

# Zion's Advocate

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

Vol. 53

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No. 9

## First Corinthians

chapter two, verse nine



Eye hath not seen nor ear ever heard,  
And no mind could ever conceive  
Such beauty and joy — the promised word —  
For all those who love and believe.

We know the beauty of land and sea,  
Of valley and mountain and park;  
Of fluffy cloud, blue sky and green tree,  
And the song of the meadowlark.

But the glory prepared for His very own  
Excells even seraphim's chord,  
For rarest of beauty, sweetest of tone  
Await those who follow their Lord.

Evalena Sills

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# Zion's Advocate

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## EDITORIAL

### THE POWERS OF INFLUENCE

The influence of our judgement travels far upon the great sea of life with its waves often destroying the calmness of the deep. The sharp increase in the rebellious youth of the earth in condemning authority becomes a bright mark of identification or a sign of the times spoken of in the writing of Paul to Timothy, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy. Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God. Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: . . . ." (II Timothy 3:1-5) Websters New World Dictionary interprets the term influence as, "Influence implies the power of persons or things (whether or not exerted consciously or overtly) to effect others". Therefore perhaps the basic fundamental reasons for many of our problems in society today can be found in the lack of a proper foundation in American home life and the home life of any other nation of the earth that may be having similar troubles. Disrespect has never bred respect, just as improper influences of condemnation in the associations of men have never brought about the salvation of souls.

A study of modern day reveals a trend in the determinations of men that strongly indicates the fact that influence has become a popular force in the consideration of the political theories of the day. The great struggle for power now going on, based in many cases on false promises and accusations of condemnation, may yet destroy our freedoms established under great stress and sacrifice by our founding fathers in bygone days. This is bringing us one step closer to the brink of disaster and the judgment of a just God, spoken of by the Prophet Ether: "And now we can behold the decrees of God concerning this land, that it is a land of promise, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall serve God, or they shall be swept off when the fullness of his wrath shall come upon them. And the fullness of his wrath cometh upon them when they are ripened in iniquity; for behold this is a land which is choice above all other lands; wherefore he that doth possess it shall serve God, or shall be swept off; for it is the everlasting decree of God. And it is not until the fullness of iniquity among the children of the land, that they are swept off. And this cometh unto you, O ye Gentiles that ye may know the decrees of God, that ye may repent, and not continue in your iniquities until the fullness come, that ye may not bring down the fullness of the wrath of God upon you, as the inhabitants of the land have hitherto done. Behold, this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall be free from bondage, and from cap-

tivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ, who hath been manifested by the things which we have written". (Ether 1:31-35)

We might well profit by the remarkable language used by the Apostle James concerning those that err in judgement. "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into this perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed". (James 1:21-25)

As ministers for Christ, we must be about our father's business, lending our influence toward the business of saving souls. We are in reality merchants of salvation. We cannot afford to deal in the mistakes of the past. There is no profit in a negative gospel message. We cannot build the kingdom of God upon the mistakes of the past. If we attempt to gather all the tares, we know not the amount of wheat that will be destroyed. The parable of the householder bears this out, as he spoke to the servants the householder said, "let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn." (Matt. 13:30) As yes, we have been forced to exercise our influence in our christian warfare. We pray that influence has been a righteous influence so as to protect the sheep already within the fold from the ravages and the onslaughts of the adversary through his evil and conniving influences in the turmoil of the modern day. In short, we must show the way to the erring, a better way of life, within the sunshine of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We must in some way lift him out of his old self, without the condemnation of the world, to a better understanding of life. The church of the

Restoration peoples has suffered many long years because of the "pulling of the tares and the loss of the wheat of the harvest."

The Apostle Paul enlarged on this simile of the gospel mirror, for this mirror has another quality. It not only shows us to ourselves, as we are, but it shows us as we might be. It reveals to us the man we might become under God's direction. (II Corin. 3:18, 4:1-2)

No, the influence of condemnation is not a quality of salvation, but a force of destruction which has been long among us. True repentance is the key to gospel success. The Apostle Peter faced a bitter condemnation on the day of Pentecost. He faced the mockers who had said that the saints were all drunken. He faced men who would not hesitate to kill him and his associates. He faced the very men who had consented to the death of Jesus. But, endowed with that power from on high that Christ had promised them, he preached such a powerful sermon that those men were pricked in their hearts, and stood selfcondemned crying out, ". . . Men and brethren what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, 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." (Acts 2:37-38)

Ah yes, Let's stop the satanic forces, that are dividing us. Let's seek common ground of understanding. The Church of latter days is suffering because of it. The destructive influence that permeates from it will continue to cause further division and distrust among brethren. Innocent souls have been lost because of it. But rather, let us take a good long look at ourselves in the gospel mirror and become doers of the word. Let us accept our responsibility as true servants of the most High God and seek to promote the building of his kingdom in this last hour of time. May God help us is my prayer! "For the time is come that judgement must begin at the house of God; and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?" (1 Peter 4:17)

KJS

### FIDELITY

Faithfulness in matters of minor concern is just as necessary as faithfulness in things of greater importance. An individual is required to make as good use of their "one talent" as some one else may be in the employment of several talents. There is a saying: "Despise not the day of small things;" and, "how great a matter a little fire kindleth." Sometimes we walk alone in the path of duty, but we should be honest with ourselves and occupy upon that with which we are possessed. This repining because we feel incom-

petent to compete with some one else in writing, speaking, or praying or singing, is an inexcusable excuse for failing to utilize our one or two talents. Allowing your meager ability to lie inactive is poor policy, and can never do you any good. A talent wrapped in a napkin is not an expression of gratitude for the giver, and manifests an absence of moral courage. "Awake, thou that sleepest, and the Lord shall give thee light."

Autumn Leaves,  
Vol. 8, No. 9, Sept., 1895

## THE GREATER THINGS

Lovita G. Seibel

I have been reading Vine Deloria Jr.'s "We Talk, You Listen" and "The New Indians" by Stan Steiner. It seems obvious that some of the younger generation of Indians are of a very militant turn of mind, almost "champing at the bit". Mr. Deloria is an educated Sioux Indian, son of an Indian Episcopal minister.

The attitudes of the younger Indians as expressed in these books, are vividly exemplified by a young Indian's remark to my husband while they attended a Cherokee language class together. He said that the Indians will drive all the white men back to where they came from. Bro. Seibels question to him was, "If this were to be done, what would you do with all the mixed-blooded Indians?"

A woman who is 7/8 Indian told about having decided not to go to the Dakota Sioux to teach. She said, "The Sioux do not like us who are mixed with white. They call us white Indians."

An older Indian woman said to us, "The young Indians are very restless." Another Indian said that the Indians have been treated so badly in the past by various white men that they devised even more cruelty in their treatment of whites.

Because of the times of receiving such bad treatment from the Gentiles, one lady who is one half Indian said, on the surface the Indian is polite to whites but inwardly very reserved. We must live among them a couple of years before they will begin to trust us.

