

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.

Vol. 43

Independence, Missouri, December, 1966

No. 12

Take My Hand

by

Dorothy Burgin

I've had trials and troubles
And I feel I can't stand,
Then I cried, "Oh dear Saviour,
Will you please take my hand."

I was drifting, slowly drifting,
In the way that's called sin;
In this old world of trouble
We need Jesus, our friend.

Yes, the world holds its treasures
Of silver and gold,
But a home up in heaven
Is worth more, I've been told.

Now in living for Jesus,
And I will till the end,
He has helped me through sorrow,
Our dear Saviour and friend.

So dear friends, will you listen,
Will you take that stand?
He is ready when you ask Him,
"Dear Lord, take my hand."

There are trials, temptations
And sorrow and woe;
Let Jesus go with you
Wherever you go.

Let your light shine out brightly
That others can say
"There's a friend that walks with us
Every hour of the day."

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Editorial

PEACE

The word Peace carries the meaning of freedom; freedom from fears, agitating passions, moral conflicts and the like. It should bring into our lives, contentment. We can see that in order to have peace, it is necessary to bring into our lives the Prince of Peace. There is no other way under the sun that a person or people can have real peace.

We may think that this is no time to speak of peace when the world is filled with the opposite. We may think there is a cry for peace, peace and there is no peace. It is the belief among those who are converted to Christ that a person or people can have peace even though those of the world may be at war.

The mission of Christ was to bring peace to the world. There was the opportunity afforded to mankind to cease their conflicts with one another and permit the Prince of Peace to guide their lives. The heavenly choir, at the time of the birth of Christ, sang, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Peace and good will was extended toward men but it was necessary for men as well to extend their hand, so to speak, and grasp that good will from God. If man makes no effort, then he will not be found among those who grasped and firmly held the good will of God.

There is a difference between the peace we find in the world and the peace which comes from God. Two of the most powerful nations in the world are at peace with each other, but we hear almost daily of how they are building up defense against each other. Each expects the other to attack some day and break that peace. Their peace is based on a piece of paper and signed by man.

Christ made a statement just before his crucifixion. This statement was made to His disciples: Peace I leave with you, my peace give I unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

This shows us that peace and fear cannot abide together. Fear will destroy peace and on the other hand, peace will destroy fear. Yes. To be at peace means to be free from fear. Christ had no fear even when He was being tried and knew that He would be put to death. That peace He gave unto His disciples; not only those at Jerusalem but His disciples of today.

We notice the words of David when he was speaking of the peace which the Lord gives; He leadeth me beside the still waters. We often think of this as symbolic of baptism and we believe that application is good. A place where the water is calm and still is usually the place chosen for baptism. Water can be free from agitation even in a river. So also can our lives be free from agitation even in this world if we determine to make it so.

We sometimes think of a painting which was used to depict peace. It was of cattle standing in a pool of clear water. The pool was without a ripple of disturbance. The entire picture brought a feeling of peace to the viewer's mind.

Again we bring our thoughts to the writings of David. We find in the Psalms an expression which carried a lot of meaning. It is, Be still and know that I am God.

The expression, Be still, carried a meaning of peace. If we are still, we are not disturbed by agitation. Agitation is a condition which is intended to take away our calmness. There are so many things today to agitate us in mind and in soul that the only way we can be still or be calm is through the help of God. We must remember that He is willing to give us that help if we will but keep ourselves in harmony with His will where we would be free from agitating passions, and from tempting ourselves to the extent that we have moral conflicts in our lives. We must call upon Him for the help we need.

If we do this we will know that he is God. To know anyone is to see or experience something which that person does. You may say, I believe there is a God but you cannot say, I know there is a God until you have some experience with Him.

The shepherds knew there is a God because they testified that the glory of the Lord shone round about them. The Lord also sent an angel from His throne to speak with them. Later a choir of angels sang to them.

The Scriptures are full of the history of people who knew there is a God. We are told in this writing of David's that we as well can know Him too. That is to us a very peaceful thought.

May the Spirit of peace be and abide with you all.
A. F. B.

RASH JUDGMENT

A fable tells of an ancient Persian King who wanted to discourage his four sons from making rash judgments. At his command, the eldest made a winter journey to see a mango tree. Spring came and the next oldest was sent on the same errand. Summer followed and the third son went. When the youngest boy had returned from his autumn visit, the King called them together to describe the tree.

The first said it looked like a burnt old stump.

The second disagreed, describing it as lovely, in lacey green.

The third declared its blossoms were as beautiful as the rose.

The fourth said all were wrong: "Its fruit was like a pear."

"Each is right," the King said, "for each of you saw it in a different season."

And so it is when we view another's actions, we should withhold judgment until we are certain we've seen "the tree in all its seasons."

Taken from the Guide Post

On This Day In Bethlehem

by

Harry Slocum Tordoff

Christmas bells are joyously ringing,
Joined by angel voices, singing;
All proclaiming to folks on earth,
The epoch of the Saviour's birth.

Christmas lights are burning brightly,
Sending out their radiance nightly;
Mutely telling by their glow,
Of Jesus's birth down here below.

Christmas trimming, green and red,
Christmas greetings cheerily said;
Cheerful smiles on happy faces,
In numerous and sundry places.

Many colored Christmas trees
Look out upon one big deep freeze;
From the warm and happy atmosphere
Of rooms decked out for Christmas cheer.

Christmas cards of many hues,
All proclaiming the great news;
On this day in Bethlehem,
Christ was born, the Saviour of men.

Those who've not seen their folks in years
Send a card as Christmas nears;
That seems to draw them near, somehow,
And puts a smile on a lonesome brow.

And, all this cheerful resonance
Along with the bright radiance,
If it be directed right,
Will bring man into heaven's light.

For, the reason for this celebration
Is the gift of God to every nation,
Of Jesus Christ, His Beloved Son,
To assume the sins of everyone.

OTHERS

by

Herbert Parker

It doesn't matter who you are,
Or what you have, or do.
If you give your very best
The best returns to you.
A law of compensation works,
We get just what we earn,
If we love others with our hearts,
We get love in return.
The little things we sometimes do
For others day by day,
Return quite unexpectedly
In some peculiar way.

Taken from the Guide Post

WEDDING MARTIN - COBERLY

The marriage of Sister Czerna Jean Martin to Seaman Second Class Claude Lee Coberly took place Saturday, November 12, 1966, Kansas City, Missouri, in the home of Mrs. Melva Johnson, sister of the bride.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Orval J. Martin and granddaughter of Sister Jessie Sarratt, all of Collins, Missouri. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Coberly also of Collins, Missouri.

The bride was given in marriage by her father and the ceremony was performed by Elder Roland Sarratt, uncle to the bride.

Attendants to the bride were Mrs. Melva Johnson and Miss Rea Moore. Attendants to the groom were Mr. Daniel Johnson and Mr. Floyd Martin, brother of the bride.

The groom will return to active duty after his present leave and the bride will be making her home temporarily with her sister, Mrs. Melva Johnson.

