

Zion's Advocate

"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and power of the Holy Ghost."—1 Nephi 3:187.

Vol. 49

Independence, Missouri, October, 1972

No. 10

Vision Remembered

by Donna Moser

- ☆ -

Still dazzled with remembered light
My eyes an image keep.
Of what? A Tree! And on its boughs
White fruit for which I weep.
..... I'd live or die for taste so sweet!

In dream I walked a river's bank
On dark, uncertain ground,
A narrow path, and hard to see.
Thick mists were all around.
..... I'd live or die for taste so sweet!

And then my straining eyes beheld —
Within my grasp — a rod
Of solid iron along that stream
Leading straight to God!
..... I'd live or die for taste so sweet!

Around me as I made my way
Dark mists swirled in vain.
I gripped the rod; I reached the Tree
Of life, forgot the pain.
..... I'd live or die for taste so sweet!

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EDITORIAL

The Plan To Enslave Us

"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 stumbling-blocks, and harden not their hearts against the Lamb of God, they shall be numbered among the seed of thy father; Yea, they shall be numbered 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; And the house of Israel shall no more be confounded; And that great pit which hath been digged for them by that great and abominable church, which was founded by the devil and his children, that he might lead away the souls of men down to hell; Yea, that great pit which hath been digged for the destruction of men, shall be filled by those who digged it, unto their utter destruction, saith the Lamb of God" (1 Nephi 3:201-207).

"And every nation which shall war against thee, O house of Israel, shall be turned one against another. And they shall fall into the pit which they digged to ensnare the people of the Lord. And all that fight against Zion, shall be destroyed. And the great whore, who hath perverted the right ways of the Lord; yea, that great and abominable church, shall tumble to the dust, and great shall be the fall of it. For behold, saith the prophet, The time cometh speedily, that Satan shall have no more power over the hearts of the children of men: For the day soon cometh, that all the proud and they who do wickedly, shall be as stubble; and the day cometh that they must be burned. For the time soon cometh, that the fullness of the wrath of God shall be poured out upon all 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. Wherefore, the righteous need not fear; for thus saith the prophet, They shall be saved, even if it so be as by fire" (1 Nephi 7:28-37).

These scriptures convey to us two main thoughts. One, that the enemies of God will make a massive effort to destroy the people of God, and the other, the hope of all hopes, is the promised temporal salvation of His people. It is the time of Jacob's trouble but he will be delivered out of it.

This great pit which is now being dug for the souls of men is very nearly complete. And although we are told that this pit is being dug by that great and abominable church yet we are also told that it includes every nation which shall war against Israel. There have been various evidences that both the Catholic and Communist forces are working together (to say nothing of the World and National Council of Churches) for the subjugation of the world. In addition they

are actively engaged in the creation of a religious union (referred to as the image to the beast in Scripture) which will eventually gain control over the lives of all of us. The plan of these forces is the creation of a one world government and a one world state church.

Yet all of the above is merely the visible or outward demonstration of a more sinister activity which is being enacted behind the scenes. Though the smoke is clearly visible the fires beneath are not seen. Some of the smoke of this fire which we see today are the activities of such front organizations as the Students for Democratic Society, the Black Power Movement, the Hippie and Yippie movements, etc., and the associated riots, hijackings, assassinations, civil disobedience; etc.; the constant unrest against the so-called establishment. What is the motive behind all this foment? It is to justify the passage of laws which will ultimately result in the loss of our American way of life, the gradual but apparently justified removal of our freedoms, for example, the right to bear arms. (An armed citizenry is of much greater danger to a planned communist takeover than an unarmed one). Nevertheless, these people want change — they think for the better — even if it means burning down America. Yet they are playing right into the hands of the very people who are our worst enemies. Then when they shall have finished their work, they themselves will suffer the same fate that the rest of us will suffer.

This great last tribulation is now about to be sprung upon us. The pit is prepared and the die is cast; our enemies have sworn to bury us. Why? Because Satan's time is short and his greatest effort is now being put forth to destroy God's people. It is a time of greatest danger. The battle lines are being drawn. The hour of decision will soon be upon us. Satan's great scheme to enslave the world and to establish his kingdom is very nearly complete. Only some last minute details remain yet to be accomplished.

But, let's digress a moment. In the very year that this nation was founded the enemy of our souls conceived of an incredibly clever scheme to overthrow the freedom of all lands, nations, and countries. This organization was formed on May 1, 1776. Today they have extended their power over most of the world. This organization constitutes the greatest secret organization the world has ever known and with more power than is now possessed by any single government. This is in direct fulfillment of a prophecy in the book of Ether. we quote:

"And whatsoever nation shall uphold such secret combinations, to get power and gain, until they shall spread over the nation, behold, they shall be destroyed, for the Lord will not suffer that the blood of his saints, which shall be shed by them, shall always cry unto him from the ground for vengeance upon them, and yet he avenge them not; Wherefore, O ye Gentiles, it is wisdom in God that these things should be shewn unto you, that thereby ye may repent of your sins, and suffer not that these murderous combinations shall

get above you, which are built up to get power and gain, and the work, yea, even the work of destruction come upon you; Yea, even the sword of the justice of the eternal God, shall fall upon you, to your overthrow and destruction, if ye shall suffer these things to be; Wherefore the Lord commandeth you, when ye shall see these things come among you, that ye shall awake to a sense of your awful situation, because of this secret combination which shall be among you, or wo be unto it, because of the blood of them who have been slain; for they cry from the dust for vengeance upon it, and also upon those who build it up. FOR IT COMETH TO PASS THAT WHOSO BUILDETH IT UP, SEEKETH TO OVERTHROW THE FREEDOM OF ALL LANDS, NATIONS AND COUNTRIES: And it bringeth to pass the destruction of all people, for it is built up by the devil, who is the father of all lies" (Ether 3:95-100).

To continue, this organization, shortly after its formation, was able to gain control of the national banks of each of the European countries. The same attempt was made later in America but failed. Nevertheless in the early part of this century they succeeded in getting Congress to authorize the formation of the Federal Reserve System, a private concern which they have operated ever since. The method used to gain control over governments of nations is by the use of huge loans. These multibillionaires through their respective banks offer loans to heads of state for the purpose, for example, of conducting wars. The interest on these loans are paid right back into the coffers of the money lenders. Today our national debt is over 400 billion dollars of which our yearly interest is 20 billion dollars. But how do they insure the payment of such huge amounts of interest on the part of government? Simply by the withholding of future loans and through large loans to enemy governments. This forces a greater expenditure for defense purposes, etc., on the part of the former government, hence the need for more money. So additional loans are made. In this way a balance of power between nations is maintained. Wars are thus predetermined for this very purpose, that is, of bringing unruly nations into line, but the power balance is left unchanged. And each time such a war is fought, the respective nations go deeply into debt because all such wars are financed by the money lenders. The resultant interest on such vast amounts of money loaned out is quite considerable.

According to a booklet entitled "Satan's Bid For Your Child" there is under construction in Alaska a huge concentration complex capable of holding one million people. The purpose is for the politically insane! According to a recent Federal News Letter there is a bill being sponsored in Congress which would require federal workers to take an active role in partisan political campaigns if they want to keep their jobs — also fines for all citizens who fail to vote in the national elections.