### INDIANS VERSUS GENTILES

It would seem that many Indians feel that white men (or Gentiles) really have no right or reason to be in the Americas and should be driven out. Some Gentiles have had very destructive ideas regarding the Indians. As a child I heard the statement that the only good Indian was a dead one. Since then I have heard that General Sherman was the author of that idea. I have also heard that President Grant enforced the slaughter of the buffalo in order to force the western Indians onto reservations. I have read of Indian atrocities committed by Columbus and the men who were with him. As a result my general respect for these leaders has gone down.

While my ancestors have not been in the Americas as many generations as those of the Indian, I was born and raised here! To me it is home. I suppose it is to every other person born and raised here, be his skin color brown, black, yellow, white, or some mixture. From that angle alone it would seem that all persons here belong here.

Let us see what the Book of Mormon has to say about who will live here. In it Lehi says, "But behold I have obtained a land of promise, in the which things

I do rejoice" (1 Nephi 1:150). This is followed in 1 Nephi 5:212 by the statement, "It came to pass that after we had sailed for the space of many days, we did arrive to the promised land." They had reached their God-guided objective, which was these lands of the Americas.

Now turn to 2 Nephi 1:6-8. "But, said he, notwithstanding our afflictions, we have obtained a land of promise, a land which is choice above all lands; a land which the Lord hath covenanted with me should be a land for the inheritance of my seed. Yea, the Lord hath covenanted this land unto me, and to my children for ever . . ." In believing the Book of Mormon we realize that the Indians are the seed of Lehi (the one speaking), and this land will be an inheritance to them forever. So why should the Indians not drive all Gentiles back to other lands?

But let us read a little further for an answer to this. Thus, 2 Nephi 1:9-12 continues, "And also all those who should be led out of other countries by the hand of the Lord. Wherefore, I Lehi, prophesy according to the workings of the Spirit which is in me, that there should none come into this land, save they shall be brought by the hand of the Lord. Wherefore, this land is consecrated unto him whom he shall bring. And if it so be that they shall serve him according to the commandments which he hath given, it shall be a land of liberty unto them . . ." .

This puts a different outlook on the subject. In reality, these Americas are the Lord's, and He has freedom of will to give them as He sees fit. He gave the land to Lehi and his seed as an inheritance forever but also He has given it as an inheritance to all whom He brings to this land. Then we are told that none will come except God does bring them.

This being true, the Indian and the Gentile need to declare peace, understanding and acceptance of each other.

### LEHI'S SEED TO BE DRIVEN AND SMITTEN, BUT GOD WILL NOT PERMIT THEM TO BE TOTALLY DESTROYED

Let us now read 2 Nephi 1:22-25 to find out why God would bring in other people. "But behold, when the time cometh that they shall dwindle in unbelief, after they have received so great blessings from the hand of the Lord; having a knowledge of the creation of the earth, and all men, knowing the great and marvelous works of the Lord from the creation of the world; having all the commandments from the beginning, and having been brought by his infinite goodness into this precious land of promise; behold, I say, If the day shall come that they will reject the Holy One of Israel, the true Messiah, their Redeemer and their

God, behold, the judgments of him that is just, shall rest upon them; yea, he will bring other nations unto them; and he will give unto them power, and he will take away from them the lands of their possessions, and he will cause them to be scattered and smitten. Yea, as one generation passeth to another, there shall be blood shed and great visitations among them."

We know this prophecy has been amply fulfilled to the Indians since the Americas were first discovered by Columbus in 1492.

One might tend to feel as one part Indian has expressed the thought, "It makes my Indian blood boil to think what my white ancestors did to them!"

Certainly it seems that wicked men were brought in upon them. History reveals several instances where prisons were emptied to obtain sailors for the early expeditions, proving that criminals were sent over here. Not all of them were people seeking religious freedom.

Jesus has said, ". . . Put up again thy sword into his place for all they that take the sword shall perish by the sword" (Matt. 26:52). And again we are informed, "But behold, the judgments of God will overtake the wicked; and it is by the wicked, that the wicked are punished; for it is the wicked that stir up the hearts of the children of men unto bloodshed" (Mormon 2:6).

Now it becomes plain why wicked men were brought here. Lehi's descendants had become wicked, having denied and turned away from the Son of God, even Jesus Christ.

Still, the promise of God to Nephi, son of Lehi, is that not all of Lehi's seed (the Indians) will be destroyed. 1 Nephi 3:176-178 says, "Nevertheless thou beholdest that the Gentiles who have gone forth out of captivity, and have been lifted up by the power of God above all other nations upon the face of the land, which is choice above all other lands, which is the land that the Lord God covenanted with thy father that his seed should have the land for their inheritance, will not utterly destroy the mixture of thy seed which is among thy brethren; neither will he suffer that the Gentiles shall destroy the seed of thy brethren."

#### **GENTILES TO REAP A PUNISHMENT IF THEY DON'T REPENT**

When Jesus Christ was among the seed of Lehi upon the Americas He said the following, "And after that ye (Lehi's descendants) are blessed, then fulfilleth the Father the covenant which he made with Abraham, saying, In thy seed shall all kindreds of the earth be blessed, unto the pouring out of the Holy Spirit through me upon the Gentiles, which blessing upon the Gentiles, shall make them mighty above all, unto the scattering of my people, O house of Israel: and they shall be a scourge to the people of this land. Nevertheless, when they shall receive the fullness of my gospel, then if they shall harden their hearts against

me, I will return their iniquities upon their own heads, saith the Father . . ." (3 Nephi 9:65, 66).

We see a continual growth of wickedness among the peoples of these lands, until it would seem that the time would soon come when God will return their evils upon their own heads.

In the foregoing quotation please take note of the statement that when the Gentiles shall receive the fullness of the gospel, if they still harden their hearts against it the punishment will follow.

Believers in the Restoration know this reception occurred in 1829 when the Book of Mormon, which contains a fullness of Christ's gospel, was printed and made public to the world.

We will take further notice of Book of Mormon scripture in 2 Nephi 12:75, 76, which definitely places the Gentiles and others on the same footing. (I have often said that if the Indians share in the evils of white men and, if the latter's iniquities become so grossly bad that God's punishment of "being swept off" comes to pass, the guilty Indians will be swept off also.)

"And now, behold, my beloved brethren, I would speak unto you: for I, Nephi, would not suffer that ye should suppose that ye are more righteous than the Gentiles shall be. For behold, except ye shall keep the commandments of God ye shall all likewise perish; and because of the words which have been spoken ye need not suppose that the Gentiles are utterly destroyed. (From this and an earlier quote we learn that neither Lehi's seed nor the Gentiles will be entirely destroyed.) For behold I say unto you, That as many of the Gentiles as will repent, are the covenant people of the Lord; and as many of the Jews as will not repent, shall be cast off; for the Lord covenanteth with none, save it be with them that repent and believe in his Son, who is the Holy One of Israel."

So it is plain that those of any race who turn against God are apt to be "swept off", while those of any race who accept God become His covenant people.

#### **BENEFITS THAT INDIANS DERIVE FROM THE GENTILES**

Several benefits which Indians have received from the Gentiles might be mentioned. We find this has been expressed as follows.

