

# 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. 2

"And it came to pass that he commanded that their little children should be brought.

"So they brought their little children and sat them down upon the ground round about him, and Jesus stood in the midst; and the multitude gave way till they had all been brought unto him.

"And it came to pass that when they had all been brought, and Jesus stood in the midst, he commanded the multitude that they should kneel down upon the ground.

"And it came to pass that when they had knelt upon the ground, Jesus groaned within himself, and saith, Father, I am troubled because of the wickedness of the people of the house of Israel.

"And when he had said these words, he himself also knelt upon the earth, and behold he prayed unto the Father, and the things which he prayed, can not be written, and the multitude did bear record who heard him.

"And after this manner do they bear record; the eye hath never seen, neither hath the ear heard, before, so great and marvelous things as we saw and heard Jesus speak unto the Father;

"And no tongue can speak, neither can there be written by any man, neither can the hearts of men conceive so great and marvelous things as we both saw and heard Jesus speak;

"And no one can conceive of the joy which filled our souls at the time we heard him pray for us unto the Father.

"And it came to pass that when Jesus had made an end of praying unto the Father, he arose; but so great was the joy of the multitude, that they were overcome.

"And it came to pass that Jesus spake unto them, and bade them arise.

"And they arose from the earth, and he said unto them, Blessed are ye because of your faith. And now behold my joy is full.

"And when he had said these words, he wept, and the multitude bear record of it, and he took their little children, one by one and blessed them, and prayed unto the Father for them.

"And when he had done this he wept again, and he spake unto the multitude, and saith unto them, Behold your little ones.

"And as they looked to behold, they cast their eyes towards heaven, and they saw the heavens open, and they saw angels descending out of heaven as it were, in the midst of fire; and they came down and encircled those little ones about;

"And they were encircled about with fire; and the angels did minister unto them, and the multitude did see and hear, and bear record; and they know that their record is true, for they all of them did see and hear, every man for himself;

"And they were in number about two thousand and five hundred souls; and they did consist of men, women and children." (III Nephi 8:12-27)

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# Zion's Advocate

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## Editorial . . . .

# THE SINS AND TRADITIONS OF MEN

There have been times in recent years when those who seemingly oppose the progress of the work of the church have pointed with disdain to the frailties, the errors and the mistakes of the human instrumentality of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They declare the works of those attempting to exercise themselves in their separate offices and callings to be of none effect because of the traditions of the fathers who have gone before them, and therefore not built upon a solid foundation. The word "tradition" is associated too often with the word "sin". We think of the term or word in the wrong understanding of its entire meaning. Webster's dictionary interprets the meaning as, "the oral transmission of events, opinions, doctrine, and practices through successive generations, without written memorial." Tradition therefore assumes an all important position of unwritten history.

In our study of the Book of Mormon, we find Alma, a just man of God, uses or refers to the righteous traditions of his forebearers in a bold attempt to jar the memories and the understanding of the people of Ammonihah to the realization of a need of great repentance from their sinful condition. The people of Ammonihah had become so steeped in the sins of self esteem that they repulsed Alma's preaching, declaring, "And we are not of thy church, and we do not believe in such foolish traditions." (Alma 6:13) They denied his authority, pointing with the finger of scorn to the basic precepts and traditions upon which his labors were based, and cast him out from amongst them.

This is a story not unlike some of the experiences of the day in which we live. Alma, not unlike many human beings under like stresses in black discouragement, ". . . departed thence and took his journey towards the city Aaron. And it came to pass that while he was journeying thither, being weighed down with sorrow, wading through much tribulation and anguish of soul, because of the wickedness of the people who were in the city of Ammonihah, . . . behold an angel of the Lord appeared unto him, saying. Blessed art thou, Alma; therefore lift up thy head and rejoice, for thou has great cause to rejoice: for thou has been faithful in keeping the commandments of God from the time which thou received thy first message from him." ( Alma 6:16-19) And he commanded him to return to the city of Ammonihah and preach repentance, warning the people of their impending doom in destruction if they refused to heed the warning.

Alma refers to the righteous traditions of their progenitors in his testimony. "And I stood with boldness to declare unto them, yea, I did boldly testify unto them, saying: Behold, O ye wicked and perverse generation, how have ye forgotten the tradition of your fathers; Yea, how soon ye have forgotten the commandments of God. Do ye not remember that our father Lehi was

brought out of Jerusalem by the hand of God? Do ye not remember that they were all led by him through the wilderness? And have ye forgotten so soon how many times he delivered our fathers out of the hands of their enemies, and preserved them from being destroyed, even by the hands of their own brethren? Yea, and if it had not been for his matchless power, and his mercy, and his long suffering towards us, we should unavoidably have been cut off from the face of the earth, long before this period of time, and perhaps been consigned to a state of endless misery and woe." (Alma 7:8-12) He was speaking to a people that were descendants of a righteous people with many promises and traditions that were good and true, and yet, because of the accumulated sin amongst them, they were refusing to hear the message of God of Repentance unto Baptism. They were casting aside the good, just, and righteous traditions of their fathers. They were denying the authority to represent God here on earth, denying the ministry of Alma and Amulek.

We live in a nation that was built on great religious ideals of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness, righteous traditions which are completely dependant upon God and his preservation of our integrity as a free people. We live in a nation that basks in the sunshine of the promises that came by way of fulfillment of prophecy through the Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But after a period of massive development over the relative short span of some 192 years, we find ourselves in a top heavy condition of sin and corruption on every hand, of the bridging and destruction of many of the ideals of our foundation. We are no longer a free people able to pursue the paths of happiness. The great traditions of our founding fathers to a large measure have been destroyed. Consider the little stone cut of the mountain without hands spoken of by Daniel the prophet; is it rolling forth in all the earth breaking down the sins of the nations? Or, is it poised looking upon itself seeking to change the good and righteous traditions, and denying its own authority because of its own inertia failing to move out into the field as individuals and as a people?

Alma continues in his struggle for repentance of once an enlightened people, "I say unto you, Nay; he would rather suffer that the Lamanites might destroy all this people of Nephi, if it were possible that they could fall into sins and transgressions, after having had so much light and so much knowledge given unto them of the Lord their God; . . . Yea, after having been favored above every other nation, kindred, tongue, or people; After having had all things made known unto them, according to their desires, and their faith, and prayers, of that which has been, and which is, and which is to come; Having been visited by the Spirit of God; having conversed with angels, and having been spoken unto by the voice of the Lord; And having the Spirit of Prophecy, and the Spirit of Revelation, and also many gifts; the gift of speaking with tongues, and the gift of preaching, and the gift of the Holy Ghost, and the gift of translation: Yea and after having been delivered of God

out of the land of Jerusalem, by the hand of the Lord; having been saved from famine, and from sickness, and and all manner of diseases of every kind; And they having been waxed strong in battle, that they might not be destroyed; having been brought out of bondage time after time, and having been kept and preserved until now; and they have been prospered until they are rich in all manner of things. And now behold I say unto you, that if this people, who have received so many blessings from the hand of the Lord, should transgress, contrary to the light and knowledge which they do have; I say unto you, that if this be the case; that if they fall into transgression that it would be far more tolerable for the Lamanites than for them." (Alma 7:27-36).