TEMPLE LOT LOCAL

Well, here we are in October and early November. It has been unseasonably cold and warm at times; not much rain but the country-side was aflame in color against a blue, blue sky—this is part of the handiwork of God.

There has been quite a bit of educational activity going on for the Young Peoples Christian League this month. They toured the civic offices of Independence, including the jail, police laboratories, and adjacent offices. Another time they toured the "Old Missouri Town" that has been restored at Lake Jacomo and saw how our forefathers lived. Best of all—Sunday, November 6, they had a young people's prayer meeting in the afternoon. There were testimonies there that aren't usually heard in the other prayer meetings, and according to my niece, Becky Maley, it was very inspirational. Brother Glenn Gill was in charge.

We have a dedicated sister in our group here who has been repairing the song books. Some become rather mutilated and since they won't be published anymore it is quite apparent that we must do all we can to preserve these. Thank you, Jean. (Sr. Jean Chapman)

The Sunday School class of Bro. Warren Johnson went on a hayride together and had a good time. We had no Halloween celebration.

There have been some nice prayer meetings this month, some quite well attended. The testimonies are proof that the Lord still hears and answers prayers.

Bro. and Sr. Maynard Case and Sr. Bertice Aldridge were on their way to southern Missouri and Arkansas when they had a bad car accident. Their car was demolished but they came out quite well with mostly bruises and some whiplash, which was a tremendous blessing, don't you think?

On November 6 we were pleased to have Bro. and Sr. Rhondal Shaw from Lewisburg, Mo., and Bro. and

Sr. Ed J. McIndoo from Preston, Mo., attend our Sacrament service. They were here to attend the graduation ceremonies of Bro. Larry Shaw from chiropractic school the previous evening.

Sr. Mae Namur was able to attend the Sacrament service also, and it was good to have her back again as she has been ill for quite some time.

We have had some real interesting sermons this month that make you really search yourself. One was about our beliefs and included some statistics taken from churches where people professed to be Christians. Many didn't believe that Christ was the way of salvation, others didn't believe in God and some were skeptical about it all. Yet all were "church-goers" so to speak. It reminds me of a scripture something like this, "having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof."

Plans are being made for our annual Thanksgiving day dinner, November 20. We are always glad to have everyone who can come. We hope to have a day of worship and also sing songs of praises together.

I guess this is all for now, and we will be looking forward to hearing from the other branches.

Sr. Katie Moyer, Reporter

TREETOPS, SAUNDERFOOT, PEMB.

To the Saints throughout the Church of Christ
Greetings from Wales:

I know you all love to know how we are faring across the waters. I am glad to state that as many as we are, are happy in the Gospel work. I think we realize here that only sin can prevent us from enjoying the blessings of the Gospel, and that only enjoying the blessings of the Gospel can keep us from sin.

We certainly enjoy the spirit of the Church when we meet. We can feel when we visit Brother and Sister Buck that they are over-joyed. Sister Buck is a lovely character and is a splendid example of a saint. Although it is a two hundred mile journey, it is not in vain. When we start off, sometimes we too see it a long way but what cheers us happily is we are about our Father's business.

We had a lovely visit from Charles Allen and his happy family. It was a real garden party. Sister Nash also makes us very welcome. Sister Nash is the daughter of the late Elder Porcell. We have also enjoyed nice visits to the home of Sister Jones. Although she is a Fettingite, we cannot go from that home without a service of some kind.

We had a visit recently from Mr. and Mrs. Keen of Gloucester, who were great friends of the late Apostle E. J. Trapp and the late Sister Gill. We send her the Advocate every month.

The late Apostle Arthur M. Smith's visit has not been in vain. Since we were organized by him, a change has been. We have lost stalwart Sister Edwards of Trealen, Elder George Allen and others.

I often think how the world notices our lives. I had a surprise last month. Our milkman was very late one morning, so I went up to the farm to fetch a pint

of milk as we often do when we run short. But this time the farmer and his wife were out. So the boy who is 14 years old came to the door, so I asked him for the pint of milk. So as I was paying him, he said, it's all right; no, it's all right. I said, don't you want me to pay? He said, you are always so nice. I said, whether I am nice or not, I must pay; and pay I did.

I believe the best sermon one can preach is through his own life. I hope one day to report fruits of our labor. Man's extremity is God's opportunity.

We have traveled thousands of miles since the first visit of the late Brother Smith and that was the thing that kept our spirit up. It was in church work we drove.

Don't smile. Coming back from Gill Goch the body split from the chassis. We were very glad it was dark. Afterward we had it welded again but it did not last very long, and may a time we ran out of gas because the clock was not working. But in it all we were very happy.

When the late Brother Smith came over last time, he was amazed we still had the old car. Many a time he helped me to repair it. But I am glad to say, we were happy through it all.

I ask an interest in your prayers.

Very sincerely,
Elder Silvanus Mason

The Book Speaks

by
Nellie Walberg

Place me near, close to your bedside
To give comfort in the night;
Friend I'll be, to share my wisdom
Till your dreams take upward flight.

Place me near beside your armchair,
Never alone will you feel there;
Shed your tears upon my pages,
Hold me as you bow in prayer.

No pretense of life is needed,
To yourself you can be true;
Let's join hands with trust and candor,
I'll be myself, and you'll be you.

Reach for me when day is ending;
Know the searching of your soul
Has been shared by many others
As they sought to find life's goal.

Keep me near within your reaching,
Open wide your yearning heart;
We'll share together quiet places,
Our thoughts shall wend to worlds apart.

Then you shall return to the land of the present,
Strengthened for tasks that ahead of you lie;
And none shall know the source of your courage,
The things we have shared, just you and I.

Biographical Sketches . . .

Joseph Smith the Prophet

by
Lucy Smith
(Mother of the Prophet)

The Sufferings of Joseph Smith, Jr., with a Fever Sore – Extraction of Large Fragments of Bone from One of His Legs.

Joseph, our third son, having recovered from the typhus fever after something like two weeks' sickness, one day screamed out while sitting in a chair, with a pain in his shoulder, and, in a very short time, he appeared to be in such agony that we feared the consequence would prove to be something very serious. We immediately sent for a doctor. When he arrived, and had examined the patient, he said that it was his opinion that this pain was occasioned by a sprain. But the child declared this could not be the case, as he had received no injury in any way whatever, but that a severe pain had seized him all at once, of the cause of which he was entirely ignorant.

Notwithstanding the child's protestations, still the physician insisted that it must be a sprain, and consequently, he anointed his shoulder with some bone liniment; but this was of no advantage to him, for the pain continued the same after the anointing as before.

When two weeks of extreme suffering had elapsed, the attendant physician concluded to make closer examination, whereupon he found that a large fever sore had gathered between his breast and shoulder. He immediately lanced it, upon which it discharged fully a quart of purulent matter.

