

# 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. 54

Independence, Missouri, April, 1977

No. 4

## The Friendship

Two friends there were, long years ago,  
Young men of Judah's tribe.  
One called the other "Master" though,  
According to the scribe,  
In age and station much the same.  
The Master called him "John".  
They were so close that each could name  
Thoughts of the other one.

John was the best beloved of all  
The Master's dearest friends.  
One day he found that he could call  
And win desired end.  
He almost feared to ask so much —  
To linger on and on —  
Help others know his Master's touch.  
He loved and it was done!

Then cruel separation came  
And John was left behind.  
A mother wept and he became  
Her loving son and kind.  
The years went on and on. He served,  
Not quite immortal yet  
But changed from mortal. Never swerved  
From urging all he met

To hear and do the will of God,  
Yet still he missed his friend.  
And then one day on Patmos John  
Found loneliness could end.  
He wrote. We almost see it now!  
Midst golden candles' gleam —  
His friend! — flame-eyed, with snowy brow,  
Stood like sun's bright beam.

With voice like mighty waters fast  
He spoke to John and said,  
"Fear not; I am the first and last.  
I live, that was dead.  
Write the things which you have seen.  
Write to each church home.  
Tell what must come to earth's sweet green.  
Tell how to overcome!"

D. M.

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# Zion's Advocate

Official Publication of the Church of Christ

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Subscriptions and changes of address

## PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Temple Lot), P. O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051

Second class postage paid at Independence, Missouri

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES:** Subscription rates to members paid from general funds. In bundles of twelve or more for missionary purposes, \$10.00 Non-member rates one year \$1.50. Canadian and all foreign rates, \$1.75.

**Send all donations for the Temple Fund, the Storehouse, Consecrations, Tithes, Offerings, and Subscriptions for The Advocate to:** Church of Christ (Temple Lot) P. O. Box 472, Independence, Mo. 64051 Attn: C. LeRoy Wheaton, Business Manager Church

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# EDITORIAL

Today millions of professing Christians may believe on Jesus. That is, they believe He was the Christ; believe He was the Son of God; even believe in His shed blood for remission of their sins. But those same millions do not believe He is the Christ; or He is the Son of God, and will come to earth the second time to set up His kingdom and begin the Millennial reign of a thousand years.

Do we really believe in the factual second coming of Jesus Christ or are we being lulled into a drowsiness by those referred to in (II Peter 3:3-4) "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last day scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.

Jesus continually tried to get His disciples to focus their minds upon the reality of His second coming as a sure fact of future history. He said, "And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. (Luke 21:27) Not a time of gloom and discouragement, but a time of joy or gladness. For he further said, "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." (Luke 21:28)

When Jesus was on trial for His life, knowing that He would have to endure brutal treatment of mocking and beating, coupled with having spikes driven through his hands and feet into the accursed wood of the cross, having Himself raised up as the prophecies implied, naked, bleeding, before men, and then to die with the thrust of a huge Roman Spear into His side, He said, looking levelly into the eyes of the High Priest, ". . . . Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven." (Matt. 26:64) Not only did Jesus want to preserve those words for you and I today but he wanted to impress them deeply into the consciousness of the super-critical High Priest, so that at some time in future when he stands before the great judgment bar he would be forced to recognize and admit his many grievous sins of this life.

There is hardly a writer of the New Testament who does not allude to or directly teach the literal second coming of Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul refers to it again and again. The entire 15th chapter of 1st Corin. deals with the second coming of Jesus Christ and the Resurrection. In writing to the Thessalonians he draws a clear picture. "For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the

clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." (1st Thess. 4:15-18)

The Restoration of the fullness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ has taught the literal second coming of our Lord and Master, Jesus to the earth, the Resurrection of the dead, and the setting up of the Millennial reign, for one hundred and forty seven years as a factual event of history. However, we live in a day when the pressure has increased, perhaps the day of the Heathen. A day when the great Anti-Christ movement is making inroads upon the minds of men. We should awaken to our responsibilities of preaching and teaching the people concerning the second coming of Christ.

We stand on the threshold of a new conference year; we do not have time for the maneuvering and

the machinations of men, regardless of who they are. We have a crying need for the re-dedicating of our lives and our ministry in preaching the Gospel of Repentance to a world that is sick with sin. And, in so doing we will by natural consequence teach the literal second coming of Christ. We are warned to, "Watch therefore; for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. . . . Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." (Matt. 24:42, 44)

We need to understand the second coming of Jesus Christ as a practical fact of history in the not too far distance. It is just around the corner from us as a great event, and not just another biblical argument. In short we need to be about our father's business of saving souls.

KJS

## TEMPLE LOT LOCAL

### LEROY WHEATON'S SERMON

September 26, 1976, 7:00 p. m.

About the 28th of August, I woke up early in the morning, and being unable to sleep, I picked up a little book that my son David, had given me for Father's Day, its called "The Bible As History". I was not reading it because I felt I needed any archeological or historical proof in order to believe in the Bible or Book of Mormon. I have a testimony by the Spirit that these things are true. But it has always been interesting to me to find that there are verifications of the things that are written in the Scriptures. There have been some who have said (especially of the Old Testament) that the things that happened there are myths, much like those of the Greek mythology and they never actually existed.

Perhaps some of you remember that a number of years ago scholars who read the Bible said that there were no such things as Hittites. They claimed this was just a name which had been picked up by people and placed in the Bible and there was no actual evidence of them. Then one day an archeologist dug in some ruins and discovered evidences of the great nation of the Hittites. The Hittites had risen to great heights (they ruled the Middle East) in a period of time and were great fierce warriors, then they were completely annihilated so much so that there was no record left of them.

I know there are some people who doubt, as Christ's apostle, Thomas, doubted, until they could see the physical evidence. But Christ does not upbraid us for this, He told us there would always be some of us like this. However, He did say that MORE blessed are those who believe without such evidence. Therefore, I know

there are some who need archeological evidences of the truthfulness of these books, and it has always been interesting to me to read about these things. I have bought quite a number of books regarding these things through the years.

As I was reading this little book that morning, I found the story of Joseph who was sold into Egypt and the evidences of this story in the writings of the Egyptians and in the physical features that exist in the land of Egypt. Not long ago the Israelites were doing some archeological work on the western side of the Suez canal and they found the evidence of an old canal which had been dug in ancient times. It was thought that it was possible that this canal had been built or improved in the time of the Romans when Caesar and Mark Anthony made contact with Queen Cleopatra of Egypt.

One of the things that I like about this little book is that as you read through it, it gives you Scriptural references to the things that are being referred to. I tried to jot down some of these scriptural references in order to touch on the highlights of the thoughts I want to bring to you and hope that I may be able to bring us a little bit of understanding of things that are happening to this church and the Latter Day Restoration Movement today.

In this book David gave me it tells the Biblical story of Joseph and the sojourn of the children of Israel in Egypt and says this probably occurred during the period of turbulence in the Nile under the rule of the foreign Hyksos. I might tell you briefly what is written here, that at a certain period of time, a Semetic people

came down the coast of what was called Palestine and is Israel today from Mesopotamia and Armenia and went south. They were among the first to use the horses and chariots much like the Germans used the Panzer Divisions when they ran all over Europe in a matter of weeks. These people in a very short period of time ran all over the Syrians and went down into Egypt before the Egyptians knew what had happened to them. The major cities in Egypt were captured and the people were subjugated.

