

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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Service

As day's dawn-gilded shafts revive the earth,
Birds, singing, build in budding bush and tree,
And my heart joins their lightsome madrigals
For duties here to be performed by me.

Today holds all the blessings that I crave;
I shall not pass it in a stupid ease,
But share my good with others on the way,
And seek the fears of others to appease.

Although each morning brings new tasks to me,
I still rejoice that I have work to do,
That I was called to serve a little while,
And in this service my own strength renew.

Clyde Edwin Tuck

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ZION'S ADVOCATE

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EDITORIAL

CAN WE TURN THE TIDE?

There is a great movement in the world today to tear down the barriers between clean, wholesome living and the unrestrained lewdness that is rapidly overcoming morality like an uncontrollable cancerous growth.

The older generations seek to escape the blame by hiding behind such pronouncements as "We never did that in my day!"; which may be partly true; and yet from what era sprang the great flesh pots of America such as "Broadway", "Hollywood", "Vegas" and of course the New Orleans Mardi Gras! They were under full steam by the "Roading 20's", though their activities were mostly hushed up in "polite society". But today their code of life is rapidly becoming accepted in our new concepts of uninhibited emotions, lusts and pleasures. Many so-called "ministers" not only condone but openly advocate this unbridled "way of life" (but the Scripture calls it by a different name "the way of death"). Our news stands display and pedal to all ages from the cradle to the grave, filth, trash and degradation, in open, unabashed fashion, (under the guise of "freedom of the press" or "art") materials that a decade ago were seldom even smuggled from "under the counter".

The country looks at the statistics of our modern crime laboratories with horror, at the fact that 43% of our major crimes are being committed by young boys and girls 18 years old and under. But it is unmoved by the fact that the "sophisticated adult society" of today (which includes everyone over 21 what wants in) is possessed with the urge to "LIVE". There are few theaters that do not run so-called "Adults Only" movies, (which no decent moral person would attend.)

Our new stands and theaters (Indoor and Drive-In) are rapidly being turned into ultra-modern (and efficient) crime schools. They are winked at by most of society, copied by too many class room instructors (not always without the knowledge of school administrators), touted by nearly all mass communication media, advocated from behind many "modern day" pulpits and naturally copied by nearly all of our impresionable youth.

It is therefore very easy to say, "It's all because of this generation of teen-age delinquents", and forget they are being taught by the example of the exploited degenerate escapades of past generations from Adam to the present. They pay both hard earned as well as "easy" money to the great moguls of "sexdom and crime", to learn the "wisdom" of Sodom and Gomorrah.

But it is no fault of ours. We either don't own a T.V. or censor the programs that are undesirable. We don't go to movies or at least not the bad ones. We don't buy "those" magazines and "kids never read newspapers".

But from the kids next door, "those" boys or girls in school or somewhere, they learn!

By now I can hear most, if not all of you, saying, "You sure paint a black picture", and you will be **right!** The picture is black; and ahead of us is a very narrow course, froth with pitfalls and danger on every side; not only for ourselves, but for loved ones and friends as well.

To steer and navigate this course to safety beyond, is one of the greatest tasks we have and we **can not** accomplish it alone. It will take the full, constant, concerted and united effort of every interested soul we can reach or contact. Even then, though our numbers were great, failure would be inevitable if we had to rely only on human wisdom and ingenuity. We shall need all the aid we can beg from a merciful God.

Have you ever stood in the deep surf of an incoming tide and watched as a large breaker forms, rises above your head, see the white cap topple, crash down over you, sweep you off your feet helpless and tumble you high on the beach, breathless and exhausted? I have. The tide of Satanic power building in the world today is on its way in now. You and I, if our eyes are open and able to perceive what is going on about us in the world, should be able to recognize that very large breaker, (of tidal wave proportions) forming up in every phase of life today; but this breaker will break in pieces and destroy the very soul of all who try to withstand it by their own strength.

Some will say at this point, "But what about the Atom, Hydrogen and Cobalt Bombs, destroying powers if the 'cold wars' all over the world get out of hand?". And to you I say as do the Scriptures, they can only destroy the physical body which shall soon pass on no matter whether wars come or go, but that force and power which destroys the soul is the real danger.

It is my firm conviction that Satan has designed these physical conflicts and wars as a smoke screen and camouflage for his real work; the moral decay and

destruction of man's soul. This can be his only real victory over mankind.

But what can we do to turn this tide of immorality? So far as the world is concerned **nothing**. All Scripture tells us plainly that the world will be as Sodom and Gormorrah, in the last days, drunken in immorality, blasphemous, and in every sense wanten.

But as for those individuals who are strangers in this world, as was Abraham, who sought all his days for a "city whose builder and maker was God", there is hope and much work to be done.

There is hope **IF**, they are willing to make the sacrifice: that is;

Lay aside self ambitions,
Lay aside contentions and strife (no matter what it's over).
Be willing to labor side by side with those who may differ with us in some things,
Learn to enlarge on the **good** in people instead of the bad,
Lay down our life, but no so much as strike out, for principles,
Be twice as strict on ourselves as we are on others.

"Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? Either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh. Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace."—James 3:11-18.

When we can discipline ourselves in these things, we will **begin** to **approach** the place where we can be used by God to **help** turn the Satanic tide from those who shall be found faithful in these the last days.

We must begin, if we have not already started, to live as examples worthy to be followed by our young people; Learn to live such a life with an attitude of joy and zest, and not as though we were over-burdened with an unwanted load to bear as serfs and slaves.

When we can show our young people that living a Christian life is a joy (for indeed it can be) and not a burden, we will not see them partake of these things of the world so readily, but will find even greater cause to rejoice in Christ with them.

We must become an humble, God-seeking people, not separated one from another by strife and contention, for as we read in I Peter 5:5-7:

"Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."

It will not be the high and haughty who find favor in God's sight, but only the meek, humble and chaste shall inherit eternal life.

R. A. W.

A WEDDING Martin-Dunning

Miss Betty Martin, daughter of Sister Ray Martin of Collins, Missouri, became the bride of Mr. Harvey Dunning on the evening of Saturday, July 10, 1965 at the East Independence Local of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot).

The couple will make their home in Deepwater, Missouri.

We wish success, happiness, and the blessing of God to be with this young couple as they journey through life together.

INERTIA

Those who have studied physics have become familiar with the word, "inertia." It is the tendency of a motionless body to remain at rest, or the tendency of a moving body to keep right on moving.

To make it clear, have you ever seen men push a stalled automobile? You know how hard it is to get it started, but how much less effort will keep it moving, once it is in motion. Well inertia makes that car hard to start, and hard to stop once it is moving.

So you see inertia is a very practical and important thing. We speak of it everytime we say that the hardest part of a job is getting started.

Inertia can be either your friend or your enemy. If you have enough energy to get yourself started on any difficult task, it will keep you going. On the other hand, it will fight hard to keep you from ever starting.

Once you understand this thing and what it does, you will be better able to deal with it. Watch out for old inertia!

—Cheer

CONGRATULATIONS

Mr. and Mrs. James A. Hedrick are the proud parents of a new son, Robert Joseph, born July 1, at the Independence Sanitarium and Hospital, Independence, Missouri.

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.

