

# 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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## A Prayer For The Night

(Zion's Advocate Jan. 1926)

I am a bearer of a torch — the way  
Is dark; and there are few who carry light,  
Among the aimless crowds that drift and sway  
Unseeing along the road at night —

How best to choose the way for those behind;  
And patience, lest I stride too far ahead  
Of those whose feet are heavy, and the blind  
Who cannot see the light, and must be led.

And may I have the strength to hold it high,  
That those who follow me may safely go  
Past all the perils of the path; and I  
Would ask for wisdom, too that I may know

And may I find courage enough to meet  
Even the failures I am sure to make  
On that long journey to the Master's feet,  
And may my torch burn long enough to take

The souls that have been given to my care  
Through all the weary marches of the night,  
Lord of Eternal Light, this is my prayer, —  
That I may lead my wandering pilgrims right

Apostle Arthur M. Smith

### CONTENTS

Guest Editorial .....	162	Thanksgiving Prayer .....	171
Notice - Arizona Reunion .....	162	Notice - Editorial Policy .....	172
The Mighty Act of the Ages .....	163	Obituaries .....	172
The Story Teller .....	167	Thanksgiving .....	173
The Gathering .....	169	Wisconsin Reunion .....	174
Notice to the Priesthood .....	169	This Is Good .....	175
Ava Local Report .....	170		

# Zion's Advocate

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The Sealed Book of Isaiach 29 .....	*
Are You Satisfied? .....	*
Gentiles-Weighed and Wanting .....	*
First Presidency or First Apostles .....	*
Is Marrying For Time and Eternity? .....	*
Baptism For The Dead .....	*
Zion and the Temple of the Lord .....	*

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## GUEST EDITORIAL

An old French proverb gives us this beautiful definition:

**"Gratitude is the heart's memory."**

Though modern science recognizes the brain as the seat of thought and emotion, we still like to refer to the heart as the reservoir of our deepest emotions, and gratitude is one of the noblest of all emotions and a virtue of highest rank.

Do our hearts, or our minds, remember and give thanks to God for:

—Life itself? It is a gift from Him.

—Eyes to see His beautiful world? He made it.

—Ears to hear the music of the universe, and the harmonies man himself creates?

—A degree of health enabling us to work, play and enjoy restful sleep at the end of day?

—Food, shelter — all our physical needs and even some of life's luxuries? Without God there would be none of them.

—The love of family and friends — earthly sparks from the eternal flame of God's supreme love?

—His invitation to call upon Him in time of need, and His assurance that the call will be heard?

—Even for our share of hardships themselves, knowing that carrying them with courage makes us strong?

—The gift of Jesus, our Savior, whose death on the cross and resurrection from the grave assure eternal life to all who accept Him?

—The divine restoration of the gospel providing the means of accepting Him, and the path to everlasting life in His presence?

What more could we ask? What more could we need? Is gratitude for all these things deeply imbedded in our heart's memory? If so, let us lift up our voices to God in thanksgiving, not only on our nation's Special Day of Thanks, but every day that He gives us life here on this earth, our temporary home.

Evalena Sills

## NOTICE

Although the Zion's Advocate has not received an official announcement concerning the Arizona reunion held annually at Phoenix, I am informed by an authoritative source this event will occur the weekend following Thanksgiving day or November 26, 27, 28th, 1976. Those wishing to attend should contact Elder Don McIndoo, Pastor or Elder Hubert Yates, Assist. Pastor, 2929 East Siesta Lane, Phoenix, Arizona 85024 for further information.

The Editor

## THE MIGHTY ACT OF THE AGES

By Apostle E. L. Yates

May 31, 1966

### One True God, Versus Many False Gods

Let us begin our study by reading the inspired words of the great prophet Isaiah. "To whom will ye liken me, and make me equal, and compare me, that we may be like? They lavish gold out of the bag, and weigh silver in the balance, and hire a goldsmith; and he maketh it a god: they fall down, yea, they worship. They bear him upon the shoulder, they carry him, and set him in his place, and he standeth; from his place shall he not remove: yea, one shall cry unto him, yet can he not answer, nor save him out of his trouble. Remember this, and shew yourselves men: bring it again to mind, O ye transgressors. Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure;" (Isaiah 46:5-10)

Now let us read from the Psalms, 145:3, 4. "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts." And from verse 7, "They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness, and shall sing of thy righteousness." We continue with verses 10-13. "All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord; and thy saints shall bless thee. They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power; To make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom. Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations."

### Christ Builds a Church And Calls His Ministry

Men of God have, through all the ages, stood forth and have declared His glory and wonders to the people, but the eternity of time is not sufficient for man to declare all of God's wonders. Because Holy men of old have, through the power and might of the spirit, declared His mighty acts, the sons of men in our day and age have been able to determine that Christ formed a church.

Most of the Christian religions of the day are agreed as to the organization of the Church of Christ in His day and also that the doctrine He taught was faith, repentance, baptism, laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. Today, however, the Christian world is not agreed as to the organization or the doctrine of Christ's Church.

Paul was one of the great men of old who declared some of God's mighty acts, and he claims that he received the Gospel by revelation. "But I certify you,

brethren, that the gospel which was preached to me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ." (Gal. 1:11-12)

Most all Christians today will quote this great man as one of authority on things divine. Indeed he can be quoted as one having authority because he was called by Jesus Christ and was taught the gospel by revelation, that same power that revealed to Peter that "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." So, we quote this apostle, Paul, with confidence. He has this to say in speaking to the saints as members of the church. "But now God hath set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him." (1 Cor. 12:18) In declaring further the mighty acts of God he has this to say in verses 27 and 28: "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues."

This is declared to be God's great act and not that of man. We ask this question: If it is God's act, will He ever at any time change that form of organization? Let Ecclesiastes, (The Preacher) give answer. "I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him" (Ecc. 3:14)

Paul declares the purpose of the offices that God hath set in the church, and how long they should remain, in the following language: "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ; Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." (Eph. 4:11-16)

By the scriptures that declare His mighty acts we find that Christ chose the apostles and sent them into the world, and in John 17:18 we find these words of Christ's: "As thou hast sent me into world even so have I also sent them into the world." Now, to find the purpose for which Christ was sent into the world

we turn to the words of Isaiah, that great prophet who, by the power of God, was able to look down through the vista of unborn time and tell of events that would transpire hundreds of years in the future.

