

# 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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## Prayer

My Jesus how I love Thee  
And praise Thy Holy Name  
How very much I thank Thee  
Thou are ever more, the same.

Thou, great God of Israel  
Whose word will lead us home  
Thy Spirit of Truth prepare us  
To dwell with Christ to come.

Vida Filley

## CONTENTS

The General Conference .....	34	Please Open Your Heart .....	45
The American Indian Is Of Manasseh .....	35	If You Were Arrested For Being A Christian ....	46
Important Identities Of The Last Days .....	38	The Tenth Apple .....	46
A Time Of Preparation For Zion .....	40	Letter To Editor .....	47
Prayer And Fasting .....	41	Path To His Kingdom .....	47
Baptism, Elwyn C. Tennant .....	44	News From Collins Local .....	48
Blessing, Christopher David Polack .....	45	Temple Lot News .....	48

# Zion's Advocate

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Gentiles-Weighed and Wanting .....	*
First Presidency or First Apostles .....	*
Is Marrying For Time and Eternity? .....	*
Baptism For The Dead .....	*
Zion and the Temple of the Lord .....	*

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## EDITORIAL

### The General Conference

As we approach the end of another conference year and look back in retrospect, we wonder how far we have progressed in the promotion of the work of the Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in this crucial period of time, which is just prior to the second coming of our Lord and Master to the earth for the last time. We fear and tremble in the anticipation of the grave and serious responsibility of deciding questions and issues that will arise before us that will have a definite influence upon the immediate future course of action in our Gospel labors.

Our elder brother, the Apostle Paul, found himself confronted with great contention concerning the accepting of the Gentile converts relative to the Mosaic law and its position relative to the question of circumcision. Paul had been commissioned to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles. "For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth. And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed. And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region." (Acts 13:47-49) "And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily." (Acts 16:5) Paul's missionary work among the Gentiles was indeed a success and a great blessing to the work of the church in his day."

But, the forces of obstruction harassed the onward progress of missionary work in Paul's day not unlike some of the experiences of our own day. "And certain men which came down from Judia taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved. When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question." (Acts 15:1-2) A general conference was called. "And the apostles and elders came together for to consider this matter." (Acts 15:6) The debate heightened, and the question was settled. The Gentile converts were accepted. "Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; namely, Judas surnamed Barabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren: And they wrote letters by them after this manner; The apostles (emph. mine K. J. S.) and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles . . . ." (Acts 15: 22-23) This firmly established Paul's statement in his Corinthian letter, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been made to drink into one Spirit." (1 Cor. 12:13)

Coming down toward our own time, in the summer of 1830, church history tells us that satanic forces continued to deceive and utilize every whim of doubt and imagination of the human mind to obstruct and thwart the work of salvation of men's souls through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. "Brother Hiram Page had got in his possession a certain stone, by which he had obtained to certain revelations, concerning the upbuilding of Zion, the order of the church, etc. all of which were entirely at variance with the order of God's house, as laid down in the new testament, as well as our late revelations. As a conference meeting had been called for the first day of September, I thought it wisdom not to do much more than to converse with the brethren on the subject, until the conference should meet. Finding, however, that many, (especially the Whitmer family and Oliver Cowdery,) were believing much in the thing set forth by this stone, we thought to enquire of the Lord, concerning so important a matter." (Times and Seasons, vol. 4 pp. 117-119) The answer was received in a revelation and among other things Joseph was instructed, . . . . thou shalt take thy brother Hiram Page between him and thee alone, and tell him that those things which he hath written from that stone are not of me, and Satan hath deceived him; . . . ." (Church History Page 119-4) "On September 1, the conference before referred to met and the difficulty occasioned by Hiram Page being deceived by a seer stone was adjusted to the satisfaction of all. Of this

Joseph wrote, At length our conference assembled, the subject of the stone mentioned in the previous number, was discussed, and after considerable investigation, Brother Page, as well as the whole church, who were present, renounced said stone, and all things connected therewith, much to our mutual satisfaction and happiness." (Church history page 123-124)

Yes it is true. Issues may be casting their shadows across our horizon of a similar nature in many respects wherein, good men of strong character may become locked in great spiritual struggle, seeking to guide the future course of action of our Gospel labors. The forces of the Satanic powers will be grasping and using every turn possible to thwart the final consummation of the work of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Do we need to pray for the General Conference and for His directing influence over the problems and issues that will come before us? Yes, verily with all the earnestness and with every fiber of our being! We live in the most critical era of the history of man and the most critical hour, when great and terrible events shall transpire. The call is given to arise, throw off the sleeping garments, and let's be about our Fathers business. Let's join hands and hearts with an eye, single to the glory of God, and seek with one accord to promote the greatest work that was ever instituted among mankind. For, the hour is late and the bridegroom cometh even at our very door. Are we ready to go out and meet him?

K. J. S.

## THE AMERICAN INDIAN IS OF MANASSEH

Apostle Archie F. Bell

Part 3

### HER BRANCHES ARE STRETCHED OUT

B. of M., p. 52, 1st Nephi, chapter 5:62-66. "And we did come to the land which we called Bountiful, because there was much fruit, and also wild honey; And all these things were prepared of the Lord, that we might not perish. And we beheld the sea, which we called Irreantum, which being interpreted is, many waters. And it came to pass that we did pitch our tents by the sea-shore: And notwithstanding we had suffered many afflictions, and many difficulties, yea, even so much that we can not write them all, we were exceedingly rejoiced when we came to the sea-shore."

They would know that they had completed an important step in their travel to the promised land. This would give them reason for great rejoicing. We can see that when the Lord gives a command to do a thing, He provides means for its accomplishment. In this instance, He provided much fruit and wild honey. But there was no means provided at this time for their crossing the ocean. They called this ocean, Irreantum,

or 'Many Waters.' We call it the Pacific Ocean, and consider it the largest ocean on the face of the earth. We can see that there is a similarity between the name the Lehites gave this ocean and the name we have for it today.

B. of M., p. 53, 1st Nephi, chapter 5:68-73. "And it came to pass that after I, Nephi, had been in the land Bountiful for the space of many days, the voice of the Lord came unto me, saying, arise, and get thee into the mountain. And it came to pass that I arose and went up into the mountain, and cried unto the Lord. And it came to pass that the Lord spake unto me, saying, Thou shalt construct a ship, after the manner which I shall shew thee, that I may carry thy people across these waters.

"And I said, whither shall I go, that I may find ore to molten, that I may make tools to construct the ship, after the manner which thou hast shewn me? And it came to pass that the Lord told me whither I should go to find ore, that I might make tools. And it came to pass that I, Nephi did make bellows where-

with to blow the fire, of the skins of animals."