This is a mighty lesson showing us the great need today of living up to the standard of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and continuing the struggle of life. We need to be about our Father's business in the saving of souls in a sin sick world, forgetting not the great traditions and concepts of those who have gone on before. By way of tradition, we continue to hold a General Conference from year to year, hoping to facilitate and augment the work that has been entrusted in our hands. The enemy continues to lurk even amongst us, seeking whom he can destroy, leading away, denying authority, promoting confusion and frustration. Let us be careful lest we too bring down upon our heads a similar condemnation Alma said should come upon the Nephites of that great city who fell in transgression after having received all the gifts of knowledge, blessings manifold, and great and precious promises. Come let us reason together and seek to have our bonds strong in the hope of our Lord.

K. J. S.

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## TEACH THEM

by

Dorothy Burgin

A babe is like a piece of clay,  
As helpless as can be;  
We mold their lives as like the clay  
As we hold them tenderly.

We feed and clothe them and send them to school  
To teach them to read and write;  
How many parents are at home  
To tuck them in at night?

There's so much sin on every hand  
To lead their feet astray;  
How many read a Bible verse  
Or teach them how to pray?

As we grow old there's many things  
We do not understand,  
So mold those little bodies right  
While they are in your hands.

## 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. Even though some articles may in some cases be interpreted as controversial in nature, we believe that such articles if written in an affirmative manner in which a belief or an opinion is expressed, and evidences presented to support that belief, said articles should be presented to the readers.

### ZION AND THE TEMPLE OF THE LORD

Part Three

by

William A. Sheldon

Though there is considerably less scriptural evidence concerning the latter day temple of the Lord, than pertains to other phases of the study of Zion, it is nonetheless important, and with sufficient backing to warrant a full acceptance. Solomon said, in his humble prayer at the dedication of the temple he built: "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?" (I Kings 8:27)

But, we believe God will dwell on the earth, do we not? Inasmuch as a people will dwell in righteousness before Him, His glory may fill a house built unto His name, just as He promised ancient Israel.

"I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there forever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually." (I Kings 9:3)

Among the visions given to Ezekiel was one of a magnificent temple of the Lord, and he was shown its measurements and details of its construction, very minutely. Then the glory of the Lord filled the house.

"And He said unto me, Son of man, the place of my throne, and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel for ever, and my holy name, shall the house of Israel no more defile. . . ." (Ezekiel 43:7)

Here, Ezekiel was apparently given a view, and made to know that God would dwell in His earthly temple in the future, when Israel would **no more** defile His name. And then Malachi 3:1 tells us: "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, **shall suddenly come to His temple** . . ." Now, this was to be in the last days, or the day of His great power, for, ". . . who may abide the day of His coming? and who shall stand when He appeareth? for He is like a refiner's fire, and like fuller's soap." (Malachi 3:2)

Some will say that the temple referred to is our bodies, for our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, but "temple" is singular, not plural. Nor is it only a spiritual reference to the Church, as we shall see.

Going back to Isaiah 2:2-3 which was used to verify the two places of Zion "in the last days", we are told that the people shall say: "Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, **to the house of the God of Jacob** (a temple to be sure! and why?) **and he will teach us of his ways.** . ." Micah 4:2 verifies this in almost identical language.

Is further proof wanting? In Isaiah 4:3-6, referring to Zion of latter days, we are told in verse 6: "And there shall be a **tabernacle for a shadow** in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain."

A tabernacle is defined as a temple; and here we find it will have physical properties. Did He not speak of His latter day temple, even a literal, physical temple, in these words?

"Also the sons of the stranger (gentiles, W.A.S.) that joined themselves to the Lord, to serve him, and to love the name of the Lord, to be His servants . . . and taketh hold of My covenant (the gospel covenant, W.A.S.); **Even them will I bring to my holy mountain** (Zion, W.A.S.), and make them joyful in **my house of prayer**: . . . for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people." (Isaiah 56:6, 7)

Jesus quoted this as He drove the money changers from the temple at Jerusalem, showing that He honored that which had been dedicated as a temple unto God. Finally, the Lord said through Isaiah: ". . . Where is the house that ye built unto me?" (Isaiah 66:1)

After admonishing that He will only look to the man "that is poor and of a contrite spirit" (verse 2), and that He will appear to their joy (verse 5), He says this; "A voice of noise from the city (He is to roar of out Zion. (Joel 3:16), **a voice from the temple**, a voice of the Lord rendereth recompense to His enemies." (Isaiah 66:6)

Having gathered a portion of Israel, and those of the gentiles who will come, and they together will have built the holy city of Zion at Independence, Missouri, and also the temple of the Lord, then He shall "suddenly come to His temple", and there ". . . he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people . . ." (Isaiah 2: 3, 4)

At this time, He shall stand upon the mount of Olives, near Jerusalem, and a great earthquake shall devastate not only that area (Zechariah 14:3-5) but shall convulse the whole earth, causing the most dreadful calamity. It shall be beyond our wildest imagination. Then, too, shall the **whole universe** be shaken; the sun darkened, and the moon to become as blood (shall not give its light), together with a tremendous shower of stars, and men shall say to the mountains and rocks: "Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and **from the wrath of the Lamb**: For the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" (Revelation 6:16, 17) Read Revelation 6:12-17, and also Matthew 24:29, 30. This is the **Lord's battle** in behalf of Zion, His covenant people.

“. . . and then shall the work commence, with the Father, among all nations, in preparing the way whereby his people may be gathered home to the land of their inheritance.” (III Nephi 10:7) This is the remainder of the lost tribes of Israel, who shall be gathered to the land of Jerusalem.

With this information as a basis, let us return to latter day revelation for verification and elaboration of events preceding the above, concerning the building of Zion and of the temple. We have already quoted the Doctrine and Covenants 57:1 partially, and in it we found that the “spot for the temple” in the city of Zion (Independence) was specifically pointed out “upon a lot which is not far from the courthouse.”

Another revelation upon this subject, deserving attention, is section 83 of the Doctrine and Covenants. Objection is sometimes raised to section 83 because it includes unacceptable statements relating to the priesthood. But, notice should be taken that it is really in two parts; one part given on the 22nd and the other on the 23rd of September, 1832. Personally, I can receive, without hesitation, through paragraph 17, as being in the part given by the Lord.

With this explanation, let us examine portions of the first two paragraphs concerning Zion and the temple.

“. . . the word of the Lord concerning his church, established in the last days for the restoration of his people, as he has spoken by the mouth of his prophets, and for the gathering of his saints to stand upon Mount Zion, which shall be the city New Jerusalem; which city shall be built, beginning at the Temple Lot, which is appointed by the finger of the Lord, in the western boundaries of the State of Missouri. . . Verily, this is the word of the Lord that the city New Jerusalem shall be built by the gathering of the saints, beginning at this place, even the place of the temple, which temple shall be reared in this generation. . . ”

Further objection is raised to the using of this, regarding the temple, for it is said that the generation of those living in 1832 has all passed away, and since the temple has not been built, it must be a false revelation. But, how often do men stumble at the word of God because it does not meet their specifications, or those they think God has placed! No wonder that it is said of Christ that He would be a rock of offense and a stumbling stone to the unbelievers!

Now, notice that I have emphasized the words, “by the gathering of the saints.” Zion has not yet been built, though the early latter day saints were “honored of laying the foundation” (B. of C. 59:8), and they commenced the gathering. It was not completed, and they were cast out because of transgression; there were “jarings and contentions, and envyings and strifes, and lustful and covetous desires among them.” (Doctrine and Covenants 98:1-3). So, the Lord was not speaking of that gathering, but of a later time, probably still in the future, when the city of Zion shall be built by a righteous gathering of the saints of God; and that generation shall rear the temple of the Lord!

