

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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JOHN ALFORD SWEEM

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Editorial . . .

ARE YOU READY FOR WAR?

The headline for "The Kansas City Star" on January 25, 1981 was entitled "Waiting For Doomsday In Western Missouri." In reading the article I was made aware that its intended effect was to alert Kansas Citizens and residents in the surrounding area of Whiteman Air Force Base to the possible holocaust that would occur here in the event of a nuclear war. The base is armed with Minuteman II missiles each of which possesses more than fifty times the destroying power of the bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima during World War II.

To realize that this area - including Independence, the gathering place for the Saints - is an appealing target for the enemy, makes one pause to ponder the traditional promise of Zion's refuge being in this locale. In the event that Russia should decide to take the initiative to begin mass destruction, this area would inevitably be wiped clean of all living things except God should intervene.

The progressive preparation for war has brought the entire world into a state of fear and anxiety in the realization that one mishap could throw us into a battle of unheard-of destruction. The more sophisticated the weapon, the greater its threat to the world.

Retracing our steps through history we find that each period of time has brought a great study in weaponry in the effort to gain the advantage over the enemy. The plotting and scheming of man to ensnare his fellow man harks back to Cain and his involvement with Satan to murder his brother Abel (Hel. 2:151, 152).

The mood of war and all its miseries has been an almost constant state of being with man since that time. It now seems that man has reached his limit in armament bringing a threat to his total annihilation.

As we study the cause of war, we come to the revelation that war did not have its beginning here on earth, but that war did indeed occur in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon (Satan) and his angels (Rev. 12:7-9). The things in this life are types of things in the greater existence or spiritual life. The condition of war in this life is much like the condition of war which took place in heaven - a true conflict between two forces. But as the account is given, Satan and his angels were cast out of heaven to roam the earth. As we can readily see, the war which began in heaven has continued on earth.

The war in heaven was unlike the other wars that I have referred to in that it was a spiritual war involving spiritual beings only. The battle was not a physical power struggle, but a conflict between good and evil. That kind of war has also been with us from the beginning, and its forces are spiritual just as they were in heaven.

The conflict is not between man and man so much as it is within man or within the individual. As described by Paul, our members war within us, the flesh against the spirit. The flesh, being the house of the fallen creature, has a natural pull toward the earth. This gives the Satanic spirits an advantage through the flesh by contesting the spirit of man, the spirit being

in closer rapport with God than the flesh.

Satan, in his unreclaimable state, rages against all good seeking the misery of any and all creatures that will turn against God. He wages his war in burning hatred and cunning deception causing the susceptible man to become like him. He is the author of sin and the father of lies. His will is to arbitrarily destroy us by blinding us and taking away our freedom of choice.

Conversely, God has given us our free agency and His will is to reclaim us from this fallen state. All provisions have been made and man has been given a knowledge of the prerequisites of his reclamation. It is therefore left to man's choice to gain the victory of eternal life or to succumb to the enemy and die the spiritual death.

We can see that the realities of war are far closer than the nuclear warheads sunken in the earth at a nearby missile base. The war of all war is taking place within the soul of man, a battle that will not end until the end of time.

RLS

CONFERENCE TO CONVENE APRIL 5, 1981

Following instruction of the 1966 Referendum, the annual conference of The Church of Christ (Temple Lot), will begin on the Sunday of the week in which the 6th of April occurs, which, this year, will be April 5th.

Business Sessions, however, will start at 9:00 a. m. Monday, April 6th.

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

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

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

R. W. Oldham
General Church Secretary

The promise of restoring the world original and eternal beauty is solved by the redemption of the soul.

Emerson

RISE AND BE HEALED

"They shall lay hands
on the sick
and they shall recover."

(Mark 16:18)

Howard Leighton-Floyd

HEAL ME LORD

"Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is."

"O Lord, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, and they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the Lord, the fountain of living waters."

"Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved; for thou art my praise." (Jer. 17: 7-13-14)

JESUS IS THE HEALER

Jesus is the Healer - Satan the oppressor.

"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him." (Acts 10:38)

Let's get this truth firmly established in our hearts and minds. Jesus, the Messiah, is the healer. You can not find any place in the New Testament where God put sickness on anyone. There are those who think God made Job sick. Not so! God permitted it, but the devil did it.

GOD IS NOT THE AUTHOR OF DEATH

God is the author of life. God hates death. Death came upon the children of men because they broke God's commandments. They believed the devil. Death comes from Satan, who has the power of death.

"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is the devil." Hebrews 2:14)

There is a law; it's called the "law of sin and death." But the word of God tells us, "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." (Romans 8:2)

We have the promise that Jesus is coming again, and death, the last enemy, will be put underfoot.

Our Lord, Saviour and Healer has told us, "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death." (Revelation 1:18)

IT IS GOD'S WILL TO SAVE

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

We understand from the word of God that all who

believe in the Only Begotten Son should not perish (that is God's will). We should also note that whether we perish or not is contingent upon belief in His only begotten Son. Hence the sinner is not expected to pray, "Lord save me, if it be thy will." God has told us in His word, "He is . . . not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." ". . . **Whoever will, let him take the water of life freely.**"

No man need pray, "Lord save me if it be thy will." God's word plainly teaches us it is His will to save to the uttermost.

WHAT GOD'S WORD TELLS US

(About sickness, infirmity and healing)

1000 years before the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus it is recorded. "He sent his word, and **healed them**, and delivered them from their destruction." (Psalms 107:20)

Also Proverbs 4:20-22, "My son, **attend to my words**; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they (God's words) are life unto those that find them, **and health to all flesh.**"

We can expect to find health and healing in God's Word.

In the New Testament one can learn more about the Word, life, sickness, infirmity and healing.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made. **In him was life**; and the life was the light of men." "And the word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory as the only begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth." (John 14:16-17)

Jeshua (Jesus) is that "Word."

". . . in him is life" and the Comforter abides in those who accept Christ and obey his word and sayings.

The scripture says his Word is health to all flesh. Let's examine closer his word. In 3 John 1:2, "Beloved I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and **be in good health**, even as thy soul prospereth."

Therefore, my brother, my sister, while you may be poor, sick or afflicted at this very moment, never harbor for one moment the thought that your present state is God's will for you. Satan may whisper that thought to you. If he does, resist him. Rebuke him in the name of Jesus, and the devil will take the thought and flee from you.

