

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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No. 7

Bicentennial Prayer

Donna Moser

This land is choice above all others.
Our fathers came here to be free,
To live in peace among their brothers.
They prayed to You that this might be.

Two hundred years! Oh, help us know —
"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."

Today we view our heritage.
We thank You, Lord, for what is ours.
Oh, help us write on this day's page —
"We served, we loved, with all our powers."

Two hundred years! Oh, help us know —
"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."

CONTENTS

The Cradle of American History	98	If They'd Played It Cool In	
The Second Life	99	the Year 1776	109
Proof of the Nearness of Christ's		Testimony	109
Second Coming	100	Awake! Arise!	110
A Note From The Hospital	102	The Iron Rod	110
The New Birth	103	Notices, Corrections,	
Local News	108	Miscellaneous	111

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Baptism For The Dead	*
Zion and the Temple of the Lord	*

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EDITORIAL

The Cradle of American History

"But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and for, and knowledge shall be increased." (Daniel 12:4)

Current events of the day, trying to impress upon the peoples of America the values of the history of the birth of our great nation, bring into sharp realization the fulfillment of the words of the prophet Daniel, and his clear vision of our day; perhaps even the very hour in which we now live.

We are told in the 2nd chapter of Daniel and the 44th verse, in the interpretation of the dream of the great king Nebuchadnezzar's image, established by the words of the prophet as, "What should be in the Latter Days," That, * * * in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, * * * * ."

On the 6th day of April, in the first year of one of the most brilliant decades of American history (1830), the Church of Christ was organized at Fayette, New York. This was seven months before the first American railroad train, the diminutive experimental forerunner of modern methods of transportation, made its trial run from Schenectady to Albany in the state of New York, a distance of seventeen miles (November 2, 1830). This most brilliant decade of history between 1830 and 1840 saw the establishment of the railroad, the electric telegraph, and the ocean steamship. Of a truth, "knowledge" increased and broke forth into many fields of intellectual blessing to mankind as a direct result of the birth and establishment of the Restoration of the fullness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in these Last Days, and the "setting up of the Kingdom which shall never be destroyed and not left to other people."

Ah yes, we are interested in the values found in the history of the birth of our great nation. We have a deep and abiding love for her and have enjoyed her manifold blessings bestowed upon her people all the days of our life. However, we find ourselves envolved in a great social struggle not based upon the pure principles of truth and honesty found in the gospel of the "God of the land". We therefore fear and tremble, caught in the clutches of this mighty struggle for power and greed, over the destinies of this great people of America. "Many shall run to and fro." And many shall be deceived.

The gospel according to Matthew speaks of this time referred to by Daniel the prophet as: "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days shall be shortened, there should no flesh be saved; but for the elects' sake those days shall be shortened." (Matt. 24:21-22)

Yes, the Restoration of the Fullness of the Gospel

of Jesus Christ re-born and set up in the very cradle of the History of these United States of America should of a necessity draw us closer together on common ground. We should offer up mighty supplication to the "God of the Land" for the welfare of its people and this

great and terrible time of tribulation might be shortened for the sake of the "very elect". We are living in that last hour of time, just prior to the second coming of Jesus Christ.

KJS

THE SECOND LIFE

by Ronald W. Temple

"There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; the same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God; for no man can do these miracles that thou doest except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:1-3) Nicodemus did not understand for he said to Jesus, "How can a man be born again when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" Jesus answered, "verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water, and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the spirit is spirit" (John 3:4-6). But Nicodemus still did not understand (see John 3:7-21). Do we? Many sectarian religions do not.

John 3:16 states, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life". From this, they maintain that all that is required of them is to believe in Christ and they are saved. A closer look at John 3:16 might convince them of the error of this belief. It says "whosoever believeth in him **should not perish**." It does not say "shall not perish." If they believed in Christ they **should** do these things that He requires, which include being "born again" and living a life of righteousness. In Matthew 10:22 it tells us, "he that endureth to the end shall be saved."

But what is meant by being "born again"? We must be baptized "of water and the Spirit". (John 3:5). So it refers to being born of the Spirit.

When a baby is born it can do nothing for itself. It must grow in size, strength, coordination, and knowledge. Its mother and father must care for it completely for a while. Then as times goes by, it develops (because it is nourished with food and love) to a point that it can start doing some things by itself. Still, it must be directed by its parents. It needs to be taught these things that are important to its well-being. Then, if it has been fed and taught properly, it will become a mature individual, able to make meaningful decisions.

After baptism, one is as a baby. We are given the gift of the Holy Ghost (through the laying on of hands, see Acts 19:5-6) to care for and teach us to do right

(See 1 Cor. 2:9-16). We are nourished by spiritual food obtained by spiritual experiences.

How can we obtain these spiritual experiences? First, we must put out of our lives all things of the world that would prevent our spiritual growth. In 1 Peter 2:1-2 it says, "Wherefore, laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speaking, As new-born babes, **desire** the sincere milk of the word, that ye might grow thereby." The key there is desire. If we really desire these things to be put out of our lives, the Holy Ghost will be with us to aid us in that desire. There are many things that will stop our physical growth - poisons, lack of food, air, or water, or even love. Likewise, there are many things that will stop or at least hinder our spiritual growth. To partake of the world in its moral decline, its greed and selfishness, its witchcrafts and whoredoms, will endanger our spiritual lives. Rev. 18:4 says "And I heard another voice from heaven saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." This voice is talking here not to the people of the world, but to those who have accepted the Gospel.

Pray continually for the help of the Holy Ghost. Study the scriptures, attend the preaching services, Sunday school, prayer meetings and any other meetings and activities with those of like faith. We can then learn and remember these things which are intended for the benefit of our souls. When we discuss the scriptures with others, hear testimonies, and tell our testimonies of the Lord's goodness to us we can be lifted and receive spiritual strength. And for a real spiritual feast, we should attend the reunions and other special gatherings. If we will just get involved in church work and in general make the church and Christ the most important aspects of our lives we will grow spiritually.

Lot's wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt. We cannot look back desiring our former life or the spirit will not work with us. We must always look forward striving to grow, resisting the stunting effect of the evil one, doing everything in our power (prayer, etc.) to receive the help we need from the Holy Spirit. Then we can mature and go on from the milk to the meat of the gospel and then endure to the end. Only then can we hope to be saved in the end.

PROOF OF THE NEARNESS OF CHRIST'S SECOND COMING

Apostle Joseph W. Kidd

For many years it has been taught that Christ's second coming could be "today", "tomorrow", "anytime". Unfulfillment, thus far, has caused some to say "... My Lord delayeth his coming . . ." (Luke 12:45), consequently, allowances of unrighteousness increase.