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn." (Isaiah 61:1-2)

The above statement of Isaiah was penned 798 years before Christ, but when Christ "went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read," he left no doubt that the words of Isaiah referred to Him as we shall see by the following scripture: "And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is the scripture fulfilled in your ears." (Luke 4:17-21)

I am sure that this leaves no doubt in anyone's mind as to the purpose for which Christ was sent into the world, and when Christ Himself says of His chosen ministry, "As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world," then there should be no doubt as to the reason for which they were sent. We should take note of the fact that Christ chose them and he also sent them. This is an established fact that no man can properly represent Christ as a minister unless he be called of God and sent of God. Quoting again from the Apostle Paul, that great man who received the gospel by revelation from Christ, "And no man taketh this honor unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron." (Hebrews 5:4) And from Romans 10:14 and 15 hear this: "How shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? . . ."

So, as we study some of the great acts of God that have been declared from one generation to another, we find.

1. The church is the body of Christ and members in particular.
2. God placed them there as it pleased Him.
3. It pleased Him to set some in the church, first apostles.

4. Christ chose the apostles.

5. As God sent Christ into the world, so also Christ sent them into the world.

6. No man takes the honor of a minister for Christ unless he be called as was Aaron.

### The Unchangeable God Establishes His Church Anew In The Americas

God is unchangeable, the same yesterday, today and forever, without variableness or shadow of turning. In John 10:6 we read: "And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd."

The Book of Mormon is a history of some of those other sheep, and when we make a study of those sheep and the way in which Christ ministered to them, we find a parallel in church organization and doctrine. We turn first to the account of the arrival of Christ upon this continent. "And they were also conversing about this Jesus Christ, of whom the sign had been given, concerning his death. And it came to pass that while they were thus conversing one with another, they heard a voice, as if it came out of heaven; and they cast their eyes round about, for they understood not the voice which they heard; . . . And their eyes were towards the sound thereof; and they did look steadfastly towards heaven, from whence the sound came; and behold, the third time they did understand the voice which they heard; And it said unto them, Behold, my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, in whom I have glorified my name, hear ye him." 3 Nephi 5:3, 4, 7, 8)

And so here we find the Master of men ready to teach this people the way of eternal life, ready to teach them that there is only one Shepherd, and that through obedience to Him they can all be baptized into one body, into the sheepfold of God.

### Again Apostles Chosen and Endowed With Authority

The first thing that Christ did on this occasion was to choose twelve disciples and to give unto them power to baptize, and He sent them to declare his words unto the ends of the earth. I quote from 3 Nephi 5:18-22. "And it came to pass that he spoke unto Nephi, (for Nephi was among the multitude,) and he commanded him that he should come forth. And Nephi arose and went forth, and bowed himself before the Lord, and he did kiss his feet. And the Lord commanded him that he should arise. And he arose and stood before him. And the Lord said unto him, I give unto you power that ye shall baptize this people, when I am again ascended into heaven. And again the Lord called others, and said unto them likewise; and he gave unto them power to baptize." In verses 43 and 44 we find that He sent them, and they were twelve in number. "Therefore go forth unto this people, and declare the words which I have spoken, unto the ends of the earth. And it came to pass that when Jesus had spoken these

words unto Nephi, and to those who had been called, (now the number of them who had been called and received power and authority to baptize were twelve.) The fact that Christ called these twelve men "disciples," rather than apostles, seems to bother some people, but it seems to me that this is no problem. We find that in the Bible the twelve were called **both disciples and apostles**. We read in Luke 6:13, "And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples, and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;"

And from the Book of Mormon: "The words of Christ, which he spake unto his disciples, the twelve whom he had chosen, as he laid his hands 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) Some say that He was referring to the apostles at Jerusalem. Perhaps so, but He also was referring to these apostles as being given at that moment the powers and duties that He had given His apostles at Jerusalem. We read in Moroni 2:3, "Now Christ spake these words unto them at the time of his first appearing; and the multitude heard it not, but the disciples heard it, and on as many as they laid their hands, fell the Holy Ghost."

Now we find that Christ did not give them another doctrine, but He gave the same plan and doctrine as He gave at Jerusalem. We will read some scriptures to prove this point.

"And now it came to pass that when Jesus had ended these sayings, he cast his eyes round about on the multitude, and said unto them, Behold, ye have heard the things which I have taught before I ascended to my Father." (3 Nephi 7:1) Could we expect anything different than the same words that He had spoken in the Jerusalem days when He said, "the words I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."?

#### **God The Creator of All Brings His Word to All**

Now from 2 Nephi 12:56-63 we read a positive statement from a changeless God. "Know ye not that I, the Lord God, have created all men, and that I remember those who are upon the isles of the sea; and that I rule in the heavens above, and in the earth beneath; And I bring forth my word unto the children of men, yea, even upon all the nations of the earth? Wherefore murmur ye, because that ye shall receive more of my word? Know ye not that the testimony of two nations is a witness unto you that I am God, that I remember one nation like unto another? Wherefore, I speak the same words unto one nation like unto another. And when the two nations shall run together, the testimony of the two nations shall run together also. And I do this that I may prove unto many, that I am the same yesterday, today, and forever; and that I speak forth my words according to mine own pleasure. And because I have spoken one word, ye need not suppose that I can

not speak another; for my work is not yet finished; neither shall it be, until the end of man; neither from that time henceforth and for ever."

The important thing is that He speaks the same words unto one nation like unto another and when He calls His ministry in any nation He demands of them that they speak the same words that He gives unto them. "And now it came to pass that when Jesus had expounded all the scriptures in one, which they had written, he commanded them that they should teach the things which he had expounded unto them" (3 Nephi 11:1) "And the twelve did teach the multitude, and behold, they did cause that the multitude should kneel down upon the face of the earth, and should pray unto the Father, in the name of Jesus. And the disciples did pray unto the Father also, in the name of Jesus. And it came to pass that they arose and ministered unto the people. And when they had ministered those same words which Jesus had spoken, ". . . behold, they knelt again, and prayed unto the Father in the name of Jesus, . . ." (3 Nephi 9:7-10)

#### **Repentance and Baptism**

After the people were ministered to by the twelve whom Christ had chosen, many were converted and were baptized and they became members of the Church of Christ. ". . . Neither did they receive any unto baptism, save they came forth with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, and witnessed unto the church that they truly repented of all their sins. 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 were wrought upon and cleansed by the power of the Holy Ghost, they were numbered among the people of the church of Christ." (Moroni 6:2-4)

Yes, the Bible and the Book of Mormon, the testimonies of two nations have run together, and we find that each testimony portrays the gospel of the Kingdom as being one in exactness regardless of time or place.

