

# 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, May, 1977

No. 5

## The Church of Christ

O sometimes gleams upon our sight  
Through present wrong the eternal right.  
Though we in weakness oft besmirch  
Forever forward moves His Church.

Through human discords of the day  
A low sweet prelude finds its way.  
Through clouds of doubt and mists of fear  
The light is breaking, heavenly clear.

(With apologies to the unknown author,  
this has been slightly altered to fit our  
"here and now".)

### CONTENTS

Divine Motivation .....	66	Reunion Notices .....	77 & 80
Sermon - Isaac Brockman, Sr. ....	67	Letter .....	78
Gentile Strangers .....	71	Love .....	78
Questions and Answers About		Guatemalayan Deed .....	79
Tithing .....	73	Fast: Feast .....	79
Ava Local News .....	75	Pont-Cunningham Nuptials .....	80

# Zion's Advocate

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Zion and the Temple of the Lord .....	*

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## EDITORIAL DIVINE MOTIVATION

The conception of humankind was only a part of the full creation that God brought into existence. The human family is, however, the only species of His creatures which was created in His image. The human was predestined to be like Him in more than just a form or image; he was to know good from evil.

The divine purposes of God are seldom contemplated by modern man. The beginning of all existence observable by the human is explained in terms of accidental evolution giving little or no credit to an infinite intelligence.

Such influence clouds the minds and dulls the spiritual senses of the majority of the educated peoples. The otherwise believing disposition of the human would probably accept and contemplate a more full purpose of his own existence.

The reality of God brought to the level of our human comprehension is necessary to the understanding of our present state. To open the door of thought, let's go back to the beginning of time and even beyond the beginning.

The existence of God and His incomprehensible realm reaches to all infinitives. Our wildest speculation could not begin to encompass the Being of God and His limitless powers.

In this high level of existence, what divine thought caused God to conceive this sphere of which we are a part? What motive has He in the doing of His pleasure (Rev. 4:11)?

The answers to these questions are reaching beyond the finite limits of our knowledge, but it might be well for us to expand our thinking by looking to the less materialistic and humanized side of life. For instance, can we readily accept the fact that God is above and beyond His own creation? Or do we visualize Him being caught in the stream of its demands? Do we see Him involved in the frustration of trial and error — do we see Him marching with the hours of time unable to halt the progressiveness of an uncontrollable existence?

The creative ability of God alone should be evidence enough for us to realize that He is infinitely superior to that which He conceived. God is not subject to His own creation, but His creation is subject to Him in every way that He deems it to be. Everything that God does and has done is with divine purpose. In other words, His pleasures are not foolish, careless, thoughtless or imaginary. There is no guesswork with God. His intelligence fully encompasses the existence of all He has conceived and created. Not only does He view His creation in a general way, but He explores its most minute details by His network of powers.

The description of God that I have thus far given might very well leave us cold. Our personal inferiority

to such a supernatural being would tend to make us feel like puppets or tiny creatures within the hand of an all powerful giant.

We could possibly examine much of the physical aspect of God's creation and be overwhelmed by our concept of God's greatness. The greatest proof of God, however, is not in the physical aspect of His creation, but in the spiritual. This is because God, Himself, is spiritual and the spiritual has a more permanent quality than the physical. The scriptures use the word temporal rather than physical. That is because the things of this life are of a temporary nature, subject to change.

The size of the galaxies and the heavenly bodies is almost unfathomable to the human mind. Yet with all this that exists around us, I am persuaded to believe that God's spiritual realm greatly exceeds all that we have thus far thought to exist. In fact the total of this temporal existence could easily be swallowed up in the spiritual realm of God.

My persuasion is based upon my comprehension of the greatest quality of God that is given unto man. That quality is love. By opening our spiritual eyes, we can see that the love of God is present everywhere. It does not just encompass His creation, but it penetrates the very soul of the creature of His likeness, man.

In seeking an understanding of God's love, humanity often looks beyond its greater evidence. Love is thought to be a performance of kind deeds, an act that declares possession or the speaking of words that move the emotions of others. The true quality of love, however, is understood more fully by looking directly to

the motivation rather than the act. This, of course, is seldom readily discernible.

Going back to our own original conception, we can see that God desired to create beings after His own image. This desire, we trust, was the beginning of love as far as our existence is concerned.

Although the motivation of God's desire may not be explainable to our finite reasoning, yet as we ponder upon the story of the creation, we are caused to accept His purposes implicitly. There is no fallacy in God's doings.

God's desire to create beings after His own image was to share the quality of His own being. This quality, being love, was to motivate the human in the same manner that He Himself was motivated and that was to share Himself with others.

Now as we bring the reality of such a pure, unselfish desire within comparison to our own imperfect desires, we are stricken with guilt and shame. Can it truly be that God should want to transform a fallen, sensual human into a pure, sinless being in character like unto Himself? And yet is this not the promise of His word?

To be called and accepted by the one who conceived our beginning is not plausible to the adult human mind. Yet in childlike faith, the door to this fact is opened. Knowledge spans the river of doubt. The divine logic of God's purposes are unfolded to our thoughts. Line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little we accept that which refutes the learned minds of the world.

RLS

## SERMON BY ISAAC BROCKMAN, SR. OCT. 31, 1976

(condensed for publication)

I never utter or study the word of God but what I stand in need and trembling. Without a doubt, if we are to bring anything to uplift and educate in a spiritual way, we can not stand without God. It is impossible.

I am going to read these verses slowly. They should be engraven on our hearts as well as that of Job.

"Oh that my words were now written! Oh that they were printed in a book! That they were grav- en with an iron pen and lead in the rocks for ever!

"For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth" (19:23-25).

This is the real thing that we must believe as a church. That should be our testimony. If not, then it had better be; our time is short. Everything points in that direction. We should be able to say like Job. "I know".

"And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God" (26).

We should have that testimony. Do we? Wo we know that in our flesh we shall see God? The Scriptures teach it. Yet the world around us is creating unbelief on every side in the existence of a God.

"Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me" (27).

That's a beautiful text. I often read it at a funeral because I think it is the most satisfying thing you can read to those who have lost a loved one, to instill in their minds that their loved one is going to stand and be able to see God.

Can you imagine the faith and understanding of God Almighty that Job had? He must have suffered more persecution and pestilence than any man yet in his fin-

al hours he could make that statement without doubt or fear.

Our administration to the sick must be done with a conviction that they will receive a blessing. The Scriptures say that the men of old administered to those who were ill in any way with firmness. "Be ye healed." They did it without a doubt in their minds, consequently the people were healed.

I heard a statement a few years back by one of our ministers, and I believe it. "I have often thought that we are just eating the crumbs that fall from the table and we are not really enjoying the feast that is on top." We can't lay the fault on anyone's shoulders but our own. When we (speaker included) learn to make our faith a key we will receive what we ask for.

Oh, yes, our actions affect this, but if we have faith, the key to the whole thing, our actions will become different. We must reach a condition in which we **know** we will receive those things we ask for. There is no doubt in my mind we will. If we go about our church work and our daily activities with faith that God is going to take care of us, plainly and simply — He will.

Ruth and I moved down here (Independence) without jobs, but I am sure that this is where we should be. This is where our people should be, if only they would realize! If they will just observe, see what's happening, they will do as the Spirit leads.

One example: Paul and Sharon Liekness were coming down here, two or three years ago, even had a job. Then Grandma talked them out of coming because she didn't want to lose her children. (I don't blame her!) They stayed. After last year's Easter service Paul and I got to talking about Independence, as usual. He said, "If I ever get laid off again, that's where I'm going." Two or three weeks later Paul was laid off, now they are on their way here.