Now this is interesting because these are the same people from which Abraham came. The Semetic people came from around Ur and moved up along the Euphrates River to its headwaters to what was known as Mesopotamia and Armenia in a latter time. Abraham and his father dwelt there at the headwaters of the Euphrates River until the Lord moved upon Abraham to take Lot, his nephew, and their families with their flocks and move south along the borders of the sea to a land which He had promised to them. Three generations later, in Joseph's time, these warrior people had moved out of the north and down into the Nile.

The reason that this is brought out is that because the Semetic people were primarily a flock raising people, raising sheep and small cattle. The Egyptians looked down upon such people and would never have allowed a shepherd such as Joseph to have taken a prominent part in the government of Egypt, and only under the rule of these Hyksos' who were a Semetic people was it possible for Joseph to have done this under their king. For they ruled over Egypt, according to this account. We need to keep this in mind as we continue our study together.

"It is therefore not surprising that no contemporary Egyptian information has come down to us, nevertheless there is indirect proof of the authenticity of Joseph's story. The Biblical description of the historical background is authentic, equally genuine in the colorful Egyptian detail Egyptology confirms this on countless finds. Spices and aromatic products were brought to Egypt by the Ishmaelites, the Arabian merchants who sold Joseph there." (Gen. 37:25) page 96 "The Bible as History."

You may remember that when Joseph had been thrown into the pit by his brothers and left to die, that he was rescued by some Ishmaelites who took him into Egypt as they journeyed there to trade. These Arabians, or Ishmaelites carried spices into Egypt and therefore there is evidence that there was such a trade between the Ishmaelites and the Egyptians just as we are told in the book of Genesis.

"There was a heavy demand for these things in the Nile country. They were used in religious services, the wonderful fragrant herbs were burned as incense in the temples. The doctors found them indispensable for healing the sick and the

priest required them for embalming the bodies of the nobility." - page 96. Ibid.

"Potipher was the name of the Egyptian to whom Joseph was sold. It was a thoroughly characteristic native name. In Egyptian language it is 'Pa di pa ra' the gift of god Ra." - page 96. Ibid.

This is the meaning the author gives for the name Potiphar, which was the man to whom Joseph was sold.

"Joseph's elevation to viceroy of Egypt was reproduced in the Bible exactly according to protocol. He is invested with the insignia of his high office, he receives the ring, Pharaoh's seal, a costly linen vestment, and a golden chain. This is exactly how Egyptian artists depict the solemn ceremony on murals and reliefs." - page 96. Ibid (Genesis 41:42)

"As viceroy, Joseph rode in Pharaoh's second chariot. (this is a direct quotation out of Genesis 41:43) That implies the time of the Hyksos." - page 97. Ibid.

These "rulers of foreign lands" were the first to bring swift war chariots to Egypt. We know, too, that the Hyksos rulers were the first to use a ceremonial chariot on public occasions in Egypt. Before their day, this had not been practiced on the Nile. The ceremonial chariots harnessed to thoroughbred horses, was in those days, the Rolls-Royce of the government.

"Joseph in accordance with his rank married Asenath (this is in Genesis 41:45) and thereby became the son-in-law of an influential man, Potipherah, the priest of Heliopolis. Heliopolis is the On of the Bible, and it lay on the right bank of the Nile a little to the north of present day Cairo." page 97. Ibid..

This is also in the area which is called the land of Goshen where Jacob and his sons settled when they finally went down there.

"Joseph was 30 years of age when he 'went out over the land of Egypt', (Genesis 41:45). The Bible says no more about this, but there is a spot by the Nile which still bears his name."

"The town of Medinet-el-Faiyum lying 80 miles south of Cairo in the middle of the fertile Faiyum, was extolled as the 'Venice of Egypt'. In the lush gardens of this huge flourishing oasis grew oranges, manderins, peaches, olives, pomegranates, and grapes. Faiyum owed these delicious fruits to the artificial canal, over 200 miles long, which conveyed the water of the Nile and turned this district, which would otherwise have been desert into a paradise. The ancient waterway is not only to this day called 'Bahr Yusuf' (or 'Joseph's canal') by the fellahin, but is known by his name throughout Egypt. People say that it was

Joseph of the Bible, Pharaoh's 'Grand Visor', as the Arab legends would describe him, who planned it." page 97. Ibid.

So here is evidence of what the Israeli's were able to find out, that this canal was east of the present day Suez Canal. In fact it crosses about in the middle of the canal between the Red Sea and Cairo. There are evidences of it that appear in the desert on the western side of the Suez Canal. This canal is of ancient times and still to this day bears the name of Joseph's canal.

So, as I began to follow the references down through the Bible, there were a number of thoughts that came into my mind.

In order to be brief, I'll try to condense the story of Joseph, but I would suggest you read the complete story from Genesis starting with the 37th chapter.

Because Joseph was favored by his father, Jacob, his older brothers were jealous. His father had even made Joseph a special coat of many colors. Joseph had had a dream that his brothers and parents had bowed down to him and this infuriated them more. One day Jacob sent Joseph to see how his brothers were getting along with the flocks. When the brothers saw him coming toward them in the distance, they conspired to get rid of him for good. Reuben did not want to kill him and said to put Joseph in a pit. So they took his coat of many colors off him and put him in a pit that had no water in it and went off a little way to eat. There were traveling merchants coming towards them bearing spicery, balm and myrrh on their way to Egypt and the brothers decided to sell him and not have his blood on their hands. The brothers killed a kid and dipped Joseph's coat in the blood and showed it to Jacob and caused him to believe Joseph was dead.

However, the merchants took Joseph to Egypt and sold him to Potipher, an officer of Pharaoh's and captain of the guard. Potipher liked Joseph and put him in charge of his house. But while Potipher was away on business, his wife tried to get Joseph to commit adultery with her and he refused, so she told her husband a lie and said Joseph had mocked her. Potipher believed her, of course, and had Joseph thrown into prison. (This happens in our society too. A few years ago, it was men who got the blame for all of the sexual crimes that went on. But here in the Scriptures it is a woman who did this. Cleopatra tempted and pitted Caesar and Mark Anthony against each other in order, by the favors she was able to give them, that she might keep control over Egypt. We must be aware of this today.)

While Joseph was in prison, the king of Egypt became angry with his butler and baker and had them thrown into prison where Joseph was. Both of these men had dreams that they could not understand and Joseph interpreted them, and told them that within three days the baker would be killed and the butler restored to his former position. Then he asked the butler to

remember him when he was restored to his former position. In three days all that Joseph told them came to pass. But the butler forgot Joseph.

Two years later, Pharaoh had a dream that he could not understand and was troubled. He had all the wise men try to tell him what his dream meant, but none of them could. Then the butler remembered Joseph and told the Pharaoh how he had interpreted the baker's and his own dream and they had come to pass. So, Pharaoh sent for Joseph to interpret his dream too. Joseph told him it was not himself, but God who gave the interpretation and when Pharaoh told him the dream, Joseph was able by the power of God to tell Pharaoh it's meaning. The dream meant there would be seven years of plenty throughout the land and then seven years of famine and Pharaoh should set a discreet and wise man over the land and to take one fifth of the produce during the seven years of plenty to store up against the seven years of famine.