#### **"A Falling Away," A Restoration And The End of The World**

Inasmuch as the scripture is plain that there would be a falling away and that the gospel would be taken from the earth for a period of time and that an angel would fly through the midst of heaven ". . . having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people," (Rev. 14:6) we can be sure that at the appointed time it was restored in all its beauty and exactness.

On one occasion the disciples came to Jesus privately and asked certain questions about the end of the world and among the things that Christ told them, two seem to be outstanding. ". . . Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many." (Matt. 24:4, 5) And in the 14th verse, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness

unto all nations; and then shall the end come." This would indicate that at that time, many would be preaching in the name of Christ, saying that Jesus was the Christ, and yet would be deceiving many in other ways. Also at that same time the genuine gospel of the kingdom would be preached as a witness to the nations. This is exactly what is being done today. Many ministers not called, as was Aaron, are preaching in the name of Jesus and are declaring that Jesus is the Christ, but because they are not called as was Aaron, and because they do not understand the gospel, they are deceiving many. For this very reason we need that which will protect us from every wind of doctrine. So we quote again Ephesians 4:11-14: "And he gave some, apostles, and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive."

If we are without the above mentioned structure of the church today, then we are at the mercy of every wind of doctrine and there is no hope from being tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine. Thank God that we are living in the days that have seen the fulfillment of the restoration of the gospel of the Kingdom. No longer are we in the spirit of deep sleep; no longer are the eyes of the prophets and seers covered, "And the vision of all is come unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it is sealed; And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned, Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men: Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid." (Isaiah 29:11-14)

Ah, yes, this great act that has been proclaimed down through the ages from one generation to another has had its fulfillment. The vision of all has come unto us as the words of a book that was sealed. (Book of Mormon) It was delivered unto one that was learned, and he said, "I cannot read a sealed book." (See outline History of the Church of Christ, page 25.)

#### Modern Day Revelation From A Changeless God

The marvellous work was about to begin when Joseph Smith went into the woods to pray. As he prayed, two personages appeared to him. One said

of the other, "This is my beloved Son, hear him." So, through the spirit of revelation we give ear to His beloved Son. Book of Commandments, page 26, chapter 15:1-4: "A Revelation to Joseph, Oliver and David, making known the calling of twelve disciples in these last days, and also, instructions relative to building up the church of Christ, according to the fulness of the gospel: Given in Fayette,, New York, June, 1829. Now behold, because of the thing which you have desired to know of me, I give unto you these words: Behold I have manifested unto you by my Spirit in many instances, that the things which you have written are true: (Note: This refers to The Book of Mormon. E. L. Y.) Wherefore you know that they are true; and if you know that they are true, behold I give unto you a commandment, that you rely upon the things which are written; for in them are all things written, concerning my church, my gospel, and my rock. Wherefore if you shall build up my church, and my gospel, and my rock, the gates of hell shall not prevail against you." And now verses 10 and 11: "And now Oliver, I speak unto you, and also unto David, by the way of commandment: For behold I command all men everywhere to repent, and I speak unto you, even as unto Paul mine apostle, for you are called even with the same calling with which he was called."

Here we find that once again as Christ begins to set up His church He takes the first step first — that is, the calling of twelve apostles. Note this: "I speak unto you, even as unto Paul mine apostle, for you are called even with the same calling with which he was called."

In verses 27 and 28 we find these words: "And now behold, there are others which are called to declare my gospel, both unto Gentile and unto Jew: Yea, even unto twelve: And the twelve shall be my disciples, and they shall take upon them my name:" We continue with verses 35 and 36: "And behold you are they which are ordained of me to ordain priests and teachers to declare my gospel, according to the power of the Holy Ghost which is in you, and according to the callings and gifts of God unto men: And I Jesus Christ, your Lord and your God, have spoken it."

So we see that Christ was building His church, not another church, but the same one as in the days of old." (Book of Commandments, 23:4) If it were not "even as in days of old," it could not be His church, or the Church of Christ. "I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him." (Ecc. 3:14)

We testify to one and all that the gospel of Jesus Christ, the gospel of the Kingdom, has, by the power of a changeless God, been restored to earth in its unchangeableness, as a standard and a witness to the people "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine." (Eph. 4:14)



In the words of the Psalmist, "One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts. . . . They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power; to make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom. Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations." (Psalms 145:4, 11-13)

### The Restored Gospel, Here, And Now

The mighty act of the ages is this: The angel has flown through the midst of heaven. The church and the gospel have been restored as in days of old. It came into being by direct revelation — that same power that revealed to Peter that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God. There are at this very moment men called of God as was Aaron, and who have been sent by Christ himself and given authority " . . . to preach good tidings unto the meek; . . . to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound: To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day

of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;" (Isaiah 61:1, 2)

Those who will hear and believe will be free from bondage of sin and will be henceforth no more "tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine" that is fostered by those who come in the name of Christ, saying that Jesus is the Christ and deceiving many because they teach the fear of the Lord by the precepts of men, and not by the spirit of revelation, as do His called ministry.

From the spirit of revelation comes the word of peace and comfort as found in the Book of Commandments, 53:38-43: "Fear not, little children, for you are mine, and I have overcome the world, and you are of them that my Father hath given me; And none of them which my Father hath given me shall be lost: And the Father and I are one; I am in the Father and the Father in me; And inasmuch as ye have received me, ye are in me, and I in you: wherefore I am in your midst; and I am the good shepherd; And the day cometh that you shall hear my voice and see me, and know that I am. Watch, therefore, that ye may be ready; even so: Amen."

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## THE STORY TELLER

The Treasure  
Ella Engle

One of the stories the prince told about his kingdom was that it was like a treasure hid in a field. A man was walking through this field and found the treasure, he said. We'll pretend the treasure was in a chest so we can imagine it better. The man looked at the treasure in that chest and he thought, "I can use this to make things so much nicer for us. I'll buy presents for my family. We'll have a party and have something fancy to eat. We'll really celebrate!"