"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only" (Matt. 24:36).

Even though "no man" knoweth the day and hour when Christ shall return to this earth we may, nevertheless, know the approximate year if we are "children of light". But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: We are not of the night, nor of darkness" (1 Thess. 5: 4-5).

Christ identified many "signs" which would one day indicate the nearness of his coming (see Matt. 24, Luke 21, and II Timothy 3) In addition to these signs God has, I believe, identified a timetable (approximate) indicating the total time allotted to man upon this earth.

Part of this timetable is revealed in Matt. 20:1-8, "For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard. And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and said unto them; go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way. Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise. And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, why stand ye here all the day idle? They say unto him, because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive. So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, call the labourers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first." Here is a timetable of twelve hours (symbolic - jwk) representing "day" wherein man can work. This "day" began with the first man, Adam, and shall end at midnight, the second coming of Christ.

Christ testified there are only 12 hours in a day. "Jesus answered, are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world" (John 11:9). Christ again speaking: "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4). Very little work can

be accomplished now because the darkness of night has begun to settle in the world. Soon it will be midnight, total darkness, end of day. Let us work though there be only a glimmer of light remaining.

Another time table, running parallel with the 12 hours of day wherein man might work, is the 6000 years beginning in Adam's day (4000 BC) and concluding at 2000 AD (midnight), my conclusion. Each 1000 years of this 6000 years seem to be symbolic of the six days wherein God worked (Genesis 1). Following the 6000 years comes the seventh 1000 years known as the millennial reign of Christ upon the earth, symbolic of the seventh day wherein God rested from His work.

To prove the above conclusions I should first relate a dream which came through Apostle E. L. Yates in the month of August, the year 1956. The date of this dream was verified by recent correspondence with Brother Yates. I quote from his letter of April 20, 1976: "I don't know where I came up with the year 1957. My notes show that I had the dream in August of 1956, a few nights before the 26th of the month, but just what night, I do not know. The following is the dream as I recorded it.

"It seems I was in a small room of a church studying for a sermon. In the main room of the church people were holding a service. I seemed to realize that at the end of that service everyone was expected to attend a meal or a feast. As I expected to go with the others to the feast, I suddenly realized that I did not have much time left in which to study, and I found that my sermon was not yet complete. In other words I began to see that my work was not done and time was running out.

"At this time in my dream I arose from my desk and walked across the room to look at a clock on the wall. To my surprise it was five minutes until midnight. My surprise was great because until this moment I had supposed it to be yet daytime . . ."

Please note the time, "five minutes until midnight". From the time the dream was given (August, 1956) to midnight is equal to 5 minutes on the face of the clock.

Let us proceed to calculate:

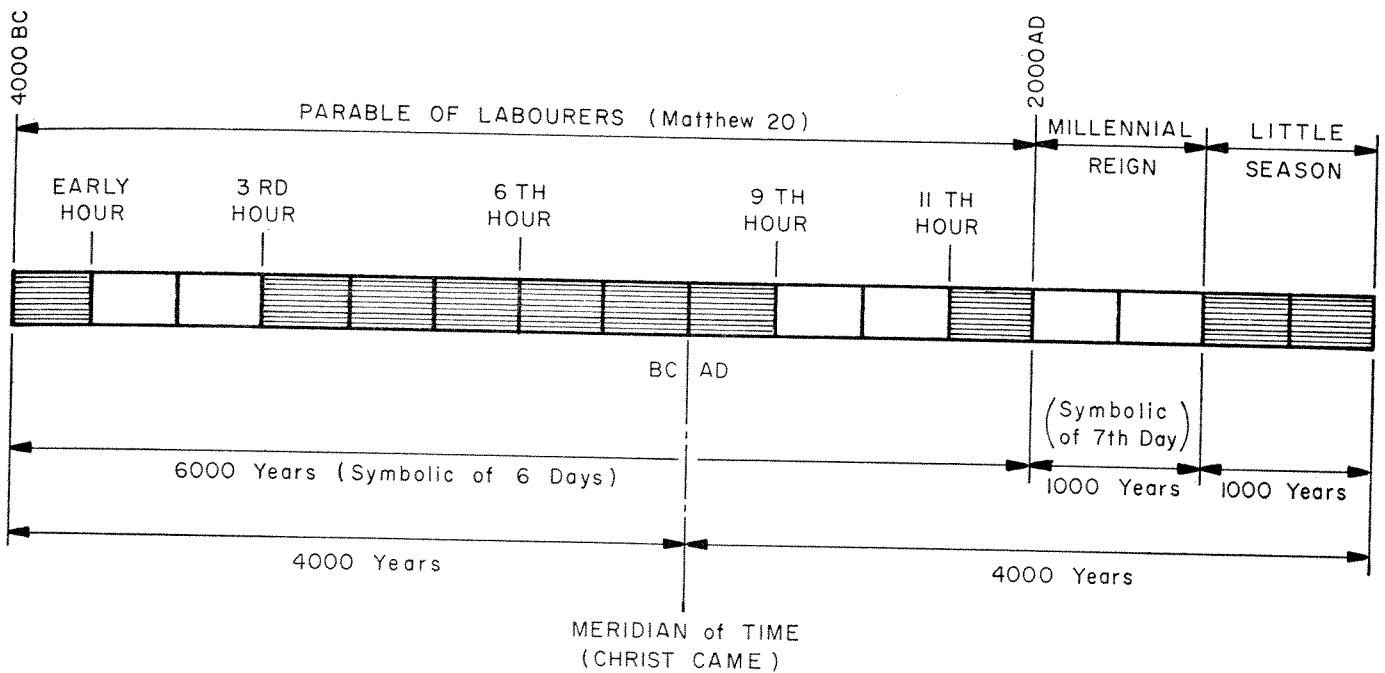
6000 years ÷ 12 hours: 500 years = 1 hours
 500 years ÷ 60 minutes: 8.33 years = 1 minute
 8.33 years ÷ 60 seconds: .138 year = 1 second
 1 year ÷ .138 year: 1 year = 7.246 seconds
 7.246 seconds ÷ 12 months: 1 month = .603 second
 8.33 years × 5 minutes: 41.65 years = 5 minutes
 2000 years AD minus 41.65 years = May, 1959
 May, 1959 minus August, 1956 = 33 months
 33 months = 19.899 seconds

Thus, we see that in August, 1956, the nearest minute reading on the clock was five minutes until midnight. Amazing? It is to me.

