

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. 57

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No. 2

God's Purposes

God would never send you the darkness
If He felt you could bear the light;
But you would not cling to His guiding hand
If the way were always bright,
And you would not care to walk by faith
Could you always walk by sight.

'Tis true He has many an anguish
For your sorrowful heart to bear,
And many a cruel thorn crown
For your tired head to wear.
He knows how few would reach Heaven at all
If pain did not guide them there.

So He sends you the blinding darkness
And the Furnace of sevenfold heat;
'Tis the only way, believe me,
To keep you close to His feet,
For 'tis always so easy to wander
When our lives are glad and sweet.

Then nestle your hand in your Father's
And sing if you can as you go,
Your song may cheer someone behind you
Whose courage is sinking low.
And well, if your lips do quiver,
God will love you better so.

Submitted by Vida Filley with permission from FEBC

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Editorial . . .

THE RESTORATION GOSPEL vs. RADICALISM

The press of the times and the continuing development of the signs of the LAST DAYS are all around us. It's drifting in upon us in the news with the commotion of the nations of the earth, the unrest of it's peoples, including our own, with the uncertainty, and with the suffering of want in many parts of the earth for the very necessities of life. The cruelties in the struggle for power and the increase of monstrous greed after the accumulation of the wealth of the earth are further indicators.

All of these conditions seemingly are a fulfillment of an outline of history foretold by Jesus Christ, himself, in answer to the questions of his disciples a long time ago. "And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto 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?" (Emph. mine K. J. S.) (Matt. 24:3) Jesus gave them good advice and counsel: "And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you." (Matt. 24:4)

Indeed the power of deception is the popular vice of the day. The radical elements of modern society are growing by leaps and bounds. The charismatic movements of the day are attractive to young and old

alike, dazzling their wares before unsuspecting eyes of the people. But Jesus has already warned of imposters being on the increase because of the period or era in which we live. The simple difference between the doctrines of the charismatic movements and the Gospel of Christ is that, the charismatic organizations display their wares before people in a glittering demonstration designed to play upon the imagination, while the gospel teaches us if we are truly converted and baptized into Christ and put on Christ certain signs follow. ". . . these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." (Mark 16:17-18) This is a way of life, for we are told when we are baptized into Christ we come forth in newness of life; we grow and develop in newness by natural processes.

We live in the era of time referred to as the sixth day or the eleventh hour dispensation of time. We are suprisingly close to the great midnight hour, or the second coming of Jesus Christ to the earth as the Bridegroom coming to claim his bride, the church, and the setting up of the Millennial reign. It's a time when the more radical elements of the day are grow-

ing. One of the larger factions of the Restoration movement is now repudiating some of the fundamental principles established by the angel's visitation to the young son of Palmyra, one hundred and fifty years ago. They're going to the complete extreme of denying the kinship of God the Father, his son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost. They're mocking the existence of the Book of Mormon as an added witness of the scriptures establishing the fullness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in these Last Days. They're obliterating the story of the great sacrificing and struggles of their progenitors, who so successfully promoted and defended the Restoration Gospel, giving their lives as martyrs to the cause! Radicalism? It's dragging the innocent peoples down into the abyss of ecumenical movements of the religious world. They're denying the instruction of the heavenly personages as a thing of naught. They claim its a myth that the young son of Palmyra went out into the woods to pray and to ask which sect was right and which he should join.

The seriousness of their action in directing the teaching of their peoples against the teachings of the scripture relative to the relationship of God the Father, and his son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost, and the coming forth of the Book of Mormon as a myth is without a doubt complete apostasy from the faith once delivered to the saints. Having once been enlightened, if we fall away into outer darkness, how great is that darkness.

We find in the record of history the words of Joseph Smith, himself, relating that experience in the woods and the instruction of the heavenly personage. "I was answered that I must join none of them for they were all wrong and the personage who addressed me said that all their creeds were an abomination, in his sight: that those professors were all corrupt, 'They draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; they teach for doctrine the com-

mandments of men, having a form of godliness, but they deny the power thereof.'" (Outline History of Church of Christ, Temple Lot, page 16) Thus, this leaves no room or excuse for joining hands with similar professors of our day. To do so, is to violate the very fundamental foundations of our belief, and our existence. If ecumenism had been the answer to the correct performing of His work, Jesus would have accepted the RADICALISM of the Scribes and Pharisees but he denounced them as hypocrites. "... for ye devour widows houses, and for a pretence make long prayers: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation. Woe unto you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more a child of hell than yourselves." (Matt. 23:14-15) We see a strong resemblance between the Sadducees, scribes and Pharisees of the new testament, the referred to professors of Joseph Smith's day and their denouncement in the woods by the heavenly personages, and the ecumenical organization of our day, The World Council of Churches.

The Church of Christ, Temple Lot with the restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in these last hours of time, for one hundred and fifty years of existence, stands as a beacon of hope to the countless peoples who have heard and held dear that wonderful story of the eleventh hour dispensation of time and the great consumation of the plan of salvation. As an organization, we have held the fundamental doctrine of the original church and have been guilty of no moral lapse. In fact, in face of adroit efforts to bribe and seduce from our trust, we have kept ourselves clear from evil forces and designing men. Hence, we offer a haven for the broken hearted and a place to labor for our friend and Master, Jesus Christ, in preparation for that great event, the coming of The Bridegroom at the midnight hour.

K J S

CONFERENCE NOTICE

January 6, 1980

Following instruction of the 1966 Referendum, the annual conference of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot), will begin on the Sunday of the week in which the 6th of April occurs, which, this year, will be April 6th.

Business Sessions, however, will start at 10:00 a. m. Monday, April 7th.

As per Bill #1, 1972 Referendum, "all committees and boards, etc. of the Church empowered to expend general Church funds or collect the same shall be required to submit an annual report of their activities to include a financial statement of funds received and disbursed and submit to the Joint Council of Twelve and Bishopric at least one week prior to the opening

of Conference a proposed budget for the ensuing year."

Officers and committees, as noted in the directory, should see that their reports are filed with the conference secretary as early as possible. Persons needing a place to stay should contact the Conference Service Coordinator. Those wishing to donate food or money to the conference, should contact the Dining Hall Committee.

We are looking forward with eager anticipation to greeting each one of you and pray that the Lord's Will will be done in all things.

R. W. Oldham
General Church Secretary

GOD PREPARED JESUS FOR HIS MINISTRY

by Stella Winegar

(All quotations are taken from
the Inspired Version of the Bible.)

