apostles they were directed to seek **others**, "even unto twelve." Incidentally, lest they unconsciously become involved in error, the Lord later also nominated Joseph the mouthpiece, as an apostle. Thus in 1926 the light of revelation persistently focused our attention upon this precedent of history, and gently but urgently pressed our reluctant hearts into his ways. "This is the way: walk ye in it."

Corroborating Testimony

A devout sister testified that when the revelation of 1925 was given the conviction fastened on her mind that Wippen, Moler and Macgregor should be the first three apostles. Some question arose in her mind regarding one of the first two men, as to his ability along a certain line, when a voice very distinctly spoke to her consciousness and said, "**He is an apostle.**"

In the prayer meeting Thursday morning, April 8th, 1926, Elder Madden, moved upon by the Spirit of God, spoke to Bro. Macgregor, indicating that he would be selected as an apostle.

The next day, Brother J. F. Miller, of Holden, Missouri, furnished the following testimony, in writing:

"I had the evidence that Bro. Moler, Bro. Wippen, and Bro. Macgregor were called to be apostles. This evidence was given me almost half an hour before Bro. Madden spoke in prophecy".

In the night of the same day, a fourteen-year-old girl had a vivid dream in which was pictured to her in contrast the organic form of two churches, one right; the other, wrong. Following an angel were the people of the Church of Christ. "And they were walking along a straight, narrow path. In succession, right after the angel, were F. F. Wippen, H. E. Moler, Daniel Macgregor, and C. L. Wheaton. The rest I could not distinguish," she said, "but above the heads of these four men I could plainly see the figure 12 in very large letters."

On Friday morning, April 9th, 1926, during the latter part of the prayer service, Elder Otto Fetting, of Port Huron, Michigan, declared that upon the morning previous the Spirit of God had rested upon him all the forenoon to the extent that it weakened him in body, and that it was with difficulty that he made his way to the church. He declared that he withheld the information because of the fear of criticism. It was made known to him that Brother Moler and Bro. Wippen were to be apostles. They were to choose Brother Macgregor and two others, making three. Later, still two others were to be chosen, which would make five **at this time**. Brother Nerren testified that Brother Fetting had presented the uninterpreted portion of the unknown tongue which had been given in the early part of the service that morning. Thus the accumulated testimonies united to press us into the conviction that the order to be observed was

First, to recognize the command of God authorizing apostolic authority;

Second, that apostolic authority was by command of God vested in the hands of the two members of the committee appointed to select other apostles.

Third, that the mouthpiece of 1925 was evidently intended to be an apostle, also, and be associated with the committee of two;

Fourth, that the pattern of 1929-30, (1829-30 Ed.) when David Whitmer, Oliver Cowdery and Joseph Smith were indicated as apostles, to select other apostles, was thus being carried out.

Completing Our Work. One of the committee of two having solicited the counsel of the elders of the Church of Christ in the matter, the following action was taken by the elders on Friday afternoon, April 9th, 1926, in the form of a recommendation to the general conference in session:

"Be it resolved, that in view of the light received in the revelation at our last conference, and also in view of the additional light received this morning, that we recognize the call of Elders H. E. Moler and F. F. Wipper to the office of apostles, and that they be authorized to select a third, and that these three be authorized to select two more at this time."

This was adopted by the general conference. Following this, action was taken referring this matter to the committee of two with instructions that this action expressed the sentiment of the conference. On receipt of this information the committee retired, and shortly returned, submitting the following report:

"To the General Conference of the Church of Christ,
Greeting:

Pursuant to the instructions of last year, and with the additional light offered during this conference in which we, as your committee, are instructed to select three to act as Apostles, we herewith submit the name of Elder Daniel Macgregor as one of the three. Upon the adoption of this recommendation by your body, we will reconvene, accompanied with Elder Macgregor, to select the other two, as instructed. Elder Macgregor was readily chosen by us at this time, having agreed as a committee upon his selection from the very beginning.

