

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. 55

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No. 9

I Was Alone

My name is Mary, and I know
What it is to be alone.
Men sought me out and brought me gifts.
Still, their love was not my own.
They told me I was beautiful.
But I was always left — alone.

Then I met a different Man.
He never said that I was fair.
He gave no treasure of the world.
But, somehow, as I listened there
I felt a gift I couldn't see,
Of worth and glory, wondrous rare!

He gave me an unearthly love.
My former life He'd not condone.
He said, "Now, go, and sin no more."
They killed Him! I could only moan.
But wait! I tell you, He arose,
Then went above! But I'm not alone.

Donna Moser

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Editorial . . .

IMMORALITY IN ENTERTAINMENT

The outspoken and demonstrated approval of various types of immorality that is being flaunted in the faces of the American people today has brought many of the more upright citizens of this nation into action. It is encouraging to know that there are those who hold to the righteous way of life. The hopes that this people will yet repent and return to God is still alive.

Just how much influence the world has had upon the people of the Church of Christ is a question of great concern. It was an easy thing for us to trust in the behavior level of our social environment in the past. When the behavior level dropped to new lows from time to time, however, we had to reestablish our own sense of righteousness, otherwise we dropped with it. In some cases the changes have been so gradual and subtle that we have accepted them without too much awareness of the evil they contained. Our younger generation has been especially susceptible to such changes.

The laws of our nation (U. S.) have become permissive to such evils and, to a degree, have justified and protected the sinner. It is our responsibility to inform the church of these wrongs and bring the example of right before the people.

That which seemed rather innocent and easily acceptable a few years ago has now produced fruit that is repulsive and somewhat shocking to most of the older generation. Entertainment has reached vast low levels of immorality. The humorous aspect has used satire and sarcasm as main sources of pleasure. High officials and prominent individuals of governments, religions, sports, etc. are mocked in the eyes of the people. Nothing is left sacred that can be turned into a joke. Most sad of all is the fact that man would demoralize himself for the price of a laugh.

It is ironic that the human, created in the image of God, should be enticed to mock his own means of physical conception by making jokes about it. For many years the Gentiles, more particularly this nation, have indulged themselves with "dirty jokes" and have "laughed it up" until in recent times such indulgence has become a common part of entertainment. This type of entertainment is heard in many places of public. In fact some people make it a prominent part of their social endeavor considering it a common ground by which to communicate.

Having a good sense of humor is a sign of being normal and healthy. It could also be said that it is normal for man to laugh at himself. But the extreme or overindulgence of such can become a gross error.

In modern humor laughter is the guideline. If the people "roll in the aisles" with laughter, the entertainer is a success. If he gets no laughs he is a failure. We can conclude that that which we read, hear and view is what the people want. We might judge our

own sense of humor by what we are willing to give our time and money to see.

There are various types of fornication (sexual sins) that have become common in the world. They have invaded much of the free world by entering the home, business, school, etc. The sacredness of marriage is not respected nor desired by those who promote such practices.

Paul makes us aware of the "vile affections" that were known of in his day where men turned in their lust toward men and women toward women. Today it is known as homosexuality. This is a consequence of a people who have known God and have rejected Him. God has in turn given them over to a reprobate mind.

Let us beware — Satan has manufactured a tool of evil so deceptive that many of the world are not aware of its degrading effect. The progressive introduction of unlawful and unnatural acts that are described and dramatized by our various medias of entertainment is turning the minds of the people away from the true sense and purpose of life.

To see man as modern man sees himself with the many unrighteous latitudes that have been afforded him and to see man as his Creator sees him is a great contrast. The Christian would do well to search out the scriptures that reveal the true relationship that God has deemed lawful between man and woman and use

these scriptures as his anchor against modern influences.

We should remember that God created mankind in the flesh to reproduce their own kind and He gave the commandment to multiply and replenish the earth. The natural desire is with mankind as it is with all creatures: the male is attracted to the female and the female to the male.

With mankind these attractions are to be controlled and limited by the bonds of marriage. Under this covenant relationship the two (man and woman) become one and are pledged to be true to one another. So strict is the law of God concerning this relationship that man cannot so much as look upon a woman to lust after her without committing adultery in his heart.

Although we of the church are cautioned to guard against adultery and fornication from time to time, it is unlikely that there has been sufficient teaching and admonition given to counter the multitude of influences and temptations that we meet in our daily walk of life. The scriptures are explicit on the subjects of iniquitous practices so we are not without instruction. Let us study them that the strictness of the word be the guide of our conscience. Let us also pray that we be not led into temptation beyond that which we are able to resist.

RLS

SERMON

APOSTLE E. LEON YATES
Grand Junction, Colorado Reunion
June 10, 1977, 8:00 P. M.
(continued)

Now, let us read from the Bible. Colossians 3:1-10. In this word that came via the Holy Ghost, we find guide lines as to how to conduct ourselves in order to reflect the image of Christ.

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

"For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old

man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:"

If you would reflect the image of Christ, you had better do some seeking of things that are above and not the things of this world. Because you can cast an image of the evil or of the right, but you have to seek God and His kingdom if you want to reflect the right image.

He is speaking to the people that had accepted Christ in the waters of baptism and he tells them that they are now dead to sin. But it doesn't necessarily mean you are going to remain dead to sin, it depends upon the decisions you make from that moment on. Because when you are baptized, you don't lose your free agency, you can still do either good or evil.

We think of fornication, uncleanness, and inordinate affection, we realize these are running rampant. I could bring to your attention plenty of examples, but I don't care to go in to all of that now. Inordinate affection is running rampant, between male and fe-

male, between male and male and between female and female of the human species.

Filthy communications out of the mouth is another one that is on the increase. I have worked among men and I have worked where there has been a goodly share of women working, and I want to tell you this much, it is a shame and an outrage and a disgrace the filthy things that fall from the lips of the human being, both male and female, in this day and age!

Now, it gives in this reading, guide lines whereby if we would apply these things to our lives, we would cast an image for good.

I want to read from Romans 1:21-32. I don't like to read it. I really don't. I am reading it for only one reason. I have listened time and time and time again to national broadcasts on the television about homosexuals. And I am getting so sick of it! They are making heroes out of them! There are men who are religious leaders - priests - who are flaunting this to the world! They say they are doing now what God wants them to do and that He approves of it. One priest, the other day on national television, said, and I heard him, that he had written a book and the title was, "I Walk With God". Now, I want to give you a picture in Romans of just what is the matter with this type of person! And just what has happened to bring him to this low level of thinking and trying now to cause other people to fall into the ditch and call it righteous. Just listen to what Paul says in Romans.