Pharaoh was pleased with this and asked Joseph to be that man, and gave him the ring off his finger, fine clothes to wear, caused him to ride in the second chariot and had the people bow down to him. Then Pharaoh gave Joseph the daughter of Potipher, priest of On to be his wife.

Everything came to pass just as Joseph had interpreted. His father, Jacob, sent his older brothers to Egypt to buy corn so they would not die. Joseph recognized his brothers but they did not recognize him. They came and bowed down before him. Joseph found out that his father was still alive but thought him to be dead and his younger brother was very precious to his father. So he tricked his brothers and made them promise that they would not come back again unless they brought their youngest brother with them. So when their corn was used up and they needed more, their father wanted them to go back for more. But the brothers told their father they could not unless Benjamin went with them. So they went again down to Egypt for more corn and Joseph tricked them again and said they had to leave Benjamin with him. They told him this would kill their father as he had lost one son already. Then Joseph told them who he was and for them to go get his father and all their families and bring them to Egypt so they would not starve. They were ashamed and afraid because they had sold him. But he said, "... be not grieved nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither, for God did send me before you to preserve life . . . . God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you that sent me hither but God; and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt." (Gen. 45)

So he took all the blame for being sold into Egypt off the shoulders of his brethren and revealed unto them that this was a part of the plan of God. Just as it was a part of God's plan when He caused Abraham's

father to move up out of Ur of Chaldees and then caused Abraham and Lot to move into the plains along the garden area of the Jordan valley. It was God's purpose that He might develop and preserve a people and He brought this about in this manner. Under Joseph his people were preserved and grew into a multitude of people and they stayed there for over 400 years until God raised up Moses to bring them up out of the land of Egypt.

In the Truth Teller, Vol. 1 page 6, Granville Hedrick's revelation of August 16, 1863 is found. This was given to the Church of Christ at the time he was the president of the church. Among other things in this revelation are these words:

"Inasmuch as you do these things ye are my covenant people and I the Lord your God will give unto you counsel and instructions that from time to time you may be led by the hand of your Father in Heaven and if ye do these things ye shall escape all the power and cunning of the wicked one. And now I say unto you, let all your labors and all your services as ministers in the things which I have appointed unto you to be done in the spirit of meekness and condescension before the Lord. I, the Lord, will make known your duties and preparation towards your brethren wheresoever ye shall be required to labor before Me in your duty and calling, thus saith the Lord. Amen."

Then there is a footnote:

"Given in a conference held by the church in Livingston County, Illinois in the presence of 15 members including a quorum of four apostles and we, the apostles of the church, bear witness of the truth of this revelation as being given by the power of the Holy Spirit whereunto we set our hands. John E. Page, David Judy, Adna C. Haldeman, Jedidiah Owens, A. C. Haldeman, clerk."

From that day to this the Church of Christ has done what some have referred to, as holding out the olive branch to every other division of the Latter Day Restoration. We are unique in this. Because most of the rest of them draw their cloaks up around them and say "we are all that there are!" Amongst us, this Church of Christ, following these instructions which came through Granville Hedrick at that time, has come instruction through various men from that time on down, unfolding parts of God's plan to us just as the story of Joseph unfolded a piece at a time..

Later on, Granville Hedrick wrote an article which was printed in one of the early papers of the church entitled, "Who Are Members Of The Church of Christ?" In this article he points out that if the people had been proper candidates for baptism at the time they were baptized, if they were baptized by one who held authority in the Church, they came into the Church of Christ of their own volition, then the only thing that could get them out was for them to decide of their own

volition to get out. He said men will wander, they will get into error, and God knew this. In the New Testament you'll find that this is one of the things which Christ does for us, that even though we have been baptized and we fall short and we repent, we have an advocate with God. The Scripture tells us that Jesus Christ is our advocate and He stands between us and God. God knows we are weak human creatures. But when we realize what we have done, then we can repent of these things and God recognizes the things that we do as we are in a repentant mood..

So, we have held these things out to other divisions in the Restoration because God has a purpose, and we may not see it, just as Joseph's brothers didn't see it. I'm sure that when Joseph found himself down in the bottom of that pit and realized that he was going to be left there to die, he couldn't see or understand why he was down there. It wasn't until years later when he had seen the things which his brothers had done and the things which had come upon the earth that God revealed to him the purpose that he had in all of these things down through his life.

So it has been with the Church of Christ. Back in 1919, you will find this recorded in a sermon which is in the September 15, 1925 Zion's Advocate entitled, "Mission of the Church of Christ," my father, Apostle Clarence L. Wheaton, Sr. also had a revelation which pointed out some of our duties in relation to the revelation of Granville Hedrick's. It says:

"As I have said in the past, so say I unto you now that ye shall be as little Joseph who was carried captive into Egypt."

Can you see now the connection which I am trying to make? We, this Church of Christ, are to be as little Joseph that was carried captive into Egypt. We don't know all the ins and outs, the reasons why God has done all these things, but He has a purpose in us. This revelation goes on to say:

"As I have said in the past, so say I unto you now, that ye shall be as little Joseph who was carried captive into Egypt, ye shall be the means of saving your brethren and bringing them to a unity of purpose and action before me. For the time of building the temple and the fulfilling of the prophecies are at hand, and the work must be accomplished speedily."

We all know what is written in the Book of Revelation, 13th chapter and the 15 through 17 verses regarding the 'mark of the beast' and those who work for the beast and carry his mark in their forehead. In Revelation 14:8-13 it says that the time will come when we could neither buy nor sell except we have the mark of the beast, and woe unto those who take this means. We are given to understand that it would be better that we DIE than to bow down to the beast and live because we were able to buy and sell with his mark.

How much more critical is it today for

our souls welfare? We must get ourselves into such a condition that when the mark of the beast is revealed we will be prepared to meet it. There are many theories among us as to what the mark of the beast is. Some think it has something to do with our Social Security number. Maybe it does. I listened to the radio one day coming to work here at the church and found out from the speaker that there is a computer program all set up so that they could take anyone that ever had a credit card or a social security card or had ever had, in the last ten or fifteen years, a credit check run on them, and put 666 (the number of the beast) in front of the credit card number or Social Security number and have the whole economic history printed out. See what a hold this could have on us?

We must awaken! We may be assured that God will not delay! We are being given many chances just as Joseph's brothers, to prepare a people. You see, they went down there and sold Joseph into Egypt and then told a story to their father and thought everything was going fine for awhile. Then along comes a famine and they have to go down and get food. But they had to leave one of their brothers (Simeon) there and eventually they had to take Benjamin there too. God is doing the same thing with us. He brings us up to a certain level and then He just sort of whacks us off, if I might use that expression, and He says you don't go any further, and we don't understand this. Because we have not followed the commandments which HE has given us. The commandments He has given us repeatedly, over and over through revelations in both Joseph Smith's time and right up to the present time, that we should prepare against these things. That we might not have to go out by haste when that time comes.

