

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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No. 1

Becoming Perfect

As we strive to be overcomers
Of all that is sin;
Let us realize we are be-comers too,
Thro' Christ who strengthens us.

We must needs keep asking Him
What we are to be,
Of course, because we aren't yet;
We are becoming!

A growing Entity
Through Him and by Him.
When He accomplishes His full Will in us,
Then we will BE.

We will no longer keep asking.
We will BE satisfied in Him, united.
He in us and we in Him
By the Power of the Holy Ghost, perfected.

Darleen Smith

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Editorial . . .

Can You Eat Strong Meat?

Roland L.
Sarratt



Paul told the Hebrews that they had "... become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For everyone that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." (Hebrews 5:12-14)

Paul used this as a lesson to show the Hebrews that they had not grown spiritually whereby they could understand the greater truth of the gospel of Christ. He went on to admonish them to go on unto perfection and not to lay again the foundation of the fundamental principles of the doctrine of Christ.

Applying Paul's lesson to us today, we can be sure that if we are not able to eat and digest the "strong meat" of the gospel of Christ, that we are going to be spiritually weak and unable to meet the trials and temptations that are facing us daily. It is apparent that some of the membership of the Church of Christ are spiritually deficient and are having great difficulties in their personal lives. The tragic fact is that too often

They absent themselves from church or avoid the very source of help that they need when things begin to go wrong. The sermon or testimony that would have helped them, they didn't hear because they were not at church that day.

We know that going to church does not guarantee that all will be well with us, but generally speaking we can say that we are far more blessed when our interests and support is in the Lord's work.

Spiritual growth is of vital importance to every member of the church today. This growth requires a greater exercise of faith in the word of God, so that which is faith becomes knowledge through experiencing obedience to the Lord's will.

The adversary to our soul would hold us at check if possible; he would throw up a block to counter that which would lead us on to greater understanding and personal responsibility. The signs are the same in any

age: "... when I would do good, evil is present with me." (Romans 7:21) When you and I would do good—pray, go to church, help others, etc.—characteristically the devil will involve us in problems, cares for this world, or literally create a small catastrophe to stop us if we don't pray and pursue our good intentions. Everything good and worthwhile to our souls costs us the minimal price of self-discipline and perseverance. At the least, we have to want the good things or we won't have them.

So don't say you want to go to church or you want to grow spiritually when you let the things of the world prevent you from doing so. Do yourself the favor of making your actions consistent with your desires. Your potential of good is as great as your desire to do good.

We have to confess that we hit the low places from time to time—depression, discouragement and sorrow. Our best efforts don't guarantee that we will always be on the top side. David, Paul, Nephi and others have expressed their moments of sorrow and hurt. It is all a part of the real life that we are experiencing.

Growing up spiritually is much like growing up physically. Just as a small child falls down from time to time in trying to learn to walk, so do we stumble upon occasion when we are striving to do good. Just as a child must be fed solid food at some point in his early life to grow, so must we learn to eat the stronger meat to grow spiritually. If we don't accept the greater truth and the greater challenge, we will not be strong enough to meet the trials or temptations that the adversary sets before us and we will become subject to his will.

There is a point in our lives when we individually take the responsibility of all our needs, such as our food, clothes, shelter, etc. We are no longer directly dependent upon our earthly parents, although we are always dependent upon our heavenly Parent.

The same can be true of our spiritual needs. We reach a point where we have grown to make the relationship between God and ourselves a personal and direct relationship. We have learned to pray diligently for ourselves and to study God's word to know for ourselves what His will is. This does not mean

that we are totally independent of each other, for we know that at our best we need each other's prayers and support. But there is a point in our personal growth in spiritual things in which we obtain a sense of responsibility for our personal needs. We know where the food is and we know that we need it on a regular basis. Therefore we don't have to go back to the beginning each time and start all over, but we go on to perfection. We don't have to be rescued from the flaming torch of careless sins continually. We learn to control ourselves through obeying the law of God.

The ministry of the church can only do so much to rescue the willful sinner when the fire engulfs him; we are not supermen. If a person persists on going back to his old ways as a dog returns to his vomit and the sow to her wallowing (2 Peter 2:22), he best realize that he is feeding of junk food (mammon) and not on the spiritual food that Christ has provided. His diet must be changed and only he can do it through the help of God. The change must include a change of will along with a stricter self-discipline.

The ministry will help in all that they can do, but remember the door has to be kept open. If you want help, don't shut it out when it comes. If you do, you are saying that you don't want to do good. You are making that choice that puts you on the side of the adversary which in turn makes you subject to him.

This may sound threatening, but its an all important fact. We each must make the choice to do good, not once but daily. The enemy is real and he means business. He wants to entangle us in his web of deception and misery. In our own strength alone we cannot outmaneuver him. But if we are nourished up in the protein of God's word, we can resist his advances whether they be deceptive or direct.

The Lord has invited us to His table to feed on the wholesome truth of His word. If we go to Him hungering and thirsting for the truth, we have the assurance that He will not turn us away, but He will fill us with His Holy Spirit.

"Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life." (2 Nephi 13:30)

RLS

A New Year's Resolution

I am resolved that I will learn to love my Saviour more,
That I will go with Him for strength
When I have trials that are sore.
I am resolved that I will try to exercise more faith,
That I will wait to hear God speak
And do just what He says.

I am resolved to be more kind and patient, too,
each day,

By Grace to live triumphantly,
And better learn to pray.
I am resolved to shed abroad more radiant, happy joy,
Which is without alloy.

I am resolved that I'll not try to do these things alone;
Each day, dear Lord, make my heart soft
And keep it for Thy throne.