As soon as the sore had discharged itself, the pain left it, and shot like lightning, (using his own terms) down his side into the marrow of the bone of his leg, and soon became very severe. My poor boy, at this, was almost in despair, and he cried out, "Oh, father! the pain is so severe, how can I bear it!"

His leg soon began to swell, and he continued to suffer the greatest agony for the space of two weeks longer. During this period I carried him much of the time in my arms, in order to mitigate his suffering as much as possible, in consequence of which I was taken very ill myself. The anxiety of mind that I experienced together with physical over-exertion, was too much for my constitution, and my nature sunk under it.

Hyrum, who was rather remarkable for his tenderness and sympathy, now desired that he might take my place. As he was a good, trusty boy, we let him do so; and, in order to make the task as easy for him as possible, we laid Joseph upon a low bed, and Hyrum sat beside him, almost day and night, for some considerable

length of time, holding the affected part of his leg in his hands, and pressing it between them, so that his afflicted brother might be enabled to endure the pain, which was so excruciating that he was scarcely able to bear it.

At the end of three weeks we thought it advisable so send again for the surgeon. When he came, he made an incision of eight inches, on the front side of the leg, between the knee and ankle. This relieved the pain in a great measure, and the patient was quite comfortable until the wound began to heal, when the pain became as violent as ever.

The surgeon was called again, and he this time enlarged the wound, cutting the leg even to the bone. It commenced healing the second time, and as soon as it began to heal, it also began to swell again, which swelling continued to rise till we deemed it wisdom to call a council of surgeons; and when they met in consultation, they decided that amputation was the only remedy.

Soon after coming to this conclusion, they rode up to the door, and were invited into a room, apart from the one in which Joseph lay. They being seated, I addressed them thus: "Gentlemen, what can you do to save my boy's leg?" They answered, "We can do nothing; we have cut it open to the bone, and find it so affected that we consider the leg incurable, and that amputation is absolutely necessary in order to save his life."

This was like a thunderbolt to me. I appealed to the principal surgeon, saying, "Doctor Stone, can you not make another trial? Can you not, by cutting around the bone, take out the diseased part, and perhaps that which is sound will heal over, and by this means you will save his leg? You will not, you must not, take off his leg, until you try once more. I will not consent to let you enter his room until you make this promise."

After consulting a short time with each other, they agreed to do as I had requested, then went to see my suffering son. One of the doctors, on approaching his bed, said, "My poor boy, we have come again." "Yes", said Joseph, "I see you have; but you have not come to take my leg off, have you sir?" "No", replied the surgeon, "it is your mother's request that we make one more effort, and that is what we have now come for."

The principal surgeon, after a moment's conversation, ordered cords to be brought to bind Joseph fast to a bedstead; but to this Joseph objected. The doctor, however, insisted that he must be confined, upon which Joseph said very decidedly, "No, doctor, I will not be bound, for I can bear the operation much better if I have my liberty," "Then," said Doctor Stone, "will you drink some brandy?"

"No," said Joseph, "not one drop."

"Will you take some wine?" continued the doctor. "You must take something, or you can never endure the severe operation to which you must be subjected."

"No," exclaimed Joseph, "I will not touch one particle of liquor, neither will I be tied down; but I will tell you what I will do—I will have my father sit on the bed and hold me in his arms, and then I will do whatever is necessary in order to have the bone taken out."

Looking at me, he said, "Mother, I want you to leave the room, for I know you can not bear to see me suffer so; father can stand it, but you have carried me so much, and watched over me so long, you are almost worn out." Then looking up into my face, his eyes swimming in tears, he continued, "Now, mother, promise me that you will not stay, will you? The Lord will help me, and I shall get through with it."

To this request I consented, and getting a number of folded sheets, and laying them under his leg, I retired, going several hundred yards from the house in order to be out of hearing.

The surgeons commenced operating by boring into the bone of his leg, first on one side of the bone where it was affected, then on the other side, after which they broke it off with a pair of forceps or pinchers. They thus took away large pieces of the bone. When they broke off the first piece, Joseph screamed out so loudly that I could not forbear running to him. On my entering his room, he cried out, "Oh, mother, go back, go back; I do not want you to come in—I will try to tough it out, if you will go away."

When the third piece was taken away, I burst into the room again—and oh, my God! what a spectacle for a mother's eye! The wound torn open, the blood still gushing from it, and the bed literally covered with blood. Joseph was as pale as a corpse, and large drops of sweat were rolling down his face, whilst upon every feature was depicted the utmost agony!

I was immediately forced from the room, and detained until the operation was completed; but when the act was accomplished, Joseph put upon a clean bed, the room cleared of every appearance of blood, and the instruments which were used in the operation removed, I was permitted again to enter.

Joseph immediately commenced getting better, and from this time onward continued to mend until he became strong and healthy. When he had so far recovered as to be able to travel, he went with his uncle, Jesse Smith, to Salem, Massachusetts, for the benefit of his health, hoping the sea-breezes would be of service to him; and in this he was not disappointed.

Having passed through about a year of sickness and distress, health again returned to our family, and we most assuredly appreciated the blessing; and indeed, we felt to acknowledge the hand of God, more in preserving our lives through such a tremendous scene of affliction, than if we had, during this time, seen nothing but health and prosperity.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

Original Articles are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the teachings of the church or the opinions of the editorial staff. We solicit articles written in an affirmative manner in which a belief or an opinion is expressed, and evidences presented to support that belief.

Family Worship and Study

By Nellie Walberg

December 18, 1966

From Great Light To Great Destruction

"Brother of Jared" was the first man of all God's creation to behold a manifestation of Jesus Christ as he would appear in the flesh and the purpose for which he would come. This account was not given to the Nephites until Christ was resurrected and had appeared among them. (See Ether 1:86, 94, 96) This account is also yet to be revealed in the last days upon certain conditions of faith and righteousness. (See Ether 1:19, 101)

"And the Lord said unto him, Because of thy faith thou hast seen that I shall take upon me flesh and blood; and never has man come before me with such exceeding faith as thou hast; . . . Behold, I am Jesus Christ, I am the Father and the Son. In me shall all mankind have life, and that eternally, even they who shall believe on my name; and they shall become my sons and my daughters. And never have I shewed myself unto man whom I have created, for never has man believed in me as thou hast. Seest thou that ye are created after mine own image? Yea, even all men were created in the beginning, after mine own image? Behold this body, which ye now behold, is the body of my spirit; and man have I created after the body of my spirit; and even as I appear unto thee to be in the spirit, will I appear unto my people in the flesh." Moroni adds, "Jesus shewed himself unto this man in the spirit, even after the manner and in the likeness of the same body, even as he shewed himself unto the Nephites; and he ministered unto him, even as he ministered unto the Nephites". (Ether 1:72, 77-83)

QUESTIONS:

1. The "Brother of Jared" was the spiritual leader of a group of people divinely led from the Eastern Hemisphere. What was the approximate date of their migration and to where were they led? (Ether 7:7-32)
2. What did the "Brother of Jared" forget to do as recorded in Ether 1:39, 41?
3. There is a body of the flesh, and a body of the spirit according to Ether 1:81. Do you see a relationship here to water baptism for the physical body and spiritual baptism for the spiritual body? Note plural "baptisms" in Hebrews 6:2 and Jesus' words as recorded in John 3:5, 6.
4. In the beginning what was the "Brother of Jared's" most outstanding spiritual qualification? (Ether 1:72)
5. When that particular gift was exercised, what gift then did the "Brother of Jared" possess? By what method can this be duplicated in our lives?
6. The written record of the "Brother of Jared's" knowledge is to be revealed in the last days; on what conditions? (Ether 1:100-101)
7. A final hand-to-hand battle between two men brought to an end a great civilization of over two million persons according to the record. One of these men possessed such strength that he raised upon his hands momentarily after his head was cut off. Who was this man and who was the survivor of this battle? Who, alone, from his cave in the rocks, witnessed the scene and left a written record? (Ether 6:106-109)
8. What caused the destruction of this ancient Jaredite nation? (Study Ether 3:94-100)
9. Note the warning in verses 98 and 99 and discuss the parallel which is undermining the freedom of all nations today.

LESSON PURPOSE:

To help us awaken to the grave situation in which the nations are today; to alert the Church that insidious forces for evil can go undetected unless we are aware of the methods used by Satan to overthrow God's work and the freedom of all people.

December 25, 1966

The Birth of Jesus

Read the entire second chapter of Luke:

1. Why was it necessary for Joseph and Mary to leave their home town of Galilee to go to Bethlehem to be taxed? Note also center column reference on "taxed."
2. Does the word "first born" mean that Jesus was the first and also the last child of Mary and Joseph? Note Mark 6:3 and Matthew 13:15 and 56.
3. What are "swaddling clothes"?
4. Did the angels sing "good will toward men" or from men? Is there peace from any but those of "good will"? Discuss the kind of peace that Christ sends.
5. Notice the shepherd's "came with haste" to verify the angel's message. Should we delay obedience when God reveals truth to us? (Read Hebrews 3:7-19)
6. The shepherds heard, they came, they saw and then made known to others. How many instances of spiritual experiences can you recall from Scripture that proceeded in this manner?
7. What are some of the things that Mary "pondered in her heart"? Do you suppose Matthew and Luke may have gotten their information from Mary later for their record?
8. What was Simeon waiting for? (Matthew 2:25)
9. Notice Simeon's prayer in verses 29-32.
10. Whom did Simeon bless? (Verses 28 and 34)

11. What prophecy concerning Jesus and his mother was uttered in the 35th verse?
12. Who else had spiritual knowledge of the baby Jesus on the same day? (Matthew 2:35-38)

Read the entire second chapter of Matthew:

1. The wise men came "from the East". What country do you think they came from? State reasons for your answer.
2. The wise men presented Jesus with gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. What are some gifts that we may give Him? Are they costly gifts?
3. Herod was King of Judea. The Old Testament record was available. Why did he not know of the prophecies concerning where Christ would be born? Should we depend upon others to search the scriptures for us?
4. In how many ways is the "slaughter of the innocents" by modern Herods going on today physically, morally and religiously?
5. Is there room in your heart for Jesus? "Thou Christ a thousand times in Bethlehem be born, if he is not born in thee, thy soul is all forborn—the Cross of Golgotha thou lookest to in vain unless within thyself it be set up again."

January 1, 1967

End of the Year Check-up

Answers will be found in the last six months' issues of the "Advocate."

1. What is the promise of God to America, the "chosen land"? (July)
2. On what conditions will God hear the prayers of His people, and forgive their sin and heal their land? (July)
3. Name the things that are found in the August issue over which we should pray.
4. What is the most acceptable fast unto God? (August)
5. Agricultural increase, productive vines and blessings from heaven can be expected on what conditions? (August)
6. Enumerate some of the divine records yet to be revealed to a people who will not harden their hearts. (September)
7. In the light of the September issue, does the Bible contain the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth? Does your conclusion also apply to the Book of Mormon? What did Jesus mean in the scripture recorded in John 16:12?
8. We are commanded to "prove all things and hold fast to that which is good". How would you prove a purported revelation from God? (October)
9. If a people possess the "testimony of Jesus", what would be the result among them? (October)
10. Where is the Bible reference that states that an angel would come to a "young man", and who

was the person who fulfilled this prophecy? (October)

11. Where is the Bible reference that refers to a book coming forth that would cause the "deaf" to hear? (October)
12. According to references in the October issue, what is the definition for "conversion to Christ?"
13. Who were the people who gave to God the wrong kind of thanks? Enumerate the points of doctrine in their prayer that was correct. On what points were they in error? (October)
14. There was a prophet who prophesied both in Jerusalem and in Ancient America. Who was this man? What did he prophesy and how long was it until his prophecies were fulfilled. (November)
15. Who was the Lamanite prophet who warned the Nephites of coming destruction unless they repented? What other great events did he foretell? (November)
16. What is the primary purpose of the lesson entitled "Preparation for the Birth of Christ"? (November)

LESSON PURPOSE:

To reinforce the gospel truths by repetition. To remind ourselves to save past issues of the "Advocate" for future reference.

January 8, 1967

Faith, A Working Principle

"... Nevertheless I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day. Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us." (II Timothy 1:12, 14)

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first; and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, the just shall live by faith." (Romans 1:16, 17)

"Preach unto them repentance, and faith on the Lord Jesus Christ; teach them to humble themselves, and to be meek and lowly in heart; teach them to withstand every temptation of the devil, with their faith on the Lord Jesus Christ." (Alma 17:66)

QUESTIONS:

1. True faith must be based on reliable authority. What should be the object of our faith according to Hebrews 11:6?
2. In II Timothy 1:12 what had Apostle Paul committed unto the Lord? Against what day?
3. Timothy was admonished to "hold fast the form of sound words". Why? (Romans 10:17)

4. What was "that good thing" which was committed unto Timothy which had also dwelt with his mother and grandmother? (II Timothy 1:5-7)
5. In what manner is the righteousness of God revealed? (Romans 1:16-17. Compare with Isaiah 28:9-10)
6. On what or whom should we teach people to base their faith? (Alma 17:66)
7. How can we withstand every temptation of the devil? (Alma 17:66)
8. Faith is like a seed. When it is "alive" it will produce, if nourished and cultivated. If we have a "working faith" what will be the result? (James 2:14-26)
9. Consider Ephesians 2:8-10 and the relationship between "dead works," "good works," "fruits of the spirit" and "faith" as a working principle of life.

LESSON PURPOSE:

To define the difference between a living faith that saves and a dormant faith.

To realize the need in our life for a solid basis of faith, the Lord Jesus Christ and His teachings.

TIME

Take time to think

It is the source of power.

Take time to play

It is the secret of perpetual youth.

Take time to read

It is the foundation of wisdom.

Take time to pray

It is the greatest power on earth.

Take time to love and be loved

It is a God-given privilege.

Take time to be friendly

It is the road to happiness.

