

Zion's Advocate

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

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Forgiveness

Have you found
 flowing-forgiveness
 in another,
In a sister or a brother?

And in this flowing
 glimpsed Christ's
 forgiving-love
Reaching you directly from above?

As He was, so is He now
 and we are admonished
 thus to be,
Let forgiveness flow free.

From a heart and mind
 possessed by His love -
 His "gift", Holy,
To Him all honour and glory!

" - - even as Christ forgave you - - "

Col. 3:12 & 13.

—Darleen Smith

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Editorial . . .

WONDERFUL PROOFS

In the first chapter of Genesis we read, "And God made two great lights, the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, And to rule over the day and the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the fourth day" (Genesis 1:16-19).

"Then spake Joshua to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon. And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day" (Joshua 10:12-13).

These two events constitute one of the greatest single proofs of the Holy Scriptures. As true science and true religion can in no way contradict one another and as astronomy is an exact science we would expect that such significant celestial happenings would be recorded not in Genesis alone but also in the heavenly record as well. And so it is. In 3999 B. C. all the planets were aligned in a straight line around the sun, an event which had not happened previously nor again

in the future to the extent of trillions of years. Therefore since the sun and moon were created on the fourth day of creation such an alignment could not have occurred sooner for the sun was not yet in existence. Therefore that year marks the beginning of the history and existence of life upon the earth.

As to the second celestial event, astronomy establishes that date at 1444 B. C. a point 2555 years following the fourth day of creation. Now the truly marvelous fact about this is that when the biblical chronology of the lives of the patriarchs, the carrying away into Egypt, the exodus, the 40 years wandering, etc., are tallied up we have exactly 2555 years from the fourth day of creation till Joshua's long day.

As a sidelight this proof also confirms that the days of creation were 24 hour days and not large expanses of time, for the fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh days of creation and Adam's creation all occurred in the year 3999 B. C.

During the reign of Hezekiah, king of Judah, Sennacherib invaded Judah for the purpose of subjugating the country. In response to this threat Hezekiah turned to the Lord to ask for deliverance. God's answer in part is as follows:

"Therefore thus saith the Lord concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shields, nor

cast a bank against it. By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith the Lord. For I will defend this city to save it for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake" (Isaiah 37:33-35). In fulfillment we read, "Then the angel of the Lord went forth, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses. So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Ninevah" (Isaiah 37:36-37).

From secular history we read following account:

"After receiving the submission of Libnah, Sennacherib advanced toward Egypt, and had come within sight of the Egyptian army at Pelusium when Hezekiah received his letter and made the prayer to which Isaiah delivered the response. The immense host of the Egyptians and Assyrians encamped opposite each other for the night, the Egyptians and their king full of anxious alarm, and Sennacherib and his Assyrians in proud confidence of a victory on the morrow as grand as those of Raphia and Altaku. But these bright hopes were destined to sad disappointment. Ere the morrow appeared the immense Assyrian host was destroyed in a night panic . . . While the Hebrews ascribed this destruction of Sennacherib's army to the miraculous interposition of Jehovah, the Egyptians regarded their deliverance as the special intervention of their own gods, and pursued the fleeing Assyrian hosts . . . (Standard History of the World by Israel Smith Claire 1928 pages 187-188).

"In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came unto him, and said unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live. Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed unto the Lord . . . Then came the word of the Lord to Isaiah, saying, Go and say to Hezekiah, Thus saith the Lord, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will add unto thy days fifteen years . . . Behold, I will bring again the shadow of the degrees, which is gone down in the sun dial of Ahaz, ten degrees backward. So the sun returned ten degrees, by which degrees it was gone down" (Isaiah 38:1-2, 4-5, 8).

The historical record of this event is also recorded in the same volume of world history cited above, page 245.

"It was some time during his twelve years' reign over Babylon that Merodach-Baladan sent ambassadors to Hezekiah at Jerusalem to ascertain the particulars of the strange astronomical marvel, or miracle, accompanying the sickness and recovery of that king. Hezekiah exhibited all his treasurers to these ambassadors."

Turning to Daniel we read, 'Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins,

and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy . . . And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease . . ." (Daniel 9:24 and 27).

As we know this prophecy was fulfilled. However the 70th week has become a stumbling block to the protestant world, the consequence of which various ingenious and strange, but false interpretations have been put forth. This prophecy is however a marvelous witness for the Book of Mormon and should be taken in conjunction with the New Testament statement concerning the "other sheep." The Book of Mormon records the other half of Christ's ministry on this continent and elsewhere, fulfilling the second half of the Seventieth week.

The Book of Mormon states that the people of Jared came to this land following the confusion of tongues. The Mayan tradition tells that the founder of their civilization led a portion of the dispersed people to America after the confusion of tongues.

Both the Bible and the Book of Mormon record the story of the tower of Babel and the confusion of tongues. The Aztecs tell how men made a very high tower after which their language was changed.

The Book of Mormon says they came to this land in eight boats built tight like unto a dish. The old men of the Maya report they came to this land in seven caves or ships.

The Book of Mormon says the Jaredites were large in stature. The Aztecs tell us that the descendants from the tower were giants.

The Book of Mormon tells us that the people of Zarahemla discovered the sole survivor of the first settlers. The Aztecs state that the Tultecas (the second settlers) found some of the giants that had escaped the extermination of the second age.

The Book of Mormon says the second group was composed of 7 divisions or tribes but led by four brothers, the youngest of which was in command.

The Mayan tradition states that those who crossed the sea were seven tribes, the principals chiefs were four and that the younger brother was the leader. The Incan record states that the inhabitants were brought by four brothers of which the youngest was the most skillful.

The Book of Mormon states that they came from a country named Bountiful in the east and came to a country named Bountiful in the west. In the Mayan record is recorded how they left Tulan in the east and arrived at Tulan in the west. Tulan means "Bountiful."

The Book of Mormon states that Christ visited the inhabitants during the time of the civilization of the second group of colonizers. The Aztec tradition states that Quetzalcoatl the bearded white God came when the second group of colonizers were at the height of their power.

The Book of Mormon says that the second group of colonizers divided themselves into two separate peoples or nations, one of which was a white race. The Indian record says that the people grouped themselves in two great divisions one of which was white and the other a dark skinned race.

The Book of Mormon tells of three disciples who were to remain until the coming of Christ again to the earth. The Mayan tradition tells of three brothers who were chaste men and whose reign was a long and glorious one. These were saintly men and were es-

teemed and obeyed by all.