With this understanding, we have harmony with the revealed word of God in the Bible, and with the Book of Mormon, too, where the Nephite prophets quoted from the words of Isaiah concerning Zion. This study could not possibly be exhausted, but is intended to present sufficient scripture to reaffirm the faith of some, and, if possible, arouse a keener interest of all who read, in the breath-taking events soon to break before the eyes of all men in the exaltation of God by the gathering of His saints to Zion, where they shall dwell with Him without fear, and in peace for a thousand years.

## WHOREDOMS ARE AN ABOMINATION BEFORE ME

by

Roland L. Sarratt

It is no secret that within the last several years morality has taken a head long plunge among most peoples of the earth. Its decrease has been declared with numerous explanations and remedies with little result. One of the most obvious violations of moral law is in the behavior of men and women in their sexual relations. Broken homes and illegitimate children have become somewhat common and acceptable with little hope of effectively correcting the cause. With over dramatized novels, movies, and television shows, the people, young and old alike, are being fed distorted truths about basic morals that once held the more civilized people together. With their minds swayed with such influence, they boldly demand, “What is wrong with it?”

The decrease of morality may merely be considered a sign of the time in which we live. It is a ripening in iniquity which will bring God's wrath upon man. This, of course, is prophetic and includes this nation which is destined to meet great destruction.

Such a generalization is not at all sufficient to warn and prepare those who would desire not to follow the trend. The scriptures are sufficiently plain as they name the greater evils and the consequences of them. The prophets of old dared to speak the truth in the face of all types of opposition and against many customs and traditions. Joseph Smith was commanded to “. . . say nothing but repentance unto this generation.” (Book of Commandments 5:4) We of the ministry are commissioned to do likewise and **not allow ourselves to become vain in our modesty** as we attempt to declare the truth.

The truth is not a destroyer and should not be treated as such. It is a means of correction; it is a means of salvation. It is applicable to man in any age and in any situation. It does not respect personalities as God is not a respecter of persons. Truth is the means of freedom from sin.

As we search the scriptures, we find definite cause to warn the people of the sins that are becoming common place in the world. The scriptures are plain on

the subjects of adultery, fornication, whoredoms, whore-mongers, harlots and lusts of the flesh. The consequences of these evils are often the same as murder, theft, blasphemies, and the greater crimes which are often listed together. It would be very inconsistent of us to think that a people could be guilty of some of these evils without eventually allowing all of them to become common place and acceptable. Such a thing is happening today.

It is human nature to excuse oneself in sin. Along with the numerous excuses that are being made, are the many justifications that have been invented by the learned men of the world as they ignore the admonitions of the scriptures. The designing minds of men have often searched for a set of laws that would bring perfect justice to all involved. Such an accomplishment can never be made through man's own efforts because a perfect justice can only come through obedience to the gospel law. Even this law is given for the unrighteous: "But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully; knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine; according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust." (I Timothy 1:8-11)

One of the most profound scriptural statements that clarifies God's will concerning the behavior of men and women is thus written: "For there shall not any man among you have save it one be wife; and concubines he shall have none; For I, the Lord God, delighteth in the chasity of women. And **whoredoms are an abomination before me**: thus saith the Lord of hosts." (Jacob 2: 36, 37) This commandment should serve as a governor of our conscience.

### Fornication

The law concerning fornication is either greatly misunderstood or simply ignored by most peoples of the world. The dictionary tells us that fornication is "voluntary sexual intercourse between unmarried persons." (Thorndike Barnhart) With this definition, we will seek out the scriptures on this subject.

"Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body." (I Corinthians 6:18)

"Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord: and the Lord for the body." (I Corinthians 6:13)

"It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband." (I Corinthians 7:1, 2)

The will of God is even more pronounced in this verse: "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication." (I Thessalonians 4:3)

Some of the consequences of fornication are given in these scriptures: "Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire." (Jude 7)

"Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: for which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience." (Colossians 4: 5, 6)

"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolators, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God." (I Corinthians 6:9, 10)

"Yea, even at this time ye are ripening, because of your murders, and your fornication and wickedness, for everlasting destruction; yea, and except ye repent, it will come unto you soon." (Helaman 3:64)

"And now I, Jacob, spake many more things unto the people of Nephi, warning them against fornication, and lasciviousness, and every kind of sin, telling them the awful consequences of them." (Jacob 2:66)

Now, here is a commandment directed to the membership of the Church: "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, not jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks." (Ephesians 5: 3,4)

### Adultery

Adultery is defined as "sexual unfaithfulness of a husband or wife." (Thorndike Barnhart) This commandment is given: "Thou shalt not commit adultery." (Exodus 20:14; Romans 13:9; Mosiah 7:121)

Christ's admonition on adultery is far more explicit and inclusive: "Behold, it is written by them of old time, that thou shalt not commit adultery; But I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her, hath committed adultery already in his heart. Behold, I give you a commandment, that ye suffer none of these to enter into your heart; for it is better that ye should deny yourselves of these things, wherein ye will take up your cross, then that ye should be cast into hell." (III Nephi 5:76-78)

On several occasions, the servants of God have declared adultery among the greater sins. King Benjamin says: "Neither have I suffered that ye should be confined to dungeons, nor that ye should make slaves of one another, or that ye should murder, or plunder, or steal, or commit adultery, or even I have not suffered that ye should commit any manner of wickedness, and have taught you that ye should keep the commandments of the Lord, in all things which he hath commanded you." (Mosiah 1: 44, 45)

"Now these priests who did go forth among the people, did preach against all lyings, and deceivings, and

envyings, and strifes, and malice, and revilings, and stealing, robbing, plundering, murdering, committing adultery, and all manner of lasciviousness, crying that these things out not so to be." (Alma 11:29)

When the king of the Lamanites was converted through the preaching of the word of God, he sent out a proclamation unto his people, "that the word of God might have no obstruction, but that it might go forth throughout all the land, that his people might be convinced concerning the wicked traditions of their fathers, and that they might be convinced that they were all brethren, and that they ought not to murder, nor to plunder, nor to steal, nor to commit adultery, nor to commit any manner of wickedness." (Alma 14: 5, 6)

The law among the Nephites during the reign of the Judges, which was the law of the land, condemned those who committed adultery: ". . . if he murdered, he was punished unto death; and if he robbed, he was also punished; and if he stole, he was also punished; and if he committed adultery, he was also punished; yea, for all this wickedness, they were punished; for there was a law that men should be judged according to their crimes." (Alma 16:11)

Committing adultery was among the abominations which caused the Nephites to be afflicted. "Now this great loss of the Nephites, and the great slaughter which was among them, would not have happened had it not been for their wickedness and their abomination which was among them; yea, and it was among those also who professed to belong to the church of God: and it was because of the pride of their hearts, because of their exceeding riches, yea, it was because of their oppression to the poor, withholding their food from the hungry, withholding their clothing from the naked, and smiting their humble brethren upon the cheek, making a mock of that which which was sacred, denying the spirit of prophecy and of revelation, murdering, plundering, lying, stealing, committing adultery, rising up in great contentions, and deserting away into the land of Nephi, among the Lamanites; and because of this their great wickedness, and their boasting in their own strength; therefore they did not prosper, but were afflicted and smitten, and driven before the Lamanites, until they had lost possession of almost all their lands." (Helaman 2:44-46)

One's individual condemnation for committing adultery is understood in this quotation: "But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul." (Proverbs 6:32)

The laws of this nation are somewhat lenient on divorce and as a result the divorce rate has increased greatly leaving no way for us to retrace our steps in correcting the error. As for the Church, Christ's own words are our authority on this subject: "It hath been said, whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: But I say unto you, that whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and

whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery." (Matthew 5:31, 32)

"And the Pharisees came to him, and asked him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife? tempting him. And he answered and said unto them, What did Moses command you?

