

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."—1 Nephi 3:187.

Vol. 45

Independence, Missouri, August, 1968

No. 8

The Lonely One

By Cindy Yates, aged 12

He walked along the still water's edge;
On a lonely path he stood —
People looked upon Him;
They said He meant no good.

I wish I knew just how He felt —
He probably walked into a
Lighted place and knelt.
He prayed to God, His loving father.

"Forgive them. Forgive them."
Why, why didn't they believe Him?
He meant no harm, for
He meant only right.
If you have faith and believe His teaching
You'll always walk in light.

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Zion's Advocate

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EDITORIAL . . .

THE PROMISE

"That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; AND IN THY SEED SHALL ALL THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH BE BLESSED; BECAUSE THOU HAST OBEYED MY VOICE." (Genesis 22:17-18) Emph. mine K.J.S.

The limitation of space will prevent a complete digest of so great a subject. However, it is important that we continually consider this great subject because of its impact upon the destinies of all the people of this day. Because of the multitude of interpretations of prophecy relating to our day, there is multitudinous confusion, bewilderment, and lack of understanding of truth within the church as well as without. Therefore, we fail many times to become that beacon light of truth, set upon a hill. We become as it were like unto drift wood floating down the swift stream of doubt, full of mass confusion and religious bigotry.

When the young son of Palmyra first entered the religious arena, the same confusion in interpretation was evident. However, at this time it was on matters of dogma and tenants of faith. He tells us that it was this state of confusion in the religious world that sent him to the woods to pray. By this means, he became the instrumentality through which God could bring about the great Latter Day Restoration.

The question of the Promise to Abraham and his descendants, the children of Israel, is of primary importance because, "When the Most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel." (Deuteronomy 32:8) The promise tells us, that in addition to Christ being of the seed of Abraham, that out of Abraham, should come the nations of the world, and that the promise was to be an everlasting promise. (Galatians 3:29) (Genesis 17:7) The PROMISE was also to Abraham's wife Sarah, that she should be the mother of nations and that Kings should be born of her descendants. (Genesis 17:16). The above PROMISE was reiterated in detail to Abraham's immediate legitimate descendants, first to his son, Isaac, (Genesis 26:3-5) and then to his grandson, Jacob. (Genesis 32:28) It was conferred upon Jacob, when he wrestled with the heavenly being at Peniel. (Genesis 32:24-30) It is from here that the consideration of the great PROMISE to Abraham and his descendants should claim our attention. Because, the path of prophecy from here down to our day is clearly marked, and the fulfillment of the PROMISE is sure.

Historians use an earlier date and incident to make their division of world into nations. It is the use of this fact that brings confusion into interpretation of

prophetic statements concerning the nations of the world Noah had three sons, Ham, Shem, and Japheth. So, the world is divided into "Hamites", "Shemites", and "Aryans" (Japhethites) and Genesis 10:32, is quoted to support this. This plain statement of history may be a fact, but, **IN THE MATTER OF ABRAHAM'S DESCENDANTS THROUGH ISRAEL**, we are told it was God who made this division. By it, **HE SET CERTAIN BOUNDS AS ALREADY STATED.** (Deuteronomy 32:8)

Also we are told that what God does is perfect. (Deuteronomy 32:4) So in studying the nations of the world today, we leave the fact that Shem (Asia), Ham (Africa) and Japheth (Europe), while we seek to follow the destinies of the nations of Israel and to locate him if possible in the present day happenings.

We have also heard it told that "red" Russia today is Esau, because Edom (Esau) means red. Hence, Gog of Ezekiel 38th chapter means Russia or the Russian people, while Magog means the nation of Russia. An elaborate twisting of names to find a similarity is indulged in. Gomer of that same text is said to be Germany, and there's assertion of the existence of an alliance for which we can find no evidence. Our only criticism of this position is the fact that the terms "Gog and Magog" are also found in Revelations 20:8 and occurs after the Millenium. It seems to be a sort of general expression such "Alpha and Omega", the beginning and the end. Therefore Gog and Magog seems to indicate the extreme quarters of the earth.

The descendants of Israel now occupy prominently as the controlling elements in practically all of the so-called Aryan nations of Europe. One outstanding branch was to become prominent, Ephraim, Israel's grandson. However, Ephraim and his brother Manasseh were actually adopted as Israel pronounced a blessing as from a parent, claiming both lads as his own in the place of Reuben and Simeon, who were his first born, and to whom under ordinary circumstances the blessing of the birthright should have gone. "The angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and **LET MY NAME BE NAMED ON THEM, AND THE NAME OF MY FATHERS ABRAHAM AND ISAAC;** and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth." (Genesis 48:16) This being the case, they, **Ephraim and Manasseh, are the only descendants of Israel** who were entitled to the name by direct blessing as to the future. Hence, the only claim the other sons of Jacob have to the title "Israel", including Judah, is the mere fact of their being the sons of Jacob in the flesh, and not because of a parent's blessing or spiritual birthright.

"Judah is a lion's whelp; from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be. (Genesis 49:9-10)

"For Judah prevailed above his brethren, and of him **CAME** the chief ruler; but the birthright **WAS** Joseph's." (I Chronicles 5:2)

The special blessing given to Judah, one of the sons of Jacob, ranks high in prominence and quite definitely plays a large part in the "PROMISE" given to Abraham in the blessing of the nations of the earth. Comparing it with the blessings pronounced upon the other sons of Jacob, we believe it ranks with that of Joseph in importance of world destinies, making the descendants of these two brothers the foundations of two great peoples. It is through these descendants, God's boundary line was to be based as nations according to the number of the children Israel.

In the first instance, where the "house of Judah" is concerned, it makes a very definite start at the time of the setting up of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, which resulted from a revolt of nine and one-half tribes of Israel, at the death of Solomon about 980 B.C. But, all was not well with the destinies of Judah. The fulfillment of the PROMISE was to be earned by great suffering and persecution, which was a punishment for his great sins, the greatest of which was his rejection of the Messiah, who was in truth the "Shiloh", the "Chief Ruler", who was to spring from his line, the greatest blessing to the nations of the earth and to all mankind.

Palestine, with Jerusalem as its capital or seat of government and the site of the temple, was to be forever their habitation and place of the fulfillment of the PROMISE to them. The entire 8th chapter of Zechariah seems to make this clear. But they, polluted this land and the house of the Lord repeatedly. The result was that they were severely chastised and eventually were scattered in all the world as outcasts and vagabonds. The first instance of this was about 600 years before Christ when they were carried captive into Babylon. When Christ appeared they were under the rule of the empire of the Caesars. And when they rejected and crucified the "Shiloh", the "Chief Ruler" referred to by Jacob, their final act of self-destruction was consummated. Profane history tells us that when the Roman army took Jerusalem, 1,364,000 fell by the sword and some 97,000 were taken captive and sold all over the world becoming a hiss and a by-word among all nations. we begin to wonder concerning the great "PROMISE" to Abraham. Certainly the Choice Seed found in the descendants of Judah had failed to measure up to the standards prescribed, ". . . and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed . . .".