The Book of Mormon says that the people of Nephite fought their wars using quilted armor. The Aztecs say that the Tultecs used ankle length tunics embroidered and very closely woven and thick.

These proofs are just a few of hundreds which could be offered. There is little or no excuse for unbelief, for God has not left himself without an abundance of evidence for our good. We need only open our eyes and our hearts to see these marvelous truths.

Harvey E. Seibel

CHILDREN OF THE PROMISED LAND

By
E. L. YATES

We, the people of the Restoration, believe that we are living in a promised land. It is not only those of the Restored Gospel who recognize the Americas as being a promised land above all other lands of the earth, but most of those who are students of history understand that this has been a promised land, regardless of whether they understand much about God or not.

Reading from the Book of Mormon:

"And the Lord would not suffer that they should stop beyond the sea in the wilderness, but he would that they should come forth even unto the land of promise, which was choice above all other lands, which the Lord had preserved for a righteous people;"

Notice, "the Lord God had preserved for a righteous people." We know the history of this land and that after Columbus, people were led here so they could worship God in freedom.

"And he had sworn in his wrath unto the Brother of Jared, that whoso should possess this land of promise, from that time henceforth and forever, should serve him, the true and only God, or they should be swept off when the fullness of his wrath should come upon them.

"And now we can behold the decrees of God concerning this land, that it is a land of promise, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall serve God, or they shall be swept off when the fullness of his wrath shall come upon them.

"And the fullness of his wrath cometh upon them when they are ripened in iniquity; for behold, this is a land which is choice above all other lands; wherefore he that doth possess it shall serve God, or shall be swept off; for it is the everlasting decree of God.

"And it is not until the fullness of iniquity among the children of the land, that they are swept off.

"And this cometh unto you, O ye Gentiles, that you may know the decrees of God, that ye may repent, and not continue in your iniquities until the fullness come, that ye may not bring down the fullness of the wrath

of God upon you, as the inhabitants of the land have hitherto done." (Ether 1:29-34)

Notice, "this cometh unto you, O Gentiles, that you may know the decrees of God." The Scriptures come unto the Gentiles, Jews, Nephites, and all others in the world who have possession of them for one purpose, that they might know the decrees of God, that they might know His secrets. "Surely the Lord will do nothing but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets." (Amos 3:7)

"The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of the law." (Deut. 29:29)

Yes, this is why they are revealed, that we may do all the words of the law. Not only was the prophet in Deuteronomy speaking to those of his day, but he was looking down through the vista of unborn time and speaking to us and to our children and to those who are afar off. In Acts 2:38-39, we find these words:

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

"For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."

Our generation is a long way, as far as time is concerned, from the day the prophet spoke those words. But the promise is to us and to our children and to all those who are yet to come in the far distant future. Our generation is a long way from the day the prophet, Ether, spoke the following words, but they were given that you and I and our children may obey all the words of the law.

"Behold, this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, who is

Jeesus Christ who hath been manifested by the things which we have written." (Ether 1:35)

According to the Book of Mormon, the Nephites had the Gospel of Christ but they let it go, they became wicked. Christ, Himself, told them that in four hundred years from the time He came to them, they would be destroyed because of iniquity.

Reading from the Book of Mormon, Helaman 5:17-18:

"But behold, if it were not for the righteous who are in this great city, behold I would cause that fire should come down out of heaven, and destroy it. But behold, it is for the righteous' sake that it is spared.

"But behold, the time cometh, saith the Lord, that when ye shall cast out the righteous from among you, then shall ye be ripe for destruction;"

Now reading verses 34-40:

"And now when ye talk, ye say, If our days had been in the days of our fathers of old, we would not have slain the prophets; we would not have stoned them and cast them out."

We just don't feel we would do that. We are a civilized people. How great is our civilization, how great is our society? In our civilization, to a great degree, we have forgotten God, have forgotten love for one another, we have become self-centered and we have begun to worship idols. I mention here just one idol that all seem to worship to some degree; mammon or money. It seems to be a necessary evil, we must have it. But what men will do in order to acquire it!

"Behold ye are worse than they; for as the Lord liveth, if a prophet come among you, and declareth unto you the word of the Lord, which testifieth of your sins and iniquities, ye are angry with him, and cast him out, and seek all manner of ways to destroy him;

"Yea, you will say that he is a false prophet, and that he is a sinner, and of the devil, because he testifieth that your deeds are evil.

"But behold, if a man shall come among you, and shall say, Do this, and there is no iniquity; do that, and ye shall not suffer; yea, he will say, Walk after the pride of your own hearts; yea, walk after the pride of your eyes, and do whatsoever your heart desireth; and if a man shall come among you and say this, ye will receive him, and ye will say that he is a prophet;"

Notice in particular, these words: "and do whatsoever your heart desireth;". Is not this the slogan of the day? It is the slogan of the day, and it has taken root, deep seated root, in the hearts of the young people. I am not blaming any one of them. I blame the lack of training in the homes. The mothers and fathers of this nation stand before us, guilty. Not totally

perhaps, because, regardless of some of our good parental training in the home, we are apt to find that some children will walk after the dictates of the evil spirit. Nevertheless, by and large, we parents in this nation are responsible for the behavior of the young people of today.

Much of the problem in the home with children is because of permissiveness of the parents. Many parents give orders in a loud voice and then straightway allow the child to continue his disobedience. If a parent is going to give an order, do it gently, but do it firmly and then see to it that the order is carried out. Don't wait until a child is sixteen or eighteen to guide him in this manner, but start when the child is an infant.

Sometimes we parents wonder where we have failed. We don't seem to realize that most cases of constant misbehavior on the child's part is due to our failure to constant proper discipline of the child. I am no expert, but I do believe in constant discipline and teaching of children from the time they are born.

Recently, I heard a child expert speaking on the radio. He gave the following advice to parents: "Don't let a child do as a child pleases." He was speaking of little ones, beginning at the age when a child begins to crawl.

How many here have a little baby? Hold up your hands. I see there are several. Can you imagine what would happen if you turned that baby loose in the front room for about a week and let him do as he pleased without any restraint or instruction whatsoever? You know, he cannot even sin, but he can sure get into a mess. He can do things, if let go from that moment forward without any curbing of this "do as I please attitude," that will destroy his spiritual life and yours as well, or at least cause you a lot of heartaches and pain.