"Because that, when they knew God,"

Now, mind you, this applies to the priest I was listening to and watching on television. He knew God to a certain extent, I am sure. Or he would not be claiming to be a man who could write a book called, "I Walk With God". Yet, he is trying to teach the people that this particular ailment that he has, is a legitimate thing! A man the day before this broadcast, was in an argument with a minister who was opposed to this type of thing and he said to the minister, "Well, you're not a Christian, because you don't love me, not to give me the right to do what I want to do." The minister said, "Oh yes, I do love you, but I do not love your sin." That is the message that Christ brought. He loved sinners, and He still loves sinners, but He does NOT APPROVE of sin in one degree! When people try to say that this thing I am speaking about isn't sin! !! then let us see what the Bible has to say about it.

"they glorified him not as God, (There is the beginning of their downfall.) neither were thankful; (Another step in their downfall.) but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. (Ah, yes! When they knew God, they didn't glorify Him as God.) Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things."

I have added here, "sinful desires"! This is an idol, don't think it isn't! When you worship the things that are sinful, taking them into your heart and into your body because it might satisfy some LUST! It is an idol and it is sin!

"Wherefore God also gave them up to **unclean-ness** through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:"

Now, it is getting clear who changed the truth of God into a lie!

"Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever . . . For this cause God gave them up unto **vile affections**: (Now we are getting down to fundamentals! Just exactly what they are talking about on television.) for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:"

What is he talking about? He is talking about exactly what we are getting fed on TV daily! That is what he is talking about. Our TVs are trying to tell us it is OK. Do your thing! If you like it, do it! That is the cry and watchword today. And it is sin! and don't forget it. It will destroy this nation, if they don't repent. It will destroy all the nations of the earth if they don't repent!

"And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. (In other words, receiving their recompence which is just! They are going to receive justice and justice is going to be a punishment that they'll cry and lament into eternity.) And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind,"

That is what we are getting on TV today and radios and in newspapers, by these individuals who call themselves "Gay". They are of reprobate mind and became that way because of when they knew God they glorified Him not as God. That's why. Now, their foolish hearts are darkened and they think in their darkened mind, that they are really smart and wise and everyone else is crazy.

"to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, (These things I am reading about are the very **cause** of murder.) debate, deceit, malignity; whispers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, (I'll tell you, Paul has painted a word picture of the condition we are in today!) Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, (Oh, yes, **without** natural affection. I heard one of these unfortunate individuals say that he was a married man. And his

wife understood him! She condoned his relations with other women without natural affection, and without love. This should only be engaged in under the holy bonds of matrimony, otherwise it becomes sin. She also condoned his relations with men. Yet, the world today says it is OK!) implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."

I hate to preach about this subject. It is distasteful to me. I don't like to even bring up such a subject. But if we don't do it to counteract what is going on - we are going to be held accountable for keeping silent. So don't condemn a minister for talking about some of these things that don't sound too good.

Now, I want to leave this subject. I believe Paul was quite emphatic about it. Remember, these are the written words! They came into being as holy men were moved upon. The Scriptures say, as I read in the beginning in II Nephi 15:1-2, "But behold, there are many that harden their hearts against the Holy Spirit, that it hath no place in them; wherefore, they cast many things away which are written, and esteem them as things of nought." What about the man who professed to be a priest? I'll bet he goes way around this Scripture when he speaks of these people. He'd better go way around it! Because he has nothing to counteract it, that's for sure.

So, people harden their hearts against these things, and cast many of the things which are written away and esteem them as things of nought. People harden their hearts against these things and without the indwelling of the Spirit, without the reflecting of His image, they **will** reject that which is written.

I want to turn now to a little different theme. Let us read from the Book of Mormon, page 318, Alma 3:79-89:

"Behold, I have fasted and prayed many days, that I might know these things of myself. And now I do know of myself that they are true; for the Lord God hath made them manifest unto me by his Holy Spirit;"

Now this is what I want to bring out. If you know anything for sure, and are positive of it, have an actual positive assurance, it came by the power of revelation. That is what I believe. I don't believe you can come to this type of assurance with just the thinking of a man.

"and this is the spirit of revelation which is in me. And moreover, I say unto you, that as it has thus been revealed unto me, that the words which have been spoken by our fathers, are true, Even so according to the spirit of prophecy, which is in me, which is also by the manifestation of the Spirit of God, I say unto you, that I know of myself that whatsoever I shall say unto you concerning that which is to come, is true, And I say unto you, that I know that Jesus Christ shall come;"

I want to remind us of Bro. Clarence Wheaton's sermon regarding the 'Unspeakable Gift'. Yes, there was an unspeakable gift! The gift of Jesus Christ! He came to the earth and it was prophecied that He would come, and He DID come. And we knew it.

"yea, the Son, the only begotten of the Father, full of grace, and mercy, and truth. And behold, it is he that cometh to take away the sins of the world; yea, the sins of every man who steadfastly believeth on his name. And now I say unto you, that this is the order after which I am called; yea, to preach unto my beloved brethren; yea, "and every one that dwelleth in the land;"

He was called after the order of Jesus Christ to preach the Gospel, that is what he is telling the people here. Now, who is he going to preach it to? Let's see.

"Yea, to preach unto all, both **old and young**, both **bond and free**; yea, I say unto you, the **aged**, and also the **middle aged**, and the **rising generation**;"

These are the individuals that need the Gospel. That covers the entire mass of the human race.

"yea, to cry unto them that they must repent and be born again;"

I heard a radio program, a very prominent radio preacher, world wide and I heard him time and time again say that he going to show people how to be born again. And he did not mention baptism. Not once. He is going directly contrary to the teachings of Jesus Christ and yet he is teaching, literally millions of people. This is a literal fulfillment of the Scripture in Matt. 24, where it says many shall come in my name saying that I am Christ and deceiving many. This is speaking directly of the ministry of this world that teach for the doctrine of Christ, the precepts of men. That is what is being referred to, in my humble opinion.

"Yea, thus saith the Spirit, Repent all ye ends of the earth, for the kingdom of heaven is soon at hand; yea, the Son of God cometh in his glory, in his might, majesty, power and dominion. Yea, my beloved brethren, I say unto you, that the Spirit saith, Behold, the glory of the King of all the earth; and also the King of heaven shall very soon shine forth among all the children of men; And also the Spirit saith unto me, yea, crieth unto me with a mighty voice, saying, Go forth and say unto this people;"

Now here is the message of the Church of Christ in the Latter Days, as well.

"Repent, for except ye repent, ye can in no wise inherit the kingdom of heaven."

