

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

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O Night of nights! O Night
Desired of man so long!
The ancient heavens fled forth in light
To sing thee thy new song;
And shooting down the steep,
To shepherd folk of old,
An angel, while they watched their sheep,
Set foot beside the fold.

It was so long ago;
But God can make it now,
And as with that sweet overflow,
Our empty hearts endow,
Take, Lord, these words outworn,
Oh, make them new for aye,
Speak — "Unto you a child is born,"
To-day, to-day, to-day!

Jean Ingelow.

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Zion's Advocate

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EDITORIAL THE BLESSING OF GIVING

Time again presses upon us with world wide commercialization of that grand old story of the babe born in a manger wrapped in a blanket of swaddling clothes; also of those bearing gifts coming from far away to worship the babe laying in the manger who was destined to become the greatest and most controversial figure of the history of all creation, Jesus Christ. While we do not agree as to the time of year the event took place or the commercializing of any part of the record of the birth of our dear Lord and Master in any respect; perhaps it is good that we find a sin-sick world stopping the mad race to destruction for a moment to recognize and acknowledge the first and second great commandments. "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord Thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and prophets." (Matt. 22:37-30)

In spite of the poor side effects of greed and profit, throwing the door wide for the entering in of satanic forces intent on destroying mankind with the excessive sins of debauchery of modern times, is it possible that not unlike the people of Sodom and Gomorrah of old, God may still be merciful and spare this great land of America a little longer. That is if there be those righteous enough to be accounted as his chosen people to complete this great work of Latter Days, that has been allotted to them. If we can find a few learning the simple lessons of the pure love of God and the great blessing of the giving of a gift, we then have established the basic principal referred to by the Master when he said, "Upon these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Ah yes, this great land of America would do well to heed the warning of Isaiah the prophet, "Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: **But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.**" "Thy silver is become dross, thy wine mixed with water: Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: **every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards:** they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them." (Isaiah 1:16-20) (Isaiah 1:22-23) Emph. mine KJS

Jesus recognized the magnitude and extent of the gift the widow gave recorded in St. Mark 12:41-44,

"And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living." Thus he taught his disciples a mighty lesson in the Blessing of Giving a Gift.

The Apostle Paul refers to the giving of a gift as, "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." (2 Corin. 9:7) What is your gift to be in this season of giving? Whether it be to a loved one, to God, or to your country, let's all enjoy the rich blessing of giving. God gave the greatest gift of all time, his only begotten son that we might have life eternal.

KJS

THE JUPITER JOLT: OR THE DAY OF THE LORD

Elder M. Harvey Seibel

Harvey E. Seibel

When the disciples asked Christ to tell them when the temple would be destroyed, and "What shall be the sign of thy coming and of the end of the world?", He warned: "Take heed that no man deceive you" (Matt. 24:3-5).

Concerning the time of the coming of Christ, professing Christians are often too aware of the text, "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no not the angels of heaven, but my Father only" (Matt. 24:36), and forget that God has placed a timetable for us so that we can "know that he is near, even at the door" (Matt. 24:33). This timetable is: "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 they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" (Matt. 29:30); for "this generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled" (Matt. 24:34).

Plagemann bandwagon are: "Parade of the Planets", printed in the "Gospel Truth", the official organ of the "Southwest Radio Church"; "The Great California Earthquake of 1982", published in "Science Digest"; "And the Jupiter Effect", in "Science"; and "Planets Line up for Disaster", in the "Independence Examiner" for 10/31/74.

If, as the Southwest Radio Church maintains, the line-up of the planets heralds the fulfillment of numerous Bible prophecies of the signs in the sun, moon and stars, the sea and the waves roaring, men's hearts failing them for fear of the things coming upon the earth, then it behooves us who are watching for the return of Christ to know whether these things are true or whether it is but another "lo here, lo there".

In the past a scare scene was enacted in Europe. Three planets were to meet in conjunction and astrologers raised a hue and cry warning of a second Noachian flood. Boats were mobilized and people piled on them to ride out the disaster. One nobleman, unable to procure a ship, took his people up into a high hill and waited out the appointed time; but no flood descended from the heavens to destroy the wicked earth. Returning to his castle, riding his horse through the castle gate he was struck by lightning and killed; poetic or divine justice was enacted for his trusting in the pagan astrological gods.

That we be not deceived is the purpose of the following analysis of the "Jupiter Jolt" furor. "Ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief" (1 Thess. 5:4).

Parade of the Planets - Christmas 1982

**To Be Deceived or not to Be Deceived
That is the Question**

A flood of books, pamphlets, and articles fills the market with startling, new apocalyptic predictions centering around 1982 and the close of the century, the latter especially through the media of the occult: witchcraft, devil worshippers and their fellow travelers, cluster around the year 6000 (2000 A. D., Ed. Note) as the year to usher in a great new dispensation. The present inundation is triggered by two scientists co-authoring "The Jupiter Effect", with subtitle, "The Planets as Triggers of Devastating Earthquakes". John R. Gribbin holds a doctorate in astrophysics and edits the international publication, "Science". Dr. Plagemann, a physicist, is engaged in a NASA study of the upper atmosphere phenomena.

Other publications climbing onto the Gribbin-

The author of this document applies the implications of the book, "The Jupiter Jolt", to the fearful, apocalyptic events of the Bible, believing that 1982 ushers in the events leading to the return of Christ along with the false belief that the righteous will be

"raptured out" before the great tribulation of Dan. 12:1 and Matt. 24:21.

The astrophysical events suggested in the line-up of all the planets in early 1982 include:

1. Peaking of the sunspot cycle above normal with huge solar storms and flares.

2. Solar winds (positively charged plasma, atoms stripped of electrons) blowing past the earth and causing terrestrial storms of unusual violence, even to the slowing or increasing the earth's rotation and changing the length of the day.

3. The triggering of earthquake activity in magnitude and number throughout the earth, especially in regions of greatest stress build-up, particular mention being made of the San Andreas fault at the Los Angeles region, "where the pressure along the fault is becoming intolerable", and slightly less so in the San Francisco area of this same fault line.

Based on these "signs" in the heavens, the Southwest Radio Church finds much supporting evidence that "the sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood", the earth restored to its former axis, days shortened by 8 hours, stars fall from heaven, and Christ return. This would require that a most unusual condition would arise in 1982 - the Southwest Radio Church suggests the possibility that the sun will nova, resulting in the apocalyptic prediction of the sun scorching the earth, followed by darkness. They don't take into account that a darkness arising from the cause would continue throughout the millennium. But all documents follow Professor Wood in stating that this condition is repetitive every 179 years, hence not likely to produce such dramatic results this time as the Southwest Radio Church postulates.

Plagemann and Gribbin predict that the solar disturbances will affect the upper atmosphere, triggering great storms, causing winds to blow in opposite direction from normal, pressing on high mountain ranges and changing the length of the day. The Southwest Radio Church finds this to be an 8 hour shortening. If this situation has arisen every 179 years, there have been 33 such since Adam, but all 33 together have only changed the length of the day in all that time by only a fraction of a second. It is likely that only an atomic clock can detect the change in 1982; the larger maximum in 1972 slowed the earth by only 1 millisecond.

