

Zion's Advocate

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

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No. 6



William and Metta Anderson

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Editorial . . .

TRUTH

The sterling quality of the word TRUTH and its accompanying blessings are eternal. The false conceptions of the carnal mind and the enticings of a lie may look bright for a moment, but lighteth the way to destruction. Jesus in his preaching to the Jews found a few that accepted his teaching. He said, ". . . If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the TRUTH, and the TRUTH shall make you free," (John 8:31-32) The Jews, claiming allegiance to the Jewish traditions coming down through the ages supposedly from Abraham, little understood the application of the word free. Jesus' answer explaining the difference between his teaching and the traditions of Abraham, "And the servant abideth not in the house for ever; but the Son abideth ever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." (John 8:35-36) Therefore, if the Jews that accepted his preaching would have cast aside the traditions of men and have become free knowing the truth, they would have become, ". . . all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female; for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abrahams seed, and heirs

according to the promise." (Galatians 3:26-29) The promise was the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

There is a basic necessity to apply the word TRUTH in all of our activity, in our personal life as well as in our church or congregational assemblies. Truth is of a prime necessity to become qualified to obtain a greater degree of the Directing Spirit of Jesus Christ in the promotion of the Restoration Gospel of Jesus Christ in these last days. If man would be true to his own convictions, impressed upon him from childhood to adulthood perhaps more of mankind might have found and accepted the true God of the universe. But, too often man's understanding and appreciation has been colored by tragedies and channeled by the expediencies of life that have robbed him of a correct sense of values. The suppression of TRUTH for expediency in the household of faith can spell disaster, with the destruction of faith resulting in confusion and heartbreak and with the straying of some from the fold. Therefore, Truth is of paramount importance as we attempt to care for the entire flock as good shepherds should.

The lack of TRUTH in our civilian life and the society in which we live and move about is apparent on every side, not only in national life, but international relationship as well. TRUTH in itself is a basic right-

eous principal. The opposite of TRUTH is evil or falsehood which is assuredly growing in tremendous volume. Therefore, we can see the clear marking of the time in which we live. The scriptures tell us in no uncertain terms conditions that are to exist in the last days, just prior to the second coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ. "And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. . . . And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." (Math. 24:3-5, 11-14). Do we need to be about our father's business? The scriptures indicate the straight instruction for the promotion of missionary activity in Jesus' own words. "And as ye go, preach, saying, The

kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils; freely ye have received, freely give. Provide neither gold nor silver, . . . in your purses, Nor scrip for your journey, for the workman is worthy of his meat. And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, inquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence. And when ye come into an house, salute it. And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it be not worthy, let your peace return unto you. And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. (Matt. 10:7-14) Yes, we must be about our Father's business in carrying the simple TRUTHS of the Gospel to a sin-sick nation and a sin-sick world. The end of the sixth hour of the dispensation of time is drawing swiftly to a close. Christ will return to the earth to claim his own and set up his Millennial Reign. We desire to be found wise and faithful servants with oil in our lamps. We cannot afford to wait in spreading the TRUTH to all that will hear both small and great.

KJS

THE GOSPEL RESTORED

By Wm. F. Anderson

The power and authority to represent Christ and administer in the ordinances of the gospel, having been taken away from the earth (see Revelation 12:5), the woman (church) fled into the wilderness (obscurity), where she was fed for 1260 days (years). (Rev. 12:6)

The authority having been taken away, "caught up unto God," it became necessary, when God saw fit to restore the gospel to men again, that the right, or authority to represent Jesus Christ be committed unto men again. When the church should return from the wilderness, it would again have to be clothed with the sun, and have a crown of twelve stars upon her head. God having taken the "man child" (authority) away, He, alone, could restore it, and in searching the scriptures we find that the Lord contemplated this very thing.

We read, "Surely the Lord will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets." (Amos 3:7)

In all ages, when the Lord was about to do something affecting the children of men, whether it were blessing or destruction, he first made known his purpose through prophets; a prophet being his mouthpiece to speak unto men.

All the ancient prophets foretold the coming of Christ as a babe, told what he would do, told of his death on the cross for the sins of men, and told that he would be raised from the dead. Yet, when he came,

his people refused to accept him or believe his teachings, as was evidenced when they crucified him. They did as the prophets said they would do.

Christ and his apostles foretold of the time when men would reject the gospel message they taught, and that therefore authority to represent Christ would be lost to the world until God should see fit to restore it.

Jesus warned men to beware of false prophets. (Matt. 7:16). He did not say there would be no more true prophets. There could not be false prophets unless there were true prophets. It is impossible to counterfeit something that does not exist, so if there were no true prophets there could be no false ones.

Turning to Malachi 3:1, the prophet foretells an event that was to happen preceeding the second coming of Christ, "Behold I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me; and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple." A messenger to come, a way to be prepared for the sudden second coming of the Lord. He did not come suddenly nineteen hundred years ago. He came into the world as all men do; was born, reared, mingled and worked with and among men, until he was about thirty years of age, before he made himself known as the Son of God. Let us look at the next four verses in this connection and we find some things that were to be done to the sons of Levi, and to Judah, which did

not happen when Christ was here upon earth nineteen hundred years ago. Therefore this prophecy of Malachi must refer to some time other than the first coming. The prophecy is plain, and comes to us as instruction for our time. Are we going to be as the people were at the first appearance of Christ, or are we going to be alert to the times in which we are living?

Daniel tells us that in the last days God would set up a kingdom which should never be destroyed, and which would finally subdue all other kingdoms. Turn to Daniel, 2nd chapter. It would be well to read the entire chapter. We will not take the space to quote, but will notice some points in the chapter. Verse 38 shows the time to be the latter days. In verses 31-35, we have a description of an image. Also, we are told that a stone would be cut out of a mountain without hands and the stone would smite the image on the feet and break them in pieces. Then the image would be destroyed, or broken into pieces. In verses 37 to 45, we have the interpretation of the dream as given by Daniel, prophet or spokesman for the Lord. The image represented the various kingdoms that were to have place on the earth. Had we the space, we might follow the history of the world from the days of Daniel until our day, and locate each kingdom in turn, up until the time when the image stood erect and complete, at which time the Lord was to set up a kingdom. "And in the days of these kings shall the God of Heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever." Verse 44) Read also verse 45. If we can find a period in history when these kingdoms had place on earth we may know when this prophecy was to be fulfilled, and when God would set up His kingdom.

Let us take a look at history and see if we can determine the period when these kingdoms were all reigning at the same time. First, let us note that the kingdoms were world powers, and each in turn ruled the earth, or that portion of it that was known at that time. We must first, however, find the image at the time when it stood complete, each kingdom in its place.