". . . wherefore, my beloved brethren, thus sayeth our God: I will afflict thy seed by the hand of the Gentiles; nevertheless, I will soften the hearts of the Gentiles, that they shall be like a father to them; wherefore the Gentiles shall be blessed and numbered among the house of Israel" (2 Nephi 7:27-29).

We and our ancestors have been witness to the afflictions poured out upon those of Lehi's seed.

We have seen evidence of the truth that the Gentile heart has been softened until he is a father to the Indian. Many benefits received by the Indians are granted by our government, acting in a fatherly way.

This was brought out by the surprised words of a young Indian boy.

I was not fully well one day so did not go down to help on the church building. This boy often comes to watch and help and was there that day. In the conversation he learned I was not well and asked Harvey why he did not take me to the hospital. From Harvey's answer he gleaned the fact that hospitals were expensive, and exclaimed, "You mean you would have to pay?" To this Harvey replied, "Yes, being white we must pay."

Verse 29 of the last quotation carries a significant and interesting sidelight, that because of this paternalistic activity toward the Indian the Gentiles shall be blessed, even to being numbered among the house of Israel.

In Mormon 2:37, 38 we find an intriguing statement made by God. "And now behold, this I speak unto their seed, and also to the Gentiles, WHO HAVE A CARE FOR THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL, that realize and know from whence their blessings come. For I know that such will sorrow for the calamity of the house of Israel; yea, they will SORROW FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF THIS PEOPLE; they will sorrow that this people had not repented, that they might have been clasped in the arms of Jesus."

This should be the attitude of all who realize that God is the source of all the wonderful blessings that have been poured out upon us because we are dwelling in Joseph's land. We should indeed "sorrow" for the iniquity which caused the destruction of earlier peoples in the Americas, also for the scourging and smiting during the past hundreds of years. Doing so, we should also take heed to ourselves lest we too fall because of iniquity.

Other benefits include bringing the scriptures of the Bible to them. This appears to have been an important and necessary step in God's plan since, as Mormon says, the seed of Lehi had become so wicked that they were without God or Christ in the world. (See Mormon 2:45). That the Bible would go to the Indian is declared in 1 Nephi 3:190 which says, "And it came to pass that I beheld the remnant of the seed of my brethren, and also the book of the Lamb of God which had proceeded forth from the mouth of the Jew, that it came forth from the mouth of the Jew, that it came forth from the Gentiles, unto the remnant of the seed of my brethren."

But God, in His great love for both the stumbling Gentiles and the seed of Lehi, had also planned and decreed that more than the Bible should be had among them.

Mormon tells of making a small abridgment of the Nephite records. They were written in this manner because God knew that wickedness would not bring these records forth and had hidden them up until His own due time, Then they were to go forth. Among the works these writings were to do was the follow-

ing. "And also that the seed of this people may MORE FULLY believe his gospel, which shall go forth unto them from the Gentiles . . ." (Mormon 2:43).

Certainly the Bible, as it is taught by the various churches to the Indians, gives them some knowledge concerning God and His Son Jesus Christ. But their receiving the Book of Mormon will cause them to "more fully believe his gospel."

Significantly, this is a wonderful benefit to the Indians, for these records are to "go forth unto them from the Gentiles". This promise is also made in 2 Nephi 12:80-83.

"For after the book of which I have spoken shall come forth, and be written unto the Gentiles, and sealed up again up again unto the Lord, there shall be many which shall believe the words which are written; and they shall carry them forth unto a remnant of our seed. And then shall a remnant of our seed know concerning us, how we came out from Jerusalem, and that they are descendants of the Jews. And the gospel of Christ shall be declared among them; wherefore, they shall be restored unto the knowledge of their fathers, and also to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, which was had among their fathers. And then shall they rejoice; for they shall know that it is a blessing unto them from the hand of God."

We see that God will use the Gentiles as a tool in bringing about His blessings to the Indian people, and that this is also a blessing to the Gentiles; both Jews and Gentiles need to be convinced that Jesus is the Christ. (See 2 Nephi 11:78)

It seems also that the Book of Mormon uses the term "Jew" for a people and not always those of the tribe of Judah only.

Nephi also speaks of the hiding up of the records which are to come forth unto the Gentiles, which records will contain Christ's gospel. His description of this is in 2 Nephi 3:184-186.

Jesus Himself gives a sign in 3 Nephi 9:86-93. "And verily, I say unto you, I give unto you a sign, that ye may know the time when these things are about to take place . . . this is the thing which I will give unto you for a sign . . . these things . . . shall be made known unto the Gentiles, that they may know . . . concerning this my people who shall be scattered by them . . . and shall come forth of the Father, from them unto you . . . for thus it behooveth the Father that it should come forth from the Gentiles . . . and when these things come to pass, that thy seed shall begin to know these things, it shall be a sign unto them, that they may know that the work of the Father hath already commenced . . ."

These verses have been considerably shortened to make clear the Father's intentions and the "sign" Jesus gave, in as little space as possible. Again we are told that "these things" will reach the Indians by the way of the Gentiles. So, while many Gentiles have

scourged and smitten the Indians, we are sure that God will also provide His great benefit from the Gentiles to the Indians.

### OTHER NEPHITE RECORDS ARE PROMISED

Not only has God richly blessed the Gentiles by bringing forth the Book of Mormon to them, and through them granted the same rich blessing to those of Lehi's seed, the Indians, but the Book of Mormon promises that other records preserved by the Nephites and hidden unto the Lord will be brought forth too.

Lehi's sons had made the trip back to Jerusalem and at length secured the brass plates which contained much the same as our King James Bibles (only more), from Genesis to some of the prophecies of Jeremiah. Lehi was contemporary with Jeremiah. After receiving these plates of brass Lehi "began to prophecy concerning his seed; that these plates of brass should go forth unto all nations, kindreds, tongues and people, who were of his seed. Wherefore he said that these plates of brass should never perish, neither should they be dimmed any more by time."

This prophecy can only mean that eventually the plates of brass will come forth.

For several years Apostle Houseknecht has been warning the church that the powers that be will take our Bible from us. We see how cleverly this is being done with an effort to dry up the source of anything but these "New World" and "Good News for Modern Man" and such Bible versions in modern dialect.

Recently I ordered a large King James translation as a gift for Harvey. It was delayed: the company was sold out until another supply could be obtained. Just yesterday the money was returned, with the statement that no further printing was to be made of this Bible! I told Harvey that we had better purchase any King James Bibles we can find.

Happily for us and for the Indians, we have Lehi's prophecy concerning the brass plates; God will not leave us destitute.

There is a promise also that the writings of the brother of Jared will be brought forth. Moroni states that certain things written in the book of Ether are not copied but the promise is made, ". . . and whoso findeth them, the same will have power that he may get the full account" (Ether 1:4). So we have a promise that God will grant someone the power to bring this record forth at a future date.