We humans many times think that we must educate ourselves on different crafts and professions before the time of the Redemption of Zion comes. It shows here that the main thing a person needs to accomplish the commandments of the Lord, is faith. Nephi believed God. Most Christian believing people believe in God. There is a difference. We can hear enough about God to believe that He is; but in order to believe God, there must be direct communication between Him and a person. Nephi had that direct communication.

There were several things that Nephi had to become acquainted with: The complete construction of a ship; knowledge of refining iron ore; making steel out of the ore; tempering that steel; the use of each tool needed for the framing and finishing of the ship. He found himself in much the position that Noah found himself. Both had to rely on the Lord in complete faith to be able to accomplish the work given them to do.

B. of M., p. 54, 1st Nephi, chapter 5:83-89. "Wherefore, I, Nephi, did strive to keep the commandments of the Lord, and I did exhort my brethren to faithfulness and diligence. And it came to pass that I did make tools of ore which I did molten out of the rock. And when my brethren saw that I was about to build a ship, they began to murmur against me, saying, Our brother is a fool, for he thinks he can build a ship; Yea, and he also thinks that he can cross these great waters.

"And thus my brethren did complain against me, and were desirous that they might not labor, for they did not believe that I could build a ship; Neither did they believe that I was instructed of the Lord."

If Nephi had of had the experience in the past of building a ship, his brethren would have known about it. They did not believe that he could build a ship with the instructions of the Lord. And for this reason, they considered it a foolish thing to try doing, so they asked that they be not required to take any part in the project.

Following the experience of the above statement, Nephi's brothers became quite angry and a contention developed between them and him. This contention became so divided that the brothers decided to resort to physical violence. The Spirit of God came upon Nephi to the extent that his brothers were soundly rebuked. Following this, the brothers were convinced that the Lord was with Nephi.

B. of M. p. 60, 1st Nephi, chapter 5:168-174. "And it came to pass that they did worship the Lord, and did go forth with me; and we did work timbers of curious workmanship. And the Lord did shew me from time to time after what manner I should work the timbers of the ship. Now I, Nephi, did not work the timbers after the manner which was learned by men, neither did I build the ship after the manner of men;

"But I did build it after the manner which the Lord had shewn unto me; wherefore, it was not after

the manner of men. And I, Nephi, did go into the mount oft, and I did pray oft unto the Lord; wherefore, the Lord shewed unto me great things. And it came to pass that after I had finished the ship according to the word of the Lord, my brethren beheld that it was good, and that the workmanship thereof was exceeding fine. Wherefore, they did humble themselves again before the Lord."

Not only have this people stretched out or journeyed a great distance, but their knowledge has been expanded. They have gained the knowledge of ship building which would be valuable to them in case of trouble with the ship during their voyage.

### THEY ARE GONE, OVER THE SEA

B. of M. p. 60, 1st Nephi, chapter 5:175-181. "And it came to pass that the voice of the Lord came unto my father, that we should arise and go down into the ship. And it came to pass that on the morrow, after we had prepared all things, much fruits and meat from the wilderness, and honey in abundance, and provisions, according to that which the Lord had commanded us, We did go down into the ship with all our loading and our seeds, and whatsoever thing we had brought with us, every one according to his age;

"Wherefore, we did go down into the ship, with our wives and our children. And now, my father had begat two sons in the wilderness; the eldest called Jacob, and the younger, Joseph. And it came to pass after we had all gone down into the ship, and had taken with us our provisions and things which had been commanded us, we did put forth into the sea, and were driven forth before the wind, towards the promised land."

It seems that each stage of their journey required added faith. To begin with, it took great faith to leave all they had, and take their journey into the wilderness by the Red Sea. Then they turned to the easterly direction into a land that they had no knowledge of. Following this, they had to construct a ship which none of them had previous knowledge of how it was done. Now, they are starting over the sea; a large body of water. And none of them had been sailors previous to this time.

A study of a large map of the place where they came to the sea-shore, will show that there are many bays along the shore. From the wording, it would appear that they were a safe distance above the water along the shore. Another thing, they would need protection for their ship under construction. A natural curve to the shore along the bay, would give that protection. Then, when they were ready to board the ship, they went down into it. Usually when they board a ship, they go up the gangplank into the ship.

This ship that Nephi built was a sailing vessel. ("driven forth before the wind") We have been unable to find where man had discovered the use of sails on large ships at this time. We have not been able to

find the history of the use of sails any farther back than 200 B. C. to 300 B. C. and they were used on quite small boats. The larger boats or ships used long oars; sometimes as many as 25 oars on each side. These were used by the Greeks and Romans. Nephi said that his ship was not built after the manner of men.

After they had been sailing many days, the brethren of Nephi and their wives began to make merry; they began to dance and to sing and to speak rudely. Nephi tried to reason with them but they would not listen. They said their younger brother was not going to rule over them. They eventually bound Nephi, hand and foot. After they did this, the compass ceased to work and they were driven back upon the waters for three days. They were in a tempest, and on the fourth day they were about to be swallowed by the waves. We will read the rest of it:

B. of M. p. 63, 1st Nephi, chapter 5:208-213. "Wherefore, when they saw that they were about to be swallowed up in the depths of the sea, they repented of the thing which they had done, insomuch that they loosed me. And it came to pass after they had loosed me, behold, I took the compass, and it did work whither I desired it. And it came to pass that I prayed unto the Lord; and after I had prayed, the winds did cease and the storm did cease and there was a great calm.

"And it came to pass that I, Nephi, did guide the ship, that we sailed again towards the promised land. And it came to pass that after we had sailed for the space of many days, we did arrive to the promised land. And we went forth upon the land, and did pitch our tents; and we did call it the promised land."

This would be to the group almost like starting a new life. The only difference would be the fact that they brought seed of grain and fruit from their homeland. The clothes that they made no doubt, would be much the same as that worn in their home land. We noticed that Lehi left his home, and his land, and his gold, and his silver, and his precious things. They lost his personal valuables to Laban. We will see what they discovered in the promised land:

B. of M., p. 63, 1st Nephi, chapter 5:214-217. "And it came to pass that we did begin to till the earth, and we began to plant seed, yea, we did put all our seeds in the earth, which we had brought from the land of Jerusalem. And it came to pass that they did grow exceedingly; wherefore, we were blessed in abundance.

"And it came to pass that we did find upon the land of promise, as we journeyed in the wilderness, that there were beasts in the forests of every kind, both the cow, and the ox, and the ass, and the horse, and the goat, and all manner of wild animals, which were for the use of men. And we did find all manner of ore, both of gold, and of silver, and of copper."