This was the message before Christ came the first time upon this continent, it is the message today! Now, more than two thousand years later, by that same Spirit, His called ministry are preaching repentance and declaring His second coming.

Now, I want to read from the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 1:10-11. This is referring to the time when Christ left and ascended into heaven for the first time, when He was in Jerusalem and before He came to this continent.

"And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

In other words, this Jesus that left them caused that the angels should declare His second coming. For your own information, read Matthew 24:32-39. We find there something which tells of the coming of Christ. Also in II Peter the whole 3rd Chapter. I'll quote a little of it here.

"This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:"

This is what I am trying to do, to stir up our minds by way of remembrance of what we already know, and try to get us to live in such a way that we will portray the image of Christ, as individuals and as a church! We want to affect the world, so this is what we will have to do. To live in such a way that our actions, our speech (individually and collectively) will portray Jesus Christ, His life and His way.

Before the great and dreadful day of the Lord, which I would like to bring out here in this reading, comes, it tells that certain things are going to happen. It says that THIS generation shall not pass away until these things are fulfilled. Now it is speaking of the generation that you and I are living in right now! For those things that He is speaking of are beginning to come to pass, and this is the generation. This generation will not pass away until Christ will walk and talk upon this earth. That, I believe with all my heart.

I believe there are men and women in this audience that if they live correctly will live to see the Master of Men walk upon this earth and they will be changed (if they are righteous) in a twinkling of an eye when the time comes. That's how close we are, in my honest belief! The Scriptures lead me to believe it. It is not my own personal opinion.

But before the great and dreadful day of the Lord when He comes, something is going to happen. According to the written word, both modern and ancient. Zion shall be established before that day. So I want to turn to some modern revelation about Zion. Book of Commandments, page 87, Chap. XLVIII, verses 62-67.

"And it shall come to pass, among the wicked, that every man that will not take his sword against his neighbor, must needs flee unto Zion for safety."

Now this is in the future. But it can't be too far off. I realize that the day and the hour - no man

knoweth - not even the angels in heaven. But He also said that when a fig tree put forth its shoots, you are able to tell that Spring is nigh. So He expects us to be intelligent enough to know the signs of the times. So we can tell the approximate time at least, but we cannot set a day and do as some people in the past have done, and say that the Lord will come on a certain day. We had better be prepared tomorrow, the day after tomorrow, as though it were going to the THE day. We had better be prepared as a Church also.

"And there shall be gathered unto it out of every nation under heaven: And it shall be the only people that shall not be at war one with another."

The ONLY people that won't be at war with one another! Think of this entire world in total war! There will be one little spot and one little group of people that won't be at war. You would think that surely they would be encompassed and be caused to go to war, or murdered.

"And it shall be said among the wicked, let us NOT go up to battle against Zion, for the inhabitants of Zion are terrible: Wherefore we can not stand. And it shall come to pass that the righteous shall be gathered out from among ALL nations,"

Now I want you to understand this. I am a firm believer that when it says the righteous shall be gathered out of all nations, that means Red Man, that means White Man, that means Greek, Jew, that means everybody that will be obedient to the Gospel of Jesus Christ will be adopted into the House of Israel! That is what the Scriptures teach. There will be no difference in nationalities, men and women will live under the guidance of their Lord, Jesus Christ. The love and compassion in their hearts will be beyond understanding and beyond race and boundaries.

"... and shall come to Zion singing, with songs of everlasting joy."

Let us turn to page 75 in the Book of Mormon. 1 Nephi 7:34-42.

"For the time soon cometh, that the fullness of the wrath of God shall; be poured out upon all the children of men: For he will not suffer that the wicked shall destroy the righteous." Here is a silver lining in this chaos!

"Wherefore, he will preserve the righteous by his power, even if it be so that the fullness of his wrath must come, and the righteous be preserved, even unto the destruction of their enemies by fire. Wherefore, the righteous need not fear; for thus saith the prophet, They shall be saved, even if it so be as by fire. Behold, my brethren, I say unto you, that these things must shortly come; yea, even blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke must come; And it must needs be upon the face of this earth; And it cometh unto men according to the flesh, if it so be that they will harden their hearts against the Holy One of Israel: For behold, the righteous shall not perish; For the time

surely must come, that all they who fight against Zion, shall be cut off."

Now let us read from II Nephi 8:67-69.

"And it shall come to pass, them that are left in Zion, and remain in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem:"

There are Scriptures that show that there will be two Jerusalems. There will be two Zion's, the old one and a new one. The new one is going to be right here on this continent.

"When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning. And the Lord will create upon every dwelling place . . ."

Remember we read that the wicked said they would not go up against the children of Zion because they were a fierce people - here is the reason they are fierce - because the Lord is standing between them and their enemies.

". . . of Mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory of Zion shall be a defence.

This is why we should cast an image of Christ. Because we want to be in that place where we can have a defense. This is yet in the future. Where those who reflect the image of Christ will be.

In conclusion let us read Alma 3:27-37:

"And now behold, I ask you, my brethren of the church, Have ye spiritually been born of God? Have ye received his image in your countenance? Have ye experienced this mighty change in your hearts? Do ye exercise faith in the redemption of him who created you? Do you look forward with an eye of faith, and view this mortal body raised in immortality, and this corruption raised in incorruption, to stand before God, to be judged according to the deeds which have been done in the mortal body? I say unto you, Can you imagine to yourselves that ye hear the voice of the Lord, saying unto you, in that day, Come unto me ye blessed, for behold, your works have been the works of righteousness upon the face of the earth? Or do ye imagine to yourselves that ye can lie unto the Lord in that day, and say, Lord, our works have been righteous works upon the face of the earth, and that he will save you? Or otherwise, can ye imagine yourselves brought before the tribunal of God, with your souls filled with guilt; Yea, a perfect remembrance of all your wickedness; yea, a remembrance that ye have set at defiance the commandments of God? I say unto you, Can ye look up to God at that day with a pure heart and clean hands? I say unto you, Can you look up, having the image of God engraven upon your countenances?"

Do WE have the image of God engraven upon OUR countenances?

KEEP IT SIMPLE

(A sermon by Elder Frank Fann condensed for publication)

I'm happy to see each one of you here this morning. It's a pleasure to stand behind this desk and see so many faces out there that I've come to love.

Last week I had a discussion with a man at work. We were talking about the gospel of Christ, and he said to me, "I believe in God and I believe in Christ, but the Bible is too hard for me to understand. I just don't understand this gospel."