"And it came to pass that Jesus grew up with his brethren, and waxed strong, and waited upon the Lord for the time of his ministry to come. And he served under his father, and he spake not as other men, neither could he be taught; for he needed not that any man should teach him. And after many years, the hour of his ministry drew nigh." (Matt. 3:24-26)

Truly, Jesus, being the Son of God, needed not to be taught of man, for man had no qualifications wherein they could teach the Son of God, even the learned men of that day. The Pharisees and the Sadducees who claimed to know the law of Moses, and to be teaching the same, could not teach Jesus, for he was the one who gave the law. When he was just a lad of twelve years of age, he astounded them as he sat in the midst of them in the temple answering their questions and talking to them. There was no way that they could teach Jesus; he knew the law much better than they could ever know it, because he was the maker of it, and he became the finisher of it through his death and resurrection. He had brought the New and Everlasting Covenant, and the former law was fulfilled in Him.

Luke 2:52 says, "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."

Matt. 3:27, 28: "And in those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, Repent ye; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Reading on we find many people coming to John to be baptized of him. Verse 33 says, "But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O, generation of vipers! who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" Then as we read on farther we see why he called them vipers. I'll leave it with you to read it as you study His word. We can easily see as we study why Jesus could not be taught of man.

John was baptizing in the river Jordan at this time, bearing record that he (Jesus), who was coming after him, had power to baptize with the Holy Ghost and fire.

Verse 41: "And then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan, unto John, to be baptized of him." After Jesus was baptized and when he came up out of the water, John saw, and lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting upon Jesus. And lo, he heard a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son,

in whom I am well pleased. Hear ye him." (Matt. 3:45, 46)

Jesus had now been baptized as the Lord had commanded him, for Jesus had said to John, "Suffer me to be baptized of thee, for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness."

Next he must go where he could be alone with God, his Father, to commune with Him, and receive instruction and strength for his ministry. Matt. 4:1, 2: "Then Jesus was led up of the Spirit, into the wilderness, to be with God. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, and had communed with God, he was afterwards an hungered, and was left to be tempted of the devil."

The Spirit of God led Jesus up into the wilderness, that he might go to the Lord in prayer and fasting, to be alone with God the Father, to learn of Him the words He would have him teach his disciples when he started his ministry, and to be strengthened in Spirit for that which lay ahead of him. The devil had no power to lead Jesus anywhere, but after Jesus had communed with God for forty days and nights, his human body was hungry from the fast. He was spiritually strong from so long a fast and communion with God the Father, so, when the devil tempted him by saying, "If thou be the Son of God, command these stones be made bread," he said, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." (verses 3 and 4) Jesus had just received the words of God, right from God's own mouth. He knew that man cannot live by bread or food for his body alone; he must have Spiritual food too, or he will die.

Verse 5 says, "Then Jesus was taken up into the holy city, and the Spirit setteth him on the pinnacle of the temple." Jesus was in the Spirit after his long fast and communications with God. The devil had no power to take him up to the holy city or anywhere, but the devil was allowed to come tempting him, so he came and said, "If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down, for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee, and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone." (verse 6) But Jesus could not be deceived; he was the Son of the Living God, and had just spent forty days and nights communing with Him.

Verses 7 and 8: "Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. And again, Jesus was in the Spirit, and it taketh him up

into an exceeding high mountain, and showeth him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them." Jesus was in the Spirit, and we know it was the Spirit of G.d. Jesus could not be in any other spirit. It was the Spirit of God that took him up into an exceeding high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the earth, and all their glory; the devil had no power to take Jesus anywhere, but he was allowed to come tempting him. Verse 9: "And the devil came unto him again, and said, All these things will I give unto thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me."

Jesus is the creator of all the earth. All things belong to him, for he created and made them all. We find this wonderful truth as we study his word. John tells us this so plainly as does Genesis and many other places in the scriptures.

He could not be tempted to gain something which was already his. Even in the weakness of the flesh, he was the Son of God, and had just come from close communion with Him. In verse 10 Jesus says, "Get thee hence, Satan, for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." Then the devil left him.

Jesus went back into Galilee and dwelt in Capernaum. He began his ministry, teaching repentance, calling his disciples and healing the sick. Yes, all who came to him were healed of their infirmities.

Jesus' message is a message of salvation and eternal life. Chapter 5:1, 2, 3, 4 tells us, "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 depths 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."

Yes, we have a wonderful hope in Jesus. His promises are sure if we follow him. So we must study His word with much humble prayer, that we will be guided by his Spirit into all truth, for he is truth, and light, and love, and life, which is Eternal.

JESUS IS THE RESURRECTION! !

WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH

("THE TRUTH TELLER", Vol. 1, No. 4 Oct., A. D. 1864)

When the publication of The Truth Teller was commenced, it was not, nor is it now, the design of the publishers to devote its columns to the exposing of the false positions and doctrines of any particular division of the Church. In the first number of The Truth Teller no direct allusion was made to any particular party, believing as we then did, and now do that every person, no matter with what division they were identified, if they were a proper subject for baptism at the time they were baptized, and the ordinance of baptism was administered to them by one who had acknowledged authority from Jesus Christ to administer the law of his Kingdom, all such persons thus obeying the all important commandments of Jesus Christ, enters his new and everlasting covenant, they become new creatures, they are in Christ, they are born again. Having obeyed his commandments, every such person becomes members of the new and everlasting covenant, and they remain in Christ until they alienate themselves by transgressing the laws of the Kingdom of which they are members. No person comes into Christ without consent of their will, coupled with an act of obedience to the laws of his Kingdom. No person goes out of Christ without the consent of their will. A person in the covenant may wander, their

minds may become darkened, they may get out of the way not willingly but ignorantly, they "have an advocate with the Father Jesus Christ the righteous."