PEACE OF MIND

Elder Donald McIndoo

I would like to read this morning from some of the words written by Apostle Paul as he was speaking to members of the church, just like ourselves, giving to them an admonition of how they should think and act, and with this admonition was a promise. These are his words:

"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."—Phillipians 4:4-8

Here the apostle was exhorting the children of the Church of Christ 2,000 years ago. He would use the same words to us today. And how fitting I think they would be today. He exhorted them to put into their daily thinking and speaking certain virtues: He exhorted them to put into their minds those things that are virtuous and beautiful. He assured them that if they put these attitudes and attributes into their daily lives always that their lives would be changed. He assured them that the peace of God would keep their hearts and minds.

In our personal lives we find that by following certain actions, certain laws and rules, that there is an effect in our total way of life. An outstanding example of this is in the life of a certain boy who was in my room at school. He had been encouraged by his teachers and many other adults who knew him to put into practice in his life the laws that govern good health. But from the time he was a very young lad, this boy had followed a way of life that was different from the one that he had been admonished to follow. By the time he was 14 years old he was smoking two packages of cigarettes daily, and since he was without adult supervision most of the day and night, his diet consisted primarily of soda pop and doughnuts. He scarcely got more than six hours sleep any night of the week.

Because of the pattern of life that this boy had established, by the time he was 14 years old he had taken certain characteristics that were standing out and were adversely affecting his life. He was suffering from malnutrition in the midst of plenty. He was very small, weak and undernourished. He was irritable and unable to apply his mind to the task at hand. His emotions were constantly at the breaking point. And so this boy, by ignoring some of the laws of hygiene and health, had set a pattern that undoubtedly will follow him all the days of his life. He never was able, and it is my considerate opinion that he never will be able to reach the mental and physical stature for which he was intended.

As we look at the history of man's dealing with his Creator and his Heavenly Father, there is one thing that seems to stand out above everything else. When man follows the laws of God, blessings follow his day. When he ignores God's laws, he reaps trouble and sorrow and never reaches his highest and best potential.

If each and everyone of us were to make a list of the good things, the qualities and attributes that we would like to have in our lives, I am certain that the list would be a long one and that many things on that list we would have in common. One of the foremost items on that list would be "peace of mind", the quality which Apostle Paul promised to all who would order their lives in harmony with the universal laws that God established to govern mankind, both as individuals and as nations of the world. Peace of mind is one of the greatest blessings we could wish for in any age. Christ Himself promised His followers such peace in these words from St. John 14:27;

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

Without peace all other blessings would lose their savor and beauty. What good is physical health to a man who has not peace of mind? What good would it be to have great talent of one sort or another if a man was unsure of himself and his place among his fellows? But all these things may be enjoyed if peace of mind is there. And that peace of mind is promised even in the face of world calamity or personal hardship if it is sought and accepted as the gift of God.

The life of Helen Keller is an admirable example of great peace of mind obtained against almost unsurmountable hardship. Her life became beautiful, useful and meaningful despite the cruel fact that she was

without sound, without speech and without sight. She found in her Heavenly Father the strength to overcome these multiple discouragements and the faith to rise above them and to live a rich, useful life, calm and serene in accepting God's gift—peace of mind. She will be an inspiration to the whole world as long as histories of people are kept.

Another example is the life of Paul who was surrounded constantly by danger, by threat, by temptation, by persecution from those who reviled him and would have taken his very life, and yet he was able to write such words as these:

"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ . . . we are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; . . ." II Cor. 4:6-9.

Here is a brief quote from an article in the Nov. 1962 Readers Digest, entitled "Peace of Mind" by Dr. Joshua Loth Leberman:

"But all the streets of the world are teeming with everyday men and women who mutilate themselves spiritually by self-criticism; who go through life committing partial suicide—destroying their own talents, energies, creative qualities."

Perhaps we have experienced it too—the sacrifice of peace of mind to follies and disobedience.

Eminent psychologists have stated that with the help of our religious belief we can do four important things to have peace of mind. The men who affirm this have gained international fame through their contributions to science. One recognized as a leader in the field of psychology has said this:

"I have never returned a man to his normal self without bringing him back to God first."

And so we say that with the help of our religious beliefs, there are four important things that the psychologist, the scientist, the Apostle Paul and Jesus Christ would have us do.

First, they would have us realize that we have a responsibility toward ourselves as well as to others. They would have us realize that a part of this responsibility is that we must overcome feelings of inferiority. Do you have feelings of inferiority? Do I have them? Does the man across the street have them? Do the leaders of our nation have them? The psychologists tell us that everyone feels a sense of inferiority at times; that all suffer at such times over some mistake, some defeat in their past—sometime when they've been ridiculed, criticized—times when they felt of little value and importance in the world, and unable to meet the challenges and responsibilities of life.

The psychologists tell us that such feelings can be and are often overcome. How? By looking our responsibilities squarely in the face and doing our very best to assume them with courage, one at a time as they come along—responsibilities towards our loved ones, our work, our church, our religious life. By so doing, we can become the kind of people that we sometimes think we see when we look at others around us for inspiration. We see in others only the exterior. We cannot see the feelings hidden beneath their exterior actions, nor their doubts and fears which they have overcome in order to accomplish the fine things we see them do.

Second, the psychologists would have us accept ourselves as we really are. And what are we, really? A combination of strength and weakness, and we must recognize this fact. Paul says that we must study ourselves, know our strength and our weakness, and realize that as long as we are alive we have the opportunity to grow and to change. Paul would have us not be burdened by past mistakes, but to change them into successes. He says in Philippians 3:13-14:

". . . this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

This is our responsibility—to accept the fact that we may not have an abundance of talent, but doing our best with what we do have. As we do this, our personalities will change and our capacities will increase.

Third, the psychologists would have us to be aware of man's relationships with his heavenly Father—that there are things in this life that we must renounce in order to have other things more fully and completely. As one philosopher said, it is not always just a matter of renouncing the bad things in life and leaving the good things, but occasionally we are confronted with the necessity of having to **choose between good things**; that we must have an ideal in life, must have a direction toward which we wish to go and we must renounce all those things that would hinder us; that would keep us from attaining the goal that we have set. For example, teenagers sometimes learn that love is very easy to fall in and out of, that they constantly change their friends and companions, but as they mature they must realize that in order to find real love they have to center their life and their affections around just one person. And the person that fails to do this is but a child. He or she might be a child old in years, but a child nevertheless.

Finally, the psychologists would have us realize that everyone of us has a number of fears in our life, and that we must seek to master them and to realize they are a hindrance, not a help, in affecting maturity and success in life. One poet said "Fear is a wild

horse and needs a tight rein, and to live well and effectively, a man must learn to master it."

Some of our fears are conscious. Some are subconscious. We fear ridicule and criticism. We fear to act because we are afraid we will make mistakes. All fear has the same affect. It erodes the mind, the personality, the actions, the effectiveness of anyone who harbors it.

How shall we master fear? One thing is to realize that most fears are groundless. They have no basis in reality. Some of us can see this in our experiences. We fear criticism when everyone concerned might be very understanding and helpful if we but made an endeavor to try to do something. Yet we sit back and do nothing because of that fear of criticism. Sometimes we fear punishment, when no punishment is forthcoming at all. Sometimes we work ourselves to a point of hysteria over some health problem, when the trouble, if quickly and correctly caught, could be successfully cured. Yet people continually let their fears keep them away from the source of cure until something **is** serious.