The time has come that we, as a people, should be thinking about gathering together. There is nothing harder and more lonely than to be away from those of your family, God's family.

I think the most important thing when we call each other "Brother" and "Sister" is to really mean it; the one whose hand we shake is truly our brother or sister. I feel closer to my loved ones in the Gospel than I do to some of my immediate family outside. Why do we feel that way? Because, as we sing, "Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love", the feeling is there because the tie that binds is blessed.

It used to be awfully hard for me to say "I'm sorry". Two words. Yet in our pride they are the two hardest words to utter. Quite awhile ago I started practicing them. Brother Richard knows. I called him the other night to apologize for my sharpness on the phone earlier. The more you say it, the easier it becomes, and it doesn't hurt a bit, it makes you feel better! You may have remedied something that could have caused a lot of harm. These are some of the things that are part of the Gospel of Christ, of being able to love one another.

If we love one another we will be able to overlook each other's inadequacies. Each of us has them; I've got several. Maybe that's the reason I like to have people overlook them. But we must, in order to accomplish the things God wants us to. He knows our inadequacies at a glance, but also knows what is in our hearts.

Often He gives us inadequacies and failings for one reason (possibly the reason for mine), to **keep us humble**. If we didn't have little fears, inadequacies and tribulations in our daily lives, we would soon become very proud. That's really easy to do. Some of the little things that are wrong with us from time to time can keep us, as a people (if we will take the lesson), humble, able to lean on Him. They can help us not to think, "I can take care of myself; I don't need anyone else." I assure you, I can't take care of myself without God. I am fearful, very fearful. I hope most of us walk in fear that, if we were to go back on the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we would be the most pitiful creatures that ever walked the face of this earth. I'll assure you, if it weren't for the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our lives, we would truly be pitiful.

Look around at some who have been really zealous in the work, then suddenly got angry at something and went this way or that, saying, "We don't need You." But they are pitiful creatures in the long run, pitiful. It's impossible for us to draw one breath without God. I can't understand anyone's questioning the existence of God Almighty. How can we question when we look at the world around us? Look at ourselves, the body that we are created in, the miraculous thing that birth is. Only God can create. Scientists try it in test tubes, but they will never create living creatures as God has done. We should keep these things in mind, remember that we are weak and needy creatures.

Christ said, "Suffer little children to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of Heaven." We must get ourselves into a condition like little children. Now, that doesn't mean we have to get little. But we have to be little in that need of our Heavenly Parent, as these little children need their earthly parents. I think Christ meant that we must humble ourselves and become as a little child, if we expect to get the good things that are in store for us. Our human instinct is to push our way through everything, to accomplish something in the outside world, yet we must humble ourselves as a little child. Imagine what that takes! In the work we do nowadays, if we don't get really pushy, we don't get too far ahead. Then, we are to — what? Stoop so low? We can't really call it that. We are to render ourselves as little children before God's throne and leave ourselves entirely in God's hands, saying, "Here I am, make me what Thou would have me be instead of what I would like to be." There are a lot of things that we would like to be, but we might be far away from what we should be.

Let us labor with our hands because we will be a lot more grateful, I think, for what we get. We are

never too good to do those things that are considered menial in this life. I have met a lot of people and have been a lot of places, Ruth and I have, and find that those that have the least are the happiest in the end. They are satisfied, content with what they have, happy that they have it. That is the condition we have got to get ourselves in.

Zion will be a reality someday and some place. We can each be a part of it; or we can its outside looking in.

My cousin belongs to the church; when my boy came down to Independence she said, "You people scare me." I said, "Why?" Because you are all leaving", she said. "Has something come over you or have you received something that we haven't heard about?" I answered, "No. We have heard about it for years. It's been proclaimed for about 130 years that we are to gather to this place." Some have said, "We shouldn't do it in haste. The Book of Commandments says not to do it in haste, you know." Well, brothers and sisters, 130 years isn't "in haste"! Oh, I realize that we got chased out and that's a fault of the people themselves, I think of getting too proud again.. We get lifted up in our pride and then we are in trouble; regardless of what kind of pride it is, we are in trouble.

Brother Maynard Case had a book called "The Saints at the Cross Roads". Now I have a copy; I don't know what is in it; I haven't had a chance to read it yet. But the title is enough; the title is the answer. We, as the saints, our brothers of the RLDS and our brothers in Utah are at the crossroads right now, as far as our spiritual wellbeing is concerned. We are at the crossroads. You know what a crossroad is. Brother Kenneth Smith and I went to Iowa to find Sister Voorhies about a month ago. We hit a lot of them and made some wrong turns. That is just exactly what can happen to us if we are not careful. We are at the crossroads right now. It is only the spiritual leading of God and His love for us as human beings that will cause us to turn in the direction in which we should go. The Scriptures tell us that "strait is the path and narrow is the way" that leads us to where we should be, or where we want to be. We are at the crossroads.

Here's another way to put it. I'm being honest. I have no pet ideas that I want to put off on people. I came down here with one desire, only one idea in mind, that I want to help. Not do it alone, but to assist in the building of Zion, so it will be a reality. It can be. I have believed for the last ten years that it could be any day; it could be tomorrow. It is up to us!

There will never be a time in the history of mankind, as long as there are humans on this earth, that there isn't going to be a difference of opinion and a difference of ideas. That's what has made this country and the world what it is. If we study New Testament times, we find that the apostles of old contended earnestly with one another; they had differences over the way they thought things should be. But it never, never separated them from their love for one another.

And that's what it takes.

Our love has got to be so strong that we can say as Christ said in Matthew, that no greater love hath any man than to lay down his life for his brother. Now, that's love! Faith ties in with it. How much faith do you think it took to have Isaac laid up on the altar and his father about ready to kill him? Abraham had that much faith in God. If God told him to do something, he did it. Regardless of what was in his heart or what is in yours or mine, we must do what He tells us to do. Greater love hath no man than those who will lay down their lives for their brothers.

I remember a picture of World War II, of five chaplains standing on the deck of a sinking ship, singing a hymn, hand in hand. They went down with that ship. There's no doubt in my mind that they were exercising faith, regardless of what religious denomination they belonged to. I spent a lot of time in a general hospital during the war, around chaplains of just about every denomination there was; I will tell you, those men were put through much. They listened to a great deal, and not only listened, but put up with a lot.

This is the condition which we have to get ourselves in as a Christian people: willing to let God lead us; setting our own ideas, thoughts and, most of all, desires in the back of our minds; learning not to say, "If we have time, we will do what You want us to do, Lord." The latter happens often nowadays.

I have been thinking of that. I'm not pointing a finger at this or any group; we had the same thing where I came from. You could let people in the church know a month ahead of time that you were going to gather at a certain place at a certain time. You could write a nice letter to them, "Please, iron out all your difficulties, get things taken care of so you can be there. It is important that we gather together." But on the day, or the day before, letters or telephone calls would say, "We're sorry, but we have to do this or that." Well, I'll tell you what we have got to do, each one of us (me included). We have got to start putting God Almighty first in our lives and then everything else after that. We must say, "This is first; then everything else I want or need comes after that." We will find out that the same thing is true in any practice, the longer you do it the easier it will become.

