

Zion's Advocate

"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and power of the Holy Ghost."—I Nephi 3:187.

Vol. 45

Independence, Missouri, November, 1968

No. 11

A Thanksgiving Prayer

By

Rex Weaver

—☆—

Thank you Lord for everything
That thou has sent my way,
The sun that shines the birds that sing
On this Thanksgiving Day.

And when I stop to ponder all
That God has done for me,
And watch the evening shadows fall
I'm thankful just to be.

Of all the things I'm thankful for
In spite of chastening rod,
I'm thankful most for an open door
And for the love of God.

CONTENTS

	Page		Page
Thanksgiving (Guest Ed.)	162	Solemn Assembly	166
The Wisconsin Reunion	164	Notice	166
Baptisms	165	How To Find The True Church	167
Blessings and Ordinations	165	The Last Days (A Reprint)	169
New Local Churches Organized	166	Attention: Your Support Urgently Needed	171
Saints Are We Ready	172		

Zion's Advocate

Official Publication of the Church of Christ
 Headquarters on the Temple Lot, Independence, Missouri.
 Phone: TEmpLe 3-3995

EDITOR

Kenneth J. Smith, 209 South Chrysler, Independence, Missouri 64050

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Harvey E. Seibel, 1914 South Osage, Independence, Missouri 64050
 Lovita Seibel, 1101 W. Orchard Street, Independence Missouri 64050

BUSINESS MANAGER OF ZION'S ADVOCATE: C. LeRoy Wheaton, Box 472, Independence, Missouri, 64051. Subscriptions and changes of address.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE CHURCH OF CHRIST (Temple Lot), Box 472, Independence, Missouri. 64051.

Second class postage paid at Independence, Missouri.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: One Year, \$1.50. In bundles of twelve or more for missionary purposes, \$1.00. Canadian and all foreign rates, \$1.75.

Send all donations for the Temple Fund, the Storehouse, Consecrations, Tithes, Offerings, and Subscriptions for the Advocate to: Church of Christ (Temple Lot), Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051.

CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

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

	Price Each
Book of Mormon—Missionary Edition.....	\$1.00
Book of Mormon—Cloth Binding	\$2.50
Outline History of the Church of Christ.....	\$2.00
Book of Commandments (Leathereite).....	\$1.25
Book of Commandments Controversy Reviewed.....	\$1.00
The Autobiography of B. C. Flint.....	\$1.50
What the Restoration Teaches Concerning God.....	\$0.50
Temple Lot Deed	\$0.20
A Brief History of the Church of Christ.....	*
The Principles of the Gospel, Faith and Repentance.....	*
The Principles of the Gospel, The Laying on of Hands.....	*
The Principles of the Gospel, Baptism.....	*
The Latter Day Restoration	*
Apostasy or Succession, Which?	*
The Book of Mormon (Tract)	*
Articles of Faith and Practice of the Church of Christ.....	*
Articles of Faith and Practice (Spanish)	*
Articles of Faith and Practice, No. 1, (English).....	*
Changing of the Revelations	*
What the Church of Christ Teaches in Respect to Matrimony, (Spanish).....	*
What About Israel?	*
Priesthood, Divine Authority	*

Note: *Donations accepted to cover postage and printing costs. Lot prices of tracts exclusive of postage are: In packs of 6, 30c; or of 100, \$4.50.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPPLIES

INSTRUCTIONS IN ORDERING

Our quarterlies are not dated, but numbered, because they contain a regular course of study, and if the schools desire to make this study, they should order the quarterlies according to number so as to avail themselves of the entire course, so far as the study has been extended up to the present time. None of the courses are as yet, complete.

In compliance with the action taken at the 1960 General Sunday School Association General Assembly, all publications printed by the Association will be sent free of charge. Send ALL orders to: General Sunday School Association Treasurer, Church of Christ (Temple Lot), Box 472, Independence, Missouri. 64051.

	Price Each
Primary, Vol. 1, No. 1, Childhood of Jesus.....	N/C
Primary, Vol. 1, No. 2, Jesus' Ministry.....	N/C
Primary, Vol. 1, No. 3, Jesus' Ministry con't.....	N/C
Primary, Vol. 1, No. 4, Life of Jesus.....	N/C
Sunday School Record Book	N/C
History and Religion—Chart	1.50

GUEST EDITORIAL . . .

THANK\$LIVING

Once upon a time, long ago, in a land across the sea, there were ten men who had a dreadful and incurable disease—a disease so dangerously contagious that they were banished to an isolated place to face a sure and painful death.

These ten diseased men had heard of a great and good man who was said to have miraculous power to heal. His fame had spread throughout the land. But how could they, in quarantine, ever hope to come in contact with this great man so that they too might be healed? But one day (O joyous hope!) the famous healer found his way to their isolated village, and though their area of quarantine was some distance from the street where the healer walked, they were close enough to him, and they must have been able to identify him because of the people who flocked around him and listened as he taught them great truths.

With loud voices the ten isolated, disease-wracked men called to the magic healer: “. . . Master, have mercy on us.” The healer heard their pathetic cries. He told them to go and show themselves to the priests. With their hopes high and their faith alive they obeyed. And, Oh, what exultant joy! Even as they walked along intent on obeying the healer's command, their disease disappeared, and they were completely healed.

One of the lepers—for this was the dread disease—when he realized he was cleansed—returned to the healer, and fell down at his feet. With a loud voice he gave thanks and glorified God.

The other nine went their way with no word of thanks for the miraculous healing they had received. The great healer noticed their absence and asked of those who stood near: “Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?” When they answered that there were none returned to give thanks “save this stranger”, the healer turned to him and said, “Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made these whole.”

This human-interest story is a familiar one to Bible readers. It is found in Luke 17:11-20. Why do we recall it here? Because this is the month in which our nation, by Presidential proclamation, celebrates a special day of giving thanks, and because there is a lesson in the story for you and me. In fact, there are several lessons in it if we meditate upon the story.

Lesson No. 1: Out of ten who received a very great blessing, only one made the effort to give thanks where thanks belonged. Would we, who receive so abundantly be among the nine ungrateful ones? Or would we return to glorify God, the giver of every good giving.

Lesson No. 2: The only one who returned to give thanks was one looked down upon by many, because he was a Samaritan, a social outcast in those Biblical times. Do we, in our time, and place, sometimes look down upon one from “the other side of the tracks?” We'd better not, for it may be the very one to whom the

Master may say, "Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole."

Lesson No. 3: In contemplating the type of person who would make it a special point to return and offer his thanks, and praise to the Master Physician who had healed him, it seems improbable that he would, in the future, forget that blessing and fail to show forth his own good works as living proof of his gratitude. And yet, so many of us, having received great blessings and, having earnestly proclaimed our thanks, then promptly forget to prove our gratitude by serving the giver of those blessings.

It was Wilferd Peterson in his splendid book, *The Art of Living*, who so pointedly emphasized in his classic style the relationship of *thanksgiving* to *thanks giving*.

True thanksgiving is really three-fold: (1) Heart-felt gratitude, (2) Spoken words of thanks, and (3) "Thanksgiving", that is **doing** the things which prove that our spoken gratitude is more than lip service.

When Thanksgiving day arrives on November 28, 1968, and, in addition to the thanks we should have remembered to offer all through the year, we bow in the privacy of our homes and in our churches to offer special thanks on that special day, what will be some of the special things for which Church of Christ people will be offering thanks?

No doubt we will sincerely thank God for the abundance of material blessings in this land that is "choice above all other lands," especially when we know that starvation takes its toll by the thousands in less fortunate countries, and that malnutrition is a blight in certain areas of our own land.