God Does Not Require Scientific Explanation For His Miracles

The Bible opens with a miracle in the creation in 6 literal days; the plagues of Egypt are not satisfied by the blundering efforts of apologists who seek explanation in inadequate theories which take no account of the miraculous intervention of the God of Heaven. They introduce more problems than they solve. Apologists explain that the children of Israel

crossed the Red Sea on the shallow north end, but leave untouched the problem of why the hosts of the Pharaoh with their thousands of horses and chariots were drowned in the raging waves of a shallow sea while the children of Israel did not wet the soles of their feet. A wind blew all night to make a dry highway for the crossing, but a wind without the power of God would not have stood up the waters on the right hand and on the left, as we are informed in Psalms. And if a wind without the power of God could blow the waters out of the Red Sea it would be strong enough to blow the children of Israel away with the waters also. So we can confidently affirm that miracles are by the power of God even when He uses weak nature as the vehicle of His mighty works.

And the Earthquakes

The Independence, Missouri "Examiner" for 10/31/74, in discussing the findings of Gribbin and Plagemann in their book, "The Jupiter Effect", writes: It seems that some astronomers at the National Space Agency (NASA) got to twirling their computers, and they discovered that sometime in the year 1982 all nine planets of the solar system, including Planet Earth, are going to be lined up in a row like birds on a telephone wire on the same side of the sun at the same time . . . And if that happens, we are told the tugs and strains on the surface of the globe can be such that massive earthquakes will occur."

"Newsweek" for Sept. 16, 1974, referencing Gribbin and Plagemann's book, notes: "The Researchers do note, however, that each one of the eight large quakes to have hit an area within 50 miles of San Francisco since 1838 has taken place within the two years following a period of maximum solar activity."

The magnitude of earthquake activity depends on the stress build-up along fault lines and the peaking of sunspot cycles. But Professor Wood's studies show that the peak of 1982 will be less than that of 1972, and far less than 1958. Of this Gribbin and Plagemann report, "According to Wood, the next two sunspot cycles will peak in 1982 and 1993, at levels slightly than the cycle just completed (which peaked in 1969) and a lot less than the maxima of the cycles which reached peaks in 1958 and 1947. The number of sunspots in 1958 was about 183; in 1969, 103; in 1982 and 1993, 60, taken from Professor Wood as reported in "Nature". Very roughly indeed this suggests a declining pattern rather like a mirror image of the increasing peak activity shown in figure 3; in climatic terms, that is a return toward the conditions of the 1920's and the 1930's." That this is rather an important decline in sunspot activity, let it be noted that it is a 67% drop from 1959 to 1982. Only 3 times since 1700 A. D. has sunspot activity reached so low a number: in 1705 the sunspot number was 59; in 1804 and 1816 it went clear down to 43. Yet Gribbin and Plagemann seek to establish a questionable line-up of planets, with strong appeal to the occult, to the

gods and goddesses of ancient astrological lore. Do they not know that their horde of mythological gods have long since passed into oblivion, wholly and completely dead?

Astrology or Astronomy

Since a declining pattern is in conflict with the authors' thesis of maximum tidal influence upon earthquake activity in 1982 they must call to their aid "other methods being developed to predict future climatic trends", admitting, however, that "these ideas may not be quite rounded off", with the usual admission in their book, which they claim "contains only solid scientific evidences and reasoning", that these ideas "may still smack of underground associations with astrology".

Strange indeed that, through astrology, the pagan gods and goddesses, casting their baleful influence upon the minds of modern man through their personification in the planets and stars, should be the key link in support of a theory supposedly resting in "solid scientific evidence and reasoning". Ponder the amazing admission projected by these two computer-minded scientists: "The trail links astrology - for that is really what the study of planetary alignments is, even though we can explain their effects in sound scientific terms - astronomy, meteorology, geology, geophysics and other sciences. Small wonder that pieces of this chain have lain about unrecognized for so long. But now they have been put together there is no question about the implication: in 1982 when the Moon is in the Seventh House, and Jupiter aligns with Mars and with the other seven planets of the Solar System, Los Angeles will be destroyed." Shades of Jean Dixon and the supposed disastrous sliding of California into the sea! A prediction which never developed.

Will the Planets Really Align in 1982?

Consider the evidence. Low sunspot activity combined with high solar flares and sunspot are against all scientific experience. Super peaking of sunspots occurred in 1780, 179 years later another in 1959, with a third half way between. If this peaking is repetitive the very earliest time for another peak, on my understanding of 90 year cycles, is in 2049, but if the commonly accepted 179 years prevail no major peaking could come before 2139 A. D. The Greenwich Observatory astronomer could only find a single line-up in 3999 B. C., nor could he find a second in the far distant past or in the foreseeable future. To this date we will no proceed to give evidence from two more astronomers and from the "Aeronautical Tables" for the years 1940 to 1960, projected into 1982. Surprisingly we find, not a linear alignment as of birds sitting upon a telephone wire, but only a cone of rather broad dimensions.

Conjunctions and Oppositions of the Five Planets Nearest The Sun With Earth

| PLANETS | Aeronautical Tables 1940-60 | Dr. Alter Tables | James Muirdon To 1980 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| OP* SATURN - EARTH | 3/31/1982 | 4/ 8/1982 | 4/ 8/1982 |
| OP. JUPITER - EARTH | 5/ 2/1982 | 4/25/1982 | 4/25/1982 |
| OP. MARS - EARTH | 5/10/1982 | NONE | 4/ 4/1982 |
| INFERIOR CON. # VENUS - EARTH | 1/17/1982 | 1/19/1982 | 1/20/1982 |
| INFERIOR CON. MERCURY - EARTH | NONE | NONE | 2/ 5/1982 |

* Opposition: Earth between the sun and an outer planet.

Inferior conjunction: Planet between sun and earth.

Drs. Alter and Muirdon show very close agreement, the maximum difference being one day, which could be accounted for by my straight line method of projecting from 1980 to 1982, wherein I could not correct for ellipticity of orbit. The lack of agreement arising from the aeronautical tables is caused by the greater distance for extrapolation from 1960 to 1982 where the effects of eccentricity become more pronounced.

Now to test the expected linear alignment of the planets in 1982. Will it really happen? This is the center and vital point in the whole marriage of science and astrology. From the times of conjunctions and oppositions of the above planets, it is seen that there was no alignment: each occurring at a different date. Let us pick out the five conjunctions and oppositions and find the positions of the remaining planets at these dates, thus measuring the spread away from linearity.

On Jan. 20, 1982, with Venus in inferior conjunction, Mercury lags by 48 degrees, an equivalent of 96 moons lying side by side, one moon diameter being half a degree. Mars is 50 degrees beyond, Saturn another 62 degrees, with 72 degrees separating Saturn and Jupiter. And remember that this data does not take into account the positions of Uranus, Neptune and Pluto. At least this early date in the year shows no semblance of linearity, for a cone of 167 degrees envelops these six planets.

On Feb. 5, 1982 the second planet to align with Earth is Mercury. This is the closest approach to linear alignment to be found in 1982, with a cone of 104 degrees. But this close approach can be of no comfort to Gribbin and Plagemann, for, when planets are geogetrically arranged at right angles with the sun, their tidal effects on the sun tend to cancel out up to a latitude of 55 degrees, which includes the total sunspot band. At this date we have a 104 degree separation of the conjunction of Mercury with Earth with the massive Jupiter, so their combined effect is almost totaled out, leaving only Venus of the tidal planets (herself somewhat weakened by the 72 degrees separation from the partially functioning Jupiter). No wonder Professor Wood's predicted low sunspot activity - not a line-up like birds on a telephone wire,

but any tidal force largely negated by this rare configuration.

On April 4, when Mars crossed the line to Earth, Mercury has dashed around to the other side of Sun, making a 171 degree cone. Without Mercury the cone would be reduced to 54 degrees, but Mercury is one of the tidal planets; where are the outer planets?

