

# 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

Independence, Missouri, August, 1980

No. 8

## Tithing



As time goes by  
We wonder why  
God doesn't bless us all.  
And yet we know  
That we must show  
That we have heard His call.

We fail each day  
Our debt to pay;  
One tenth of all we earn.  
We must not wait  
'Till it's too late  
Before we read and learn.

We must believe  
That we'll receive  
His blessings from above.  
And that we'll share  
His peace so rare,  
Through His great heart of Love.

Mary Smith

God says to man,  
"Give all you can;  
My temple you must build.  
The end is near,  
The harvest here,  
The earth with sin is filled.

We must obey  
His will today,  
And sacrifice our all'  
And do our part  
Sincere of heart,  
And not hesitate or stall.

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## ORIGINAL ARTICLES

All individual articles published in this paper are opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the teachings of the Church or the opinions of the Editorial Staff.

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## Editorial . . .

### HARVEST TIME

As summer reaches its peak, we find ourselves in the time of harvest when the farmers begin to gather their crops for market. This ingathering of crops will continue throughout the summer months and into late fall when each of its own kind — grains, fruits, and vegetables — will have ripened in its season.

The Lord, in His own special way, has used the harvest season to describe certain points of importance in the scriptures and prophecies. Most well known of these scriptures is the parable of the sower (Matt. 13:24-30, 37-43). When tares were sown among the wheat by the enemy (the devil), both the tares and the wheat were let to grow together until the time of harvest which is the end of the world. The tares (children of the wicked one) will be gathered in bundles and burned, but the wheat (children of the kingdom) will be gathered into His barn (kingdom).

This harvest was also shown to John through revelation when he saw one like unto the Son of man thrust in his sharp sickle and reap the earth. He was told that ". . . the time is come for thee to reap: for the harvest of the earth is ripe." (Rev. 14:15)

The inevitableness of this great harvest causes us to reflect seriously on the need to be those who are bearing fruit. Unlike the tares which look like wheat but never bear useful grain, each stock of wheat develops a head with an average of fifty grains in it. As it ripens, it turns a golden-brown color which is a

sign to the farmer that he must prepare for the harvest. It must be harvested at the proper time or the crop will be lost as the grain falls to the earth making it impossible to gather.

As the wheat is harvested, it goes through a threshing process which removes the husk and unusable parts. This can be said to be the process that each of us goes through if we are to present our lives and our works to the Lord. We are to remove the humanness and carnal wills that hide our good qualities.

We are told that wheat is the world's most important food crop. This shows again the Lord's wisdom in choosing that which typifies most accurately the value of His gospel as it truly is the spiritual staple of the earth.

Another type we find in the scriptures is the term "first fruits" which is used to depict those that the Lord looks on with special favor. As we gather our fruits, vegetables, etc., we always notice that the first to bear are usually the best and most desirable. This indicates that those who seek the Lord early in life and remain faithful to the end are most choice to Him.

The Lord also used the harvest time to typify the work that He commissioned His disciples to do (John 4:35-38) telling them that the fields were white already to harvest. He repeated this commission in latter day revelation: "Behold the field is white already to harvest, therefore, whoso desireth to reap, let him thrust in his sickle with his might, and reap while the day lasts, that he may treasure up for his soul everlasting salvation in the kingdom of God: yea, whosoever will thrust

in his sickle and reap, the same is called of God: therefore, if you will ask of me you shall receive; if you will knock it shall be opened unto you." (Book of Commandments 12:2)

This proves to us that there were certain times or dispensations when the gospel was to be preached and during these times certain conditions were right to convert the peoples of the earth. This is all according to the wisdom of God.

The gospel came forth in Joseph Smith's time known

as the eleventh hour dispensation and it has remained with us until the present time. We are still under that special commission to thrust in our sickles with our might. As we consider our present situation, we find the words of Christ to his disciples of great importance to us: "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." (Matt. 9:37, 38) Let us make this our sincere prayer.

RLS

## " . . . A MORE EXCELLENT WAY"

I once read a little story which is a very good example of our modern way of life.

There was a couple in California who found their dwelling unsatisfactory, so they decided to move. Soon after, they saw an advertisement that offered a house for sale. It described the house in such an attractive manner that they decided to buy it. When they wrote to the Real Estate agent they discovered that the house they wanted to buy was the one they were living in. It hadn't seemed so attractive to them until they read the description someone else had written about it.

Our lives, sometimes, give us that same feeling. We feel that our place in life is unsatisfactory. Our problems and troubles become so complex that we cannot live with them.

What we need is not a different location or a different social position in which to live. We do need a new and better perspective of life from where we now stand. We may need to make some changes in our way of living. We may need to improve our relations with our neighbors. We may need to exercise more charity toward those less fortunate than we. We may need to assume more responsibility for the progress of our church.

Whether it be a life or a house there are always improvements that can be added which will make it more attractive. Life will be much more attractive to us if we put our trust and faith in God, and live by the description of life as Christ would write it.

Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me." John 14:1)

A cure for a troubled and dissatisfied heart is belief in God. The heart that is faithful, putting its trust in God can be untroubled because it will be able to rise above the circumstances of daily life. No outward storm can disturb the inner peace that God gives to those who put all their trust in Him.

There is a story of four men who climbed a mountain to see a view.

The first wore new and expensive shoes which did not fit, and he complained constantly of his feet.

The second had a greedy eye and kept wishing for

this house or that farm.

The third saw clouds and worried for fear it would rain.

The fourth really saw the marvelous view. His mountain top experience was looking away from the valley out of which he had climbed to higher things.

True perspective of life is not looking back at what we have done, nor rationalizing our worth and our rewards upon complaints or worry or fear. It is looking into the future to perceive what can be done, regardless of the past, and finally coming into the sanctuary of God.

How do we come into the sanctuary of God? Like David (Ps. 73), we must re-evaluate our perspective of life and bring things into the proper relationship between ourselves and God.

We have the promise of Christ, "I am with you always," if we obey His commandments. We must obey in word and in deed. Not only in outward religious duties but in the depth of our own hearts. If we love God with all our heart, soul and mind, only then are we giving Him a chance to make our lives beautiful and full. Only then will we know that we are in the right house, the house of God.

EJM

(Reprint from Zion's Advocate, May, 1964)

## GOING TO CHURCH

Some folks go to church  
just for the walk  
Some go there to laugh  
and to talk.  
Some go there for observation,  
Some go there for concentration.  
Some go there to gain a lover,  
Some go there their faults to cover.  
Some go there to sleep and nod,  
'But few go there to worship God.