Our calculations show that the second hand on the clock was 19.899 seconds before the exact midnight hour. However, Brother Yates makes no mention of seeing the second hand. Perhaps the following could account for the 19.899 seconds: "And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be

shortened" (Matt. 24:22). As a result of shortening the days of God's wrath upon the earth, could it be that the midnight hour would come sooner, equal to the shortening of God's wrath upon the earth? If so, in August, 1956 it was exactly 5 minutes until midnight. If the midnight hour is not shortened equal to the shortening of God's wrath, it remains, nevertheless, in August, 1956, it was 5 minutes until midnight, as one would read the clock.

Peruse the following time chart:



Notice the symmetry of this chart. From the sixth hour point, counting back to 4000 BC, or forward to 2000 AD we see the number of hours as 3, 2, 1, referenced to the time dispensations identified by Christ. Notice that Christ came during the mid-dispensation (6th hour) as well as mid-point of total time. Is it not appropriate that Christ should be the focal point of time?

Do you question the "little season" being 1000 years long? The term "little season" is referenced to all preceding time (7000) years, not the 1000 years of Christ's reign upon the earth — my conclusion.

To prove the "little season" will be approximately 1000 years long I refer you to the ninth chapter of Revelation. Verses one through five indicate an occurrence which follows the millennial reign of Christ upon the earth. Note in verse five that men are to be "tormented five months". This five months is equal to 150 years if we are consistent with our understanding that each day is given for a year (Ezekiel 4:6, Daniel 9:24-27). In Revelations: "And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men" (9:15). Total time indicated in this verse is about 391 years and two weeks. Chapter 10, verse 3, indicates additional

time is needed for the "seven thunders" to utter their voice, after which time shall be "no longer" (verse 6). John was not allowed to write the things which occur during the seven thunder dispensations (verse 4). At the completion of the seven thunder dispensations the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets (verse 7).

Total time of "little season":

- Fifth verse - 150 years
- Fifteenth verse - 391 years, two weeks (Revelations 9)
- Seven thunders - 458 years? ?
- Total time = 1000 years

Many things must be fulfilled before the midnight hour arrives: Christ's appearance upon earth previous to His final coming in glory; wrath poured out upon the world; gathering; Lamanites blossom as a rose; Zion built; book of lost tribes revealed; etc., etc.

"Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye (we) be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?" (II Peter 3:11-12).

A NOTE FROM THE HOSPITAL

from Elder Oren Caviness

to the Houston Local

(at dedication of church building)

Even if it were possible for me to be in Houston the day of the dedication, it would be impossible for me to speak loud enough to be heard, so I borrow the voice of another (Ed. note: his daughter, Sharon Kelley) and in so doing hope to be with you a few minutes by proxy.

I'd like to relate a short story, a true one — just to refresh your memories. Even though the events of this story go back several years, it still seems appropriate to think about them again on this occasion.

Once upon a time, in a little town of Houston there lived a family by the name of Keeney, a few Church of Christ members who believed in the Gospel and who believed in the familiar Scriptures: "Neglect not to assemble yourselves together oft as the manner of some is." and "Where two or three are met together in my name, there will I be in the midst of them." So that's what they did. Even though they didn't have a minister or a member of the priesthood, they did meet together regularly to pray and to study. They had no church building so they met in homes and they invited missionaries to come and preach, which they did occasionally.

Hoping to increase their numbers and attract others to the joy of the Gospel, they rented a small room in town for their services. Later, because it had more room they rented a private dwelling, a little way out of town. About this time an R. L. D. S. minister, Bro. Field, a worthy, conscientious man, and his good wife, started coming and helping them in their services. They learned to love this couple and they respected one another's beliefs. When this man had to leave to take up duties in one of his own locals, his absence was keenly felt and everyone was sad to see him go. But none of this little group thought of giving up — and they prayed on!

They sent a request to the Twelve, asking for a minister to be sent to them on a regular basis. A man was sent — a man who could give but one Sunday a month because he lived 115 miles away and not only shared responsibilities in the local at Collins, but had to make frequent trips to Independence for bishop's duties. Incidentally, some months he traveled almost a thousand miles fulfilling these obligations. But the people were not discouraged and they prayed on!

And then — happy news — another Church family moved to Houston, the Medders. We were all convinced that the Lord had heard our prayers and had

opened up the way for them to move. Their addition to the little group was welcomed with thanksgiving.

Still thinking, trying and praying — they decided to form a local. This they did and I had the privilege of being their first pastor. Though they were still meeting in the dwelling house they rented, they longed for a church building of their own. So they began to dream a dream — why not build a church? One member donated ground — the ball was rolling.

So they quit renting, to save money, and met again in their own homes. Since the home where they were meeting was their place of business also, the phone would sometimes ring during a prayer, a testimony, or a sermon. This bothered them, and they longed for this church building of their own even more.

Then followed hours, weeks, months of hard work and devotion to the task before them. They solicited, donated and collected used clothing, which they mended, washed and ironed for rummage sales. They accepted anything which could be sold. Bead necklaces were handmade and donated. Vegetable gardens were tended with much labor and the produce sold from door to door by the children. Produce was entered in the County Fair — besides the many ribbons they won, all cash awards were added to the growing fund for the new church. Dedication to the cause flowered and grew and you could see and feel it in their presence!

The church building began to grow — the people began to grow, both spiritually and numerically. There were baptisms. Terry Medders, Doris and Timothy Brockelbank, David and Douglas Kenney, Tommy Medders, Lois Helseth, and Cliff and Roberta McGuire. Concerning the McGuires, here again we feel certain that the Lord sent these two to Houston for a purpose. They were invaluable to the local here and our joy knew no bounds when they asked for baptism.

The happy ending to this true story, as of May 29, 1976 is: Houston Local now has a church building of their own and a full-time pastor in the person of John Jones, who has moved here with his wife, Verna, to make this their home. And who can deny that this too is an answer to prayer?

Since many of the characters in this true life story are present here today, it would be quite fitting and proper for the rest of the congregation to take this occasion to stand to their feet to give honor and acclaim to them for their courage and perseverance.

THE NEW BIRTH

by Harvey E. Siebel

(condensed for publication)

John was sent to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord and, in obedience to the divine command, he went forth preaching in the wilderness and baptizing all who believed on his word. And though he baptized with water he testified of one, mightier than he, who would perform a different kind of baptism. Said he, "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire" (Matthew 3:11).

This baptism is what constitutes the new birth spoken of so many times in the Scriptures. Without this baptism, spiritual life is impossible.

As Jesus was the example for us which believe, He at length came to John to be baptized of him in order to fulfill all righteousness, after which the Holy Spirit descended and rested upon Him in the form of a dove. Thus the great heavenly Father had anointed His Son for the work whereunto He had been sent of Him to perform. We are told in one place that the Spirit was not given to Him by measure. Thus "Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness" (Luke 4:1), and when His temptation was completed, "Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about" (Luke 4:14).

