

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. 59

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No. 8

A Neighbor

A neighbor is one who sees
A job that has you on your knees,
And pitches in-forgetting-fees-
And does it.

A neighbor is the one who knows
That sometimes you are swamped with woes
And need some cheering - so he goes
And does it.

A neighbor is the one who tends
The "boundary fences" of his friends
In such a way that trouble ends.
He does it.

A neighbor is the one who cares,
Who works with you, and laughs and shares;
And when you ask his help through prayers,
He does it.

Marian Benedict Manwell

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Editorial . . .

LET US TAKE HEED TO OUR WORDS

" . . . and men within and without my church shall yet learn that but one pattern hath been given by which ye shall build, if I shall accept your labor; and but one line given by which to measure; and whosoever shall not guage himself thereby and crucify himself to the world, shall yet be guaged thereby and shall lose his all; "for whosoever shall fall upon this stone shall be broken, but upon whomso it shall fall it shall grind him to powder." Given through Joseph Luff, March 31, 1906, 6th paragraph.

We have been given a measure, Jesus and the Word, which is one and the same, (John 1:5), and what a great loss we face if we fail to search and measure ourselves thereby. In view of the above quote we can see why the Jews measuring themselves by themselves, comparing themselves to themselves, were not wise. (2 Cor. 10:12) How foolish to measure and compare between ourselves, for no man is a standard for any other.

The pattern and line given are for a standard against which to measure the whole person - "Till we all come to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." (Eph. 4:13) But in this writing I intend to center on the matter of our

habits of talking; our words. What does The Word have to say about them? What do our words have to say about us? to others - to ourselves if we will take time to listen to ourselves; how important are they?

" . . . out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things; and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, that every idle word men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." (Matt. 12:34-37)

Right there we have our last two questions answered for us. Our mouths reveal the condition of our hearts, and by that we will be judged; justified or condemned. This truth is confirmed in the following, "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain," (James 1:26) In other words when the heart is right with God a person will not foul off by their mouth.

The Word gives us some surprising measures by which to identify what Proverbs calls a fool's mouth, especially if it be our own.

"He that hideth hatred with lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, is a fool. In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin . . ." Proverbs 10:18-19)

"The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the Lord . . ." (Proverbs 15:26)

"A fool's lips enter into contention, . . . A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul. The words of a talebearer are as wounds, . . ." (Proverbs 18:6-8)

"Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin . . . For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities . . ." (Ecclesiastes 5:3, 7)

"Surely the serpent will bite without enchantment; and a babbler is no better . . . the lips of a fool will swallow up himself. The beginning of the words of his mouth is foolishness: and the end of his talk is mischievous madness." (Ecclesiastes 10:11-18)

"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 . . . Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice." (Ephesians 4: 29, 31)

"Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks . . . And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness . . . For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret." (Ephesians 5:4, 11-12)

"But shun profane and vain babblings; for they will increase unto more ungodliness." (2 Timothy 2:16)

"Speak not evil of one another . . ." (James 4:11)

This gives a fairly wide picture against which to first check our habits of speaking. Do we ever find ourselves just babbling? Talking too much? Have we ever been caught in the snare of what started out as idle foolishness growing to mischief and on to ungodliness? perhaps the ungodliness of contention? How hard it is for a fluent talker to keep his conversations such that they don't run to vanities, indeed even to the tripping and the swallowing of himself up. It's a pungent metaphor.

Speak not evil of another. Any other? A talebearer's words wound. They are wounds to the victim **and** to the talebearer! Don't gossip! One Amy Carmichael of Dohnovur, India, has given us three sieves to pass

our thoughts through before we put them into audible expressions. They are: is it true? is it kind? is it necessary? If our words can't pass these tests, don't say them. If there is nothing good to be said, if our words can't bless instead of burn, let us learn the value and virtue of silence.

But it is not enough to simply bridle the tongue, for it is the heart out of which the mouth speaks that must be made pure; it is evil thoughts and feelings that give occasion for the words that are an abomination to the Lord. Our mouths are simply the traitors which can tell us what and where the roots of bitterness still are that we may dig them out and have done with them if we will.

Now let us take a look at what are good words and manner of speaking: and we go again to Proverbs -

"The tongue of the just is as choice silver . . . The lips of the righteous feed many ..." (Proverbs 10:20-21)

". . . the words of the pure are pleasant words." (Proverbs 15:26)

"The words of a wise man's are gracious . . ." (Ecclesiastes 10:12)

"But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay; for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil." (Matthew 5:37)

". . . even so we speak: not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts." (2 Thessalonians 2:4)

"Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him show out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. But if ye have bitter envyings and strife in your hearts, glory not and lie not against the truth." (James 3:13-14)

"But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;" (1 Peter 1:15)

By placing this list in contrast to the former, we find we have, brevity placed against multiplicity; words that bless instead of those that wound; we have purity, pleasantness and graciousness in place of jesting, foolishness, vanities, mischief, anger, and whispered discussions of those things done in secret that are too shameful to speak aloud; we have our words chosen to please God and not man.

What can we learn by listening to our own habit and manner of talking? Do we, can we qualify as that perfect man of (James 3:2)? ". . . If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man . . ." or does

(verse 10) find us out? "Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be." Surely these things ought not to be, but if it is so are we then among such as these that Malachi speaks about, "Ye have wearied the Lord with your words . . ." (chapter 2:17)

It behooves us all to follow the admonition of Ecclesiastes 5:2,) "Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter anything before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few." considering and checking our thoughts and feelings by (Philippians 4:8) "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; (emphasis mine) if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." before we put our mouths in gear.

A. S.

MEN AND BRETHREN, WHAT SHALL WE DO?

(Acts 2:37)

by William A. Sheldon

OBEDIENCE REQUIRED

The element of obedience, in man's relationship to God, is most important, notwithstanding the human disposition to the contrary. The commandments of God are not those of an autocrat designed solely to impose His will in triumph over His creation, in order to exact servitude. One needs to understand that God is good.

"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." Mt. 19:16, 17.

We may wonder why Jesus declined to acknowledge the virtue of goodness for himself, for it was certainly appropriate. On this occasion, He did not choose to identify himself as part of the godhead, but rather to simply refer to God as the only One who is good. Lamsa may have offered a little better translation, giving the words of Jesus thus:

"There is no one who is good except the one God."

"The One God" includes all three personalities of the godhead, and so Jesus is simply speaking objectively. This also reveals His inherent humility and subservience; and acknowledge that the Father is the great-

est and best of all. Please note, too, that Christ answered directly:

" . . . If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments." When asked what they were, He said:

"Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honor thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." *ibid.*, 18, 19.

