

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. 58

Independence, Missouri, February, 1981

No. 2

I Cannot Persuade You

I cannot persuade you, dear one,
Of the glory of my Lord.
I cannot use my gift of speech,
Word piled upon endless word.
My words are my condemnation
And a confusion to your soul.
How can I persuade you, dear one?
What can be my role?

I cannot persuade you, dear one,
Of that redeeming love for thee,
Which comes from heavenly realms
In soft showers pure and free.
Ah, were there but one gentle word
So strong and of such power
To touch and pierce your dear heart;
To crumble your stern tower.

Alas, I cannot persuade you
Of that sacrifice of love;
The gift to all creation
Of eternal life above.
But His Holy Spirit can touch
Your dear life and mine
That I might live my life
For you to see His glory divine.

Help me, Jesus, to surrender
My will unto Thine own
That in my heart might dwell that love
Which Thou hast clearly shown.
Lord, that but by living
A witness I might be
So all who do not know Thee,
Thou would persuade to see.

Margaret Winegar Smith

CONTENTS

The Gentiles and Their High Calling (Ed.)	18	Letters Of Oliver Cowdery No. 8	28
A Look At Things	20	To Scattered Members and Friends	30
Fasting - A Look At The Bible and		Puryear News	30
Book of Mormon Descriptions	23	Houston, Mo. Local Report	31
Excerpts From A Letter	26	The Lord Is A Shepherd	31

Zion's Advocate

ZION'S ADVOCATE (USPS 699-300)

Official publication of The Church of Christ
Headquarters on the Temple Lot, 200 S. River Blvd.
Independence, Missouri 64050
Phone: (816) 833-3995 - 833-3914

EDITOR

Roland Sarratt, 15910 E. 36th Terr., Independence, Missouri 64055
Phone 373-6605

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Harvey E. Seibel, 9800 E. 32nd St., Independence, Mo. 64052, 461-1762
Becky L. Fann, 4117 S. River Blvd., Independence, Mo. 64055, 373-8846

BUSINESS MANAGER OF THE ADVOCATE

C. LeRoy Wheaton, P. O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Temple Lot) 200 S. River Blvd., P. O. Box 472, Independence,
Missouri 64051

Second Class Postage Paid At Independence, Missouri

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Subscription rates to members paid from general funds. In bundles of twelve or more for missionary purposes, \$2.00. Non-member rates one year \$4.00. Canadian and all foreign rates, \$4.50.

Send all donations for the Temple Fund, the Storehouse, Consecrations, Tithes, Offerings, and Subscriptions for The Advocate to:

Church of Christ (Temple Lot)
200 S. River Blvd.
P. O. Box 472

Independence, Missouri 64051

Att.: C. LeRoy Wheaton, Business Manager, General Church
Secretary, Council of Apostles, William A. Sheldon, 1011 S.
Cottage, Independence, Missouri 64050.

Secretary, Council of Bishops, Nicholas F. Denham, 4116 South
Cottage, Independence, Missouri 64055.

General Church Representative in the Office, James M. Case,
1106 E. Gudgell, Independence, Missouri 64055.

General Church Secretary, Robert W. Oldham, 13113 E. 44th,
Independence, Missouri 64055.

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.

All authorized declarations and notices coming from the General Conference, the Council of Apostles or the General Bishopric reflect the practices and beliefs of the General Church.

Editorial . . .

THE GENTILES AND THEIR HIGH CALLING

While it is true that the Gentiles as a whole will reject the fullness of the gospel, it is also true that there will be those among the Gentiles who will perform that great work to which God has called them. In fact, it is through the instrumentality of the Gentiles that the work of the last days will be accomplished.

This blessing to the Gentiles had its beginning in the days of Abraham when the Lord covenanted, "And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed" (Acts 3:25). The Book of Mormon goes on to say that this covenant will be fulfilled in the latter days (1 Nephi 4:28-29). Christ, when he made His visit to the people of this land, confirmed this truth when He told them that they were of the House of Israel and of the covenant which the Father had made to Abraham; that He, the Lord, had been sent to them first to bless them. Then after they were blessed, would the Father fulfill the covenant to Abraham unto the pouring out of the Holy Ghost upon the Gentiles, which blessing would make them mighty above all (3 Nephi 9:63-65).

The reason for this blessing being bestowed upon the Gentiles of the latter day is twofold. The first is because of their acceptance of the gospel in the days of Paul. "Behold, because of their belief in me, saith the Father, and because of the unbelief of you, O house of Israel, in the latter day shall the truth come unto the Gentiles, that the fullness of these things shall be made known unto them (3 Nephi 7:31). The second is

because of the infusion of Israelitish blood into their race following the Assyrian captivity. The ten-tribed kingdom of Israel headed by Ephraim never returned to Palestine and were lost to the knowledge of most historians. Nevertheless they eventually migrated northward and westward until they had settled among the Gentile inhabitants of northern and western Europe. This mixing of them with the peoples of these lands caused them to lose their identity.

In further support of this fact is the promise made to Ephraim that his seed would become a multitude of nations. Yet such was never the case in Palestine. But the Gentiles, because of the admixture of Ephraimite blood among them and because of the tremendous birthright blessings given to Ephraim, now became mighty above all resulting in the British Commonwealth of nations and the mighty United States of America (the prophesied multitude of nations).

Additionally, the greater blessing and work was to be realized by Ephraim as opposed to Manasseh. There were to be the thousands of Manasseh; the one great nation. This was fulfilled during the Book of Mormon times. But there were also to be the ten thousands of Ephraim; for Ephraim was to be greater than Manasseh and this fulfillment was to be in the latter days.

Because of this blessing upon the Gentiles through Ephraim they are to play a key role in the work of God

ahead. This work is twofold; they will bring the gospel to the Lord's covenant people and they will carry them forth to the lands of their inheritance.

What is this particular and special work of the Ephraimite Gentile? This work commenced in 1820-30 by one Joseph Smith (the choice seer of the Book of Mormon) along with others who were also called of God to help in this great and marvelous work. And so we find the stick of Joseph, the record of Manasseh being placed in the hands of Ephraim as prophesied in Ezekiel 37 or in the hands of the Gentiles as prophesied in the Book of Mormon, and this because Joseph Smith and we today of the church are Ephraimite Gentiles (excluding, of course, those who are of Manasseh).

What is this work of the Gentiles? "Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people; and they shall bring thy sons in their arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders. And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens shall be thy nursing mothers" (1 Nephi 6:52). "And after our seed (the Indian) is scattered, the Lord will proceed to do a marvelous work among the Gentiles, which shall be of great worth unto our seed; wherefore, it is likened unto their being nourished by the Gentiles, and being carried in their arms, and upon their shoulders (1 Nephi 7:17-18).

Those Gentiles, however, who will fight against this work will one day be caused to "... lick up the dust of their feet" (2 Nephi 5:33). Our concern in this article though will not be with those Gentiles who disbelieve but those who are obedient unto God.