This is the end of the story. As an anti-climax, two sunspot cycles 23 years too late are offered, to trigger giant earthquakes. This belated maximum of 1982 is bolstered by astrology, opposed by other astronomers, and by Professor Wood in his sunspot analysis. Choose whom you will believe, the ancient pagan gods, or modern astronomy. That these equations were

computerized adds nothing either in favor or against the theory. A computer does just what it is programmed to do. The input data determines the output. As far as the dramatic, apocalyptic production of the Southwest Radio Church, I believe that we can forget it and look for God to produce His own miracles in His own due time without science as a supporting crutch. All prophecy and the modern historical facts show that the apocalyptic predictions of the Bible are soon to be fulfilled. But we need not any superstructure built on science watered down with the occult to tell us the things of God. "To the law and to the testimony, if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isa. 8:20).

SERMON ON DECEMBER 29, 1974

Brad L. Wheaton, Priest

There is one thing that I want to bring to light this morning; it has its good qualities and its bad. It is said that there is something about this local that doesn't seem to change. It seems that the same faces, people, feeling are here as you remember them. This is good; this is something stable that brings security in our lives, but sometimes changes are necessary and beneficial. I have also heard this same comment made in a derogatory manner; all of us have: that individuals could be gone from Independence for years, then come back and find a few faces have changed but this is about all. For this reason, sometimes changes have their place.

I don't know how many ministers we have in this local, probably about a dozen. They teach, rotating around, some more than others, reminding us of the Gospel and its place in our lives. The change doesn't come about sometimes. The teaching is listened to, received, but never really applied to the full degree that the speaker feels such a need to bring to you. Sometimes this lack of change becomes discouraging, in the minister's thoughts. It seems like maybe we don't feel that we have any room for improvement. Now, I don't think that is true! I am sure that no one of us here in this room thinks that we are the perfection stage, that Christ has come to be satisfied with His Church. So, we feel that there must be need for some degree of change in our spiritual condition as it exists today. It is this change that I want to bring out to us.

I'll start with November 8, 1949. I'll say many of you weren't in existence at that time. Those of you that were probably are not nearly as familiar with that date as my mother is. That's my birth date. Most of you who were of majority age at that time were probably more interested in the election. I believe it was

President Truman; I'm not too familiar with that part of our history. But that was the very first miracle in my life. There was not only the creation of an animal, a living creature, as so many of us have witnessed in the lives of our domestic stock, but the creation of man. I had one thing that they didn't; I had a soul. I was given a soul at that very young age, although I don't recollect much of that time. This is part of the promises that God has given to us, a soul to be with us throughout our lives. This is the big difference that brings us above the animal world or any other type of creature that might exist.

The next miracle — no, I won't say miracle — the next blessing in my life I just pulled out of the top of my head this morning, thinking of all the blessings that have occurred in my life. I was too young to recollect the happening, probably about the size of my son, Eric, 2 years or younger. I was told that I was being tossed in the air by a friend, thrown up and caught before I fell, as so many babies like to have done. Only, our friend missed! As I was tumbling down, my head a few inches from the concrete sidewalk, he was able to catch my ankle. If he hadn't, I might have been spared the opportunity of standing before you! This is another blessing that I had in my life.

One blessing I do remember. I was living with Grandad and Grandmother Wheaton; I got into the neighbors' trash and got a hold of some pills. I guess I must have thought they were candy. I proceeded to down them, one at a time. I don't know how many; I don't think anyone else did either. I think, if I remember right, they could have been fatal. I was very sick. Prayer was brought to me in the laying on of hands in administration, and I recovered.

I was baptized in the Phoenix local; this was another

er blessing. I remember praying quite a bit about it and wondering if it was the wise decision to make. The Spirit, while not telling me in words, gave me the understanding that it was the right step. I have no regrets today.

At one point in my life I was Danel Boone. I was leading my sister, Jody on a journey back to the safety of the house, down in the Ozarks. I got totally lost! We wandered and wandered and wandered! My sister would say, "How much farther," I would say, "Oh, just around the hill, just around the hill". We were going in circles. I don't believe I was ever so lost in my life as I was that time. I don't know how old I was then, not too old. Through prayer again (on our parts, nobody else realized we weren't close at hand) we just happened to come close enough to hear their voices. Otherwise, we would still be lost! It is a totally lost feeling to be by ourselves, without anywhere to go!

On another occasion I took my younger brother, Rick and talked him into roping a wild horse that was out in the woods; nobody would ride it. I remember saying that we just had to keep the rope on it. We roped it, alright, then, while I was busy tying it up to a tree, the horse reared back. My finger was caught in the knot. Let me tell you, it hurt! It pulled the skin clear back to the bone on this little finger. I had a pair of gloves on; I was lucky nothing was broken. I just hung on to my finger and kept running till I reached home.

You learn; you learn through mistakes. I've had God's blessings on many occasions. I was cutting home through the neighbors' pasture once and lost the Boy Scout knife I had earned. I'm not sure whether I had become a "Webelo", or whatever, but I had won a Boy Scout knife — and I lost it. I thought about it and knew it had to be in that pasture; the weeds were maybe 2 feet tall. I knew how hopeless it was, but I felt I just had to go back out and try to find it. So I wandered and wandered; the tears blurred my eyes so much I could hardly see the ground. I knew I was wasting my time, that it wasn't much to bother about, but I prayed that I would find it. All of a sudden, through the teary fog, the knife was there! Again a small blessing.

Once I was out in the woods by myself, it was wintertime, about December. I was looking for great horned owl nests, to take pictures. I still like raising these birds. This time of year they were nesting; the mother owls were sitting on eggs, even during snow. I was climbing, one at a time, each tree that seemed likely to have a great horned owl in it. I came to a shag barked hickory; they are pretty shaggy and hard to stay on. I had on a pair of telephone spikes. I was climbing up this tree, no rope or anything, just holding on. I was close to 40 feet in the air. I had checked out the opening and there was nothing in it. I started down, a piece of bark was torn and — boy, did I come down! The tree bent at an angle, as I was coming down, the tree came closer and closer and

soon it hit my head! I went flying out into space and landed in a pile of mud. The day had warmed enough to thaw the ground and I sank pretty deep! I got up and looked myself over and thought it was funny. But I didn't forget to say my prayer of "thank you". So many times we come so close to danger; we sometimes forget to give credit where it is due.

Another occasion I remember was a very great blessing. I had become extremely interested in the Church. I think I was 18 years old. I felt that something was lacking, that I had a need, a great desire to do more than I was doing that God would have need to use me in some way. I had been making this a matter of prayer; I hadn't told anyone, but was praying privately. Then came a reunion; Grandad Wheaton stood up. It had never dawned on me, never, while sitting at any of those meetings that anything like this could occur! But the minute I saw him stand to his feet, I knew that something was going to happen and that it pertained to me. When he said that there were men to be called, I knew I would be named. To me that was a testimony; it gave me the strength to accept my call. I had been praying secretly for a way that I might serve Him a little bit more; His answer came directly forth. I knew it right then; something clicked!

I remember the time I was heading to work at the Nature Center. It was a rainy day, like this; I was doing 60 MPH in my Volkswagen. (That was back when it was legal to go 60, although in my Volkswagen it was hard to do.) In the rain storm a man decided that he was in the wrong lane to make an exit that he was about 50 or 60 feet from, so he cut across my lane, caught my bumper and dragged my Volkswagen along with him. Let me tell you, I was scared. I couldn't see anything but water splashing against my windshield. The car was rocking and I was so busy trying to beep my horn, steer the thing and keep it from turning over that, at the moment, I didn't realize how close it came to a serious accident. God watched over us. Through our prayers and those of our loved ones, he protects us.

