

# 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. 48

Independence, Missouri, July 1971

No. 7

## God Bless You

I seek in prayerful words, dear friend,  
My heart's true wish to send you,  
That you may know that far or near,  
My loving thoughts attend you.

I cannot find a truer word,  
Nor fonder to caress you;  
Nor song, nor poem that I have heard  
Is sweeter than, God bless you!

"God bless you!" So I've wished you all  
Of brightness life possesses;  
For can there any joy at all  
Be thine unless God blesses?

"God bless you!" So I breathe a charm,  
Lest grief's dark night oppress you;  
For how can sorrow bring you harm,  
If 'tis God's way to bless you?

So, not, "through all thy days  
May sorrow touch thee never;"  
But this alone—"God bless thee friend;"  
Then thou art safe forever.

Author Unknown

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# Zion's Advocate

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## EDITORIAL . . .

### THE BLESSING OF THE GENTILES

Nearly 4000 years ago the Lord chose out a man of  
 the line of Shem and told him that he would make him  
 the father of many nations and that his seed would  
 possess the gate of his enemies. He also told him that  
 the promised seed would come out his loins. The  
 Lord made this covenant with him saying, "And in thy  
 seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed."  
 (Acts 3:25).

Turning to the Book of Mormon we read the follow-  
 ing, "Wherefore, our father (Lehi, HES) hath not spoken  
 of our seed alone, but also of all the house of Israel,  
 pointing to the covenant which should be fulfilled in the  
 latter days; Which covenant the Lord made to our  
 father Abraham, saying, In thy seed shall all the kin-  
 dreds of the earth be blessed" (I Nephi 4:28-29).

Later, when Jesus made his appearance upon this  
 land he spake the following words: "And behold ye are  
 the children of the prophets; and ye are of the house of  
 Israel and ye are of the covenant which the Father  
 made with your fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in  
 thy seed, shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed;  
 The Father having raised me up unto you first, and  
 sent me to bless you, in turning away every one of  
 you from his iniquities; and this because ye are the  
 children of the covenant. And after that ye were bless-  
 ed, then fulfilleth the Father the covenant which he  
 made with Abraham, saying, In thy seed shall all the  
 kindreds of the earth be blessed, unto the pouring out  
 of the Holy Ghost through me upon the Gentiles, which  
 blessings upon the Gentiles, shall make them mighty  
 above all, unto the scattering of my people, O house of  
 Israel: and they shall be a scourge unto the people  
 of this land" (3 Nephi 9:63-65).

Nearly 2000 years ago the Lord set his hand the  
 first time to gather his people even as a hen gathereth  
 her chicks under her wing. But they would not be-  
 cause of the hardness of their heart. The Gentiles,  
 however, received the word with gladness. And as a  
 result of this willingness to believe at that time, the  
 Lord promised them a great future blessing. "Behold,  
 because of their belief in me, saith the Father, and be-  
 cause of the unbelief of you, O house of Israel, in the  
 latter day shall the truth come unto the Gentiles, that  
 the fulness of these things shall be made known unto  
 them" (3 Nephi 7:31).

Paul makes reference to this concerning the Jews,  
 for he says, God "hath concluded them all in unbelief,  
 that he might have mercy upon all" (Romans 11:32).  
 And ". . . blindness in part has happened to Israel until  
 the fulness of the Gentiles be come in . . . For as ye in  
 times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained  
 mercy through their unbelief;" (Romans 11:25 and 30).

These scriptures tell us that through the Jews' un-  
 belief the Gentiles were to be blessed, and as we  
 learned above the covenant to Abraham was not to be

fulfilled until the latter days. With that fulfillment, the Gentiles were to be made mighty above all people unto the scattering of the house of Israel. However this unbelief on the part of Israel and the subsequent blessing of the Gentiles will eventually work for the good of all. Paul indicates this in Romans 11:26-31. After telling us, that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in he goes on to say "And so all Israel shall be saved." "Even so have these (the Jews HES) also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy."

This blessing of the Gentiles included more than the reception of the gospel only. For with this gospel they are to perform some great works. They are to play a key role in the winding up scenes of the world's history. Their energy and labors will be in behalf of God's covenant people, not only in restoring them to a knowledge of the gospel of Christ but also in carrying them forth to the lands of their inheritance. A sidelight to this great work which is to be performed by the Gentiles, is the fact that they are mixed with the blood of Ephraim. It is no wonder that such great promises are extended to them. Ephraim according to the scriptures was to receive the greater blessing.

We know that in 1820-30 the Book of Mormon came by way of the Gentile even as it was prophesied it would do. This record was to come after the Indian had been scattered and smitten by the hand of the Gentiles. (See I Nephi 3:182-239, I Nephi 4:16-33 and I Nephi 7:13-60). It was also to come in a day "... when it shall be said that miracles are done away; ... in a day when the blood of the saints shall cry unto the Lord, because of secret combinations and the works of darkness; yea it shall come in a day when the power of God shall be denied, and churches become defiled, and shall be lifted up in the pride of their hearts; ... yea, it shall come in a day when there shall be heard of fires, and tempests, and vapors of smoke in foreign lands; and there shall also be heard of wars and rumors of wars, and earthquakes in divers places; yea, it shall come in a day when there shall be great pollutions upon the face of the earth" (Mormon 4:34-38).

The Gentiles will have a further work in that day. They are to be the Lord's instrument in bringing about a temporal as well as a spiritual salvation to the house of Israel. In I Nephi 6:52 we read, "Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people; and they shall bring thy sons in their arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders. And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers." The seventh chapter in speaking of these things goes on to say, "... these things of which are spoken, are **temporal**;" (I Nephi 7:13). Nephi then states that after all the house of Israel have been scattered and confounded, that the Lord God will raise up a mighty nation among the Gentiles, and after they have scattered the Indian the Lord will proceed to do a marvelous work among them (the Gentiles,

HES), which shall be of great worth to the Indian. "Wherefore, it is likened unto their being nourished by the Gentiles, and being carried in their arms, and upon their shoulders (I Nephi 7:18).

This same quotation concerning the setting up of the Gentiles for a standard to the people is repeated in 2 Nephi 5:17. In speaking of their kings and queens as being nursing fathers and mothers, Nephi quotes by saying, "They shall bow down to thee with their faces towards the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet (2 Nephi 5:20). Next he tells us who it is that shall lick up the dust of their feet. "... they that fight against Zion and the covenant people of the Lord" (2 Nephi 5:33). Two kinds of Gentiles then are referred to in the above prophecy; those who will work for a temporal salvation for Israel and those who will fight against them.

The greater fulfillment of this prophecy is yet to come, for the house of Israel cannot be gathered back to the lands of their inheritance until they first have been brought to a knowledge of Christ. "... thus saith the Lord God: When the day cometh that they shall believe on me, that I am Christ, then have I covenanted with their fathers, that they shall be restored in the flesh, upon the earth, unto the lands of their inheritance. And it shall come to pass that they shall be gathered in from their long dispersion from the isles of the sea, and from the four parts of the earth; AND THE NATIONS OF THE GENTILES SHALL BE GREAT in the eyes of me, saith God, IN CARRYING THEM FORTH TO THE LANDS OF THEIR INHERITANCE. YEA, THE KINGS OF THE GENTILES SHALL BE NURSING FATHERS UNTO THEM, AND THEIR QUEENS SHALL BECOME NURSING MOTHERS; Wherefore the promises of the Lord are great unto the Gentiles, for he hath spoken it, and who can dispute?" (2 Nephi 7:12-16. The Lord has set his hand the second time to gather his people who are of the house of Israel. And it is the Gentile who is to be the instrument in accomplishing this work.

But to the Indian He says, "I will afflict thy seed by the hand of the Gentiles; Nevertheless, I will soften the hearts of the Gentiles, that they shall be like unto a father to them; Wherefore, the Gentiles shall be blessed and numbered among the house of Israel" (2 Nephi 7:27-29). When the city New Jerusalem shall be built upon this land, the Gentiles will help the Lamanites (the Indian) to gather in unto the city. (See Nephi 10:11).