Other things we will give thanks for on Thanksgiving day are health, means of livelihood, the degrees of talent God may have blessed us with, and, high on the list of Church of Christ members, the Restored Gospel.

In the light of the positive words found in Luke 13:48, ". . . For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: . . .", how shall we ever justify ourselves if we do not use our time, energies, talents, and means in His cause? We owe so much in so many ways, but there is one debt which we, as Church of Christ members, owe, and only partly pay, which will surely condemn us at the last day. What is that debt? It is symbolized by the \$-mark in our one-word title, *Thanksgiving*. That debt is in "tithes and offerings." For the want of them the gospel work suffers!

If the Church of Christ lived up to the tithing law (one-tenth of our increase. See Matt. 23:23, Luke 11:42, Gen. 28:22, Lev. 27:32, Deut. 44:22, and Alma 10:8, 9) the possibilities for spreading the gospel story would be beyond reckoning. Besides the dedicated missionaries who are now in the field, sometimes undergoing tremendous financial sacrifice, because of **our** neglect, there are in the Church right now capable men, already called and ordained, who are willing and anxious to devote their entire time to missionary work, but they, understandably, hesitate to leave their families uncared for

and their children uneducated, as they well might be, without sufficient funds in the church treasury to assure them these needs.

The missionary effort is as much the responsibility of the members as it is the missionaries themselves, only in a different way. That responsibility not only includes our moral support and our prayers, but the paying our tithes and offerings. If every wage earner in the Church of Christ would obey the tithing law, and pay just ten cents of every dollar of his net income, it would so fill the church treasury that we could promote a greater missionary effort than ever before in our history. Ninety cents of that dollar the wage earner may keep, and only ten cents would be applied on his debt to God!

Let us make the paying our tithing debt commensurate with the words of our thanks. Is it too much to ask? Especially when the promise of blessing to the obedient is so great?

"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."—Malachi 3:10.

Perhaps we commend ourselves that we aren't like nine ungrateful lepers. And perhaps we really **are** like the truly grateful one who gave his verbal thanks and glorified God. This is a good thing and may we never fail to give our heart-felt and verbal thanks for all our blessings. But verbal thanks are not enough, we **know**, as we again recall the words: ". . . For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: . . ."

Are we really grateful for the gospel restored to earth by the hand of an angel? For its enlightenment and promises of eternal life? Or do we just **say** we are grateful? Shall we continue to leave our beloved Church in poverty as it is today, or shall we wake up to the need of *thanksgiving* as well as *thanksgiving*?

LIVING PRAISE

God of sun and sky and air,

Thy gifts surround me everywhere.

God of heav'n and earth and sea,

Accept the praises I offer Thee.

God of sight and sound and scent,

And all the senses deftly blent,

Hear the song my lips intone

In prayer and praise to Thee alone.

Let my paens reach Thine ear—

My sin confessions deign to hear.

When I rise from bended knee,

Forgiven, cleansed, from guilt made free,

Let me find some service sweet—

Some worthy task for hands and feet.

May I make deserving choice

Of work to do and thoughts to voice.

And for gifts Thou dost impart

Instill in me a gen'rous heart.
When my lips their praises give,
Then let me also praises live.

—Evalena Sills

THE WISCONSIN REUNION AUGUST 10 AND 11, 1968

Our reunion opened with a prayer meeting with Elders Isaac Brockman and Kenneth Smith in charge.

It was a time of quiet refreshing. There were many prayers and testimonies of a spiritual nature, with expressions of gratitude to our Heavenly Master for blessings received.

Elder Kenneth Smith occupied the pulpit at the morning hour preaching service. His subject was the near approach to the second coming of Christ. He spoke of some of the signs given pointing to that event, also conditions which will prevail just prior to that time, and even as the prophesies were fulfilled concerning Christ's birth; so also will they be at His second advent into the world. The time is now to strengthen our ranks by the preaching of the gospel. There is work for each of us in spreading the message of salvation, and we should seek to bring our spiritual stature to that point where the Lord can use us.

Our speaker at 2:30 was Elder Joseph Yates. He brought us much food for thought in his well chosen remarks. He spoke of Apostle Paul's conversion and used for his text these words, "Lord, what will you have me to do?" We should petition God daily with this question upon our lips and in our heart that we might know what the Lord has for us. Because of sin and disobedience we fall short of the blessings God would have us to enjoy. The good things of God excel all else, and eternal life is His greatest reward. Let us, therefore, seek a new heart of obedience that we may share in these things.

Prior to the last meeting of that day. We gathered to sing many of our favorite hymns. After our song service we heard words of admonition from Elder Don McIndoo along with his slides. He told how God's hand directs people and nations of this world, "Wittingly or unwittingly." God uses people at crucial times and we were warned that we are living in one of these times. Brother McIndoo cautioned us to be special witnesses for Christ. We were reminded that we live in the short, dark, and cloudy day of the heathen and the danger is in being swept along with the tide of immorality and filth about us.

We were especially privileged that evening to see the beautiful slides entitled "He Was There." I'm sure it made all of us feel very close to our Heavenly Father to see pictures of the land where he was born, and where he grew up and preached the gospel.

Sunday morning we gathered inside the little white church for Sacrament service. Apostle Wm. Sheldon was in charge assisted by Elder Ray Hunholz. We

heard many wonderful prayers and testimonies of the Lord's goodness and mercy toward us. We also witnessed the confirmation of Brother Kenneth Knapp's four children who were baptized on Saturday by Apostle Wm. Sheldon. We extended our hands of fellowship to: Sharon, Terrance, Naome, and Laurel, all residing in Thousand Oaks, California, and welcomed them into this glorious gospel.

After the morning service and a delicious dinner, we once again had the opportunity to witness a baptism. Janet Lee Olson of Sparta was baptised by Brother Sheldon.

Our speaker for the afternoon was Apostle Leon Yates. He reminded us of the continued necessity for obedience to the Master and the importance of meeting together often. We were also told to recall the vision of the brother of Jared; those who possess this land shall either worship God or be destroyed. Brother Yates stressed that it is our duty to perform personal righteous living.

A short business meeting followed the preaching service. Brother Isaac Brockman was appointed a committee of one to find out the possibilities of getting the use of Camp Bradfield for our Reunion next year. If such arrangements can be made a date for the reunion will be set at that time. Sister Stella Davies, and Sister Viola Petri were retained as our dining committee, and a standing vote of thanks was taken for their tireless efforts in the kitchen. Sister Helen Taubert was elected reporter for the coming year.

The last sermon of the reunion on Sunday evening was brought to us by Apostle C. L. Wheaton. He spoke to us of the goal of life and of what it should be. He likened this life for each of us as a ship at sea where we are either drifters with the winds that blow, and the ebb and flow of the tide; or through obedience to God's great plan, we may set our sail for the harbor bright, and find mooring for our ship of life. Brother Wheaton also related some experiences he has had in spreading the gospel, noting that there is nothing more enriching or rewarding. At this service Sister Angela Wheaton offered as a special number the beautiful song, "Some-time, Somewhere."

The 1968 Wisconsin Reunion is now history but we have many pleasant memories to carry with us. Let us not forget the messages that were brought to us for they all reminded us that we are living on the very threshold of the coming of our Lord.

Reporters
Helen Taubert
Sue Brickhouse

"Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him." (Revelation 1:73).

"To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God" (Revelation 2:7).

BAPTISMS

Curtis Oren Lee was baptized by priest Conley Addington and received the laying on of hands by Elder Max Lee June 23, 1968. He was received by the Maple City, Michigan Local Church of Christ.

Adamedita Shucks was baptized August 25, 1968 at the Temple Lot Church of Christ, Independence, Missouri by Elder Richard Wheaton. She received the laying on of hands by Apostle Clarence L. Wheaton assisted by Richard A. Wheaton.