Anyone who knows Sister Mary Addie knows she is outspoken. When we were going to hold a meeting I'd say, "Now, Mary, if the weather isn't too bad, I'll be there." She'd never let me get by with it. She'd say, "We'll leave it that you will be here; then if the weather gets too bad, you call me and I'll cancel it." I found out then that every time we set a date we were there, because we had made up our minds to do it. We sat all Sunday in a rainstorm not too long ago. If you ask Brother Jensen, he'll tell you about it. He said he was afraid to smile when he woke up, because he was afraid he'd break his face, which was frozen. It only proves what we can do if we want to do it.

It proves what we must do, as a people. Not as one

or two, but as a people, if we are going to establish Zion in our time (and I believe it will be in our time).

I heard Richard this morning in Sunday School talking about establishing Zion, in our day and time. I sincerely believe (and I am 51 years old) that I'm going to stand at the closing hour of God's time on this earth. I believe if we study the Scriptures and the happenings of the day, we will see that time on this earth is drawing to a close, like the old alarm clock when the spring breaks. The hands whirl; it's the last whirl they make. That's what is happening right now. The spring is broken and it is making the last whirl. The days and the years are going by very fast. The days and the years are going by just like that. With a snap of your fingers you are into tomorrow. So we can't wait until tomorrow to begin to establish Zion. Tomorrow might be too late.

We are cautioned in the Scriptures that we don't know the day nor the hour when we will see the final transpiring of God's judgment upon this earth. But, oh, the promise that goes along with it! If we so live and labor **now** that we are worthy, He'll hold us in the hollow of His hand! He'll protect us from all this. I believe sincerely that if we live so that we are really worthy of God's protection, we have not one thing to fear, not one thing. The Book of Commandments says that the armies will go against Zion and they shall not stand. And why won't they? Because we will be in such a condition that God won't allow them to stand. Do you think He will allow anything or anybody to hurt His people? No, He won't. He saved Noah from a flood — eight souls — because they were His people. But, Noah had to do what God told him to! That is what you and I have to do. It's that simple.

I believe, with all my heart, that our people, more than ever before in the history of the Church, need plain and simple language. Educate ourselves, talk to our people so that even the little children can understand because they are here among us.

We are in the final hours of time. We are told in Hebrews (6th chapter) the condition of faith, which is the key. We are told that without faith it is impossible to please God. If we are to come unto God we must believe that He is. Going back to what we started with, Job believed and this was his testimony: that God is and that he would stand in the last and final hour face to face with Him. And I believe it. I believe wholeheartedly that if God were to present Himself to us today, He'd do in a body that we would recognize as God.

Just a word of caution. You know, Brother Housknecht is quite a philosopher when it comes to making little short, cut off statements. Once we were talking about how to judge things, where we went, what we did, what kind of books we read. Brother Housknecht said the best measuring stick is whether or not we would be willing to take Jesus Christ by the hand and share it with Him. That's a good measuring stick for our young people to have. Don't do anything that you would be afraid to have the Master of men share with

you. If you follow that you have nothing to fear. .

"Wherefore take heed, my beloved brethren, that ye do not judge that which is evil to be of God, or that which is good and of God, to be of the devil. For behold, my brethren, it is given unto you to judge, that ye may know good from evil; and the way to judge is as plain, that ye may know with a perfect knowledge, as the daylight is from the dark night. For behold the Spirit of Christ is given to every man, that they may know good from evil: wherefore I shew unto you the way to judge: for everything which inviteth to do good, and to persuade to believe in Christ, is sent forth by the power and gift of Christ; Wherefore ye may know with a perfect knowledge, it is of God; but whatsoever thing persuadeth men to do evil, and believe not in Christ, and deny him, and serve not God, then ye may know with a perfect knowledge it is of the devil" (Moroni 7:12-15).

Now what better measuring stick can we have than these few verses in the Book of Mormon? This is the key. It is not to judge each other; there isn't anything in there that say anything about me judging my brother, or my neighbor.. It says how I may judge things, whether they are right or wrong; that is all it says. So this is the thing to keep in mind.

Now I'll read from the Book of Mormon again. This may add a little bit to what has been said.

"Yea, come unto Christ and be perfected in Him and deny yourselves of all ungodliness. And if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness and love God with all your might, mind and strength, then his grace is sufficient for you. That by his grace ye may be perfect in Christ, and if by the grace of God ye are perfect in Christ, you can in no wise deny the power of God" (Moroni 10:29).

There is the thought we started out with. You will **know** with a perfect knowledge that God really exists. You can stand before anyone and say that you believe it, that you know HE IS, and that He sent His Son here to redeem us.

We are told in John 3:15 that if we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, we will be saved. But to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and to receive salvation, you must believe every bit of His word, not just pick out little pieces of it that you like. Not possible! You've got to believe every bit that He taught, that He believed in. We've even got to set the example as He did, so far as our sacrifice is concerned. We, as a people, have got to learn what sacrifice really means! And when we do I believe that we will be started on the right track.

There is nothing in my heart that would do me any more good, nothing in your hearts that would do you any more good and make you any happier than to really see Zion as a reality. And that doesn't mean living in the same kind of home as my next door neighbor or my brother does; that means being all alike as far

as our minds and our thoughts are concerned. As I said in the beginning, as far as our differences of opinion are concerned, we will have them as long as we are human beings. Only God in His love for us can correct

the division and direct, if we will just let Him lead us. Let us put ourselves in His hands and say to Him, "Here, You take me and make me what You want me to be, not what I want to be."

## GENTILE STRANGERS

by

Harvey E. Seibel

"For the Lord will have mercy on Jacob, and will yet choose Israel, and set them in their own land: and the strangers shall be joined with them, and they shall cleave to the house of Jacob. And the people shall take them, and bring them to their place: and the house of Israel shall possess them in the land of the Lord for servants and handmaids: and they shall take them captives, whose captives they were; and they shall rule over their oppressors" (Isaiah 14:1-2).

In this article we hope to show some part the Gentiles will play in the final drama of the last days. The Book of Mormon tells us that the Gentiles will be instrumental in performing a marvelous work for the Lord. There are two classes of Gentiles, those who are the saints of God and those who will oppose this work.

Speaking of the converted Gentiles, we know that because of their willing acceptance of the gospel in former days that the gospel was entrusted again to them in these last days for the purpose of taking it to all the world and especially to those of the house of Israel.

"And it shall come to pass, that if the Gentiles shall hearken unto the lamb of God in that day that he shall manifest himself unto them in word, and also in power, in very deed, unto the taking away of their stumbling-blocks, and harden not their hearts against the Lamb of God, they shall be numbered among the seed of thy father; Yea, they shall be numbered among the house of Israel; And they shall be a blessed people upon the promised land for ever; They shall be no more brought down into captivity" (1 Nephi 3:201-204).

It is evident from this quotation that a special promise or blessing is extended to those Gentiles whom the Lord has brought forth upon this land. Of them the Lord says, "But if they will repent, and hearken unto my words, and harden not their hearts, I will establish my church among them, and they shall come in unto the covenant, and be numbered among this the remnant of Jacob, unto whom I have given this land for their inheritance, and they shall assist my people, the remnant of Jacob; And also, as many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem; And then shall they assist my people that they may be gathered in, who are scattered upon all the face of the land, in unto the New Jerusalem" (3 Nephi 10:1-3).

That a portion of these Gentiles did repent is now a fact of history for indeed the church was established among them. Moreover there are those among these Gentiles who will yet ultimately accomplish the work. Nevertheless the majority of the Gentiles will reject this work. "Wo be unto the Gentiles, saith the Lord God of hosts; for notwithstanding I shall lengthen out mine arm unto them from day to day, they will deny me" (2 Nephi 12:40). It is these Gentiles that shall ultimately be destroyed for "... all the nations that fight against Zion, and that distress her, shall be as a dream of a night vision" (2 Nephi 11:118).