There is an old saying that says, "Fear knocked at the door. Faith opened it. And lo, there was no one there." That is frequently the case.

Today our nation is faced with a grave crisis, much graver, perhaps, than any we have had to experience since the days of World War II. The consequences may be more far-reaching than the Korean conflict. The nation is faced with critical decisions. The leaders of our nation but a few days ago felt that it was going to be necessary for us to embark upon a course to deter these heathen nations that have determined to see the destruction, not only of this nation, but of Christianity. It should be the burden of our prayer and thought for everyone of us that our leaders at this time be directed by divine guidance, and that both the leaders and the people of our nation realign themselves with the laws that govern our spiritual, mental and physical well being. And then shall our faith be justified that God has set this nation to be a free land among the people of the world and that He will keep it so, as long as we keep ourselves aligned with His spiritual laws.

Many in our nation are fearful today perhaps as never before. They feel that we are surrounded by fearful and enemy nations, which is true. I find, however, a counterpart in history. In reading the writings of the psalmist, David, we see that the children of Israel were just as surrounded by fearful nations as we are today. This is what the psalmist says in the 56th Psalm:

"Be merciful unto me, O God: for man would swallow me up; the fighting daily oppresseth me. Mine enemies would daily swallow me up: for they be many that fight against me, O thou most High. What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee . . . Every day they wrest my words; all their thoughts are against me for evil. They gather themselves together, they hide themselves, they mark my steps, when they wait for my soul."

Is this not the case today? Now I find no solution to our political problems and crisis, as I read here in this scripture, and yet I find a personal solution. I find a solution for you, and you and you and for myself, and for any man or woman, he be small or of political importance or the leader of a great nation, that will help him keep that sound mind, that will enable him to withstand all the trials and temptations which might ever come upon any people.

The psalmist, David, after speaking about his enemies began to speak to his Lord, and he says:

"But the Lord shall endure forever; he hath prepared his throne for judgment. And He shall judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgment to the people in unrighteousness. The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. . . . The heathen are sunk down in the pit that they made; in the net which they hid is their own foot taken. The Lord is known by the judgment which He executeth; the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands . . . The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." Psalms 9:7-17.

Whether it be this nation, whether it be USSR or Cuba or whatever nation on the face of the earth, if that nation fails to align itself with these great resources, it is setting the snare for itself.

There is personal solution in these verses in all times of trouble.

"The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee." Psalms 9:9-10.

And this is our solution. If we would overcome the fears that so easily beset men—if we would have that peace of mind which is beyond the understanding or the explanation of any, then we will avail ourselves of this opportunity: to have charity: to exhort and pray to our heavenly Father daily, in times of trial or decision, and to exercise an overwhelming faith in our heavenly Father—a faith such as Paul had when he wrote these words:

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? . . . Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" Romans 8:35-39.

If nothing can separate us from the love of our heavenly Father, who can harm us? Who can take away the peace of mind that He would give us? Who can supplant it with fear that erodes and decays, if we stay our minds on Him?

—Hand of Fellowship

HERO OR COWARD?

Ralph W. Loew, D.D.

"We huddled in a corner of the basement while the winds howled, the storm sounded as though freight trains were roaring overhead. Then I was aware that rain was seeping through the floor. It was the first intimation that the house was gone." Stories such as these have been rampant throughout the violence of so many tornadoes this Spring. These are records of men and women who are suddenly caught in the terror of the storm.

Out of these moments come stories of incalculable heroism. Doctors worked around the clock without thought of giving in to their tired bodies. Mennonites came by the busload from Pennsylvania and Ohio, immediately setting up their shops and rebuilding homes and barns. They didn't send letters saying, "Let us know if we can do anything."

In contrast there were also the vulturous. Within minutes looters were combing through the wreckage. One grief-stricken man arrived at the site of his home only to see a man walking off with a television set.

In what must have been the height or depth of ghoulishness was the experience of one who found his father flattened against a tree, while a man was busily searching the dead man's pocket for his wallet!

The people had suffered from an impersonal wind and now they suffered impersonal callousness.

It's a tornado that rages in each man. The hero and the coward, the saint and the thief, the peaceful and the violent are all housed together. "Within my earthly temple there's a crowd, there's one that's humble, one that's proud If I could only determine which is me!"

So an otherwise kindly man can mouth horrible prejudice. So a gentlewoman can slaughter her neighbor verbally. Even St. Paul could lament, "The good that I do, I do not. The evil I would not, that I do O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me?"

Erich Fromm has written of mankind, "In spite of all of his technological and intellectual progress, man is still caught in the idol worship of blood ties, property and institutions. His reason is still governed by irrational passions. He has still not experienced what it is to be fully human."

There are strong winds that buffet a man and he soon knows whether he has that quality of faith which enables him to "stand fast." In such moments we rejoice when we know that faith and courage which assures that "light breaks through where no sun shines."—Used Through Permission of Independence Examiner.

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Apostle Arthur M. Smith

(The following article was being prepared at the time of Apostle A. M. Smith's death and is the last article he wrote.)

When Christ was here on earth He established a Church. This was not a building of wood or stone, but a group of His followers who had been baptized by immersion. This was not the Church of John the Baptist, who indeed had been sent of God, "to prepare the way". Neither was it the church of Peter, nor of Paul, nor of Apollos nor any other of His followers. It was Christ's Church; He was its head. ". . . even as Christ is the head of the church . . ." (Eph. 5:23).

We find Christ telling His disciples who were with Him when He came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi that He would build a church, for He said to Peter, ". . . upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it." (Matt. 16:18).

That He did organize His church is evident from a number of Scriptural quotations, ". . . . And the Lord added to the **church** daily such as should be saved." (Acts 2:47). "And great fear came upon all the **church**, and upon as many as heard these things." (Acts 5:11). ". . . . And at that time there was great persecution against the **church** which was at Jerusalem;" (Acts 8:1 again "And when he had found him (Paul), he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people." (Acts 11:26).

What were these churches we have called your attention to? We answer; they were the Church of Christ. As evidence we turn to Romans 16:16 and read: "Salute one another with an holy kiss. The **churches of Christ** salute you." Now these churches were organized groups of the saints, through whom Christ intended His work of salvation should be carried to the people. The church was a necessary help and guide for each individual seeking to walk the narrow way which leads to life. Admission to Christ's church was by baptism in water, and He set the example Himself, by receiving baptism at the hands of John. Those who were thus received into His church, became heirs of salvation if they accepted His way of life and became like Him. (Matt. 6:33).

There were various officers in these Churches of Christ, with specific duties to perform; "And it came to pass in those days, that he (Christ) went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;" (Luke 6:12-13).

Again, "And he gave some apostles, and some prophets; and some evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the Saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ;" (Eph. 4:11). We want to give you one more evidence of the manner in which Christ built His Church, "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And

God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, . . ." (I Cor. 12:28.) Now we know there are some who believe that the prophet is higher than the apostle, but it was not so in the Church of Christ as He, Christ, built it in the days of the New Testament. The work of a prophet is functional (A prophet is one who prophesies or foretells of events, this is the function or exercise of the gift of prophecy. Ed.) and not official, while the work of the apostle is definitely official. (An official is one who is appointed or elected to an office. Members of the priesthood functioning in their respective callings or offices perform official acts. This is especially true of apostolic office, since they are called and set apart to be special witnesses of Christ and have the oversight of all the churches. Ed.)