Danny Richard Long of Trenton, Michigan was baptized by Elder Tony Grzincic September 1, 1968 at Dexter, Michigan and received the laying on of hands at Southgate, Michigan by Elder Grzincic assisted by Arthur G. Smith. The young brother was received by the new organized Downriver Local Church of Christ at Trenton, Michigan.

On September 15, 1968 three baptismal services were held throughout the church in different locations.

On that day in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Laura Ann Kidd daughter of Joseph and Betty Kid, and Ray Carl Phillips, husband of Virginia Phillips of Manchester, Tennessee, were baptized by Apostle Joseph Kidd. They received the laying on of hands by Apostle Don W. Housknecht assisted by Apostle Joseph Kidd.

In Phoenix, Arizona, on that day another baptism was held in which Karin Grayce Malone of Phoenix, Arizona was baptized by Elder Donald E. McIndoo, receiving the laying on of hands by Elder Don McIndoo assisted by Elder John H. Jones and was received by the Phoenix, Arizona Local Church of Christ.

Also on September 15, 1968, Roger Clifton Engle, son of Clifton and Ella Engle of Wamego, Kansas, was baptized and received the laying on of hands by his grandfather Apostle Archie F. Bell.

Elisa Elaine and Leah Leona Gould, daughters of Winfield and Elizabeth Gould, were baptized by Elder Arlo Gould July 14, 1968 at Bemidji, Minnesota. Elders Thomas Maley and Max Lee officiated and assisted in the laying on of hands.

Linda Dawn and Theresa Ann Gould, daughters of Donovan and Blanche Gould, were baptized by Elder Arlo Gould, August 17, 1968 at Bemidji, Minnesota. Elders Arlo Gould and Byron Wentworth officiated and assisted in the laying on of hands.

Belva Myrtle Cantrell of Maysville, Arkansas was baptized by Elder James M. Case September 15, 1968 at Noel, Missouri. She received the laying on of hands by Elder James M. Case assisted by Apostle Clarence L. Wheaton and was received by the Noel, Missouri Local Church of Christ.

On September 22, 1968, David Cox and his wife, Novella Katherine Cox who is the daughter of Sister Myrtle Robertson, was baptized and received the laying on of hands by Elder M. Harvey Seibel at Puryear, Tennessee. Brother and Sister Cox were received by the Puryear, Tennessee Local Church of Christ.

BLESSINGS

Brenda Myrene Cantrell daughter of Thomas and Jeanie Cantrell of Maysville, Arkansas, was blessed under the hands of Elder James M. Case assisted by Elder August L. Schwegler August 3, 1968 at Maysville, Arkansas.

ORDINATIONS

Alma Camp of Godfrey, Illinois was ordained a Priest by Elder James M. Case on August 4, 1968.

Brad Lee (Wilson) Wheaton was ordained a Priest by Apostle Clarence L. Wheaton and Elder Richard A. Wheaton on September 4, 1968.

NEW LOCAL CHURCHES ORGANIZED

The Downriver Local Church of Christ at Trenton, Michigan was organized by Apostle William A. Sheldon on June 21, 1968 with nine charter members. Elder Tony Grzincic was elected Pastor.

On September 22, 1968, the Denver Local Church of Christ, at Denver, Colorado was organized by Apostle Marvin E. Ely. Elder James Shaw was elected as Pastor.

A TESTIMONY OF HEALING

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Church of Christ and Readers of the Advocate:

This is my testimony of God's goodness to me. I was taken with a bad heart attack the last day of July and was rushed to the hospital and was there for 33 days. While there I lay praying, and the saints of the Maple City Local prayed for me along with many others. I also was administered to by Bro. Max Lee and Bro. Conley Addington. God hear our prayers. Now I am home but am very weak yet so I am asking the prayers of the members of the Church that my damaged heart might be healed, as I have seen many healings in my life and in my children's lives and know God has the power to do this if it is His will.

Your sister in Christ,

Mrs. Sylvia Mallory
of Maple City, Michigan Local

IN MEMORY OF A FRIEND AND BROTHER

We are saddened by the loss of a genuine friend and brother in this great Gospel Economy by the sudden passing of our brother Denver G. Chapman while engaged in a Prayer Service on the Temple Lot. In past years we have felt the warm influence of his sterling qualities as a christian gentleman and a friend and brother in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

"The Advocate Editors"

SOLEMN ASSEMBLY

By

Harvey E. Seibel, Associate Editor

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Church of Christ
(Temple Lot):

We are entering into momentous times. The time is rapidly drawing to a close when we shall find the summer past. And what of our souls? The outcome is up to us.

Our conference year is already over half gone. In five months we shall reconvene for a week of deliberation and decision making for the governing of the body of Christ for another year. But how many of us have really put much thought to another gathering which is set to meet April 3 through 5 prior to our Conference on April 6th? Actually this assembly of saints could be the more important. We really should put some serious thought and prayer on it that God will manifest himself to us. Let us not take it lightly nor scoff at its purposes for who knows the mind of the Lord. Division will only serve to defeat us. Let us, therefore, come together united for one purpose, to seek the will of the Lord.

The following notice is to give the result of the report by the Referendum Committee of the vote on the two Referendum Bills sent out by the 1968 Ministers' Conference. There is no active chairman between the Conferences, therefore the vote count is sent to the Council of Apostles. This Council in turn, is to publish to the Church the result of the vote.

NOTICE

The Council of Apostles hereby submit to the Church the results of the Referendum Bills sent out by the 1968 Ministers' Conference.

Bill No. 1, pages 10 and 11, Minutes of the Ministers Conference of 1968.

"The Joint Council set up a committee of two Apostles and one Bishop to develop and coordinate the program of establishing Indian Missions that can be self supporting; that a fund of \$5,000 be set up to begin the program at once, to be used to support missionaries, establish missions or relief, etc., and that funds be solicited throughout the church to continue and enlarge the programs. We affirm that the missionary side of the program be entirely in the hands of the Council of Apostles.

The committee be a standing committee with a three year term of office; one member to be elected each year. The term of office for the first three members to be determined as follows: The one receiving the highest vote to be for three years; the one receiving the second highest to be for two years; and one receiving the smallest vote to be for one year. It shall be the duty of the Joint Council to make the selection of the new member each year, subject to the approval of the Conference."

This resolution required a simple majority vote to carry.

Referendum Bill No. 1 carried by a majority vote of 169 For; 94 Opposed.

Bill No. 2, page 12, Minutes of the Ministers' Conference of 1968.

"When an individual, because of health reasons or otherwise, finds it advisable to leave his home, and desires to leave his home or property to the church and has not sufficient means to pay his entire expense at the rest home, and the State is unable to assist him until his total assets have been used for his needs and have been reduced to a given level, that the Ministers' Conference authorize the General Bishopric to receive and accept such property and administer the handling, maintaining, developing and disposing of such property as it may deem wise and to take care of the affairs of the donor to the extent of the value of the property. We further recognize that there may be cases when aid to such individuals may be necessary to exceed the extent of the value of the property in getting the individual properly cared for."

This resolution required a simple majority vote to carry.

Referendum Bill No. 2 carried by a majority vote of 207 For; 53 Opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Archie F. Bell, Secretary
Council of Apostles

HE'S THERE

God will understand as He does always,
When I am wrong, it's He who pays.
He watches me both day and night,
And works to keep me in His light.

When I am worried or distressed,
He puts my mind and soul at rest.
When I wander, as I sometimes do,
He freshens my heart, with love anew.

Though I turn my mind against Him,
He's always there for my every whim.
I have but to ask and it shall be given
These words are straight from God's Son in heaven.

He understands my heart cries out
What each new trouble is all about:
He's there to here each and everyone,
So kneel in prayer when day is done.