Moroni tells us that he copied certain things which had been written by the brother of Jared, even the prophecy from the beginning to the end of the world (Ether 1:90, 92). Apparently he rewrote these things and they are also sealed up unto the Lord (Ether 1:98,

99). "For the Lord said unto me, they shall not go forth unto the Gentiles until the day that they shall repent of their iniquity and become clean before the Lord: (Ether 1:100). (See also v. 101.) It is quite lengthy but confirms the promise already quoted in v. 100.) All we can say is, "O Gentiles, hasten the day of your repentance!" This then is the responsibility laid upon the Gentiles of this land!

Another promise of records containing Jesus' words is made in 3 Nephi 12:1-4. Mormon, who is abridging the more voluminous records, says that not all the things which Jesus did truly teach them could be written, "but behold the plates of Nephi do contain the more part of the things which he taught the people" (v. 1).

What Mormon did write we have recorded in the Book of Mormon. Mormon says his intention was ". . . that they (his writings) may be brought again unto this people (the seed of Lehi), from the Gentiles, according to Jesus' words" (v. 2).

Verse 3 contains the great responsibility God has given to the Indians. Some have misconstrued this responsibility, thinking it to rest upon the Gentiles within the Restoration. The Gentile responsibility is simply to take the Book of Mormon to the Indians. The greater responsibility then rests on the Indian people. Let us take note. "And when they (the Indians) shall have received this, which is expedient that they should have first, to try their faith, and if it so be that they shall believe these things, then shall the greater things be manifest unto them."

So, as I say, the Indian people have a very great responsibility to believe the words of Christ in the Book of Mormon. This responsibility is not only to themselves. It is true that only by believing the Book of Mormon can they obtain access to the greater part of Jesus Christ's words which are recorded in the plates of Nephi. Verse 4 says, "And if it so be that they will not believe these things, then shall the greater things be withheld from them, unto their condemnation."

A promise of condemnation is made to the Indians for their unbelief. But happily, that is not the only promise God has made to them. For in Mormon 4:14 we find this message of hope to all people. "And whoso receiveth this record, and shall not condemn it because of the imperfections which are in it, **THE SAME SHALL KNOW OF GREATER THINGS THAN THESE.**"

(Parenthetics and emphasis within scripture quotes  
the author's)

## A TESTIMONY

By Editorial Staff

(This is written on behalf of another, one who is not technically of our church family, but who may very well yet be.)

In a middle-sized city in one of our northwestern states live a husband and wife, young in years, but old in experience. Still before them is the greatest experience of all, baptism into the family of God. His Church of Christ, with its resulting blessing — the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Each one was raised in a church-going family: each attended quite regularly through early youth; each felt, however, that an intangible "something" was missing. By the time they were in their late teens enough maturity was theirs to make them know that a Supreme Being exists, but that His power just doesn't match the false doctrines and irrelevant sermons they felt were being force fed them.

They began to keep company during this period. In their frantic search for the elusive truth they experimented with modernity. They found themselves trapped in the morass of chain smoking, near-alcoholism, "smart" vulgarity of language, twenty four hour parties and drug use. Though unhappy with what they found they learned to love each other and wanted to be together full-time. In their "sophisticated" lack of wisdom they planned a business-like arrangement, to be broken off whenever "love" seemed used up. Somehow, though, some force outside themselves seemed to move them like actors on a stage, and they made the decision to be legally married after all. Searching for a minister they chose — by chance? — an elder of the Church of Christ. They found themselves standing in a tiny white church building, taking their vows. The elder seemed to have words given to him; his eyes glowed with understanding. The members of the congregation amazed the young couple by a wedding cake,

gifts and — such kindness! They felt they just didn't deserve all this loving attention, but it seemed that they were with "family", there among total strangers.

This Church of Christ became their church home, though they had been irreligious, they now felt their married life was blessed.

Then trouble came back. As so often happens, finances weren't easy to manage and the young wife looked for a job. The first one that became available was all wrong but, in desperation, she took it. Her husband was very much against it. Their hours kept them apart and the atmosphere at her place of work seemed to make her feel, not married, but single again! Just too busy, they stopped attending church. The vacuum was quickly filled — by Satan. There was a sorry succession of separations and reunions; a child was born, to spend a year in an unsettled, upside-down world.

The members of this small church local never gave up. Their prayers finally enlisted the help of God and the little family were again spiritually one. They learned to pray together, for the first time. They asked fervently for forgiveness. His Spirit was leading them and has continued to do so. They have never been so happy! They have been reading the Advocate and the wife felt impelled to respond to one of the articles with this testimony.

We hope and pray that this will not be the ending of the story, but the beginning of an even more beautiful one. There is another step to be taken, a doorway to walk through. Then they can truly receive that priceless gift — the indwelling of the Holy Spirit — and be an inseparable part of the closest family on earth. This family and its charity can help them endure to the end, to become, finally, a part of the closest family of all, the one not on earth but in God's Heaven.

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## THE STORY-TELLER

PRINCES AND PRINCESSES

Ella Engle

It must have been like putting on a lead overcoat for the prince to put on his disguise and come into the world. The kingdom he came from is a wondrous place. People who don't know any better would call it magic. But magic isn't real and the things of this kingdom are very real.

In this kingdom some of the king's messengers can go from one place to another faster than flying. Faster even than you can blink! And some can be invisible.

If the king wants it to snow one day, he can say, "Let there be snow," and it will snow. Or if he wants nice weather, the sun will shine and the breezes will blow and it will be the best kind of a day for a picnic. If a mountain is in the way, he can just say, "Mountain, move." And it will move. He can make mules talk and fire that won't burn. He can make rainbows of all sizes. Some days he goes walking in a garden. He touches a flower and a new color is born. Some



nights he throws out a big batch of stars and they go streaking across the sky like fireworks. People call them meteorites and go looking for them. Sometimes they find them but, by then, they just look like chunks of burned rock. But it proves that this power is real enough to be touched.

The king gives this power to some of his servants, too. Some men have had the sun stand still in the sky. Another man used this power to make enough water come out of a rock to water thousands and thousands of people and all their animals. Another man called for fire that would burn water, and it came and burned up everything on the altar, even the stones. One man held his rod over a sea and it divided and made walls to let him and his people walk through on dry land. One man told a mountain to move, and it did. Some people in his kingdom can see into the future and tell things that haven't happened yet. Others can read languages that no one else has been able to read for a thousand years or more.

One of the greatest things about this kingdom is that every child belongs to it. Grownups have to do certain things before they can belong. But children are members from the time they are born until they have lived in the world long enough to be citizens of the world.

And that's not all! Every member of this kingdom has a chance to be adopted by the king and be a real, live prince or princess. These aren't the sit-on-your-hands-and-look-pretty princesses. Or the ride-a-fast-horse-and-go-hunting princes. These things are all right and there is a time for them. But these princes and princesses are the working kind. They are the kind that want to be grown up and have a job in the kingdom. They want to be ones that carry messages with the speed of light. They want to be able to see things that haven't happened yet. They want to be able to walk among lions and not be hurt.