Isaiah, the prophet, some 700 years before the Messiah, spoke of the Messiah thus: "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows . . ." "But **he was wounded for our transgressions**, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and **with his stripes we are healed.**"

Every follower of Christ can cry out, "Praise the Lord, with his stripes I am healed." (Isaiah 53:4-5)

The apostle Peter speaking on this same subject put it this way, "Who his ownself (Jesus) bare our sins

in his body on the tree, that we being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: **by whose stripes ye were healed.**"

" . . . by whose stripes ye were healed." "Ye were 'were'!"

Just as the sinner must believe in the atoning blood of Christ (Col. 1:13-14), likewise all who are sick need to believe and receive that they were healed by His (Christ's) stripes. That is God's word, not mine.

Another writer of the New Covenant (Testament), Matthew 8:17, makes it very clear. ". . . Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sickness."

Are you sick? Do you have infirmities; Is your life filled with sin, grief and sorrow? The Word of God tells you that Jesus Christ has already taken your sins, griefs, sorrows, sickness and infirmities. Why don't you commit all to him, rise and be healed, in the name of Jesus of Nazareth?

KEYS TO DIVINE HEALING

Healing comes by faith in Jesus, what He has done for those that believe, and by being obedient to His Word. We must believe that God is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

Key 1 - Have faith: "But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." (Hebrews 11:16)

Then seek him diligently. "Pray with faith and be healed." (James 5:16)

Key 2 - Ask in faith: "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed." "For let not that a man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord." "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways." (James 5:6-8)

Ask in faith; don't waver but **expect** to be healed through faith in Jesus Christ.

Key 3 - Ask the Father in the name of Jesus to heal you: ". . . ye have not because ye ask not." (James 4:2)

Key 4 - Believe you have whatsoever you say: "And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God." "For verily I say unto you, that **whosoever shall say** unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and **shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.**"

Do you grasp what Jesus is saying? Receive His words and having received them in your heart and mind, then act on Jesus' next statement of promise:

"Therefore I say unto you, what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." (Mark 11:22-23-24)

This is a powerful promise of Jesus. You can believe it, receive it and act on it. Do you desire with all your heart to be healed? Then believe you are healed through the word and power of Jesus Christ; he has already accomplished it ("by his stripes ye were healed" 1 Peter 2:24).

The amplified version of the Bible gives Mark 11:24 the way it truly is. "For this reason I'm telling you, when you pray, **you trust and be confident that it's granted you.** Then you are going to say, **it's mine; I have it.**"

IS ANY SICK AMONG YOU?

That's the question asked in James 5:14-15. Here is the answer: ". . . let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise them up; and if he have committed sins, **they shall be forgiven him.**" (James 5:14-15)

Is any sick? Call for the Elders of the Church;

they will anoint your head with oil (consecrated for the healing of the sick); they will lay hands on you and pray the prayer of faith for your healing. The next verse reads, "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, **that ye may be healed.** The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (James 5:16)

Thank you, Lord, for this beautiful ordinance you have provided for those who are sick. Thank you, Jesus, you are not only our Saviour but you are the great physician and by your stripes we were healed. We praise you, Lord, we believe your word, and receive our healing.

Thank you, Father, in Jesus' name.

MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL

"For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass; For he beholdeth himself and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the pure law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed" James 1:23-25.

In present day amusement parks one sometimes finds a room of mirrors. It is a place of distortion, showing one as tall, short, thin, fat etc. I invite you to walk through a different hall of mirrors; there is no distortion here, although one may have reason to wish there were, if what is reflected is faced squarely and one does not straightway forget what these mirrors show one to, yet, be. One may be perfectly honest with oneself in this viewing as no one else will be looking over the shoulder, no one - that is - except God. There is an extremely large collection of mirrors here and we can only take time and space to look into a few of them. There are various kinds, some are pictorial and some are conceptual, but in all one may see oneself in some manner.

Let us begin with this one -

"Two men went up into the temple to pray . . . the Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank Thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God, be merciful unto me a sinner." (Luke 18:10-13)

There is a strange thing we must note about these mirrors if we are not to lose their lesson, and that is that they have an echo as well as an image; an echo that reveals the deep and hidden attitudes of the heart

even though the audible words are not quite the same. Look and listen.

But let us move on -

". . . A certain man had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son; make me as one of thy hired servants Now the elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant. And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father has killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound. And he was angry" (Luke 15: 11-28)

Who among us has not been the prodigal? But are we ever also an angry, unforgiving elder brother in regard to other of our Father's prodigals?

Another: we might be happy to find ourself here, unless or until we are reflected to the bitter end -

"And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God; but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. And he saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness. Honour thy father and mother; and, Thou shalt love thy

neighbor as thyself. The young man saith unto him, all these things have I kept from my youth up; what lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell all that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven; and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions." (Matthew 19:16-22)

This mirror reflects far more echo than image -

"If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridled his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things, Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren these things ought not to be. Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? (James 1:26, 3:5, 9-11)

Let echo put the questions; What about our tongues, Does, has anyone suffered from the misuse of them? Today? Last week? Year? If there is one still prevailing sin among professing Christians it most probably is gossip.

But we must hurry along - take a close look here -

"Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envy and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work Behold, I say, Is there one among you who is not stripped of envy? I say unto you, that such an one is not prepared for such an one is not found guiltless." (James 4:5, 3:14-16, Alma 3:52-53)

And it isn't going to help any to tell ourselves, 'but everyone envies a little.' However widely committed doesn't make sin less a sin. We need to back up a few steps and not miss looking into this one here -

"And now behold, I say unto you my brethern, If ye have experienced a change of heart, and if ye have felt to sing the song of redeeming love, I would ask, Can ye feel so now? Have ye walked, keeping yourselves blameless before God? Could ye say, if ye were called to die at this time, within yourselves, that ye have been sufficiently humble? That your garments have been cleansed and made white, through the blood of Christ, who will come to redeem his people from their sins? Behold, are ye stripped of pride? I say unto you, If ye are not, ye are not prepared to meet God? and such an one hath not eternal life. (Alma 3:46-51)

What is pride? Webster says; vanity, conceit, self-esteem, self-satisfaction, self-respect; Humility is the absence of pride - so the lack of humility must be pride. Does it kind of get to you?

But there are still more; take a look in this one, each of us is in one of the two groups -

"And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on his left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in; Naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick and ye visited me; I was in prison, and ye came unto me." We all know the story, "And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Matthew 25:33-36 & 40)

Which group are we placing ourselves in by the things we are or are not doing? How often do we feed and clothe the destitute? Or invite the stranger in, by which some have entertained angels without knowing it? When was the last time we visited a prisoner?