In view of these truths, we feel it our duty to address as brethren, all who have from their hearts obeyed the commandments of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, by which they became members of his Kingdom, "for by one spirit are we all baptized into Christ." It was not required at the commencement of the rise of the Church of Christ, of those who applied for membership that they should believe any particular person should be the President of the Church; they were only required to confess Christ, obey the laws of adoption by which they migrated from the kingdom of Nature, (of which they were members) into the Spiritual Kingdom of Jesus Christ. To be more explicit with regard to the several subjects that are now agitating the minds of the readers of the "Herald" (at Plano, Ill.) and The Truth Teller, our belief is that as many of the members of the "New Organization" as have obeyed the principles of adoption into Christ, the law of adoption having been administered to them by those who were in authority of Christ's Kingdom, are our brethren according to the new and everlasting covenant. It is in view of these facts that we are able to

know why it is that honest members of every division, that have grown up in the Church of Christ, are blessed with the gifts promised in the gospel to those who believe. Not understanding these facts has been the cause of many honest and accepted members going astray, in uniting themselves with the different divisions that now exist; they have seen in these different divisions its members enjoy many of the promised gifts, taking it for granted that they as a party were right because many of them were thus blessed when in fact it is no evidence at all in support of the claims advocated by the leaders and aspirants of the party. If the existence and enjoyments of these spiritual gifts promised to the believer is evidence of the truth of the different organizations, whether they be "new" or old, then every organization that has come into being claiming to be the Church organized by Joseph Smith would be right, for there can be testimony in abundance adduced to prove the members of every organization that we have any knowledge of, that has been effected by members of the Church established by Joseph Smith in 1830, do enjoy the gifts of the gospel and even among

the Brighamites, many of the honest, tho' deceived, enjoy to some extent the promised blessings. The divisions who claim that J. J. Strang, William Smith, Colons Brewster, Sidney Rigdon, are the successors of Joseph Smith, enjoy the gifts to some extent, some more than others. Hence it will be seen that it is no evidence that any of these parties are right because its members enjoy the promised gifts, no matter when they obeyed the gospel. The existence of these very essential and promised gifts prove this and nothing more than this, that those who enjoy them are accepted believers in Christ, no matter to what division they belong. May God, the Eternal Father, hasten the day when divisions and discord shall cease, when the honest in heart in every land shall be united, when they all shall speak the same thing.

Editorial comment: The foregoing article was reprinted upon request. It was taken from one of the earliest church publications and it shows the position of the Church of Christ concerning membership at that time (1864).

WASHINGTON'S VISION

"The last time I saw Anthony Sherman was on the 4th of July, 1859, in Independence Square. He was then 90 years old, his dimming eyes rekindled as he gazed upon Independence Hall, which he had come to gaze upon once more before he was gathered home.

"Let us go into the hall," he said, "I want to tell you an incident of Washington's life — one which no one alive knows of except myself; and if you live you will before long see it verified." "From the opening of the Revolution we experienced all phases of fortune — now good and now ill, one time victorious and another conquered. The darkest period we had, I think was when Washington, after several reverses, retreated to pass the winter of '77. AH! I have often seen tears coursing down our dear old commander's care-worn cheeks as he would be conversing with a confidential officer about the condition of his poor soldiers. You have doubtless heard the story of Washington going to the thicket to pray. Well, it was not only true, but he used often to pray in secret for aid and comfort from God. The interposition of whose divine providence brought us safely through those dark days of tribulations.

"One day, I remember it well, the chilly winds whistled through the leafless trees, though the sky was cloudless and the sun shone brightly; he remained in his quarters nearly all the afternoon alone. When he came out, I noticed his face was a shade paler than usual, and there seemed to be something on his mind of more than ordinary importance.

Returning just after dark, he dispatched an orderly to the quarters of the officer I mention, who was presently in attendance. After a preliminary conversation, which lasted about half an hour, Washington, gazing upon his companion with that strange look of dignity which he alone could command, said to the latter: "I do not know whether it is owing to the anxiety of my mind, or what, but this afternoon as I was sitting at this very table engaged in preparing a dispatch, something in the department seemed to disturb me. Looking up, I beheld standing opposite me, a singularly beautiful female. So astonished was I, for I had given orders not to be disturbed, that it was some moments before I found language to inquire the cause of her presence. A second, a third, and even a fourth time did I repeat my question, but received no answer from my mysterious visitor except a slight raising of the eyes. By this time I felt a strange sensation spreading through me. I would have risen, but the riveted gaze of the being before me rendered volition impossible. I essayed once more to address her, but my tongue had become powerless. Even thought, itself, suddenly became paralyzed. A new influence, mysterious, potent, irresistible, took possession of me. All I could do was gaze steadily, vacantly, at my unknown visitant. Gradually the surrounding atmosphere seemed as though becoming filled with sensations, and grew luminous. Everything about me seemed to rarefy, the mysterious visitor herself becoming more airy, and yet even more distinct to my sight than before. I now began to feel as one dying, or rather to

experience the sensations which I have sometimes imagined accompanied the dissolution. I did not think. I did not reason. I did not move; all were alike impossible. I was only conscious of gazing fixedly, vacantly, at my companion.

"Presently I heard a voice saying, 'Son of the Republic, look and learn'; while at the same time my visitor extended her arm eastwardly. I now beheld a heavy white vapor at some distance, rising fold upon fold. This gradually dissipated, and I looked upon a strange scene. Before me lay spread out in one vast plain all the countries of the world: Europe, Asia, Africa and America. I saw rolling and tossing between Europe and America, the billows of the Atlantic, and between Asia and America lay the Pacific. 'Son of the Republic, look and learn'. At that moment I beheld a dark, shadowy being like an angel standing, or rather floating, in mid-air between Europe and America. Dipping water out of the ocean in the hollow of each hand, he sprinkled some upon America with his right hand while with his left hand he cast some upon Europe. Immediately a dark cloud raised from each of these countries and joined in mid-ocean. For a while it remained stationary and then moved slowly westward until it enveloped America in its murky folds. Sharp flashes of lightning gleamed through it at intervals, and I heard the smothered groans and cries of the American people. A second time the angel dipped water from the ocean and sprinkled it out as before. The dark cloud was then drawn back to the ocean, in whose heaving waves it sank from view. A third time, I heard the mysterious voice saying: 'Son of the Republic look and learn.' I cast my eyes upon America, and beheld villages and towns and cities springing up one after another, until the whole land, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, was dotted with them. Again I heard the mysterious voice say, 'Son of the Republic, the end of the century cometh, look and learn.'

"At this the dark, shadowy angel turned his face southward, and from Africa I saw an illumined spectre approach our land. It flitted slowly and heavily over town and city of the latter; the inhabitants presently set themselves in battle array against each other. As I continued looking, I saw a bright angel, on whose brow rested a crown of light, on which was traced 'UNION', bearing the American flag, which was placed between the divided nation, and said: 'Remember, we are brethren'. Instantly the inhabitants, casting from them their weapons, became friends once more, and united around the national standard. And again I heard the mysterious voice saying, 'Son of the Republic, the end of the century cometh, look and learn'. At this the dark shadowy angel placed a trumpet to his mouth and blew three distinct blasts, and taking water from the ocean, he sprinkled it upon Europe, Asia and Africa. Then my eyes beheld a fearful scene. From each of those countries arose thick, black clouds, that soon joined into one. And

throughout this there gleamed a dark red light by which I saw hordes of armed men, who moved with the cloud, marched by land and sailed by sea to America, which country was enveloped in the volume of the cloud. And I dimly saw these armies devastate the whole country and burn the villages, towns and cities that I had beheld springing up. As my ears listened to the thundering of cannon, clashing of swords, and shouts and cries of millions in mortal combat, I again heard the mysterious voice saying, 'Son of the Republic, look and learn'.