In this, we see a rehearsal of elements of the Ten Commandments given to Moses, and Jesus said that compliance would enable the man to "enter into life." Whereupon, the young man declared his obedience in these things from youth up; so what yet did he lack? Jesus perceived the condition of the man, so He said:

" . . . If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven; and come and follow me." *ibid.* 21.

The man turned away in sorrow because, having great possessions he could not do this. His having wealth was no sin, but his heart was upon earthly riches rather than the eternal riches of following Christ. This is typical, and Christ said:

"It is difficult for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of heaven. Again I say unto you, It is easier for a rope to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God." *ibid.*, 23, 24 (Lamsa).

This is illuminating, for the Aramaic word, *gamla*, means either rope or camel. So, it is not impossible, but difficult for the rich to place God first in their desires, and thus to enter into His kingdom. It is important, too, to understand Jesus' saying in answer to the amazed question of His disciples: "Who then can be saved?" He said:

"With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible." *ibid.*, 26.

In contrast with the law of the Medes and Persians, which was unyielding, He did not say there was no hope for the rich; it would be difficult for them, but not impossible for God to effect. This should be borne in mind with respect to understanding the principle of the gospel called, Eternal Judgement. Also, notice that the righteousness of the young man would enable him to "enter into life", while his unwillingness to part with his riches would keep him from being "perfect." We may see here a distinction between righteousness (leading to life and an escape from the "second death"), and that greater righteousness, which brings perfection, and a place in the Kingdom of God at His right hand.

Throughout the gospel law, undergirding the whole, the element of obedience is made clear, as in the preceding illustration. It is necessary because it is the right thing to obey God; it will bring goodness, the very best to one who yields. Yet this element is vehemently denied by those who simply declare the grace of God through faith. James said:

"Shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith **by my works** . . . wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" Js. 2:18, 20.

Who can deny, or would care to do so, that we are saved by the grace of God, as a divine gift through our faith (Eph. 2:8). Neither can we boast of our works (*ibid.*, 9); but Paul continues in his letter:

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, **which God hath before ordained** (commanded) **that we should walk in them.**" *ibid* 10.

"For we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do." 2 Ne. 11:44.

Our righteousness is insufficient without the merit of saving grace through Christ; but how does our faith secure this grace to us? Is it not evident that obedience to divine law is the answer? If we cannot, or will not, obey the will of God in performance of **His works**, then how may we indeed, be the sheep of His fold?

"And when He putteth forth his own sheep, He goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice." Jn. 10:4.

Again, the Master said:

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Mt. 7:21

Luke records it even more forcefully.

"And why call me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" Lk. 6:46.

How could it be plainer than this from our Great Teacher, our **Lawgiver Jesus Christ**: mankind must **obey** Him, and thus, also, the Father, or they cannot enter into the Kingdom of heaven; and yet His counsel is ignored. Misapplied emphasis is given to statements made by the Apostle Paul, as before noted. We are not to discredit the teachings of Paul, but they must be interpreted in accord with the teachings of Christ; and this will hold true of all the apostles and the prophets, as found in both the Bible and the Book of Mormon. Please bear this in mind. We do not accept "this", and reject "that". Light comes with the reconciliation, or harmonizing of Scripture; otherwise, confusion and

darkness.

There is another attribute of God which impresses itself upon humanity in myriad ways, whispering, it is good, and very good to serve the Lord: this is the attribute of love. Simply, but poignantly, it is said of Him:

"God is love." 1 Jn. 4:16

There is a special kind of love referenced in the scriptures, which is called charity; but revisions give it as, agape: the love of God or Christ for mankind. We will not, here, detail its imitation by mankind, but to affirm it as a divine characteristic which should cause us to love and obey Him with full purpose of heart.

Because God's ways are not man's ways, and His thoughts higher than our thoughts, even as the heavens are higher than the earth (see Isa. 55:8, 9), it should be sufficient to the believer to obey God's commandments, simply because He knows best and wants to impart of His love to all. We cannot understand the Divine Mind, only in part but we can trust Him to do right and require that which is right of us. Can we understand, then why Jesus said:

"Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein." Mk. 10:15

"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." 3 Ne. 5:40.

A little child has a pure trust in his parent. We are to trust God likewise, being easily led of Him. A little child is not motivated by malice, and is without guile or hypocrisy. He loves because he is loved; and he tells the truth.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave . . ." Jn. 3:16.

The word "gave" is the key to understand the love of God. He gave His Son to the world to save it. He continually gives life and breath, food and water, beautiful sights and sounds; the touch of His hand, visions of glory, the sound of His voice, are evident in all things. These plead in accents sweet and low and then in majestic power and grandeur, in goodness and love:

"Obey my voice, and I will be your God and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well with you." Jer. 7:23.

(to be continued)

The Lord's prayer is plural; it is always for us - never me.

DOUBTERS: WITHIN AND WITHOUT

PART 2

DOUBT: Hesitate to accept, hold as uncertain, distrust. (Funk and Wagnalls Dictionary)

JOSEPH SMITH: A prophet of God, a false prophet, or a fallen prophet?

It is your privilege to form whatever opinion you may desire. This is one of our God given rights, both in this nation and in the kingdom of God, however be careful of the judgment you use in forming your opinions. "For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged . . ." Matt. 7:2. One should not judge without a careful study of the subject.

Was Joseph Smith a true prophet, or was he a false prophet? Or was he a true prophet of God that fell under the influence of a false spirit, therefore becoming a fallen prophet? IN MY OPINION, Joseph fell under the influence of an evil spirit; this is to say that I believe he was a true prophet up to a certain time and then began to be led astray, eventually being led very far astray. As to that "certain time" when he began to be led astray I'll leave that for another study. Now I want to show you how and why I formed this opinion.

One can plunge into the study of the gospel in the Book of Mormon and the Bible, and try to ignore that ever nagging question about the revelations, but it keeps cropping up whether you like it or not. I have tried to disregard the revelations, to set them to one side and concentrate my efforts on the gospel in the Bible and Book of Mormon, but this will not do. The whole restoration movement hangs on those revelations: The Church, the authority of the priesthood, the hope of Zion, the Temple Lot, in fact everything that makes us different than the Churches of the world. So it seems necessary to address the subject head on.