As we indicated earlier, the work on the part of the Gentiles is dual, the preaching of the gospel and the gathering of the covenant people. However, the former must precede the latter. "But behold, thus saith the Lord God; When the day cometh that they shall believe in me, that I am Christ, then have I covenanted with their fathers, that they shall be restored in the flesh, upon the earth, unto the lands of their inheritance. And it shall come to pass that they shall be gathered in from their long dispersion from the isles of the sea, and from the four parts of the earth; And the nations of the Gentiles shall be great in the eyes of me, saith God, in carrying them forth to the lands of their inheritance. Yea, the kings of the Gentiles shall be nursing fathers unto them, and their queens shall become nursing mothers; Wherefore the promises of the Lord are great unto the Gentiles, for he hath spoken it, and who can dispute? (2 Nephi 7:12-16).

The work of the apostles of old and Paul in particular was to carry forth the gospel to the Gentiles. The intent on the part of Paul was to present the Gentiles as an offering unto the Lord. "That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost" (Romans 15:16).

And so it is today. We are also to bring to the Lord

an offering, but now in the form of our brethren, the covenant people of God. Speaking of this latter day we read, "And they shall bring all your brethren for an offering unto the Lord out of all nations upon horses, and in chariots, and in litters, and upon mules, and upon swift beasts, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, saith the Lord, as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the Lord" (Isaiah 66:20). Thus Judah will be presented to the Lord as an offering in righteousness. A similar work will also be performed upon this land through the instrumentality of the Ephraimite Gentile.

"But if they (the Gentile) will repent, and hearken unto my words, and harden not their hearts, I will establish my church among them, and they shall come in unto the covenant, and be numbered among this the remnant of Jacob, unto whom I have given this land for their inheritance, and they shall assist my people, the remnant of Jacob; And also, as many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem; And then shall they assist my people that they may be gathered in, who are scattered upon all the face of the land, in unto the New Jerusalem" (3 Nephi 10:1-3).

Some Gentiles did repent and God did establish His church as we know. It is we (if we remain faithful) who will assist or help the remnant of Jacob in this land (the Indian) and others of Israel as shall come that they may build the New Jerusalem. And then shall we help or provide the means that they may be gathered in unto the New Jerusalem when it is once built. Why? Because God has entrusted that work into our hands and it is we who have the means to perform this task through God, both spiritually and temporally. We thus will present our brethren an offering unto the Lord in righteousness.

The work that is ahead is truly great. We get a little inkling of this in the parable of the vineyard in Jacob the third chapter. The Lord of the vineyard at the beseeching of his servant agreed to make one further effort to prune the vineyard. In doing so he commanded his servant to call other servants and they were few. Nevertheless these few servants went forth in their mights and labored in the vineyard until all evil fruit was removed from the vineyard. They rendered total obedience unto all the commandments of the Lord of the vineyard. This work is going to be accomplished by the ministry of Christ who are called to labor within the Church of Christ.

In Isaiah 52 and 3 Nephi 9 we read of the marred servant who will carry the words of Christ to the nations and the kings thereof. When this man's testimony is rejected, then shall the remnant of Jacob rise up as a lion among the Gentiles. That work is soon to be accomplished and will also be performed from within the confines of the Church of Christ. That testimony, which will be afforded to the Gentiles, will be their final opportunity to repent and come unto Christ. Rejection will mean the falling of the sword of the

Lord upon their heads in judgment and the giving of the gospel to the house of Israel in power.

Finally, one of the most glorious events yet to come (perhaps second only to the advent of Christ and the redemption of Zion), will occur when the Gentiles come clean before the Lord and come unto that same faith that the Brother of Jared attained unto. "Behold, I have written upon these plates the very things which the Brother of Jared saw; and there never was greater things made manifest, that that which was made manifest unto the Brother of Jared; wherefore, the Lord hath commanded me to write them; and I have written them. And he commanded me that I should seal them up; and he also hath commanded that I should seal up the interpretation thereof; wherefore I have sealed up the interpreters, according to the commandments of the Lord. For the Lord said unto me, They shall not go forth unto the Gentiles until the day that they shall repent of their iniquity, and become clean before the

Lord; And in that day that they shall exercise faith me, saith the Lord, even as the Brother of Jared did, that they may become sanctified in me, then will I manifest unto them the things which the Brother of Jared saw, even to the unfolding unto them all my revelations, saith Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of heavens and of the earth, and all things that in them are" (Ether 1:98-101).

What a glorious day that lies before us. And again we, who are members of the body of Christ, have an opportunity to be among those Gentiles who are to come to that degree of faith and righteousness. Whether we do so, on an individual basis or not, yet this great blessing will also be found within the confines of the Church of Christ on earth. For it is certain that the Gentiles as a whole will not repent. "Wo be unto the Gentiles, saith the Lord God of hosts; for notwithstanding I shall lengthen out mine arm unto them from day to day, they will deny me" (2 Nephi 12:40).

Harvey E. Seibel

A LOOK AT THINGS

As the end of another year draws close upon us, we sometimes reflect on events that have transpired during the previous months. The election of a new president and the birth of a new hope in America, claim the pinnacles of our memories of the past year. Never before in my memory can I recall America speaking out so strongly, by their political vote, their desires for a new approach to the problems that face our nation. It is with all thankfulness of heart that we, as a nation, can change our leadership without war or bloodshed. Very few nations can do this.

This should not be a surprising realization to those who have studied the Bible, and especially those of the Restoration, who have studied the Book of Mormon also. Those who have delved deeply into the prophecies of these two books know well who directs and controls the birth and destiny of this nation. To deny that God's influence was not involved would be turning your back on historical fact and divine truth.

As I dwell on things past and the reasons, the conditions, and events that brought about this nation of freedom, I marvel at the careful manner in which God worked to bring about and develop this country. For instance, how God moved on Columbus and inspired him to lead an expedition across fearful waters to discover this continent. Do you know it took him eighteen years of work and perseverance to convince someone to finance such a trip?

Look at the story of the pilgrims; what gave them such a hunger for freedom that they would face so many trials and hardships? Where did the thirteen colonies get the courage to stand and fight so bravely for independence; even to defy England at a time when that nation was so vast and strong, that the sun never set on the English flag.

There are so many beautiful contributing incidents

in history that has helped to bring about this nation of freedom that have the earmarks of divine origin, one can continually marvel at them, and thank God for the privilege of being a citizen of this country.

The question might arise as to why God prepared this land of liberty? The answers are perhaps complex. The Bible and the Book of Mormon tell us it is the location of the New Jerusalem, Zion, and the gathering place of scattered Israel. These things are in the near future, true, but I'm dealing with the past and I wish to refresh your minds of things in the past. Perhaps we can deal with the future later.

One particular incident in history that I want to bring to your minds happened April 6, 1830: the restoration of the Church of Christ. It could only have occurred in free America. What a marvelous incident in history that was. What a glorious day, the fulfillment of prophecies long awaited. Think of the joy in heaven, as once again Christ's Kingdom was returned to earth.

It would be good to study the 12th chapter of Revelations and review in our minds the prophecy contained there. Take special note of the 6th verse where the woman, representing the Church, fled into the wilderness, "a place prepared of God", and she was to remain there 1260 days. We know the 1260 days, or years in prophetic terms, terminated in 1830.