More serious to us is the plan to make sensitivity training compulsory in all our school systems. Another item which currently involves our school children is their required reading material. If you haven't kept tabs on such literature do so. The language is foul and some stories are too filthy even to relate. Not long ago the Indiana Attorney General sent out a questionnaire to 7000 drug addicts asking the question as to who first introduced them to drugs. 40% replied that their teachers had introduced them to drugs, nearly 3000 students.

This is only a small part of what could be said but to spare the reader I forbear. It surely is the time of Jacob's trouble but God is not going to allow His people to be overcome. They shall be saved out of it and those who have dug the pit for their destruction will themselves fall into it.

It is a time when they shall cry peace, peace and then sudden destruction shall come upon them. Why? Because of a threatened doublecross on the part of the communist leaders in Russia against their masters, and when this happens the world will be embroiled in a nuclear holocaust. The key to this event is given in Ezekiel 38 where it speaks of God in his coming against Israel and that in so doing he will think an evil thought and come up against a wealthy nation which is gathered out of the nations, a nation of walled villages which dwelleth alone. Then will be brought to pass the scripture in James 5:1-8. "Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. **Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.** Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you. Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh."

The time is not far distant when the critical point in the lives of the saints will be upon us. And except the Lord show forth his arm in a mighty temporal salvation towards his people, no flesh shall be saved. But for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened and the wicked will be destroyed even as by fire.

A WORD OF COMFORT: — "And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars:" (but) "SEE THAT YE BE NOT TROUBLED" (Matthew 24:6). "FOR HE WILL NOT SUFFER THAT THE WICKED SHALL DESTROY THE RIGHTEOUS . . . WHEREFORE, THE RIGHTEOUS

NEED NOT FEAR . . ." (1 Nephi 7:35 & 37).

Harvey E. Seibel

NEWS FROM COLLINS LOCAL

August has been a warm month but an interesting one. Apostle E. L. Yates and Elder Don McIndoo returned from Yucatan. They report some good meetings with our Mayan brothers and sisters in which the Divine Spirit was present in great abundance. Bro. Don came by Preston to pick up his wife and daughter, who had been staying with his parents, Ed and Louise McIndoo. We were happy to have Bro. Don speak for us the Sunday he was here, August 6th. We held our Sacrament service the next Sunday.

On August 20th, Elder Oren Caviness was the speaker. Always there is spiritual food to be had for the taking.

On Sunday, the 27th, Bro. E. L. Yates brought the message. He told of some sermons of a high spiritual quality, that were preached by Mayan elders of The Church of Christ, to their own people, in their own language. These elders (holding aloft the Book of Mormon), are quoted as saying with sincere earnestness, "We know who we are!"

While here, Bro. Don McIndoo showed some pictures he had made, which told the story of the coming forth of the Book of Mormon. We enjoyed these very much. The group from the Phoenix Branch had helped him by depicting the parts of the various characters of this story.

Bro. and Sr. Marvin Cook and family from Hastings, Nebraska have moved to this area, and we are so happy to have them with us. Marvin is a son of Sr. Norma Cook. He has a fine voice and we hope to hear it often.

Sr. Blanche Martin has been on the sick list recently, but at this writing, she is "just fine" she says.

The Collins church has just installed a new air conditioning system which helps a lot on these warm days.

Among out of town visitors at the Collins church the last few weeks, we have had Elder and Sr. George Brantner, their daughter, Jeanee Stephens and grandchildren Sarah and Heather Stephens, and Douglas Brantner from Warrensburg, Missouri, Sr. Lois Heath, and Bro. and Sr. Max Spencer and children, Annette and Cherye, from Michigan. The Don McIndoos visited his parents, the Ed McIndoos. Louise's sister, Sr. Helen Rogers from Phoenix, is spending some time with them. Also Sr. Charlotte Hinkle came from Colorado.

Bro. Dick and Sr. Velma Wheaton and family from Independence, spent a weekend with Velma's parents the Caviness folks. Bert and Lorraine Patterson, and daughter, Darlene from Phoenix have been with them too. Lorraine is their daughter also.

The Willards had their daughter, Donna Moser, and granddaughter Marlene from Belton, and their son and family from Atlanta, Georgia.

We were glad to have with us recently at the Collins church Bro. and Sr. Banfield from Independence and Climax Springs, and Bro. and Sr. Sam Kidd from Independence, and Bro. and Sr. Harvey Dunning from Deep Water, Missouri.

It is good for members of our church family to get together. May the spirit of Love always bind our hearts.

Ruth Willard, Reporter

AVA Y.P.C.L. NEWS LETTER

Excerpts from prayers and testimonies of the heart.

"I pray that I may be of service to Thee."

"Pray for my Uncle for I love him very much and he is very sick."

"I pray that I may always have the warm heart."

"A dear friend of mine was so sick, and I prayed over this, now her husband says she is much better."

"Can we have a season of prayer before Song Service? for we need it badly, we need it so much."

"We pray that you will guard the minds, hearts and souls against the powers of darkness."

"Pray for us for we need God's help desperately."

"I didn't feel like coming, but now I am so thankful to God that I did."

"I am always helped when I attend these meetings."

"I was so discouraged and blue, then Sunday at the little group-service, I felt much better, — much encouraged."

"Dear God, spread Thy Hands of Mercy over this little group."

"I am so thankful to have these Meetings to attend."

"Pray for me, I have a delicate problem and I don't know whether I can handle it, as has been requested of me."

"I pray that You will give me strength and help me."

WE ARE NOT ALONE

written to the Ava Y.P.C.L.

Though we tremble at the Adversary's attacks,
We are not alone!

When our human strength falters,
remember,

We are not alone!

Facing obstacles placed in our path,
We are not alone!

Burdened by problems unsolvable,
remember,

We are not alone!

When our hearts rise in His joyous Truth,
We are not alone!

When our lives are blessed with His indwelling
Spirit,

remember,

We are not alone!

Attending Meetings glorified by His Presence,
We are not alone!

When our Souls rise in Thanksgiving,
remember,

We are not alone!

D. S.

"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit (the Holy Ghost within us, D. S.) itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God" (Romans 8:26 & 27).

"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world" (I John 2:1 & 2).

"For there is one God, and One Mediator between God and men the man Christ Jesus" (I Timothy 2:5).

"For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring" (Acts 17:28).

Sent in by,
Cathy Burgin

OF RUTS AND RISES

by Donna Moser

The rut is smooth and it grows deep,
No struggle here I plod on through
Its easy way, I almost sleep
In its dim light there is no view.

No view.

That must be what I miss down here.
I lift my eyes, I need a view!
I start to climb, the Light grows clear.
Though earthbound yet, there's Heaven too!

That view!

Oh, now, my longing eyes perceive
A vision in the distance blue
My awestruck mind can scarce receive . . .
A Tree . . . its fruit the whitest hue

In all
God's view!

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.