"And they said, Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement, and to put her away.

"And Jesus answered and said unto them, For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept. But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; and they twain shall be one flesh. What therefore God had joined together, let not man put asunder.

"And in the house his disciples asked him again of the same matter. And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery." (Mark 10:2-12)

#### Harlots

The condemnation of harlots seems to be a thing understood, but the admonitions given in the scriptures are directed to men who involve themselves with harlots.

"Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit." (I Corinthians 6:15-17)

"Why do ye commit whoredoms, and spend your strength with harlots, yea, and cause this people to commit sin, that the Lord has cause to send me to prophesy against this people, yea, even a great evil against this people? And it shall come to pass that ye shall be smitten for your iniquities." (Mosiah 7:87, 90)

The words of Alma to his son, Corianton, exposes the seriousness of the sin of a minister involving himself with a harlot: "Thou didst do that which was grievous unto me; for thou didst forsake the ministry, and did go over into the land of Siron, among the borders of the Lamanites, after the harlot Isabel; yea, she did steal away the hearts of many; but this was no excuse for thee, my son. Thou shouldst have tended to the ministry, wherewith thou wast entrusted. Know ye not, my son, that these things are an abomination in the sight of the Lord; yea, most abominable above all sins, save it be the shedding of innocent blood, or denying the Holy Ghost?" (Alma 19:5-7)

#### Lusts of the Flesh

Peculiar to the opinions of many today, the scriptures point out that the physical nature of man should not dominate his actions and disposition. It is a scriptural fact that ". . . all mankind became a lost and a fallen people" (Alma 3:38) and that ". . . the natural man

is an enemy to God." (Mosiah 1:119) The Apostle Paul explains it by using himself as an example: "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me." (Romans 7:18, 21)

The conflict between the Spirit of God and the "flesh" is well described in these words: "This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would." (Galatians 5, 16, 17)

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh; that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God." (Romans 8:1-8)

The works of the flesh are given in this verse: "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." (Galatians 5:19-21)

"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others." (Ephesians 2:2, 3)

"Be not deceived: God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." (Galatians 6:7, 8)

"The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished: But chiefly them that walk after the flesh is the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities." (II Peter 2:9, 10)

"And be faithful unto his words, and choose eternal life, according to the will of his Holy Spirit, and not choose eternal death, according to the will of the flesh and the evil which is therein, which giveth the spirit of the devil power to captivate, to bring you down to hell, that he may reign over you in his own kingdom." (II Nephi 1: 123-125)

"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." (II Corinthians 7:1)

We would do well to heed the following admonitions: "Be wise in the days of your probation; strip yourselves of all uncleanness; ask not, that ye may consume it on your lusts, but ask with a firmness unshaken, that ye will yield to no temptation, but that ye will serve the true and living God." (Mormon 4:94)

"Now, my son, I would that ye should repent, and forsake your sins, and go no more after the lusts of your eyes, but cross yourself in all these things; for except ye do this, ye can in no wise inherit the kingdom of God. O remember, and take it upon you, and cross yourself in these things." (Alma 19: 13, 14)

#### Whoredoms

The word whoredom is a common used term in the scriptures and often includes more than one kind of sin. It can be assumed that usually it refers to fornication, adultery, and/or idolatry. The following scriptures indicate that one of the whoredoms that was committed among the Nephites at one time was having plurality of wives and concubines.

"For behold, thus saith the Lord, This people begin to wax in iniquity; they understand not the scriptures: for they seek to excuse themselves in committing whoredoms, because of the things which were written concerning David, and Solomon his son. Behold, David and Solomon truly had many wives, and concubines, which thing was abominable before me, saith the Lord." (Jacob 2:32, 33)

"Behold, the Lamanites, your brethren, whom ye hate, because of their filthiness and the cursings which hath come upon their skins, are more righteous than you; for they have not forgotten the commandments of the Lord, which were given unto our fathers, that they should have, save it were one wife: and concubines they should have none; and there should not be whoredoms committed among them." (Jacob 2:54, 55)

Warnings and abominations are given to the Gentiles in the last days naming whoredoms as one of the greater sins.

"There shall be murders and robbings, and lyings, and deceivings, and whoredoms, and all manner of abominations, when there shall be many who will say, do this, or do that, and it mattereth not, for the Lord will uphold such at the last day." (Mormon 4:39)

"Turn all ye Gentiles, from your wicked ways, and repent of your evil doings, of your lyings and deceivings, and of your whoredoms, and of your secret abominations, and your idolatries, and of your murders, and



your priestcrafts, and your envyings, and your strifes, and from all your wickedness and abominations, and come unto me, and be baptized in my name, that ye may receive a remission of your sins, and be filled with the Holy Ghost, that ye may be numbered with my people, who are of the house of Israel." (III Nephi 14:2, 3)

The consequence of the Gentiles' rebellions are written thus: "At that day when the Gentiles shall sin against my gospel, and shall reject the fullness of my gospel, and shall be lifted up in the pride of their hearts above all nations, and above all the people of the whole earth, and shall be filled with all manner of lyings, and of deceits, and of mischiefs, and all manner of hypocrisy, and murders, and priestcrafts, and whoredoms, and of secret abominations; and if they shall do all these things, and shall reject the fullness of my gospel, behold, saith the Father, I will bring the fullness of my gospel from among them." (III Nephi 7:34, 35)

"And it shall come to pass that all lyings, and deceivings, and envyings, and strifes, and priestcrafts and whoredoms, shall be done away. For it shall come to pass, saith the Father, that at that day, whosoever will not repent and come unto my beloved Son, them will I cut off from among my people, O house of Israel, and I will execute vengeance and fury upon them, even as upon the heathen, such as they have not heard." (III Nephi 9:105, 106)

The consequence to the committing of these evils in the past, present or future is summed up in this verse: "Wo unto them who commit whoredoms: for they shall be thrust down to hell." (IINephi 6:70)

#### Family Conduct

The first and greatest commandment is to ". . . love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength." The second is to ". . . love thy neighbour as thyself." (Mark 12:30, 31) Love is a commandment; it is not something that you merely "fall into" that we usually find described in the modern romance stories.

The following scriptural commandments incorporate love in the family life: "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: for we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a

great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband." (Ephesians 5:22-33)

"Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; while they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.

"Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered." (I Peter 3:1-7)

"Children obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and abomination of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:1-4)

"But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: that the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; that they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

"Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you." (Titus 2:1-8)

We are not without instruction. The scriptures contain many warnings, and many examples are given to show us the consequences of the sins described. For us to benefit from these instructions, we must exercise faith in the Lord that He would not exact anything of us that would not be to our own welfare.

The scriptures quoted in this article are only a small sample of what can be found in research work. It is my hope that the strictness of the word can penetrate the hearts of the people of God, and that fornication, adultery, lusts of the flesh and whoredoms of the world will not be once named among us, as becometh saints.