But the field didn't belong to him. So the treasure wasn't really his either. What could he do? It was worth more than everything else he had. He wanted that treasure very much. What do you think that man did?

The Story-teller said the man hid it. He pushed it back under a bush so nobody else would notice. Then he went and sold everything he had: his home, his business, his flocks and herds, all his property. Then he went and bought the field and the treasure. Can you imagine how happy he was then when he went and looked at that treasure and knew that it was really his?

Since the Story-teller's stories are part riddles we'll really have to do some thinking on this one, won't we. What in the kingdom of heaven could be like a treasure hid in a field?

We usually think of a treasure as silver and gold and jewels and such stuff. That's because these things cost a lot of money and we can use money to

buy a lot of things. Really, when you stop to think about it, a treasure is something we need, and plenty of it. If we were starving, food would be a treasure. If we were in the desert, a good supply of water would be a treasure. If we were lost in the woods, a compass or something that would tell us where to go would be a treasure. We could starve to death with our pockets full of jewels. Silver wouldn't help our thirst a bit. And gold would just weigh us down and make us tired.

If we were to go into a new country, like we plan to go into the kingdom of heaven, what would we need? We always need food and something to drink, don't we? Would a knapsack of food be enough treasure? We would need clothing like they wear there. It would help if we knew the language spoken there. And a little bit of their history wouldn't hurt. We would need to know the law if we intended to stay. We would need a map if we intended to go anyplace, and surely if we got into the kingdom of heaven we wouldn't want to just sit down on the border and not know what was going on inside. So, we would need a map. That's a lot of things for one treasure chest. Is there anything else we'd need?

Is there anything in the kingdom of heaven that could provide all these things? The king could. But the story sounds like the treasure is a thing, not a person. What thing is there that could do it?

There is one thing. You see if you agree. It is called the gospel. This is going to be hard to imagine because we usually think of the gospel as things that are written, not things to be touched. The gospel is really more than written things, but that is a good place to start. Gospel means good news. So we'll just pretend that each thing in this treasure chest is wrapped in a piece of old newspaper, and we'll read a bit of the written gospel with every piece of treasure in the chest.

And while we're pretending, we can do it up grand and pretend a whole family for the man who bought the treasure. In that family we'll pretend a boy about your size. That afternoon, let's pretend, the afternoon after he had bought the field with the treasure in it, the man came home and told his family, "Come on. I want to show you something."

So they all started out. They walked quite a ways before they got to the new field. It really didn't look like so much. Just a field like a lot of others. There were some rocks and hard places where it would be hard to get anything to grow. There were some briars and brambles that would have to be avoided or cut down. Part of the field was so steep it was hard to climb, and some was nice and easy to walk through. And there was a spring of water running right through it.

They stopped at a nice spot and the mother spread out a blanket and began to set out supper from a basket she had carried along. The others gathered wood for a fire and the father went down to the spring and brought back a jug of cold water. By the time the fire was going good it was nearly dark. They asked a blessing on the food, and then the man went and got the treasure chest from the bushes where he had hidden it.

This treasure, like the gospel, was in a plain looking box. It was when you looked inside that you found all the pretty things. The first thing they saw when they opened it up was a plain white piece of paper. On it, printed in gold, were the words, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want."

Now that was something any boy in that country could understand. Most of them had helped the shepherds or had even taken the sheep out by themselves. They knew that the shepherd led the sheep to food in the pastures, saw to it that they had water they could drink, and protected them from wild animals. The shepherd tried to keep the silly things from falling and breaking their necks or legs or something. He untangled them from brush and thorns when they bleated for help. He looked for them when they strayed away. And finally he led them to a safe place at night. The boy was big enough to know that a shepherd would be a nice thing for a boy to have sometimes, too. He looked in the fire and thought about having the Lord for his shepherd. The idea seemed kind of nice.

After awhile the man took out another package. He unwrapped the newspapers from it and showed them a shining bar of gold. They held their breath as they

looked at it. It was worth more money than they had ever seen at one time before. The boy tried to imagine what it would buy. He wanted a new pair of shoes, but it was worth more than one pair of shoes. Worth more than shoes for the whole family. A whole outfit for the entire family? Oh, yes. Maybe it was worth all the clothes they'd ever need all their lives.

The man had been smoothing out the papers that had been wrapped around the gold bar and now he read, "My soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness."

The other paper said, "Put on the armor of righteousness." Armor? Wow! He hadn't even thought of armor. He looked at his father and tried to imagine him in armor. What a great idea! Just think how it would catch and reflect the light. He could imagine his mother in the soft robe he thought righteousness would be. But there were things to be done out there. Big things. He thought he'd choose the armor for himself.

The man unwrapped another package. It was a tray, all shiny in the firelight. As he tipped it one way and then another, something sparkled here and there on it. There was some carving on it too, but the boy couldn't tell if it was writing or a picture. His father read from the paper, "Come unto me and ye shall partake of the fruit of the tree of life: yea, ye shall eat and drink of the bread and the waters of life freely."

The boy took a big bite of the bread he held in his hand. It was tough and he chewed it a long time. The longer he chewed it, the sweeter it tasted. It was good bread. It was wheat bread. What about this bread of life? He'd like to taste some. Now that they had this treasure he supposed he could have some if he wanted it.

The next package changed shape and made a noise as the man picked it up. It was heavy and, as he unwrapped it, it spilled out of the paper like silver liquid. It was tiny chains, handfuls and handfuls of them. The man read the paper, "Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but it shall be a well of water springing up into everlasting life." The boy was glad he didn't have to understand that. It sounded good, but he just didn't know what it meant. His father seemed so pleased with it; he'd ask him about it tomorrow.

The next package rattled and, as the paper was taken off, it spilled out among the supper things on the blanket. They were bright jewels shaped like fruit. The boy picked one up and it felt as nice as it looked. His father read, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance."

The boy laid his head on the blanket to see the jewels better. He heard his father say, "Why, here's a book," but he didn't look up. "It must be history," the man said. The boy heard pages turning.



The man read, "And God made two great lights; he made the stars also."

The boy thought, "The Lord who made the stars is my shepherd; I shall not want."

He heard more pages turning. "There were giants in the earth in those days," his father read.