Our scripture teaches us that the Lord has not forgotten his promises to his people. His arm is not shortened. The times of the "restoration of all things" has been ushered in. All mankind is urged to "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things,

which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. (Acts 3:19-21)

The complete restoration and regeneration of the whole family of Jacob is assured as Nephi plainly tells us. "And as surely as the Lord liveth will he gather in from the four quarters of the earth, all the remnant of the seed of Jacob, who are scattered abroad upon all the face of the earth; And as he hath covenanted with all the house of Jacob, even so shall the covenant wherewith he hath covenanted with the house of Jacob, be fulfilled in his own due time, unto restoring all the house of Jacob unto the knowledge of the covenant that he hath covenanted with them; **And then shall they know their Redeemer**, who is Jesus Christ, the Son of God; and then shall they be gathered in from the four quarters of the earth, unto their own lands, from whence they have been dispersed; yea, as the Lord liveth, so shall it be. Amen. (III Nephi 2:107-109)

The house of Judah which is a part of the whole family of Jacob is being restored and regenerated. She has her part in the great PROMISE given to her progenitors as a blessing. The house of Joseph is coming into her own, fulfilling her part in the blessings and promises made to the descendants of Israel, as a "prince of God", they are striving to bring forth the Restoration of the fullness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And believing as we do in the final windup, the Last Days, just prior to the coming of our Lord and Master for the last time to claim his own we say to all men come let us reason together, repent and come in unto the covenant and become "heirs and joint heirs with Jesus Christ".

K. J. S.

Salem, Oregon

DEAR READERS OF THE ADVOCATE:

It has been quite some time since you have heard from this area. We want to say "hello" to all of you again, and bear our testimony that we love the Lord and appreciate all that He is doing among those who will heed his voice, wherever and whoever they may be. The cry of the lonely, and the yearning of the hearts of His people, is known unto God and He moves in mysterious ways his wonders to perform.

During April of this year we became somewhat depressed as to the future and had begun to think about moving to another area where we could have church friends nearer, so we sent for literature from Real Estate companies and were scanning their ads for a possible suitable location. We even informed Apostle Bell that unless the Lord opened up the way that we would take it for granted that there was no divine intention for any success here in the future church-wise. We had prayed about this fervently and could see nothing ahead. These were our thoughts, but maybe God was trying our faith. To add to our incentive to move we were offered a good cash price for our place and were tempted to accept it and pull up stakes.

In the meantime Bro. and Sr. Wheaton seemed to be having an inclination to come to Oregon to hold a series

of meeting. He testified he had felt this urge several times. When we heard of this we wrote and invited them to Oregon. They arrived on May 10th and began a very busy month here. They increased our attendance as soon as they showed their slides on the Holy land and on Mexico and Central America. All that came were interested in their fine lectures and display of artifacts from their travels. Visual aids are so very useful to attract people to hear. There are so many ways to present the gospel message that should be utilized more often, flannel graphs, chalk talks, slides, and bulletin boards. We tend to remember more easily, that which we see before us; especially is this true of children in church school classes. The research material which Bro. Wheaton brought with him concerning church history was deeply appreciated and some we had zeroxed for our future use. While here they had some tracts printed which we hope will be useful.

Two days after hearing from the Wheatons May 8th we received a phone call asking if we were members of the Church of Christ, Temple Lot and we were happy to learn that Joe Smith and family had moved near Salem. This was especially meaningful, as his father was the one who first brought knowledge of this church to us 15 years ago at Sweet Home, Ore. Imagine his surprise also, when he heard we were expecting the Wheatons in a couple of days to begin meetings! and how surprised the Wheatons were to find the Smiths here when they arrived! Bro. Smith bore testimony of the leading of God's spirit in bringing him and his family to Salem. The prayers ascending to God from all directions were surely being heard and answered in His way and in His own time.

The Wheatons stayed conducting regular services and visiting among us all until June 10th when they left for the Colorado Reunion and toward home. We since heard of their car trouble and expense and feel sorry it happened. Their ministry was deeply appreciated here, and we know that not many have given more faithful service than these two faithful soldiers of the cross. Before Bro. Wheaton left he phoned to Elder A. L. Voorhies and wife of Phoenix, Arizona to come and assist in continuing ministry here for the summer: they responded to this invitation, having previously made it a subject of prayer, and they are with us now giving pastoral and missionary services. It will be so hard to give them up when autumn comes, as we have become one family here united in love and effort. We have regular Sunday classes and sermons and Wednesday evening class and prayer services with about 5 non-members attending regularly along with the Voorhies, Smith and Walberg families. Another member, Elsie Rousseau, is away on vacation to Missouri, but will be returning the last of July. We have been doing some house to house work distributing mimeographed invitations and have placed regular ads in the paper, which has brought some inquiries and visitors.

Brother Voorhies has a tape recorder now so some of you folks may hear the sermons that have been

preached here. Our highest attendance reached 22 when the Wheatons were here and there are now about 12 coming regularly with about half non-members. We feel this is good percentage wise.

The Voorhies plan on being here until around September 1st, when they will leave to visit their children on their way back to Arizona. We express our thanks to Phoenix for loaning them to us. Elder Smith has been preaching and helping in the services, and we hope they continue to be happy here in Oregon and stay with us.

Needless to say, after all these blessings, we are not dreaming of real estate any more, and we are thankful God has heard our prayers. We hope we can be worthy of all the help and love that comes to us from so many good people who have been inspired of God to move forward in missionary endeavor. May all of you Bless and Praise His name daily; we all have so much to be thankful for. Just to have the sure testimony of His hand over us, just to walk by faith in the circle of His love is worth every sacrifice. The greatest need of this age, is that a people might arise that are fully committed to a life of love towards their fellow man. Let us lay aside the sins which so easily beset us, and walk in the spirit of unity with our Master. The greatest part of the marvelous work and a wonder is yet before us. Let us be prepared for that day. Love to all of you.

Your reporters,
Salem, Oregon

SOURCE OF LOVE'S HAPPINESS

Lovita G. Seibel

May God make His face to shine upon you
As you tread along life's future way.
May His Arm of Strength alone sustain yours
For life's struggles day by passing day.

May He teach you loving tenderliness
When the tears of grief and sorrow flow;
That there is a bright tomorrow
He'll exchange for bitter pain and woe.

And from Him you'll learn a gentle kindness,
If disputes and anger should take place,
How to yield, and say, "I'm truly sorry"
Both with love and deeply humble grace.

For each happiness God freely grants you
Raise to Him your thankfulness in prayer.
Lift to Him your songs of joy and gladness
As you onward march thru year on year.

With your hearts and hands clasped ever tightly
He will lead you to the upper fold,
There to magnify earth's joys and gladness
When you have gained that distant home's threshold.

Dedicated to the new brides and grooms among our friends and loved ones.

AVA WEDDING BELLS

Miss Sandra Lee Higgins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Higgins of Ava, Mo., became the bride of Mr. Verl Leon Smith, son of Bro. and Sr. Alex Smith of Ava, Mo., Saturday, May 25, 1968. The wedding was held at the home of Mr. LeRoy Higgins; the ceremony was performed by Elder Alex Smith. Attendants were Diana Higgins (the bride's youngest sister) and Bro. Kenneth Smith (the groom's uncle).

The bride wore a dress of pink bonded knit, gleaming with fine silver threads; she carried a bouquet of roses.

Guests were, beside the Bride and Groom's parents; the Bride's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Leland Caudy and her Aunt and Uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Ruben Jenson from Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.; her married sister, Mr. and Charles Epps and daughter, Angie of Ava. The Groom's sister, Estella Smith, his grandmother, Sr. Minnie Smith of Ava; and the aforementioned Uncle, Bro. Kenneth Smith of Independence, Mo.

After a lovely wedding dinner served by the bride's mother, the bride and groom left in a shower of rice, love and best wishes of both families; for their trailer home in Springfield, Mo., where they are both attending S. M. S. College.