"These words prove to us that when the kingdom of Christ shall be established upon earth, there will be found a representative of each of the four empires existing, each in its proper place, and it is remarkable that we are now, at this moment, getting into the very position which the prophecy demands before it can be fulfilled. We have had for many ages three of these four empires represented upon the earth; Persia represented the second; Turkey (as the possessor of Chaldea), representing the first; and Rome, under the sovereignty of the Pope, representing the fourth. But there was not, for many ages, a representative of the third, or Grecian empire, but the prophecy requires four empires before the time of an end. And so it has actually occurred, for about the year 1830, the Greek Empire reappeared upon the scene, and

was established by the great powers of Europe, as a separate and distinct government under Otho, of Bavaria, so that nothing now remains but the establishment of the fifth empire, the eternal kingdom of God, not in heaven, but upon the earth." (The Last Vials, pp. 5, 6, May, 1847, quoted in "Marvelous Work and a Wonder," p. 141)

"In the raising of Greece to a distinct kingdom in our day, we may now see in Turkey, Persia, Greece, and the European kingdoms, all these empires in existence" (Practical Guide to the Prophecies, ninth edition, page 184, Reverend Edward Bickersteth, 1852, in "Marvelous Work and A Wonder," page 141).

The toe kingdoms were Austria, England, France, Naples, Netherlands, Portugal, Sardinia, Spain, Wurttemberg, Bavaria. Thus we find the image was complete, and we could look for the Kingdom of God among men. "For in the days of these kings shall the God of Heaven set up a kingdom." (Daniel 2:44)

"And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth." (Isaiah 11:12; Isaiah 5:26; Isaiah 18:3)

A servant was sent at supper time (Luke 14:16-17). "And about the eleventh hour he went out." (Matthew 20:6, 7) The gospel was to be preached as a witness — then the end would come. (Matthew 24:14) In the last days the mountain of the house of the Lord was to be established. (Micah 4:1, 2; Isaiah 2:1,3)

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, kindred, and tongue, and people." (Revelation 14:6) Isaiah 29:14, 17, shows that a marvelous work and wonder was to come forth. Just following the advent of that marvelous work, Lebanon (Palestine), was to be turned into a fruitful field. In 1852 the former and latter rains did return to Palestine, and that land became a fruitful field, and since that time the way has been opened and the Jews have and are returning and building up the waste places, and Jerusalem has become a city without walls. (See Zechariah 2:1-5)

The reformers looked for the time when the gospel would be restored. "Luther perceived that the ancient and primitive church must on the one hand, be restored in opposition to the papacy by which it long has been oppressed" (D' Aubigne's History of the Reformation, Vol. 3, p. 80)

"The times which we have reason to believe are at hand (if they have not already begun, are what many men have termed 'the latter day glory.' . . . And yet the wise men of the world, the men of eminence, the men of learning and renown, cannot imagine what we mean by talking of any extraordinary work of God. They cannot discern the signs of these times. They can see no signs at all of God's arising to maintain his own cause, and set up his kingdom over the earth." (John Wesley's sermon, 71)

Roger Williams says: "In the poor small span of

my life I desired to have been a diligent and constant observer, and have been myself many ways engaged in city, in country, in court, in schools, in universities, in churches, in Old and New England, and yet cannot, in the holy presence of God, bring in the results of a satisfying discovery that either the begetting ministry of the apostles or messengers to the nations, or the feeding or nourishing ministry of pastors and teachers, according to the first institution of the Lord Jesus, is yet restored and extant . . . the apostasy of Antichrist hath so far corrupted all that there can be no recovery out of that apostasy till Christ shall send forth new apostles and plant churches anew." (Struggles and Triumphs of Religious Liberty, pp. 283, 239.)

"Once he to the Baptist came
 And virtue's paths restored;
 Pointed sinners to the way;
 Fore-runner of the Lord,
 Sent again from Paradise,
 Elijah shall the tidings bring;
 Jesus comes; ye saints, arise,
 And meet your heavenly king,
 Previous to that dreadful day
 Which shall thy foes consume.
 Jesus prepare the way;
 Let the last prophet come.

Almighty God of love,
 Set up the attracting sign,
 And summons whom thou dost approve
 For messengers divine.
 From favored Abram's seed,
 The new apostles choose,
 In isles and continents to spread
 the soul reviving news."
 —Charles Wesley, in Wesleyan Hymns

In the year 1820 a young lad was attending a revival and became convinced of the need of living a Christian life. But because of the struggle between the churches as to which was right, his mind became confused, and he was at a loss which to join. He read in James 1:5, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." The lad was impressed with what he read, and decided to put it to

the test. He retired to a secluded spot on his father's farm to pray. He claims that while thus engaged in prayer that he saw a heavenly vision in which it was revealed to him that the various creeds (teachings) of the churches were wrong and that God was about to restore the gospel with authority to represent Christ among men, and if he would be faithful, he would be used as an instrument to bring this about. From time to time, following the first vision, he received visits from heavenly messengers, who gave to him instructions as to how to proceed in the establishing of the Church of Christ in harmony with the teachings of Christ. God was about to set up his kingdom; the time of the kings spoken of above was here, and in his own way God proceeded to bring about the fulfillment of the prophecy in Daniel 2:44. In 1829 and 1830, this kingdom had its beginning. In April, 1830, the Church of Christ was organized according to the laws of the land. Thus the little stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and in the due time of the Lord all nations will acknowledge it, and the kingdom of God will become supreme.

Dear readers, we are living in the last days, when the prophecies to which we have called your attention were to be fulfilled. It is a matter of vital importance to you, and we ask that you will study the things we have presented without prejudice. God does things in his way, and he has told us beforehand how he would proceed to reestablish his kingdom in the last days. No prophet has ever been universally accepted in his time. The Christ was rejected of men. We should not expect that the Lord's means would be any more popular in our time. As John Wesley expressed it, "the learned and the eminent" are smug in their own philosophies, and do not like to have their theories upset. The masses listen to the counsel of men, rather than God. And so the restoration of the fullness of the gospel and the setting up of the kingdom of God in these last days has not met with popular acclaim, but it is to your eternal welfare to know the truth for yourself, and we invite you to make a careful study of the evidence we have presented. Other literature on this vital subject of the plan of salvation is put out by the Church of Christ (Tempe Lot), and may be had by writing to Box 472, Independence, Mo. (Zion's Advocate, Vol. 14, No. 7, July, 1937)

MINI-LIGHTINGS

Of the world's foremost religions only Christianity offers help and so hope as illustrated in the brief expressions of their philosophies found in the following legend.