Have we seen enough, or too much already? Oh, but we mustn't depart without a searching look into one more -

"Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God love is the fulfilling of the law." (I John 4:7 & Romans 13:10)

But what is love? Is it something we feel, or something that we must do, or is it a quality of being that we must acquire? as love is the quality of God's nature. Let us look at the spectrum of love in the definitions of one, Henry Drummond - and others.

"Love suffereth long; patience. And is kind; Have you ever noticed how much of Christ's life was spent in merely doing kind things? Envieth not generosity. Vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up humility. Doth not behave itself unseemly courteousness, (meek and mild). Seeketh not her own unselfishness. Is not easily provoked good temper. No touchy or tempermental dispositions here, rather, as the wisdom that is from above it is, . . . first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. Thinketh no evil imputs no motive, puts the best construction on every action. (gives the benefit of the best possible interpretation). Rejoiceth not in iniquity, Seek ye now no longer pleasure 'mid the scenes impure and vain, Luff. But rejoiceth in the truth. . . . delights in and cherishes TRUTH. Is fruitful, is faithful, is hopeful and has fortitude."

If this circuit leaves us wishing the reflections seen were indeed distortions not the truth, there is one place, and only one, for us to go, that is to our knees at His feet. By His love and grace promised, we can change the image. By His power and mercy we can become what He created us to be; we can be transformed into His likeness.

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

By Harvey E. Seibel

Part 4

Question: What Were The Beginning and Ending Dates Of The Dominion Of The Antichrist And What About The Last Half Of The 70th Week?

We have shown the identity of the man of sin and that every particular of the prophecy was fulfilled by the Papacy. We have also shown that the antichrist was to reign for 1260 years and is not a part of the great tribulation. However the two horned beast (the false prophet) and the image both arise during the tribulation period at which time when they are come fully to power we shall be prevented from buying or selling. We have shown that the 70th week of Daniel is not disjoined from the first 69 weeks and represents the ministry of the Messiah, not the reign of the antichrist. We are in agreement that the great tribulation immediately precedes the heavenly signs which in turn precedes the return of Christ and our catching up to meet him in the air after which the wrath of God will be poured out upon the wicked (known as the Day of the Lord) in preparing the earth for the 1000 year reign of peace.

Now concerning the second half of Daniel's 70th week:

Here follows one of the greatest proofs of the Book of Mormon. In the last verse of his prophecy we have this statement, "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."

This final week consisted of 7 years. In other words, Christ's work upon the earth was to last 7 years but in the midst or middle of the week he shall cause the sacrifice (the sacrificial rites of the law of Moses) to cease. This he did by his own sacrifice upon the cross. His earthly ministry at Jerusalem lasted 3½ years. But it says he confirmed the covenant for 7 years. What happened to the other 3½ years?

John tells us that Christ had other sheep which were not of the Jerusalem fold and that they too were to hear His voice. Would not Christ manifest himself to his people of the house of Israel in both the old and new worlds? Certainly, for otherwise he would be a respecter of persons favoring those of Jerusalem while showing no favor to those of his people here in America. The Book of Mormon records that Jesus did make his appearance to the people in this land shortly after his resurrection and ascension into heaven.

QUESTION: When did the reign of the antichrist begin and when was it to end and the kingdom of Christ to be set up?

As to the latter point we turn to Daniel 2. In this

chapter of Daniel Nebuchadnezzar had had a dream which none of the wise men could tell. But Daniel asked for time and presently the Lord revealed the sum and substance of the matter. In this dream Nebuchadnezzar saw the image whose head was of gold, his arms and breast of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, his legs of iron, and his feet of iron and clay. Then he beheld a stone cut out without hands which smote the image on his feet and they broke not only the toes but the entirety of the image. And then the stone became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

"But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the King Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the LATTER DAYS. They dream, and the vision of thy head upon thy bed, are these: . . . Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold. And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces, and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of poters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. And in the DAYS OF THESE KINGS shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure" (Daniel 2:28, 37-45).

The two clues as to the setting up of Christ's kingdom are found in the two statements of verses 28 and 44.

1. It was to be in the latter days
2. It was to be in the days of these kings - the 14 kingdoms represented by the Image.

Notice that the little stone kingdom was to stand forever. In Daniel 7 we learned that the little horn was to overcome the saints for a specified period of time or until

1. The Ancient of Days came or until
2. A time, times, and the dividing of time. (Revelation 13 states 42 months.)

We have established that there was to be a falling away, who the participating characters were to be, and the duration of Satanic rule over the saints of God. Now for the beginning and the ending dates of that apostasy.

THE BEGINNING DATE

THE PROPHETIC KEYS ARE:

1. After the fall of Imperial Rome
2. After the rise of the ten kingdoms

THE ENDING TIME

1. It was to be in the days of these kings.
2. It was to be in the latter days.

THE HISTORIC KEYS ARE:

THE BEGINNING DATE

1. The final fall of Rome (the seventh head)
2. The rise of the ten kings.
3. The rise of the Papacy

THE ENDING DATE

1. The regaining of sovereignty of all fourteen kingdoms.
2. The recognition by world governments of the last of these to regain independency.
3. The visit of the Father.

THE BEGINNING DATE: The Lombard kingdom was the tenth to arise.

Edward Gibbon: "Conquest of a great part of Italy by the Lombards, A. D. 568-570: From the Trentine hills to the gates of Ravenna and Rome, the inland of Italy became, without a battle or siege, the lasting patrimony of the Lombards. The submission of the people invited the barbarians to assume the character of a lawful sovereign, and the helpless exarch was confined to the office of announcing to the Emperor Justin, the rapid and irretrievable loss of his provinces and cities . . . Amidst the arms of the Lombards, and under the despotism of the Greeks, we again inquire into the fate of Rome, which had reached, about the close of the sixth century, the lowest period of her depression. By the removal of the seat of the empire, and the successive loss of the provinces, the sources of public and private opulence were exhausted; the lofty tree, under whose shade the nations of the earth had reposed, was deprived of its leaves and branches, and the sapless trunk was left to wither on the ground" — *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, pp. 783, 791.

Cardinal Manning: "In like manner the successive invasions of the barbaric hordes and above all the invasion of the Lombards extinguished utterly and destroyed the last vestige of the Roman Empire in Italy;

it was utterly swept away, it existed no longer" *Independence of the Holy See*, pp. 13, 14.