In the Book of Daniel, 2nd Chapter, we read the account of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Take note of Daniel's interpretation of that dream, especially the 44th verse, "in the days of these kings." Daniel saw the complete image standing at one time, but in history these kingdoms followed one another, except there was one time when all of these kingdoms existed simultaneously, a short period during the first half of the year 1830.

Oh! the beauty of fulfilled prophecy. Words spoken and recorded hundreds of years ago, verified in our recent past. How quickly the majesty and marvel of these things fade from our minds as we face the dullness of the trials of our daily life. How easily supplanted are these precious memories, by the cares of our daily needs. Yet there is one thing that remains to keep us in touch with these moments of history. The Kingdom of Christ is still with us each day, and that is a marvel that surpasses all.

Let us take a look at this Kingdom that was restored April 6th, 1830. Yes, the Church of Christ, to which we look, for edification, for spiritual blessing, for fellowship, and for direction. Where does it stand today as an ensign raised to declare Christ to the world? Is it a bright and shining beacon that draws the lost and searching, or has its gleam died, or been hidden by the clouds of controversy, strife, jealousy, pride, and self righteousness? I believe the latter description fits better than the former. You might ask, who is to blame? I believe we all are to blame.

Ist Corinthians, 12th chapter, 12th verse. "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: That there should be no schism (division JFS) in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular." (12th through 27th verses. Compare also the 12th Chapter of Romans JFS)

In the physical body of man there are a multitude of working parts. The efficiency of the body depends on each part doing its own peculiar work, the heart pumping blood, lungs extracting oxygen from the air,

eyes seeing, ears hearing, etc. The failure of any part will weaken the body, failure of some parts will bring death. Normally the parts of the body work in harmony with each other.

If in your daily walk of life, while working, your left hand should get caught, say under a board. Your right hand does not say, "you got yourself into that mess, get yourself out," or "You should know better," or perhaps, "I have troubles of my own and have no time to help." Then go around to the other members and say, "Have you seen what bad thing the left hand has done?" No! The right hand will, by nature, because they are FELLOW MEMBERS, go to the aid of the left hand immediately. In the Church today our concern for our brothers and sisters is constricted by our judgments upon them. If they are walking in our pathway, then we will help if it doesn't cost too much. However, if they are of another train of thought, then we will express our sympathy and look for problems more pressing nearer home, generally speaking.

Suppose your right foot headed east at the same time the left headed west? How far would you expect to get? You will get about as far as the Church will get if the Apostles pull one way while the Bishops pull another, and the rest of the ministry and members pull their own particular way. I am not judging, condemning, or chastizing the Apostles, Bishops, or any one else for that matter. What I am saying is: We have almost ceased to function as a healthy, physical body because of a lack of unity.

This lack of unity is brought about by many factors. One such factor is the failure of some members to grant to others the same freedom of thought, or belief that they allow themselves. This is a God given right in America; everyone must have the right to believe as they see fit. The priesthood can teach, counsel and suggest, but we cannot force our theories on others. To some, if a person doesn't believe as they do, they are cut off, hated, despised, shunned, etc. It is sufficient to present your belief, with all your evidence, and leave it to the individual to form his own opinion. Brain-washing is not necessary nor desirable. If God has given you knowledge and you present it to the best of your ability, and if God wants another to receive this same light, it will be made clear to them.

Another factor that has brought disunity among the many members, is the failure of the ministry to differentiate between the Gospel of Christ and the theory of man. Theory is fine as far as theory goes, but the Doctrine of Christ is salvation to mankind. The Doctrine of Christ is made quite plain in the Bible and the Book of Mormon. Hebrews 6 the 1st thru 3rd verse: "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection: not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this will we do, if God permits."

Book of Mormon, page 634, Book of Nephi, chap: 5, verse 32 thru 43: "Behold, verily, verily I say unto you, I will declare unto you my doctrine. And this is my doctrine, and it is the doctrine which the Father hath given unto me; And I bear record of the Father, and the Father beareth record of me, and the Holy Ghost beareth record of the Father and me, and I bear record that the Father commandeth all men, everywhere, to repent and believe in me; And whoso believeth in me, and is baptized, the same shall be saved; and they are they who shall inherit the kingdom of God. And whoso believeth not in me, and is not baptized, shall be damned. Verily, verily I say unto you, that this is my doctrine; and I bear record of it from the Father; and whoso believeth in me, believeth in the Father also; . . . And again I say unto you, Ye must repent, and become as a little child, and be baptized in my name, or ye can in no wise receive these things. And again I say unto you, Ye must repent, and be baptized in my name, and become as a little child, or ye can in nowise inherit the kingdom of God. Verily, verily I say unto you, that this is my doctrine; and whoso buildeth upon this, buildeth upon my rock; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against them."

It is interesting to note that all of the men called to the work of the ministry in the early years of the restored Church of Christ, were told to go out and preach "naught but repentance." Take a look through your Book of Commandments and notice the calling and admonishments given to each one that was called to go forth in the work of the ministry. (Chapter 5, verse 4, Chapter 10, verse 4, Chapter 12, verse 4, Chapter 14, verse 3, chapter 15, verse 5, chapter 16, verses 22 and 32, and many more)

There are many more factors that have caused disunity in our body. Self-righteousness, pride, jealousy, lack of brotherly love, lack of Gods love in our hearts, lack of motivation or "push."

It may suffice some to say, "we're not that bad, or to stand on the walls of Zion and cry "all is well," but to me truth is truth and fact is fact, and you don't pick sour apples from a sweet apple tree. We are like a tree in that we bare a fruit and the fruit we bare is descriptive of the Church we are.

There is one more thought I will present to you as being a contributing factor to the lack of unity, and that is the lack of a common goal or purpose. Perhaps the goal is there, but maybe it isn't common to all of us; or maybe our understanding of that purpose is different. We need something to push toward, to work for, something to unite us together, a common direction for ALL of us members to go.

Let us try a little experiment. I shall ask all of you, from the top to the bottom, Apostle, Elder, Priest, member, nonmembers, male and female, young and old, to write me a card and state what you think the goal or purpose is in the Church. It will only cost 15 cents and ten minutes of your time. I will send the results

of my "survey" to be published in the Advocate. No names will be mentioned. Are you interested enough? I'll take of my time to consolidate your answers. Just answer in a few short lines: (What is the immediate purpose or goal for us as a Church?) What should we be striving to accomplish today?

It seems impossible to end this article of the past without a glance into the future. You know, it's only 19 years until the end of this century. That will be 6000 years (about) since time began. Will the year 2000 bring the millenium? If so, and some believe it will, there is much to be accomplished between now and then. Is the kingdom prepared for the coming of Christ? Have we kept his "body" in good health? Are you satisfied with his Church? Are you satisfied with yourself? I'm not, for I know I have been a "slothful" and lazy servant, and I aim to do something about it, God willing.

What about it fellow members, shall we stir up our spirits, our motivation, and start pulling ourselves together? I think we have been slacking long enough; let's go together and start preparing ourselves and God's Kingdom for his coming. White your answers to:

Joseph F. Smith
Route 1, Box 100A
Horseshoebend, Idaho 83629

OH TO LIVE CLOSER TO JESUS

I

Oh to live ner'er to Jesus
Walking close by his side,
Letting him choose my pathway
Letting him be my guide.