We can see from this that the promises to the Gentiles are great. Nevertheless there is a warning of judgments to them if they shall fail to hearken unto the fulness of the gospel which shall have gone forth among them. "And it shall come to pass, that if the Gentiles shall hearken unto the Lamb of God in that day that he shall manifest himself unto them in word, and also in power, in very deed, unto the taking away of their stumblingblocks, and harden not their hearts against the Lamb of God, they shall be numbered among the seed of thy father; yea, they shall be num-

bered among the house of Israel; And they shall be a blessed people upon the promised land for ever; They shall be no more brought down into captivity. . . " but ". . . wo, be unto the Gentiles, if it so be that they harden their hearts against the Lamb of God" (I Nephi 3:201-204 and 213).

Again ". . . I say unto you, that if the Gentiles do not repent, after the blessing which they shall receive; after they have scattered my people, then shall ye who are a remnant of the house of Jacob, go forth among them . . . And it shall come to pass, saith the Father, that the sword of my justice shall hang over them at that day; and except they repent, it shall fall upon them" (3 Nephi 9:51 and 56).

Even though many of the Gentiles have rejected the fulness of the Gospel and will bring down upon themselves the judgments of God, there will nevertheless be those of the Gentiles who will believe. It is among these believing Gentiles that salvation shall be wrought in behalf of the house of Israel. The time is coming when the Gentiles shall come clean before the Lord and shall possess a faith even as that of the Brother of Jared. When that day shall come then shall the greater things be made manifest unto them.

Harvey E. Seibel

## ORDINATION

Frank Fann, Jr. of Independence, Missouri was ordained an elder May 9, 1971 by Elder Kenneth J. Smith and Apostle William A. Sheldon. His calling was given through the Spirit at the sacrament service Sunday, May 2nd at the East Independence, Missouri Local Church.

## BLESSINGS

Aaron Matthew Carney, the son of Joseph and Alice Carney of Lonedell, Missouri, was blessed by his grandfather, Elder M. Harvey Seibel, February 28, 1971 at Willow Springs, Missouri.

Amber Shanddrae Arnett, the daughter of Robert and La Retta Arnett of Independence, Missouri, Janelle Sue Yates, the daughter of Wallace and Geraldine Yates of Independence, Missouri and Michael DeShannon Edge, the son of Ronald and Debra Edge of Columbia, Missouri, were blessed by Elder Joseph E. Yates and Apostle E. Leon Yates February 28, 1971 at Collins, Missouri.

Julius James Winegar, the son of Donald and Carolyn Winegar of Lake George, Nebraska, was blessed by Apostle Robert H. Jensen April 9, 1971 in Independence, Missouri.

Jeffrey Robert Oldham, the son of Robert and Jennifer Oldham of Independence, Missouri, was blessed by Elders Nicholas F. Denham and Roland L. Sarratt February 28, 1971.

## BAPTISMS

Michele Kay Nast, William Frank Fann and Ronald Ray Sheldon all of Independence, Missouri were baptized by Apostle William A. Sheldon May 9, 1971 at the East Independence, Missouri Local Church. Apostle William A. Sheldon and Elder Roland Sarratt officiated in the laying on of hands. The three young people were received as members of the East Independence Missouri Local Church.

Benton Boone Boggs, Jr. and his wife Willie Kathleen Boggs of Roanoke, Virginia were baptized May 23, 1971 by Apostle William A. Sheldon. Apostles Joseph W. Kidd and William A. Sheldon officiated in the laying on of hands.

## OBITUARY

Miss Ethel M. Hamilton passed away on May 11, 1971 at a Malvern, Iowa nursing home, at the age of 77. She was born at Nelson, Missouri and resided at McClelland, Iowa for 57 years before moving to Tabor, Iowa in 1968. Services were held at the Cutler Funeral Home, with interment at the Memorial Park Cemetery in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Survivors include: four sisters, Mrs. Eunice Horn and Miss Alice Hamilton of Tabor, Mrs. Julia Gorrell of Woodbine, Iowa and Mrs. Maisie Pearson of Lafayette, Indiana; and nieces and nephews.

Sister Hamilton was a long-time member of the Church of Christ. She was a member of the Council Bluffs and McClelland, Iowa Local, Robert H. Jensen, Pastor. Sister Hamilton was a very faithful and devoted member, even through many years of failing health and afflictions. She was always valiant in her testimony as to the truthfulness of the Restored Gospel, and never failed to bear her testimony in a prayer service. We are bountifully assured of her rest in the Paradise of God, and pray that the comforting influence of the Holy Spirit may rest upon those who cared for her so willingly and lovingly through the years of her physical afflictions.

## OBITUARY

Ardy Hanes, Jr. of Sand Lake, Michigan passed away Friday evening May 7, 1971 at the age of 53. He was born August 29, 1917 at Hesperia, Michigan. Surviving are his wife Lillian, four daughters, three sons, six grandchildren and his mother, Mrs. Edith Hanes, three brothers and five sisters.

The funeral service was conducted by Apostle Don W. Housknecht on Tuesday, May 11, at 1:00 p. m. at the McKinley Chapel in Grant, Michigan and the burial was in the Crandall Cemetery.

Brother Hanes was baptized and joined the Church of Christ May 29, 1938 and was a member of the Cedar Springs, Michigan Local Church.

## OBITUARY

Elisabeth Sophia Gibbons of Vernon, British Columbia, Canada, formerly of Viceroy, Sask., Canada, was born in Austria September 15, 1896. She passed from this life February 14, 1971.

She is survived by two sons, John of Viceroy, Sask., Canada and Richard of Solomons, Maryland, three daughters, Marjorie Wick of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Eva Youngberg of Vernon, B. C., Canada and Mavis Kineshanks of Vernon, B. C., Canada, 18 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. Interment was at Vernon, B. C., Canada.

Sister Gibbons was baptized and joined the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in July 1925. On June 12, 1931 she transferred her membership to the Church of Christ and was a charter member of the Viceroy, Sask., Canada Local Church.

## REUNION AND CAMPOUT REMINDERS

The Wisconsin Reunion will be held August 7 and 8 in the American Legion Hall in Rio, Wisconsin.

The Northern Michigan Campout will be held July 16 through 18 at the camp grounds in Burdickville.

## CORRECTION

Due to a printing error, the Final Report of the Dining Hall Committee as it appeared in the May Advocate shows a total of \$35.07 as being received during the Conference this year. This should read as follows: During the conference this year, we received \$350.07 which includes the sale of a few items at the end.

## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Elder and Mrs. Hans Hansen became the parents of a new baby girl May 25, 1971 at 2:49 p. m. Little Laura Sue weighed in at a nice 6 lbs. 13 ozs. and was 20½ inches long at birth. Bro. and Sr. Hansen are naturally thrilled at their new addition. We are very happy for them.

## A PSALM OF LIFE

By

Henry W. Longfellow

Tell me not in mournful numbers,  
 "Life is but an empty dream."  
 For the soul is dead that slumbers  
 And things are not what they seem.

Life is real! life is earnest!

And the grave is not its goal  
 "Dust thou art, to dust returneth,"  
 Was not spoken of the soul.

Not of enjoyment, and not sorrow,  
 Is our destined end or way;  
 But to act, that each tomorrow  
 Finds us farther than today.

Art is long, and Time is fleeting,  
 And our hearts, though stout and brave,  
 Still, like muffled drums, are beating  
 Funeral marches to the grave.

In the world's broad field of battle,  
 In the bivouac of life,  
 Be not like dumb, driven cattle!  
 Be a hero in the strife!

Trust no future, howe'er pleasant!  
 Let the dead Past bury its dead!  
 Act—Act in the living Present!  
 Heart within and God o'erhead.