Charles Oman, M. A., F. S. A.: "It was not so easy to foresee that the main result of the scission of Italy by the Lombard conquests were destined to be a rise of the temporal power of the papacy . . . the Lombard invasion changed the aspect of affairs. The imperial governors and garrisons were swept into corners of the peninsula and the popes left without any master on the spot to curb them . . . In this time of stress the popes won their first secular authority over Rome and its vicinity and reduced the civil magistrates to a place of quite secondary importance" — *Dark Ages*, pp. 184-200.

Reverend E. B. Elliott, A. M.: "The papal headship began to show itself earlier than Pope Gregory; indeed contemporarily with the establishment of the Roman Catholic kingdoms" — *Horace Apocalypticæ*, vol. 3, p. 130.

H. Grattan Guinness, D. D.: "With the Gothic invasion and the break-up of the western empire into ten kingdoms came the predicted antichrist." — *History Unveiling Prophecy*, p. 63.

Reverend Joseph Benson: "It was not till the subversion of the western empire by the northern nations and the division of it into ten kingdoms, that way was made for the full establishment of the papal usurpation at Rome" — *Commentary Published for Methodist Episcopal Church*, p. 411.

John Cox: "The papal power arose after the division of the Roman empire into ten kingdoms" — *Melenarian Answer*, p. 8.

THE ENDING DATE:

Daniel 2:44 tell us that in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed and it shall consume and break in pieces all those kingdoms represented by the image and it shall stand for ever. The stone represents the kingdom of God upon the earth. This kingdom is the body of Christ or his people upon the earth - the saints if you please. It is Christ's Church.

The kingdom of God (the little stone kingdom) was to be cut out of the mountain (America) in the days of these kings (verse 45). When were the days of these kings? The little stone kingdom could not have been cut out in the days of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece or Rome because the ten toe or ten horn kingdoms had not yet come to dominion. Moreover each of the four great kingdoms ruled singly and not jointly. The little stone kingdom was not cut out of the mountain in the days of Christ. Why? Because the feet were still not in existence; the Empire was not yet divided. Further this kingdom of the little stone was to stand for ever which was not true of the kingdom set up 2000 years ago. The prophecy states however, that in the days of these kings, when all are ruling jointly, shall God set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed.

(to be continued)

TO SCATTERED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

For a number of months I have endeavored to reach you with a message that I feel timely. It is a message of hope and expectation in the face of real world conflict and concern. It ranges from individual survival; political power struggles between nations to environmental considerations for clean air, pure water, and sufficient food for an ever increasing population worldwide. Most important of all is our spiritual welfare which is being undermined by the power of evil in the world under the direct control of Satan, the arch enemy of God.

I believe that I have fairly stated my hopes, as should all people who have faith in God everywhere, in the final establishment of the Kingdom of God under the leadership of Jesus Christ. In the final analysis it will be immaterial what proper name will identify it, but for the record I will call it the Church of Christ. Christians should have no reservations of being identified with our Lord in a name as well as in the Spirit.

For the past two articles I have been discussing the subject of faith. I have pointed out the absolute need for faith and the power of faith as expressed in the lives of so many outstanding people in the scriptures. I surely have not even started to exhaust the ramifications of the principle of faith as related in the child of God as a believer in Jesus Christ.

James the apostle wrote, "Even so Faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works and I will shew thee my faith by my works." (James 2:17, 18) Thus it is that I might have faith that a kernel of corn planted in my garden would grow and yield a harvest of food. But unless I plant it and tend it, my faith is without fruit or works. I will have nothing to show for my faith except empty words that are soon forgotten.

We find the gospel teaches us to do something if we have faith enough to believe God's Word. The opening message of the gospel in the New Testament times is somewhat like the commandment of God to Old Abraham to get up and leave his father's country. Abraham had faith in God so he did something about it. He didn't sit and wonder where he would go or what would happen to him and to his family. He didn't try to excuse himself because he was too old or because his family would not be pleased. He obeyed the commandment of God and believed on the promises. Because he was obedient God kept His promise and Abraham was given a son. Through this son, Isaac, came the birth of Jesus Christ. Now the gospel is preached and salvation is promised to all who will believe, have faith in God, and leave the way of sin and repent.

True faith leads to action. We read that John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea. He too had faith in God, and since God sent him to preach, he obeyed and obtained a peculiar place in the plan of salvation as being a prophet and the forerunner of

Jesus. Preaching was his way of leaving "his father's country," since Zacharias, his father, was a high priest in the temple under the Mosaic law offering sacrifices for the sins of the people. John the Baptist was never identified with the ministry of his father, but with the ministry of Jesus Christ. As a son of a high priest of the lineage of Aaron, he was in line to be one also. However, he was called out of that religion to be a preacher of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. What was the message that John the Baptist was sent to preach? In Matthew 3:1, 2 we read, "In those days came John the Baptist preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, Repent ye! for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." In the next chapter we find that Christ, when He began His ministry, is recorded to have taken the same theme. "From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matt. 4:17)

Of course, that is not all that He preached and taught, but it was the essential element of His message. Many times we read of His ministry to the needs of someone and His admonishing the person to sin no more. It was Jesus who said, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." (Matthew 5:48) Realizing that our imperfections are sin, we need to repent to become perfect. This is reinforced by the statement that Christ made to the Pharisees in Matthew 9:13, "But go and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

There is more to repentance than just to feel sorry for sin. Repentance like faith, brings a need of active involvement before we can say that it is accomplished. The people asked of John the Baptist what they should do to "bring forth fruits worthy of repentance." In Luke chapter three, we read that those who had food and clothing were to share with those who had need. Those who were in the business of collecting taxes, (Publicans) were to exact no more than the law allowed. The soldiers were told to do violence to no man, to accuse no one falsely, and to be content with their wages.

We can learn from this that we are to be unselfish with our neighbors and those who are in need; that we are to be honest in our dealings; that we are to respect life and limb; that we are to call no man our enemy, and to honor a contract of wages with our employers.

To repent is to learn to love others as well as God. We cannot say that we love God if we haven't truly repented from our sins. We find that we need to repent daily as life's experiences bring us into conflict with our own selfish, sinful desires. To conquer self is the work of repentance.

For a reading this month I would like to suggest the story of Zaccheus, the rich Publican in Luke 19: 1-10. Also, I would recommend a reading of the prodigal son, found in Luke, chapter fifteen.

