

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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No. 7

"O Remember my son, and learn wisdom in thy youth; yea, learn in thy youth to keep the commandments of God; yea, cry unto God for all thy support;

"Yea, let all thy doings be unto the Lord, and whithersoever thou goest, let it be in the Lord; yea, let thy thoughts be directed unto the Lord; yea, let the affections of thy heart be placed upon the Lord for ever; counsel the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for good:

"Yea, when thou liest down at night, lie down unto the Lord, that he may watch over you in your sleep; and when thou risest in the morning, let thy heart be full of thanks unto God; and if ye do these things, ye shall be lifted up at the last day."

(Alma 17:68-70)

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EDITORIAL

Independence

How the word "Independence" rings in our ears when we think of the history of our forefathers. Not only the ones who had such a noble hand in bringing this country of ours into being, but also the ones who came to this land over 150 years before this country declared its independence.

In the year 1607 a group rose up in England declaring their independence from the Church of England. They suffered persecutions for two years then left their native country and went to Holland. They were in Holland about 11 years, then for reasons of their own, they left that land. They came back to England asked the king for a grant to start a colony in America. This grant was not given them but they were told that they could become a part of the Virginia colony. They accepted the offer and sailed for that part of America.

On their way across the ocean, they were blown north out of their course and instead of landing in Virginia, they landed on Plymouth Rock. Others followed to this part of the new world and eventually were known as the New England colonies. The basic principles of this United States had its beginning in these colonies.

June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee, a first cousin to the father of Robert E. Lee of Civil War fame, made this famous resolution: (1) "that these united Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connections between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved;" (8) "that it is expedient to take the most effectual measures for forming alliances"; and (3) "that a plan of confederation be prepared and transmitted to the respective Colonies for their consideration and approbation."

John Adams seconded this motion. There followed quite considerable discussion. They eventually appointed a committee to prepare a preamble to Lee's motion. This committee consisted of Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman and Robert R. Livingston. The committee entrusted the actual preparation of the document to Thomas Jefferson. John Adams and Benjamin Franklin amended Jefferson's draft slightly.

The resolution and the Declaration was adopted by the congress July 2, 1776. It was made public July 4, 1776.

When this Declaration was made public on July 4, the bell that all United States knows as the Liberty Bell, began to ring. It was followed by other bells but it is the one which is famous to this day. It led the sound for liberty.

There were 56 men who signed this Declaration of Independence. They knew that they were placing their lives on the altar of freedom when they placed their

signatures on this document. Little did they know or even dream that they were fulfilling scripture concerning the will of God for this nation. Nephi of old was given knowledge concerning the war that followed, nearly 2400 years before it took place. He wrote of it in this manner:

"And I beheld that their mother Gentiles were gathered together upon the waters, and upon the land also, to battle against them; and I beheld that the power of God was with them; and also that the wrath of God was upon on all those that were gathered together against them to battle. And I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles that had gone out of captivity were delivered by the power of God out of the hands of all other nations."

Less than 60 years after the Declaration of Independence was signed, the God of heaven brought into being the restoration of His church here on earth. It had its beginning independent of all other churches. It did not come from other churches with its authority, with its doctrine, or even with its membership.

This church we are speaking of is the Church of Christ. Its authority came from Christ. This authority was given to man in May, 1829. Christ caused His doctrine to be written in two books, the Bible and the Book of Mormon. The early Church was instructed to "rely upon the things which are written; for in them are all things written, concerning my church, my gospel, and my rock." This was given to the Church of Christ in June, 1829.

It is quite evident that the earnest desire for Independence is from God, and when we turn to Him, many things are made plain. Paul wrote of this to the Corinthians. "Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away. Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

Nephi wrote that the Spirit of the Lord directed the Pilgrims in their coming to this land: "And it came to pass that I beheld the Spirit of God, that it wrought upon other Gentiles; and they went forth out of captivity, upon the many waters." He follows this through to the time which this became a prosperous nation.

It is quite evident that nothing of importance comes by chance. We can see an all wise God behind these important parts of history. He inspires people to desire freedom and independence.

God inspired the Pilgrims to come over here and settle this land. Even though they did not come directly here, the evidence is clear enough that God inspired them to come.

God inspired men to set up the basic principles of this government even in their early history. Those principles were of freedom; freedom of schools; freedom of religion; freedom of the press; and freedom of speech. The Church of Christ could not have come into being without these freedoms.

It was the desire for independence, that brought about the Declaration of Independence, which declared freedom to all citizens. It was the desire for independence and freedom of thought in the minds of the early members

of the Church of Christ, that caused them to place themselves in the hands of the Lord in bringing about the restoration of His church.

The Pilgrim fathers had to fight the elements of nature in order to survive. They also had to learn by experience, the law of Love thy Neighbor, the second in importance in the commandments of God. Their fight was carried on by the will to survive.

The founding fathers of this nation had to fight the enemies of not only this nation, but also the enemies of freedom. They had to learn the unity of the cause. They did not all believe alike but in order to conquer, they had to fight shoulder to shoulder. They fought not only by the will to survive, but also with the sword.

The early members of the Church of Christ started a fight for independence. Their chief enemies were leaders of other churches. These leaders of other churches could not see and understand how man could live close enough to God to receive instructions from Him, and they resented anyone teaching that this was possible. We have very little of that warfare today. This war can not be fought with the sword. It must be fought with the power and word of God.

It is remarkable that the Church of Christ has its headquarters in Independence, Missouri. Independence has been the driving force behind the free-thinking Christian people since 1607. This city of Independence is not very big in comparison with large cities of this nation but it has made a name in history that will never be forgotten.

The Church of Christ is among the smallest of Christian churches but it has made a name in history that will never be forgotten. We are looking forward to the near future when the words written by Ezekiel will be fulfilled: "and have made the dry tree to flourish: I the Lord have spoken and have done it." May God hasten the day.

A. F. B.

State Reunions

Missouri Reunion

The Missouri Reunion will be held in Independence, Missouri, July 29, 30, and 31. It will be sponsored by the Temple Lot Local Church of Christ and will be held in the church on the Temple Lot. We hope to make this reunion one of good sermons, good prayer services, and all around good time. You are invited to attend and to help make this hope a success.

Lodging will be available for everyone who comes to worship with us. There be camping facilities for those who bring tents or camping trailers. For further information contact:

Leslie P. Case, Pastor
Route No. 17
Old Lee's Summit Road
Kansas City, Missouri 64139

LOCAL NEWS

NEWS FROM THE TEMPLE LOT LOCAL

This month has been quite eventful, what with examinations, graduations, and last-minute plans for vacations.

Bro. Jim Case graduated from high school at Lee's Summit. Sr. Janice Sprague is home for the summer from Warrensburg College. Tom Wheaton graduated from Warrensburg college and plans to leave soon to serve in the Peace Corps in Morocco for two years.

There has been much preparation for Summer Church School. In this we hope to counterbalance many of the worldly teachings, and create a lively interest in the Book of Mormon and Bible, and show how they coincide in bringing about truth and righteousness. Sisters Irene Case and Kay Matthews are in charge.

There have been many helpers and useful handcrafts for the older children. The tiny tots have enjoyed pin-wheels, cups with puppy faces, and hand-decorated paper plates. After recess, all had cookies and punch. Sr. Kay Matthews arranged a narration for a program the night of June 12 and the children acted out the scenes from the Book of Mormon and also the very early Church of Christ.