We see that they found precious metals upon this land. And they found all manner of domestic animals. This has been questioned by some people. The Spaniards have recorded in history that they are the ones who brought the horse to the western hemisphere. We

believe that the Spaniards did bring horses with them when they came. We also believe that the Jaredites are the ones who brought horses here first. They came out from the Tower of Babel. Some question the statement that the Jaredites came out from the Tower of Babel. They affirm that man had not discovered how to cross the ocean at that time in history.

We find that the earth was divided in the days of Peleg. (Gen. 10:25) Let us follow this dividing to see what is meant by it. Does it mean to pull the earth apart, or does it mean to proportion it? We read:

Deut. 32:8. "When the Most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when He separated the sons of Adam, He set the bounds of the people according to the number of children of Israel."

Now let us see when the Lord separated the sons of Adam:

Gen. 11:7-8. "Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city".

We find that in the days of Peleg the Lord scattered the people over ALL the face of the earth, (divided to the nations their inheritance) If He scattered them over all the face of the earth, some would have to come to the land of the Americas. It is referred to as a land choice above all other lands. (B. of M., p. 716, Ether 1:18) The Lord instructed the Jaredites to bring their flocks of every kind both male and female. (B. of M., p. 716, Ether 1:16) After they had lived in this land sixty two years, this is the condition we find them as far as their animals are concerned:

B. of M. p. 737, Ether 4:19-21. "And in the space of sixty and two years, they had become exceeding strong, insomuch that they became exceeding rich, having all manner of fruit, and of grain, and silks, and of fine linen, and of gold, and of silver, and of precious things. And all manner of cattle, of oxen, and cows, and of sheep, and of swine, and of goats, and also many other kind of animals which were useful for the food of man; and they also had horses, and asses, and there were elephants, and cureloms, and cumoms: all of which were useful unto man, and more especially the elephants, and cureloms, and cumoms."

We can see here that it would be perfectly in harmony with the will and plans of the Lord for the people of Lehi to find domestic animals on this land when they arrived.

The days of Peleg was the time that the earth was divided, and in that dividing, some came to the land of America. The days of Peleg were from 2187 B. C. till 1948 B. C. It would be during this period of time that the Jaredites came to this land. This had its beginning at the time the Lord confused the language of the people at the Tower of Babel.

B. of M. p. 334, Alma 8:3. "And Aminadi was a descendant of Nephi, who was the son of Lehi, who

came out of the land of Jerusalem, who was a descendant of Manasseh, who was the son of Joseph, who was sold into Egypt by the hands of his brethren."  
(To be continued)

## IMPORTANT IDENTITIES OF THE LAST DAYS

William Sheldon

Part 3

### The Marred Servant

Both the Bible and the Book of Mormon speak of the advent of one who is to perform a mighty work for the Lord in the last days, toward the Gentiles. In the Bible, the verses are "starred" to indicate that they apply to Jesus Christ. However, the Book of Mormon presents it in the words of Christ where He refers to the text as found in Isaiah 52:13-15. He then establishes more fully the prophetic setting, or the events to transpire about the time of the appearance of this servant, and plainly speaks of him as one other than Himself. Quotation is here made from 3 Nephi 9:81-83, which is nearly identical to that of Isaiah:

"Behold my servant shall deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high:

"As many were astonished at thee; (his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men).

"So shall he sprinkle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths at him: for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider."

Then follow details of the work of the Father among His covenant people of Israel; how that the Gentiles should first be established as a free people upon this land and should come to a knowledge of the Nephites and Lamanites as being of the house of Israel; that this knowledge should come from the Gentiles unto a remnant of their seed after that people had dwindled in unbelief because of iniquity. All of this was for the purpose that the Gentiles might repent and come into the covenant of Israel and be numbered with Israel, receiving an inheritance with them. Now, we wish to quote extensively to present Christ's words in expounding upon the mission of His servant and of its setting in time, as found in 3 Nephi 9:94-99.

"And when that day shall come, it shall come to pass that kings shall shut their mouths; for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider.

"For in that day, for my sake shall the Father work a work, which shall be a great and a marvelous work among them; and there shall be among them who will not believe it, although a man shall

declare it unto them.

"But behold, the life of my servant shall be in my hand; therefore they shall not hurt him, although he shall be marred because of them.

"Yet I will heal him, for I will shew unto them that my wisdom is greater than the cunning of the devil.

"Therefore it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not believe in my words, who am Jesus Christ, whom the Father shall cause him to bring forth unto the Gentiles, and shall give unto him power that he shall bring them forth unto the Gentiles, (it shall be done even as Moses said,) they shall be cut off from among my people who are of the covenant;

"And my people who are a remnant of Jacob, shall be among the Gentiles, yea, in the midst of them, as a lion among the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep, who, if he go through both treadeth down and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver."

Here we find a personal mission to kings and nations, preaching to them in such power and conviction that many will believe, although some will not. Some of these unbelievers shall do violence to his person, seeking his destruction; though his visage (face) shall be cruelly marred and his body mutilated, yet, as Christ said; the life of **My** servant shall be in **My** hand; they shall not be able to kill him.

The further context, reading to the end of the chapter, reveals that, at this time, the remnant of Jacob (among whom are the Lamanites) would go through among the Gentiles "as a lion among the beasts of the forest, and as a young lion among the flocks of sheep" (see 3 Nephi 9:51-53) to tread them down and destroy their cities. Vengeance and fury are to be visited upon the Gentiles, "**even as upon the heathen** such as they have not heard" (v. 106).

The sum of the matter is that the fullness of the Gospel was to go to the Gentiles, some of whom would carry it to the remnant of Jacob (of the Lamanites). It is evidently through this ministry of the Gentiles that one (of the Lamanites) should be converted, becoming an instrument for much good, for much restoration of his people. Also, about this same time, a ser-

vant of God is to be raised up among the Gentiles to declare the fullness of the Gospel with great power to kings and rulers and to the nations of the Gentiles. The text is highly indicative that something had transpired to bring the nations to humility, else it would have been impossible for a mission to have such marked success.

What is that humbling process? It is that the Gentiles shall have passed through a time of tribulation such as had never been known - the "time of the heathen" (Ezek. 30:1-3). "The destroyer of the Gentiles" (the heathen) will have gone through and wasted the nations. (See Jer. 4:7) Then, in a last great effort to reclaim the Gentiles, this mighty servant of God shall proclaim repentance to the nations; he being in the vanguard of other servants, called "watchmen" (Isaiah 52:8), and they all being united and endowed with power under the personal leadership of Jesus Christ. Some of these will lose their lives (Rev. 6:11), but not the one who is to be "marred because of them" (wicked Gentiles).