Following this, Jesus chose out twelve disciples who were to be special witnesses for Him. "Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick" (Luke 9:1-2). They did as they were bidden and reported marvelous success in all but one instance, which for some reason required the extra effort of fasting in order to bring about the desired blessing.

Yet after these things we have Christ admonishing Peter in these words, "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: And WHEN THOU ART CONVERTED, STRENGTHEN THY BRETHREN" (Luke 22:31, 32). Though Peter had power to perform certain marvelous works by virtue of the authority given him of Christ, yet now we learn that despite these things Peter was still in an unconverted state. Peter, however, answered his Lord by saying, "Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death" (Luke 22:33). But Jesus in answer replied, "I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me" (Luke 22:34).

Nevertheless, the disciples had had every need sup-

plied them when they had gone out preaching, for "... he said unto them, When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye any thing? And they said, Nothing" (Luke 22:35).

Returning again to Peter we find that when his trial came he did indeed deny the Lord three times, just as Jesus said he would, thus showing his weakness and inability to withstand Satan in his unconverted state.

The book of John is quite plain that the Holy Comforter was not to be given until after the Lord's resurrection and ascension into heaven. The first reference to this is found in John 7:38, 39. "He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given, because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)" "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you" (John 16:7).

If the Comforter had not been given, how then, or by what power, did the disciples preach the gospel and heal the sick when they were first sent forth? The answer or key to this question is given in John 14:16, 17. "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: BUT YE KNOW HIM: FOR HE DWELLETH WITH YOU, AND SHALL BE IN YOU."

The Spirit was with them and blessed them in their ministry; however, it was not yet within them. The Lord knew they were not able to carry out His great commission to them in their present state. They were yet weak and wavering. They were unable to withstand the fiery darts of the adversary. And when under stress they were even timid and fearful. But this was God's work and not man's and therefore God would be in them to perform it. Only then would they be able to face the world.

Just prior to His ascension into heaven, Jesus spoke these words to His disciples. "Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost" (John 20:21, 22). This, however, was not consummated until after the Lord's ascension. The Lord's last words to them were, "... behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high" (Luke 24:49).

The fulfillment of this promise is given in the book of Acts. "And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from

Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence" (Acts 1:4, 5). "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:" (Acts 1:8). Then "... when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:1-4).

That tremendous event was now realized. They now became new creatures in Christ, being transformed by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Being endued with power from on high, they now went forth speaking boldly in the name of Christ. Then in response to Peter's sermon the people, being pricked in their hearts, wanted to know what they should do. Peter's answer was, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call" (Acts 2:38, 39).

From this time until the church went into apostasy the Holy Ghost worked through the apostles and elders, being manifested in the lives of the saints through both signs and fruits.

A short time after their baptism in the Holy Ghost the disciples were again filled with the Holy Ghost. "And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness" (Acts 4:31).

In regard to Paul's conversion we read, "And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost" (Acts 9:17). So mighty was the change which was wrought in Paul by the Holy Ghost that he became one of the Church's most powerful servants.

Later when the Holy Ghost fell upon the Gentiles through Peter's ministrations, the event was so marvelous that those of the Jews which witnessed it were amazed. For "While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?" (Acts 10:44-47).

Peter in later commenting on this marvelous

event states, "And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost. Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gifts as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?" (Acts 11:15-17).

There was no question in the minds of any present as to the blessing which had been given. "And it came to pass that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues and prophecied" (Acts 19:1-6).

In the Book of Mormon we read, "And I also saw and bear record that the Holy Ghost fell upon twelve others, and they were ordained of God, and chosen" (1 Nephi 3:113). According to this description, the falling of the Holy Spirit upon one can hardly be an event to go unnoticed or unrecorded. The language here implies a sudden coming of that Spirit. Furthermore we are told "... that if ye shall follow the Son with full purpose of heart, acting no hypocrisy and no deception before God, but with real intent, repenting of your sins, witnessing unto the Father that ye are willing to take upon you the name of Christ, by baptism; yea, by following your Lord and your Savior down into the water, according to his word; behold, then shall ye receive the Holy Ghost; YEA, THEN COMETH THE BAPTISM OF FIRE AND OF THE HOLY GHOST: AND THEN CAN YE SPEAK WITH THE TONGUE OF ANGELS, AND SHOUT PRAISES UNTO THE HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL" (2 Nephi 13:16, 17).

This infilling of the Spirit is manifested in various ways... he has poured out his Spirit upon you, and has caused that your hearts should be filled with joy, and has caused that your mouths should be stopped, THAT YE COULD NOT FIND UTTERANCE, SO EXCEEDING GREAT WAS YOUR JOY" (Mosiah 2:35). And again, "Now, when he had said these words, his heart was swollen within him, and he sunk again with joy: and the queen also sank down, being overpowered by the Spirit" (Alma 12:144). Thus were King Lamoni and his queen filled with the Spirit of God. Not only were they filled with joy but a mighty change had also been wrought in their hearts, their bodies now becoming the temples of the Holy Ghost.

Paul describes this marvelous change in character in the following Scripture: "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized

into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: KNOWING THIS, THAT OUR OLD MAN IS CRUCIFIED WITH HIM, THAT BODY OF SIN MIGHT BE DESTROYED, THAT HENCEFORTH WE SHOULD NOT SERVE SIN. FOR HE THAT IS DEAD IS FREED FROM SIN" (Romans 6:3-7).

Paul again illustrates this point in Romans 7:4-6. "Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God. FOR WHEN WE WERE IN THE FLESH, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. BUT NOW WE ARE DELIVERED FROM THE LAW, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter."

Paul is actually saying that, since they are no longer in the flesh but have been delivered therefrom, now they walk in the Spirit. The implication is that since they are no longer in the flesh (their bodies being dead to sin) they are no longer carnal but have become spiritual. This is the case as Paul confirms. "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

Returning again to Romans the 7th chapter, Saul goes on to say that he was alive once without the law but, when the commandment came, sin revived and he died. Then he became as we are, with the same nature. He expressed this thought perfectly when he said, "For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do" (Romans 7:19). The awfulness of this dilemma in which Paul found himself, he very aptly expressed in Romans 7:24. "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"

But when Christ came in Paul was delivered from this body of death. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. FOR THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS HATH MADE ME FREE FROM THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh: but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit" (Romans 8:1-5).

The reasoning here is that he who is of the flesh will walk after the flesh, just as surely as he who is

of the Spirit will walk after after the Spirit. Therefore when we are of the flesh we will yield to the things of the flesh, but when we are of the Spirit we will yield to the things of the Spirit. "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh" (2 Corinthians 10:3).