Sunday morning, June 12, we received the glad news that Sr. Martha Bruner and husband, Rodger, are the happy parents of a new baby girl. Cynthia arrived about 5:00 a. m. and weighs around nine pounds.

I am writing this report during a tornado warning for this area. Several funnels have been sighted and moving this way. During a time like this I am so thankful that there is a God who hears and answers prayers.

Plans are being made for the Missouri Reunion to be held at the Temple Lot Local, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, July 29, 30 and 31.

I am substituting for Sr. Margret Gill who has gone to Trempealeau, Wisc.; with her husband and family, for the summer. Bro. Glenn is attending summer school in Winona, Minn. I will try do my best to bring news of interest from our local.

—Katherine Moyer

THESE ARE THE THINGS

The peaceful blue of heaven's sky,
 The calm of the mountain, vale, and plain,
 Soft clouds that drift serenely by,
 The gentleness of rain;
 Fair meadows where the winds of spring
 Blow in tenderest caress,
 Sweet melodies the song birds sing,
 All listeners to bless.
 The greening hills that roll and roll
 The fertile fields of upturned sod—
 These are the things that stir the soul
 And make men think on God.

—Mark Bullock

"Walkin' Preacher of The Ozarks" Is Dead

The Reverend Guy Wesley Howard, 74, famed Christian evangelist, better known as the "Walkin' preacher of the Ozarks," died of lung cancer May 12, 1966, at his Raytown, Missouri, home after a long illness.

Mr. Howard gained prominence in the 1930's and 1940's as the preacher who walked 4,000 miles a year spreading the word of God through the Southern Missouri hill country.

He became an evangelist in 1933 after his first wife made a death-bed request that he leave their Iowa farm and preach. He began his treks through the Ozarks and remained a resident of Southern Missouri until the 1950's.

The evangelist published a book in 1945 entitled "The Walkin' Preacher of the Ozarks," a frank account of life in the Missouri hill country which resulted in threatening letters.

Mr. Howard moved from Gainesville, Mo., about fifty miles to the west, and continued his work. He later wrote two others books.

He had lived at Raytown the past six years.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Mary L. Howard of the home; two sons, Guy J. Howard, of the home, and Albert S. Howard, Greenville, Mo.; four daughters, Mrs. Virginia Hess, Pueblo, Colo.; Mrs. Freida Rupe, Independence, Mo.; Mrs. Louise Barr, Phoenix, Ariz.; and Mrs. Wilma Snowden, Pierce City, Mo.; a brother, George C. Howard, Wadsworth, Kansas; sixteen grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

As a matter of convenience to his many friends, two funeral services were held. The first at the Raytown Christian Church in Raytown, Missouri, at 10:00 a. m. Saturday, the 14th of May and the second at 3:00 p. m. the same day at the Central Christian Church in Springfield, Missouri. The burial was in Greenlawn cemetery in Springfield.

OBITUARY

Hilmer Ernest Carlson departed this life April 27, 1966, at the age of 76 years in Moline, Illinois.

The funeral service was held April 30, 1966, at the Burpee Wood Funeral Home in Rockford, Ill., with the Reverend Elmer Johnson of the Christian Church officiating. Burial was in the Winnebago, Ill., cemetery.

Bro. Carlson was born December 11, 1890, in Bakebo, Sweden. He married Carrie Swanson in 1926 in Freeport, Illinois, who preceded him in death in 1954.

Bro. Carlson was baptized into the Church of Christ May 31, 1936, by Apostle William F. Anderson.

He leaves to mourn his passing his son, Ernest Carlson, Jr., of Rockford, Illinois; his daughters: Hilma Clark of San Diego, California; Evelyn Leon and Caroline Johnson both of Rockford, Illinois; thirteen grandchildren and one great grandson; many relatives and friends.

Conversations In Ink

Nellie Walberg: "As I came home from work this morning I was sick at heart at the sight of our beautiful climbing rose bush, fallen flat on the ground, all broken, just as it was beginning to show promise of bloom. It was planted near a high fence which encloses our yard and all we needed to have done was support it a bit with a few stakes until it could climb to the top alone. But we had forgotten. The wind came and it fell. A thing of beauty last evening. Full of promise. Today broken and fit only to be thrown away. Perhaps in this is a lesson for us: the Church of Christ, potent with promise, its many opportunities for loving service calling to one and all for support. Let us not fail in loving service. God has planted His Church in a choice spot to become a thing of beauty, a joy to mankind. He will nurture it with His Spirit and He awaits our support in humble dedication to His cause."

Darleen Smith: "Our 'good' comes in so little instances that we must jealously guard and watch for it. 'Line upon line—here a little, there a little'."

Nellie: "The greatest need in this world seems to be 'someone to talk to'. How much more so among God's family who are scattered."

Velma Wheaton: "I had been isolated from the church group in my early married life, and it was a pretty lonesome thing. But all I can say is trust in the Lord and never forget to rely on Him. He will not fail you! Many times my prayers have been answered, No! But they have always been answered for the best. When I was a child I had the simplest faith, and strong too, that all you had to do was ask the Lord for something and it was done! Then I prayed for something one time and the answer was No. I began to wonder if there was anyone who heard my prayers at all and if all I had been taught to believe was just a myth. Somehow, with time, came understanding that the Lord can do anything, but it is not always His will that He do so. Many times it is not the best for us to have what we pray for. And I learned to pray 'nevertheless, not my will but Thine be done'. And since then I have received more blessings and greater happiness than words could ever tell you. My faith is just as strong, but I feel I have become wiser in it."

Nellie: "Sometimes we, my husband and I, take the Bible and Book of Mormon and go visiting and really have a fine time studying with friends in their homes. This little informal way of study is really rewarding and it's a sure cure for discouragement or loneliness."

Darleen: "I wonder how much good work, beautiful work, useful, hard work, etc., is accomplished through the desperation to lose oneself away from unbearable situations. Ouch—that sounds awful, but—yes, I mean the difficult type of people, also I mean grief, prolonged concern, fears, and just the 'marking time', waiting for some problems to solve themselves. Often prayer is all one can do, and then 'work like mad' at some worthy project while God, time and nature bring the final solutions. Many beautiful lives are built thus. I think often

of the Bible verse, 'Work out thy salvation'. Work is the salvation in much of this life's years."

Velma: "Tell your friends not to be discouraged. Be like the little cardinals at my back door. Twice last year they built a nest in the shrubs at the side of my house and just as soon as their babies were hatched and they began the tedious task of feeding them something killed their babies. And after a few days of mourning they started again on a new nest. This year they built another nest at my back door. A cat destroyed their nest again. I think even the strongest pair of parents would have been discouraged by this time, but they have started once more to build. And surely they must have success some of the time, 'cause the world is full of such beautiful red cardinals with a lovely song in their hearts!"

Sometimes I wonder if the isolation in the Church isn't for our own good. Or maybe it is that it can be for our own good if we will let it. And I don't mean to just fold our hands and have the blues. A certain kind of isolation can strike one in the midst of many other members, as well as if you and your family live among non-members. We need to decide what we are for and being alone may make us take stock of ourselves. It doesn't stop one for reaching out for help, but we don't have anyone to lean on and blame for our short-comings but our ourselves. Of course, we don't anyway, but this makes us realize it easier. There is a line in a song, "And so He calls us into desert places, where human voices may not drown His own," And lack of understanding is a desert place, isn't it?