'When the voice had ceased, the dark, shadowy angel placed his trumpet once more to his mouth, and blew a loud powerful blast.

"Instantly a light, as if a thousand suns, shown down from above me, and pierced and broke into fragments the dark cloud which enveloped America. At the same moment I saw the angel upon whose head still shone the word 'UNION', and who bore, our national flag in one hand and a sword in the other, descend from heaven attended by legions of bright spirits.

These immediately joined the inhabitants of America, who, I perceived, were well nigh overcome, but who, immediately taking courage again, closed up their broken ranks and renewed the battle. Again, amid the fearful noise of the conflict, I heard the mysterious voice, saying, 'Son of the Republic, look and learn'.

"As the voice ceased, the shadowy angel for the last time dipped water from the ocean, and sprinkled it upon America. Instantly the dark cloud rolled back, together with the armies it had brought, leaving the inhabitants of the land victorious.

"Then, once more, I beheld villages, towns and cities springing up where they had been before, while the bright angel in the midst of them, cried in a loud voice, 'while the stars remain, and the heavens send down dew upon the earth, so long shall the Republic last'. And taking from his brow the crown, which blazoned the word 'UNION'; he placed it upon the standard while the people, kneeling down, said 'Amen'.

"The scene instantly began to fade and dissolve, and I at last saw nothing but the rising, curling vapor I had at first beheld. This also disappearing, I found myself once more facing on my mysterious visitor who, in the same voice I heard before, said, 'Son of the Republic, what ye have seen is thus interpreted: Three perils will come upon the Republic. The most fearful is the second, passing which the whole world united shall never be able to prevail against her.

"Let every child of the Republic learn to live for God, his land and the 'UNION'.

"With these words the vision vanished, and I started from my seat and felt that I had seen a vision wherein had been shown me the birth, progress and the destiny of the United States. In UNION she will

have her strength, in disunion her destruction."

"Such my friend, "concluded the venerable narrator, "Were the words I heard from Washington's own

lips, and America will do well to profit by them."

—Wesley Bradshaw, in Inter Ocean Curiosity Shop.

A REVELATION THROUGH GRANVILLE HEDRICK TO THE CHURCH APRIL, 1865

Hear O, ye my people who call yourselves the Church of Christ. Harken to the counsel of your Lord and Saviour, and give heed to the words given to you by the power of His holy spirit, because of the great destructions that are coming upon the land. For thus it shall be unto your country; it shall be attacked by a mighty foe on the South and East, by a combination of strong nations, and the eastern cities of the great Atlantic Ocean will be blockaded by a combined fleet upon the coast, and all vessels of the federal government upon the high seas will be endangered. Woe! Woe! to the proud cities of the East, for their railroads will be torn up, and poverty and misery pervade the land.

And greatest consternation will spread through the Northern States, because of war and bloodshed; and great political division will arise through the government, between the states, and many will set up for themselves arise among the people; in the uproarious clamor of dissension a financial crash will cover the land as the turbulent waves of the sea; and the proud, and the rich, as well as the poor, will feel the pangs of hunger, and the shame of nakedness, and old garments will be rent to mend others, and thus shall the proud be humbled in the dust, and set down

upon the ground hungry and naked, or in other words in scarcity of food and raiment; yet men in unbelief of God's forewarning, will harden their hearts against the true light of the gospel, and tyranny and oppression will reign among the wicked, and liberty be trampled under foot, because of the military rule. And that great church, the mother of abomination, will call upon the men of her creed to establish her dominion upon the once renowned land of freedom, and terrible and mighty will be the conflict. But glory be to God! For the people of the West will stand up in great strength for liberty, for God will help them. And He will stir up the kings of the eastern world in their anger, and they will be divided against each other, and gather their armies together to battle; and that great and abominable church will be arrayed against herself, for God will pour out sore affliction in mighty judgment upon her. But a free and independent civil government will be established in the West by the true lovers of liberty and servants of the most high God, upon the broad basis of equal rights and privileges in all good and just men; and it shall grow and prosper by the power of Almighty God, and peace and safety shall be established throughout all her dominions which shall become truly great; thus says the spirit of the living God. Amen.

I WILL PRAISE THEE

By Mina A. Perkins

I will praise Thee, Lord, forever;
Thus my heart in rapture sings;
Leave Thee or forsake Thee never,
Lord or Lords and King of Kings.
Thou hast followed ere my footsteps
Kept them from the paths of sin,
Shielded close my heart from Satan
When he fain would venture in.

In the hours of dark temptation
Thou hast even been my guide,
And when I was prone to leave Thee
Thou hast kept me at Thy side;

Placed Thy loving arms about me,
Turned this wayward heart of mine,
Sick with sorrow and rebellion,
Back again to thoughts divine.

Thus I'll praise Thee while Thou giveth
To this body life and breath,
And when Thou my soul receiveth
I will prove Thee yet in death.
While along life's pathway going,
Traveling on from day to day,
I will praise Thee, I will praise Thee,
All along the narrow way.

HOUSTON, MO. LOCAL REPORT

On the 2nd of September, Brother John Jones used Luke 14:25-33 as his text. It basically tells us that we must give up all to follow the master. He spoke of all the "isms" in the world and told us the most dangerous one, he thought, was somnambulism, being in a state of sleepwalking. We aren't always aware of what is going on in the world and often take no thought of it blaming on others the things we thus allow to take place when it is our fault for the shape our country, church, life is in.

We need that Christlike power to understand the needs of others and to see, like Christ can, what's in our brother's heart. We each have a picture in our minds of how we'd like others to see us. We need to live the best we can, rather than the least we can get away with. Stop the noise of self, listen to the still sad music of humanity. Jesus is reaching out to us attempting to lift us out of our self-made ruts.

What's it going to cost you to be a servant of God? To be a follower of the Master of Men? Check out the cost of going the other way. See what you get that way! Christ calls our attention to the wisdom of choosing right. Man is born with an instinct to worship something; God wants it to be Him.