WEDDING

Hulse - Smith

Miss Margaret Rose Hulse, daughter of Mr. James Robert Hulse, 1617 N. High, Independence, Missouri, became the bride of Sgt. Kenneth James Smith, son of Elder and Mrs. Kenneth J. Smith, 209 South Chrysler, Independence, Missouri, on Saturday, June 1, at 2:00 p. m. in the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) East Independence Local.

The double ring ceremony was performed by the groom's father. The chapel was decorated with gladiolas, ferns, and candelabra.

The bride wore a floor length blue gown and carried a bouquet of yellow roses. She was escorted down the aisle by her father.

The maid of honor was Miss Jean Hulse, sister of the bride. Mr. Alexander H. Smith, brother of the groom, served as best man. Ring bearer was Master Stephen Sarratt, nephew of the groom and flower girl was Miss Becky Fann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Fann. The ushers were Mr. Robert Hulse, brother of the bride, and Mr. Robert Smith, Brother of the groom.

Mr. Roland L. Sarratt provided the wedding music and accompanied his wife, sister of the groom, who sang, "My World," "I Love Thee" and "The Wedding Prayer."

Following the ceremony, a reception was held in the basement of the church. Mrs. Judy Gaylord, Mrs. Carolyn Fann, and Mrs. Mavis Simmons assisted at the reception. Mrs. Simmons also had charge of the guest book.

As Sgt. Smith is in the Air Force and presently stationed at Lackland Air Base, the couple will be making

their home at 154 East White, San Antonio, Texas, 78214.

WEDDING

Gill - Case

The wedding vows of Bonnie Elaine Gill and James Harvey Case were solemnized in a June 8th ceremony in the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) of Independence, Missouri.

They were joined together in a double ring ceremony by the bride's Brother Priest John R. Gill of South St. Paul, Minnesota.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Gill of South St. Paul, Minnesota. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Case of Lee's Summit, Missouri. The pianist was Margret Gill of Peculiar, Missouri. The soloists were Glenn W. Gill of Peculiar, Missouri, and Kathy Bakula of St. Paul, Minnesota.

Kathy Bakula, the bride's best friend, was the maid of honor. The bridesmaids were Eileen Swanson, the bride's niece, of St. Paul, Minnesota, and the groom's sister Linda Case of Lee's Summit, Missouri. The flower girl was also the groom's sister Paula Case of Lee's Summit, Missouri and the ring bearer was Bobby Hedrick of Independence, Missouri.

Randy Sheldon of Independence, Missouri, the groom's best friend was the best man. The groomsmen were Donald Case of Lee's Summit, Missouri, the groom's brother and Charles Gill of South St. Paul, Minnesota, the bride's brother.

The bride's colors were blue and pink, blue being the maid of honor's and flower girl's color and pink being the bridesmaid's color. The bride used pink, blue and white carnations for all the attendants.

The bride wore a satin full, floor-length dress with a full, floor-length, with natural train, lace jacket. The jacket was trimmed with satin and had long fitted pointed sleeves trimmed also in satin. The train of Chiffon trimmed in satin flowed over the lace jacket. The veil was elbow length trimmed in the flowers from the lace, and the crown with a pearl bead heart on satin covered with lace. The couple will reside in Independence, Missouri.

OBITUARY

The Passing of a Little One

Little Nancy H. Van Driel, 3 months old daughter of Sister Andrea and Martin Van Driel was called home to be with God.

Leaving besides the parents, 3 Brothers and Sisters.

A short scripture reading and prayer at the home and a Grave Side Service was conducted by Elder George Brantner on June 18, 1968.

Sister Andrea was formerly Sister Andrea Colkins of Sparta, Michigan.

MISSIONARY NEWS LETTER

Spokane, Washington

June 12, 1968

Editors:

Upon receiving an invitation from Brother and Sister Milfred Walberg and Elder and Sister Clarence Wheaton; Sister Verhei and I attended a weekend meeting at the Walberg residence in Salem, Oregon; Saturday and Sunday, June 8th and 9th.

The setting was beautiful under the climbing red roses in the Walberg flower garden. Meals were served for all on Saturday evening and all day Sunday.

There were about 25 members and non-members in attendance, which included people from Salem, the Wheatons, Elder and Sister Voorhies from Arizona and the Joseph F. Smith family from Hubbard.

Saturday evening after an afternoon of getting acquainted Elder Wheaton preached on the life of Christ and showed pictures. He also presented the class study on Sunday morning.

At eleven o'clock sacrament was served with Elders Wheaton, Voorhies and Smith in charge, followed by prayer and testimony. During this period a sister came forward for a healing blessing and was blessed by our Heavenly Father and as was her little son.

Sunday evening again Elder Wheaton showed pictures of Palestine and spoke.

The entire event was a spiritual feast enjoyed by all.

J. L. Verhei
Spokane, Washington

OBITUARY

Mrs. Leona Maude Ingle, 89, of 2307 South Michigan Avenue passed from this life at a Caldwell hospital.

Mrs. Ingle was born November 22, 1878, in Holland, Nebraska, and moved with her family to Sheridan, Oklahoma when she was 12 years of age. She was married in September, 1897, in Sheridan to Arthur M. Ingle, and they farmed for many years. They moved to Hennessey, Oklahoma in 1923, and came to Caldwell several times before moving here in June, 1946. Mr. Ingle died in 1948 in Hennessey. She worked at the J. R. Simplot Co. plant here in 1943. She was a member of the Church of Christ.

Surviving are two sons, Marion Ingle of Caldwell and Roy Ingle of Boise, Idaho; two daughters, Mrs. Ruby Pruitt of Caldwell and Mrs. Doris Craun of Hennessey; a sister, Mrs. A. B. Crandle of Enid, Oklahoma; 19 grandchildren, 49 great-grandchildren and 15 great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a daughter, Mrs. Lena Baker Allen, in 1964 in Caldwell; a son, Manford C. Ingle in 1958 in Kingfisher, Oklahoma and nine brothers and sisters.

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.

WHERE DO WE STAND?

By

Lovita G. Seibel

At a recent General Church Conference one of our Bishops preached an interesting sermon on the general aspects of our Church Finances. One important statement he made was relative to the Temple fund, stating that the accrual on interest alone would bring us to a point of decision, since we have a resolution on our books that when the sum of \$5,000 has been accumulated in said fund that we, as a people, were to approach the Lord for His guidance concerning the building of the Temple.

During the 1968 Conference period we heard considerable relative to temple building, because The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints had received a revelation to prepare to build the temple.

Since I was unable to attend all of our Conference meetings, I missed the one where the Financial Report for the year past was read. So it came with quite a shock of surprise, when reading the printed Conference Minutes sent out with the May Zion's Advocate, to learn that during the past fiscal year our Temple Fund has jumped from less than \$4,000 to over \$8,000.

A time of decision has arrived! It seems to be a rather singular coincidence that the Church across the way received a temple building revelation the same year the Church of Christ had at last accumulated the sum of \$5,000 and over for that purpose. Apparently the revelation served as a diversion to our people, to divert their minds and thinking from our own responsibilities, so that we scarcely noticed that we had a time of decision at hand.

Are we complacent? Sitting on our hands? Ready to sit back and gloat that we possess the Temple Lot, but otherwise do nothing? The early Church of Christ members back in the 1860's were not complacent. They were up and doing; they worked and sacrificed to the utmost to purchase and to hold the Temple Lot according to God's instruction to them.