Through your thoughts and deeds, it's said
He marks us down as good or bad.
So visit Jesus on your knees,
His loving heart to always please.

He's always there in time of trouble
By kneeling in prayer, pay Him in double.

Gerry Shrum 1/1/68

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.

HOW TO FIND THE TRUE CHURCH"

By Nellie Walberg

— part 1—

In our search for truth we need a definition of truth. "Jesus said unto him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life: No man cometh unto the Father but by me'" (John 14:6). Jesus is our perfect example. He is a living demonstration of truth.

"Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth" (Psalm 119:142).

"Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth" (John 17:17). In the beginning God communicated truth to mankind by His word. He spoke to Adam and Eve. What God spoke was truth. Later God inspired men to write His truth for mankind. We call the truth in written form the laws of God. God is no respecter of persons or nations and He speaks His words according to faith. We of the restored gospel have two divinely inspired records containing revealed truth. These records are known as the Bible and the Book of Mormon, referred to in the 37th Chapter of Ezekiel as the stick of Judah and the stick of Joseph. Ancient manuscripts were often rolled on sticks and unrolled to be read lengthwise.

As the most important means of communicating truth to mankind, God sent His Son as a living demonstration of truth. God then "set in the Church . . . prophets" who speak truth according to the needs and faith of the Church in every age. Between the spoken word, the written word, and the living word made flesh, there is no contradiction. It is always one truth revealed in three ways. If there be contradiction, then the test should be applied as counselled in Isaiah 8:20, "If they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them".

The Church of Christ is to be the "pillar and ground of the truth" (I Timothy 3:15). Christ has given the assurance that while the forces of Satan are going to attack the Church, "the gates of hell shall not prevail against it", (Matthew 16:18) and in Luke 12:32 "Fear not, little flock; for is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom". The enemy of truth delights to have us waver in our conviction and would have us believe there is no true Church in the world today. Satan constantly tempts us to see only the weakness and imperfection rather than the steady rod of iron. The Bible and the Book of Mormon, however, teach that there is a true Church and that all of Christ's true sheep are to be gathered into this one fold. "But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be" (Matthew 24:37). Before the flood came, in

Noah's day, God gathered all His people into the Ark. Before the final judgment upon this earth, God is going to gather His people together into the true Church. "Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made covenant with me by sacrifice" (Psalm 60:5). According to Matthew 3:12 Christ will gather His wheat (the righteous into the garner: but He will burn up the chaff (the wicked) with unquenchable fire. Indeed it is of utmost importance to find the true Church, accept the true gospel and live according to truth.

How do we find the true Church in the world of today? There are many groups that lay claim of being the true Church, the continuation of that Church which Jesus Christ Himself established. The world's largest Christian Church base their claim of being the true Church on the basis that theirs is the oldest Church going back to Peter as their first leader. Peter was never in Rome, however, and their doctrines do not correspond with the doctrines of Christ as found in the New Testament, so this Church cannot be the true remnant Church.

Here are a few of their teachings that are contrary to the Bible and the Book of Mormon.

1. They have substitute sprinkling for Bible baptism.
2. They teach that an unbaptized infant, if it should die, can never see the face of Christ.
3. They teach that there is a purgatory.
4. They have, until recently, forbidden their priests and nuns to marry.
5. They indulge in image worship and pray to the Mother of Jesus.
6. They teach that favors from God can be bought with money.

Nephi, 600 B.C. by the spirit of God, saw in vision this great Church arise among the Gentiles, after the coming of Christ. He wrote: "And it came to pass that I saw among the Nations of the Gentiles the foundation of a great Church . . . which is most abominable above all other Churches, which slayeth the saints of God, yea, . . . and tortureth them and bringeth them down into captivity. And it came to pass that I beheld this great and abominable Church; and I saw the devil, that he was the foundation of it. And I also saw gold and silver, and silks, and scarlets, and fine-twined linen, and all manner of precious clothing; and I saw many harlots. And the Angel spoke unto me saying, Behold the gold, and the silver the silks, and scarlets, and fine-twined linen, and all manner of precious clothing, and the harlots are the desires of this great and abominable Church" (I Nephi 3:139-143).

In Ezekiel 31 we have the account of the symbolic figure of the same institution. It was a great cedar tree, overshadowing in its greatness all others. It is

envy of all the other trees. Verse 11 speaks of its wickedness. Because the waters made it great and under its branches dwelt all nations, it would seem that its development would require centuries. It is surrounded by other less significant trees; they become a forest. In Section 29 of the Book of Commandments, verse 24 we have reference to this same prophecy of Ezekiel with the assurance that the great and abominable Church would come to an end by divine means.

Nephi identifies this great Church as one which would cause a great many to go away into apostasy by reason of taking away many parts of the gospel of Christ, "Which are plain and most precious; and also many covenants of the Lord have they taken away"—An exceeding great many do stumble, yea insomuch that Satan hath great power over them" (I Nephi 3:168-175). Two of the gospel covenants, namely the words of the baptismal prayer and the words of the Sacrament Prayer are not to be found in the Bible. The Lord brought them again to us however when He gave us the Book of Mormon record. Those who rely on the Bible Record alone have no knowledge of these precious covenant words.

Ezekiel prophesied that other Churches would arise until there would be many. He pictures the great cedar as surrounded by many other trees of lesser significance. Nephi speaking of America wrote:

"The Gentiles are lifted up in the pride of their eyes, and have stumbled, because of the greatness of their stumbling blocks, that they have built up many Churches; nevertheless they put down the power and miracles of God, and preach up unto themselves, their own wisdom, and their own learning, that they may get gain, and grind upon the face of the poor; and there are many Churches built up which cause envyings, and strife, and malice" (II Nephi 11:90-92)

Does this picture the protestant world of today?

In the fourth century A.D. Moroni in a spiritual vision saw events of our day, including the condition of many Churches.

"Behold, Jesus Christ hath shown you unto me, and I know your doing; and I know that ye do walk in the pride of your hearts—and your Churches, yea, even every one, have become polluted because of the pride of your hearts. For behold, you do love money and your substance, and your fine apparel, and the adorning of your churches, more than ye love the poor and the needy, the sick and afflicted" (Mormon 4:47-50). There is a vast building boom going on among American Churches today, yet small groups of people are leaving these same Churches to meet in private homes for study and fellowship because regular Sunday Services leaves them unloved and unfed. There are Christian Churches today who have dances and beer breaks along with the latest sensual music in order to keep their congregation appeased. There are groups indulging in dope and sex orgies in the name of religious devotion. L.S.D. has been substituted for the gifts of the gospel and mental psychic phenonema is becoming the National wonder among those who prefer the occult religions.

Fanatical healing practices are duping the sick and afflicted. False prophets and prophetesses are heard everywhere; yet, where is the true Church of Christ? How may we find it? Organizations that teach doctrine contrary to the Word of God "take the name of the Lord in vain. It is not only the name of a Church which should be examined, but the doctrines also. There are many groups who take the name of Christ or God who "teach for doctrines the Commandments of men". Try the doctrines whether they be of God.

There are those who point to Latter Day Revelation as proof they have the truth. Any Latter Day Revelation must be harmonious with all previous revelations from God. If the Bible reads that "God set in the Church, first Apostles"—and Latter Day Revelations teach that God set in the Church first a presidency or a Pope, what is wrong? Paul wrote "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you; let him be accursed". Try the doctrines whether they be of God.

Other Churches show miracles as proof of truth. The devil can work miracles too. (Revelation 16:14) The true spirit is given only "to them who obey Him" (Acts 5:32). Obedience to the Will of God and adherence to the Commandments of God in faith, organization and practice is the test. Doctrine, not miracles, is the true way to test truth.