Lives of great men all remind us  
 We can make our lives sublime,  
 And, departing, leave behind us  
 Footprints on the sands of time.

Footprints, that perhaps another,  
 Sailing oe'r life's solemn main,  
 A Forlorn and shipwrecked brother,  
 Seeing, shall take heart again.

Let us, then, be up and doing,  
 With a heart for any fate;  
 Still achieving, still pursuing,  
 Learn to labor and to wait.

(Author and Title Not Given)

We look for no good in his make-up,  
 But, Lord, how we look for the flaw.  
 No one asks, "Who did the tempting?"  
 Nor allows for the battles he's fought.  
 His name becomes food for the jackals,  
 The saints who have never been caught.  
 I'm a sinner, Oh Lord, and I know it.  
 I am weak, and I blunder and fail.  
 I am tossed on life's stormy ocean  
 Like a ship that is caught in a gale.  
 I am willing to trust in thy mercy,  
 To keep the commandments thou'st taught,  
 But deliver me, Lord, from the judgment  
 Of the saints who have never been caught."

Submitted by William F. Anderson

## ORIGINAL ARTICLES

NOTE: We solicit articles for this department written in an affirmative manner. An affirmative article is one in which a belief, or an opinion, is expressed, and evidences presented to support that belief.

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE THE OPINION OF THE AUTHOR AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE TEACHINGS OF THE CHURCH OR THE OPINIONS OF THE EDITORIAL STAFF.

### AMOS — GO AWAY!

By Stephen Brown

Two years before the people fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah, the Mighty Yah, Elohim, the Lord God of Israel called the lowly Amos from among the herdsmen of Tekoa to warn His people of their sins and of the impending judgment. God called this humble man of the little village near Bethlehem and revealed to him concerning the Word of the Lord to Israel because of their sins and transgressions.

Spiritual pride filled the minds of the people. They were blinded by it so that they could not discern the awfulness of their sins. Priests, prophets, and people alike had turned from the old paths, the simple, humble way of righteous obedience. True, they yet retained the outward form and fashion of their former worship and service to their Maker. The outward fashion and show of their sacrifices and offerings was most delightful to their minds. Had not God blessed them in abundance of things? Surely He was with them and took pleasure in their fine things, their palaces, their priests, their kings, and their exalted places of worship, they reasoned, no doubt.

But God was against them. He hated them in their fine sanctuaries; He despised their feasts and solemn assemblies, their offerings, their flattering words, and their songs.

God is not to be fooled. Nothing from Him can be hid. He despises the outward display of a dedication to Him that is not truly from the heart. He knows in an instant whether words and actions of dedicated worship and service are deep from the honest and sincere heart, or whether they are the surface display of shallow insincerity of spiritual blindness, and pride. And as God looked down upon His people during Amos' time, as He weighed the thoughts and intents of their hearts, He found them wanting. They tilted the scales heavily on the false side. Their transgressions were manifold and their sins mighty in the eyes of God. "God is not mocked."

Amaziah may have been chief among the priests of Israel at that time. Likely he could produce his credentials for his position and authority, his right to be recognized as a priest over the house of God. The people must have had some certain reason to recognize Amaziah as their spiritual leader. But, dear friends, God does not judge presently by what we were once called to be, but by what we are now. Many have been called of God and raised up before His people to lead them in righteousness and truth, but in the course of time pride enters, the mind is blinded, and spiritual corruption sets in. So here we find a priest whose word

was honored by the king, but God was not with his words. In this time of tragic need for Israel to hear the whole counsel of God, there was not found one among the priests of Israel in Samaria whom God could choose.

Amos was not wanted by priest, by king, or by the people who blindly followed the words of their blind leaders. His right to speak the Words of God was rejected. He had no authority, no right to come and speak as he did, according to their manner of judging. They hated him for his rebuke and abhorred him for speaking uprightly. He was nothing but a common herdsman.

Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, "Amos hath conspired against thee in the midst of the house of Israel: THE LAND IS NOT ABLE TO BEAR ALL HIS WORDS" (Amos 7:10 in part). Amos had declared that Jeroboam would die by the sword and Israel would be led away captive out of their own land.

Angered by such fearlessness to speak against the King and the land, Amaziah ordered Amos to go, "O thou seer, go, flee thee away into the land of Judah, and there eat bread and prophesy there: but prophesy not again any more at Bethel: for it is the king's chapel, and it is the king's court" (Amos 7:12-13).

But Amos feared the Word of God more than the face of clay. He replied to Amaziah, "I was no prophet, neither was I a prophet's son; but I was an herdsman, and a gatherer of sycamore fruit:" (wild figs) "And the Lord took me as I followed the flock, and the Lord said unto me, GO, PHOPHESY UNTO MY PEOPLE ISRAEL" (Amos 7:14-15 in part).

The message of the Lord through Amos began with a warning to the heathen nations round about Israel of their coming destruction. Then the warning centered upon God's people. He pointed out to them particular sins. While these people were putting up a fancy display of devotion and dedication to their God, proclaiming loudly of their services and free offerings; God was centering His attention upon their daily deeds. He was looking at their motives, how they treated their neighbor, their dishonesty in business, their wrong judgment, how they despised the poor, afflicted the meek who sought justice, took bribes for reward, showing respect of persons for selfish gain. God has ever promised that He would reward a man according to his works, not according to his profession. Through Amos, God warned this people of coming fire, destructions, and bitterness. "You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you all for your iniquities" (Amos 3:2).

God also warned them that in the day He visited the transgressions of Israel upon them, that He would

also, "VISIT THE ALTARS OF BETHEL: AND THE HORNS OF THE ALTAR SHALL BE CUT OFF, AND FALL TO THE GROUND" (Amos 3:14 in part). Now the Mighty One of Israel makes a promise in His wrath! And we today are also exhorted, "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the Living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called to day: lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin" (Hebrews 3:12-13). "The Lord SHALL judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God . . . Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, AFTER YE HAVE DONE THE WILL OF GOD, YE MIGHT RECEIVE THE PROMISE" (Hebrews 10:30-31 in part, and 35-36).

The Lord then spoke to His people, in a sense, on this wise, Go ahead, meet at your holy places in your rebellion. Have your meetings and assemblies the way you like them; the way that pleases you. This is like you.

"Come to Bethel, and transgress; at Gilgal multiply transgression; and bring your sacrifices every morning, and your tithes after three years: And offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving with leaven, and proclaim and publish the free offerings: for this liketh you, O ye children of Israel saith the Lord God" (Amos 4:4-5).

When we meet before God, not in sincerity and truth, but with the old leaven of evil and wickedness of sin still in our hearts, we only multiply and add to our transgressions. A little sin kept in a cherished place in our hearts grows like the ferment of yeast until the whole is leavened. So the Lord is trying to get these people to understand that coming to Him in pretense while there was yet wrong doing among them was only multiplying their transgressions.

God had been dealing with this people, trying to bring pressures upon them that would cause them to consider the error of their way and turn unto Him again in repentance. But they refused to understand the meaning of the severe testings that came upon them.

The Lord sent them want of bread in all their places, yet they refused to turn to Him.

He withheld the rain so that the people wandered from city to city seeking water, but were not satisfied. Still they refused to see the purpose. The weather was to blame.

He smote their gardens, vineyards, and olive trees with blasting, mildew, and worms, but they refused to see His warning in it and turn to Him.

Then the Lord sent pestilence after the manner of Egypt upon them; then war to kill their young men and take their horses so the stink of their camps came up into their nostrils: yet they returned not unto the Lord. They wouldn't acknowledge God's chastising hand though it was upon them. Rather, they only increased their blinded attempts to honor and please God through their services of worship, their sacrifices, their songs

of praise, their tithes, their solemn assemblies and peace offerings. They served God as it pleased them in their ease and comfort in Zion of their day.