During the past two or three years we have heard numerous testimonies to the effect that the hour is late, later than we think! And also testimonies to the near return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. His coming is nearer than we think! We should awaken for, "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, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts" (Malachi 3:1).

We repeatedly hear testimonies that Christ's com-

ing is near, and Malachi here gives testimony that when He does come He will "suddenly come to his temple." Can we afford to be complacent? to be lukewarm? God says He will spue those who are lukewarm out of His mouth (Revelations 3:16).

There comes to my mind the words from a spiritual poem, "The Song of Entreaty" by Joseph Luff, given April 1, 1919.

"Ishmael shall not Isaac fetter
Nor my temple David build.
Uzzah's hand, my ark approaching,
Will be with disaster filled."

Where do we, as the Church of Christ stand in this? Ishmael was the son of the bondwoman, the inheritance did not go to him for he was cast out. The true son Isaac was the one to inherit. David could not build the temple of God, having been a man of much war and blood. Uzzah, a man not holding the priesthood, died because he touched the ark of God, which only the priests of God were permitted to touch. Do we qualify as Isaac? Are we a peaceful people and church, or are we like David? Does the priesthood of God reside in our midst? These are searching questions. We need to seek God and find our answers.

Back in 1930, after the split up in the ranks of the Church of Christ, and the stoppage of the work then in progress for the Temple, a certain brother of the Reorganized Church said to me, "The people now attempting to build the temple will not do so." He continued, telling me of a dream which he had had, in which he saw the Temple Lot freely given to the people who did build the Temple. At least, in part his statement has proven true. The Temple was not built at that time. I fear we were a warring people, brethren against brethren. Is it different today? Are we still too much like David, who was a man of war?

Nevertheless I gave two of the best years of my life to the endeavor to build the Temple. The Temple is one of my deepest heart's loves. I am deeply dedicated to the belief that it will be reared, and that Christ "will suddenly come to his temple." As I said, I gave two of the best years of my life for temple building, which was not accomplished at that time. I, for one, want to "stand on the Lord's side" when the temple is built, and I am ready to dedicate more years of my life to that purpose. Where do you stand?

Before we went to Independence to attend the 1968 Conference, there came to our farm a man who was interested in purchasing black walnut timber, and who tried to talk us into selling ours. We were not inter-

ested in his proposition. Thinking of it later I said to Brother Seibel, "I am not interested in selling our walnut trees just to consume the proceeds upon our interests. Possibly should something of sufficient importance come up, then selling the timber would be considered." The only thing of such importance that I could think of at the time was "building the Temple of God."

Editor's Note: The following is reprinted from July, 1931 Zion's Advocate together with the footnote explaining the position of the Church with regard to it at that time. And to our understanding the position of the Church has not changed. However with all due respect to the good sister who wrote the foregoing article, it is of singular interest to us that for the first time the Temple Fund has suddenly risen from below the \$5,000.00 to well over \$8,000.00 in the past year. Therefore it might be of interest to re-read the purported Manifestation carefully. And consider the circumstances that have obtained in the intervening years, the instructions, warnings and promises it contains.

K. J. S.

REVEALMENT IN ANSWER TO FASTING AND PRAYER OF THE ASSEMBLY

Given Thursday, April 9, 1931 Through
Apostle James E. Yates

Hearken ye My people in this place and in every place where dwell they who know Me saith the Lord.

Behold, My word is unto those who believe on My name, that they may renew their faith and courage in Me, and also to those yet in unbelief, that they may turn unto the feast of good things which I the Lord have prepared for all those who serve me diligently: unto the end.

Yea, thus speaketh the Lord by the Holy Spirit, even to those who may consider this My word of revelation lightly, and who may imagine this My word but the thought and emotions of men.

But give ye this, My word, lodgment in your hearts by faith and humility and by purging your souls from sin and from evil, and verily I will give to those who have believed not, the witness within their souls that I who speaketh am the Lord, even He who hath thus spoken to his people in all ages in like manner. Thus by My Spirit do I yet give testimony of My truth, for I am still your loving Master; and as hitherto, when My people bow before me in purity and penitence, I am found of them, and I still communicate My holy word to them through whatsoever instrument I may choose.

Know ye all that My servant through whom I hereby give forth instructions by My Spirit, hath sought Me in prayer that some other than himself might be chosen to deliver this message; and behold I will verify to others that they give testimony of these same things. But behold, I, your loving Lord, am your Master.

It is for Me to direct, and for My servants to obey. Remember ye, O My people in this land, and in all lands; it is my manner to give unto men ever and always, but line upon line, and when your obedience is perfected, then is My purpose, and My way and work more clearly unfolded to your understandings.

In answer to your prayers, I therefore give unto you these few instructions and exhortations.

Concerning the building of Mine House the Temple, be ye not fretted for the passing of time, nor yet dismayed, for all My preparations are not open to your minds.

Let the work upon the foundation proceed according to the present plans that have been drawn when the sum of five thousand dollars shall have been accumulated in the treasury. Then come before Me again in prayer for My further instructions.

Concerning the Bishops, it will be pleasing unto Me that the order of Bishops remain as at present constituted, and that My people in all places shall be more diligent to acknowledge these servants in the office to which they have been ordained, and to put My tithes, and the consecrations that are Mine, in their hands for the carrying on of My work saith the Lord. Some of My people are not pleasing Me in this and because of this, they with others suffer loss.

By this My word I chide My people, and if ye hearken not by obedience then cometh chastisements.

Again, ye have not been tender in My love toward each other and toward the erring. My sheep hath wandered through the mountains and been dispersed from Me and in factions apart. Yet they are My sheep. Yet in the valleys of the mountains in this land I have ministry and a people whom some have thought to spurn. Look to your own sins, you who would spurn others and declare their waywardness. But for My mercy none would stand in My grace. My Spirit hath not been wholly withdrawn from those whose departure from Me hath been a sorrow before the Angels in heaven, despite the follies of men and the wickedness of much sin and in leadership and upon the part of the people! Also, still My beloved ones are there, and ye O my ministry, Yea, ye of My little flock, O ye are My Shepherds. Feed My Lambs. Bind up the wounds. Succor the distressed. Return not evil for evil. I am God and cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance, yea, My mercy and My love hath its everlasting claims. Many organic activities of departure have separated My people unto idols, but the time cometh when their idols shall be known to be as chaff before the fury of My wrath; but as a mother doth not forget her child neither do I forsake mine own. Return unto Me, O ye whose heritage it is to be the sons of day. My own stalwart princes of light, O turn ye unto me! And be ye, O, little flock, Mine ambassadors to seek and save they that perish, and verily the power of my might shall attend you. Trust ye Me your Lord and labor on, and Lo, ye shall find that I am with you all the way.

Thus speaketh the voice of the Holy Spirit to you today. Amen.

(Note—In printing the foregoing article, the manifestation given to James E. Yates during the April Conference, we wish to call attention of the people at the same time to the action of the recent conference in regard to this Manifestation. Letters have come to us at the general office and we have been asked personally while out in the field concerning this matter and we have been called as having made the statement that this document had been received by the Church as a Revelation binding upon the Church. Referring back to the conference minutes as found on page 68 and 69 of May (1931) first issue of the Advocate you will see that the Conference action taken in regard to this matter is in close harmony with our previous position on all documents reporting to be revelations, that is, that the conference neither accepted nor rejected but permitted it to stand upon its own merits.

