

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 the power of the Holy Ghost;" 1 Nephi 3:187

Vol. 52

Independence, Missouri, February, 1975

No. 2

The Unused Talent

Hark! The everlasting truth
Knocks early at my door!
Righteousness stands upon the threshold
My heart to explore.

The enemy of my natural self
Has come to take away my sin;
My private thoughts to me expose?
No! I cannot let him in.

Complacency is my comfort;
Excuse is adequate shield for me.
Now, leave me alone, Lord.
What have I to do with thee?

My friends give me respect;
They are there to take my part.
With their continuous laughter,
I am gladdened in my heart.

Entertainment is our life blood;
Even when things go wrong,
My friends are there to cheer
With their carefree song.

Boredom and drudgery are broken
With our hilarious fun.
Look! I can't be bothered now,
I must be on the run.

You ask me about faith?
You've got to be kidding, Lord.
That is one vain luxury
That I could never afford.

My insurance policies are good;
I have taken out the best.
The things that can happen nowadays,
Without them I could never rest.

Hope? Well, my only hope
Is that my life might be long;
And love? Its for the things
That to me alone belong.

If you will excuse me now . . .
But Lord, I'm not ready to go!
Life is just getting interesting;
I have many seeds to sow.

Talent? What talent? Oh, that!
Yes, its here unabused,
And you'll be happy to know
That I've kept it hidden away unused.

You see, its too great in value
For a mortal in this life to gain,
So I buried it in the earth
That its worth it would retain.

Now, if you insist, Lord,
Farewell to this world I'll say,
And go to my assigned place
Far from Thee, Lord, away.

by Roland Sarratt

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EDITORIAL Are You Offended?

It may appear that I am going beyond my rights to express some concerns that I have for the membership of the Church. As I see the increase of stumbling blocks being placed before the people, I feel the need to release my fears and speak openly about some of our present problems. This I do, examining my own motives, realizing that I could easily be guided by a prejudice or some type of animosity.

I see in my brothers and sisters of the Church weaknesses that parallel my own, not necessarily the same weaknesses but those things that hinder their more full obedience to God. The battle that I continually fight is undoubtably common to all those who have set their course in the service of God. And, if it was not for the grace of God, we would all have long since been overcome by Satan's power. That is the reason that I dare to venture into this subject.

Are you offended? Has someone in the Church said something or done something to offend you? Most importantly, are you letting that offense keep you from attending Church?

Now I'm not looking at you and I may not have you in mind as I write this. But there is Someone who is looking at you. He knows whether or not you are fully honest in your answers to these questions. And it is true - - you will never have to answer to me, but you will have to answer to Him someday.

You see, I'm also acquainted with the numerous reasons that we mortals use to excuse ourselves. Satan's darts have done more than just occasionally sidetrack me - they have actually made grooves across my mind. It's a very easy thing to follow one of these grooves and forget my responsibilities for a time. Except for my conscience getting in my way, I could go indefinitely in the rut that Satan has helped me to dig. Therefore I know somewhat the pitfalls that are in the path of life and I know them personally. This does not make me an expert in these things. It makes me conscience of the situation that we have in common - the opposition to the well-being of our souls.

Yes, I'm very much acquainted with the convenience of excuse. There are always many more excuses to not do what I should rather than doing what I should.

The avenue of misunderstanding is paved with deliberate excuses. The gross covering of human perception is in the inability to accept God. The natural human mind is unconsciously fighting the reality of God, because the reality of God puts certain demands upon the individual which he cannot excuse no matter how great he rationalizes. If we but realize this, we can more adequately prepare ourselves for the tests that we must meet to gain the reward that God has prepared for us.

It would be an easy thing for me to sympathetically agree with someone when they offer an excuse for not attending Church. However, it is not my prerogative to excuse anyone. It is not for me to condone anyone in their wrongs anymore than it is for me to condemn them. However, it is my duty to speak plainly and this is my burden: If you are saying that someone has offended you and this is the reason that you are not attending Church, then you are cheating yourself.

If you do not see the need in attending Church, let me explain something about it. When we entered into the waters of baptism (I am speaking only of those that are members of the Church), we made a covenant with God which placed us in service to Him. This is because we have become members of His Kingdom, which is the Church here on earth. Each member has a place to occupy in His Kingdom or Church. Our spiritual well-being is in jeopardy if we do not occupy our place. This is not necessarily just the attending of Church, it is our attitude toward Church - our personal interest, our support and our prayers.

This really boils down to a general attitude or a conviction. Our attitude toward the Church is actually our attitude toward God. Oh, I realize that there are many fallacies obvious to our views within the membership of the Church. This does not take away from the divine origin of the Church. The Church as we see it now may not be all that we think it should be. But, our human appraisal is not so accurate either that we can completely depend upon it to determine the true value of the Church.

When we first joined the Church, our conviction was very real and vivid to us. Our renewed hope would not let the threat of discouragement hinder. Nor, would our faith let doubt trouble us. Time, however, brings challenges to our door to test the fiber of our conviction. If we are sufficiently convinced, we will not yield to our adversary. Nonetheless, we are all subject to weaken at times. Just how much we give in during these times is determined by our personal conviction.

We must realize that we cannot stand alone during

the test of our faith. We must seek the strength of God to stand. This reflects our attitude toward God. Our conviction is strongest when we seek to do God's will and when we appeal to Him for the strength to do it.

Too often, however, an attitude of independence occurs. We feel that we can stand alone, and this feeling seems good to us. We feel that we no longer need the Church; and with this comes the feeling of indifference towards the responsibility we once felt being in service to God. This gives us an air of independence, of being free from the rules that once chained us to a more strict way of life. At this point, it only takes a careless remark by someone to confirm our feelings. We are offended and we are now justified, we think, in finding other interests.

This opens the door to many misunderstandings. Mainly, we do not recognize our change of attitude toward God; we have separated Him from the Church and modified His requirements.

When the occasion now arrives that we attend Church, we are sensitive to any slip anyone might make. If they offer a little too much pressure, we're sure someone will come to our defense by blaming the one who erred for their lack of tack.

Under such conditions, we do not realize what we've done to ourselves - our own trap has ensnared us. We have alienated ourselves from the very place in which God has called us to serve Him. There is no other place.

The works of God are seldom obvious to the world. That which God has caused to be preserved for an inheritance for His people is noticeable only to those whose heart is willing to unselfishly serve Him. This behooves us to unconditionally dedicate ourselves to His service, not letting anyone or anything stand between us and the accomplishments of His will.