Concerning the other Gentiles we read, "Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people; And they shall bring thy sons in their arms, and thy daughters shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers. They shall bow down to thee with their faces towards the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet" (2 Nephi 5:17-20).

Jacob in commenting upon this scripture says, "And after he should manifest himself, they should scourge him and crucify him, according to the words of the angel, who spake it unto me . . . Nevertheless, the Lord will be merciful unto them, that when they shall come to the knowledge of their Redeemer, they shall be gathered together again to the lands of their inheritance. And blessed are the Gentiles, they of whom the prophet has written: For behold, if it so be that they shall repent and fight not against Zion, and do not unite themselves to that great and abominable church, they shall be saved: For the Lord God will fulfill his covenants which he has made unto his children: and for this cause the prophet has written these things. Wherefore, they that fight against Zion and the covenant people of the Lord, shall lick up the dust of their feet" (2 Nephi 5:25, 29-33).

This scripture shows plainly that the Gentiles will be divided on the matter of Zion: some will fight against it; others will repent and work to bring it forth. Those Gentiles who do not fight against Zion will be instrumental in God's hand in performing a great and marvelous work. To those who embrace the restored gospel will be entrusted the responsibility of carrying the gospel to the seed of Israel in this land. (See 1 Nephi 4:16-24). This blessing which is to come through the

Gentiles to the house of Israel is described as follows: "Wherefore, they shall be scattered among all nations, and shall be hated of all men. Nevertheless, after they have been nursed by the Gentiles, and the Lord has lifted up his hand upon the Gentiles and set them for a standard, and their children have been carried in their arms, and their daughters have been carried upon their shoulders, behold, these things of which are spoken, are temporal: for thus are the covenants of the Lord with our fathers; And it meaneth us in the days to come, and also all our brethren who are of the house of Israel. And it meaneth that the time cometh that after all the house of Israel have been scattered and confounded, that the Lord God will raise up a mighty nation among the Gentiles, yea, even upon the face of this land; And by them shall our seed be scattered. And after our seed is scattered, the Lord God will proceed to do a marvelous work among the Gentiles, which shall be of great worth unto our seed; Wherefore, it is likened unto their being nourished by the Gentiles, and being carried in their arms, and upon their shoulders" (1 Nephi 7:12-18).

This work will commence among the Jews also. "That these sayings which ye shall write, shall be kept, and shall be manifested unto the Gentiles, that through the fullness of the Gentiles, the remnant of their seed who shall be scattered forth upon the face of the earth, because of their unbelief, may be brought in, or may be brought to a knowledge of me, their Redeemer. And then will I gather them in from the four quarters of the earth; and then will I fulfill the covenant which the Father hath made unto all the people of the house of Israel" (3 Nephi 7:28-29). And how shall they be gathered? "And the nations of the Gentiles shall be great in the eyes of me, saith God, in carrying them forth to the lands of their inheritance. Yea, the kings of the Gentiles shall be nursing fathers unto them, and their queens shall become nursing mothers; Wherefore the promises of the Lord are great unto the Gentiles, for he hath spoken it, and who can dispute?" (2 Nephi 7:14-16).

It is the Gentile who will be instrumental in the hands of God in bringing about the marvelous work of God in the latter days. "For after the book of which I have spoken shall come forth, and be written unto the Gentiles, and sealed up again unto the Lord, there shall be many which shall believe the words which are written; and they shall carry them forth unto the remnant of our seed. And then shall the remnant of our seed know concerning us, how that we came out from Jerusalem, and that they are the descendants of the Jews. And the gospel of Jesus Christ shall be declared among them; wherefore, they shall be restored unto the knowledge of their fathers, and also to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, which was had among their fathers. And then shall they rejoice; for they shall know it is a blessing unto them from the hand of God; And their scales of darkness shall begin to fall from their eyes: and many generations shall not pass away among them, save they shall be a white and a delightsome people. And it shall

come to pass that the Jews which are scattered, also shall begin to believe in Christ: and they shall begin to gather in upon the face of the land; And as many as shall believe in Christ, shall also become a delightsome people. And it shall come to pass that the Lord God shall commence his work, among all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people, to bring about the restoration of his people upon the earth" (2 Nephi 12:80-87).

Since it is the Gentile who will be the instrument by which the house of Israel is gathered then our understanding of the scripture in 3 Nephi must be in accord with the previous scriptures concerning this work of the gathering. (See 3 Nephi 10:1-3.) Those Gentiles who believe and come in unto the covenant are the ones who shall assist the Indian and others of the house of Israel in building the New Jerusalem, after which these same Gentiles will assist the Indian in gathering in unto the city. In effect Ephraimite Gentiles will help their Manassite brethren both in the building of the city as well as the gathering into it.

This work on the part of the Gentile will increase until they come clean before the Lord, attain unto the faith as of the Brother of Jared and bring to light the other records which are yet hid up.

In the opening scripture reference was made to the strangers which would join themselves to the house of Jacob. These are Gentiles which will, of their own volition, choose to unite themselves to Israel and Israel shall take them for servants and handmaids. These thoughts are reiterated in the following quotations from Isaiah.

"Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. **AND THE GENTILES SHALL COME TO THY LIGHT, AND KINGS TO THE BRIGHTNESS OF THY RISING.** Lift up thine eyes round about, and see: all they gather themselves together, they come to thee: thy sons shall come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side. Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged! because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, **THE FORCES OF THE GENTILES SHALL COME UNTO THEE.** The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; all they from Sheba shall come: they shall bring gold and incense; and they shall shew forth the praises of the Lord. All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together unto thee, the rams of Nabaioth shall minister unto thee: they shall come up with acceptance on mine altar, and I will glorify the house of my glory. Who are these that fly as a cloud, and as the doves to their windows? Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the Lord thy God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because he hath glorified thee. **AND THE SONS OF STRANGERS SHALL BUILD UP THY WALLS, AND THEIR KINGS**



SHALL MINISTER UNTO THEE: for in my wrath I smote thee, but in my favour have I had mercy on thee. Therefore thy gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day nor night; THAT MEN MAY BRING UNTO THEE THE FORCES OF THE GENTILES, AND THAT THEIR KINGS MAY BE BROUGHT. For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea those nations shall be utterly wasted. The glory of Lebanon shall come unto thee, the fir tree, the pine tree, and the box together, to beautify the place of my sanctuary; and I will make the place of my feet glorious. THE SONS ALSO OF THEM THAT AFFLICTED THEE SHALL COME BENDING UNTO THEE; AND ALL THEY THAT DESPISED THEE SHALL BOW THEMSELVES DOWN AT THE SOLES OF THY FEET; AND THEY SHALL CALL THEE, THE CITY OF THE LORD, THE ZION OF THE HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL" (Isaiah 60:1-14).

"And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations. AND

STRANGERS SHALL STAND AND FEED YOUR FLOCKS, AND THE SONS OF THE ALIEN SHALL BE YOUR PLOWMEN AND YOUR VINEDRESSERS. But ye shall be named the Priests of the Lord; men shall call you the Ministers of our God: YE SHALL EAT THE RICHES OF THE GENTILES, AND IN THEIR GLORY SHALL YE BOAST YOURSELVES" (Isaiah 61:4-6).