(unknown - found among my 'recepies for living'  
Velma Wheaton)

## THE NAME OF THE CHURCH

In these references there is no intention of downgrading any church, but to state the facts as they are found in the Bible, Book of Mormon and Covenants and Commandments. James 1:27: "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this. To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction and to keep himself unspotted from the vices of the world."

We have faith in the Lord in different degrees, and I believe that all good Christians that believe in the Lord will be saved to some degree. The gospel in the restoration has a decided effect on most religion. They now teach the love of God while formally they taught the fear of God. The teaching of love will do a lot more good than the teaching of fear.

I just finished reading the Book of Mormon and Covenant and Commandments. I will refer to the Book of Mormon first; page 672, verse 13, "And they who were baptized in the name of Jesus were called the Church of Christ." We find in verses 16-18: "And they said unto him Lord we will that thou wouldest tell us the name whereby we shall call this church; for there are disputations among the people concerning this matter, and the Lord said unto them; Verily, verily, I say unto you, why is it that the people should murmur and dispute because of this thing? Have they not read the scriptures which say, ye must take upon you the name of Christ, which is my name, for by this name shall ye be called at the last day and whoso taketh upon him my name and endureth to the end, the same shall be saved at the last day."

We read on page 681, verses 17-20: "And it came to pass that the thirty and fourth year passed away, and also the thirty and fifth, and behold the disciples of Jesus had formed a church of Christ in all the lands round about: and it came to pass that there was no contention in the land because of the love of God which did dwell in the hearts of the people; and there were no envyings, nor strifes, nor tumults, nor whoredoms, nor lyings, nor murders, nor any manner of lasciviousness. And surely there could not be a happier people among all the people who had been created by the hand of God. There were no robbers nor murderers, neither were there Lamanites, nor any manner of ites, but they were in one, the children of Christ, and heirs to the kingdom of God." Page 633, verses 25, 26: "And now behold these are the words which ye shall say calling them by name, saying: Having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen, and then shall ye immerse them in the water and come forth again out of the water."

We find that they had twelve disciples the same as they had in the old country. And we find in the Book of Mormon there were some 15 to 20 times after Christ came on page 633 that the church was called the church of Christ, and in fact, I never saw where it was ever called anything but the church of Christ. And I think the church should be called the "Church

of Christ Restored" today as it has been restored.

Page 684, verses 26-29, 31, 35: "And now I, Mormon, would that ye should know that the people had multiplied insomuch that they were spread upon all the face of the land, and that they had become exceeding rich because of their prosperity in Christ, and now in this two hundred and first year there began to be among them those who were lifted up in pride, such as the wearing of costly apparel, and all manner of fine pearls and of the fine things of the world, and from that time forth they did have their goods and their substance no more common among them, and they began to be divided into classes and they began to build up churches unto themselves to get gain and began to deny the true church of Christ. And it came to pass that when two hundred and ten years had passed away, there were many churches in the land; yea, there were many churches which professed to know the Christ and yet they did deny the more part of his gospel, insomuch that they did receive all manner of wickedness, and did administer that which was sacred unto him to whom it had been forbidden because of unworthiness. And again there was another church which denied the Christ; and they did persecute the true church of Christ because of their humility and their belief in Christ, and they did despise them, because of the many miracles which were wrought among them. And they did cast them into furnaces of fire, and they came forth receiving no harm; and they also cast them into dens of wild beasts, and they did play with the wild beasts even as a child with a lamb; and they did come forth from among them, receiving no harm."

We find these words in the Covenants and Commandments in section 17, par. 1: "The rise of the Church of Christ in these last days, being one thousand, eight hundred and thirty years since the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the flesh." And it was called the Church of Christ in the Covenants and Commandments from the time the church was organized unto page 239 (Section 108A) at a general assembly of the Church of Latter Day Saints. On page 240 in the 4th para., it was again called the Church of Latter Day Saints. Then on page 244 it is called the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and again on page 249 it is called by the same name, but we do not believe it was spoken under inspiration as on page 250 it was again called the Church of Christ of Latter Day Saints. In Sec. 113 it is called the Reorganized Church. The name of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is still the name that is used by the Mormons. Since the organization of the Church back in 1830, we believe the name should be the same, as the Lord doesn't change. And we still believe that Church should be called the "Church of Christ, Restored", as it is a Restored Church. And we have found in our study that they went two at a time, that is the ministers, and we believe in this also.

Your respectfully,  
V. A. Verhei

## JESUS IS COMING SOON

Jesus' coming is so near, but who is he coming to? We have been shown that He cannot come in unto us and sup with us. Why? Because we are lacking in charity; we are not filled with pure love one toward another.

The believers in Christ all over the world are being persecuted and killed for Christ. Yet what are we doing? We, who claim to be Christ's Restored Church, are battling among ourselves over one thing or another.

Christ did restore His church with the fulness of His gospel. He brought back the new and everlasting covenant to build up His church, not to tear it down. His church consisted of the people whose hearts were right before Him. It consisted of all those who loved the Lord and whose hearts were staid on Him.

The fulness of His gospel, His new and everlasting covenant, was restored to bring enlightenment to the minds of the people, and to open their understanding which had been darkened because of creeds and doctrines of men, and to usher in the true brotherhood of man. This is the Zion which many have wept for, a place of righteousness where His will is done on earth as it is done in heaven, and the place of safety and refuge for His true followers, who are all people who love Jesus Christ the Savior of mankind. If we love Him we will have love one for another. We cannot love Jesus and hate our brother or sister: We cannot love Jesus and have anger toward our brother or sister.

Jesus called servants into His restored church that they might go into all the world to bring souls into His light, that they might hear and believe and be saved, and that through giving their lives to Christ and repenting of all their sins He might heal them. Though he cannot save us in our sins, yet He is mighty to save when we repent and call upon His name and give our heart and life to Him. Our safety will only be found in Christ and on Zion's Hill, for Zion's Hill belongs to Christ.

Christ's church is not apostles, bishops, elders, priests, teachers, etc, but these are His servants called to carry forth His gospel to a sinful world, to bring salvation to souls lost in sin that they might hear and know and be saved by the blood of Jesus which He shed on the cross for them. There is no salvation except through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ the Son of the Living God. Jesus died that we might have eternal life in Him. If we will come in faith believing, calling upon His name, He will come in and abide in us and we in Him.

Christ's church is not the wine or the broken bread; these are the emblems of His broken body and spilt blood which He has prepared for us that we might partake of them in remembrance of what He has done for us and so that we might have life in Him. In so doing we renew our covenant which we made when we gave our lives to Him to serve Him always.

