

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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Unity

Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.

For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.

Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone?

And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

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EDITORIAL

What are your plans for April 6, 1965? Do you plan to come to Conference or stay home? In either case, Why?

While the answers may seem perfectly obvious to ourselves at first, let us pause a moment in reflection.

If you plan to stay home, is it for one or more of these reasons?

1. "I have better things to do with my time." What better thing or purpose can be found than to "be about my Father's business"?

2. "The last time I attended all we did was quarrel." What part did "I" take in the argument, was it in a Christian spirit to find a solution acceptable to God, or the human spirit to have "my say" and "my way".

3. "I'd like to be there, but I just can't get away now and this summer too." Which will bring the most lasting benefit to me and the Church?

Do I support the Church with my time in equal or greater proportion to what I expect from it?

If you are planning to attend Conference is it for one of the following reasons?

1. "I am going to set them straight once and for all." This is something God alone can do. We can only hope to persuade men to pause long enough in their haste to become attuned to Him.

2. "I have a plan all thought out how to whip them into line this time." Since God's way is not by force but by entreating and reasoning, why not try it for awhile? Man's plans all failed long centuries ago.

What should our reasons be for not coming to Conference? There is no possible way to get there after having sought out in prayer every possible way, and failing to find a way to attend, still be present in spirit and in prayer.

What should our motives be for coming? To find God's answers to the many perplexing problems that face that Church today.

Having found the right reason for staying or coming, we should spend every available moment petitioning God's presence there to rule and over-rule, that His Church and Kingdom might not be divided and His people scattered and laid prey of every precept and opinion that is abroad in the world today, for Christ said in Matthew 12:25:

"... Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand."

But rather that we might become a united people, able and willing to go forth in the spirit and power of that calling of which Isaiah spoke in Isaiah 61:1-3:

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified."

and which Christ said was fulfilled in their ears." Luke 4:18-21:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is the scripture fulfilled in your ears."

We cannot continue to go on year after year as we have for so long, dividing and subdividing ourselves into smaller and smaller groups of those who agree on everything before we can work together, for we are rapidly moving to that place where we each will stand isolated and alone without the support and benefit of a single soul even our own spouse, much less God. Then we will discover that even then we will contend with ourselves for that greatest of all contenders will have taken possession of us. Do not look about to see how many this fits, but stand before the mirror of self-

examination and see if there are any symptoms visible there.

As we come together this year let us bring with us the truth and wisdom of III Nephi 50:30 and 31.

"For verily, verily I say unto you, He that hath the spirit of contention, is not of me, but is of the devil, who is the father of contention, and he stirreth up the hearts of men to contend with anger one with another; Behold, this is not my doctrine, to stir up the hearts of men with anger one against another; but this is my doctrine, that such things should be done away."

Let us remember the words of Paul in all our deliberations as found in Romans 12:17-19:

"Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."

For the time is indeed at hand and already in progress, when He shall "prune His vineyard for the last time." The time cannot be far off when the fulfilling of the prophecy will come to pass found in Isaiah 62:1:

"For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth."

Let us then give ourselves over to Him that He may work a miracle in us and change us from what we are to what we should be, for the hour is late and the time is at hand when we must become one in Him or be bound in bundles and cast into the fire. Matthew 13:30:

"Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn."

R. A. W.

A MIRACLE HAS BEEN WITNESSED

Did miracles cease after Christ died on the cross? Four years after the death of Christ we read in IV Nephi 1:6-7:

"And there were great and marvelous works wrought by the disciples of Jesus, insomuch that they did heal the sick, and raise the dead, and cause the lame to walk, and the blind to receive their sight, and the deaf to hear; and all manner of miracles did they

work among the children of men; and in nothing did they work miracles save it were in the name of Jesus."

We believe miracles are wrought by the power of God in this day and time. Third Nephi tells us:

"Yea, and wo unto him that shall say at that day, that there can be no miracle wrought by Jesus Christ, to get gain; for he that doeth this, shall become like unto the son of perdition, for whom there was no mercy, according to the word of Christ." III Nephi 13:60.

Wednesday evening, July 15, at our prayer meeting we humbled ourselves in prayer before God asking His healing power. Jimmy Shanks, age nine years, had lost his sight in one eye. We anointed his head with oil and laid our hands on him asking through the power of the Holy Ghost that his sight be restored. Three days later Jimmy said, "I can see as good out of this eye as I can out of my good one!" So our prayer was answered and another miracle was performed.

We thought of Alma's teachings as recorded in Alma 17:66-68.

"Preach unto them repentance, and faith on the Lord Jesus Christ: teach them to be humble themselves, and to be meek and lowly in heart; teach them to withstand every temptation of the devil, with their faith on the Lord Jesus Christ; teach them to never be weary of good works, but to be meek and lowly in heart: for such shall find rest to their souls. O remember my son, and learn wisdom in thy youth; yea, learn in thy youth to keep the commandments of God; yea, and cry unto God for all thy support."

Elder August Schwegler

THE WATCHMAN

NOTICE

The members of the Dining Hall Committee wish to take this opportunity of expressing their sincere appreciation to each and every donor of money, produce, and physical assistance in the kitchen last year. Only through this co-operation has it been possible to care for the physical needs of those who attended conference.

We would also like to remind the readers of the coming needs of the Dining Hall Committee during our 1965 Conference. Our needs are great and donations of financial support as well as food will be greatly appreciated.

We are looking forward with anticipation of serving you and greeting each of you across the serving tables and at the meetings during the coming conference.

Dining Hall Committee

Prayer is not artful monologue of voice uplifted from the sod. It is Love's tender dialogue between the soul of man and God.—John R. Moreland.

THE FOUR GOSPELS

As I sit alone and meditate
On the higher realms of glory,
My mind just seems to concentrate
On the first "Four Gospel's" story.

The story—told by Matthew
And elaborated on
To make it very clear to you,
By Mark—and Luke—and John.

The story of that holy day
When the spirit to Elizabeth, came
Bringing John—to pave the way
For He—of holy name.

The story of John's life on earth,
Of those he called to God,
Of how he proved his humble worth
The while he walked—this sod.

And how the spirit once again
Proved a wondrous—holy boon,
By bringing forth—the Son of Man
From out a virgin's womb.

They tell of His childhood preaching
Among the learned men,
How they marveled at His teaching,
For He was so young—then.

They tell how John baptized Him
In the Jordan's water's—clear,
How the dove descended on Him
How He drew disciples—near.

They tell of the multitude—He fed
On a minute amount of food.
They tell of the faithful ones—He led
And—the ones who were—so rude.

They tell of His travels—to and fro
Throughout the holy land,
Telling folks what they should know
Of God's far reaching plan.

They tell how He picked each disciple
To help Him—in His work,
And—how all but one—was fruitful
Never once—a duty shirk.

