

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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A Dream

I walked along a rugged ledge-
The ledge was rough and steep,
I was stumbling, almost falling
Into that cavern deep

I picked my way more slowly,
Dark came, I could not see,
When I heard a soft voice calling,
He beckoned unto me.

"Walk straight ahead and don't look back,
Reach out and take my hand.
I'll guide you over the rugged ledge
On to the solid ground.

"Now Go, my child, I've helped you o'er
This cavern rough and steep."
God helped me o'er to solid ground
He was with me in my sleep.

But then I know He's helped me through
So many trying times
I give Him thanks, I trust in Him.
He is my Lord divine.

Dorothy Burgin

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EDITORIAL

WHAT IS SIN?

The scripture is full of the teaching of the need of humankind to repent of its sins and be forgiven them. In a very limited sense, perhaps, we enumerate a number of things which we identify as being sinful; but in its full scope what does the term sin actually mean? Webster gives us several synonyms which may help clarify in our understandings what sin involves. They are, trespass, unrighteousness, ungodliness, disobedience, iniquity, and transgression, (voluntary), of a moral principle, which may consist of commission or omission.

Relating this to the will and commandments of God, who is the author of all moral principles, all ethical principles, of all righteousness and himself the revealer of all godliness, must we not conclude that variance from any of these is sin? That to that extent that any part of our thought or action is out of perfect harmony with the will of God, for we who have the opportunity and therefore the obligation to learn what that will is, to that extent are we not still in a way of sinful thought and practice?

Suppose there are things that we think and feel and do that we honestly have not realized are unacceptable to God, and therefore are unacceptable into his kingdom; even though ignorance may absolve us from guilt, as such, it can never make us acceptable into the kingdom until we turn away from and let go

those thoughts and practices. Is this not what repentance is? Not only to be remorseful about but to cease from that which is contrary to the way of righteousness? Christ came to the world for the purpose of saving it from sin; how, if not on the basis of repentance, the ceasing of, to save it from sinning? Repentance means to change, turn away from, Webster gives, sorrow for, with amendment of ways. Thus it is taught by the scripture, see Ezekiel 18:26-30, Luke 3:3-14. If we are to become members of God's pure kingdom we must become a pure people, Malachi 3:3, Acts 15:8-11, Titus 2:13-14, James 4:8, 1 John 3:1-6, for no unclean person can enter there, Ephesians 5:5.

Let us examine the synonyms of the word sin, seeing how they relate to the scripture teachings

Unrighteousness: "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." Isaiah 55:7. "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?" 1 Corinthians 6:9, and, "All unrighteousness is sin:" 1 John 5:17.

Ungodliness: "And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute

judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him." Jude 14-15.

Transgression: "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." 1 John 3:4.

Trespass: "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;" Ephesians 2:1, "And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us For if ye forgive men their trespasses, who trespass against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive you your trespasses." Matthew 6:13 and 16, I.V.

Disobedience: "Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Ephesians 5:6, "They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate." Titus 1:16, "For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another." Titus 3:3.

Iniquity: the dictionary gives the following synonyms for the word iniquity which are quite informative, and which also have scriptural backing.

Injustice: i. e. unjust, "When a wicked man dieth his expectation shall perish; and the hope of an unjust man perisheth." Proverbs 11:7, "An unjust man is an abomination to the just: " Proverbs 29:27, "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptation, and reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished." 2 Peter 2:9.

Inequity, which comes from inequi a combination form meaning, not equal; thus inequality: "Yet saith the house of Israel, the way the Lord is not equal. Oh house of Israel, are not my ways equal? are not your ways unequal? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord God. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity (inequality?) shall not be your ruin." Ezekiel 18:29-30. "And there was a strict command throughout all the churches, that there should be no persecution among them, that there should be an equality among all men; that they should let no pride nor haughtiness disturb their peace;" Mosiah 11:153, "And it came to pass in the commencement of the ninth year, Alma saw the wickedness of the church, and he saw also that the example of the church began to lead those who were unbelievers, on from one piece of iniquity to another, thus bringing on the destruction of the people; Yea, he saw great inequality among the people, some lifting themselves up with

their pride, despising others, turning their backs upon the needy, and the naked, and those who were hungry, and those who were athirst, and those who were sick and afflicted. Now this was a great cause of lamentations among the people, while others were abasing themselves, succoring those who stood in need of their succor, such as imparting their substance to the poor and needy; feeding the hungry; and suffering all manner of afflictions, for Christ's sake, who should come according to the spirit of prophecy, looking forward to that day, thus retaining a remission of their sins." Alma 2:18-20, "And there was no inequality among them, for the Lord did pour out his spirit on all the face of the land, to prepare the minds of the children of man, or to prepare their hearts to receive the word which should be taught among them at the time of his coming." Alma 11:26, "And thus we see how great the inequality of man is because of sin and transgression, and the power of the devil, which comes by the cunning plans which he hath devised to ensnare the hearts of men." Alma 15:50, "For behold the beasts of the field, and the fowls of the air, and that which cometh of the earth, is ordained for the use of man, for food, and for raiment, and that he might have in abundance, but it is not given that one man should possess that which is above another; Wherefore the world lieth in sin: " Book of Commandments chapter 52:19-20, see also chapter 40:19-22.

In our opening statement of Webster's definitions it was said that transgression could be commission or omission. This too is of scriptural basis, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." James 4:17.

These are by no means all the scripture that could be brought to bear upon this subject, but sufficient to give something of the scope of that which sin is. It is as King Benjamin said, "And finally, I can not tell you all the things whereby ye may commit sin: for there are divers ways and means, even so many, that I cannot number them. But this much I can tell you, that if ye do not watch yourselves, and your **thoughts**, and your **words**, and your **deeds**, and observe to keep the commandments of God, and continue in the faith of what you have heard concerning the coming of our Lord, even unto the end of your lives, ye must perish. And now, O man, remember, and perish not." Mosiah 2:48-50.

Does it all make hope seem futile? Let us not forget the forgiving love of our God, " for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." Jeremiah 31, 34. "But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die. All his transgressions that he hath committed, they shall not be mentioned unto him: in his righteousness that he hath done he shall live." Ezekiel 18:21-22, "For I will be merciful to their

unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities, will I remember no more." Hebrews 8:12, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9, "And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." *ibid* 2:2, "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." *ibid* 4:10. And propitiation means, to make an atonement for.

We all have sinned and fallen short, Romans 3:23, but God showed his love for us that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us, through whom we have received the atonement, *ibid* 5:8 & 11, and through his blood we receive the remission of our sins, for he is just and the justifier of those that believe in Jesus, *ibid* 3:24-26.

A. S.

WHAT ABOUT TODAY?