That almost made him sit up. But he saw the stars and thought to himself, "The Lord who made the stars is my shepherd."

More pages turned, "And there were in the same

country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over the flock by night."

"The Lord is my shepherd," the boy thought, and he went to sleep.

There were more treasurers still in the chest, as there are more treasurers yet in the gospel. But this boy had all he needed for one day, and enough to think about for several days to come.

References: Matt. 13:44; Ps. 23; Isa. 61:10; 2 Nephi 1:38; Eph. 6:13-17; Alma 3:5-8; John 4:14; Gal. 5:22, 23; Gen. 1:16; Gen. 6:4; Luke 2:8.

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## THE GATHERING

Edna R. Smith

Gather my people together so that I may hold them in the hollow of My hand to instruct and protect them in these closing times.

God seems to be saying these words to his people at this very time in the course of history for they are gathering in from the north, south and eastern parts of our nation. There have been ten (10) families from Wisconsin one (1) from Michigan and one (1) from Tennessee in the last two years. Jobs have opened up to them, homes have been found with comparative ease and their homes elsewhere have sold easily. What else but the Lord's hand could have performed this miracle in this day and age? To the outside world this move seems foolish.

We see evil on every hand, even here in the place of Independence, Missouri which was chosen many years ago in the beginning of the Restoration Movement in the early 1800's by the spirit of God. Men were directed by God's spirit to journey here through hardships of all kinds to dedicate a sacred spot for God's Temple. True the Temple hasn't been built yet for possibly the time was not right. Perhaps it was God's purpose to first gather His children together so that He could further instruct and counsel them according to His will and not man's will before His House is built.

God's plans are perfect and order has ever been His way from the very beginning of time. Man has sought to change things thus delaying the time for fulfillment of those plans. God's work has never been frustrated only man's. We cannot run ahead but instead let Him lead us all the way. We are like children needing to hold on tight to His hand lest we fall. He knows every pitfall and stumbling block and will lead us over and around them if we only will heed the promptings of that still small voice which entices us to do that which is right.

Jesus Christ heeded His father's counsel and came to the earth to set an example for us to follow. He didn't go His own way but trusted in the things told him by His father in developing a plan by which all men might return to Him and be saved.

Thus we see God's almighty power in gathering His sheep as a shepherd gathers his sheep for protection from the ravaging wolves that seek to overthrow and lead men's souls down to hell.

Thank God for His wonderful plan of salvation and for us today to be able to see the workings of His power as He gathers into the hollow of His hand His children here to Independence.

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## NOTICE TO THE PRIESTHOOD

At the Conference of the Ministry in August 1976 there were several items of Priesthood concern which were considered. It was felt of sufficient importance to make special mention of two items on a regular basis through ZION'S ADVOCATE. These are:

- (1) Individual spiritual preparation for the tasks required of a Minister of God in these latter days.
- (2) Earnest fasting and prayer by all that the Lord will

send forth more laborers into His harvest, and for the filling of incomplete quorums.

Will other members please join with the Ministry on the second item?

Sincerely,  
William A. Sheldon, Secy.  
Conference of the Ministry

## AVA LOCAL REPORT

Summer's nearly over, a busy and eventful one; besides the usual everyday work, chores, gardening etc. and our regular Sunday Meetings every Sunday in Bro. and Sis. Lester Burgin's basement, consisting of Sunday School classes, Preaching Services and Prayer Meetings, various ones had the privilege of attending the Missouri Reunion. Those unable to attend were provided Services here, meeting in quiet peacefulness, though few in number — "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them". (Matt. 18:20) Thus we were able to rejoice in this assurance, for we know it is important to have worship services though few be in attendance. How richly we are repaid by our Heavenly Father's overshadowing love in these efforts.

After the privilege of attending the Tri-Local Meeting at Houston our Social Leader, Bro. David Jones, and Committee got very busy and planned and organized a Tri-Local Day, the 25th of July, for the Ava Local's effort to do our share in these Rally-Days. We were glad so many could attend and worship with us though the day was extremely warm. The M. F. A. hall and kitchen had been rented for the day providing space to accommodate everyone. We do appreciate the Social Committee's work in making all these arrangements (I especially value their ability in this line as I have no ability myself engineering these things.)

Also we appreciate the visiting Minister's help in these services, in the Sermons they gave us, Bro. Larry Beem, Bro. John Jones and Bro. David Jones.

Besides these Ministers mentioned we've had other Minister's assisting in our services through the spring and summer, Bro. Frank Fann, Bro. Leon Yates, Bro. Archie Bell and Bro. Roland Sarrat. We are truly grateful for this help and offer our thanks to them, which help has relieved the burden our own Ministers carry in the regular Sunday preaching hours. Bro. David Jones and Bro. Alex Smith. Our pastor Bro. Joseph Smith has spent the summer in Idaho working in the timber, coming home for a short visit to perform the marriage ceremony, July 4th for his daughter Candance to Bobby Fair Gentry who is stationed in the Air Force in North Dakota where the young couple are presently making their home.

Random flash-backs of various sermons, testimonies, and Sunday School lessons through the last two years - -

How much we have been strengthened and encouraged by the words of testimony of the young, even those of a few words for we never know when just a word, just a few words spoken will fill another's need, it being the very thing this other searching-soul has been hungering for.

How our hearts join in thanksgiving with those testifying of being sustained through trials, sicknesses etc. by our Heavenly Father. Of the blessings, even the little blessings (little but so important), the one's telling of everyday chores and responsibilities that have

been eased, burdens lifted as by a strong shoulder bearing with us these ordinary work days.

The testimonies of healings, of the helps in translating of letters in a foreign language.

The penitent testimonies, hearts touched by The Spirit bringing humility and tears as we come to God realizing our need and whole dependency on Him.

A sister relating a dream that had been in answer to prayer, that she had several years ago, of which at the time she had thought it as related only to a personal problem, — but now realizing it had a much broader meaningful application. In the dream she was at a Christmas party, gift exchange etc. — each receiving a gift and each providing one; — she received a small box and sliding the lid off, found some of the simple olive-glasses (that olives come in) that she had liked so well and was saving for a set of them, and she thought — "O! from someone who knew this and knew her liking for them." Returning home later, she opened the box and lo! — the glasses were intricately molded and cut in the most delicate patterns; sliding further open the box lid she found more beautiful cut glassware, exquisite; then she took out fine stem-ware that was so lovely and so finely balanced, one scarce could put them down, the feel and balanced weight of them causing her to pick them up with joy, — then she took out a lovely cut-glass pitcher (far, far too many things for so small a box to hold) — then she found cut-glass plates in two sizes, but matching, — and another cut-glass pitcher; — all the cut angles catching the sunlight and radiating exquisite sparkling rainbow colors, — and she woke up.