Some of us parents, regarding child discipline and teaching, have reached the age where we cannot go back and make the correction, but some of you can begin to make the correction immediately, if it is needed. I have been in many homes, and according to my judgment, in a great many of them, there is too much permissiveness with little children. Permissiveness is not an act of love. If a child is not restrained he will destroy himself, the parent, other loved ones, and even the nation in the future. He will destroy the nation when we develop enough people who will do their own thing in spite of anybody.

At this point, I would like to read of the great promise that was given to the people of this land.

"Behold, this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ who hath been manifested by the things which we have written." (Ether 1:35)

In Deuteronomy 11:13-21, we read of another people and another land of promise.

"And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the Lord your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.

"That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that you mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil.

"And I will send grass in thy fields for thy cattle, that thou mayest eat and be full.

"Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other Gods, and worship them;"

But, if they would not listen and obey, there would be certain consequences.

"And then the Lord's wrath be kindled against you, and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield no fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the Lord giveth you."

The next verse tells what to do in order to retain the good land.

"Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes."

A Frontlet is a tassel or anything that attracts your attention and is constantly kept in front of you. In the great ruins of Yucatan it is a common thing to see paintings or stone statues of men wearing head dresses with great plumes hanging over their foreheads where they could constantly be seen by the one who wore them. This is what the Scripture means. Put the words of God on so you will constantly see them as a frontlet. Hold to the rod of iron (the word of God) if you want safety.

"And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

According to the word of the Lord that we have just read, this teaching of children is a constant job. Every act, every motive, every thought, and every word from the time a child is born should be for his training, his teaching and your example should be for his good.

Now, in the 20th and 21st verses, still speaking of the word of the Lord:

"And thou shalt write them upon the door post of thine house, and upon thy gates:

"That your days be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the Lord sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth."

What a wonderful promise to those who would obey the word of the Lord! Their days would be multiplied,

and the days of their children in the promised land would be, "as the days of heaven upon the earth."

Many parents think that because they believe the Gospel and are good church-goers and see to it that their children go to church with them, that this is enough. This is indeed good and for some children it may be enough to keep them on the straight and narrow, but for some others it may not be enough. Some are easily entreated, others are not.

It is a common thing for some parents to come to the ministry with a child training problem, asking for help. Some of the ministry are very wise in their counseling, but if the child has not had the proper training at home in the word of God, the parents' and ministers' problem will be compounded. I say to the young parents in particular, if you want family tranquility and happiness in the home, keep the word of God constantly before you and your children. Hold fast and be obedient to that which the Scriptures tell you to do.

To have the proper environment in the home in which a child can grow spiritually, there must be proper and wholesome love between husband and wife. Parents must constantly remember the promise and commitment they made before God and before friends, that they will love each other. Marriage cannot be based upon a one-sided commitment and produce a healthy atmosphere for the spiritual growth of the children.

If there are those under the sound of my voice that are having marital problems, and I am sure there are some, your answer is not in divorce. Your answer will be in a mutual desire to be true to the promise you each have made, "I will love." That is the promise that you each have made to your companion before God and friends. You can learn to do it. Besides this, my friends and loved ones, married people's first obligation is that they are God's agents constantly, twenty four hours a day, and especially as long as children are in their home. It is the parents' obligation to teach the children the ways of righteousness. It is the parents' obligation to begin that teaching at the cradle.

You know, when I speak of God, home, and children I shed tears, but not because it makes me sad. I believe I am one of the happiest men that ever walked this earth. There is a little woman sitting in this audience. She has gray hair and she thrills my soul. I remember when she had long golden hair; she thrilled me then and and I thought it was ecstasy. But it was child's play in comparison to the love I hold for her now. I contribute all this love, joy, happiness, and wedded harmony to God almighty and His plan for the children of men and our having, at least a little, understanding about that plan.

Remember, the Book of Mormon tells us that this land we live in is a land of promise and will remain so as long as we "serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ." It also tells us, "And the fullness of His

wrath cometh upon them when they are ripened in iniquity; for behold, this is a land which is choice above all other lands; wherefore he that doth possess it shall serve God, or shall be swept off; for it is the everlasting decree of God."

We are the children of today who occupy this land of promise. Do we want our children to continue in this land of promise under the mighty influence of God? Then we better begin to teach them the ways of righteousness and begin at the cradle. I believe we have failed our children in the homes and in the churches. We have not been diligent and constant in teaching our children the right way. We have not, gently, but firmly, molded their lives in the path of righteousness. We really have not practiced what we preach, we have not set the example for good.

Let me again quote from Deuteronomy 11:19:

"And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

If we don't get down to fundamentals as a church and teach our young parents the right things to teach and the way to teach, then this church will go down to destruction. The church will just die on the vine. We cannot long abide in the light and church life if we lose our children. Remember, the days of your children can be "as the days of heaven upon the earth." The fact that there are millions of children in this nation who are without parental love, children of broken homes, children with no purpose in life, hiding from reality in alcohol and drugs each day and many turning to suicide as a way out, is definite proof that this nation has largely forgotten God, His promises, and His ways. With proper and constant teaching, our children can live here, our children's children, and those that are afar off; by being obedient to God they can live here in the land of promise in a condition "as the days of heaven upon the earth." I don't believe that we can count the experiences the children are encountering today as the days of heaven. Something must be wrong.

The churches of today spend much time and effort on points of doctrine. Each one trying to show the divinity and superiority of their position, while at the same time, our children are not being taught properly. Many grow up to manhood or womanhood void of spiritual life; having no sense of responsibility. I am very serious about this question of the children. We are either going to save the children or we will lose the Church of Christ.

I am made happy with what I have seen in some of our young people here at this Phoenix Reunion. We have heard so many wonderful testimonies from our young people in the past three days. I would like to mention some things I jotted down from their testimonies.

From Norman Warfield: "The most important place for me to be, is with the Church people." I feel this is a most important conclusion on his part. Are we older people worthy of this confidence? Would we be proud to have him pattern after our life style? Think it over.

From Patsy McCann: "I need to associate with a people who have a strong belief in God." Where else could she find a more wholesome place for spiritual growth?