They tell of Peter—the wayward one
Who denied—he knew his Lord,
But wholly repented—later on
And returned—to spread His word.

They tell of the one—whose soul was sold
For a paltry bit of pelf
As by a kiss—the mob was told
This is the man—Himself.

They tell of the "so-called judgment"
That was passed on Him—that day,
How Pilate was the instrument
Who sent Him on His way.

Carrying a wooden Cross
On which—He would give His life,
But—His the victory—theirs the loss
For—from thence—He'd know no strife.

But—even on that cross—He kept
Faith—with the God—He knew,
"Father, forgive them"—and He wept
"For they know not what they do."

But death could not hold the Saviour down
For three days hence—He rose,
Leaving in that cold dark tomb
A pile of swaddling clothes.

And—after appearing to a few
He met with His dear ones—again,
Told them what—they were to do
When He—at last—left them.

And then—on the road to Bethany
He stopped and He raised His hands,
Gave them blessings—plenteously
And ascended—to better lands.

Harry S. Tordoff

UNITED WORKERS, OR NOT?

As has been done for several years, we claim space in our church paper to remind you of the annual conference meeting of the United Workers' Organization. To remind you also of an obligation to which the United Workers' Organization has committed itself—raising a fund for a home for our aged.

How many pennies have YOU saved during the past conference year? If you are a member of the Church—we mean YOU! Bring your accumulation of pennies to the conference meeting or send it in to our Treasurer, Sister Patricia Shaw, 2909 South Englewood Terrace, Independence, Mo.

The activities of your local group will be of interest to all present and may be of help to other groups, so send your report before April 6, 1965, to Lois Harris, 1920 South Osage, Independence, Missouri 64050.

Our conference meeting consist of a short business meeting to hear reports, to elect officers for the coming year, and to discuss group and individual projects. Then we always enjoy a program using the various talents we possess. There are readings, and songs, and games to mention a few of our talents.

If you have any ideas you would like to pass on to others be prepared to tell us about them.

Won't you join us?

Lois Harris, Secretary

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.

SERMONETTES

Elder Silvanus Mason

Text: John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life, and no man cometh unto the Father but by me." When our Lord was here upon earth, He manifested Himself in many ways, He declared Himself in parables, allegories and other ways. He said, I am the vine, ye are the branches, I am the door, I am the resurrection and the life, I am the good shepherd, I am He that was dead and alive again.

There **are** many ways. There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. Isaiah 53:6 says, "All we like sheep have gone astray, and have turned everyone to his own way." There is a broad way a narrow way and lots of other ways. But Jesus said, strait is the gate and narrow is the way that leadeth unto life, but wide is the gate and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be that go in there at. St. John 10:1-2 says, "He that entereth not into the sheep fold, but climbeth up some other way is a thief and a robber, but he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep."

The way into the Kingdom of God is like a man taking a journey, when we go on a long journey we draw out a map to find the way, and we link one sign with another. It's the same with the Church before we can enter we have to come in through the door and that door consists of six panels which mean the six principles of the Gospel; the first is faith, without faith it is impossible to please God. The second is repentance, and we must repent before we are baptized. What does repentance mean? It means that we are sorry for all the wrong things we have done in the past, we begin a new life. Third, we must be baptized by immersion to wash away our sins, then we rise a new creature in Christ Jesus. Fourth, we are confirmed into the Church. The fifth principle is the resurrection of the dead. And the sixth is eternal judgment.

I am not bothered about the last two principles as long as I have carried out the first four, then we are able to sing, after accepting the first four, "what joy will be there at the great resurrection."

To find out the right door and the right minister to carry out these principles ordinances is something we must do to obtain salvation. As you know the great question of today is the question of authority. I could not put on a policeman's uniform and book anyone unless I had authority. It's the same with the church. This authority is not given by a feeling in the heart or by choosing to go in for the ministry, a minister must

be called as was Aaron, and the authority is only found in the Church of Christ organized April 6, 1830. That is why I am able to trace my authority as a minister of this Church and as a member of the Priesthood back to the days of Christ.

How easy it is done, when we add up five seventy and one thousand two hundred and sixty, which brings us eighteen thirty, and the description of that Church that was restored in eighteen thirty is the same now as when Christ organized it on the day of Pentecost, with apostles, prophets, pastors, evangelists and teachers as mentioned in Ephesians 4, for the perfecting of the saints. Lots of churches believe in pastors and teachers and ignore the office of an apostle. Let us not forget the same Scripture that appoints the office of an apostle, appoints the office of a pastor. Do away with one and we must do away with them all, because they have all been given by God for the perfecting of the saints. Can we not say with confidence, that He has placed in the Church first apostles, secondly prophets, and after that helps, governments and diversities of tongues?

Why don't we take God at His word and not try to hinder His program by any pet theories of our own? for let me add, you do not have a hope of success, for He has said the Gates of Hell will not prevail against it. He will have His way, no matter what man may try to improvise. Paul said after his departure, "grievous wolves shall enter in among you not sparing the flock, also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after them." So let me repeat the words of our Lord, very cautiously beware "let no man deceive you," for you know when God calls a people His work to begin, it's the tactics of Satan to lead them to sin. Some say the devil is dead, if he is, I would like to know who is carrying his business on. He is as rampant as ever. Why don't we take God at His word and work together for the redemption of Zion which is the place of the pure in heart? However, I am not going to say much about that; but let us not forget that God can not use us unless we are humble and full of love.

TRUTH

Christ said I am the truth, no other man in the world can say, "I am the truth." People today don't like to hear the truth especially the whole truth. Since Christ organized His Church so much apostasy has taken place, so many Churches started by man, (And half of them because they could not get their own way, Brigham Young for example) that the truth has gotten mixed up.

So it is our job as members of the priesthood and lay members to rightly divide the word of truth. Paul said they will turn away their ears from the truth and turn it into fables.

The most damaging kind of a lie that is told today, is that which is sprinkled with a little truth in it. Hitler said, "the bigger the lie, the easier it is believed," but it always pays to tell the truth. Christ said beware let no man deceive you, and we would do well to take heed of that warning. For He said, "Many will come in my name and deceive many." Isaiah said, "if they speak not according to this word it is because there is no light in them." Paul also said, "after my departure shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock," and would speak perverse things to draw the disciples after them, so let me add once again—take heed the warning, "let no man deceive you."

In this universe there are three distinct sections, Roman Catholicism, Protestantism and those which claim a divine restoration, the latter section may be comparatively small, but that by no means is an error, but rather the reverse, for truth has always been unpopular, and isn't it wonderful to know that the latter section which is the Church of Christ has the deeds of the Temple Lots which all the money in the world could not purchase, because it is priceless. And may I add, that all the other factions know it, for their have tried to purchase it. That is why I feel so glad to be a member of the Church of Christ, Temple Lot. So, "let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."