I sat through the following testimonies, alive to The Spirit as it rested first on one, then on another as they rose to their feet; — and thought "O! we people", — we feel ourselves the poorest "potter's clay" pots, — we feel ourselves to be the simple olive-glasses or pickling-glass; — cut by our mistakes, failures, scarred by life's tribulations — broken, chipped, — unlovely; — yet here before me was the touching of God's Spirit bringing to sparkle in 'rainbow colors', — by our repentant souls and God's forgiveness, — He, touching these scars, cuts, chips, wove a shimmering beauty that radiated in our hearts and I could visualize that one day we may wear with joy unto God these deep scars and abrasions as things overcome unto His Glory. O! indeed the "gift" of The Gospel is overflowing with beauty, love, mercy unimaginal.

Thoughts in study class, — one lesson brought in the reference of Christ's disciples being the "salt" of the earth and from the Book of Mormon Christ says that He gives the "salt" — 3 Nephi 5:60, — If the salt has lost it's savor it is cast out and trodden under the foot of man, — it being He that gives the "salt", how would we lose this precious "salt"? What kind of actions do we do that would cause this precious gift to lose it's savor or influence to mankind? That would cause It to

be trodden under the foot of uncaring man? — that would reflect back on Christ in scorn, smirchings, sneering etc. causing Him, His Truths, His Gospel to be trodden under unheeding man? The really horrifying thing is that by these unrighteous actions of ours we open ways of putting Christ under the foot of man, putting Him to an open shame. It isn't just we humans that by losing our gift of saltiness to be trodden under the feet of man, as I had used to understand these verses meaning, — its far more than that, — He giving the "salt", then it means He and His Truths are what is trodden on by our not living the fulness of His Teachings.

"Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." Matt. 6:12. Forgive us our trespasses, — "as we forgive" others, — what does this **do** for the others? (We know that this brings 'freeing' for us) — Christ's forgiveness or redemption brought Salvation for us, — for **all**, the beautiful privilege is for all mankind to partake of if they will; do we as emissaries (disciples) of Christ's by our forgiving our fellow-travelers, somehow open a path for them, — within them. — A Christ-forgiveness way, — open this Way whereby they may travel in blessedness of The Father's forgiveness-way?? It must have a great, as great, a meaning for the debtors as it does for us.

"... but I have called you friends..." John 15:15

"Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." — John 15:14.

"... for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren," — Heb. 2:11. (Thoughts) — Christ — taking upon himself man's humanity, — took on **all** that **we can become**, — "... unto the full measure of the stature of Christ..." Christ — friend and brother, who is not ashamed of us! Let man's heart be comforted, — it's needs cannot outgrow Christ's filling, — however great our need is, so great is His filling.

Speaking of the hungering-need within us, one sister in speaking of this mentioned her earnest desire not to miss the 'gems' that feed in these various sermons, study-classes etc.

Gem, — as we enter the "straight and narrow" gate of baptism by water and the Spirit, — we advance into the abundant life, for example the Ministed used in illustration a funnel, — we entering the small end of the funnel by baptism, — then were free to grow

with God's help into the fullness of the extended wide opening out of the funnel's wide mouth, into the fullness of all that which Gospel living, Spiritual living can and does mean.

Gem — to stand firmly for Truth, The Gospel, for God may cause one to be accused of being infidels, atheists etc. as our forefathers had passed through these harrowing experiences, — examples drawn from the Bible, the Book of Mormon and from the history of our countries founding fathers experiences.

Gem — The blessings, strength and comfort, yes and the joy of walking the Gospel path. Though trials and tribulations often nearly overcome us, this Way is the only Way.

Gem — that Christ took upon Himself the blackest despair of the remorse of our sins, though it is true we must taste deeply enough of real remorse to enter into deep repentance but the terrible blackness-unto-destruction of what could be our remorse, He took this upon Himself on Calvary, otherwise it could very well destroy us, through Him we are redeemed and salvation opened to us.

Gem — to hear sermons with such deep insights truly feeds the inner-man, sermons containing a "brokenness", tendered and gentled, — a reaching through of God's loving hand. O! to become this Ministry — crucified, humbled; — man's viewpoint is pre-occupied with "doing a great work for God themselves", — a showing before mankind a great personal worthy effort. Yet Paul was told that Christ would show him what great things he must suffer for Christ's sake, — no promise this of great efforts lauded by fellowman, — or success in the human point of view. This humbling, this crucifying daily the selfishness of mankind, that Paul speaks of — "crucified daily". The continual 'up and downs' of our living as one speaker brought out, is this not part of the learning to crucify the selfish self-man of our human nature? Also the beauty of true human love, — and the more wonderfulness of God's love which we are to grow into, — that he (the speaker) was shown that love is the blessed thing that goes with us into Eternal life. As we grow in this love to heights of virtue one carries this into the future life, there to be transformed, magnified beyond human words to express.

darleen smith  
(reporter)

### THANKSGIVING PRAYER

For sun and rain, for food to eat,  
For love, for mirth, for friends to greet,  
For life, for strength, for work to do,  
Thanksgiving, Lord, we offer You.

For knowledge that we have of good,  
For freedom to worship as we would,

For right to think, to choose, to do,  
Thanksgiving, Lord, we offer You.

All this is ours. Yet, one thing more  
We dare ask. Help us, from Your power,  
To live for others and for You,  
That Your heart feel thanksgiving too!

Donna Moser

## 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

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## OBITUARY

### Henry Jensen

Henry Jensen was born in Council Bluffs, Iowa September 5, 1882, and passed away early in his 95th year on the Lord's Day, September 26, 1976. He leaves to mourn his passing, his loving and beloved wife of 56 years, Opal; one son, Apostle Robert Jensen of Bellevue, Nebraska; one daughter, Helen Dewaele of Crescent, Iowa; five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren; also his loving daughter-in-law, Doris, and his son-in-law, Raymond; as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and neighbors.