TO AND FRO

by Emil Heeb

The early years of our country's history, which most of us know, began in the East. The general course of humanity's movement was Westward. Thus the slogan "Go West, young man, go west." So, slowly but surely, mankind moved westward and finally reached the Pacific Ocean. But now, in these latter days men do not only travel westward but move "to and fro" in every direction. Highways are being built criss cross over the whole land. We are therefore living in the time spoken of by Nahum, the prophet saying, ". . . The chariots shall be with flaming torches in the day of His preparation . . . the chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall jostle one against another, in the broadways, (Freeways) they shall seem like torches, they shall run like the lightning" (Nahum 2:3-4). One can observe these scenes very closely when standing near a busy highway, cars moving to and fro at terrific speed and at night when viewing it from a distance appear like torches moving about. To us, this is one of the signs that Christ's coming is near. For these things says the prophet will be in "the day of His preparation." At the time of the early settlers traveling had been very slow. Men had been traveling on foot, horse-back, or in horse-drawn buggies. Then came the steam-engine and traveling on the ground advanced in speed. In 1903 at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, Orville Wright made an attempt to leave the ground and take to the air. His first experiment lasted only two seconds and covered 20 feet. But the art of flying advanced with unexpected speed. In 1910 an airplane that flew several miles was built by John Conner Burke in Oregon. Not more than six years later the German's deployed airplanes in carrying out what Hitler later called the Blitz-krieg (lightning-war). Soon after that men traveled to and fro from country to country. They now travel from planet to planet.

The speed or direction of men's movements are not as important as are the motives for which they travel. In the Scriptures we read, "Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also with them. And the Lord said unto Satan, whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, from going to and fro upon the earth, and from walking up and down in it."

To prove that this is by no means an isolated case we have many examples in both Biblical and secular history. Wherever the righteous, the sons of God go to work for the Lord, Satan is right there attempting to destroy it. Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven suffer-

eth violence and the violent take it by force" (Matthew 11:12).

About sixty years later Apostle Paul stated that soon after his departing Satan would again destroy the good work that had been started. For he said, "I know this, that after my departing grievous wolves shall enter in among you, not sparing the flock" (Acts 20:29).

Reasons for which men take to the road vary greatly. The principle reason for most people today is worldly pleasure. On week-ends, including the Lord's day, is when automobiles "Jostle one against another," but not always on the way to solitude, to be close to the Lord in reverence and obedience to his word. Let us seek for the meaning expressed in the verse here quoted.

As I was sitting in my chair,
I knew the bottom was not there,
Nor legs nor back, but I just sat,
Ignoring little things like that.

Many persons, even among religious people are rushing "to and fro" to what they call recreations. Ball-games, various types of races, boating, mountain climbing, and ignoring what is happening to their spirituality.

Do these activities really recreate a person's physical or spiritual strength for the tasks and problems of the following week? The answer is no; they are but escapes. When they wake up to the stark reality of life, they find themselves physically and spiritually tired and exhausted. They will find their frustrations, exasperations and dissatisfactions crowding in on them, but they will not have the spiritual fortitude to cope with them.

Satan is always present wherever the Lord's servants (the sons of God) are sent. Thus we read again, "These are they whom the Lord hath sent to walk to and fro through the earth" (Zech. 1:10). We read in Matt. 20:1-7, that the Lord had sent servants out at different times but in the eleventh verse of Zech. 1 we notice the following complaint, "We have walked to and fro through the earth and, behold, all the earth sitteth still, and is at rest," while the souls of Israel die for lack of ministry. Jesus said, "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad" (Matt. 12:30). This is ever so true in this latter day dispensation, "the eleventh hour" (Matt. 20:6). Men need to get aroused. Who will blow the trumpet and sound the warning voice?

There are those now that travel "to and fro" not only on earth but also in the air, disregarding all

laws of God and man. They dare to risk their own lives and endanger the lives of many others in an insatiable desire for money. Yet, in the writer's opinion there are secret causes with some justification, which is hoped to be set forth in a future writing.

In the field of politics at present time many travel "to and fro" across the country. Politics is the science of government, thus this is a worthwhile endeavor, if motivated by an unselfish purpose. To what extent each one of these are so moved is something that only God can know. In recent months some of our statesmen have traveled "to and fro" half-way around the world. They are to be admired for their courage to break the ice and move forward in an effort to create better understanding among nations in the hope to bring peace eventually in the world.

There, too, as in every attempt for good, Satan is neither absent nor idle. It is apparent on the international horizon that he is at work behind the scenes, and this is in harmony with the warnings of God. "For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, peace, peace; and there is no peace" (Jeremiah 8:11).

Of all the travellings from place to place, the most rewarding is that of the missionary going from city to city, and walking from door to door publishing good tidings of the gospel.

After his many journeys from Antioch through Paphos, Pergia, Antioch in Pisidia, Iconium and other cities and back again to Antioch, Paul said "Henceforth is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, and not for me only but unto all them that also love His appearing" (2 Tim. 4:8).

The love of God and the concern for souls of people should cause every ordained member, and in fact every born-again person to be willing to go "to and fro" for the sake of the Kingdom of God. And that not just to favorite places, but where the need is greatest and laborers lacking. Jesus went out **seeking** the lost, not **waiting** for the lost. Ministers of Christ should do likewise. Apostle Paul stayed as much as a year in some places to establish the work.

There is no other church work so important that it should keep our Apostles and Elders too busy to do missionary work.

Satan is busy going "to and fro" destroying our youth, our ideals, our nation, the latter day restoration, and is especially anxious to destroy those who have embraced the Church of Christ. Every person who has the love of God in his heart should be encouraged to find a place of service in the missionary work of the church. Persons and families should be asked, "What are you qualified and willing to do? What are you willing to give? Let us all be workers together with God going "to and fro" throughout the nation seeking to save, even as Christ, our Lord would have us do.

THE GOSPEL OF LOVE

by Kathi Trask

An agnostic looks at his Christian friend and says, "It is strange, but when you talk about God and His love, your voice grows hard and your eyes fill with hate."

Why would the agnostic make such a comment? It could be for the very reason that he stated: the friend lacked the love that she spoke of. Or perhaps what she told stood forth as a cold, forbidding story. Perhaps the story stepped on the agnostic's toes and made the friend just appear hard and hateful. Whatever the reason, there is no doubt that the agnostic left as unsure as ever.

The gospel and life of Christ are subjects so packed with love that it is hard to imagine that they could be conceived of in any other way. Yet this love must reflect in the person who is telling the story or all may be in vain. Let's examine more closely the three reasons why the agnostic may have reacted in the way that he did.

The Christian's voice may have really been hard, His eyes may have really been full of hate. Often a person appears this way when he lacks conviction in what he tells. The friend may have had the facts down pat, but lacked the faith and the experience of living his faith. Perhaps he had deep inner fears about the reality of God. He might have been worried that the agnostic was right. He also could have been very closed mind about his particular doctrine and refused to listen to any other view. It is easy to become so biased with a particular belief that one tries to push it unwisely onto another. Often this leads to contention, anger, and an unruly clash of beliefs. The Book of Mormon says:

"For verily, verily, I say unto you, he that hath the spirit of contention, is not of me, but of the devil, who is the father of contention, and he stirreth up the hearts of men to contend with anger, one with another. Behold, this is not my doctrine, to stir up the hearts of men with anger, one against another" (Book of Nephi 5:31-32).