Those who repent at that time will be numbered with the remnant of Jacob (the Lamanites) in building the city of New Jerusalem (or Zion). (See 3 Nephi 10:1-4) Those who will not repent shall be visited with further destruction by the "arm of the Lord" (2 Nephi 5:86; Isaiah 51:9), which is the "sword of his justice" (3 Nephi 9:56), which is the "remnant of Jacob . . . who are to tread down and tear in pieces, and none can deliver" (Ibid 99). This is the "lion" which is to "come up from his thicket" (Jer. 4:7).

We have digressed from the main theme of discussing the marred servant, but feel it important to understand the circumstances of his appearance. Before leaving this, I wish to suggest as my belief, that this servant is none other than John the Revelator.

We may remember that Christ had one disciple more beloved of Him than others - John. Peter said, "what shall this man do?" and Jesus said: "If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me" (John 21:21,22).

"Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die . . ." v. 23).

Then in the Book of Commandments 6:1, we have the following:

"And the Lord said unto me, John my beloved, what desirest thou? and I said Lord, give unto me power that I may bring souls unto thee. And the Lord said unto me: Verily, verily I say unto thee, because thou desirest this, thou shalt tarry till I come in my glory."

Here we have strong reason to believe that John did not die, and that he has ministered unto many through the centuries. We are supported further in

this in the tenth chapter of Revelation. John asked for and received a "little book" from an angel.

"And he said unto me, thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings" (v. 11).

How reminiscent of the marred servant, who was to prophesy in like manner! Time will tell!

### The Three Nephite Disciples

It is accepted among believers of the Book of Mormon that three of the twelve Nephite disciples of Christ were granted the privilege of tarrying upon the earth until Christ should come in His glory (see 3 Nephi 13:15-22). We do not know their particular names, but it is well to speak of them, for they too are to do a marvellous work, even in these last days.

Mormon says (3 Nephi 13:39-43):

"But behold I have seen them, and they have ministered unto me; and behold they will be among the Gentiles, and the Gentiles knoweth them not.

"They will also be among the Jews, and the Jews shall know them not.

"And it shall come to pass, when the Lord seeth fit in his wisdom, that they shall minister unto all the scattered tribes of Israel, and unto all nations, kindreds, tongues and people, and shall bring out of them unto Jesus many souls, that their desire may be fulfilled, and also because of the convincing power of God which is in them;

"And they are as the angels of God, and if they shall pray unto the Father in the name of Jesus, they can shew themselves unto whatsoever man it seemeth them good;

"Therefore great and marvelous works shall be wrought by them, before the great and coming day, when all people must surely stand before the Judgment seat of Christ."

It has been the purpose of this treatise to portray the outstanding characters, including Christ, who, under His direction, would be performers in the "marvellous work and a wonder" of God to be revealed in these last days. We are made to realize that this has only begun, with the coming forth of the Book of Mormon and the establishment of the Church of Christ under Joseph Smith. Considerable havoc has been wrought in this by the enemy of all righteousness. But how great is our God! He will overcome by the overwhelming power of the Lamb; His saints will be gathered into one, with Zion a reality . . . Truly -

"The Lord God will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him" (Isa. 40:10).

## A TIME OF PREPARATION FOR ZION!

by Apostle Robert H. Jenson

We are in the time of sorrows. Let us therefore walk in preparation for the time when the Lord's people must be gathered together in that Zionite community which shall be a sacred covert for them. Consider a few of the many scriptural passages that contain a focus on our generation.

"Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain; let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand;" (Joel 2:1)

"So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him. And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the Lord." (Isaiah 59:19-20)

"Therefore my people shall know my name; therefore they shall know in that day that I am he that doth speak; behold, it is I. How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!" (Isaiah 52:6-8)

"And Jesus answered and said unto them, 'Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that ye be not troubled, for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. . . . When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand.)" (Matthew 24:4-8, 15)

"And I will gather my people together, as a man gathereth his sheaves into the floor, for I will make my people with whom the Father hath covenanted, yea, I will make thy horn iron, and I will make thy hoofs brass. . . . And behold, this people will I establish in this land, unto the fulfilling of the covenant which I made with your father Jacob; and it shall be a new Jerusalem. And the powers of heaven shall be in the midst of this people; yea, even I will be in the midst of you." (3 Nephi 9:54, 58-59)

"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; And if they endure unto the end, they shall be lifted up at the last day, and shall be saved in the everlasting kingdom of the Lamb;" (1 Nephi 3:187-188)

"But the laborer in Zion shall labor for Zion; for if they labor for money, they shall perish." (II Nephi 11:109)

"Therefore, woe be unto him that is at ease in Zion." (II Nephi 12:30)

We shall have need to lay claim on all of these promises before the passing of much more time. Many ominous clouds have long been gathering on the horizon, indeed, overhead also, that are portent of catastrophic prophetic times at our very door-step.

Already there is reported to exist an ensign raised within the Common Market of Europe. Available information indicates that at least certain goods flowing through that channel to consumers are imprinted with a symbol consisting of a circle with a line through the middle. The upper half contains a lamb's head with two horns and a mouth as if speaking. There appears in the lower half the number 666. Read revelations 13:11, 13-18 for a striking analogue.

When all the forces of evil rise against the people of the Lord, they shall be cut off from all now existing commercial electrical power, natural gas, petroleum products, food and clothing sources, medicines, home building materials and furnishings, and transportation.

I feel a spirit of urgency to call upon the Lord's people everywhere to lay aside every activity of past-time that is considered pleasurable but non-productive to physical and spiritual strengthening. We must learn to look with greater faith to our Heavenly Father for His spiritual direction in all things. We must learn how to become self-sufficient in life's necessities through the labor of our own hands.

Jesus, Himself, said: "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of me." (John 5:39) The Apostle Paul's admonition to Timothy should be taken as personal instruction by each one of us: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (II Timothy 2:15)

An abundance of instructional books is currently available on every hand along the lines of knowledge and proficiency in all hand-crafts, raising and care of all useful plants and animals for food and clothing, non-mechanized food production and preservation, fiber preparation and clothing fabrication, preparation of building materials, and hand construction of shelters for family and community life.

There is an inherent physiological and psychological mechanism within each of us divinely designed that will bring an unparalleled satisfaction and pleasure



from producing something with our own hands for our or another's supportive use. Confirmation of the thrill in such a delightful experience only awaits application of our thoughtful effort to that end.

"Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear." (Isaiah 59:1)

The following is only a partial list of currently published marvelous books easily understood that will help you make the necessary preparation. There is not a day to spare. The learning and practicing of each and everyone of the crafts (sometimes referred to as "pioneer skills") are ideally suited for either individual or group study and practices. Each has a practical application in our present daily lives. Do not delay. Through diligent prayer your minds and hands will be guided by the influence of the Holy Spirit if you desire to be instrumental in helping to bring about the redemption of Zion.