I hope that the thoughts presented here will make us give due consideration to our need to be repentant, and willing to change as we become conscious of our faults. To exercise love for one another is a tremendous force spirituaully to help overcome our sins and to bring forth fruit meet for repentance.

Elder Arthur G. Smith

LETTER CONVERSATIONS

Excerpts

I have puzzled many times on the scriptures that we should "Lift up our heads, and be lifted up," when we see these things coming to pass, because of the terrible things which are foretold that will take place. The explanation that we should lift our heads and look above these things seem so clear; that we are not to miss the evidence of God's Spirit moving in these troublesome times by concentrating our attention on them. Of course I know we should rejoice in the nearing approach of Christ's coming and the setting up of His kingdom, but the thought of all the distruction and suffering before this takes place has seemed to make my timid soul fearful instead of rejoicing. I remember years ago of Dad speaking of the prophets of old that looked down to our day, the time of the end, and wished they could have lived now because of the wonderful things, and the great work the Lord was going to do.

The Epistle of John speaking on love says that perfect love casts out all fear, and to love the Lord with all our heart, might, mind and strength must be that perfect love. However how can one help but feel a certain fear for loved ones as well as for all peoples?

* * * * *

Perfect love casts out fear, and some sort of fear or anxiety is at the root of all disease of mind and heart, perhaps with one exception, the one left to the three Nephites who tarried, their suffering for the souls of men. If this is the real cause of our fear, happy are we, that the Lord has made us his fellow-servants. To be distressed for the safety and salvation of His loved ones becomes a privilege; an opportunity which none of us could spare or miss out on.

Why should we fear so to suffer? To dare to love is to invite suffering. The nature of our flesh will fight us, but with the Lord's grace added to, we can deny it's claims and set our hearts on seeking the Lord and his Kingdom first, with it's righteousness, finding at last a certain pleasure in whatever pain of sacrifice we can suffer for His sake. How else can we render to the Lord all that we have and are, according to King Benjamin's teachings? Our love for Him, alone measures the whole-heartedness with which we abandon ourselves to Him and embrace all He desires to require from or bring to us. Even as Christ for love suffered for us, our love for him can be sufficient to overcome our fears of suffering.

THE DEDICATION OF THE KIRTLAND TEMPLE

(First of two parts)

Taken from the History of the Church (LDS) Volume II page 410 etc. also R. L. D. S. Church History Volume

Sunday, March 27, 1836 -- The congregation began to assemble at the Temple, at about seven o'clock, an hour earlier than the doors were to be opened. Many brethren had come in from the regions round about, to witness the dedication of the Lord's House and share in His blessings; and such was the anxiety on this occasion that some hundreds (probably five or six) assembled before the doors were opened. The presidents entered with the doorkeepers, and stationed the latter at the inner and outer doors. We also dedicated the pulpits and consecrated them to the Lord.

The doors were then opened. Presidents Rigdon, Cowdery and Joseph Smith seated the congregation as they came in, and according to the best calculation we could make, we received between nine and ten hundred, which were as many as could be comfortably seated.

At nine o'clock A. M. President Sidney Rigdon commenced the services of the day by reading the 96th and 24th Psalms. An excellent choir of singers, led by M. C. Davis sang the following hymn: "**Ere long the Veil Will Rend in Twain.**"

President Rigdon addressed the throne of grace in a devout and appropriate manner, and the following hymn was sung: "**O Happy Souls Who Pray.**"

Perhaps it might be well at this point to give a brief description of the Temple:

This historic building stands on elevated ground south of the east fork of the Chagrin River about three miles southeast of Willoughby, Ohio, about nine miles southeast of Painesville, and about six miles in direct line from Lake Erie.

The building is built of stone, plastered without and within. It is three stories high exclusive of the basement.

The first and second stories are auditoriums, each fifty-five by sixty-five feet on the inside, exclusive of the vestibule on the east end, through which is to the entrance to the building and in which are the stairways. The lower room was to be dedicated for "sacrament offering, your preaching, and the offering up of your most holy desires saith your Lord." The second room was to be dedicated for the school of the apostles. In each of these rooms are eight pulpits four in each end. Those in the west end were intended for the Melchisedec priesthood and those in the east and for the Aaronic priesthood. The third story is divided into small rooms and used as a school.

The outside walls are about two feet thick; the outside of the building is fifty-nine by seventy-nine feet. We now return to the dedication.

The speaker (Sidney Rigdon) selected the eighth chapter of Matthew, the 18th, 19th, and 20th verses from which he addressed the congregation. He spoke for two hours and a half in his usual forcible and logical manner.

After closing his discourse he presented Joseph Smith to the church as a prophet and seer. The Presidents of the church, then all in their seats, acknowledged him as such by rising. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. The following hymn was then sung: "NOW LET US REJOICE IN THE DAY OF SALVATION."

Services closed for the forenoon. "Intermission was about fifteen minutes." The p. m. service commenced by singing the hymn: ADAM-ONDI-AHMAN.

President Joseph Smith then addressed the congregation, the hymn "HOW PLEASED AND BLEST WAS I," was sung and the dedication prayer was offered. This dedication prayer may be found in its entirety in the R. L. D. S. Church History, volume II pages 38 through 44. At its conclusion the hymn, "THE SPIRIT OF GOD LIKE A FIRE IS BURNING" was sung.

(continued next month)

THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH

A SOLEMN TIME

We are living in an eventful and solemn time which compels the interest of everybody. Rulers and statesmen are aware of the events that are happening about us. They and many many others are watching the great tension in every branch of life. We are in the midst of a world crisis, and we must perceive the danger of a complete breakdown with horror. A hurricane has swept over the population of the whole world, such as no generation in the past has experienced. What seemed valuable and dependable to the people has swept away and vanished in a mass grave. An atmosphere of the end of the world has spread over millions of exhausted and hopeless humanity like a pall. A world revolution in every way of life has broken out, has begun to move, and no power on earth can stop it. Political, social, economical, moral and religious life has been overthrown. Hands are laid on everything to test whether it is rotten or outlived. A crack is going through the foundation of the world, and pale with horror the people of today decode the events of the writing on the wall, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN (Dan. 5:25).

For the people who believe in the scriptures of this present restoration time, it is solemn and exalting. It fills them with the wonderful hope of a better and more beautiful world (Zion, Independence, the Temple Lot), for which at all times the Saints of God have longed. They will not have to wait long for the realization of this hope in these latter days of mankind; they have started.