That got me to thinking; why is it that people have to make things complicated? Back a few years ago I had an automobile, a Model A. It had a motor and it had a transmission. No frills or anything; it would get you from point A to point B. A very simple machine. Now I have an automobile that's got so much stuff on it and it's so complicated that I hate to look under the hood. But man thinks the more complicated something is the better it is. They have done this to the gospel of Christ. They said it must be good because it is complicated.

We know better than that don't we Brothers and Sisters? We know that the gospel of Christ is simple.

We know that it is so simple that even little children can understand it. It's so simple that even I can understand it. The most uneducated person here can understand the gospel of Christ because it's not only understanding words, it's not only understanding what you read, it's a feeling here within you that you know the truthfulness of this gospel of Jesus Christ.

Simple means undesigning, straightforward, sincere; this describes this gospel of Christ. It is straightforward; it gives you specific commandments to do. It is sincere because it tells you truth.

Paul told the Corinthians that he feared that by some means their minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. The Corinthians wanted to make it hard too; the Corinthians wanted to make the gospel a complicated thing and Paul warned them to keep it simple.

"Now you may suppose that this is foolishness in me; but behold I say unto you, that by small and simple things, are great things brought to pass; and small means in many instances doth confound the wise.

And the Lord God doth work by means to bring about his great and eternal purposes; and by very small means the Lord doth confound the wise, and bringeth about the salvation of many souls (Alma 17:35, 36).

It tells you here, Brothers and Sisters, that God's work isn't complicated; it's simple. I'd like to go a little further in this simplicity of the gospel, and read a little out of the 5th chapter of St. Matthew. I'll be reading out of the Inspired Version. "And Jesus, seeing the multitudes, went up into a mountain; and when he was set down, his disciples came unto him; and he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying, Blessed are they who shall believe on me; and again, more blessed are they who shall believe on your words, when ye shall testify that ye have seen me and that I am. Yea, blessed are they who shall believe on your words, and come down into the depth of humility, and be baptized in my name; for they shall be visited with fire and the Holy Ghost, and shall receive a remission of their sins."

How much more simple would you want it than this? It says, believe on my name; be baptized for a remission of your sins.

"Yea, blessed are the poor in spirit, who come unto me; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. And again, blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted. And blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth. And blessed are all they who do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled with the Holy Ghost."

Is it difficult to hunger and thirst after righteousness? Or do we just have to have that desire in our hearts to follow after the Lord Jesus Christ and give him our lives, wholly, without reservation?

"And blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy. And blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God. And blessed are all the peacemakers; for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are all they that are persecuted for my name's sake; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Are we willing to be persecuted for Christ's sake? Are we willing to stand up and be counted today for Christ's sake? Are we willing to take that chance, to be an outcast for Christ's sake? If we're willing to do this, all we need to do is stand up and be counted for Christ's sake, and it says here that "theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Ours, it's ours to have if we will stand up today and be counted for Christ's sake.

"And blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. For ye shall have great joy, and be exceeding glad; for great shall be your reward in heaven; for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

If we want that great joy that is promised us, today and from this time forward, let us stand up for Christ. Let's be in his corner; let's be willing to be persecuted.

Turning to the Book of Mormon again I would like

to read one of it's most important verses. "Believe in God; believe that he is, and that he created all things, both in heaven and in earth."

We have to have that simple belief that God is, that He created all that we see around us and that He is responsible for you and I.

"Believe that he has all wisdom, and all power, both in heaven and in earth; believe that man doth not comprehend all things which the Lord can comprehend. And again; believe that ye must repent of your sins and forsake them, and humble yourselves before God; and ask in sincerity of heart that he would forgive you."

Yes, Brothers and Sisters, we must repent, and each and every one of us have things that we must repent of. We fall far short of that which God would have us to be. And for this we must get down on our knees and ask forgiveness. Not only this, but we must turn and go in a new direction. We must not do that sin any more.

"And now, if you believe all these things," if you believe that God is, if you believe that He created all things in heaven and in earth, if you believe that He is all wisdom, if you believe that you must repent of Don't just believe them, take that step and do them. your sins and be baptized, then it says, "do them." It may be hard for you to do because you don't want to do it, but it's a simple step; it's easy to understand; there's nothing complicated about that step; you must repent of your sins, and turn to God.

The Bible tells us that all, ALL, as Brother Anderson used to say, all the law and the prophets hang on the two great laws of God, "Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, mind and strength, and the second is like unto it; love thy neighbor as thyself." Now, Brothers and Sisters, what is complicated about that? We must love the Lord with all our strength, give Him first place in our hearts, give Him first place in our lives. But we must love our neighbor as ourselves, and that doesn't mean just the ones sitting in this room. It goes on to say that we are to love our enemies, and do good to those that spitefully use us.

I'd like to turn over to 1 John, chapter 4, verses 7 through 11; I've read this many times to this congregation, but it is important, it's basic and it's simple: "Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not, knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him."

Yes, God sent his only begotten Son into this world to die on the cross for you and I. He showed that love; he showed that love for us. Yes, God loves us; He loves each and every one of us here this morning; He's holding out His hand to us; all we have to do is reach for it, and take His hand and follow after Him.

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another." This is a commandment that we are to love one another. "Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as he is so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear; because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us. If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar; for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, that he who loveth God love his brother also."

You know even the basic fundamentals of the gospel are very simple. First there's faith. Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt and through the Red sea by faith. By faith! Can you imagine you or I going up to the Red Sea and saying, "Part"? Would we have the faith to try to part the Red Sea? Would we have the faith, if we were Joshua, to try to fell the walls of Jericho? Would we have the faith if we were Noah to build on ark? Or would we have the faith if we were Joseph Smith to go into the woods to pray, and then to follow those instructions? Just how strong is our faith? Is it strong enough to stand the test? Would we be able to move a mountain? Or would we even have the faith to face each day. We must have faith to face each and every day, the faith that God will work for good in our lives. Do we have that much faith, And, Brothers and Sisters, that is not much faith.

Second is repentance. It's really simple, it's not hard, it's easy to understand. If we are doing anything in our lives that is contrary to God's law, change; turn from it and go in a new direction. It's a complete turning away; a complete change in direction. We must do this if we want God's blessing; if we want God's forgiveness we must turn from our sins.

I've always found that if I've had sins, and I've had them, that if I put something else in it's place, it helps. And what do we have to put in it's place? Jesus Christ, put Christ in it's place. Live your lives as he would have you live them. Be ye perfect.

Now Paul told the Gentiles that they should repent and turn to God and do works meet for repentance. We have to show in our lives that we are sorry for that sin that we have committed. We have to do works meet for repentance.