(Chorus)

Oh to live closer to Jesus
He to lift me up hgher,
Oh to live closer to Jesus
This is my hearts desire.

II

There is no other to follow
Who can show me the way,
To the bright mansions of glory
To the perfect day.

III

Where in his glorious presence
Clothed in the light from above,
Free from all pain and sorrow
Wrapped in his wondrous love.

IV

There we'll all join together
With the bright Seraphim,
There we'll rest from our labours,
Singing praises to him.

Stella Winegar

FASTING - A LOOK AT THE BIBLE AND BOOK OF MORMON DESCRIPTIONS

by Todd James Toulouse

GENERAL COMMENTS:

(Condensed from Smith's Bible Dictionary)

Fasting gains all its value through the sacrifice of the personal will. This sacrifice of the personal will is also called "afflicting the soul" in Old Testament writings. The Jewish fasts were observed with various degrees of strictness. Sometimes there was entire abstinence from food (Esther 4:16). On other occasions there appears to have been only a restriction to a very plain diet (Dan. 10:3). Those who fasted frequently dressed in sackcloth or rent their clothes, put ashes on their head and went barefoot (I Kings 21:27; Neh. 9:1; Ps. 35:13). Public fasts were occasionally proclaimed to express national humiliation and to supplicate divine favor (Neh. 9:1; Ezra 8:23; I Sam. 7:6).

METHODS:

- (1) Simple foods only
- (2) no food or drink
- (3) with prayer
- (4) with reading of scriptures
- (5) with repentance
- (6) with a lack of other physical pleasures
- (7) with humbleness

REASONS:

- (1) to repent of sins
- (2) while requesting guidance
- (3) as a form of worship
- (4) in an attempt to enter closer to God
- (5) to ordain/prepare ministers
- (6) in mourning the death of someone
- (7) while requesting things from God (safety, visions, the meaning of a vision, etc.)
- (8) to become humble
- (9) in efforts to turn away the displeasure of God
- (10) that others might be helped

COMMENTS ON BIBLE REFERENCES

OLD TESTAMENT

Dan. 10:3

Note that Daniel did eat - that he only avoided meats and tasty foods. Note also that in verse 2, Daniel calls this period "mourning." It appears that Daniel was either attempting to better understand a past vision or to bring on a new one.

Esther 4:16

In this case, no food or drink was taken for three days and nights. It would appear that this fast was called in an effort to turn away the displeasure of God.

1 Kings 21:27

Here we find a wicked man (Ahab) fasting after he has become aware of his sins - it would appear that this was done to humble himself before God and in verse 29, we learn that God did believe that Ahab had repented.

Neh. 9:1

The people here fast in connection with confessing and repenting their sins.

Ps. 35:13 and 14

In this case we find one person fasting and humbling himself in sorrow over the problems of another person.

Ezra 8:21-23

Here the people fast that they might humble themselves and then request from God that He protect them on their journey.

1 Sam. 7:6

Again fasting is used in connection with repenting of sins and in an effort to prepare their hearts and thus return to God.

Joel 2:12

Fasting is used to come closer to the Lord.

2 Chr. 20:3

Fasting is used here while attempting to seek God and to ask for His help.

Judges 20:26

Here again fasting is used in the hope of gaining God's favor and to obtain an answer to a question.

Lev. 16:29

Here fasting is called "afflicting the soul" and is used in connection with repentance on the day of atonement (10th day of the 7th month of each year).

Zech. 7:1-7

We learn here that the people fasted each year during the 5th and 7th months. We also learn that fasting is of no value if it is done without true heart felt meaning.

Zech. 8:19

Here we are told of four annual fasts. We are also told that someday these fasts would become joyful feasts.

Isa. 58:3-9

Here right and wrong forms and reasons for fasting are described.

Joel 1:14

Again fasting is used to come closer to God.

Dan. 9:3

Here Daniel prays and fasts as he confesses his sins to God.

Deut. 9:18

Moses goes without bread and water for forty days in hope that God would have mercy on those who sinned by worshipping the golden calf.

Ex. 34:28

Moses did not eat of bread and water for forty days while he was with God and was receiving the ten commandments.

Jer. 36:6

Here we learn that on "the fasting day" the holy scriptures were read.

Lev. 23:26-30

God directs Moses to inform the people that on the 10th day of the 7th month, they were to fast and have it as a day of atonement.

2 Sam. 1:12

Here the people fast as part of their mourning for those killed.

Dan. 6:18

Here a non-Jewish king is found fasting because he is troubled over what he has done.

2 Sam. 12:15-23

David here fasted in the hope that God would be gracious to him and save his son - note however that because of David's sin, the boy dies even though David fasted.

1 Sam. 31:13

Here we find people fasting after Saul and his sons were killed. Fasting is again used with mourning.

1 Chr. 10:12

(see 1 Sam. 31:13 comment).

2 Sam. 3:35

David fasts at Abner's death.

Deut. 9:9

(see Ex. 34:28 comment).

1 Kings 19:8

We are told that Elijah ate before going to Horeb (the mount of God) but that once there he did not eat for the next 40 days and 40 nights.

Jer. 14:12

Here we learn that when the unworthy fast, God does not hear their cry.

Ezra 10:6

Ezra did not eat or drink because he was mourning over the unfaithfulness of the exiles.

Neh. 1:4-6

Nehemiah fasted hoping that God might see and hear his prayer.

Jonah 3:4-10

The people of Ninevah repented of their sins and fasted as an outward sign.

COMMENTS ON BIBLE REFERENCES NEW TESTAMENT:

Acts 13:3

Here a combination of prayer and fasting is used to ordain/prepare two new ministers.

Acts 14:23

(see Acts 13:3 comment).

Luke 2:37

The woman Anna is described here as one who served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

2 Cor. 6:5

Paul here includes fasting in his list of things which God's ministry should set examples concerning.

2 Cor. 11:27

Paul includes fasting in his list of things which he has suffered as a servant of God.

Matt. 4:2

We are told that Christ fasted for 40 days and 40 nights after going into the wilderness following his baptism.

Luke 4:2

(see Matt. 4:2 comment).

Acts 9:9

Paul did not eat or drink for three days when his sight was taken from him.

Matt. 6:16-18

Christ tells us to fast in secret - that fasting is between us and God and not for others to know.

Matt. 9:14 and 15

Christ tells the followers of John that his (Christ's) disciples have no need to fast while he is with them but that when he is gone they will again have reason to fast.

Acts 27:9

The fast mentioned was the Jewish Day of Atonement. We are not told however if Paul was fasting at this time or not.

Mark 2:18

(see Matt. 9:14 and 15 comment).

Luke 5:33

(see Matt. 9:14 and 15 comment).

Luke 18:12

Christ mentions fasting as part of the parable of the Pharisee and the publican.

Acts 10:30

(note: some old manuscripts here used the word "praying" instead of "fasting") Here is the account of a devout man who included fasting in his worship of God and in his search for answers.

Matt. 17:21

(note: many manuscripts omit this verse completely) Here Christ informs his disciples that some things are possible only through prayer and fasting.