## SERMON

Delivered by Elder Paul Johnson at Bellevue, Nebraska,  
December 31, 1967

Let's consider this scripture reading with the careful study and close examination that we would give a modern day revelation. Here is that word of God. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." (I John 2:15-17)

I want to talk to you this morning about the three R's. I don't mean readin', 'ritin', and 'rithmetic.' I mean the Three R's of 1967. I won't tell you yet what they are, but as we come to them I'll tell you about them. Let's read first of all from I John again, sort of a continuation of what we read before. "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed us that we should be called sons of God." And I think I understand now what John meant. "What manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called sons of God." We are very quick to call ourselves the children of God or Saints. I think that this is one thing that has left a bad taste in the mouth of the rest of the world towards us of the Restoration. We proclaim ourselves saints and the world doesn't really understand what a saint is, and I fear that many of our people do not know either. "Therefore the world knoweth us not because it (the world) knew Him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God. And it doth not yet appear what we shall be. But we know that when He shall appear we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is and every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself even as He is pure. Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law. For sin is the transgression of the law and you know that He was manifested to take away our sins and in Him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not. whosoever sinneth hath not seen Him, neither known him." What were the words of the hymn we just sang? "Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God." In spite of my poor voice it just comes natural to want to sing praises to our Father. John was speaking to adults, but he said, "little children, let no man deceive you, he that doeth righteousness is righteous even as He (God) is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the Devil for the Devil sinneth from the beginning and for this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the Devil. Whosoever is born of God does not commit sin, for His seed remaineth in him, and he can not sin because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the Devil. Whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. "NEITHER HE THAT LOVETH NOT HIS BROTHER!" "For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning that ye should love one another. Not as Cain who was of that wicked one

and slew his brother. And wherefore slew ye him, because his own words were evil and his brother's righteous." —JEALOUSY— "Marvel not my brethren if the world hate you. We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren, he that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whoso hateth his brother is a murderer. And ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. Hereby perceive we the love of God because He laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren, but whoso hath this world's goods and seeth his brother hath need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth." (I John 3:1-18) I think that is a wonderful scripture. And it certainly is the truth.

The first of the R's that I want to talk about is Reflecting! This is a logical thing to do, just before the year is over, to reflect back on 1967.

One year ago today Bro. Robert Jensen and my wife and I were making plans to go to Independence, that I could join the church. Since then we have had things such as the Arab-Israel war, a thing that has been prophesied of for centuries and centuries. But this isn't all. We are told in the Book of Mormon that in the last days there will be only two churches. The church of God and the church of the Devil. And in the year 1967 more and more of the churches are settling their minor differences and are joining together. The Church of Christ observed its 100th year since those saints just picked up and returned to the land of Zion. The Bible plainly speaks about the confusion and riots that are to take place near the end. I, being in the Army National Guard, am quite aware of the riots and just a few months ago, I read where the Communists have laid out a plan to burn 20 cities this summer of 1968. Last year was bad enough, wasn't it? Brother Sheldon, who assisted in my confirmation, nearly met with death this year. A lot of things have happened in 1967. Some of the troubles the Lamanites have had in Yucatan—the plea that came out in the "Advocate" and the "Hand of Fellowship" for funds, many of the saints responded. Now there is another plea for help going out for the Hopi and Navajos in Arizona. Truly God is going to bless those who bless Israel. The Associated Press came out in the Omaha World Herald with a little article which reads: "Hundreds of Danes who are members of a cult who are led by a 46 year old cab driver, believe that an atomic war will kill two-thirds of the earth's population by midnight Sunday (December 24th). Earth won't be destroyed, but millions of flying saucers will land and transport the earthlings who are left to outer space where their spiritual level will be raised, they believe." Yes! Another false Phophet—False Christs have appeared! I saw one on the T.V. one night. He claimed to be the Messiah! All of these things I've mentioned here have happened in 1967. Remember, these were the things that Christ told his disciples about in answer to their questions when they asked what the signs would be of his second coming. My brother lives

in Denver; two of the strongest earthquakes in the history of Denver have taken place within the last 6 months of 1967. Earthquakes in divers places! You know, there are signs of the times all around us. It has been said that in the year 1967 that we have lived to see the change that was prophetically spoken of when the times of the Gentiles would change to the time of the heathen. Our country is so confused! The President of the United States just a few months ago pleaded with the people for any ideas they might have that would solve the situation in Vietnam and he made the comment that prayer was a very necessary part in our reliable aid to the right steps to take. And yet our Supreme Court refuses to have prayer in a school classroom. Yes even the word of "God" is not to be used, when reciting the pledge of allegiance. And some are thinking of taking "In God We Trust" from our currency. It seems as if the **law making** and the **enforcement of the law** Departments of our government, would try to work together. It seems that this country was set up originally to be a Republic, but now its leaders are trying to set up and endorse a **Forced Democracy**. I don't believe that this will ever take place until Christ comes. **You can not force people to have charity, to give of their substance unto the poor unless they have the love of God in them.** This next thing I would mention seems like such a small thing, yet it is on the mind of the majority of the people of this country, and that is nothing other than the "Hippies". A few years ago they would have been called "Bums". You know who I mean—the "Long Hairs"! It wasn't too many years ago that if you enjoyed music that had any good quality to it at all, you were referred to as a "long hair". Now in 1967, if you appreciate just the opposite, you have got to grow it to prove that you are a "long hair". Paul said that long hair on a man was a shame unto him. (I Cor. 11:14) Paul also said of the last days that people would become traitors, (Draft Card burners) disobedient to parents, without natural affection. . . . Surely we have these in 1967! It is easy for me to say that I truly have a love for Bro. Sheldon or Bro. Robert, but the world (who understood not the love in the gospel of Christ) would be the first to say that I was an odd ball. I wonder how our missionary effort has been going. Have we converted as many new members as we have lost old time members who have gone on to their reward? Are our efforts so puny that we can numerically just barely keep up? This is 1967. This is the first R—it is called Reflecting!

What have we done to make it better? The next R stands for Repenting! A person would have to be pretty foolish to believe that the end is **not** near. Because of our knowledge of the coming end, this would cause us to repent even more. Where else in the history of man has the world had such knowledge available to them, and had so many proclaim the end to them as now? I can only recall one event and its understanding and influence was minute because of lack of the education of the common man, compared to this day and age, and that was foretelling of the star that was to appear, and they knew that the King would soon come. Men who

have, apparently no connection with any church, come into my place of business and talk about the obvious trend of the world and they state that the end must be near. The first man who had the heart transplant, was given just two extra weeks or so to live. Think upon those who have died unexpectedly, such as by a heart attack. What would they have given . . . for one more hour? We proclaim a knowledge of the nearness of the end, yet what do we do about it? We could say that because of our God-given knowledge of the scripture, that we have been given that extra hour. Remember he who would have watched **IF** he had known at what hour the thief was to come? Don't we know approximately? Shouldn't we be more aware of what is going on? I can't recall of ever reading about an alarm clock that will rouse everyone just a few minutes before our Savior comes. Can you?

Several times here lately, I felt that my prayers were ascending about to the ceiling and no farther. I was depressed about some things! Then one night, as I knelt, I knew that I was communicating with God and the feeling of peace and comfort that came to me was wonderful. It was impressed upon my mind that I shouldn't get so involved with these things that were bothering me, for they were so small, compared to the work of God. Yes, so small and yet they had seemed so big. This has been Repenting!