So what do you think these little princes and princesses should be doing? The king gave just one commandment for children. "Obey your parents." It sounds dull, but when he adopts you, he will be your parent too, and he wants you to already know how to obey.

When he tells you to go to another state and teach a man about the kingdom, will he want you to say, "Aw, do I have to?"

When he gives you an old, old book to read, will you say, "In a minute"?

This is practice time - like before running a race, or playing the piano, or a ball game. This is practice time for being a prince or princess.

Can you walk like a prince or princess? Everybody walks by putting one foot ahead, then the other. But a prince or princess must be careful where they walk. Can you walk where the king wants you to walk; run where the king wants you to run? Walking gives us time to think about where we are going and decide if it's right or not. It's not likely the king will give us power to go faster than a rocket if we haven't learned to walk in his ways. So we have to practice until we don't even want to walk a different way.

Can you talk like a prince or princess? That's harder because talking isn't slow like walking. You talk almost as fast as you think. We know that a prince or princess wouldn't have dirt in his mouth. So we just about have to practice not to think bad words and not think about bad stories. We have to practice telling the truth and talking of good things.

Practicing up to be a prince or princess really is hard work and it takes a lot of time. But it takes a lot of practice and a lot of time to make a team at school. What do you get when you win at school? A blue ribbon? A gold cup? What do you get if you win at being a prince or princess? A terrific kingdom, that's what.

## LIBERTY AND RELIGION

by Dr. Benjamin Trumbull

(1801)

Religion has incalculable influence on the government, liberties and happiness of a people. In proportion as men are influenced by the genuine principles of the Gospel, they will be selfgoverned. Crimes will be prevented, even in secret. Faith will give to individuals and to the community at large such security, peace and order as mere law can never afford. Where men feel the influence of religion, mild laws will be sufficient for the purposes of government, and but few restraints on the natural rights of the people will be necessary. But when conscience is lost, and moral motives have no influence, a people must be governed by severe laws and punishments — by pris-

ons, swords and cannon. In just proportion as the influence of moral principles and motives are annihilated, the restraints of law must be increased, and the natural rights and liberties of the subjects be diminished.

At the same time property, character, life and all public and private interests will be less secure. What order, honor or safety, what liberty or happiness can there be among such a people? It is doubtless the greatest quackery in politics to imagine that free government and liberty can be maintained without religion and morals.

## TEMPLE LOT LOCAL NEWS

With the welcome help of the East Independence Local the annual Vacation Bible School week has come and gone. Quite a bit of information on our Church and the Restored Gospel was disseminated and digested, especially by the teachers! Attempting to teach can certainly be educational. We had a total enrollment of forty three this year, and most were there for the graduation program on the evening of Sunday, June 13. Superintending committee were: Caroline Hedrick, Edith Case and Grace Rudd. Paula and Marie Case were in charge of the music; as always, "Jesus Loves Me" and "Don't Step There!" were sung with much enthusiasm. Katy Moyer told a story each morning and at the program, managing to hold the interest of the small ones with her warm words and expressive gestures. Menda Stotis served punch, coffee and cookies at a welcome mid-morning break. "Alumni" Dan Hedrick and David Rudd supervised playground activities: "graduate students" Denise Rudd, Becky Fann and Nanette Wheaton were teachers. Adult teachers were: Katy Moyer, Melissa McGhee, Michele Fisher, Karen Reynolds, Belinda Smith, Doris Ratterree, Bonnie (Jim) Case, Konie Caviness and Donna Moser. Sherry Pennington, Sue Brickhouse, Chris Moser and Gerry Case were part-time helpers. It was a good week. Besides the forty three, the teachers and helpers, there was another One present, we believe.

The annual Missouri Reunion was held in the little white church on the Temple Lot, June 25th, 26th, 27th. It was a time of spiritual feasting, as well as receiving admonitions. It seems that each year we derive more benefit and more joy from such reunions.

Members of our ministry who conducted services and gave sermons were these: Ray Hunholz, John Jones, Maynard Case, Ed McIndoo, John Case, Gerry Case, David Jones, Larry Beem, Roland Sarratt, Frank Fann, Leon Yates, William Sheldon, Richard Wheaton, Albert Leighton-Floyd, Leslie Case, Nicholas Denham. The latter also conducted and arranged the music for the various services, with some assistance from Chris Moser. Special music was sung beautifully for us by Konie Caviness, Karma Augustine, Heidi and Becky Cobb, Rhonda Shaw, Chris Moser, Nanette Wheaton, Patricia Wheaton, and Dee Anna Medders. In prayer meetings there was a fervent, humble spirit: in song services so many old favorites were sung, sometimes a request answering the unspoken thought of another; in testimonies, many were answers to the prayers of others. In the Sunday morning Sacrament Service one member had to leave early, felt great regret at missing the bread and wine and its attendant blessing. Remarkably, the elder in charge changed the order and had the Sacrament served early, permitting the departing one to partake. There was no spoken communication here, only a deep need felt and answered by our loving Heavenly Father.

Among the warnings, exhortations and promises of blessing given in the sermons were these outstanding ones.

1. A **determination** to serve God to the end will be successful if we are firm and unwavering.
  2. Do we realize the depth of the gifts that God offers us? The blessings are almost unbelievable.
  3. How can we hold the young? By keeping the Spirit of God in our services!
  4. Build up the Church, the Gospel, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against us.
  5. We should be a joyful people. Thus can we show the world our enthusiasm for this wonderful Gospel. Besides "abundant life" now, we have the promise of sitting down in God's presence if we are faithful.
  6. We do have greater light than the rest of the world; this is made brighter by contrast with the darkness that comes from Satan.
  7. The world is watching us, some hoping that we will slip, some hoping desperately that we will not!
  8. If the Gentiles repent, God will make them a part of his chosen people. They will assist His people to build Zion.
  9. There are two forms of Christianity. One must try constantly and with great striving to be "good". The other **wants** so badly to please God, that it becomes easier all the time. Surely the latter is God's choice; we can make it ours too.
  10. As Ammon found such overpowering joy in serving God and helping others to find him, so can we. We must realize that it is impossible to do too much for God.
  11. This is a choice land; its people must serve God or be swept off.
  12. As Paul said, "Wake! (to spiritual understanding). Seek, knock, ask, God will open our understanding.
  13. If we spend all our time trying to serve there will be no time for self-pity or fear. Real Christianity brings joy. "Perfect love casteth out fear."
  14. There are three unlisted heresies: silence that denies faith, adapting ourselves to our worldly contacts, and following the line of least resistance.
- One high point of the reunion was the baptism on Saturday afternoon of young John LeLange from Colorado Springs, Colorado. It was performed by Apostle William Sheldon and Apostle Archie Bell gave a short but inspirational and instructive talk. May God keep and continue to bless this new brother!
- At a Wednesday night prayer, Sacrament and testimony service in July Elder Maynard Case received a spiritual manifestation for our admonition and benefit. One member had asked for prayer for a greatly troubled young man in Minnesota. Brother Case was made to

see into our very souls, to see them relaxed in lethargy! He also understood that it was the disunited beliefs among us that were responsible for this young man's sorrow and confusion. He transmitted to us the word of the Spirit that we **must** work for unity and for His service — or else! Another member present rose to say that a certain parable had come into mind with great force, as if the message were applicable to this situation. The parable was of the householder who had unexpected company in the middle of

the night and found his larder empty. He therefore went to the house of a neighbor and knocked loudly, asking to borrow food. The neighbor refused. The request was repeated several times with increasing urgency; each time it was refused. After asking **many** times, the seeker was finally rewarded. His neighbor got out of bed and brought him food! The inference seems very plain. We must ask again, and again, and again, and not stop asking, until God grants us sufficient light to bring us into the unity He demands.