A man was caught in a bed of quicksand. Confucius passed by and observed, "There is evidence that men should avoid such places." Buddha also viewed the

helpless victim and said, "This is a lesson, a warning for other people." Vishnu saw him and called out, "Cheer up my friend, you will come back to earth in some other form." Then Mohammed also came upon him and commented, "Alas! it is the will of Allah." But when Jesus saw him he reached out saying, "Give me your hand brother, and I will lift you out."

OBITUARY

Metta Lenore Anderson

Metta Lenore Anderson was born December 16, 1885 in Providence, Rhode Island, the daughter of George and Annie Robley, and departed this life April 28, 1979 at the Independence Sanitarium and Hospital.

In her earlier years she taught English in a private school operated by her father in Providence.

On December 7, 1910 in Providence she was united in marriage to William F. Anderson who preceded her in death October 13, 1971.

She is survived by one son, William F. Anderson, Jr., 12820 E. 35th Terrace, Independence, Missouri and two daughters, Mrs. Dollie Dickens, Arlington, Texas, and Mrs. Jerry Rupe, 4501 Sterling, Kansas City, Missouri, seven grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren, two brothers, Fred Robley and George Robley, both of Providence, Rhode Island, and three sisters, Mrs. Mable Barney, Seekonk, Massachusetts, Mrs. Edith Frost, Onset, Massachusetts, and Mrs. Lillian Meeks, Rochester, New York, and a host of friends. Metta Anderson was baptized June, 1895 into the RLDS Church and transferred to the Church of Christ in May, 1928 at Berkley, California and the family moved to Independence, Missouri December 26, 1929 where her children completed their schooling.

She was interested in the work with young people and often had activity for the youth of the church at her home, and will long be remembered for her interest in music. She served the church many years as chorister for both the local and the general church. Besides her church work she spent a number of years as saleslady for Knoepker Department Store.

The last number of their 61 years together the Andersons spent at their home at 619 So. Crysler, in Independence, a former home of President Harry S. Truman.

FOOTPRINTS

Last night I became very restless,
And it was yet some hours before day.
Well, I felt so troubled and lonesome,
I just had to go somewhere and pray.
So I walked out alone in the hills
And there by an old Oak tree
I lifted my heart in prayer to God
For, I needed Him greatly, you see.
And then the stars became brighter,
And the night seemed as clear as the day;

And, I looked around and saw Jesus,
Not more than ten steps away.
Well, folks, I have seen Him in pictures,
In paintings with colors most bright;
But none ever captured such goodness
As the Face on the hills that night.
He spoke, and His was was so tender,
His kindness and love I could feel.
Why, I never ever dreamed before
That our Saviour could be so real.
And He said, "My daughter, be not troubled,
Though all earthly comforts should flee;
**For whenever your heart becomes lonely,
You can talk things over with Me.**"
So we walked along through the woods,
And there's no greater joy known to man,
Than walking along dreary pathways
To have Jesus holding your hand.
Night was gone. A new day was dawning,
It had been such a wonderful time;
But I knew I could not have been dreaming,
For His footprints were there beside mine.

Reprinted from
Circle "B" Camprounds

Funeral services were held at the Speaks Funeral Home at Independence with Apostle William A. Sheldon in charge assisted by Nicholas F. Denham. Interment was in Mound Grove Cemetery.

A TRIBUTE TO METTA ANDERSON

She had a zest for wholesome life
That time could never hide.
A gentle humor graced her speech,
And did herself deride.
Yet many sober thoughts expressed
Her faith in what is best —
For she had taken Christ as Friend;
His gospel more than jest.
Her heart was softened in response
To those whose plight was sore.
E'en to those who took advantage
She op'ed her meager store.
Loved was she, and well-beloved,
Throughout her many years,
And God will love her yet, we're sure,
Beyond this vale of tears.

William A. Sheldon

Faith is not an easy virtue; but, in the broad world of man's total voyage through time to eternity, faith is not only a gracious companion, but also an essential guide. - Theodore M. Hesburgh.

Use thy youth as the springtime wherein thou oughtest to plant and sow all provisions for a long and happy life.
—Walter Raleigh.

PUT ON CHARITY

Sermon by Apostle Marvin Ely

March 25, 1979

I have a passage of scripture in John 12, verses 46 through 48 that I would like to bring to our attention. Jesus said, "I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness." We know that in the world there are two great forces, one is the force of light of which Jesus Christ is a part, the other is the force of darkness of which the devil is a part. And how careful we must be which of these we wish to follow. And this plainly says that Jesus came as a light into the world and those that believe on him should not abide in that darkness. Now before I complete this particular passage of scripture I want to turn over to John 14, in verse 12, and read some of the things involving belief and some of the benefits of believing in Jesus Christ and following him and keeping his commandments. Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father." Now this is quite a verse. If we believe sufficiently it shows the great and marvelous things that can be wrought among the children of men. And perhaps much of this was pointed to his Apostles of old; but we find that this involves more than just the ministry alone, "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. And if ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it." Now that seems like a rather involving promise. I like the way it's written over in 3rd. Nephi, 8th chapter and verses 50 and 51. We find Jesus Christ admonishing the multitude of people there that they must watch and pray always lest they enter into temptation, and then going on down, why this is so critical, for he says, "For Satan desireth to have you, that he may sift you as wheat;" so Satan desires all men. And then he went on to say, "Therefore ye must always pray unto the Father in my name; and whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, which is right," I like that. You know that the things that are not right and proper will not be given, "behold it shall be given unto you." This gives a further qualification, "If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it. If ye love me, keep my commandments."

Now when we analyze this particular passage of scripture we see it ties in with belief; we see it ties with action, and we think upon the thing called belief and the importance of it in our individual lives, and we find scriptures that indicate if we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved. And some think this requires just a verbal statement but belief goes considerably farther than that. It involves action, it involves deeds in our life, it is important that our belief doesn't just stop in saying that I believe that Jesus is the Son of God, lest we forget the devils also believe that Jesus is the Son of God. Our lives will por-

tray whether we're really believers in God and in Jesus Christ, this day. As I have read, Jesus plainly said, and this is one of his commandments that is vital, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." I don't wish to enlarge upon all the commandments of Jesus Christ today, there isn't time enough, but I wish to touch upon some of them and the importance of them in our individual lives. And Jesus further said, "And I will pray the Father; and he shall give you another comforter, that he may abide with you forever; Even the spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him; but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." See how well that ties with the first verse I read. "I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness." And here is the qualification for this Holy Spirit, that can be given, it is not given in darkness. The reason the world cannot be recipient of this is because of not walking sufficiently in the light of Jesus Chrst. The same scripture, chapter 14, verse 26 says, "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name," it says the Father will send this in the name of Jesus Christ, "he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." It is these truths of the scripture that will make your life full and complete, that can give you happiness even in a world of sorrow. I've quoted before and I'll quote again today, "Adam fell that men might be, and men are that they might have joy." This life really doesn't have to be a drudge even though it is filled with heartache. We know this is a part of life, but there can be more happiness in our life if we will but apply the truths of the scriptures. It can be more rich, and full, and beautiful and complete if we will but do this.