Nellie: "I work at the State deaf school. When one observes the ways and means that communication can be reached between the deaf children, one can't help but reflect on the problem of communication which God has in reaching his deaf children everywhere. He uses every mean at His disposal to 'get through' to us and how His heart must be made glad when He finally gets a response and He is able to let us know how very much He loves and cares for His children, and how much He has in store for those who love Him."

Darleen: "I've often wondered just what or how I could help anyone. I, who can't help myself—whew! To feel so exhausted with life's troubles, worries, fears—does the soul become tired too? I sometimes wonder what the other side of the rug looks like. You know the Oriental carpet weavers that work on the wrong side, or bottom of the carpet? The right side is much to lovelier! I wonder what the other side of our rug looks like to God. When we are discouraged, how does the other side of the rug look to God?"

You mean—what is the pattern and how does this blue mood work in? And what do our stitches look like, or our "weaving", when we must work with gray and black when we would much rather use yellow and green?

Darleen: "And can one become an alive, aware 'tube' to let the Heavenly Spirit work through one to aid others? And thus draw strength for ourselves too? For we are certainly nothing of ourselves."

Paul: "By love serve one another." (Gal. 5:13)

Ella Engle, Listener

Children's Hour . . .

Families Who Moved for God

I. Noah

Once upon a time—that's the way all good stories start. But this was once upon a real time. Once upon a real time there lived a man named Noah. He had a wife and three little boys.

In Noah's time there were giants on earth and they were wicked giants. Just about everyone was wicked. But not Noah. And not his family. They were what we call a righteous family. They believed in God and tried to do as He said. Noah even walked with God.

Noah preached about God. Before the boys were born he preached. While they were babies he preached. And while they were growing up he preached. He preached for 120 years before the flood came. By that time, of course, his boys were grown up and had wives too. Do you suppose he got tired? When the people wouldn't pay any attention to what he said, do you suppose he felt like just quitting? But, like a man named Joshua said many years later, "As for me and my house," or my family, "We will serve the Lord," Noah kept on serving the Lord. And preaching.

Finally God told Noah, "The earth is full of violence. It's corrupt. It's so bad I'm going to just destroy everyone and everything and start over. I'll destroy everything except you and your family. Now, I'll make a covenant with you and your sons. You build an ark like I tell you, and you and your family can all go into the ark and live. Take two of every animal with you. And enough food for them and for you. Because I'm going to send rain and make a big flood that will drown everything else."

Noah did as he was told. He built the ark and he put rooms in it. He made a window for it, and he made a door in the side. And he sealed it inside and outside with pitch.

Then the Lord told Noah and his family to go into the ark because in just seven days the flood would start. And He told him again what animals to take—seven pair of some kinds, one pair of others.

So Noah had to leave behind everything else. Do you suppose he was sorry? God had only told him to take the animals and food for them and his family. That meant he had to leave his furniture, his extra clothes, and anything else he might like to keep. Do you think he would have liked to leave out a couple cows and take his nice comfortable bed? But God had told him this was the only way to save his life. Besides a man like Noah would rather do what God said than to have a bed, or sixty tables and chairs. He would rather obey God, even if it meant that he would die, than disobey Him one little bit.

So Noah did as he was told. He and his family went into the ark. Just supposing you had been part of his

family, what would you have felt like? Suppose you had been an orphan and one day Noah had seen you do something good, and he had asked God if he couldn't adopt you and take you along, too. Suppose you had helped them build the ark. You'd carry things for this man named Noah, and hold boards for him till your arms ached and your feet had blisters, maybe. And suppose some kids you knew came by and said, "Whatcha doin'?" And you said great, great big, "Building an ark." And they said, "An ark? What's that?" Because probably no one had ever built an ark before. And suppose you had tried to tell them it was a kind of a boat because there was going to be a flood, when it rained. And they would think you were pretty crazy or something because they had never seen a flood, maybe they had never seen it rain. And suppose they had just laughed their silly heads off. What would you have felt like then?

And what would you have felt like when the Lord told you all to go into the ark? Probably there wasn't even a cloud in sight yet. Would you have liked to stay outside and play with your toy wagon just one more day or till it clouded up, then hurry and go into the ark. But you had to do what God said if you were going on this trip, and He said, "Go into the ark."

Suppose you got to see those animals come into the ark, two by two. Because Noah went into the ark, then God sent the animals in. Wouldn't that be something to see? I wonder how long it took for them all to come in. And what did the people outside think when they saw all this happening? When the animals were all inside, the Lord sealed the door. When God sealed the door, not even Noah could open it, so then all of the outside you could see would be out through the window in the top.

Suppose you watched through that little window while it clouded up. I wonder if it started to rain nice and easy like a summer shower that's nice to play in, or if thunder and lightning really ripped across the sky and rain came down by bucketfuls. Anyway, when it rained you couldn't see out through the little window any more. Probably then you'd notice things sounded funny in the ark with all the water outside. Then one day the ark would give a little move. First, it might scare you; then you'd think you just imagined it. But a little later it would do it again, only harder. And then pretty soon it would float free and easy and you'd be on your way to a new home.

But, you know what? Noah and his family lived in that ark about a year before the Lord finally told them to go out and bring out all the animals. And do you know what Noah did the very first thing? I imagine

Noah and his family had prayed a lot of times, probably a lot of times each day, while they were in the ark. But the first thing he did when they came out on land again was to build an altar and they all knelt down and thanked God that they had been saved from the flood.

Then God made Noah a promise. And that promise is for us all. He promised that He would never again curse the earth as He had that time. He would never again send such a flood that it would destroy almost everything on the earth. And God made a sign so that we can remember His promise. He said He would set His bow in the clouds, so every time we see a rainbow we can think to ourselves that God still remembers that promise. And if He remembers this one promise after all these hundreds of years, I think we can be pretty sure He remembers all His promises.

"THE WAY GOD HANDS IT OUT"

By Harry Slocum Tordoff

Each little bit of enmity
That we carry 'long life's way
Takes its toll and leaves us
That much poorer, every day.
It isn't always in worldly goods,
For many times it's true
That through an obscene hatred
Great riches, men accrue.
We sometimes wonder why it is
When a person's life is vile,
They never have any illness
And their income mounts, the while.
We wonder why they never seem
To have trouble come to them,
Or why, throughout their daily lives
Their neighbors don't condemn.
But all this hatred and enmity
Toward their fellow man
Makes all this glowing luxury
Nothing but an outward sham.
For every bit of stored up venom
Gives the Devil more control
And a tighter grip upon
Their immortal soul.
When the time arrives that worldly goods
Will all be left behind,
And obscene thoughts and hatred
Of the heart and of the mind
Are all laid out before them
As the Book is opened wide,
Will they find a place in Heaven
Is to folks like them, denied?
Me, I'll take my happiness
The way GOD hands it out;
I think I'll find less reason
To feel cause for anxious doubt.
Oh! I'm not perfect, by any means
But this, in truth, I'll say,
That enmity and hatred
Are not GOD'S proven way.