God is still patient with us, just as He was with the brethren of Joseph of old. He is patient with us, but He expects us to move out. Now, we can move out and do so with caution and carefulness and without haste. But we must keep moving. We must keep prayerful. We must keep studying. We must keep trying to understand how we can accomplish these things in the days in which we live. We are finding that it is getting to be more and more difficult.

Brother Nicholas Denham and I have been working with those who are less fortunate, who are members, and non members of the church and find that it is getting more and more difficult for them to be able to survive in the economy of today. Just a few days ago I got a letter from Brother Marvin Ely in which he tells us that his father who has hardening of the arteries, especially through his brain, and is unable to remember things or to think clearly at times, must go to the Veterans Hospital. Then he will have to go into a nursing home and the Veterans Administration will only pay for a certain amount of time while the family finds a way to take care of him. We have hundreds of people like this in the church.

What are we willing to give up that we may be able to take care of them? What are we willing to give up in this time of plenty that we can begin to store up against the time that we can neither buy nor sell without the mark of the beast that we can still have food and clothing?

Oh, sure, we can wait just like little birds in a nest for God to come along and drop a worm in our throats, and you might say that is what He did to the House of Israel when they followed Moses across the Sinai desert. But He requires certain things of us. They had to gather the manna, quail, keep His laws, etc. He chastised them severely because they were not obedient. There were only two families that went into the promised land who came up out of Egypt. Not even Moses could go into the promised land, just Joshua and Caleb and their families.

Because when Joshua and Caleb went in with ten others to search out the land, they had come back with a good report. The rest of them were all scared of the giants or the various warlike people who inhabited the land and said there was no way they could go into that land. These two only said that if God be with us, we can do it. So they were allowed to go into the promised land.

Are we going to continue to see generation after generation in our time go down, because we have lived since the beginning of the Restoration much more than the forty years that the House of Israel wandered in the wilderness. In fact a little quick arithmetic shows we have wandered in the wilderness about 146 years!

It is about time that we got serious. Really getting down and finding out what God would have us to do to prepare against those things which are coming upon the earth. Not only those things which are physical things which will try the very soul of men, because the Scriptures actually literally meant that if it were possible the very elect would be deceived. So it would behoove us to be prayerful and careful and MOVE OUT. We will never see the end of things as we move forward, we are not going to be shown the whole great big panorama before us. Joseph saw these things step by step.

His brothers came to understand them step by step. But eventually they came down there and God developed a people, a nation. For what purpose? So that the Gospel might go forth to the Gentiles amongst the nations of the earth that we all might, ALL MIGHT, be able to come to a knowledge of Jesus Christ and to participate, if we are willing, in the great salvation of eternal life which He has promised.

These are the thoughts that were in my mind that morning. I tried to brief them as much as I could. May God bless you and help you is my prayer, in Christ's name. Amen.

## LETTER WRITTEN TO MADALYN O'HAIR

Apostle Clarence Wheaton

(Ed. note: In an Austin, Texas press conference in March of 1976 Mrs. O'Hair announced her resignation as president of the Society of Separationists (for the promotion of atheism). She was quoted as saying, "I quit. I've had it. Anyone who desires to take over leadership of the American atheist community can have it." She had been in the process of divorcing her husband and went on to say to the reporters that her family had "totally repudiated . . . or disowned" her.

Then, with the grim, hopeless expression on her face that the newspaper photographer caught, she went on, "I do not have the support of one person in the entire nation and I feel that I am standing absolutely alone."

Brother Wheaton read the story and studied the picture of the face without hope. Then he sat down at his typewriter and wrote her the following letter.)

Dear Mrs. O'Hair:

I read in the Christian Beacon for April 6, 1976 of your resignation as leader of American atheist community recently and felt directed to write you this epistle, as I have been inspired by my heavenly Father to do.

You are quoted as saying, "I quit, I've had it."

Now, Mrs. O'Hair, you perhaps do not fully comprehend what you are saying in those few words. They are words of frustration it is true, but as I see it, you have just begun a new life.

Seventy years ago this month of April I made a covenant in the waters of baptism, that I would accept Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and God the eternal Father as my heavenly Father, for the Scripture says,

For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Two years before that time, when I was eleven years of age, I was given up to die with terminal tuberculosis. But thanks to my heavenly Father, He sent the elders of the Church to the home of my parents, who (the elders) anointed me with oil and laid hands upon my head and confirmed a blessing upon me like a warm shower and I was instantly healed.

Since then, I have tried to live a Christian life. In my teens, I was called to the ministry of Jesus Christ. I have preached the Gospel in many nations of the earth with such a rewarding experience that I want to share it with you, and all the world and so live that the covenant I thus made will be a blessing to them. It is a hard thing to do. I have been beaten, cursed, spit upon, stoned by the Jews, had poison set out for me, been tempted by worldly offers to repudiate my Christ. I have confronted and refuted hypocrites, frauds and de-

ceivers who have professed the Lord. By the power of the Holy Spirit I have cast out devils, been face to face with his Satanic Majesty, Lucifer, the enemy of our souls, caused the lame to walk, the blind to see, and the deaf to hear, and by the power of God healed many of their afflictions, and believe it or not, I have nothing to regret for the long years of sacrifice and service to my Lord. So, for such as go about in the name of religion, as wolves in sheeps clothing, I have nothing but contempt and disdain for the Scripture has warned us that such would be in the world in these last days to deceive the very elect, if possible.

You, too, perhaps, have seen the same things among religionists, and as the result, somewhere along the line, you have soured on such, and in the anguish of your soul, you have cried out, "There is no God, who would let such things be." . . . but there is a God. Where you have perhaps made your mistake, - a mistake which has led you down the road to a "DEAD END", which now causes you to make another mistake, that of separation from your husband, and a contemplated divorce and to feel that within your soul, - for you have one - that you do not have the support of even one person, not even your family, as you are quoted as saying even your family has, "totally repudiated me or disowned me," was in thinking your cause of Atheism was logical. All facts of the universe disprove the premise on which Atheism is based.

"I do not have the support of one person in the entire nation, and I feel that I am standing absolutely alone. This would indicate to me . . . that I have failed as a leader.

"It is therefore time that I withdraw." — Christian Beacon, April 6, 1976.

Here, again, you make another mistake, **that you have failed as a leader.** It is not you with an evident talent for leadership that have failed, but the cause you espoused was doomed to fail and you now have, out of the ashes of that ruin, like the Phoenix bird, the opportunity of arising and using that talent in the most successful and powerful crusade the world has ever known, — the Kingdom of God, of which Jesus Christ is the head.

You have experienced the frustration of fighting against the most powerful influence in the world, the influence of the Spirit of God, only to come to a DEAD END, where there is no other place to turn, but to the mercy of that eminent influence which comes from fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Under the terms of His leadership, you in your frustration, loneliness and self-pity can overcome this situation and bring honor and prestige to yourself that few persons in this generation can attain.



Christ has and is inviting you to join the greatest crusade of the century, the second and final triumphal coming of Christ. He said when He was on earth among men:

Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

You may say, "How, after all those years of fighting against God and His Christ can I have forgiveness for what I have done and find rest?"

Christ continues this invitation:

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest to your soul.

Again you may say, "My burden is heavy. I am lonely, repudiated, shunned by family and friends, and "do not have the support of one person", not even my family.