Maybe it wasn't the friend's actual voice and eyes that bothered the unbeliever. It could have been that the story was cold and hard in itself. Often the gospel is presented as one big THOU SHALT NOT. The gospel should be full of life and action rather than a list of things not to do. Christianity is an affirmative religion! When one becomes filled with the love of Christ, he becomes a "doing person" and the "shalt nots" come naturally out of love for God.

Finally, it could have been the agnostic's conscience that bothered him and made him see his friend as cold and unloving. One must be very careful, when dealing with another person, not to step on his ego. In Isaiah, a prophecy concerning the nature of the coming Messiah says:

"A bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench."

Christ was firm about His doctrine but He did not crush one's soul or integrity. Often by pointing out the faults or bad habits of another, we can make that person turn away before he even learns of Christ's love. He may see the gospel as something that takes away his mode of life and his enjoyments and leaves nothing to fill the void.

Thus, when a Christian tells his story to a non-believer, he must be sure that he is sincere in what he believes and make sure that his life reflects the good news. He must present the gospel as an active, loving force, rather than a forbidding, cold doctrine. And finally he must be very careful not to crush his listener's integrity.

Then, perhaps, the agnostic's reply will be, "When you talk about God and His love, your voice becomes kind and warm and your eyes fill with love . . . tell me more."

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

by Alice M. Larsen

Everyone wants to be happy and it is right that we should be. Many years ago at a time when I was troubled and lonely, I declined invitations to join several social groups, in spite of my loneliness, because they were worldly. One night when I felt particularly sad I dreamed that a group of dancing gypsy women were coaxing me to join their circle. I knew it would be easy to dance and laugh with them, but I also knew it would be wrong, so I gently but steadfastly refused. Finally, the queen of the gypsies stepped from the circle and coming toward me she removed her beautiful pearl necklace, took from it the large central pearl and held it out to me. She said I had won her respect and she wanted to do something good for me. She said, "This pearl is Happiness. It alone of my jewels will not harm you. It may be hard to swallow, but please take it." (I did not wonder why, though she had worn it as an ornament, it was to benefit me from within.) When I put the pearl in my mouth it was like fire and very difficult to swallow, but when I had swallowed it, my whole being glowed with inexpressible happiness.

Regardless of the type of personality, regardless of culture or environment, all through life each person seeks happiness. But what is happiness? Definitions of the word are as varied as people themselves, but I think the most common error that worldly people make is to mistake fun and thrills or pride of possession for happiness.

Real happiness is not only joyous but uplifting and peaceful as well. Fun is momentary enjoyment, sometimes at the expense of others' peace of mind. Is that happiness? What is left after excitement and thrills are finished? Is that happiness? Do luxurious

surroundings or great possessions make people happy? In the first few chapters of Ecclesiastes we read of the "vanity and vexation of spirit" caused by the great wealth and possessions of Solomon.

Should we then be content with very little of anything? No, ever since Adam and Eve were expelled from the garden of Eden, it has been the duty of every person to work and provide for the family. Work well done rewards us with a sense of accomplishment that helps bring happiness. However work alone, whether physical, mental or both, is not enough.

Is happiness then an ethereal will-o'-the-wisp, an elusive something that no plodding mortal can attain? Certainly not! " - - happy is that people, whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 144:15). "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding" (Proverbs 3:13). " - - he that keepeth the law, happy is he" (Proverbs 29:18).

We live in a troubled world. When we are distressed by conditions we can do nothing about, when personal griefs and trials weigh us down, can we be happy then? "Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not the chastening of the Almighty: For he maketh sore, and bindeth up: he woundeth, and his hands make whole. He shall deliver thee in six troubles: yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee" (Job 5:17-19). If sometimes troubles seem about to crush our spirits, we have only to remember and believe the promises recorded in the Scriptures.

To be happy we must love and give; this begins with loving and serving God. If we love Him we will also love our families and our brothers and sisters in the church and we will do all we can to encourage and help them. My family this past year has had many occasions to be grateful for the help and encouragement others have given us.

Most recently we spent a happy weekend when we had the pleasure of a visit from Bro. and Sr. Don McIndoo and Cathy. On Sunday morning we heard a beneficial sermon by Bro. McIndoo, then the little group sang hymns while dinner cooked. We also enjoyed picnicing and driving in the hills to admire some of the beauties of God's creation. There is a closeness in the brotherhood of the Church of Christ that is like the ties of blood. We were sorry to see them leave, but the happiness of our fellowship with them remains.

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13). Only in this way can we find the happiness that is love, obedience, wisdom, understanding, work, joy, thankfulness and peace. Let us live in pursuit of happiness.

"For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret" (Ephesians 5:12).

ARCHAEOLOGY
AND
THE BOOK OF MORMON

Clarence L. Wheaton, Sr.

- Part Four -

The Ziggarrut, or the Tower of Babel, was one of the earliest forms of construction built by the ancient Sumerians of the Euphrates Valley. It was built approximately 500 years after the Great Deluge, spoken of in our previous accounts. It was built in the form of a step pyramid, with a series of steps going up one side, and with a continuous ramp leading to the top.

When the Jaredite migration from this tower came to America, the first thing they did was to erect such a pyramid or zaculli in the area of Tampico, Mexico. Concerning this, and similar structures throughout the Central American area, C. W. Ceram, in his work, *A Pictorial History of Archaeology*, has this to say:

Are not the Middle American pyramids the strongest proof of a connection with near Eastern and Egyptian cultures? Not only the pyramids but also certain linguistic forms, certain divinities and a large number of other peculiarities of the Middle American civilization virtually drove scholars to assume cultural transfusion or imitation.

—Ceram's work, page 322.

Regarding the influences of the Egyptian cultures, which appeared on the scene at a later time, we note the similarity of the great pyramids at Chichen Itza, Uxmal, Palenque, and other places which definitely show similarity to the Step Pyramid at Saqqarra, near ancient Memphis in Egypt. Not only in the manner in which the steps, that is different levels of these structures rise one above another, but in the manner in which they pitch toward the center in a ten to fifteen degree angle, so that the pressure of so much solid material would be inward. And in both Egyptian and Middle American construction, the great mass of materials are protected by a veneer of cut stone that is fitted so closely together that it is impossible to thrust a knife blade between the joints.

Another very striking similarity to be found in these pyramids is that they were used in ancient times both in the Middle East and Egypt as burial places for their monarchs. Such was the case with the great pyramid of Giza, and the Step Pyramid in Egypt and others. Consequently, these Book of Mormon migrants, when they came to this Western Hemisphere, used them for the same purpose, as noted at Palenque, Tikal and other places in Central America. When Alberto Ruz discovered the secret passageway that led to the burial chamber in the heart of the Temple of Inscriptions at Palenque, he brought to light information that startled the scientific world. We have viewed this great pyramid, both before and after Ruz had made his discovery. A vivid description of this find is given by Ceram in the volume we have just quoted:

Inside the temple, which stood upon the top platform, the entrance to a staircase was found . . . It was carefully constructed and in a good state of preservation. Descending the forty-five steps the scientists came to a landing. After a further 21 steps, the excavators came across a horizontal passage which had been closed by a wall. They broke through this obstacle and found scattered over the floor, pots, objects of jade, and a pearl . . . close by, they found skeletons — the bones of several young men and one woman. Behind this corridor a chamber opened out . . . In the centre of the chamber stood a low stone structure which was thought to be an altar . . .