And the 27th verse of this chapter is beautiful. Jesus Christ says, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth give I unto you," and then he says, "Let not your heart be troubled neither let it be afraid." This is a verse of hope, a verse of encouragement, for certainly if there ever was a time when you and I need a peace within our beings it is today. We live in a world that is in turmoil; we're in trials; the hearts of the children of men are tried to the utmost, and yet in all this there is a promise of peace if we will but avail ourselves of it. This peace that he gives is not as the world giveth. Men may sit around a table and say let's draw up a peace agreement to arrive at a lasting world peace, and yet we find scripture that says they shall cry peace, and there shall be no peace. We live in a day when fear is running rampant over the face of the earth; over the breadth of this city; wherever we live this thing called fear is there. And yet these scriptures

say that perfect love casteth out all fear, so all we have to do is avail ourselves of the truths as contained in here, and our lives can be blessed; yes, peace can rest with us, not only in the world we have to live in but in the Church of which we are a part also. I had cause to say last week out in Grand Junction, Colo. that I hope some of these things that I bring out today might flow over into our coming conference because we might be suspect that there are things that may be upsetting that might be brought out there. But if we conduct ourselves in a manner pleasing to Jesus Christ and God, and let His peace rule in our hearts and have love and consideration for one another we might be surprised what may come out of it.

Let us return to the scripture I first read, John 12; in verse 47 Jesus said, "And if any man hear my words," these are the words of Christ, some I have already brought out, "and believe not, I judge him not; for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world." He says if you don't believe these words he isn't going to condemn, he didn't come to judge but to save the world, as the beautiful passage of scripture in John 3:16 and 17 says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Now this next verse is the one that is the key, "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." See how well this ties with this other scripture here. But lest we forget verse 48 is important too and we must not stop with verse 47. "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him; the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." And you better believe that is a true statement. Even though Jesus Christ didn't come to judge and condemn the world, he said, "the words I have spoken, they will judge you;" because each one of us will give account of the things we've done in this life, And these words that are in the scripture will be a testimony of what we have done, if it has been good or not.

I turn to Matthew chapter 7 and read verse 1, for here we find another statement of Jesus Christ concerning this judging, "Judge not, that ye be not judged." And I have three verses in Romans chapter 2 that I wish to tie with this, and it shows how the Apostle Paul also had these wonderful truths of Jesus Christ available and he had this to say, verse 1, "Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest; for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things." How human this is to judge a fellow being and maybe be doing the same thing, or even a similar thing. I like to add that because I think it gives a little greater clarification. So how careful we must be when we point the finger at our fellowman; and how human it is to blame somebody else for something that's gone wrong, and he who says he hasn't done it I don't believe would really be

truthful with himself. "But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. "And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?" No, if we judge another and do the same thing we're not going to escape judgment. If we think we are, we're only kidding ourselves.

Let's turn back to Matthew the 7th chapter and read verse 2, "For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged." With the same judgment we judge we shall be judged. I like the way Mormon puts that in the 4th chapter verses 24 and 25, "For behold, the same that judgeth rashly, shall be judged rashly again; for according to his works shall his wages be; therefore, he that smiteth, shall be smitten again of the Lord." It's not our to do this. "Behold what the scripture says; Man shall not smite, neither shall he judge; for judgment is mine, saith the Lord; and vengeance is mine also, and I will repay," and so there is where it belongs. With what I've said, I don't mean to infer that it is not our individual responsibility to judge right and wrong where we see it because we have to do this. We must know what is right and what is wrong, we must not be agreeable to wrong doing, but it is not ours to condemn somebody for wrong doing. And so we leave it to that day when all men will be judged according to their works that they've done in this life when they stand before the judgment bar of God.

I am now going to read verses 3 and 4 of chapter 7 of Matthew, "And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and behold a beam is in thine own eye." And so how careful we must be. There is a way of doing things in wisdom and in order and we must not run before the Lord, for first we must remove the wrong doing from our ourselves and then we will be better able to help our brother remove it from himself.

I'll turn to Roman's the 14th chapter and read a bit more of Paul's teachings, found in verses 10 through 13, "But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at naught thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ," everyone of us and I don't care who he is, "For it is written, as I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." So everyone of us shall give account of himself to God. This is something to remember; I'm going to give account of myself to God, and you will give account of yourself. We can't do it for our fellowman. "Let us not therefore judge one another anymore; but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way." Sometimes this statement almost frightens me, because of thing I no doubt have done that have caused a brother to stub his toe and maybe not get as far as he could have gotten if I had not put a stumbling block in his way. And this is

something we should judge, that we not place stumbling blocks in our fellow-beings way. You know people look at us constantly knowing what we are — or what we are not. We are influencing people daily. You influence people where you work; you influence the family you are a part of; the young children here, and the young people influence their friends in the type of people they are and the attitude they display toward one another; in the language they use. And we each are known by the language we use because others are watching what we say. They know by the language we use whether we are a goodly person, and by the little acts of kindness we display, even those who really are not walking that close to God and Jesus Christ know what we are, so how careful we must be.

So in this we must realize that it is important that we have judgement in this life. And one definition of judgement that I've read, it is the ability to make a wise decision; this is a part of judgement. Another part is to be able to judge what is right and what is wrong; what we should do and what we should not do. Jesus Christ said judgement was one of the weightier things of the law. We turn to Matthew 23rd chapter, 23rd verse and bring out Jesus' statement: "Woe unto you, scribes and pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgement, mercy and faith; these ye ought to have done, and not to leave other undone." To their credit they did impart of their substance, they paid their tithes but omitted the weightier matters, which were judgement, and then he said, mercy; we must have mercy in our lives one toward another, Jesus Christ said, "Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy." And then last, they had omitted faith, and we find in Hebrews, "without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." So we better believe that without faith we really can't please God; but the beautiful other statement is that those that come to God must believe that He is; that He's a real person who can impart to us; who can help us; and make our lives richer and fuller; I like that, He's a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. In the terms of our day, in certain situations there's fringe benefits; and there's fringe benefits in following Jesus Christ and God. And so Jesus said to these pharisees and scribes, ye ought to have done these weightier things and not to leave the other which was tithing undone.