The third is baptism. I'm going to turn to page 259 in the Book of Mormon and read verses 43 through 50. "And now it came to pass that Alma took Helam, he being one of the first, and went and stood forth in the water, and cried, saying, O Lord, pour out thy Spirit upon thy servant, that he may do this work with holiness of heart. And when he had said these words, the Spirit of the Lord was upon him, and he said, Helam, I baptize thee, having authority from the almighty God, as a testimony that ye have entered into a covenant

to serve him until you are dead as to the mortal body; and may the Spirit of the Lord be poured out upon you; and may he grant you eternal life, through the redemption of Christ, whom he has prepared from the foundation of the world. And after Alma had said these words, both Alma and Helam were buried in the water; and they arose and came forth out of the water rejoicing, being filled with the Spirit."

Those of you who have been baptized know what we are talking about. You have felt this refreshing spirit; you have felt this spirit upon you in the waters of baptism; you have felt yourself being washed clean; you felt yourself come forth a new creature, clean, ready to face the rest of your life with God at your side.

Fourth is the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost. After baptism the elders lay hands upon your heads for the reception of the Holy Ghost, that abiding comforter. It's a simple ordinance; there's nothing complicated about it. There's no complicated prayer or chant that goes along with it.

Acts 8, verses 14 through 24. "Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John; who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost. (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them; only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles hands the Holy Ghost was given he offered them money, saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou has thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in the matter; for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee." It tells us here that that power cannot be bought with money. It's a simple ordinance.

Fifth is resurrection. Christ rising from the dead made it possible; it gave hope to you and I, hope of eternal life. And, Brothers and Sisters, why are we here this morning; what is the underlying purpose of our being here this morning? Isn't it that we might learn how to qualify ourselves for that prize, eternal life?

Christ rose from the dead to give us that hope, that after this life ends there would be something more. There is eternal life to be had. There is life at the right hand of Jesus Christ for you and I if we will obey those simple commandments that he has set forth.

In the Book of Mormon page 341, verses 96 through 104, it tells about the sixth principle of the gospel which is eternal judgment. "And he shall come into the world to redeem his people; and he shall take upon him

the transgressions of those who believe on his name; and these are they that shall have eternal life, and salvation cometh to none else." It tells us that we must believe on this Jesus Christ, the One who is to take upon himself our sins. "Therefore the wicked remain as though there had been no redemption made, except it be the loosing of the bands of death; for behold, the day cometh that all shall rise from the dead and stand before God, and be judged according to their works."

Brothers and Sisters, are we ready today? Are we satisfied so far with our lives that we may stand before that judgment seat of Christ and know that we will be judged for our good works? I don't know how long each one of us has, but I do know that the time is short; the time for our works is short. If you're satisfied, Brothers and Sisters, stand pat; but if you're not, get out and work. Try to come a little closer to our heavenly Father; try to do those things that we have been commanded to do. We've been commanded to visit the sick, take care of the naked and the needy. Each one of us here have works to do, works that would be pleasing to our Heavenly Father. We must be about our Father's business.

"Now there is a death which is called a temporal death; and the death of Christ shall loose the bands of this temporal death, that all shall be raised from this temporal death; the spirit and the body shall be reunited again, in its perfect form; both limb and joint shall be restored to its proper frame, even as we now are at this time; and we shall be brought to stand before God, knowing even as we know now, and have a bright recollection of all our guilt. Now this restoration shall come to all, both old and young, both bond and free, both male and female, both the wicked and the righteous; and even there shall not so much as a hair of their heads be lost; but all things shall be restored to its perfect frame, as it is now, or in the body, and shall be brought and be arraigned before the bar of Christ the Son, and God the Father, and the Holy Spirit, which is one eternal God, to be judged according to their works, whether they be good or whether they be evil."

If we would just do a few simple things, maybe we could help ourselves along. We have a duty to meet together often, to help and encourage each other. I'm weak, I need encouragement of you to get me through. And I'm sure that there are others who need our encouragement to help them over a stumbling block that's been thrown in their way.

We have a duty to pray often, to get down upon our knees in our secret closet and ask for God's protection, ask for God's guidance in our lives that we may be able to overcome the temptations that the devil throws in our path. He will answer, He will give that protection, He will give that guidance, if we will ask Him in humility and faith believing.

We have a duty to study the word of God. Study

this book that some think is complicated. I guarantee you, if you study it with a prayer in your heart asking God to help you, that those complicated things will be made simple and easy to understand. You will be amazed at the simplicity of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Brothers and Sisters, we have a duty to God, a duty to each other and a duty to ourselves to go on toward perfection. I've heard people say, "Well we cannot be perfect." I don't believe that God would give a commandment that is not attainable. He is not that kind of God. It may be difficult, but the steps are not complicated. The steps to perfection are laid out straight before us; it's a complete following after Jesus Christ and his gospel.

Reading in Ephesians, the 4th chapter, verse 22 through 32: "And now I speak unto you concerning the former conversation, by explanation, that ye put off the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the mind of the Spirit; and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor; for we are members one of another. Can ye be angry, and not sin? Let not the sun go down upon your wrath; neither give place unto the devil. Let him that stole steal no more; but rather let him labor, working with his hands for the things which are good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby we are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice; and be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

I'd like to turn over to the 13th chapter of 1 Corinthians and read all of it. I want you to remember now that charity means the pure love of Christ. "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could move mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself is not puffed up. Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth; but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease;

whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophecy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass darkly; but then face to face; now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope and charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

That is the pure love of God. And speaking of love I have a poem. It's called, "Where There Is Love."

Where there is love the heart is light,

Where there is love the day is bright,
Where there is love there is a song
To help when things are going wrong.
Where there is love there is a smile
To make all things seem more worthwhile.
Where there is love there is quiet peace,
A tranquil place where turmoils cease.
Love changes darkness into light
And makes the heart take wingless plight.
Oh blest are they who walk in love,
They also walk with God above;
And when man walks with God again
There shall be peace on earth for men.

I thank you.

GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO LOCAL NEWS

Greetings once again from the Grand Junction, Colorado Local. We will try to bring you up to date on the events of 1978.

This years election resulted in the following church officers:

John Bell, Pastor	John Bell, Treasurer
Bob Ely, Asst. Pastor	Becky Downs, Pianist
Enid Bell, Secretary	Enid Bell, Chorister

Our local was saddened January 19th by the passing of Verle Deniston, our long time friend and the father of Vieva Shaw. Survivors include wife, Martha, of 3186 B. Rd., two sons and three daughters. Apostle Marvin Ely conducted services January 23rd.