Now Paul makes this illuminating statement "SO THEN THEY THAT ARE IN THE FLESH CANNOT PLEASE GOD. BUT YE ARE NOT IN THE FLESH, BUT IN THE SPIRIT, IF SO BE THAT THE SPIRIT OF GOD DWELL IN YOU. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. AND IF CHRIST BE IN YOU, THE BODY IS DEAD BECAUSE OF SIN; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness" (Romans 8:8-10). And unless this is the case in us we can never fulfill these words: ". . . that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:1, 2)..

Before Pentecost Peter was timid and fearful, denying the Christ when trial came, sinking beneath the wave when the sea became boisterous, etc. He simply and naturally yielded to the weakness of the flesh. Then when Pentecost came the Spirit entered and he became a new creature, a weak thing now made strong. Before, he was unable to keep his body under subjection. Now, he was given strength and boldness even to sacrificing his own body on the cross upside down. As for Paul we have this word, "But I keep under my body, and bring it unto subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" (1 Corinthians 9:27). By the strength of the Spirit (his body being dead to sin) he was able to accomplish this task, so that instead of doing those things which he would not, as previously, he now walked in the Spirit and did those things which he would.

The promise is, "Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh" (Galatians 5:16). How is this so? Because ". . . if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature:" (2 Corinthians 5:17), "And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts" (Galatians 5:24).

It should be obvious by now that these things are not brought about by our own efforts alone, or through our bootstraps, so to speak. We can make choice but we cannot transform ourselves. This is the Lord's work. "And you hath he quickened, who WERE dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; AND WERE BY NATURE the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich

in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:1-6). "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; AND THAT YE PUT ON THE NEW MAN, WHICH AFTER GOD IS CREATED IN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND TRUE HOLINESS" (Ephesians 4:22-24).

Are we to understand from this that, because we no longer walk in the flesh but are made perfect in Christ, we shall be free from temptation? If we think so we err, for Christ "... was in all points tempted like as we are" (James 5:17). Peter's admonition to us is, "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul" (1 Peter 2:11). Furthermore, Peter is in complete accord with the words of Paul as we read, "Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you" (1 Peter 4:1-4).

Should we fall away after having received such abundant grace then we have this word, "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they had known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them" (2 Peter 2:20, 21).

We have a remarkable account in the Book of Mormon concerning the conversion of the people of King Benjamin. "... and behold they had fallen to the earth, for the fear of the Lord had come upon them; And they had viewed themselves in their own carnal state, even less than the dust of the earth. And they all cried aloud with one voice, saying, O have mercy, and apply the atoning blood of Christ, that we may receive forgiveness of our sins, and our hearts may be purified: For we believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who created heaven and earth, and all things, who shall come down among the children of men. And it came to pass that after they had spoken these words, the Spirit of the Lord came upon them, and they were filled with joy" (Mosiah 2:1-5). The king, asking whether they believed his words, received this reply, "And they all cried with one voice, saying, Yea, we believe all the words which thou hast spoken unto us; And

also, we know of their surety and truth, because of the Spirit of the Lord Omnipotent, WHICH HAS WROUGHT A MIGHTY CHANGE IN US, OR IN OUR HEARTS, THAT WE HAVE NO MORE DISPOSITION TO DO EVIL, BUT TO DO GOOD CONTINUALLY. And we, ourselves, also, through the infinite goodness of God, and the manifestations of his Spirit, have great views of that which is to come; and were it expedient, we could prophesy of all things" (Mosiah 3:2-4).

These blessed Nephites had done what Paul described as the crucifying of the old man and putting on of the new man. They became new creatures in Christ, walking no longer after the flesh. Of these we read, "For behold, this day he hath spiritually begotten you; for ye say that your hearts are changed through faith on his name; therefore, ye are born of him, and have become his sons and his daughters" (Mosiah 3:9). Again, as in other Scriptures, this warning is given: Therefore, take heed that ye do not transgress, that the name be not blotted out of your hearts" (Mosiah 3:15).

Concerning Alma's conversion we have this word, "For, said he, I have repented of my sins, and have been redeemed of the Lord; behold, I am born of the Spirit. And the Lord said unto me, Marvel not that all mankind, yea, men, and women, all nations, kindreds, tongues and people, must be born again; YEA, BORN OF GOD, CHANGED FROM THEIR CARNAL AND FALLEN STATE, TO A STATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, BEING REDEEMED OF GOD, BECOMING HIS SONS AND DAUGHTERS; AND THUS THEY BECOME NEW CREATURES; AND UNLESS THEY DO THIS, THEY CAN IN NO WISE INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD" (Mosiah 11:186-188). So mighty was this change which was wrought upon Alma and the sons of Mosiah that they had literally become new creatures. For "Now they were desirous that salvation should be declared to every creature, for they could not bear that any human soul should perish; Yea, even the very thoughts that any soul should endure endless torment, did cause them to quake and tremble. And thus did the Spirit of the Lord work upon them, for they were the very vilest of sinners" (Mosiah 12:5-7).

What causes this change in our natures? Consider the following: "And it came to pass that after Aaron had expounded these things unto him, the king said, What shall I do, that I may have this eternal life of which thou hast spoken? YEA, WHAT SHALL I DO THAT I MAY BE BORN OF GOD, HAVING THIS WICKED SPIRIT ROOTED OUT OF MY BREAST, AND RECEIVE HIS SPIRIT, that I may be filled with joy, that I may not be cast off at the last day?" (Alma 13:48, 49). We are partakers of whatever spirit inhabits our hearts. But when the Holy Spirit enters wonderful things can happen to us. Referring to the conversion of the Lamanites we read, "... and behold, they saw that they were encircled about, yea, every soul, by a pillar of fire ... and they were filled with that joy which is unspeakable and full of glory. AND BEHOLD THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD DID COME DOWN FROM

HEAVEN, AND DID ENTER INTO THEIR HEARTS, AND THEY WERE FILLED AS IF WITH FIRE, AND THEY COULD SPEAK MARVELOUS WORDS" (Helaman 2:109-111).

When the Holy Ghost was given to the disciples on Pentecost the apostles went forth in mighty power. For example, Peter: "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I unto thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk" (Acts 3:6). In the Book of Mormon the record is just as certain. For example: "... when Amulek saw the pains of the women and children who were consuming in the fire, he was also pained; and he said unto Alma, How can we witness this awful scene? Therefore let us stretch forth our hands, AND EXERCISE THE POWER OF GOD WHICH IS IN US, and save them from the flames" (Alma 10:48, 49).