Take time to laugh

It is the music of the soul.

Take time to give

It is too short a day to be selfish.

Take time to work

It is the price of success.

FRIENDSHIP

Time goes so fast, life asks so much

No wonder friends get out of touch.

But in our hearts deep, true, unseen

Friendship stays forever green.

"Take therefore no thought for the morrow, for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient is the day unto the evil thereof." (III Nephi 6:12)

Do your work well today; you may not have tomorrow for making corrections.

"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." (John 5:39)

Conversation In Ink...

Betty Martin: "It was so nice to see all at reunion. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have reunions two or three times each year? We need the wonderful association and fellowship and singing and sermons that we get only at reunion, it seems. Everything always seems a little special, even the food!"

Margret Gill: "The Wisconsin Reunion was very nice, also. Don Housknecht gave a marvelous sermon. His subject was something about the G. O. P., 'Get Off and Push.' He said we are basically a do-nothing group at present. We need to present ourselves in humility and faith, and offer to get off and push, and do something towards our own salvation and towards helping others. The church won't save us. At least this is what I got out of his sermon. Actually the whole reunion tended along the same lines, with one minister giving a sermon and the next one just simply continuing the line of thought."

Harvey and Irene Seibel: "We as a church will need to make preparation through prayer and fasting that the will of God be made known. I may be wrong, but I somehow feel that if we do meet with humility as a church we shall receive that which may be of considerable importance to us.

"I think you would have gotten a lot out of Roland Sarratt's sermon. It was about a more perfect obedience—a spiritual obedience. Really, spiritual life. I can't say it like he did, but the idea I got from it is that as a child you start out with something, a law, as simple and straight forward as the ten commandments. Then you take a stricter, but more thoughtful law: love thy neighbor as thyself—how much is that? How much should I love myself? Who is my neighbor? From that almost mental obedience you go on to—well, I'm not very good at expressing it. I suppose it's the law that's written on your heart. A law of love beyond the written commandments."

Darleen Smith: "It's hard to understand (in a sense) the people who go around constantly bragging—I did this, I did that—I—I, even though the object may be of worthy quality. For with me, if an object I've done is well accomplished, I have an almost embarrassed feeling if others praise it very much; as I have an instinctive feeling that the worthy qualities in the object have come from a higher source, and so that source rates the honour. O—yes, the faults and mistakes of it I can readily accept as mine—that's me all right, beyond a doubt—bumble-footed me.

"It should be a sign of humility to admit that our better work is helped along by the Lord. But it can be mistaken for the worst conceit. And, as a matter of fact, it can be conceit. There must be something we're over-looking. Where is the 'tunnel' that humility works through? I believe humility has a ceiling and a floor. False modesty is below the floor. And where is the

ceiling? We can claim that the Lord blessed us. But how do we claim that He helped without also claiming His approval?"

Darleen: "Yes, the feeling that compliments and praise should be to a being beyond us could mean highest conceit. To mention these things to some people would be misinterpreted to mean just that—conceit. Though what I am talking of is this 'de-personalizing' quality. Is that humility? The effort to get rid of false fronts, the ego, so that what we inwardly are can show. And also recognizing that if there are portions of good they are all from the All Good. We trip so over ourselves, over the 'I'. In thinking of Roland Sarratt's sermon, he was speaking of that beyond quality. In keeping Christ's law, in the manner of the letter of the law, bit-by-bit, and then this beyond quality. Have you noticed how 'tall' humble people are? It doesn't diminish a person. Rather they become greater. Humility may be of qualities similar to the peace that Christ gives, not as the world, etc., which is more similar to courage, strength, self-control, endurance. It's more like we are His. The earth, creation, all are His. It's to His glory when He chooses to work a bit through this instrument or another of His handiwork. This makes me think of a fairy tale of Hans Christian Anderson's—a quarrel between a pen and ink-pot, each claiming they were the one who wrote or produced the stories! Laughable, and yet how like humans. We are pens and ink-pots of God."

Peter: "Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and virtue knowledge . . ." (2nd Peter 1:2-5)

Isaiah: "Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line, here a little, and there a little." (Isaiah 28:9, 10)

Ella Engle, Listener

WHAT IS TRUE RELIGION

At home—kindness;
 In business—honesty;
 In society—courtesy;
 In work—thoroughness;
 In play—fairness;
 Toward the fortunate—congratulations;
 Toward the weak—help;
 Toward wickedness—resistance;
 Toward the impertinent—forgiveness;
 Toward God—reverence, love, obedience.
 —Missouri Parent-Teacher

Children's Hour...

Families Who Moved for God

6. LEHI

A long time after Moses, in a city that was built and named Jerusalem long after Moses was gone, there lived a man named Lehi. There were a lot of prophets at that time. One that we still hear a lot about is Jeremiah. Lehi was a prophet, too. God showed him many things in visions and dreams, and one thing that He showed him was that Jerusalem was to be destroyed.

Lehi told the ones who lived in Jerusalem that it was to be destroyed, but they didn't believe him. Mostly because they didn't want to. He told them that they were living in a way that God didn't like so He would punish them by having Jerusalem destroyed. This made them awfully angry so they decided to try to kill him, but they had forgotten about God and He warned Lehi of their plans. He commanded Lehi to take his family and go into the wilderness so that they couldn't find and kill him.

That's just what he did. And he didn't stop to argue about what he was leaving behind either. His wife had her doubts about this move. You see, when God created man He made him in two parts. First He made the body, then He gave it a spirit. Now you know how the body grows—first you are a baby, then you grow up and up and up until you're as big as your mother and father, or even bigger. Well, the spirit grows too. Only it doesn't grow at the same speed for everyone. A big man can have a shriveled-up little spirit and a half grown child can have a spirit bigger than most grown men have. God is a Spirit and most often He speaks to a man's spirit. When that happens it's as if you had a big ear inside of you someplace and it hears something that doesn't even make a sound. But sometimes our own thoughts are awfully loud inside our heads and it is hard to tell the difference between the two. So it was all right for Sariah to doubt this thing that Lehi said. She didn't try to stop him, but she just wasn't sure inside herself that what he said was really God's command.

Lehi was sure, though, and so the family left Jerusalem and went into the wilderness. He left his house and land, his gold and silver and other precious things, and took only tents and provisions for his family. When we hear of wilderness we usually think of lots and lots of trees. But that isn't necessarily so. Wilderness mostly means just wildness. A place where wild things live; a place where man only travels through. They wandered in this wilderness until they came near the Red Sea. Here Lehi built an altar and they camped for awhile.

By now the two oldest boys in the family were really

grumbling. They didn't think Lehi knew what he was doing and they didn't like this wandering around when they could still be living in a comfortable house in Jerusalem. They said he was just a foolish old man who was imagining things. Lehi talked to them until they could not argue with him, but they were so stubborn that they would not believe.