From these scriptures it is evident that the Gentiles will play a variety of parts in the upcoming drama of history. Among those of the saints will be the priesthood who will carry the gospel to every nation, kindred, tongue and people. Those Gentiles who attempt to destroy the work will themselves be destroyed while the remainder will cleave unto the house of Jacob and perform that great work which is yet to be accomplished - namely the temporal upbuilding of Zion and Jerusalem, the care of flocks, etc. Thus the riches of the Gentiles will be consecrated unto the house of Israel and for the glory of the Lord.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT TITHING

In the past few years I have noticed a general lack of understanding of what tithing is, and whether or not we are really supposed to pay it, and how, etc. etc. This is not intended to be a thorough doctrinal examination on the subject, but assuming that, for the most part, there is no debate of the idea that to pay our tenth or our tithing is indeed a commandment of God, I simply wish to answer a few questions that I feel are in need of answering . . . whether they have been asked or not.

### IS TITHING REALLY A COMMANDMENT OF GOD?

Yes. Briefly we find some latter day instruction on the subject: "It is wisdom in me, that my servant Martin (Harris) should be an example unto the church, in laying his moneys before the bishop of the church. And also, this is a law unto every man that cometh unto this land, to receive an inheritance; And he shall do with his moneys according as the law directs" (Book of Commandments 59:45-47).. "Behold now it is called today, and verily it is a day of sacrifice, and a day for the tithing of my people" (Book of Commandments 65:30). Also read article 17 of the Articles of Faith and Practice of the Church of Christ, which states that the distribution of our accumulated wealth as stewards under God is necessary, and adds that this is not the primary purpose of stewardship, but rather it is "to bring men to a realization of the common fatherhood of God, and the universal brotherhood of man in all the affairs and expressions of life." Jesus similarly states, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, (such as) justice, mercy, and faith; these ought ye to have done, and (yet) not

to leave the other undone (Matt.. 23:23, parenthetical emphasis mine).

Here are some scriptures on tithing for you to look up yourself: Gen. 14: 28:22; Lev. 27:30-34; Deut. 12:6; 14:22; 16:17; 2 Chron. 31:5-10; Neh. 12:44; 13:12-13; Prov. 3:9-10; 11:24-25; 13:7; Eccl. 11:1-2; Eze. 44:30; Amos 4:4-5; Mic. 6:6-8; Mal. 3:8-10; Matt. 6:20-21; 10:8; Lk. 6: 38; 11:42; 18:9-14; Acts 6:1-4; 20:35; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; II Cor. 9:6-8; 1 Tim. 6:17-20; Heb. 7:2; Book of Mormon: Jac. 2:22-24; Mos. 2:24-44; Alma 1:40-46; Alma 15:26; 16:223-225; III Ne. 11:11; Moroni 7:7.

### WHY DON'T WE HEAR MUCH ABOUT IT?

Many churches of today make it their business to be sure each member pays his share into their various funds, even to go so far as to instruct as to how much they are **required** to pay. There are even some churches that will cancel your membership if you don't pay, and even some rarer churches that won't even initially allow membership if you are not in just a certain income bracket. I cannot answer why it is not the subject for more sermons in the church today, especially when our members are lacking so very much in paying even close to what they should, but one thing is for sure; tithing, and the paying of it to Christ's church, is a personal matter between you and God. Tithing is a commandment just like it is to not tell lies or steal, etc., but it remains for you to decide whether or not to abide in righteousness, not any one else. The Church of Christ cannot force you to pay your tithes any more than it could force you to stop telling lies, but the responsibility of the Priesthood is to make it known what are the commandments of God. A small number of

members regularly pay their tithing, but no one except God is keeping a tally on who pays what and who doesn't, etc. (with the exception of receipts issued by the Bishopric). So, perhaps the answer to the question of why we don't hear much about tithing, is that there is a general fear of losing membership by stepping on people's toes in what has been considered a "touchy" subject.

#### HOW MUCH AM I SUPPOSED TO PAY?

You should pay one-tenth of all your income.

#### DON'T THE DEDUCTIONS FROM MY PAYCHECK FOR TAXES COUNT AS MY TITHING?

No. Taxes are monies taken by the various branches of the government to meet expenses on a national, state or city level, and should not be confused with the portion we are to set aside for God by paying into His church.

#### MAY I FIRST DEDUCT MY VARIOUS PERSONAL EXPENSES BEFORE FIGURING MY TENTH?

No. Remember that it is the "first fruits" of our labors that are to go to God (See Ezekiel 44:30); just as in all aspects of life, God and His Church should always come first. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33).

#### WHAT ABOUT MY TAX REFUND EACH YEAR . . . DO I PAY A TENTH OF THAT?

Yes if you pay your tithing by your "Net Income" each payday throughout the year; and no, if you have paid a tenth of your "Gross Pay" each time.

#### WHOM DO I PAY?

Send your checks to:

The Church of Christ (Temple Lot)  
P. O. Box 472  
Independence, Missouri 64051  
Attention: C. Leroy Wheaton, Business Mgr.

Make the check payable to:

"The Church of Christ (Temple Lot)".

Avoid sending cash through the mail, so if you do not have a personal checking account send a money order. If you are able to attend one of the Church locals regularly, you may pay the local Bishop or Bishop's agent. Ask your Pastor.

#### WHO GETS IT AND WHAT IS IT USED FOR?

The General Church is the recipient of all tithes and offerings, and as is set forth in the scriptures (Acts 6:1-4), there are seven Bishops that have the care of the temporal or business affairs of the Church. They are Oren A. Caviness, Nicholas F. Denham, Vance H. Harris, Edward H. Podhola, John A. Sweem, C. Leroy Wheaton, Jr., and Leslie P. Case. It is used in whatever way is necessary in order to establish a missionary program that will be successful in this day and age.

#### HOW DO I KNOW IT WILL BE PUT TO GOOD USE?

The Church of Christ believes in ruling by the voice of its people, what is commonly called, "Common Consent". With this in mind, we must have faith that God will properly inspire the minds of at least a majority of the members of His church so that all things are done in accordance with His plans — not ours. We simply must have faith in the judgment of our council of Bishops. In this democratic nation, each has a chance to voice his opinion concerning all the affairs of state, and in this case, Church, and it is our responsibility to vote on referendum measures as they are sent out, and if possible, to attend the General Conferences of the Church.

#### WHAT IF I CANNOT AFFORD TO PAY ONE MONTH BECAUSE OF BILLS?

Nowhere in scripture does it say how often we must send in our monies. Some pay with each weekly paycheck, others wait till the end of each month, and still others may choose to pay at the end of each year by paying one-tenth of your income according to your W-2 forms. The latter method will be extremely difficult if you don't set aside something each week to cover it when the end of the year approaches. One must remember that the longer one prolongs the payment of tithing, the easier it will be to find something else to spend it for when the time comes. We are further commanded to stay out of debt with the world. Now in these days it is nearly impossible to buy a home or a car without first going into debt for it, but all too often we contract debts for many other contrivances that can sometimes get us into a bind. The world makes it too easy to obtain credit, and we must recognize this fact and avoid it. Nevertheless, in our individual efforts to get out of debt, some of us are sometimes just barely able to pay the debts for the month. Nothing says you can't figure what your tenth part would be (10%) and mark it down with the intention to pay next paycheck. But, we need be cautious when we do this because it is very easy to build up a big "IOU" to the Lord for tithing, and have it get so big that it seems insurmountable and so you just forget it.

If you were to ask, you would find many that have marvelous testimonies concerning the paying of their tithes. Many have thought they could not afford it, but when convinced in their heart to try, they found money to spare. Miraculous? Yes.