Anyone who wavers back and forth between God and the world will be unhappy as he can't love, hate, or enjoy himself with his whole heart. He cannot have communion with God. If you are only half Christian, you miss so much. You can't be a tough, red-blooded sinner and a true saint; you will be unhappy and running on only half power.

He who wants God wholly realizes God is the source of all power and can free a person from all the things and sins of the world. What must we give up? What will be gain? Men have sacrificed for many things, and not felt the price too great for freedom. How about you? Do you believe in the Gospel? in the Son of God? in eternal life?

If our revolutionary ancestors gave their lives for our country's freedoms, what must we give our God who gives us a freedom of a more important kind. No sacrifice is too great for the promises held out to us. The nearest way to this glory is to be the kind of person we desire to be — congenial, friendly, honest upright, Godly. In short, we must be as one who has all the attributes of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ.

On the 9th of September, Elder Roland Sarratt was our guest speaker. His subject was Zion. Our future holds out for us a bright and wonderful thing in the day of the Lord's return. We're being pushed to the edge by predictions of doom and gloom, etc. The Lord doesn't want us to be frightened by things to come but to look beyond to the special times. He will provide an escape from the predicted catastrophies.

Zion. Who's going to be there, We hope we will

Why? For protection. We'll need to be righteous to be there with He who is righteous, Jesus Christ. The Lord will protect his people if they ask and are humble.

Brother Roland used many references in his sermon: Isaiah 24:16 and 52:7-10; Rev. 14:1; Psalms 87:1-5 and 102:13-14; Isaiah 59:20, 21; 51:3, 16; 40:9-11; Ether 6:1-8.

The Lord in speaking of our time said that there will be those who will labor in Zion. He requires a condition to enter or inherit Zion. He will cleanse His people; only the holy will be left. Are we measuring up? Are we really trying? Our gospel is a lamp. Are we showing our light to the world?

On September 16th, Brother Jones used Eph. 5:1, 2, 6-17: "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour." Paul was advising the saints how to be good, honest followers of Christ. "Let no man deceive you with vain words." Let no one entice you from the standard of life you need to follow. One bad, small act can start a life of sin. "Be not ye partakers with them (disobedient children)." Live in Christ's light.

The spirit of all goodness and righteousness is truth, even Jesus. Search the scriptures for the truth of all things. Check it out; prove what is acceptable to God John 8:32 "And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." From what? Sin, of course.

Continue in the words of Christ, in his teachings; live the words of Christ, which means we must know them. We are living in a probationary period, in a time of preparation for life eternal. 2nd Tim. 3:1-5 tells of perilous times to come, and warns of trials in the near future. Verses 14-16 tells us to "... continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; and that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Jesus Christ. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

Everyone has the same amount of time, 24 hours a day. Use your time wisely, study Christ's example. He was a master in using it wisely. It is our responsibility to teach our children, to raise them to become children and adults obedient to God's teachings.

How do you measure success? High salary? fame? popularity? What is the true and lasting measure of success? Is it doing something bigger and better than others? To leave the world a better, healthier, happier place? Napoleon's mother said when asked about her son's conquests, "Will it last?"

Jesus founded his empire on love, and millions would die for Him, even yet. To know God's will is the greatest knowledge; to do it; the greatest achievement.

On September 23rd, Brother Larry Beem was our visiting minister. He told of how the Lord had cared for him on a recent trip to New York City, protecting him on a bumpy plane ride due to winds left over from a recent hurricane, and all the hassles and trials in the biggest city in the U. S.

He felt we are being tried and that God is testing us to find out what our fibers are. Sickness is all around us; positions are open in the ministry that need filling. Yet in all things God still cares for us and desires to fill all our needs. Are we lacking in faith that He withholds some things from us?

1st Peter 5:7: "Casting all your cares on Him, for He careth for you." Can you remember God sparing you from an accident, sparing your life? He created the whole universe that man might have dominion over it.

Luke 12:4: "Be not afraid of them who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear; Fear him, which after he hath killed, hath power to cast in hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him." Verse 8: "Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of Man also confess before the angels of God."

God gave us the words, gave us the gospel, sent His Son to die for us that we might have life everlasting. Our lives are worth more to God than the sparrows, whom he also numbers and controls. He shall deliver us in times of trouble, protect us when we need it. We are not to be afraid for perfect love casteth out all fear. If we fear, we don't truly grasp the love of God.

Psalms 23:1: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." God will provide. He cares for us. He loves us. We can gain hope and cheer from the thought. We need to get our lives prepared. We've been warned many times that the second coming of Christ is near. We must be a prepared people, spiritually and mentally, then our needs will be provided. God is a living God; we can pray to Him and not to an idol. Have faith. Believe that God is alive and real today.

On September 30th Brother Jones spoke to us of a need to analyse ourselves. Why are we heavy laden? We need to know ourselves. Are we our own worst enemy? Do we try to pass the buck, make excuses or abilies for the deeds we do or, in some cases don't do? We can blame no one if we don't get around to doing that which we know is good.

Many people have been exiled in history but you cannot flee from yourself. You can flee, but not from life and it's obligations or wrong deeds. We must face up to ourselves, right or wrong. Our conscience picks at us if we are guilty. We can't run away from bad or wrong decisions.

We don't have to live with ourselves if we find ourselves lacking, because we can make ourselves over, or develop a new self to live with satisfactorily, WITH God's help. If you don't like what you see in your life, you must change it. We don't have to keep repeating past mistakes. There's a challenge in the change. Thank God for the Gospel and it's teachings, for the more we apply it's teachings to our lives the better individuals we become. As we become more involved in following Christ and so develop a more likeable personality, we like ourselves and others find us more likeable also. Then we find joy in our hearts and lives.

We know what is right, if we stop fooling ourselves. Christ came that we might have life and have it more abundantly. Follow after Christ's teachings and love. Have life more abundantly; find that inner peace and the satisfaction it brings. Then when disaster strikes, you will stand on the "Rock" of faith and be found ready to continue.

Many welcome visitors were with us this month, and I apologize for not naming individuals but I didn't keep a list. Nevertheless we welcome each one who comes to visit with us, and we surely do appreciate your presence.

The first Sunday of October was Rally Day at the Collins Local. A spiritual feast was enjoyed as well as the feast prepared for our bodies by the ladies. We heard of the sweet unity of brotherhood, how we are stronger when we work together and that we must cling fast to the Rod of Iron, God's word. Some spoke of their thankfulness in many areas, especially those who had sickness in their families, that they were thankful for our prayers. Some spoke of the beautiful promise of being with our Lord after death.