Then God overthrew some of them as He overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. They were as a firebrand plucked out of the burning: yet they refused to return to His way, because they refused to be convinced they were not in His way.

Then GOD SPOKE HIS ULTIMATUM! Like as was done to Sodom and Gomorrah, ". . . thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD, O Israel" (Amos 4:12 in part). And, truly, this is God's ultimatum to this nation today. Remember that judgment will begin at the house of God.

Though God's anger was kindled against these people and He spoke His decree of judgment upon them, yet in His great love for them to be His people in deed and in truth, He lamented for them. "Hear ye this word which I take up against you, even a lamentation, O house of Israel" (Amos 5:1). Again the Lord begins to plead with them. "For thus saith the Lord unto the house of Israel, SEEK YE ME, AND YE SHALL LIVE: But SEEK NOT BETHEL, NOR ENTER INTO GILGAL: and pass not to Beersheba: for Gilgal shall surely go into captivity, and Bethel shall come to nought. SEEK THE LORD, AND YE SHALL LIVE; lest he break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and devour it, and there be none to quench it in Bethel" (Amos 5:4-6).

"I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies. Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept them: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts. TAKE AWAY from me the noise of thy songs; for I will not hear the melody of thy viols. BUT LET JUDGMENT RUN DOWN AS WATERS, AND RIGHTEOUSNESS AS A MIGHTY STREAM" (Amos 5:21-24). "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to DO JUSTLY, and to LOVE MERCY, and to walk humbly with thy God?" "Are there yet the treasures of wickedness in the house of the wicked, and the scant measure that is abominable? Shall I count them pure with the wicked balances, and with the bag of deceitful weights? For the rich men thereof are full of violence, and the inhabitants thereof have spoken lies, and their tongue is deceitful in their mouth. Therefore also will I make thee sick in smiting thee, in making thee desolate because of thy sins. Thou shalt eat, but not be satisfied; and thy casting down shall be in the midst of thee; and thou shalt take hold, but shalt not deliver; and that which thou deliverest will I give up to the sword" (Micah 6:8, 10-14).

So what? That was someone else, not me! This example was written for our admonition that we might learn. Can we take an honest and sincere look at ourselves through the Light of His Word? Or shall we be like Amaziah and say, "Go somewhere else to do your preaching." Can we hear what God seeks now to tell

us? Or are we among those who love the soothing words of blind shepherds who say, "Peace, peace. All is well. You are acceptable." Maybe some of us are kept lulled into a deathly slumber by the chanting of His commandments, the singing of hymns of praise, the effect of right sounding prayers, and the often repeated thought that WE ARE the only true church upon the face of the earth? Let's be honest; for the soul at stake is our own. Do we know the meaning of TRUE?

Where are the works of Christ in your walk and life today? You are in truth acceptable to God when you walk IN Christ; when God can look down into your heart and life and see the Spirit and works of His Son manifest daily in and through you. God will accept nothing except Christ in you and through you. The desires, the thoughts, the motives, and the deeds must be His.

We too, like those in the days of Amos have our places of worship where we offer sacrifices of praise, of devotion, of prayers, and fair words recounting His instructions to us. We also give some time, some thought, some expressions, money and labors to offer up to God. We have the Name of Christ. We have the Holy writ. We have records showing God's calling and command giving authority to man in this day. So did they of old. But is everything in our individual lives in harmony with His Name, His Word, and His Authority? O, if we have not the true ring of love for God's rightness in our hearts and manifest in our actions toward God and our fellow man, we are but a fake and meaningless action.

Are you ready at this moment to meet your Maker?

## APOSTASY AND RESTORATION

By Elder Sylvanus Mason

One of the main troubles regarding religion is the refusal to admit there has been a departure from the original gospel taught by Christ. To admit to the fact that there has been a reformation, is to admit that an apostasy from the true gospel has taken place.

It is valueless to believe in a religion other than the one authorized by God. To argue that we can believe what we please and obtain salvation is wrong because it creates competition regarding the salvation of mankind. The following scriptures prove this error: Matthew 15:8-9, Colossians 22:22, 2 John 9-11, James 1:25, 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9. From them we learn we can have disappointment in this and disaster in the life to come. All blessings here and hereafter can only come when we conform to the right gospel which is the gospel of the Kingdom (Acts 4:12; 2 John 9; Hebrews 5, 9). The epistle of Paul to the Galatians (1:6-8) forbids the thought that any religion will do. To persist in such a thought is not only inconsistent but wicked as it dishonors God and Christ. The fact that we are members of a Church whether Catholic, Episcopalian or Methodist, etc., does not mean we shall all be right. Other-

wise, why did God, in the days of Christ, disapprove and reject all churches and command Christ to build His Church? (See Colossians 1:18, Matthew 6:33, Matthew 5:18, Malachi 3:6). It was necessary in the days of Christ that we become members of His body in order to be saved. He likewise had to conform to His gospel and not man's gospel.

Some urge that the Church is composed of individuals scattered in the various churches. Obviously this is a fallacy, for the body or church can only be composed of those who do His will and keep His commandments. The following scriptures expose such teaching: Matthew 12:49-50, John 10:27-28; John 3:3-5. It is necessary then for us to become members of the one true body of the Church of Christ, otherwise we are in jeopardy and salvation unrealized.

It should be obvious to every thinking person that there is something seriously wrong in the religious realm with such a vast number claiming to be right. Yet each is different in its following. Christ can only be the head of one church (Colossians 1:18). The great question to be solved is, how can we know which is the true church? The only effective way is to test them by a divine standard. We believe there has been a universal apostasy and a great restoration. Today the Christian world is divided into three distinct sections: namely Roman Catholics, Protestants, and we who claim a divine Restoration. It is true that the latter day section is comparatively small but this is no evidence of an error for truth has always been unpopular. (See Acts 20:28-30 and I Timothy 4:1-3).

In Revelation, chapter 12, the Church of Christ is portrayed under the symbol of a woman in all her glory, splendor and purity, radiant with the powers of God. But as we look upon this prophetic panorama we see the church assailed by a power represented by the great red dragon, symbolical of paganism, which prevailed against her. Her "child" represented the authority of her priesthood. Revelation, chapter 12, conveys the harm she did to the Church of Christ. It's not within my power to narrate all the events of history dealing with these events.

But Revelation 14:6 tells us of the angel flying in the midst of heaven bringing the everlasting gospel, a restoration of the true Church after the 1260 days (years) had terminated. It's a long story, but, I am glad to say, a true story, with which we as members of the Church are so familiar. We feel justified in the conclusion that if the Bible is any guide to us then this work of Joseph Smith is indeed the great and marvelous work and a wonder. God pledged himself to introduce this work in the latter days in fulfillment of His own word. In the year 33 A.D. Christ organized His Church with Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers, which was given for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, and for the edifying of the body of Christ. What an experience they had, for from the days of John the Baptist the kingdom of heaven suffered violence and the violent took it by force. We read that



by the year 570 the Church had gone down into the wilderness where she had a place prepared of God for a period of 1260 days, meaning years. 570 and 1260 brings us to 1830. It was Joseph Smith that God used for restoring the Church in these the last days.

And can it be said that Joseph Smith by mere trickery used the divine end of God's own word to perpetuate a fraud of such stupendous proportions? Never, for thousands upon thousands are rejoicing in the Holy One of Israel, and if the Bible is a guide to use, then this work is of divine origin. The Lord is adding to the Church daily such as should be saved. I was brought into it by a vision, and others through dreams, preaching and by our example. So let us not doubt the Lord or His goodness, but love to obey His commands. There is nothing more I need to say to prove there has been an apostasy and a great restoration (Revelation, chapters 12 and 17 along with Revelation 14:6).