#### Publications List

A Book of Country Things, by Barrows Mussey, Publisher: "Paperback Library," New York.

Build-It-Yourself Homestead, by Organic Gardening Magazine, Publisher: Rodale Press, Emmaus, Pa.

Organic Gardening Magazine, by Robert Rodale, Publisher: Rodale Press, Emmaus, Pa.

Passport To Survival, by Esther Dickey, Publisher: Bookcraft, Inc., Salt Lake City, Utah.

The Foxfire Book (No.'s 1, 2, and 3), by Eliot Wigginton, Publisher: Doubleday & Co., Garden City, New York.

Using Plants for Healing, by Nelson Coon, Publisher: Hearthside Press.

A Museum of Early American Tools, by Eric Sloane, Publisher: Funk & Wagnalls, New York.

The Village Blacksmith, by Aldren A. Watson, Publisher: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., New York.

The Art of Blacksmithing, by Alex W. Bealer, Publisher: Funk and Wagnalls, New York.

Blacksmiths and Farriers Tools, by H. R. Bradley Smith, Publisher: Shelburne Museum, Inc. Shelburne, Vermont.

Before the Colors Fade, by Otha D. Wearin, Publisher: Wallace-Homestead Book Co., Des Moines, Iowa.

The Modern Blacksmith, by Alexander G. Weygers, Publisher: VanNostrand Reinhold, New York.

Dye Plants and Dyeing, by Plants & Gardens, Vol. 20, No. 3, Publisher: Brooklyn Botanic Garden, N. Y.

Heating With Wood, by Larry Gay, Publisher: Garden Way Publishing, Charlotte, Vermont.

Leather as Art and Craft, by Thelma R. Newman, Publisher: Crown Publishers, New York.

Glass, Hard-Blown, Sculptured and Colored, by John Burton, Publisher: Bonanza Books, New York.

American Yesterday, by Eric Sloane, Publisher: Wilfred Funk, Inc., New York.

The Magic of Spinning, by Marion L. Channing, Publisher: Reynolds-DeWalt Printing, Inc. New Bedford, Massachusetts.

The Making of Tools, by Alexander G. Weygers, Publisher: VanNostrand Reinhold, New York.

Wrought Iron in Architecture, by Gerald K. Geerlings, Publisher: Bonanza Books, New York.

Old Ways of Working Wood, by Alex W. Bealer, Publisher: Funk and Wagnalls, New York.

A Reverence for Wood, by Eric Sloane, Publisher: Funk and Wagnalls, New York.

The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Woodworking Handtools, Instruments and Devices, by Graham Blackburn, Publisher: Simon and Schuster, New York.

## PRAYER & FASTING

Prayer should be an integral part of each and every life. One should never underestimate the power of prayer and the things that can be wrought by it. Many times in the scriptures the importance and necessity of prayer are stressed. Man is very dependent upon God for all things in this life and it is through prayer that we can communicate with him. This should give us great joy that this avenue of approach has been provided for us.

"And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray

to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking." (Matthew 6:5-7) The above words of Jesus indicate that we should not pray to be seen of man but instead that we pray in a manner acceptable to our heavenly Father. This includes not using vain repetitions for man is not heard for his much speaking.

Not alone did Jesus stress prayer in the area of Jerusalem but when he was upon the American continents he likewise stressed it's importance to his twelve disciples. In 3 Nephi 8:47 Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye must watch and pray always, lest ye be tempted by the devil, and ye are led away cap-

tive by him." Even though the twelve disciples were men chosen by Jesus to minister unto the people it did not make them immune to the tempting power of the devil. Therefore, they too must be watchful and prayerful lest they be tempted by the devil. After Jesus spoke to his disciples he turned to the multitude and said unto them, "Behold, verily, verily I say unto you, Ye must watch and pray always, lest ye enter into temptation; for Satan desireth to have you, that he may sift you as wheat; therefore ye must always pray unto the Father in my name." (3 Nephi 8:50-51) Satan desires to have all mankind follow him. He once was an angel of God, but he sought evil and became the devil. He sought also the misery of all mankind. (See 2 Nephi 1:101-103)

We must never underestimate the power and cunning of the devil for he works in the most devious ways to deceive. Therefore we must be strong in the Lord and power of his might. It would do well that we give heed to the following advice: "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." (Ephesians 6:11-17) By putting on the whole armour of God we will be able to stand against the ruler of darkness who is the devil.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world." (1 Peter 5:8-9) We must be alert for the devil desires to have us. It is vital that we resist him by being steadfast in the faith. One way to do this is by continuing instant in prayer and being humble before the Lord.

"Yea, humble yourselves and continue in prayer unto him; cry unto him when ye are in your fields; yea, over all your flocks; cry unto him in houses, yea, over all your household, both morning, mid-day, and evening; yea, cry unto him against the power of your enemies; yea, cry unto him against the devil, who is an enemy to all righteousness. Cry unto him over the crops of your fields, that ye may prosper in them: Cry over the flocks of your fields, that ye may increase. But this is not all: ye must pour out your souls in your closets, and your secret places, and in your wilderness; Yea, and when you do not cry unto the Lord,

let your hearts be full, drawn out in prayer unto him continually for your welfare, and also for the welfare of those who are around you." (Alma 16:219-222) The above quotation indicates how involving prayer really is in our lives. Not only is it important to pray over one's undertakings but to pray against the devil and the power of one's enemies. The devil can cause man to think that prayer is unimportant and that he should not pray.

Therefore, it is vital that we hearken unto the spirit which teaches a man to pray. "For if ye would hearken unto the spirit which teacheth a man to pray, ye would know that he must pray: for the evil spirit teacheth not a man to pray, but teacheth him that he must not pray. But behold I say unto to you, that ye must pray always, and not faint: that ye must not perform anything unto the Lord, save in the first place ye shall pray unto the Father in the name of Christ, that he will consecrate thy performance unto thee, that thy performance may be for the welfare of thy soul." (2 Nephi 14:11-12) Many mistakes could be averted if we would follow closely the above advice. Jesus admonishes us to pray.

"And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." (Luke 11:9-10) This invitation is unto all people but we must pray in faith believing that we shall receive. In John 14:13-14 we can read the following: "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it." This is rather all encompassing what Jesus will do for us but there is a qualifying statement in John 14:15 which follows: "If ye love me, keep my commandments." In 1 John 5:14-15 we can learn that if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us. In 3 Nephi 8:51 a further qualifying statement is made: "and whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, which is right, believing that ye shall receive, behold it shall be given unto you." Not only must it be right but one must believe or have faith to receive.

By reading James 5:14-15 we learn that the prayer of faith shall save the sick. Also we are admonished to "Confess your faults one to another, and pray for one another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." Two things come out of the above remarks. One is the importance of a prayer of faith in the healing of the sick and the other is that the prayers of a righteous man availeth much.