Christ's church is not the oil, but this is one of His blessed ordinances that we might use this consecrated oil in prayer for a blessing at His hands.

His church is not songs, but these sacred songs are a rich blessing given us to keep our hearts and minds staid on Him.

Christ's church is not scriptures that we should dispute over them, but He has given and preserved them that we might have them to teach us His commandments. They also teach us the way of salvation that we might read and see and know of Him and His gospel. We must study them with much prayer and seek to know Him.

Christ's church is not creeds and forms and rituals and doctrines. Christ's Church is people who love Him and seek earnestly to follow Him, having love one for another and for all people, such as Jesus has for each one of us.

His church is not money. His church is not material gains. All of these things can be swept away in a moment. We need not fear if we are His church and if we are filled with love. If this be so then are we truly His church here on earth. He says if ye are not one ye are not mine. So we know we are not wholly His when we are battling among ourselves.

If we are ever able to settle what we think His church consists of (which is impossible without the love of Jesus in our hearts one toward another), I fear we would then look around us and see that Jesus was not here. If we had not completely blinded ourselves by our battlings we perhaps could glimpse in the distance our Savior with the brokenhearted, the lame, the halt, the blind, the sick, the lonely, the destitute, and the sinners from all walks of life who are hearing of Jesus and His saving grace through the servants whom He has called. While we have been battling, these servants are going throughout the world proclaiming Jesus and His love (His saving grace), that all who believe on Him might come and be saved. He came to save the sinners. We all may come unto Him and receive salvation if we will come with a broken heart and a contrite spirit and repent of every sin. Then He can come into our lives and make us whole.

Your sister in Christ,  
Stella Winegar

### IF WE COULD ONLY SEE

If we could glimpse life's inner grace  
In those we daily meet,  
Or read beneath the mask-like face  
We pass upon the street,

The judgment we so quickly form  
Might very different be,  
For we would love where now we scorn  
If we could only see.

Selected

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

A couple of questions:

Is your Book of Commandments the exact same wording as the RLDS Heritage Reprint?

Do you follow the original instructions given in BC 44:26 which call for consecrating of all properties? (as found in July 1832 Evening and Morning Star)

When was "Changing of the Revelations" by MacGregor written?

Do you practice tithing? If not what are your general beliefs concerning stewardship?

Thank you,

An Interested Party

Dear Brother:

Your card of May 1 arrived and I have accumulated information to answer the questions you propounded to the best of my ability. First I might tell you that as Business Manager of the General Church, I am an elder in the Church and a member of the General Bishopric who are the trustees in trust of church properties and the administrators in temporal affairs.

My father, Apostle Clarence L. Wheaton, was a member of the Council of Apostles from 1925 when they were reinstated by the Church of Christ on the Temple Lot as the ones selected by revelation in the 1850's through John E. Page at Bloomington, Illinois, had all passed on and their successors as well, until his death in 1976. In the early 1900's my father, as a young man, was pastor of the Temple Lot local and Presiding Elder of the General Church, and as such had always taught the consecration law set forth in the Book of Commandments and those revelations in the Doctrine and Covenants which the Church had accepted at that time, as he understood it, and was instrumental in getting through the conference several resolutions authorizing the Bishops to proceed to administer the affairs of the Church temporarily in harmony with these revelations. I am very sorry to have to tell you that this is about all that we have actually done. We have not really been able to have enough people converted to the consecration laws set forth in the Book of Commandments, Chapter 44, Chapter 51, so that we could put it into operation to any great extent, although throughout the Church from time to time several groups have endeavored to put it into effect in their local areas, some to a greater or lesser degree of success. But at the present time, the main temporal law which we do observe, is the law of tithing which we interpret to be one-tenth of one's increase. This increase has been further interpreted as the net income, in this industrial age, when the taxes have been paid and the normal expenses of operating a business where this is applicable. We believe that living expenses of a family should be taken out of the nine-tenths which we have left. However, we do not make any effort to try to literally enforce

this interpretation, but leave it to the consciences of of the people, whether they abide by this strictly, or allow part of their other expenses to be considered necessary and thus exempt of further tithe as most of the other divisions of the Restoration have it interpreted.

In the conference on October 19 in 1925 in Independence, Missouri the following resolution was adopted by the Church.

"Resolved it is the sense of this body, that it be recommended for acceptance of the Church as a whole, that there be an observance of the principle of consecration of all one's property to the Church, to be followed by tithing one-tenth of one's income."

On April 11, 1927 at a General Conference of the Church, the following resolution was also adopted.

"It was resolved that the conference endorse and approve the duties, responsibilities, prerogatives of the Bishops as stated in Chapters 44 and 51 of the Book of Commandments."

In 1937, the following was adopted.

"Resolved that we look with favor upon groups of members of the Church of Christ, everywhere, being encouraged to work along the lines of cooperative endeavor, in the establishment of greater security in the temporal affairs of their lives."

On April 10, 1950 the Joint Council of Twelve and the Bishopric presented the following resolution which was adopted by the conference.

"Inasmuch as the Church of Christ has expressed its belief in the practice of tithing, a tenth of one's income, therefore be it resolved that it be the sense of the General Bishopric that tithing as referred to in the scripture means one-tenth of one's net income, (one's income after the actual cost of producing the income)."

"We therefore, call upon all members of the Church to send your tithes and offerings into the storehouse that there may be meat in the Lord's house and that the work of the Lord may prosper."

"Our purpose in the above was that we might, in unity, send this forth to the Church at the present, that the confusion in the minds of some may be resolved to the extent that they may again begin to temporally support the work."

"We went further in defining the cost of producing that income as follows:

"That one's house expense and living expense would not be considered as necessary to producing that income."

Since that time the Church has received greater support from the people and while we have not yet been able to come to a workable conclusion over our understanding and interpretation of the so-called consecration law these are the positions which the Church has taken and the direction in which we have endeavored to guide the people in their consideration of their temporal affairs. We have always considered, as set forth in the scriptures, Chapter 5:1-11, Book of Acts, at the time that they were selling property and placing it at the feet of the Apostles as the Apostle Peter said to Ananias at that time. "Why has Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and keep back part of the price of the land? While it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? . . . Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God." So we believe that all members of the Church are stewards over their own property or that which has come under their control. We do encourage the study and prayerful consideration of the revelations that have been given with continual reference to the scriptures that we might come to a more perfect understanding of these principles of the gospel.