Selected

Instruments In His Hands

by Apostle Don McIndoo

(CONDENSED FROM A SERMON GIVEN MARCH 27, 1983)

I am going to pick a few verses of scripture from the 14th chapter of the Book of Alma, to sort of set the tone for some thoughts that I would like to share with you about our experiences in Mexico. I'm going to read two verses on page 398 and one on page 399. I'd like to read verse 88 and verse 91 on page 398, "Blessed be the name of our God; let us sing to his praise, yea, let us give thanks to his holy name, for he doth work righteousness forever." and, "... I do not boast in my own strength, or in my own wisdom; but behold, my joy is full, yea, my heart is brim with joy, and I will rejoice in my God;" And perhaps you will remember the source of Ammon's great joy. Why was he so full of praise and thanksgiving and rejoicing that day as he spoke to his brethren? The answer is found in verse 96, on the next page. "Yea, and we have been instruments in his hands, of doing this great and marvelous work; therefore let us glory, yea, we will glory in our Lord; yea, we will rejoice, for our joy is full; yea, we will praise our God forever."

I'd like to tell you of an experience, of a little group of believers down in Mexico, in one twenty-four hour period, as I was permitted to be with them, and listen to them and watch them, and participate in their activities. This twenty-four hour period began on a Saturday evening with the dedication of a little church that had never been used before in the little town of Yobain. That little group of believers arrived in this little village about twenty years ago. They arrived there destitute. They had been forced to leave the town where their work was, where their homes were, because of their belief in the gospel of Jesus Christ. They had been forced to walk away with just about what they could carry on their backs. And after a few little migrations here and there looking for work, they arrived in this little town of Yobain. One of the first things they did was to gather their little group together, at that time it consisted of three families, and they asked this question, "What can we do to begin the work of the Lord here in this place? What can we give?" And they took stock of all they owned and when it was done, they found that they could give four chickens. That's all they had beyond what was required for their survival the next day. Four chickens, that's all they had to offer the Lord. That very first night a fox came and ate one of the chickens, and they had only three.

But they weren't daunted because they knew that the power of God would support them in their effort. They have persevered, and now twenty years later, on

that Saturday evening two weeks ago last night, we were permitted to be there at the dedication of their little church building. That little group sends missionaries out to minister the gospel to four other localities where there are no ministers but where there are eager interested people who want to hear the gospel news. And out of that initial sacrifice the work has grown. It hasn't been an easy struggle because they have always been few in number.

When their church was ready for its inauguration they invited their brothers and sisters from other areas to come, and knowing how important this night was for that little group, other groups from around Yucatan, there was even one young lady from Compeche, made the effort to be there with them. There were about a hundred and fifty members of the church; there were about a hundred and fifty non-members as well, to inaugurate this church that holds about seventy-five.

I could see the radiating joy that was on the faces of these believers as other pastors from the church were able to speak to their fellow citizens of their little town; to preach the gospel to them; to bear their testimony and proclaim why it is that we believe the Book of Mormon; why we belong to the latter-day restoration work. They used six or seven of these other pastors that evening, and it was a glorious evening.

One group who were primarily young people came from a town, as the crow flies, not too far away. They rented a great two-ton truck. It was raining that day and night so they had a canvas tarp up over the truck and they were packed in there like sardines. They could have made the trip in about three hours but they took some real rough, rocky, back roads so they could bring some believers from other little towns, that were too poor to hire a truck. Consequently, the trip took five and a half hours, with about seventy people standing in the back of that truck, singing all the way.

That night they just threw themselves into the service. Special music, testimonies, songs and singing and their joy was full. The service wasn't over until eleven o'clock and then we had refreshments. About twelve-thirty the seventy people got back in the truck and started the five and a half hour journey home. Some who lived along the way got home about three, but the ones who initiated this trip didn't get home until five-thirty the next morning, having stood all the way since the day before. Yet at nine-thirty they were up and at church, worshiping and praising the Lord.

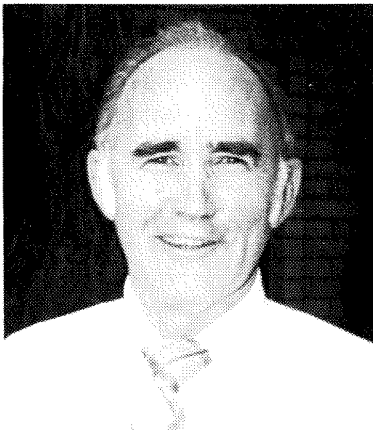
That afternoon I had gone to the little town of

Ticul, and as we were having a service there, we heard a noise out on the street. Here was another truck, and that same group of people coming to worship with their brothers there in Ticul. When the service was over it was about five-thirty and then they were going home. We had a service there in Dzan that night and it was to begin at eight o'clock. I took a few people out and we arrived about seven. I thought we would have to wait an hour before church began, but when we got there the church was full, they were all there. As I walked in and looked at the congregation, I really was amazed. There were one or two old-timers my age, but for the most part the church was full of young people in their teens or early twenties. There was a young elder who was talking to them, and they were singing songs. Then he began to talk to them about witnessing before the people of their communities; about being an instrument in God's hands to carry the work of the gospel to those who hadn't heard it, and in the course of his disclosure he said, "How many of you are going to come out here next Saturday so we can go out and

witness?" And almost all of them raised their hands. They wanted to be there and be a part of that.

After they had their songs and this little exhortation about witnessing and sharing the gospel, they asked me to speak to them somewhat about our witness. What is it that we are called to witness to the children of men? What kind of witness should we be bearing? What should young ministers, who are endeavoring to go out and serve the Lord and be instruments in His hand, be preaching?