Now these officers Christ placed in the church for a dual purpose. They were not only to preach the gospel, but were also to watch over those who joined the church, even as shepherds of the flock, guiding them in the way of salvation and guarding them from the "wolves" which might enter the fold. These officers were headed by the apostles, and from the Scriptures it is evident that the Lord intended there should be living apostles continue in the church, ". . . Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the slight of men, cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to receive;" (Eph. 4:13-14).

There were prophets in the church that Christ organized when He chose His Twelve Apostles; in fact the Apostles themselves were prophets; it had been the custom for God to deal with the Israelites in the Old Testament days through the prophets; He at one time told them He "would" do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His prophets. Those prophets received the revelations as the people needed divine help. We are sure the Savior had no thought of leaving this newly organized church, without proper guidance and instruction from heaven.

Soon after the crucifixion of Christ, and His ascension, we have an incident that proves that it was the intention of Christ that the organization of the church as directed by Himself, should continue, for after Judas had died, which made a vacancy in the Quorum of the Apostles, there being only eleven, some concern was felt as to what should be done; what was the intention of the Lord, in such an event? So the Apostles met with the saints (there was about one hundred and twenty of them) to consider what should be done, and Peter stood up and said, "Men and brethren, this Scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spoke before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus. For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry." (Acts 1:16-17). "For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate and let no man

dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take. Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, . . . must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection." (Acts 1:20-22.) So they chose two, Joseph and Matthias; and after making it a matter of prayer, they cast lots as to which of these two should be ordained to the Apostleship which had been made vacant by the death of Judas, and the lot fell upon Matthias, and he was ordained to the Apostleship, and once again there were Twelve Apostles.

Now let us notice that Matthias was the thirteenth (13) apostle, and he was chosen after much prayer of the saints and the apostles, indicating that it was their understanding that there should be always twelve in the Quorum of Apostles. But let us consider this matter of what should be done if another should be taken who had not lost his apostleship by transgression? It was only a short time after the crucifixion that persecution became quite severe, Steven was stoned and because of this persecution the Church was scattered. Apostle Andrew seems to have disappeared first from among the apostles then came James the brother of John and we read; "Now about that time Herod stretched forth his hand to vex the church. And he killed James the brother of John with the sword." (Acts 12:7-2) and then only a short time after this and we hear no more of Thomas or Bartholomew, and we wonder what will be the result if a few more should be removed? Our thoughts go back only a few short years and we hear Christ saying to His disciples, ". . . **I will build my church** and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it" and we wonder if He has so soon forgotten? Our faith leads us to search still a while longer and then we read; "Now there were in the church that was at Antioch, certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene and Nanaen, which had been brought up with Herod the Tetrarch, and Saul, as they ministered to the Lord and fasted, and the Holy Ghost said Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them." (Acts 13:1-2).

Now notice, this was the work of the **Holy Ghost**, the same that had been present on the day of Pentecost, and now through this agency of prophecy it was giving direction in the selection of two or more to take their place in this Quorum of Apostles, for we read still further, "And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them they sent them away," (Acts 13:3). Here we find the work of the prophet, used ". . . for the work of the ministry, . . ." (Eph. 4:12) and see the selecting of more apostles to fill this Quorum, that they may go on even to the time of the end or "Till we all come to a unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:" (Eph. 4:13).

So prophets were placed in this church; it is quite evident that the duty of these prophets (and notice it is prophets, more than one) was purely functional, the same as it was in the ancient times when the Lord

spoke through His prophets to the House of Israel directing them as the need might be; this was a safeguard in that day, but the Children of Israel failed to heed the warnings given and were driven from the land of promise. Likewise in the days of the apostles, and if you notice how many times the apostles gave warnings against the many influences that would lead them away, such as the "leaven of the Pharisees" (Luke 12:1). And then Paul tells them that he knew that after his departure, grievous wolves would enter the flock, leading many astray, just as the apostles of the Church of Christ are warning in these days, trying to safeguard the church against false doctrine.

Now Paul taught the Ephesians as follows: "And he (Christ) gave some apostles, and some, prophets, and son, evangelists, and some, pastors and teachers, for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, . . . , till we all come in the unity of the faith . . ." (Eph. 4:11-13), and since we have never come to such "unity of the faith", it would seem that the need of these officers is still quite necessary; Paul goes still further and tells us that since we have been baptized by water, that we are no longer "strangers or foreigners", and **should not** be "tossed to and fro and carried about with every kind of doctrine." He tells them they are ". . . fellow citizens with the saints and of the household of God and are built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets, Jesus himself the corner stone . . ." (Eph. 2:19-20).

Still again we hear Apostle Paul teaching the Corinthian saints how carefully this church that Christ had builded, was constructed, and he likens it to the human body, with all parts fitted together in perfect order each member functioning in perfect order; and so he says, ". . . the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, because I am not the eye, I am not of the body: is it therefore not of the body?" (I Cor. 14:14-16). Then he taught them that as each part was essential to the body, just so each officer and member are essential to the church. No one can say, "I have no need for thee!" Neither can the true church say it has no need for the prophets or apostles or any of the officers set in the church by our Lord and Master.

Now if we liken the churches of today with that which Paul taught in I Cor. 12:28, and can find in the church those things which Paul said God had placed there, and we quote: "And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healing, helps, governments, diversities of tongues, . . ." or perhaps we might go a bit further and turn to the fourth chapter of Ephesians and the eleventh through the thirteenth verses, we will find Paul names some more officers which were placed in the church, "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets, and some, evangelists: and some, pastors and teachers;" and as we read on, we learn the object of placing these officers in the church, "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work

of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ; Till we all come to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

Some of the officers were not yet placed in the church at the time of the crucifixion, but were added afterwards, evidence for which we find in the first chapter of Acts, "The former treatise I made, O Theophilus of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, **Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles who he had chosen:**" thus we are given the reason the apostles went forward to fill the Quorum of Twelve Apostles, each time there was a vacancy made by the death of one of the apostles. Yet some would do away with apostles, and some would refuse to accept the prophets, saying the "Canon of the Scripture is full, why then the need of a prophet?" And another will say, "We speak where the Bible speaks, and we have the words of the Twelve Apostles." But one may ask which of the Apostles? For there were at least 19 or 20 different men who served in that office of apostle during the 37 years that the church was allowed to stay in Jerusalem, for persecution by the Jews and later by the Roman Government was so severe, that the saints dare not meet in large assemblies as they did on the day of Pentecost, yet at no time were there ever more than the Twelve Apostles that composed this council at any given time. The Church of Christ today, believes that to have more than twelve apostles, would be but an evidence of apostacy. Now the names of those whom we feel sure occupied the Councils of Twelve Apostles, who were called and placed in this council after the twelve that were chosen by Christ before His crucifixion, are James, the Lord's brother, Silvanus, Timotheus, Andronicus, Junia, Appollos, Barnabas, and Matthias. All of these named or spoken of are in New Testament in such a way as to show they were occupying in the Council of Apostles.