Even though one should pray over all things he need not suppose that this is all that is required of him for in Alma 16:223-224 we can read the following: "if ye turn away the needy, and the naked, and visit not the sick and afflicted, and impart of your substance if ye have, to those who stand in need; I say unto you, If ye do not any of these things, behold your

prayer is vain, and availeth you nothing, and ye are as hypocrites who do deny the faith." If our prayers are to be all availing we must follow the above advice.

Thanksgiving is another part of prayer that is all important for when we receive we should be quick to thank God for what we receive. In Colossians 3:15 the following statement is made: "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful." When we lie down at night, we are to lie down unto the Lord, that he may watch over us as we sleep. When we arise in the morning our hearts are to be full of thanks. (See Alma 17:70) We are dependent upon God for all the things that we have in this life. "For behold, are we not all beggars? Do we not all depend upon the same being, even God, for all the substance which we have; for both food, and raiment, and for gold, and for silver, and for all the riches which we have of every kind?" (Mosiah 2:32) Therefore, we should be very thankful for all that God has given us.

The necessity of prayer in our lives should never be underestimated but there are times when prayer alone is not sufficient for some things require fasting along with prayer. An outstanding example of this is found in Matthew 17:14-21 wherein a father brought his son who was grievously afflicted unto the disciples of Jesus and they could not cure him. He then took him to Jesus and Jesus rebuked the devil and the child was cured from that very hour. The disciples came to Jesus apart and asked, "Why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting." (Matthew 17:19-21) The faith that was necessary to cast out the devil could only be acquired through prayer and fasting.

The four sons of Mosiah knew the value of prayer and fasting in their lives. They were men of sound understanding and had searched the scriptures diligently, that they might know the word of God. (See Alma 12:1-4) "But this is not all: they had given themselves to much prayer, and fasting, therefore they had the spirit of prophecy, and the spirit of revelation, and when they taught, they taught with power and authority, even as with the power and authority of God." (Alma 12:5) All this they had because of their willingness to fast and pray. Also when they were about to go unto the Lamanites to preach the word of God unto them, they fasted much, and prayed much that the Lord would grant unto them a portion of his Spirit to go with them and also that they might be an instrument in the hands of God to bring the Lamanites to the knowledge of the truth, if possible. (See Alma 12:14-16) The Lord was with the four sons of Mosiah and they had much success among the Lamanites.

During the August 1975 Ministers' Conference two

days were set aside for fasting and prayer concerning the transfer question. The reason for this was that we might arrive at a unified decision under the direction of the Holy Spirit. If we approach the Lord in sufficient humility and with sufficient fasting and prayer I am sure we will receive the direction of the Holy Spirit concerning this very important issue. On the second day of the above mentioned conference there was a manifestation given concerning fasting and prayer which several thought to be of spiritual significance. It was indicated that the Lord had many things to reveal unto His servants, but because of the spiritual condition of some at that time He could not do so. Also the statement followed that His servants have not spent sufficient time in fasting and prayer and that it is His will that this shall be corrected in the future. (See Manifestation through Archie F. Bell August 21, 1975). In Moroni 6:6 we can read the following: "And the church did meet together oft, to fast and to pray, and to speak one with another concerning the welfare of their souls." If this was important for those of old, it is equally important for us today.

We can find some fine advice concerning fasting in the words of Isaiah for he was told to "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voices like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins. Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and forsook not the ordinance of their God: they ask of me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching to God. Wherefore have we fasted, say they, and thou seest not? wherefore have we afflicted our soul, and thou takest no knowledge? Behold, in the day of your fast ye find pleasure, and exact all your labours." (Isaiah 58:1-3) Isaiah spoke very plainly to those whom God called "my people" and the house of Jacob concerning their sins. This people sought God daily and took delight in knowing his ways and approaching him. Even though they did this they felt that God took no knowledge of their fast. The reason for this was because in the day of their fast they found pleasure and exacted all their labours. This would indicate that when one has set aside a time to fast he should not pursue pleasures in order that he might more fully concentrate on the fast. Even the reading of newspapers, listening to a radio or watching television during a time of a fast can detract from the effectiveness of it. We should even be careful of the things we talk about while fasting. Likewise, we should not try to do as much labor during a fast but only do the very necessary tasks in order that our fast might be fully effective.

"Behold, ye fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist of wickedness: ye shall not fast as ye do this day, to make your voice to be heard on high. Is it such a fast that I have chosen? a day for a man to afflict his soul? is it to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the

Lord? Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke." (Isaiah 58:4-6) The above reading indicates that one should not fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist of wickedness. God does not choose for a fast a day for a man to afflict his soul but the fast that he has chosen is to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that he break every yoke. Many today are heavy burdened and oppressed because of the stress of the times and our concern should be for them. Also we should do all in our power to break every yoke. Anything that would yoke us to sin or any unrighteousness should be broken.

In addition to this we have a responsibility to the hungry and poor mentioned in Isaiah 58:7. "Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?" After heeding this advice as well as that found in the first six verses of Isaiah 58 the following promise is made: "Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily; and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy reward." (Isaiah 58:8) Not only is there the promise of one's light breaking forth as the morning but also that one's health shall return speedily.

"Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity; And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy

darkness be as the noon day:" (Isaiah 58:9-10) According to this reading the Lord shall answer those who take away from among them the yoke which is the putting forth of the finger or condemning others and the speaking of vanity.

Jesus Christ gave the following advice concerning fasting: "Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrite, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." (Matthew 6: 16-18)

Prayer and fasting are an important part of our lives. We indeed live in times of great stress and trial upon the face of the earth and we can prepare ourselves for the trials ahead by being watchful unto prayer. Not only this but it is vital that we put our trust in God for in Alma 17:3 this promise is made: "for I do know that whosoever shall put their trust in God, shall be supported in their trials, and their troubles, and their afflictions, and shall be lifted up at the last day:" According to this there will be trials, troubles and afflictions but whosoever puts their trust in God will be supported in them and lifted up at the last day. This hope involves a better world at the right hand of God.

"Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." (Luke 21:36)

By: Marvin E. Ely

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## BAPTISM

Elwyn C. Tennant

Church of Christ (Temple Lot) Flint, Michigan Branch. Baptized into Christ:

Elwyn C. Tennant of G-3480 Ridgeway Ave., Flint, Michigan. Born September 10, 1895.

Baptized November 30, 1975 by Elder Harold H. Polack.

Confirmed November 30, 1975 by Elder Harold H. Polack.

Received by the Flint, Michigan Local November 30, 1975.