So, the answer is twofold: (1) Try to stay out of debt; and (2) Have faith that the Lord will provide for your needs in life if we but truly give God the first fruits of our labors. Christ said (in Matthew 6:25), "Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than food and the body than raiment?"

We do not recommend not paying your bills, since you are legally and morally obligated to do so, but we must learn to so order our finances (and our lives) to

allow our obligations to God to come first — before any obligations we may have to man.

#### **MAY I DEDUCT MY TITHING PAYMENTS ON MY INCOME TAX RETURN EACH YEAR?**

Yes. Keep all cancelled checks and/or receipts to show proof. List all tithing payments and payments to other church funds as charitable donations when you itemize deductions. If you use the short form, or simply choose not to itemize your deductions, there will be no place to list charitable contributions.

#### **WHAT ABOUT BORROWED MONEY, OR GIFTS, OR MY SOCIAL SECURITY OR PENSION CHECKS?**

Borrowed money is just temporary and you are expected to pay it back; No, you need not pay a tenth. When one receives gifts or inheritances, we may, assume that the party on the giving end has rightfully paid a tenth of his or her income and therefore we are not required to do so again. But it is best left up to

your own conscience in such matters. Your social security check or pension check is something you have earned previously in life, and so you have it coming to you according to man's law, but it is still income that you have never previously paid one tenth of to the Lord.

#### **IF I DON'T PAY MY TITHING, WILL I BE PUBLICLY SCRUTINIZED OR WILL THE CHURCH CANCEL MY MEMBERSHIP?**

No. It is a matter between you and God. It is not the policy of the Church of Christ to keep track of its members' finances. But, accept this as a plea: The Church does need the monies badly, in order to accomplish all that is required of us in these latter days. This is the whole purpose of tithing. You have a responsibility to your God and His Church and a very definite part of that responsibility is tithing; let us herein be admonished to so pay.

Elder G. A. Housknecht

## **AVA LOCAL NEWS, ETC.**

Ava reporting again — we have had a number of very good sermons, testimonies, class discussions, home visit discussions. The sermons of these later Sundays have been by Bro. Joseph Smith, Bro. David Jones, Bro. Kenneth Smith, Bro. Albert Leighton-Floyd, and Bro. Larry Beem.

Visitors have been Bro. and Sis. Lary Beem and family, Bro. and Sis. Archie Bell, Sis. Amy Schrader, Bro. and Sis. Leighton-Floyd and family, Bro. and Sis. Kenneth Smith, and Sis. June Sarratt and two boys.

Wedding bells have run again in the Ava Local, March 26th. A very beautiful bride, Sis. Pamela Burgin, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Lester Burgin, was married in a double ring ceremony to Larry Paul Jenkins, Bro. Larry Beem officiating. Our best wishes go with these young folks as they go to their first home in Tucson, Arizona where Larry is stationed with the Air Force.

Jewels have many facets; after they are cut these facets deepen and enrich the preciousness of the jewel, bringing out unexpected colors which flash in the light. The Gospel truths also have many enriching facets, richer and more beautiful as we diligently search deeper into them.

#### **Jewel facet —**

Let us ponder the parable of "the sower and the seed" (Matt. 13:3-9) and the seeds that fell on stony ground. Are we conscious of the fact that these "seeds" upon this plot of ground may really be needing more care and nurturing to bring about growth? Or have we felt somewhat justified in self-righteously laying all blame on the rocky-plot? Do we even recognize

that we each have many stony areas within us? All of these areas take greater expenditure of care, concern, often a weeping-of-the-heart, and much deep, deep prayer to overcome and encourage growth. Any one working Ozark stony ground well knows the amount of care it takes to grow things. Not only are there rocks but the struggle against encroaching prickly vines, cantankerous weeds, and the pesty crabgrass, etc. that try to take over the garden. Wouldn't it be a greater honor to our Heavenly Father if, with His help, "fruits" for His Kingdom were brought forth from the rocky places in our souls, our times of rebellious stony-heartedness being softened and warmed by His loving mercy and grace until we yield to Him and in a thanksgiving so immense we are humbled by this work His hand has wrought within? Humility is our whole, utter dependence upon God and our knowing this to the depths of our beings. "Fruits" then brought forth are of His working in us.

#### **Jewel facet —**

"No room in the inn", no room in Bethlehem for Christ as a babe; is there room now in our lives for Him? Or have we crowded our days so full there is no room? Do we leave the risen Christ waiting on the fringe of our lives? Are we possibly even guilty of being so wrapped up in good works we feel we are doing for Him that we leave Him entirely out, instead of making Him first, seeking Him first each morning so that we carry Him with us through the whole of our day? **We can grow.** Let us grow then in Him until we carry Him deeply within (His love, "for love of the Spirit", Rom. 15:30) through the whole of our day,

deep within the inner man. Thus we can live on two levels simultaneously, one level deep but "first" in God's influence, while on the surface level we are busy with chores, household duties, work, etc.

Jewel facet —

Of the vital ministry-of-prayer, prayer to such depth that it is constant; "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17) at the "first" level. When suffering from insomnia or wakefulness, etc., join this ministry-of-prayer. Many are the people we can pray for, not only prayer but lifing our hearts in praise to God and offering thanks to Him because He is light, Truth, Love, Mercy, our Comfort, strength and rest, even though we be wading through darkest trials, or problems of which no human solution is possible. Being oft reminded that "the early bird gets the worm", I'm more impressed with the fact that the birds are singing and praising their Creator almost before dawn arrives. While it is yet dark we, like them, may sing praises and glorify our Savior even though we cannot "see" any way through problems. Prayerful-praise and praiseful-prayer in the depth of the "first" level, seeking to meet our Heavenly Father who is ever, always near, "Even unto the end of the world" (Matt. 28:20) and trusting His holy work within us will bring us to the end of all worldly pride. We must needs meet Him "first" in depth-level in order to bring real aid for another at the level of his need. "Enter into thy secret closet" (Matt. 6:6) in the secret depths of the soul, there to pray and learn "a new song". "He hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto God . . ." (Ps. 40:3). O! Wonderful is this promise, "a new song in our mouth". What was our old song — complaints, judging, bitterness, etc.? O! Yes, the "new song" is "praise unto God"; surely we can praise One so full of all Truth, all Love, Light, Mercy, Grace, etc.

Jewel facet —

God's person is defined by many Bible references: eyes, hands, feet, mouth, etc. (Isa. 51:9 & 5:19 C 48:13; Gen. 16:13 & 31:42; Nah. 1:3; Ex. 33:22, 23; 1 Sam 5:11, and others. He is defined as a true person having form and parts (as we also know Christ has bodily parts, now a living, resurrected person in bodily form) from whom emanates the great power of His Spirit, a radiating, encompassing of Love, Mercy, Grace, Justice, Truth, etc.

Jewel facet —

Let us become more aware of the need to ask of God His special blessing and purifying of our foods at mealtime, just as we ask His blessing on the sacrament and the blessing of the olive oil. As careful as we may be in searching for nutritious foods there are more and more dangerous pollutants being added.

Jewel facet —

A thought presented: that coals keep their heat, their life by close association. Let us be sure this glow-

ing heat-life is from the indwelling of God's kindling Spirit. This life within us must be of His quickening, else the close association brings no help, no edification, no furthering of His Kingdom work.