In studying the early Church history, (1830-33), I was struck with the abundance of spiritual activity during this time period. The flood of spiritual blessings poured upon those early saints sometimes makes me envious of their situation. As a young boy growing up in the Church, I recall many times when there was an abundance of that same spirit. In comparison, the spiritual activity in the Church today is but a small resemblance to that of the earlier period. That is not to say that the Church is spiritually dead, for we know that it is not. There are times when the Holy Ghost has moved upon individuals and upon meetings, but seldom with the frequency and intensity that once was common in the Church. Where once we received revelations with a "thus saith the Spirit", today we receive "admonitions" of the Spirit. That's like sitting down for a big steak dinner and someone serving you a bologna sandwich.

Many times I have asked myself why? What has changed between ourselves and God? Since we believe in an unchanging God, one who is the same today as yesterday, I must conclude that WE have changed. Somehow we have become undeserving of the abundant Spiritual blessings of our heavenly father. Perhaps with the abundance of material blessings we, as a Church and as a nation have enjoyed, have not felt the need of a strong dependency on God. Perhaps we have taken for granted that if we work we eat, if we work we have a home, a car, etc. Because we eat well and have the warmth and comfort of a home, with good clothing etc., we are healthy and have no needs or wants. If this is our situation today, if in our subconscious minds we have allowed this idea to germinate and grow, then our Sunday worship becomes a false front, covering the true confidence we harbor within our hearts in the material things sus-

taining our lives, which are products of our own labor in the society in which we live.

We must begin to ask ourselves, to what do we bend our efforts? What is our purpose in this life? What do we hope to accomplish during that brief period of time from birth to death? To every person born into this world there is a time appointed to depart from it, whether it is a period of 20-30, 50-70 years or a longer period, this life is but a short journey. Do we concern ourselves only with the problem of sustaining life? Are we to strive for the material things, to gain comfort, health, and happiness, or is there a greater purpose?

That these same questions perplexed the minds of those who have gone on before us in different periods of history, can be seen by studying the teachings in the Bible and the Book of Mormon. A good example is found in the Book of Mormon 1st Chapter, Second Book of Nephi, Verse 101 through end of Chapter. Also in the Book of Alma, Chapter 19, verse 81 through end of chapter. Verse 84 is especially clear as to this period of time between birth and death. "And thus we see, that there was a time granted unto man, to repent, yea a probationary time, a time to repent and serve God."

I have heard of a number of people who believe that there is only this life, that there is no life after death. But the scriptures teach otherwise. Those who have searched and followed after the teachings of Christ, and those who followed the pleadings of the prophets in the Old Testament times, even back to the beginning of time, found that there was to be life after death and departure from this world. That this period of existence on earth was to be a time to prepare oneself for that life after death is conceded by almost all students of Christianity: although there are a multitude of theories as to how this preparation was or is to be accomplished.

I sometimes wonder if we of the Church of Christ consider the requirements of this period in their proper perspective. Entangled, as we are, in the web of our society today, we are swept along in the general tide of things. One is judged today by his or her accomplishments in the material world, not by the sincerity of their righteousness. It would seem that we have placed a greater emphasis on the material things in this life, placing our spiritual activities in a secondary position. In so doing we have begun to switch our treasures from heavenly ones, to material ones. Then Satan has been somewhat successful in turning our devotion to Christ toward a devotion to worldly things. This then becomes a fulfillment of a prophecy made by Christ, that in the last days the love of many should wax cold.

We are well schooled in the basic principles of the Gospel of Christ, the principles of faith, repentance, baptism, the laying on of hands for the receiving of the Holy Ghost. Perhaps it's like the study of that

mathematical science, Algebra; While we can learn the laws and working of this science, it is hard to put them to use in our daily life. For instance, let us take the principle of faith. Faith is a form of trust or reliance in God, yet we rob from that reliance in God by placing our trust for our daily needs in our own abilities, or trusting to the workings of our society. Then look at the principle of baptism; we are to bury the old person in the waters of baptism, and a new person is to come forth. If we retain the characteristics of the old person, the old habits etc., we negate the action taken when we walked down into the waters of baptism. In doing so we halt the growth of that new person.

Perhaps the most neglected principle of the Gospel is that of repentance. To many, repentance is being sorry that one has committed sin, but it is more than just a one time condition of sorrow, it is a growing thing, that brings us to abhor the committing of sin. True repentance is not only recognizing one's faults and being sorry of committing them, but it becomes a growing determination never to walk in that path of sin. Repentance is not confined to that initial act of turning from a life of sin to a life of serving Christ, but rather becomes a daily thing. It is by this principle of repentance that we are able to endure unto the end.

The point I'm trying to bring forth here may best be described as a lack of total commitment. The reason we find ourselves in a lukewarm condition is because we are not totally committed to God's work and the Gospel of Christ. What purpose drove us to enter the waters of baptism? Was it because we knew this was the pathway of salvation, or was it a sense of duty instilled within us by our parents? What drives us now in the practice of our religion? Is it a sense of duty, a means of answering our conscience?, or is it an act of love??? These are questions we must answer ourselves, and to ourselves. We may put up a front to others, but we know the truth and therefore we cannot lie to ourselves.

Whatever the answers may be, we know what action must be, and that is a total commitment to Christ and his work. Matt. 22:37, "Jesus said unto him, thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." The word "all" is just another way of saying total. Also notice this from Luke 16:13, "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, or love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despite the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

Luke 18:18: "And a certain ruler asked him saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? None is good, save one, that is God. Thou knowest the commandments. Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother. And he said, all these have

I kept from my youth up. Now when Jesus heard these things, He said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasures in heaven: and come, follow me. And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich."

This is a remarkable example of what I'm trying to bring to your attention. Notice that the "ruler" had obeyed all the "thou shalt do's" and thou "shalt not do's", but yet he was lacking in one thing, TOTAL COMMITMENT! He was willing to abide all the laws so long as they did not interfere with his normal way of life, so long as he could retain his "Material" blessings. When it was required of him to commit himself totally to following Christ, he turned away in sorrow. He could not give up his material treasures for treasures in heaven.

Referring back to the reference I gave in the Book of Alma, chapter 19, verse 84, we find not only are we to repent but we are also to serve God. In the past 40 years that I can recall, it appears the Church has indulged in the practice of "theology" and "ideology", the science of theory and ideas. Perhaps there have been times in the history of man when this type of activity was useful and productive, but we are in a period of time where the use of these sciences will not provide the results necessary to prepare us for the coming of Christ. It is time we begin to work with reality.

The true "real" facts that lie before us today is of such great importance to our salvation that we dare not ignore them. The gospel of repentance in which I include Faith, Baptism, and the Laying on of Hands, is of course our prime requirement in the plan of salvation; but there is more to consider along with them. Obedience to all his commandments is an inherent part of that plan of salvation also. It is through obedience that we come into the service of God.

While it is one thing to accept the Gospel of Christ and its teachings, it is quite another thing to be totally committed to the work God has instituted in desire to give the impression, that I am more committed than any of you, but I do say we, as a church, are not totally committed to the work God has instituted in these last days. We all prune our own vineyard and neglect the vineyard of the Lord.