Turn back to Matthew chapter 7 and pick up our statement there concerning why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye and considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye, to read verse 5, "Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye." So if we really want to help our brother, and we've got that respons-

ibility too, we must first cast the beam from our own eye. Each of us have a responsibility to help our brother; if we can lift one person and help them, we've done a service to God. King Benjamin said that when you're in the service of your fellowman you're in the service of God, and I like that, he made a very wise statement.

Let us turn over to Galatians 6; and verses 1 and 2, "Brethren if a man be overtaken in a fault," the other said, remove the wrong doing from you first and then you can help a fellow being and this says "if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual," did you notice that?, "ye which are spiritual, restore such an one," and how? "in the spirit of meekness considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." So if we don't do it in the spirit of meekness, we might be tempted in doing this. And Paul in Romans 15:1, has a verse that ties very well with this, "We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves." In any group of people some are weak, some are in between and some are strong. And there is the commandment that those who are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak. Sometimes people have fallen because of the example we have set. Some are weaker, they become discouraged because of the actions of their fellowbeings. We've this responsibility, those who are strong and sometimes I wonder who the strong really are. But there are some who are stronger than others.

Verse 2 of the 6th chapter of Galatians, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." We have a commandment to bear, to share one another's burdens. Going on down here in the 5th verse it says, "For every man shall bear his own burden." To some that might seem a conflict, but it's really isn't. What this is trying to say is that each one has a responsibility to share and bear one another's burdens but when it comes right down to the final thing we are responsible for our own soul's salvation. We can help lift a brother or sister in time of need, whether within the church or without the church; the Book of Mormon is very explicit on the duties of mankind in not only imparting of their substance to those within the church but to those that are without. We have a duty to not just stop with a small segment of people but to reach out unto all the peoples about us. We've got a very great duty in this, in fact.

Let us turn to Ephesians 4:30 through 32, "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." Don't grieve the spirit of God, "Let all bitterness, wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice." This is important;; we should search into these truths more fully and completely because I've seen bitterness where it's caused a lot of distress. People of the church even have said, "I'm very bitter" because of something and yet Paul says plainly let all bitterness be put away. Maybe it isn't always easy but it isn't impossible to put it away from

the midst of us along with wrath and anger. These things should not be amongst us. We've got a responsibility to love even those who spitefully use and persecute us, to pray for them. Malice is ill-will; we should not feel ill-will one toward another. "And be ye kind one to another," kindness, a thing that doesn't cost any of us to display, "tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." It couldn't have been put better. How important it is that we learn to do this.

Let us turn to Colossians 3:12 reading down through 14, "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, mercies," it's important to have mercy, "kindness" little acts of kindness don't cost us anything, and you can really lift someone in distress by being kind to them, you can even receive a lift yourself by doing so, "humbleness of mind." How important it is that we as a people humble ourselves more completely and that we pray for the spirit of discernment. It is vital, brothers and sisters, that we pray for discernment but it is also vital that we humble ourselves; if we come down in the depths of humility we will find that God and Jesus Christ can work with us more fully, and we will be more blessed. And "meekness" is one of the traits we should have among us. Jesus Christ was the greatest person who ever walked this earth; who ever lived and yet he said, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me." He said, "LEARN OF ME." This is what I want you to gather out of this, "for I am meek and lowly in heart." Now, if you want to receive the fullness of these things contained in the scriptures, we speak of the gifts of the Spirit, if you want to be fully recipient of these wonderful gifts, this is the way. Learn of Jesus Christ and become meek and lowly of heart, and "longsuffering;" this is not the natural attitude of man to be patient. The scripture says, the trying of your faith worketh patience; and patience is a great attribute. And then, "Forbearing one another and forgiving one another," and I looked up this word forbearing, and sometimes the definitions of our day don't seem to fit, but there was one listed under the title obsolete, and there forbear means to endure. And I enlarged upon this, and we find that within people there are different character attributes; there are things within my character that I am sure can irritate people. Some of them I know about and may be working to get rid of, others I may be unaware of but some of you are, but in this if you'll just kind of bear with me, kind of endure me, we might all get along together a bit better. Between man and wife, in families, just bear with one another, it works. There has to be some giving and there has to be some forgiving when we deal with our fellowman, when we deal with our brothers and sisters in the church. There are some people you love to be in the company of, and there are others, to tell the truth, you would just as soon not. If you want to be right truthful, isn't that

so? But again, endure one another and maybe these little traits that irritate can be overcome. "Forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also de ye." And then cometh the great thing, the greatest attribute of all, "And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness." There is the clue; the great answer is this thing called charity; the love and concern we shall have for one another. And charity is the pure love of Jesus Christ and whosoever is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with them; and this same person says in the Book of Mormon, "pray with all the energy of your heart that you might be filled with that love", and I tell you this day you better believe that is true and you better be doing it. And there is the answer to the problems that exist, right there. If we have sufficient love, the beautiful things that can be unfolded before our eyes.

I read one more in the book of Romans, chapter 13 verses 10 through 14. "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another; not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord." I see I've even read in the wrong chapter, but how good it was, how good these scriptures tie together. "Love worketh no ill to his neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law, And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, " it's later than we think, "the day is at hand; let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying." Strife and envying should not be a part of the household of faith, "But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof." So the important thing is to put on Jesus Christ this day.

And I am going to read this in 2nd Nephi, chapter 11, starting with the 95th verse, "For behold, my beloved brethren, I say unto you, that the Lord God worketh not in darkness. He doeth not anything save it be for the benefit of the world; for he loveth the world, even that he layeth down his own life, that he may draw all men unto him." How beautiful that is! He desires to draw all men unto Him. "Wherefore he commandeth none that they shall not partake of his salvation. Behold, doth he cry unto any, saying, Depart from me? Behold, I say unto you, Nay, but he saith, Come unto me all ye ends of the earth, buy milk and honey, without money and without price." This thing called salvation is free. It is free to those who follow the proper procedures to receive it. And then it goes on, has He commanded any that they shall not worship in His house and so forth, and the answer is, nay, because his thing is to persuade all men to repentance. "Behold, hath the Lord commanded any that they should not partake of his goodness?" He

wants all men to partake of it, but it's up to you and I how much we want to partake of the goodness of Jesus Christ and of God. "Behold, I say unto you, Nay; but all men are privileged the one like unto the other, and none are forbidden." We turn over to verses 113 through 115, and find other scripture that ties with this. "And he inviteth them all to come unto him, and partake of his goodness; And he denieth none that come unto him, black, white, bond and free, male and female; And he remembereth the heathen, and all are alike unto God, both Jew and Gentile." I like that, it indeed is beautiful.