One true test of any prophecy is the test of time. "Time will tell," we're so fond of saying, and this is perhaps the most accurate test a prophecy can be judged by. The prophecies of Daniel, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Joel and the many others in the Old Testament, which have come to pass, gives all a confidence in those men as prophets of God. Yet in their day they were not so readily accepted, in fact few would believe them, and many times they suffered persecution. Let us apply this test of time to some of Joseph's prophecies and see what the results will be.

I want to take first a revelation given by Joseph on Christmas day, 1832, as recorded in the "Pearl of Great Price", published in Liverpool in 1851. Now don't anyone get "excited" because I referenced the "Pearl of Great Price", it just happened that is the

only source of this revelation I have at my disposal at this time. It has been recorded in other publications, "The Seer" April 1854, a book entitled "Mormonism" by John Hyde Jr. in 1857, and others. I just happened to have this particular source and I AM NOT endorsing the "Pearl of Great Price". This revelation pertains to the Civil War and more, and has been so literally fulfilled it is comparable with any found in the Bible.

"Verily thus saith the Lord, concerning the wars that will shortly come to pass, beginning at the rebellion of South Carolina, which will eventually terminate in the death and misery of many souls. The DAYS WILL COME THAT WAR WILL BE Poured OUT UPON ALL NATIONS, beginning at that place; for behold the Southern states shall be divided against the Northern states, and the Southern states will call on other nations, even the nation of Great Britain, as it is called, and they shall also call upon other nations, in order to defend themselves against other nations: and thus WAR SHALL BE Poured OUT UPON ALL NATIONS. And it shall come to pass, after many days, slaves shall rise up against their masters, who shall be marshalled and disciplined for war: And it shall come to pass also, that the remnants who are left of the land, (American Indians JFS) will marshal themselves, and shall become exceeding angry, and shall vex the Gentiles with a sore vexation: and thus, with sword, and by bloodshed, the inhabitants of the earth shall mourn; and with famine, and plague, and earthquakes, and the thunder of heaven, and the fierce and vivid lightning also, shall the inhabitants of the earth be made to feel the wrath, and indignation and chastening hand of an Almighty God, UNTIL THE CONSUMPTION DECREED hath made a full end of all nations: that the cry of the saints, and of the blood of the saints, shall cease to come up to the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth, from the earth, to be avenged of their enemies. Wherefore, stand ye in Holy places, and be not moved, until the day of the Lord come; for behold in cometh quickly, saith the Lord. Amen. (All emphasis mine JFS)

The remarkable accuracy of this prophecy of the Civil War, of its beginning in South Carolina, of the South's call to Great Britain, of the Indian uprisings, and the great suffering of many souls, is easily seen by anyone who has completed the first 12 grades of our American School system. History proves the prophet, and yet there is more to be gleaned from this revelation.

"And these WAR shall be poured out upon ALL NATIONS." This is a rather interesting statement. Up until this time there had been wars between different nations, but there the prophet says, "WAR" (the singular noun is used) "shall be poured out upon all NATIONS." (Plural use of the noun) The prophet was speaking of a time when all nations would be involved in a specific war. Compare this with the prediction of

Christ found in Luke, Chap. 21 verses 9 through 11. "But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass: but the end is not by an by. Then said he unto them, nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and great earthquakes shall be in divers places . . ."

Here Christ is telling the disciples that there would be "wars and commotions," but there would come a time when "nation shall rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom," this would be what we call a world war. Thus we see that the prophet Joseph Smith was in accord with the prophecy of Christ, 1800 years earlier.

Another prophecy given through Joseph, found in the 1st Chapter of the Book of Commandments, sheds similar light upon this subject. The 4th verse, "Wherefore I the Lord, knowing the calamity which should come upon the inhabitants of the earth, called upon my servant Joseph . . .", and in the 6th verse, ". . . will-eth that all men shall know that the day speedily cometh, the hour is not yet, but is nigh at hand WHEN PEACE SHALL BE TAKEN FROM THE EARTH . . ."

The time was the 1830's; a warning was given to all the world; "Peace shall be taken from the earth," and war shall be poured out upon all nations." It was to begin at the rebellion of South Carolina. Since those fatal shots were fired at Fort Sumpter, the world has known little peace. But what about those years following the Civil War? Did the world take heed of the warning? No! Rather they mocked the prophecy and ignored the voice of warning. The wise of the world could hardly accept the thought of divine prophecy, for had not they been taught that these things had gone out with the Apostles of old?

Do you recall the words I referenced back in Isaiah 29:13 and 14? "for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid." Now let us look at history again.

After the storm of the Civil War and the conflict with Mexico had abated, it seemed that the prophet was going to be wrong. It seemed a growing popular dream that war was going to be banished forever and perpetual peace was to reign supreme. The then Czar of Russia, Nicholas 2nd, in 1898, appealed to the nations of the world to form a conference in order to establish universal peace. Twenty-six of the most powerful nations of that time joined in the conference. This fueled the dream of lasting peace. Even as late as 1913, David S. Jordan, famous educator, president and chancellor at one time of Stanford University, upon returning from a tour of Europe, published in his book, "War and Waste," the following:

"What shall we say of the great war of Europe, ever threatening, ever impending, and which never

comes? We shall say that it will never come. Humanly speaking it is impossible.

Within a year, August 2, 1914 the dogs of war were turned loose in Europe. Thus ended the dream of peace, and it has remained ended even until today, and we have no peace. "And the wisdom of their wise men shall perish." Again time has vindicated the prophet.

After World War 1, this hope of peace struggled to the surface again. This was to have been the war to end all wars. In the late 1930's, when Nazi Germany began to rear its ugly head, and in the face of this warning given 100 years before, yet the wise men predicted peace would reign. Until the bombing of Pearl Harbor we were told America would not be involved in this second World War. But the Prophet had said, "war will be poured out upon all nations." History reveals that the prophets of God knew of what they were prophesying, for it was given to them to know through the spirit of prophecy. God has guided His followers since the days of Adam by this same spirit, and it is by this same spirit of prophecy we must be guided in these last days. To turn away from His words contained in these latter day prophecies, because Satan has clouded them with his lies, will bring scales of blindness over the eyes of our understanding, and we will be left with only the precepts of man for the source of our learning.

Referring back to that "Civil War" prophecy given by Joseph Smith, there is something else that comes to our attention that pertains to us today. The world was to feel the "wrath and indignation and chastening hand of Almighty God, UNTIL THE CONSUMPTION DECREED HATH MADE A FULL END OF ALL NATIONS." The word consumption, used here, means "the process of consuming," which means "to be wasted or destroyed." (Funk and Wagnalls Dict.) The sum of what the prophet is saying here is: There is to be war, pestilence, plagues, earthquakes, etc. upon the earth until ALL NATIONS are "wasted or destroyed." Let us see if there is mention of this in the scriptures.