THE GOSPEL LADDER

We're glad to tell you something,
It should make your hearts rejoice;
How to climb the gospel ladder,
If heaven is your choice.
For every round leads higher
To the realms of endless day;
We must start right at the bottom,
And go up all the way. (Matt. 4:4)

We must have faith in Jesus, (John 3:16)
And in His gospel, too; (Mark 1:15)
For the law of God is perfect, (Ps. 19:7)
And to it we must be true.
Repentance is the next round (Luke 13:3)
In our upward flight;
For without it we would not be
Climbing upward right.

Baptism is the next round,
As in days of old; (Mark 16:16)
Our sins must be remitted, (Acts 2:38)
How oft should you be told?
Thus did the saints of old—friends,
In their ladder flight;
We must be born of water,
And the Spirit to be right. (John 3:5)

And now the very next round,
We find in God's commands,
'Tis the birth of the Holy Spirit, (Acts 19:1-6)
Through the laying on of hands. (Acts 8:14-20)
Aim high for the first resurrection, (Rev. 20:4-5)
That in judgment we may stand, (Rev. 20:12)
With the faithful of all ages
To reign at God's right hand. (Matt. 25:33)

Upon this sure foundation, (II Tim. 2:19)
Should man securely build, (Heb. 6:1-2)
That with the gospel knowledge (John 7:17)
Our hearts and souls be filled.
Then onward to perfection, (Heb. 6:1)
Let us journey to the end, (Matt. 24:13)
And hear the songs and music
In praise and glory blend.

The gospel law is perfect, (James 1:25)
The means of saving man, (Rom. 1:16)
It remains the same forever, (I Peter 1:25)
'Tis God's appointed plan. (Gal. 1:12)
His church with apostles and prophets, (I Cor. 12:28)
With gifts and blessings, too, (I Cor. 12:7-10; Eph. 4)
Is in love to you presented,
Now, pray, what will you do? (Acts 22:16)

We're glad that now "this gospel" (Matt. 24:14)
Is preached on earth again,
As promised by an angel, (Rev. 14:6-7)
We salvation may obtain.
If it had not been for Jesus,
And his loving words today,
'Twould be a hopeless journey;
We must all his words obey. (Matt. 28:20)

Family Worship and Study

By Nellie Walberg

July 3, 1966

America A Chosen Land

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."
(Psalms 33:12)

"Behold, this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ who hath been manifested by the things which we have written." (Ether 1:35)

"And now we can behold the decrees of God concerning this land (America) that it is a land of promise, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall serve God, or they shall be swept off when the fullness of his wrath shall come up them. And the fullness of his wrath cometh upon them when they are ripened in iniquity." (Ether 1:31-32)

"And this cometh unto you, O ye Gentiles, that ye may know the decrees of God, that ye may repent, and not continue in your iniquities until the fullness come, that you may not bring down the fullness of the wrath of God upon you, as the inhabitants of the land have hitherto done". (Ether 1:34)

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land". (II Chron. 7:14)

Questions:

1. Why is America a "choice land above all other lands"?
2. What is meant by being free from "bondage and captivity"? Is this a conditional promise? Why?
3. How do we best serve God? Is "obedience better than sacrifice"? (I Samuel 15:22)
4. What is meant by "fullness of iniquity"; "fullness of God's wrath"; and "fullness of the gospel"? Discuss possible relationship between the three.
5. What is the "everlasting decree of God" concerning this land?
6. What nations have had knowledge of this decree?
7. What were the reasons for their downfall?
8. Is America in bondage today? In what ways?
9. Are you in bondage today? Discuss.
10. To whom is the Lord referring in II Chronicles 7:14?

God has promised that we continue in His word, we "shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." God's word is truth. The Bible says the church of the living God is the pillar and ground of truth. (I Timothy 3:15) Isaiah 26:2 reads, "Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in."

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."
(Hosea 4:6)

Discuss closing thought:

Can we meet the challenge of a changing world by being a choosing people who are chosen of God for a choice land?

July 10, 1966

Vacationing With God

"Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Hebrews 10:24-25)

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." (Colossians 3:16)

Questions:

1. How can we "consider one another"?
2. By what means can we provoke another to love and good works?
3. Are exhorting, preaching and teaching the same?
4. What does the Apostle Paul mean by "as ye see the day approaching"?

This is an age of doubt and skepticism. We dare not walk without the sustaining power of God's grace, lest worldly enticements and cares of this world weaken our high resolves. There is strength in numbers. We need each other's testimonies and to consider each other's needs, hopes, strengths and weaknesses. We can come to know one another best in an informal setting and in odd moments of sharing. Consider the reunion dates and decide, with your family, to "go vacationing with God". You'll return laden with treasures.

July 17, 1966

Preparation for your Journey

When you left for your vacation, did you lock tightly every door and lock the windows against intruders? Did you ask your friends to help guard against burglars while you were gone? Did you do as the police advise and leave a light burning so others would believe you were "at home"? Of course, you would make arrangements for the mail to be taken in, and no newspapers to be left scattered at your doorway.

Now, what about your spiritual house, the house of your soul? There is one who "goeth about seeking whom he may devour"; but if you have made the necessary preparation by prayer, fasting and study, if you have sought out God's true servants to help guard your house, and especially if you always see to it that your light is kept burning—the light of God in your soul—then you need not worry. There will not be left tell-tale signs of your carelessness which Satan so quickly might utilize to enter your spiritual house, but you shall go forth each day confident and serene that "it is well with my soul".

Questions:

1. What are the principle temptations of life? (I John 2:16)
2. What can we do to fortify ourselves against these temptations?
3. Is it a sin to be tempted? Who is responsible for our temptations—God, Satan or ourselves? Consider James 1:13, 14; II Peter 2:9; I Cor. 10:13.
4. Do you ever feel like "not praying"? Who is responsible for such an attitude? (II Nephi 14:11)
5. How was Jesus tempted? (Luke 4:3-13). What was His answer to each of Satan's temptations?
6. Are you able to recall a suitable scripture at the moment of your various temptations?

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you". (James 4:7)

Can you re-word the above scripture to fit the way the carnal mind leads us to go?

What is the meaning of "resist" and "submit"?

July 24, 1966

On Being Contented

It is midsummer and probably warm weather where you attend church; much cooler in a shady place under a tree. Does it seem too hot to go visit that sick friend or do that missionary work that needs doing? Are you tempted to not go to church this evening but stay home and sip Coca-Cola or eat ice cream? Are you sweltering and complaining a bit these days? We find in Alma, 27th chapter, that Moroni and his armies had suffered great privations, hunger, thirst, and fatigue at the hands of his enemies; but in relating the story he writes; "But behold, were this all we had suffered, we would not murmur nor complain". We are not to revile against our enemies. Paul, the great Apostle who suffered untold persecution and finally martyrdom wrote, "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." (Phil. 4:11) Consider Alma's resignation to the will of God in Alma 15:52-55.

"O that I were an angel, and could have the wish of mine heart, that I might go forth and speak with the trump of God, with a voice to shake the earth, and cry repentance unto every people; yea, I would declare unto every soul, as with the voice of thunder, repentance, and the plan of redemption, that they should repent and come unto our God, that there might be no more sorrow upon all the face of the earth. But behold, I am a man, and do sin in my wish; for I ought to be content with the things which the Lord hath allotted unto me. I ought not to harrow up in my desires, the firm decree of a just God, for I know that he granteth unto men according to their desire, whether it be unto death or unto life; yea, I know that he allotteth unto men, yea, decreeth unto them decrees which are unalterable, according to their wills; whether they be unto salvation or unto destruction; . . ."