We are making this brief explanation and calling attention to the action of Conference that our people may not be mistaken in regard to this matter, that after a period of time, they will not have to change or readjust their understanding of this matter. Time and events alone are the soul factors to determine the Divinity of this manifestation.)

Arthur M. Smith

LEST WE FORGET

By

T. J. Jordan

It might be well to use a text in writing this article so we quote the words of the Apostle Paul, "Other foundations can no man lay than that which is laid."

Again, from the Prophet of Isaiah, "To the law and to the testimony if they speak not according to this word it is because there is no light in them." And again from Second John "If there come any unto you and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed, for he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."

Thus we see a few items of words of warning from both the New and the Old Testament. We have already discovered the statement made by Christ that upon this rock I will build my church. See the sixteenth chapter of St. Matthew and the eighteenth verse. Then we submit that if and when Christ built his church it would be perfect and would be named the Church of Christ. And then we recognize the statement made by Christ as He was about to leave them as recorded in the last chapter of Matthew. Addressing His disciples, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you" and then made this promise, "and lo I will be with you alway even unto the end of the world," providing of course that they did as He directed.

This was recorded in the year thirty-two prior to His ascension.

Thus He left them with a perfect organization; in organization, faith and practice and for quite a number of years they served God until the fulfillment of the prophecy of Apostle Paul wherein he states, "for I know that after my departure shall grievous wolves enter in among you not sparing the flock and men of your own selves shall arise speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after them." Paul also warns that in the year sixty-six some would depart from the faith and others would bring in damnable heresies. Thus we note that so early as thirty-three years after Christ's Ascension, serious changes had been affected. And by the year A.D. 96 Jesus sent his beloved Apostle John with words of warning to the seven churches in Asia as we note in the second chapter of Revelations. Addressing the church at Ephesus: "I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles and are not, and hast found them liars: and hast borne and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and has not fainted. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate." (Polygamy) "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

"And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

"And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the

Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; to him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

"And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass; I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.

"Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication; and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. I gave her space to repent of her fornications and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

"But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. But that which ye have already hold fast till I come. And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. And I will give him the morning star. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

"And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

"Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.

"He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man

shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. Behold I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. Because thou hast kept my word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that thou mayest see.

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcome, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that had an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." (Revelations 2nd and 3rd chapters)

Thus we see the instructions given to the Apostle John to deliver to the seven churches in Asia in an apparent effort to correct their errors and get them back into and unto the straight and narrow path which leads to life eternal and may we stop to ask, how far ahead or behind the errors thus enumerated are we?

Some cry, "all is well in Zion," others say, "there is great peace in Zion."

I have searched in vain; imaginary or otherwise; for a Zion. I have found the location but I have failed to find Zion, the beautiful. But I will admit I have seen in a limited degree a demonstration of some of the ideals just for a little moment, but to me the foundation upon which Zion must be built is upon the foundation of one heart and one mind and when we get into that organized condition that will be no holding us back. No poor, and no rich, no disease that will not be under our control and we

then can ask what we will and it will be done unto us. It is our intention to follow some time later with an article on Zion, the beautiful, God bless Zion in Latter Day Israel.

COLORADO REUNION

Evalena Sills
June 14-17, 1968

"Sweet the time, exceeding sweet
"When the saints together meet."

Such a time of sweet fellowship was the Church of Christ reunion at Grand Junction, Colorado, held in the lovely, fairly new Orchard Mesa church, nestling among acres and acres of fruit orchards and the pleasant little homes of their owners.

The mild, warm weather was neither too hot nor too cold. It was ideal for the schedule of services which included prayer meetings from 9:00 a. m. to noon, 3:00 p. m. preaching service, 7:30 p. m. song service led by Sister Johnny Bell of that Local, and the 8:00 p. m., preaching service which ended the day's activities, except, of course, long visiting sessions, here and there around the church building and grounds, some of which continued on into the night in the various homes which local members so generously shared with the visitors.

The number "One Hundred and One" has been somewhat of a **special** number since the publication, in 1929, of a little volume titled "One Hundred and One Famous Poems." Though the 101 earnest folks who attended the Colorado reunion may have no claim to fame, yet their fellowship together was almost poetic in its pleasant meter and joyous rhythm. Five apostles (T. J. Jordan, of Regina, Sask., Canada, C. L. Wheaton, of Independence, Mo., Thomas Barton, of Hayden, Colo., E. L. Yates, of Preston, Mo., and Marvin Ely of the Colorado Local) were in attendance to lend their experience, wisdom, and spiritual influence to the activities of the three-day event. Three of the six sermons of the reunion were by Apostles Wheaton, Barton, and Yates.

Three other sermons, making six in all, were preached by three of the nine elders present. Elder Oren Caviness, of Preston, Mo., and Elders Don McIndoo and Hubert Yates both of Phoenix, each took their turn in the pulpit, while the other six elders served in capacities of leadership as called upon. These were Elders Kenneth Smith, Independence, Mo., Marvin Carroll, Hayden, Colo., James (Jack) Martin, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Jim Shaw, Denver, Colorado, and Dave Hinkle and Harvey Bell of Grand Junction. Priests Bob Ely and John Bell, also of Grand Junction, each occupied as assistants in leading the services, and served the emblems of the bread and wine at the Sunday morning Sacrament Service.

The Ted Elys whose home is only a few rods from the church, gave the use of their "peach house" (a large building to accommodate peach harvest hands, as a dining room where two bounteous meals each day were served to all comers. These meals were a credit to the culinary skills of the local Church of Christ women.

Guests at the reunion came from widely separated areas, as follows: Arizona, 29; California, 5; Colorado, Grand Junction Local, 35; other places in Colorado, 16; Missouri, 15; Oklahoma, 4; and Saskatchewan, Canada, 1.

While the above statistics and incidental reports are, we hope, of general interest, the heart and soul of the three days together were expressed in the numerous testimonies, the sermons, the congregational singing, the special numbers by young and old, and the sweet fellowship in general. Those who participated in the special numbers, with piano and, or guitar, were: Verda, Joy, Rita, Irene, and Rhonda Shaw, Sister Johnny Bell, Shirley Ely, Margorie Downs, Don McIndoo, Oren Caviness, Angela Wheaton, and Jim Yates. The special numbers and the hymns sung at the prayer services without musical instruments, each in turn trembled forth on the mild summer air; their beautiful messages carried to surrounding homes, while the congregational songs at the afternoon and evening services, swelling in harmonious crescendo to the rhythm of the piano's lead, added their vibrant part to the joyous expression of praise and thanksgiving. Those who served at the piano with their musical talents were Sisters Johnny Bell, Laura Martin, and Verda Shaw.

Some of the highlights of worthwhile thoughts expressed at the reunion are here reported, not always in the exact words of the speakers, but with fidelity of meaning.

Elder Kenneth Smith, in opening remarks at the first prayer meeting on Friday morning, said: "We need to get closer together and to our Lord and Master, and prepare ourselves to meet the Lord when He returns to earth." In a later testimony he said: "There were hindrances standing in the way of my coming to this reunion, but they were removed, and I am glad to be here. As we drove across the Great Divide enroute to this place, I noted with joy the magnificent scenery and knew that God lives! In my mind I related this scenic grandeur to the magnificence of God Himself, and to the magnificence of His gospel. I have walked with Him through the valley of the shadow of death to **know that He lives!** I pray that my actions may be a credit to the gospel."

From Other Testimonies

Frances Yates: "I have seen the beginning of the return of the gospel to the Lamanites. They are receiving it gladly and enjoying its gifts. One old brother, faithful to the last day of his life, was visited by angels on his death bed."