"Now therefore be ye not mockers, lest your bands be made strong: for I have heard from the Lord God of hosts a consumption, even determined upon the WHOLE EARTH." Isa. 28:22 (emphasis mine JFS) And again this from Isa. 10:23, 23:

"For though thy people Israel be as the sand of the sea, yet a remnant of them shall return: the consumption decreed shall overflow with righteousness, for the Lord God of hosts shall make a consumption, even determined, in the midst of all the land." Here we see the prophecy given by Joseph Smith in accord with the prophecy given by Isaiah, and both are speaking of the same "consumption."

Another revelation given by Joseph in March 1831, and found in chapter 48, Book of Commandments,

sheds some similar light on this subject. In verses 27 and 28 we find the following: "And the love of men shall wax cold and iniquity shall abound; and when the time of the Gentiles is come in, a light shall break forth among them that sit in darkness, and it shall be the fullness of my gospel; but they receive it not, for they perceive not the light, and they turn their hearts from me because of the precepts of men; and in that generation shall the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled; AND THERE SHALL BE MEN STANDING IN THAT GENERATION, THAT SHALL NOT PASS, UNTIL THEY SHALL SEE AN OVERFLOWING SCOURGE: FOR A DESOLATING SICKNESS SHALL COVER THE LAND:" (emphasis mine JFS).

Let us take a look at a few points of interest in the forgoing verses, "and in that generation shall the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." In what generation? Why the generation in which the Gentiles "receive not" the fullness of the gospel. The generation in which they turn from the fullness of the gospel because of the precepts of man.

Determining the exact year in which the people of this country rejected the fullness of the gospel is very difficult. Perhaps by comparing the reception of our message today with the reception in former years might determine the general era of time, however it is difficult to point out any specific incident which would reflect the rejection of the fullness of the gospel by the Gentiles. We do know that it appears they have rejected it, for we are continually met with closed eyes and ears, students looking only to the learned divines, following after teachers who have degrees from institutions of religion, few of which have a faith of their own but rely on the faith of their teachers.

We have a more sure indication of when the times of the Gentiles were fulfilled in the following from the Bible: Luke 21:24. Speaking of the Jews and their scattering, Christ said: "and they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations; and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles UNTIL THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES BE FULFILLED." (emphasis mine JFS) We know from our recent history that Jerusalem was under the rule of the Gentiles until 1948-50, at which time the independent nation of Israel was established.

Thus the generation of the 1948-50 period, which I would say would be those who were children during this time, would be those who will be "standing in that generation, that shall not pass, until they shall see an overflowing scourge; for a desolating sickness shall cover the land." This brings it right up to our doorstep.

Now the question, what is a "scourge?" The Funk and Wagnalls Dictionary describes it thus: "any instrumentality or means for causing suffering or death:

hence, severe punishment." What was it the prophecy said? By WAR "and famine, and plague, and earthquake, and the thunder of heaven . . . shall the inhabitants of the earth be made to feel the wrath and indignation and chastening hand of an Almighty God, until the consumption decreed, hath made a full end of all nations." Here again we see the continuity of the prophet.

The fact that Joseph Smith gave these few revelations we have looked at, some of which have already come to pass and proven the prophet, does not mean that everything that came from his lips is divine revelation. However it does indicate that at one time he received divine light, for no man of his own knowledge could prophecy with such accuracy. In studying many of the revelations I have found within them divine light, given for our edification in these last days. Not only were they given for our edification, but also more especially for our direction. If we will not "Hearken" unto the voice of the Lord in these last days, unto whose voice will we listen? The voice of the precepts of men? The voice of our adversary?

Some may say, after reading this that I am a "Doomsday" preacher. Perhaps it may seem that way to some, but to me the "Doomsday" that is coming upon us is not a day of Doom, but rather a day of victory with our Lord and master, especially for those who "Hearken" unto his voice. In part 3 of this article, I will look into this "Doomsday" idea and try to determine its meaning to us today.

(to be continued)

Your Brother in the Family of God
Joseph F. Smith
Rt. 1, Box 100A
Horseshoe Bend, Idaho
83629

THINK ABOUT IT

- He who makes mountains out of molehills soon has no view.**
- By loving them one gives others a purpose for living.**
- A friend in need is one of life's richest opportunities.**
- Words of appreciation are like rainbows in a dull sky.**
- Frowns are not long for the brow when the lips are quick for singing.**
- Don't let worry about tomorrow rob you of thanksgiving for today's blessing.**
- Sunset is no less glorious than sunrise . . . so it is with life.**
- If you would find happiness . . . give it.**
- Measuring oneself by others is an exercise in futility.**

TO OUR SCATTERED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

A study of the subject of Zion in the Book of Mormon will disclose another view of events which are of great interest to us. Zion will be established as a place of definite location as well as a spiritual condition of a holy people. One will not exist without the other. We must also be keenly aware that the Lord has a timetable that will run its course for the fulfillment of prophecy. No man can hasten the time or bring about the building of Zion before its time.

Early in the opening events of the restoration of the gospel in these latter days came the singular instructions to make the center place of Zion and the spot for the Temple of the Lord to be located in Independence, Missouri. When we consider the magnitude of the promises given it is understandable that expectations and hopes of the early saints would be aroused of great heights and were in many respects unfulfilled.

Indeed, it would appear that the last 150 years has brought many of the so called latter day saints closer to a complete apostasy than to a Zionite condition. We rightly can be fearful of the judgements of a jealous God because some have set out to reject the Book of Mormon as a valid source of testimony of Jesus Christ and the true plan of salvation and the restoration of a holy priesthood. The Book of Mormon speaks to us who live in the Americas in particular. It is most interesting to me that it not only testifies of Jesus Christ, but it speaks plainly of His people and the church in this land in the latter days.

In the Book of Ether, starting on page 750, we can read that this will be "a choice land above all other lands, a chosen land of the Lord." It is to be "the place of the New Jerusalem, which shall come down out of heaven, and the holy sanctuary of the Lord." We are also told that it would not be the Jerusalem from where Lehi would come, but a "New Jerusalem should be built upon this land." The people who will build it will be a "remnant of the house of Joseph." They are to build up a holy city "like unto Jerusalem of old." The Book of Mormon tells us that Lehi and his family were of the tribe of Manasseh, son of Joseph, who were part of the house of Israel. Book of Alma, 8:3, page 334-335.