Feelings of being saved is not a safe test. There will be those who feel that they are saved who surely will be lost, according to the following:

"Many will say to me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity'" (Matthew 7:22,23). Christ was referring to religious people who have prophesied and did many good works. It makes a difference then, that we belong to truth, that our rocks may stand the test.

Some say it doesn't make any difference because all Churches believe in Christ and all are headed for the same place. But would God, whose gospel never changes, be the author of so widely divergent views? Surely it is evidence that it is not the same spirit that leads in so many different directions. We must try the spirits whether they be of God" (I John 4:1).

Whenever man has discarded the true God and set up gods of his own, men have never been content with the result and others have followed with still more gods, until there be nothing but confusion.

Jesus said, "I will build my Church" and He did set up one Church, soundly built on the foundation of Apostles and Prophets, He Himself being the Chief cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20). But men have set up Churches after the dictates of their own hearts until in 1830 the Lord set His hand to restore again His Church upon the earth to prepare a people for His second coming.

We will continue in the next article the scriptural

proof that Christ does have His true Church on earth today. In the meantime search the scriptures. Pray for guidance and keep a humble heart. Accept the promises of God. Do not settle for anything less than truth. Christ has promised: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened" (Matthew 7:7, 8).

THE LAST DAYS

Reprinted from the Zion's Advocate July 15, 1922 issue.

It has only been a few years ago that we could hear upon every hand that there would be no more wars, and that we would have universal peace; and that prominent men subscribed to a fund known as the Nobel Prize that was to be given to those who could offer the best solution for the ending of wars, yet we have only just gone through the most terrible war the world has ever known. And it was just as Paul predicted that it would be, for in speaking to the church at Thessalonica he said, "Of the times and seasons, brethren, ye have no need, that I should write to you for yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord cometh as a thief in the night."

For when they shall say, **Peace and safety**; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child, and they shall not escape." And didn't that condition exist? Was it not a fact that from many pulpits we heard the divines that were claiming to teach the word of God say that there would be no more wars, "that the millenium was here, and that the world is getting better," etc. Yet, like a flash of lightning from a clear sky, in the summer of 1914, we did have war started again, and of such far-reaching effect that the humblest hut and richest palace from one side of the earth to the other felt its destructive power. And in its wake we have had pestilence, famine, and terrible toll of life and limb, many have been left maimed and blind, crippled wrecks of fine manhood, that were swept into the vortex of war; some say that the world might be made a safe place for democracy, while others say to protect the interest of Wall Street.

In the last days perilous times will be upon the earth, for the prophets have said, "Be ye not mockers, lest your bands be made strong, for I have heard from the heritage of the Lord of hosts a consumption, even determined upon the whole earth." (Isa. 28:22) "For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered into the ark.

"And knew not till the flood came, and took them away, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." (Matthew 24:38, 39.) And is that not the way that these things are? We see the morals of the people of the world growing lax from day to day, divorce and breaking the marriage vows, murdering, anarchy, abominations upon every hand, yet people go on and give little thought to their spiritual welfare. Lovers of pleasure

more than lovers of God, having a form of Godliness, but denying the power thereof, etc., till it is no wonder that the Saviour was made to say, "When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth." (Luke 18:8)

As we look around us and see the fulfillment of the prophecies as above referred to we can see that they are only the signs of the second coming of Christ, for He said to His disciples upon the Mount, "Many shall come in my name and shall deceive many."

"And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars, see that ye be not troubled for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

"For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there shall be famines and pestilences, and earthquakes in divers places.

"All these are the beginning of sorrows." (Matthew 24:5, 8) Just look at the history of the last eight years, every nation on the earth either directly or indirectly engaged in war with one another. During 1918 there were ninety-eight earthquakes, some of which were very disastrous, especially in China; Russia and Armenia, and other places in the grip of famine and pestilence which has caused the loss of thousands of lives. On December 29, 1918, it was reported that in the three months that the influenza raged over the world that 6,000,000 lives were lost. More than had been lost in the great world war, but Christ said that these things were only the beginning of sorrows.

What do we see today? Upon every hand anarchy, disregard of law, class hatred, industrial warfare, civil war in many parts of the world. Surely a day when peace has been taken from the earth and a day when men should have their attention drawn to the necessity of serving God, and laying aside that which is detrimental to their spiritual and moral development.

The Lord has said that "it shall come to pass, among the wicked, that every man who will not take up his sword against his neighbor must flee to Zion for safety." Therefore it is necessary for all those that want to escape the calamities that are coming upon the earth to repent of their sins, take upon themselves the name of Christ and keep his commandments, for it is on account of the fact that the Gentiles have rejected the everlasting gospel that was restored to the earth by the angel (Revelation 14:6,7) that these things are coming to pass, for it is written "And in that day shall be heard of wars and rumors of wars, and the whole earth shall be in commotion, and men's hearts shall fail them, and they shall say that Christ delayeth His coming until the end of the earth. And the love of men shall wax cold, and iniquity shall abound, and when the time of the Gentiles is come in, a light shall break forth among them that shall sit in darkness, and it shall be in the fullness of my gospel; but they receive it not, for they perceive not the light, and their turn their hearts from me because of the precepts of men; and in that generation shall the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled; and there shall be men standing in the generation that shall not pass away,

until they shall see an over-flowing scourge, for a desolating sickness shall come over the land but my disciples shall stand in holy places, and shall not be moved; but among the wicked, men shall lift up their voices and curse God and die. And there shall be earthquakes also in divers places, and many desolations; yet men will harden their hearts against me, and they will take up the sword one against another, and they will kill one another."

"Wherefore the voice of the Lord is unto the ends of the earth, that all that will hear may hear; prepare ye, prepare ye for that which is to come, for the Lord is nigh; and the anger of the Lord is kindled, and His sword is bathed in heaven, and it shall fall upon the inhabitants of the earth; and the arm of the Lord shall be revealed; and the day cometh that they who will not hear the voice of the Lord, neither the voice of His servants, neither give heed to the words of the prophets and apostles shall be cut off from among the people: For they have strayed from mine ordinances, and broken the everlasting covenant; they seek not the Lord to establish His righteousness, but every man walketh in his own way, and after the image of his own god, whose image is in the likeness of the world, and whose substance is that of an idol, which waxeth old and shall perish in Babylon, even Babylon the great which shall fall." (See also Rev. 18:4, 24.)

Therefore, we say unto all the inhabitants of the earth even as many as shall read these words that have been declared unto you, that we bear our testimony to you that God has restored His gospel to the earth in these last days that you may be able to find a means of escape from His wrath which will be poured out upon the wicked without measure, for He is no respecter of persons and cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance, therefore, repent and turn away your hearts from all ungodliness, and every evil thought, and confess that Jesus is the Christ, 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, whose coming has been preached by those whom God has raised up in these latter days for that very purpose; and endowed them with His holy spirit and called them by His own voice into His priesthood to declare these things unto the inhabitants of the earth.

Therefore, repent and be baptized, for the remission of your sins, and ye shall receive the holy ghost, even the comforter which is shed abroad that the minds of the children of men might be enlightened pertaining to those things that are coming upon the earth in these last days; for it is day of God's reckoning with those that do not serve Him, and that make a reproach of those that are righteous and humble before Him.

"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne" (Revelation 3:21)

"He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son" (Revelation 21:7).

FOLLOW-UP 1968

By

Harvey E. Seibel, Associate Editor

That which was published in the July 15, 1922 issue of the Zion's Advocate could just as well have been written in July of 1968. If the world situation was bad at that time what must it be today? Since 1922 the world has been in a conflict which nearly dwarfs the 1st World War into insignificance. And now since the 2nd World War the world's inhabitants are faced with a war of such magnitude as to wipe out the entire human race from off this planet. Only God alone will prevent this total destruction, for, except those days be shortened no flesh will be saved. Christ himself said that there would be in the last days, wars and rumors of wars, storms, pestilences, famines and earthquakes in divers places.