I place this challenge before you. Seek the reality of God in your life, open your mind to His purposes, consider the possibility that He has a work for you to do in His Church and test this possibility with your fervent prayers.

R. L. S.

VIOLA G. PETRIE

Viola Petrie passed from this life December 8, 1974 in the hospital at Portage, Wisconsin, after a long bout with cancer.

She was born in Sparta, Wisconsin on February 9, 1929 to August and Pearl Brockman. She was united in marriage on September 16, 1951 to Earl Petrie. She was preceded in death by her father, August Brockman and one brother, Charles Brockman.

She obeyed the Gospel and was baptized in Christ and became a member of The Church of Christ (Temple Lot) on July 5, 1943, where she remained faithful to the end.

She leaves to mourn her passing, her husband Earl,

one son, Earl Jr., two daughters, Corrine and Christine all of Portage, Wisconsin. Her mother, Pearl Kenyon of La Crosse, Wisconsin, one brother, Isaac Brockman Sr. of Sparta, Wisconsin, also a host of nieces, nephews and other relatives too numerous to mention, also many friends.

Graveside services were held Wednesday, December 11, 1974 at 2:00 P. M., at the Sand Creek Cemetery in La Crosse County, Wisconsin, with Elder Isaac Brockman Sr. officiating.

At her request there was just a simple Graveside Service held with just three Christmas wreaths left to mark her grave site..

LILA B. OLSON

Lila B. Olson, 76 years of age, passed from this life on Monday, January 6, 1975, she was residing at a Nursing Home in La Crosse County, Wisconsin.

The former Lila Bowen was born January 1, 1899, in Bangor, Wisconsin to Mr. and Mrs. Elija Bowen, later in life she was married to Mr. Clarence L. Olson.

She was preceded in death by nine brothers, two sisters and one grandchild. She leaves to mourn her passing one son, Merwin Olson; four daughters, Opal Grandall, Eleanor Wisniak, Lois Churchwell, and

Mavis Owens, also 12 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

She was baptized into the restoration in 1915 by Leonard Houghton and later transferred to the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) remaining faithfully there until death.

Services were held at the Fossum Funeral Home in Bangor, Wisconsin, Thursday, January 9th and burial was at the Burns Cemetery in La Crosse County, Wisconsin. At the request of her daughter Lois, a Baptist Minister officiated at the Services.

TO THE CHURCH SCATTERED ABROAD

Greetings in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ. It has been quite some time now since I have come to you by the way of the written word in The Advocate. I would now like to take this opportunity of delivering unto you a message and testimony of which I hope will be of spiritual nourishment to each of you.

On September 11, I entered the hospital for more kidney surgery. Those of you who know me well, know that I have been afflicted with kidney trouble since about 1968. This last operation was my fourth major surgery (not counting several minor operations) for this condition. Thanks be to God, my last. Before entering the hospital I asked for prayers of friends and relatives in and out of the church, and the response to this request was overwhelming. My basic concern was for the relieving of pain following the operation, of which I must confess the prayers were answered. I hardly could tell that I had gone through surgery as far as pain was concerned. In the past operations, my pain and discomfort had been quite severe, but this was not the case this time. However, about 3 days after the operation, I started receiving great pain and could not walk on the right side. I couldn't understand it. I talked with God and said "What is wrong? You answered my prayers and now I'm going through all this pain." (Praise the workings of God, who is ever loving toward his children.) Because of this pain, the doctor sent me down for X-rays which revealed that a portion of the stone which had been removed was still lodged in my kidney. If I had not received this pain, I would not have known about the sliver of stone. I would have been released and probably back in a few months for another major operation. I had a drainage tube in my side at that time and the doctor said "I'm going to try something," and he used the tube as a suction device. and the stone sliver, which happened to be right at the opening of the tube (again God's doing) was sucked out and into the bag attached to the end of the tube. After that I recovered quickly, had very little drainage, and was released. The doctor said I improved remarkably fast, but I know it was the hand of God watching over me throughout. In James, chapter 5, verse 13, we are told:

"And the prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up."

There are so many times in our lives when we truly go through trials and tribulations with much suffering because we do not take our burdens unto the Lord. In the fourth chapter of James, in the second and third verses are some very good words for us to consider:

"Yet ye have not because ye ask not. Ye ask and receive not because ye ask amiss."

Many times we who are professing Christians refuse the gifts and healings of God because we do not take Him at His word. We are told that if we would ask, we would receive; if we would but knock, it would be opened unto us. If we want the blessings of God, we must therefore seek them out. (Matt. 7:7, Luke 11:9)

These three words of ask, seek, and knock are basically the Christian's keys to abundant life. We receive abundant life through the death and resurrection of Christ. Christ told us that He came that man might have life and have it more abundantly. So many times within our lives we neglect taking our burdens to the Son of God. So many times we neglect pleading our case unto God with Christ as our mediator. Can we not be compared unto the children of Israel that had not but a short distance to go and their murmurings and their complaints drove God far off in that He had them to travel forty years in the wilderness, that that wicked and perverse generation should pass away before His children could enter in to the promised land. Yes, we as the Church of Christ can be linked unto them if we but complain and murmur because of our lack of understanding and lack of faith. We are told to gird up our loins and fresh courage take, to shout praises to our God and King. If we are to neglect the admonishment found in the beautiful hymn, "Come, Come, Ye Saints," then what has God to do with us. Our faith is of the utmost importance to us, and we mustn't allow discouragement of any sort to weaken it.