As to when the changing of the revelations by Daniel MacGregor was written, I am not able to determine. He transferred into the Church of Christ about 1926 or 1927 from the Reorganized Church when the "25 conference had adopted what it commonly referred to as "Supreme Directional Control." He became quite prominent in the Church of Christ as a missionary doing an effectual work to bring many honest in heart out of the divisions of the Restoration to the Church of Christ. At the very beginning of his work with the Church of Christ, these changes in the revelations had been published in various forms from time to time. They have been compiled at the present time, in a pamphlet for distribution to the public. Also, my father has prepared a treatise on this covering some of the more detailed aspects of the printing of the Book of Commandments and the changing of the revelations in the little booklet entitled "The Book of Commandments Controversy Reviewed" which is currently available from the Church office.

I have not had the opportunity of comparing word for word the photographic reprint of the book of Commandments with the RLDS Heritage reprints but I do have a copy of it as do several other elders and members of the Church who have not as yet made a detailed review of it. The Book of Commandments which we currently print was copied from a copy of the original Book of Commandments which was in the possession of the Church of Christ and as it states on the fly leaf, was carefully compared with the original and certified to by the committee, Sister Melvina Ritchison and Daniel MacGregor, and we believe that it is in complete harmony as far as humanly possible with the Book of Commandments as published in Jackson County, Missouri in 1833 by W. W. Phelps and Co., even to chapters, paragraphs, words and punctuation.

I would hope that this would answer the questions which you propounded in your post card. If we can be of any further assistance to you we would be happy to hear from you. Be assured of our prayers in your behalf as you study to understand the truth of those things which have come forth in these last days in this great Restoration work, and be assured that we look forward to the time when the honest in heart will be gathered out and work together to accomplish the purposes for which God brought this work forth in this day. May God bless you is our prayer.

Your brother in Christ,  
C. LeRoy Wheaton, Jr.

## A LETTER ON TITHING

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

There is something Jesus has taken out of the word and applied to me as a must: "And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's: it is holy unto the Lord. And if a man will at all redeem ought of his tithes, he shall add thereto the fifth part thereof. And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the Lord." (Lev. 27:30-32) I never knew it went beyond the 10% of our income! But it does.

Then in Mal. 3:8-12, He really tells how important it is to give God what is His: "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed; for ye shall be a delightful land, saith the Lord of hosts."

In verse 9 it says those who won't tithe is cursed. Isn't that heavy — and we wonder why we aren't getting anywhere!

Soon I will have a steady paying job where I can give more! That means a lot to me since it goes to support the ministry and the church.

"For brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another." (Gal. 5:13)

Love in Christ,  
Candy Gentry

The world is composed of givers and takers. The takers may eat better, but the givers sleep better.

## OLIVER COWDERY'S LETTERS NO. 4

To W. W. Phelps:  
Dear Brother:

In my last, published in the third number of the "Advocate," I apologized for the brief manner in which I should be obliged to give, in many instances, the history of this church. Since then yours of Christmas has been received. It was not my wish to be understood that I could not give the leading items of every important occurrence, at least so far as would effect my duty to my fellowmen, in such as contained important information upon the subject of doctrine, and as would render it intelligibly plain; but as there are, in a great house, many vessels, so in the history of a work of this magnitude, many items which would be interesting to those who follow, are forgotten.

You will recollect that I mentined the time of a religious excitement, in Palmyra and vicinity to have been in the fifteenth year of our brother J. Smith, Jr.'s age - - that was an error in the type, it should have been in the seventeenth. You will please remember this correction, as it will be necessary for the full understanding of what will follow in time. This would bring the date down to the year 1823.

I do not deem it to be necessary to write further on the subject of this excitement. It is doubted by many whether any real or essential good ever resulted from such excitement, while others advocate their propriety with warmth.

But if others were not benefited, our brother was urged forward and strengthened in the determination to know for himself of the certainty and reality of pure and holy religion.

And it is only necessary for me to say, that while this excitement continued, he continued to call upon the Lord in secret for a full manifestation of divine approbation, and for, to him, the all important information, if a Supreme being did exist, to have an assurance that he was accepted of him. This, most assuredly, was correct — it was right. The Lord has said, long since, and his word remains steadfast, that to him who knocks it shall be opened, and whosoever will, may come and partake of the waters of life freely.

These sacred and important promises are looked upon in our day as being given, either to another people, or in a figurative form, and consequently require spiritualizing, notwithstanding they are as conspicuously plain, and are meant to be understood according to their literal reading, as those passages which teach us of the creation of the world and of the decree of its Maker to bring its inhabitants to judgment. But to proceed with my narrative.

On the evening of the 21st of September, 1823, previous to retiring to rest, our brother's mind was unusually wrought up on the subject which had so long agitated his mind — his heart was drawn out in fervent prayer, and his whole soul was so lost to every

thing of a temperate nature, that earth, to him, had lost its charms and all he desired was to be prepared in heart to commune with some kind of messenger who could communicate to him the desired information of his acceptance with God.

In this situation hours passed unnumbered — how many or how few I know not, neither is he able to inform me; but supposes it must have been eleven or twelve, and perhaps later, as the noise and bustle of the family, in retiring, had long since ceased. While continuing in prayer for a manifestation in some way that his sins were forgiven; endeavoring to exercise faith in the scriptures, on a sudden a light like that of day, only of a purer and far more glorious appearance and brightness, burst into the room. Indeed, to use his own description, the first sight was as though the house was filled with consuming and unquenchable fire. This sudden appearance of a light so bright, as must naturally be expected, occasioned a shock or sensation visible to the extremities of the body. It was, however, followed with a calmness and serenity of mind, and an overwhelming rapture of joy that surpassed understanding, and in a moment a personage stood before him.

Notwithstanding the room was previously filled with light above the brightness of the sun, as I have before described, yet there seemed to be an additional glory surrounding or accompanying this personage, which shone with an increased degree of brilliancy, of which he was in the midst; and though his countenance was as lightning, yet it was of a pleasing, innocent and glorious appearance, so much so, that every fear was banished from the heart, and nothing but calmness pervaded the soul.

Though fear was banished from his heart, yet his surprise was no less when he heard him declare himself to be a messenger sent by commandment of the Lord, to deliver a special message, and to witness to him that his sins were forgiven, and that his prayers were heard; and that the scriptures might be fulfilled, which say: "God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised, has God chosen; yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things which are, that no flesh should glory in his presence. Therefore, says the Lord, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, even a marvelous work and a wonder; the wisdom of their wise shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent shall be hid; for according to his covenant which he made with his ancient saints, his people, the house of Israel, must come to a knowledge of the gospel, and own that Messiah whom their fathers rejected, and with them the fullness of the Gentiles be gathered in, to rejoice in one fold under one Shepherd."