I have given this testimony before, of one time when I was giving a nature walk at the Nature Center. A little girl came running up, out of wind, on her way to the Nature Center. I stopped her; she seemed to be so shook up about something. She told me in a hurried breath that there had been an accident down at the river, where a group of girls had been playing. What they had been doing was this, a counselor in charge had been letting them swing over the river on a vine. The river was flooding and this wasn't a very wise thing to do. The vine broke, luckily when it was over the ground, and the girl went headfirst into the mud. She was knocked unconscious. The counselor had panicked and was in shock. She was sitting there with the girls consoling her. About all I could do was help treat the little girl, who was also in shock, and send the others to the Nature Center to direct the ambulance drivers down to the woods. While I

was sitting there alone with the little girl, she began to shake and jerk, unconscious still. It really scared me and I said a prayer that she would be alright. No sooner had I finished praying than her eyes opened and she smiled. To me, this was a testimony from God of how powerful He is. His ways of answering prayers are so outstanding that you just can't overlook them.

I was wood-pulping with my cousin, Jay Moser one winter. I have told this before too. We were cutting alongside the Missouri River bank. We were cutting and pulling trees back up the river bank instead of letting them fall into the water. We were using a big truck and a big rope to keep them from falling over. Jay was driving the truck; he was keeping the tension steady. I was standing by the trees over the bank, completely out of his sight, sawing with a chain saw. I cut one tree and it fell down the bank, part of it in the water. Jay couldn't see this and was busy trying to pull the tree straight up. Well, it was hung, that tree was hung! All the tension of the truck couldn't seem to budge it. I set down the chain saw and started up the bank to stop him so we could try it another way. All of a sudden the tree jumped loose! This tree was about as long as from the end of this room to the end of that room; the diameter of the trunk was almost the size of this pulpit. All of a sudden it came loose. All the tension of the truck, the full force of it, caused the tree to leap into the air. It fell on top of my leg, smashing me against a stump I had left earlier. All the force of the truck was pulling the tree against my leg and the stump. It pulled so hard that, although the rope was tied to the very end, the entire tree moved completely around; that put a lot of pressure on my leg. I thought sure it had snapped the bone between my knee and lower leg but I only had a bad bruise. I was able to work the rest of the day and the next day too. Again, God was very watchful over me and preserved my leg.

When I was in National Guard camp one summer we had a group of men who didn't understand English too well. They were working on a type gun that is now obsolete. When they fired the gun they forgot to lock the firing pin. I was standing back of them and a piece of steel, probably weighing a pound, flew right by my ears. It left me feeling kind of weak. I remembered all those people back home that I was sure my Mom and Dad had asked to remember me, and I never doubted that God had answered those prayers for me.

To bring you more up to date, just the other day on Christmas Eve I was driving my milk truck. I don't know whether or not you remember the ice we had in patches here and there that day, but I was anxious to get home for Christmas, so I came down the road real fast. There was a nice sheet of ice on the road I never have really worried too much. I had good tires and have always had pretty good traction. So, I really wasn't enough concerned to watch like I should. When

I topped the hill to make a curve, my truck just kept right on rolling, sliding. I tried to back off and try it again, but I just kept right on sliding, just as if I were on a pair of ice skates. I was heading towards a drop off that went straight down 12 feet. When I hit the edge I was just gliding along. I didn't have time to say a prayer, but I always say my prayers when I start out in the truck mornings, that it won't have a breakdown and I won't either. Sure enough, I got right to the edge, dropped one wheel over and stuck. My old heart was just skipping along; again I took time out to say "thanks" that it was not more serious. Besides the danger of the drop off, I thought of all the milkmen's stories of being in a wreck and having the bulk of the milk slip through, break the doors and pile on top the driver. It could be pretty dangerous to be in an accident with a milk truck.

I am now a quarter of a century old; that sounds pretty old to some and pretty young to others. I feel old sometimes. When I have to get up at 3:30 in the morning I feel real old. But I am in extremely good physical health as far as I know. I've only got one broken bone that I know of; my cousin threw a railroad iron that landed on my bare foot and smashed my second toe. It grew crooked; as far as I know that is my only broken bone. I have been extremely lucky; God's blessings have been abundant in my life. I know that anybody in this room could do what I am doing; perhaps your minds are better at remembering and you could tell more testimonies, and more outstanding ones, of how God has blessed you. But, it's sad that when we sit down and think about it, we can name 2 to 1 or maybe even 4 to 1 our sins, compared to our blessings. It's not something I'm going to spend the rest of my time up here going through. But we can't deny how merciful He is to us to allow us all the blessings He has given us in this life, when we have done so many things that we are aware of that have been displeasing to Him. So many times blessings have been denied because of our spiritual condition; so many of our sins are of omission. That seems to be a habit with us. It becomes more of a habit as the days go by. These are the sins that are most frequent in our lives. Things that have been since childhood, the same mistakes we seem to make, the same temper, the same lack of control, lack of wisdom, we seem to display. These habits we carry with us constantly wherever we go. The sins keep us from enjoying greater blessings than we have already received.

In addition, there are habits both good and bad. I know some people who make it a point to do one good thing each day, something they would not normally do as part of their daily lives. They take each day and try to add on one good deed, much as a Cub Scout does to become a "Bobcat" and turn his pin right side up. One good deed. And there are bad habits that are just as easy. I remember reading an example one time. Habits are kind of like plaster of paris; they start out soft and easy to work with, but as they set up they become hard and immovable.

It's hard, very, very hard, to break a habit. My wife told a story she heard on a TV program, a true story, an example of how bad some habits are to get into. This was on the subject of judging. We are so good at judging others; we have it down to a fine art. This was a case where the pastor of a church went down the registry of membership, with some fine people helping him. They came to a woman's name and one said, "Such a shame, she used to be such a good Christian. Now when you are around her she smells strong of perfume or alcohol. She wears fancy, frilly, silky things. She never goes out, never comes to church any more. And every once in awhile her husband is out of town and a strange man comes to visit her. She used to be so good and it's a shame how she has gone downhill." The pastor let that information sink in. Then one day, word of the woman's death came to him. Her husband came to him to ask him to perform the funeral service. The pastor thought about all the things people had told him about this woman and said, "Well, she was a member, but I understand that she no longer cared to be counted among the membership. The husband said, "No! That's not true! There never was a stronger member of your church than she was. She believed in God right up to the end. She was the most gentle and Christian woman I ever knew." The pastor told him the things he had been told and was shocked to see how misconceived people's ideas can be. The woman had been dying of an incurable disease, one with an awful aroma. So she wore lots of perfume and used alcohol to sterilize. Also, the disease caused extreme skin irritation from clothing! all she could wear were nightgowns of silk and other things that were smooth on her skin. The man seen visiting when her husband was out of town was a doctor coming in to check on her. So, you see, our habits can sometimes catch us completely off guard. Judging people could be a bad habit to get into. We can be thrown for a loop, judging things that seem airtight; our judgment, which we thought was so exact, will catch us as it did the people of this story.

Habits aren't only those of individuals, but of groups and organizations. Habits can be in something like a religion, or like a government, or an ethnic group, and can turn into traditions. These stay with us. Sometimes we don't stop and look at our own traditions; we don't stop and say, "Why are we doing this?" We just do it; we always have.