We are now in the last days, all too soon will the ability to rely on this society's abundance be taken from us. Our comparatively easy way of life we've enjoyed these past 50-60 years, is fast fading away. We are on the brink of a very frightful new era in our history, one which promises to break the prideful spirit that has woven its way into our hearts, a period of time that will greatly tax our faith, that will try every fibre of our physical and spiritual being.

These questions plague my mind. Will we awaken

in time to prepare ourselves? Can we lay aside the things of this world and pick up on the things pertaining to the Lord's work? Can we make our vineyard and the Lord's vineyard one and the same???

Your Brother in the Family of God
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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

We know not the hour or exact time our Lord is coming to earth again the second time to claim His kingdom and rule the world, yet on every hand the newspapers, T. V., radio and common talk, we see the signs of His second coming. Men in high places of our government, and world wide governments are trying to blind our eyes to these events and crying peace, peace when there is no peace. The terrible unrest and turmoil of our world grows daily until people know not which way to turn or whom to believe. We all should be turing to God and have more faith that He is still the ruler and finisher of our soul's salvation.

The Bible fortells what the signs of His coming are to be in the book of Revelations, chapter 15 through 18, when man's freedoms will be taken from him. Those that have eyes to see let him read, and ears to hear, hear and obey. This is the time of the devil and he will have power over us **unless** we turn completely to God and trust Him and His promises. God's power is stronger and we must tune our hearts and minds to that still small voice that will lead and direct us in God's way and path. We must repent and turn away from our sins lest we fall prey to that evil power. It is so cunning that the Bible states that even the elect can be fooled. We must want to be a people whom God can accept for when that awful day arrives to full fruition neither rich nor poor will be able to buy or sell unless the mark of the beast, the Devil, be in our forehead or right hand.

I for one believe what God has said and His promises standeth sure for those that place themselves completely in His care. He fed the righteous in Bible times when trouble came upon them, with manna from Heaven daily and the day may come when as a people will have to be fed manna in order to sustain life. He is a kind, loving Father and will not see His people suffer needlessly.

It was for this purpose of reclaiming His own that He sent the Gospel to earth again back in the 1820's. It was to give those that would listen the power to read aright what was to come to pass; also a way of life to draw us closer to Him. He wants us to serve Him because we love Him not from fear. I have found through the years that the Gospel Restored is the only

means that brings peace and comfort that the world knows not.

The Gospel, for all its simplicity, grows more beautiful and wonderful each passing day. The very simplicity of it makes it possible for even a child to understand and that was another reason God made it so.

I was taught this glorious Gospel in my youth by parents who loved it too and gave their lives that it might be preached o hose who are hungering for truth and righteousness, and then in later years as I grew to maturity by the blessed spirit of God. I could not doubt that He is, or that He is a rewarder of those that earnestly seek Him.

He is very real to me and although I make so many mistakes, He has preserved my life many times because of His mercy. At times, and more often than not, I'm unable to reveal to others what is in my heart, but He always knows and for that I love Him.

There's a song I love to sing, "Jesus is Always There", and a truer statement was never made. Never in all my sixty-nine years of life have I found Him farther away than a sincere heartfelt prayer. Prayer to me is like a telephone wire passing from me to Him by which I can talk with Him to tell Him my joys and sorrows, but mostly to be able to praise His High and Holy Name.

I have felt for sometime that I must bear my testimony of God's goodness to me and mine, to give the reason for the hope that lies deep within me. Life for me has been a struggle and oft times the load seemed burdensome and hard to bear. I have not born my task very well at times but rather have complained about my lot in life a great deal. I know He doesn't give us a greater burden that we, through His help, are able to bare. He has heard my cries in my secret closet many times and He has given me the added strength II needed to bear these burdens. I pray daily for strength that I needed to bear these burdens. I pray daily for strength o be true to the covenant I made in the waters of baptism over sixtey years ago. I falter and stumble so many times yet God in His mercy reaches out to me lest I fall, when I go to Him in deep, sincere prayer. Those prayers oftimes aren't answered like I would want, but I've tried to say and mean it with my whole heart and soul, "Not my will but Thine, oh Lord."

Just recently I had to pass through one of the severest trials of my life, and I know, of assurety, had it not been for His love and mercy I would not be here today. I have pondered oft why He has spared my life numbers of times as He has over the years, but He knows why and that is enough for me to know. There must be some work for me yet to do for Him — I know not what it is.

My wish and desire has always been that my life would set a shining example by which I could point others to the Master's feet. I want to be a light that illumines and not a tempest that destroys for those I meet in my onward way of life. My Dad used to say he would rather see a sermon than hear one any day exemplified by the lives led by people he came in contact with. Aften all what we really are is what counts with God. If by our lives we can show a better way to our fellow man what greater gift can we give to our Lord than souls won to Him.

May my life be so lived that it uplifts and not pel restored is true, and if we obey and follow His if I caused another to stumble and fall because I failed to be true to God and His commandments, by the life I had led when I had been taught the better life through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I'm not a religious fanatic, but I do know the Gospel restored is true, and if we obey and follow His commandments we will be a happy and blessed people. His promises are true. The peace that it brings into our lives is something the world cannot under stand.

Most religions, we see all about us today, do not bring this lasting peace nor give comfort for very long for those who espouse them. They only further confuse and add to the turmoil of our times. Those that cling to those so-called religions soon find there is no lasting comfort no strong rod of iron or rock to sustain them. They aren't bad people; they are just misled and unable to discern the true spirit of God. The Devil has power over them and make them believe it is God's spirit that is leading them. The Devil isn't above telling a few truths to get people to believe one lie. Therefore these people have no lasting or firm foundation upon which to stand in times of stress and disaster. The Restored Gospel gives a firm foundation to those that believe and not hear only, but to do the Angel message delivered again to earth over a hundred years ago. If it was not true, why should so many be trying to ape the Gospel when they have no authority to do so. They decieve the children of men and lead them into paths that eventually will destroy.

I heard a wonderful sermon Sunday, March 13, wherein the testing and discerning of spirits was taught not by the precepts of men, but from the Holy Scriptures, he Bible and Book of Mormon. This sermon showed us where to look for the pattern God had set up for man to know the truth. By prayer we'll be given the power to tell which spirit is which — be it of God or the Devil. Thank God for His guidance.

May God bless each and every one and may God the Father and Jesus Christ His son give strength and power to those who diligently seek Him, is my prayer. May our love for one another grow deeper

and shine forth into the dark places of the world. Time is so short; His work must hasten and if we won't do it God will raise up a people who will. I want to be with His flock, don't you?