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## HOUSTON LOCAL NEWS

On May 29th, we dedicated our little church at Houston. We want to say thank you to our God, and all who were here to help us dedicate our church and enjoy the Rally services.

Bro. and Sr. John Jones have had a lot of their family to visit with them this summer. All of their relatives are from Wisconsin. Verna's sister, Dorothy Wilson, has moved here from Phoenix. We are so happy to have her here to live and worship with us.

In June, the McGuires, the I. C. Keeneys and Lois Helseth spent a Sunday with Bro. and Sr. Oren Caviness in Mt. Vernon. More of us hope to visit them later.

We have heard a lot of good sermons here at Houston. Our pastor seems to have a better sermon each time he speaks. We are so thankful to have them here with us. We are always happy to have David Jones speak to us. He never fails to have good sermons for us too. In May a guest speaker was Elder Lemon, an L. D. S. missionary from Ava, Missouri. He visited our church services several times the past year.

Recently, our congregation was invited to the Bob Eccles home for dinner. Bob and Mildred prepared the meal for twenty-four of us all alone. It was delicious! We enjoyed fellowship and singing hymns.

Our youth enjoyed the Youth Outing at Lake Pomme de Terre on the twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth of July. It was the privilege of the reporter to be with them. The youth meetings always flood my soul with joy. I know His spirit was there and He smiled upon them.

Several from our Local attended the Ava Rally and reported hearing good sermons.

Verna Jones and Dorothy Wilson attended the Wisconsin reunion. Verna's granddaughter returned home with them after spending a week here with them.

Bro. and Sr. Archie Bell have been visiting our Local and we have enjoyed good sermons by Bro. Bell on August 1st and August 8th.

Alzada Massey has been visiting her parents, the Keeneys, and other relatives and friends. Alzada is from Weatherford, Oklahoma.

The Marvin Case family were recent guests of the Keeneys and Medders. While they were here we helped Jennifer Medders celebrate her fourth birthday. We had home made ice cream and cake for all after church Wednesday evening. On Thursday evening all gathered with the Case family at the city park to eat and visit together.

School starting time is near. This is always an exciting time for many of us. This year Dee Anna Medders will leave for college at Fayette, Missouri on August the 28th. We will miss her in many ways and especially at church. She has been our pianist for five years. Everyone remember all our youth away from home this year. They need all our prayers.

Remember youth — "There is a Power to lift us up which is stronger than all the things that hold us down".

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## GREETINGS FROM THE EAST INDEPENDENCE LOCAL

It has been some time since we have greeted our brothers and sisters of the whole church. Quite a number of changes have taken place with us.

We are growing and rather fast with so many of

our dear ones moving here from the state of Wisconsin and more coming. How very happy it makes us when we see God's hand moving to gather His children into the center place and also, oh, so humble at His goodness and mercy toward us.

May 10th was the date set for our business meeting for the Local and the following is a list of our officers for the coming year:

Pastor - Elder Roland Sarratt  
 Assistant-Pastor - Elder Frank Fann  
 Secretary - Carolyn Fann  
 Treasurer - Elder Kenneth J. Smith  
 Auditor - June Sarratt  
 Advocate Reporter - Edna Smith  
 Social Committee - Cherie Pennington, Smith  
 Brickhouse, Belinda Smith  
 Sunshine Committe - Melissa McGhee  
 Flower Arranger - Darl Hunholz  
 Reunion Kitchen Help - Cherie Pennington  
 Librarian - William Nast

The women's group held their business meeting a few days later and their officers are:

Chairman - Belinda Smith  
 Assistant-Chairman - Jennifer Oldham  
 Sec. & Treasurer - Darl Temple  
 Crafts Co-Chairman - Melissa McGhee and Cherie Pennington  
 Teacher - Ruth Randall

We have had some very good sermons from our local men as well as a few of our visiting Eldership.

One very marked evidence of our growth has been the mid-week prayer meetings. The attendance is good and the prayers and testimonies are an inspiration

to all of us.

Father's day, which happened on Sunday, as I looked over the congregation I was made to realize how many young people and young married people comprise our membership at the East Local, and all seemed dedicated to furthering the gospel restored in these last days.

A young people's organization has been formed and Brother Frank Fann is their leader. They have had study classes, recreational activities and they show a real zeal for the work.

Our local is like a large happy family and so naturally we like to get together for dinners, picnics and the like. Several of those most active in this respect, working for the success of these activities, aren't baptized members; nevertheless, they work hard and want to see the work grow.

We hope to be able to report more growth, both spiritually and numerically when we greet you again.

May God bless you and we solicit your prayers in our behalf, that God's great work will move forward and that we may be ever humble in performing the tasks for the Master at the Independence East Local. We are praying for all God's people that, in these the closing times when Christ's second coming is drawing so close, we all may be found faithful and willing to heed His voice at all times.

Your Advocate Reporter  
 Edna R. Smith

## ARE WE READY?

Priest Ken Hoare

"But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved" (Matt. 24:13). We are living in the last days; the return of our Savior Jesus Christ is very near at hand. The door is about to be opened unto events and happenings which will amaze the world and, if we are not prepared, will leave us on the outside looking in. It is our duty and responsibility to see that we have our lives in order, that we are conducting our daily affairs in such a way that Christ will be pleased with what we are doing when He returns.

In a very short time, and I am afraid we are not really aware of how short our time is, all things spoken of concerning these last days will unfold. Am I ready, am I thinking and living the way I should? Am I really living the way I believe? Am I putting forth a great enough effort for the Lord? When we ask ourselves these and other questions, what answers do we come up with? Are we really living as Christ wants us to and putting Him first in our lives? As we ask these questions let us think of the importance of what we are committed to.

Let us stop and think that this is not a game we are playing but we are engaged in a very real situation, with very high stakes. How we conduct ourselves today, now, and tomorrow will determine our eternity. Are we saying in our hearts, "I'll do better tomorrow", or "I'm living O. K. I don't have to do better."? Let us stop and be honest with our appraisal of ourselves and see if we are giving our best and if the way we are living today is good enough. Paul tells us in Hebrews 6:1, "... let us go on into perfection". Is this how we are conducting our lives, trying to be better each day?