He then proceeded and gave a general account of the promises made to the fathers, and also gave a history of the aborigines of this country, and said they were literal descendants of Abraham. He represented them as once being an enlightened and intelligent people, possessing a correct knowledge of the gospel and plan of restoration and redemption. He said this history was written and deposited not far from that place, and that it was our brother's privilege, if obedient to the commandments of the Lord, to obtain and translate the same by the means of the Urim and Thummim, which were deposited for that purpose with the record.

A part of the book was sealed, and was not to be opened yet. The sealed part, said he, contains the

same revelation which was given to John upon the isle of Patmos, and when the people of the Lord are prepared, and found worthy, then it will be unfolded unto them.

While describing the place where the record was deposited, he gave a minute relation of it, and the vision of his mind being opened at the same time, he was permitted to view it critically and previously being acquainted with the place, he was able to follow the direction of the vision, afterward, according to the voice of the angel, and obtain the book.

I close for the present by subscribing myself as ever, your brother in Christ.

O. COWDERY

## TO SCATTERED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

The articles I have been writing have been persuading the theme of the kingdom of God, or as I have pointed out, we can refer to it as the church that Jesus said that He would build.

As one of the scriptures that relates to the work of God, even in these last days, it will be of deep interest to us to read Isaiah, chapter two, verses 2-4 as follows:

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow into it. And many people shall go and say, come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

It is generally accepted among scholars that "mountain" in Bible prophecy is a reference to government. This scripture is in harmony with the statement that Jesus made that He would build His church. There will be an opportunity to learn of His ways, instead of our own; we will desire to be pleasing to Him in all things. A great blessing to all mankind will be the lasting peace that will be established by His kingdom in these latter days.

Thus I point to these promises that have come to us through the grace and goodness of our Lord. They can be a sound foundation for our faith. In II Peter 1:19-21, Peter also pointed to the more "sure word" of prophecy that we should take notice of as a source of light. We need to seek for this light.

It is interesting to note that these promises are entwined within a prophecy that relates to the birth of Jesus. A familiar and often quoted scripture of Isaiah

found in chapter nine, verses 6 and 7, links the events of His birth with the destiny of His kingdom. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulders; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will perform this."

I call to your attention the positive nature of this prophecy. It shall not be left to chance or to man's desire to do it, and it will be done by the Lord. Of this we can be sure. "When," do you ask? This is part of the mystery that we see in these prophetic messages. Even when Jesus was born, there were those who were acquainted with the scriptures and recognized the birth as being a fulfillment of prophecy, but many saw nothing. Yet we now accept it as a historical fact — it has come to pass. So it will be with the fulfillment of the prophecy of this kingdom of God coming into being in these last days. Some shall see the hand of God and rejoice in the Spirit, while others shall not see because of spiritual darkness in their hearts. Nevertheless, God will move "His wonders to perform."

It will be expressed as a "marvelous work and a wonder." This is recorded in the 29th chapter of Isaiah, verses 9-11. Here another mystery is introduced for the latter day work of God. It is reference to a book that the learned man cannot read, but is put into the hands of the unlearned, and then God's power is revealed. The Lord speaks, (verse 14) "Therefore, behold I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, even a marvelous work and a wonder for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid." Continuing in verse 18, we learn that this book is real, that spiritual understanding will come to those who are

deaf, and those who are blind, and they will have a great light. And, as it says in verse 24, "They also that erred in Spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmured shall learn doctrine." This is in harmony with the prophecy of chapter 2, of chapter 9, and to the prophecy of chapter 11, that the Word of the Lord impressed upon Isaiah by His Spirit.

Now we have before us these signs of the work of God — that His kingdom will in these last days be revealed, that a book will be brought forth to give us understanding, and that the peace of God will be established upon the earth among nations. Jesus has been born as God said He would. In itself this miraculous event witnesses to the world that He is the true Lord and able to accomplish everything that He has promised. We can reasonably expect the rest of

the scriptures to be fulfilled as surely as God is in His heaven.

The prophecies given to man down through the ages present us with an astonishing array of testimony. These cannot be ignored or set aside as being of no significance to the believer in these last days. As we approach the "end time" it is well that we be fully informed and make sure that we have oil in our lamps.

I hope that you will ponder these things within your heart and be encouraged to look to the Lord with a greater faith even as we see the ever present weaknesses of man, and the raging of sin and evil about us. Let us humble ourselves before Him, cast on Him our every care, and trust Him who is faithful and true.

Your brother in Christ,  
Elder Arthur G. Smith

## COLORADO REUNION REPORT

Our 1980 Reunion is now past history, but there remain many pleasant and strengthening memories. It was our pleasure to host the most visitors that we have ever had for a Colorado Reunion. We had visitors from nine states besides those from other parts of our state. Some have come often; for others it was the first trip. We were happy to greet all, and are sorry that some who had planned to come had circumstances come up that prevented them. We missed them. If my count is correct, Arizona sent us 52 visitors. All but one came from Phoenix. Missouri followed with 35 from the Independence, Raytown, Lone Jack, Lee's Summit, Houston, Buffalo and Kansas City areas. Nebraska gave us 8, Montana and Wyoming each a family of 5. Two came from Minnesota, from Iowa, Kansas and Idaho each one. Local members and visitors added 39, so our little church was full. It seems rather empty now. Not all were able to be present for all the services because of other demands on their time — mostly to go back to their jobs.

We thank all who came and helped to make this Reunion such a happy occasion. It is so pleasant to associate together. We are also grateful for the Holy Spirit that met with us, for we are aware that without its influence we could not have a successful reunion.

Our services began with a prayer meeting at 9:00 a. m. Friday, June 13th. Our pastor Bro. John E. Bell and Bro. Tom Karas were in charge. The time was well occupied with prayers and testimonies. Little Lynn Jean Toone, youngest daughter of Robin and Mary Toone, was blessed by Apostles Ely and McIndoo. Her small brother, Justin, was administered to (by the same brethren) for a continuing ailment. Some testified of blessings received.

Bro. and Sr. Marvin Ely offered the use of their place for the meals. We appreciated this very much as it saved quite a few miles of driving for most of us. The weather co-operated beautifully and made the

yard of their beautiful home an ideal, shady place to eat and visit.

Friday afternoon at 3:00 Bro. Hubert Yates spoke to us. Bro. Harold Pollock was his assistant. He reminded us that we have our free agency and must make the decision as to whom we will serve, where we will lay up treasures, etc. Christ is our hope, and there is no substitute for Him. He recalled Lehi's vision, and that some who had reached and partaken of the fruit of the tree, could not bear the scoffing of the world, and fell away and were lost. We must endure to the end. He closed with the admonition, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter. Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." Before this sermon we enjoyed a solo by Bro. Bob Oldham, "The Old Rugged Cross Made the Difference."