Your Sister in Gospel Bonds,
Edna R. Smith

A TESTIMONY

At the age of nine years old I was baptized and became a member of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. I was a faithful member of that church until 1925. It was then I learned about the president of the church being given supreme directional control over the affairs of the church. I also learned he held high office in a prominent secret order and that he was encouraging the young men of the church to join this secret order also. This, I believe, to be wrong. I had been taught that secret orders were wrong.

I was taught that a temple would some day be built in Independence, Missouri on a certain spot which had been dedicated for that purpose but at the present time the Hedrickites owned the ground. One day at church one of our missionaries said in his sermon the temple did not have to be built on this certain spot of ground which had been dedicated for that purpose. He said the church could build the temple anywhere on a large acreage of land which they owned.

As I continued to attend church I learned the church was teaching many things which were contrary to the way they taught when I was younger. All this caused me great concern, worry and discouragement. It made me heartsick. I often prayed and wept because the church I had thought was so wonderful had changed som much.

About this time, I begin receiving the "Torch of Truth" edited by James E. Yates. The more I read the more certain I felt the church was falling into apostasy.

Then one day I heard the church had put up a large tent in which to hold a conference which was only a short distance from where we lived. At first I had no intentions of attending. Then we heard that a man by the name of Paul Hanson would be there and that he did not approve of many things the church was teaching. So I decided to attend some of the meetings as I thought he might say something which would be worthwhile.

One day at a prayer meeting Paul Hanson and two elders were in charge. Paul Hanson sat between the two others. As I looked at the three men I wished there was some way I could know if Hanson was nearer in the right than the others. As I was thinking these thoughts, immediately the light in the tent darkened, not real dark but more like twilight.

I heard a voice which came over my right shoulder say, "Look, see how much more Hanson is in the light than the others." As I looked, I saw the darkness had not surrounded him; it was as it had been before the twilight darkness came. Then, the same voice spoke again "Look, see he is not wholly in the light either?" Then the same twilight darkness surrounded him also. Within a few minutes it was light again as this happened in midday. I felt very certain Hanson was nearer in the right than the others but I did not understand the meaning that he was not wholly in the light either. As time passed and Hanson continued to officiate in that church, I understood.

The next day I did not attend church but stayed home and wrote a letter to my mother telling her how very sure I was that the church was in darkness. As I wrote, I had several of the Torch of Truth papers in front of me and I was quoting from them. A thought came to me, what if I convinced my mother the things I was quoting from the papers were true, then I should learn they were wrong. At this moment, the same voice I had heard the day before said, "They are not wrong, they are right." I then felt certain the words I was quoting from the Torch of Truth were right.

A year or more after this, my husband and I attended the R. L. D. S. church as one of the apostles was to speak that day. During his sermon, he had this to say, "I just received word a man who once was a faithful missionary in the R. L. D. S. church has died. This man left the true church and joined another faction of the restoration. By doing this he had sinned against the Holy Ghost. There was no forgiveness for this sin, therefore, this man's soul was lost forever." I thought how terrible this was. Later that day, a sister in the church asked me if I knew who the apostle was talking about? I said, "No I do not." She said it was Daniel Macgregor. I really did not know who Daniel Macgregor was but it continued to trouble me as I couldn't help but feel sad that a person would sin against the Holy Ghost.

A few days later, I went out to the mailbox to get our mail. The Torch of Truth was there. As I stood there by the mailbox, I wondered what the paper would have to say, so tore the wrapper off and opened the paper. There on the front page was the picture of a man I had never seen before. As I looked, the same voice which had spoken to me before said, "This was a man of God." As I looked at that picture, great joy and peace came over me. I knew for certain I was looking at the picture of a man who really lived on this earth. Then my glance lowered and there below the picture were the words as I re-

member them "Daniel Macgregor, an Apostle of the Church of Christ, is dead." You can hardly imagine how I felt. I was very certain this man was truly a man of God, and that he had not sinned against the Holy Ghost.

In 1930 Brother Wheaton came to our home and told us more about the Church of Christ. It was then that I and several others joined the Church of Christ. This was over 40 years ago and I have never regretted joining the Church of Christ. I feel even though the Church of Christ is small and we have improvements to make, we are the greatest Church on earth because we are Christ's Church.

Your Sister in Christ,
Sybil Ely
Circa 1973

YAHVEH

The Hebrew conception of **Yahveh**, later interpreted as **Jehova**, was that he was one supreme being. Before that, it was thought that there were many gods.

Yahveh was, to the Hebrew, a spiritual person. He was righteous, and expected his people to be righteous. He created the universe for the use of man, but from the beginning man was disobedient and sinful.

Yahveh was a just God, dispensing reward for obedience and punishment for disobedience. Though he was a God of "righteous wrath" yet he was a kind, loving father.

Yahveh was all-powerful. He ruled the destinies of men and nations, according to his will and purpose.

Yahveh many times made covenants with his people, thus suggesting that he was not unapproachable. He also let his very own nature be known to some men, especially, they believed, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The prophets and other spiritual men of that time emphasized the importance of accepting the One and Only Yahveh. They taught explicitly against polytheism and idolatry. They also warned against non-belief in a God at all; against atheism as we call it today.

Christianity's concept of God is in agreement with the Hebrew concept of Yahveh or Jehova.

When all the inspired prophecies are fulfilled the Hebrew people the Jews, indeed **all** the Household of Isreal will accept the **fact** that Jesus Christ is the Son of God!

— Evalena Sills

A MODERN DAY MIRACLE

Due to unfavorable employment conditions in Michigan, I went to work in a booming town named Gillette, Wyoming. My wife, Janice Pinder, stayed in Mt. Morris, Michigan. I worked in Gillette for about four months. During that period I met Janice and my family in Independence, Missouri, for the church conference. On Saturday, April 3, 1982, Janice was baptized. We stayed with Brother and Sister Morris and had a chance to visit with many members of the church there. My wife and family then visited me in Gillette. After they left to return to Michigan, I worked for about two more weeks.

One morning I awoke and felt I should return home to Mt. Morris. On my way home I suffered a nervous breakdown while driving. The Wyoming sheriff patrol arrested me for reckless driving.

While in jail, Brother Leighton-Floyd administered to me. My wife and father returned to Gillette to take me home to Flushing, Michigan. After three days on the road, we met with Apostle Jensen who administered to me. There was a bad bruise on my leg and it healed almost immediately. I slept restfully that night for the first time in several days. There was a call for prayer throughout the church on my behalf.

Once we arrived at Flushing, Janice and I remained with my parents. I was administered to by Brother Ed Toulouse and Brother Podola and counseled by Brother Orville Eddy. I kept slipping in and out of acute depression and decided to admit myself to the hospital. The first two weeks I became worse. My brothers-in-law, Raymond Bunch and John Monroe, visited me and called for prayer in their churches. Brother Max Lee visited me in the hospital and administered to me several times during my stay. Michigan reunion was held two weeks after my admittance to the hospital and much prayer was given on my behalf. From that point on I steadily improved. Two weeks after reunion, I was discharged from the hospital.