Jewel facet —

An added thought on the story of Zacchaeus, the little short man (Luke 9:1-10). Zacchaeus was short of stature; do we not suffer from shortsightedness? How difficult for us to "see" over ourselves, our hurts, our childhood understanding of scripture verses, our prejudices, etc. We fail to "see" how God is truly using us or how He is using a brother or sister. We are unable to "see" our prayers being answered before our eyes, so often unable to "see" over ourselves to His great, culminating work.

Jewel facet —

Of great encouragement are the many verses read, to the building up of faith and confidence in the greatness of God's love and protection, of hope even in this time of terrible destructions. These verses are a help to us and a reminder that we must realize that the culmination of God's work, His redemptive work of these last days is a twofold work, the final working out of His conquering of evil through desolations and destruction. But of more vital importance is the bringing in of His righteous reign. Let us not become so panicked and paralyzed at these prophecies of destruction that we miss entirely the great and beautiful work going on among the people, His Spirit working among earnest, searching souls. Let us be alert to the spirit of awakening.

Jewel facet —

In Nephi's dream the "tree of life" (1 Nep. 3:46, 64 & 69) is defined as the pure love of God. This enlarges my understanding of what the "tree" in Rev. 22:2 really is and how its leaves are for the healing of the nations, of peoples. I've pondered just what this meant for years. Now, this explains it so beautifully. God's great Love, Mercy, Grace, etc. heals us more and more as we incorporate into our beings His indwelling Love which brings spiritual healing, soul healing. This "tree" beareth fruit in all twelve seasons — wonderful — there is no seasonal time of unfruitfulness in God's Love.

Jewel facet —

The "great and spacious building . . . pride of the world" (1 Nep. 2:71-73) — let us beware lest we partake of this prideful scorn, finger pointing, etc. even though we be baptized into Christ. Isn't the fact that this huge building was suspended above the field a sign that it is hovering over all humanity, yea, even us, tempting us to partake of its folly?

Jewel facet—

What is the "well" that Joseph in Egypt abode by (Gen. 49:22)? We know the "well of living water" that Christ told the Samaritan woman about (John 4:14). It

was that which **He gave**; one would never thirst, having drunk of this "water" Is this the "well of living water" that strengthened Joseph and his seed — the "living water", the strength of his descendants and they that follow God? In this interpretation of the promises made to Joseph in the blessing of Jacob (while we rejoice in the material and physical fulfillment of these promises) let us not overlook the depth of spiritual promises and fulfillment. Not only was Joseph to be a fruitful bough who abode by this well (fruitful — bearing fruits of the spirit?) "The archers have sorely grieved him" (i. e., the enemies of God and of God's righteousness). How sore has been the grieving at this enmity in mankind. His "bow abode in strength", physical strength only? No, "his hands made strong by the mighty God of Jacob . . . who shall help thee" and bless thee with blessings of heaven above and which coucheth beneath, just material blessings? No, blessings of God's Spirit, the height and depth of which are unmeasurable. The blessings of "thy father" (God?) "have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors": the advent of Christ's birth and the salvation plan — "unto the utmost bounds of the everlasting hills". O! Yes, salvation and the culmination of Christ's redemption of mankind is even beyond the importance of the beginning of the Work, this vital finishing and ushering in of the Millennial Reign.

Jewel facet —

(Reading from Alma 3:48 concerning our own preparation to meet Christ) "Are ye humble" and are our "garments white" (i. e. are we dressed in the righteousness of God)? Are we "stripped from pride"? Prepare, prepare; the "King of heaven is soon at hand." Do we "envy", do we "mock" a brother, a sister, and heap "persecutions upon them"? Repent, repent. (Veres 58) "Yea, he saith, 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 waters of life freely . . . ". In Alma 13:48 the king cried (as we all do). "What shall I do, that I may have this eternal life?" He would give up all his possessions! Is this all that is required, the giving up of material things? O! No, there must be great repentance and "giving away of all our sins" (verse 53). Isn't this a harder thing to do, this departing wholly from sins and being willing for God to show ever deeper the more hidden sins, those things that we do from force of habit, not recognizing how very wrong they truly are until God holds them up in His pure light? O! This is a needed thing but, O! so painful, this cleansing of the inner man. "And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor . . . and have not charity (the pure love of God), it profiteth me nothing" (1 Cor. 13:3). The bonds we are in these days are the bonds of sin in the inner man, works of death. O! To be freed from the "death" unto life and be wholly led by His Spirit! We really fail to realize how very near He is to us. Then, from 1 Tim. 6:4, 5 & 11: "He is proud knowing nothing, but dotting about questions and strife of words, wherefore cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself . . . But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness."

Jewel facet —

"Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and the knowledge of the son of God, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Eph. 4:13). What is the full measure of this full stature? Christ said, "My meat is to do the will of him who sent me, and finish his work" (John 4:34).. Then, this being the fullness of the measure of Christ, we have a sure guideline to judge our growth by.

Ava Reporter

## TRI-LOCAL RALLY NOTICE

There will be a rally of the three locals of Houston, Ava and Collins over the Memorial Day weekend, May 28 and 29. Everyone is welcome. The rally will be at Houston and there will be camper space available. For accommodations please contact:

Elder John Jones  
1103 W. Hwy. 17  
Houston, Mo. 65483  
(Ph. 417-967-3059)

Sr. Margaret Keeney  
213 Bryan St.  
Houston, Mo. 65483  
(Ph. 417-967-3857)

## MISSOURI REUNION NOTICE

The Missouri Reunion will be held at the East Independence Local on June 24, 25 and 26. The location of the church is: 78 Hwy. (23rd St.) and Necessary, just one block east of the intersection of 78 and 291 Hwy's.

For accommodations you may contact the pastors of the two Independence churches:

Elder Roland Sarratt  
15910 E. 36th Terr.  
Independence, Mo. 64055  
(Ph. 816-373-6605)

Elder Richard Wheaton  
704 S. Elizabeth Rd.  
Independence, Mo. 64056  
(Ph. 816 796-3843)

## TO THE EDITOR OF ZION'S ADVOCATE

The following letter was received too late to read at the recent Conference. However, I thought it would be of interest to all the Brothers and Sisters throughout the church and am sending it to the Advocate for publishing in order that all might remember Sister Hunter, and the work she is trying to do, in their prayers.

William A. Sheldon  
General Representative in the Office

Sunday, April 3, 1977

Dear Bro. Sheldon

I hope this letter will reach you before Conference is over as I would like this to be read to the Brothers and Sisters.

Each Sunday Morning I have Sunday School in my home. There are only three children, my nephew (3) my daughter Ilene (7) and her friend Laural (7). This morning another girl friend, Kelly (8 or 9), came in as she too wanted to come in to have classes with us. I have a folder for each of the children to keep copies of the lessons we have each week and Bible pictures to color at their leisure. I gave Kelly a folder with her name on it. She told me she didn't want to take it home

but would leave it with me. I asked her why, and she said she couldn't come every week. It didn't seem a satisfactory answer so I asked if her parents knew she was here, and she said "no". Because of it being religion she said they wouldn't want her to come. They are devout Roman Catholic. I asked her to speak to her parents to get their permission, as I didn't want her to get in trouble with her parents and I want to avoid trouble for myself on this matter. She said she would sneak over because she wants to come.

It is a touchy situation and I would like the prayers of the Brothers and Sisters offered on her behalf that her parents will consent to her coming over for Sunday School.

Last summer Kelly wanted me to read the Bible to her and Ilene. I did not have classes at that time, but I would talk with them about the Bible. Since I am not a man called to preach the Gospel I am limited in what I can do in teaching. I do not teach them from the Book of Mormon as yet . . .