None other than Jesus Christ spoke of this New Jerusalem to be built on this land by the descendants of Joseph, and referred to them as "my people" among the Gentiles.

"But if they will repent (the Gentiles, A. G. S.) and hearken to my words, and not harden their hearts, I will establish my church among them, and they shall come in unto the covenant and be numbered among

the remnants of Jacob, unto whom I have given this land for their inheritance, and they shall assist my people, the remnants 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 they shall assist my people that they may be gathered in who are scattered upon all the face of the land, in unto the New Jerusalem. And then shall the power of heaven come down among them, and I also shall be in the midst." Nephi 10:1-4, page 664.

The promises are great to the Gentile people if they will repent and hearken unto the Lord. The church was restored in 1830 and established as the Church of Christ on April 6th in harmony with many prophecies of the Bible as well as the Book of Mormon. We must ever be aware of the role we may have in the building of Zion, for only if we do not harden our hearts may we be allowed to assist these people. This should never be confused with the accomplishments of the builders. His people who are to inherit the land and build the New Jerusalem. This is where I feel that many, many saints have erred in understanding.

A careful reading of chapter nine will be good to reinforce this understanding of the New Jerusalem as apart from the Jerusalem of old and the people we call the Jews and the rest of the house of Israel.

There must come a time of awakening among these people we call Indians. They will have their hearts turned to their fathers and the Lord will move among them through His Holy Spirit. They will come to a knowledge of the true gospel of Jesus Christ and then will we see a great change take place in this land. In our work of preaching the gospel to these people we have been very limited and often disappointed with the response. We need to be patient and trust in our Lord, for He knows our desires and the needs of these people of His choosing.

Those who will be able to stand in the very presence of our Lord will see Zion established and the New Jerusalem built in our land. Let us pray for one another that we may be faithful to the end. God will perform His work in due time and all will see the glory of the Lord.

Elder Arthur G. Smith

Yet this one thing I learn to know
Each day, more surely as I go,
That doors are opened, ways are made,
Burdens are lifted or are laid
By some great law unseen and still.

"He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse." (Proverbs 28:27)

1982 MISSOURI REUNION NOTICE!

Efforts have been made for a more suitable arrangement for the Missouri Reunion in 1982. It was suggested that the reunion be held at Warrensburg, Missouri, at one of the college dormitories. After an investigation was made into the matter, it was agreed upon and the following arrangements have been made:

- Date:** Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 13, 14 and 15, 1982. The first meeting will begin at 9:00 a. m. August 13.
- Place:** Warrensburg, Mo. at the East Hudson Conference Center. The building contains rooms sufficient to house all who come, as well as a kitchen and a meeting hall which is plenty large enough for our gatherings.
- Location:** East Anderson Street, east off Hiway 13 in Warrensburg, Mo.
- Lodging:** All rooms contain two twin size beds. Rooms rent for \$12.00 for one person only (one bed used) and \$16.00 for two persons (adults). It is permissible for two small children to sleep in the same room with their parents in sleeping bags on the floor. Two rooms share one bath. Bedding and linens are furnished. Lodging is available in the dormitory for Friday and Saturday nights only; you can rent for one night (either night) if you choose. Pay for lodging must be made as you enter. Each family will be responsible for the cost of their lodging. Arrangements can be made for disabled and elderly if we are notified before time.
- Food:** Meals will be furnished, desserts included. Noon and evening meals will be served on Friday. Breakfast, noon and evening meals will be served on Saturday and Sunday. Money donations will be accepted from those who dine with us. No food donations will be accepted as all food is catered and will be paid out of the reunion fund. Only college hired personnel will be allowed in the kitchen for food preparation, etc.

The expected result of this arrangement for the reunion will be that all the necessities - food and sleeping quarters - will be taken care of in a way that we might all enjoy the time together in spiritual feasting. We can leave behind our worldly cares for a time and worship God in openness if we will. We encourage you all to attend and help make this the best Missouri Reunion ever.

"The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe." (Proverbs 29:25)

PHOENIX, ARIZONA LOCAL REUNION

The annual Phoenix Local Reunion will be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday, November 26, 27 and 28, 1982. We anticipate your presence as we meet together and wait before our Lord.

If you desire to attend, please contact one of the following people prior to your arrival to make provisions for housing:

Jim Lacy, pastor 602 992 7072
18829 N. 29th Place
Phoenix, Arizona 85024

Jay Moser, asst. pastor 602 971 6697
4062 E. Danbury
Phoenix, Arizona 85024

Hubert Yates 602 992 3613
18819 N. 29th Place
Phoenix, Arizona 85024

HOUSTON LOCAL REPORT

Houston's annual rally was held May 30th with a goodly attendance. We here in the local would like to thank you each for coming and sharing with us of our Lord's spiritual blessings. One testified of the wonder working power of God in his life, saying also that if there is a lack of blessing in our lives, it indicates a lack on our part. God touches our lives to the degree we depend on Him. With our whole dependence and devotion centered on Him, He will supply all our needs.

Speakers of the day were Elder Oren Caviness, Apostle Leon Yates, Elder George Brantner and Apostle William Sheldon. They gave us many good thoughts. Some remembered lines which stood out were as follows: Be ye ready; determine to serve God. As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he. It's dangerous to be self-complacent, thinking you don't need to change. As Christians, we must prepare our minds to serve God with love. Live as He wants you to live. The preparation for tomorrow is to do today's work exceptionally well. Man's limitations don't necessarily depend on what he can do, but on what he doesn't do.

Express God's love working through you in actions and words and deeds; desire good things for your fellow man. Love is the most powerful force on earth. It can win us the portals of heaven.

We as a people must make drastic changes in our lives. Have our standards fallen? Are we receiving the blessing we might? Are we wandering in compar-

ative darkness? feeding on the crumbs instead of the whole loaf? God can tell you what changes you need to make to qualify as to become one of his children. Stand up for God's ideals and commandments. You can preach a greater sermon by your life style than by words spoken, but not kept. Share the Gospel of Christ with fervor with friends and neighbors.

When you are in service to your fellow man, you are in service to God. Are you satisfied with the life you are living? Are you ready to lay your all on the altar of sacrifice? Christ told us to keep his commandments.

What are your heart's desires? If we fail to make spiritual things most vital to us, we are in for disappointments. Don't lose sight of God's goal for your life. Pray always. We should have such a purity of thought and desire that all we do is like a prayer to God.