There is a book out now entitled, "Satan Is Alive and Well on the Planet Earth," by Hal Lindsey and I must heartily concur with Mr. Lindsey's thoughts on this subject. Satan is alive and doing well. He is not a figment of one's imagination. He is not merely a spirit that is floating around in space waiting to infiltrate the minds of the children of man, but he is tangible as well as spirit, everwaiting to catch the Christian in a moment of weakness. He could care less for the non-Christian. He already has the majority of them, thus no effort is needed to contain them. This is not so with the Christian. Much effort is put out to catch a Christian in one snare or another. We cannot afford to let Satan put us into a mold and cast us forth as a typical ever-day person. For when we are typical and just merely everyday type people, we have no concern for our fellowman or for ourselves. Satan is powerful. Do not underestimate him. He is strong and very witty. He is able to trick even the elect. We are told in the scriptures "There is a way that seemeth right, but the end thereof is death." Again, Glory to God. He is not merely powerful, but all-powerful. That means that He cannot be controlled, but rather is the controller, and is ever willing and ready to receive saints and sinners, in so far that He even sent His Son that not one man should be lost. Each of us received agency - that is we have the right to choose. We were given the right of choice - to judge for ourselves, to consider the scriptures. We, of all God's creatures here upon the earth receive the power of reasoning, that we may come together and reason things out. But on the other hand, man also has the agency that he might choose evil, and it is truly a sad thing when we consider on a Sunday morning the sports arenas are more fully attended than the churches in the world. Man truly has the right to choose, but not he right to abuse. God is supreme and at that day of judgement we will hear he words that we wish to hear. Either, well done my beloved and faithful servant, or depart from me ye worker of iniquity, I never knew you. It is our

choice. Consider the words that you would want to hear on the day of judgement, and act upon them. For works without faith is dead, even so faith without works is dead. Do not allow Satan to lull you into a false sense of security. All is not well in Zion. The hour is late. The workers are few. Satan is harvesting a bumper crop, while The Church of Christ sits by idle and watches. Arise ye sons and priests of God, cast forth thy sickle and thrust thy might into the harvest. Let us reap the harvest and not be a slothful servant. Why do you think that you would gain a great reward if now you shun the fight? The fields are truly ready for harvest. The gospel of Jesus Christ is spreading now faster than at any other time in the history of mankind. There is but one drawback - the full, unadulterated gospel of Jesus Christ is not being told as it should be. Falsehoods are in place of truths. What are you doing to bring forth the restored gospel? Have you told the story to friends or neighbors, or are you sitting back idly while Satan triumphs in great glory. It is up to you how this final chapter in life's drama unfolds. I for one believe that the time is short and we are truly past the eleventh hur. Soon Christ shall ascend to claim His chosen few and lead them to glory. I plan to be there. When the roll is called up yonder, will you be there?

The Church of Christ cannot be held back, however, because of the lack of concern of its membership; it can be slowed down. But remember the word of God cannot be stopped. What He says will be. He is one eternal round, He is Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. He is the giver of our very existence. Let us therefore truly become the sons and priests of God and in doing so we must take forth the powerful word of the scriptures and reveal it to man as it was restored in 1830 - the pure word can only be taught by them that are pure in heart, by them who are willing to take upon them the name of Christ. In ending, I will say these words of old:

Choose you this day whom you will serve.

PRINCIPLES

"Our principles are the springs of our actions, our actions the springs of our happiness or misery. Too much care, therefore, can not be taken in forming our principles. Men of genuine excellence in every station of life — men of industry, of integrity, of high principles, of sterling honesty of purpose — command the spontaneous homage of mankind. It is natural to believe in such men, to have confidence in them, and to imitate them. All that is good in the world is upheld by them, and without their presence in it, the world would scarcely be worth the living in.

"That young man is sure to become a worthless character and a pernicious member of society, who is loose in his principles and habits, who lives without plan and without object, spending his time in idleness

and pleasure. He forgets his high destination as a rational, immortal being; he degrades himself to a level with the brute, but proves himself a nuisance and a curse to all with whom he is connected.

"Every unprincipled man is an enemy to society and richly merits its condemnation. No young man can hope to rise in society or act worthily his part in life without a fair moral character. The basis of such a character is virtuous principles, or a deep, fired sense of moral obligation.

"The man who possesses such character can be trusted. Integrity and justice are to him words of meaning, and he aims to exemplify the virtues they express in his outward life. Such a man has decision of character; he knows what is right and is firm in

doing it. To have a character founded on good principles is the first and indispensable qualification of a good citizen. Deportment, honesty, caution, and a desire to do right, carried out in practice, are to the human character what truth, reverence and love are to religion. They are the constant elements of a good character.

"Let the vulgar and degraded scoff at such virtues if they will, a strict upright onward course will evince to the world that there is more manly independence in one forgiving smile than in all their fictitious rules of honor. Virtue must have its admirers, and firmness of principle, both moral and religious, will ever command the proudest encomiums of the intelligent world.

"There is no brighter jewel in any young man's character than to be firmly established on principles of unyielding rectitude. They change not with times and circumstances. They are the same yesterday today and forever. They extend their sway to all beings and all classes, to the man of learning and the ignorant peasant, to the beggar and the prince; they are the bond of union, and the source of blessedness to all subjects of God's empire . . . Such a man, whether rich or poor, has those solid and excellent traits of character which are certain to secure for him the esteem and confidence of all good man; and even those who are too weak to imitate his virtues are obliged to yield to him the secret homage of their respect. But the greatest boon of all is the self-respect he thus secures. It is only when once lost that you fully realize how valuable is this boon of self-respect. It is the fruit of exertion in right ways. There are some who make

pleasure the aim of their lifetime and who seem to live only for their own enjoyment.

"Man was made for action, for duty and usefulness, and it is only when he lives in accordance with this great design of his being that he attains his highest dignity and truest happiness. To make pleasure his ultimate aim is certainly to fail of it. No matter what a young man's situation and prospects are, no matter if he is perfectly independent in his circumstances and heir to millions — he will certainly become a worthless character if he does not aim at something higher than his own selfish enjoyment. A life thus spent is a life lost. It is utterly inconsistent with all manliness of thought and action, it forms a character of effeminacy and feebleness, and entails on its possessor not only the contempt of worthy and good men, but embitters the decline of life with shame and self-reproach.

"Another principle of evil import is the love of money, which exerts a mighty and powerful influence over the children of men. When once the love of money becomes in any man a dominant principle of action, there is an end of all hope of his ever attaining the true excellence of an intelligent moral being. Money is the supreme and governing motive of his conduct, and where this is the case it is not to be expected that a man will be very scrupulous as to the means of obtaining it. Put a piece of gold too close to the eyes and it is large enough to blind you to home, to love, to death, and to heaven itself."