I pray that God's blessing will be upon us in my attempt to teach the children.

Your Sister in Christ,

(signed) Mary Hunter

## LOVE

Long I have pondered, what is that love that can simply be both commanded and obeyed? In the human concept love seems such a spontaneous response; a feeling which emanates from somewhere in the center of our being and which in no way we can create at will.

Some months back I read a definition of love, which has been percolating in my thinking. It is this, "Love is not a marvellous thing that we feel, but a hard thing that we do." If this is the love referred to in the scripture then indeed it can be commanded and obeyed.

Bit by bit the picture has been clarifying; has been taking shape. I have often feared, and have wondered how I could know whether I truly loved my Lord with all my heart, might, mind and strength. In view of this definition there is one, and only one way to tell, and that is if I obey His commandments with all my heart, mind, might and strength. A faulty or partial obedience must mean a faulty and partial love.

How blind I have been to take so long to understand His statement so, in John 14:21, "He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me . . . ." and in verse 24, "He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings . . ." must be just as true in re-

verse order, "he that keepeth not my sayings loveth me not." Therefore by the quality and completeness of our obedience, and by that alone can we measure or determine the extent of our love of the Lord.

So, then, in this context, how do we obey the command to love our brother, our neighbor even our enemy as ourselves? We work sometimes very hard, to provide, to serve the well-being of our own self; our bodies, minds, comforts and even pleasures. This we can also will to do for each of these who qualify as brother, neighbor and enemy, and who doesn't fit there somewhere? The only feeling the Good Samaritan had for the victim on the wayside was compassion which motivated his action, and which was lacking in the other two who had passed by ahead of him. But the compassion without its resultant action would never have qualified as love. Thus by labor, involvement and doing for the well-being of whomever crosses one's path, whatever their need, one determines the presence of love. In the words of another, speaking of the person obedient to God's command of love, "He will not always serve the wish, but always the good of his neighbor." Likewise we should serve the good of our enemy. My Father once told me that it is not those who

do for us that we love the most, but those whom we do for; and we have the hymn, a phrase of which goes,

"Is thy heart a living power?  
Selfentwined it's strength sinks low;  
It can only live in loving,  
And by serving love will grow."

This is a delightful enlightenment to me, not that I don't find myself lacking, but that by this I know

that I can choose to obey His commandments to love by choosing to obey all His commandments as soon as they are revealed to me, letting the feelings of love come as they may as a result of this obedience.

The feelings which we think of as love are not the motivation of action, service, involvement, but the result of it in obedience. Love can be commanded and obeyed, it is beautifully simple.

A Quester

## GUATEMALAYAN DEED

In the City of Santiago, Guatemala, this 16th day of August, 1659, before me a Notary Public of the Registry, appeared Pedro de Cordoba, a Spaniard, and Vincente Rodriguez, a native indian from the District of Merced, and in compliance with decrees prescribed by the Superior Government of which I have given notice, made a transcript of titles and tax records filed with the Superior Government on August 12 of this present year with Captain Dionisio Descovar, Secretary of the Treasury.

Said record was ordered to be transcribed by reason of its being the language of the Indians. It consists of 15 pages, three half-sheets and twelve quarter-sheets. The transcript was made by the said Vincente Rodriguez taking the original records to read and by comparing and explaining the words written in the mother tongue to the said Pedro de Cordoba in the following manner:

"It begins with an original title inscription dated 1524. We these principals declare that we claim title to this land because our parents and grandparents came here . . . ; that we are descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, as they were called, we are of Israel; that our parents and grandparents stayed in Canaan in this land where we are; that Abraham our Lord as a God to this people; that we likewise were in Babylon where all of the Indians with great effort made a large edifice, which remained in that condition, and the

work did not progress. That all of us then spoke one language, and the building remained in that state because of their having changed to several languages. The people went to their homes to try to sleep because they did not understand one another and our Lord was pleased that they should remain in that condition, as we sons of Adam are sinners. And thus different manners of tongues were ordained among us, and our Lord God told us how the language was changed and why they spoke different tongues when they met one another.

Upon greeting each other at daybreak, they did not understand one another. Because of this they were stupified and scattered themselves over all the world. They looked for a place to settle. Then came our parents and grandparents in the middle of the sea, and they were on an island in the middle of the sea, and there was a sound of trumpets, and oboes and flutes, and thus it occurred in that place where the sound was heard, and then they came, in the middle of the sea, in seven valleys and seven caves, near a **seaport** (?) called Tulan, and as they were leaving the caves, they called one to another **and entered seven ships and** came from the other part of the sea to these parts and rested there."

(The deed then describes how the people divided and settled the land and gives the boundaries of their land)

FAST FROM JUDGING OTHERS: FEAST ON GOD IN-DWELLING THEM.

FAST FROM THOUGHTS OF ILLNESS: FEAST ON GOOD HEALTH.

FAST FROM WORDS THAT POLLUTE: FEAST ON PHRASES THAT PURIFY.

FAST FROM DISCONTENT: FEAST ON GRATITUDE.

FAST FROM ANGER: FEAST ON PATIENCE.

FAST FROM PESSIMISM: FEAST ON OPTIMISM.

FAST FROM WORRY: FEAST ON DIVINE ORDER.

FAST FROM COMPLAINING: FEAST ON APPRECIATION.

FAST FROM NEGATIVES: FEAST ON AFFIRMATIVES.

FAST FROM BITTERNESS: FEAST ON FORGIVENESS.

FAST FROM SELF-CONCERN: FEAST ON COMPAS-

SION FOR OTHERS.

FAST FROM PERSONAL ANXIETY: FEAST ON ETERNAL TRUTH.

FAST FROM FACTS THAT DEPRESS: FEAST ON VERITIES THAT UPLIFT.

FAST FROM SUSPICION: FEAST ON TRUTH.

FAST FROM THOUGHTS THAT WEAKEN: FEAST ON PROMISES THAT INSPIRE.

FAST FROM SHADOWS OF SORROW: FEAST ON THE SUNLIGHT OF SERENITY.

FAST FROM IDLE GOSSIP: FEAST ON PURPOSEFUL SILENCE.

FAST FROM PROBLEMS THAT OVERWHELM: FEAST ON PRAYER THAA UNDERGIRDS.

Author Unknown.

### PONT - CUNNINGHAM NUPTIALS

A very beautiful wedding was performed on March 4, 1977 at Chapel Hill United Methodist Church, Kent City, Michigan by Elder George Brantner. Elder Brantner is the grandfather of the groom. Miss Sandra Pont, daughter of Don and Minnie Pont of Casonovia, Michigan, was married to Brother Edward Cunningham, son of Sister Jeanette Cunningham.

The young couple will live on Campus at Ferris College, Big Rapids, Michigan, where Edward is attending school. When the school year is finished they will move to Brighton, Michigan, where Edward has a summer job waiting.

Congratulations and best wishes to them both, and may God richly bless this new marriage.

The Michigan Reunion Committee  
Conley Addington  
Emery Pinder  
Kenneth Hoare

### ZION'S ADVOCATE

Second Class Postage Paid Second Class Postage Paid  
at Independence, Mo. 64050 Independence, Missouri 64051

### 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:  
236 - 32 Road, Rt. 4 303-242-2993  
Grand Junction, CO 81501

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

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

### NOTICE CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

Speed delivery of your "ADVOCATE" by sending us your new address immediately. Mail to:

ZION'S ADVOCATE  
P. O. Box 472  
Independence, Mo. 64051

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.

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