When Alberto Ruz had this stone slab raised, he encountered something that shook the firm opinions of two generations of Maya scholars. What had looked like an altar was a sarcophagus. The hollow base contained the skeleton of a man between the ages of forty and fifty.—**Pictorial History of Archaeology**, Ceram, page 326.

When Wooley made his excavations at Ur of Chaldea, he found the same type of burial, i. e. they included human sacrifices of the household of the deceased, thus showing Middle East influences upon the ancient American culture. The Book of Mormon relates that when the people who migrated from the Eastern Mediterranean wandered away from God, they too, practiced human sacrifice, i. e.

And it came to pass that the Lamanites did take possession of the city Desolation, and this because their number did exceed the number of the Nephites.

And they did also march forward against the city Teancum, and did drive the inhabitants forth out of her, and did take many prisoners, both women and children, **and did offer them up as sacrifices unto their idol gods.**—Book of Mormon, page 696-7:15-16.

You may appreciate our amazement, as we too, descended those steps which Alberto had uncovered, slippery with the dampness and clay which had been there for ages undisturbed. We stood awed before this scene in the dank darkness of that vault lit only by candle light as we viewed this appalling sight so recently brought to light. For here was the most conclusive evidence we had yet seen to support the claims of the Book of Mormon that these ancient people had a direct connection with the cultures of ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Middle East, and Christian influences. Here we stood, speechless, before the overwhelming evidence of all these cultures rolled into one. For here we witnessed a burial with pots, jade and jewels, etc., the skeletal remains of the ruler and the remains of members of his household personnel in the same manner as in Ur of Chaldea. However, Mr. Ceram, failed to make note of the fluorescent cross carved on the top of the altar cover, with the reclining

figure of a man looking up to it in adoration, with the Quetzal bird adorning the top of the cross, emblem of the bearded white god of the Mayas, their symbol of the Christian faith.

In other places, we find the cross used frequently to denote the Christian influences among these ancient peoples of the Americas. At Palenque, the Temple of the Cross, and the Fluorescent Cross, and at Mitla, sepulchres in the form of the cross were excavated. But more of that later, as we are now dealing more exclusively with cultural features from the area of the great tower of Babel.

Another aspect of the influences of the cultures of the Middle East on the early American civilizations is the use of various types of construction in building their temples, especially the use of arches in openings in their walls. These include the corbel arch; the key-stone arch; the primitive arch; the flat or lintel arch. The Sumerian peoples made these notable contributions to the development of architectural features of the building arts. Not having access to large slabs of stone, they had to resort to making sun dried brick of clay and straw. These were the materials of which the great bulk of their structures were made. The openings were therefore made by the use of smaller stones. Their arches were thus built for openings, as one author states, "In fact, sun-dried bricks were used almost exclusively in Sumerian architecture. **The most important architectural work of the Sumerians was found in temple towers of ziggurats, (pyramids, CLW), which were of several stories each stepped back.**" —Encyclopedia Americana, Vol. 7, pp. 25-26.

So it was among the ancients of Central America, they too excelled in the building of great towers or pyramids. In reading the Book of Mormon, I have often wondered why no mention was made of ziggurats or pyramids. But this question has been solved. A few examples will suffice, i. e., Coriantumr said his "first parents came out from **the tower**, at the time the Lord confounded the language of the people," etc. (Omni 1:39 AV), "the multitude being so great that King Benjamin could not teach them all within the walls of the temple; therefore **he caused a tower to be erected**, . . . and it came to pass that he began to speak to his people from **the tower**," (Mosiah 1:35-36 AV); "and it came to pass that he (King Noah) **built a tower near the temple; yea, a very high tower**, even so high that he could stand upon the top thereof and overlook the land Shilom," etc., (Possibly referring to the great pyramid at Tikal in Guatemala, and its environs, CLW) (Book of Mosiah 7:16 AV), etc. Many other references could be cited to show that great pyramids of Central America were well known to the people of that day. At the time the Book of Mormon was translated by Joseph Smith Jr., he did not have access to the volumes which relate the finding of these vast centers of civilization in Middle America as source material to base the Book of Mormon account upon.

Hubert H. Bancroft, in his *Native Races*, published in 1893, relates:

Since 1830 the veil has been lifted from the principal ruins of ancient Maya works by the researches of Zavala, Waldeck, Stephens, Catherwood, Norman Friederichsthal and Charney . . . **It will be noticed that all the authors mentioned who write from actual observation, have confined their observations to from one to four of the principal ruins, whose existence was unknown previous to their visits except Messrs. Stephens and Catherwood.** These gentlemen boldly left the beaten track and brought to the knowledge of the world about forty ruined cities, **whose very existence had been previously unknown even to the residents of the larger cities of the very state in whose territory they lie.** —*Native Races*, Vol. 4, page 144-45.

This information, therefore, refutes the allegation of our critics that the Book of Mormon account of vast development of civilizations in Middle America was known to the world at the time of its translation. A much later writer on this subject, Sylvania Morley (1947) affirms this:

Before the publication of his (Stephen's) two books, **the very existence of these cities was unknown outside of Yucatan and Northern Central America (Mexico)**, but after their appearance, knowledge of the Maya, who developed our greatest American civilization, became general on both sides of the Atlantic. **With Stephens also begins the period of the modern exploration of this region.** —Preface to the *Ancient Maya*, page VIII, Sylvania G. Morley, 1947.

Recapitulating, we find that the Book of Mormon was translated and published by March 1830. Prior to the time, only one of the great ruins of Central America was known to the world, and that was revealed by the ambassador to France. This ancient city was Uxmal. Stephens and Catherwood began their exploration of this area in 1838, and their first published accounts of finding the ruins of forty or more cities in the 1840's appeared ten years after the Book of Mormon had been published and translated into other languages. Therefore as the historians all agree, the very existence of these ruins had been unknown to the world, and to even the residents of the larger cities in their locality. And, it remained for Alberto Ruz, 122 years after the Book of Mormon came forth to unlock the mystery of the tomb buried in the heart of the Temple of Inscriptions at Palenque, to reveal the link between the cultures of the Middle East and Middle America.

(to be continued)

A SIMPLE TRUTH

Plant a thought and reap an act.
Plant an act and reap a habit.
Plant a habit and reap a character.
Plant a character and reap a destiny.

LESSON GUIDE
STUDY OF GOD'S COMMANDMENTS

by Amy Schrader

Section 1

Lesson Text: Matthew 14:1-14.

This whole chapter is actually a mighty lesson on faith. The first is the indirect lesson on the faith of the martyrs such as John the Baptist. It surely is not an easy thing to accept imprisonment, and await an uncertain fate. Only when one has made a complete dedication and consecration of themselves to the Lord can they face such a turn of events without fear and frustration. When one has surrendered their life to God, death becomes unimportant even as it had for Paul (Acts 21:13). History does not record many such who have reached that height of faith and faithfulness, a few in the scriptures are named; such as Daniel and his friends, some of the prophets, Stephen, Abinadi, etc. and we must not forget to include the two thousand young sons of the Lamanites who followed Helaman to war (Alma 24:65-79, 26:50-57). nor their parents who would accept death rather than risk the salvation of their souls by taking any more lives as they had hitherto done.