The Jim Shaw family has visited our local several times since the first of the year. We are always glad to have Jim as our speaker. One of his sermons was on "habits". We were admonished that every one of the fruits of the spirit should become a habit with us and that the biggest habit we should have is the gospel of Jesus Christ. Some of the questions he asked were: "Do we have a habit of loving God? Do we thank God for his protection? Do we have that habit to say thank you?"

With few exceptions, our United Workers group continues to meet once a month. A recent study was on the position of the Apostles in the church.

Our reunion which was held June 9-11 and was attended by about 100 people including members from Canada, Missouri, Nebraska, Arizona and other parts of Colorado. There were several who came who felt the evil force was trying to prevent their attendance. Ed and Louise McIndoo suffered a car accident shortly before they were to leave home, which caused discouragement about making the trip. However, Ed said it was just the devil trying to keep them from coming and they didn't let him discourage them. Ed also suffered from a toothache and after arriving at Grand Junction, he had to have it extracted. He became ill

at the end of the afternoon service on Friday but received a blessing after administration. The Frank Fann family encountered much delay because of a breakdown on their camping trailer. Frank related how they prayed their way through the Eisenhower tunnel because of a tire going flat. Nearing the end of their journey, the final mishap left Frank standing on the bank of the Colorado river with a disabled trailer while Carolyn went for help. They were towed into a camp ground on Saturday evening which left them only one day to spend with us. After relating this harrowing experience and thanking God for their safe arrival. Frank asked that we pray for them as they leave here and said he had told his wife "all would be well because the devil did all he could to keep us from getting here, but he failed, now he will leave us alone." Frank's powerful sermon on Sunday evening gave us all reason to know why the evil power did not want him here.

The entire theme of our reunion was LOVE which was covered in several different ways by our speakers. Each day we opened with usual prayer service and the time was well spent in prayer, testimony and song. At our Friday afternoon service, a duet was sung by Don McIndoo and Patsy Ely. Larry Beem was our speaker. He brought us the scripture Prov. 17:17, "A friend loveth at all times and a brother is born for adversity." He told us we should support our ministry and each other in prayers for each one. Each evening service was preceded by a song service. E. Leon Yates occupied the Friday evening hour after a special number by Cassie and Goldie Thomas, Alice and Jeannie Larsen, Caroline and Danny Hedrick and Jack Bell. He reminded us that God made man to choose by his own will — good or evil — life or death — and that we can accept or reject God's word. There is freedom and life for those who obey, captivity and death for those who disobey.

On Saturday afternoon our speaker was Roland Sarratt, after a special number by his wife, June. He

admonished us that we have serious business to take care of — doing the affairs of the Lord. The time in which we are living indicates seriousness. It's not a time to be relaxed. It's not a time to be over-involved in the affairs of life. It's a time to be watching and preparing oneself for the things that are to come and not only oneself, but helping to prepare others in these things. He brought out that in the scriptures Paul says to watch and be sober. Sober is not being involved in the entertainment of ourselves and the enjoyment of the things of the world to the point that we let the important thing — salvation of our souls — be neglected. He placed special emphasis on the word "worthy" and told us we are not going to be worthy by accident. We're going to have to do something ourselves individually.

A picnic was prepared and enjoyed by the Young People on Saturday afternoon at Island Acres after a game of volleyball.

At our Saturday evening service we had a special number by Chris Moser and Verda Malone. Don McIndoo was our speaker. Thoughts he brought to our attention were that there is a severity in the gospel and strict commandments. If defied, destruction follows.

At the beginning of our Sunday morning sacrament service, Bro. Don Housknecht admonished the congregation to fill the time with testimonies of God's blessings. This surely was accomplished as there were an unusual number of short expressions of the Lord's working in the lives of many. A manifestation was given through Bro. Don Housknecht in which our Bro. Gordon McCann received a great blessing. Because of the length of the morning service, the afternoon was left free for visiting which we found very enjoyable. At our Sunday evening service our special musical selection by Jack and Russell Bell and Jeannie and Joannie Larsen. Our Bro. Fann's sermon followed and was on "How Great Our God Is" and he told us we must give that Great God His place. As one of his scriptures he choose 1st John 4:7-11 and verse 16. "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in God, and God in him. He asked the question "Do we love one another in spite of the things we see that we don't like?"

We appreciated all who made that great effort to get here and enjoy the spiritual feast with us.

There were many who stayed over a few days after reunion for varied reasons, some to just visit and oth-

ers to enjoy some of Colorado's scenery. They were the Larry Beem's, Ed McIndoo's, Irene Shaw, Don McIndoo's, Kathy and Michelle Ely. Also staying over for a week of camping in the mountains were the Tom Larsen's, David Larsen's and Caroline Hedrick and children, Danny, Bobby and Carrie. The Harvey and John Bell families and Alice, Jeannie and Joannie Larsen joined in this outing. The Frank Fann's and Roland Sarratt's drove down to the Great Sand Dunes in southern Colo., then met the Marvin Ely's and Larry Beem's at Monte Vista where they all traveled to Denver together.

Joannie Larsen returned home with the Tom Larsen's to help on the farm in Nebraska, and we have missed her these past several weeks. Alice and Jeannie Larsen also left about two weeks ago for the farm to help with the harvest.

Recent visitors have been Gordon McCann of Tucson, Az., Patsy Duane, Kathy and Michelle Ely of Phoenix, Debbie Hedrick and her friend Nina Finnell of Blue Springs, Mo.

Our local all had an enjoyable evening on July 21st when John and Enid Bell invited us all to their home for a covered dish dinner to help their daughter, Jane celebrate her 21st birthday. Enid baked and decorated the birthday cake and homemade ice cream was served by our hosts.

We are happy to help Dave and Charlotte Hinkle celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary on July 29th at their home at 2889 B½ Rd. Hostesses were their three daughters, Bonnie Sanders and Betty McIndoo of Phoenix, Az., and Deanna Hinkle of Colorado Springs. Also here for the event were their granddaughters, Becky Booth of Newport News, Va., Jackie Bentz and husband Don and two daughters, Jennifer and Melanie, and Kathy Ely and daughter, Michelle, of Phoenix, Az. Charlotte's sister Una Burns, came from Fullerton, Calif. They were married at Delta on July 28, 1928. They have both been members of the church since 1930. For several years Dave has operated a rock shop in Grand Junction, and Charlotte's hobbies are landscape painting and gardening. A beautiful cake was baked and decorated for the occasion by Becky Downs and Enid Bell.