It takes more than a mental acceptance of Christ as Savior; He must become Lord in our life of we will miss the boat so to speak. He must govern and control us and we must be obedient. To accept him as Lord is better than to be forced to acknowledge him through trouble and sorrow.

The Lord is separating the faithful from the unfaithful. Which side are you on? Let us put our trust in God. Although the world and those we love pass away, we shall serve God still. Endure to the end. God will help us to that end.

Brother and Sister Sheldon stayed several days in the area and he held study sessions one night at the Addie residence and one night at the Doc Keeney home. These sessions were very informative and enjoyed by all who attended. Brother Sheldon gave us a good sermon Wednesday evening in place of our usual prayer meeting. He reminded us to let our light shine to all, be of comfort and strengthen each other. Let the Son shine in at home as well as at church. Now is a time of preparation. Place your trust in God. Exercise love, mercy and compassion to all. Become like Him. Prepare yourself for this time; either to live and reign with Christ upon the earth, or take your chances with the evil doers and Satan. Become dead as to sin. Live more spiritual lives. Let Christ reside within you. Let his love change your face so others can see the change and want the same. Be pleasing unto him.

Elder Gus Schwegler of Vienna was the guest speaker this month with many good thoughts from the scriptures. Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, the rest will be added unto you. Every word of God is pure; we must trust in God, not man. You must follow Christ's teachings to the end. Do service as to the Lord. Be strong for the Lord. Put on the whole armor of God, that you might be able to withstand evil. Seek understanding; feast on the words of Christ; they will tell

you all things that you should do. If you don't understand them its because you ask not, thus you perish in the darkness. Harken unto the Spirit that teaches a man to pray. God can handle any problems through prayer. Be followers of God and walk in love. Walk upright and just in the sight of the Lord. Watch how you talk with others; watch your life that others can tell that you are different. Be doers of the word. Be an example for God.

Brother Martin Addie has returned home from St. John's Hospital in Springfield and is recuperating. Your prayers for his full recovery are requested. Elder Virgil Addie is back from Oklahoma and working at home. Dorothy Wilson and Tamma and Chris Ely vacationed in Wisconsin. John Jones' sister, Margaret, from South Carolina, visited here with relatives in the area.

One night this week, the young sisters of the church made and delivered suppers to all the senior citizens of the group. What a lovely idea. Thank you, Girls.

May the Lord richly bless each of you for your works in His behalf.

Your sisters in Christ,
Mary and Janeen Addie

WARRENSBURG NEWS

We, at Warrensburg are still privileged by the goodness of God in allowing us to meet each Sunday to hear and speak of the Gospel of Christ and to be among the company of those of like faith. We pray that we will always be so fortunate and to never forget to give thanks to God.

In the latter part of May, we enjoyed an all day meeting with Sunday School and preaching service in the morning. Then, a great abundance of food was brought in for the noon meal. The association with our Brothers and Sisters in the Church is always a treat. Bonnie and Donnie Case were the guests of honor at a baby shower after dinner. After their many useful gifts were opened, little Aubrey and Nathan each had a surprise gift that they could open for themselves. After an afternoon preaching service, all went to our separate homes feeling enriched.

A Father's Day message was given by Bro. Roland Sarratt in which he especially honored the Greatest Father, which is in Heaven.

We are glad to have Bro. Brantner back with us after being absent after a few weeks on missionary work.

Do not forget the Missouri reunion at Warrensburg on August 13, 14 and 15. We will be looking forward to meeting with each of you.

Mildred Adams, Reporter

MICHIGAN REUNION

The week end of June 19-29, set aside for a reunion of Michigan Saints, found over 100 crowded into the little church at Maple City. We were so pleased to have in our midst, two of the Apostles, Brother Robert Jensen (our missionary in charge) and Brother Don Housknecht, and Elders Harold Polack, from Phoenix, and George Brantner, from Warrensburg, Missouri. The weather was not the greatest, but, as pointed out later, when it was necessary to eat outside or hold services outside, the Lord always managed to send us sunshine and fair weather.

Saturday, June 19

Morning

We were welcomed to the Saturday morning preaching service by Brother Jensen, who was in charge.

Opening song was "Awake, Ye Saints of God," followed by prayer by Brother Jensen. Second song - "Come, Thou Almighty King."

Brother Lavern Lussenden was then introduced as the speaker of the hour, and used the following scriptures, which we urge that you read:

Matthew 3 and 4

This is the occasion where Jesus had come to John to be baptized. When John could not understand why Jesus should be baptized of him, Jesus said, "Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness." Brother Lussenden pointed out that, although not found in the scripture, he believes (and most agree) that the first law of God is order, thus accounting for the fact that it was necessary for Jesus to be baptized.

In Chapter 4, we find Jesus being tempted of the Devil. It was suggested that every one of us has been tempted at some time; that if it was needful for Jesus to be tempted of the Devil, then we know also that we of the Church of Christ in like manner will be tempted. Jesus' response to the temptation of the Devil (which should also apply to us) was, "It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God." Finally, upon being offered all the kingdoms of the world if he would fall down and worship the Devil, Jesus said, "Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."

1 Peter, Chapter 4

The first verse instructs us to arm ourselves with the same mind that was in Christ Jesus. Verses 8, 9, 10 suggest some things that we might do as brothers and sisters:

8. "And above all things have fervent charity among

yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

9. "Use hospitality one to another without grudging.

10. "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

We were urged to receive our gift, whatever it might be, be thankful for it, and then share it.

Brother Lussenden then referred us to the 5th Chapter of Acts, where it speaks of a group of people that had all things common. They had sold all their possessions and brought the prices and laid them down at the apostles' feet, and distribution was made to every man according as he had need. The chapter further points out what happened to Ananias and Sapphira when they held back a portion. We must share,

Reference was then made to the 21st Chapter of Revelations, verses 3 and 4, in which we have the great promise that God shall dwell with his people and that there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, no crying, no pain. These are the things that we should be looking forward to.

Going back to the 4th Chapter of Peter, we are reminded that "judgment must begin at the house of God." We are further instructed, "let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator."

Summing up, we are reminded that as Christ suffered in the flesh, we will have suffering in the flesh, as Christ was tempted by the Devil, we will be tempted by the Devil. But, just as Christ overcame him, we will be provided a way of escape if we keep our confidence and trust in Christ. Brother Lussenden urged us to pray for one another and care for one another; that if we do that, we will be a people that God can use in his work.