Apostle Leon Yates spoke to us in the morning service telling us to train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it. A child left to himself will bring his mother shame. Elder Eugene Gould was the afternoon speaker, telling us to seek earnestly for God's guidance.

The day was exceptionally beautiful weatherwise and even more so in the spiritual sense. We much enjoyed fellowshiping with those of our brothers and sisters from the various locals represented.

This has been a busy month in the Addie household and also with church happenings and visitors. Our second son, Mike, his wife, Brenda, and their daughter, Angela, came to visit from California where they make their home in Riverside. Our three children, Cheryl Renly, and daughters, Jeannette Rogers and daughter, and Walt all came down from Wisconsin on a long weekend to meet here with us and their brother. While they were here that Sunday, their father, Virgil, was ordained to the office of Elder in a brief but memorable service with laying on of hands by our pastor, Elder John Jones. Thelma Barke and daughter, Janeen, joined us for a family dinner. Janeen is Martin's finance.

On the 28th Marvin Case was our guest speaker. He told us how God chooses to direct His ministry, which words to use, which thoughts to be presented, which questions to be answered. "Today I felt led to the plan of redemption," he told us.

Dinner was held in the church basement after the morning services with much congenial conversation. Later that afternoon, Greg Phillips of Ava, Mo. was baptized in the clear sparkling waters of Indian Creek just a couple of miles south of here. It was a beautiful fall day and a goodly crowd witnessed the ceremony and sang with joyful hearts that another young man had joined us and became one of Christ's own. Welcome, Greg. May the Lord walk with you each day from here on. Confirmation was held back to the

church a short time later with all offering Greg good wishes and the "hand of fellowship."

We've had many guests with us during the month: the Eugene Goulds, Frank Fanns and daughter, Candy Smith, Judy Jonson, Clifton Engles and son, Roger with his finance, Peggy Lezak. Roger and Peggy announced their plans for a Thanksgiving Day wedding in our local church. We all wish you a happy life with many blessings from our Heavenly Father. Other guests were Greg Phillips, Margaret Heiden, John Jones' sister from California, Marita Mendenhall, Harold and Alzada Massey.

Your Houston Reporter,
Mary Addie

TODAY

By Alfred A. Montapert

This is the beginning of a fresh new day,
I greet it with hope.

Today comes only once, and never again returns,
I must show my love and be kind.

God has given me this twenty-four hours to use as I will,
I shall have a cheerful attitude.

I must do something good with this day and
not waste it.

This is my day of opportunity and duty, I expect something good because I am going to help make it happen!

Today is a new day in my life, a new piece of road to be travelled, I must ask God for directions.

Today I will be filled with courage and confidence,
I must show my faith in God.

What I do today is very important because I am exchanging a day of my life for it.

The cost of a thing is the amount of my life
I spend obtaining it.

When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever,
leaving in its place something I have traded for it.

In order not to forget the price I paid for it, I shall do my best to make it useful, profitable, joyful.

The seeds I plant today determine my harvest in the future, my life will be richer or poorer by the way I use today.

Thank you God for today, I shall not pass this way again -

What I must do - I'll do today!

Cheerfulness and content are great beautifiers and are famous preservers of good looks.

—Dickens.

He is your friend who will befriend you when you're friendless.

—Edith G. Frazer

LET NOT LOVE ROB

I knelt before the mercy seat
And plead your cause -
That grace be mete, for all your need,
And pain and grief, kept alien.
Then came whispers - light as breath
'Would ye thus rob these ye claim to love?
'After tribulation cometh the blessing'.
As Physician, my eye alone sees where the canker lies
That bespeaks death -
My hand alone must guide the scalpel
Lest it cut too shallow - or too deep.
As Husbandman, my eye alone must judge symmetry,
My hand hold the pruning knife
That bloom and fruitage be.
As Shepherd, I must choose each pathway,
In pastures fair, o'er mountains steep,
Or down, down into the valley of shadows -
My hand alone must lead; until -
As Savior, I look, and see each dear one
Created in my image - for whom my blood was shed -
Now bears my likeness.
Would ye by importuning rob them of this?
Or beyond this - of that greatest of all privilege -
To bring me praise out of pain?
Just trust me; leave to my love and care
There about whom thy care and love entwineth."

HOW TO BE HAPPY

Synopsis Of A Sermon By Apostle James E. Yates

Delivered In The Church of Christ At

Phoenix, Arizona

(Reported in part only)

Text: "Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help." Psa. 146:5.

Finding the way to be happy is one of the important things to learn.

Physical comforts, as we all know, contribute to contentment and are necessary to the best interests of life here upon the earth. But true happiness is a condition of mind and of spirit which is dependent more upon things unseen by the natural eye, than upon material things. Many persons, whose physical conditions and surroundings are almost ideal, are not happy. Standing back of all their ample supplies and of their abundance of material things that are desirable and which make for comfort, there is a mystic yet very certain pall, like some cloud through which true rays of happiness seldom, if ever, penetrate.

Upon the other hand, it is altogether possible that some who suffer from poverty, and who are in physical discomfort, and even in bodily distress, may still be in possession of that marvelously magic power which brings to them measures of real happiness not enjoyed by many who are in better circumstances. For real happiness is based more upon an inner consciousness of spiritual well-being and of right relationship of the soul with God than upon any mere physical condition. This fact may be demonstrated daily to any one who will take the pains to note the nature of their own feelings within the heart which come as a result of having acted in any important instance according to the highest concept of right that they know, or of having failed to do so. Consciousness of having acted in any matter contrary to one's best understanding of right is destructive of those finer and more delightful feelings of well-being known as happiness.

This is true up to the point where the conscience becomes seared or dulled by repeated wrong doing. The Apostle Paul mentions some "**Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron.**" No sin will sear the conscience quicker than

lying. They with conscience so seared and calloused may enjoy **carnal pleasure**, but not **real happiness**.