Questions:

1. Define "contentment."
2. Could contentment become a sin? Discuss.

3. "In Alma 15:52-55 explain the meaning of the phrase, "the things which the Lord hath allotted unto me." Did the Lord disapprove of aggressive missionary endeavor?
4. Are you contented with the things the Lord has allotted unto you? What can you do about it?
5. "What we need is a divine discontent." Discuss this in the light of previous scriptures.

July 31, 1966

Needed—A Quiet Time

This small effort at producing something for the *Advocate* in the way of a family worship hour has made us so much aware of how much each of us needs a "quiet time" to meditate and study God's word. It is good for us to shut out the world and open the windows that look out on God's eternity. Moses was 40 years "in the desert" for a training period in leadership; John the Baptist was in solitude "in the wilderness" until he began to preach repentance to Israel; Paul "tarried" in the Arabian desert before beginning his missionary endeavor, even after his great experience on the Damascus Road; John was in solitude on the rocky desolate Isle of Patmos when he caught the vision of a new heaven and a new earth.

It is our prayer that with God's help we can use this study and worship section to help us to draw apart in family study and discussion as often as we can, to enlarge upon the thoughts presented as the Holy Spirit leads.

Please feel free to help by writing your criticisms, comments or ideas for improvements. Address the editor, care of the *Advocate*.

"Are all the children in? Let's gather now to pray
To seek the Lord at end of day—
Are all the children in? Dear Lord, they're gone from home,
But may they, at end of day, think back in memory
through the years—
And kneel to pray."

COMPENSATION

Every sweet has its sour; every evil its good. Every faculty which receives pleasure has a penalty put on its abuse. It is to answer for its moderation with its life. For everything you have missed, you have gained something else; and for everything you gain, you lose something. If riches increase, they are increased that use them. If the gatherer gathers too much, nature takes out of the man what she puts into his chest; swells the estate, but kills the owner. Nature hates monopolies and exceptions. The waves of the sea do not more speedily seek a level from their loftiest tossing than the varieties of condition tend to equalize themselves. There is always some leveling circumstance that puts down the overbearing, the strong, the rich, the fortunate, substantially on the same ground with all others.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

The Mighty Act of the Ages

By
E. L. Yates

Let us begin our study by reading the inspired words of the great prophet, Isaiah. "To whom will ye liken me, and make me equal, and compare me, that we may be like? They lavish gold out of the bag, and weigh silver in the balance, and hire a goldsmith; and he maketh it a god: they fall down, yea, they worship. They bear him upon the shoulder, they carry him, and set him in his place, and he standeth; from his place shall he not remove: yea, one shall cry unto him, yet can he not answer, nor save him out of his trouble. Remember this, and shew yourselves men: bring it again to mind, O ye transgressors. Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure." (Isaiah 46:5-10)

Now let us read from the writings of David, "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts." (Psalms 145:3-4) And from verse 7, "They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness, and shall sing of thy righteousness." We continue with verses 10-13. "All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord; and thy saints shall bless thee. They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power; to make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom. Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations."

Through all ages men of God have stood forth and declared his glory and wonders to the people, but the eternity of time is not sufficient for man to declare all of God's wonders. Because holy men of old have, through the power and might of the spirit, declared his mighty acts the sons of men in our day and age have been able to determine that Christ formed a church.

Most of the Christian religions of the day are agreed as to the organization of the Church of Christ in His day and also that the doctrine He taught was faith, repentance, baptism, laying on of hands, resurrection of

the dead, and eternal judgment. Today, however, the Christian world are not agreed as to the organization or the doctrine of Christ's church.

Paul was one of the great men of old who declared some of God's mighty acts, and he claims that he received the Gospel by revelation. "But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after men. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ." (Galatians 1:11-12)

Most Christians today will quote this great man as one of authority on things divine. Indeed he can be quoted as one having authority because he was called by Jesus Christ and was taught the gospel by revelation, that same power that revealed to Peter that, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Matthew 16:16) So we quote this great apostle with confidence. He has this to say in speaking to the saints as members of the Church. "But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him." (I Corinthians 12:18) In declaring further the mighty acts of God he has this to say in verses 27-28 "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, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues."

This is declared to be God's great act and not that of man. We ask this question. If it is God's act will he ever at any time change that form of organization? Let Ecclesiastes (The Preacher) give answer. "I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever; nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him." (Ecclesiastes 3:14)

Paul declares the purpose of the offices that God hath set in the church and how long they should remain in the following language as found in Paul's letter to the Ephesians, "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: 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 fulness of Christ; that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." (Ephesians 4:11-16)

By the Scriptures that declare His mighty acts we find that Christ chose the apostles and sent them into the world, and in John 17:18 we find these words of Christ. "As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world." Now, to find the purpose for which Christ was sent into the world we turn to the words of Isaiah that great prophet who

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

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by the power of God was able to look down through the vista of unborn time and tell of events that would transpire hundreds of years in the future.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; because the Lord hath 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; (Isaiah 61:1-2) The above statement of Isaiah was penned 798 years before Christ, but when Christ "went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read", he left no doubt that the words of Isaiah referred to him as we shall see by the following scripture. "And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, "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 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 this scripture fulfilled in your ears." (Luke 4:17-21)

I am sure this leaves no doubt in anyone's mind as to the purpose for which Christ was sent into the world and when Christ himself says of his chosen ministry, "As thou has sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world," (John 17:18) then there should be no doubt as to the reason for which they were sent. We should take note of the fact that Christ chose them and he also sent them. This is an established fact that no man can properly represent Christ as a minister unless he be called of God and sent of God. Quoting again from the apostle Paul, that great man who received the gospel by revelation from Christ. "And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron." (Hebrew 5:4) And from Paul's letter to the Romans hear this. "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? . . ." (Romans 10:14-15)

So, as we study some of the great acts of God that have been declared from one generation to another we find;

1. The church is the body of Christ and members in particular.
2. God placed them there as it pleased him.
3. It pleased him to set some in the church, first apostles.
4. Christ chose the apostles.
5. As God sent Christ into the world so also Christ sent them into the world.
6. No man takes the honour of a minister for Christ unless he is called as was Aaron.

God is unchangeable, the same yesterday, today, and

forever, without variableness or shadow of turning.

John records the following words of Christ, "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." (John 10:16) The Book of Mormon is a history of some of those other sheep, and when we make a study of those sheep and the way in which Christ ministered unto them, we find a parallel in church organization and doctrine. We turn first to the account of the arrival of Christ upon this continent. "And they were also conversing about this Jesus Christ, of whom the sign had been given, concerning his death. And it came to pass that while they were thus conversing one with another, they heard a voice, as if it came out of heaven; and they cast their eyes round about, for they understood not the voice which they heard;" (III Nephi 5:3-4) Now verses 7 and 8. "And their eyes were towards the sound thereof; and they did look steadfastly towards heaven, from whence the sound came; and behold, the third time they did understand the voice which they heard; And it said unto them, Behold, my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, in whom I have glorified my name, hear ye him."