(Autumn Leaves" April, 1890)

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR'S

January 2, 1975

Dear Elder Kenneth Smith:

I am a newly baptized member of the Church of Christ, Temple Lot. I have known of the church and studied God's word under the guidance of Apostles Archie Bell and Marvin Ely since 1967. I am presently enlisted in the United States Air Force. Being a member of the armed forces I live where they choose to send me. So far the nearest I have lived to one of our organized church branches has been 300 miles away. So the only real contact with our church has been either one of our apostles or through the reading of the, "Zion's Advocate." I want to express my appreciation to the staff and to the contributor's to this paper. It has kept me up to date on events that are taking or have taken place within the church. The "Zion's Advocate" actually makes me feel more a part of the unity of our church, in which I, and many of us who have no other contact with, need. I would

also like to tell all those who submitted their views, especially the ordained members, that their efforts and helpful guidance in their articles do have an important impact on me as a reader.

In conclusion, I want to make a petition to all the ordained officials of our church, especially to the ones that have not contributed, to submit articles that they feel would edify and strengthen the Body of Christ's Church.

Thank you again and may God watch over his people and protect them from the days that are to come and for the hope in which is promised to the faithful in heart.

Your brother in Christ

Gordon D. Mc Cann

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MORE OR LESS THAN THIS

by Mary Hunter

"Verily, verily I say unto you, that this is my doctrine; and whoso buildeth upon this, buildeth upon my rock; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against them. And whoso shall declare **more** or **less** than this, and **establish it for my doctrine**, the same cometh of evil, and is not built upon my rock, but he buildeth upon a sandy foundation, and the gates of hell standeth open to receive such, when the floods come, and the winds beat upon them. Therefore go forth unto this people, and declare the words **which I have spoken**, unto the ends of the earth." (3 Nephi 5:41-43)

In the above three verses, Christ is speaking to His ministry and to the multitude to whom He declared His teachings. We have the teachings before us in the Book of Mormon. The Bible and the Book of Mormon contain the fulness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus said that **whoso shall declare more or less than this and establish it for His doctrine**, the same cometh of evil.

What person or persons could take from or add to the teachings in the Book of Mormon? They would have to be a part of the Restoration to do so because anyone outside the Restoration does not accept the Book of Mormon as the word of God.

There are doctrines of baptism for the dead, high priesthood, polygamy and many more. Now these doctrines have been **established** as being the doctrine of Christ and yet the Book of Mormon does not support these teachings. So it is easy to see these doctrines have been added to the teachings of Christ.

The Book of Mormon strongly condemns polygamy:

"Wherefore, my brethren, hear me, and hearken to the word of the Lord: For there shall not any man among you have save it be **one wife**; and concubines he shall have none: For I, the Lord God, delighteth in the chasity of women." (Jacob 2:36)

The Book of Mormon does not teach baptism for the dead:

"And we see that death comes upon mankind, yea, the death which has been spoken of by Amulek, which is the temporal death; nevertheless there was a space granted unto man in which he might repent; therefore this life became a probationary state; **A Time To Prepare To Meet God**; a time to prepare for that endless state, which has been spoken of by us, which is after the resurrection of the dead." (Alma 9:40, 41)

Also we read in Second Nephi the following:

"And the days of the children of men were prolonged, according to the will of God, that they might repent **While In The Flesh**; wherefore, their state became a state of probation, and their time was lengthened, according to the commandments which the Lord God gave unto the children of men." (2 Nephi 1:107, 108)

Concerning the office of High Priest, the scriptures are very plain in telling us that Christ holds the office of High Priest after the order of Melchisedec. The Book of Mormon shows that the office of High Priest was in the Church of Christ before the birth of Christ but not after because Jesus Christ Himself is the last High Priest after the order of Melchisedec and still holds it today. We will quote the following from Hebrews:

"Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus." (Hebrews 3:1)

"And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; called of God an **High Priest** after the order of Melchisedec." (Hebrews 5:9, 10)

"And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: but this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: **For This He Did Once, When He Offered Up Himself**. For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore." (Hebrews 7:23-28)

"Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the Heavens." (Hebrews 8:1)

When Jesus said "this is my doctrine," He was speaking to the Nephites. The Nephites kept a record of the teachings of Christ as they were commanded. We have the Nephite record (Book of Mormon) and in the Bible we have the teachings of Christ to the Jews. The teachings of Christ will agree with one another in the two books.

"**And Whoso shall declare more or less than this, and establish it for my doctrine, the same cometh of evil . . .**" (3 Nephi 5:42)

Evil has to come from carnal man or Satan. There are some factions of the Restoration that have added to the doctrine of Christ. Since the Book of Mormon is for laying down of contention and for the confounding of false doctrines, should not all they who profess to believe the teachings of the Book of Mormon pray for understanding that we may all come to the unity of the faith? When I say all, I mean all the factions of the Restoration.

A revelation given to Joseph, Oliver and David in June 1829:

"Now behold, because of the thing which you have desired to know of me, I give unto you these words: Behold I have manifested unto you, by my Spirit in many instances, that the things which you have written are true: wherefore you know that they are true; and if you know that they are true, behold I give unto a commandment, that you rely upon the things which are written; for in them **Are All Things Written**, concerning my church, my gospel, and my rock." (B. of C. 15:1-3)

The "things" that Joseph Smith had translated in 1829 is the Book of Mormon. The Lord says that this (B. of M.) is true and that in the Book of Mormon are all things written, concerning His church, His Gospel and His Rock.

In a revelation given to the twelve elders assembled in Kirtland, Ohio, February 1831, the law for the government of the church was given. Verse 13 says: "And again, the elders, priests, and teachers of this church, shall teach the scriptures which are in the Bible, and the Book of Mormon, in the which is the fullness of the gospel; and they shall observe the covenants and church articles to do them; and these shall

be their teachings." (B. of C. 44:13)

"And whoso shall declare more or less than this, and establish it for my doctrine, the same cometh of evil, and is not built upon my rock, but he buildeth upon a sandy foundation, and the gates of hell standeth open to receive such, when the floods come, and the winds beat upon them." (3 Nephi 5:42)

Since the Book of Mormon is for the confounding of false doctrines and we know that Satan can appear as an angel of light to deceive man, why does man still trust in the arm of flesh when he has the Book of Mormon to rely on for the pure, simple truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ? I should be more specific when I say man as I am referring to the members of the different parts of the Restoration that have accepted doctrines that conflict with the teachings of the Book of Mormon.

I will finish by quoting Mormon:

"Therefore repent, and be baptized in the name of Jesus, and lay hold upon the gospel of Christ, which shall be set before you, not only in this record, but also in the record which shall come unto the Gentiles from the Jews, which record shall come from the Gentiles unto you." (Mormon 3:30)

THE RESURRECTIONS

By Charles E. Cottrill

The raising of Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha is sometimes referred to as a resurrection. This was not a resurrection in the theological sense, but simply a restoration to life with the same characteristics and the same physical body as before.