So as members of the great restoration we can sing with all our hearts, "We have found the glorious Gospel that was taught in former years, with it gifts and blessing all so full and free. And my heart is filled gladness, and banished are my fears since the precious Angel's message came to me." It's a wonderful thought to know we are in the kingdom, and that in Christ there is no east nor west, but one family of Christ. And may I add that it is joy unspeakable, full of glory and the half has never yet been told. And when this gospel has been "preached for a witness unto all nations, then shall the end come," saith the scriptures, and not before because we cannot be judged by anything we have not heard. So let us spread the good news. Amen.

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## NIGHT VISION

March 28, 1971

Sometime early in the morning of March 28, 1971, while asleep, a dream suddenly awakened my mind to what was about to take place. In this dream I found myself in the front room of our home. The front room faces the East, which means that a person has a beautiful view of the sunrise and the moon coming up to shine forth its light upon the face of the earth as directed by the command of God.

On this particular night, the drapes were closed. The first words spoken in this dream were by me: "Let's look at the moon and see what it is doing." As I was saying this, I pushed back the drapes with my hand. My companion pulled the drapes open for a fuller view. What I saw at first was rather frightening. I pulled my wife close to me and said, "Look at that!" In place of the full moon, there was a circle of Red. It appeared, from our distance of observation, to be about 1½ inches wide. It was a perfect circle. Within this circle, one could very plainly see a multitude of stars in Red the same as the border circle was.

I looked at the center of this red ring which by all appearances, had taken the place of the moon. The

red stars were formed into two countries; one the United States; and the other one was the Dominion of Canada. There were many more stars in the United States than there were in the Dominion of Canada.

As I recognized the two countries that these stars formed, my wife also recognized them and said, "United States and Canada." We had recognized at the same time, the territories displayed within the circle.

At this time I turned to our daughter, Trudy, who was sitting on the couch. She had not been paying attention to anything in particular. I said, "Come here, Trudy, so you can see this too." I felt that our other daughter, Connie, was there with us although I did not see her.

As we turned to watch what was taking place, the United States began to fall apart. The States along the southern border were the first. They seemed to come apart and appeared to roll or tumble toward the south and disappear. The stars seemed to shoot up, then burst into small pieces and fall away. It appeared similar to a fireworks display when the rockets would burst and the phosphate colors spread over the sky, then tumble to the earth as its flickering light goes out.

As this was taking place, our attention was drawn to the right of this first circle. Another circle was being formed or drawn upon the background of the sky, a short distance from the first. I could see nothing physical or otherwise, drawing this second circle. It was being drawn by an instrument or tool which was not being held by anything visible. This object drew the same kind of line as the first circle was composed of. This second circle was perfectly round as was the first circle. The drawing of the line of this second circle was swifter than a jet plane can fly even at that high altitude.

The drawing of the second circle began due north. The drawing of the circle was counter-clockwise. It was not completed in the dream. It was a due east direction when the dream closed. It seemed it was not to be completed at this time.

While we were watching this spectacle taking place in the heavens, we also noticed people in the street. We noted that there weren't very many concerned with what was taking place. A great many of them were doing things they would normally do. Others seemed concerned and came streaming past our home. They were coming from a northerly direction and were going toward the south.

As I looked upon the uncompleted circle, the dream or vision came to an end. Then I awoke.

Tony Grzincic

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## INTERPRETATION

At the Sacrament service of April 4, 1971, I heard Brother Tony Grzincic relate the dream or vision he had received March 28th of the same year. When he was

about half way through his account of this dream, it seemed that much of its meaning began to be impressed upon my mind. I wrote some notes on the meaning of different parts of the dream. Brother Grzincic later gave me a copy of the full dream. I will try to give the interpretation that has come to my mind.

In the very beginning of this dream, there are very significant things that take place: Brother and Sister Grzincic cleared the way that they might look into the sky or heaven. They are looking up. They are looking east. There are things happening in the east from Lybia (Near East) through Israel (Middle East) to China (Far East). Most of the interest of those of the world is drawn to these places. It is as a curtain covering up other things that are happening. We are reminded of the words of Christ: "And when these things begin to come to pass, then LOOK UP, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

In place of the moon in the sky, there was a red circle. The moon is a natural thing in the sky; the circle is not. The circle being perfectly round indicates that its being in existence is well planned. A circle is continuous. Once it is completed, it has no end as far as a line is concerned. It is similar to going east or going west; the same direction is always before a person. The circle being red indicates atheism. This circle then has atheism in it. If this is given full reign, it will destroy all that pertains to God. This should be recognized for we read in the writings of Nahum, "He that dasheth in pieces is come up before thy face; keep the munition, watch the way, make thy loins strong, fortify thy power mightily."

The stars are symbolic of States or Provinces. These stars being red indicates that there are many men in the States or Provincial governments who do not believe in God. This may be any place from village to State level.

The number of stars in the two countries show that there is a greater percentage in the United States who do not believe in God than the percentage in Canada.

Brother and Sister Grzincic viewing this spectacle together gives the instruction that the message is for men and women, husbands and wives. He, calling to his daughter, Trudy, to come see, shows that the message is for youth to know and understand as well as for the adults. He, being mindful of his other daughter, Connie, instructs us that the parent must be alert to see that their younger children are cared for as well as the youth.

The United States falling apart warns us that the time is near when the citizens will lose confidence in the federal government, and in so doing will withhold their support from it. When this takes place there will be cities and schools becoming bankrupt because of lack of financial support. There will be trying times with no work. Even those on pensions will suffer because of financial shortage. The unwise will take over what government there is left. Isaiah wrote, "For the wisdom

of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of the prudent men shall be hid."

The dream shows that the southern border States will be the first to make a definite move. They will tumble south away from the federal government and turn their attention to other countries or peoples to the extent they will become as though they were non-existent.

The stars shooting upward means that men in State governments will exalt themselves above all governments. They will be so over exalted that even though they may appeal to the eye and the ear of others, they will burn out and disappear.

Before turning our attention to the second red circle, let us examine the other more fully. The first circle being completely around Canada and the United States indicates there is power capable of keeping these two countries confined within their own boundaries. There is an organization within these countries which has the duties or work, of loading and unloading ships. When the time comes that there are sufficient leaders and membership in that organization, who will submit to the red power of that encircling ring, they will be able to prevent ships from either going out or coming in to the United States or Canada. This work is the connecting link between land and sea and can be used similar to an iron ring around these two countries for the purpose of trying to choke them into submission.

This second circle being formed so swiftly, is a government being formed by the world atheists for the purpose of taking over the United States and Canada.

This instrument or tool not in the hand of anything visible, is the power that is behind the forming of the new government. It is a power stronger than the power of man. It will use man as its agent to try bringing this new government into being and establishing it. The first circle will be very useful to the second. The second circle also is perfectly round showing that it has been thoroughly planned.

The speed in which the second circle was drawn shows that we can not be unconcerned about it. There cannot be much time left for our preparation.

The drawing of the second circle began due north. This shows that it is a people who are its agents, that are well acquainted with the far northern climate. The world headquarters for atheism is in northern Asia. The northern part of the western hemisphere is very thinly settled. An enemy could establish himself and begin his work before being noticed by those farther south. Ezekiel wrote about this: "And thou shalt come from thy place out the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army:"

This second circle being drawn counter-clockwise indicates there will be a revolution take place in this land. Again, Ezekiel wrote of this: "And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith

the Lord God: every man's sword shall be against his brother."

The circle not being complete indicates that it is being held back by some force or some part of its work not accomplished at this time. The dream shows that it has gone about three fourths of the way around United States and Canada, running counter-clockwise. This would bring it to about the same latitude as Washington, D. C. It seemed to be not completed at this time. This would indicate that there is a move being tried to lure our government leaders, Executive, Legislative and Judicial, into thinking there would be no danger in compromising with the enemies of God. They would think we could trust in the great military power we have rather than following the motto: "In God We Trust."

The people on the street in the dream are the people of this land. They usually are more concerned about which political party is in power than they are about the things which have been foretold would happen. Most of them go about earning a living and let it go at that. Luke wrote about this: "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting and drunkenness, and care of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares." These people are living a normal life of the world. Again Luke wrote of this: "And as it were in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all."