Though they had the power yet they were (at this time) forbidden to use it. In the case of Ammon, however, this power was used. "Now when Ammon saw this, his heart was swollen within him, with joy; for, said he, I WILL SHEW FORTH MY POWER UNTO THESE MY FELLOW SERVANTS, OR THE POWER WHICH IS IN ME, in restoring these flocks unto the king, that I may win the hearts of these my fellow servants, that I may lead them to believe in my words" (Alma 12:43). The reason they had this power was that they had fasted and prayed much beforehand that God would grant unto them a portion of His Spirit to go with them.

Such power few of us have known or experienced, as with that which is now described in Alma 12:144-147). "Now when he had said these words, his heart was swollen within him, and he sunk again with joy; and the queen also sank down, being overpowered by the Spirit. Now Ammon seeing the Spirit of the Lord poured out according to his prayers upon the Lamanites, his brethren, who had been the cause of so much mourning among the Nephites, or among all the people of God, because of their iniquities and their traditions, He fell upon his knees, and began to pour out his soul in prayer and thanksgiving to God, for what he had done for his brethren: And he was also overpowered with joy; and thus they all three had sunk to the earth" (Alma 12:144-147). Such exceeding great joy is surely a great gift. "And it came to pass that as Ammon was going forth into the land, that he and his brethren met Alma, over in the place of which has been spoken; and behold, this was a joyful meeting. Now the joy of Ammon was so great, even that he was full, yea, he was swallowed up in the joy of his God, even to the exhausting of his strength; and he fell again to the earth. Now was not this exceeding joy? Behold, this is joy which none receiveth save it be the truly penitent and humble seeker of happiness. Now the joy of Alma in meeting his brethren was truly great, and also the joy of Aaron, of Omner, and Himni: but behold, their joy was not that to exceed their strength" (Alma 15:16-19). This joy was something which Alma strove

to bring about in all his converts.

We all remember the terrible agony which Alma the second passed through during those three days and three nights when he suffered the pains of a damned soul. But when he caught hold upon the words of Christ and began to plead for mercy he was filled with great joy. "... O, what joy, and what marvelous light I did behold; yea, my soul was filled with joy as exceeding as my pain; yea, I say unto you, my son, that there could be nothing so exquisite and so bitter as were my pains. Yea, and again I say unto you, my son, that on the other hand, there can be nothing so exquisite and sweet as was my joy" (Alma 17:18, 19). As a result of this experience he wrote, "Yea, and from that time, even until now, I have labored without ceasing, that I might bring souls unto repentance, that I might bring them to taste of the exceeding joy of which I did taste; that they might also be born of God, and be filled with the Holy Ghost" (Alma 17:22, 23).

The Book of Mormon tells us, "The words of Christ, which he spake unto his disciples, the twelve whom he had chosen, as he laid his hand upon them. And he called them by name, saying, Ye shall call on the Father in my name, in mighty prayer! and after ye have done this ye shall have power that on him whom ye shall lay your hands, ye shall give the Holy Ghost; and in my name shall ye give it, for thus do mine apostles" (Moroni 2:1- 2). Concerning baptism we have this word, "And none were received unto baptism, save they took upon them the name of Christ, having a determination to serve him to the end. And after they had been received unto baptism, AND WROUGHT UPON AND CLEANSED BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY GHOST, they were numbered among the people of the Church of Christ" (Moroni 6:3, 4).

There are two times in the history of the Book of Mormon in which there were notable conversions of Lamanites. The first occurred when Ammon and his brethren converted so many thousands of Lamanites. The account of the coming of the Holy Spirit upon King Lamoni and his household is certainly an outstanding one. This initial experience with the Spirit consisted of the baptism of the Holy Ghost in the same way that it came to the house of Cornelius under Peter's ministrations. And, though they most assuredly were aware of the power which filled them and the exceeding great joy it produced in their souls, it is entirely possible that they did not realize at the time it happened what it was, that is, that it constituted the baptism of the Spirit. Undoubtedly, after it was over they did come to this knowledge.

As to the second mass conversion of Lamanites under Nephi and Lehi we have a similar situation: great spiritual power being poured out upon a people not previously baptized of water. The same thing can be said as of the former group. They may have received this baptism, not knowing at the time they received it what it was.

"And whoso cometh unto me with a broken heart

and a contrite spirit, him will I baptize with fire and with the Holy Ghost, even as the Lamanites, because of their faith in me, at the time of their conversion, were baptized with fire and with the Holy Ghost, and they knew it not" (3 Nephi 4:50).

The baptism of water is for the remission of sins.

The baptism of the Spirit cleanses us of all sin, thus the baptism of fire.

In conclusion, "It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him" (2 Timothy 2:11).

(All emphasis mine, H. E. S)

TEMPLE LOT LOCAL NEWS

Greetings to all our Church family! In the few months since we wrote you our last rambling newsletter we seem to have kept busy enough to stay out of mischief.

In March a group of our United Workers got together in the kitchen of our little white chapel, admired the new water heater, paneling and paint job, then rolled up our sleeves and set to scouring. We had no meeting in April, saving ourselves for the big meeting of the year, our Church of Christ annual conference. In May we got down to business again with our usual pot luck lunch meeting, complete this time with the yearly election of officers. Doris Ratterree succeeds herself as Chairman; Irene Case will be her Assistant Chairman. Gracie Rudd became Secretary-Treasurer for the year. These three comprise the Executive Committee which, among other duties, will be in charge of a picnic sometime during the summer. Katie Moyer will be our Devotion Chairman; Margaret Wheaton is Telephone Chairman, assisted by Menda Stotis. Bonnie (Jim) Case, Edith Case and Donna Moser are on the

Fund and Program Committee. The Assistance Committee consists of Edith Case, Donna Moser and Velma Wheaton (as the pastor's wife). Any of these latter three can be notified in the event of deaths or other needs where the United Workers can help with food or other service. We had a good year and we expect another good one!

Newcomers (fifty percent, at least), Jay and Chris Moser were honored in a delightfully informal and friendly way on the evening of Friday, May 28. Gerry Adams, Carol Adams, Bonnie Case and Menda Stotis brought the Church group together at a picnic wedding shower at Hill Park in Independence. There were young and very young people, mature and very mature people, of both genders. We had a pleasant meal together, then watched the two young Mosers unwrap all the interesting packages. There was even tennis for the ambitious. Isn't it great to be able to have more real fun with our Church family than with any other group in our world? Always with us is the silent, loving presence.

NEWS FROM COLLINS LOCAL

Since January we have been happy to have several of the ministry visit us and speak to us. Among them were Apostle Archie Bell, Apostle Clarence Wheaton, Elder Maynard Case, and Elder John Case.