1 Cor. 7:5

Here we are told that husbands and wives should not deprive each other of their bodies except at those times when (by agreement) they devote themselves to prayer and fasting. (note: many manuscripts do not include fasting in this verse)

Acts 27:33

Here the crew of a ship has fasted for 14 days while facing a strong storm (we are not told of what faith the crewmen were).

COMMENTS ON BOOK OF MORMON REFERENCES:**Mosiah 11:183-185**

Here the priests fast and pray for two days and nights for Alma, whose mouth had become shut through the power of God.

Alma 4:6

We are told that the "children of God" gathered together often to pray and fast for those souls who did not know God.

Alma 3:79

Alma fasted and prayed many days that the Holy Spirit of God would come to him to bring knowledge.

Alma 6:23-34

Alma had fasted for many days while giving prophecies.

Alma 8:11

Alma fasted many days because of the sins of the people.

Alma 12:5

That through prayer and fasting the spirit of prophecy was received.

Alma 12:14

The people prayed and fasted that the Spirit of God might go with them.

Alma 15:42

Fasting and prayer is used here while mourning for the dead.

Alma 16:3

(see Alma 15:42 comment).

Alma 21:2

Fasting is used here as a form of worship and in giving thanks to God.

Helaman 2:31

We are told that the church members fasted and prayed often and that their faith grew.

Helaman 3:78

Fasting is used here in mourning for the death of a great judge.

3 Nephi 5:108

Christ teaches that when you fast, it should be between you and God only.

3 Nephi 12:14

Here the disciples were united in prayer and fasting, requesting that Christ return to them.

Moroni 6:6

We are told that the church met often to fast and pray.

Omni 1:47

The people were told to offer their entire souls to

God and to "continue in fasting and prayer."

4 Nephi 1:13

Fasting as a form of worship was done by the people after seeing Christ.

The above references are meant as a study guide. They do not include all scriptural mention of fasting but are a representative sampling showing each method and reason.

EXCERPTS FROM A LETTER WRITTEN TO THE PRESIDENT OF A MISSIONARY SOCIETY

By Harvey E. Seibel

Part 3

QUESTION: Did the beast (or the Papacy) make war against the saints? Consider the following:

"Pope Innocent III. gave orders concerning them as follows: 'Therefore by this present apostolical writing, we give you a strict command that, by whatever means you can, you destroy all these heretics and expel from your diocese all who are polluted with them. You shall exercise the rigor of ecclesiastical power against them and all those who have made themselves suspected by associating with them. They may not appeal from your judgments, and, if necessary, you may cause the princes and people to suppress them with the sword.'"
— Quoted from Migne, 214, col. 71, in Thatcher and McNeal's 'Source Book of Medieval History,' p. 210 (Our Day in the Light Prophecy, p. 150).

"That the Church of Rome has shed more innocent blood than any other institution that has ever existed among mankind, will be questioned by no Protestant who has a competent knowledge of history. The memorials indeed of many of her persecutions are now so scanty that it is impossible to form a complete conception of the multitude of her victims, and it is quite certain that no powers of imagination can adequately realize their sufferings." History of the Rise and Influence of the Spirit of Rationalism in Europe. Vol. II, p. 32 (Our Day in the Light of Prophecy, P. 150).

"Early in the year the most sublime sentence of death was promulgated which has even been pronounced since the creation of the world. The Roman Tyrant (Nero) wished that his enemies' heads were all upon a single neck, that he might strike them all at a blow; the Inquisition assisted Philip to place the heads of all his Netherlands subjects upon a single neck for the same fell purpose. Upon February 16, 1568, a sentence of Holy Office condemned all the inhabitants of the Netherlands to death as heretics. From this universal doom only a few persons, especially named, were excepted. A proclamation of the king, dated ten days later, confirmed this decree of the Inquisition, and

ordered it to be carried into instant execution, without regard to age, sex, or condition. This is probably the most concise death warrant that was ever framed. Three millions of people, men, women, and children were sentenced to the scaffold in three lines.'" (Rise of the Dutch Republic, part 3, chapter 2, Motely, Our Day in the Light of Prophecy).

"Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and Six" (verse 18).

We are here given a sure piece of evidence which should forever dispell all doubt as to the true identity of the beast. His number is 666. By taking the Roman numerals of the three Latin words which are inscribed on the triple crown of the Pope we identify the Beast of Revelation. The three Latin words are VICARIUS FILII DEI. The U and V are the same in Latin and equal 5.

QUESTION: What about Nero Caesar whose name in the Aramaic equals 666?

Briefly, the Papal worship as it stands today can be traced in all its trappings back to the worship of Nimrod and his wife, Semiramis. The major portion of all the gods and goddesses of all nations originated in ancient Babylon shortly after the flood. The Roman madonna is the same as the Babylonian madonna which was worshipped in the days of the tower and thereafter. The title "Pontifex Maximus" was also originated in Babylon. This idolatrous worship spread from Babylon to all the nations of antiquity. The seat of Satan was thus established in Babylon. But when Babylon was destroyed this seat of false worship passed over to Tyre, Phoenicia. From there it went to Pergamos. The last king of Pergamos willed the sceptre and appurtenances thereof to the Emperor of Rome who then possessed it until the 4th century when it was passed to the Bishop of Rome. The point of this brief

accounting is to point out a strange fact. Saturnas or Saturn was another name for Nimrod in Babylon, Nimrod having become deified after his death and worshipped as a God. Saturn is also another name for Satan. Nimrod thus became the Babylonian antichrist and the Chaldaic characters of his name (Saturnas) equals 666. So it is totally within reason to expect that number would carry on down to Nero who was a spiritual descendant of Nimrod and who possessed both the title and sceptre of Nimrod. And so when the Popes of Rome received that same spiritual authority it is not surprising that the Latin title would also give evidence to that authority as anciently possessed by Saturnas or Nimrod.

Continuing with Revelation 13 we learn that after the Papal beast had arisen another two horned beast was to come forth and be instrumental in creating an image to the first beast which would persecute those who would not receive an identifying mark of the first beast in their foreheads, etc., so that all such would be unable to buy or sell. It is the second beast with which we must deal today rather than the first beast. Since the first beast was an ecclesiastical persecuting power we may expect that the image to that beast will also be an ecclesiastical persecuting power. It is this latter combination that will enforce the "no buy, no sell" situation, not the first beast or the antichrist of the dark ages. Since the United States is today spearheading the ecumenical union of the churches (the image) I am disposed to view our government as that two horned beast, the horns representing the Republican and Democratic systems of government. I am also not opposed to the thought that the false prophet mentioned elsewhere in Revelation is the two horned beast here mentioned because I feel that there are hidden, sinister forces who are really behind our country or government in causing it to bring about this time of great persecution which is very nearly upon us.

QUESTION: What of Revelation 17?

"And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: and upon her forehead was a name written MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and When I

saw her, I wondered with great admiration. And the Angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns" (verses 1-7).