Brother Jensen was a life-long resident of the area in and around Council Bluffs and Honey Creek, Iowa. He farmed in his youth, then worked for a number of years as a carpenter, as did the Lord Jesus. His last career as an iron and steel worker for the Omaha and Council Bluffs Street Railway Company spanned 33 years, ending in 1952 when he was required by law to retire at the age of 70. Following that he worked on a farm from time to time for his son-in-law and gardened until his mid-eighties. Opal, his wife, had to move to the Indian Hills Nursing Center in Council Bluffs in August 1974 because of an accident and accompanying disabilities. He also moved there to be with and help care for her. He remained in good health and keen intellect until three months before his passing, when his strength and general health started a sharp decline.

Brother Jensen was loved by every person who ever knew him during his exceptionally long life. He was a

quiet, strong, kind, hard-working man who was never too tired or too busy to help someone in need. If any person ever lived a life totally filled with love for his fellow-man, good-deeds, and a love of the Almighty God, he was among the foremost. He was never heard to utter a profane word, and never touche tobacco or liquor or the other things to which so many men are addicted. He merited and received the greatest respect from his employers and fellow-workers.

Brother Jensen was devoted to living the Gospel of Christ to the best of his ability. He guided his family in love through the many years, some of which were extremely difficult during the great depression and drought of the 1930's, with a firm never-erring judgment that surely was given to him in large measure by a kind and loving Heavenly Father.

Brother Jensen was a member of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot), Independence, Missouri. He was devoted to a study of the Holy Scriptures, and was particularly comforted and strengthened spiritually by such verses as these:

Ps. 33:13 "The Lord looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men."

Prov. 20:27 "The Spirit of man is the **candle** of the Lord,"

Prov. 3:1-6 "My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments;

- for length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee; bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart; So shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man. Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and He shall direct thy paths."
- Ps. 34:19, 22 "Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivereth him out of them all. The Lord redeemeth the soul of his servants, and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate."
- Prov. 19:17, 23 "The fear of the Lord tendeth to life; and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil." "He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will He pay him again."
- Ps 116:12 "What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?"
- Ps. 118:1, 24 "Oh give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good, because His mercy endureth forever." "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."
- Ps. 31:23-24 "O love the Lord, all ye his saints; for the Lord preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer. Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord."
- Ps. 145:18 "The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him, to all that call upon him in truth."
- Ps. 103:13-14 "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust."
- Ps. 91:9-11 "Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the Most High, thy habitation; there shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways."
- Ps. 37:23-25 "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord; and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand. I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed (children) begging bread."
- Ecc. 3:1-2 "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven; a time to be born, and a time to die."
- Ps. 116:15 "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints."
- Ecc. 12:7 "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; AND THE SPIRIT SPIRIT SHALL RETURN UNTO GOD WHO GAVE IT."

The funeral was held at 3:00 P. M. September 29th at the Meyer Funeral Home in Council Bluffs. Apostle William A. Sheldon was in charge of the service. Interment was in the Grange Cemetery in Boomer Township of Pottawatamie County.

### THANKSGIVING

God of sun and sky and air,  
Thy gifts surround me everywhere.  
God of Heaven and earth and sea  
Accept the praise I offer Thee.

God of sight and sound and scent,  
And all the senses deftly blent,  
Hear the song my lips intone  
In prayer and praise to Thee alone.

Let my paeans reach Thine ear,  
My sin confessions deign to hear.  
When I rise from bended knee,  
Forgiven, cleansed, from guilt made free,

Let me find some service sweet —  
Some worthy task for hands and feet.  
May I make deserving choice  
Of work to do and thoughts to voice.

And for gifts Thou dost impart,  
Instill in me a gen'rous heart.  
When my lips their praises give,  
Then let me also praises live.

Evalena Sills

(Reprinted from an earlier issue.)

## OBITUARY

### Everett G. Beachtel

Everett G. Beachtel passed from this life Sunday, October 10, 1976 at the age of 83 years.

He was born the eldest of four children on July 4th, 1893 to Frank and Nellie Beachtel. He was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters and one brother, his youngest son Erwin LeRoy and his first wife Edna. He was born in Troy Center, Walworth County, Wisconsin. He spent most of his youth and young manhood in this area.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing and trapping and farmed with his father until he married, Edna Luebke, November 28, 1923. To this union was born one daughter, and two sons. He and his wife Edna lived and he worked for many years in the Whitewater, Lima Center areas, where they had a small farm until 1969 when he sold out due to ill health.

He continued all these years to enjoy his family and friends. And took his grandchildren on many pleasurable outings. He and his wife Edna spent their summers with their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Addie. And their winters with their son and daughter-in-law, the Everett Beachtel's Jr.

His wife Edna passed from this life on April 17, 1973, leaving him very lonely, even though he spent most of his time with his children. The following year he met and married, Florence Tibbets Savage. They were married on November 16, 1974, in Bell, California, where they spent their winter months, returning to Rio, Wisconsin in the summer to their little trailer home near their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Virgil

Addie. Thy had two years of real happiness.

He was always concerned about his children and grand-children even though his suffering in the hospital was severe and intense, his main concern was for his entire family.

He was baptized into Christ and put on Christ, in August 1956 by Apostle B. C. Flint and by this act became a member of the Church of Christ, (Temple Lot) and remained faithful to his covenant to the time of his passing from this life.

He is survived by his wife, Florence; daughter, Mary Addie of Rio, Wisconsin; one son, Everett Beachtel Jr., Rockford, Illinois; step-daughter, Mrs. Dorothea Fleming, Thousand Oaks, California; grand-daughter, Mrs. Ron Renly, Janesville, Wisconsin; grand-daughter, Mrs. Jeanette Knight, Madison, Wisconsin; grand-son Sgt. Jerrold O. Addie USAF, Del Rio, Texas; grand-son, Michael Addie, Riverside, California; grand-son's, Walter, Martin and James Addie, Rio, Wisconsin; grand-daughter, Mrs. Don Lowman, Rockford, Illinois; grand-daughter, Mrs. Bryan Krause, Rockford, Illinois; grand-daughter, Connie Beachtel, Rockford, Illinois. And a host of friends, neighbors and Brothers and Sisters in the Church of Christ who held a great love and respect for him.