From Gordon McCann: He told of his being in the service in Tucson. He knew of this Church of Christ group in Phoenix. He had a hunger and thirst to meet with this group. He came here once and he liked what he found. He made a promise to God that if he were able to get some type of transportation, he would meet with this group whenever he could. He had a strong desire to meet with the people of the Church. He said: "I made a commitment and the Lord knew my heart." Soon, he was able to buy a motorcycle. He kept his promise to God. He is with us today. He now has a beautiful wife; his life has been turned around. I ask you Brother McCann: "What did you have before you made this commitment?" Answer: "Despair." He did not know which way to turn; but someone made a call and he heard it. Maybe you people here in this Phoenix local did not know you called; but you did. He saw your example and he wanted to know more.

There are good people all over the world who have their feet in the mud. People who want to know a better way of life and they don't know where to find it. It is the duty of every man, woman, and child, who understands the Gospel of Christ, to be an example that will speak louder than words. Your good example may be the cause of some unfortunate individual who may be searching for truth, to see a light in you that is not under a bushel, and see your good works which glorify your Father in heaven.

The Apostle Paul has some good advice for the youth who have a desire to keep out of the filth of the world: "Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart." (2 Tim. 2:22)

Today, in our morning Sacrament service, we heard from young people who felt the need to "follow righteousness . . . with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart." As we listened, we, the older people, began to see and feel the needs for which they were crying out; asking for help. We were persuaded in our hearts and minds; in love and compassion, we turned our thoughts and prayers to God in their behalf, in faith, believing that God would provide a way of escape from all of their youthful lusts. God has prepared a way of escape.

"Wherefore let him that thinketh and he that standeth take heed lest he fall.

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will

not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." (I Cor. 10:12, 13)

In verse 16, we find one of the ways of escape.

"The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?"

Paul is telling both the aged and the youth that if we want to escape temptation, the partaking of the Lord's Supper is one avenue of escape. In that great prayer, which Christ, Himself, gave to be given over the bread and wine, He tells us to eat it "in remembrance of the body of thy Son, and witness unto thee, O God the Eternal Father, that they are willing to take upon them the name of thy Son, and always remember him, and keep his commandments which he hath given them, that they may always have his spirit to be with them." (Mt. 4:4)

If we have accepted the Gospel of Jesus Christ and partake of those emblems in the proper spirit, we do receive the Spirit of Christ. If we will then conduct ourselves in such a manner that we can maintain and keep that Spirit, no temptation can overpower us.

Considering further the way of escape, we read from the Book of Mormon:

"And they said unto me, what meaneth the rod of iron which our father saw, that led to the tree?

"And I said unto them, that it was the word of God; and whoso would hearken unto the word of God, and would hold fast unto it, they would never perish;

"Neither could the temptations and the fiery darts of the adversary, overpower them unto blindness, to lead them away to destruction." (I Nephi 4:38-40)

This is indeed the formula for escape: the rod of iron (the word of God) "And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house." (Deut. 11:19)

Billy Graham said recently: "Never before has there been such an assault on the American homes as now." And then this: "Seventy percent of the teenagers and younger in this country, each day get high on marijuana or other drugs."

The percentage is growing higher each day. What is going to happen to this country when the leaders of this nation are chosen from this generation of drug users? I believe we will then be very close to the time spoken of by Christ:

"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no nor ever shall be.

"And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." (Matt. 24:21-22)

It is the Church's business; it is the parents's business, to help cause such action, thoughts, and speech

in our lives and in our homes that we can become the elect, and for our sakes' God would be pleased to shorten the days.

The storms that upset the ship in which the family sails will also upset the frigate of the constitution. The same storms will destroy a church. In order to avoid these storms, we must take Christ into our homes. It is the duty of the parents to see to it that He is invited in. We must have that mind in us, constantly, that was in Christ Jesus. Parents or any other two individuals cannot long continue in disharmony if each will allow that mind in them that was in Jesus. I don't believe that it is possible to set a bad example before our companion or our children if we can maintain in us that mind of the Master.

In many homes the giving of affection is entirely one-sided. Some women think that all words of endearment, all acts of courtesy, words of comfort and cheer should come from the husband only. On the other hand: there are men who think the husband has to give nothing; the wife should give all. In either case, they are in great danger of killing the flower of affection for each other. It is much easier to kill it than to make it live again.

God, in His wisdom, saw that it was not good for man to live alone, so He made man a help meet in the form of a woman. God also in His wisdom said: "Thou shalt love thy wife with all thy heart, and shall cleave unto her and none else: and he that looketh upon a woman to lust after her, shall deny the faith, and shall not have the spirit, and if he repent not, he shall be cast out." (Book of Commandments, p. 72, v. 22) This also means: Thou shalt love thy husband, and cleave unto him and none else.

If a husband and wife feel any responsibility at all for the future spiritual welfare and happiness of their children and their home they better pay close attention to the above passage of Scripture. They better remember well the promise each made to the other during the ceremony of Holy Wedlock: "I will love." Don't forget that promise; try in every respect to search out ways and means through God Almighty to fulfill that promise.

If affection for your companion has cooled in the least degree since your marriage, you can be sure there is something wrong. The true course of wedlock follows a pattern of increased love and understanding as the years go by. As I look over this audience tonight, I see couples who have been married over fifty years and at least two couples married over sixty years. I know the ecstasy they feel. I know they still thrill to the touch of their sweetheart. This is the way it should be. This is the way God intended for it to be; in that spiritual quality of love for one another, men and women should direct, under the Holy influence of the Spirit, the ways of their household and God will assist them.

The victory or defeat of battles yet unfought will depend on the type of home life we are developing

now. If, in the homes of America and the Church, we find a love for God and man, a spirit of fellowship, kindness, tolerance, and charity, not only for the immediate family, but for others as well, we can look to the future with confidence, because then we will be on God's side and God never lost a battle.

Upon one occasion, Caesar calmed the fears of an affrightened boatman by saying: "So long as Caesar is with you in the same boat, no harm can befall you." Christ was saying the same thing when He said: "Take my yoke upon you and learn of me . . . and lo, I am with you even unto the end of the world." We know Caesar had no power to calm the storm, however, we have faith that as long as Christ is in the home, no storm can sink the ship.'

"Behold I am the light; I have set an example for you.

"And it came to pass that when Jesus had spoken these words unto his disciples, he turned again unto the multitude, and said unto them, Behold, verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye must watch and pray always, lest ye enter into temptation;

"For Satan desireth to have you, that he may sift you as wheat; therefore ye must always pray unto the Father in my name; and whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, which is right, believing that ye shall receive, behold it shall be given unto you.