Here one of the youngest of Lehi's children was the wisest. He prayed to God. Up to now no one in the family except the father had known for sure why they were moving, but this young boy believed God could show him, too. The Lord showed him many things and after that he believed that what his father said was truly from God. This boy, named Nephi, told his brothers about what he had seen and tried to convince them too, but only the one named Sam believed him. The older two still wouldn't even listen.

Soon after this Lehi sent the boys back to Jerusalem to get some records, or books, that God told him they would need. They had a lot of trouble when they went back and their mother was worried. When they came back all safe and sound, though, Sariah, knew that the Lord had protected them and that He was the one that had warned Lehi to leave Jerusalem. So, you see, God knows what we need, even if we don't know how to ask Him for it. Nephi knew what he wanted and he asked God for it. God blessed him and gave him what he asked for. Maybe Sariah didn't even know what it would take to prove to her that Lehi was right, but God knew and He showed her by taking care of her sons and bringing them back safely.

Can you imagine what a mess it must have been to move in Lehi's family? There was the biggest boys grumbling and sassing their dad and fighting with their younger brothers. Their mother was sad. Probably no one was very happy with all this going on, although God did bless them at times so that they were happy in spite of everything.

Why do you suppose Lehi had to leave behind everything he had, like Lot almost, when he moved? He obeyed God right away, but God told him to only take tents and some provisions. No herds and flocks, no gold or silver.

God knew what they would need. He knew where they were going and what they would find there. They wouldn't need herds and flocks because they were coming to America and they would find wild herds and flocks that had belonged to the Jaredites. They wouldn't need gold or silver or precious stones because there wouldn't be any place to spend them in the wilderness. God knew they would need their family records and His books so He sent them back to Jerusalem after them. He knew they would need another family to go with them, so He sent them back after Ishmael and his family. They learned how to hunt in the wilderness and God taught them how to build a ship and that was all they needed.

And so they went down into their ship and sailed for many days to the big, choice land God had promised them.

Baptism for the Dead... A False Doctrine

by
Nellie Walberg

There is only one scripture in either the Bible or the Book of Mormon which has reference to Baptism for the dead. It is found in I Corinthians 15:29 of the Apostle Paul's writings:

"Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? Why are they then baptized for the dead?"

Here Paul was impressing upon the minds of the Corinthian saints the reality of resurrection. He was speaking directly to members of the church and referred to some other groups who were practicing vicarious baptism as "they". He did not say what shall "we" do which are baptized for the dead, for the true church did not indulge in such a practice; therefore this scripture cannot prove such a doctrine. Paul was only using the argument at hand to prove his point on the truth of the resurrection.

Another scripture which is mis-used by some in an effort to support the doctrine of baptism for the dead are the words of Jesus in John 3:5.

"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God".

Here Jesus is instructing a mortal man by the name of Nicodemus. He did not say, "except a man be born, or else someone be born for him, of water and of the Spirit!"

The admonition in Philippians 2:12 is: "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." Someone else cannot work out our salvation for us. One who comes to understand the requirements of the gospel of salvation is under obligation to either accept or reject. One who does not know the gospel and does not understand the will of God and dies in this condition is redeemed through the atonement of Christ. (Moroni 8:25, 26)

Here it is stated that baptism availeth nothing for one who is ignorant of the law, and counsels us not to deny the pure mercies of Christ.

In Mosiah 1:107 we read, "For behold, and also his blood atoneth for the sins of those who have fallen by the transgression of Adam, who have died, not knowing the will of God concerning them, or who have ignorantly sinned."

Let us trust in His divine wisdom and justice for all men for He knows the "times before appointed and the bounds of their habitation" and sees the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In June 1829, as time was drawing near for the publication of the Book of Mormon and the organization of the true Church of Christ upon the earth, the Lord spoke and gave this important instruction:

"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." Indeed the ancient records of the Book of Mormon were preserved to expressly "confound false doctrine, lay down contentions and establish peace." The Lord was to have a standard by which He could judge all teachings purporting to come from Him.

In 1830 the Book of Mormon was finished and published to the world. It went on record as containing the "fullness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ" and to be used together with the Bible to stand as a solid bulwark against false doctrine.

In December 1830, the early church received the following revelation, "and there are none that doeth good except those who are ready to receive the fullness of my gospel, which I have sent forth unto this generation."

In January 1831, God commanded: "thou shalt preach the fullness of my gospel which I have sent forth in these last days."

In February 1831, "again . . . teach the principles of my gospel which are in the Bible and Book of Mormon, in which is the fullness of my gospel."

Thus, according to the Word of God to the church in 1829, 1830 and 1831 the fullness of the gospel was already upon the earth at that time. God said, "I have sent forth" the fullness of the gospel. He did not say He had sent some of the truth but would reveal baptism for the dead later.

Baptism for the dead was brought into the church by speculation and was not in accord with "that which was written." It is a commandment of man instead of God and Jesus warned the people of His day that many were worshipping in vain, "teaching for doctrine the commandments of men." (Matthew 15:8, 9)

It is significant that the Book of Mormon has no mention whatsoever of "baptism for the dead" and the Bible does not contain any statement commanding it.

Those, who in this day believe and practice baptism for the dead, do so on the basis of a genealogical research concerning their dead kindred. The Apostle Paul had this to say about genealogies:

"As I besought thee, . . . that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine, neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying . . . (I Timothy 1:3, 4)

The Apostle Paul counselled Titus, "But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain." (Titus 3:9)

The Church of Christ believes that the gospel was restored in these latter days in its simplicity and purity, and that we should humbly ". . . contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." (Jude 3)

The Church of Christ teaches that there is only one Saviour and mediator between God and man and that He is Jesus Christ. (I Timothy 2:5) In Psalms 49:7 we read, "None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him."

The Church of Christ teaches that we must rely upon the merits of the shed blood of Jesus Christ and that

the gospel is the power of God unto salvation unto all that believe and obey.

The Church of Christ teaches from the Bible and the Book of Mormon in which is contained the "fullness of the gospel," and in which is no mention of baptism for the dead.

Baptism for the dead is a false doctrine and is in no way essential to the salvation of either the living or the dead. Its practice causes men to worship in vain and trust in dead works.

The Church of Christ stands for the true principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ as taught in Jerusalem to the Jews, as taught among the Nephites in ancient America, and as is being taught in these latter days.

The counsel of the Book of Mormon is to "come unto Christ and be perfected in Him . . . And again, if ye, by the grace of God, are perfect in Christ, and deny not his power, then are ye sanctified in Christ by the grace of God, through the shedding of the blood of Christ, which is the covenant of the Father, unto the remission of your sins . . ." (Moroni 10:29, 30)

Christmas

by
Kenneth J. Smith

Once a time from scenes of light,
Came a song of peace and God's delight
Declaring tidings of great joy profound;
The birth of a baby boy was found.

The angels sang with hearts so full,
The news broke forth with gladness still;
Shepherds watched on hill and dale,
Gave up their fears of wolf and prey.

They gathered in from near and far,
The wise men following the star,
That led to the lowly crib ajar
In the manger in the lowly inn.