There have been well over 100 armed conflicts since the beginning of this century. Over 70 of these conflicts have been fought since 1939. We can see from this that wars are on the increase. The majority of these conflicts have occurred in Asia, Africa and the middle east. The war between Russia and Japan in 1904-05 resulted in 130,000 killed. The Balkan Wars of 1912-13 extinguished over 160,000 lives. Nearly 10,000,000 (10 million peoples) lost their lives in World War I. That indeed was a terrible slaughter and a tragic loss of life. Yet it was little compared to what was to come 20 years later. The Spanish Civil War broke out in 1937-39 resulting in over 600,000 deaths followed immediately by World War II which wiped out an unbelievable 50,000,000 lives plus. The Korean War saw the loss of nearly a million souls to say nothing of the losses being currently suffered in Vietnam. On top of this one could add the multimillions killed in Russia (approximately 30,000,000) during the Stalin era and the more millions killed in China after the communist takeover there.

This century then is one of the bloodiest in history if not the bloodiest. And they say we are no longer in the dark ages. The present enlightenment has not decreased man's ferocity one bit.

Four or five years ago an interesting set of statistics was put out in a leading religious magazine citing the occurrences of tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions from 1900 to 1950 and then similar statistics for the following decade from 1950 to 1960. During the decade from 1950 to 1960 the number to tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, etc., far exceeded the number recorded during all of the previous 50 years.

Are we able, as were the Pharisees, to discern only the color of the sky and not the signs of the times? The signs of our times were never more apparent nor more prevalent then they are today. Brothers and sisters, the great day of the Lord is nigh unto us.

"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" (Revelation 2:17).

ATTENTION: YOUR SUPPORT IS URGENTLY NEEDED!

For the past several years the General Sunday School Association has met yearly during the Ministers' Conference to take care of the business of election of officers, the reading and approval of certain reports and other business as may arise. However these meetings have been very poorly attended.

Since our Sunday School is an important auxiliary to the Church and a vital instrument for teaching our children and others the gospel of Christ and since there is a need for greater support and greater effort to bring about a satisfactory program with a view to the up-building of the Church and since our children will grow up to carry on the responsibilities of the Church, we urge everyone to come and attend our General Sunday School Association meetings and to help formulate our Sunday School policies. We also urge each local Sunday School to submit a written report yearly to this association.

We are very definitely in need of a teaching program which will give our children the background and support they need to stand up to the world. They need to know what the Church of Christ is, what it stands for, its goals, how it came to be and why we believe it to be the true church. They also need to know about Zion, what the Bible and Book of Mormon teaches, what their own responsibility is. In other words our Sunday School classes ought to be classes of instruction and learning. Perhaps in so doing we can give our young people a goal to strive for and make life a little more meaningful to them than the glitter and attraction of worldly things. Perhaps they may even catch a glimpse of the glorious vision of their forebears. Certainly it may help to allay the apathy creeping in among our people and especially in our young people.

It is with these thoughts that we urge greater participation in the General Sunday School Association and perhaps thereby we can initiate a more constructive teaching program.

Elder Tony Grzincic, Chairman
Harvey E. Seibel, Secretary
General Sunday School Association

THE NEWS OF THE DOWNRIVER LOCAL

Trenton, Michigan

On June 18th we were honored by a visit from Bro. M. Harvey Seibel and Apostle Wm. A. Sheldon. During their visit, Apostle Wm. A. Sheldon was petitioned to organize our Downriver Local. This occurred on the 23rd day of June, 1968. The Downriver Local is located on the corner of Third and Maple in Trenton, Michigan.

During this meeting we elected our officers. Bro. Tony Grzincic is our pastor. Sr. Donelda Fields is our secretary-treasurer. Sr. Crystal Rader is pianist and Sr. Louise Grzincic is chorister. Sr. Opal Carroll is church reporter.

On July 14, 1968 Bro. Don Housknecht visited our local to show slides on the life of Christ entitled "He Was There." Everyone that was present enjoyed them so much, we have asked Bro. Housknecht to return and show them again.

On the 27th of July we were all invited to the home of Bro. Arthur G. Smith in Ottawa Lake, Michigan for a cook-out which everyone enjoyed very much.

Danny Richard Long, son of Ernest Long and Opal Carrol was baptized by Elder Tony Grzincic on September 1, 1968 at Dexter, Michigan and received the laying on of hands by Elders Tony Grzincic and Arthur G. Smith.

Sr. Opal Carroll
Church Reporter

CEDAR SPRINGS LOCAL NEWS

It is with mixed feelings of both joy and sorrow we write this article today. Sorrow because of the loneliness and missing our brother in the gospel work, missing his presence in our meetings and his cheery greetings.

We sorrow with his family in their grief and pray God's strength and blessings upon them.

We have joy in the knowledge that Brother Bud Hanes had spent much time in prayer and service of his Lord, and the testimony he gave us a few days before his Lord called him home, "I am not afraid to die."

In memory of Bud Hanes

Date of birth: August 16, 1919

Date of death: September 30, 1968

Services held at the McKinley Grant Chapel

Thursday, October 3, 1968 at 2 p. m.

In Charge Elder George Brantner

Assisted by Elder Laverne Lussenden

Final resting place Crandell Cemetery

Just a few excerpts from the message given at the funeral of our Brother Hanes.

We gather here that we might share the grief and sorrow of his loved ones, and that we might seek and find comfort in this seeming dark hour.

Comfort cannot be found in the wisdom and words of man. If today, I speak only my words and my wisdom, we would find but little wisdom and comfort. So, may we turn to the source of all wisdom and comfort of all ages. In so doing we read Psalm 116. "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Isn't this a wonderful hope to have? Do you also have this hope if you were summoned at this hour? I know this would be my brother's wish for you.

The tears we shed are tears of joy to know our brother has endured and shall receive that great reward. His soul now rests with a just God.

Yes, David mentioned the house of the Lord. He was speaking of that which was real. Because of his

great faith, the comforter had given him an assurance that a place had been prepared for him. That same assurance will be given to anyone who will be obedient to the commandments of God. Brother Bud had that assurance as did David.

Though memories may cause us to cry out in anguish of loneliness because of the loss of a loved one, but may we at this time feel and grasp and the full impact of the gospel and the hope that lies within us as we remember the words of the Master. "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled neither let it be afraid." (John 14:27)

The gospel of Christ gives us an assurance of a life hereafter. Believers in the gospel of Christ do not sorrow at the death of an obedient loved one, other than feeling a great loneliness. Christ has proven though we die, yet shall we live, and when Job came into his great knowledge he cried out, "Oh, that my words were now written! Oh, that they were printed in a book! That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock forever! For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God." (Job 19:23-26)

"I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." (John 11:25-26)

"Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto resurrection of damnation. (John 5:28-39)

So today we bid farewell to this house of clay, but not to that soul that hath known GOD.

Rest assured, those who love him, he will be given his rightful place in his Father's house of many mansions. Also in the words of Paul "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." (Romans 8:38-39).

The hymns sung by Brother Lussenden were "Rock of Ages" and "What a Friend We Have in Jesus."

There was a great number of friends, family, relatives, neighbors and brothers and sisters attended the services to pay their last respects to one who was loved and appreciated by all.

We have been holding regular Wednesday evening meetings for a number of weeks now, it is one more time of fellowship we all look forward to in thanksgiving to our Lord for His kindness.