John is shown a most remarkable beast, but one on whom sits a woman richly attired. This is the same beast that we read about in the 13th chapter of Revelation above. It is Papal Rome situated upon the seven hills (the seven heads); the ten horns also being present. The Roman beast is now full of the names of blasphemy with whom all the world, both kings and inhabitants, had followed after, committing spiritual adultery and being made drunk with her fornication. What does all this mean? When a people turn away from the worship of the true God and follow after a false one, in this case, the god of the world (Satan) they commit spiritual fornication or adultery. The saints of God or body of Christ of which we are a part are the bride of Christ. Christ is our bridegroom. The Church thus is the bride. But when the church turns away from God and follows after Satan, it is spiritual whoredom. And those who wouldn't commit spiritual adultery were slain thus the martyrs for Christ mentioned here.

What was this woman who sat upon the Roman Beast? As the woman of Revelation 12 with the crown of twelve stars was symbolic of the true church (whose seat was in Jerusalem), this woman is symbolic of the apostate church whose seat is in Rome.

"The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. And here is the mind which hath wisdom. THE SEVEN HEADS ARE SEVEN MOUNTAINS, ON WHICH THE WOMAN SITTETH, AND THERE ARE SEVEN KINGS: FIVE ARE FALLEN, AND ONE IS, AND THE OTHER IS NOT YET COME; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space. And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition. And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one (the same) hour with the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of Lords, and King of kings; and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful. And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are people, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues, And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. For God hath put in their hearts to fulfill his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled. And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth" (verses 8-18).

The seven heads are the seven mountains on which the woman sitteth. It is the great city which reigneth over the kings of the earth, Rome. There are also seven kings, five of whom are fallen, one is and the other is not yet come. The ten horns are the ten kings which will receive power with the beast as kings the same hour. Rome was the seat of power for the apostate church. The seven kings are the seven forms of Roman Government through which Rome passed during her history. These seven forms were: **KINGS, CONSULS, DICTATORS, DECEMVIRS, MILITARY TRIBUNES, EMPERORS, and THE EXARCHATE OF RAVENNA.**

What is meant by the beast that was, and is not, but yet is, The beast "that was" is Pagan Rome, but when Pagan Rome fell it no longer existed, therefore "is not" but it was immediately replaced by Papal Rome and therefore "yet is." This is the same as we saw recorded in Revelation 13 regarding the head which was wounded unto death but which was healed of its deadly wound. Why did we conclude that it was the seventh head? Because it was the seventh form of Roman Government which received the fatal blow and made way

for the rise of the Papacy. When John was writing he states that in his day five of these governmental forms had already come and gone; the sixth form was then reigning and the seventh would come later.

Now the beast that was and is not even he is the eighth and is of the seven and goeth into perdition. The beast had seven kings as we saw above and when the seventh head was healed and the papacy arose upon the ashes of the former, it became the eighth form of government to rule in Rome. But this governmental form (a theocracy) was far more sinister than the seven pagan forms before it because this government usurped the place of God, and made merchandise of the souls of men. The eighth government is of the seven because it was a continuation of the Roman Government and encompassed the same territory as those before it. To conclude, the ten horns will at first give their power and strength to the beast, but later these same horns will rise up and destroy her. This began to be fulfilled during the reformation but the complete destruction will come at the end of the world or at the time of the second coming of Christ.

(To be continued)

LETTERS OF OLIVER COWDERY NO. 8

TO: W. W. Phelps:

Dear Brother:

In my last I said I should give, partially, a "description of the place where, and the manner in which these records were deposited:" the first promise I have fulfilled, and must proceed to the latter.

The hill of which I have been speaking, at the time mentioned, presented a varied appearance: the north end rose suddenly from the plain, forming a promontory without timber, but covered with grass. As you passed to the south you soon came to scattering timber, the surface having been cleared by art or by wind; and a short distance further left, you are surrounded with the common forest of the country. It is necessary to observe, that even the part cleared was only occupied for pasturage, its steep ascent and narrow summit not admitting the plow of the husbandman, with any degree of ease or profit. It was at the second mentioned place where the record was found to be deposited, on the west side of the hill, not far from the top down its side; and when myself visited the place in the year 1830, there were several trees standing: enough to cause a shade in summer, but not so much as to prevent the surface being covered with grass — which was also the case when the record was first found.

How far below the surface these records were placed by Moroni, I am unable to say; but from the fact that they had been some fourteen hundred years buried, and that too on the side of a hill so steep, one is ready to conclude that they were some feet below, as the

earth would naturally wear more or less in that length of time. But they being placed toward the top of the hill, the ground would not remove as much as at two-thirds, perhaps. Another circumstance would prevent a wearing of the earth; in all probability, as soon as timber had time to grow, the hill was covered, after the Nephites were destroyed, and the roots of the same would hold the surface. However, on this point I shall leave every man to draw his own conclusion, and form his own speculation, as I only promised to give a description of the place at the time the records were found in 1823.

First, a hole of sufficient depth (how deep I know not) was dug. At the bottom of this was laid a stone of suitable size, the upper surface being smooth. At each edge was placed a large quantity of cement, and into this cement, at the four edges of this stone, were placed, erect, four others, their bottom edges resting in the cement at the outer edges of the first stone. The four last named, when placed erect, formed a box, the corners, or where the edges of the four came in contact, were also cemented so firmly that the moisture from without was prevented from entering. It is to be observed, also that the inner surface of the four erect, or side stones was smooth. This box was sufficiently large to admit a breast-plate, such as was used by the ancients to defend the chest from the arrows and weapons of their enemy. From the bottom of the box or from the breast-plate, arose three small pillars composed of the same description of cement used on the edges.

I must not forget to say that this box containing the record, was covered with another stone, the bottom surface being flat, and the upper, crowning. But those three pillars were not so lengthy as to cause the placed and the crowning stone to come in contact.

I have now given you, according to my promise, the manner in which this record was deposited; though when it was first visited by our brother in 1823, a part of the crowning stone was visible above the surface, while the edges were concealed by the soil and grass, from which circumstance you will see, that however deep this box might have been placed by Moroni at first, the time had been sufficient to wear the earth so that it was easily discovered, when once directed, and yet not enough to make a perceivable difference to the passer by.

You will have wondered, perhaps, that the mind of our brother should be occupied with the thoughts of the goods of this world, at the time of arriving at Cumorah, on the morning of the 22nd of September 1823, after having been wrapt in the visions of heaven during the night, and also seeing and hearing in open day; but the mind of man is easily turned, if it is not held by the prayer of faith.

After arriving at the repository, a little exertion in removing the soil from the edges of the top of the box, and a light pry, brought to his natural vision its contents. No sooner did he behold this sacred treasure than his hopes were renewed, and he supposed his success certain; and without first attempting to take it from its long place of deposit, He thought, perhaps, there might be something more equally as valuable, and to take only the plates, might give others an opportunity of obtaining the remainder, which could he secure, would still add to his store of wealth. These, in short, were his reflections, without once thinking of the solemn instruction of the heavenly messenger, that all must be done with an express view of glorifying God.

On attempting to take possession of the record a shock was produced upon his system, by an invisible power, which deprived him, in a measure, of his natural strength. He desisted for an instant, and then made another attempt, but was more sensibly shocked than before. He made the third attempt with an increased exertion, when his strength failed him more than at either of the former times, and with premeditating he exclaimed: "Why can I not obtain this book?"