LIFE

Christ, came, "that we might have life, and that we might have it more abundantly" and if we want to enjoy this abundant life, we need to be always abounding in the work of the Lord. The fears that confront human life is the fear of want, fear of unemployment, fear of sickness and the fear of death. Death is the King of Terrors which holds the human race in bondage. But to those who have come in through the door into His Church and have obeyed the Gospel, the fear of death is removed by the hope of immortality. We believe when death overtakes us, the spirit is separated from the body and the spirit of the righteous enter paradise, so when we lose our loved ones we don't sorrow as those without hope. So we can truly say, "absent from the body, instantly present with the Lord."

The teachings of Buddha is—that life is the greatest of evil, and he did all he could to destroy it, so that in death it could not be revived again. So two doctrines that are entirely different must produce quite different results; so let us take God at His word, let us doubt not the Lord or His goodness, but love to obey His commands.

Cain when he killed Abel attempted to shift his responsibility by asking, "am I my brother's keeper?" and ever since it has been on the lips of those who would promote their own interest at the expense of their fellow men. So let us not trust in the arm of flesh which is fallable, but trust in God who is infallable, then all will be well. For His name sake. Amen.

THE TESTIMONY

Text: "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."—Matt. 24:14.

Here we see that the gospel is to be made known to all, as a witness to all mankind. It is to be a witness of God's promises, His dealings, and His covenant with mankind; to demonstrate that they are indeed true and reliable. In olden times, when people did not read nor write, that evidence frequently took the form of some tangible memorial to which people could look. Examples of this are God's covenant on the tablets of stone, the Ten Commandments, and God's sending to Zacharias and Elizabeth, who were old and childless, a son, John, to act as a special witness for Him.

Now we know that faith is a prime requisite for all those that would taste God's blessings; it must be present if we would know Him and have a personal testimony of Him. But faith does need to have a beginning. And faith, after it has become one of our attributes, needs to be strengthened from time to time; needs to be encouraged, enlarged. I believe, then, that we can expect to find tangible evidence of the truthfulness of this testimony, the Holy Scriptures. Thus our faith can grow, followed by personal testimony, then knowledge.

The Bible is testimony of God's dealings with a people. We remember Paul's letter to the Corinthians where he said, "Ye are our epistle . . ." We might, therefore, expect the people themselves, their past, their present, their history, and their culture to be a testimony of the written word.

Archaeologists have made use of Biblical testimony. With its use many cities, wells, and highways have been discovered.

In Jeremiah 25:11 we read that the captivity of Israel and her king, Zedekiah by the Babylonians was foretold. History verified its fulfillment. Jeremiah 42:11-16 promises that Israel shall be freed from bondage to Babylonia. History has verified this also. Jeremiah 43:9 and 10 has some peculiar words: "Take great stones in thine hand, and hide them in the clay in the brickkiln, which is at the entry of Pharaoh's house in Tahpanhes, in the sight of the men of Judah; And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will send and take Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will set his throne upon these stones that I have hid; and he shall spread his royal pavilion over them."

Again history verifies, and we find in an uncovered city of Egypt those pavements upon which the Babylonians built their throne.

Biblical testimony continues. Deuteronomy 28:64, 65 foretells the sad dispersal of Israel; that they should be scattered among all nations "from the one end of the earth even unto the other . . ." History has verified this, and we know that this people have been scattered among all nations. But were they to remain scattered always? Isaiah 11:12 says, "And he shall set

up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth." That same prophet, Isaiah (49:22, 23) even describes how this remarkable recovery shall be accomplished; how a weak people should again take a land populated with their enemies.

History again verifies this prophesy and in our own time we see the fulfillment of these things; we see the small nation, Israel, growing, developing, and gathering home from the ends of the earth her people—gathering them back to the land of their inheritance.

Yes, the Bible speaks for itself, and archaeology and history verify its testimony. The Master Himself, and the Apostle Paul told us that this was not all. They said, "In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established." See II Cor. 13:1. Acts 1:22-26 tells of ordaining men to go forth to witness.

If the Holy Bible is to be one witness of the Covenant between God and mankind, we might well anticipate that somewhere there are other witnesses; witnesses that can assure us of the truthfulness of this testimony. The Master gave us a clue that causes us to look in this direction.

When the Master visited the earth in the Bible times He called His followers, His witnesses, His "sheep." Following the clue we find these wonderful words in St. John 10:14-16: "I am the good Shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice: and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd."

So Jesus had other sheep which were not of the fold at Jerusalem: If he went to other people we are confident they too would be aware of this New Testament gospel. We are confident that they too would write of this experience and it would be an added witness to enlarge our confidence and faith.

Does the scripture speak of such a witness? Most assuredly! We are told that the Lord will no nothing except He first reveal it to His prophets.

In Bible times books were called "sticks" because they were scrolls of papyrus rolled upon sticks. In Ezekiel's prophecy he foresees that there would be not one one witness in the form of a book or stick, the stick of Judah or Bible, but that there should be another stick added to it. Here are the words in Ezekiel 37:16-20:

"Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions; then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim and for all the house of Israel his companions: And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand. And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee saying, Wilt thou not shew us what thou meanest by these? Say unto them Thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I will take the stick of

Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand. And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes."

We believe that this added witness (the stick of Joseph) does exist, and that it can and does strengthen and enlarge our faith.

Elder Don McIndoo

THE NEARNESS OF THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST

Isaiah 62nd chapter: "For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteous thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth. And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name. Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the land of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God. Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate: but thou shalt be called Hephzibah, and thy land Beulah: for the Lord delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married. For as a young man married a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee: and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee. I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence; And give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth. The Lord hath sworn by his right hand, and by the arm of his strength, Surely I will no more give thy corn to be meat for thine enemies; and the sons of the stranger shall not drink thy wine, for the which thou hast laboured; But they that have gathered it shall eat it, and praise the Lord; and they that have brought it together shall drink it in the courts of my holiness. Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up. Cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people. Behold, the Lord hath proclaimed unto the end of the world, Say ye to the daughter of Zion, Behold thy salvation cometh; behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. And they shall call them, The Holy people, The redeemed of the Lord: and thou shalt be called, Sought out, A City not Forsaken."

For many years, as a lad born and bred in the Gospel, I remember hearing those round and about making the statement they longed to live to see the second coming of our Master, Jesus Christ. Among them I remember the testimonies of those near and dear to me expressing the hope and ambition to live to see this astonishing event take place. But, alas, some have gone to their reward, even some whom I had always regarded as pillars in the great message of the gospel. Suddenly, I seemingly awoke to the

necessity of the realization that in a sense I was lonesome and what of the promise of His second coming?