At 7:30 p. m. we gathered in a song service. The good gospel songs were sung with enthusiasm.

At 8:00 p. m. Apostle Don Housknecht was the speaker, assisted by Bro. Jay Moser. The music special for the service was sung by Sr. Patsy McCann and Sr. Chris Moser, "Getting Used to the Family of God." Bro. Housknecht called attention to the songs we had just sung. They are really testimonies, prayers and promises to God. The theme of his sermon was Preparation. We are not to think it strange that fiery trials come. They are the common lot of man. If we are persecuted for righteousness we should be happy, and "be ye ready, for the Son of Man cometh when ye know not." So we must always be prepared for His coming.

Saturday morning at 9:00 a. m. prayer service was in charge of Bro. Jim Lacy and Bro. Ken Oar. Again many testimonies and prayers were offered. Many sick and afflicted were mentioned by name. It is so good to hear so many of the young people testify and tell of their experiences and needs. This service lasted until 1:30 p. m.

At 3:30 p. m. Bro. Gerry Case was the speaker. Bro. Norman Warfield assisted. Sr. Enid Bell and Sr. Becky Downs sang "His Eye is on the Sparrow." Little Tracy Karas had become quite ill and was administered to by Bro. Hubert Yates and Apostle Don McIndoo. Our Sr. Evalena Sills was also administered to by Bro. Don McIndoo and Bro. Jay Moser. Then ten-day old Robert Lee Larsen was blessed by his great-grandfather, Elder Harvey Bell, and Apostle Marvin Ely. Little Bobby is the son of Bro. Tom and Sr. Cathy Larsen.

Bro. Gerry Case told of his experience several years ago when he had difficulty in trying to testify at a reunion. He was helped when a voice said, "Gerry, if you will rise now, I will give you what to say." He also spoke of the need to keep out contention from among us because it will keep out the Spirit of God. We must abide in the Vine (Christ) to bring forth good fruit. He reminded us that we must have charity or we are nothing.

Saturday evening at 7:30 we had several specials with our song service. Bro. Hubert Yates and Bro. Don McIndoo sang "Come Close to the Savior." Bro. Bob Oldham sang "Through it All," and Verda Malone and young daughter sang "I am a Promise."

Apostle Leon Yates brought the evening message. Bro. Marvin Carroll assisted. Srs. Chris Moser, Rhea Housknecht and Jackie Lacy sang "Because He Lives." Bro. Yates began by quoting from John (chapter one) reminding us of the beginning, and then that men were condemned because Light shone into the world but the world did not comprehend it. He spoke of the prophecy that in the last days men would be lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. We see it being fulfilled now. He closed with the hope that we might all bear much fruit.

Sunday morning's Sacrament Service was in charge of Apostles Don Housknecht and Marvin Ely. We were asked to come fasting in preparation for this service. Bros. Bill Frishkorn, Benny Case, Bob Ely and John Bell passed the emblems. Four and one half hours passed quickly with many testimonies and prayers. There was a special season of prayer after a young sister asked for prayers for her brother whose faith is being sorely tried.

The afternoon was given over to visiting and saying our farewells to those who had to leave and had many miles to cover to be at their Monday jobs.

Our song service began at 7:00 p. m., during which we had a special song "I Know Whom I Have Believed" by Srs. Darla Warfield, Chris Moser, Verda Malone and Rhea Housknecht. The last half hour was used by part of the Grand Junction local to sing a cantata, "It is Written."

We appreciated all the special numbers and thank the singers for their willingness to share their talents.

At 8:00 p. m. Apostle Don McIndoo was the speaker at this last service of the 1980 Reunion. He was assisted by Bro. Bob Ely. "Come to the Garden of

Prayer," written by Sr. Amy Schrader was sung by Srs. Vivian Ness, Darlene Frishkorn and Amy Schrader. Bro. McIndoo told us that we must put our entire trust in God and His Christ; that Christ is the water from which there is no thirsting. If we drink of this water it will become a well within us to give us everlasting life, as Jesus told the woman at the well. We have to work to develop hope, faith, charity, patience and all the fruits of the Spirit in our lives. We have come to the time to rise and go, **not** to the cross, but to **take up** our cross and do our very best.

These excerpts from the sermons are very brief, taken from my notes.

After the last song, "God Be With You Till We Meet Again," and the closing prayer, we again gathered at Bro. Marvin's home for our last material meal together. We lingered, visiting, reluctant to part and delaying that time. Some started their homeward journey then; others were able to wait until the next morning, and a few were able to stay another day. We look forward to the next reunion, and again sharing that wonderful oneness in the gospel.

May God bless and keep one and all!

Your sister, Alvina Bell  
Grand Junction Reporter

## MICHIGAN REUNION

Following is a brief report on the 1980 annual Michigan reunion held at Bradley the week end of June 21-22. Approximately 100 saints and friends attended.

### Saturday, June 21

#### Morning

Preaching service under the direction of Brother George Brantner.

Opening song for the Saturday morning service was "I Am Thine, O Lord." Prayer by Brother Brantner, followed by the singing of "Is Your All On the Altar."

We were very pleased to have as our speaker Brother LeRoy Wheaton, from Independence. It was his first visit to Michigan, and we hope it will not be his last, as we really enjoyed the message he brought us. He used the following texts, which we suggest you read:

Psalms 33:12

Exodus 19:5-6

Deuteronomy 7:6-11

Ether - chapter 1, Verses 29-35

Joshua 24:14-17

Alma - chapter 17, verses 78-81

Brother Wheaton reminded us that this is a choice land and that those who possess it must serve the Lord. We are told to study the past to avoid mistakes made by others. We need to learn from experiences of people of the past so that we don't fall into the same traps. God has chosen us as His people and He intends

for us to grow. We were also reminded that if the church is to survive we must serve the Lord and that there will be times when we must make a choice to serve the Lord and let other things go to another time.

For our closing song, following this inspiring message, we sang "Jesus is Calling Today," followed by prayer by Brother Brantner.

Following the morning preaching service, Brother Conley Addington introduced Apostle Don Housknecht, who reminisced to some extent about the past, and particularly about the early days of the church in Michigan, but told us that we cannot live entirely in the past but must live for today and some in the future, and that we must prepare for the future. He will be staying in Michigan long enough to help us with any problems we might have. He also asked that we realize the importance of our prayers in helping the ministry to advance the work and called upon the people to fast and pray over the problems we have.