For our closing song, following this inspiring message, we used "Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing," followed by prayer by Brother Jensen.

Afternoon

After a delicious lunch, we reconvened at 1:30 for the annual business meeting, chaired by Brother Norman Trudgen. Following are items of interest from that meeting:

Jay Lee, whose term on the Reunion Committee expired this year was re-elected for a 3-year term.

June Haines was re-elected as secretary and reporter for the 1982-83 year.

Bradley Local volunteered to host the 1983 Michi-

gan State Reunion, to be held the week end of June 18-19.

Brother Jensen reviewed the recent referendums and answered questions pertaining to them. Everyone was urged to exercise his privilege (and obligation) to vote on these referendums.

Evening

Saturday evening we all met at the Lime Lake Campground for a weiner and marshmallow roast, followed by a song service that lasted until it was too dark to read the words in our Hymnals. Once again we experienced the precious Holy Spirit when one of our dear sisters became very ill. Upon administration, together with a body united in prayer, she was able to sit up and take nourishment, and the following morning she was as good as new. We praise God, for this was truly a miracle.

Sunday, June 20

Morning

At 9 a. m., we gathered at the church for communion and a season of prayer and testimony. Opening song was "In Thy Name, O Lord," followed by prayer by Brother Conley Addington. For our second song, we sang, "Holy, Holy, Holy."

Apostle Robert Jensen, who was in charge of the service, read from the 6th Chapter of the Book of Moroni, which reads in part:

6. "And the church did meet together oft, to fast and to pray, and to speak one with another concerning the welfare of their souls: and they did meet together oft to partake of bread and wine, in remembrance of the Lord Jesus;"

9. "And their meetings were conducted by the church, after the manner of the workings of the Spirit, and by the power of the Holy Ghost; for as the power of the Holy Ghost led them whether to preach or exhort, or to pray, or to supplicate, or to sing, even so it was done."

It was pointed out that this was the pattern followed by the early church just immediately following the days of Christ, and it is what we should be doing these last days before the second coming of Christ.

Following opening remarks by Brother Jensen, we were privileged to witness another one of God's holy ordinances, that of the blessing of a baby. Kevin Duane Lee, infant son of Duane and Joyce Lee, was presented for God's blessing by his grandfather, Elder Conley Addington.

As the bread and wine was being prepared, the congregation joined in the singing of "Here at Thy Table Lord, We Meet."

Brother Jensen then read from the 7th Chapter of Moroni, verses 3 through 28. This scripture is too lengthy to quote here, but you are urged to read this chapter in its entirety, and these verses in particular, having to do with discernment and faith.

The balance of the meeting was spent in a wonderfully spiritual season of prayer, testimony, and song, with participation by young and old alike. Reluctantly, at about 1 p. m., the meeting was brought to a close, but not before a young man had asked for baptism. I am sure that everyone shares my feeling, that God did surely send his spirit down in great abundance during this meeting.

For our closing song, we used "Trust and Obey," followed by prayer by Brother George Brantner.

Following the noon meal, we drove out to beautiful Glen Lake to witness another of God's holy ordinances in which Randy Hyde entered into the waters and was baptized by Brother Harold Polack. At Randy's request, confirmation was performed at the water's edge by Apostle Robert Jensen and Elder George Brantner. We all want to welcome Randy as a new brother in Christ and ask for the prayers of the Saints in his behalf that he might always remain faithful.

Once again, we wish to express our heartfelt thanks to Conley and Marion Addington (and children) for all their work in making arrangements and preparing the church for another truly successful state reunion.

Reported by June Haines
1982-83 Secretary-Reporter

EAST INDEPENDENCE LOCAL NEWS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Several months have passed since our last report, but I'll try to fill you in on our news. We held our yearly election of officers and they are as follows.

Pastor - Roland Sarratt; Asst. Pastor - Gary Housknecht; Secretary - Diane Brockman; Treasurer - June Sarratt; Auditor - Bob Oldham; Pianist - Trudy Grzincic; Chorister - Neva Housknecht; Advocate Reporter - Melissa McGhee; Dinner Sunday Committee - Neva Housknecht, Darl Temple, Jennifer Oldham; Maintenance Committee - John Davies, Bob Oldham, Isaac Brockman Jr.; Social Committee - Patty McGhee, Cheryl Taylor, Melissa McGhee; Usher - Mike McGhee; Inside Custodian - Darl Hunholz; Outside Custodian - John Davies; Sunshine Committee - Patty McGhee; Floral Arranger - Sharon Liekness; Librarian - Steve Sarratt; Jr. Young People Leader - Randy Sheldon.

We're so glad to have Sr. Edna Smith back with us after her stay in the hospital. She looks wonderful,

and it's evident the Lord has blessed her. We're also thankful the Lord heard our prayers in behalf of St. Ruth Randall. She was finally able to return home after her surgery and lengthy hospital stay.

Our Vacation Church School was the third week of June beginning on the 21st. It was a combined effort of the Temple Lot and East Local. Sr. Gerry Adams, Sr., Marcia Christian and myself were in charge. There were over fifty children in attendance and all were eager to learn of, to sing, and to praise our Heavenly Father. It was a full week in which everything went very smoothly. We feel we were blessed very greatly. We also owe our heartfelt thanks to all the parents who gave of their time and energy to teach these children. It is not an easy task and one that takes a lot of time and preparation. Without the willing hands of the parents and grandparents who taught lessons, who prepared crafts, and baked and served the refreshments, we couldn't have this special time for our children.

Sunday, the fourth of July was a special Sacrament service. It began with the **ordination of Bro. Bob Oldham** to an Elder. He was ordained by Elder Kenneth Smith and Elder Larry Beem. That was followed by the Hand (or as we referred to it) the Hug of Fellowship. The service that followed was full in spirit and closeness.

We all wish to extend our sympathy to the Sheldon family. The passing of Sr. Barbara Burget, is at last an end to her long suffering, but it's never easy to fill the void left in the family. She will be missed very much by her sister Doris, her daughter, and two sons. We pray God will lift their hearts and fill them with his love and comfort.

We are all looking forward to the Missouri Reunion in August. We hope to see many of our loved ones attending. It is an opportunity we don't want to miss. To unite one with another in worship of our Heavenly Father is a privilege we often take for granted. Hope to see you all there.

Love to all,
Melissa McGhee

I would rather speak the truth to ten men than blandishments and lying to a million. - Try it, ye who think there is nothing in it; try what it is to speak with God behind you - to speak so as to be only the arrow in the bow which the Almighty draws.