THE SCRIPTURES ARE THE WORDS OF GOD

"Thy word is the truth" (John 17:17)

The Bible, the Book of Mormon and the Book of Commandments reveal the truth simply, fitting the needs and desires of the human heart. The greatest and most learned men have studied the truth of the scriptures with astonishment and wonder. But also the most unlearned have found the way of life through the words of our Lord, the way of truth. The earnest seekers of the truth are filled with exaltation and belief by the sacred words of God, which sometime reach far beyond our understanding. We have the books of Books, the finest and most dependable stories that mankind possesses. God's historical descriptions make clear the past, present, and the future which come fresh from the spring of everlasting truth. A divine hand has kept its purity throughout time. In the words of God, we find the fulness of the Gospel.

An exact and true image of our time in the Church of Christ is drawn for us. Combined with past events, the final scenes of the world's history are revealed to us. A man can write a book, but only God, Who is the spring of life, can inspire man to write a true and living book. The Bible, the Book of Mormon and the Book of Commandments are books that speak, and every human ear can understand its language if they only wish. It is the voice of the Almighty which speaks, the voice of the Creator to His people, like a father to his children. There are many other books that speak about God, but in the scriptures of the Restoration, God speaks to His people, "Come unto me, all ye that labour." (Matt. 11:28)

John J. Schut

SEVEN STEPS TO STAGNATION

- 1 - We've never done it that way
- 2 - We're not ready for that.
- 3 - We're doing alright without it.
- 4 - We tried that once before.
- 5 - It costs too much.
- 6 - That's not our responsibility.
- 7 - It just won't work.

—Anon.

Are we in the Church of Christ guilty of saying any of the above?

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SEVEN DEADLY SINS

- 1 - Politics without principles.
- 2 - Wealth without work.
- 3 - Pleasure without conscience.
- 4 - Knowledge without character.
- 5 - Commerce without morality.
- 6 - Worship without sacrifice.
- 7 - Science without humanity.

—Gandhi

Religion is good views. The gospel is good news.

WEDDING

Hutcheson and Medders

On December 27, 1980, a beautiful day under the bright heavenly sunlight, families and friends gathered at 4:00 p. m. to witness the marriage of Dee Anna Medders and Ronald Carl Hutcheson at the Church of Christ, Houston, Missouri.

Elder John H. Jones, pastor of the Church of Christ, performed the double ring ceremony.

Wedding selections were played at the piano by a friend of the bride, Lynn Friedly, Butler, Mo., while Tom Medders, brother of the bride, and Shane Raney, nephew of the groom, ushered family and friends. Piano and flute music by Sheryl Young, Houston, Mo. friend of the bride played as Jennifer Medders, niece of the bride, and Diane Keeney, cousin of the bride, dressed in floor length rose colored dresses lit the tapers in the candelabrams. Flute music played as bridesmaid, Nancy Johansen, Joplin, Mo. entered with a rose lace covered floor length dress on the arm of the groomsman, Bill Jarrell, Bolivar, Mo. The maid of honor, Threasa Medders, Bucyrus, Mo. entered with a rose lace covered floor length dress on the arm of the best man, Donnie Ellis, Bolivar, Mo.

The ring bearer, Eric Hawkins, of Hermitage, Tennessee, cousin of the bride, and flower girl, Janna Medders, niece of the bride, entered with a rose colored floor length dress.

Dee Anna entered on the arm of her father, Truman Medders. She wore an off white gown with semi-cathedral train and finger tip veil. Her bouquet was rose colored silk flowers.

After Dee Anna's father had given her in marriage, a duet, "The Lord Is My Shepherd" was sung by Bob and Julie Aubrey of Edmond, Oklahoma friends of the bride.

The bride's mother and groom's mother wore floor length dresses. They wore rose colored silk flower corsages.

Traditional "Wedding March" concluded the ceremony, and following the reception, all were guests at a reception dinner at the church.

Marilyn Massey of Weatherford, Oklahoma, cousin of the bride presided at the guest book.

Debra Hutcheson of Ozark, Mo., sister of the groom, assisted at the gift table.

Serving the cake and punch were the groom's nieces, Shelia Meaders and Lisa Pitts of Bolivar, Mo. Jane Ann Stancil, of Kansas City, Mo. and Joan Marie Hawkins of Hermitage, Tennessee, cousins of the bride.

The couple are at home in Bolivar, Missouri.

OBITUARIES

JOHN ALFORD SWEEM

John A. Sweem of Hamilton, Mo., passed from this life January 12, 1981 at the Hedrick Medical Center of Chillicothe. He was born October 2, 1887 near Polo, Mo. and lived the past 69 years at Hamilton where he worked as the water superintendent for 31 years.

He married Eva Etta Brookshier December 31, 1905 and was married to her for 62 years. To this union was born three daughters. Due to the untimely death of one of their daughters, they were given the additional responsibility of caring for three of their grandchildren for a time. Eva preceded him in death on February 11, 1967.

On May 17, 1968 he married Jessie Ellen Sarratt of Collins, Mo. and was married to her until her death on December 22, 1973.

On January 1, 1975 he married Zada Fitzpatrick of Kingston, Mo.

John and Eva Sweem joined the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) by baptism on May 4, 1930. He was ordained as a priest June 11, 1930 and on November 17, 1941 he was ordained an elder and set aside as a member of the General Bishopric. He retained these offices until his death serving when he was physically able. For the last several month of his life, he suffered from a partial blindness.

His membership was with the Cowgill, Mo. Church of Christ where he upon occasion served as pastor. His missionary work took him to several states including Kentucky, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Illinois and various parts of Missouri.

He lived in the same home for 42 years and was active in its care and maintenance until his death. His last illness was a stroke and a heart attack from which he never recovered.

Survivors include his wife, Zada Sweem, of the home; two daughters, Hazel Snider, Donna, Texas, Zelma Stone, Hamilton; five grandchildren and several great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren; and a host of friends.

Funeral services were held at the Dram Funeral Home at Hamilton with Elders Nicholas Denham and C. Leroy Wheaton officiating. Interment was at the cemetery near Hamilton.

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MINNIE EMILY POGUE

January 28, 1981 at the Mount Herman Church near Jay, Oklahoma, at 2 p. m. the family and friends of Sr. Minnie Pogue gathered in memory of their dear Mother, Grandmother, Sister and friend. The service was conducted by Elders James M. Case and Leslie Case. The air was brisk and the sky was clear and God warmed our saddened hearts as her tabernacle of clay was laid to rest beside her husband, William Pogue, in the little cemetery close to the Church building.