Brother Tennant was introduced to the gospel (Book of Mormon and the Bible) of Jesus Christ while sharing a room in the hospital with Brother Lloyd Eddy. The faith and peace evident in Brother Eddy brought a brightness and warmth to the room to which Brother

Tennant was drawn. The visits of Elder Polack, the laying on of hands, the resulting peace and, more and more, the entering into conversation soon opened the door through which Brother Tennant felt he must walk.

Brother Tennant has labored in the Bible gospel for some fifty years, being a minister in a Protestant faith. His labor has been primarily in the mission field with the office of pastor being his privilege many times. He feels that his labor has been rewarded in that now he has a fulness of the gospel that will fill his heart and carry him to the reward to which he labored to point others, that Glory with God through Jesus Christ.

We welcome Brother Tennant as a companion in the faith.

## BLESSING

Christopher David Polack

Christopher David Polack was born January 4, 1976 to Carl and Susan Polack. He was blessed through the laying on of hands by Apostle C. L. Wheaton, assisted by Elders George Brantner and Harold Polack. Our faith tells us that young Christopher is gath-

ered into the arms of Jesus and our prayers are that Carl and Susan will prepare the child with teaching, example and love for the wonders and miracles of a life ahead with Jesus Christ.

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## PLEASE OPEN YOUR HEART

While conversing with some friends this afternoon, we fell upon the topic of loving people with whom we really have no personal contact. I mentioned that I felt I could, and my friend said, "How can you possibly love someone whom you don't know?" I said, "I really don't know, but in my heart I do care for them and love them."

This conversation bothered me greatly because very few people do really care about others with whom they have no real personal contact. How very shallow of us. It makes me so sad especially when I think of the anguish God must have felt when He watched His only begotten Son go through unbearable pain and agony for all of mankind, that they might have a chance to ask for forgiveness and to be able to obtain that overwhelming joy and peace that God gives us when we truly love Him and follow His teachings. How many of us could love and care enough for others to be able to stand such a trial? How many of us would have given man another chance? But God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. He didn't do it for only the righteous, but for the wicked also.

How hard our hearts must be. Why aren't we out doing the job the Lord intended for us to do? He gave us the power to do this job. He specifically stated: "Therefore, when these works, and the work which shall be wrought among you hereafter, shall come forth from the Gentiles unto your seed, which shall dwindle in unbelief because of iniquity; for thus it behooveth the Father that it should come forth from the Gentiles, that he may shew forth his power unto the Gentiles, for this cause, that the Gentiles, if they will not harden their hearts, that they may repent and come unto me, and be baptized in my name, and know of the true points of my doctrine, that they may be numbered among my people, O house of Israel." (3rd Nephi 9:91, 92).

So, why aren't we doing this job? Are we so proud and vain that we can't even give up our own petty wants and dreams so we can fulfill the task God gave us to perform?

The prophets of old gave up their personal lives and were persecuted and killed, but they still cared enough for mankind to go out and preach the word of God to those who needed it. They did turn many hearts to God, and many did repent and follow God.

How many of us have the faith and love for mankind to be able to do as Ammon did (Alma, chapter 12). He went among the Lamanites and preached to them even though he knew of their hatred for the Nephites. Because of his faith and trust in God, he turned many hearts to God and performed many miracles.

The joy and happiness Ammon felt was exceedingly great. If he hadn't cared enough for mankind to give up his personal life to go and do God's work, how sad it would have been.

When Alma prayed for the Zoramites, because of their great wickedness, his heart was exceedingly sorrowful for them. He cried unto God, "O Lord, wilt thou grant unto us that we may have success in bringing them again unto thee, in Christ? Behold, O Lord, their souls are precious, and many of them are our near brethren, therefore, give unto us, O Lord, power and wisdom, that we may bring these, our brethren, again unto thee." (Alma 16:114, 115).

Because of his sincere care and concern for these people, he cried for God to help him in his task. Isn't it time we have a little more faith in God so we can do what He has commanded us to do? He says He will provide for our wants and needs if we do His work. Isn't it time we get busy before it's too late for us?

God Bless You,  
Nana Lossing

## IF YOU WERE ARRESTED FOR BEING A CHRISTIAN . . .

By: Elder Gary A. Housknecht

Why do you suppose that Christ, when He was sending forth his twelve Apostles, told them to "beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles?" Or why did He answer in part that "they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my names sake," when questioned about what signs would precede His coming? And why do you suppose that in both instances (Matt. 10:16-18 and Luke 21:12) that Christ followed with admonition to each of us that if we were in such a situation, not to plan beforehand what we might say in defense of ourselves, saying, "For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist?"

The answer to the above questions is obvious and simple: Christ told us these things because such things would actually happen to those that follow the Lord. And He followed with assurance that it would be "the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you," because Jesus knew that the wisdom of man would not be enough to foil our adversaries when the time came. And when will that time be? Read in Luke 21:10-12, "Nation shall arise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven. But BEFORE all these, they shall lay their hands on you . . ." (Emphasis mine - gah)

Yes, it is before all these calamities that will befall mankind in these latter days that we, the stewards

of the Gospel, shall become victims to such persecution. Believe me, these persecutions are just around the corner and we must have our houses in order, be out of debt to the world and be Spiritually in tune with God. I do not speak by any heavenly revelation, but read for yourself in your daily newspapers, and then compare with Biblical prophecy that **does** come to us by previous heavenly revelation through the prophets of old.

But it is not my purpose in this writing to delve into the question as to whether or not we are aware of such things or whether or not we are prepared or will have sufficient faith to withstand the persecution, but rather, I want to pose to you an imaginary situation that could very well come true, and a question to follow that I would desire us each to ponder upon in the days ahead. Imagine yourself in a courtroom on a day not far in the future when Communism and Satanism have rule over this Nation and Christianity is all but being wiped out; a land where it has now become forbidden to exercise faith in or worship Christ or even advocate any of the teachings. Almost all Bibles and Book of Mormons have been confiscated. You have been arrested for being a Christian and your life is under scrutiny by those in the courtroom. They call many of your working associates and neighbors and just passing acquaintance to the stand to testify of your activities and personality. They also bring to the stand a few of your known enemies!

Now my question is this: "If you were arrested for being a Christian, would they find enough evidence to convict you?" My prayer is that each of us will be found "**guilty as charged.**"

### THE TENTH APPLE

Once upon a time there was a man who had nothing. God gave him ten apples.

He gave him the first three apples to eat.

He gave him the second three apples to trade for a shelter from the rain and sun.

He gave him the third three to trade for clothing to wear.

He gave him the last apple so that he might have something to give back to God to show his gratitude for the other nine.

The man ate the first three

He traded the second three for a shelter from the rain and sun.

He traded the third three for clothing

to wear.

Then he looked at the tenth apple and it seemed bigger and juicier than the rest.