Those who were concerned were fleeing to a place of safety. There were two writers of Scriptures who wrote of this: Luke and Nahum. Luke wrote: "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." Nahum wrote: "He shall recount his worthies: they shall stumble in their walk; they shall make haste to the wall thereof, and the defence shall be prepared."

The uncompleted circle is where the event stands today.

Let the people of the Lord take warning. Let them draw away from the world and live for their God.

Archie F. Bell

## FROM THE DESK OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL EDITOR

What to teach? how to teach? and what are those ingredients that make a study time beneficial and a pleasure to participate in? These are nagging questions that confront every individual selected by their respective groups to act as the teacher of any and all classes. A good teacher will always be concerned that the time spent will be really beneficial and enjoyable to those they are to instruct and not a time of empty and fruitless motions. The scriptures say that a little leavening leavens the whole and in the class situation it is the teacher's or the discussion leader's place to be able

to provide that life-giving element. There is no greater farce than to go through the time allocated for learning of the ways of God as a matter of formality and call it teaching, or for that matter preaching.

As I have mentioned before, a teacher cannot teach to the convictions of others' minds that which they do not deeply believe. However limited our belief may be, that is all that one can successfully teach to another. Before we try to teach it to others we must check it out to be sure that our belief is true according to the recorded word.

Having ascertained that what we believe is factual; that it is in every aspect harmonious to the teachings of Christ, we need to add some enthusiasm. If we do not feel a real alive interest in the truth of the lessons we seek to impart, we can scarcely arouse any interest in those we are trying to enlighten. And I am talking about real interest, an interest that prompts one to study and fill their minds with every possible bit of information regarding the things they believe, not simply in preparation of a lesson but because it is delightful to them. Then they will have stored in the recesses of their minds those things that will overflow in the hour of teaching, bringing light and life to the subject.

Many, if not most of us, are not limited in the scope of that which we believe. So we have another problem and that is, to wisely choose out of the range of topics interesting to us, that which is needed by the people we are to teach, and which is pertinent to their experiences and to the understanding of the ages of the pupils in our charge. Only through prayer can we be guided to know the need of each person. If we have a goodly store of the truths of the teachings and doctrine of Christ, the Holy Ghost can bring out of that learning, that bit or portion, which should be used at any given time.

A teacher needs to know something of the life and experiences of those who are under their tutelage. Christ impressed the principles of his doctrine by the use of parables; depicting a life situation which would be a familiar experience in the lives of his listeners. It was like saying, "In such a situation, this is what I want you to do, or this is how you should act or react." As a teacher, except we can relate the principles of the doctrine of Christ to the conditions and situations experienced by the children or people we are teaching, we are failing. The thing we are to expound is not something to be learned in the mind, or to be held in the head and mused over and talked about; but it is a life to be lived; it is a pattern to work by; it is an unwritten law to be absorbed into the most integral part of our being, by which we are transformed into a new creature.

The teachings of Christ are delightful beyond equaling: they are delicious beyond comparison. So it is that these lesson guides are presented as they are to the teachers with the hope that they will be a help in their study and search, that each who teaches may be set afire with a desire and appreciation of the things of the Lord, and out of that desire be

enabled to recognize and choose the what; and discern and follow the how, and husbandmen, having first partaken of the fruit to be able to supply that spiritual ingredient which will kindle the fire of desire in all that they teach; that these, too, will devote first place in their lives to seeking the Lord and His ways, to walking in them; and to a dedication of themselves to serve the Lord and His cause all the days of their lives.

## LESSON GUIDE

### Study of God's Commandments

Lesson texts, Matthew 5:8-19, and 3 Nephi 5:55-56. Continuing our review of the Sermon on the mount with the observations concerning the interpretation of the term Blessed still in mind, we consider now the pure in heart and the promise that they will see God. Pure means to be free from sin: blameless; guiltless; uncorrupted; undefiled; guileless; without that which taints. It is sometimes used as a synonym of perfect, but while the word or condition of perfection includes all that is pure, it also denotes a completeness that the term pure may not include. One of the meanings given is "a complete excellence." Perfection cannot be excelled in any way, but our hearts may be purified by repentance and forgiveness wherein we are blameless in the sight of God while we have not yet reached that spiritual state that could be called perfection; or "... unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12-13). Paul continues in verses 20 to the end of the chapter, that if we have learned Christ, and have been taught by Him, we will put on the new man, "... which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness," and that we will put away, lying, stealing, corrupt communications, bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, evil speaking and malice. We will be tender-hearted and kind to one another, and forgiving one to another. These are requirements for the pure in heart.

Some of these words are easily understood but a few should perhaps be defined, for instance, corrupt communications and evil speaking. Lying is both corrupt and evil but some things which are very true may be repeated at the wrong time, or way, or to the wrong persons and thus become evil speaking. Paul says in chapter 5:9-12. "(for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret." How true it is that there are those things done, and nowadays not even in secret, of which it is a shame to contemplate and to converse. To let these things have any place in our thoughts is to taint our hearts and they are no more unsullied. The things that we should think upon are listed in Philippians 4:8. How careful we must be to keep our hearts and minds pure in order that we might have God's Spirit abide in us, and that we might have

the hope of all hopes to see Him. There are so many Scriptures that pertain to the state of righteousness that is purity of heart it would be impossible to quote them all here. Any indulgences in sin taints the purity of heart and it can only be cleansed again and purified by repentance, and the pardon from God.

The teachings of King Benjamin are pertinent here: Book of Mosiah 2:13:50, and also Alma 3:21-69.

Proverbs 6:16-9 tells us seven things that are an abomination to the Lord. The following quotations add those acts which are abominable to the Lord; Proverbs 11:1, 20; 12:22; 16:5; 17:15; 20:10; 23. In Zechariah 8:16-17, there are added those things which the Lord hates. Contrast these traits with that which the Scriptures state as the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. (Galatians 5:14-26). Those who are pure in heart will not give themselves over to, nor allow any of these practices to become a part of their daily habit. It is not easy to refrain from the participation in the same type of conduct as that which is indulged in by our friends and associates. So unless, or until we are sufficiently strong in our choice of behavior to refuse to join the crowd, and so perhaps set an influence for them, it is wise that we choose for friends those who have also committed themselves to the purity of heart. To such as seek to please the Lord the promise is that one day they shall be privileged to see him.

Next are the peacemakers, who shall be called the children of God. What is it to be a peacemaker? We have just read in Proverbs how the Lord hates those who spread trouble; sow discord between brethren; who are tale-bearers, in short those who are trouble-makers. To be a peacemaker is the direct opposite of this. In the first place we can be peacemakers by happily forgiving people who do offend us. By forgiving we make peace between ourselves and them; also by making right those things in which we do an injustice to a brother. There is of course that function that we can serve in making peace between two others who are at odds with each other. Very often this goal is reached by a restraint of our own tendency to reveal matters best left undiscussed, then to rectify the wounds once they are made. Consider the following Scripture on the effect of one's discipline of their own behavior in regard to keeping a peace condition between peoples. Psalms 34:13-14; 37:37; Proverbs 13:10; 15:1; 16:7, 32; 17:9; 21:23; 24:28; 25:9, 17; 29:22.

There is another peace that we are to pursue, that which is of the kingdom of God. If we, by our adherence to his laws, can bring peace into being here upon the earth and in the hearts of humanity we indeed shall be peacemakers of the highest level. The leaders of the nations of the world are involved in conferences at every turn and on every subject trying to devise ways to bring the world to a peaceful coexistence, but which all fail because they leave out the most important consideration, which is the place Christ must have in any peace-keeping governmental body that can be formed.