When Jesus was here on earth, He said, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God." Again one of these little ones has taken the first step to come unto Jesus. On Sunday, April 18, as we gathered solemnly, but joyously, around the font in the little white church, in Collins, Shawna Coberly, little daughter of Allan and Czerna Kauffman, was led into the waters of baptism by Apostle Leon Yates. Shawna was confirmed by Elder Joe Yates, assisted by Apostle Leon Yates. May God give to Shawna a special guardian angel, and may He bless the home of the little family of which she is a member.

On the evening of May 14, the little church was the scene of another wedding. Terry Cook and Brenda Howe were united in marriage by Apostle Leon Yates. After the ceremony, a reception was held in the church annex, where the many-tiered wedding cake was cut

and served with punch. The couple received many beautiful gifts. Terry and Brenda will make their home in Collins. We wish them much happiness. And may God bless their home together.

Young people from the various locals have met several times in the last few months, with the Collins young people's group. Special services were planned for them.

Several from the Collins Local went to Houston for a two day meeting on May 29 and 30. The new building of the Houston Local, which has been completed recently, was dedicated in a beautiful service on Saturday, May 29.

We continue to meet in our individual homes for weekly prayer service.

The third Sunday of each month is dinner Sunday at the church.

Greetings to each one of our loved church family.

Ruth Willard
Reporter

IF THEY'D PLAYED IT COOL IN THE YEAR 1776

From a Commencement Address, Congressional School, Falls Church, Virginia, by James E. Palmer, Jr., Professional Staff Member, U. S. Senate Committee on Banking and Currency.

Our great country was discovered, put together, fought for, and saved by men who would be quite disgusted in a group of modern "angle players" and "goofers". It is quite easy to prove that Nathan Hale, Patrick Henry, Paul Revere, George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Robert E. Lee, and almost anyone else you care to include among our national heroes would be classed as different, odd, peculiar, and far behind the times by modern groups of angle-playing, stupidly conceited young people, who are exactly the opposite of what I urge each of you to be.

Nathan Hale never saw his 22nd birthday. He could have blamed George Washington and have lived to a ripe old age.

Paul Revere could have said, "Why pick on me? It is the middle of the night. I cannot ride through every Middlesex village. Besides, I am not the only man in Boston with a horse."

Patrick Henry could have said: "Yes, I am for liberty but we must be realistic. We are small com-

pared to the British, and someone is going to get hurt."

George Washington could have said: "Gentlemen, you honor me. I am just getting some personal matters settled and have much to do at Mount Vernon. Why don't you try General Gates? Also, you might say I have served my time."

Benjamin Franklin could have said: "I'm over 75 years old. What you needs as a Minister to France in these strenuous times is a younger man. Let a new generation take over. I want to rest." Instead he negotiated most brilliantly the Treaty of Alliance.

After Appomattox, Robert E. Lee could have said: "I've gone through the worst strain a man could endure. I've lost the cause, and my personal affairs have suffered. I could cash in on my reputation and put myself and my family into continued wealth." Instead he turned down the most lucrative of offers.

Our country today needs patriotism, nationalism morality, courage, dedication, and religion, as never before. These verities are eternal. They are necessities if we are to survive as a free people, and they should be taught from kindergarten through college.

Submitted by Velma J. Wheaton
Printed in the Sunshine Magazine
July, 1965

TESTIMONY

Vida Hill

April 6, 1976

I have wanted to write my testimony for several years, but the words never seemed to come. However, the Spirit is impressing me to write and I feel that I must.

My home life was a good one with a religious upbringing and I loved the Lord. When I left home and was out on my own, I began to drift into worldly habits and got caught up in all the glitter that existed there. I knew in my heart that I was doing wrong but I tried not to think about it, although I suffered quite a few pangs of guilt from time to time. I believe the turning point came when my small son and I were involved in a dangerous car accident. Fortunately, we were not seriously injured but I was suddenly aware of our mortality and that death could have claimed us in that fleeting instant. I began to wonder where I stood in the mind of God and if He would have welcomed me to His arms. The realization that God had protected me from harm filled me with a deep desire to change my way of life. The Spirit continually probed my conscience and I was able to succeed with the Lord's help and the many prayers of loved ones. However,

I could not really feel myself forgiven. I felt that, since I had sinned knowingly, He would not forgive me. This burden of guilt caused me untold misery and suffering, but I prayed diligently and humbly, seeking for a sign of forgiveness. One day when my anguished mind could no longer bear the pain of my gnawing guilt, He answered my pleas of distress and showed me that I was forgiven. He calmed my troubled soul with the utterance of one single word which was "faith". It was as if He spoke the word to me. It was clearly spoken to my mind and my entire being found rest in the peace of His Spirit.

I am so thankful that I changed my life while my children were infants, because I was able to teach them about God and to live my life as a testimony to His power. I have endeavored to set forth a good example for my children and to show my husband that I love the Lord.

Making a new stand and a new start in life is very difficult but, if the little voice is speaking to you, listen. You will find the strength you need in God. I know for sure that His Hand is outstretched and patiently waiting for all who desire His help. He loves

us all so very much.

The Lord has blessed me and my family greatly. I have had health problems the past year and a month ago I was hospitalized for major surgery. He has been with me through it all and lightened my load. I want to thank everyone for their prayers and loving concern. He heard and answered them all.

I pray that I may be found acceptable in His sight, and also for others who are diligently seeking Him and striving to accomplish His will.

The following lines came to me early before dawn,

while I was meditating quietly in our living room because of an inability to sleep:

He tells us we must repent of our way
So we must listen to Him and obey
Before it's too late, or who knows of our fate?
It could be so sad, so we dare not to wait.

That little voice we hear is the Spirit so dear
So we must listen to it and fear.
The kingdom is coming and it won't be too long
So let's all get ready to meet the Heavenly Throng.

AWAKE! ARISE!

Winona Adams Onstett

AWAKE! ARISE! the day is now far gone
Put on thy robes, why slept we thus so long?
Our time is now, far spent tho' it may be.
Let's up and labor with our neighbor, shun our fields
no more
What will we answer when accounts are taken of our
store?

Our numbers few, but faint not yet nor fail;
If God be ours, what 'gainst us can prevail?
Health, strength and heart sufficient for our task,
Though ploughs be rusted, care-encrusted, put them
to the task.
They'll scour and glisten 'gainst the soil where unto
they are pressed.

Oh Christians see, the enemy awaits,
To seize our gains when vigilance abates.
A fowler he, deceiver of mankind.
Do not thou waiver, evil savour; shake thy garments
free.
Enticements lure the insecure, what are his lures to
thee?

Oh Lord, look down, withdraw thyself no more.
The watch will call the hour from shore to shore.