You know, Mrs. O'Hair, I know just how lonely and forsaken you feel. A number of years after my conversion, I married and had a family of several children (all married now with grandchildren), became a business man, pastor of a church, and from the human standpoint I was setting on top of the world. Then came World War I, followed by the financial crash of our nation which caused financiers to jump from the windows of Wall Street in the early 20s. Result? The bottom fell out of my business, I went to the wall, a bankrupt. My wife had just given birth to our daughter, a tubular pregnancy which nearly cost the life of my wife. I became despondent, the future looked dark; because of my bankruptcy I was considered in disgrace; I was hounded by creditors and denounced by my friends. Lonely? Yes. Forsaken? Yes. For a bankrupt in those days was an outcast with a terrible reputation. So — what?

Well, one morning after brooding over my lot, in a cowardly way, I made an excuse to leave the place, kissed my wife and children goodbye, sneaked out and got into my old "Tin Lizzy" as our Ford was called in those days, and drove to the Missouri River with the resolution of diving into its muddy, swirling depths and just ending my misery forever. Oh yes, I know the pains of loneliness and repudiation too. And as I sat there on a log taking off my shoes, and getting ready for the plunge, I began to speak in tones of self-pity, "What's the use? What is there to live for? No one cares for me. I have been disgraced and disgraced others by being a failure in business and a bankrupt. So what have I to live for?"

And then, just as I poised to take the plunge, a voice from the heavens said:

You have everything in the world to live for. You have a loving family and the gospel of Jesus Christ to live for.

With that, the scales fell from my eyes of despondency. I sensed the horror of what my cowardly way out would result in. I lost no time in getting into my

clothes and into the Ford and driving like a Fury from Hell from that scene. Yes, I too, was lonely, frustrated and repudiated.

And do you know, when I got back to my little printing office, and family, the sunshine of God's great compassion broke through those dismal clouds of despair. By a miracle of His love, my wife was restored to health. My little daughter lived and today she is a pride and joy to us and the mother of four fine children who love the Lord and have great affection for us. My Creator had compassion for me and in time I was able to repay my legitimate creditors and to restore my credit. Today, through the blessings of God, the eternal Father of us all, I have lived to carry the Gospel into many parts of the world; have paid my tithes and have sufficient to care for every need.

Now, the Easter time has just passed. The most lonely man that ever graced this earth — forsaken by friends and family — hung in such agony on the cross that He cried out, in His suffering,

My God, My God, Why hast thou forsaken me?

And, Mrs. O'Hair, Why did He do it? Why didn't He throw in the sponge and say to His tormentors, "It's all a mistake. I am not the Messiah, I am not the Son of God." Which would have given Him a reprieve from the lonely, agonizing vigil on the cross.

The answer is that He loved sinners like you and me so much that He was willing to suffer that through the atonement and the resurrection from the dead He would open the way for you and me to come back into the presence and grace of a loving heavenly Father, as one has said:

My little children, these things I write unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate of the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

He that saith, I know him and keep not his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God, perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

He that saith he abide in him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked. 1 John 2:1-6.

Mrs. O'Hair, this is a challenge to you. Are you willing to meet it? Are you willing to turn from your DEAD END street and accept the invitation of Jesus Christ? The first commandment that we are to keep is to accept God as our eternal Father. And believing on Him to throw ourselves upon the mercy of His Son Jesus Christ. Confess our mistakes and repent of them, "eschew evil, and do good", then in humility submit ourselves for baptism for the remission of our sins and

receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands by those who have authority to administer it. Then change our whole life styles, as did Mary Magdalene, adding to our faith the virtues of righteousness, and then by the grace of God look forward to the resurrection from the dead and a just judgment at the throne of God and eternal life.

I promise you, as an humble servant of God, that you will live to be united with your loved ones, husband and family, and will make many, many worthwhile friends, not only in this great nation, but in all the world where your name shall become known. For as one of the ministry of Christ who are "ambassadors of Christ, as though God (does) beseech you by us; we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For He hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."

For the Lord Jesus Christ has thus authorized me, by the power from heaven to thus address you, for He has said:

Go ye, therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and **Lo, I am with you always even unto the end of the world.**

Not only has this promise been verified in my life, and millions of others, but it will be verified in yours, **"Lo, I am with you even to the end of the world."** With Him at your side, you will never be lonely again as you now are.

Most Sincerely in Christ Jesus  
Clarence L. Wheaton, Sr.

## VERILY THOU SHALT BE FED

by Apostle Marvin Ely

"I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread" (Psalm 37:25).

"Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land; and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday" (Psalm 37:3-6). "The Lord knoweth the days of the upright: and their inheritance shall be forever. They shall not be ashamed in the evil time: and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied" (Psalm 37:18-19). The above scriptures portray the importance of putting one's trust in the Lord as well as committing our ways unto him. As time unfolds it will become increasingly more important to do this as well as to completely rely upon the Lord. Many things are prophesied about the day which is unfolding before our eyes, among which is famine upon the face of the earth.

From Luke 21:10-11 we can read the following: "Then, said he unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven." Following a similar statement from Matthew 24:4-7 we find this remark: "All these are the beginning of sorrows" (Matthew 24:8). Indeed the above words may seem distressing and frightening to many people. Christ prophesied that there would be a day when men's hearts would fail them for fear. "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations,

with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring: Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken" (Luke 21:25-26). In spite of all the above distressing events, the Scriptures still hold out marvelous hope to those who will place their trust in the Lord and to those whose faith is in him and not the uncertain arm of flesh.

It is not the intent of this article to go into detail on every one of the disasters that are mentioned in the above paragraph but to deal mostly with the topic of famine and the ones that may be related to it. In times past God used famines for varied purposes. In one instance a people who were idol worshippers were brought to the realization that not an idol was a god, but that "The Lord, he is the God; the Lord, he is the God." We can read about this in 1 Kings 16, 17 and 18. This people worshiped idols and had become very wicked and Elijah prayed that it would not rain for 3½ years which resulted in a very severe drought and famine. Because of this the people were brought down to the point where God could work with them and as a result they knew that the Lord was God and that an idol could not be God. In another instance in Helaman 4:1-20 we learn about a people who were about to destroy themselves by the sword so Nephi prayed that there might be a famine in the land to stir up the people in remembrance of the Lord their God that perhaps they might repent and turn to the Lord. When this people were about to perish by famine, they began to remember the Lord, their God. They humbled themselves and repented of their iniquity. The Lord recognized their humility and repentance and as a result caused rain to again fall on the earth.

Among the things that Jesus prophesied would precede his coming and the end of the world is famine. It has not been very long since Africa suffered a severe drought which resulted in famine that caused widespread malnutrition as well as the death of many. India and other nations have suffered famine from time to time. We who live in the United States need not think that this could not happen to this nation for even at the time of this writing there is a widespread drought that is becoming very critical in the Western States. Unless this suddenly changes the results could be disastrous.

While recently traveling in California I learned of the seriousness of their condition. Newspapers cited that even if they had above normal precipitation for months to come the drought conditions would still reach well into 1978. The chief weather forecaster for California said that the long range forecast was disastrous. Already most of the water storage has been depleted and water is being allocated to farming areas with the prospect that in some areas there may not even be enough water to keep the fruit and nut trees alive. This is a rich farming state and produces almost half of the nation's vegetables, besides considerable fruit, nuts, and other crops. Some areas are already rationing water to municipalities.