One year has passed and my doctor described my recovery as remarkable. Only God knows why I was taken ill. Only much prayer and administration made it possible to recover.

Some Brothers and Sisters never have to go through a trial. They are truly blessed. Others only have one or two trials. Some are constantly tried and we know not why. I don't know exactly why our family went through this trial. But I now have increased faith and a comprehension of how important prayer is for our nation and for people in need of prayer. I feel I was prepared to help others out from the grasp of depression.

The most important thing today is to prepare for the millinium and "let all thy doings be unto the Lord, our thought directed unto the Lord, our affections of the

heart be placed upon him forever and counsel the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for good." (Alma 17:69) Thank you for your prayers and I will remember you.

Emery D. Pinder
Flint Local

WHY DON'T YOU WRITE A BOOK OF MORMON?

Occasionally, you hear someone say, "I could believe your doctrine of I just didn't have to swallow the story about Joseph Smith being a prophet of God, and that he translated the Book of Mormon from some golden plates which he claimed he found in a hillside." Let us consider some facts or conditions that must be complied with in order for you to produce a similar record under comparable conditions.

1. You must be between 23 and 24 years of age.
2. You cannot be a college graduate. In fact, you can have only three years of formal schooling.
3. You must write a history of an ancient country, such as Tibet, covering a period from 600 B.C. to 421 A.D.
4. You must write a book with 102 chapters, 25 of them about wars, 10 about history, 21 about prophecy, 32 about doctrines, 5 about missionaries, and 9 about the mission of Christ.
5. You must include in your writings the history of two distinct and separate nations; along with histories of different contemporary nations or groups of people.
6. Your writings must describe the religious economic, social, and political cultures and institutions of these two nations.
7. You must weave into your history the religion of Jesus Christ and the pattern for Christian living.
8. When you start to produce his record, covering a period of over 2000 years, you must finish it in approximately 80 days.
9. When you have finished, you must not make any changes in the text. The first edition must stand forever. (this does not include grammatical errors, etc.)
10. Your history or record must be long, approximately 770 pages with about 350 words per page.
11. You must add 180 proper nouns to the English language, (William Shakespeare added 30).
12. Your narrative must fulfill Bible prophecies, even in the exact manner in which it shall come forth, to whom given, and its purposes and accomplishments.
13. You must include with the record itself this

marvelous promise, "And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it to you, by the power of the Holy Ghost."

14. Tens of thousands must bear record that they know the record to be true, because they put the promise to the test, the truth was manifested to them by the power of the Holy Ghost.

15. There can be no flaw, whatever, in the entire book. (Except in grammar, or in other errors of man in transcribing, etc.)

16. Your descriptions of the cultures in these civilizations of which you will write about is not known when you publish your manuscript.

17. Yet, you must not make any absurd, impossible or contradictory statements.

18. Even so, many of the facts, ideas and statements given us as true in your record must be entirely inconsistent, even the direct opposite of the prevailing belief of the world. Yet very little is even claimed to be known about these civilizations and their 2000 year history.

19. You must invite the ablest scholars and experts to examine the text with care. You must strive diligently to see that your book gets into the hands of all those most eager to prove it a forgery and who are most competent to expose any flaws in it.

20. After over 150 years of extensive analysis, no claim or fact in the book is disproven, but all are vindicated. Other theories and ideas as to its origin, rise and fall, leaving your claims as the only possible ones.

21. Thorough investigation, scientific evidence and archaeological discoveries for the next 150 plus years must verify your claims and prove even the minutest details of your of your history to be perfectly true.

22. Three honest, creditable witnesses must testify to the whole world that an angel from heaven appeared to them and showed them the ancient records from which you claim your record was translated.

23. Eight other witnesses must testify to the world that they saw the ancient records in broad daylight and that they handled them and felt the engraving thereon.

24. The first three and the second eight witnesses must bear their testimony, not for profit or gain, but under great personal sacrifice and severe persecution, even to their death.

25. You must find someone to finance your book with the understanding that he or you will never re-

ceive any monetary remuneration from it. You must sell the book at cost or below.

26. Finally, after suffering persecution and revilement for 20 years after you finish the book, you must give, willingly, your own life for your testimony that the record is of God.

Condensed from "Community Observer" January 3, 1980.

OKLAHOMA NEWS

Summertime is beautiful! The birds, the flowers, and beautiful trees speak of life. Some of you are in the "summertime" of your life. The children, your home, and your church family all fit into your life in a way that speaks of happiness. Glory in and be thankful for the "summertime" of your life. Life is fleeting and it will soon be "fall."

Sunday, March 13, found our little group at Mike and Barbara Martin's home. Brother Frank Fann gave the sermon. "Truth Changes Things." Truth, as the world understands it, changes. But, God's word does n't change. Jesus said, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (St. John 8:32) God expects us to believe the truth that is in the Bible and Book of Mormon and we must be men and women of truth. We must act in a truthful manner.

Sunday, March 27, found us meeting in the Elwell home. Brother Larry Beem gave the opening prayer. He asked the Lord to help us be ready and willing listeners. We continue our study of church history. Our young people and the children are willing participants. We were blessed with having Elder Benny Case from Wichita, Kansas with us. Since this was Sunday we held our sacrament service, he and Brother Larry conducted this service. Our prayer and testimony service was an especially good one. Greg Elwell, age 4, prayed for his baby brother, saying, "Help our baby." Christie Beem, a few years older, prayed, "Bless the people at conference." Everyone sang, "How Great Thou Art" as we closed this part of the service. Brother Benny spoke the sermon. He asked us not to quibble over doctrine. So often we create God in our own image. We are a team. We have to work as a team and work together to help others. Ask the Lord to help us love one another and to help us correct our differences so we can have unity. Good sermon, Benny.

Easter Sunday, when everyone who could gathered in Independence to worship, found part of our group at the Frank Fann home in Texas. The Easter story was the basis for this worship service.

April 10 was a glorious, sunshiny day. The Beem home was readied for our worship services. As it turned out, your reporter and the Beem family worshiped together. This included, Phillip Beem, who has mov-

ed to Oklahoma recently. I had heard Brother Larry mention Sundays when just a few met together in contrast with a living room jammed with people. Even though we were few in number, Christie's pretty voice sang, "Tell Me the Story of Jesus," and Brother Larry preached one of his very best sermons. You would have thought he was preaching to an auditorium full of people. We were important to Brother Larry and we are important to the Lord. His sermon title was: "Love Lifted Me." How can we help one another? Do not offend your friends or brother. Treat them with loving kindness. Our purpose in life is to save our souls and to help others save their souls. Brother Larry closed the service as he prayed, "I pray that not one of us be lost. I ask of You this day, watch over us, be our constant companion and friend. I ask these things in His name, Amen."