As I thought of that, a scripture came to mind, in the 17th chapter of the Book of Alma. It's only five verses long; just five verses, and I wasn't ashamed to talk to them about those five verses. This was the counsel of a man of God to his young son who was called to minister the gospel of Jesus Christ; who was called to be a witness about this latter-day work, it was latter-day to them too. They were looking forward to the coming of Jesus Christ, just like today we're looking forward to the coming of Jesus Christ. This man of God spoke to his young son Helaman, and in a few verses he rather outlined in essence the fundamental factors; elements of the gospel of Jesus Christ, that which we some two thousand years later should also be preaching; should also be witnessing before the children of men that our joy today might be filled; that the cup of our hearts might be running over as was Ammon's because we have been called as he and his brethren had been, called to be instruments in the hand of God. And I am not ashamed to remind you of these same words. They are so closely tied with the



words that we read over in the 5th chapter of 3 Nephi, when the Lord himself, summarized the essential points of his doctrine, and he said to the people there, "... this is my doctrine; and I bear record of it from the Father; ... and whoso shall declare more or less than this, and establish it for my doctrine, ... buildeth upon a sandy foundation ..." and so I feel these are things that are vitally important.

I'm going to begin reading on page 441 and read verses 65-70. Six little verses of scripture, however I would like to perhaps verify some of these points by turning to other places in the Book of Mormon and in the Holy Bible. In verse 65 Alma says to his son, "And now my son, remember the words which I have spoken unto you: trust not those secret plans unto this people, ..." He was speaking about secret plans of enemies of the work of God, secret combinations that were even then at work to destroy the work of God and the work of righteousness among the people. And brothers and sisters, don't you ever think that right now this day the forces of evil are not gathering around. Secret com-

binations within the economic system; within the political system; within the international system of the world today. Forces of evil are gathering even now and making secret plans for the destruction of God's people; for the destruction of democracy; for the destruction of christianity which is an enemy that they fear. Yes, we can pay heed even to that part of Alma's words. "... trust not those secret plans unto this people, but teach them an everlasting hatred against sin and iniquity;"

Now you know, we as Christians are called upon to love all mankind. We have no enemies in the world. There are people in the world that look at us as being an enemy but we have no enemies. We're called upon to reach out with the gospel of love and the promise of hope and salvation to all the children of men. But we do have an enemy and it's that same enemy that was an enemy of Jesus Christ; it is the adversary of our souls; it is the father of lies, and iniquity and deception in the world and we are called upon as a people, as individuals to have an everlasting, perpetual hatred for sin, for iniquity, for darkness. Jesus Christ came into this world to be a light unto the world, but there's condemnation all around us because there are men and women, young men and women, boys and girls, who would rather look at the darkness than look at the light that is Jesus Christ.

I'd like to read a place over here that emphatically points out why we of all people should have that everlasting hatred. I'm looking at page 467, verses 17 and 18, "And he said, Thus saith the Lord God; Cursed

shall be the land," yea, this land of the Americas; this land that is ours; this bright and shining land that we love and cherish and owe our allegiance to, "cursed shall be the land, yea, this land, unto every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, unto destruction, which do wickedly, when they are fully ripe;" When I read those verses and read the newspaper; when I watch the news on television, and when I used to look at a classroom filled with fourteen year olds, I fear for this nation because it is rapidly growing fully ripe in iniquity; in evil desire.

"And as I have said, so shall it be: for this is the cursing and the blessing of God upon the land, for the Lord cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance." And therefore His people as well, are called upon to have a perpetual hatred for the presence of sin and iniquity in their own life and in the world. I have a fearfulness as I see the things that are transpiring in our own country; as I see the things that are commencing and transpiring in the western hemisphere; in Central and South America; the iniquity that's growing and altering the life style of the American people in this great land of which we're a part.

The Lord said, long ago to his people, a people that he had dealt with and led into a land given to them, "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:" you and your children and your children's children might live and inherit that which God has intended for his people.

I've not been so conscious of it as I have in the past few years, and maybe part of the reason is because so many people today, for one reason or another are interested in their genealogy, interested in the past history of their family, searching into their family tree. I talk to countless people, and you do too, whose ancestors are mentioned here in the Book of Mormon. Oh no, they're not called by name, but it tells how God led them here by the power of his hand for a purpose unto himself; how he sustained and strengthened them in their great conflict with the mother country as they sought their liberty and freedom. Yes the people that we rub shoulders with, their ancestors were brought here by the power of God, and for that reason he has set before us, life and death, blessing and cursing; and he can not look upon the inhabitants of this land engaging in and becoming ripe in iniquity with the least degree of happiness or indulgence. Therefore his people have a witness to bear to the peoples of America, of God's purpose, of God's plan and of his will for this nation. Just as he sent his prophets and his servants in times past into the lands of promise back in the old world, so will he send his servants and his witnesses, young or more elderly, out to declare his purpose for this people he has brought and established here.

And so, back to page 441. Alma told his son, "Preach unto them repentance, . . ." Brothers and sisters, if there is a message of this church, if there is a message God's people have to carry to the world today, it is that first message of Jesus Christ as he began his ministry, repentance. The last words of Jesus Christ, as he turned that responsibility and that ministry over to his children here in the world, were, ". . .

. . . Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations." Beginning where? "beginning at Jerusalem." Beginning with God's people. And I'm not ashamed to stand before the congregation of God's people and declare repentance, for I see the need of it in my own life, and I'm sure you see the need of it in your life. And if for some reason there is a little blindness and you don't see the need of it, never forget the words of Peter as he was enabled to look on down through the vistas of time as he wrote in his first letter, "For the time is come that judgment must begin," where was it to begin? "at the house of God." That's where judgment's going to begin, and we live in the day, whether we like it or not. We live in the day of the Lord's preparation, in the day of the Lord's wrath and anger, in the day of judgment and it shall begin in the house of the Lord.