The message that the Angels sang to herald Christ's birth was "peace on earth, goodwill to men." To seek this peace, to bring it to pass upon the earth, is to be a real peacemaker. Christ promised it to his disciples (John 14:27, and 16:33). The following scriptures denote the admonitions to abide in the conditions that bring this peace into our lives, and that as the possessors of it we must seek to spread it. Romans 8:6; 10:15; 12:9-21; 14:17-19; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Ephesians 2:13-14; Philipians 4:7; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 Thessalonians 5:13-15; 2 Timothy 2:14-26; James 3:18; 2 Peter 3:14.

Finally as members of the body of Christ's Church we must have peace among ourselves, or we by our contentions and disputes deny the very claims that we make to being his people. Jude's statement in verse 3, saying to earnestly contend for the faith means to seek it diligently, not to have arguments about it. No where in the scriptures is there a stronger statement against this practice than Christ's own words 3 Nephi 5:29-31. We are so prone to feel, when we get involved in a heated discussion where there is a difference of opinion, that we are defending the truth when really we are defending our own opinions. God's truth is sovereign and never needs defending in the heat of our human emotions. Any angry defense made of the truth hurts God's cause instead of helping it.

To be a peacemaker we must first make our peace with our Lord; then we must make our peace with our neighbor, our brother. We must promote peace within the church; and having this done we can then be heralds of the peace, that was sung in the angel's song to the world that is searching for a peacemaking formula and cannot find one. Hollow indeed are the words of how to make peace from the lips of those who do not have peace. When we show the world God's plan of peace we can then teach to its conviction.

## APPEARANCE

By Emil Heeb

Samuel operated a dry-cleaning business in which he used various liquid solutions. One of these he prepared himself from a written recipe. This he poured quite innocently into bottles resembling such as are used for alcoholic beverages. One day Franky, a seven year old youngster came home from Sam's shop and asked his mother, "Is it wrong to drink whisky." "Why, of course it is, what makes you ask that?" "Well, Sam, the cleaner, drinks it, and he is an Elder." "Oh, he does not," retorted his mother. "You know better than that." "Well," said Franky timidly, "I saw whisky bottles on his shelves." Had Sam known Apostles Paul's admonition, "Abstain from all appearances of evil" (1 Thessalonians 5:22) he would have been aware of the appearance of evil on his shelves and would not have caused a possible temptation to Franky.

Appearances often act as suggestions. A neat, plain lady's garment of decent length, and not overly trimmed

with frills and jewelry suggests good taste and modesty, while mini-shirts, and low neck-lines are suggestive of a lower type of character. Again, too, extremely expensive garments for either men or women, bespeaks of extravagance, and thus a disregard for the needy. Jesus once said, "Be temperate in all things." This admonishes Christians against excesses of every description. An ancient American prophet was permitted to look down the spaces of time into our days of the Gentile period, and called attention to the costly apparels some are wearing in our 20th century.

"For behold, ye do love money, and your substance, and your apparel, and the adorning of your churches, more than you love the poor and needy and the sick and the afflicted . . ." (Book of Mormon, page 709, verse 50).

Moses gave the commandment to his people Israel long ago. "The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth to man. Neither shall a man put on a woman's garment; for all that do so are an abomination unto the Lord their God" (Deuteronomy 22:5). This commandment is today so ignored that when one walks a city street one meets people that are difficult to distinguish whether they are man or woman.

Like Moses, Apostle Paul, too, spoke of people appearing in the last days, "having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof, from such turn away" (2 Timothy 3:5). This Admonition is timely for us, for there are today those that parade sanctimoniously in long robes but deny the true gospel—the power of God unto salvation. Apostle Paul asked the Corinthian saints, "Do ye look at things after the outward appearance?" (2 Corinthians 10:7).

For obvious reasons, many T.V. programs are dangerous to children. The tempting appearance of evil are no where more glaringly displayed than on the T.V. screen. Only pictures of a religious nature, or some others of a high moral standard should be selected for children. And not too much of them either. The children's time too, is valuable, and should not be wasted by uncreative pursuits.

We have tried to show that the appearances of evil offers temptation. And what appears to be good and right often proves to be false and deceptive. So we are directed to turn to the teaching of the Master:

"Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns? or figs of thistles? even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit. But a corrupt tree bringeth forth the evil fruit . . ." (Matthew 7:16-17).

## THE FACTS PARENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT MARIJUANA

### 1. What Marijuana Is:

Marijuana is a drug found in the flowering tops and leaves of the Indian hemp plant *cannibus sativa*. The

leaves and flowers are dried and crushed into small pieces and smoked in pipes or short cigarettes. Marijuana is known as pot, tea, grass, weed, Mary Jane. Marijuana cigarettes are known as reefers, joints, and sticks. Known to man for nearly 5,000 years, it is one of the least understood of all natural drugs. It was introduced as an intoxicating drug in the United States in 1920.

### 2. Where Marijuana Comes From:

The plant grows in mild climates all over the world, especially in Mexico, Africa, India, the Middle East and the United States. About 80% of the marijuana used in the United States comes from Mexico. The rest is raised locally. Although 100 million a year is spent on it, there is little evidence that it comes from "Pushers." Adolescents are usually introduced to it by friends.

### 3. Who Uses It:

Primarily young people. Estimates of the exact number vary widely—ranging to one estimate that as many as 80% of our young people have tried the drug.

### 4. Why Is It Being Used So Much?

Pressures of friends; an act of defiance; curiosity; belief that medicines are magic problem solvers for many youths who have lost faith in our social system; tendency of people with psychological problems to seek easy solutions; quick access to drugs; affluence to afford them; influence of those who preach "goodness" of drugs.

### 5. How It Works:

It enters the blood stream and acts on the brain and nervous system. It effects mood and thinking; causes rapid heart beat, lowering of body temperature and sometimes reddening of the eyes; changes blood sugar levels; stimulates appetite and dehydrates the body. Users may get talkative, loud, unsteady or drowsy and find it hard to coordinate their movements.

### 6. How It Affects Judgment:

It has been shown that a user finds it harder to make decisions which require clear thinking; becomes more easily open to other peoples suggestions; and that doing any task needing good reflexes and thinking (for instance, driving a car) is affected.

### 7. Addiction:

Marijuana does not lead to physical dependence. Therefore it cannot be considered addicting. Chronic users become psychologically dependent upon the effects of marijuana. It is therefore classified as habituating. The fact that a drug is not addicting has little relationship to its potential for harm, since dependence whether psychological or physical is a serious matter.

### 8. Link To Narcotics:

No direct cause-and-effect link between the use of marijuana and narcotics has been found. Researchers point out however, that a person predisposed to abuse one drug may be likely to abuse other, stronger drugs. Also, users of one illicit drug may be exposed to a variety of them through contacts with drug sellers and other users.

### 9. Penalties For Use and Possession:

Federal and many state laws deal severely with those who use, possess, give or sell Marijuana. Although these laws may be changed, today the Federal penalty for possessing drugs is 2 to 10 years imprisonment for the first offense, 5 to 20 for the second and 10 to 40 for further offenses. In some states if a person over 18 sells a minor under 18, he is subject to a fine up to \$20,000 and/or 10 to 40 years in prison for the first offense—with no suspension of sentence, probation or parole. Breaking the laws dealing with Marijuana can have serious effects on the future lives of young people. They may find it impossible to obtain a driver's license, enter a profession such as medicine, law or teaching, obtain a passport or get a responsible job in business or industry.

### 10. How Much Is Known About it?

Medical science does not yet know enough about the effects of marijuana because its active ingredient was produced in pure form only recently. More than 100 research studies are now underway to determine its short and long term action on the body. Although some advocate its legalization, it would seem wise to await the results of these studies before we add another mind-altering chemical to society's long list of existing problems.

## INDEPENDENCE EAST LOCAL

Several months have passed since we have sent in a report to the Advocate from the East Local.

In the past year things have taken place in our home that have kept me from being as diligent as I would like to have been. Through the sickness and death of my companion, we haven't been able to settle our minds to writing.