"Pray in your families unto the Father, always in my name, that your wives and your children may be blessed" (3 Nephi 8:49-42)

Now hear this from Alma 17:66-70:

"Preach unto them repentance, and faith on the Lord Jesus Christ: teach them to humble themselves, and to be meek and lowly in heart; teach them to withstand every temptation of the devil, with their faith on the Lord Jesus Christ;

"Teach them to never be weary of good works, but to be meek and lowly in heart: for such shall find rest to their souls.

"O remember my son, and learn wisdom in thy youth; yea, learn in thy youth to keep the commandments of God; yea, and cry unto God for all thy support;

"Yea, let all thy doings be unto the Lord, and whithersoever thou goest, let it be in the Lord; yea, let thy thoughts be directed unto the Lord; yea, let the affections of thy heart be placed upon the Lord forever; counsel the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for good:

"Yea, when thou liest down at night, lie down unto the Lord, that he may watch over you in your sleep; and when thou risest in the morning, let thy heart be full of thanks unto God; and if ye do these things, ye shall be lifted up at the last day."

To leave one final blessed thought and wonderful promise of God to all people who will obey His words, I will read again from Deuteronomy 11:18-21:

"Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes.

"And ye shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

"And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates:

"That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the Lord swore unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth."

CHILDREN LEARN WHAT THEY LIVE

If a child lives with criticism.

He learns to condemn.

If a child lives with hostility.

He learns to fight.

If a child lives with ridicule.

He learns to be shy.

If a child lives with shame.

He learns to feel guilty.

If a child lives with tolerance.

He learns to be patient.

If a child lives with encouragement.

He learns confidence.

If a child lives with praise. (for things well done)

He learns to appreciate.

If a child lives with fairness.

He learns justice.

If a child lives with security.

He learns to have faith.

If a child lives with approval.

He learns to like himself.

If a child lives with acceptance and friends.

He learns to find love in the world.

MINI-LIGHTING

A beautiful insight was brought to me from learning such a simple little fact; that the word comfort comes from "com fortare" which means "to strengthen."

We now almost exclusively take comfort to mean that which gives solace, ease or pleasure, but it's first meaning was to strengthen.

Reread the promise of Jesus to send another "Comforter" in the light of this meaning along with that ministry He was to perform in and for us and see if the thought of strengthening does not only fit but also add depth to the meaning of those scriptures.

TO SCATTERED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

God is the same - He is unchangable from age to age. As He once pronounced upon a people He loved who had gone astray a judgement of His righteous wrath, we too, can expect it to be visited upon us unless we repent.

"Hear the word of the Lord, ye children of Israel: for the Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. By swearing, and lying, and stealing, and killing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood. Therefore the land shall mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish, with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven, yea the fishes of the sea shall be taken away." (Hosea 4:1-3)

Should such a judgment be brought upon us? Turn to the prophet Joel chapters 2 and 3, and read what he wrote under the Spirit of God! Note that he speaks to the Gentiles as well as to the house of Israel; There are TWO locations for safety and deliverence! These are "in Mount Zion (a government under God) and in Jerusalem," chapter 2:32, and 3:16, 17.

Because of recent historic events in the mid-east land, I have digressed some from the topic of the kingdom of God, but we should recognize that this is all interwoven in God's plan as we see the history of mankind as a fulfillment of God's will. These historic events bring into sharper focus or appreciation of the time of the end. The whole world is watching with grave attention the development of peace or war between the government of Israel and the people of Arab nations. Every Christian has a tremendous stake in the outcome, spiritually and temporally, in the restoration of Israel.

This is a tremendous time in God's timetable for the nations of the earth. Remember we wrote of a book that was to come forth as mentioned in Isaiah, chapter 29? Another major prophet to Israel was prompted by the Spirit of God to write of it also. Turn in your Bible to Ezekial 37:15-28. Here is presented to us the mystery of the "sticks."

In ancient times the writings on skins rolled on sticks was invaluable to preserve information. Even today they are still finding old manuscripts around the Dead Sea area. In the words of Ezekial, he was commanded to write upon one (stick) or record, for Judah, and for the house of Israel, his companions. Another "stick" or record, was to be made for Joseph, and for the house of Israel, his companions. These were to be two separate writings, distinctly different in source, and both were to be visible records, as Ezekiel says in verse 20, "And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes."

Students of history have long recognized the Bible as the writing of the people of Judah. The Jews, as

we call them, have kept their national identity throughout the long history of captivity and dispersion into many nations on earth. At the time of their overthrow at Jerusalem in 70 A. D. there were with them about one half of the tribe of Benjamin. The balance of the house of Israel had been previously conquered and so we have ten and one half tribes that were lost in their dispersion and captivity.

With the ten and one half tribes were the tribe of Ephraim and Mannasseh, sons of Joseph. In Genesis 48:15-20, Jacob blessed these sons of Joseph and set apart Ephaim as the greatest. Therefore, we see why the stick (record) of Joseph was to be found in the land of Ephraim. However, their identity was lost as a people and their writings were also lost until the time of this prophecy says that they will be joined with the writings of the Jews, the Bible. "Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand." (Ezekial 37:19)

What can we say? That God is mocked and the people of Ephraim and Manasseh are silent and without record or a knowledge of God? Two major prophets speak for them, and even as "out of the ground, and thy speech shall be low out of the dust, and thy voice shall whisper out of the dust." (Isaiah 29:4)

This is to be accomplished before the Lord restores the house of Israel to their land of Palestine and to Jerusalem, the city of their God, Jehovah.

In 1914, General Allenby of the English Army forced the surrender of Jerusalem from the Turks. This opened the way for the return of the Jews (Judah), for Great Britain held the city under mandate until the people of Israel were secure. They declared their independence in 1948, and once again have been recognized as a political power and a sovereign state among the nations.

If this is the fact accomplished, then where is the book, the "stick" of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim" to be found? Is the book still "sealed," as Isaiah says, that the "learned" cannot read it? Is it in the hands of Ephraim, a lost people? Or will we find it in the hands of the "unlearned," who are humble enough to ask God for understanding, that will bring about a "marvelous work, and a wonder," that God has promised in these latter days?

May God hasten His kingdom's coming in such a way that you and I may see more clearly our salvaion manifested in the written Word, and our spirits caught up in worship of our Lord, Jesus the Christ.