He knew that God had given him the tenth apple so that he might have something to give to God to show his gratitude for the other nine, but it looked bigger and juicier than the rest.

He reasoned that God had all the other apples in the world,

So the man ate the tenth apple - and gave back to God -

the CORE.

Author unknown

Submitted by Vida Filley

## LETTER TO EDITOR

Dear Brother Smith,

So long it has been since I have been able to worship together with the saints of God. My prayers have always been for the joy of the saints.

I have always been loved by the children of God, yet I've done so little to deserve this love. This morning I wanted to do something to show my love to the

saints. Enclosed is my efforts. I desire to have the article, "Path To His Kingdom," printed in the Zion's Advocate.

Your brother in Christ

Bill Gould  
PSC Box 3827  
George AFB, Ca. 92392

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## PATH TO HIS KINGDOM

O soul, so weary grown, stop thy maddening race and rest awhile. Why is it you run so fast and far? What is it you are searching for? You stop not for rest, food or thought. Onward you march for you know not what. Tears, bloodshed and sorrow won't slow your pace; 'tis a pity you know not what you are seeking for.

Stop! Listen! As we slide back the veil and look beyond. Open your eyes as a mystery unfolds.

Long before the mountains high looked down over green valleys far below, long before man took that first faltering step, a purpose was formed, a plan invoked.

How fitting it seems to be that a fallen star from heaven should but open to mankind that which he lost. For as Adam fell that men might be, even so, men are that they might have joy.

Joy! Greater art thou than silver or gold, more precious than the ruby or sapphire. Without thee silver is but dust and precious gems but glass.

My hope is as an open pit deeply dug and cold. Faith, thou art but vain, ever out of reach of these trembling hands.

Love, thou art as the autumn leaves, imprisoned beneath the winter's snow lying still upon the frozen ground, forever waiting for the coming spring.

Life, you too are without purpose, naught to offer and dead, but for joy.

Joy, far greater than exceeding great happiness, how greatly the soul hungers for thee! As the stomach hungers for good and the mouth thirsteth for the cool refreshing of water, then so is the soul's desire

for thee.

Joy! By what means may I find thee? Will riches of silver and gold bring thee close to my side? Would you bow to me for the beauty of diamonds or the soft luster of pearls?

Not so! you cry, how can that, which is physical fill the demands of that which is spiritual? Though you own the whole world and all its riches, yet not even a grain of joy could you purchase. Yet man without joy is as a dried husk, dead, broken and blown in the wind, serving no purpose, doing no good.

Joy! How is it that though you are God's greatest gift, yet you are enslaved by His least command? It is but the decree of the Most High God; he who would be greatest must be servant to all.

Joy and sorrow each choice will bring. The choice is yours; you can see your goal. The path is before you, straight and narrow, but a friend you have to follow. Walk with him and share this joy eternal.

Christ stands at your door pleading. Come, let us walk side by side, hand in hand. How weary you are under that heavy burden. In darkness you walk down that thorn strewn path, stumbling over that rocky crag.

Take my hand; I'll lead you true and lighten your load and heal that wound. Come walk by my side down this pathway of joy, for even a thief, if he looks up, is worthy of a place with me in paradise.

Joy is our goal, our only hope, and it can only be found in obedience at our Savior's side.

With Everlasting Love,  
Bill Gould

### NEWS FROM THE COLLINS LOCAL

We are sure there is joy in heaven, when a mortal man makes his decision to accept the plan, that Christ has offered us, for a life eternal.

On Sunday, December 14, 1975, the little Church of Christ group gathered around the new font at the Collins church, where Allen Dale Kauffman, was led into the waters of baptism by Elder Oren Caviness.

In the service immediately following, Allen was confirmed by Apostle Leon Yates. As we welcomed our new brother, it was sweet to see the loving greetings of Allen's father, his mother, his wife and of his small children, as well as those of his brothers and sisters, in the family of Christ. And how wonderful it is to know that we ARE a family, in which God is our Father, and Christ our elder Brother.

At Christmas time, the Church of Christ invited the other churches, in Collins, to have a pot luck dinner with us here at the church, and then to join together in a service in the P. M. This was done. An abundant meal was enjoyed, and the good spirit of Christian fellowship was gratifying to everyone, as we worshipped there together.

The Ed McIndoos spent Christmas in Phoenix, with their son Don, and family. The Larry Shaw family spent Christmas there too. The Rhondal Shaws are home after spending most of the summer in Colorado and Arizona. We are glad to have them all back again.

Sr. Blanch Martin has been in and out of the hospital several times as the result of a serious accident last summer. Her family says she is getting along better now.

At the stroke of midnight, on the Eve of the New Year 1976 Joe and Floralice Yates celebrated their 56th wedding Anniversary. 56 years ago they exchanged their vows and made their promises to each other, not too many miles from where they now live. They still walk hand in hand. God has blessed their lives together. May His blessing continue.

Ruth Willard, reporter

### TEMPLE LOT LOCAL NEWS

First of all, greetings, love and an apology. This column could, by earnest effort have been in last month's issue. However, your reporter was in the throes of getting ready for a Christmas trip to Arizona and couldn't seem to make it.

Early in December Irene Case, Bonnie (Jim) Case and Donna Moser acted as hostesses for the United Workers and gave a bridal shower at the church for "our girl", Manon Chapman. There were useful and lovely gifts galore; refreshments featured one of Bonnie's spectacular cakes; games, funny and comparatively serious filled the evening of Thursday, the 4th. This was, of course, only the prelude.

On Saturday, December 13th, our beloved upstairs chapel was the setting for Manon's wedding to John Daniel Lawrence Jr. A big bowl of rose-toned straw-flowers and simple dried grasses beside the pulpit were the only decorations needed. The bride wore a natural shade India gauze gown with Cluny lace, floor length and demure, and carried a natural bouquet of pink sweetheart roses tied with old rose velvet streamers to match those in her long hair. She was attended by Bonnie (Donnie) Case in a similar old rose and

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brown dress with Cluny lace dyed to blend. The groom's attendant was Ed Fellhauer. The ceremony was reverently performed by Elder Nicholas Denham; the wedding march was played by Mignon Lee Krause. Linda, Marie and Bonnie (Jim) Case served punch and a rather special wedding cake, lovingly made by the hands of the bride's mother, Jean Chapman. The guest registry was kept by Debbie Hedrick and gifts were received by Paula Case. The groom's mother, Mrs. John D. Lawrence, his grandmother, Mrs. J. E. Lawrence and his sister, Mrs. Paul Brautigam were escorted in by ushers Donnie Case and Terry Krause.

Dan and Manon are living at 608 E. Gregory, Kansas City, Missouri 64131, their new home surrounded by our warm love and prayers.

#### 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.**

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