"Holding the mystery of faith in a pure conscience." (1 Tim. 3:9) True happiness is a living plant which must have its roots settled in the soil of an undefiled conscience. When the conscience is knowingly defiled, the dove of happiness takes its flight. It returns only when by repentance the conscience is cleansed. "**As for such as turn aside unto their crooked ways, the Lord shall lead them forth with the workers of iniquity.**" (Psa. 125:5) The ripened fruit of the works of iniquity always proves to be the very farthest thing from true happiness. "**Happy is the people, whose God is the Lord.**" (Psa. 144:15)

In the book of Nehemiah, 8:10, we read: "**Neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the Lord is your strength.**" Now if being "sorry" is not a good condition of mind to enhance one's strength, it is a good plan to avoid doing things which must cause sorrow. Sin, when its real nature is revealed, and its natural fruit is matured, is always something for which to be sorry. Sin always increases weakness, and not strength. Right living increases joy; and the joy of the Lord in you, is your strength. Joy is: "Exhilaration of spirit." - "Gladness." When you lose your joy in the Lord, you lose your moral strength. That is a greater loss than the mere loss of physical strength. Many things that may seem small or insignificant impair joy, and reduce strength. Likewise all thoughts and deeds of right, whether small or great, increase joy, multiply strength, and thereby the delicious fruit of true happiness may be enjoyed in spirit within the souls of men.

This is God's way; and it is the only way that mankind may be really happy. The kingdom of God is Righteousness, Peace, Joy in the Holy Ghost. (Rom. 14:17) The fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, Long-suffering, and happiness withal.

(Zion's Advocate, Vol. 11, No. 3, May, 1934)

Fear to do base, unworthy things is valor; if they be done to us, to suffer them is valor, too.

—Ben Johnson

The man who does little things well is always ready to do the big things better. —Selected

THINK ABOUT IT

The book 'Angel at Her Shoulder' is the account of one, Lillian Dickson, who as a bride accompanied her missionary husband to Taiwan in the early years of the century. Over a span of forty years she worked beside him in converting and establishing christian churches among the mountain peoples of the Island, forty in all, each with their masonry and stone (carried from the river beds up the steep mountain slopes to their settlements) buildings of worship.

In the process of this she saw so much need not accounted for in her husband's commission; nor would his religious organization fund such charities headed by women, so moved with compassion she struck out on her own to do what she could with God providing the means. In the stretch of thirty-five years, (they were evacuated from Taiwan for five years during the war,) she motivated, and personally worked in the establishing of 14 homes for children. Children who were orphans; who were often simply put in prisons to get them off the street; or whose parents were in prison and the children had to go too.

Eight medical clinics for the poor, plus four mobile clinics.

Five Maternity inpatient clinics, to cut down the high mortality rate among mothers and babies at birth.

Three TB Sanitariums.

One hundred eighty-seven schools and kindergartens.

Thirty free milk and vitamin stations.

Besides which she reorganized the national Leprosarium, and helped reorganize two prisons.

At one time she was in the states to seek funds for one of the children's homes, a place to move the children of lepers to, to avoid them contracting the disease, and visited the head of a charitable organization with which she had shared some work in Taiwan, explaining her need. Her answer was that their funds were already budgeted to the full, and that they were not into leprosy work. Undaunted she said that in that case if they had any donations come marked for leprosy they should be able to give them to her, she needed \$18,000 dollars. She was told that their funds never came specified for particular types of work. She left and the very next day there came to this man's desk a check for \$18,000 marked for leprosy. Stunned, his exclamation was, "That woman isn't working for God, she has God working for her," and he sent her the check.

Think about it, what does the past thirty-five years show for your life, your group, your Church?

CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Dear Saints:

As time passes and we are nearing April Conference, when the matter of church government is to be considered, my mind dwells on the subject, and I have been searching the Scriptures to find if possible how business was transacted in the church which Christ established during his life on earth. Last April, 1929, I declined to act as a delegate to General Conference, as I favored an Elders' Conference, and I do not approve of the delegate system.

While reading up on the subject in the Bible, I find in Acts 1:1-26, the record of a meeting held for the purpose of choosing and ordaining an apostle to take the place of Judas who betrayed Christ. After Christ ascended, the apostles returned to the upper room (their meeting place) and continued in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, and his brethren.

In verse fifteen it says: "The number of names together were about an hundred and twenty." This shows it was a meeting of the followers of Christ, and not picked delegates, nor was it just elders and others

of the priesthood, but it was just those who could be there. "And they appointed (or nominated, M. M.) two, Joseph called Barsabas, and Matthias. And they prayed and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, show which of these two thou hast chosen, . . . and they gave forth their lots (or cast their vote M. M.); and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles." This act of choosing an apostle to fill a vacancy in the apostolic quorum was the first church business transaction after Jesus left them, and his teachings were fresh in their minds, and the record plainly states there were women and others to the number of one hundred and twenty; not chosen delegates, but a mass meeting where everyone present took part and cast their lot, or voted.

John 3:27 says: "A man can receive nothing except it be given him of heaven." Proverbs 16:33 says: "The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposition thereof is of the Lord." We may elect men, but God disposes of the matter. To my mind we need go no further in search of a rule for church government. If we will each and every one meet together in prayer and supplication and ask God to direct our minds how

to vote, instead of trusting in the advice of a man to dictate how we shall vote, God will direct in our affairs. Clause 13 of The Articles of Faith and Practice of the Church of Christ states: "We believe in the same church organization as existed in the time of Christ and his apostles . . ."

Now I believe a mass conference or General Assembly is the best way as it was used by his first apostles and church. Since we have the same church organization, why not use the same form of church government? Not all of us can attend Conference every day it is in session however much we'd like to, and I for one would like to feel when I am present that I have an equal right with all present. If we could lay aside suspicion of each other and trust one another more, I believe it would help to clear away the dark clouds which sometimes hover over our conferences.

I do believe the apostles and elders and others of priesthood should have priesthood meetings apart from the members. Jesus established this by taking his disciples apart from the multitude to counsel them. (Mat-

thew 20:17, 28; 16:20) When Jesus spoke to the multitude he spoke in parables. "But without a parable spake he not unto them, and when they were alone he expounded all things to his disciples. (Mark 4:34; Matt. 13:31-43)

God does not reveal His will publicly but to those whom He has chosen, and they are to be witnesses to us from Him. I like to believe that our apostles and elders are righteous, Godfearing men, whom God will direct in the work of His Church. God has always elected a few to lead the rest of His people; likewise His people have often been rebellious. Let us be one.

Some will say that all organizations use the delegate system in transacting business; yet, that is the way of the world; but God's ways are not man's ways. God's ways are so much better if we will only abide by them. Let us take the Spirit of Christ with us when we go up to Conference and let that Spirit direct us how to vote.

Miriam Haldeman Mason

("Zion's Advocate", Vol. 7, No. 4, March 15, 1930)

ONE DAY AT A TIME

One day at a time, we're given to live;
to enjoy, to fill, to labor or grieve in;
Only this day, we know not there'll be another;
each moment is fleeting, each moment is precious;
'Twill never return to be changed or relived,
'tis used now to it's fullest or ever is lost.