And Christ has given us parables to help us understand why, perhaps, that is necessary. All manner of people have been drawn into the kingdom as fish into a net. And just as fishermen pull that net out of the water and they separate the good fish for their use, and throw away the rough that aren't fit for use, God is going to separate, even from among those of the kingdom, those that are not bringing forth fruits of righteousness.

You know, this essence of the gospel; this repentance message, we're called upon to put into practice in our own life. It's our responsibility. In the 11th chapter of 2nd Nephi, verse 103, we read these words where it says, ". . . he (God) hath commanded his people that they should persuade all men to repentance." How can I go out and declare repentance? How can we, as God's people, as individuals or groups, how can we, declare repentance to the peoples of this nation, if our lives have yet a residue of sin and iniquity? Yes, we must first look to ourselves, we, in the house of the Lord.

Paul said in the Corinthian letter, something to this effect, "Even so hath the Lord ordained that he who preaches the gospel must live by the gospel." This is our first task, to cleanse our lives, to alter and commit our lives to service of the Lord, and then to be at his work as these young people down there in the town of Dzan desired; to be witnesses for God's purpose and kingdom upon the face of the earth.

So verse 66, page 441, says, "Preach unto them

repentance, and faith on the Lord Jesus Christ. . . " Oh how important that part of this message is. Our witness might be concerned with the Book of Mormon at times. Our witness might be concerned with the persuasion of someone about the necessity for the restoration of the gospel. But, brothers and sisters, wherever we are, whatever the occasion, whatever the thing we're witnessing to, foremost and above all Jesus Christ must stand behind and shine through all our witness, all of our service, all or our worship. And for that reason came the restoration; for that reason came an added witness, and let us never, LET US NEVER, get them out of perspective. **FIRST AND FOREMOST WE MUST WITNESS TO THE CHILDREN OF MEN OF JESUS CHRIST!**

Over on page 38 in the Book of Mormon, verse 193, it says, "And shall make known to all kindreds, tongues and people, that the Lamb of God is the Son of the Eternal Father, and the Savior of the world; and that all men must come unto him or they can not be saved." That is the very basic part of our witnessing to the children of men of Jesus Christ; of him who said, "I am the way the truth and the life." There are lots of ways, lots of roads that people are following in this world today and because of it we see the world in the precarious position that it is right now. Twenty-five percent of all the nations of the world are engaged in warfare, and several of them right here on our own continent, right next door to our brothers and sisters in Yucatan, because men and women are walking on their own path.

Last week down in Collins, Brother Tony Grizincic read a passage of scripture, and I wrote it down, how Solomon said there in Ecclesiastes 2:10, "And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not mine heart from any joy;. . ." That was typical of Solomon. Is it not typical of our fellow brothers and sisters in the flesh today? Is it not typical of young people and older alike in the United States of America? Withhold no pleasure. Some people say that the salvation of the world is education. I certainly don't want to talk against education, that was my profession all of my working career. I can see the value of it but it is not the salvation of our society, nor or our nation. Some people would have us believe that nuclear deterrents are the salvation of this country. They are not the salvation of this country. Some would have us walk in some philosophy or another; one political philosophy or another; some economic strategy that is going to turn around the affairs of the world. There is only one road by which we can find health, security and salvation, and that road is Jesus Christ.

That same Solomon who withheld nothing from himself; who walked in his own way after the desires of his heart, in later years after all his experience had to summarize it by saying, "There's a way that seemeth right to a man, but the ends thereof are the ways of

destruction." And the peoples of this nation; of this world, are walking in the ways of destruction. And this body of people, or any body of people who believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ are called to preach repentance and faith on Jesus Christ, and the following of him who rode upon a lowly burro; who walked barefoot in the rocks and sand, with but a robe to clothe himself. Without a home without a place to lay his head and yet because of that which happened to him through his sacrifice of his life, and taking up that life again in the resurrection, there was such an explicit impact on his followers that their lives were forever changed. There isn't a figure in all history whose existence is any better nor more firmly established than the life and existence of Christ, who appeared to multitudes of his disciples both in the old world and in this new world, and, irrevocably changed their lives; changed them from fearful creatures that hid in their dark rooms to people who went out as we have been called to go out today and witness of our resurrected Christ.

Yes, "preach unto them repentance and faith on the Lord Jesus Christ; teach them to humble themselves, and to be meek and lowly in heart; teach them to withstand every temptation of the devil." How can we teach our young people? How can I teach myself to withstand every deception and every temptation and power of our adversary? There is a place here in the Book of Mormon that gives us a big clue as to what we might do, reading on page 45, from the vision which Lehi and then his son Nephi saw; in which they saw a tree which was a representation of the tree of life, eternal life, the gift of God. And leading to that tree was a path and beside the path a rod of iron and here at the bottom of page 45 we see the question asked by Nephi's brethren, ". . . What meaneth the rod of iron which our father saw, that led to the tree? And I said unto them, that it was the word of God; and whoso hearken unto the word of God, and would hold fast unto it, they would never perish; Neither could the temptations and the fiery darts of the adversary, overpower them unto blindness, to lead them away to destruction."

The word of God; when Jesus was out there in the desert, tempted by satan, time and again his response was, "It is written." And that can be our response to temptation, to deception, if, the word of God is, like Christ has promised, a living thing within us. We have been promised, those who have entered into a covenant with God through the waters of baptism, and received through the laying-on-of-hands the gift of the Holy Ghost, that gift of the Holy Ghost will remind us of the will of our heavenly Father, of the words of the Master of men." Those to whom those words were spoken, has sat at the Master's feet and heard his word; it was indelibly imprinted upon their heart and so the Holy Ghost could remind them of that which they had heard which was a part of their experience. If the word

of God has never been a part of my experience the Holy Ghost does not remind me of it. We must make it part of our experience, we must study it. Oh, we come here to church to study it, we bring our children to study it, to learn of the word of God; insufficient! We must find time, and if we can't find it we must make time, some time each day to give, to attend to the word of God; to stress its importance to our children, to ask them to read it with us. It must become a part of our daily life.