Now comes the Third R! Christ said, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." Then Paul said, "Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: **for when I am weak, then am I strong.**" (II Cor. 12:9-10) It may seem silly, but I have prayed to God that He use any means, whether it be a financial burden or sickness, or whatever, I pray that He would use what He must to keep me humble. I know myself better than anyone else and I know that I must be brought down to my knees often, so that God can use me! I think about the efforts some go through when one is sick. When Brother Jensen called me about the several of our group who were sick, I felt, 'What better thing can the six in number, who are physically able to attend, do than to meet together to pray for those who are sick.' Sometimes if a prayer for the sick does not bring healing, we feel forsaken. Think upon what Christ could have done if He had been permitted to live on earth until he was 90 years of age! But it was a necessity that he give up his life. How then can we think of ourselves as more important than our Savior, and how can we ever lose faith in God? If we get frustrated when the healing of a certain individual does not come we must remember that our ways are not God's ways. His wisdom, exceeds ours so much.

Paul said to the Romans, "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely

give us all things? Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather that is risen again, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:31-39) When the time comes for those who want not this understanding of the Lord and those who have not the love for their brothers, yes, those who are not willing to give up their life for their brother; these are they of whom it is spoken who shall be running to and fro, crying unto the mountain that the rocks might fall upon them that they might be hid from the presence of the Almighty God. God's people will stand! I hope we are going to make at least one new year's resolution and that is to try to become like the five wise virgins, that we will be watching and we will be prepared, and that we will have our lamps trimmed. This R has been Rejoicing! So much 1967. I have one thing to say about 1968. I welcome it! It is a challenge. It is like having that extra hour given us that we might use this last bit of time, to serve our Lord.

## FROM YUCATAN

December 26, 1967

It is with a glad heart and a deep sense of appreciation to our brothers and sisters of the church who have responded so generously with their substance and prayers to the plea and need of this people, that we take this opportunity to give the following report.

Before the call for aid through the "Advocate", and "The Hand of Fellowship", we had asked the Apostles to request the Bishopric to send \$150.00 as a starter. They sent the money immediately. Since then, we have received, including the money from the Bishopric, \$668.92. As of this date \$505.56 has been expended. We have a balance at the present of \$163.36 and hope to receive in a few days another two tons of corn. The last two tons cost \$158.40. So, expect the next two tons to consume most of this balance.

Nine thousand pounds of corn has been purchased 4,200 pounds have been hauled to a small village where the need is great. We take more corn each week so as to the need demands. The corn is in the hands of one whom we trust, and he is responsible daily for the distribution of the same to those who are in need. In a few cases a little money has been given to worthy families for their immediate needs. Some doctor and medical bills have been paid.

The need at this time is more extreme than usual in some places because of three bad years of poor crop production, climaxed by the destruction of the Hurricane, Buelah. However, the condition of this people at all times, is one of extreme poverty. Many must suffer agony of sickness, and even an early death because of their inability to pay for doctor and medical attention.

We are so grateful to all of our people of the States and elsewhere, who have contributed of their substance and prayers which has brought relief to so many at this time. We hope and pray that the spark of Divine love in your hearts for God and man shall not dim, but that it shall grow brighter as you observe and comprehend the suffering of mankind, and may the brightness of that Divine love guide your footsteps into paths of greater service to your fellowmen.

Hear the words of King Benjamin as found in the Book of Mormon: "And behold, I tell you these things that ye may learn wisdom; that ye may learn that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings, ye are only in the service of your God." (Mosiah 1:49)

Now the words of Nephi: "Wherefore, ye must press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God, and of all men. Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the words of Christ, and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: ye shall have eternal life. And now behold, my beloved brethren, this is the way; and there is none other way nor name given under heaven, whereby man can be saved in the kingdom of God. And behold, this is the doctrine of Christ, and the only and true doctrine of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, which is one God, and without end. Amen."

King Benjamin points up that when we serve man we serve God. Nephi points to the great truth, that a part of the Gospel of Salvation is a love for all men. Let me point up to all, that service to mankind that is prompted or motivated by any other reason than pure love for God and man, is not acceptable to God.

There is, and has been, and shall be, a constant need among our people here. We do not at this time refer to their need for food, but we refer to their inability to obtain doctor and medical aid. We hope to put into operation a plan whereby there will be a standing emergency doctor and medical relief fund, in the hands of a local committee, who will be responsible for the giving of aid to those whom they determine are worthy cases. This aid is to be given by the paying of doctor and medical bills, rather than the giving of money to the families for the purpose of paying the bills. This fund is to be replenished from time to time as the need arises, from the money received by the Bishopric ear-marked as aid to Yucatan.

With all this talk of aid for the physical, we have not for one moment forgotten the Spiritual need, not only for this people, but for all people. We declare unto you, and to all, that we believe with all our hearts that if the Nations of the earth would be obedient to the

words of Christ and seek first the Kingdom of Heaven, that all these things would be added unto them.

We further declare unto you, thanks to God, that there are men in this Nation and of this Nation who are called of God to declare his words of salvation. They are at this time declaring those wonderful words of life, and the few who are hungering and thirsting for truth are being fed, and they are being filled. We have heard many testimonies from those who have put first things first, and have come to a knowledge of the Gospel, and have accepted it through the waters of baptism. They openly declare that they have experienced better things, both in Spiritual, and in the physical, since their obedience to the Gospel.

Again we thank one and all for their generous help in giving of their substance to those in need. May this Spirit grow in the hearts of men until that great day when, "Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."

E. Leon Yates

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#### THE CHILDREN'S HOUR . . . .

### BOOK OF MORMON STORIES

by  
Ora Derry

#### 7. Second Trip Back To Jerusalem

It was a happy time in the camp down near the Red Sea, when the four sons of Lehi returned from Jerusalem, bringing with them the Brass Plates and Zorom, the servant of Laban. Their mother was very happy, for she had mourned for them thinking they had perished in this wilderness. She had begun to complain that Lehi was a visionary man and had led them from their home in Jerusalem down into this wilderness to perish and had even thought her sons were dead.

Lehi told her he knew he was a visionary man and if he had not seen in vision the things of God and heeded the warning they would have remained in Jerusalem to be destroyed with the rest of the people. By heeding God's warnings they were to be led to a land of promise. "Never fear," he said, "God will take care of our sons and bring them back safely."

So there was a time of rejoicing when their sons returned and they offered up sacrifices and burnt offerings unto the Lord in thanks for His loving watch care over them.

Lehi searched the Brass Plates from the beginning and learned they contained many things of great worth to them. They contained the five books of Moses, all the prophecies of the prophets from the beginning down to King Zedekiah, and also a genealogy of their forefathers. He learned that he was a descendant of Joseph, who was sold into Egypt. So it was well for them to have these plates to take with them and study, so they could keep the commandments of the Lord in their new home in the promised land.

The Lord spoke again to Lehi and told him it was not good to take his family into the wilderness alone, but that his sons should have wives so they could raise up families in the promised land. So he commanded them to return to Jerusalem and bring Ishmael and his family down into the wilderness. The sons of Lehi went back to Jerusalem to the house of Ishmael and told him what the Lord had said to Lehi. And the Lord softened the hearts of Ishmael and his family and they were willing to return with them to the tent of Lehi.