As I look around me in the world today, I find there are others who believe in His second coming in varied ways of understanding. Some believing His appearance marks the great wind-up or finish of the world and Judgment Day without further understanding of what lies beyond that event. While still others in the great Judgment and the division of the righteous and the wicked and the casting of the wicked into the endless torments of the lake of fire, and the entering of those that are saved into the delights and comforts of heaven. Deciding for myself that confusion and the spirit of doubt is the great subject of the hour in all the world concerning this event, I go to the Scriptures in the endeavor to establish for myself a sure foundation of understanding.

Reading the first chapter of the Acts of Apostles, I found Jesus after His resurrection and appearance to the Twelve for a period of some forty days, left their midst in a very spectacular fashion. Acts 1:9-11, "And when he had spoken of these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, beheld, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

A prophecy still to come to pass? Yes, a prophecy because it foretells the coming event that the world looks for; not yet realized. Because it foretells the event that so many good saints of latter days have looked for so long and have not realized in their life span.

I find myself living in a period of time not unlike that period just prior to His crucifixion in the Book of Mormon, where we find much confusion and the spirit of doubt on the increase even among the people of God when they begin to wonder if indeed the sign would be given when there would be a period of darkness over the earth for a time of approximately three days. Persecution began to be heaped upon them because of the peculiar beliefs of the people of the day and the society they lived in. So what of the peoples of the Restored Gospel of today? Is the momentous event yet to come to pass important to them, or are they beginning to lose sight of the great and precious promises in connection with that spectacular event of the SECOND COMING OF OUR LORD AND MASTER JESUS CHRIST in these latter days? Or are we becoming puffed up in the importance of our station in life not unlike the Sadducees and Pharisees of former years?

Going over the writings of the great Apostle Paul in the 4th chapter and 16th verse of his letter to the Thessalonians, I discover he describes the coming event in a very picturesque manner. "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in

the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." I Thess. 4:16-17.

From here we go into the second letter of Thessalonians and the 2nd chapter and find what happens to the confusion, spirit of doubt, lyings and deceivings of the day that we see around us. II Thess. 2:8, "And then shall the wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming."

A time when the great and marvelous power of Jesus and His servants shall put down all malice and strife, deceivings and confusion on the earth. When the righteous and spectacular circumstances of His coming will cause great upheaval and consternation among those who are wicked and refuse to accept the right way of life; perhaps affecting even our everyday routine of activity in what we refer to as civil life.

Revelation 6:12-17, "And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely fig, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"

As we look around us today we find already men are preparing great plans of safety in "dens" in the earth, and underground caverns, some manufactured by the hand of man and some natural caves used and placed in condition for occupancy to escape the onslaughts of the outside elements of terror.

Whether they be terror brought about through the instrumentality of wicked men or a terror brought about by the decree and presence of our Master and Lord, Jesus Christ, we find the wicked and those that understand not the right way of life fleeing in fright.

Revelation 20:4, "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."

Contrary then to the understanding of some of our young people today, the second coming of Jesus Christ to the earth in these last days is not the end of life here on the earth, but rather, the ushering in of a new era of time, a new way of life. This should continue for a thousand years, and Jesus Himself shall live and reign on earth for that time. Going further down into the

text of the chapter in the sixth verse we read, ". . . but they shall priest of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years." Indicating there should be progress under that reign, that there should be labor and works of some kind. Men are not made "priests of God and of Christ" for nothing. The evidence points strongly to the "reign of Christ and His priests" for the purpose of teaching those living on the earth at that time.

Isaiah 35:5-6, "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert."

These are some of the blessings brought about by the second coming of Jesus to the earth. Blessings that shall demonstrate to the earth and its habitants the great power and intent of the Creator of all things, that are both on the earth beneath and the heavens above.

Revelation 21:2-4, "And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

The great promises of God in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, His son, shall be fulfilled. Salvation is sure. The blessings shall come to those that accept the right way of life. There is a difference between those within the fold and those without, in spite of the fact that all men shall be judged according to their works in this life. Recognition and reward shall come to all mankind according to the good deeds they have performed. A great blessing shall come to those that have accepted the Gospel, we are told that the coming of Christ to the earth does not end life on earth but rather it ushers in a completely new concept of life and understanding.

". . . and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

The prophet Daniel indicates in decisive manner one of the greatest blessings to come from the Gospel is the increase of knowledge and understanding, in our day which is without doubt the time referred to as the time of the end.

Daniel 12:4, "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." There never was a time in the history of mankind where man did any more running to and fro as in this time. The quality and swiftness of transportation

today permits us to live in an area on one side of the nation, to hold conference at lunch on the other side of the nation, and perhaps finish the day's labor on an island in the far reaches of the Pacific Ocean. Science tells us some of the most astounding facts concerning our lives, and our pursuits of happiness controlled by circumstances of the elements that we did not know before. And scientific knowledge has increased so far that we find them now reaching out beyond the sphere of life on earth, pointing as it were toward heaven, in what seems to us as a violation to the plan of God in the Scriptures of the creation of the earth, the sun, the moon and the stars and their purposes. Once before mankind increased his knowledge of construction and engineering to the point he became overconfident and proceeded to point his efforts toward heaven. Genesis 11:4-7, "And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." Is it possible the good Master of men will allow man with his increased knowledge of science to reach the moon in exploring life beyond the sphere of his creation? Genesis 1:16-18, "And God made two great lights; the greater to rule the day, and the lesser to rule the night: he made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good." Then on the sixth day we are told He created man and blessed them, Genesis 1:28, "And God blessed them and God said unto them, Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." Is it not possible that the scientific knowledge that has increased so tremendously in the past few years might not now become became one of the elements that will shorten these days spoken of by the prophets as the last days? Revelation 6:12, "And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake: and the Sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind."

How much closer can we come to the fulfillment of the prophecies concerning the conditions of the very elements themselves just prior to the coming of Jesus Christ for the second time to the earth? Scientific knowledge itself testifies in this respect. Look round about us we cannot help but see the changing of the seasons of the year and the climatic conditions that are developing every year more radical than the year

before. Time marches on and the signs of the times are increasing on every hand. Are we ready to meet Him when He comes suddenly? Or are we in a sense standing idly by looking up into heaven in wonder as did the men of Galilee thinking in our own heart we are saved? Acts 1:11.

The gospel according to Luke gives an additional clue that the time of His coming is soon to come to pass. Luke 21:25-27, "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth; for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory."

Looking again about us we see on every hand the extreme distress of nations, and their perplexity is in the fact that many times they understand not the reasons for the conditions that have come upon them. We see great upheavals in the oceans and disastrous storms at sea, tidal waves engulfing and destroying in their wake. In short the elements of the earth in motion is pointing toward that great and spectacular event that is to come upon the earth, THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST.