Tony and Louise Grzincic visited with us the last part of April. Brother Tony preached another excellent sermon with the theme: "Be ye therefore perfect." After baptism, we have new goals, new purpose, and we are new individuals. More knowledge and more understanding brings spiritual growth. Strive for perfection. We always are inspired to be a better person after listening to Brother Tony.

Mother's Day, May 8, we met in the Beem home and Brother Larry had the sermon. He reminded us to live our lives so it can be a monument to our heavenly Father. Our guest this special day was my daughter, Marilyn. The rest of the May Sundays were filled with worship services, too.

June 5th, we were at the Kimball home. Brother Larry spoke on the coming of Christ. He reminded us, even though we are meeting in homes, the home is our tabernacle. We should treat our services with respect. Our hope is that we will be like the five wise virgins and have our lamps trimmed and be ready to go into the wedding feast. Be ready at all times for the coming of Christ.

June 25, we met in the Kimball home. Our guests this beautiful sabbath day was Elder and Mrs. John Farris of the RLDS Church, in El Reno, OK. Eric Sarratt of Independence was also a guest. Brother Larry used as his theme: "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God." He used Galatians 5:19-26 as his main scripture. "I pray that each of us would know Your will and be willing to walk in Your path. Thank You for the privilege of embracing the gospel of Christ. We pray that each of us will follow You and not one be lost. I pray these things in Christ's name, Amen." prayed Brother Larry as he closed our service.

We all drove into Shawnee and ate Sunday dinner together at the restaurant. That was especially nice for the ladies.

Alzada Massey, reporter

COLLINS LOCAL NEWS

Greetings again from the Collins Local. We have elected our Sunday School officers for another year. They are as follows: superintendent, Allen Kauffman; adult class teacher, Jack Martin; young adult class, Allen Kauffman; intermediate class, Norma Cook; primary class, Shawna Coberly; secretary, Betty Martin; treasurer, Shawna Coberly; and pianist, Larry Shaw.

We had a nice program during the Sunday School hour honoring our mothers and fathers May 8th. Brother Oren Caviness gave the sermon afterward. He spoke on how we "profess" to be Christians or "profess" Christ, etc. It follows that with all this professing we should be "professionals"! (Something to think about.) He said all craftsmen have their own set of tools and then listed four tools to use in God's work that are adjustable to life. First is the mind. With or without inspiration, the mind of man has been the source of all advancement. Second is speech — the index of the mind. (James 3:3-10) Third is the hands. Love can be expressed through a touch, a hand shake, etc. Fourth is the feet. Ponder the path of thy feet. (Solomon) The feet will carry us where the mind directs. The tongue will express the thoughts and the hands will eagerly do the mind's dictates. The mind is the greatest undeveloped tool we have as "professing" Christians. Plato said the first and best victory is to conquer your self. And Paul said, let this mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.

The camp for all ages was held at the Co-op in Preston May 14th and 15th in spite of the rain and cold. There was enough love radiated from the hearts of all those who attended to make up for the nasty weather. I think God was pleased with the discussions, songs and sermons that were held.

We dismissed services the last Sunday in May so we might all attend the Houston Rally. It was well spent.

Brother Jack Martin spoke to us June 12th. He spoke about Samuel the Lamanite. He said he was a favorite of his because of his great faith and willingness to serve. He gave two reasons as to why Samuel was sent: 1. To save those who would be saved and 2. to condemn those who rejected him. They were given opportunity to accept or reject his prophecies — so are we given opportunity to accept or reject Christ's teachings.

Brother Roland Sarratt was our guest speaker June 19th. He spoke on chastisement. He used Job as an example. Job was a good and just man and yet was chastised. (To chasten is to correct through punishment or suffering; discipline; purify.) Job 34:31-32. Don't despise the chastening of the Lord. The Lord is calling you to a high level of existence — to be perfect. We all go through certain trials for a pur-

pose — to bring us closer to the Lord. (Discipline: purify.) Faith must be tried (used) or it won't increase — much as the muscles in your arm must be exercised or your arm will lose it's strength. Our obedience to God encompasses all mankind. (Consider that last line — a lot is being said there.)

On June 26th Brother Larry Shaw spoke to us. He talked on things we have to tolerate. He listed TV and even though you are careful of programs you select there are still things you must tolerate. Drunk drivers are tolerated. Homosexuality has become a political power. Crime — we learn to absorb and tolerate it along with economic problems. Stress and other scapegoats are tolerated. Through all these changes has the role of the church changed and is the church fulfilling its role? (Are we being lulled to sleep with all this tolerance?) It's HOW we believe in that's important. And it's important to PRACTISE what you DO believe.

My father-in-law, Merl Kauffman, has recently had hip replacement surgery and is doing very well at the present. He'll be rejoining us at church again very soon.

Also, I'd like to make mention of the Collins Rally. It will be held October 22nd AND 23rd with services to begin at 10:00 A. M. Please come prepared not just to stay both days, but to share in the Spirit of God and to feast on His word as it's given.

Your reporter,
Czerna Kauffman

GRAND JUNCTION GREETINGS

The blessing of little children is a very special thing to witness, and we were honored to be present on Mother's Day, when little Erin Larsen was given a blessing to carry with her through life. How fitting were the thoughts brought to us that day by Brother Bob Ely, who was spending his first Mother's Day since the death of Sister Sybil Ely, last fall. She was so diligent in teaching the gospel to her children and set for them the good example of regular church attendance. Mothers usually bear the greater burden of training and caring for the children. Although Eve's responsibility was great, as the first mother, she is only mentioned four times in the Bible.

Sister Violet Church hosted the May meeting of the United Workers, where we held a study and enjoyed viewing all the nice things brought to shower little Erin with.

Some notes from Brother John Bell's sermons: We must not expect church growth at the expense of the soul's welfare; do not mistake meekness for weakness; a gentleman is a truly gentle man; there are some four-letter words we should use regularly, such as love, help, pray, weep; avoid unwholesome doc-

trine and the appearance of evil; our life within the church develops step by step.

Those who attended the Colorado Reunion in June received many thoughts to ponder upon from the meetings. We gathered each morning in a prayer and testimony meeting, with the sacrament being included Sunday. The afternoon and evening preaching services were usually begun with a special musical number from our talented musicians. These servants of the Lord brought us words to truly live by. Brother Don Housknecht taught us the importance of learning to pray, how to pray, how to start a conversation with the Lord. Brother Bob Oldham asked, "How much is enough?..." Could we devote more time, prayer, or money to further the gospel work? We heard in a testimony from a dear brother, of his missionary trips, of returning to a wife and family who had grown and learned to manage without him. These dedicated men sacrifice so much in order to go out among the people who are hungering for the gospel. Brother Richard Wheaton repeated a thought which was voiced several times, that we are babes in the gospel and must exercise and grow in faith, to be stronger for the days ahead.