The world very seldom questions Santa Claus. Now, I am not preaching, after Christmas, a sermon on Christmas. I don't think we are this way; I think we bring God into our Christmas, very much. But so many sing a song, "You better watch out, you better not cry . . . he sees you when you're sleeping." It is not Christ or God they say is watching us all the time, it is Santa Claus who is taking that place. This is what is sung to children; this is what stays in people's minds. The presents? They are not really brought back and tied in with the very beginning, the gifts

given to Christ. The Christmas feeling, the Spirit, sometimes these are not the theme that moves the family. It is the tradition, built up and just kind of reacted upon. We just don't stop to think why we do these things. We have good thoughts, if we can keep right principles that go with them.

To break any type of habit we have to be sincere, with ourselves primarily. I can say, "Well, I want to stop doing this, but I am the only one who will know whether I am doing it or not." No, not only do I know, but God knows. If I should pretend to be something I am not, I may fool other people, but not myself nor my Heavenly Father. Some people make their lives out of insincerity.

The other day the police arrested a man on my milk route for counterfeiting. He paid his milk bill pretty well. But the main thing was that he made his life out of insincerity. He is a "con" man; it is his profession. He had fooled me; I thought he was one of the nicest fellows on my route; anyone who takes 10 gallons of milk a week has got to be alright; But this was his profession, and it is not a Christian profession. He built his lifestyle around insincerity. We can do the same thing in a sense. We can fool people and, on certain occasions put on a certain face, while on other occasions we let our hair down and be ourselves. We might be able to fool people, but if we only knew what people thought about us it might make a difference, a realization.

Here is an example of sincerity. The other day I was delivering to a house where it is my habit to knock on the door. The lady of the house will call out to come in. This time she didn't answer right away so I knocked again and opened the door just a bit, calling out, "Milkman!" She was in the kitchen. She looked like she must have a cold; she had a handkerchief at her face and I thought nothing of it. I set the milk down; she paid for it, then asked me to sit down. She could hardly fight back the tears. She said she had heard on the radio a sermon and had come to understand that her mother and dad weren't going to be saved. Her sincerity was so great, she was sitting there crying. That doesn't sound like a whole lot, but most of us are more concerned about "number 1". Am I going to have salvation? The type of person who genuinely feels for others and feels it a great loss that they don't see things they are doing wrong, is rare. We may not agree with this woman's ideas. Even so, to her best understanding, she was sincere in her behavior, so much so that she was crying over the loss, as she saw it, of her parents' salvation. This is a great degree of sincerity.

We, here in the Books, are asked to pray for people who despise us; we are asked to smile and be nice to people we don't like. We find that hard to do. But to go beyond that and grieve over their loss of what we are hoping to obtain for ourselves — salvation — this is the type of sincerity that we must have in order to make any kind of a change in our habits.

What I am saying today won't change anyone's

mind; I know it won't. I was told so by a lady at the Nature Center the other day. Some of the people who worked there when I did are still there. I called up to ask if I could borrow a couple of snakes. I wanted them for a special first aid class I was to give in National Guard training. She refused to let me borrow them, saying, "My experience is that you can't change people. After years and years of telling people the difference in snakes, they still won't change their opinion about snakes." (Is this true? Are we wasting our time standing up here repeating things that are in the Scriptures? Will we change? I told her that my belief has been that you never know at what point someone is ready to change. You never know at what degree that individual is. The particular words that are brought out at a particular time about the difference in snakes, the harmlessness of some beneficial ones, these may be the one thing that could be said to persuade that individual to respect God's creatures in their proper places. The same thing can be true in the Gospel. For this reason, ministers are continuously endeavoring to repeat the Scriptures; the Scriptures and the Gospel bear repetition and they stand. What they have to say is timeless.

I am out of time and I didn't even begin. I really wanted to go into much deeper matters, but I don't think that will be necessary this morning.

My challenge to each of us is to study our Gospel and the way it is practiced in our Church. Study the ways and means and our traditions. Not that we will revolutionize, nor that we will change the Church, but so that when others come and visit us they will recognize the change in us, in a spiritual sense. So many of the practices we have, I have felt to bring you this morning in relation to the Scriptures. I know very few of us, probably, practice making New Year's resolutions. But there should surely be one. I wish we would examine ourselves (not my viewpoint of you or yours at me) but look and see ourselves. Are we really happy with the way we are? An inward change will bring about an outward change and people will see this and it would be a great benefit to us. This would also include a change in some of our traditions.

I'll just touch on one tradition. My main subject at the beginning was prayer and how many ways it can be used. This is what I was showing by the many examples of prayer in my own life. I feel sometimes that we don't use it as effectively, perhaps, in our lives as we should. The habit that Christ gave to us, that of prayer, was given as an example to follow. The way the multitude prayed together with Him was an example. There are so many examples; we might try to find out if we are not quite right in all of our practices. They are just practices, not laws. They are habits we have gotten used to and we will get greater blessings and greater joy if we improve our habits.

I remember, one time, on National Guard duty, in the middle of a poker game one may yelled out, "You let me down, God!" I was sitting there and I thought that was a strange thing to say. I asked him what he meant. "I was praying for a good poker hand and I lost." This is an example of a need for better understanding of what our prayers have got to be. We can't ask for the wrong things and expect results. God isn't going to change His laws to answer our prayers.

People take the Scripture in Matthew which says that anything we pray for we will receive, or words to that effect. This does not mean that anything evil we pray for will bring good results! God can't change His own laws; He can't change them to make us happy, if we're not right.. Also, the manner in which we pray is important. I don't know if you remember, a few years back, something that has stayed in my mind. Bro. Glen Gill gave a sermon on prayer and how we should pray. Is it our habit at bed? Is it our habit when we get up? What kind of habit do we have in prayer. Prayer is such a basic thing in all the fundamental practices of our Church; it brings you and God together, and that's the only way it can be done. If I should ask a show of hands on how many prayers have been answered that you were aware of, I'd probably get every hand in the audience. Practically everyone has experienced this. If I should ask how many God spoke directly to, by voice, I'd get fewer hands. This is not saying that we are not spiritually acceptable before God, though many times that is God's way of answering. We sometimes speak of prayer as the opening and closing of doors.. This is part of His way of working with us. He answered me by letting a little girl open her eyes and smile — just like that. He didn't have to say, "I'm going to make her alright." Although some of us wish we had greater indications, we still have such indications from God. This is very basic to our religion. All by ourselves, we have one thing to rely on, count on; that is our speaking straight to God.

I told you in the beginning that I could name, maybe 4 to 1, my sins compared to my blessings. I am hoping that our prayers of repentance for the mistakes we all make will change the score.

Try to think that this new year holds great challenges for each of us, to see what changes we can make in our own lives, so that people can't make the statement I made in the beginning — you can be away from Independence for a year and come back and find nothing changed; it's still the same local with no greater desire to change, a spiritual change.

I don't think we deserve this; I think we are deeply striving, each of us, to overcome this. This new year brings great promise to each of us. I pray that each of us will receive greater blessings; I ask that you will each pray for me too. .