"Because you have not kept the commandments of the Lord," answered a voice, within a seeming short distance. He looked and to his astonishment, there stood the angel who had previously given him the directions concerning this matter.

At that instant he looked to the Lord in prayer, and as he prayed, darkness began to disperse from his mind and his soul was lit up as it was the evening before, and he was filled with the Holy Spirit; and again did the Lord manifest his condescension and mercy: the heavens were opened and the glory of the Lord

shone round about and rested upon him. While he was thus gazing and admiring, the angel said, "Look!" And as he thus spake he beheld the prince of darkness, surrounded by his innumerable train of associates and the heavenly messenger said: "All this is shown, the good and the evil, the holy and the impure, the glory of God and the power of darkness, that you may know hereafter the two powers and never be influenced or overcome by that wicked one.

From this time to September 1827, few occurrences worthy of note transpired. In the meantime our brother of whom I have been speaking, passed the time as others, in laboring for his support. But in consequence of certain false and slanderous reports which have been circulated, justice would require me to say something upon the private life of one whose character has been so shamefully traduced. By some he is said to have been a lazy, idle, vicious, profligate fellow. However, many persons with whom I have been intimately acquainted, and known to be individuals of the strictest veracity all strictly and virtually agree in saying that he was an honest, upright, virtuous and faithfully industrious young man.

I need add nothing further, at present, previous to his obtaining the records of the Nephites, only that while in that country, some very officious person complained of him as a disorderly person, and brought him before the authorities of the county; but there being no cause of action he was honorably acquitted. From this time forward he continued to receive instructions concerning the coming forth of the fullness of the gospel, from the mouth of the heavenly messenger, until he was directed to visit again the place where the record was deposited.

For the present I close, with a thankful heart that I am permitted to see thousands rejoicing in the assurance of the promises of the Lord, confirmed unto them through the obedience of the everlasting covenant.

As ever your brother in the Lord Jesus.

OLIVER COWDERY

NEXT MONTH:

THE DEDICATION OF THE KIRTLAND TEMPLE

NOTICE

It has become necessary, due to the high cost of printing and mailing, to increase the price of our books and tracts. The new prices are shown under "Church of Christ Publications" on the back page of Zion's Advocate. In addition there will be a handling and postage charge to reflect the current postage and packaging costs.

The Board of Publications
and the Business Manager

There is no smaller package in the whole world than a person all wrapped up in himself.

TO SCATTERED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

In this article, we will continue to discuss the principle of Faith. There are a tremendous number of Scriptures that show the importance of this to our spiritual development.

Faith often is treated as a name to describe the doctrines and teachings of the church. Such is the exhortation of Jude 1:3 - ". . . Ye should contend earnestly for the faith which was once delivered to the saints." This Scripture makes reference to the wickedness that was creeping into the church in Jude's day as foretold by the older apostles. In Paul's letter to the Ephesian church we read, "One Lord, one faith, one baptism." (Eph. 4:5) Faith is used to express the desirable spiritual quality that protects us from evils around us as in Ephesians 6:16. ". . . Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

In all of these usages we find that there is need for us to cultivate our own personal faith, and like most spiritual attributes, it improves with use and experience.

There is the interesting event of the time that Jesus walked on the waters of the Sea of Galilee. He had sent the disciples ahead of Him by ship; a storm arose and the disciples then saw Jesus coming toward them walking on the water. Peter cried out and attempted to go to meet Him, but he became afraid and began to sink. He lacked faith, or he too could have walked on the water. This was a tremendous lesson to the disciples regarding the power of faith. (Matt. 14:25-32)

On more than one occasion Jesus taught the disciples that the power of faith could do marvelous things. The mustard seed was used as a comparative example of power and size. Reading in Matthew 17:20, "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, remove hence to yonder place and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you."

We read in Mark 11:22-26, "Therefore I say unto you what things soever you desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." The story of the fig tree is another time when Jesus showed the disciples the power of faith. The fig tree was withered and dried at the command of Jesus. As a lesson to faith, it no doubt remained in the hearts of the disciples all of their lives. They had witnessed many times the miracles that Jesus did, and later found that faith worked for them for righteousness sake, and never for money or gain of worldly things.

It was the power of faith that made Paul as a strong defender of the gospel of Jesus Christ. In Romans 1:16, 17 we read. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, the just

shall live by faith."

Finally, we find that in response to the will of God we can be blessed by a gift of faith. This is one of many spiritual gifts that come to us through the ministry of the Holy Ghost. These gifts, including faith, are given "to every man to profit withall," as the Scriptures read in I Corinthians 12:4-11. This chapter is a good reading for the month. As you read, try to evaluate the need for faith in God as a principle to make all of these things work as Paul says they should.

Turning to the Old Testament, we find many examples of faith in God. These are the stories we love to tell our children - Joseph sold into Egypt, Daniel in the den of lions, the three Israelites in the fiery furnace, and many others.

One of the most outstanding men of faith in the Old Testament was Abraham. When he was seventy-five years old, the Lord called him to leave his homeland and move to another. He was given a great promise that we now recognize as being fulfilled by the birth of Jesus. He was to become a father of many people and from his seed was to come a great nation and the Saviour of man. At that time his wife was barren, and sixty-five years old. By faith Abraham walked with God, and when he was a hundred years of age and his wife was ninety, they were blessed with a son whom they named Isaac. This story begins in Genesis, chapter 12 and continues for several chapters. The greatest test of faith was when he was commanded of God to sacrifice his son, Isaac. Abraham's faith was in his God, and he trusted that the Lord would provide a lamb for a sacrifice. This is related in Genesis, chapter 22, and as we read the account, we are made aware of the faith that was so great that we are sure he had a gift of the Spirit.

Faith in God is then a principle that has worked for good to men since the beginning of time. God is unchangeable and His promise is to us and to all who are afar off - we too can live by faith.

May your faith increase and provide you with an anchore to hold you safe in all of the storms of life.

Your brother in Christ,
Elder Arthur G. Smith

PURYEAR NEWS

It has been a long time since I have sent in a report from our church. Everyone is in good health and good spirits. All except Sister Neil Paschall's mother, who is very sick. We ask all to pray for her.

We have just put a new roof on one side of the church that was beginning to leak. Everyone chipped in, but we owe most of our thanks of Brother T. W. Paschall, for he did most of the work himself. While some of us cleaned the inside of the church, the others were painting tables that we use outside, to keep them in good condition.

Later on in the week my mother and I, and my Aunt,

Sister Hester Tyler, went back and cleaned up on the outside of the church, then had an enjoyable dinner afterwards.

Sister Bryna Grooms was just blessed with a new granddaughter, by her youngest daughter, Teri. We wish them both good health and God's blessing. And may God be with you, everyone. May He go with you, and be with you, wherever you shall be. May you find fulfillment in His work, and find the love and happiness I wish for all. Goodbye for now.

Your reporter,
Robin Cox

HOUSTON, MO. LOCAL REPORT

Brother Virgil Addie told us of God's invitation to each of us to become His children. We need to be able to tell good from evil and not follow Satan. God protects and prospers us according to how close we are to Him; even from Satan.

"Jesus gave all, 100%, when he died for us on the cross. "How much do we give back on a PERCENTAGE basis?" He asked. "Do we get a gold star?"