Respectfully submitted,

F. F. Wipper,
H. E. Moler."

This report was adopted by the general conference.

The committee of two again retired, accompanied with Elder Daniel Macgregor. Returning shortly the following report was submitted:

To the General Conference of the Church of Christ,
Greeting:

We, your committee, appointed by revelation and by your action, herewith respectfully submit the following as our selection to the office of twelve:

C. L. Wheaton
Samuel Wood.

Respectfully submitted,

H. E. Moler,
F. F. Wipper,
Committee.

Associated.
Daniel Macgregor.

This report was also adopted by the general conference. Following this, action was taken providing for the ordinations. The entire membership present participated in the voting on this question. The vote was unanimous. The session at which all of this important legislation was carried out opened with a glor-

ious outpouring of the Spirit of God. The opening song, "The Spiirt of God like a fire is burning, The Latter Day Glory begins to come forth," was feelingly sung with such zeal, rhythm and resonance, that it betokened a unity of purpose well nigh irresistible. The opening prayer by Elder Otto Fetting was accompanied by a veritable downpour of heavenly showers which met with the response of many sobbing souls touched with the refreshing influences from on high.

On Saturday afternoon, April 10th, 1926, the following ordinations of apostles took place.

Daniel Macgregor ordained by Elders Moler, Sheldon and Wheaton; Hirman E. Moler ordained by Elders Macgregor, Wheaton and Sheldon; Samuel Wood ordained by Elders Moler, Macgregor and Wheaton. Clarence L. Wheaton ordained by Elders Wood, Macgregor and Moler.

Sunday morning, April 11, 1926, the following ordination took place: Frank F. Wipper, ordained by Elders Wheaton, Wood, Macgregor and Moler.

Following this ordination, Apostle Samuel Wood bore his testimony to the effect that several months before this very thing which had just transpired was vividly portrayed to him in a spiritual dream. The identical incident of Bro. Wipper being ordained alone; of apostle Macgregor being in charge and of calling on him (Wood) to assist; of the position of Bro. Wheaton on his left hand, and of Bro. Macgregor on his right; and of the very words of exhortation delivered to the brother before his ordination.

Seasons of refreshing were indeed at hand. The following interpretation of an unknown tongue was delivered:

"Thus saith the Spirit unto my people: I have heard your prayers and I have watched over you. And behold, I have manifested myself to you that have been doubting as to **My** Church that I have established. I have sent messengers in your midst that they might testify that **My** Spirit has directed. I have chosen my servants that shall carry the gospel to the nations of the earth, and I will call others that shall carry the message. And **My** Spirit shall be in their hearts, and it shall flow from heart to heart as oil shall flow from vessel to vessel. So will I establish **My** Church by **My** servants as by those that were chosen in the days that are past. I sent **My** Spirit to **My** people then. I called **My** servant Joseph Smith, but he was human --he was tempted as you are tempted. You have criticized him.

I have sent gifts among you and chosen those that are young in years to bear testimony. My angels shall visit you from time to time. In dreams, visions and tongues will I manifest myself that you may be able to perform the work I have for you to do. Cease your contentions. Be united in prayer. May your faith become strong in me. When you are in need, ask me, and I will give you of the rich blessings of heaven. I will give you what you stand in need of because my hand is not shortened. Do not unworthily criticize those who are seeking for truth. Many are honest, and I will convince them of **My** work. Amen."

Two More Apostles Chosen. Just before the close of the morning session on Sunday, opportunity was given for the consideration of the following report and recommendation by the committee of two:

To the General Conference of the Church of Christ,
Greeting:

We, your committee, appointed by revelation, and by your action to select the Apostles, beg leave to report that we have completed our work as per your instructions and as directed by the Lord.

As per instructions indicated and received, both at this conference and the conference of last year, we feel that our work has terminated with the selections made, which together with the selections directly indicated by the Lord, creates a body of five members of the quorum of twelve.