Your brother in Christ,
Elder Arthur G. Smith

Excerpts from Sermons

On faith: . . . If you want faith, work for it, work for the Master and faith will grow. When a man thinks profession and name have any virtue in themselves; when he thinks a violent defense of doctrines will save him the trouble of being good; when he thinks loud assertion of truth is as good as loving it; when he places intelligence above the heart, and culture and knowledge above character; then he has a dead faith. Faith comes through action and service and most of us have flabby faith muscles!

What can I do to increase my faith? This is a question we need to ask and it is one that can be answered only by ourselves. As we have said, you can begin where you are (where else?) and start walking toward God. As a powerful steel cable is built upon a core of rope, so faith is built upon the core of obedience to God through service. Acts of love and service are the steel wires that add strength to the cable of our life. If you do this you will know what faith is. Did you ever stop to think that faith is not so much "trying to believe something regardless of evidence" as much as it is, "daring to do something regardless of the consequences?" Oren Caviness.

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On, "Stuff" . . . In an incident recorded in I Samuel 10: Samuel had called the tribes together and called for Saul to be brought forth. He could not be found and when they inquired of the Lord, he answered and said, "Behold he hath hid himself among the stuff."

This can well be adapted to our own times, because many times when important things are happening and we should be doing them, we are out doing something else . . . we might call that, 'hiding among the stuff.' As a church we spend a large portion of our time hiding in the depths of doctrinal contentions rather than striving to spread Christ's gospel among all people as we have been told to do.

As individuals we hide within the piles of stuff which we create in our minds, and we give this 'stuff' priority over our Christian living. And I believe all those things we contend over and use as excuses for neglecting our righteous service, are to God, just plain 'stuff' . . . Many inferior things, the 'stuff' we are hiding among, should be conspicuous for it's absence. This does not mean that we should not enjoy all the beautiful things made by the hand of man, . . . but all such things are inferior to the beauty and the importance of those pertaining to Christ.

But like Saul of old, to be received in the kingdom we must come out of our hiding place among the stuff. Inferior things of the heart and mind must be set aside.

Ed McIndoo

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Our responsibility . . . There is an old saying that the best things in life are free, and the more wisdom we obtain the more truth we see in that statement. We begin our life as takers, as receivers. Now and then

you will hear some character say he was born into a world he didn't make or want, but when we are spiritually healthy we will never cease to marvel and rejoice that life is given us through our parents and they protected us and provided for us through all our helpless years. We received those things not because we deserved them but because they loved us.

Love also enters into our married life later. My wife sews, cooks, keeps a neat and homey house, not because I deserve these things, but because she has made an agreement with God and with me to love and to cherish until death do us part. And I have made the same agreement with God and with her. There are certain things we must do; there are certain things we also receive. Even so it is with salvation; we must make an agreement with God and there are certain things we must do as there are certain promises that we shall receive.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

Any gift that you accept has certain strings attached to it . . . The act of accepting a gift involves the duty of using it. Your life is just such a gift; it is a gift we must use, and if we fail to use it we have insulted the giver. Listen to our Lord, "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake . . . the same shall save it." . . . here is the answer to what we must do for the gift of life.

At the center of life there seems to be a law that says, "Life is a gift from God, but it is capital that must be spent." It must be used and cannot be hoarded. If you will spend your life in the service of God and others, you will find it in rich experience and everexpanding purpose; Even as you busy yourself living for God and for others a deep sense of purpose and fulfillment expands your heart and mind and soul. Then you will understand the beautiful meaning of St. Augustine's oft-quoted words, "Our lives are made for Thee, O God, and are restless until they find their rest in Thee."

It is for us to begin now to live our lives like heirs of our King. We are not beasts nor machines. We are the children of the King who have been designated as heirs to His treasures. It is for us to ask what we must do, and then prepare our hearts and souls for His divine presence . . . The promise of God has been made. The great inheritance has been promised and God is ready to bestow it, but it cannot be bestowed until we, in all sincerity of soul and mind, cry the words of the rich young man; "What must I do to inherit . . ." We must come face to face with the fact that we must do; and we must be the things that God has commanded. We must be an obedient people and we shall inherit the promises of God. We must say as did Christ, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit." John Jones

Pictures

I love to look at pictures,
 In the album, or on the wall,
 But the pictures in the Bible,
 Oh! I love them best of all.
 I see Adam in the garden
 With God's beauty everywhere.
 And everything was perfect,
 For God walked with Adam there.

Then I see another picture,
 written on those pages fair,
 I can see God calling Adam,
 But Adam wasn't there.
 He had fled within the garden,
 Wretched, naked and afraid,
 Afraid to look upon God's face,
 For he had disobeyed.

I see Eve with Cain and Abel,
 Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, too;
 I see Noah, Moses, Aaron,
 Oh! that's just a few.
 So I keep on turning pages,
 Scene on scene they unfold
 And with those sacred pages,
 The sweetest story ever told.

I see Jesus in the manger
 In the town of Bethlehem.
 Then I see Him in the temple
 Where He was teaching them.
 I see Him as He traveled
 On the shores of Gallilee,
 Calling, begging, pleading,
 "Come ye after me."

I see another picture,
 It's the one I love;
 John and Jesus in the water,
 And the Spirit like a dove.
 Then the picture darkens
 For the tempter comes along,
 Using all his wiles and cunning ways
 To get Christ to do some wrong.

Pictures, Oh! such pictures!
 Look at that one over there,
 Mary washed the feet of Jesus
 And dried them with her hair.
 Then just look at this one,
 What a story it does tell,
 Jesus, tired and weary,
 With the woman at the well.

Look at this one over here!
 It's another one you must see!
 The Savior, meek and lowly,
 With a child upon His knee.
 Now I see Him in the garden,
 Where He sweat great drops of blood

Praying, praying, for the Father
 To remove the heavy load.

Next I see Him at the table,
 Just before He was betrayed,
 Telling His apostles
 Of the plans that had been made.
 Let's pause here just a moment,
 Close our eyes that we may see,
 The emblems of His blood an body
 That He gave on Calvary.

As we gather around the table,
 That is spread for you and me,
 I can see that Blessed Savior
 As He hung there on that tree.
 I can't show you all the pictures,
 That would take too long,
 And it's hard for me to put them
 In the place where they belong.