And so here we find the Master of men ready to teach this people the way of eternal life, ready to teach them that there is only one shepherd and that through obedience to him they can all be baptized into one body, into the sheep fold of God.

The first thing that Christ did on this occasion was to choose twelve disciples and gave unto them the power to baptize and sent them to declare his words unto the ends of the earth.

Quoting from the writings of Nephi, "And it came to pass that he spoke unto Nephi, (for Nephi was among the multitude,) and he commanded him that he should come forth. And Nephi arose and went forth, and bowed himself before the Lord, and he did kiss his feet. And the Lord commanded him that he should arise. And he arose and stood before him. And the Lord said unto him, I give unto you power that ye shall baptize this people, when I am again ascended into heaven. And again the Lord called others, and said unto them likewise; and he gave unto them power to baptize." (III Nephi 5:18-22) In verses 43 and 44 we find that he sent them and their number were twelve. "Therefore, go forth unto this people, and declare the words which I have spoken, unto the ends of the earth. And it came to pass that when Jesus had spoken these words unto Nephi, and those who had been called, (now the number of them who had been called and received power and authority to baptize, were twelve,)" The fact that Christ called these twelve, disciples, rather than apostles, seems to bother some people, but it seems to me that this is no problem. We find that in the Bible the twelve were called both disciples and apostles. We read in Luke "And when it was day, he called unto him disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;" (Luke 6:13) And from the book of Moroni. "The words of Christ, which he spake unto his disciples, the twelve

whom he had chosen, as he laid his hands upon them. And he called them by name, saying, 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." (Moroni 2:1-2) Some say that he was referring to apostles at Jerusalem, perhaps so, but he also was referring to these disciples as being given at that moment the powers and duties that he had given his apostles. We read in the 3rd verse, "Now Christ spake these words unto them at the time of this first appearing; and the multitude heard it not, but the disciples heard it, and on as many as they laid their hands, fell the Holy Ghost." Now we find that Christ did not give them another doctrine but he gave the same plan and doctrine as he gave at Jerusalem. We will read some scriptures to prove this point.

"And now it came to pass that when Jesus had ended these sayings, he cast his eyes round about on the multitude, and said unto them, Behold, ye have heard the things which I have taught before I ascended to my Father." (III Nephi 7:1) Could we expect anything different than the same words that he had spoken in the Jerusalem days when he said, ". . . the words I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." (John 6:63)

Now from the second book of Nephi we read a positive statement from a changeless God. "Know ye not that I, the Lord your God, have created all men, and that I remember those who are upon the isles of the sea; and that I rule in the heavens above, and in the earth beneath; and I bring forth my word unto the children of men, yea, even upon all the nations of the earth? Wherefore murmur ye, because that ye shall receive more of my word? Know ye not that the testimony of two nations is a witness unto you that I am God, that I remember one nation like unto another? Wherefore, I speak the same words unto one nation like unto another. And when the two nations shall run together, the testimony of the two nations shall run together also. And I do this that I may prove unto many, that I am the same yesterday, today, and forever; and that I speak forth my words according to my own pleasure. And because I have spoken one word, ye need not suppose that I can not speak another; for my work is not yet finished; neither shall it be, until the end of man; neither from that time henceforth and forever." (II Nephi 12:56-63)

The important thing is that he speaks the same words unto one nation like unto another and when he calls his ministry in any nation he demands of them that they speak the same words that he gives unto them. "And now it came to pass that when Jesus had expounded all the scriptures in one, which they had written, he commanded them that they should teach the things which he had expounded unto them." (III Nephi 11:1) "And the twelve did teach the multitude, and behold, they did cause that the multitude should kneel down upon the face of the earth, and should pray unto the Father, in the name of Jesus. And the disciples did pray unto the Father also, in the name of Jesus. And it came to pass that they arose and ministered unto the people.

And when they had ministered those same words which Jesus had spoken . . . behold, they knelt again, and prayed to the Father in the name of Jesus . . ." (III Nephi 9:7-10)

After the people were ministered to by the twelve who Christ has chosen many were converted and were baptized and they became members of the Church of Christ. ". . . Neither did they receive any unto baptism, save they came forth with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, and witnessed unto the church that they truly repented of all their sins. And none were received unto baptism, save they took upon them the name of Christ, having a determination to serve him to the end. And after they had been received unto baptism, and were wrought upon and cleansed by the power of the Holy Ghost, they were numbered among the people of the Church of Christ." (Moroni 6:2-4)

Yes, the Bible and the Book of Mormon, the testimony of two nations have run together and we find that each testimony portrays the gospel of the Kingdom as being one in exactness regardless of time or place.

Inasmuch as the scripture is plain that there would be a falling away and that the gospel would be taken from the earth for a period of time and that an angel would fly through the midst of heaven "having the everlasting gospel to preach to them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people," we can be sure that at the appointed time it was restored in all its beauty and exactness.

On one occasion the disciples came to Jesus privately and asked certain questions, about the end of the world and among the things that Christ told them, two seem to be outstanding. ". . . Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many." (Matthew 24:5)

And in the 14th verse, "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." This would indicate that, at the time that many would be preaching in the name of Christ, saying that Jesus was the Christ, and deceiving many; that the gospel of the kingdom would be preached also, as a witness to the nations. This is exactly what is being done today. Many ministers not called as was Aaron are preaching in the name of Jesus and are declaring that Jesus is the Christ, but because they are not called as Aaron, and because they do not understand the gospel, they are deceiving many. For this very reason we need that which will protect us from every wind of doctrine. So we quote again Ephesians 4:11-14 "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: 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 fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;"

If we are without the above mentioned structure in the church today, then we are at the mercy of every wind of doctrine and there is no hope from being tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine. Thank God that we are living in the days that has seen the fulfillment of the restoration of the gospel of the Kingdom. No longer are we in the spirit of deep sleep, no longer are the eyes of the prophets and seers covered, for, "and the vision of all is come unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it is sealed: And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned, Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men: Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid." (Isaiah 29:11-14) Ah yes, this great act, that has been proclaimed down through the ages from one generation to another, has had its fulfillment. The vision of all has come unto us as the words of a book that was sealed. (Book of Mormon) It was delivered unto one who was learned, and he said, "I cannot read a sealed book." (Outline History of the Church of Christ, page 25.)

The marvellous work was about to begin when Joseph Smith went into the woods to pray. As he prayed, two personages appeared to him. One said of the other, "This is my beloved Son, hear him." So, through the spirit of Revelation we give ear to his beloved Son. Book of Commandments page 26, chapter 15:1-4: "A revelation to Joseph, Oliver and David, making known the calling of twelve disciples in these last days, and also, instructions relative to building up the Church of Christ, according to the fulness of the gospel: Given in Fayette, New York, June, 1829. Now behold, because of the thing which you have desired to know of me, I give unto you these words: Behold I have manifested unto you, by my Spirit in many instances, that the things which you have written are true: (note, this refers to the Book of Mormon) Wherefore you know that they are true; and if you know that they are true, behold I give unto you a commandment, that you rely upon the things which are written; for in them are all things written, concerning my church, my gospel, and my rock. Wherefore if you shall build up my church, and my gospel, and my rock, the gates of hell shall not prevail against you." And now verses 10 and 11. "And now Oliver, I speak unto you, and also unto David, by way of commandment: For behold I command all men everywhere to repent, and I speak unto you, even as unto Paul, mine apostle for you are called even with the same calling with which he was called."