Apostle Marvin Ely: He quoted from a hymn, "Thy friends in thy conduct His likeness can see." Then he said, "It is very important that we live so that our associates can see in our lives that which is good." In a prayer meeting the following day, Bro. Marvin referred to a testimony by Jim Yates which had preceded his own—a testimony in which Jim had related how he had recently miraculously escaped danger and possible death in an accident in which the fire truck he was driving became involved in a collision. Brother Marvin testi-

fied that he knew that there was a reason why his brother Jim's life had been preserved—that Jim has a work to do in the gospel and that he should study and prepare himself for this work.

Jim Yates, (affectionately "Jimmy"): "I pray that when my time comes to serve that I will always do His bidding and not mine."

Sybil Ely: "We cannot save the nation, but we can live close to God that we can help to save a few."

Priest Johnny Bell: "We need to be understanding of one another. I find myself fearful that I may give offense. We all need His help."

Margorie Downs: "Sometimes when I try to pray, this thought has come to me, 'Why are you trying to pray? He pays no attention to you.' But I know this is from the Devil and I know that God does answer prayers."

Apostle E. L. Yates: "We are called upon to stand in holy places. It is possible to stand in a holy place, personally, regardless of any specific spot of ground. Problems will come to us with great intensity and a need for a higher power than our own will be necessary in order to escape the things we will have to meet. I have seen the hand of the Almighty through much mental and physical anguish. I have seen so many miracles that they have almost become commonplace in our experience. These blessings come to us from God, and only when we evidence a broken heart and a contrite spirit."

Elder Marvin Carroll: "It is wonderful to be among the saints of God, and to partake of the Spirit which is among them. My desire is to be faithful to the gospel, and I ask you to remember me that I might be faithful. Also I ask you to remember my family, and pray for them and those who have the watchcare over them."

Jim Shaw: "I give tribute to the women here today, both old and young. One young woman (Sister Irene Seibel) brought love and compassion out in her good testimony. Another one (Bonnie Sanders) brought a spiritual feast in hers. Such testimonies are like spiritual sparks of blessing to us all. Do not hesitate to offer **your** testimony. It may be the one to cause that spiritual spark. I was glad to hear Brother Jim Yates admonished to study and prepare himself, for God had a work for him to do. It has been made known to me, also, that Jim will be called. We are admonished to study. I didn't study enough when I was younger, and consequently I had to learn to study later in life, and it's harder then. Do you have troubles? Suffering? problems? We all do, and we cannot overcome them without God. Without Him, they can become mountains. My work has taken me to Denver where I can make a better living for my family, but there is no church group there. It is my desire to organize one there, and I ask your prayers that I may be guided and helped to do so."

Ruth Willard: "We love our physical families dearly. Above all we love our brothers and sisters in the gospel. **You** are my family. I have had many birthdays,

and my faith has not diminished with each one, but rather it has increased with each birthday. Through a beautiful experience given to me in answer to prayer, I can testify to you today that I know Christ is alive, now and forever."

Elder James (Jack) Martin: "Before we first visited this church here at Grand Junction last year, we knew of your reputation of high spirituality. I think I came here last year to see, to test that reputation for myself, hoping to find it true and to partake of its blessing. My wife and I found that truly the spirit of God was among you here at last year's reunion. We were filled—strengthened by you people, and we came again this year to again feed on this spiritual food. In this we have not been disappointed. We could have gone many places in Missouri where we have relatives, but we chose to come here to become a part of you and to help create an atmosphere in which the Lord could bless us. We do not regret that choice, for the Lord is truly blessing us."

Angela Wheaton: "I have always been glad that my great grandmother heard and embraced the gospel and that I was taught it from babyhood. The gospel ties are as strong as flesh and blood.

Dave Hinkle: "The good spirit of this reunion is attributable to all the others who came." His testimony was like a welcome to all.

Sharon Kelley: "The **big** blessings we receive from God seem to be the result of some tragedy. But the many everyday prayers we offer before trouble gets here are of more benefit than we sometimes know." Sharon, an elementary school teacher, told of a recent experience with the pupils in her class room—an experience in which her prayers for the benefit of one of her pupils when she loved in spite of his bad ways, were answered in an unexpected and miraculous way. The experience reminded her that God can and does, in answer to prayer, perform little miracles every day.

Goldie Hepler: "Coming to these reunions from year to year is like having my spiritual battery recharged. Living away from other church members as I do, I hunger for gospel fellowship such as we get here. I enjoy the **Hand of Fellowship**."

Irene Seibel: She told of a remarkable blessing she received as a result of administration by the elders. She had been having severe headaches which resisted all the remedies she knew of. "I recall one thing which was said in the elder's prayer. He said that a remedy would be found for the headaches, and that their cause would be learned. Later, Harvey (her husband) looked through a health book and found something that would help. I took the medicine and fell asleep. Later we learned the cause and since that time I have been free from the headaches. This is a great blessing to me."

Apostle Jordan: "There is a burden in my heart, mind and intellect regarding the things which are even now upon our doorstep. I have been shown marvelous things in the last few months, things which are about to transpire. We need to take notice, not only of the

wrongs apparent in the world, but also in the church. As we sow, so shall we reap. God has set His hand for the last time. Let us wake up and come out of Babylon." At this point Brother Jordan made a startling and specific prediction regarding persecutions to come in Grand Junction and elsewhere, which, if Brother Jordan feels led, may be circulated later. Then he admonished all to read Joel 2 and learn of the only conditions and the only place of safety when these things come upon the earth. "I know," he said, "and have known for almost 90 years that the gospel is true and that His purposes will be consummated."

The following are excerpts from three of the six reunion sermons:

Elder Oren Caviness, of the Bishopric: From the Book of Mormon he read that "Those who inhabit this land shall serve God or be swept off."

"One must truly desire to be righteous in order to truly become righteous. What is required of us in order to avoid being swept off of this wonderful land? We must put into daily use the gospel of Christ. There is no such things as a status quo. There is always progress or retrogression. A tree grows or it dies. Water flows or stagnates. A church that stagnates dies. It is necessary to prune a tree to allow it to produce its best. The unproductive limbs must be removed. We, personally, and as a church, are like the tree. That which is not fruitful must be removed. There is a slang expression among the underworld, used in making their violent demands: 'Do as I say or else!' The expression is applicable to us as well, in the light of the Book of Mormon warning. We must serve God or else! (be swept off.)"

Touching upon the law of tithing, Elder Caviness quoted Malachi 3:10: "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." Then Brother Oren continued: "Yes, He said 'prove me.' God is waiting for His people to prove Him."

Elder Don McIndoo: Calling attention to the disastrous events in the news at the present time, and the prophecies of yet greater ones to come, he said, "There is only one place for spiritual and physical safety. That will be in the little remnant whom God shall call—His church. The Church of Christ is you. If the Church of Christ (the little remnant) is to preserve purity, it means that you have to show forth God's love. Your life and your testimony must be exemplary of Jesus Christ. We live in one of the important eras of time. We have seen the 'time of the Gentiles' foretold in prophecy fulfilled. The time of the Gentiles was fulfilled in June, 1967, when the little Israeli nation conquered her Arab enemies and took the whole of Jerusalem and surrounding territories. (St. Luke 21:24) This time in which we are now living is called the time of the heathen. (Ezekiel 30)

The balance of power, so long in the hands of the Gentile nations, now belongs to the non-Gentile nations. Soon there will come other important events of time, preceding the return of Christ to earth.