I can see Him at the council
 Where He uttered not a word,
 Hear the mob, "We want Barabbas,
 "We will crucify the Lord."
 Then I see the cross of Calvary,
 Standing lone and bare,
 And I see the tomb is empty,
 Mary standing weeping there.

There is a picture over yonder,
 It's the picture of my choice,
 For I see the smile on Mary's face,
 For she knew the Master's voice.
 There is another right beside it,
 And I point to it with pride,
 It's the picture of my Savior,
 Sitting at the Father's side.

I can see just one more picture,
 It's the last one and the best,
 It's a picture of God's glory,
 Where the saints shall go to rest.
 Yes, I love to look at pictures,
 In the album or on the wall,
 But the pictures in the Bible,
 I love them best of all.

Paul N.

MINI-LIGHTING

"Peter said unto him, though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee . . ." Matt. 26:35

It was such a brave moment when Peter offered to go to the death with Jesus; don't we all have these brave moments when the presence of our dear Lord is so clear and so close that we feel anything short of offering our lives is unworthy of him? But He knows the mortal weakness, how frail our faith and our fortitude. In another place He prays for Peter that his faith fail not; and in this incident warns Peter that

he will deny Him thrice before the cock crows. Then when the denial takes place Jesus turns and just looks at Peter. What was in that look? rebuke? scorn, displeasure, I think not. I think it was a look of pure love; of forgiveness and compassion, for surely the Lord knew the heart of Peter and how bitterly he would grieve over that denial. The Lord was not feeling for himself in that look, he was feeling for Peter.

It is this same look that He turns upon us in our times of failing that which we have so fervently avowed; such a look of commingled love and pity and understanding that it breaks the heart anew.

Letter Conversations . . . Excerpts

We have had a long beautiful fall, and the farmers are happy with a bumper crop of corn and potatoes. One farmer said he thought they would be using more snow fencing for make-shift corn bins than for snow this winter. It is all well and good, these bumper crops, if they would only know how to store and save for the lean years that are sure to come. We need another 'Joseph' I think to plan and regulate such an operation.

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There are so many frustrated and lonely and unhappy souls in the world today, not only among the elderly but young people as well, all looking for and needing comfort and hope; something to tie to in these distressing times. And of course we know that Christ alone is our only sure Rock of defense. We have the Gospel, the plan of Salvation, and yet until we can fully demonstrate it, not only to say but to do, we will not be that shining light, or that city that is set upon a hill which cannot be hid. It is a personal matter too, and we must each look in our own hearts to be sure that we are ready for Zion. Somewhere the scripture says that Zion is to be built by sacrifice, and truly that is what it will take, sacrificing our desires and seeking only the Lord's will to be done. And undoubtedly it means sacrificing materially too; that our desire will be to use our means to further the Lord's work.

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I was especially impressed with your comments on administration, and asking for prayers for healing, I know of course that when Christ was on earth and performed miracles of healing, he at times said, "Thy sins be forgiven thee." But I had never really applied that to myself, or thought of it as such under the hands of the ministry. However God's servants were to have power to heal the sick, and James says, "And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him." So it must be so. How wonderful, and yet how very careful and repentant we must be about seeking such a blessing.

HOUSTON, MO. LOCAL REPORT

We've had so many good services this month I hardly know where to start and what to condense. Brother Truman Medders spoke to us on charity as defined in I Cor. 13:1-13 (his text) and Book of Mormon, page 768, verses 50-53 which states almost the same thing. Charity is the pure love of Christ. Love is happiness, is life, is energy. God wants us to love one another as He loved us.

Let us greet each day with love in our hearts, look on all things with love in our hearts. Love your enemies as well as your brothers; do not meet them with criticism but with love.

Brother Roland Sarratt advised us to pay heed to the teachings of our church, not to listen to Satan who seeks to destroy us. Satan tries to tear us down and/or apart, to cripple us with half truths. Truth comes from God Who is no respecter of persons. God is truth; He is love. His love is so great that He sent His son to redeem us. Look up. Do not expect permissiveness from God. He does not look on sin with the least degree of tolerance. Respond to His truths. Some scriptures used were John 14:6 where Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth and the light" and 8:32 "Know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

Brother David Jones told us, "Only he who doeth the will of my Father in Heaven" can indeed enter into the kingdom of Heaven. Yes, there are things one must do. One must follow Christ's example, obey his commandments. People today depend on written warranties when buying in the worldly market place. They also want this warantee or guarantee of salvation, of being saved in their religion. There's no such thing available. How we live our lives following Christ's commandments will tell the tale. We have to continually remind ourselves to keep in line, to do his will every day, not just now and then, or when convenient. We must draw near to God with a true heart and hold fast to our faith without wavering. If we believe that this is the true gospel and Christ's true church, we need to be doing His work and keeping His words.

Brother Eugene Gould told us to "Prepare ye the way of the Lord and make his paths straight." The natural man is an enemy to God. We need to put off the natural man, yield to the enticings of the Holy Spirit and become a saint (follower of Christ). We should become as a little child, submissive, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all that God inflicts on us.

A loving child imitates the parent in the human family. As children of God, we need to imitate our Heavenly Father in giving our love. As He has given to us, we must give it to others. Trust God. Follow His commandments. Keep them to the end of life and perish not.

Brother Marvin Ely admonished us to "find the old path wherein is the good way, and walk therein,

and ye shall find rest for your souls." The old paths are the ways of the Lord and his plan of salvation; they are the same yesterday, today and tomorrow for we have an unchangeable God. He sighted for us the principles of repentance, faith, baptism, laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead and eternal judgement. He then looked up the scriptures pertaining to these qualities and discussed them in detail. God can and will be with us; we need to feast upon the words of Christ and they will tell you all that you should do.

On July 25, our dear sister, Verna Jones, left this earthly life after a long illness to be with our heavenly Father. We are much saddened by our loss and ask your prayers for her family, that the Lord be with them in comfort and peace of mind and soul.

Your Houston Reporter,
Mary Addie

AVA REPORT

Our meetings continue with many truths being brought to us by the local ministry and our guest speakers. I can only bring fragments, precious thoughts and insights drawn from these vital truths.

A most vital need now impressed on our minds is the inward growth preparation we need to make now for Christ's coming. This preparation is most important in these days, yea, much more vital than preparing ourselves against the disasters foretold, for inward spiritual growth and to be strengthened in faith by God is our safety.

"Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruits of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees." (Heb. 11, 12)

"And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." (Luke 21:28)

"And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." (Isa. 35:10)

This didn't say peaceful fruits, as peaceful only unto self, drawing all things unto self. No! it says "peaceable fruits," peaceable attributes extending outward to bless others, extended upward in blessing to God. We are to grow by God's indwelling to these peaceable fruits, i. e. "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." (Gal. 5:22,23) He then shines forth to others in blessing through us, the window pane cleansed by Him through which His light shines.

Reading in Acts 17:31: "Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in right-

eousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead."

This is beautiful! Christ is the only hope for broken humanity; in Christ and through Christ are all men lifted into God's righteousness to be judged. The words, "he will judge the world in righteousness" stood out pointedly and I began to ponder how this could be. What was the special meaning of this? It seemed to mean that broken humanity, now by Christ's redeeming sacrifice, will be lifted up into God's mercy, grace, love, justice and righteousness to be judged.

We find in Moroni 10:31: "And now I bid unto all, farewell. I soon go to rest in the paradise of God, until my spirit and body shall again reunite, and I am brought forth triumphant through the air, to meet you before the pleasing bar of the great Jehovah, the eternal Judge of both the quick and dead."

"Wherefore, I said unto you, Feast upon the words of Christ; for behold the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do." (2 Nephi 14:4)

The things we are to do that thereby His light may shine clearly are recorded in 3 Nephi 8:55: "Behold I am the light which ye shall hold up — that which ye have seen me do."

Turning to Mark 4:21: "And he said unto them, Is a candle brought to be put under a bushel, or under a bed: and not to be set on a candlestick?"

We were warned that we must take the "bushel" off this precious light which is Christ. What is this bushel, this basket? What is it that is in our characters that hides His light from shining forth from our lives and actions? Is it not our unpurified hearts, our unwillingness to truly commit our lives, our thoughts, our emotions to Him that He may cleanse?

Old habits are strong; we fall back into them over and over again, such as judgefulness, scorn, revilings, bitterness, unforgiveness, etc.

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added to unto you." (Matt. 6:33)

By feasting upon the words of Christ, seeking His way of acting, of thinking, of emotional response, of guarding our words with the Holy Ghost's help, we enter the straight gate which is Christ, following His example, ever pleading His Spirit to enlighten our minds.

"And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live." (Luke 10:28)

We shall live His shining light, not just talk about it, but do it. Oh wonderful promise, by putting God and Christ's light first in our lives, "all these things shall be added unto you." We will be enabled by Him to shine forth His precious light, the beautiful "fruits of the Spirit" as listed above. For He will perfect the work He has started in us, in everyone. (Heb. 13:20, 21)

Darleen Smith

OBITUARY

Verna Francis Jones

Verna Francis Jones, 61, daughter of Edith and Charles Eddy, was born September 5, 1918 in Black River Falls, Wisc. and died July 25, 1980 in Houston, Mo.

She was united in marriage to John H. Jones December 21, 1936 in Black River Falls, Wisc. by the Rev. Elmer Cooper and to this union four children were born. One infant son, James Eddy Jones preceded her in death.

Survivors are her husband, John of the home; her children, Maybelle Woiak of Nekoosa, Wisc.; Johna Ely of Houston, and David Jones of Nevada, Mo. and nine grandchildren; three brothers, Cecil and Donald Eddy of Black River Falls, Wisc., Merle Eddy of Eau Claire, Wisc., three sisters, Marjorie Cain and Beverly Hesse of Black River Falls, Wis., and Dorothy Wilson of Houston, Mo.

Mrs. Jones moved to the Houston area in 1974 after living in Phoenix, Ariz. for 15 years. Verna was a member of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) for over 40 years, remaining active in the church as long as her health permitted.

Funeral services were held Monday, July 28 in the Evans Funeral Home Chapel with Apostle Marvin E. Ely officiating. Burial was in the Pinelawn Cemetery.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Gladys Irene Loyd was born November 29, 1908 in Des Moines, Iowa and died July 20, 1980 at Oak Grove, Missouri. She was laid to rest in the Oak Grove Cemetery.

She was a faithful member of the Reorganized Church for many years. She was also a great friend of mine for many years and was very kind to our missionaries when they visited here in Cranston, Rhode Island. A faithful member has gone on to her reward.

Contributed by
Rose Burlingame

AN INVITATION

As of the 1980 Conference I am the Correspondent for the Central States.

If you live in the Central States and are an isolated member and would like to correspond with a member of the Church please write me.

If you know of any isolated or shut-in members that you think would enjoy hearing from a fellow believer please send me their names and addresses.

Your sister in Christ,
Marlene Cobb
P. O. Box 177
Buffalo, Missouri 65622

Verna

I have this friend, you see,
Who's meant the world to me.
She's sweet, kind and oh, so true
Always giving the Lord his due.

She likes to talk to her Master
And never does the time go faster
Than in these moments too few
As we speak of our Lord, so true.

She played the sermons, songs of praise
From tapes made on His holy days.
A newly written song pleased her much
She found many a blessing contained in such.

Tho she's been ill this long, long time
On the way to her reward sublime
Her thoughts and spirits have remained high,
Our love for her will never die.

Now she's left her distress behind
And gone on with her Lord so kind;
I pray we'll greet each other some day
In that special place along God's way.

As down life's road we plod
Seeking favor from our God,
I pray you each have such a friend,
One who's true to the very end.

Mary Addie

SERVICE NOTE

Larry Jenkins returned recently from a tour of duty with the Air Force in Korea. He and Pam (Burgin) are now stationed in New Mexico, and would enjoy hearing from their friends. Their address is:

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Jenkins
1116 A - 11th Loop
Kirtland Air Force Base,
New Mexico 87116

ERRATA NOTE:

July 1980 Advocate

Article: "God's Children" - Robert H. Jensen, General Church Historian.

Page 99, Col. 2, par. 3, line 6: "what specific" should be "what that specific."

Page 99, Col. 2, par. 6, line 7: "hereby" should be "thereby."

Page 100, Col. 1, par. 1, line 9: "local" should be "locale."

Page 100, Col. 2, par. 2, line 6: "observed the people" should be "observed people."

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 1981 Minister's Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 19th, 20th and 21st 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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Are You Satisfied?	N/C
Gentiles - Weighed and Wanting	N/C
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Marriage For Time and Eternity?	N/C
Baptism For The Dead?	N/C
Zion and the Temple of the Lord	N/C

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