Here we find that once again as Christ begins to set up his church he takes the first step first, that is, the calling of twelve apostles. Note, "I speak unto you,

even as unto Paul mine apostle, for you are called even with the same calling with which he was called."

In verses 27-28 we find these words. "And now behold, there are others which are called to declare my gospel, both unto Gentile and unto Jew: Yea, even unto twelve: And the twelve shall be my disciples, and they shall take upon them my name." We continue with verses 35-36, "And behold you are they which are ordained of me to ordain priests and teachers to declare my gospel, according to the power of the Holy Ghost which is in you, and according to the calling and gifts of God unto man: and I Jesus Christ, your Lord and your God, have spoken it."

So we see that Christ is building his church, not another church, but the same one as in days of old. "For it is because of your dead works, that I have caused this last covenant, and this church to be built up unto me; even as in the days of old." (Book of Commandments, Chapter 23:4)

If it were otherwise it could not be his church, or the Church of Christ. "I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever; nothing can be put to it, nor anything taken from it; and God doeth it, that men should fear before him." (Ecclesiastes 3:14)

We testify to one and all that the gospel of Jesus Christ, the gospel of the kingdom, has by the power of a changeless God been restored to earth in its unchangeableness as a standard and a witness to the people, "that we henceforth be no more children tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine."

In the words of the Psalmist, "One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts. They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power; to make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations." (Psalms 145:4 and 11-13)

The mighty act of the ages is this, the angel has flown through the midst of heaven. The church and the gospel has been restored as in days of old. It came into being by direct revelation, that same power that revealed to Peter that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God. There are at this very moment, men, called of God as was Aaron, who have been sent by Christ himself and given authority to preach good tidings unto the meek; 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. Those who will hear and believe will be free from the bondage of sin, and will be henceforth no more tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine, that is fostered by those who come in the name of Christ, saying that Jesus is the Christ and deceiving many; because they teach the fear of the Lord by the precepts of men and not by the spirit of revelation, as do his called ministry.

From the spirit of revelation comes these words of peace and comfort, as found in the Book of Command-

ments chapter 53:38-43, "Fear not, little children for you are mine, and I have overcome the world, and you of them that my Father hath given me; And none of them which my Father hath given me shall be lost: And the Father and I are one; I am in the Father and the Father in me: And inasmuch as ye have received me, ye are in me, and I in you: wherefore I am in your midst; and I am the good shepherd; And the day cometh that you shall hear my voice and see me, and know that I am. Watch, therefore that ye may be ready; even so: Amen."

FINIS

By Violet Jones

Listen well, O Earth, give ear,
 God's judgment fires shall soon appear.
 This is the last generation of men
 Who must walk in the dismal valley of sin.
 That mighty plan known ere the earth
 To that first day had given birth,
 Is drawing to eliminatory close!
 Hailed by God's friends, feared by His foes.
 Man's dominion o'er this sod
 Was never man's, but loaned of God,
 And tho he strut in pomp and pride,
 He soon will call for hills to hide
 Him from the face of that Great One
 Who rules the earth, the moon and sun.
 Man's part is played in that great plan,
 God now takes the rule from man,
 The cities lie in ruined shame,
 They failed to honor God's great name.
 The seeds lie rotting 'neath the clod,
 The sowers failed to honor God.
 The land lies waste from sea to sea,
 How could such great destruction be?
 Ye Christian folk, so called, give heed,
 Have you been free from lust and greed?
 Your temples vast, of steel and stone
 Shall lie in dust and lie alone,
 No man shall pass their threshold o'er
 To raise their walls forevermore!
 Why have ye labored and yet in vain,
 These heaps of steel and stone to gain?
 With but a tremor of earth's crust
 Your palaces shall be but dust.
 Where are the souls you might have won?
 They slowly starved beneath God's sun
 Whilst ye kept building higher still
 Your human planning to fulfill.
 And now I speak to those who knew
 My will, and failed My will to do.
 'Twould better been had ye not known
 My will, than left My work undone.
 Your lips do praise Me, but your hearts
 Can scarce from this vile world depart.
 Come out of them, so reads My word,
 And yet ye wear their styles absurd,
 And follow in the latest trend
 Of fashion, and her ways defend.

Your little ones learn from the school
 Of Rock 'n Roll, and emerge a fool
 And foolish thoughts and foolish sights
 Consume their lives, their days, their nights.
 How could the scepter loaned from Heaven
 To rule on earth, to these be given?
 And so the curtain shall descend
 On man's mis-rule. Now, comes the end.
 Then comes God's rule, O mighty plan,
 With scepter thus removed from man
 And placed within My nail-scarred hands.
 The poor, ye were too hard to feed,
 Shall in My pastures find their need,
 And ye, who oft the poor have spurned,
 Shall reap the wages ye have earned;
 Your poverty shall the greater be
 When I say, "Depart from Me."
 I walked the earth among the poor,
 I saw their sorrows, did endure
 With them, this poverty and shame.
 Now, all who honor well My name
 Shall want and hunger know no more,
 Their want and hunger all is o'er.
 Look! down those corridors of time,
 Ten decades multiplied in line
 Until a thousand years be past
 And earth shall stand redeemed at last!

A PRAYER

Oh my Father, humble me;
 Guide me in the way You'd have me go;
 Help me to know Thy tender voice;
 Lead me where the living waters flow.
 Oh my Father, comfort me,
 When life's storms around me roll;
 Help me in faith to hold Thy hand;
 Be Thou an anchor to my soul.
 Oh my Father, strengthen me;
 I would others' burdens bear;
 Give me Thy joy that I may give;
 Teach me Thy glorious love to share.

—John Harden

"Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you, for every one that asketh, receiveth; and he that seeketh, findeth; and to him that knocketh, it shall be opened." (III Nephi 6:19 and 20)

"Enter ye in at the strait gate; for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be who go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." (III Nephi 6:25 and 26)

"No man can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one, and love the other: or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye can not serve God and Mammon." (III Nephi 5:115)

An Invitation

By
Nellie Walberg

Are you searching for the true Church of Christ—confused and uncertain because of differences in opinion in the religious world? Do you wonder if there is any solid rock upon which to build your life? Do you wonder if the Bible is true when you read of the “Higher Criticism” aimed at its pages. Do you wonder, indeed, if “God is dead” or if there ever was a true God of creation or if all the whole religious world is but a result of wishful thinking? Well, if you are really in earnest about these queries and are willing to do as Jesus said to do in searching for answers, “ask and you shall receive; knock and it shall be opened unto you”, you shall indeed find God’s promises are sure.

God’s true church is on earth today; small in numerical strength but which Christ Himself called His “little flock”; strong in conviction and vibrant with available truth. It is present on this earth because of the direct, divine action of God at an appointed prophetic time in history.

The Bible record is true; its promises are sure. Truth from God is the only solid foundation for life and most assuredly God is not dead! Instead, it is the proponents of this theory who are dead—dead in trespasses and sin. The Bible says, “The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God.” (Psalm 14:1)

There is another divine record, similar to the Bible, which has the express purpose of “convincing the Jew and Gentile that Jesus is the Christ, the eternal God, manifesting Himself unto all nations”. (Introduction of Book of Mormon) This divine record is called the **Book of Mormon**. Within its pages, from cover to cover, is found the affirmation of the divinity of Christ and the teachings of His life; the account of His death and the reality of His resurrection. Together, with the Bible, this divine record affirms the fact that there is a God of creation at work in our world today.