Following Brother Don's talk, we closed the service with the singing of "Praise Ye The Lord!" and prayer by Brother Conley Addington.

#### Afternoon

The annual business meeting was chaired by Brother Conley Addington. Following are items of interest from the meeting:

Norman Trudgen was elected to the Reunion Committee for a 3-year term, replacing Conley Addington, who has done a super job on the committee for many years and deserves a well-earned rest. Our heartfelt thanks to Conley for all the time has devoted to making past reunions so successful.

June Haines was re-elected as secretary and reporter for 1980-81 (at double the salary).

The 1981 reunion will be held on June 20-21 at Maple City.

After a break following the business meeting, we reconvened for a late afternoon song service under the direction of Brother LaVern Lussenden.

#### Sunday, June 22

##### Morning

At 9:00 a. m., we gathered at the church for communion and a season of prayer and testimony under the direction of Elder Conley Addington. Opening song was "Nearer My God to Thee," followed by prayer by Brother Addington.

Brother Don Housknecht preceded the communion service with a short message, using for his text Psalm 34. A truly inspirational prayer and testimony service followed the message, with considerable participation by young and old alike.

We used for a closing song, "Lord Dismiss Us," followed by prayer by Brother Addington.

##### Afternoon

Following another delicious meal, we once again answered the toll of the bell to work off our food with a spirited song service under the usual capable direction of Brother Lussenden. We used for an opening song, "Standing on the Promises," followed by prayer by Brother Lussenden.

During the song service, we were musically entertained by Mike Ballard at the piano, and his mother, Gwen, at the organ. Brother LaVern sure comes up with some fabulous talent, and it added a real fine finish to an otherwise perfect day.

For our closing song, we used "How Great Thou Art," followed by prayer by Brother Brantner.

This was another outstanding reunion. Our sincere appreciation and thanks to the "Bradley Bunch," who did such a fabulous job of hosting.

Reported by: June Haines  
1980-81 Secretary & Reporter

## BAPTISMS - MICHIGAN

June 8, 1980, beautiful Glen Lake, near Maple City, was the sight for the baptism of three of our Michigan young people:

Duane Robert Lee, age 26, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jay Lee.

Ted Wayne Lee, age 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jay Lee.

Theresa Lynn Lake, age 13, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Lake.

The ordinance of baptism was performed by Elder Conley Addington.

Following the baptism, the congregation met back at the little church in Maple City for the confirmation, also performed by Elder Addington, and a prayer and testimony service.

We happily welcome these young people into the family of God and ask an interest in the prayers of all the saints in their behalf.

## FLINT LOCAL NEEDS YOUR HELP

We are attempting to update our records. If your membership is through the Flint local, please contact me with your current address and phone number. If you have married since your baptism, please give your maiden name also. Please help us to reach you.

Thank you,  
Sister Chris M Toulouse  
Clerk/Secretary

Send all information to:

Sister Chris M. Toulouse  
3909 Winona Street  
Flint, MI 48504  
(313) 789-2322

## A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM

Edna R. Smith

I was privileged Sunday evening June 8th to see and hear a group of children give a program concerning the week's work and studies during Bible School. As I viewed that group of children the thought came to me of a little child leading them very forcefully.

The little white church at the cross roads was packed and what had brought that crowd there was the children. Eager parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles had gathered to hear and see what their particular child or children had learned the week of Bible School.

The teachers had done a wonderful work in the instilling into their young minds the Old Gospel story so dear to our hearts and just why our church was different from other churches. The beautiful truths of the Gospel as it was restored so long ago through God's guidance of the young seer of Palmyra and so ably taught by the teachers brought joy to my soul. Even in the very young I saw that the real kernel of truth was planted, watered and nurtured in those young lives. It made me aware that there is still hope of the Gospel growing and going on and shining clearly yet around about us for the future.

We of the older group of church members may become discouraged because of our trials, yet we can see God's Hand over our young. The light of hope is kindled anew when we view what the children are learning and accepting as a part of their lives.

Children in their innocence and eagerness to learn of God grasp for more than we usually give them credit for. The age in which they are living today makes the dependence upon God and the true Gospel more important in order to overcome what they see all around them. Satan has become bolder knowing his time is drawing to a close. A child often sees and senses the Satanic power and is more fearful of it than we who are older, because we are more used to bumping up against his power. We often rely on our own strength and not on the Saviour of mankind, therefore we stumble and fall.

Jesus knew what He was saying when He proclaimed, "a little child shall lead them" for He knew the trust and faith of one of these little ones.

I can truly say, Thank God for our children for in their childlike faith and trust my faith has been strengthened. Truly we must become as a little child willing for our Heavenly Father to enlighten our minds and to lead us where He can protect and guide our daily lives.

My father, Elder B. C. Flint, often said that if children were given the opportunity to be taught the Gospel that God restored in these latter days, a mighty army for truth would be formed. He loved children and they loved him and I can still see him in my mind's eye with a group of children clustered about him tell-

ing them the gospel story he loved so well.

So I say I'm glad and so thankful for these little ones and pray for their onward progress in the great Gospel work. Surely as God is in His Heaven, "A little child will lead us" to Him and a closer walk with Him in truth and righteousness.

## HOUSTON, MO. LOCAL REPORT

There have been many good sermons given us in the past couple of months and quite a few of us have been present at various other church local activities during this time also. Many attended the Ava Rally held on May 11, Mother's Day. What a delightful way to spend the day, in the house of our Lord, communing with Him, enjoying the fellowship with our dear Church family. We heard good words from Don Hitt, Frank Fann, Marvin Case and David Jones.

Houston held its Rally on the 25th, starting with a prayer service, followed by preaching by Oren Cavinness, Arthur Smith and William Sheldon. A goodly crowd attended and a sweet spirit was felt by all. How truly sweet it is to gather in the Lord's name on His day.

Mary Jane Medders, accompanied by her daughter, DeAnna, and granddaughter, Jennifer, and Janeen Barke spent a week in Independence helping with Vacation Bible School there and reportedly had an enjoyable time.

Your reporter and son, James, went to South Dakota to visit the Jerry Addie's and see some of the many beautiful attractions in the Black Hills and the Badlands. James remained to spend the time remaining before school with his brother and family. Jerry is in the Air Force stationed at Ellsworth Air Force Base, just outside of Rapid City, S. D.

Margaret Keeney and her mother, Lois Helseth attended the Colorado reunion, visited friends and saw some delightful scenery on the way. David Keeney went also.