Now in a short time, a space of about 20 years, eight of the original twelve had been killed. But there were others who had been ordained and had been numbered with the Apostles, such as James, (the Lord's brother) Silvanus, Timotheus, Adronicus, Junia, Appollos a total of twenty-one who had served in the Church of Christ that Christ had organized. At the time the Church was driven from Jerusalem in the year 70, only Apostle John and Matthew were left of the original twelve Christ had chosen. Matthias also was still living; so was Barnabas, Silvanus, Timotheus, Adronicus, Junia and Appollos. And this brings us to the end of the history of the church so far as the Bible records it. Those of the saints who were in Jerusalem when they saw the Roman army coming, remembering the warning Christ had given them, fled and thus escaped the slaughter of the Jews by the Romans, but we can find much of the subsequent history, of the times that followed, and are able to trace the downfall of the Church, through the history of the Christian Church,

it being much after the pattern Paul told them of, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the Church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves 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." (Acts 20:28-30).

FROM A LETTER

. . . . O that God's children of faith in Christ Jesus might be in the fullest measure also children of peace and love. Desiring a continuous peace with the God who loves us and keeping it by the cleansing of obedience of faith in the work of Christ is essential St. Paul's words: "if we judge ourselves we shall not be judged". Somehow I feel that when we learn to walk uprightly with our God we shall also be able by His enablement to walk in a loving peace toward our brother; regardless of how angered and forceful our brother's attitude may be toward us.

We need God's wisdom to see the signs of our own personal lack and need and we need the power of His redeeming love working in us by the Holy Spirit to humble ourselves to the will of our Father above.

The moment we feel selfish pride, resentment, fault finding, and unkind attitudes swelling within us, we ought to be alarmed more than when driving down a busy street and suddenly see a situation arising that might cause serious physical harm. In natural crisis and danger we immediately are alarmed and surrender all our forces to doing the things that will avoid bodily injury to ourselves and others. Why can we not be so wise in the danger of spiritual consequence?

How often we reject our Master's admonitions just because we will not count our old self "dead indeed unto sin" and surrender in every circumstance to let the new life in Christ Jesus live and move us always toward righteousness.

Have we put doctrine ahead of love? Have we learned to speak the "truth in love?" Do we have the love toward our brother (whom **we feel** is in error) to be humbly patient to allow them time to come to understanding? Do we have faith in our Father above that He is able to work in the heart of our brother and bring light to our brother's mind? Christ is the light and life of men and His spirit brings grace and truth to those willing to receive it, yet how often man has stepped in and tried to do the work of the Holy Spirit. And surely it is the beautiful and lovely fruit of right attitudes and deeds, the life of Christ being live through us, and the fruits of His spirit seen in us that draws men closer to Christ and His righteousness, and not so much our arguments, and head knowledge of the Bible, our warnings, and threats which we are inclined to substitute for the love of Christ which we so often lack.

If we could only remember how merciful, patient, long suffering, and forgiving our Lord has been with us, perhaps we could realize that we as God's sons in Christ have no right to be otherwise with our brethren.

O that we could each kneel down with Christ's love in our hearts and humbly pray in sincerity of heart, "that 'We' may all be one, that 'We' may be **perfected into one.**" Jesus' words in the 17th chapter of John are worthy of note, "And for their sakes I sanctify (consecrate) myself, that they themselves may be sanctified in truth" and with this thought put His words, ". . . . love one another as I have loved you."

"Sanctify them in the truth: thy word is truth". It isn't the head knowledge of the written word that sanctifies and separates our hearts and lives into one body unto Christ, but the living active, Spirit breathed will of God abiding in our hearts, controlling our desires, and motivating every action. I do believe we are often guilty, I know I am, of substituting a head knowledge of the words of God for a heart faith which is a yielding obedience to the acting will of God upon our hearts by His Spirit.

A head knowledge of God's word exhaults self pride, but a heart experiencing the gracious will of God in surrendered obedience humbles the soul and fills one with love towards God and man.

Are we willing to have that love of Christ which by His own example teaches us that we are to have that love which compels us to consecrate, to set ourselves apart wholly to do God's will, that through our sanctification in Christ, our brethren may be drawn into the fullness of light by the power of the Holy Spirit working through us.

Christ's words would have meant little apart from His living the truth of which He spoke.

Do we try to elevate our own standing by pushing down a brother and walking on him or treading on one who has stumbled. We do not get closer to God by standing on our brother nor do we help him come closer by fault finding. Or do we love our brethren so much that we are willing as our Christ, to lay down our lives, if need be, that they might come closer to God?

Do I prove myself right by showing others my brother's faults? Or am I just proving how weak I am in that I must judge and criticize a brother to make myself appear better?

How often I have thought, "until I become perfect I am in no position to find fault with another; and if I were perfect, I would never do it." Yet to lay down self pride, hurt feelings, self justification, etc., calls one to a true test of reckoning ourselves dead indeed unto sin but alive unto God through the work and working of Jesus Christ for us and in us by His life and Spirit.

Are we willing to effect upon ourselves Christ's judgment for us in giving His life, or do we have to bear God's physical judgments and chastisements until we are made willing to submit to be made righteous through Christ's death of judgment for our sin and

condemnation? Are we learning and knowing by obedience of faith in Christ "that our **old man was crucified** with him, that the body of sin might be done away, that we should no longer be in bondage to sin?" "For he that hath died is released (freed) from sin." We can only serve Christ "in the newness of the Spirit" as we by faith yieldedness keep self in the death state, under the sentence and judgment of death wrought upon it in Christ's death for us.

If we would only be as harsh, condemning, and strict to put our **old man** in its place and keep it there (crucified) as we try to put our brother in his place and under condemnation, how different things would be.

But often rather than bringing **ourselves** under the judgment wrought upon Christ for us, we let the old man, self, rise to bring condemnation and destruction upon others. Truly we can see in this the cunning of Satan, the old serpent, raising his ugly head as the accuser of the brethren.

When we hear from our lips words of criticism, condemnation, and hurt, then it should be a sign to us to bring ourselves to a deeper, fuller consecration that our lives may become stepping stones for our precious brother to come closer to God rather than becoming stumbling blocks because we refuse to keep our old man crucified with Christ. If we are too weak to keep self in place, how do we think to put our brother straight?

○ that we might love our brethren so much as to lay down our very lives for them even when they're against us so that by our act of obedience to the love of Christ, others might become more righteous because of Christ's love in us.

. . . . It is so true that it is only together as one in Christ we become perfected and not individually apart from our brother. They cannot be perfected apart from our loving faith obedience nor we apart from theirs.

May the Lord guide and keep you ever near to Himself, and in your nearness to Him I shall be strengthened.

In His love,

Stephen L. Brown

THE BOOK OF MORMON STORY

Continued from last month

Nephi, the younger brother, was commanded of the Lord to build a ship to carry the people across the waters. He showed him where to find ore with which to make tools to construct the ship. Although he had never built a ship, the Lord promised to show him how to build it. Nephi made a bellows of the skins of beasts to blow the fire to melt the ore. The Lord had not allowed them to make many fires as they journeyed in the wilderness, for He caused their meat and other food to be sweet so it didn't need cooking.