There are a lot of people, there may even be one or two in our church who have their Bible, and they have their Book of Mormon, but they'd be hard pressed to find them, and if found the pages might be a little dusty, and when they are, it's not doing much good. It's not serving it's purpose, as that rod of iron that will enable us to withstand the wiles and the fiery darts of the adversary who desires our soul. We must use it, and we must make it a part of our life and of our children's life experience that they too can depend upon the word of God.

Back to page 441, "... teach them to withstand every temptation of the Devil, with their faith on the Lord Jesus Christ; Teach them to never be weary of good works. . ." never be weary of good works. Our lives if we'd open them up, and this is one of my weaknesses, being aware of the opportunity for good works that surround us; for service to others, in this way we can help expand the work of God.

A group of my brothers and sisters in Phoenix took up a collection, as did the good ladies of the United Workers of this local, as did some of the young people in a Sunday School class here, to send some money down that it might be put to good use among our more impoverished members in Mexico while we were down there. In those few weeks that we were there we were able to help ten families with medical expenses. They couldn't help themselves at all. We were able to buy the windows that finished that little church in Yobain so they could have their inauguration. We were able to give financial assistance to eleven different families. It's hard to imagine; one family, the man goes out at the crack of dawn and does not get home till almost dark, every day, and makes 400 pesos a week. That's just about \$2.50. We were able to help some of these families with the fruit of your good works. We were able to buy a soldering gun and bit to help a young man learn a profession; able to buy Bibles for people who wanted to study the word of God and couldn't afford it. That Bible, down there, would take four weeks for that young man to buy, whos's earning capacity I just described; his whole salary for four weeks to buy a Bible. There's no way in this world he would ever have a Bible except for your love and generosity. Good works; we have opportunities all the time. I'm so happy to see people avail themselves of the opportunities to serve the Lord with good works; with love, with charity and concern.

"Teach them never to be weary of good works, but to be meek and lowly in heart: for such shall find rest to their souls. O remember my son, and learn wisdom in thy youth; yea, learn in thy youth to keep the commandments of God; yea, and cry unto God for all thy support; Yea, let all thy doings be unto the Lord, and whithersoever thou goest, let it be in the Lord, yea, let thy thoughts be directed unto the Lord; yea, let the affections of thy heart be placed upon the Lord for ever; counsel the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for good:" As I look at my own life I realize how hard it is to put that first. Our lives are filled with many things; we have many responsibilities, we have jobs we have to do for our family's keep, we have children we have to take care of, we have homes we have to take care of. There are so many things that fill our lives and our thoughts and our activities, so many things. How hard it is for us to remember the injunction of the Savior, "But seek ye first the kingdom of heaven and his righteousness," and he will help you take care of the rest. That's why Paul said, "Set your affections on things above." And yet when I think of myself, and of the people with whom I associate in the world, our affections, our desires, they're set on all kinds of things, aren't they? all kinds of things. We must remember and work at that injunction to set our affection on things above.

There's a story, I'm not going to take time to read it, in the 5th chapter of Mark, about a time when Jesus went over on the other side of the sea of Galilee. He wanted to be alone. And there in the mountains where there were caves, in which there were burials, near to a city, there was a wild man living; a man possessed, who wandered in the desert and mountains day and night crying and everybody was afraid to go out there. When Jesus landed he approached him, and we remember how the Lord cast out of that man a legion of evil spirits, and how that great number of evil spirits went into a herd of pigs feeding on the hillside, and they stampeded and ran off the cliffs and fell into the sea. And the people that saw this went over and told what had happened. You would think that the people would marvel, you would think they would run to see the author of such power and blessing in the life of this person that had frightened and terrified them. Well they did go out. They went out to implore Jesus to depart out of their borders, because they were more interested in the mundane affairs of this life, you know, a herd of pigs.

As a conclusion to that story John wrote this poem,

And Christ went sadly,
He had wrought for them a sign
Of love, and hope, and tenderness divine;
They had wanted only swine.

Christ stands without your door and gently
knocks;
But if your gold, or swine the entrance blocks,
He forces no man's hold, he will depart
And leave you to the treasures of your heart.

We must set our affection upon things above; we must seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; his will in our lives, in our fellowship and in our service to him. Judas didn't sell the master, he sold himself. Judas put a price tag on himself. Me, my salvation, they're worth 30 pieces of silver.

Now there isn't a one here who would put a price tag on our salvation, nor sell the Master of men; but we do betray him sometimes, we do let him down sometimes, we turn our back upon him sometimes, for pleasure, for position, for wealth. We, like Judas, can betray ourselves. That's why Nephi, permitted to look off into the unborn pages of history, when he saw how his descendants would, after a while, turn away from the gospel of Jesus Christ, said, "They have sold themselves for nought." We can't afford to do that.

One by one we can look at the elements of our life, and when we find something there that stands in the way of our service to the Lord; when we find some measure of sin or of weakness there, we can remove these things. And only when our life is empty, only when our hands are empty of all these elements of the world, can the Lord come and fill them with the riches of his Spirit. So daily we ought to be on this process of growth, of drawing closer to our Savior, of witnessing for the Master of men.

And finally Alma says to his son, verse 70, "Yea,

when thou liest down at night, lie down unto the Lord, that he may watch over you in your sleep; and when thou risest in the morning, let thy heart be full of thanks unto God; and if ye do these things, ye shall be lifted up at the last day." Now that's our hope, and it is for this that we strive and work today, that at that last day we may be lifted up. But for in between now and that last day, there are promises as well; the promise is of a life filled with the glory and the radiance of Jesus Christ, a life filled brimful as Ammon said, with joy and glory and praise to God. Yes, I was touched by the poem our Brother Mike read to us this morning, *He Leadeth Me*, it was called.