Many from here went to the "Camp For All Ages" last weekend at Preston, Mo. and a spiritual time was had by all, I am told. As I write this most of the church group here are at the Missouri Reunion being held this weekend at Independence.

Your Reporter,  
Mary Addie

A keen sense of humor helps us overlook the unbecoming, understand the unconventional, tolerate the unpleasant, overcome the unexpected, and outlast the unbearable, according to William Arthur Ward.

Words must be weighed not counted.

There is no right way to do the wrong thing.

## This Too Will Pass

Aye, it is comfort  
when troubles harrass  
To cling to the thought  
that, this too will pass.

This too will pass . . .  
as surely, as slowly  
Or swiftly, according to  
the circumstance;  
As the seasons tread  
upon another's heels;  
As day flows into night  
and visa-versa;  
As moment by moment fleets  
through the grasp  
Or drag with heavy reluctance,  
the tides of life do pass  
But not without leaving  
their impress.

In all the chance and change  
of the lifetime of man  
Only that which springs of  
God will endure,  
Born of Him, it is secure.

This too shall pass . . .  
can be said of joy  
As well as of sorrow;  
it is true of sunshine  
Equally as with rain;  
the taste of sweet  
Soon gives way to bitter  
as the shadows of the cloud  
Rolls across the plain;  
All life's offering,  
Of good or ill, time soon sweeps  
the hearth-stone bare.  
Only what comes from God can endure  
Only His promises are sure.

This too shall pass . . .

Infancy and youth  
How sweet and short the idyll  
of the precious years;  
The dreams and plans for life  
are scarcely formed  
'ere time is gone and  
living not yet begun;  
Leaving bright expectations  
turned to ash.  
How little man achieves of that  
to which allegience pledged,  
Lest to God his heart is pure  
In God alone and of His grace,  
Doth true life endure.

This too must pass . . .  
is true, only of this  
Span of minute mortality;  
with it's pain, it's loss,  
It's fears and shattered dreams;  
It's light or soothing  
Moments, ecstasies, humours,  
rewarding flood-tide  
Blessings likewise diminish  
to faint memory.  
All except that whose root  
is in the heart of  
The Great Eternal; only that  
can be carried past  
The boundary where time is no  
more, into eternity . . .  
Where life's tears will be  
wiped away, it's joy made  
Jewels, and it's scars become  
honored wounds.  
All . . . and only that which came  
of God will endure and be  
Returned unto Him, resplendant to  
His glory . . .  
Of all else it can be truly  
said, this too will pass.

## They Are Precious In His Sight

Red and yellow, black or white,  
They are precious in His sight.  
Each and every old grey man,  
And every child that's in His hand  
Is taken care of every day  
And yet they still can't see His way.  
Why do they refuse to see  
All the love He gives to me?  
How I've tried to show them light  
To help them leave behind the night,  
But they don't seem to understand  
How much he wants to take their hands.  
Can't they see it breaks His heart,  
To see their small lives fall apart?

Right before His eyes so kind,  
They fuss and cuss as though He's blind  
How foolish is the human heart,  
Which feels no pain when it should start?  
To think of all He could have had  
But gave it up to make us glad.  
Yet Lord, my love for you has grown  
You saved my life and took your own.  
For this I praise you every day,  
And hope some more can hear you say,  
"Well done, my child," to those that come.  
Oh that great day when I'll be home! !

submitted by Patricia Bruner  
- Debbie Driskell

## Aequanimitas

(Equanimity)

The day is darkening . . .  
 already the shadows  
 Of the approaching storm  
 lengthen upon the land.  
 Menacing rumbles can be  
 heard in the distance;  
 Heart-quaking flashes  
 burst open the sky  
 With growing frequency,  
 as men, engorged  
 With a zeal not according  
 to wisdom, array to  
 Do battle upon a sacred  
 spot of ground.  
 One by one, questions,  
 non-determinable  
 Are pilloried upon a  
 banner in frenzied  
 Effort to lure all into  
 the fray; to be  
 Lined up and counted in  
 a do or die defense  
 Of cherished, human concept.  
 Heart sinks; yet once again  
 another exercise in  
 futility as mortal-born  
 contest continues to  
 Rage, each promoting, insisting  
 "I am right!"  
 While Truth and Charity  
 with scarred hands  
 And feet, and thorn pierced  
 brow, stands aside;  
 Tears sliding silently over  
 cheeks that once  
 Sweat blood for the purpose  
 that man become one.  
 What mockery-brother  
 arraigned by brother  
 Boasting the sanction of this  
 folly, in His name.  
 Soul trembles; despair  
 threatens, till down  
 The ages, eternity whispers  
 aequanimitas!  
 Be still; know that I am;  
 know that I am God.  
 My purpose fail not, nor  
 will what I have  
 Spoken return unto me void.  
 Zion my abode among men  
 Will be. And all this that  
 occupies in It's stead  
 Will become as a night dream.  
 Man is weak but I am  
 Strong, I will prevail. therefore  
 Aequanimitas.

## Restoration

There's a great and happy crowd  
 Singing praises mighty loud  
 To our blessed Lord  
 and soon returning King.

Whether in a chapel or a tent  
 You can tell it's heaven sent  
 There is manna in the air  
 for you and me

There's a man there full of power  
 Sent by God for this late hour  
 Restoring our salvation  
 full and free.

And the gospel that he preaches  
 Is the kind that God's word teaches  
 It's the kind that you can feel  
 as well as see.

There you'll see them dark and white  
 All are precious in his sight  
 They're from different backgrounds, too,  
 you see.

There they greet and hug each other  
 Each is sister; each is brother  
 'Tis the reason God meant them  
 to be free.

There's manna in the air  
 There's music in the air  
 There's singing in the air  
 for you and me.

It's the promise he has given  
 The latter due from heaven  
 Praise the Lord and  
 let it fall on thee.

Violet M. Tate

## On Prayer

The great soul prays, "Lord make  
 me as big as my problem," while the  
 little soul prays, "Lord let me off easy."

The giant soul prays, "Lord give  
 me strength sufficient for a hard  
 day." as the little soul begs, Lord,  
 "Let me have a lighter load."

The great heart prays, "Lord let  
 me stand firm when the fight is the  
 hardest": the craven heart cries,  
 "Lord let me escape."

The crusader soul sends up the  
 prayer, "Lord stand with me until I  
 finish my task."

The Voice in the Wilderness

**CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES**

The 1981 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) will commence Sunday, April 5, 1981. The business sessions will start at 10:00 A. M. Monday, April 6. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, April 3 and 4, 1981.

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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