We had 16 visitors at our Sunday morning church service July 30th. A number of them were relatives of Dave and Charlotte's who stayed over a few days after their anniversary. Others were Archie and Martha Bell, Kelli and Kristi Hepler of Diamond Bar, Calif., granddaughters of Goldie Thomas, and their friend Verinick Billiter of Denver, Co. and Allen Viele, nephew of Violet Church's. It was a pleasure to have Bro. Archie Bell as our speaker at this service and many good thoughts were presented. He said a sermon is primarily to make you think. If we are going to get close to God we must worship with deep devotion. You cannot casually worship God. And, he told us that **righteousness** should be in our midst. A covered dish dinner followed the service at John and Enid Bell's home.

A LIVING TESTIMONY

In the 12th chapter of Mark, verses 29-31, one finds the following:

"And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; the Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these."

My testimony begins the Wednesday night just before the 1978 Conference at the East Local prayer service. It was definitely impressed on my mind that the forthcoming conference would be less than a success unless we allow LOVE to guide our every action and accept our brother and sister as just that . . . "Brothers and Sisters! ! !"

After bearing this as my testimony that night I felt I REALLY understood how there could be unity with strong disagreement. But my experience did not

stop there because from the opening of the business session to the week of June 11th, mailing of the minutes, every member of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) played a roll in completing this mammoth task.

I find in the minutes of the late 1800's and early 1900's that the General Church Secretary was expected to give a report to the body. My report then is as follows: Because the chair allowed for a season of prayer, the prayer offered by Brother Donald McIndoo, the help of brothers and sisters reading (because of my voice), helping in taking minutes, the moral support by prayers and offers to help anyway or anytime possible, the handling of the minutes to the printer and proof reading, the mailing of the minutes to each member was all simply a continuation of the show of the REAL LOVE so prevalent during our 1978 Conference.

I offer each and every one of you my deepest appreciation for the REAL LIFE TESTIMONY —LOVE!"
Your Brother in Gospel Bonds,
Robert W. Oldham

A TESTIMONY

July 1, 1978

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

For a long time I have wanted to write my testimony concerning my daughter, Ilene, who is now eight years old.

With being an isolated member of the Church of Christ and also a single parent as I am divorced, I have had the sole responsibility of raising her.

When Ilene was a pre-schooler, I would tell her about God and how He made the flowers and the trees and everything there is. That He could hear and see us and when we are sick if we have faith and trust in Him He will make us well again. I taught her to trust in God for everything. She would ask questions and I would answer her but she was not one to accept something just because it was told to her. She told me she did not know if there was a God because she could not see Him. I asked her if she believed she had an Uncle Wilthew and she said yes. My next question to her was that she had never seen him so how does she know? Ilene was about a year and a half old when my brother and sister-in-law moved to British Columbia so all she knew was what she had been told and accepted it without any doubts.

As young as she was Satan tried to put fear in her by becoming visible two or three times over the years. It also put terrible fear into me but I called on the Lord for help and we were given protection. It would take too long to go into detail of these experiences so will not write them.

With her birthday being in December this put her in school early (4 years old) with attending kindergarten. This gave her the opportunity to meet other

children. She found out others believed in God and His Son Jesus Christ.

Each day the teacher would read a little from the Bible and pray. This started to help her although she would still be doubtful. The following year, grade one and a different school, the teacher would start the morning with O'Canada and the Lord's Prayer. Grade one brought less doubts to her mind concerning God. This teacher also read a few verses of scripture to her class. In grade two she had the same teacher as in grade one.

Since Ilene started school I have attended meetings and assemblies that were held occasionally at the school. The school she attends now is Queen Elizabeth Public School (since grade one. She will start grade four in September.) These gatherings would be opened with prayer and sometimes prayer and scripture reading. With her going to school it has been a real help for her in learning what is in the Bible and there are other people that believe in God who have never seen Him.

The primary grades (1 to 3) put on a play before school finished. Parents were invited to attend. The play was about trees, flowers and forest animals. The children were dressed in their appropriate costumes. When everyone was assembled we stood for O'Canada, the Lord's Prayer and one of the students gave recognition to God as being the Creator of the flowers, trees, animals, etc. The parents were asked to sing a hymn along with the junior choir and the play was given. After the play was finished a poem was read concerning the Lord of which I cannot remember. All I remember was that it was a thank you to Him.

This has enabled me to guide my daughter in religious training at home. There are times she will cry and say she wants to be good and believe in God but the best she can explain it is something tells her not to. I explain to her that Satan is trying to make it so she will not believe the truth.

Each Sunday morning the Salvation Army Sunday School bus picks her up for Sunday School. After

Sunday School she walks home herself because she is not interested in the church services but she is willing to go to Sunday School.

At home I teach her from the Bible and Book of Mormon. I tell her how there are many churches in the world but there is only one that belongs to God.

Your Sister in Christ,
Mary Hunter

TO THE YOUTH OF THE CHURCH

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In the last few years I have heard cries for action by the younger ministry. Although I believe that a time for action will come, I feel that we are not ready for it yet. We should not try to rush the plan of God, for He will shorten the days to save us, as was foretold by Jesus.

In these latter days we will have severe trials, as most people know, but not many people seem to care

that the days will be shortened only if they obey. For we cannot stand on reputation alone as the Pharisees did when they said the Lord would save them because they were the sons of Abraham.

We can trust no one except the Lord in the days ahead of us. We must try to obey the Lord in all things.

Your brother in Christ,
Stephen A. Sarratt

MINI-LIGHTINGS

A couple of years ago I heard a short sermonette worked around the incident of Peter's walk on water. I marvelled at the apt comparisons between many aspects of that physical event and the things that we may experience spiritually.

After the feeding of the five thousand, Jesus sent His disciples to cross the sea of Galilee in a boat while he sent the multitude away, and then he withdrew to be alone. At the disciples were crossing the waters the winds came up contrary to them and they were tossed about in the angry waves. Here the first Spiritual analogy comes in. They had grown accustomed to Jesus' physical presence, but now in their danger He was not there, this put them physically in the same situation that we are in too; we do not see Jesus. But even though they could not see Him, he knew exactly where they were and what was happening to them at every moment. And when life confronts us with contrary winds and rough waters, just as surely He knows exactly what we are up against, He knows every detail of our circumstance. And even as He came walking to them on the surface of the angry waves, He comes to us — walking upon the waters of the sorrows of our lives. It is in "the night of spiritual battle that He gives the clearest revelations of Himself, and we find Him and know Him far more personally than we do or ever could in our days of the sunlight of ease and pleasure".