In pastures green, not always,
And by still waters, no, not always.

We happen to be living in a time when the waters aren't still. The waters are going to be troubled, the oceans, and that doesn't just mean of the sea, oceans oftentimes in prophetic language signifies the peoples of this world. The oceans are going to rage, and men's hearts are fearful all over this great world, and we are liable to see the tempests blow. And yet we have that promise. I'll just read a portion of it from the 2nd chapter of Zephaniah, "Seek the Lord, all you who have loved to keep his ordinances, seek the Lord, seek meekness, and it may be that ye shall be hidden in the day of the Lord's anger." Hidden how? In God's hand, from all the elements, all the tempests that might blow over this world.

If we, and I am confident that we are like those young brothers and sisters down at Dzan, are eager to make changes in our lives, go out and witness of these things to the children of men. May God bless you in your efforts to do so.

A Great and A Marvelous Work

PART ONE

by Apostle William A. Sheldon

"For the time cometh, saith the Lamb of God, that I will work a great and marvelous work among the children of men;

"A work which shall be everlasting, either on the one hand or on the other;

"Either to the convincing of them unto peace and life eternal, or unto the deliverance of them to the hardness of their hearts and the blindness of their minds, unto their being brought down into captivity and also unto destruction, both temporally and spiritually, according to the captivity of the devil, of which I have spoken." 1 Nephi 3: 214-216

"All ye inhabitants of the world, and dwellers on the earth, see ye, when he lifteth up an ensign on the

mountains, and when he bloweth a trumpet, hear ye." Isaiah 18:3

"Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the Lord of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously." Isaiah 24:23.

Perhaps the purpose of this series of essays beginning herewith, which in aggregate will be a treatise upon scriptural prophecy relating to "the time of the end" (see Daniel 11:35), may be considered as an epilogue to the late Apostle McGregor's *A Marvelous Work and a Wonder*. Since this is not intended as an exhaustive treatment of the matter envisioned in the title, it is still hoped that what is offered may serve to



APOSTLE WILLIAM SHELDON

stimulate further research by the reader, but above all, to enlarge the vision of how great and marvelous this latter day work really is; that, however tainted by human doctrine or philosophy, however dimmed by faithlessness and sin, the Lord will yet be revealed in power and great glory to the nations, and the faith of His saints will be vindicated to the dismay of their enemies.

While the coming forth of the Book of Mormon is a significant component of the "marvelous work and a wonder," which was to be performed by the Lord in the latter days, and this, too, in conjunction with the restoration of the holy priesthood and of the Church of Christ, nevertheless, we must not suppose this to be the totality of God's purpose so far as His earthly kingdom is concerned. Indeed, these things are preliminary steps culminating in the gathering of His ancient covenant people (the whole house of Israel), the establishment of Zion and the Millennial reign of Christ with His saints. The latter day Restoration, to this point in time, is, however marvelous in our eyes (many have let the vision slip from their mind, if they ever really had it), only the opening scene of the great pageant to be revealed in fulfillment of divine prophecy which staggers human conception. We may only see in part until heaven and earth shall literally burst at the revelation, the glorious appearance of Jesus Christ and His kingdom established on the earth.

We are taught to pray: "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven." (Matthew 6:10). If the will of God is to be done in earth, even as it is in heaven (and it shall be), it will be because Christ "shall have put down all rule and all authority and power" (1 Corinthians 15:24). This last phrase envisions the ultimate triumph of Christ over all his enemies, including Satan, death and hell; but prior to this, before there can be a thousand year peaceful reign of Christ upon the earth, there shall be a righteous judgment of

the nations, the more wicked part of mankind to be physically destroyed as by fire, Satan and his angels to be kept in bonds for this period, and the saints of God to be gathered unto the New Jerusalem. A vast multitude of the more righteous, having endured the terrible tribulation preceding the advent of Christ, will also come up to dwell upon Mount Zion (the New Jerusalem), and all nations which remain will come up to render homage to the King of kings, or else will yet suffer the wrath of an offended God (See Zachariah 14:14-19).

The break-up of the nations (or, break-down, if you will) is described in the vision given to Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, and interpreted by the prophet Daniel in the 2nd chapter of his book, verses 31-45. Many of us are well aware of this important revelation which foreshadows the coming forth of the kingdom of God (the Church of Christ) in the latter days, and that it sets even the fateful year of 1830 for its beginning, as is amply treated upon in McGregor's book. Yet, we should not suppose that the vision is completed in that year. The "stone" (kingdom of God) was truly "cut out of the mountain without hands" (verse 45) in 1830 — it was done by the hand of God and not by human hands. The mountain in which it nestles, is the U.S.A, but God brought it forth with divine power, notwithstanding He used frail humanity to do so. It was accomplished through the visitation of holy angels, and in fact through the appearance and counsel of both the Father and the Son, despite the ridicule of unbelievers.

The "stone" has been cut out of the mountain, and stands revealed for those who will search for it. It has begun to "roll", though almost imperceptibly, but it (the gospel of the kingdom) is yet to smite the feet of the image (verse 34) and thus to break in pieces the whole image as revealed, which is the nations, beginning with Babylon of old, and including the nations which had separated and become distinct from ancient Rome, i.e., the European nations. It is not my purpose to treat upon this, only in passing, because of McGregor's extensive handling, and only as a basis for future events as prophesied. Only the great power of God can really crush these nations because of their wickedness, causing them to become "like the chaff of the summer threshing floors" so that the wind might carry them away and no place be found for them (see verse 35). That stone is yet to become "a great mountain" (government, or kingdom) which is to fill the whole earth.