We find fear and confusion on every hand with the spreading of the spirit of doubt even among the very elect. So what is the answer? Let us study to show ourselves approved workmen that need not be ashamed. Let us read the signs of the times that are increasing on every hand that point to that great and marvelous event and be ready in our little sheepfold to meet the great Shepherd.

Our great brother and Apostle, Paul, in writing to Timothy gives us yet another clue to the recognition of the period of time and nearness of His coming. II Timothy, third chapter, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof; from such turn away."

The breakdown of moral structure in the society in which we are forced to travel every day of our lives is apparent on every hand. We have only to read our daily newspapers to confirm this as a fact. Covetousness and blasphemers are advertised every day in the stories of men we find there, the big problem of the nation today is the juvenile question and the delinquency of parents in their failure to teach proper respect to their children. The unholy, unthankful actions of men over all the earth is on the increase.

Among nations we find truce-breakers is a common thing and oft-times expected in what is referred to as world politics. The movement called anti-Christ is not a thing of the past but of the present and is on the increase in the earth.

Amongst the religions of the day we find a multitude of forms of godliness, denying the power thereof. Paul saw the conditions in the day and knew of the near approach of His coming.

Matthew 24:36-38, "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered in to the ark."

Yea, verily we do not know the hour, the day or the month this event will take place but we can if we will, pinpoint the time by the use of the Scriptures, the prophecies and their fulfillment, the increased knowledge of science, astronomy and the proper application of mathematics. Life will continue and as usual men will stand in wonderment and surprise. Let us trim our lamps and be watching, doubting nothing that when the trump is sounded we will be ready as a people and as individuals. Recognizing even as Mark instructs in the 13th chapter and 29 and 30 verses. "So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done."

(From a sermon delivered at Independence, East Local, by Kenneth J. Smith).

JUST SUPPOSE

A question burns within my heart,
I dare not ask in prose;
I'll state it here in rhyming words
And call it, Just suppose.

Now just suppose you go to church
And speak to God in prayer;
Do you invite Him home with you
Or do you leave Him there?

Suppose instead of being near,
To listen when you speak;
Suppose He chose to hear your prayers
One hour, just once a week.

Suppose, beyond this veil of tears,
His Kingdom, you would seek;
Suppose He tells you, you're allowed,
In Heaven, once a week.

Author Unknown

"It isn't what you know—it's what you do that counts . . ."

If someone were to pay you 10¢ for every kind word you ever spoke about people, and collect 5¢ for every unkind word, would you be rich or poor? Right Hand.

A CRITICAL PERIOD OF TIME

In the Church and the Nation

Present critical conditions, in the church, and in the nation, at this present time, could easily reach crisis proportions. In the church, it is sharp differences of opinion upon matters which range from mere human theories to basic principles of Divine Law, which in their correct, or incorrect decisions, render those divergent points of view, very vital to progress of our true spirituality, as a church. These things, (by the help of God) we can remedy, if we will.

We all, as a people need clarification of spiritual vision to discern, and to properly evaluate present trends, with increased Holy Power to detect that which is really of God, and to help further it, and true illumination of the Holy Spirit to enable us to make sure discernment of those trends which are deceptive in their nature, and to enlist our efforts with God, to help us all, to escape those dangers.

The arch deceiver of the ages makes God's work his aim, and good men his target in these present times, the same as he has always operated. Our safety-fornication poises our own success against the wiles of the evil one, is a fort of personal and collective prayer. In these days of dire danger, let not one of us be long absent from the watch-tower of prayer. There is no substitute for sincere prayer. Satan can not win against a people who continue constant in prayer, and then in diligent obedience to those things given to the soul by the Holy Spirit, as God's direct answer to prayer, for the individual, and for the church. Concerning the recent annoying rash, or outbreak of rather hectic opinions upon matters of grave doctrinal positions in the Church of Christ we should remember to take regularly of God's prescription for an upset spiritual poise, caused by the unsteady, or unsound doings, or sayings of others. A thoughtful view of certain facts, as here outlined following, will give us a clear view of the labels on God's holy prescriptions for that terrible ailment, or threat of spiritual ills.

First: Let it not be forgotten that through all the past, good men have been known to be badly mistaken, about very important things. That unchallengeable fact makes it very important that you, and I—both of us—turn to God's salvation-cabinet to obtain a remedy which within our own souls, creates greater kindness, more sincere charity, and even more wisely applied tolerance. For God is kind to both the just and the unjust. He is long-suffering toward all. Kindness, charity, and tolerance (tolerance to the limit of allowance for prevalent human weakness, or of innocent ignorance)—these are God-like characteristics. God expects of His servants, that we practice, kindness, charity, and tolerance to the limit of justice, mercy, and truth. When we who differ with each other over points of faith, or doctrine, or of practice, will be punctual to take of the divine remedies for souls which will build up in us those goodly qualities, then it will be that the satanic disease of increase of wicked multiple venom,

among brethren, and its soul-contagion within the church, will respond with cure.

When we observe hectic disagreements between brethren and sisters in the church, let us remember that Satan seeks thereby to bring even the Lord's own people to more serious spiritual illness whereby he seeks to alienate us definitely from our Lord. Let us then resist Satan with greater determination, rather than each other. Let us remember that it is possible for any of us to become like an unruly child unto whom the law of love, (which is the law of God) requires of us all, that we extend charity, and long-suffering, rather than any attempted unkind criticism, which but deepens the spiritual illness of us all when we yield to the persuasions of the arch enemy of souls. Let us all faithfully follow the Lord's prescription of prayer for each other, in order that we, ourselves may escape the greater spiritual illnesses.

The National and International Crisis

That the affairs of the nations are now coming swiftly to a terrible crisis, is now causing perplexity, distress, and alarm in all nations, is a fact which is plain to be seen around the world. Our own nation here in America, was never before in such a critical point. In the recent address of our President to the nation over the radio he stresses the point that there is no good reason for excessive rejoicing over the signing of the truce in Korea. Also, we know that although our nation has reached the awful debt figure of several hundred billions of dollars, with the merciless load of godly usury interest, upon the backs of our taxpayers, yet the President has now asked Congress that the debt-limit be extended, so as to enable us to borrow more money, and to add more billions of debt. In the Church we can improve our spiritual condition before the Lord, by our prayerful obedience to Him. But in this matter of multiplied "distress of nations" there is indeed little which individuals or small groups of people can do to remedy the terrible situation. For these things are coming upon the nations because of mass wickedness in all lands, and nothing but mass repentance can change the judgments of God against present avalanches of sin and corruption of mankind, such as present conditions in the world seem to be even more proud to display. We may therefore expect God's prophecy so long foretold in the Scriptures, to be literally fulfilled. Let us here re-read from God's word: "For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled . . . for there shall be great distress upon the land, and wrath upon this people, . . . And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and looking after those things which are coming on the earth: For the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall ye see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth night."—Luke 21: 22-29.