Nephi's brothers, Laman and Lemuel, ridiculed him for building a ship and refused to help him. He reminded them of how God had blessed them after they left Jerusalem. This only made them angry and they threatened to throw Nephi into the sea. Then Nephi said, "**In the name of the Almighty God, I command you not to touch me, for I am filled with the power of God, and whoever lays his hands upon me shall wither as a dried reed.**" For many days Nephi's brothers would not touch him for fear they would die, but Nephi was commanded to touch them so they would receive a shock from the Lord and thus be convinced that the Lord was with him. After this, they helped Nephi finish the ship.

They put forth to sea, being driven before the wind toward the promised land. After many days they forgot what power had brought them thus far on their journey and Nephi's brothers and their wives began to make merry, with dancing and singing, speaking with great rudeness. They bound Nephi with cords when he tried to reason with them. After Nephi was tied, the compass refused to work and they became very frightened when a great storm arose and tossed the ship about. On the fourth day the storm became worse and Laman and Lemuel realized that God's wrath was upon them and they must repent or surely die. They untied Nephi and he was able once more to use the compass and steer the ship. He prayed for the winds to cease; and after many days they sighted land. At last they had reached the promised land, which we know as the Americas, a land choice above all other lands, where those who live must serve God or when they become ripe in iniquity they will be swept off.

The Lord commanded Nephi to make plates from ore on which to keep a record of his people. Nephi told the people that these records should be handed down from one generation to another with a record of God's dealings with them. After 30 years in the land of promise, Lehi, the father died. Nephi's brothers again began to rebel against him as their leader and the Lord told Nephi to take his family and all that would go with him into the wilderness. He also took the sacred records which they had brought from Jerusalem and the plates which he had made from the ore. After many days they pitched their tents in a land they called Nephi.

Those who followed the leadership of Laman were called Lamanites, and because of their wickedness the Lord caused a curse to come upon them, turning their skin dark and He decreed that they would always be a dark people unless they repented of their sins. The Nephites on the other land observed the laws and commandments of God and became a very happy and contented people who had God's blessing.

The Nephites and Lamanites were continually at war. So long as the Nephites remembered God they were protected from the Lamanites, but when they forgot to serve God they suffered at the hands of the Lamanites and finally after dwelling in the land of

Nephi until about 200 B.C. the Lamanites succeeded in driving them out. They traveled to the north where they united with the people of Zarahemla who had left Jerusalem only a few years after Lehi and his family had fled. The two peoples united and were known as the Nephites. They were taught the way of truth and righteousness by men of God who went from city to city teaching them. Their records were kept on the plates as Nephi had been commanded to do and passed down through the generations until they were given to King Benjamin who was a good and just man.

King Benjamin had established peace in the land and he began to grow old. He conferred the kingdom upon one of his sons named Mosiah and gave him the brass plates, the plates of Nephi, the brass ball, the sword of Laban and all the sacred things. King Benjamin gathered the multitude of people together so he could speak to them. He reminded them of God's blessings and the need to keep all of the Lord's commandments. "And again my brethren, I would call your attention, for I have somewhat more to speak unto you: For behold, I have things to tell you, concerning that which is to come; and the things which I shall tell you are made known to me by an angel from God . . . For behold, the time cometh, and is not far distant, that with power, the Lord Omnipotent who reigneth, who was, and is from all eternity to all eternity, shall come down from heaven, among the children of men, and shall dwell in a tabernacle of clay, and shall go forth amongst men, working mighty miracles, such as healing the sick, raising the dead, causing the lame to walk, the blind to receive their sight, and the deaf to hear, and curing all manner of diseases; and he shall cast out devils, or the evil spirits which dwell in the hearts of the children of men. And lo, he shall suffer temptations and pain of body, hunger, thirst, and fatigue, even more than men can suffer, except it be unto death . . . and he shall be called Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of heaven and earth, the Creator of all things, from the beginning . . . and lo, he cometh unto his own, that salvation might come unto the children of men, even through faith, on his name; and even after all this, they shall crucify him. And he shall rise the third day from the dead; and behold, he standeth to judge the world. And behold, all these things are done that a righteous judgment might come upon the children of men."

Alma, who was a descendant of Nephi, traveled throughout the land establishing churches. Many people believed what he told them and repented and were baptized in the waters of Mormon by Alma and they were called the Church of Christ. This was 476 years from the time Lehi had left Jerusalem. Alma's son, Alma, an unbeliever, sought secretly to destroy the church. Alma was much concerned about his son and prayed that God might show him the wrong he and his friends were doing. An angel of the Lord spoke to Alma and his friends in a voice of thunder

which astonished them so they fell to the earth. He said, "This is my church, and I will establish it; and nothing shall overthrow it, save it is the transgression of my people. Behold, the Lord hath heard the prayers of his people, and also the prayers of his servant Alma, who is thy father; for he has prayed with much faith concerning thee, that thou mightest be brought to the knowledge of the truth; therefore for this purpose have I come to convince thee of the power and authority of God, that the prayers of his servants might be answered according to their faith. And now I say unto thee, Alma, go thy way, and seek to destroy the church no more, that their prayers may be answered; and this even if thou wilt of thyself be cast off."

From that time forward, Alma and his friends went about seeking to repair the damage they had done to the church. The church grew and the people prospered.

The Nephites were taught the way of truth and righteousness by men of God, who went from city to city teaching them. When they served God He cared for and protected them against their enemies, but when they forgot Him and wandered away, destruction followed.

The Lamanites as a nation did not believe in God, but Nephite ministers went among them and converted some of them. Those who did accept the truth remained firm and steadfast against everything that came against them.

Among the faithful Lamanites was a prophet named Samuel and God sent him to warn the Nephites of their wickedness. After he had preached repentance among them for many days, the Nephites became very angry with him and cast him out of the country. But the Lord stopped him and sent him back again. When the people would not let him enter the city, he climbed upon the walls and prophesied many things unto them. He told them unless they repented of their evil ways, they would be destroyed. Four hundred years would not pass away until destruction would come upon them if they did not repent.

Then he said unto them, "Behold I give unto you a sign, for five years more cometh, and behold, then cometh the Son of God to redeem all those who shall believe on his name." A sign was to be given, so that everyone throughout the land would know that the Son of God was born. There would be great lights in heaven, so that in the night before his coming, there would be no darkness—it would be as bright as day. One day and a night and a day as if it were one day, though the sun went down it would be as bright as noon day. There also would be a new star in the sky—one brighter than any they had ever seen before.

Those who did not believe in the words of Samuel were very angry and threw stones and shot arrows at him—but the Spirit of the Lord was with him and they could not hit him—they sought to bind him but he cast himself down from off the wall and fled back to his own country.

Many people believed the prophecy of Samuel and

began to look forward to the birth of Christ. At last the sign was given of His birth. When the sun went down there was no darkness, many who had not believed, fell to the earth in astonishment that Samuel's prophecy was being fulfilled. A new star appeared in the heavens and the people all over the land knew that Christ had been born. They began to fear because of their sins and unbelief and repented and believed in Christ.

Samuel also told them of another sign to be given at the time of Christ's death. ". . . Behold, in that day that he shall suffer death, the sun shall be darkened and refuse to give his light unto you; . . . there shall be no light upon the face of this land for the space of three days, to the time that he shall rise again from the dead, . . . there shall be thunderings and lightnings for the space of many hours, . . . the earth shall shake and tremble, . . . the rocks shall be broken up; . . . there shall be great tempests, . . . mountains shall be laid low, highways shall be broken up, . . . many cities shall become desolate, . . . graves shall be opened, and shall yield up many of their dead; When these things have come to pass, Christ shall be resurrected from the dead and all who believe shall be saved, and upon the unbelievers will come a righteous judgement."