Perhaps we think that these peoples had greater evidences and knowledge than can be had today. Yet John, too, had to believe by the signs or the fruits that followed Christ's ministry (Matthew 11:1-6). Even when he was imprisoned Jesus didn't send the answer, "yes, I am He," but cited John to the things that were being done. The two thousand stripling soldiers believed on the things that their mothers had taught them never doubting that their mothers knew. These are the things by which we must build faith today. We must exercise faith and then watch for the evidences that will follow that exercising. It is a process called positive reinforcement. We believe, we ask, we receive, and our first shaky belief becomes reinforced and we gather confidence.

In a recent book, "The Hidden Room," is an account of two Dutch sisters who, during World War Two were first imprisoned, and then sent to a German concentration camp for assisting Jews to escape the deadly work of the Gestapo. It is basically the story told by Corrie Ten Boom of her sister Betsy who died in the concentration camp. The sweet faith, trust and seeming fearlessness, though frail and ill, with which this woman could face and accept hunger and destitution of the camp life and the abuse of their captors, is a marvelous lesson in total trust in the Lord and acceptance of whatever He might allow to happen to her. With unexcelled equanimity she could say, "what better place to spend the war years than in such place telling those Jews held captive there, many of whom would go to their deaths, of Jesus," and bringing what comfort she could by sharing her shining faith in and love for Him.

What a privilege and opportunity we each have

to live in such close relationship with the Lord that we too can face with peace whatever life may hold for us! whatever difficult assignment may be ours; whatever lot He chooses for us. To be able to do so there must be that deliberate and conscious putting of our lives, and ourselves and all we hold dear at His disposal.

Section 2:

Lesson Text: Matthew 14:15-21.

This account of the feeding of the five thousand men, besides the women and children, as well as the feeding of the four thousand, besides women and children as recorded in chapter 15:29-39, are also indirect lessons in faith if put with the statement of Jesus in John 14:12. Now, none of us may have yet been in a position where it was needful that such a miracle be performed, but if the prophesies of coming calamities: devastations, drouths, etc., are true we may well be faced with just such a need. Any or all of these disasters could result in famine. Will we have exercised our faith so that it has grown to that porportion?

It is in our days of peace and well being that we should reinforce our faith, by that diligent search to really know the Lord. Then, when the time of testing is upon us, we will have built a trust and confidence that cannot be shaken and will carry us through.

As we have seen, Christ said that those who believe on Him would not only do the works which He had done but would do even greater, and yet we see very little of such miracles today. Surely we must ask ourselves "why?" If we look about us right within the church membership, we cannot fail to see the need. The Book of Commandments 37:8-14, authorizes the performances of these miracles to relieve the needs of the peoples of today, just as Jesus did them for the peoples of Jerusalem. Seemingly, the one requirement lacking is faith. We do believe something, so what is that quality of faith which receives these out of the ordinary blessings from the Lord?

A very brief synopsis of scripture might give us an insight to our problem. First, the faith that receives has developed a condition of faithfulness in the person (Psalm 37:3-5, John 15:7). Then we must consider and measure our request and our reasons for asking by the will of God (James 4:2-3), and if our motives are pure and the thing we are seeking is good according to His will, we will have that which we ask if there is no doubting (James 1:6-8).

Perhaps we have treated the whole question too lightly over the years. Where there are prayers answered there is that positive reinforcement of faith, likewise when there are unanswered prayers there is a negative reinforcement of doubt. Too often we give our children the impression that all they have to do is ask the Lord anything and He will do it, that if they ask the Lord He will straighten out all life's problems to their personal advantage etc., without the teaching of the need of being right with Him in all aspects of

our lives and our requests; and that what is best for us in His eyes may often not be easy. He never promised mankind an easy time of it here, in fact He promised the opposite (Book of Commandments 59:3-5), but to the faithful is the promise of His abiding presence (John 14:21-23).

Well, back to the immediate lesson text; it is not strange that Jesus had the power to multiply the elements of bread and fish, speeding up the process which He instigated in the beginning by which all life develops and produces and grows. The marvel is that He has offered this same power to men through the Holy Ghost when the requirements of faith and faithfulness are met.

Section 3

Lesson Text: Matthew 14:22-32.

The next lesson of faith in this fourteenth chapter is Peter's attempt to walk on the water. This gives us quite a measurement if we are disposed to measure our faith by it.

Probably we all feel that we know there is a higher law which supersedes the natural law we see operative around us and by which our lives are limited, but the occasions where anyone has been released to operate by the higher law are rare. There is a law and a dimension beyond that observable by our five senses. The truth of that statement, even the scientists concede, but they cannot define the law. The scriptures give ample account of the spiritual realm which even the mortal may rise to, a realm who's law denies and defies the supposed restrictions of our laws of nature. Our senses tell us there is a limit, determined by distance, time, and obstructions, to our sight and hearing, the spiritual law removes these limits (John 1:47-51; Acts 9:3-9; 1 Nephi 3:37-256; Outline History page 22, paragraph 2 of Joseph's quote concerning his second vision). Our technical and mechanical age has greatly increased the speed with which matter can move and yet our natural laws put a great limit on the speed with which humanity can move unassisted by mechanical devices. This too the spiritual law removes or interrupts (John 6:15-25, Acts 8:39-40).

Our senses tell us that our structures are solid and that they cannot be penetrated by matter except through an opening left for that purpose; but scriptural history warns us that here too, there is a dimension of possibility not perceived by our mortal senses (John 20:19-26; Acts 5:17-23; 3 Nephi 18:29-34).

Our experience tells us that fire burns and consumes that which comes into contact with it; and yet Daniel and his friends were not consumed in the fiery furnace, neither Nephi and Lehi by the fire that enveloped them (Daniel 3:6-28; Helaman 2:83-88, 98-110).

We know that water has a great buoyancy to it, and will support objects great and small, even the human body when floating prostrate, but the law which says that a man can walk upon the water upright

escapes us. When Peter saw Christ walking on the water, he believed that he could also walk on the water if Christ bade him; yet once out there, the contradiction of his senses overcame his faith, and it was no longer possible to act within the freedom of the higher spiritual law.

There are numerable instances of the so-called phenomenal and out-of-the-ordinary occurrences, for example unexplainable strength in time of urgent need, the replenishment of food which had been depleted, the miraculous maneuvering of circumstances beyond the human control, yet who of us can rest assured that, when our time of testing comes, we can step out with faith into that spiritual realm which denies and defies the knowledge of our senses, or will we, too, like Peter, falter and sink?

Section 4

Lesson Text: Matthew 14:34-36.

What a testimony of confidence and faith in this account of the people of Gennesaret. It would seem that tales of Jesus had reached that place, so when the men realized who it was that had come among them, with no hesitation they sent all around and brought in their diseased; asking only that they be allowed to touch the hem of His garment, and those who touched were healed. What a demonstration of faith! Was there ever a time that Jesus refused a plea for healing? Perhaps the closest He came to a refusal was to the woman from Canaan who besought Him to cast the devil out of her daughter, and yet because of her faith (and I believe her humility) He granted her request (Matthew 15:22-28).