Surely, now is the time for the church to discern with care, and make spiritual preparation. First of all, let us be alert, with watchful prayer.

James E. Yates
ZION'S ADVOCATE
October, 1953

(We feel that this article is especially appropriate to be brought to mind again at this time. Let us each re-read and remember this admonition. R.A.W.)

GOD'S WONDERFUL WORD

When I am tired, the Bible is my bed;
Or in the dark, the Bible is my light;
When I am hungry, it is vital bread;
Or fearful, it is armor for the fight.
When I am sick, 'tis healing medicine;
Or lonely, thronging friends I find therein.

If I would work, the Bible is my tool;
Or play, it is a harp of happy sound.
If I am ignorant, it is my school.
If I am sinking, it is solid ground.
If I am cold, the Bible is my fire;
And it is wings, if boldly I aspire.

Should I be lost, the Bible is my guide;
Or naked, it is raiment rich and warm.
Am I imprisoned, it is ranges wide;
Or tempest-tossed, a shelter from the storm
Would I adventure, 'tis a gallant sea;
Or would I rest, it is a flowery lea.

Does gloom oppress? The Bible is a sun,
Or ugliness? It is a garden fair.
Am I athirst? How cool its currents run!
Or stifled? What a vivifying air!
Since thus thou givest of thyself to me,
How should I give myself great Book to thee!

—Selected

GOSPEL TRUTHS

In the Book of Mormon

We, who are blessed with our belief in the Book of Mormon, have probably often realized as we teach our children, what a treasure chest it is. It is filled with true adventure stories; and as it ties in with modern archeological findings, it is as fascinating as any mystery tale.

Also, through the pages of this wonderful book, we find stories that very clearly illustrate principles of the church, and great truths that every child should know. You teachers, who are better students of the Book of Mormon than I am, will know many, such examples. But here are just a few that seem to me good illustrations of the various ideas. The story, with the particular point to be brought out in mind, may be told to the children in your own words. All, or parts of it, may be read from the Book of Mormon to be followed by an

explanation and question period. Always, it seems advisable to adapt the lesson to the child's daily life.

FAITH: Outstanding among the many beautiful stories of faith in the Book of Mormon, is the one of the brother of Jared asking the Lord to touch the stones to make light for their vessels. (Ether).

REPENTANCE: Tell the story of the sudden conversion of the sons of Mosiah, and Alma, the son of Alma, when the angel appeared to them and asked why they were persecuting the church. (Mosiah).

BAPTISM: Give background of Alma leading the faithful to the place called Mormon followed by the story of baptisms there. (Mosiah).

LAYING ON OF HANDS: To me, one of the most glorious stories is that of Christ blessing the little children ringed by the angels from heaven. (III Nephi). Tell other times the ordinance of "Laying on of Hands" is used.

ETERNAL LIFE: Importance of preparing for Eternal Life as shown in the vision of Lehi about the Rod of Iron and the Tree of Life." (I Nephi).

PROPHECY: Many examples to be found . . . a striking story is that of Samuel the Lamanite, preaching of the coming of Christ. (Helaman). Follow with the stories of fulfillment of Samuel's prophecies.

VISIONS: The entire story of Ammon becoming a servant to King Lamoni, the king's conversion, his visions and those of his household. (Alma).

REWARD OF RIGHTEOUS LIVING: Story of courage and faith of "Helaman's sons" in battle, with no lives lost. (Alma).

WHEREVER WE ARE, GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS: Lessons to be learned from Tower of Zoramites. (Alma).

GOD PROTECTS HIS SERVANTS: Miracle of the circle of fire when Nephi and Lehi were in prison in Lamanite country. (Helaman).

REMEMBER GOD IN GOOD, AS WELL AS TROUBLED TIMES: The dramatic story of Moroni and his flag of freedom, calling the people back to God. (Alma).

MISSIONARIES, THEN AND NOW: For 14 years, the sons of Mosiah preached in the Lamanite country. Keep or children up to date on work of our present day missionaries. (Mosiah).

Viola Hening

Reprinted from Zion's Advocate

AN EPISTLE

This is not an epistle of Paul, one of the apostles of the early church, but it is one of Don, one of the apostles of our latter day church. It is a composite of some of his thoughts as he visited Phoenix recently, and which he put into letter form to all the members everywhere. Here is his letter:

Dear Friends:

I received your kind letter early last week and I note your evident disturbance over world events among other things, and in particular the failure of the leaders of the nation to find the answer to many perplexing problems that confront them.

How our nation could have and would have been blest if we were governed by no others laws than that contained in the "Word of God!" For it contains so complete a system that it needs no amendments to its constitution. Nothing to be added and nothing to be taken away. It contains most things useful to be known or done. It gives instructions and council to a senate; directions and authority to a magistrate. It cautions a witness; requires an impartial verdict from the jury, and furnishes the judge with his sentence.

It entails honor to parents and obedience in children. It promises food and raiment, and limits the use of both. It defends the rights of all and reveals vengeance to every one who defrauds.

It is the first, best, and oldest written word in the world. The world is contained in it. It has the choicest matters, gives the best instructions and gives the greatest pleasure and satisfaction possible.

It contains tidings of great joy and the greatest comfort to the inquirer or the desolate. It shows the way to life and immortality and paves the road to life eternal. It is a brief to the past and gives positive and certain prediction of the future.

In short, it is a book of laws to govern both physical and spiritual; yes, even material things. Truly a book of wisdom as it condemns all follw and can make the foolish wise. It is all truth and detects lies and meets all errors. It is a book of life and it also shows the way to an everlasting death.

It is the best evidence ever produced, the best deed ever sealed, the best will ever made and the best testament ever signed. To understand it is to be wise, but to be ignorant of it is to be destitute of wisdom.

It is a complete code of laws; it is a history of lives of travels and of voyages; the king's best copy, the housewife's best guide; and a servant's directory a young man's companion, and the learned man's work of art, and, last of all; it's crowning glory is in it's authority—in whom is no variableness nor shadow of turning.

If only more would study this vast word of wisdom, the Scriptures, can you think that the world would be anything but a wonderful place in which its kings and rulers and magistrates would be the epitomy of wisdom and charity?

As ever, your friend,
(signed) Don Housknecht

Whoever acquires knowledge but does not practice it is as one who plaughs but does not sow . . . Saad.