Theologically resurrection means a body change from mortal to a state of immortality. Generally speaking this will occur after death, but some few have escaped death by direct translation, as for instance Enoch and Elijah. Those who are alive and are Christ's will escape death at his coming, and will be changed in the twinkling of an eye.

We already have the first fruits of the first resurrection, which was those who were resurrected when Christ was resurrected. These were seen by many in the streets of Jerusalem. (Matt. 27:52, 53.) This may have been why some said the resurrection was past. (See 2 Tim. 2:18.) The rest who are Christ's will of course be resurrected at his second coming. This will complete the first resurrection.

The second and final resurrection will be at the end of the millennial reign of Christ at which time will also be the judgment not only of the wicked but of the honorable men of the earth and those who have not had the gospel preached to them in this life.

After the judgment those who have committed the unpardonable sin will be destroyed along with death and the prison house (hell) which will be the second death. After this there will be no more death as far as we are concerned.

There is nothing required of us to have part in the resurrection; however there are certain things we must do to qualify for the first resurrection. That would be another subject but briefly it is summed up by Paul in the 6th chapter to the Romans.

Before the completion of the first resurrection and the coming of Christ we must endure and hold fast through the day of the great tribulation or the day of God's indignation. (See Matt. 24:21, 22 and Isaiah 26:19, 20, 21 and Dan. 12:1, 2, 3.)

Two of the interesting questions about the resurrection is posed in 1 Cor. 15:33 as follows. "But some will say, (ask) how are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?" In answer to the first question, briefly we can say by the power of God, the same power that causes a seed to die in the ground and later reproduce itself, and the same power that raised Christ after he was crucified.

With what body do they come? In the same chapter, 1 Cor. 15:38 we quote as follows, "But God giveth it a body as it has pleased him, and to every seed his own body." This is evidenced by the body of Christ after he was resurrected as follows:

Luke 24:39, 40. "Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have."

"And when he had thus spoken, he showed them his hands and his feet."

Also Luke 24:41, 42, 43. "And while they yet be-

lieved not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, have ye here any meat?

"And they gave him a piece of broiled fish, and of an honeycomb."

"And he took it, and did eat before them."

We find in Job 19:25, 26, 27, Job speaking. "For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth."

"And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

"Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me."

This explains with what body we come in the resurrection. A body of flesh and bones just as we have here except that it will be immortal, not subject to sin and death.

The most wonderful thing about this body is that we will be able to eat and enjoy the fruit of the land. Besides eating fish and honey, Christ indicated to his disciples that he would be drinking wine with them in the Kingdom of God. (Matt. 26:29.)

It may strike some as far fetched that we will eat and drink on the other side, but this is not all the evidence there is. As for instance three heavenly visitors came to Abraham when he was camped in the plain of Mamre, one being identified as the Lord, who were evidently on their way to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham offered to get them some water to wash their feet and to prepare some food for them for their comfort, and the Lord said unto him (Abraham), "So do, as you have said." Abraham then instructed Sarah to bake bread, and he had a young man slaughter and dress a calf. It is evident that they tarried with Abraham for some hours for it would take a while to prepare the meat to eat. (See Genesis Chapter 18.)

Further evidence of this future state of being is found in Isaiah 65:17-25. Here it says that we will not build houses and another inhabit them, but we ourselves will. We will plant vineyards and eat the fruit thereof and will have long and lasting joy. In that day the wolf and the lamb will feed together; the lion will eat straw like the ox, and they will not hurt and destroy in all his holy mountain. Verse 17 lets us know when this will be which is after God has made a new earth. An earth in which all corruption and the destroyer has been destroyed in the terrific holocaust when the earth melts with fervent heat, or is destroyed by fire.

When this time comes the curse placed upon the earth (Gen. 4:12) to force man to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow will have been lifted and the earth will again yield in her strength. (Joel 2:22.) The vine will not cast her fruit for the destroyer has been rebuked. (Mal. 3:11.) Every man will sit under his own vine and fig tree. (Micah 4:4.) What a wonderful time to contemplate, and of course there will be

more than these things to enjoy. (See also Zech. 8:12, Psalms 67:6, and 85:12.)

To believers in the inspired scriptures (not the I. V.) both in the old and new testaments the evidence of a resurrection is sure, but it might be well to review some of this evidence starting with Job 19:25, 26, 27. "For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth.

"And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

"Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another, **though my reins be consumed within me.**"

Psalm 17:15. "As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, **when I awake with thy likeness.**"

Isaiah 26:19. "Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall **cast out the dead.**"

Ezekiel 37:11-14. "Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.

"Therefore prophecy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, O my people, **I will open your graves**, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.

"And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I **have opened your graves**, O my people, and **brought you up out of your graves.**

"And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land; then shall ye know that I the Lord have spoken it, and performed it, saith the Lord."

Daniel 12:1-3. "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

"And many of them that sleep **in the dust of the earth shall awake**, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

"And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."

The Truth of the Resurrection as foretold in the Old Testament confirmed by Christ.

Matt. 22:23-30. "The same day came to him the Sadducees, which say there is no resurrection and asked him,

"Saying Master, Moses said, If a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother.

"Now there were with us seven brethren: and the first, when he had married a wife, deceased, and having no issue, left his wife unto his brother: "Likewise the second also, and the third, unto the seventh. "And last of all the women died also.

"Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? For they all had her.

"Jesus answered and said unto them, ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.

"For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage but are as the angels of God in heaven."

John 5:28, 29. "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

"And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."

John 11:25-26. "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?"

Christ Resurrected.

Luke 24:1-9. "Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them.

"And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre.

"And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.

"And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:

"And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?

"He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,

"Saying, the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.

"And they remembered his words,

And returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest." (See also John 20th Chapter, Mark 16th Chapter and Matt. 28th Chapter.)

The resurrection confirmed by the apostles also.

Acts 4:1, 2, 10. "And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them, being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead."

"Be it known unto you all, and to all the people

of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole." (Peter and John).

1 Thess. 5:17, 18. "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

"Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

Living will not die but be changed in the twinkling of an eye.

1 Cor. 15:51, 52. "Behold, I shew you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

"In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."

Acts 17:18. (Paul) "Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, what will this babler say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection."