We may rejoice, too, in the assurance that "the kingdom shall not be left to other people" and "it shall stand forever" (verse 44). Despite human innovations and faithlessness, in which this great latter day Restoration has become hopelessly divided so far as man is concerned, there was to be a body remaining intact and to serve as a nucleus for the gathering of the saints of God to reign upon mount Zion.

Path Lights

Fear of Pain? Be Not Dismayed

Recently, I went to another doctor for a second opinion on a medical problem for which I've been treated for several years. From that time to the present God has blessed me.

I was beginning to think the pain I had was in my head until this doctor did find things were out of place and should be corrected by surgery to eliminate this pain. After this visit, a couple of phone calls and another doctor visit, it was determined it could be more serious than originally anticipated. Because of past problems for a number of years, there could have been severe damage to the colon which would require removal and/or a complete hysterectomy. Even though these were very serious problems to consider, these weren't my biggest worry. Four years ago I had a similar operation. After surgery my blood pressure dropped so low I couldn't have any pain medication 'til late that night. This was my biggest worry — remembering how I felt after surgery — the pain I was in was unforgettable. I was making myself sick worrying about this. Of course I was administered to several times and this feeling would be relieved for a while, but would return. After determining a date for surgery, it got worse. There was even fasting and prayer in my behalf and I did have peace that this was the right thing to do. I wasn't worried about the colon any longer, but remembering the pain was making me sick.

After discussion with the doctor about this, he assured me there was something the anesthetist could give me to keep my blood pressure up so I could have medication. His talk helped, but I was still worried.

"Be not Dismayed, What ere Be Tide, God will Take Care of You," was the closing song to the last service I attended before I went into the hospital. I felt the Spirit very strong as we sang this song. I knew it was for me and I had several people witness the same Spirit. All I had to do when I started worrying was sing this song and I would receive complete peace knowing the Lord was with me. What a blessing! A colon test was done the day before surgery. Nothing as serious as previously thought was found and with the surgery only a little repair work was needed. I was able to have pain medication as soon as I was back in my room. The next day the doctor came to see how I got along after surgery. I was able to tell him, "great." I had pain medication and my blood pressure was fine.

If you ever had surgery you know gas pains can be worse than the surgery. So a couple days after the operation I had them in full force. The gas wasn't moving anywhere, just sitting. It was very painful. The nurse was doing everything she knew to help but I

finally called to see if Brother Bob Oldham could come to administer to me. I couldn't reach him, but in a few minutes here he came. What a blessing! He didn't know I had called, but was there when I needed him.

There has been a few minor problems since that time, but now six weeks later, I'm feeling good and getting to go back to work.

Without the support and prayers of my family and Brothers and Sisters these burdens would have been harder to bear. God surely hears and answers prayers. I am very thankful to Him for these blessings and pray I am worthy. I know I take many blessings for granted.

Thanks to all who remembered me in their prayers.

Love in Christ,
Trudy Grzincic
Independence

No Cancer

I would like to thank all my Brothers and Sisters for their prayers in my behalf. I know I received a wonderful blessing. For the last two years I had been having a problem, and had been to see two doctors. My daughters wanted me to get a third doctors opinion. In checking me over he said he wanted to put me in the hospital and do surgery. He couldn't let the problem go any longer. He was sure I had cancer. I thought to myself, "why do I doubt him?" When doing lab work they found I had diabetes, and very low potassium. My sugar count was 300 and they started me on potassium. One doctor said I was heading for a stroke.

Through prayers, the sugar count started going down and as of two weeks ago it was down to 85. After surgery, the doctor came and talked to my daughters and said they found no cancer, but because of the history in my family of diabetes I would have to stick to a diet. Thanks again.

Love in Christ,
Sister Lois Heath
Michigan

If there is a testimony in your life I can use in this series, please send it to:

Path Lights
c/o Melissa McGhee
2533 Glen Lane
Independence, Missouri
64052

The Principle Foundation of Christ's Doctrine

This is an address to those who have not heard or who have been misinformed. The teaching of Christ's foundation is the same as the principles found in both the Bible and the Book of Mormon. There are many saying, "this is the way," but Christ has foretold us there would be many come in His name and He would know them not. You might ask yourself which is the right way, for there is only one. Turning to II John, verse 9, we find that God is with those who keep the doctrine of Christ. Therefore, by knowing the doctrine of Christ and keeping it, you may enter into the gate which leads to eternal life.

This is only the foundation, for after laying this you must go on to perfection, by keeping the Commandments and endearing to the end. There is no other way. Pray about the contents and the truth in I Timothy 4:11-16.

The foundation of the doctrine of Christ, the principles, are given in Hebrews 6:1-2. You can read in Hebrews that there is more than just saying, "I believe in Christ," for even the Devil believes there is a Christ. Christ followed this path by being baptized by John. Christ was called and sent forth and taught repentance to those who were accountable because they had a knowledge of good and evil.

Read III Nephi 5:33, Genesis 3:5, Hebrews 11:1, Alma 16:143, Matthew 8: 5-10, and Ether 1:64-79. The meanings of these verses are in harmony with each other. The first two principles are used in most churches that say they follow Christ. But you will find that even within these churches they have a difference of application in practice.

The principles I have written about require you as a person to act towards God. But it takes more than you to meet all the requirements set in the principles. This is why the Lord has set offices within the Church or body. Since God never changes them you should find these offices today. Read in I Corinthians 12:28 and Ephesians 4:10-13.

In baptism it takes more than one person. Jesus was baptized by one being called of God. God is a God of order. Christ chose or called men to His service or His Father's service. God gave them power to perform all things which would be needed. Turn to Matthew 28:16-19, Acts 8:38, Acts 19:5-6, II Nephi 13:16. Within

these we see who performed the services and how they were done. The Priesthood Authority is another matter and will be covered under another part. The true Priesthood is needed for the performance of baptizing and laying on of hands. The laying on of hands is for healing, casting out evil spirits, blessing little children, receiving the Holy Ghost and ordinations. How many churches do you see that claim to do these things?