"Lehi had his time, and the responsibility to warn the people of the destruction of Jerusalem and to lead his family to safety by God's direction. In the time of John the Baptist he was to prepare the way of the Lord. Samuel the Lamanite, in his time, taught and prophesied of events to come. In Joseph Smith's time, and through him was the restoration of the gospel.

"We, too, have one of these great responsibilities. The gospel of the kingdom is to be preached unto all nations. Then shall the end come. You are the church. You are the witness of His plan of salvation. You are to witness of the restoration of the gospel. The world will continue in its present course. Starvation cannot be diverted. This time is not without its duress, but I want to stress that we live in a marvelous time, a time when it is our responsibility to witness to the world that the gospel is here.

"The destiny foretold by the prophets is going to be unraveled and be observed by many people. We are bogged down in ruts. I am sorry that we have allowed talent to go wasted. How are we to witness to others? We are financially unable to send out ministers to teach this gospel. If we had the means to make use of the TV, helicopter, airplane, etc., just one man today could do as much ministerial work as the Apostle Paul in a lifetime.

"We need to get out of the ruts we are in and back to the 'Old, old path.' We need to pray for the opportunity to explore, and to magnify the opportunities and talents available.

"I pray for that day to come when we will have the spiritual insight to take up this work among this little remnant of people."

Following Brother McIndoo's sermon, he showed a set or his original slides depicting the life of Christ—slides with sound narration and appropriate music which Victor Housknecht, Sharon Kelley, and others at Phoenix, helped him to record for the purpose. It was a beautiful and inspiring production.

Apostle Thomas Barton's sermon: This sermon consisted of scriptural references pointing to the signs and events to take place before the return of Christ. Among them were the following signs:

1. The closing of the time of the Gentiles. "This event," Brother Barton said, "has already taken place. It was fulfilled last year (1967) when Israel retook Jerusalem."
2. Elias shall come and restore all things.
3. Fire and earthquakes will increase in numbers and in intensity.
4. The three Nephites of Book of Mormon times will come and preach for us. They will minister to both Jew and Gentile.
5. The record of the ten lost tribes will come forth.

6. The gathering of the Jews to their homeland will take place, even more so than we see today.

7. Kings and Queens shall be told that which they did not know. (The gospel)

8. The cleansing of the sanctuary will take place. (The purifying of the church)

9. The temple of the Lord shall be built on the spot designated in prophecy in the early days of the Restoration.

10. The time will come when there will be only two churches—the Church of the Lamb of God, armed with righteousness, and the Church of the Devil, described in prophecy as the mother of abominations.

11. The Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in all the world and then shall the end come. In closing, Apostle Barton admonished: "Be watchful! Be alert!"

The three other fine sermons (by C. L. Wheaton, E. L. Yates, and Hubert E. Yates) are not reported here because of limited space, but their good influence no doubt will extend on into eternity.

One hundred and one earnest people had met together for a good purpose. They were not disappointed, for surely no less than one hundred and one noble and inspiring thoughts had been presented—thoughts to be meditated upon and acted upon until the future might again bring them together.

"That's the story of—that's the glory of" the 1968 Colorado reunion.

HAS MAN CREATED LIFE?

by

Elder Glenn Gill

Life created in a test tube? Man's control of his own heredity? These questions had some of us wondering in 1967 when reports came out in December of the work of Doctor Arthur Kornberg (Stanford), assisted by Dr. Mehran Goulian of the University of Chicago and Dr. Robert Sinsheimer of California Institute of Technology. The question is obvious. If man can create life, what happened to God? Or, more likely, if life can be generated in a test tube, why not accidentally in the seas of a primeval planet? Because of these questions, knowing what really happened is of utmost importance.

The work of Dr. Kornberg and his associates is reported in *Science News*, Volume 92, No. 27, December 30, 1967, pages 625-648. *Science News* is a weekly comprehensive report by scientific writers of current happenings in all areas of science and is relied upon for scientific information by the scientists themselves. My information about Dr. Kornberg's work is from that article.

In each living cell of our bodies (and there are billions) are found hundreds of large molecules of organic chemicals called nucleic acids. The most important of these are given the nick-name DNA. DNA molecules make up the genes found in 23 pairs of chromosomes in

each of our cells. In the cells (one from each parent) from which we physically developed in our Mother's womb, these DNA molecules determined our appearance, mental capacity, adult stature, and many other things. Even more amazingly these molecules have a "code" which determines what each cell will be when it develops in growth or repair in the embryo, the fetus, the child and the adult. To put the code in operation the DNA causes the formation in the cell of special proteins called enzymes. The enzymes then do the work or cause it be done.

In other words, the precoded DNA molecules direct the formation of the various kinds of cells that make up the parts of our bodies from the original single cell (at conception) to the complicated and marvelously coordinated billions of cells in our adult bodies according to a pre-set plan and sequence. DNA coding tells one cell to become a liver cell and another a brain cell, and another a cell in the lining of the stomach, etc., until all of the thousands of different and differently arranged cells of the body are assembled long before a baby is born. This coding fulfills the statement in Genesis, "each after its own kind". He who would create a living organism would have to make such a code and give it living direction. Then, if as well designed as God designed it long ago, the code would duplicate itself in each generation.

There is a thing called a virus. We are familiar with the term because some viruses cause us considerable distress. Others kill us by the thousands. The virus Dr. Kornberg has studied for more than a decade now is the bacteriophage of *Escherichia coli* (usually abbreviated *E. coli*). *E. coli* is a bacteria found in great numbers in the human intestine. It does us no harm. The virus that attacks it consists of one DNA molecule surrounded by a "coat" of protein molecules. The virus cannot eat or reproduce on its own; no virus can. For this reason biologists who study viruses are divided on whether or not viruses should be classified as living organisms.

When the bacteriophage (virus) attacks a cell of the *E. coli* bacteria it injects its own DNA molecule into the cell. In the cell the DNA molecules captures an enzyme produced naturally by the bacteria cell for its own use. This enzyme is called DNA polymerase. Present in the bacteria cell are the four chemical ingredients from which all DNA molecules can be assembled; (adine, guanine, cytosine and thymine). In the presence of the DNA from the virus the captured enzyme causes the four ingredients to assembly in exactly the correct way to duplicate the viral DNA molecule. When the resources of the bacteria cell are exhausted the cell dies and the many new viral DNA molecules go on to infect other cells. Dr. Kornberg and his associates succeeded in artificially producing the enzyme (DNA polymerase) so accurately that it set in motion the assembling of new DNA molecules in a test tube instead of in an *E. coli* cell when the four ingredients were present. The artificially replicated (duplicated) DNA

was found to be capable of infecting other E. coli cells.

Is this creation of life? Of course not. How close is it to control human heredity? How close is the artificial synthesis of an enzyme which causes the replication of one of the simplest known natural DNA molecules to the control of the minute details of the activities of hundreds of DNA molecules in the 23 pairs of chromosomes in human cells? It's like "burning out" at the speed of a snail with the idea in mind of winning the Indianapolis 500.

Looking at the work and published papers of these researchers realistically and not through the eyes of one out to create a sensation, we see a remarkable possibility. If man can make the enzymes by which viruses replicate perhaps he can make these enzymes, somehow, unusable by the virus. If this could be done viral disease could be erased one by one. Also these discoveries may open the door to a new direction in cancer research. But the creation of life remains the specialty of God. In spite of the wish of atheists and sensation seekers the more we learn of DNA and its work the more certain we become that only God in his omnipotence and infinite understanding could create a DNA code.