One the way down into the wilderness again, Laman and Lemuel rebelled against Nephi. They wanted to return to Jerusalem. Nephi pled with his brothers, reminding them of all the things God had done for them in the past. He told them how their forefather, Joseph was sold into Egypt and he brought all his father's family to live in Egypt during the great famine. He also reminded them how hundreds of years later God led them back to their own home, where they had lived until this day, but now they had become a very wicked people and unless they repented many were to be carried away captive, while many others would be destroyed. Nephi told his brothers they could go back to Jerusalem if they wanted to but if they did go back they would be destroyed.

After Nephi finished speaking to them, they became very angry and they bound him with strong cords. They sought to take away his life and leave him in the wilderness to be devoured by wild beasts.

Nephi prayed that the Lord would deliver him from the hands of his brothers and he also asked the Lord to give him strength to break the cords that bound him. As he prayed the cords became loose from off his feet and hands. He stood up and began talking to them again. They were still angry with him and tried to lay hands on him again. Then one of the daughters of Ishmael, her mother and a son of Ishmael all pled with them until they began to relent and cease to try to take his life. They became very sorry for what they had done and asked Nephi to forgive them, which he did, telling them they should pray to God for forgiveness too. After they prayed to God for forgiveness for their wicked deeds, they all continued their journey down into the wilderness to the tent of Lehi where they all gave thanks, offering sacrifices and burnt offerings to God for their safe return.

God gave Lehi a wonderful vision while they dwelt in the Valley of Lemuel; after he told all of them about it, Nephi wanted to see the same things, and he prayed earnestly to God that he might be given this same vision. God heard his prayer and showed him this same vision and many more things that were to happen on down through until the end of time. But he was forbidden to write of the closing scenes of time, for he was told that one of Jesus' Apostles at Jerusalem, named John, was to write those events.

While they still dwelt in the valley, all the sons of Lehi and also Zoram were married to the daughters

of Ishmael and set up homes of their own. They gathered seeds of grain of all kinds and seeds of fruit of all kinds to take with them to the promised land.

God spoke to Lehi one night and told him that on the morrow they were to start on their journey. When he awoke in the morning he found on the ground in front of his tent a fine brass ball of curious workmanship and inside were two spindles or pointers, one pointing the way they were to go.

They gathered together all their possessions and crossing the river Laman, they started on their long journey to the promised land, going in a south, south-eastern direction always following the direction of the pointer in the brass ball, which pointed the way through the more fertile parts of the wilderness. Using their bows and arrows, stones and slings, the men provided the food for their families until one day Nephi broke his bow which was made of fine steel and all the other men's bows had lost their spring. They had nothing with which to kill their food. They were worn out and tired from traveling day after day and now they had no food. They all began to murmur and complain, even Lehi was complaining against God. Nephi tried to talk to them but they still continued to complain. So he made a bow and arrow and taking a sling and some stones, he went to his father and asked him where he should go to find food. Lehi inquired of the Lord and the Lord told him to look on the brass ball. There they found writing upon it, which they found would change from time to time according to the faith and diligence they gave to it. Following the direction on the ball, Nephi went up into a mountain and there he found food for their families. They were humble, happy and thankful again, knowing that God was watching over and caring for them.

So the years went by as they trudged wearily along, through all kinds of suffering and hardships. Stopping and resting, then going on again, until after eight long years of travel, they came at last to a place by the side of a great sea which they called Bountiful because it was rich in fruit and honey. Here they pitched their tents.

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## STATEMENT OF ADVOCATE EDITORIAL POLICY

All matter submitted to the Advocate for publication in the past year has been approved or rejected for publication by a common majority opinion of the entire Editorial Staff. Therefore matters that have been printed have not necessarily represented the opinions of either the Editor or Associates but represent a majority opinion as to its qualifications prescribed under the Original Articles department. We therefore suggest those with questions in mind concerning matters that have appeared in print read carefully this heading. The Editor accepts full responsibility for all Editorials.

## GRAND JUNCTION REUNION AND LOCAL REPORT

This last year seemed to be such a short one, but, oh, so busy! As I went about my many tasks such as tending garden, canning its produce, and other things as the fall advanced, I often thought of our June reunion and the duty to report it to the Advocate. As I attempted to express my impressions, I seemed to lack the ability; but I will now make this attempt.

We were made happy that quite a number of folks were able to come. These included visitors from Missouri, Oklahoma, Arizona, and other parts of Colorado. Some who planned to come from Oregon found they could not get away to our mutual disappointment. Once again, contrary to his expectation, Bro. Jordan made the long trip from Canada. We were happy to welcome Bro. Andy Yates from Idaho, too.

The happy, harmonious association was enjoyed by all. The morning prayer and testimony services passed so quickly, though three hours were sent in each. The final one, the Sunday morning Sacrament and prayer service, lasted four hours.

The speakers for the preaching services were the following brethren in this order: Hubert Yates, Kenneth Smith, Thomas Jordan, Thomas Barton, Sr., Don McIndoo and Leon Yates. All brought timely messages with emphasis on the theme that we are living in the time of the end and that we must rouse ourselves and prepare that we may "have oil in our lamps." Too soon came the parting hour when we bid farewell to our visitors, who are so dear in Gospel bonds. We look forward with hope that our kind, Heavenly Father will permit us to again rejoice together in future reunions.

The closing day of the reunion saw the departure of Sr. Rena Bell. She had visited us, the Harvey Bell's, for near two months. Another son, Bro. Walter Bell and wife, Sr. Eva, had come to take her to visit them at Moose, Wyoming. We feel that she and we are blessed that she was able to make such a journey in her 94th year.

Bro. and Sr. Rhondal Shaw remained to visit a while after the reunion. They were present for the ordination of their son, Bro. Jim Shaw, to the office of elder, July 3. We are glad to report that he has given us many good sermons.

At various times during the summer, we enjoyed visitors from distant places. Brother Victor Housknecht and Bro. Harold Gill of Phoenix worshipped with us on a Sunday morning as they were on their way east to the home of Bro. Don Housknecht. Bros. John and Charles Gill, and niece, Julie Swanson, spent a Sunday with our local on their way west from Minnesota. The Lowell Larson family of Nebraska spent nearly a week with us. Sr. Alice is our eldest daughter.

Bro. Arden Ely left our local to reside at Phoenix to find employment and enter college. Before his school opened in the fall, Arden and Sr. Johnna Mae Jones spent a week here. Arden returned home to spend the Christmas Holiday with his parents, Bro. and Sr. Marvin

Ely. They also had as their guests, their daughter and son-in-law, Janice and Jim Moore of Denver. To add to their pleasure, and ours, we all made the acquaintance of their new grandson, Jeffrey Devon, who was born in November.

Each summer we look forward to Bro. and Sr. Don McIndoo joining us in our services as they spend a portion of their vacation with their parents, Bro. and Sr. Dave Hinkle.

Sr. Patsy Ely, daughter of Bro. and Sr. Bob Ely, has visited her parents twice since she has taken up residence and her work in Phoenix.

Late in the summer, Mr. and Mrs. Perry Bell of Nebraska spent a few days with us, at the same time Bro. and Sr. Archie Bell were visiting here. The three brothers enjoyed the time together.

We have a share of sickness and afflictions in our local, but we also know we have been blessed; and our troubles are made lighter by our faith in God and His Son. Our prayers are for all that we might ever grow in faith and charity.