On seeing Him the disciples were afraid. They did not yet fully comprehend Jesus' divinity. They

knew Him as a physical being and they knew, just as we do, that flesh and bones do not suspend on the water's surface; thus they supposed Him to be a spirit. Knowing their fear He spoke assuring them it was He; and if we have faith to open our ears to hear, that voice still speaks to assure us too that He is there in the midst of our sorrows and troubles to sustain us, if we will.

Peter was impulsive by nature; in the moment of elated faith he exclaimed, in our wording, "If that is really you, Jesus, and you can walk on the water, tell me I can too!" And Jesus said, "Come". Sometime in the lifetime of every person, Jesus stands out there on the water and says, "come", but too many of us lack the faith to get out of the boat and follow Him. Those troubled waters and contrary winds can represent many, many varied circumstances of the human experience. Foremost perhaps is that moment when the soul is faced with that ultimate sacrifice of surrendering all to the will of the Lord! as king Benjamin says, to pay our indebtedness to Him by rendering Him all, of what we have and are: to turn our backs on the things of this world, hopes, ambitions, what ever may stand in the way of His purpose being fulfilled through and in us.

Too often when this story is spoken of, the reference is to the failing of Peter's faith. It is far more important that for a few steps at least he did walk on the surface of the water. And then, as we would say today, when he came to himself, when his attention re-

verted to the physical reality instead of the spiritual and he saw himself out there with the waves dashing high about him, his common sense knew it wasn't possible. And so in accord with his believing, he began to sink. It is true, Peter's faith failed him, but let us remember that no one else even offered to get out of that boat.

Many can be the pointing finger at the failing of faith to achieve total commitment, by those who don't attempt it. But for those who have — for those who do — when they begin to sink all they need to do is cry to Him, "save me"; that outstretched hand is immediately there to catch them. He does not save from fulfilling the requirements of absolute surrender but saves from failing to do it; He does not save from the pain of required sacrifice (wherein it would cease to be sacrifice) but He saves from reneging on it; He

may not save the life but He always saves the soul of the one who cries out to Him in full purpose of heart.

In the Biblical incident He took Peter back to the safety of the boat. Sometimes in the spiritual counterpart the boat is no longer there, the security we have stepped out from does not exist to return to. Sometimes the sacrifice asked and accepted is irrevocable; we find ourselves severed from every form of support except His outstretched hand to cling to. Sometimes when all our strength even to cling is gone, which is often, we find His everlasting arms underneath us.

If we desire ultimate discipleship, we face a time when He says "come". All is asked, and if we would follow all must be surrendered, to be blessed and magnified and returned as He will; from thence we must, as it were, by faith walk on water.

EVEN IF YOU DOUBT, LIVE LIFE AS THOUGH YOU BELIEVE IN GOD

by Robert Schuller

(Reprinted from the "Examiner", Independence, Mo.)

I recently read an article by a prominent ophthalmologist. Addressing a group of young medical students about to graduate, he said, "Students, when I was your age I could only conclude that no one knew about God. And therefore atheism was the only tenable position. Now, I know whether or not there is a God; the patients that know they have a God are much better off than those who do not believe in God.

"There is no question about it. There is an enormous difference. So what do we physicians do about that fact? Let me illustrate by comparing physicians to stone workers. Three stone workers might, depending upon their viewpoint or their perspective or their mental attitude, look upon their job in different ways. One stone worker sees his job as carrying stone; another stone worker sees it as building a wall; and another sees his job as creating a cathedral to the glory of God. As doctors, you have the same attitude. If you see your job as carrying stones, you will then see your patients as complaining crocks, indigent invalids, sick scoundrels and poor protoplasm. And with that view you will soon start seeking the solace of alcohol or drugs.

"A second attitude is you can see your work as the construction of an endless wall. The futile patching up of worn out bodies. The whole endeavor becomes senseless because you know, ultimately, that

the body cannot be patched up anymore. Now with that attitude you welcome the ultimate escape from your profession because you'll think that at the end you're a loser and you'll welcome death.

"But if you are as fortunate as I am to come to believe that there is a God and every human being is one of his unique and special creatures, however frail and faulted they might be, then you will look upon each patient as a little cathedral. As an individual that you can build to the glory of God. I am now able to see each patient as a very special person — a child of God deserving my best skill and attention as I rebuild that cathedral.

"What I am doing is very important, and of course, my patients sense my new attitude. They are so grateful. And any doctor is going to be happy when he is dealing with appreciative patients.

"Finally, the most important thing that I can say to you is:

'Live your life and your practice as if there was a God of love that cares for you, too, even as he cares for every patient that comes in. And you know what? With that attitude you'll someday be an old silver-haired and wrinkled doctor and you will still have a twinkle in your eye and love in your life.'

That's sound advice for all of us.

In the days of sunshine so live that in the days of rain you will still be happy.

If we did not have rocks in the pathway, our feet would become flabby.

LORD OF ALL COMFORT

As we met in prayer meeting on Wednesday night a few weeks ago, my heart was very heavy, for there are so few of us here. When one or two are unable to attend our number is even smaller. In my weakness I often feel the heavy burden that seems to rest upon me.

While kneeling in prayer this evening, as one dear sister was praying, I was silently weeping and praying telling the Lord of how small and weak and alone we are, being so far from others of the faith.

Then while others were offering prayers, these thoughts were being presented to me: "Yes, you are but few in number here, but from every place across this vast country wherever the few are gathered in My name, you reach out to each other in love and become one, joined together in the fellowship of Jesus Christ, making a strong chain across the miles, a chain that cannot be broken, for it is linked together by the pure love of God making its strength enduring and everlasting. And wherever two or three are gathered together in My Name, there will I be in the midst of them."

Oh what comfort these thoughts brought to me; I no longer felt alone. I knew now we were not just a few alone in a prayer meeting, but were part of a very large prayer meeting reaching across the many miles being held together by one great chain, a very real chain, the chain of God's love, His Pure Love that brings life and hope, and is our very being.

When we arose from our knees I bore testimony to those in the room of the beautiful thoughts which had been given to me. Though we are few in number, we are not alone, but are a link in this most beautiful chain, the chain of God's love and mercy which reaches out to all of His children throughout this great country and the whole world, holding His children together, all whose hearts are right before Him.

This was a great comfort to each of us, bringing renewed strength. We need the renewing of strength each and every day for the battle that is ours to win. The Lord will give us this strength if we seek Him with an honest desire. Praise His Holy Name!

Your sister in Christ,
Stella Winegar

THINK ABOUT IT

You don't have to tell how you live every day;
You don't have to say how you work, how you play;
If you live close to God and share His warm grace,
You don't have to claim it, it will show in your face.

Anon.

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