This is the message we hope to bring you with the help of God’s Holy Spirit. That out of weakness, our testimony might be made strong to reach into your heart and calm your doubts, defray your unbelief, and fill your searching soul with a sure knowledge that God lives; that Christ is our Redeemer, and that He is calling your name and others to come to salvation through the plan He has laid down for us in His holy word. He needs and wants us to be citizens in the only government that will stand in the closing hours of this age—the government of the “Kingdom of God”.

There is one Lord, one faith and one baptism and one true church which Christ established. Christ said, “I will build my church”. (Matthew 16:18) The description of Christ’s church is found in sacred Scripture. It was a real and visible organization, consisting of twelve men who were called “apostles” whom God placed in the church—first, chronologically, as well as place of import-

ance. (I Corinthians 12:28 and Ephesians 4:11) This pattern of twelve at the head of the church organization was had in Jerusalem in the eastern part of the world where He personally established it; and also in the western half of the world when Christ appeared to His “other sheep” after His resurrection. Ancient American archeology produces abundant proof that the once great civilizations that existed on the North American and Central American continents had a knowledge of the cross and of Christianity long before the Spaniards came. Christ ministered among them and chose twelve disciples to continue His ministry, just as He did in Jerusalem. Other officers in Christ’s church are found in the Bible record of Luke 10:1, 7; I Timothy 3:1, 13; Acts 6:1, 6; Acts 14:23; I Peter 2:5, 9; Titus 1:5 and Revelation 5:10).

If Christ’s church is on earth today, it will have the exact pattern—no more, no less. When Jesus returns to claim His bride, the church, He will expect to find it the same in organization as when He left it and gave the great commission, “Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel”. (Mark 16:15 If He returns and finds its organization changed, its sacred records mutilated and changed, its ordinances changed and the binding holy covenant broken, can He say, “well done, thou faithful servants” and lightly let all enter into the joys of His kingdom? When He counselled the apostles to “teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and lo I am with you always”, (Matthew 28:20) will He wink at the omissions and additions made by man?

Jesus Christ taught exactly as had been given Him of His Father and He surely expects His disciples to do the same. He is unchangeable and His laws never vary. There is no need for situation ethics as is being propounded from many a pulpit and university today. Sin is sin in whatever circumstance or in whatever age it may be. A solid rock of authority, a thus saith the Lord is needed by youth and old alike. We do not need, nor did Christ ever teach that we need to change the word of God, under the guise of modern improvement, in order to make it relevant for our age.

Christ’s church had certain fundamental doctrines; faith, repentance from dead works, baptism by immersion in water, laying on of hands symbolizing the bestowal of the Holy Spirit which Christ promised to His disciples. He taught the doctrine of a literal, personal resurrection from the dead and an eternal judgment according to our works. He taught the disciples the way we should treat one another in the sermon on the mount and in various other occasions of ministry. He went back to His Father in heaven after His resurrection and promised to some day return in “like manner as ye see him go”. (Acts 1:11) This in Scripture, is called the blessed hope.

While the disciples kept the truths Christ taught, He promised and gave them the spiritual gifts outlined in the 12th chapter of I Corinthians; wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment of spirits, tongues and interpretation of tongues. These should be

found in Christ's church today. If they are not in existence, it is because of the unbelief of those who profess to be His followers. He and His gospel of the kingdom is the same yesterday, today and forever, and meets every need of the human heart in any age.

It is not necessary to have different types of churches to fit different types of people, or to suit all varieties of thought and sentiment. The word, "liberalist", implies a broadness of thought. The Bible reads: "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." (Matthew 7:13, 14) No, we do not need to change the gospel or re-interpret it for our age. We need, instead, to let the word of God change us and our wicked hearts of unbelief. We need Christ, our changeless Redeemer, to control our lives in this shifting, changing world with its false values and shifting morals.

Christ's church had a name; simple and to the point; "Church of Christ". One divine record tells us that, if it is Christ's church, it will be called after His name; but even though called after His name, it still must teach His gospel. Those who were baptized were called "the Church of Christ" the record reads (Moroni 6:4) and so today, the name Church of Christ designates the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of truth. (I Timothy 3:15) Not only in name, but also in its organization and doctrinal teachings it must conform to the written word, not to the precepts and ideas of man.

The Bible counsels us that no man must take upon himself the honour of being a minister except he be called of God, as was Aaron. (Hebrews 5:4) Christ made the statement, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you", (John 15:16) and we find that a "husbandman must first be partaker of the fruits". (II Timothy 2:6) The ministers of Christ's church did not receive their call to preach by just deciding to be a minister. Neither did they receive their spiritual understanding from a theological school. Paul, the apostle, was a learned pharisee, trained at the feet of Gamaliel, yet when he was struck down by the power of God on the road to Damascus, and chosen to be a special minister to the Gentiles, he was directed to go and receive the laying on of hands from one of God's true servants. Later Paul testified that the gospel he received was "not after man, neither was I taught it, but by revelation of Jesus Christ". (Galatians 1:12) The same procedure is required to be in operation in Christ's church today; a divine call, confirmed by ministers already in the church and a testimony from the one called that, "I have received this calling not of man, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ".

Yes, Christ is alive and reveals His will today, calls His true ministers today, and His church functions today the same as when the disciples walked the roads of Galilee over nineteen hundred years ago. When Christ made the statement, "I will build my church", there was in existence large, popular churches, with their elaborate temples and synagogues and teaching their different beliefs. They had their learned Rabbis, priests and scribes,

yet Jesus bypassed their authority and challenged their teachings. He came bringing a new revelation of truth, a new spirit and a new purpose for His followers. He called fishermen, tax collectors, the lame, the poor and despised. He transformed their lives into vibrant, living witnesses for Him, ready and willing to leave all and follow their Master.

So it should be and so it is today. Would you not want to join your Lord and Master, if He found you without real purpose in life, and He called your name and said to you, "come and follow me and I will make you fishers of men", and in that call you heard the quiet undertone, "If you love me, keep my commandments"? Would you really care, if by following Him, you found yourself a part of a small, almost unknown and despised fellowship of believers? Would not your heart rejoice at His reassuring words, "Fear not, little flock, it is the Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom?" (Luke 12:32)

Remember, if you are of the world, the world will love its own, "but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you." (John 15:19)

If you are truly seeking God and the eternal truths of our Lord, He will manifest Himself to you in ways that will forever make you His willing servant, willing to suffer loss, willing to bear the cross, because you have entered into a spiritual relationship that has called you into His marvelous light and grace. You will have then crossed the divide, between a carnal, worthless life of no reward into the realm of God's kingdom on earth, where to know Him is life eternal.

"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them who love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit". (I Corinthians 2:9-10)

POSE GATE POSIES

It's wise, of course, to pick our friends. That privilege never ceases, but nowhere does it say that we should just pick them to pieces.

Because "Majority" approves of all the things folks do, don't jump to the conclusion that the Lord approves it too.

We may not all be preachers to expound God's spoken word, but often times a sermon lived is better seen than heard.

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and thieves break through and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. (III Nephi 5:110-112)