Your sister,

Alvina C. Bell

## AN OPEN LETTER TO THE CHURCH

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I am using this means of attempting to express the very deep love within my heart toward all who have, in so many ways, manifested their love and concern for me in my recent time of critical need.

The many cards, often with personal notes, expressing desires for my well being, and with assurance of continued prayer in my behalf, were very comforting, to say the least. There has been many who have found the means to help reduce the added financial burden to my family, for which we are so very grateful.

Through it all, I have been able to discern the miraculous guiding hand of Him who rules the great expanse of the universe, yet condescends to hearken to the humble petitions of His saints, and gives unto them according to their righteous desires!

Yes, there were miracles performed. Consider the fact that I was hundreds of miles from home, but visiting in the home of one of our fine church families. From the time of my first feeling of illness until assurance that the matter was serious, it was three days and four nights (doctors later said I had waited too long to be saved). Being a war veteran, I thought of going to a veterans hospital (my care would have cost thousands of dollars in a community hospital). The Lord had brought me to where one was only a few miles distant—a miracle of God's provision!

But, the greatest miracle of all was that it was the Lord who saved my life—not the doctors. They did what they could, and I appreciate it, but they felt I must die. Little did they comprehend the power of prayer!

By that time, word had been spread to Independence, to Phoenix, and to others that Brother Sheldon was in critical condition, and "would you pray for him"?

There were seasons of united fasting and prayer, and I know that many went to their "secret closet" and poured out their hearts unto God for me.

Would He not hear and grant those petitions? Is He not faithful Who promised to do so, and especially in a unity of love as touching any good thing?

Yes, He heard those prayers, and snatched me from "the valley of the shadow of death".

I have not mentioned the administrations of the elders. They too were under that mysterious directing power, and they came; and how we rejoiced in the Spirit of healing which came under their hands. It was their prayers, together with those of you who joined with them in spirit, that prevailed before the throne of grace.

At this time, the healing is not yet complete, but appears to be progressing nicely. However, I continue to solicit the prayers of all.

I know not the purpose of God in full, but this much I do know: my love for Him and His saints has increased, and my faith in the efficacy of prayer, in righteousness and humility, has become knowledge.

It is my fervent prayer and desire that this, my testimony, will have also become the testimony of those who have striven diligently in the spirit of prayer in my behalf.

Most sincerely, in the bonds of the Gospel of Christ,

William A. Sheldon

## A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

December 1967.

Church of Christ

Zion's Advocate

Kenneth J. Smith, Editor

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We wish to thank each of you, for all your prayers, for Sister Winnie Jones, when she was so sick, and the prayers said for the family. We needed your prayers in strength, and words can't express the love in our hearts for your every kindness, for the flowers from the church and for all the lovely cards.

We especially wish to thank Brother Don Housknecht, Brother Tony Grzincic and Brother Arthur Smith for the many calls and visits to the hospital.

Also, thanks to Brother Voulouse, for his beautiful words of parting, at the Funeral Home. Truly everyone's heart was touched by his message.

Our prayers are with each of you and may God bless all of you.

Sincerely,

Brother and Sister Dorrance Jones  
and Family

## STAY WITH ME AWHILE

by

Marie Jones

In memory of Sister Winnie Jones

As I sat by her bedside one day, trying to comfort her  
broken heart,  
Her feeble hand reached out for mine, for strength along  
the way,  
"Stay with me awhile, I'm all alone and so tired,"  
she begged.  
"But Mom," I said, "we are never alone. God is always  
with us!"  
Remember by beautiful vision, of the Golden Stairway  
from heaven?  
And Jesus came from heaven and met me and walked  
with me,  
On this Golden Stairway to heaven above.  
"But I'm all alone and so tired, stay with me awhile,"  
she begged.  
"Mom, I know you're tired and the way is so hard.  
Remember the second time, I walked up that Golden  
Stairway?  
I had to walk alone, for that last mile.  
No one can take our place; we each must walk alone for  
that last mile.  
And if we walk in faith and come with a humble heart,  
Jesus will be there at the end to meet you."  
Her feeble hand pressed closer to mine.  
"Just let me rest awhile, I am so tired," she said,  
Turning here and there to find rest, but that rest,  
She no longer could find here on this earth.  
And so I held her feeble hand in mine.  
I prayed, O dear Lord, please come and help her walk  
that last mile;  
Give her strength and comfort her heart and soul,  
This lost lamb of yours!  
Help her up each golden step, dear Lord,  
On that Golden Stairway, to heaven alone,  
Where once I walked in Thy glory, dear Lord.  
May others follow my footsteps,  
And reach Thy loving arms, dear God!  
My hour of visitation was running short;  
I must go home and tend to other loved ones.  
But her feeble hand did not yet wish to part with mine.  
"Stay with me, for tonight, I'm all alone and so tired,"  
she begged.  
Little did I know, I held her hand for the last time,  
And that she was reaching out, for strength,  
To walk that last mile.  
She loved to hear the patter of rain falling,  
Like the sound of a lovely song,  
And the laughter of children, made her heart so glad.  
In her passing, from this earth, raindrops fell softly  
from heaven,  
For all the joys and hope, she gave to others to treasure.  
And when I said my last goodbye, my parting was so sad  
And yet my sorrow turned to joy.  
For I saw a dear smile on her face that I never saw  
before.

I knew then, she had reached that last mile, safely  
home,  
Where she no longer is afraid and alone or broken  
hearted,  
But in peaceful sleep,  
For she found her rest in our heavenly home above!

## OBITUARIES

Sister Sarah Gibbons passed away November 23, 1967 at the hospital in Regina, Sask., Canada at the age of 93. Services were in charge of Elder Keith Martindale of the Reorganized Church. Sister Gibbons was preceded in death by her husband and two sons. Those left behind to mourn her passing are two sons, three daughters, several grandchildren, great grandchildren, and four great great grandchildren.

Peter James Campbell, a former state legislator, of Nucla, Colorado, died December 26. His wife, the former Cecelia Wiseman, survives. Mr. Campbell and Sister Wiseman were married in Nucla on July 2, 1967.

Mr. Campbell was born May 13, 1890, in Delta, Colorado, and had worked as a cowboy, livestock rancher, farmer, and in mine and mill operation. He lost his eyesight in a coal mine explosion in 1937. Since that time, he had operated a small business in Nucla.

Service in public affairs was given much attention by Mr. Campbell. His general assembly term was in 1951 and 1952. He also served on the state board for the blind and on the Nucla Chamber of Commerce.

Survivors, besides Sister Campbell, are two sons, Alex of Norwood, Colorado, and Paul of Fremont, California; a sister, Mrs. Anna Menefee of Mancos, Colorado; nine grandchildren; and seven great grandchildren.

Services were held on December 29, 1967 at the Church of Christ in Nucla, where Mr. Campbell was a member. The Rev. George Hibbert officiated. Burial was at the Nucla Cemetery.

## THE MOMENT OF DECISION

Attention is called to two dates of monumental importance to the entire membership of the Church of Christ:

**March 24, 1968, and March 31, 1968**

The regular annual Ministers' Conference will convene this year on March 31, 1968, in accordance with regulations set up by Referendum action.

A Special Minister's Conference will convene on March 24, 1968, as provided for at the 1967 Minister's Conference. This Special Minister's Conference is to study the Directive of 1963 and to report to the regular Ministers' Conference of 1968.

Sincerely yours,

James A. Hedrick  
General Church Secretary