I have a scripture, John 8:12 that I would like to read, Jesus said, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." And so I hope I have imparted some truths that will help you to have a greater desire to walk in this light of the world and not in this darkness that is ever about. I have a poem by Bonnie Sanders I would like to read as a closing thought, entitled,

WHAT WOULD I GIVE

What gift would I wish to send you
If I had the power to give?
I'd send you the gift of sunshine
For every day that you live.
I'd send you the gift of peace of mind;
Freedom from want and fear;
I'd send you a beautiful sunrise
For every day of the year.
I'd send you dew drops to glisten
Like diamonds on a new budding rose;
I'd send you dancing sunbeams;
A cup that overflows.
I'd send you joy and happiness
And everything that is good;
And all of these things, I'd send you
If 'twas in my power I could.
But such gifts are already given
When God sent his Son from above;
No greater gift, can you ever receive
Than His precious gift, of God's love.

Phoenix, Arizona
April, 1979

Dear Brothers and Sisters in
The Church of Christ,

"And now I ask, What great blessings
has He bestowed upon us? Can ye tell?"
Alma 14:80

Our intention is to compile a record of blessings
and miraculous spiritual experiences of our people.

The purpose of this venture is to preserve an account
of God's blessings to us and to testify to every-
one of His goodness.

"Whosoever, therefore, shall confess me
before men, him will I confess also
before my Father, which is in heaven."
Matt. 10:32

Please send us your testimonies and encourage
others to do the same.

No blessing is insignificant.

We would welcome all, including the testimonies
of the little children and those who have gone on to
their reward.

Please send your reply to:

Karin Malone
18840 N. 30th St.
Phoenix, Arizona
85024

Respectfully,
Karin Malone
Committee Secretary

IN APPRECIATION

We take this means to express our sincere appreciation
for the kindness extended to us during the time
of Archie's illness: To those who came late in the
night to assist in getting him to the hospital; for the
beautiful flowers sent to him while in the hospital;
for the kind conversations of sympathy, at home and
at the bedside; for the kind message by telephone;
for kind words in letters and on cards; for the sincere
prayers, both in called meetings and in private; and
for the Elders who came to Archie's bedside to admin-
ister to him.

Our most sincere appreciation and thanksgiving to
all those who gave Martha so much help in so many
ways during our time of trial. When she wanted to
go some place, there was always someone to take her,
and others were standing by to assist her in her needs.

We thank God from the depth of our hearts for
kind friends who gave their expressions of kindness,
and for those who gave such kind assistance. We also
thank God from the depths of our hearts that He an-
swered your prayers and supplications. From near
death, Archie was considered out of danger, and re-
turned home in two weeks time. To us, it was a mir-
acle.

We thank you for your kind words, your help, and
for your prayers tempered with faith, love and com-
passion.

THE BELLS
Archie and Martha

APRIL 1979 CONFERENCE NEWS

Your reporter was elected without much consideration of his qualifications or of his desire **not** to be the reporter. So, typical of Church of Christ elections, her I am.

For reasons stated when I asked not to be elected, I was not prepared to make an adequate report but will briefly fill you in on what I can recall.

Solemn Assembly opened Friday morning with a few in attendance who were able to arrive early for conference from outside the Independence area. Prayer services continued through Friday and Saturday afternoon with attendance increasing with each subsequent meeting. Especially Saturday, the Spirit was moving among the people inspiring long seasons of prayer.

Saturday evening, in spite of cold windy weather (we had three inches of snow fall during Conference), the young people met together for a game of volleyball then inside for a prayer service led by Benny Case with remarks offered by Harvey Bell.

Sunday morning prayer and testimony service was again held at the Independence East Local Church and every seat that could be found was filled - on both floors and the front lobby. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was served, followed by a long season of prayer. Throughout the service, which lasted until just after 1:00 p. m. (started at 9:00 a. m.), the Spirit of God moved among the people swiftly, causing dozens to pray or testify. Some good advice was given us and it was pointed out our great potential if we would just work at our lives - to make them what God wants.

There was a fine musical service Sunday afternoon where we were blessed to hear many use their God given talents, including a few who were put on the spot unprepared. Even John Jones tried to help out the Houston, Missouri, local in a special number (you'll notice I said "tried"). Perhaps the highlight to many was the fine exhibition by members of the Harris family including use of the banjo, fiddle, harmonica and guitar.

Apostle Marvin Ely delivered a fine message Sunday evening, but not before the Independence area Choir performed two beautiful songs appropriate to the Easter season. Brother Ely's remarks included the use of the words to several hymns and it was obvious his entire message was inspired by God. Brother Ely later testified that he had a vision pertaining to his preaching Sunday and it was fulfilled that night.

Except for Monday morning, each Conference day started at 8:00 a. m. with a prayer service. Each of these services served well to draw our minds together in seeking the Lord's will. Thursday morning, Brother

William Frishkorn was called to be an Elder and there were at least four Apostles testifying to the validity of the call. Brother Frishkorn needs our prayers that he might receive his personal witness.

Considering the content and gravity of the items before the Conference this year, the business meetings were relatively mild. I discerned what I call a "restraining" Spirit present at each meeting. Much was accomplished even though it took us five full days to do it. It seemed like our beloved Apostles and Bishops were under fire on various occasions but all under the influence of a calming Spirit, and through it all I think we can that, although we lack sufficient faith in men God has blessed for specific purposes, it was all done with only the very best of intentions for the welfare of God's Church — not because of a lack of trust in any individuals.

Apostles Housknecht, Sheldon, Yates and McIndoo were our speakers for the remaining evening services — Friday evening preaching was cancelled as the 1979 Conference ended at 5:30 p. m. Many of the priesthood attending this year were impressed with the same or similar messages as was brought out in some fine sermons. The fact that we, individually and collectively, lack having the "pure love of Christ" was a thought common among several and at least two or three were impressed to admonish us to "bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ." As always, we were admonished to observe the signs of these times and put our lives in order.

As a last thought, I would add that we were once again reminded that the Lord has a work to do, and soon, and it will be done with or without our help — the Lord will find a willing people. Once again an attempt was made to postpone the next Conference for two years but again the proposal was defeated by the voice of the people — and for a good reason: We are constantly reminded of times we live in and of the great work that is before us and, as awkward as they generally are, our yearly conference is the only way and the only time we have to conduct the business of Christ's Church and expand our missionary effort. Some may get discouraged or frustrated because of the proceedings on the Conference floor, including an occasional raised voice, but it is the only just and reasonable way we have to conduct business democratically. So we can look forward to a conference again in April 1980 where we can make further progress in the Lord's work. At the same time we need to realize that preparation must begin **now**, not next March — and preparation is made by individually performing our jobs as citizens in God's Kingdom, loving one another and bearing one another's burdens along the way.