After the sign had been given that Jesus was born, most of the people were converted and for awhile there was peace throughout the land; except for a few years when they were bothered by a group known as the Gadanton robbers. They were able to overcome them and for a while they prospered.

About thirty-three years after the birth of Christ, a great storm came and all the things that Samuel had prophesied came true and it caused the people to wish that they had repented.

The voice of the Lord came to them saying, "O all ye that are spared, because ye were more righteous than they, will ye not now return unto me, and repent of your sins, and be converted, that I may heal you? Yea, verily I say unto you, if ye will come unto me, ye shall have eternal life. Behold, mine arm of mercy is extended towards you, and whosoever will come, him will I receive; and blessed are those who come unto me. Behold I am Jesus Christ, the Son of God. I created the heavens and the earth, and all things that in them are. I was with the Father from the beginning. I am in the Father, and the Father in me; and in me hath the Father glorified his name. I came unto my own, and my own received me not. And the scriptures, concerning my coming, are fulfilled."

After Christ spoke the people were so astonished that there was silence in the land for many hours.

Again the voice came, "O ye people of the house of Israel, how oft would I have gathered you as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not." The voice continued to plead with them to repent.

Those who remained wept for their dead; but after the three days passed, their mourning turned to joy and they gave praise to the Lord for sparing their lives.

As the people were gathered together about the temple in the land Bountiful they were looking at the destruction of their roads and the terrible damage from the storm, when they heard a voice from heaven which was neither harsh nor loud, but tender and small, and it penetrated their souls so they stopped to listen. At first they could not understand but the third time it spoke and said, "Behold my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear ye him."

They looked steadfastly toward heaven and beheld a man descending out of heaven; and He was clothed in a white robe, and He came down and stood in the midst of them, and the eyes of the whole multitude were turned upon Him and they durst not open their mouths, even one to another, and wist not what it meant, for they thought it was an angel that had appeared unto them. And it came to pass that He stretched forth His hand, and spake unto the people, saying, "Behold I am Jesus Christ, of whom the prophets testified should come into the world: and behold I am the light and the life of the world, and I have drunk out of that bitter cup which the Father hath given me, and have glorified the Father in taking upon me the sins of the world, in the which I have suffered the will of the Father in all things, from the beginning."

When Jesus had finished, the multitude fell to the earth, for they remembered the prophecies that Christ should show Himself to them after His ascension into heaven.

Jesus said to them, "Arise and come forth unto me, that ye may thrust your hands into my side, and also that ye may feel the prints of the nails in my hands, and in my feet, that ye may know that I am the God of Israel, and the God of the whole earth, and have been slain for the sins of the world."

And the multitude did go forth and put their hands into His side, and did feel the prints of the nails in His hands and in His feet; and they were convinced that this was He of whom it was written by the prophets should come.

And when had all gone forth, and had witnessed for themselves, they did cry out with one accord, saying Hosanna! Blessed be the name of the Most High God! And they did fall down at the feet of Jesus, and did worship him.

Jesus called Nephi and eleven others to come forward and he said unto them, "I give unto you power that ye shall baptize this people, when I am again ascended into heaven. On this wise shall ye baptize; and there shall be no disputations among you. Verily I say unto you, that whoso repenteth of his sins through your words, and desireth to be baptized in my name, on this wise shall ye baptize them; Behold, ye shall go down and stand in the water, and in my name shall ye baptize them. And now behold, these are the words which ye shall say, calling them by name, saying: Having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. And then shall ye immerse

them in the water, and come forth again out of the water."

Christ spoke unto His disciples, the twelve whom He had chosen, as He laid His hands upon them, "Ye shall call on the Father in my name, in mighty prayer; and after ye have done this, ye shall have power that on him whom ye shall lay your hands, ye shall give the Holy Ghost; and in my name shall ye give it, for thus do mine apostles."

He told them many other things about His gospel, the same as He had taught the people in Jerusalem.

When Jesus had finished His teachings He asked them if there were any sick or maimed or afflicted in any manner and told them to bring them to Him and He would heal them.

And it came to pass that He commandeth that their little children should be brought . . . and He took their little children, one by one, and blessed them, and prayed unto the Father for them. And when He had done this He wept again, and He spoke unto the multitude, and saith unto them, "Behold your little ones." And as they looked to behold, they cast their eyes towards heaven, and they saw the heavens open, and they saw angels descending out of heaven as it were, in the midst of fire; and they came down and encircled those little ones about; and they were encircled about with fire; and the angels did minister unto them, and the multitude did see and hear, and bear record; and they know that their record is true, for they all of them did see and hear, every man for himself.

After the blessing of the little children, Jesus commanded His disciples that they should bring forth some bread and wine unto him . . . He took the bread and wine and commanded that they should eat . . . and he commanded that they should give unto the multitude . . . and give it unto the people of my church, unto all those who shall believe and be baptized in my name . . . this shall ye do in remembrance of my body.

After Jesus had instructed them about many things He ascended into heaven.

The disciples faithfully followed Christ's instructions and converted many people and built up many churches. Then they began to dispute about the name of the church and Christ again appeared to them while they were fasting and praying. He said, "Have they not read the scriptures, which say, Ye must take upon you the name of Christ, which is my name? for by this name shall ye be called at the last day; and whose taketh upon him my name, and endureth to the end, the same shall be saved at the last day; therefore, whatsoever ye shall do, ye shall do it in my name; therefore ye shall call the church in my name! and ye shall call upon the Father in my name, that he will bless the church for my sake; and how be it my church, save it be called in my name? For if a church be called in Moses' name, then it be Moses' church; or if it be called in the name of a man, then it be the church of a man but if it be called in my name, then it is my church, if it so be that they are built upon my gospel."

Thirty-four years passed away and the disciples of Jesus had formed a Church of Christ composed of baptized members and ordained ministry in all the lands round about.

Four hundred years after Christ was born the people became very wicked. There was continual warfare between the Lamanites and Nephites. The Nephites were all destroyed except for Moroni, who was the last person to write in the records. When he finished his writings he followed the instructions his father, Mormon, had received from God—to hide up the records unto the Lord. Moroni hid the sacred records in the earth so they would be preserved to come forth in the latter days to convince both the Jews and the Gentiles that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Children: "Is that the end of the story, Mama?"

Mother: "No, for our Book of Mormon foretold events that are happening this very day in the world. In a sense we are still living a little of the story though it was written so long ago. Remember that some day Christ will return to His sheep to perfect them in doctrine and bring a time of peace. We must be prepared and willing to serve Him, as righteous people of all ages have been."

A LETTER FROM WALES

Dear Saints:

Its a long time since I wrote a letter to the Advocate, but however long it is, we never fail to read the Advocate.

We are delighted to know that the Church is now on the move and making good progress.

We were very sorry to learn of the passing of Apostle Arthur M. Smith. We have a lot to thank him for, as he was the means of bringing us together as members once again, our deepest sympathy is extended to his widow, Sister Minnie Smith, and family. Although we know that a lot of death and apostasy has taken place since we were organized, we are not discouraged, but we do feel it sometimes. However we shall do all we can to look after the scattered members, who always make us feel very much at home on our visits.