One of the requirements for the answer to our prayers is that we ask according to His will; and it appears that it was always His will to heal the sick. We cannot imagine that His Will has changed from that day to this, He being an unchangeable God. So the lack of healing for the many afflictions extant among us must be due to some cause other than His willingness to leave them unrelieved. His coming among men was to minister to the needs of the mortal as well as to save the immortal soul (Luke 4:17-21, Mosiah 1:97-103). The commission He gave His disciples was always twofold, preach the gospel and heal the sick (Matthew 10:7-8, Luke 9:1-2, 6), and they followed His direction, both the disciples in the Book of Mormon times as well as at Jerusalem (4 Nephi 1:6-7). The same commission was given again to the ministry of the early church (Book of Commandments 25:23-24, 37:8-14, 44:35, 38-39, 49:18, 23-25).

The scripture gives only one answer to the lack of healing for our ill, and that is lack of faith to receive (Mormon 1:14-15, Moroni 10:10-20). But the question remains, why? Is it because of iniquity? Is it because we do have a very learned medical profession to turn to, who can perform great feats? Is it because the incredulity of a pseudo-christian world has very subtly infringed upon our faith and compromised our

sense of reality about the beliefs that we have claimed? Is it because we have been tainted with the scientists' desire to understand the "how" of all the miracles of the Lord, our subconscious minds rejecting that for which we have no explanation, thus robbing us of the blessing? Is it because the acknowledgement of insufficient faith frightens us and so we assume to ourselves other causes to account for our lack, such as was the case with Paul? and therefore do not stretch our faith to its full potential which would enable us to receive?

Perhaps one cause applies to one and a different cause to another, and other causes which I haven't thought of to still others. Yet, I feel that none of us should be at ease over the situation, while the lame, the blind, the deaf or those with many another affliction remain among us. This state of affairs cannot be pleasing to a Savior whose mission was to relieve these many ills as well as save our souls, and should be an indication to us that, as disciples of Him, we are living beneath our calling and privileges. Let us, as with the father of the child possessed with the dumb spirit, fall at His feet and cry, "I believe, help thou my unbelief" (Mark 9:14-15).

WISCONSIN REUNION

August 12th and 13th were the dates of the Wisconsin Reunion which was again held in the American Legion hall at Rio. We were very happy to see so many of our dear brothers and sisters from distant places, as well as those from other parts of the state. We also wish to praise our Heavenly Father for the portion of His Spirit that was manifest throughout this occasion which seemed to draw our hearts together in oneness and unity.

Each morning of the reunion was devoted to prayer and testimony meetings, with the sacrament being served on Sunday. These were hours of spiritual uplift, and the time was well filled with many taking part in prayer and supplication and testimonies of God's goodness to them. During the Sunday service Brother Housknecht conducted a short memorial tribute for those of our dear brothers and sisters who have passed on, who were an outstanding part of the Wisconsin reunions for so many years. At this service also, through the Spirit, two of the young men present were told to prepare for a calling in the Lord's work.

Our speaker at 2 O'clock, on Saturday, was Elder John Sweem. His sermon was on the promises made to Abraham and Moses, concerning Christ, that he was the prophet whom the Lord would raise up, and those who would not hear him, must be cast out. As those before Christ's coming looked forward to Him, so we look back to Him, and the new covenant of the gospel which he brought. We are now living in the time when Christ's church has been set up again in the latter days, and should look forward to his second coming when he will reign as King of kings. Brother

Sweem also read the parable of the talents, of which to one was given one talent, to another five, and to another ten, pointing out that we add to our talents by growing in the gospel, and becoming worthy followers of Christ.

Another preaching service was called for at 4:15 p. m. with Elder Tony Grzincic occupying the pulpit at this time. He admonished us that we should prepare for the things of the Lord that are yet to come. We are the body of Christ's church, and as such we should forsake the things of the world. We should not fear rules and regulations, as this is a time to be more stringent and diligent in our efforts that our example may be edifying both to the church family and on-lookers from without the church. This is the day of our probation. Let us turn to the Lord with full purpose of heart. There will be no excuses when we stand before the judgment bar.

Apostle William Sheldon brought us a resounding message of hope, and call to duty. At the 8 o'clock hour, he expressed the need of a closer walk with God. The love of God and obedience to His commandments brings about the blessings of eternal life. We must become a praying people that we be not overtaken of the evil one, as this is a time of great temptation and deception. The gospel should bring about a growth in natures, that we become Christ like. If we are not becoming a son of God by growth we shall never be the sons of God. We were not promised that the way would be easy, and some may have to suffer even unto death, but let us brace up, and continually search for the living waters with unshaken faith in the Lord and His promises.

Preaching at 2:30 Sunday afternoon was by Apostle Don Housknecht. He spoke of the burdens which we have taken which are of no benefit to our souls, and of the need to push these things out of our lives and rid ourselves of many evils; that we may have the Spirit of God and discernment among us. Satan has great power, and though he has only used his weapons mildly in the past, he is now making a last great effort to deceive through the use of witchcraft, sorceries, and various occults. We must beware and shun anything of this nature, and as the evil forces grow, our only help will be to turn to the Lord in sincere fasting, and mighty prayer. Through fasting and prayer we can bar the act and influences of Satan. As a people we have not learned to use fasting in the manner intended. Fasting is elimination of the world. We cannot be contaminated with the world in anyway and hold a full part.

Following this service there was a short business meeting. It was decided we would hold our reunion at Rio again next year on the second weekend of August. Brother and Sister Virgil Addie were elected as our reunion committee with power to call on others for help as needed. Sister Helen Taubert was chosen reporter for the coming year. A standing vote of

thanks was taken for Sister Mary Addie and all who assisted her in the kitchen for the delicious meals they prepared and served.

The last sermon of the reunion was brought to us by Elder Kenneth Smith. He used as his text the 58th chapter of Isaiah, the reproof and admonition of the Lord to Israel of old; and as history repeats itself, we too, as latter day Israel should take heed to this counsel. Quoting the last two verses of this chapter, we find this explicit and timely instruction. "If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honorable; and shalt honor him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words;

"Then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."

We are thankful to Sister Darl Temple for her assistance at the organ, and would also like to express our appreciation to those who offered special songs during the reunion. Brother Sheldon and his daughter Sister Darl Temple favored us with a duet, Where Wilt Thou Put Thy Trust, and Sisters June Sarratt and Edna Smith each offered a solo. The beautiful hymn, Draw Thou My Soul, O Christ, was rendered by Sister June, and Sister Edna sang the touching song, I Heard The Voice Of Jesus.

Several of our number asked for administration during the various meetings of the reunion, and I do want to mention that at the Sunday morning service one brother who had been having trouble with his back, testified that he had received a blessing of healing from having been administered to the evening before. Praise be to God above for the wonderful privilege which is ours, to call on Him for the blessings of which we stand in need.

Thank you, one and all, who by your presence and participation helped to make our reunion such a joyous occasion. May God's rich blessings abide with you, and please come back to meet with us again next year.

Helen Taubert, Reporter

Following is the text of the memorial Tribute as written by Brother Housknecht.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

In recounting the years since the Wisconsin saints met together for the first time in reunion of old friends and companions of the Gospel, there comes quite naturally, memories.