Acts 26:8. (Paul to Agrippa) "Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?"

Romans 6:9. (Paul) "Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him."

1 Cor. 15:12-18. "Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?

"But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen;

"And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

"Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

"For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised.

"And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

"Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished."

Righteous to be raised first.

1 Thes. 4:13-16. "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

"For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the

coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:"

Living to be caught up.

1 Cor. 15:51, 52. "Behold, I shew you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.

"In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."

Death is swallowed up in Victory.

1 Cor. 15:54, 55. "So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"

With what body do they come?

1 Cor. 15:35. "But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?"

Every seed his own body.

1 Cor. 15:38. "But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body."

Christ's Body.

Luke 24:39, 40, 41, 43. "Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

"And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet.

"And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, have ye here any meat?"

"And they gave him a piece of broiled fish, and of an honeycomb.

"And he took it, and did eat before them."

John 20:20. "And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord."

Rev. 20:4. "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them, and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."

The Second Resurrection.

Rev. 20:5, 13. "But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection."

"And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works."

Thus we see the scriptures, both old and new are replete with the story of the resurrection. It tells what kind of a body we will have (flesh and bones). It shows that we will be able to eat, that we will take up our own body, (every seed his own body), that the righteous will be raised first, those who are alive to be changed and shall not see death, that the wicked must wait out the millennial reign together with those who have not accepted Christ but were ignorant and etc.

In the scriptures we have a continual unfolding of the fact of the resurrection beginning with Job and continuing right on through to the last book, or Revelations.

This gathering together of the more pertinent parts concerning this subject should be helpful to those who read the Bible rather than make a study of it by subjects, and those who may not have fully understood the most wonderful event, the event of our resurrection.

Rev. 20:6. "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."

JUST A NOTE

This notice is to those who have or will have ordered one of the "Gospel Music" tapes mentioned in last month's Zion's Advocate. Originally it was announced that the tape comprised only of Vic, Jody and Gary Housknecht, but before the final master tape was completed we were fortunate enough to come in touch with the voices of two wonderful girls from Independence. So now there are two songs on the tape by

Eva and Neva Hampton, recorded "live" at the recent 1974 Phoenix Reunion. My thanks and appreciation go out to Eva and Neva who were kind enough to allow me to add their songs to the tape.

I hope each of you will enjoy the songs we have compiled.

Gary Housknecht

THE SIGNS OF THINGS TO COME

by Harvey E. Seibel

"Immediately **after** the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds,, from one end of heaven to the other" (Matthew 24:29-31).

"And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind" (Revelation 6:12-13).

"The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, BEFORE the great and the terrible day of the Lord come" (Joel 2:31).

The heavenly events described here were to mark the end of a great period of affliction, a period in which Satan's evil genius will have been manifested to a greater degree than ever before. These signs were also to mark the return of Christ to the earth and to signal the beginning of that great and terrible day of the Lord.

In reference to these signs and their possible near fulfillment we would like to refer the reader to several articles which have recently been published concerning some unusual celestial events which are soon to transpire.

In the October 31st edition of the Independence Examiner appeared an article entitled, "Planets Line Up For Disaster." According to this article some scientists at NASA (The National Aeronautics and Space Administration) have discovered that sometime in the year 1982 all nine planets of the solar system are going to be lined up in a straight line on the same side of the sun at the same time. Among other things it is felt that the wrench and pull upon the earth may be so great as to actually slow the earth's rotation. The resulting strains on the earth's surface may be such that massive earthquakes will occur. Apart from the earth there will likely be an enormous increase in the magnetic activity on the sun, creating huge storms of sunspots which in turn will greatly alter weather, wind and rainfall patterns around the earth.

From Newsweek magazine for the week of September 16, 1974 we find another article along the same lines entitled "And the Jupiter Effect." Two scientists

are predicting that the earth may face a devastating series of events in just eight years. In addition to substantially altering weather patterns around the world, the frictional effect exerted by the atmospheric circulation on the solid earth will suddenly brake the pace of the earth's rotation, causing a jolt to the planet sufficiently large to trigger many earthquakes, large and small.

In the December 1974 issue of the Science Digest comes yet another article entitled, "The Great California Earthquake of 1982." Each of these articles based upon the book entitled, "The Jupiter Effect" by John Gribben and Stephen Plagemann. They tell us that between 1977 and 1982 all the planets of the Solar System will begin moving into a rare and unusual alignment in which every planet will be in conjunction with every other planet. Some astrologers think that this alignment will mark the beginning of a new age of peace and love. Instead however it appears that this new age will be ushered in by a major slip of the San Andreas fault and a wave of earthquakes around the world.

They tell us that this kind of planetary alignment occurs every 179 years. Why then should this forthcoming alignment be of any more consequence than previous ones? The scientists themselves give us the answer. Because of a discovery made 20 years ago it is now known that planets have an affect on the sunspot activity of our sun and that when any three planets are aligned at these angles radio disturbances are caused even though sunspot activity is low. (These angles of alignment may be either 0° or 90° or 270° or 180°). If five or six planets are aligned at these angles more severe disturbances result. The greatest disturbance occurs when one of the inner planets becomes linked with the sun in conjunction with one or more of the slower moving outer planets. So what is the point of all this? Simply this. These alignments have an effect upon the activity on the sun which in turn affects the earth's ionosphere. The more dramatic disturbance of the sun's equilibrium, the sunspots, greatly disturb the ionosphere and the earth's atmosphere circulation, and in turn, triggering earthquakes. What makes 1982 different from previous years is that then the sun's sunspot cycle will reach its climax. It will peak at the same time the planets line up. Streams of charged particles will flow out from the sun past the planets. The direct result to the earth (cause and effect if you please) will be to alter weather patterns, producing larger and more powerful storms. At the same time, because of the combined gravitational pull of all the planets and the powerful affect the sun's activity will be having on the ionosphere and the atmospheric circulation,

the earth's rotation will be slowed, major earthquakes thus resulting. Even the angle of the earth's tilt may be altered. These heavenly events may herald one of the greatest disasters of modern times.

So what does this mean to us? Genesis 1:14 tells us that the lights in the firmament of heaven were to be not only for seasons and for days and years but also for signs. And since we are, according to Luke 21, living in the final generation of mankind before our Lord's return, it stands to reason that we shall one day in the not far distant future witness the very sign described in our opening scriptures.