We are aware that manifestations of the Spirit indicate that two more members of the quorum of twelve are to be selected, in order that a working majority might be secured.

We suggest that the Twelve be authorized by you to take this matter under advisement, and to report to you as soon as possible.

Very respectfully submitted,

H. E. Moler,
F. F. Wipper,
Committee".

This report and recommendation was adopted by the general conference, and referred to the members of the quorum of twelve for action.

At the afternoon session on Sunday, April 11th, 1926, the members of the twelve reported that they had under advisement the selection of two additional members for the quorum of twelve, and reported the following as their selection; Elder Otto Fetting, and Elder Norris Hedding.

Members of the twelve then reported individually, describing how they had met to decide upon the selections, and how after repeatedly engaging in fervent prayer for direction, they had received the witness of the Spirit of God to their selections, and how that in both cases their selections were unanimous. Others solemnly testified of their evidences of divine approval in the selections made.

The selections were then acted upon separately, and ordinations were provided for by the unanimous vote of the conference. Elder Otto Fetting being present, was ordained at once to the office of apostle by Apostles H. E. Moler, Daniel Macgregor, C. L. Wheaton and F. F. Wipper, the first named being the mouthpiece.

Elder Norris Hedding not being present at this time, his ordination was left in the hands of the quorum of twelve.

As In Days of Old

Thus the Church of Christ has been established "LIKE UNTO THE CHURCH WHICH WAS TAUGHT BY MY DISCIPLES IN THE DAYS OF OLD."

A fitting seal to the action of the 1926 conference is

the following prophecy delivered during the general conference:

"I am the Lord. I am your God. I change not. I have looked down upon you in mercy according to my good will and pleasure. I have preserved My people here, and have seen their bleeding hearts; and I will be with you even unto the end."

"I have called these men to be My apostles to start My work to move forward. Have no fear, but be humble and faithful. By their fruits you shall be able to determine whether they be My servants."

"I will give them a greater endowment of My Spirit for the accomplishment of My work, even to the raising of the dead. The greater endowment shall come to My servants, and the angels shall go before them to open up the way."

"The time soon shall come that My temple shall be built, and I will come into it. And if My people will purify themselves even as I am pure, they shall behold Me and receive the greater endowment. Do not let malice and hatred enter among you. Seek Me and I will give you My blessings. Your sick shall be healed, and I shall give you power to do miracles."

"The Lord is extending the saints' understanding—
Restoring their judges and all as at first:
The knowledge and power of God are expanding,
The veil o'er the earth is beginning to burst."

F. F. Wipper.

Zion's Advocate, May, 1926.

EDITORIAL NOTE:

We feel that the above inspired review of the **Selection of Apostles**, by our former colleague of the Council of Twelve, Brother Frank F. Wipper, is worthy of our prayerful review and pondering in these days of doubt indulged in by some members of the Church of Christ. Herein he sets forth the historical facts concerning this momentous step taken there in 1926. In addition to this article, we call attention to another which preceded it in the April 1926 *ADVOCATE* entitled **First Apostles or First Presidency, Which?** that was later published complete as a tract and distributed far and wide by the ministry and membership of the Church of Christ, and will be reprinted in succeeding issues of the *ADVOCATE* for the benefit of our present day readers.

It is with deep satisfaction, that from that time to this I have never had occasion to regret the step thus taken, for as Brother Wipper further states in his **Field Notes**, as published in *ZION'S ADVOCATE* for June 1926, page 6:

"The news of the selection of apostles by the Church of Christ at the last General Conference is being greeted everywhere with joy. In some cases strong confirming testimonies follow our explanation of the events of the General Conference, and the spiritual experiences which accompanied the action of the recent conference." (April 6, 1926, C.L.W.)

To which I can say, Amen, and Amen, for I have found in it one of the soundest principles of the Restoration, and have been able to go forth to the world, and defend it either in debate or the preached word, setting forth the restoration of the New Testament order of Church government. Often I have used the keen logic and clear presentation by this brother to support the position of the Church on this vital question.