We usually get something in return for our gifts. Malachi 3:10 says — "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

Search out the straight, narrow path, follow after Christ, do his commandments, accept his invitation. Be a child of God and find joy when you meet Jesus face to face.

Brother Tony Grzincic asked, "Do we have plenty of time to serve God before the end?" Our soul's salvation depends on ourselves. In the Book of Mormon, page 443, verse 1 . . . "inasmuch as ye shall keep the commandments of God, ye shall prosper in the land; and inasmuch as ye will not keep the commandments of God, ye shall be cast off from his presence."

He ended by saying, "May you do the works of the Lord always and He looking down on you - may find you looking up at Him.

Brother Truman Medders used Galatians 5:22 as his text and defined each of the characteristics of the fruit of the spirit at length.

All of us are writing a gospel a day by the deeds we do and the things we say. Say, what is the gospel to you. Pick one you need to improve on, live by it and by all and me "more like the master."

Brother Virgil Addie told of an experience in a severe snow storm and how he miraculously stopped two feet from a steep embankment after spinning around several times. (Thank you, Lord. MLA)

He then retold the story of the creation's beginning. He said that we need to rely on our Heavenly Father, and pray about everyday problems.

We must use this time on earth well by doing our

part and giving 100% to God. He also quoted some scripture worth remembering — Psalm 12, Proverbs 1:1-10, Proverbs 16:1-10, and Eccl. 7:1-13.

A housewarming was held for Janeen Barke and her mother, Thelma. Janeen was baptized a couple of months ago and is teaching 4th grade in the Licking school area, where they have made their home, moving here from Hurly, Mo.

Many from here were able to attend the Phoenix reunion this month and all returned reporting a good spiritual time and much pleasure in the fellowship sweet with our Brothers and Sisters there.

We were happy to have Tom Medders back from boot camp and training in the National Guard. Tom has work now in the Bolivar area.

Your reporter,
Mary Addie

THE LORD IS A SHEPHERD

The Lord is a Shepherd
Who, though having
Ninety and nine in the fold
Cannot forget one lost one
Out in the darkness and cold.

The Lord is a Shepherd
Who seeks until
Each lost one is found;
Who will not rest in the fold
As long as there is a sound . . .

Of a stray lamb
Bleating for rescue
From some chasm deep;
"Till he finds it, this Shepherd
Will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is a Shepherd
Whose promise, to each
Mother ewe is sure;
He, Himself will go, the safety
Of theirs to secure.

The Lord is a Shepherd
Whose impartial love, knows
Neither a greater nor least;
Whose power to save has never
Diminished nor ceased.

The Lord is a Shephed
Whose voice is calling
To each, "Oh follow thou Me;
I'll lead to green pastures and
Show where the still waters be."

The Lord is a Shepherd;
Oh blest is the comfort
This gives; to know
He is watching and caring;
To know that He lives!

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.

WRITTEN MATERIAL FOR "ZION'S ADVOCATE"

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.

CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

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

ZION'S ADVOCATE SUBSCRIPTION RATE:

Non-members \$4.00; Foreign \$4.50 Per Year

	Price Each
Book of Mormon (Missionary Edition)	\$5.00
Outline History of Church of Christ	\$4.00
Book of Commandments (Hard Bound)	\$3.60
Book of Commandments (Paper Bound)	\$2.80
Book of Commandments Controversy Reviewed	\$2.90
The Marvelous Work and a Wonder	\$2.30
What the Restoration Teaches Concerning God	\$2.50
Historical Facts Concerning the Temple Lot	\$1.30
Temple Lot Deed	\$.30
Changing of the Revelations	\$.50
Comprehensive Comparison of Changes to the Revelations	\$1.30
A Brief History of the Church of Christ	N/C
The Principles of the Gospel, Faith and Repentance	N/C
The Principles of the Gospel, The Laying on of Hands	N/C
The Principles of the Gospel, Baptism	N/C
The Latter Day Restoration	N/C
Apostasy or Succession, Which?	N/C
The Book of Mormon (Tract)	N/C
Articles of Faith and Practice of the Church of Christ	N/C
Articles of Faith and Practice (Spanish)	N/C
Articles of Faith and Practice, No. 9, 20	N/C
Sermonettes on the Teachings of Jesus	N/C
What the Church Teaches in Respect to Matrimony (Spanish)	N/C
Does It Make A Difference?	N/C
Mighty Acts of the Ages (Spanish)	N/C
Priesthood, Divine Authority	N/C
"Is Any Sick Among You?"	N/C
"Why"	N/C
A Synopsis of the Church of Christ's Beliefs and Practices	N/C
The Sealed Book of Isaiah 29	N/C
Are You Satisfied?	N/C
Gentiles - Weighed and Wanting	N/C
First Presidency or First Apostles	N/C
Marriage For Time and Eternity?	N/C
Baptism For The Dead?	N/C
Zion and the Temple of the Lord	N/C

NOTE: Donations accepted to cover postage and printing costs. Lot prices of tracts exclusive of postage are: In packs of 6, 50c; 100, \$5.85

CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS

Speed delivery of your "ADVOCATE" by sending us your new address immediately. Mail to:

ZION'S ADVOCATE
(USPS 699-300)
P. O. Box 472
Independence, Mo. 64051

Each undeliverable "Advocate" is now costing the church 25 cents. We would rather spend this on delivering your paper than its return to us.

ZION'S ADVOCATE

(USPS 699-300)
P. O. Box 472
Independence, Mo. 64051

Second Class Postage Paid

Independence, Mo. 64051

AUDIO VISUAL MATERIALS

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

"Mexico, Land of Contrast" — A 50 minute slide program with taped narration about how archeology supports the Book of Mormon.

"Out of the Dust" — A 55 minute slide program with taped narration about the story told within the Book of Mormon.

"A Lamp Unto My Feet" — A 35 minute slide program with taped narration about the story within the Book of Mormon (directed toward Indian viewers).

"Light at Evening" — A 35 minute slide program with taped narration about the bringing forth of Book of Mormon and the Restoration of the Church of Christ.

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

Send all orders to the Office Secretary, Church of Christ (Temple Lot), P. O. Box 472, Independence, Mo. 64051. Specify cassette tape or reel-to-reel ("We Sing and We Talk . . ." is available only on cassette). Slide projectors and tape players are not provided.

We also provide a Sermon-by-Tape service. There is no charge for the issuing of a cassette tape on a loan basis. Please refer to the January 1981 issue of the Zion's Advocate for a complete listing, or write to Harold Gill, 18848 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Az. 85024.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPPLIES

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

	Price Each
Primary, Volume 1, No. 1, Childhood of Jesus	N/C
Primary, Volume 1, No. 2, Jesus' Ministry (Out of Print)	N/C
Primary, Volume 1, No. 3, Jesus' Ministry con't.	N/C
Primary, Volume 1, No. 4, Life of Jesus	N/C
Church History for Juniors (34 pages) plus separate Teacher's Guide by Donna Moser	N/C
The Book in the Stone Box (7 pages) by Viola Henning	N/C
The Bible Game, "Who Am I?" by Doris Housknecht	\$1.50
(No charge for single box to a Local Sunday School)	