Gary Housknecht

HOUSTON, MISSOURI LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

On April 14, a Saturday evening picnic supper was held at the I. C. Keeney residence with the following in attendance: Nina Finnell, Debbie Hedrick, Gerry, Benny and Marie Case all of Independence, Mo., Martin and James Addie, Tom and Dee Anna Medders, David, Doug and Diane Keeney, John and Theresa Medders and Jennifer and Janna, Mary Jane and Ikey Medders, Lois Helseth, Margaret and Ireatess Keeney all of the Houston area. It was reported that a good time was had by all.

On April 8, we were privileged to have two of our apostles with us, Marvin Ely and Don Housknecht and his wife, Doris. Brother Ely spoke to us in the morning services telling us about some of the matters discussed at the conference he had just attended in Independence. Some of the things impressed on your reporter were: we need to fast and pray daily over church matters this year seeking direction from the Lord, prepare ourselves for the events of our day, the last days, utilize the words of God, His commandments as given us by Christ, put Jesus in the driver's seat of our lives, cultivate an attitude of love for each other. Judge kindly; being of service to one another is service to God. Bear one another's burdens — share; we can accomplish much working together. God knows our inner most thoughts and intentions today and for this year. Be humble. Pray over all problems. Feast on Christ's words. Press forward. Endure to the end. Have that charity, the pure love of Christ, and let it shine forth from our lives.

Brother Housknecht told us that evening that he had prepared no notes and hadn't studied especially on any one subject today, but he gave us a beautiful talk through God's spirit. Our spiritual submission to Christ must be complete. What helps us acquire spiritual growth? I Cor. 12:1-13 tells that it is the gifts

we may receive. Have we known the full real power of God? We need the spiritual gifts and the miracles Christ performed which stir the hearts of people and confirm the truths which are taught. We are not whole if the gifts are missing. We are all needed and important to each other.

Our task and the great part of our service to God is to believe and use the spiritual gifts. We will someday be united with God and Jesus Christ in joy and abundance of spirit. Now we need to pray and fast that God intervene and make his church group alive with the spiritual gifts.

On Easter Sunday, Brother John Jones gave us a message about Christ's resurrection, that the Holy Spirit gives us witness to the facts of the Easter story to convince us of the truthfulness of the scriptures holding up Jesus as our Redeemer, how He died for us, was laid in a borrowed tomb and came forth with newness of life. Christ came to give us a victory over everything of the world. God will assure us, after taking us over, of that peace that surpasses all understanding.

Never lose sight of the necessity of preparing self for the things He lived and died for, and rose for. This gives us purpose in our lives, gives us direction. We need to let our light shine. Do what you should with the best of your ability, according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God gave us eternal life through His Son; what an assurance that we, too, can overcome death. The Spirit witnesses that if we have Christ, we have His victory, a great fact and a blessed truth.

We ask your prayers for Sister Verna Jones who is hospitalized in Wisconsin, for her healing and complete recovery, in Jesus name. Amen.

Your Houston Local Reporter
Mary Addie

THINK ABOUT IT

The popular theme that 'Somebody up there likes me' really says nothing about the love that went to Calvary, sparing no pain to Itself, and which will spare us none that is needed to save us.

God's purpose is the perfecting of our soul; He can grant only those prayers that will not jeopardize that purpose.

Pride — the importance of and satisfaction with and in the self, is at the base of the departure of man from God. For God to grant any prayer whose final result would be to spare one's pride, would be to cement that person in separation from Himself.

Men are given weakness that there be no mistake as to whose the sufficiency is. God in Christ did great things for us; and will do great things in us; and then will do great things through us, if we are willing; and we can never reverse the sequence.

No adequate synonym is given for the term - humility - it is best defined by it's antonyms, the things which it is not. The very nature of the human is at war with the three great traits of Jesus; namely - meekness, lowliness and humility. To be meek is to be subject; to be lowly is to be servant; but to be humble is to be of what only the humble know.

BEFORE YOU SLEEP

Go out before you sleep and look the world, God's great and beautiful world, in the face. Can you do it without blinking? Well, for you and for me, if there be no recollection of a deed that left its stain of shame on the soul. But if such a memory does come back, meet it like a man. Tell God about it, and ask Him to pity you and forgive you, for it is God who looks out of the blue.

Before you go to sleep call to account every impulse of the day. "Guilty or innocent?"

Before you sleep take the little ones to your heart and let them tell you what dreams have come to them during the day. If they have had a hard time, find it out and kiss away the hurt. If they have anywhere caught the vision of something finer and grander than ever came into their lives before, let them whisper it into your ear and know that you are glad.

Did you, in a moment when the bars of self control were down, speak a word that left its sting in the heart of the one who is nearest and dearest of all earthly friends? Before you sleep kiss away that hurt. Dear Heart! She is so worthy of the best love there is in you! How could you ever go to sleep knowing that her pillow is wet with tears struck from the fountain by your hand? Get right with sweetheart; then sleep tight through the night watches.

And then? Then be brave enough, true enough, manly enough to bend the knee with the Book on the chair before you. Never will you be really happy, never will you know the peace which passeth all understanding, until this becomes the rule of your life, the crowning event of every day God gives you to live.

The Evening and Morning Star, Volume 18, No. 1, April, 1916)

JUST THINKING

(contributed by V. J. W.)

If you didn't see it when the story came out in the newspapers, you might like to know about the man in Missouri who inserted this ad in the personal column to let the public know what he thought about his wife:

"I am responsible for all the debts and obligations of my wife, Charlotte, both present and future, and am more than happy to be the provider for a woman who has borne me six lovely children and, with an abundance of love and care, has made the past 21 years of loving kindness the nicest years of my life. On this, our 21st anniversary, I wish to express publicly my gratitude."

(Ed. note: How many, many of us might express similar gratitude to our spouses — and to our Lord, Who brought them to us!)

TEACH ME LORD

Teach me, my Lord,
to be sweet and
gentle in all the
events of life —
In disappointments,
In the thoughtlessness
of others,
In the insincerity of
those I trusted,
In the unfaithfulness
of those on whom I
relied.
Let me put myself
aside,
To think of the
happiness of others,
To hide my little pains
and heartaches,
So that I may be the
only one to suffer
from them.
Teach me to profit by
the suffering that
comes across my path.
Let me so use it that
it may mellow me,
not harden nor
embitter me;
That it may make me
patient, not irritable,
That it may make me
broad in my forgiveness,
not narrow, haughty and
overbearing.
May no one be less
good for having come
within my influence.
No one less pure,
less true, less kind,
less noble for having
been a fellow-traveler
in our journey toward
Eternal Life.