An illustration was used by Brother Hube Yates to show us how strong we could become if we could cling to that Rod of Iron, and tell people how much we loved them and would like to share this glorious gospel with them. The Glen Gill family from Illinois, graciously provided us with an hour of music with a message, in place of the Saturday evening song service. The words they brought to us spoke strongly of devotion and love. Brother Don McIndoo brought us words from the scriptures which spoke strongly against those who would not cherish the gospel and strive to live righteously, and how they apply to us yet today.

A very happy and wet congregation witnessed the baptism of Brother Jack Bell on the final morning of the reunion. His mother commented that it was worth braving the rain. Jack lives in Houston, Texas, and brought with him a friend, Kevin, whom we hope to see again.

We bid our friends goodbye with sadness, yet with the thought that we will meet again with great gladness next year. Brother Don McIndoo stayed for a few days and gave us a slide presentation of the church people and scenery in Yucatan. Some of his stories were humorous, and we chuckled about the crazy drivers and pitfalls of the road. Some stories caused us to think deeply of the few elders there and their tremendous dedication to a people beset with trials and hardship, of the children lost to disease, of the extreme poverty of some families, of the ridicule and persecution some suffer at the hands of those who oppose the gospel work there. Visitors with us that night were Brother Bill and Sister Martha Morris of Independence, their son William, and his friend Sheri L'Horn-

medieu. Her last name is French and means "man of God".

Some thoughts from Brother Harvey Bell: tell me the old, old story, as there is nothing new under the sun; the old song that tell of the girls who read the Good Book Sunday and the Snappy Stories Monday; "I've bought you books and read them to you, and still you don't understand", some preachers don't like to preach about Hell, but it's there just the same.

Grand Junction made the CBS evening news with Dan Rather, June 29, because of the flooding here. Our church members are in no danger and view the receding waters with little trepidation, but for others it gave a whole new meaning to the old song, Higher Ground.

Our prayers have been answered in behalf of Brother Richard Wheaton's job situation, and now Sister Jane Bell has asked us to remember her, that she might obtain more gainful and satisfying employment. Our prayers seem to be answered in so many ways, so don't get discouraged.

School is nearly upon us again, so take what little time is left and enjoy your children.

Becky Downs, reporter.

FROM THE "ELDERS JOURNAL"

(The following article is taken from the ELDERS JOURNAL VOL. 1 NO. 3 published at Far West, Missouri, July 1838. The ELDERS JOURNAL was an early church newspaper.)

Far West, May 1838

Notwithstanding all the efforts of the enemies to the truth, both from without and within, to the contrary we are enabled to present this Journal, to the patrons, with the prospect of being able to continue it in time to come without interruption.

Great have been the exertions of the opposers to righteousness, to prevent us from sending abroad the doctrines of the church to the world: every effort has been used by the combined influence of all classes of enemies, and of all sects and parties of religion; and of those who are opposed to it, in all its forms to prevent it.

It is indeed somewhat unexpected to us, to be able to commence printing the Journal again so soon; but the general, soon, in degree, repaired the loss which was suffered in the burning of the press in Kirtland; and another establishment, by the exertions of the Saints in Far West, has been obtained, sufficiently large, to print the Journal; and soon will be greatly enlarged, so as to do all the printing necessary, for the whole church.

In this place, the church is as pleasantly situated

as could be expected, taking into consideration their circumstances, as the settlement here is but about eighteen months old, and the first settlers had been driven from their homes, and all their property destroyed, and had to come here without anything. — But to their honor it may be said, that few people on earth have endured the same degree of persecution, with the patience.

Nothing discouraged by the great afflictions and tribulations which they have had to endure for Christ's sake. They united with all their powers, to turn a solitary place into a fruitful field — we do not say a wilderness, for there is not a sufficiency of timber to make it a wilderness — and have exceeded the highest expectations of the most enthusiastic.

Large bodies of land have been cleared and are now putting under cultivation.

We might venture an assertion on this point and that, without the fear of contradiction by those who are acquainted with the settlements in this vicinity, and that is, no part of the world can produce a superior to Caldwell County, if an equal. Eighteen months since without scarcely an inhabitant: at this time the City of "Far West," the county seat, has one hundred and fifty houses, and almost the whole county is taken up, or all that part of it, which can be conveniently settled for want of timber: and large bodies of it are now under cultivation.

An encomium too high, cannot be placed upon the heads of the enterprising and industrious habits of the people of this county. They are fast making for themselves, and their posterity after them, as beautiful, interesting and as profitable homes as can be in any country.

This town "Far West" is situated in Caldwell County, Missouri, in the midst of a prairie of very rich soil. It is an elevated piece of land, and has a commanding view of the surrounding country for many miles, in every direction. On the north, about one mile passes Shoal Creek, a heavy stream which has many water privileges on it. On the south, a little more than half a mile, runs Goose Creek, a tributary of Shoal. It also is large enough to admit of water-works.

To all appearance the country is healthy, and the farming interest is equal to that in any part of the world; and the means of living are very easily obtained, not even luxuries excepted.

From this to the territorial line on the north, is from eighty to one hundred miles, and to the line on the west twenty five and upwards, or what was the territorial line, before the purchase of what is called the Platt and Nadawa counties, or rather Notawa, which signifies rattlesnake.

It will be seen by this, that this town is situated in the north west corner of the State of Missouri, in the 40th degree of north latitude. The land is rolling and generally dry; at least, there are necessary for grazing purposes, when the country becomes all subdued.

The Saints here are at perfect peace with all the surrounding inhabitants, persecution is not so much as once named among them: every man can attend to business without fear or excitement, or being molested in anywise. There are many of the inhabitants of this town, who own lands in the vicinity, and are at this time busily engaged in cultivating them. Hundreds of acres of corn have been planted already, in our immediate neighborhood; and hundreds of acres more are now being planted. (This is the fourth day of May.)

The crops of wheat are very promising, and the prospect is that we will have an abundant harvest. The vast quantities of provisions purchased, in this upper country by the United States, for the use of the Garrison and also for the Indians, have made all kinds of provision dear and somewhat scarce. Corn is fifty cents per bushel; wheat one dollar; pork from eight to ten dollars per cwt; and all kinds of provision on a par with these.

Perhaps it might be thought by some necessary, that we should say something about the affairs of Kirtland. — The burning of the printing office there etc. But it is now, as in former days. In former days the destroyers of the Saints' property were of the baser sort of mankind, even so it is now. Only say as they did; "That a gang of the baser sort, burned and wasted our property to the utmost of their power" regardless of law, justice or humanity and were upheld in their wickedness by those who were like the high priest in Paul's day, who though he sat to judge after the law, commanded Paul to be smitten contrary to law. So it was with our persecutors in the east: for notwithstanding they sat to judge after the law, yet, commanded they our property to be destroyed contrary to law.

And as Paul and Barnabas did at Iconium. So did we at Kirtland. — "When there was an assault made, both of the Gentiles, and also of the Jews, with their rulers, to use them despiefully and to stone them. They were aware of it and fled into Lystris and Derbe, cities of Lyconia and unto the region that lieth round about. And there they preached the gospel."