Our meetings are conducted as we feel led by the Spirit, some times the whole time is spent in prayer and testimony, some times we take one subject and

follow it through to its conclusion, and some times our meeting will be both prayer and study.

Please remember our Brother Aaron Heath in your prayers, as he is far away from home and is very sick at heart.

The flu bug found its way around in our membership, quite a few children and their parents have been spending time in beds.

No much more to be said for this time, except the weather is just wonderful, and the woods sure are a place of beauty, showing some more of God's handiwork.

May God bless every one,

Sister Brantner

SAINTS, ARE WE READY?

By

Harvey E. Seibel

"Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." (Matthew 24:42).

We are living in momentous times, fearful times, yet wonderful times—momentous because of the greatness and significance of events that are occurring; fearful because of the peril overhanging the world, wonderful because these very things point to the near return of the Son of God. Surely there wasn't a more wonderful time to be alive or a more fearful time for "there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming upon the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these BEGIN to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh" (Luke 21:25-28). "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, AND THE CARES OF THIS LIFE, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell upon the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" (Luke 21:34-36).

But, then, have we fully discerned the signs of the times? Are we aware of where we stand today? It is true that no man knows the day nor the hour but certainly the events with each passing year justifies no vain delays.

We all know the prophecy in Isaiah 29 of the coming forth of the sealed book and the return of the former and latter rains. These rains did return 23 years after the coming forth of the Book of Mormon. Since the return of these rains 115 years have passed. Palestine has become a flourishing country. The Jews have become

a notable nation. In 1917 the Turkish rule over Palestine ended through the help of the English wherein not a shot was fired fulfilling the prophecy, "As birds flying, so will the Lord of hosts defend Jerusalem; defending also he will deliver it; and passing over he will preserve it" (Isaiah 32:5). That was the beginning of the fulfillment of Gentile times. It also marked the beginning of the ascendancy of the heathen power for in that same year the communist came in power in Russia.

Today it seems that time has speeded up, or rather that events of great import are occurring in greater and greater rapidity. They have become so commonplace that we are failing to understand fully their significance.

Last year we saw something which shook some of us out of our lethargy. To us who know the scriptures it was a marvelous event but to the world it was an alarming one. It not only resulted in an Arab defeat but unknown to most of the world it marked the end of an era. The scriptures tell us that Jerusalem was to be trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles were fulfilled. The year 1967 saw the return of all Jerusalem into Jewish hands for the first time in over 2000 years. But the end of one era must of necessity marked the beginning of another. "Thus saith the Lord God; Howl ye, Woe worth the day! For the day is near, even the day of the Lord is near, a cloudy day; IT SHALL BE THE TIME OF THE HEATHEN" (Ezekiel 30:2-3). The time is ripe for the fulfillment of all things—that is, those things which were to occur with the fulfillment of Gentile times. Are we ready?

There is a revelation given which says that except we flee to Zion we shall have to take up arms against our neighbor. We are witnessing today the development in this country a condition which could bring about this very thing and where is Zion? Are we sleeping? Yea, verily! Will we awaken in time? Apparently not if we understand the parable of the 10 virgins. They all slept until the midnight cry was given. Our hope, then, rests upon whether we have oil in our lamps. Are we ready? Yet the scriptures declare that before the day of wrath is fully come Zion will be established.

The time is short and yet we seem hardly to notice the signs which are cropping up all around us. In mid-September it was announced that Egypt had ordered total mobilization for war with Israel. A day or two earlier it was stated that Egypt had now built up the greatest military force in the history of the middle-east. Are we so naive as to believe that the Arabs will wait 5, 10 or more years before another confrontation with Israel. Add to this the tremendously increasing Russian forces in the Mediterranean now as opposed to June 1967. Then the Soviets had 10 warships there. Today they number over 50. Is it possible that we are about to witness the fulfilling of one of the greatest prophecies in the scriptures—namely Zechariah 14 in which Jesus himself shall appear? Are we aware also that we ourselves will face our greatest trial, namely, that Gog (Ezekiel 38) at that time will think an evil thought and come against

the land of unwallled villages, to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, etc. Are we ready?

How many of us have taken much serious thought to the Ecumenical movement? Is not this the formation of the image of the beast? Eugene Carson Blake is the supreme head of the protestant amalgamation. He is the equivalent to a Protestant Pope. The time is not far distant when another terrible seige of persecution will be commenced. Either we shall separate ourselves from this movement thus denying ourselves the right of barter and heaping upon ourselves much persecution or else we shall unite ourselves with this movement and lose our soul salvation. Which shall it be? Are we ready?

What's ahead now? It is true that we have a dark night ahead of us but the glorious things which are also to transpire more than outshine the darkness just ahead. There is a dazzling ray of hope if we but live the life of a saint unto God. "And it came to pass that I beheld that the great mother of abominations did gather together in multitudes upon the face of all the earth, among all the nations of the Gentiles, to fight against the Lamb of God. AND IT CAME TO PASS THAT I, NEPHI, BEHELD THE POWER OF THE LAMB OF GOD, THAT DESCENDED UPON THE SAINTS OF THE CHURCH OF THE LAMB, AND UPON THE COVENANT PEOPLE OF THE LORD, WHO WERE SCATTERED UPON ALL THE FACE OF THE EARTH; AND THEY WERE ARMED WITH RIGHTEOUSNESS AND WITH THE POWER OF GOD IN GREAT GLORY" (I Nephi 3:229-231). "For the time soon cometh, that the fullness of the wrath of God shall be poured out upon the children of men: FOR HE WILL NOT SUFFER THAT THE WICKED SHALL DESTROY THE RIGHTEOUS. WHEREFORE, HE WILL PRESERVE THE RIGHTEOUS BY HIS POWER, EVEN IF IT BE SO THAT THE FULLNESS OF HIS WRATH MUST COME, AND THE RIGHTEOUS BE PRESERVED, EVEN UNTO THE DESTRUCTION OF THEIR ENEMIES BY FIRE. WHEREFOR, THE RIGHTEOUS NEED NOT FEAR; for thus saith the prophet, They shall be saved, even if it so be as by fire." (I Nephi 7:34-37)

Some marvelous things yet to transpire include the following: the redemption of Zion, the return of the lost tribes of Israel, the going forth of the gospel in power, the coming forth of the marred man and the one mighty among the Lamanites, the coming forth of the other records, the conversion of both the Jew and Lamanite and the return of Jesus Christ to reign upon the throne of David. These are just a few of things yet ahead of us. Are we ready? Yea, are we worthy for a part in so great a work? May we not only be among the many called but also of the chosen of God.

"He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels" (Revelation 3:5).

THE GOLDEN STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN

By
Lucinda Scott

(Inspired by the personal testimony of Sr. Marie Jones)

'Tis a beautiful story that we have been told;
And it just as real, as those of old.
The road of life is a straight road ahead,
When heavenly sunshine, soft breezes spread
The glory of God, on left hand and right,
That brings to man's vision such peaceful delight.

On the roadway of life, for reapers await,
On right hand and left, God's harvest so great.
Our roadway of life, is lined up on each side,
With the harvest of God, 'tis both long and wide.
Our Stairway of Gold, can be reached if we glean
Our share of God's harvest, 'tis plain to be seen.

While strolling along life's roadway we see,
If we look to Him, We will find the key
To all the bright beautiful treasures of heav'n,
For to all who seek, these treasures are giv'n.
Our road from heaven, can be found if we look
Within the pages of God's Holy Book.

On this roadway from heaven, with songs in our heart,
We'll find our treasures, each one set apart;
A Stairway of Gold from heaven to earth,
Is stretched out before us, 'tis of great worth;
As we gaze towards heaven, 'tis a beautiful sight,
For at the top, we'll find pure delight.