One day at a time; this day we have only -
Yesterday is gone, only in memory lives on.
Seek to this day, all the Lord allows in it;
nor steal from tomorrow it's labors or joys,
Nor grieve for it's sorrows or borrow it's worries;
Today live today, drink deep of it's offering.

One day at a time, howe'er heavy, its burden
can be borne for one day, God's grace added to.
'Tis not today's sorrows that break or o'erwhelm us,
but in adding tomorrow's - the dreaded unknown.
Just live out today, tomorrow may rise for us
on that far distant shore to which loved ones have
gone.

One day at a time, 'tis given for living,
for laboring and loving and praising the Lord;
So lived that the world be blest that we lived it;
that if summoned home, 'ere sunset, 'ere sunrise,
There will be naught to mar our small share in it.
Live as we will wish, should it prove our last.

WEDDING

Engle - Lezak

The Church of Christ's chapel at the Houston Local was the setting for the exchange of wedding vows between Roger Engle and Peggy Lezak on Thanksgiving Day, November 22, 1979.

The couple was attended by Kathy Lezak, sister of of the bride, and Donnie Clinton, friend of the groom. The bride was attired in a lovely, long white double-knit gown and wore white daisies in her hair.

Darlene Engle, sister of the groom sang, "You Light Up My Life," immediately after the vows were exchanged.

Elder John H. Jones performed the double ring ceremony. It was the first wedding in our little church.

A bountiful Thanksgiving dinner was served in the church basement afterwards to all attending.

Roger is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Engle and the grandson of Apostle and Mrs. Archie F. Bell.

The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise high with the occasion.

—Abraham Lincoln

An Item of Interest

A missionary boarded a jet flying to Rome. He sat beside a man who was sitting alone. When they were airborne they began talking together. The missionary was surprised when this companion said, "I can hardly wait to get to Rome." The man replied, "I am an astronomer. I am on my way to Rome for a meeting of all the top astronomers of the world. There are great and fearful things taking place in the heavens; so much so that if the people of the earth knew about them they would be overcome with fear. The greatest phenomenon of all is what we astronomers have named, the Bethlehem of the Skies."

The missionary with great excitement asked, "What is the Bethlehem of the Skies?" The astronomer replied, "For the first time in almost two thousand years the stars, planets and constellations are shifting and changing their courses so that they are coming back into the same position that they were in the night that Christ was born. And when they have finished the great shifting they will be in the exact position again. We astronomers do not know what this means but we do know that some climactic earth-shaking event is about to take place."

It was at this point the missionary said, "Sir, I am a missionary, a servant of God. Before you arrive at your convention, I can answer your questions and wonderings. Upon the authority of God's word, the Lord Jesus Christ is soon to appear the second time. These signs that you see in the skies are God's way of warning the nations that the time is at hand."

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Note: Twenty-six years ago on Mt. Palomar, the astronomers after comparing notes decided they saw something with lights, that looked like a city coming down from heaven.

FLASH: Astronomers throughout the world are excited about signals they are getting from outer space. They are not sure, but they think they are coming from a star not yet visible, but is four and one third light years from this earth.

OBITUARIES

Winfield Lewis Gould

Winfield Lewis Gould was born on December 29, 1904 to Leon and Alice E. Gould in Lamoni, Iowa, and passed from this life on December 11, 1979 at Cox Medical Center in Springfield, Missouri.

He was baptized into the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints on July 6, 1913, transferring his membership to the Church of Christ in 1929. He was ordained to the office of Teacher on July 31, 1932.

Winfield was united in marriage to Elizabeth Fox in Baltimore, Maryland on April 11, 1949. 12 children were born to this union. He was preceded in death by

his parents and his two older sisters, Leona Nerren of Denver, Colorado and Phyllis Black of Bemidji, Minnesota. He leaves to mourn his passing, Elizabeth, 2 step-daughters, Donna Johnson of Bemidji, Minn., and Gloria Bentson with husband, Gary, of Coates, Minn.; 7 sons, William of Pamona, Calif.; Jon and wife, Jeanine of Farmington, Minn.; Michael of Bemidji, Minn.; Samuel and wife, Linda, of Knoxville, Tenn.; Enoch of Cheyenne, Wyoming; Peter and Stephen of Long Lane, Missouri; 5 daughters, Nana Gill and husband, John, of Rosemont, Minn.; Evelyn Eddy and husband, Merlin, of Apple Valley, Minn.; Lisa Brown with husband, Bill, and Leah Ferrier with husband, Doug, of Conway, Missouri; and Bethany of Long Lane, Mo.; also 3 brothers, Arlo and Donovan of Bemidji, Minn.; and Eugene of Long Lane, Missouri; and 5 sisters, Lovita Seibel of Cherokee, North Carolina, Darleen Smith of Ava, Mo., Stella Winegar of Columbia Falls, Montana, Helen Taubert of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Amy Schrader of Bemidji, Minn.; plus 12 grandchildren and a host of other relatives and friends.

At the time of his death Winfield was making his home at Long Lane, Mo. The funeral service was held at the Liberty Methodist Church of Long Lane and interment was in the Church cemetery. Elder Joseph Yates of Preston, Mo. officiated.

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Cora Bogle

Our Mother, Mrs. Cora Bogle of Crestwynd, Sask., Canada left us November 27, 1979 in her 92nd year. She had been faithful to her covenant all her life.

She is sadly missed by her thirty-four descendants. Apostle Marvin Ely was in charge of the service.

Looking forward and up,
Violet Coulter (daughter)

Thomas Arthur Sheldon

Thomas Arthur Sheldon, 81, of 516 North Osage, Independence, Missouri, died Tuesday, December 25, 1979, at Veterans Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri. Graveside services were held Thursday, December 27, 1979, at Salem Cemetery in Independence, Missouri, with Elder J. M. Case presiding.

Mr. Sheldon was born in York, Nebraska, and had lived in the Greater Kansas City area 50 years. He was a member of the RLDS Stone Church, the Independence Eagles Lodge and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1000.

His survivors include his wife, Atla Sheldon of the home; two sons, Arthur A. Sheldon, San Jose, California, and William A. Sheldon, Independence, Missouri; a daughter, Virginia R. Neely, Independence, Missouri; two sisters, Alice Wright, Raytown, Missouri, and Gladys Smith, Independence, Missouri; seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Mr. Sheldon was the father of Apostle William A. Sheldon.

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 1980 Minister's Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 20th, 21st and 22nd at Independence, Missouri.

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Articles, sermons, poems, news 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.

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