At this time I want to thank my brothers and sisters in Christ for the prayers they offered in our behalf during this time of trial and sorrow. It is comforting to know that others care.

We have three new members added to our local by baptism recently. On May 9th Ronald Sheldon, William Fann and Michelle Nast were baptized by Apostle William Sheldon. Following this service Brother Sheldon and Brother Rolland Sarratt officiated in the ordinance of the Laying on of Hands.

On the same day Brother Frank Fann was ordained to the office of Elder by Elder Kenneth Smith, Apostle Sheldon and Elder Sarratt.

Brother Fann preached his first sermon May 15th. He was blessed with the Spirit of God, which was another testimony to us of his calling to the priesthood. In his sermon Brother Fann spoke on the fundamentals of the gospel; first, Faith in God. He related the story of Noah and his faith when he was told to build the Ark and the people made fun of him because of his faith. Abraham also obeyed by faith in offering his son as a sacrifice, and many others, such as Lehi, Joseph Smith and Granville

Hedrick all lived by faith. He gave many scriptures pointing to this faith. He also mentioned the other principles of the gospel. At this service we were favored with a violin solo, The Holy City, by Melissa Nast accompanied by her sister Michelle on the piano.

On May 9th our guest speaker was Brother Sweem from Cowgill, Mo. At this service we were favored with a solo by Sister June Sarratt. In this sermon we were reminded that God knows our every need before we ask, and that He loves us so much that He sent His Son that we might have the gospel. We should listen and obey. God will do so many things for us if we put our complete trust in Him.

On May 23rd Brother Leslie Case from the Temple Lot Local was the speaker at the 11:00 o'clock service. We were glad to have so many from that group at our service. Their young people's choir sang two numbers under the direction of Brother James Hedrick. We hope they will all come again soon.

Brother Case opened his sermon with the thought that the Christian world's responsibility is to feed His sheep, as Christ told Peter to "Feed My Sheep." If the seed is planted then we should be examples for good. Each one of us should be teachers. We are all called to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. We are to be fed on the milk of the word before we can stand the meat of the word. This is important to our growth both spiritual and physical.

Apostle William F. Anderson has been very ill since the first of the year and has spent some time in the hospital. He is now at home and we hope he is on the way to recovery. Sister Anderson has also been ill but is better. We are happy to see their pleasant faces at church again. They are not able to attend all the services but we are glad when they do come.

We are starting another year with new officers and teachers. The new year is ahead and we pray God will bless us to work while it is yet day, for the night soon cometh when no man can work.

The following are the officers and teachers for the coming year:

Pastor .....	Rolland Sarratt
Assistant Pastor .....	Kenneth Smith
Secretary .....	Adair McCubbin
Treasurer .....	Kenneth Smith
Chorister .....	June Sarratt
Pianist .....	Darl Temple
Librarian .....	Carolyn Fann
Auditor .....	Frank Fann
Custodian (inside) .....	Doris Sheldon
Custodian (outside) .....	Calvin Randall
Reunion Kitchen Committee .....	Lorraine Welton
Sunshine Committee .....	Belinda Stone
Social Committee .....	Jennifer Oldham
	Darl Temple, Gladys Nast
	Sunday School Officers
Superintendent .....	Calvin Randall
Assistant Superintendent .....	Frank Fann

Secretary .....	Ruth Randall
Treasurer .....	Kenneth Smith
Pianist .....	Michelle Nast
Christmas Program Committee .....	Darl Temple
	Jennifer Oldham, Doris Sheldon
	Teachers
Adult Class .....	Rolland Sarratt
Young Adults .....	Frank Fann
Juniors .....	Doris Sheldon
Primary .....	Gladys Nast
Wee Mites .....	Melissa Nast
	East Local Reporter
	Ruth Randall

**The Eternal Goodness**

by J. G. Whittier

O friends! with whom my feet have trod  
 The quiet aisles of prayer,  
 Glad witness to your zeal for God  
 And love of man I bear.

I trace your lines of argument;  
 Your logic linked and strong  
 I weigh as one who dreads dissent,  
 And fears a doubt as wrong.

But still my human hands are weak  
 To hold your iron creeds:  
 Against the words ye bid me speak  
 My heart within me pleads.

Who fathoms the Eternal Thought?  
 Who talks of scheme and plan?  
 THE LORD IS GOD! He needeth not  
 The poor device of man.

I walk with bare, hushed feet the ground  
 Ye tread with boldness shod;  
 I dare not fix with mete and bound  
 The LOVE and POWER of GOD.

Ye praise His justice; even such  
 His pitying love I deem:  
 Ye seek a king; I fain would touch  
 The robe that hath no seam.

Ye see the curse which overbroods  
 A world of pain and loss;  
 I hear our Lord's Beatitudes  
 And prayer upon the cross.

More than your schoolmen teach, within  
 Myself, alas! I know;  
 Too dark ye cannot paint the sin,  
 Too small the merit show.

I bow my forehead to the dust,  
 I veil mine eyes for shame,  
 And urge, in trembling self-distrust,  
 A prayer without a claim.

I see the wrong that round me lies,  
 I feel the guilt within;  
 I hear, with groan and travail-cries,  
 The world confess its sin.

Yet, even in the maddening maze of things,  
 And tossed by storm and flood,  
 To one fixed trust my spirit clings;  
 I KNOW that GOD is good!

Not mine to look where cherubim  
 And seraphs may not see,  
 But nothing can be good in Him  
 Which evil is in me.

The wrong that pains my soul below  
 I dare not throne above,  
 I know not of His hate,—I know  
 His goodness and His love.

I dimly guess from blessings known  
 Of greater out of sight,  
 And, with the chastened Psalmist, own  
 His judgments too are right.

I long for household voices gone,  
 For vanished smiles I long,  
 But God hath led my dear ones on,  
 And He can do no wrong.

I know not what the future hath  
 Of marvel or surprise,  
 Assured alone that life and death  
 His mercy underlies.

And if my heart and flesh are weak  
 To bear an untried pain,  
 The bruised reed He will not break,  
 But strengthen and sustain.

No offering of my own I have,  
 Nor works my faith to prove;  
 I can but give the gifts He gave,  
 And plead His love for love.

And so beside the silent sea  
 I wait the muffled oar:  
 No harm from His can come to me  
 On ocean or on shore.

I knew not where His islands rise  
 Their fronded palms in air;  
 I only know I cannot drift  
 Beyond His love and care.

O brothers! if my faith is vain,  
 If hopes like these betray,  
 Pray for me that my feet may gain  
 The surer and safer way.

And Thou, O God! by whom are seen  
 Thy creatures as they be,  
 Forgive me if too close I lean  
 My human heart on Thee!

—contributed by Darleen Smith

## ENDURING FAITHFUL

Tune — My Redeemer

Come my people, hear my pleading,  
 Through my Spirit calling thee;  
 You must be such humble people,  
 If in faith you follow Me.

Watch your steps and keep tongues bridled;  
 Satan's near you to deceive;  
 Trim your lamps and keep them burning  
 Brightly, that you may believe.

Judgment great is soon a-falling  
 Upon all, and sad you'll be  
 If you have neglected my calling;  
 Leave the world and follow Me.

Many evil spirits' closing  
 Round, deceiving on all sides;  
 Makes do dif'rence where you're turning;  
 None will escape, but he who abides.

I am with you if you're faithful,  
 Thus, no harm can come to thee;  
 If you're grateful, this I've promised;  
 Leaving all to follow Me.

I will put down sinful lyings,  
 When your faithfulness I see,  
 Before you lie many tryings;  
 Fear not, ye who trust in Me.

I'm your true and loving Saviour,  
 To you all, who try and endure;  
 And I love you, O, my people,  
 And my promises are sure.

Chorus:

Be ye faithful, hear my pleading;  
 I am calling, trust in Me;  
 I will be your loving Saviour;  
 Heed my Spirit calling thee.

Cora Bingham