Author Unknown

"Teach me thy way," Psalm 86:11

ERRATA

In the article entitled "Correspondence With The Nature Sons" in the April, 1979 issue of Zion's Advocate, "nature sons" or persons should have read "native sons" or persons. There are a total of six errors of this kind in the article including the title.

My apologies for these errors.

Roland Sarratt, Editor

SCRIPTURES NOW TRANSLATED IN 1,660 LANGUAGES

New York, February 23 — By the end of 1978, at least one book of the Bible had been published in 1,660 of the world's languages and distinct dialects, according to the American Bible Society's annual Scripture count.

This represents an increase of 29 languages over the 1977 count of 1,631. Among these are 6 languages spoken in Papua New Guinea, 5 in Australia, 3 each in Brazil and the Philippines, 2 in the U. S. S. R. and 2 in Mexico. The Gospel of Mark was the first Scripture Portion ever published in Paiute, a language spoken by 7,000 Indians living on 19 reservations in Nevada, Idaho and California.

The complete Bible has been published in 268 languages, New Testaments in 453, and Portions in 939.

Entire Bibles were published for the first time in two new languages. Kate in Papua, New Guinea and Mofa in Cameroun. There were 28 languages in which complete New Testaments were reported published for the first time.

New Testaments were the first Scriptures ever published in the languages of Southern Sudanese Arabic, of Gamit in India, of Tampilma in Ghana, and of Yareba in Papua, New Guinea.

Geographically speaking, Africa has the largest number of languages (482) in which at least one book of the Bible has been translated. Asia ranks second with 428 languages and Latin America third with 269. In Australia/South Pacific, Scriptures have been published in 240 languages, in Europe 177, and in North America 62. Esperanto and Volapuk, commonly called international languages, are also included in the total of 1,660.

The official language tally is compiled from copies of the new Scriptures received from various organizations by the ABS library the largest collection of its kind in the world, numbering more than 37,000 volumes of Scripture, documents and reference items.

The American Bible Society, founded in 1816, is a nonprofit, nondenominational organization whose sole purpose is the translation, publication, and distribution of the Holy Scriptures without doctrinal note or comment.

For further information contact: John A. Duguid, American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway, New York, N. Y. 10023, Telephone 212-581-7400.

To read without reflection is like eating without digesting.
—Burke

THE 1979 AUGUST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

The 1979 August Ministers' Conference of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 15th, 16th and 17th at the Independence, Missouri, East Local Church.

Conference will convene at 9:00 A. M. sharp for the Priesthood members. Wednesday evening, at 7:00 P. M., a prayer and testimony service will be open to the membership and public. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be served. Thursday and Friday evening preaching services will commence at 7:30 P. M. and are also open to all membership and the public.

This conference is designed to "resolve mutual problems of the Ministry, to increase the zeal, enthusiasm and experience of the Ministry toward a cooperative missionary endeavor, and to seek the will of the Lord concerning the missionary program of His Church."

Committee chairmen are asked to submit any reports in advance.

Gary A. Housknecht
Secretary, August Ministers' Conf.
607 E. Van Buren
Bolivar, Missouri 65613

COLORADO REUNION

The Colorado Reunion will be held June 8, 9 & 10, 1979 at Grand Junction, Colo. If you plan to attend, please contact the Reunion Committee at the following address and phone numbers:

Apostle Marvin Ely, 236 32nd Rd., Grand Junction, Colo. 81501, phone 303-242-2993.

Ron Church, P. O. Box 2774, Grand Junction, Colo. 81501, phone 303-434-5846.

John Bell, 572 34 Rd., Clifton, Colo. 81520, phone 303-434-7100.

MICHIGAN STATE REUNION

On the 16th and 17th of June, 1979, the Michigan State Reunion will be held at Maple City, Michigan, hosted by the Maple City Local. Housing and camping areas will be available. For more information contact Elder Conley Addington, Rt. #2, Box 45, Maple City, Michigan 49664, phone (616) 334-4922.

MISSOURI REUNION

The Missouri Reunion will be held at the Temple Lot Local, Independence, Mo. June 22, 23 and 24, 1979. For more information write Lawrence D. Beem, 4400 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, Mo. 64133.

CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 1980 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) will commence Sunday, April 6, 1980. The business sessions will start at 10:00 A. M. Monday, April 7,. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, April 4 and 5, 1980.

The 1979 August Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 15th, 16th and 17th at the Independence, Missouri, East Local Church.

WRITTEN MATERIAL FOR "ZION'S ADVOCATE"

Articles, sermons, poems, new items, letters, notices, etc. which are appropriate to be printed in this paper are requested by the editorial staff. If possible they should be typewritten on one side of sheet only, double spaced and grammatically corrected. If this is not possible, please send your material anyway. Send all material to one of the members of the editorial staff or to the general church (see title page). The deadline for each month is the 7th of the previous month.

CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

Send all orders to: Church of Christ (Temple Lot)

P. O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051 Price Each

| | |
|--|--------|
| Book of Mormon — Missionary Edition | \$2.25 |
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| Book of Commandments (Hard Bound) | \$2.75 |
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| Book of Commandments Controversy Reviewed | \$2.20 |
| The Marvelous Work and a Wonder | \$1.75 |
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| Zion's Hymnal | \$3.65 |
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| Changing of the Revelations | \$.35 |
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| The Principles of the Gospel, The Laying on of Hands | N/C |
| The Principles of the Gospel, Baptism | N/C |
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NOTE: Donations accepted to cover postage and printing costs. Lot prices of tracts exclusive of postage are: In packs of 6, 30c; 100, \$4.50

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AUDIO VISUAL MATERIALS

The following materials are available on loan from the Audio, Video, Visual Aids and Archeological Committee:

"Light at Evening" — A 35 minute slide-tape narration of the restoration of the gospel.

"A Lamp Unto My Feet" — A 35 minute slide-tape narration about the Book of Mormon, directed toward Indian viewers.

"We Sing and We Talk About Jesus" — A series of Sunday School lessons, each with a teaching outline, an illustration and a taped song to be learned by primary or intermediate children.

Send all orders to the Office Secretary, Church of Christ (Temple Lot), P. O. Box 472, Independence, Mo. 64051. Specify cassette tape or reel-to-reel. Slide projectors and recorders will not be provided.

The following taped sermons are available on loan for \$1.00 for postage or to keep as priced (use above address for ordering):

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 (This tape includes his ordination)

Stewardship, Our Reasonable Service by Elder James Lacy\$3.75

Music (Specials and congregation singing)\$2.75

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Send all orders to: General Sunday School Association Treasurer, Church of Christ (Temple Lot), P. O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051.

| | |
|---|------------|
| | Price Each |
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| The Bible Game, "Who Am I?" by Doris Housknecht | \$1.50 |

(No charge for single box to a Local Sunday School)