It is entirely possible that these heavenly events of eight years hence are the very events which will bring about the fulfillment of the heavenly signs. The physical forces of the coming alignment in conjunction with the peak of sunspot activity in the same year is what makes this occurrence unlike past ones. Can these forces which will begin their buildup in 1977 and climax in 1982 be the fulfillment of the following scriptures?

"And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of his majesty, **when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth**" (Isaiah 2:19).

"For thus saith the Lord of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts" (Haggai 2:6-7).

"... but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven:" (Hebrews 12:26).

If, indeed, 1982 is the year of the heavenly signs what does this imply to us who are eagerly and anxiously awaiting the return of our Lord and Savior? It implies that the great tribulation spoken of in Matthew 24 will have its completion in that year. In addition it speaks of the soon return of Christ, in that same year perhaps. Then following 1982 there will be a period of cleansing and judgments upon the earth to prepare it for the millennial reign. This period of judgment and cleansing is called the day of the Lord or the day of wrath. This wrath is described in chapters 7 through 11 of Revelation.

So far we have discussed several celestial events predicted to transpire in 1982 but have said nothing on how that the sun and the moon might be darkened in 1982 but have said nothing on how that the sun and the moon might be darkened in order to fulfill their prophesied darkening.

In the December 1974 issue of the Gospel Truth, a fundamental Christian paper there are some interesting thoughts concerning the planetary alignment of 1982. We are all familiar with the prophecies concerning the darkening of the sun and moon. But perhaps not so well known is the prophesied brighten-

ing of the sun and moon also in that day. Consider the following: "Moreover the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the Lord bindeth up the breach of his people, and healeth the stroke of their wound" (Isaiah 30:26).

According to the above mentioned article, astronomers have for many years concluded that our could maintain its present heat energy output for at least 8 million more years, because its hydrogen supply was only about half exhausted. However, recently some astronomers have reappraised this theory. They now believe that once a star has expended half its hydrogen, it is in danger of experiencing a nova. Larger stars supernova, that is, blow up while smaller stars like our own sun, nova, or get brighter and hotter for a period of from 7 to 14 days, then afterward become darker. It is thought that the increased solar storm activity of 1982 could trigger the atomic collapse of the sun - causing first a brightening of the sun, followed by a darkening of the same. As for the moon it naturally follows that when the sun becomes brighter the moon will likewise become correspondingly brighter. Then when the sun becomes dimmed the moon also will become darkened appearing reddish to the eye.

How about the falling of the stars. It is the thought of this writer that should such a shaking or disruption occur in the heavens the thousands of asteroids of the asteroid belt could be knocked from their orbits and be sent flying in all directions and cause a meteor shower unlike anything previous.

In conclusion we give two further signs of the age in which we stand and our nearness to the end. China has just performed the stupendous task of building a highway across the Himalayas along the northern border of India and on toward Iran and the Middle East. Also completed is a great dam across the Euphrates River at Tabqa, Syria so that for the first time in the history of the world, the Euphrates River can be dried up. Compare these two significant events with the following quotation from Revelation 16:12.

"And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared." Do these eastern people include the Chinese whose army today numbers 200 million? Consider the following, "Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. **And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand:** And I heard the number of them" (Revelation 9:14-16).

Are we not truly living at the very end? What is the meaning of these things? What is this great and terrible event? "And I saw three unclean spirits like

frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, I come as a thief, Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. And he gathered them together into place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon" (Revelation 16:13-16).

The drying up of the River Euphrates was to be one of the signs immediately preceding the great day of God Almighty. It was to prepare the way of the kings of the east. For what purpose— To fight the Armageddon battle. The groundwork for the final drama of man's wickedness has already been laid. It is later than we think. The curtain to the world's grand finale is about to be raised. Are we ready?

The Lord's word to us is, "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look, up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh" (Luke 21: 28).

Be Thankful

BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED

By Dr. Carl Shafer

Submitted by Sister Ruth Randall

Long before the pilgrims settled our Eastern shore — and gave thanks for how God blessed them, The Apostle Paul penned a letter to a young church. "Always give thanks for everything to God the Father, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ." (Ephesians 5:20)

The Apostle Paul practiced what he believed and wrote. He was thankful even for the times he was in prison where he wrote some of his letters to the young churches. I wonder if this is a lesson we can learn: To be thankful no matter what our situation.

Last spring I visited our Dow plant near San Francisco. I took a bit of a vacation and drove north of San Francisco to a high rocky view over looking the blue Pacific Ocean. I felt like an explorer discovering the vast Pacific for the first time. Between where I stood and the ocean hundreds of feet below was a profusion of color. Little flowers hugging to the cliffs and not minding the rock soil or lack of soil, their faces undimmed by the Pacific Ocean wind and rain. (Perhaps some of you have beheld that sight). I thought about being thankful. I thought about the flowers, growing for all they are worth, making the best of the situation. **Blooming Where They Are Planted:**

And so I would like to share some thoughts on being thankful.

Blooming Where You Are Planted.

"How To Hug" — You Just Can't Tell A Book By Its Cover.

I recently heard a story about a young man who was dashing to the airport to catch his plane. He thought he was going to be late, but as he passed the book store, out of the corner of his eye he saw a book entitled "How To Hug." Being a very energetic

young man eager to win the girls and influence his girl friends, he quickly ran into the bookstore, bought the book and couldn't wait to read it. Hurriedly, he got on the plane, opened the book on, "How to Hug" and discovered he had purchased Volume 12 of an encyclopedia. You just can't tell a book by its cover.

You just can't tell a book by its cover, and you look at your situation or circumstances and say, "I'm in a good spot," or "I'm in a bad spot." If you are thinking that way, you are thinking wrong. The Apostle Paul says that a mark of maturity is being thankful in everything.

Happiness does not depend upon the situation you are in, or the property on which you live.

In 1847 in our great state of California, there was a man who owned a ranch in the northern part of the state. He heard rumors that gold was being found in the San Bernardino mountains in southern California. So he sold his ranch to a man named Colonel Sutter and moved south.

One day Colonel Sutter's little girl was playing with some sand, she had scooped up out of the stream, and as the sand was falling through her fingers where she stood near the fireplace, a visitor in the home saw a flash of yellow. He went over to the little girl and spotted the first flecks of gold ever discovered in California.

From those few acres on Sutter's ranch, more than \$40 million worth of gold has been mined. The man who wanted gold and went searching for it sold all he had to get it, and the gold was right under his feet all the time.