Unwilling we, before to heed thy call,
New talent, might and soul, and intellect, we give our
all.

Return Thy spirit in its full, possessed before our fall.

The equity, thy system doth decree,
Brings peace and joy, scores idle luxury..
What need have we of surfeit goods and wealth?
Sickness of soul and bowel to the greedy man is dealt,
While temperance and moderation, issue forth in
health.

Zion, our hope, we weep and pray for thee
God's charge, through us, must thy existence be.
Why tarried we, in wilderness as long?
By faith, belief and sincere labor, weakness is made
strong.

Subduing self to common good, eliminates all wrong.

How fear we still, the world's spite and disdain?
We can, by faith, restore His paths again.
Oh, wake! Oh rise! Let loose thy hold on death.
Reserve supplies will energize, tho' long unused to
stress.

Revive the sinews of our souls to serve 'til our last
breath.

THE IRON ROD

Have I not given you My word, as light upon your way?
But there are those who call Me "Lord" and do not as
I say.

Many daily look for signs to come forth from the Heaven,
Paying little, or no heed to that already given.
I would that you consider well, My Prophets of the past,
In proving all that comes today, and to the good "Hold
fast."

May you be found, steadfastly, holding to the iron rod.

"To him that hath, shall it be given", saith the Lord,
thy God.

Build on the firm foundation, that was laid in days gone
past,

That you may live and reign with Me, when I shall
come, at last.

(Ps. 2:9; Rev. 2:27 & 19:15; 1 Nephi 2:62, 63, 68, 69, 78;
1 Nephi 4:38, 39)

Vida Filley

NOTICE EDITORIAL POLICY

The Editorial Staff of the Zion's Advocate wishes to use this means to solicit material appropriate to print in our church paper. We believe this paper should be used for missionary purposes, we are asking for material that will definitely reflect the teachings of the Church of Christ which will be presentable to members and non-members alike. .

We discourage articles written in the attitude of debate where one tries to prove or disprove questionable points of doctrine. We encourage articles written in the strength of the individual's testimony of the truthfulness of the Gospel of Christ.

Our goal is in the hope that we can assist the missionary effort, and program of the church, to feed and nourish with spiritual food the scattered membership, the shut-ins and all those who do not have regular church privileges. Also, we would like to be the means

of communicating personal interest between local churches and all church membership in general. Therefore, we are soliciting contributions representing all local churches, Sunday Schools and group activities in the entire church. Anything you can offer in the way of articles, testimonies, sermons, news items, poetry, etc. will be welcomed.

It is our hope to have a greater representation of writers from the church rather than show partiality to just a select few. You the reader, are the only means by which this can be accomplished. Your interest in this work is desirable.

The Editorial Staff,

Kenneth J. Smith
Donna Moser
Doris Ratterree

DATE CORRECTION FOR CONFERENCE OF THE MINISTRY

In the publication of the notice of the special conference of the ministry, as given in the May, 1976 ADVOCATE, it was overlooked that the apostles are also asking the ministry to meet the day preceding the established time for fasting and prayer concerning the matter of accepting transfers into the Church from other latter day saint churches.

If possible, please come for this purpose on Tuesday, August 17th, at 9:00 a. m. Otherwise, the previously announced dates of August 18th through Friday the 20th will be used to consider the following items:

Incomplete quorums/ministry
Interaction between locals
Establishment of missions
Development of technics and materials to reach Indians
Advertising meetings successfully
How to "open" new territory
Obtaining meeting places
Our own spiritual preparation
Ministry in homes

Ministry to young people
Local priesthood meetings, study and organized labor
Activities for youth
A "guide" for ministry
Involvement of Youth
Scattered membership
Further use of Recorder
Need for "experienced" counselling
Tracts in Spanish
Written "programs" for children
Prayers for missionary work
Use of Advocate mailing list
Need for ministry in U. S.
World Wide missions
Use of VISTA program
Missionary articles in Advocate
Standards of behavior

Respectfully submitted,

William A. Sheldon, Secy
Council of Apostles

BLESSING

Aaron Matthew Palmer, the son of John LeRoy and Judith Ann (Seevers) Palmer was blessed by Elders

James M. Case and Marvin M. Case on April 18, 1976 at Independence, Missouri.

WISCONSIN REUNION

To be held August 7th & 8th, 1976, in the American Legion Hall at Rio, Wisconsin. East of Portage, Wisconsin on U. S. Highway 16.

Again we wish to invite as many of you as can to come and fellowship with us for these two days. We would appreciate a card or phone call from those who are coming, as it is possible to arrange campsites or motel rooms for those who want them.

Let us pray that all of our reunions in the coming year will be a spiritual success.

Please contact:

Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Addie
414 Harvey
Rio, Wisconsin 53960
Telephone 414-992-5334

NORTHERN MICHIGAN CAMPOUT

The Northern Michigan Campout will be held the 24th and 25th of July. There is a campgrounds close by. And our homes are open to those needing a place to stay. There is also a Motel close by. Please write early for any reservations you may need. Write to:

Elder Conley Addington
Rt. 2, Box 45
Maple City, Michigan 49664

Your brother in Christ,
Elder Conley Addington

THANK YOU

I wish to take this means of thanking all my many church friends and my relatives for their many prayers in my behalf and their thoughtful expressions of love and encouragement through cards and letters during this time of physical trial for me. I wish I could tell each one of you, thank you, personally, but it is impossible! Each card and letter has been gratefully appreciated, and once again, thank you.

Oren A. Caviness
State Chest Hospital
Mount Vernon, Mo. 65712

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We of the Dining Hall Committee wish to hereby express our thanks for your many considerate donations which were so generously given during Conference. We hope you can attend again next April. We will be looking forward to serving you again.

Katherine Moyer,
for the
Dining Hall Committee

CORRECTION

An error was made in the Article "Truth" in the May issue of the Zion's Advocate. The reference to the Rod of Iron should have read: 1st Nephi 2: v. 62 through 83. I should have added also: 1st Nephi 4: v. 38 through 41.

Vida Filley

ZION'S ADVOCATE

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REVENGE

"Revenge is a naked sword —

It has neither hilt nor guard.

Would'st thou wield this brand of the Lord;

Is thy grasp then firm and hard?

"But the closer thy clutch of the blade,

The deadlier blow thou would'st deal,

Deeper wound in thy hand is made —

It is thy blood reddens the steel.

"And when thou hast dealt the blow —

When the blade from thy hand has flown —

Instead of the heart of the foe

Thou may'st find it sheathed in thine own."

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)	N/C
Primary, Volume 1, No. 3, Jesus' Ministry con't.	N/C
Primary, Volume 1, No. 4, Life of Jesus	N/C