This then a story at Christmas time,
In a world filled with war and distress
Of those that struggle vainly for success;
Of Peace on Earth and happiness.

Think ye then it not the time,
Approach that glorious star divine.
Bow thy head with mine and thine
Before that great Lord told of old.

And find with me a sure success,
In assurance of that happiness
That comes with the story told of old.
Of peace on earth and good will toward men.

Salvation from the holocaust of fire,
Heaped upon the heads of them,
Brought by the increase of iniquity and sin
Let's answer the call of safety from within the fold.

The Sign of His Coming

by Don E. McIndoo

Part I

While driving in Missouri recently, along a country road that showed obvious signs of recent construction work, we came upon a large sign placed beside the roadway. It said, "Slow, Flagman Ahead." Accordingly, we slowed down and proceeded with more caution, expecting to be stopped for construction work just over each hilltop or around the next bend. Mile after mile we proceeded like this, with no flagman appearing. It was very disconcerting. I imagine we had traveled close to 10 miles and had resumed our normal driving speed, when we rounded a bend and there he was, holding up a long line of cars, the last of which we were almost upon. I was glad there were brakes on my trailer.

This case of the long delayed flagman stands out in my mind because it is so unusual. We have come to take for granted that the signposts along our highways are accurate and to the point; placed there to prepare us for what lies just ahead. The government has placed a multitude of meaningful signs along our roadways to insure our safety and welfare as we travel the highways of life:

Curve—15 mph
 Caution—dangerous curve
 If you don't make this one,
 there won't be anymore.

It seems natural to expect as much from the Lord. It would seem that if God is, if He has established a Plan that encompasses mankind, if there is a Timetable involved in that Great Plan, the Lord would likewise inform man of coming events and of known dangers along history's great highway that we might be prepared and thus escape danger along the way.

And so we search the scriptures eagerly for evidence of such a Plan and Time Schedule, for these imply a purpose for man; they denote a Divine intelligence behind creation and more important, a concern by that Creator for the well-being of man. And is our search rewarded? Of a certainty! For the scriptures unfold a Plan so complete that we are able to give a reason for the hope that is within us. Furthermore, that Plan, as revealed by the scripture, foretells of coming events in such detail that the person of understanding cannot escape the condemnation for being unprepared. The prophets of the Old Testament identified the coming of the Messiah so clearly that we are amazed. And on the other side of the world, the signs of His coming were observed by multitudes. Since the people of the New World did not have the opportunity of seeing all the prophecies of Isaiah fulfilled before their very eyes, the Lord revealed further signs to them which would be more meaningful.

"And behold, thus hath the angel spoken unto me; for he said unto me, that there should be thunderings and lightnings for the space of many hours; and he said unto me that while the thunder and the lightning

lasted, and the tempest, that these things should be, and that darkness should cover the face of the whole earth, for the space of three days. And the angel said unto me that many shall see greater things than these, to the intent that they might believe that these signs and these wonders should come to pass, upon all the face of this land; to the intent that there should be no cause for unbelief among the children of men; and this to the intent that whosoever will believe, might be saved, and that whosoever will not believe, a righteous judgment might come upon them: and also if they are condemned, they bring upon themselves their own condemnation." (Helaman 5:81-84)

These words, spoken by Samuel the Lamanite, were given to the intent that the people might be prepared for the coming of Christ among them, that they might believe and thus be saved. This has always been the way of the Lord; to inform His people of coming events that they might be prepared. The Apostle Paul gave us added insight as to the ways of the Lord when he stated, "In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established." (II Corinthians 13:1) And this that we might be able to walk safely on the path that lies ahead of us.

The Lord has given to man definite signs concerning this era in which we live. You should be aware of them, both for your well-being and that you might be a witness to others, for the Lord would have us to be prepared. Let us, then, turn our attention to the many independent witnesses God used to inform His people of impending events. If we were at school, to insure our careful attention, a teacher might say, "We will be tested on these facts tomorrow." But here we can only say, "Your life may depend upon the understanding you have and the appropriate actions you take concerning these things."

We don't wish to merely venture opinions about so important a matter, so I have endeavored to gather data and statistics relevant to these ideas. But as always, statistics can be colored, biased or incomplete. Each of us, therefore, should endeavor to discard that which is misleading, and add to and improve our data as we can and as facilities permit. In the meantime, I must use the data I have as my basis for thought and action.

The disciples of Christ wished to know when this Day of the Lord, signifying His return to the earth and the Time of the End, would be. They were privileged to put the question directly to the Master, and so we turn to the words of Christ as our first witness who will help us pinpoint with accuracy the time of His coming.

"And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy calling, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for

all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows . . . For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." (Matthew 24:3-8, 21-22)

No wonder the Lord wished His people to be prepared! For His return shall be heralded by perilous times among the world's people. The conditions described by the Master seemed precise and definite enough that it would seem one should be able to accurately identify the time of His coming. I remember a time several years ago when some Indian people of Arizona looked about them at the activities of nature and observed some curious behavior. They saw reptiles leaving low-lying valleys and moving toward higher ground. They saw ground nesting birds lay their eggs on hillsides rather than in valleys. Seeing these things, they concluded that the signs indicated a wet year for the desert country of Arizona and we all awaited it eagerly. But the signs had been misread or misinterpreted and the year received less than a normal amount of rainfall.

Even so the signs described by the Master had been misunderstood by His followers and they erred in their judgments. These earnest people, like many since then, looked about them at the conditions of their world and observed fighting taking place in various places, heard of natural disasters occurring in the known world and saw multitudes of people going to bed hungry. It therefore seemed obvious to them that the Master would return to this earth within their lifetime. It became necessary for the Lord to use Apostle Paul as an added witness to shed further light upon this important matter. Through the gift of inspiration he was able to reveal an important historical event that would transpire prior to the time of Christ's return and the time of the end:

"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God . . . And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that wicked be revealed . . ." (II Thess. 2:3-8)

Paul informs us that before the time of the end becomes a reality there shall be a great and pronounced "falling away" of the church from the pure gospel of Christ. This apostasy shall be accompanied by a rise to power of some individual or office which will endeavor to usurp the very authority of God. In verse seven he reminds the church that there is already a great power

evident in their world who would oppose the rise of this wicked one. Of course the power already in existence refers to the Roman Emperor. The one who is to rise to power will have to wait until the fall of the Roman Empire. This occurred about 570 A.D., and during this period of history we see the rise of the pope and his increasing influence in history.

The revelations given through John yields further information about this period of apostasy, for in the 12th chapter of Revelation John tells us the duration of this falling away shall be 1260 years. Of greater interest is the fact that after this period of time has passed, the gospel shall be restored to the children of men by the hand of an angel. We read of this restoration in the 14th chapter, and John tells us that then will come the hour of Christ's judgment. These added witnesses, Paul and John, bring us to our generation. Let us re-examine the signs concerning the time of the end given by the Master in the 24th chapter of Matthew.