All whose lives were touched by Sr. Pogue are enriched by her example of great faith in God and her love and patience for all her fellow beings. Many who never knew her feel a kinship by having heard the testimonies of God's blessings and miracles that were a part of her life. And we who knew and loved her, both her blood family and her Church family, are forever grateful to God for the blessing of her life.

Sr. Pogue lived most of her life in Southwest City, Mo. She was baptized into the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints on July 1, 1951 by Elders Aldrich and Black. She transferred her membership to the Church of Christ with Headquarters on the Temple Lot, November 5, 1956 by Elder L. V. Aldrich and Apostle Archie F. Bell. She attended the Noel, Missouri Local Church of Christ until she moved to Kansas City, Kansas ten years ago, following the death of her husband and a stroke that left her deaf, so that she could be close to her daughter, Clara Irwin. During this time she was unable to meet with the Church congregation, but always welcomed the ministry and her Brothers and Sisters with a smile and open arms when they came to visit her.

Minnie Emily Pogue, daughter of David and Pearl Enkey, was born February 2, 1901 and passed from this life January 24, 1981.

Sr. Minnie was united in marriage to Jack Trout, who preceded her in death. To this union was born a son and daughter. On October 10, 1920 she married William Pogue. To William and Minnie was born four sons and three daughters. Two sons, Ralph Trout and William Pogue, preceded their mother in death. She leaves to mourn her passing three sons, Roy Pogue, of Gravette, Ark., Ray Pogue of Noel, Mo., Frankie Pogue of St. Joseph, Mo., and four daughters, Mrs. Edna Long of Tulsa, Okla., Mrs. Betty Humphrey of Excelsior Springs, Mo., Mrs. Clara Irwin of Kansas City, Kansas and Mrs. Lottie Bernard of St. Joseph, Mo., 35 grandchildren and 43 great-grandchildren and many relatives and friends.

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In Memory of
NIELS POULSEN

Born May 25, 1904 in Denmark, and passed from this life on February 1, 1981, Sunday - the Lord's Day. He was 76 years 8 months and 6 days. He came to this country from Denmark in 1923 at the age of 19, worked as a tinner for 10 years, then went into the restaurant business on his own when the great depression of the 1930's hit. After another 11 years he purchased a farm near Logan, Iowa. It was while there that he was stricken with multiple-sclerosis, forcing his retirement to Council Bluffs, Iowa from vigorous physical labor. He suffered many years from the progressively crippling disease.

Niels was married to Sister Mildred Behrends in 1935. The ceremony was performed by Elder J. R. McClain of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot). He was

an honorable man of the world; he loved people and everyone who knew him loved him. He was generous and compassionate unto all whom he knew. His attitude and cheerfulness were positive through all of his suffering, and served to help bolster those who grieved over his disability.

Niels leaves to mourn his passing, his beloved wife, Sister Mildred Poulson, who has remained a faithfully devoted member of the Church of Christ from the time of her baptism. Also remaining are two brothers, Carl and Thomas, both of GOL, Denmark, an aged Aunt Katherine Haun of Denmark, and nieces and nephews.

Apostle Robert H. Jensen of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) was in charge of the service; Organist was Jeanette Schultz, and Vocalist was Henry Jensen, singing, "My Jesus I Love Thee." Interment was at Cedar Lawn Cemetery, in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

ACHIEVEMENT

Not every bud becomes a perfect flower;
Not every bird sings sweetly as the lark;
And the swift arrow sent with certain power
May cleave the air, yet fail to reach the mark.

Yet must we struggle on; nor ever be
Dismayed, despondent o'er endeavors crossed;
The work wrought out with patience, silently,
Is worth to everyheart whate'er it cost.

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It is sweet to go when the Master calls,
If your work is all well done;
It is sweet to rest when day is past,
If that rest has been fairly won.

It is sweet to stand on the river's brink,
So close to the other side,
That you see the loved who are coming down
To cross with you the tide.

Mrs. Farmer

THIS I KNOW

I know not by what methods rare,
But this I know - God answers prayer.
I know that He has given His Word,
Which tells me prayer is always heard
And will be answered, soon or late,
And so I pray and calmly wait.

I know not if the blessing sought
Will come in just the way I thought,
But leave my prayers with Him alone,
Whose will is wiser than my own -
Assured that He will grant my quest.
Or send some answer far more blest.

—Anonymous

OKLAHOMA NEWS

We church members in Oklahoma count ourselves very lucky. We are very grateful and thankful that we can meet together once a month. The past two months we have gathered together and we sang praises to the Lord. We have prayed together and we have shared our testimonies. We have visited with one another about our families and our church family. We shared meals and gave thanks to the Lord for our good food. With all this sharing, we have also shared our love with each other. Our hearts were happy as we went our separate ways to return to our homes.

In Oklahoma, we have many beautiful sunshiny days. We have much wind and our December sabbath dawned with both. As we (Marilyn was with me) drove along the highway and looked across the peaceful landscape of grazing cattle or the open field, it is hard to believe that there is so much heartache, crime, and many other evils in this beautiful land of ours.

We met with the Mike Martin family. They have just finished a new home near Norman, which is located in a development out in the country. Mike, a product of OU's architectural school, designed their home. I can tell they like the trees for their beautiful home "grew up" among the trees.

Brother Frank Fann and his wife Carolyn met with us. They gave us the news that they were moving to Dallas in January. We "Okies" rejoiced, for we know we will see them more often.

Mike and Barbara's living room was the setting for our services. We were fifteen in all. We especially enjoyed singing Christmas hymns. Our sacrament and testimony service was followed by a very interesting lesson in church history.

Laura Mae Elwell always expresses her sweet spirit in her testimonies. Since we both are teachers, we sometimes have similar problems. Laura Mae told how a new boy had enrolled in their school and what a severe discipline problem he was. Finally, he was sent to her class. She tried hard not to let other teacher's remarks influence her feelings toward him and she silently prayed that she'd somehow know how to handle him. The situation turned out WELL. She really liked the boy and he knew it. (LOVE works wonders.) She ended her testimony this way. "I'm just thankful that the Lord helped me not to hate this new student."

Our January services were held at Mike and Barbara Kimball's home near Shawnee. The weather was crispy, bright, and the usual wind. My two hour drive seemed shorter since the weather was nice.