PURYEAR, TENNESSEE LOCAL NEWS

On Sunday night, January 3rd, we of the Puryear, Tennessee Local, met and elected our new officers for the new year, 1965. Presiding over the meeting was Brother Ronie Overcast. Our opening song was No. 408 (The Angel Message). Prayer by Brother Ronie Overcast, officers elected: Pastor, Brother Ronie Over-

cast; Assistant Pastor, Brother T. W. Paschall; Superintendent of Sunday School, Brother Tony Grooms; Adult Teacher, Brother Heman Paschall; Assistant teacher, Brother T. W. Paschall; Teacher No. 2 (children) Sister Elizabeth Paschall; Reporter, Bryna Grooms; Recorder, Sister Elizabeth Paschall; Song Leader, Rosemary Camper.

After our meeting was over a message was brought to us by Brother T. W. Paschall, which I hope sunk deep in our hearts. His subject was love of God and our fellowmen. How important it is to love and become closer to each other for this year of our Lord 1965. Certainly if we can't love and become close to our Brothers and Sisters and friends, then we cannot love God, because if we cannot love someone we see and are with every day, then do you think we could love someone we don't see?

On December 22, 1964 the children of our church and some visiting children, had a small Christmas program which we grown-ups enjoyed very much. Each had a song or a piece to say, and then all was given a bag of fruit and goodies.

Of interest to those who know her, Sister Myrtle Robertson has had surgery, but glad to report she is improving very well. Her daughter is here from Texas taking care of her.

We have had the pleasure of hearing two sermons from our young Brother Tony Grooms who is 17 years of aged. He was ordained a Priest in September by Apostle A. M. Smith.

We wish here to wish everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year. May it bring more blessing to you than before. Here is a message in the way of a poem that we might remember in this coming year.

MAKE IT A REAL NEW YEAR

This year strive to find the real Christian Spirit.
Mend a quarrel, Seek out a forgotten friend.
Dismiss suspicion and replace it with trust.
Visit a sick friend. Share some treasure.
Give a soft answer. Manifest your loyalty in word or deed.

Keep a promise. Forego a grudge. Forgive an enemy.
Apologize if you are wrong. Try to understand.
Examine your demands on others.
Think first of someone else. Appreciate.
Be kind, be gentle. Laugh a little, laugh a little more.
Welcome a stranger. Gladden the heart of a little child.

In short make 1965 a true Christian for yourself and everyone you come in contact with.

Bryna Grooms, Reporter

INDEPENDENCE TEMPLE LOT LOCAL NEWS

During the past two months we have enjoyed many lessons and would like to pass some on to you.

Brother Glenn Gill: Reading in Luke 6, we find that a good man, out of the goodness of his heart bringeth forth good fruit. Why are we gathered together? The

reason should be the gospel, and not a combination of odd reasons as the Law of Moses, which was fulfilled by Christ. The gospel starts at the depths of the soul whereas the Law of Moses laid down a pattern for the soul to follow.

In our probationary state we must prepare for ourselves. Our preparing should be a continuous process in a pattern, for we don't know our time of departure for meeting God. We shouldn't stop and argue, waste our days, or worry about others are doing, but should worry about our own repentance and baptism, and righteous living. The Lord holds us responsible for our own and not to blame for the mistakes of another person, so don't lean on the arm of flesh.

In our association as members of the Church of Christ, we should ask ourselves in all deeds and sayings if we are the Church of Christ and are doing as Christ did.

Brother D. R. Bryant: God has a use for everyone so we should be ready to be "about our Father's business." The Book of Mormon contains one of the greatest patterns of righteousness that we can have even though there is a sealed part to come forth when we rid ourselves of our unrighteousness.

With given light come responsibility which we have shirked. We can't fool the Lord. A time of judgment will come and we must be ready.

Brother John Sweem: Jesus came that men might have life and have it more abundantly. In a life with God there is peace, kindness, and love. Love is a product of living in the Spirit. It is necessary for us to be of one Spirit to be Christ's. We can't walk that way on our own temporal way. The time has come for us to be one on God's terms and be alive in the work of God.

Brother Archie Bell: A pillar is a firm and upright support and must carry it's share of the weight. Pillars should people of moral and spiritual excellence. To be a pillar the first requirement is to overcome self. To have faith, a contrite heart and spirit, to have a taste for the works of God, and after being converted each has the duty of strengthening their brethren. We must not point to others as an excuse for not overcoming but must point to self.

Brother Jon (Jack) Sprague: We will be held responsible for what we do on our own.

There are things we must do to inherit eternal life, to change from the mortal life to the immortal life and be in the presence of God. God laid down commandments for us to follow. The most important ones are to love God and love our neighbors. One cannot exist without the other.

We must be baptized and endure to the end, this comes about because of faith and repentance of our sins. We should meet together often and be led as the Spirit of God directs.

It is our responsibility to sound the cry, not try to judge and correct others. We must rely on God and not on man.

Brother J. M. Case: The Master of men, by His own life laid out the pattern and gave instructions for us to follow. Don't be led by emotion, that doesn't do it! Seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all things will be added unto you. Don't let man say what is or isn't, they are only to point the way.

Take heed that no man deceive you, but study deeper to keep from missing the main points of the teachings of Christ.

We were pleased to witness an ordinance of the Gospel of January 10, the blessing of Dennis Michael Bruner by his Grandfather, Brother Vance Harris, and his uncle, Brother Glenn Gill. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Rodger Bruner.

Brother and Sister Bob Eddy and family visited here December 27. We enjoyed a pot-luck dinner at the Church and a sermon by Brother Eddy that evening.

At our recent Mother's Club meeting we had the experience of learning to make candles. We enjoyed ourselves immensely.

Our congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Gary Adams on the birth of their son, Nicholas G., on December 22, 1964. He has two brothers, George and Scott, who happily greeted him at home.

Our sorrow is expressed and deep sympathy extended to the family of Sister Marion Olive, "Grandma", Denham, who passed from our midst, February 13, 1965 at the age of 93.

Your sisters in Christ,
Margret Gill and Judy Sprague

NOTICE

The annual Conference of the Church of Christ will convene Tuesday, April 6. Opening session will be at 10:00 A. M. in the Church of Christ on the Temple Lot.

All committee and individual reports should be delivered to the secretary before the opening session.

There will be three groups of people attending this Conference. One group will be attending with the idea of trying to suppress all opposition to their viewpoint. They refuse to study with the opposition to see whether it is right or wrong.

Another group will be those who attend with an earnest desire to do God's will. They make an effort to study both sides of each question completely so that they are able to cast an intelligent vote.

The third group are those who are completely confused. Rather than study for themselves, they ask a friend what their decision should be.

These three groups have made their place in past Conferences and the result is obvious. Each one who plans to attend this Conference should ask himself, "With what attitude am I attending Conference?"

Sincerely,

J. A. Hedrick
Secretary

Yesterday is a cancelled check;
 Tomorrow is a promissory note;
 Today is the only cash you have;
 Spend it wisely.