This Stairway of Gold is for each one to climb;
Each step we take, Jesus' steps sublime
Will meet us half way, coming down from the skies;
Thro' tender tear drops falling down from our eyes,
We'll see Christ in His glory, full of heavenly love,
As He comes down to meet us, from His home above.

On this Stairway of Gold, His dear face we'll behold;
With wide open arms, each one He'll enfold
With great mercy and kindness, compassion and love,
To enlarge in our hearts that great love from above.
With His dear arms around us, He'll show us the way,
If we follow His steps, and His words obey.

This Stairway of Gold, from heaven above,
Tho' unseen by us, it is paved with love.
Each step that we take, He'll guide all the way,
If our faith is strong, and unto Him we pray.
Each step that we take, brings us nearer our goal,
Where our love for Him will be perfectly whole.

(Submitted by permission from Sr. Jones)

"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" (Revelation 2:11).

WHAT GOD MEANS TO ME

By
Leora Martin

God represents a power to me,
So immense that I can't comprehend.
He is peace and comfort to me;
A love, pure, that I can understand.

God is the Greatest of the Great;
Greatest creator, greatest healer,
Greatest miracle performer;
His gospel, the best of the Great.

God is perfection; perfect peace,
A perfect love, a beauty personified,
His Heaven, all loveliness and peace;
No disorder, no discomfort horrified.

God is the One I can confide in,
Trust, knowing He is all wisdom;
Knowing, too, He forgives my sin,
Giving me a chance to His kingdom.

God is a true Father to me;
A love, greater than all love.
Giving His only Son for me,
So I might live with Him above.

When there is fear or danger,
His name I call to help me.
He never fails or has to wager,
But calms, cheers, and comforts me.

God has given me a goal;
Seems impossible to gain.
A chance to save my soul,
So Christ did not die in vain.

This goal I must attain
By constant prayer and striving;
To do God's will, endure all pain,
And all things while I'm living.

He knows how much I need Him,
How thankful for all things.
How great, Bright and Beautiful
Is He, Greatest of Kings!

This poem hasn't perfect meter,
Neither has it perfect phrasing;
But my God knows my every meaning,
And understands my way of praising.

He understands my every weakness;
Is there with helping hand to guide me.
Giving me courage, faith, and meekness,
That I may strive, more like Him to be.

FANTASTIC—MAYBE SO

By
Harry Slocum Tordoff

GOD gave us Beauty to behold
If we'd use our eyes to see it,
And Knowledge from the Scribes of old
If we'd use our ears to hear it.

HE'S placed **so much** at our disposal
To be used as we see fit,
But we seem to lack the Where-With-All
To make the most of it.

We're born as innocent babies
But it isn't many years
'Fore we're like dogs with rabies
Causing untold grief and tears.

Even as youngsters—we learn to hate—
To fight—and to hurt one another;
Sacred Values - - - desecrate
And Character blemish—a Brother.

And as years advance— we improve, **not a whit**
In fact—we tend to get worse;
Worrying not—what God thinks of it,
Accepting the Devil's Curse.

If only we'd heed our conscience's nudge
And realize the depth of our wrongs,
How easy 'twould be to erase the smudge
And fill life with cheerful songs.

Not only for us—but for others, too
It would be a Positive Boon;
And the days would be—but very few
'Fore our world would be in tune.

"FANTASTIC!" you say—Well, maybe so,
But somehow I disagree,
For with GOD as my Sponsor—**this I know**
That **BEAUTY**—is all I'll see.

"And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over nations" (Revelation 2:26).

"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 up him my new name" (Revelation 3:12)

"THE SEEKERS"

By
Nellie Walberg

Friends and riches we may have none
Nor fame nor large abode.
But always the hope of the City of God
At the other end of the road.

Not for us the content of mind
Of thinking we know it all—
There's always more out there beyond
We hear the challenge—we answer the call;

There's no solace on earth for such as we
Our spirits are on the go—
We long for records we may never see
For truth we may never know.

Only the relentless search
Through dawn, and wind and rain
Finding here and there a precious jewel
Then on to the search again.

Deep we dig into archives
For dusty records we love
Spending our strength in the joy of the search
With God guiding from above.

Yet we turn from truth second-hand
We prefer it unsullied and clean—
The light of God's revelation
With no other go-between.

We hear a voice in the distance calling.
We see a dear face with a welcome smile.
We catch a glimpse of our Master—
The Search has been worthwhile!

"A HOUSE DIVIDED"

By
Harry Slocum Tordoff

A house divided against itself
Will one day, surely fall,
And be overcome by enemies
Who awaits the traitor's call.

A house divided against itself
Cannot stand for very long,
For its bitter inner conflict
Makes it **anything** but strong.

A house, or Land divided
Makes the Devil laugh with glee,
As he watches hatred strengthen
And just waits contendedly.

America, our beloved country
Has become a Land divided;
And as in all such cases
We are, by the world, derided.

Unless Americans wake up
And close this sinful gap
Like a "Sugar Maple"—"Civil War"
Will again, drain our Country's sap.

We have been a nation "Under God"
And as such prospered well;
But if the Devil takes control
Our Nation is in for "Hell".

Americans all, get wise to yourselves
Don't sell your country short;
For with disbelief and violence,
Only trouble can be brought.

A LETTER TO THE READERS OF THE ADVOCATE

10-22-68

Dear Friends of like faith:

It is too long since I have written to our little church paper. So I would like to take this opportunity to send my love and prayers to each member of our Church of Christ family.

I have been thinking a lot recently of the special gifts Christ has given to His church, through the teachings he brought in the old and new worlds.

I am thinking especially of the sacraments that are given for comfort.

Through our special sacrament services we are drawn closer together, as well as closer to Christ. This wonderful opportunity is ours; to repent of our sins and to review our vows. We are so blessed when dear ones of the church stop by at our home and give us this opportunity. Apostle Sheldon once told us, that while he is sure the sacrament service is precious to all, it must come with even deeper meaning to those like ourselves who are isolated, and who do not often have this privilege. This is true with us.

Then we have the beautiful ceremony of blessing of little children. To me, no story in the Book of Mormon is more touching than that of Christ blessing the children.

We have been given the opportunity of administration to the sick. How many times each of us have seen or heard of the blessings so received.

During the last five months I have had two eye operations for teach in the retina, and retinal detachment. I want to think now, all those who have so kindly written and prayed for me. There were times of fear and depression that I have literally known a sudden peace, and realized the prayers were being said.

Sometimes I think we take for granted the love and prayers of those in our family who are nearest and so dear to us. We acknowledge what our friends in our church, as well as others do, and forget our own.

I can testify that through a series of what might by unbelievers be called coincidences, I was led directly, and in time to save a major hemorrhage to the specialist who is most used to using the new laser machine. Onl ya few months ago I would have had to go to San Francisco. I go tomorrow for a laser treatment, preventative, of the other eye. I have been greatly blessed and hope in time to use my eyes (which I do for close work now only a few minutes at a time) to be of some use in the world.

All are welcome to stop with us—when you come through Albuquerque, our love to each.

Viola Hening
304 Homeland Rd., N. W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87114

OFT IN MY CARELESS YOUTH—

By

Gordon Hawkins

Oft in my careless youth I wounded those
Who most deserved my love; this I regret,
That I hurt those to whom my greatest debt
Was owed! . . . Now, disciplines the years impose
Have chastened me. The older that one grows
Youth's arrogance diminishes, and yet
There come new faults and failures that beset
Man's better nature; these he must oppose
With all the moral vigor he commands.
For there is no cessation of the urge.
Toward brutishness! So, one must ever strive
To quell the impulse godlessness demands
And the quick passions that so rise and surge
Through every moment that we are alive!