Our number was smaller, but we enjoyed our good meeting and missed those who weren't there. Brother Marvin Ely was the missionary in charge. After our sacrament, prayer and testimony services, Brother Ely spoke to us. He refreshed our memories of thoughts that we had heard before, but need to be reminded of again and again. He has a different way of expressing these gospel truths and it is refreshing and joyous to

hear him speak. He told us that too much stress is put on material things. This material stress, as well as fear, confusion, and mistrust are with us everyday. We are living in a day of indecision, a day of decision, a day of hope and encouragement. Each one of us have responsibilities. The prayer in our hearts should be, to walk humbly before the Lord.

Brother Ely went on to recall to our minds King Benjamin's proclamation in which he said, "O all ye old men, and also ye young men, and you little children, who can understand my words, (for I have spoken plain unto you, that ye might understand,) I pray that ye should awake to a remembrance of the awful situation of those that have fallen into transgression; And moreover, I would desire that ye should consider on the blessed and happy state of those that keep the commandments of God. For behold, they are blessed in all things, both temporal and spiritual; And if they hold out faithful to the end, they are received into heaven, that thereby they may dwell with God in a state of never ending happiness. O remember, remember that these things are true; for the Lord God hath spoken it." (Mosiah 1:86-91) Last of all, we were reminded to be quick to thank the Lord for all our many blessings.

It seemed that all of those who gave their testimonies were expressing how the Lord answers prayers. This deep faith of answered prayers strengthened all of those present. When those of like faith meet together to share experiences, it is like a healing balm to the spirit. It is food for the soul. It gives strength and encouragement. It nourishes the growing love of the earthly family as well as the church family. We are united in our prayers for all those that urgently need the Lord's help. We go away more aware of how dependent we are on His help. We realize how helpless we are and we are keenly aware of the strength we are given in times of need. We must be quick to thank Him for these blessings. Be aware of all great blessings and give thanks. Be quick to forgive and let it be known by word and deed. Be slow to wrath and slow to speak.

Brother Ely read us this beautiful scripture that we had all heard many times before, but somehow, this day, it was more meaningful than usual. "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice; And be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." (Ephesians 4:29-32)

After the meeting, we enjoyed sharing a meal together before returning to our respective homes. May each of you enjoy God's rich and beautiful blessings.

Alzada Massey

PHOENIX LOCAL NEWS

"Let brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: For thereby some have entertained angels unaware." Heb. 13:1-2

Greetings from the Phoenix Local of the Church of Christ. This local was organized in 1928 and started with nine charter members. Three of the original nine are still active members: Evalena Sills, Patsy Yates and my mother, Ruth Willard. My childhood memories are of prayer meetings in the members' homes and listening to the sermons of my grandfather, James E. Yates. Now, some fifty-odd years later, I am a grandmother with grandchildren, members of the Phoenix local. Also, I'm this year's Advocate reporter.

Because all the elected officers did such a good job with their duties last year, they were almost unanimously elected to retain their positions for the coming year. Jim Lacy will again be our Pastor and will be assisted by Jay Moser. We were also informed that our biggest expense last year was for missionary work - and isn't that as it should be?

1980 was an eventful year in Phoenix. Transferred here from other locals were Ed and Louise McIndoo, Harold Polack, Rita (Shaw) Schultz, Kenny Shaw and myself.

Michelle Yates, Gary Frank, Patricia Yates, Valerie Stavro and Jim Bartlett joined the Church of Christ, in the waters of baptism. We had four marriages: Gary and Margie (Sarratt) Frank, Dan and Cindy (Yates) Berquist, Mike and Debbie (Biringer) Verdugo, and Harold and Junella (Elliott) Polack. Three babies were blessed during 1980 here. They were Jared Ely, Jessica Bartlett and Alesha Yates.

We have a membership of one hundred and twenty-five here now and at almost every service we fill all the pews and usually overflow onto folding chairs along the back. It is so gratifying to have so many loved ones around us to share our lives.

We are most fortunate to have a ministry here that is so much more than adequate. We are fed spiritually, always, by the words of our Lord, in their sermons. They are always willing and available when we need them to administer to us. The love and concern we feel in their care is boundless.

At our Thanksgiving reunion, the Ladies Choir presented a beautiful rendition of a new song for us. The name of the song is "Stretch Out Thy Hand To Me, Dear Lord;" words and music by Lois Helseth who was in our chapel when we first heard this inspired and inspiring hymn. The beautiful voices of our lovely ladies brought tears to the eyes of all who heard. The congregation has adopted it as a favorite and we were thrilled anew as the choir sang it again for us in January. As we listen to the words, we realize that our daily prayer could be "Stretch Out Thy Hand To Me, Dear Lord."

Your Phoenix Reporter
Meredyth Baskett

HOUSTON LOCAL NEWS

Brother John Jones spoke to us about the greatest pollution of all; the pollution of God's words. Satan is always busy trying to deceive us, luring us off the straight and narrow way. Spiritual pollution is far more alarming than all other types of pollution.

God still works with those who are willing to turn their lives over to Him. Be as Jesus. Have his mind, be pure, loving, kind, true, and obedient to God. We don't have to cleanse the world — just clean up our act.

Brother Roland Sarratt was our guest speaker and cited to us many prophecies pertaining to Christ's birth and the gift of peace he would bring us. John 16:33 ". . . that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Brother Virgil Addie was our speaker December 21. He recalled events of the past year and wondered if we had done worthwhile things pleasing to God. He reminded us that we need to spend more time doing good and helping where we can.

Then he retold the story of Christ's birth, of events leading up to that time and those things which happened immediately following our Savior's birth.

He reminded us to be thankful for our Christ, who died for our sins, that through him we might have eternal life.

Our Christmas program was Sunday Night, December 21. Everyone took part either with recitations, poems, songs and music or readings. Punch, coffee, and other goodies were served after the program and I think everyone enjoyed themselves very much.

On December 27 our sister Dee Anna Medders was married to Ron Hutcheson in our 'Little Green Church' by Elder John H. Jones.

On December 28, Brother Ike Medders was the speaker and spoke of inspiration we so often find in our songs. He cited several that meant so much to him.

He then told us that the answers to all problems and questions can be found in the scriptures. We shouldn't worry about things of tomorrow, but rely fully on God and he will take care of it.

He reminded us to "Look for the good, Look for the beautiful," to face facts, and deal with them realistically. Listen to what we say to ourselves and to others.

Your Sister in Christ,
Mary Addie

Today is yesterday's pupil.

—Franklin

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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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.

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