So we did in like manner, taking them for our example. Where there was an assault being made of liars, thieves and religionists with their rulers all combined, we were aware of it and fled to "Far West" and are here preaching the gospel whereunto we are called by God. Let so much suffice for Kirtland.

We have the gratification of saying to the Elders abroad that we hope to be able to furnish the Journal

regularly, from hence forth, as long as it may thought wisdom to continue it. And we hope on their part they will use all their exertions to give it circulation.

The enemies have made so many attempts to destroy us and always failed; that we now just laugh at them for fools as the God in heaven said he would at their calamity.

SEASONS

Seasons, was written by D. L. Parkhurst who is presently incarcerated in a Michigan prison.

Recently the Holy Spirit revealed something to me that is truly a blessing. Many ministers, preachers, bible scholars, etc., have written volume upon volume of literature on the wonderful signs and prophecies concerning the birth, life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and yet there has been given to us a sign or a series of events that display all this year after year. How? By the continual changing of the seasons.

SPRING

Spring: Springtime is the true beginning of the year; the **birth** of the year to come. It is a time when the trees bud, flowers begin to grow from seeds and bloom into lively and brilliant colors. It is a time when many of God's beautiful creatures give birth. Everything is fresh — new — exciting. During the springtime all of nature grows and grows.

From the birth of Jesus until the very day He began His ministry, like the springtime, He grew and grew. It was a time in which God prepared Him for the much work ahead of Him, and to face the dying autumn and stormy winter, the coldness of the tomb in which He'd lay for three days.

SUMMER

Summer: This is the time in which all of our Father's work from the Spring is shown in its full glory. The many warm and sunny days; the flowers dancing in full array; the crops growing and being made ready for the harvest in the fall by the few laborers; the glistening and cool running brooks of fresh clean water so graciously provided for those who thirst.

Like our summers, so was the life of Jesus during the three years He spent ministering. He too was in full bloom. He was God's glory, a perfect exhibit of God's skill, talent, craftsmanship and love. Jesus worked hard during those three years cultivating the laborers for harvesting the crops He so carefully planted. Like God, who gave us fresh cool water for thirst; Christ offered and gave a way in which man would never have to thirst again. Just as God gives us a cool gentle breeze to help us get through the heat of the day, so Christ offers to every man by the very words He spoke, an eternal coolness, comfort, peace

and gentleness to save us from an everlasting heat of hell and never having to thirst again.

AUTUMN

Autumn: It is during this time that nature slowly dies, yet it is a time of extreme beauty. The trees, flowers and shrubbery are attacked by a cold and ruthless frost that finally kills them and yet they turn into the most brilliant colors of red and gold. The autumn is a time of harvesting the crops and ever so sweet fruits of the vine and the first fruits of so many young trees. It is also a time of sadness for we know that summer is only now a blessed memory and so soon the earth will be buried with the cold covering of pure white snow.

So much like the autumn of our earth, Jesus would soon be attacked by His cold and ruthless adversaries. He would then be placed up on a tree and killed. His blood, so crimson in color, yet as precious as the finest of gold, would run down on the earth. It was a time in which His chosen disciples, the laborers, would be sent out into the world to harvest the crops; the fruits. It was a time in which He was very sad; but it was a time also of much rejoicing, for Christ would not be defeated but would defeat the winter of His life.

WINTER

Winter: This is the time of year in which the earth is covered by a pure white linen sheet of snow; a time in which all is buried under this snow, in which earth is laid to rest for three months. It is a time of coldness a time of preparing, a time of little activity on the earth, a time of waiting for the spring to come again.

Just as the winter Jesus was taken down from the cross, His body prepared for the burial, covered of white linen and laid to rest in a very dark and cold tomb. It was a time in which the Father of our Lord was preparing for the greatest event of all history. Death would be defeated; and in three days, Jesus Christ would rise up from the dead and spring would be like it had never been before.

Praise the Lord for all seasons!

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"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation." (Isaiah 12:2)

"Hearken unto me, my people; and give ear unto me, O my nation: for a law shall proceed from me, and I will make my judgment to rest for a light of the people." Isaiah 51:4)

LIFE'S TASK

Isn't it strange that princes and kings
And clowns that caper in sawdust rings,
And common folks like you and me
Are builders for eternity?
And to each is given a bag of tools
A shapeless mass and a book of rules;
And each must make ere life has flown
A stumbling block or a stepping stone.

Author Unknown

NOTICE

Dear Readers,

Any information on the whereabouts or address of the people whose names are listed below, with their last known address, will be greatly appreciated. Please send information to; Elder Isaac Brockman, 1208 Baker Dr., Independence, Mo., 64050. Since I am the General Church Recorder, I solicit your help in any way.

In Gospel Bonds,
Isaac Brockman

Lawrence John Ballard 1812 10th St. Wyandotte, Mi.	Ruth Irene Barton 316 North 25th St. Colorado Springs, Colo.
Alice May Bean 986 15th St. Niagara Falls, N. Y.	Minerva Naioma Comegys 473 Plaza Ave. Ferguson, Mo.
Fred Leon Beardon Monticello, Utah	Ercel Fern Beardon Monticello, Utah
Della May Beardon Monticello, Utah	Albert Isaiah Barney Jr. Cranston, R. I.
Eva Manila Baxter Flint, Mi.	Mary Lillian Bearden Independence, Mo.

Gladys Collins, Columbus, Ohio

PHOENIX REUNION NOTICE

The 1983 Phoenix Reunion will be held November 25, 26 and 27 at the Phoenix Local Church, Phoenix, Arizona. Any one able to come may contact: Jay Moser, pastor, 4062 E. Danbury, Phoenix, Az. 85032, phone 602-971-6697, or Tom Karas, assistant pastor, 14441 N. 36 Pl., Phoenix, Az. 85032, phone 602-867-9506.

Come and join in worship and fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ. It is also a time to grow spiritually and grow in the love and unity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is our hope that you will each attend.

CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 1984 Minister's Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) will commence Sunday, April 4, 1984. 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 1983 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) will be will start at 9:00 A. M. Monday, April 5. A Solemn 1 and 2, 1984.

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AUDIO VISUAL MATERIALS

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

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

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

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

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

"The Return" — A 12 minute slide program with taped narration about the return of the members of the Church of Christ to the "land of Zion" in 1867.

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

Send all orders to the Office Secretary, Church of Christ (Temple Lot), P. O. Box 472, Independence, Mo. 64051. Slide projectors and tape players are not provided.

We also provided a Sermon-by-tape service. There is no charge for the issuing of a cassette tape on a loan basis. Write to the AVVAA Committee, Church of Christ, 2929 E. Sesta Lane, Phoenix, Arizona 85024.

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Send all orders to: General Sunday School Association Treasurer, Church of Christ (Temple Lot), P. O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472.

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