Sister Buck is as faithful as ever and makes us feel very happy to be members of the Church.

Sister Hughes of Pontyates passed away on March 20th, she was well known to Brother and Sister B. C. Flint, as they stayed at her home. She was buried at Pontyates cemetery.

Brother Trapp and Sister Gill of Gloucester need our prayers as they are failing in health.

The tape recording which has been our privilege to have, is well used to the Glory of God. We hope soon to send a recording to you.

We are looking forward to the slides from Brother C. L. Wheaton of the Holy Land to help us in our Missionary work.

With all good wishes,

Elder Silvanus Mason

Fedglings

We solicit contributions for this column from the youth of our church.

PERSONAL EVALUATION SHEET

Each statement is followed by three possible answers. Check the **one** which describes **your** condition.

1. My conversation indicates that my spiritual level is high: (1) Always (2) Sometimes (3) Never

2. I swear: (1) Often (2) Occasionally (3) Never

3. Before passing on a story about another I make sure it is true: (1) Always (2) Sometimes (3) Seldom

4. Before passing on a story about another I make sure it is needful: (1) Always (2) Sometimes (3) Seldom

5. Before passing on a story about another I make sure it is kind: (1) Always (2) Sometimes (3) Seldom

6. When speaking of others I say only those things I would be willing to write out and sign: (1) Always (2) Sometimes (3) Seldom

7. I search for good qualities, rather than faults, in others: (1) Always (2) Sometimes (3) Seldom

8. I make fun of the way others speak and dress: (1) Frequently (2) Occasionally (3) Never

9. I keep my tongue under control: (1) Always (2) Sometimes (3) Seldom

10. I "go along" with the crowd, even when I think they are doing wrong: (1) Frequently (2) Occasionally (3) Never

11. Recognizing my body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit, I try to keep it strong through proper care and habits: (1) Always (2) Sometimes (3) Seldom

12. I abstain from "fleshly lusts which war against the soul": (1) Always (2) Sometimes (3) Seldom

13. I refuse to participate in questionable activities: (1) Always (2) Sometimes (3) Seldom

14. I "abstain from every form of evil": (1) Always (2) Sometimes (3) Seldom

15. I refrain from activities which would damage my influence: (1) Always (2) Sometimes (3) Seldom

16. I try to replace poor attitude with healthy ones: (1) Always (2) Sometimes (3) Seldom

17. I am a happy person: (1) Always (2) Sometimes (3) Seldom

18. I am a grateful person: (1) Always (2) Sometimes (3) Seldom

19. I am a complainer: (1) Always (2) Sometimes (3) Seldom

20. I count my blessings and ask God to help me have the right attitude: (1) Every day (2) Occasionally (3) Never

21. I have a forgiving spirit: (1) Always (2) Sometimes (3) Seldom

22. I seek revenge when otherse wrong me: (1) Always (2) Sometimes (3) Never

23. I am made happy by the accomplishments and good fortune of others: (1) Always (2) Sometimes (3) Seldom

24. I have feelings of jealousy and bitterness over the accomplishments of others: (1) Always (2) Sometimes (3) Never

25. I look on the bright side of things (1) Always (2) Sometimes (3) Never

SONG FOR JULY

It is good to go out in the bloom-laden fields,
And revel in oceans of sky,
To turn from the hatred and tumult of earth
And watch the white clouds go by.

It is good to forget the meanness of men
Who vie in their ardor for gold,
To know that somewhere there are spaces of light
Where virtue and true are not sold.

The bluebirds are wise; they drink in the day,
Forgetting that death is at hand;
The poplars rejoice in the summer's high noon—
July is abroad in the land.

But men have no songs; they toil and they fret
As joyless and glum as a clod;
It is good to go out in the shimmering fields,
To rest in the gardens of God.

Thomas Curtis Clark
Sunshine Magazine

Character is higher than intellect—a great soul will be strong to live, as well as to think.—Emerson.

One hour of thoughtful solitude may nerve the heart for day of conflict—girding up its armor to meet the most insidious foe.—James Gates Percival (1795-1856).

For everything you have missed you have gained something else; and for everything you gain, you lose something.—Ralph Waldo Emerson.

THE LAW OF GROWTH

The smallest and the greatest things in Nature obey the "Law of growth." A tree grows upwards, singing out its sermon of growth—an inspiration for all mankind. And, when the fruit ripens it drops to the earth and ceases to grow. A little later, the leaves fall.

Because Nature herself knows no pause, she attaches a penalty on all inactivity. She senses that standstill minds and standstill muscles fast become flabby. Difficulty and strife is the soil in which strength and character best flourish. A baby chick must break its way through the shell. This pecking away develops strength needed for survival and growth in the world ahead.

Destroy a spider's web as often as you will—he'll start at once to build another—**stronger than before!** **Work** and **growth** are twins. We are the sum of all our endeavors. This message is inscribed on sod and stars alike—it is written all along the highway of life: Do you job—help your community grow, and you shall have the power and leadership in your city.

—Cheer

LOVE

"But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them, which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven, for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?

And if ye saltue your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?

Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

Matthew 5:44-48

OBITUARIES

Marion D. Gross

Priest, Marion D. Gross passed away May 23, 1965 at the age of 82, in Columbus, Ohio. Brother Gross was an active member and secretary of the Columbus Branch of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) for many years. He was preceded in death by his wife Louetta. He left to mourn his passing three daughters, Mrs. William Maurice, Mrs. Beryl Beaver, and Mrs. Cora Goodchild; and one son, Jacob D. Gross; two grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Services were held at the Evans Funeral Home, and interment was at Forest Lawn Cemetery.

Harland Welkner

Harland Welkner, 70, an active member of the Columbus, Ohio Branch of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) for eleven years, passed away June 7, 1965. He was taken with bronchial pneumonia. He was laid to rest in Union Cemetery, leaving behind only his wife, Alma.

Nothing in this world is so good as usefulness. It binds your fellow creatures to you, and you to them; it tends to the improvement of your own character and gives you a real importance in society, much beyond what any artificial station can bestow.—B. C. Brodie.

REUNION NOTICES

Tennessee

The Tennessee Reunion will be held on September 4 and 5 at the Puryear local church. You are invited to attend this reunion and help encourage the Lord's work in this area. You will have Labor Day to travel home on if you wish, but services will be arranged for Labor Day also if desired.

For further information write to Bro. Rony Overcast, Puryear, Tennessee.

REUNION DATES

Tennessee—PuryearSept. 4 and 5
 Arizona—PhoenixNov. 26, 27 and 28

CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

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

	Price Each		Price Each
Book of Commandments—Paper Cover	\$1.00	Book of Mormon—Cloth Binding	\$2.50
Book of Commandments—Leatherette	\$1.25	Book of Commandments Controversy Reviewed.....	\$1.00
Outline Church History	\$2.00	There are a few Books of Mormon available in Morocco leather binding. Please write for price.	
Book of Mormon—Missionary Edition.....	\$1.00		
Also Available Postpaid	5 for \$5.00		

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
Records of the Bible.....	N/C
Records of the Book of Mormon.....	N/C
History and Religion—Chart	1.50