REMARKABLE

Extract from an old manuscript

On the 26th day of March I was on my journey with my team, from Woodstock (the place of my nativity) to Burlington, New York. On the evening of the 27th, I put up at the house of Captain J. Bissel, Iron holder in Chilsea. I retired to my lodgings at an early hour. A few minutes before the clock struck one, as I conceived, I awoke, and turning my eyes toward the window, beheld an uncommon gleam of light, which induced me to leap from my bed. I looked out, but nothing uncommon appeared. I again got into bed, when, after some time, I was surprised at something resembling a field piece, and the clashing of swords, as I conceived, which I saw through the window. At the same instant a bright light appeared in the room, as though the moon in the height of its luster had shown directly upon me. I then raised myself in bed, immediately sank back with terror and surprise and lay some minutes motionless. At length me thought I heard an audible voice, which I conceived not human, call me by name, and said, "Arise and give ear to the message of heaven for you shall be a witness of the signs which shall be given of the perilous days which are coming upon the world, by reason of the innumerable sins and dissensions so prevalent among mankind, especially in this favored land: for saith the Lord, I have delivered this people like the children of Israel from the tyranny of a powerful nation and would have gathered them as a hen gathered her chickens under her wings, but they would not hearken to the voice of wisdom: they have become a rebellious and disobedient people, lusting as it were, after luxuries of Egypt: boasting in their strength; pregnant with evils innumerable; but their peace is destroyed. In wars and rumors of wars shall they abound, both national and civil. The father shall raise against the son and the son against the father, for a great and powerful nation have I chosen to be a scourge unto all other nations of the earth; even the most haughty shall bow to them for the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong. By an ALMIGHTY arm all Nations of the earth shall be made to know the Most High reigneth. This great nation shall lay waste your sea ports and utterly destroy your navigation. She shall infest your sea coasts with the fleets of all the conquered nations, and her armies shall swarm you like the flies and gnats of Egypt, for a season, until they (ye) know the Lord giveth and He taketh at His pleasure. And for a sign of these times you shall be a witness of the angel's descending with a long flaming sword in his hand which shall turn to every point to prepare the way for ushering in the glorious day. Then shall the sword be transformed into an olive branch, which shall arise and overspread the horizon and appear as emblamatical of the harmonious day in which all nations and languages shall

be gathered into one family, and all become of one heart and mind, to serve under the peaceable government of Him whose scepter sways all worlds."

After such a discourse, which I conceive more than human, neither pen nor tongue can describe the agitation of my mind, though I could not consider myself as highly favored in being a hearer of the divine message. As the clock struck three I arose from my bed and proceeded on my journey. I had not got on my way more than a mile and a half before my team was instantly stopped as though pushed by a mighty hand. I unthinkly bade them go on, but without effect. For that instant a bright light appeared to overspread the horizon and an angel descended and stood erect in the air but a little distance from me dressed in a long, unsullied robe, with a flaming sword in his hand. I can say with Daniel, "I was alone and without thought".

He said unto me, "Stand on thy feet and give ear unto the words which I shall speak," and as I stood trembling and recollecting the vision which I saw a few hours before, I lifted up my eyes and beheld his face which had the appearance of lightning, and his eyes were as lamps of fire. The sword, which he held, to appearance was about thirty feet long, the hilt of which was variously set or ornamented appeared of pure gold, set with stones of various hues, the blade resembled flaming fire, and I cast up my eyes and beheld a bow in the clouds beautifully varigated much resembling a rainbow encircling sixteen stars, though differently diversified, there being nine to the southern part of the bow of a most beautiful azure, in the center of which bow I suppose appeared an olive branch richly decorated with golden buds. The stars to the north were of a deep crimson and all very transparent and brilliant which afterwards, separated; the nine of the azure fell to the south and the seven of the crimson to the north, attended with a heavy rumbling noise in the air, like the rushing of many armies to battle, at which I fell with my face to the ground.

At length me thought I heard an audible voice articulate and say, "All these are signs by which you shall know what is to befall the nation now in the latter days. Woe unto the inhabitants of the land, for their sins and ingratitude. Wars and rumors of wars shall then abound; their fields shall be crimsoned with the blood of their own citizens and nothing but lamentations and mourning shall be heard to echo through the lonely vale, until all the tares and brambles of the earth shall be plucked up and demolished from the face thereof, by the pestilence which walks in darkness, and by the sword which lays waste at noonday, for there shall be such a destruction as shall greatly thin the inhabitants of the earth, both

by war, pestilence, and famine, until after there shall arise a branch from the root of Jesse, who shall perform such remarkable things through the power of **Almighty God**, as shall effectually convince the world of His Divine **Authority**, and shall cause eventually, the remnant of all nations to be of one heart and mind in religion, when there shall be no more wars among mankind, who will ever after live in the strictest bonds of mutual friendship, possessing unfeigned love to **God** and one another. Then Jew and Gentile shall coincide in sentiment and become one and indivisible; declaring **Jesus Christ** to be their only **King** and sovereign;" and, as he ended proclaimed, "Father, thy will be done on earth as in Heaven, and may all the people say Amen."

As he spoke these words I looked up and beheld the sword which he held transformed into an olive

branch which grew and overspread the horizon under which reflection of a light presented to my view a large and spacious landscape with an unnumerable host of beings like unto the stars of heaven for a number, worshipping and praising Him who is King over all. There the lion lay down with the lamb and the beasts of the earth, and the fowls of the air were mingled together in concert, and nothing but love unutterable appeared among them, and as from the landscape ascended a voice, proclaiming, "**Glory To God In The Highest**; peace on earth and good will towards men;" at the echo of which, I fell on my face in amazement and terror.

Timothy P. Walker, Vermont, 1792.
The True Latter Day Saints Herald
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REMEMBER IN YOUTH THY CREATOR

by Bertha Mills

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them."

Who was more fitted to give this instruction than King Solomon, who well knew what it was to remember his Creator while he was young; who remembered to put his trust in God and follow after His ways, who also knew what the evil days were, when led to turn from his God and join in the worship of strange gods.

Had Solomon not, in his young days, leaned on the arm of God and kept his commandments, had he not been blessed with wisdom to utter many wise and instructive sayings, and had he not in his maturer years known what it was to merit the hot displeasure of the Lord?

What a glorious thing it would be to see all the young enlisted in the cause of the Lord, battling ever for the right and from their hearts remembering the goodness and mercy of their Creator, and giving praise to His holy name.

O, that the young men and women of today would give more heed to the voice of His word, devoting all their strength of mind, body, and talents to the Lord! Is it so hard to seek always to please our Father, when we stop to consider the blessings derived from a little effort we put forth? God in His great bounty returns twofold the service rendered to Him!

He never called a man or woman to serve Him to whom He did not give faculties to use in the service. To each of us He has given talents, to some more,

others less, and with these talents He expects us to serve Him and gain other talents.

You, to whom the Lord has given five talents, are you striving to increase them that you may render unto the Lord that which He has loaned you with usury? And you who, perchance, have received but one talent, need you hide it, for fear of losing it? Why not, rather, improve even it, though it be but small, far better is it than none. There is ample field for improving talents right in the church. Indeed, here is a place for nearly every talent to have its scope. The Sunday School affords opportunities for many, and here those who can serve the Lord with singing or playing their instruments and thus make the place attractive to the children; others who have the ability to instruct the young minds, should step in and occupy the places that only they can fill.

"Rejoice, O, young man, in thy youth;" rejoice that the days are yet thine to accomplish many noble and mighty works and that you have this time, before the evil days come, to store up for yourself treasures in heaven where you may never fear that the brightness will be worn from them, nor one piece, no matter how small, be lost to you.

"The glory of young men is their strength." Yes, when a young man is fighting for the advancement of right and truth, devoting all his faculties and talents to that which is soul-inspiring and enlightening and making his body a fit dwelling place for God's Holy Spirit; then is his strength, mental and physical, a glory to him, indeed.