In Oregon and Washington the picture is little different. For also new records are being set in a lack of precipitation. Mountain peaks that normally may have twenty five feet of snow on them have bare spots showing. Already there is \$100,000,000 loss to agriculture in Oregon with the promise of much more unless adequate moisture comes. In a newspaper in Oregon I noted a headline "Pray For Rain". In the rich Yakima Valley of Washington there is a severe shortage of water and storage also is low. Snowpack is at an all time low in Yakima Basin and is only 4% of normal. Many orchards and other perennial crops may die because of a lack of water. Other areas in Washington likewise are in serious condition. In an area once rich in water it is difficult to believe that this is real. The impact even reaches beyond agriculture for the hydroelectric plants too will have an insufficient supply of water and be unable to generate at full capacity thereby causing a short supply of energy. This in turn has caused a cut-back in some industries which depend upon this energy. The end is not yet in sight.

On February 23, 1977, I heard a news-cast of severe winds in Kansas and Colorado. An Eastern Colorado farmer who was being interviewed said that the severe wind and dust was reminiscent of the Dust Bowl days of the 1930's. Other states from the Mid-West to the West Coast are likewise being adversely effected by exceptionally dry conditions. In many areas record setting conditions exist. While these conditions exist in the West, the East is suffering from the worst winter on record. Record setting lows and great snow storms have perplexed this area with almost the direct opposite of what is taking place in the West.

It is my personal feeling that all these drastic happenings are not accident but are actually among the signs of the times. Widespread drought could cause famine upon our land. Not only is there a promise of famine in Luke 21:11 but also great earthquakes in divers places, pestilences, and fearful sights and great signs from heaven. These are already being unfolded before our eyes and the incidence of them is increasing. Let us not be lured away into a false security, as many will be, thinking that things are the same as they always have been. The following scripture is timely: "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation" (2 Peter 3:3-4).

During the August 1964 Colorado Reunion at Grand Junction, Colorado Apostle Thomas E. Barton, Sr. spoke in tongues and Apostle T. J. Jordan gave the interpretation to this tongue.. Since this interpretation is pertinent to our day I would like to quote it at this time.

"My first impression is that we have been given a word of warning. Open your eyes that you may see. Unstop your ears that you may hear, for thus saith the Spirit. I have already begun to bring to pass a fulfillment of prophecy already given showing forth my power in the disasters that are coming upon the peoples of the earth. They shall come from the heavens above and the earth beneath. The elements will be loosed, even all the elements that I have created. Come ye out of Babylon that ye be not a partaker of her plagues."

This interpretation further verifies of the day in which we live. There will be disasters coming upon the peoples of the earth and they will come from the heavens above and the earth beneath. The increase in tornadoes, terrible storms and great earthquakes are a part of the disasters that are coming upon the peoples of the earth. We have a key and that is to come out of Babylon. According to the dictionary Babylon of old was a city famous for wealth, luxury, and wickedness. It could also be any city or place of great wealth, luxury, and vice. Then to come out of Babylon one would have to be one who is not preoccupied with the wealth or luxuries of this life. In Luke 21:34 Jesus said: "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and the cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares." The cares of this life are taking their toll and there seemingly is less and less time to do the most important thing and that is to prepare for a richer fuller life in eternity. Also to come out of Babylon would be to come out of wickedness and sin. To do this one must needs repent; therefore, repentance should be the cry of our day.

"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him

return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." (Isaiah 55:6-7). Yes, our Lord will abundantly pardon if we fully repent and turn to him. It is vital that we also keep his commandments for Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15).

The importance of keeping the commandments was stressed to the children of Israel of old. Many marvelous blessings were promised to those who would keep the commandments. "If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them; Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and ye shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely. And I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid: and I will rid evil beasts out of the land, neither shall the sword go through your land" (Leviticus 26:3-6). We note in the above quotation that the Lord can give rain in due season and that the land shall yield her increase. "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place." (2 Chronicles 7:14-15). This quotation indicates that if the Lord's people will humble themselves, and pray, and turn to him that he will forgive their sin and heal their land. Not only could their land be healed by serving God but ours today could be healed by turning to God and serving him, but if this nation fails to do this it too could be swept off when the fullness of his wrath shall come upon them.

"And now we can behold the decrees of God concerning his 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 captivity, 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).

The importance of serving Jesus Christ can never be underestimated. If we put our trust completely in him we can weather the storms of life no matter what they may be. In Daniel 12:1 the statement is made that, "there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time". This time of trouble may cause many to become discouraged and depressed, but there is hope contained in the scriptures. In Alma 17:3 we can read: "for I do know that whosoever shall put their trust in God, shall be supported in their trials, and their troubles, and their afflictions, and shall be lifted up at the last day". Another fitting scripture follows: "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all" (Psalm 34:19). I would like to re-quote the following: "Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed" (Psalm 37:3) "The Lord knoweth the days of the upright: and their inheritance shall be for ever. They shall not be ashamed in the evil time: and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied" (Psalm 37:18-19). This scripture very plainly indicates that the Lord will satisfy the upright even in days of famine.

"But the salvation of the righteous is of the Lord: he is their strength in the time of trouble. And the Lord shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him" (Psalm 37:39-40).

In closing I wish to leave one verse from Ether 5:4 for our careful consideration. "Wherefore, whoso believeth in God, might with surety hope for a better world, yea, even a place at the right hand of God, which hope cometh of faith, maketh an anchor to the souls of men, which would make them sure and steadfast, always abounding in good works, being led to glorify God."

By: Apostle Marvin E. Ely

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## AVA NEWS

New Years, the first Sunday of the month and it being our dinner day, this New Year's dinner was planned by Sis. Minnie Smith after her return from her visit to Phoenix.

After several Sundays delay caused by snow and icy roads we had our annual business meetings, both for Sunday School and Local; many of the same persons were put in the offices they held before. We are in

hopes our Meetings may continue now more regularly. As the ground thaws we are in hopes of either getting a basement dug or ground leveled for the little Church building in accordance to the wishes of this little group. Thus to have a place to hold our services other than meeting in homes, we do wish to express our gratitude to Bro. and Sis. Lester Burgin for the years of use of their basement for this purpose.

A variety of projects have been worked at during the last two years or more, to bring in funds to apply to the building-fund of this project, also donations from various other people and Locals have been greatly appreciated.

Let us not forget in our increase of labors for and on this building that there is a much more important **building** project we all must be ever labouring at and that is the building up of our spiritual house, our character growth in harmony with Christ's example and teachings, — this "new man" growth within each of us, for if this growth is neglected though we raise high a material house it may well be a shame unto Him, a tower-of-Babel, wherein soul's are unfed, spirit's left unregenerated, for without His pure Love having an "abiding" place in us; the temptation to tear at each other in anger, impatience and bitterness which brings no honour or blessing to a house built to worship God within; a house built for His honour and glory solely.

Plans also are in progress to form a Communications Committee, to keep in touch with our young people as they scatter to various jobs and those getting married and moving away; we miss these earnest ones and their encouragement in keeping Meetings going. Also there are scattered members of the Ava Local we feel we would like to keep in contact with for our own encouragement and hopefully for theirs, by letters, notes, tapes etc.