Clarence L. Wheaton, Associate Editor

OBITUARY

Alice Darby was born March 8, 1892. She died at North Memorial Hospital in Minneapolis on November 11, 1964. She was united in marriage to Horace Darby on May 26, 1917. He preceded her in death on May 24, 1955.

She leaves to mourn her departure, three daughters, Mrs. Evelyn Pexsa of Carlos, Minnesota, Mrs. Eunice Lehtinen and Elva Darby of Minneapolis, and two sons, Justin E. Darby of Minneapolis, and Joseph W. Darby of St. Paul. She is also survived by six brothers, John Henderson and Sidney Henderson of Glencoe, Orrie Henderson and Guy Henderson of Henning, Frank Henderson of Battle Lake, and William Henderson of Minneapolis. There are also nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

She has been a member in the Latter Day Saints movement for many years. She transferred many years ago to the Church of Christ with headquarters on the Temple Lot in Independence, Missouri, and was faithful to her covenant to the end.

The funeral was conducted by Apostle William Sheldon of Independence, Missouri, with interment at Glen Haven Memorial Garden in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

STAR IN A STORM

(By Wilford A. Peterson)

One night in late summer, while driving homeward, I encountered a severe electrical storm. The rain fell in torrents, sweeping across the highway. Jagged streaks of lightning flashed brilliantly in the sky—then left the night darker than before. And then ahead of me in the storm, hanging low in the west above a fringe of black clouds, I saw a solitary star!

A star in a storm! The thought came to me as I drove onward that, in these stormy times in which we live, there still is a star in the sky. No matter what personal storms may enter our lives, there still is a star shining. The star may mean different things to different men. But it is the thing to which they cling when their world is shaken by storms: It may be the faith of a wife, the love of a child, the loyalty of a friend, a great ideal of service. All men who have weathered storms have had a star to guide them through the darkness of despair and defeat. Select such a star, set your course by it, and you need have no fear that you will go down when the storms come.

In this Christmas season our thoughts are turning again to Star of Bethlehem. It still is the hope of the world. Power and force will fail again, as they always have failed. The Christmas Star is the only star that will guide this storm-tossed world into the sunshine of peace and goodwill.

Vivian Olson
Apt. 7, 414 Belt
Bemidji, Minnesota

CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

Send all orders to: Church of Christ (Temple Lot), Box 472, Independence, Missouri. 64051.

	Price Each
Book of Commandments—Paper Cover	\$1.00
Book of Commandments—Leatherette	\$1.25
Outline Church History	\$2.00
Book of Mormon—Missionary Edition (Out of Print)	\$1.25
Also Available at	5 for \$5.00
Book of Mormon—Cloth Binding	\$2.50
Book of Commandments Controversy Reviewed....	\$1.00

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPPLIES

INSTRUCTIONS IN ORDERING

Our quarterlies are not dated, but numbered, because they contain a regular course of study, and if the schools desire to make this study, they should order the quarterlies according to number so as to avail themselves or the entire course, so far as the study has been extended up to the present time. None of the courses are as yet, complete.

In compliance with the action taken at the 1960 General Sunday School Association General Assembly, all publications printed by the Association will be sent free of charge. Send ALL orders to: General Sunday School Association Treasurer, Church of Christ (Temple Lot); Box 472, Independence, Missouri. 64051

	Price Each
Primary, Vol. 1, No. 1, Childhood of Jesus.....	N/C
Primary, Vol. 1, No. 2, Jesus' Ministry.....	N/C
Primary, Vol. 1, No. 3, Jesus' Ministry con't.....	N/C
Primary, Vol. 1, No. 4, Life of Jesus.....	N/C
Sunday School Record Book	N/C
Records of the Bible.....	N/C
Records of the Book of Mormon.....	N/C
History and Religion—Chart	1.50