If there are any young men here, wondering where

to apply their strength, I would suggest to you the Sunday School as fitting place to remember your Creator by helping others to remember Him.

Where can there be found a wider field for those who have not been specially called to preach the gospel, from which you may reap a glorious harvest, than right in the Sunday School? Here the young may meet and learn valuable lessons from the more experienced elders.

The influence of the Sunday School stands next to the home influence in molding the characters of the future men and women of the nation. Home influence always stands first, then the Sunday School.

Even if there were no other advantages to be gained from keeping the Law of God, there is in it that which plainly points out the way to health.

Take, for instance, a young person who is always seeking the pleasures of the world, wasting his life and indulging even to intemperance in those things that have been written in the law are not good for man neither give him riches nor dignity. One who has followed these things till life begins to decline and days follow of broken health full of misery and regret when that person can utter from the bottom of his heart, "I have no pleasure in them, my life is full of misery and distress, there is neither rest nor pleasure for me any more, and my life is but an empty dream."

When I think of the thousands of young lives that are being ruined day by day, I wonder that others yet will fall into the pit and be engulfed in the same sea of guilt. I wonder that young men, when they have seen the effect it has had on those who have tried it before them, will drink poison into their systems day by day when they know it is ruinous to both soul and body. Why will they choose the downward path in which it is almost impossible to turn and go back, in which pleasures vanish like shadows, and sorrow, misery, and death are inevitable results? Why will they choose such a road when there is one that leads directly to that which all men love, but which no man has the power to bestow, — life, glorious life, happy life, and eternal life.

God delights to bless His young Saints when they walk after His commandments and do not wander from or forget Him.

He has proved this in times past, when He spoke wonderful things to the child, Samuel, in the temple, and through him continued to speak to Israel. .

David was but a boy when the Lord sent Samuel

to anoint him king of Israel, and, because God looks at the heart instead of outward appearances, David stood in preference of his brothers.

Daniel, when a young man, was wonderfully blessed of God and given to understand many things that the wise and learned men could not fathom.

Yes, God has called us to remember Him in the days of our youth. Jesus has called even little children to come unto Him and there abide forever safe from the darkness and storm that rages without.

O, that all the little ones would come to Jesus and repose in His arms, live in His strength, and grow from childhood to manhood or womanhood, without ever knowing what it is to be one minute without His gentle and loving guidance!

O, that we, as Sunday School teachers, might be endowed with an abundance of the Spirit to impress the young minds and hearts with the beauty of the gospel and to lead them to taste of the water of life! For this we should pray.

Remember now thy Creator, ye young men and women, who are just stepping upon the broad stage of life and entering into its activity. Remember Him now and be not bewildered by the ever shifting scenery; put your trust in God, looking steadfastly ahead and never waver, never turn aside, lest you fall by the wayside and are lost.

Dear little children, in the spring time of your life, learn now from that Savior who called so long ago for you to come to Him that He might bless you. Remember Him and let your little hands be busy helping in this grand and noble work. Let your little feet be busy running about doing good to those who are suffering, for Christ has said, "Even as much as you do it unto one of the least of these, you do it unto me."

Yes, let us all remember Him who gave us life and breath and being and placed us here for the accomplishment of a grand purpose, not by casting a careless thought to Him now and then when we see some great work done by His hand, but remember Him in our thoughts, our actions, and our words, making our lives so pure and noble that the closing hours may be like a glorious sunset, leaving behind a bright crimson streak just above the horizon to gladden the hearts of others long after our departure.

—From Autumn Leaves

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"Now ye may suppose that this is foolishness in me; but behold I say unto you, that by small and simple things, are great things brought to pass; and small means in many instances, doth confound the wise.

"And the Lord God doth work by means to bring about his great and eternal purposes; and by very small means the Lord doth confound the wise, and bringeth about the salvation of many souls." (Alma 17:35-36)

CHRISTMAS

Christmas, is it of God or of the world? More than likely the majority of professing Christians will say it is of God. If we search and study the scriptures as we are supposed to, we will find that the tenth chapter of Jeremiah contradicts this belief.

"Hear ye the word which the Lord speaketh unto you O house of Israel: Thus saith the Lord, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.

"For the custums of the people are VAIN; for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe.

"THEY DECK IT WITH SILVER AND GOLD; THEY FASTEN IT WITH NAILS AND WITH HAMMERS, THAT IT MOVE NOT." Jeremiah 10:1-4)

What better description could be given of the Christmas tree? Is it necessary for us to walk blind with the rets of the world or are our spiritual eyes open sufficient to see and understand what is written in God's Holy Word. Not only to see and understand but OBEY.

What was spoken of through Jeremiah by the Lord is not spoken of lightly nor does it apply to the Jews alone. There is both the literal and spiritual Israel. We who are baptized into God's Kingdom become spiritual members of the House of Israel. The verses quoted from Jeremiah applies to every member of God's kingdom.

Third verse: "For the CUSTOMS of the people are VAIN:"

The word vain comes from the Latin vanus (empty) of no use; fruitless; worthless; proud, showy.

Some may feel they are celebrating the birth of Christ. If it were God's purpose for such a celebration, would He not reveal it unto His own? Are we as individuals and as a body guilty of these practices?

With only such a few years left before the return of our Saviour, are we going to come out of Babylon and be a peculiar people or follow the traditions of men? Something to keep in thought. It takes a live fish to swim upstream and a dead one to float down.

Sister Mary Hunter

RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Relations Committee was established several decades ago to serve as a liaison body for the initial point of contact by other Churches desiring inquiry or other communication with the Church of Christ, and to make such contact with other Churches as directed or deemed appropriate. Past activities of this committee have been recorded in Church records.

Beginning in 1970, this committee has met on an average frequency of twice a year with a similar committee from the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (RLDS), now frequently referred to as the "Saints Church." These meeting have followed previous regular meetings after a lapse of approximately fifty years.

The current series of meetings was initiated in response to a request by President W. Wallace Smith of the Saints Church to explore ways for a "renewal of former conversations having to do with an effort toward closer understanding and associations between our two branches of the Restored Church." The committees act as liaison bodies, not as negotiating authorities.

Discussions have been held in the meetings on many subjects of organizational structure and operation, and basic doctrinal points held by the two Churches. The main endeavors have been to develop an accurate understanding of the origin and development of each Church's organizational structure and methods of operation, identify points of doc-

trinal agreement, and encourage association between the memberships.

The following publications have been reviewed in considerable detail:

Church of Christ - Articles of Faith and Practice

Saints Church - Statement of Beliefs

Exploring the Faith

Book of Rules and Resolutions

Handbook of Church Organization and Administrative Policies and Procedures

(Note: These are all available from the Herald Book Store in Independence, Mo.)

Other subjects which have been discussed in a similar manner are:

1. Organizational structure of the two Churches.
2. Religious services and social activities of the respective congregations.
3. Rules or procedure for considering reported latter-day divine revelations.
4. Method of placing men in the various priesthood offices, and each Church's considered element of divinity in its priesthood authorization and function.
5. The stand taken by each Church in relation to the priesthood authority of the other.

6. Zion and the New Jerusalem.
7. Teaching methods employed for the membership and ministry.
8. Missionary programs.

A mutual exchange in expressions of agreement in principle in shared beliefs on doctrinal points has been sought, without an attempt to minutely examine the

total underlying detail or make voluminous analyses. An effort has been made to avoid the mistakes of previous discussion groups from the two Churches. A spirit of good fellowship and Christian brotherhood has been experienced in all of the meetings.