Natural disasters have always been present in the world and are frequently taken for granted, but the Lord indicated that they would become even more prevalent in the last days and would effect more people. One often hears it said, "Such phenomena are no different than they have ever been." Yet how often one hears a report such as the one in the Arizona Republic of September 7, 1966, which stated, "Government police yesterday described Typhoon Cora as the worst storm in history to hit Miyako in the southern islands of the American-held Ryukyus chain." Let us consider some of the available statistics concerning such phenomena.

The World Almanac of 1965 listed 19 major floods which caused great loss of life and property during the period of time from 1887 until the present. Of these disasters 68% have occurred since 1950. And many of these recent disasters have occurred in an age when communications and flood control projects should minimize damage.

Tornadoes in the United States since 1916 have averaged 253.6 per year until the present. The least number was 64 in one year. Of interest is the fact that no year had more than 258 (about the average for the total years considered) prior to 1950, but consider the years following 1950:

1950 - 199	1957 - 589
1951 - 272	1958 - 565
1952 - 236	1959 - 589
1953 - 437	1960 - 618
1954 - 549	1961 - 682
1955 - 593	1962 - 657
1956 - 532	1963 - 461

Since 1950 the average number of tornadoes in the United States has been 542.7.

The World Almanac of 1965 listed 50 major earthquakes causing comparable loss of life or damage. The years spanned were from 856 A.D. through 1964. Of these earthquakes, 34% have occurred since 1950. One author, in a text related to earthquakes, wished to establish the fact that earthquakes have always been numerous. He therefore used the most authoritative reference from

antiquity he could find and quoted the Roman historian, Pliny, who wrote in his Natural History, "... In a single years during the Punic Wars (-217) 57 earthquakes were reported in Rome.

I am sure that was a memorable year for the Romans, but it loses its impact when compared to the history being written in our news articles today. Some of these are as follows:

1. "In Alaska there were about 800 quakes in the last couple of years." (U. S. News and World Report, April 13, 1964)

2. "An estimated 650 quakes have struck Tashkent, a city of 1.1 million persons, since April 26. They have destroyed one-fourth of the city, killed at least 14 persons and injured more than 1,000. An estimated 300,000 persons have been made homeless." (Springfield Daily News, August 1966)

3. "On Wednesday this rural Japanese town marks an anniversary it would rather forget—a year of shaking, a year filled with half a million earth tremors." On one day, April 17, there were 6,780 jolts.

Another of the natural scourges mentioned by the Master was that of pestilence. Insect-pests and disease-causing organisms have always been a scourge upon mankind, but it is growing more obvious that if man is to survive and inherit the earth the incident of these pests must come under our control. Today we endeavor to control the pests with the use of powerful new insecticides. No one knows the long range danger these chemicals pose in the soil, crops or man, but we do see that insects are becoming harder and harder to kill as resistant strains emerge after each spraying. The 1952 Year Book of Agriculture gives us an insight into the seriousness of the problem as it states, "Losses caused by all insects in the United States . . . is at least 4 billion dollars for an average year."

A typical example of the extent of the problem today with our increased travel and trade is reported by the Springfield Daily News of August 19, 1966: "Britain and other European countries are waging a war costing millions against the mysterious plague of foot-and-mouth disease striking cattle and sheep." Then follows a nation-by-nation roundup typified by this report of the Soviet Union: "First reported in 1965, the disease spread to most parts of European Russia. By unofficial estimates as many as a third of 87 million Soviet cattle were affected by last Spring."

Perhaps more important to us are those epidemic pests which affect man directly. We had better consider well such reports from organizations such as the World Health Organizations which informs us that 300,000,000 people in the world today suffer from malaria. So serious in this scourge that some person dies every ten seconds.

The second great scourge mentioned by the Master as He spoke of the last days, though not so dramatic as the others, poses the world's greatest problem today—Famine. We recognize that the threat of world-wide famine is the outgrowth of over-population. The world population today stands at 3.25 billion, and with our present rate of increase (2.1%) will double by the year

2000. There are many today who feel that with our scientific achievements we can feed this increasing population if we begin immediately. So writes Senator McGovern in his book, War Against Want: "Recognizing the population growth ahead of us, total world food production will have to be doubled by 1980, and tripled by the year 2000."

To avoid famine, food production will have to be increased immediately. Couple this concept with several news articles of recent days:

1. The Grand Junction Sentinel of July 13, 1966, reports, "American crop prospects are less favorable than a year ago, the Federal Crop Reporting Board announced Monday. Farmers planted less land this year than last year and are expecting to harvest the smallest acreage in years."

Later comes the report that the corn and wheat crops of the Midwest and East are going to be ruined by what will be called the "Great Drouth" of 1966.

3. A world that looks to the United States for its food must cringe at the report appearing in the September 2, 1966, issue of the Arizona Republic. "But no matter what soothing explanation our government gives you, your food bill is going up because our once mountainous reserves of food have dwindled to dangerous levels. Our farmers are not producing enough to meet the demands at home and the most critical needs abroad. Our government is just facing up to the fact that the U. S. now has no real surpluses except cotton and tobacco. As of now we don't have a three-months supply of feed grains for cattle and poultry—an incredible situation considering the fact that we are in a war that could catch us with our pantry down. At the end of this crop year we will have the lowest supply of wheat since World War II."

Almost 2,000 years ago the Master predicted great famine for the world in the last days. Today He is joined by experts of the world situation whose thinking is completely independent of religious precepts. The U. S. News and World Report of September 14, 1964, carried this ominous report: "A famine that will begin about 1970 and spread to hundreds of millions of people around the world has been predicted by Dr. Raymond Ewell, an authority on chemical economics." Dr. Ewell calls it, "... The greatest catastrophe in history."

We are reminded of a quotation by the philosopher, Seneca, who observed, "A hungry people listens not to reason, nor cares for justice, nor is bent by prayers." This brings us to the last great scourge of the last days—War unparalleled in history. It takes few statistics to convince one that we stand at such a threshold today. Professor Emile Benoit of the Columbian University Graduate School of Business writes that because we and our enemies can instantly kill millions of each other, "... What has occurred is a mass exchange of hostages, leaving population of the world's major cities subject to sudden slaughter. . . This in interdependence on a new plane of intensity: to an unbelievable degree, we now depend on each other's leaders to be rational, to be predictable, to be sane."

Imagine! The world today must depend upon Mao Tse-tung to be rational and predictable. One of Mao's favorite sayings is "Power grows out of the barrel of a gun." We see his philosophy in action today as we read of the cultural revolution taking place inside Red China. This report appeared in the Arizona Republic on September 4, 1966: "Communist China yesterday declared a 'people's war of annihilation' on all capitalistic nations and the 'Soviet Revisionists.' The Chinese

said China had become the base for a long-term revolutionary war throughout the world and proclaimed they would not cease fighting until they had destroyed their enemies."

We see the signs given by the Master concerning the last days becoming a reality. Next we shall examine others of the many independent witnesses God has used to inform His people of these days that will usher in the last dispensation of time.

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