A son was born Jan. 16, 1977 to Bro. and Sis. Leonard and Estella Davis, little David Buckley. On the Sunday of Feb. 6 the babe was Blessed by his Grandfather Elder Alex M. Smith and his Uncle Elder Joseph F. Smith.

Visitors though having been few are truly welcomed, Bro. and Sis. Larry Shaw and young Candy Gentry's husband, Biff, were present while on leave.

We enjoyed a lovely duet by Bro. and Sis. Joseph Smith, how we do appreciate the singing of these gifted ones.

"And there was taken up of fragments that remained to them twelve baskets." Luke 9:17

Precious fragment--

An illustration of God's care for His sheep was given, a picture of a sheep-fold described where the flock of sheep are surrounded for protection at night by a stone wall, God has placed His Ministry as a protecting wall around His "sheep", in this night of disasters etc. The Apostles, Elders, Priests, Teachers etc. even though they being human have many weaknesses and faults, yet each has a strong point which God can use in and

for His work. Let us be thankful for His "wall" He has placed about us.

Precious fragment—

In Saul's vision on the road to Damascus, Act 9:5, is a thought to ponder, Saul called Christ "Lord" yet asked Him who He was? Saul was a dedicated man fanatically dedicated; Christ wanted to use Saul's ability for dedication, a truly good quality, but there needed to be some change wrought in him. Act 3:19 explains more on this change, — "repent ye and be converted." Converted means to be **changed**, — changed into the "new man".

Fanaticism, what is it when changed?

John 1:12 & 13, says we are to become sons of God, — born of God.

Act 19:1 to 7, explains the gift of The Holy Ghost, also Heb. 10:15 and John 14:16 & 26 gives much light, the Holy Ghost is a witness to help His followers, besides the Spirit of God that leads, prompting us to yearn toward Him to begin with! The Holy Ghost is a Comforter to bring to our minds His will, teachings etc. His followers who worked with Him did not perceive His **deeper meanings** then, — do we? — do we?

Matt. 6:24, No man can serve two masters, — O! does this give us sharp pause to consider. Seek first the Kingdom and His righteousness; His righteousness not our own self-righteousness; but seek that His righteousness may grow within us by His power, — isn't this what "convert" means, what change consists of? That which He does within us by His love and Power and our obedience to His Commandments.

Dedicated fanaticism when it is changed isn't it diligence in growing in His righteousness unto changing our fallen nature unto Son of God nature, — the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ? Eph. 4:13.

Precious fragment—

Gen. 49:22, "Whose branches ran over the wall —" speaking of Joseph's seed, this we have understood as referring to ocean barriers, could it mean a spiritual wall also? That after the Christ came the Gospel would extend world wide, unto the gentiles and all peoples? Paul was an Apostle to the gentiles Rom. 11:13. Christ himself came to the Americas, 3rd. Nephi from chap. 4 on to the end of the book.

Precious fragment—

Notwithstanding the greatness of the increase of knowledge since 1830, our knowledge is comparatively nothing when we consider the mysteries of God's creation and knowledge.

We worship God not with a multiplicity of words but by the power of God through and by His Spirit. The world by it's wisdom doesn't bring us to God; Paul preached Christ crucified, yet great is the need to preach Christ resurrected. This for our day is a vital teaching.

What use in accordance with God's plan, is knowledge? For we know God never meant for us to be ignoramuses, no way, no way! Having created us with minds, an intelligence and commanded us to worship Him with "all our minds", He intends for us to grow in knowledge, learning, wisdom and understanding. We must balance these verses and gain their full meaning. Temptation enters when we humans laud ourselves on our great learning, sin enters when humanity takes all credit, honour and glory to mankind, turning away from God giving no credit to Him from whom all knowledge comes. We have to **want** to become Christians, followers of Christ in truth, day by day, minute by minute, — witnessing for Him; which means we get to the place where this is our deliberate choice, — our determined choice, which choice will make us to "stand-up-to-be-counted" for Him.

Yet the comfort of knowing The Lord meets us at whatever level of true hearted knowledge (understanding) we have in our pure-hearted desiring of Him; — in no way does the smallness of my knowledge impinge on a greater knowledge of God someone else may have. Very tender and dear are these dealings of God within our hearts and understanding.

Yes it is vital for our soul's welfare to take a **stand** for **God**, for **Truth**, for **Righteousness**; to "stand-up-and-be-counted" for **Him**; — and yet with this worthy endeavor comes temptation, a trap set by our adversary, to turn this ever so slightly into an effort to put ourselves "on-the-map", to "stand and-be-counted" for ourselves rather than make a pure hearted commitment to Christ.

O! yes, I think we all have felt the twisting-sting of pain in our soul's when our inner-monitor tells us we've failed to "stand-and-be-counted" for Christ, even in small circumstances; and its true we don't like this inner stab of pain telling us we have failed to measure up to the stature of the fulness of Christ. O! He knows our **need** of **Him** is greater, bigger, than anything we can do.

Precious fragment—

"—Where there is no vision, the people perish—" Prov. 29:18.

This seeing-with-vision, or spiritual insight, how important it is; we read in 1 Nephi 1:146 to 152, Sariah a devout believer in God, a true follower, yet who suffered great fears, doubts, turmoil of heart; — she had

not the seeing-with-vision, the spiritual insight which gave Lehi and Nephi a basic calmness in their inner being; this is also a lesson to we peoples now, a warning not to become too over-wrought with worries at the constant upheavels, distresses, differences within each Local, — within the Church as a whole, let us realize we may fall short in this spiritual insight. Fortunate are we if among us are those who like Lehi and Nephi have this seeing-with-vision ability. And we read in 1 Nephi 1:48 to 53, how Nephi acquired this great blessing, a benefit to himself and to others, — a diligent supplication to God that his heart was softened, because of his faith and lowliness of heart.

These things are not just for a chosen few,  
These things are free for you, — for you;  
Only seek diligently and ask The Lord  
His will to know as you study His Word.  
Plead for this softened heart by  
His cleansing and purifying,  
That you may be a vessel clean  
for Love's indwelling.

Precious fragment—

The longing in our many hearts for Zion, there must be with this longing a realization that just having a "place", a land, — and being a "gathered" people, and having true "Officers"; that just this alone is not enough, without the condition of Zion in each and every heart. This condition of heart or "cause of Zion" i. e. that which causes Zion to be; that which will make it a living reality, — this "new man" the putting on of Christ, the indwelling of His Love in our souls; without this which must needs be "first" Zion like a church building may well be an empty shell having naught thereof to feed hungering souls.

How blest have been the lives of those who have striven through the years to bring about the "cause" of Zion, blest in themselves in this work and a blessing to others. Yes, truly since 1830 many true-hearted people have been raised up by God's hand expounding, teaching, exemplifying in their lives this purity of heart which is that which causeth Zion; this "cause" which we today are deeply striving toward, this purification of heart and soul which we gain only by a full yieldedness to God, this which He only can bring about within us, the bringing us to birth in the "new man" that we become of the Zion nature.

Ava reporter

## PHOENIX NEWS

Greetings to all our beloved brothers and sisters in the Church of Christ from your loved ones in warm and beautiful Phoenix, Arizona. We would like to report a few of the events that kept the Phoenix local

busy in 1976.