H. W. Beecher

"An unjust man is an abomination to the just: and he that is upright in the way is abomination to the wicked." (Proverbs 29:27)

COLLINS LOCAL NEWS

Many things have happened since I wrote to you last. I have found it a little more difficult to settle my mind to writing. As you have heard, Leora Martin passed from this life May 2nd, 1982. She was my mother. There is so much to say on her behalf, but I fall short with words adequate to relate to you the type of person she was. May it suffice to say that I loved her - - perhaps more than I knew for now I have time to consider) and I feel quite certain that our kind Heavenly Father has at last granted her the peace and rest so many of us prayed for her to have.

The Ava Rally was held May 17th to which many from our local were privileged to attend. There were three wonderful speakers, beginning with Bro. Isaac Brockman, followed by Bro. Roland Sarratt, and after lunch, Bro. Alvin Harris.

The following weekend was the gathering at the Cop. near Preston for the Camp for All Ages. I was not able to attend these services, but I understand there was a sweet spiritual uplifting to be had, as there always is when we gather together to share and learn of the goodness of God.

Sunday, May 30th found many happy faces gathering together at the Houston local for their annual rally. Two weeks earlier at Ava Bro. Isaac Brockman said, "Rally 'round the flag is an old saying, but today we're here to rally 'round the gospel banner of Christ." How true those words were. The Houston Rally began at 8:45 a. m. with a prayer service followed by a sermon by Bro. Oren Caviness on Christian preparation. At 11:15 a. m. Bro. Leon Yates spoke to us. After an almost too good lunch we heard a fine sermon from Bro. George Brantner and the last sermon was given by Bro. Bill Sheldon.

You know, in several of these sermons I noticed the subject of our free agency being mentioned - - our ability to make a choice. Recently we visited another church. My sister-in-law had invited us and we decided to surprise them and attend. It was a very nice service. They even had a special gospel music group there (the Lester Family) who played and sang beautifully, but I caught myself watching the clock and thinking about the services being held at Collins. It was Sacrament Sunday and I needed to be there. I needed to partake of that sweet spirit that strengthens your soul. Please understand what I'm trying to say. The services we attended were very good, but I needed to feel that closeness that I have found only in the Church of Christ - whether it be at Ava, Houston, Collins, or where. It's special and perhaps my "choice" was not so wrong as it helped me see how grateful I am to be able to share this special (to me) love of Christ with all of you. Guess I'm spoiled.

Our guest speaker for the month of June was Bro.

Tony Grzincic. He told us how glad he was to be here to speak to us, to give the message of Christ for the welfare of our souls. He told us that the one thing we possess that no other has is the control over our own soul. He said we must do what God tells us without question, that we can't walk the fence, but must make a choice. He asked if we would be willing to hang on a cross in order to be forgiven of our sins. He said that the devil wishes to enchain us and that we must fight back, we must be faithful to God and a do-er until the end.

On June 30th at 7:30 p. m. Larry Shaw and Pam Guffey were married. The best man was Wallace Yates, matron or honor was Geraldine Yates, flower girl was Tina Guffey, and candle-lighters were David and Gary Guffey. Bro. Larry Beem conducted the service. It was a lovely wedding for a lovely couple. Our congratulations!

This concludes the news from this area. May our Lord and Master watch over you always.

Your Reporter
Czerna Kauffman

OBITUARIES

MELVIN HARVEY SEIBEL

Melvin Harvey Seibel of Willow Springs, Missouri, was born June 7, 1907 at Crookston, Minnesota, the son of Karl and Clara Cumming Seibel. He passed from this life June 3, 1982 at Independence, Missouri at the age of 74 years, 11 months and 27 days.

He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1932 and the Bachelor of Science degree in 1933.

On June 10, 1936, he was united in marriage to Lovita Grace Gould at Janesville, Wisconsin. To this union were born two sons and three daughters. He was employed by the United States Civil Service for 26 years.

Harvey was baptized into Christ and joined the Church of Christ April 10, 1957. Three days later, April 13, 1957, he was ordained an elder and from that time until his death he was an active servant of the Lord. After his retirement from the Civil Service, he opened and served in a mission among the Cherokee Indians six years and eight months.

He is survived by his wife, Lovita, of the home, his sons and daughters: Harvey Eugene, Lovita May and Sylvia Darline Seibel, all of Independence, Mo., David Milton Seibel of Ridgecrest, California, and Alice Leona Carney of New Providence, Pennsylvania, and 18 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his sister, Dorothy in July, 1980. He will be missed by a host of friends and relatives who loved him.

Funeral services were held at the Duncan Funeral Chapel in Mountain View, Missouri, June 5, 1982 with Elder Nicholas Denham officiating and Elder Leslie Case assisting. Interment was at the Greenlawn Cemetery in Mountain View.

BARBARA J. BURGET

Barbara J. Burget, the youngest daughter of Clyde and Beatrice Babcock, was born at Black River Falls, Wisconsin, January 1, 1936, and passed from this life June 30, 1982 at the Baptist Memorial Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri after an extended illness.

She had been employed as a waitress, and previously in industrial work.

She was baptized into Christ and united with the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) from her youth until the end.

Her survivors include a daughter, Tamara Holding; two sons, Darrin Hoagenson and Dale Hoagenson; a sister, Doris Sheldon, and two grand-children, all of Independence, Missouri. Her parents and a brother preceded her in death.

Disposition of the body is by cremation.

A memorial service was held at the Speaks Funeral Home at Independence, Mo. July 3, 1982 with Apostle William Sheldon officiating.

LEST WE FORGET

"Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today and forever." (Heb. 13:8). "... the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." (James 1:17) "And what I say unto one I say unto all men." (Mark 13:52 I. V.)

I am convinced that almost all of the words of the Lord are of a dual nature as far as application. What is spoken specifically to one person or peoples being applicable to all persons or peoples in similar circumstances, in principle. We take the teachings and commandments of Jesus from the scriptures as applying to ourselves, (or do we?) and just so we may, or ought to measure ourselves by that which He has spoken through later prophets, if, as the adage goes, "we find that the shoes fits," and react accordingly.

"Behold I say unto you, that whoso believeth in Christ, doubting nothing, whatsoever he shall ask the Father in the name of Christ, it shall be granted him; and this promise is unto all, even unto the ends of the earth." (Mormon 4:84)

CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 1983 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) will commence Sunday, April 3, 1983. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A. M. Monday, April 4. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, April 1 and 2, 1983.

The 1982 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 18th, 19th and 20th at Independence, Missouri.

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