ROBERT H. JENSEN, Chairman
Relations Committee

BLESSING

Kristin Beth Wheaton

Kristin Beth Wheaton, the daughter of Richard A. Wheaton, Jr. (Rick) and Pamela Susan Wheaton was blessed under the hands of Elder Richard A. Wheaton, Sr. and Apostle William A. Sheldon on Sunday, June 29, 1975 in Independence, Mo.

BAPTISMS

Lawrence Wayne Sarratt

Lawrence Wayne Sarratt, the son of Warren and Fern Sarratt of Bates City, Mo., was baptized by Elder Robert V. Eddy and received the laying on of hands by Elders Vance H. Harris and Robert V. Eddy at Clinton, Mo. August 3, 1975. He was received as a member of the Temple Lot Local Church September 2, 1975.

Nicholas Wesley Meyers

Nicholas Wesley Meyers of Des Moines, Iowa, was baptized and received the laying on of hands by Elder Alfred L. Voorhies at Bloomfield, Iowa September 24, 1975.

Thomas David Christiano

Thomas David Christiano, the son of Arnold Louis and Faye (Bowen) Christiano of Racine, Wisconsin, was baptized by Elder Ray W. Hunholz and received the laying on of hands by Elders Ray Hunholz and Harry Hutchison at Racine, Wisc. September 7, 1975. He was received as a member of the Milwaukee - Racine, Wisconsin Local Church.

Paula Jane (Eddy) Blankenship

Paula Jane (Eddy) Blankenship of Mt. Morris, Michigan was baptized by Apostle Clarence L. Wheaton, Sr. and received the laying on of hands by Apostle C. L. Wheaton and Elder George Brantner at Flint, Michigan September 21, 1975. She was received as a member by the Flint, Michigan Local.

Julie Eileen Bostwick

Julie Eileen Bostwick, of Flint, Michigan was baptized by Apostle Clarence L. Wheaton, Sr. and received the laying on of hands by Elder George Brantner and Apostle C. L. Wheaton at Flint, Michigan September 21, 1975. She was received as a member of the Flint, Michigan Local.

OBITUARY

Myrtle Jane Robertson

Sister Myrtle Jane Robertson passed from this life July 25, 1975, at the age of 72 years at Henry County General Hospital.

The former Myrtle Jane Paschall was born April 24, 1903, in Henry County, Tennessee, to Thomas W. and Ella Mohundro Paschall.

She was united in marriage to the late Apostle R. R. Robertson during the summer of 1956. They made their home in Puryear, Tennessee, but spent many hours of service to God in the missionary work of the Church. She was an active member of the Puryear local Church of Christ as long as her health permitted, and remained faithful to the end to God and the Gospel

she loved and that was so much a part of her living example.

She leaves to mourn her passing, one daughter, Mrs. Katherine Cox of Milan, Tennessee; two sisters, Mrs. Hester Tyler and Mrs. Edith Burnett; three brothers, T. W., Crawford Lee and Van Wilton Paschall; four grandchildren; five great grandchildren, and a host of friends.

Services were held July 27, 1975, at the Foundry Hill Church of Christ, Puryear, Tennessee, with Apostle Joe Kidd officiating, assisted by Elder Glenn Gill. Interment was at Foundry Hill Baptist Cemetery, Puryear, Tennessee.

NOTICES FROM FLINT, MICHIGAN LOCAL

The "Call of Life" goes out to all mankind from God. Many rejoice and answer the "Call", but many ignore the offered pattern of life. Comes the time in our lives when the "Call" from God is the "Call Home" and none can ignore this. To those who ignored the "Call of Life" this is a time of fear and anxiety; to those who found life through the "Call" it is truly a return home.

Caller home from the Flint Branch, Church of Christ (Temple Lot) are the following.

1. Our Brother in Christ, Lloyd F. Eddy, age 51, was called July 3, 1975. Brother Eddy brought a full measure of faith into our branch and so distributed his faith that at least five people have answered the "Call to Life." Brother Lloyd accepted an infection of our time and gave thanks to God for every day of life; in his faith he was well prepared for his "Call Home". The journey of life is continued by: his wife, Sister Betty Jane Eddy; two daughters, Sisters Laura Bostwick and Paula Blankenship; three sons, Lloyd Richard, Joseph and Paul F.; sixteen grandchildren; one sister, Sister Pearl Giem; three brothers, Harold, Earl and Orville. Services were conducted by Pastor Elder Harold Polack.

2. Our Brother in Christ, Carl Henry DeBar, age 60, was called July 9, 1975. Brother DeBar had a knowledge of the faith and, while he was not active in fellowship, it is our prayer that he found comfort in God through Christ. He called for the Elders in the event of illness in the family and found comfort in the resulting administration. Continuing in life were his wife Mary and mother, Sister Neleta Williams. Services were presented by Pastor Elder Harold Polack, with graveside services under the auspices of V. F. W. Post 4087.

3. Our Sister in Christ, Neleta Esther Williams, age 89, was called August 4, 1975. Sister Williams found fellowship very much a part of her life and in later years, during her stay in a nursing home, attended as often as could be arranged. Her faith continued, with frequent visits by the ministry and prayer during her illness. Continuing in life is her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Mary DeBar. Services were presented by Pastor Elder Harold Polack.

4. Our Sister in Christ, Ethel S. Anable, age 85, was called October 12, 1975. Sister Anable found that living the offered pattern of life was one of her greatest joys. The truth of this was born out in her testimony given to all, and her walk through the years. Many hungry mouths were filled out of their pantry, many souls lightened by the hands of love extended by her and her husband. The Gospel way flowed freely from her and many drank of the fountain of life through association, yet one of her most frequent and pleading prayers remained (as yet) unanswered. The prayer that her children might follow the simplicity of

the Gospel in the Church of Christ was never granted. This then, the prayer and labor, must be taken up by all the brothers and sisters in the Gospel. Her love for her children and the returned love was truly a supporting factor in this walk on earth. Continuing in life are: two sons, Sumner and Walter; four daughters, Mrs. Kathleen Arrand, Mrs. Helen Stacks, Mrs. Leona Jennings and Mrs. Pearl Arrand; twenty grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. Services were conducted by Pastor Elder Harold Polack.

Our hearts know the sorrow of their passing and will join in prayer for the living. We rejoice in the fellow-

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ship that we have been privileged to share and in the comfort that God will take care of them and us. So, until that day when once more we might be gathered together, we rest our hope in God and continue to strive in the "Call to Life" through Jesus Christ.

Mandi Marie Polack, born Sept. 4, 1975, was presented by her mother, Marjorie May Polack for the Ordinance of Blessing. The ceremony was carried out by Apostle Clarence L. Wheaton, assisted by Pastor Elder Harold Polack, on September 21, 1975. May the guiding hand of God be received and our Mandi Marie Polack find it an anchor in her life!

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPPLIES INSTRUCTIONS IN ORDERING

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

In compliance with the action taken at the 1960 General Sunday School Association General Assembly, all publications printed by the Association will be sent free of charge. **SEND ALL ORDERS TO: GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION TREASURER**, Church of Christ (Temple Lot), P. O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051.

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| Primary, Volume 1, No. 1, Childhood of Jesus | Price Each |
| Primary, Volume 1, No. 2, Jesus' Ministry (Out of Print) | N/C |
| Primary, Volume 1, No. 3, Jesus' Ministry con't. | N/C |
| Primary, Volume 1, No. 4, Life of Jesus | N/C |