Services were held at the Skindingsrude Funeral Home on October, 13, 1976 at 2 o'clock with Elder Kenneth J. Smith officiating, assisted by Elder Isaac Brockman at Whitewater, Wisconsin. Interment at Round Prairie Cemetery in La Grange, Wisconsin.

## WISCONSIN REUNION

Helen Taubert, Reporter

August 7th and 8th were the dates of our Wisconsin Reunion this year, and again found us gathering at the American Legion Hall in Rio, Wisconsin. We were happy to welcome out of state guests from both Missouri and Minnesota, and Apostle Robert Jensen and Sister Jensen of Bellevue, Nebraska. It was a smaller gathering than usual, due in part to the fact that so many of our brothers and sisters have moved to Independence this past year, and we did miss them. We also missed the smiling faces of many who have met with us in other years and so richly contributed to the joy of by-gone reunions.

Our opening service Saturday morning was a prayer and testimony meeting and again Sunday morning was devoted to this, including the serving of the sacrament. The prayers and testimonies were strengthening and uplifting, with much encouragement to those of us remaining in this area that God is mindful

to each of His children, and as the scripture says, will be with even small groups when they meet together in His name. I was so touched with the testimony of one brother who came from some distance, in saying he especially wanted to be at this reunion to share in our loss. Seven families had moved to Independence from Wisconsin this past year, which does leave a big void, but we are happy for them and pray the rest of them too may yet be gathered down at the center place.

Speakers for the reunion were Apostle Robert Jensen, Elder Kenneth Smith and Elder Harry Hutchinson with Apostle Jensen and Elder Kenneth Smith each occupying twice. The sermons were admonition, instruction and encouragement yielding much food for thought, and the words of life to gage our daily actions by. Briefly I will seek to relay some of the counsel given.

"Mortal life is a divine gift of God and the word



of God is a miracle and the only sure guideline to eternal life. The ministry are to point the way to travel, it is up to each of us to follow in that way, that we may be partakers of God's divine nature, and thus escape the lust of the flesh. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation, to everyone that believeth, and is revealed only by faith unto the saving of our souls. Christ our Savior and our example lived by faith, and it is required that we live by faith also. We are told to add to our faith, virtue, and to virtue knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity, that we may be fruitful in the gospel of Christ. We must keep the commandments of God in obedience to the gospel, loving the Lord with all our heart, soul and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves. It is so important to watch what we say, and always speak in an attitude of love, exercising love and charity to our brothers and sisters, and all peoples.

The time is soon coming that God's peoples must be delivered from the evils of the world. Zion is the place of deliverance. We should pray for Zion that it may become a reality. The hastening time is upon us just prior to Christ's second coming, and we must truly seek to magnify our calling in the gospel, that we may accomplish God's purposes in these the latter days. What God has said shall not return unto Him void, but His word shall prosper where unto it has been sent.

I would again like to express our deep appreciation to Brother Virgil and Sister Mary Addie for their much work and effort in making this reunion possible, and extend our special thanks and gratitude to all those that came from far, who by their presence and participation added greatly to the joy of this occasion. May God's blessings abide with each one.

## THIS IS GOOD

The close knit circle that we usually find in our Church of Christ locals is a thing of beauty. "By this shall all men know ye are my disciples, that ye have love one for another." This is good.

In knitting this circle there is a special stitch with which we must all learn to sew. This stitch is taught only by the Holy Spirit. It has the remarkable property of making the circle adaptable. Sewn thus, our ring can open at will to widen and include the shy, the new, the wary, the outsider, and then close tight again. This is good. "He drew a circle that shut me out — rebel, heretic, thing to flout. But love and I had the wit to win. We drew a circle that took him in!" (Author not unknown, just unrecollected)

When we become skilled in the use of this heavenly stitch our loving circle becomes a joy to each link and a radiance in the eye of the beholder (those who see with the eye of the spirit, at least).

Sometimes strangers come among us. This is good. This is opportunity, such as we often pray for. Some of these stay awhile — waiting — then go away again, still strangers. This is not good.

Some of us find it easy to be outgoing, to make friends. For such, feeling and showing love is easy. This is good. Tragically, though, there are personalities — souls! afraid or proud or shy, who find it almost impossible to open up, to reach out, to give and receive charity's human sister, demonstrated affection. They can only stand quietly, aching with the need to feel human warmth (the highest manifestation of which is the healing warmth that comes only from God).

Sadly, too, we can have estrangement even in our own family-like ranks. Don't be afraid to show your

love. Like any other strength this one grows with exercise. You'll find that you are no longer saying anxiously to yourself, "Does this person really like me? I'm afraid not." Instead your almost unconscious thought will be, "Do I really like him? I do! How can I make sure that my love is felt?" It is true that actions speak louder than words and that mere speech can be empty rhetoric. But there are times when a word or a touch is needed. If we don't show our neighbor, our brother or sister, what we are feeling, perhaps he'll never know!

We do offer Christian charity. This is good. Let us be sure, however, that its recipients know beyond doubt that they are loved. Don't let them go through a lonely lifetime wondering if anyone really cares, cares in a person-to-person way. When we make station-to-station phone calls we don't always find the called party at home.

Because the One called "Wonderful, Counselor, Almighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace" created us He understands us and knows our needs. He wants us to have the joy of loving and being loved. There is no greater earthly joy, perhaps no greater heavenly one!

Don't be afraid! He will take away your fear for yourself in direct proportion to the concern He helps you feel for others. This is a mathematically perfect equation. You'll see!

Please, dear ones, don't equate concern with worry. The concern of which I speak is part of that charity which is the pure love of Christ. Thus its exercise can only bring results in kind.

A poor friar on an island named "Assizi", centuries

before science began its humanistic efforts to help mankind, understood this principle. His prayerful formula has been preserved. For this, I thank God. His prayer is not only scientifically correct, it is beautiful to hear and meditate upon. "Oh, divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive: it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is dying that we are called to eternal life!"

My very dear brothers and sisters, charity is indeed found chiefly in action. However, there are desperate human needs that can only be met by love, visible or spoken. Don't hold back the demonstration of your love, the love that comes from God. Unlike most modern day "demonstrations" this one will slowly, surely, inevitably bring results. This is good. This very good!

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