If Christ came today, is the way I am living going to be good enough for me to qualify for an eternity with God and His Son Jesus Christ? Maybe we are fooling ourselves if we are saying, "I'll do better tomorrow" or, "Once I do this or get that I'll put more effort into serving God." There is coming a day when there will be no more time to do better, when there will be no tomorrow.. A time when the "someday" that Christ will return will be today. A time when we will have

to say, "I should have given more when I had the chance." Things that seemed important (maybe more important than serving God the way I should have) at the time were really nothing when compared to the main task of serving our Lord and Master.

In Luke 14:16-24 Christ tells us that those He called, who wouldn't come for various reasons, would not taste of His supper. Are we those called out of the world, but who, for many reasons, may not be giving our all? Are things of the world creeping in where they should not and keeping us away from our calling as saints? In many cases we are not prepared to go all the way with and for Jesus. We oftentimes feel that half-hearted effort, desire and works, or just drifting along is sufficient. I am afraid that Christ expects much more of us than that, much more than we may care to admit. It is time to face the fact that as a Church we are falling short, and that we have to be extremely diligent and endeavor to improve our lives. The time is truly late; let us not be found sleeping when the alarm is sounded!

In Matthew 25 we have the parable of the ten virgins: five were wise and five were foolish. They all slumbered and slept and, when the call came that the bridegroom was coming, only five had enough oil in their lamps. Apparently they had just barely enough, for they didn't have any to share with the others. We have to make sure that we have enough oil for our own lamps; we are not going to be able to get it from others. We must be diligent and watchful at all times lest we slumber and sleep too much and be among the foolish ones who let the lamps get low.

Let us strive to fully understand what God expects of us and what we in turn can expect of God. Let us try to live the gospel to the fullest extent. It takes a one hundred percent effort on our part, and anything less than that may put us in with the foolish virgins; we may not be found worthy to be one of Christ's people in his Heavenly kingdom.

Let us above all love the Lord with all our hearts and our neighbor as ourselves; let us strive to keep all of God's commandments. Our nations as a whole are not following these commandments and have no respect for His word.. God's prophecies for the majority are unheeded (or unheard). His laws flouted. His words no longer heard or obeyed. Crime and violence are on every hand, corruption at all levels of society; just about anything goes. Sunday, to our nations, is

virtually meaningless, just another day of work, pleasure or whatever touches the imagination of man. But out of all this ungodliness there is a peculiar people to be raised up in the last days. Let us truly be a part of this peculiar people that God wants and follow His commandments, striving to walk the paths of righteousness, living each day as if it were our last and being Christ-like in all that we do. We must not compromise in our love for God and our service to Him.

What we do today, tomorrow or next week will determine what our state will be for eternity. These are the days of our probation to work out our soul salvation with fear and trembling before the Lord. Brothers and sisters, eternity is a long time; we should be very careful how we live. Think how much we are serving God. How we spend these days of our probation will determine where we will be spending eternity. We can help each other through prayer, to be ready to meet the Lord and be able to enter into His rest. "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him" (1 Cor. 2:9). This is our desire and hope: to enter God's kingdom and spend eternity with Him.

I am one of the weaker ones. I have done less for God than most and have made many mistakes, but I feel a great urgency and burden that the time is short, that our time to prepare to meet the Lord is fast fading away. I urge every one to be prepared, to have that love of Christ with us at all times, to help and encourage one another and not just find fault, as we often do. Many times we let people's faults blind us to the good that is in them. God sees our faults, but we are still loved and directed by His hand.. In the Book of Mormon, page 768, verse 52, and in II Peter 1:1-11, are a couple of things we would do well to dwell on. We are told that charity is the pure love of Jesus Christ and it will be well with us if we possess it at the last day. It is something we must work at. Stop and think what kind of person we must be to be truly charitable.. Peter tells us the steps we must take to attain charity; it is the last and greatest plateau we reach. How we feel, the thoughts we have, and what we do to and for one another, all reflect the degree of charity we have in our hearts.

It is my prayer that we each put our whole heart and soul into serving our Lord and Master. May we heed the words of Paul when he admonishes us to "... go on unto perfection ..."!

#### BAPTISM

Esther Denham (Moncada) Tovar of Kansas City, Missouri was baptized by Elder Nicholas F. Denham July 14, 1976 at the Temple Lot Local, Independence, Mo. She received the laying on of hands by Elders James M. Case and Nicholas Denham. Sister Tovar was received as a member by the Temple Lot Local Church.

#### BAPTISM

Geraldine Elizabeth (Hedrick) Adams entered the waters of baptism on March 28, 1976. Elder Nicholas F. Denham conducted the service. She was confirmed by Elder Nicholas F. Denham and Elder Leslie P. Case, receiving the right hand of fellowship at the Temple Lot Local Church of Christ.

## WIND SONG

G. A. Housknecht

(Reprinted from The Hand of Fellowship)

High up in the mountains of the Prescott National Forest, Arizona, amidst the tall whispering pines outlined by an unending rich blue sky, I sit in awesome wonder as a most beautiful scene in the drama of life unfolds before my every awareness. The year is of our Lord nineteen-hundred seventy-six; the main character is Time, and not unlike Moses and Aaron, Time has as its spokesman, the Wind. God is the director.

I seem to be part of this act because all conversation seems directed toward me. The birds, whom I at first thought were just busy chirping away at each other and singing merrily to themselves, actually seem to be trying to tell me something. The wind is whispering ever so softly, "Listen, we have something ever so profound to tell you. Listen".

Whether by chance or someone's design, the fact is that I am here. I rather suppose I am obligated to play my part. I guess I had better listen to what they have to say.

If you will pardon the expression, they all seem to be a little up in the air about something. It seems people in general don't understand their language anymore. Everyone is in too big a hurry to stop and listen and much to the Wind's amusement, they are not going anywhere except perhaps in an endless circle of confusion: a dangerous circle because it tends to bring a kind of false contentment to those that are going along for the ride. I notice the Director isn't laughing too loudly!

As Time pushes endlessly along at a steady clip, its pulsating rhythm is like the steady drone of a distant locomotive . . . you know it's there and you know it's moving along its path toward a destination unknown, while ominously suggesting that destination as being just around the next bend. Apparently Time has an awfully important message to deliver to some nation evidently on the threshold of impoverishment.

The Wind makes Time's presence known by whisking the leaves from the branches of the trees, foretelling yet another season in the dawn of time. The Wind tells me it has blown through many ages bringing its message to nations that would listen, only to find a very monotonous and repetitious string of events taking place with each great nation, bringing their eventual downfall. In fact, Wind tells me, there has been no nation on earth ever to survive much over two-hundred years!

Hey! Now you're hittin' awfully close to home. My very own nation, the United States of America, will be two-hundred years old. Am I to believe we are on the threshold of impoverishment? We happen to be the richest and strongest nation on this earth. We have stood as a refuge to the lost and weary; a shining light of example to the nations near and far; we have

extended our arm of protection over young new nations; we have shared our wealth by leading almost beyond measure to the poor and needy nations of the world, in many cases even without regard to our own people's needs right here at home. And what do we get in return? Not one ounce more than we have asked, and we have asked nothing. In fact many to whom we have extended the hand of fellowship give us their hand back in the form of a slap across the face! Well, if this is true, what you say, then tell me why? Better yet, what have I to do with it? Tell the nation itself."