NOTICE

Housing accommodations are available and your needs will be handled by writing to one of the members of the Reception and Housing Committee. Their names and addresses follow:

DENVER G. CHAPMAN
 Phone INdependence 1-6392
 1231 W. Ruby
 Independence, Missouri—64050

MARVIN CASE
 Phone INdependence 1-1116
 16613 Woods Chapel Road
 Independence, Missouri—64050

NICHOLAS F. DENHAM
 Phone CLifton 4-5969
 4116 South Cottage
 Independence, Missouri—64050
 The Reception and Housing Committee

NOTICE

The Council of Apostles has notified the officials of the School of the Ministry that the conducting of the meetings where the presentation of the findings on the subject of the "Directive" as printed in the Zion's Advocate for December, 1963, shall be the responsibility of that School. This will require different handling than subjects handled in the past. It is a standing Rule of Order that assemblies may make their own rules for conducting their assembly. With this in mind, we are offering the following recommendations for adoption at the beginning of our meetings:

1. The composition of each presentation shall be limited to an oral reading of not longer than fifteen minutes. Any extension beyond this limit will be at the discretion of the assembly.

2. At the conclusion of each presentation, a maximum of five minutes will be allowed for questions. These must be for clarification only on points contained in the presentation. Questions deemed by the presiding officials, to be harrassing or not for clarification, shall be denied. An author who makes a presentation, may refuse any or all questions.

3. Strict aderence to the principle of affirmative presentation shall be enforced by the presiding officials. An affirmative statement is one which states a positive belief, not a disbelief.

There is not a Secretary of the School of the Ministry at the present time. It will be necessary to elect one at the beginning of the session. There will be an election of officers at the close of the meetings.

It is believed that if all present at the meetings, conduct themselves as "Partakers of the Divine nature" of Christ, good can be accomplished especially for the members of the ministry. May all come prepared in such a way that when the meetings have come to a close, the Lord need not be ashamed of any of us.

Archie F. Bell, Chairman
 Marvin E. Ely, Assistant Chairman

APOSTLE B. C. FLINT IS ILL

Our Brother Apostle Bert Flint is gravely ill and in the Lakeside Hospital at 8801 Troost, Kansas City, Missouri, from an undetermined cause. He may have suffered a stroke a few days before he began to experience great difficulty in breathing. He is undergoing a great many tests to try to discover what is causing his trouble. Apostle Flint's family would, we know, appreciate your prayers and supplications in his behalf.

Brother Flint has recently suffered a light stroke complicated with pneumonia. He has recently returned home, but remains under close attention of his physician. He is responding to treatment but still is much in need of your prayers.

Due to his illness, Broher Flint has asked the privilege of thanking the many friends who recently sent him birthday greetings, with this notice. He would prefer to acknowledge each of them personally but it is impossible at this time. We are most happy to be able to perform this small service for him and know that each of you with me hope for his speedy recovery.

Editor

FIFTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OBSERVED

Apostle and Mrs. C. L. Wheaton, Sr.

Apostle and Mrs. Clarence L. Wheaton, Sr., 204 West Sea Avenue, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, Sunday, February 14, with a Church service at the Church of Christ (Temple Lot), Independence, Missouri.

The couple was married February 15, 1915. Mrs. Wheaton is the former Angela Denham, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles N. Denham.

The Wheatons have five children, C. LeRoy Wheaton, Edward W. Wheaton, Thomas R. Wheaton, Richard A. Wheaton, and Mrs. Katharine Matthews. There are 24 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren.

The C. L. Wheatons started their married life together in a tent located on the same spot of ground where they built their present home, 204 West Sea Avenue, they have since lived in many far flung places of the world, but this spot has always been considered home by them.

Bro. and Sr. Wheaton have received many messages and cards of congratulation from friends and relation all over the world, and would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their thoughtfulness.

OBITUARY

Marion Olive Denham

Sister Marion O. Denham was born April 17, 1871, on Grand Avenue, where the R.L.D.S. Auditorium now stands, in Independence, Missouri. She departed this life on February 13, 1965 in a rest home at 1400 North River in Independence, Missouri.

Sister Denham was baptised into the Church of Christ, (Temple Lot), on August 4, 1889 by Elder George D. Cole in Independence, Missouri.

Sister Denham was the former Marion (Manie) Frisbey and she married Charles N. Denham two days before Thanksgiving, November 26, 1889 in Independence, Missouri. Brother Denham preceeded her in death. To this couple were born eight children.

Surviving are four daughters, Mrs. Margaret Wheaton; Mrs. Angela Wheaton; Mrs. Edna Bryan; Mrs. Marion Sprague; three sons, Floyd E. Denham; Charles T. Denham; Nicholas F. Denham (one son Clarence Denham now deceased); 32 grandchildren, 98 great-grandchildren, and 12 great-great-grandchildren and a host of friends and relatives.

Sister Denham was a lifelong resident of Independence and a lifelong member of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot).

The funeral services were conducted by Apostle Wm. F. Anderson and Elder Leslie P. Case February 17, 1965 at the Carson Chapel with burial in Mound Grove Cemetery.

OBITUARY

Marshall T. Jamison

Marshall Jamison was born in Ford, Iowa, December 18, 1883, and passed from this life December 27, 1864. He is survived by his widow, Carrie; by two daughters, Mrs. Brand Hening, Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Mrs. Faust Matthews, Springfield, Missouri; by two sons, Verl Jamison, Kansas City, Missouri, and Marshall V. Jamison, Pacific Palisades, California; a sister, Mrs. Pearl Barth, Lamoni, Iowa.

Bro. Jamison was raised in the Reorganized church but has been in the Church of Christ since 1929. His son-in-law, the Rev. Faust Matthews gave a beautiful sermon of hope and comfort at the funeral service; and a grand daughter, Donna Matthews played the organ, including the beloved hymn, "The Old, Old Path".

APOSTLE ARTHUR M. SMITH

Apostle Arthur M. Smith passed away suddenly Saturday morning, March 6, 1965. He suffered a heart attack shortly after returning home to Ava, Missouri from a missionary trip. We do not have the full details of the funeral service other than it will be held in Ava, Missouri with Apostle Archie F. Bell in charge.

Our deepest and most sincere sympathy is extended to his widow, Sister Minnie Smith, as well as to each member of the family which be left to mourn his passing, and on behalf of the family we solicit your prayers in this, their hour of mourning.

Editor

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPPLIES

INSTRUCTIONS IN ORDERING

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

In compliance with the action taken at the 1960 General Sunday School Association General Assembly, all publications printed by the Association will be sent free of charge. Send ALL orders to: General Sunday School Association Treasurer, Church of Christ (Temple Lot); Box 472, Independence, Missouri. 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
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Records of the Book of Mormon.....	N/C
History and Religion—Chart	1.50