Although at the moment we may not recall the names of all who have had a part in past Reunions, we nevertheless recall them in Spirit and remember what these past associations have meant to us as we are gathered once more to cement the memories of the

past and to create an even stronger bond in the Fellowship of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Christ.

As we analyze what these memories mean is it not like reading the epitaphs of those gone before us? If so, then we must consider the epitaph that we are writing of our own lives, though it may seem strange to think that we are writing our own epitaph, but we are.

We are very busy writing our epitaphs and we are day by day doing something that makes this evident. We are not writing the epitaphs of others, but our very own. We are making very sure that people will read what we have written when we are gone. Shall we not be remembered?

If not by many, we certainly shall be by a few, and that remembrance we are making sure of, comes from the tenor of our lives. Our characters are the inscriptions we are making on the hearts of those we know, — some to survive us. We do not leave this task to others. We are doing it ourselves. Others might falsify and deceive by what they might say to us, but we are telling the truth as we write. The action of our passing lives are facts visible, plain, undeniable. We engrave them on the minds of all observers.

How interesting the question, — What kind of epitaphs are we writing? Will they be read with joy or sorrow?

So! In memory we recall the faithful service of the many who gave of themselves to make these Reunions successful. Our memory is not refreshed by what may be inscribed on a slab of marble but by what is written on our hearts. It is for us therefore who yet remain to look forward with as great a care and concern regarding the story we write about ourselves, — on the hearts of others.

These words are written in Memorial to:

ROLLO ADDIE
CLARICE SARAH ADDIE
BERT C. FLINT
WILLIAM ANDERSON
CLYDE BABCOCK
BEATRICE BABCOCK
CHARLES EDDY
EDITH EDDY
MATILDA ANN MATHEWS

LETTER TO THE YOUNG

I would like to bring to our minds some more thoughts on "taking the Lord's name in vain" (Exodus 20:7), that was brought out by our young sister, Cindy Darlington in that we are not to use God's name in slang phrases and in swearing. "... swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: . . ." (Matthew

5:34-35). Also as Bro. Smith has many times brought out, we are not to "take the Lord's name in vain" by saying "thus saith the Spirit" etc., when it is NOT the Spirit of God that is speaking through us.

Further thoughts to bring to our attention on this subject are those expressed by Bro. Grzincic in his sermon-on-tape, that we are not to "take the Lord's name in vain" as we go through the waters of baptism. How would we do this? Let's go over the baptismal wording, "And now behold, these are the words which ye shall say, calling them by name, saying: Having authority given me by Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen" (3 Nephi 5:25). We become members of The Church of Christ and take upon us His name, "And none were received unto baptism, save they took upon them the name of Christ, having a determination to serve him to the end" (Moroni 6:3). Then if we do not keep our baptismal promise, wouldn't that be "taking His name in vain?" Our promise wouldn't have brought forth "fruits" for His kingdom in our lives. What are the fruits? "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law" (Galatians 5:22-23). "For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth" (Ephesians 5:9). We know our baptism and living in harmony with His Gospel will have results within us. "Even so faith, if it hath not works is dead . . ." (James 2:17).

What is it that will cause that our lives will be "neither barren nor unfruitful?" "For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 1:8). Here we find the "works of faith." "And besides this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity" (2 Peter 1:5-7).

Of charity we read, ". . . but charity is the pure love of Christ . . ." wherefore, my beloved brethren, pray unto the Father with all energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love which he hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of his Son Jesus Christ, that ye may become sons of God . . ." (Moroni 7:52 & 53). "And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing" (1 Corinthians 13:3). It would do well to read from the first to the eighth verses. We find by these quotations that unless the "works of faith," these "fruits" of the Spirit abound in us, thus keeping of our baptismal promise, we are "nothing" and we have taken the Lord's name in vain.

Do we fail in this struggle that our promise to God be not in vain? Oh, yes! many times. How are we

to know how and when to renew our promise? By repentance and the partaking of the Sacrament Emblems, we bring to our minds, and renew our promise we made at baptism. When we find ourselves tempted and failing to live up to our promise, do we have a way of escape provided for us from our temptation? Yes, as Bro. Yates admonished us several years ago, God has provided our escape. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way of escape, that ye may be able to bear it . . . The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?" (1 Corinthians 10:13 and 16).

Here we find our loving Heavenly Father has provided a way of strengthening us, a way of repentance and forgiveness, a way of escape from temptations, a way of renewing our promise to Him. How blest we are and how thankful we are for this way, His way, that we may grow in knowledge unto bearing worthy "fruit" for His Kingdom.

Darleen Smith

(Dedicated, with love and gratitude, to the dear ones here in

THE CENTER PLACE

by Donna Moser

There is a plot, a bit of ground,
Where dark men of another race,
Whose roadways intersected here,
Left each a stone to mark the place . . .

the center place.

Another time and other men
Went to their knees upon the spot,
In awed acceptance of God's word
That this would be the Temple Lot . . .

the center place.

Then it was lost! The people grieved.
Until at last the joyous time
Came round. Once more the little flock
Found pasture here, and dream sublime . . .

the center place.

The years were long, and lonely too.
They fought the fight. They ran the race.
The young ones and the brethren bring
Help now, and blessing, to this place . . .

the center place.

A REMINDER

The "Harris" Sisters, Mary Lois Bryant, Margret Gill, and Martha Bruner, by request have recorded a 33 1/3 long play stereo record of religious and patriotic music. If interested in receiving one, send a donation of \$4.00 to cover the cost of recording and postage to:

Mrs. Margret Gill
Roxanne Tr. Ct.
Route 6, Box 107
Carbondale, Illinois 62901

If this amount does exceed the total amount of expenses, the remainder of the funds will turned in to the Church. Our desire was not make money, but to blend our voices for the praise, honor and glory of God.

—◆—
"Who seeks for heaven alone to save his soul,
May keep the path, but will not reach the goal;
While he who walks in love may wander far,
Yet God will bring him where the blessed are."
author unknown

—◆—
LITTLE THINGS
by Vida Filley

There is a story they used to tell
Of a battle lost and kingdom as well
As a rider and horse were caused to fail
All for the want of a horse shoe nail.

For the shoe was lost and the horse couldn't run
So the rider was thrown as the battle begun.
The army fled as the captain died
And many another fell by his side.

Now the nation trusted its captains great
And the horses they rode, to decide their fate,
And each soldier fought to defend the king
But a horse shoe nail's such a little thing.

For such small things there was little thought,
But how great the havoc its absence brought
For wrong was permitted to prevail
For want of that one small horse shoe nail.

I think in the Kingdom of our Lord
As we go forth with the Spirit's Sword,
There could be a lesson for us here
To value small things that could cost us dear.

Not many are like the Captain who leads
And few there are like the Captain's steed.
But so that Righteousness shall avail,
Many are like that horse shoe nail.

Dear Lord, if all I can do for Thee
Are the little things one cannot see,
Let me not forget though unseen and unknown
On a horse shoe nail hung the fate of a throne.

Oh, Lord of All, my small efforts bless
Knowing great things can depend on the less.
Grant me strength that I may not fail
Make me a good sound "horse shoe nail!"

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I certify the statement made above is correct and complete.

C. LeRoy Wheaton, Jr.
Business Manager