LAST TESTIMONY

of

Verne Burns

The following was found among the papers of one now passed on, addressed to the Zion's Advocate. We therefore submit it to the readers just as it is, from the late Bro. Verne Burns of Detroit, Michigan.

"... Thou are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." (Matthew 16:16)

"... This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him." (Matthew 17:15)

"But there is a spirit in man and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding." (Job 32:8)

You will want to read all the circumstances surrounding these portions of the Scriptures as you probably have, as well as much more Bible and Book of Mormon scripture that helps us along life's journey.

I will digress here a bit and speak of life's journey, when we pause and look back. Not that I suggest we live in the past, but as the poet said, "Oft in the stilly night cry slumber's chain have bound me, fond memory brings the light of other days around me."

There will be sighs and tears and disappointment along with the brighter memories, and if hurts were had we have outlived them. So the brighter side of life we will, I am sure, find most profitable to our spiritual development as we journey on down time's vista.

My early boyhood days were spent along the north shore of Lake Ontario. Here as a child I played in the clear water and sandy beach and fished in the Credit River that flowed into it. The world was free and gay as far as we understood.

My Sunday school was the church of England; the pretty cards with scriptural verses were the reward for regular attendance. Life was finally disrupted by war, World War No. 1. The plaque in the village shows the great contribution of my chums, the number that did not return. Many of Canada's volunteer army and probably many lads in the United States Army had never been far enough from home to lose sight of their home chimney so to speak. I recognize the encircling love and power of my Heavenly Father that brought me home and has watched over me thus far, when I have felt so unworthy.

Later on in life I came to the United States. Through my wife I learned of the Restoration gospel, she joined the Reorganized church about 1911. Now a new Spiritual life began for me. Hitherto I had never heard of the Restoration, not even the Mormon's.

So living in Grand Rapids in the early twenties I went with my wife to the Reorganized church. Coming home I remember saying they are like all the rest; they alone are going to heaven. However I went again and the late Brother William Postma was the preacher. I shall never forget the feeling his message burned into my soul. It was that authority speaking that is inspired by God. There is a difference. Many of you know that, after that experience I hearkened, and finally one day as I crossed a large vacant field on a short cut to my home, a strange feeling took hold of me. I saw no personage, and heard no voice but the urge to repent and be baptized was so strong I could not deny it.

I do not want to pass this part of my journey lightly for words cannot describe that change. Of course the dissension that was going on in the local church and general disputations was unknown to us. Later on when we understood, that same spirit within us hearkened to the inspiration of the Almighty and my wife and son Ivan and I understanding, came into His church by the door.

Now this that I have written has no doubt come to many of you in like manner. I would my friends in or out of His church would hearken to my first Scripture reference. Read how Peter found out the FACT that "Thou art the Christ the Son of the Living God." And the second reference, "The voice from out of the bright cloud, This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. Hear ye Him."

Saints of the Most High God, how oh how can so many get out of step and take by-paths if along our journey your experience has been like mine? I don't profess to be a writer, just trying to be as plain as possible. for the Gospel of Kingdom is just that plain and simple. Yet so many write and write digging up material, ammunition to keep a battle going that is useless.

Many times the lad, Joseph Smith, in whom God found simplicity and faith was used as their target.

When I think back to those Apostles, Brother Wheaton, Anderson, Flint and Smith who came to our home; also many others, those memories are rich and God Blessed us all, I am sure, as the story of the Restora-

tion we studied and talked about unfolded. Earthly changes and decay has taken many, but the same story as was then is graven in my soul.

Brothers and Sisters and Friends, if you have and will let the Spirit of the Almighty, the Holy Ghost, have His way there will be no wavering in you or in your life's journey.

Now unless Kings and Queens, Popes, Archbishops, Emperors, Presidents, Bishops, Evangelists, and all are willing to allow the Spirit of the Almighty give that spirit in them understanding, there can be no approach to Peace and spirit of man will divide and rule. Let us not be so willing to lay on the paddle because some fellow traveler tripped. Jesus the Christ gave us the way; walk in it humbly, sincerely, and lovingly. God Bless you all is my prayer in Jesus the Christ the only Begotten Son of God.

THIS BEAUTIFUL CHURCH

by

Marie Anna Jones

I'd like to build this Church for God, this beautiful Church.
 In all His glory and splendor and blessed with God's love.
 Where all men can sing and praise God's Holy Name!
 I'd build the walls, on solid rock, in God's beautiful work of art.
 Each marble stone and crystal rock, I'd lay with dearest love.
 As my Saviour did say, "and upon this rock, I will build my Church.
 Windows of gold and deepest blue, I'd like to build embracing with a skyline roof.
 Where heavenly sunshine and golden rays, reach down to touch and bless my soul.
 While the Minister softly prays God's holy word as Jesus prayed here on earth.
 I'd like to build this Church for God, this beautiful Church.
 In humble thanks, I'll kneel to pray and teardrops fall, for words I can't say.
 While the organ is softly playing, Nearer My God To Thee!
 And men can kneel and pray, in humble words to God. Where blessings are told and loved old Hymn's are sung, as years long ago.
 O, bless this golden steeple, I wish to build, high in a blue sky, where songs—are told.
 With golden chimes and bells that toll, ringing God's glory and touch your soul.
 Across the world they ring, to young and old, enter in these portal doors.
 Gather little children, come young and old, God calls to all, with love and open arms.
 I'd like to build this Church for God, this beautiful Church and blessed with God's love.

OBITUARY

Lee Shepard, husband of Myrtle B. Shepard, who is a member of the church, passed from this life in June of 1968 after a long illness. He operated a farm near Ridgeway and a garage in Mt. Moriah. He was member of the Ridgeway Christian Church.

Surviving besides Sister Myrtle Shepard, his wife, are six sons: Waldo and Charles Shepard, both of Moline, Illinois; Loren Shepard of North Carolina; Clifford Shepard and Roger Shepard Cain of Ridgeway; three daughters; Mrs. Verla Clapham of Spickard, Mrs. Ila Lawson Crain, and Mrs. Monica Wolfe of Kansas City; one stepson, Francis M. Darrah; a brother, Arthur L. Shepard of Ridgeway; and 26 grandchildren.

Services were held at the Ridgeway Christian church, with the Rev. Noel T. Adams officiating. Burial was in Goshen cemetery, east of Mt. Moriah.

A VISIT TO THE CITY

by

Dorothy Burgin

I was visiting in a city
 Where many lights were pure and bright,
 But I lay awake and wondered
 About the sirens every night.
 Most any time that I would listen
 I could hear them come and go,
 And I thought, Oh God have mercy,
 Some were ambulances, I know.

Seems my mind would keep on wondering
 Every time a siren blew;
 Could be strangers in the city
 Or perhaps someone we knew.
 But no matter where they came from
 I wondered which road they had trod;
 I would lay awake and wonder—
 Have they made their peace with God?

It's so nice out in the country,
 Everything is quiet and still;
 Isn't like in some big city
 Where so many rob and kill.
 Then I thought, O what a blessing
 If the people in God's sight
 Were as pure and bright and shining
 As those million city lights.

BLESSING

Doris Caroline Hedrick, daughter of Jim and Caroline Hedrick, was blessed under the hands of Elders Leslie P. Case and Nicholas F. Denham, at the Temple Lot Local, Independence, Missouri, November 26, 1967.