Suddenly the birds stop their singing. The Wind is quiet. The trees stop their bending and exercising and thrashing playfully at one another, standing straight and tall almost as if at attention awaiting some superior to speak. Time immemorial can certainly make its presence known in some eerie ways; it is as if Time were standing still! Did I say something wrong?

Transfixed, as if pierced by the lightning of someone's terrible swift sword, I listen.

"You ARE the nation! You are its eyes and ears. You are its strength . . . or its weakness. You, fortunately, have taken time to listen to my voice, for I speak a universal language. But not nearly enough of the citizens and leaders, all of whom are equal in my sight, have taken time to listen. They move on in high self-esteem and with much pride and self-reverence, no longer thanking ME for what I have given them or even recognizing that I had anything to do with their riches and prosperity. No longer do they listen like their forefathers Mr. Lincoln, Mr. Jefferson, Mr. Washington and others. A nation can become great only because I have allowed it to be so. And likewise, a nation can continue to be great ONLY if I allow it to be so, and I cannot allow it in transgression. Your nation has failed to humble itself before me. Your nation has failed to wash itself clean from the error of its ways by repenting. Your nation, that I yet today claim as my most dear upon the earth, and your people as most dear of all inhabitants of the earth, need to recognize their Creator. They need to listen to the story that the Wind blows their way moment by moment, as profound truths concerning this nation are unfolded. Soon Time will have run its course and all things must come to pass that are spoken of in the writings of your Holy Prophets. Therefore when I speak of 'them' or 'their' or 'they', I speak to you. Your nation will only be as strong and good as you manage to maintain yourself, and even I will require of you to be strong in the days ahead for I have a work for you to do; a work much more profound than the temporal affairs of a great nation. So go your way and tell others to listen, for what I say to you I say to all. Peace be with you."

## THE MAGIC KEY

Evalena Sills

Once there was a land called **Here** inhabited by innumerable creatures known as humans. They lived in the age of **Then**, and every potential need for survival, learning and happiness was available.

As a result of their own efforts, plus the heavenly gifts of rain and sunshine, a golden crop called grain grew in abundance in their fertile fields, and there was plenty for all. Their keen intelligence searched out the mysteries of earth, sea, air and eventually outer space, but with all their combined knowledge they could not learn the secrets of equality and peace.

Along the lovely streams and in the heart of the splendid hills they found coarse sand and rocks which contained glistening metals called silver and gold which they used to make objects of beauty and for use as legal tender to barter with one another.

As time went on, some were able to obtain more of the golden grain and the glistening metals than others, and to use them to exercise power over those who had less. Hatred and strife blackened their otherwise beautiful horizons. Classes began to form: the Highs, the Meds and the Lows, according to the amount of grain and precious metals each class could obtain and hold tightly in its closed hands, and sometimes according to the amount of knowledge each class could obtain — a knowledge used to exploit the less fortunate.

The age of **Then** passed unalterably into the age of **Now**, with many joys and sorrows, many triumphs and losses, many successes and failures marking its transition. Many good and noble humans applied

their superior intelligence and knowledge to work out a plan which would assure equal distribution of grain and gold and equal opportunity to gain knowledge, happiness and abiding peace. However, full success evaded their efforts and war clouds never ceased.

But a Noble Prince had visited them, long ago, and had given some clues for solving their problems which they had somehow forgotten. "Love thy neighbor as thyself," He had said. And even more, "love your enemies and do good to them that despitefully use you . . ."

"Could it be that here was the key, the magic key to unlock the door of human equality and peace?" — the humans asked themselves. The Prince had also said, "He that is greatest of all is servant of all."

"How strange! We thought that he who had the fullest hand of grain and gold was the greatest! Can it be? Can it be that the Noble Prince is right, and that LOVE is the magic key?"

The strange clues were spread throughout the entire land of **Here** and the conscientious, consecrated ones of each class — the Highs, the Meds and the Lows, began intensive study of how to apply them. Slowly, as the burgeoning of a delicate flower, the solution began to unfold and somewhere between the puzzling **Now** and the promising **Tomorrow** lies humanity's glad Utopia of Peace, and its hope of unlocking the gates of **Zion**, using LOVE, that magic key given by the Noble Prince so long ago.

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## 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

**OBITUARY**

**Virgil Matthews**

Virgil Matthews, a life long resident of the Lancaster, Wisconsin area, passed from this life suddenly at his home, 429 E. Cherry on Saturday, June 26, 1976 at the age of 72 years.

He was born in Grant County on August 11, 1903 to William and Tony (Spease) Matthews and spent his entire lifetime in the Lancaster area. He was united in marriage to Leona Wolf on July 28, 1937, and to this union was born three children, Joyce, Gary, and Richard.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and two sisters, Helen and Ruby. He leaves to mourn his passing, his wife, Leona, daughter, Joyce of Dubuque, Iowa; two sons, Gary of Fort Collins, Colorado; and Richard of Cuba City, Wisconsin, and two grandchildren, also five sisters: Mrs. Virgil (Florence) Tracy, Mrs. Donovan (Sylvia) Axtel, Mrs. Beth Stivarius, and Miss Flossie Matthews all of Lancaster and Mrs. Kitty Crone of Green Bay, Wisconsin. Two brothers, Clyde and Oscar of Lancaster, and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends too numerous to mention.

Services were held at Harris & Wepking Funeral Home, Lancatser, Wi., on Tuesday, June 29, 1976. Interment at Hillside Cemetery, Platteville, Wi., with Elder Isaac Brockman officiating.

Virgil was not a member of the Church of Christ, but his father, William was an Elder in the Church of Christ years ago, so he came from an old time Latter Day Saint family. Four of his sisters, Sylvia Axtel, Beth Stivarius, Flossie Matthews and Kitty Crone are members of the Church. Through our visiting in that area, Ruth and I have become acquainted with the entire family and have grown to have a deep christian love for them all, so we share in their loss, we too have lost a very dear friend and we consider it a privilege to have known him.

Elder Isaac Brockman

**WEDDING BELLS**

Barbara Drinkwine and James Clifton spoke their marriage vows at 1:00 P. M., on July 10, 1976, in a beautiful candlelight ceremony at the Bethesda Free Church, 2600 East 38th. St., Minneapolis, Minnesota. Elder Isaac Brockman officiating.

Instead of the usual Wedding March, the bride with her father and attendants walked down the aisle to the music of a song titled "Our Winter Love" by Bill Persell. Also, there was a musical interlude just before the couple said their vows, a solo was sung by a friend of the brides titled "We've Only Just Begun".

There was a nice reception after the ceremony, and the new husband and wife opened their gifts.

The groom James Clifton, is a member of The Church of Christ (Temple Lot).

**IN APPRECIATION**

The family of

Rena J. Bell

acknowledges with deep appreciation your kind expression of sympathy

Archie and Martha Bell

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**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 avoid themselves of the entire course, so far as the study has been extended up to the present time. None of the courses are as yet complete.

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

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