Attitude, more than latitude, determines the gratitude feeling of life. Take advantage of all the opportunities that are all around you. **Be Thankful, Bloom Where You Are Planted.**

I want to give you three very workable tips, that will help you bloom where you are. You can be a flower on the rocky Pacific shore. You can be a thankful, positive thinker in a world of unthankful, negative thinkers.

Tip #1, Be Thankful, Think Creatively.

On the same Pacific trip, I looked across San Francisco Bay and saw Alcatraz; I remembered the "Birdman of Alcatraz." We all know the story in solitary for life, he became creative instead of batty. He studied birds. And I understand the "Birdman" contributed more to the study of ornithology than any since Audobon. And we who are not in prison, have so much to do with. All around us sometimes we throw away what others see useful and creative.

Be thankful for the resources you have, whether at home or at work. Be creative. Make the best of them. Bloom where you are planted.

Tip #2, Be Thankful, Believe The Best About Every Situation and Person.

I read the other day about a very distinguished businessman on the Long Island Commuter train into New York City. An unshaven man in a shabby coat brushed close to him, bumped him in the chest and made his way to the door about to get off at the next stop. As an after thought, the businessman felt in his pocket, and discovered his wallet was gone. Just as the train stopped, the doors opened and the businessman grabbed the shoulders of the fellow who had bumped into him. Captured, the grubby fellow turned around with a horrified, frightened and desperate look on his face. Suddenly he lunged forward, broke free from his coat, and jumped off the train. The doors closed. And the businessman was left holding the culprits coat. Immediately he went through the coat pockets, expecting to find his wallet. But the coat pockets were empty.

He went on to the office, where his wife called him later in the morning and said, "Oh, Honey, you left your wallet on the dresser this morning." No wonder that poor unshaven fellow was so scared when he as getting off the train. He thought someone was robbing or attacking him.

That's how wars and sometimes divorces start, and that's how problems in corporations begin. Someone jumps to a negative conclusion, thinking the worst about someone else. The most dangerous person in the world is a negative thinker who puts two and two together. Believe the best about persons and situations. Be a positive reactionary.

It's not what happens to you, but how you react to what happens to you, whether you bloom where you are or dry up and die where you are.

Tip #3, Be Thankful, Tackle Your Problems Positively.

Ninety-nine out of one hundred cases, the real problem is the person's attitude, an ungrateful attitude.

The story is told of a couple who had been counseled by the minister about prospective membership in the church. "What kind of people do you have in your church?" they inquired of the minister. He says, "What kind of people did you have in your last church before you moved to this city?" "Oh, they were rather negative people; there were a lot of cliques in the church." And the minister replied, "I think you will find ours much like that."

Another couple discussing potential membership with the same minister asked the same question, "What kind of people do you have in your church?" "What kind of people did you find in the last church you were members of?" "Oh, lots of exciting people, the minister was great, and it was a great fellowship." So the minister replied, "I think you will find our church much like that."

Think positively, try positively, and tackle your problems positively.

Summery.

Without being thankful, its difficult to bloom where you are planted.

The Apostle Paul sings in prison, "Always give thanks for everything."

Perky flowers bloom on a rocky Pacific shore, blooming where they are planted, making the best of the soil and environment around them.

Each of us has a Sutter's ranch right under our feet, full of gold, if we will but mine it.

I don't know:

What it's like to be working in your job . . .

What it's like in your home . . .

What ambitions you have . . .

But I think the Apostle Paul has something for all of us this Thanks Giving "**Always Give Thanks In Everything To God The Father**" . . .

And why not "**Bloom Where You Are Planted.**"

(This article is an outline of a lecture given by Dr. Shafer who is the Personnel Director of the Dow Chemical Company at Midland, Michigan)

NOTICE OF PRESIDENTIAL GREETING

A Christmas and New Year greeting card was received from the White House at the direction of

President and Mrs. Ford, being directed to Apostle William A. Sheldon, and for this Church of Christ.

CHURCH OF CHRIST, WHERE ARE THY CHILDREN

By Nellie Walberg

Where are thy children, thy beautiful children,
 Those which God has Given thee?
 They are precious - I have redeemed them -
 Go and gather them to me.

Some are falling by the wayside
 Midst the storms and trials of life;
 See them crying for deliverance
 From this earth's last pangs of strife.

Where, Oh, where are those I've loved so -
 Called them to me with my love -
 Scattered flocks amidst the turmoil
 I see through tears from realms above?

Oh, bring them in from earth's far corners -
 Chosen ones to do my will;
 They are tested, proven worthy
 Waiting for my spirit to fill.

Long they've waited - I have kept silent
 Seeing your tears, while cast aside -
 Oft misunderstood, neglected,
 For truth's sake, you've lived and died.

Earth shall no longer hide my children -
 All shall be gathered home to me.
 "Come my dear ones to my bosom -
 Now your faith shall bloom full-free."

Church of Christ, where are my children
 I have called to be my own;
 Bring them back to Heaven's Communion
 For they have followed me alone.

SOLEMN ASSEMBLY NOTICE

The following action, relative to the April 1975 General Conference of the ministry, was taken by the Conference of 1974, and is here presented in the hope that many in the Church will feel the need for a greater spiritual preparation for events to be increasingly revealed in fulfillment of ancient prophecy.

Let all who will come in the spirit of fasting and prayer, and seek a unity in this important endeavor to commune with and receive the counsel of our heavenly Father. We cannot sufficiently emphasize the fact that this time of crisis is upon us NOW, but that the Lord has provided a way of escape; and this assembly is very much a part of that way.

"Whereas it is deemed important to set aside, each year, a time for fasting and prayer and spiritual meditation in which we re-dedicate ourselves to God, and

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"Whereas this spiritual feast should be made available to as many of the saints as possible, and

"Whereas late arrivals to the assembly, and local members, cannot attend meeting held through daylight hours because of necessity of job requirements, therefore,

"Resolved, that we allow two days of fasting and prayer meetings, one to be Friday evening, and a meeting to be prepared for Saturday night, for all those who care for this service, to take place just prior to the sacrament service on Sunday, the first day of Conference."

These meetings will begin on Friday, April 4, 1975, at 10:00 a. m., at the Church headquarters building on the Temple Lot at Independence, Mo.

William A. Sheldon, Secretary
 Council of Apostles