In the spring we hurriedly built a baptismal in a rock garden outside the new church. Christine Marie Stavro and Neva Marie Hampton were baptized into

the fold on March 21. At their confirmation service, Chris and Neva sang Open My Eyes That I May See'.

Sr. Becky Heflin was married to Andre' Martin Boucher (Boo-shay) by Priest Jim Lacy on February 29. Becky is Jackie Lacy's sister. On the 27th of March, our new sister, Chris Stavro, became the bride of Jay Moser.

Elder H. A. Yates officiated. Darrin Malone and Marcie Lacy proudly rendered their services as ring "bearer" and "flower girl". Three weeks later, on April 17, Neva Marie Hampton walked the aisle to be joined in matrimony to Gary A. Housknecht by Elder Don McIndoo. The newly wedded Housknechts have since been led to serve the Lord in Collins, Mo.

Tracy Ann was born to Tom and Maurine (Briggs) Karas on August 9. She was blessed on September 12 by Elder Hubert E. Yates.

Priest Jim Lacy was ordained to the office of Elder by Elder H. E. Yates on September 19.

Dennis James Malone, the 10 year old son of Bill and Karin Malone, entered into the waters of baptism on October 31. He very bashfully sang, 'He Leadeth Me,' at his confirmation service. John Gordon Yates, age 11, son of Jim and Wanda Yates, was baptized by his father on November 14.

October and November found us busily preparing for the upcoming reunion. What fun we had laying the floor covering in the kitchen. Tile was laid in the bathrooms also. Our carpenters and upholsterers managed to have one pew ready in time for reunion. A near-new double oven stove, a coffee maker and an extra section of counter space makes K. P. a smoother operation. The block wall between the parking lot and 29th Place and a planter were built at this time also. We were only too happy to turn in our trowels and wire brushes for prayer books by the time Thanksgiving Day arrived. Reunion was a spiritual feast. We

feel especially blessed when so many of you are able to come and spend this time with us.

On December 19, Lorraine Patterson presented her grandson, Travis Levi, son of Dean and Marilyn Patterson, to Apostle Don Housknecht to receive the blessing of the Lord.

We have initiated the keeping of a photo album under the direction of Sr. Donna Gill. If you have any photos or negatives of church services, weddings, baptisms, reunions, ordinations, or outings in Phoenix that you care to donate, we would be delighted to include them in our photo history. Send them to the Church at 2909 E. Siesta Lane to the attention of Sr. Donna Gill.

Growing can sometimes be a painful experience. And so it was with us when on November 23, 1975 we left our beloved chapel on Harvard Street to begin making cherished memories in the larger (unfinished) Church on Siesta Lane. Since the day we purchased the land for the new church, many of our families have been privileged to build their homes on the adjoining 5 1/3 acres. The Don McIndoo, Duane Ely, Jim Lacy and Harold Gill families are all living in their new homes. Partitions in the Hubert E. Yates home are being installed at this time. Just recently we welcomed Jim and Wanda Yates into the neighborhood. They are renting a mobile home across the street because they anticipate breaking ground for their new home soon. Gary and Sherry Kidd are making plans to move into their new home a few doors to the north. Terry and Jim Yates are in the first stages of building on their acreage in Cave Creek. There are a few families who have purchased the land but await the opportunity to build. Others are investigating a nearby sub division. Still many families travel long distances to meet together. Whether we come from far or near, we find a multitude of blessings in serving the Lord.

## INSTRUCTIONS

I have read of a sign on the wall of a laboratory which says "When all else fails . . . read the instructions." Could this apply to us in respect to the establishing of Zion?

In my hand is the little, 'Book of Commandments' given, as stated on the fly leaf, 'for the government of the Church of Christ organized according to law on the 6th of April 1830. We claim to be the continuation of that church then organized.

One of the repeated commandments therein is to 'seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion' Ch. 10, V3, or to 'seek to bring forth and establish Zion', Ch. 12, V3.

Now I ask, if obedience to the subsequent instruction concerning Zion would have established it then, will obedience to that instruction fail to establish Zion now?

But, someone says, "We don't accept all those commandments as divinely valid". Well as I see it, if they are not, then the Lord commanded us to do that which He has not given instructions as to how. Would the Lord do that? On the other hand, what if they are valid; in the face of our unbelief, what is the Lord to do? Who could He stand up to tell us He gave them, and we believe? Or is it like the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, if we do not discern His truth in the writings given through the prophet would we believe

even if an angel from heaven declared it to us, or if He sent one back from the dead?

Furthermore, how could or can the Lord respond to our pleas for light and direction if the only instruction He can give us is the same He gave then and which we have rejected? Surely disobedience is rejection. In the words of Diedrich Bonhoffer, "Only those who believe obey, and only those who obey really believe."

How then shall we believe if we do not even read the instructions, and how shall we obey if we do not accept them? And how then shall we have any part in the Zion that obedience to these instructions would bring into reality?

A Quester

### COLORADO REUNION NOTICE

The Colorado Reunion will be held at the Church of Christ, Orchard Mesa Local, 3233 B½ Road, Grand Junction, Colorado, on June 10, 11 and 12, 1977.

Campers may be parked at our homes, or we will arrange housing for you if you will contact one of the people on our Reunion Committee:

Marvin E. Ely Phone: 303-242-2993  
236 - 32 Road, Rt. 4  
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Shirley M. Ely Phone: 303-242-1676  
3201 B½ Road, Rt. 4  
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Allen D. Downs Phone: 303-243-5777  
3047 F Road, Space 11  
Grand Junction, CO 81501

It helps us a great deal in our food preparation if we know how many to expect, so we truly appreciate it if you let us know you are coming.

All are welcome to come and worship with us.

Enid E. Bell, Secretary

### MICHIGAN REUNION NOTICE

On the 18th and 19th of June we will hold our annual reunion at Maple City, Michigan, hosted by the Maple City Local. A youth program is planned and there will be housing and camping areas available. For more information contact:

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

The Michigan Reunion Committee  
Conley Addington  
Emery Pinder  
Kenneth Hoare

### Editor's Note

The printers deadline for material to be printed has been re-scheduled. All material for the Advocate must be in the hands of the Editor's not later than the seventh of the month instead of fifteenth. This has been arranged with the hope of producing the paper for mail on the first of month and getting it into the hands of readers in better time.

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Each undeliverable "Advocate" is now costing the church 25 cents. We would rather spend this on delivering your paper than its return to us.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPPLIES

##### INSTRUCTIONS IN ORDERING

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

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

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Primary, Volume 1, No. 1, Childhood of Jesus .....	N/C
Primary, Volume 1, No. 2, Jesus' Ministry (Out of Print)	N/C
Primary, Volume 1, No. 3, Jesus' Ministry con't. ....	N/C
Primary, Volume 1, No. 4, Life of Jesus .....	N/C
Church History for Juniors (34 pages) (plus separate Teacher's Guide) by Sr. Donna Moser .....	N/C
The Book in the Stone Box (7 pages) by Sr. Viola Henning ...	N/C
The Bible Game, "Who Am I?" by Bro. Gary Housknecht	
No charge for single box.	