The Fourth principle we find in the following passages: Acts 19:6, Moroni 2:1-3, Acts 8:14-18, James 5:14, Acts 28:8, Mark 10:13-16, III Nephi 8:20-26. The Holy Ghost gives us understanding of God's works and laws, for the understanding of men is not the understanding of God. It, then, is important to receive the Holy Ghost to improve our way unto the Lord. The Lord promised to send a comforter to his children. The ministry of the Church can show the power that Christ has spoken of. However, it has been foretold of those who would deny the power of God. Reading in II Nephi 12:39, it says cursed is the one who puts his trust in man. Also in Deuteronomy 27:26 cursed is he who says not all is needed and you are justified in a part of the law and not all of it.

The Resurrection of the Dead. The first one was Christ. See Job 19:24-27, John 11:25, Mosiah 9:29. These show that there is no doubt with faith. The same is found with the last principle, Eternal Judgment. See Matthew 25:31-46, Moroni 8:24, III Nephi 13:43. The passages given here are but a small number proving the teachings of the principle foundation of the doctrine of Christ as shown both in the Bible and the Book of Mormon. They are one, as Christ is one with God. For God is the same today and forever, even unto all people in all the world.

We have been foretold of those who will come saying "this is the way, follow me." But it is written in Galations 1:8 and Jeremiah 17:5. Christ has said, "I am the way." There is none other. The way is set by Christ to follow. You have read herein that the Book of Mormon is of God. Dear reader, I say in faith that it is. It teaches of the way to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ by his foundation, his principles. If you will but pray unto the Lord he will make it known by way of the Holy Ghost.

Ron Church

NOTICE

I have written a small book titled, "Papa, He Was Not A Quitter." This is a story about pioneer life, covered wagon travel and being raised in a missionary family. It tells of Papa's (James E. Yates) dedication to the ministry and my personal testimony of God's blessings. This book was written after I was 82 years old. It has been copy-righted and is now offered for

sale.

Anyone desiring a book, write to Joseph E. Yates, Route 1, Box 60, Preston, Missouri 65732. This book is not fiction but all factual according to my memory. The price is \$8.00 plus 70 cents for mailing.

Joseph E. Yates

THE BEATITUDES

"And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain; and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:

And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." (Mathew 5:1-12)

There is a statement that familiarity breeds contempt; and I suggest that, although not contempt, too often because of the familiarity of these verses, we fail to perceive some of the profound meaning of what is being said. Here is a pronouncement of a state of blessedness upon those who meet certain conditions. Some translate blessed to mean simply happy. I believe there is a far richer meaning than the meaning the world usually puts to the word happy. Among the meanings given by Webster, there is, holy, blissful, beatific or beatified. And beatified carries a meaning of, extraordinary virtue and excellence, to be saintly. Therefore those who meet the conditions stated will find inherent in the becoming so a blessedness of being as well as the promised result. They will be persons of extraordinary virtue and excellence in every aspect of their attitudes and actions.

If we stop to consider a while, we will see that in these qualities of character, Jesus is revealing a portrait of himself. In effect saying, become as I am, it is a blessed condition. Was not Jesus poor in spirit? Did he not make himself so? Read Philippians 2: 5-8. Did he not mourn? Read Isaiah 53: 3-4; Luke 19: 41; John 11: 34-36. Was he not meek? Read Matthew 11: 29. Did he not desire righteousness? Read John 6: 38;

and 8: 29. Is not seeking and doing the Father's will desiring righteousness? Was he not merciful? Read James 5: 11; Jude 21. Was he not pure in heart? Read 1 John 3: 2-3. Was not his mission to make peace? Isaiah 61: 1-3; Acts 10: 36; Ephesians 2: 10-22. Was he not persecuted, reviled with all manner of false accusations? Read Matthew 11: 19; and 26: 67; 27: 27-44.

If the Beatitudes are a portrait of Jesus, are they not a portrait of God also? Did not Jesus say, "If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: . . . and . . . he that hath seen me hath seen the Father . . .?"

Here in the Beatitudes is the picture of the kind of person in whom the Holy Spirit has residence, that person who reflects the mind, love and spirit of Jesus. Here is a concise statement, just as Jesus is a living example, of what the life of holiness in the human situation is.

The Beatitudes will mirror, if so used by us, the difference between Jesus and ourselves; the difference between what we are and what he expects us to become; what he will produce in us if we give him submission and allegiance.

Here is a map of the way Jesus chose to walk, the way he urges us to walk with him. We sing a song, Oh Master let me walk with Thee. He not only will let but invites and encourages us to do so; to walk as he walked, to live as he lived, but to become as nearly like him as it is possible for the human to become like the Divine. Here we find the directions for entering into a fellowship with God, the state of his offered blessedness which he himself inhabits. Might I say, the only possible way to so enter?

Are we overwhelmed with the magnitude of such requirements? Or are we repulsed by the humiliation attendant to them? A deep study of these simple verses must bring to every bosom either a hunger and desire toward such a life or a rejection of the thought that on these we must make our choice.

Although the first reaction may be a sense of the impossibility of such requirements, I believe that deep within the souls of man there is a buried desire that someone should require us to be better than we are; who would believe in or love us enough to challenge us out of all of our self-complacency; who would dare exact so much from us it would demand all we could give, to comply. Nothing short of this could be true religion. One who would ask less than all there is to give could never reign supreme in our hearts as God, to be worshipped, loved, trusted and obeyed.

Nevertheless, we cannot rise to it in our own strength alone. Only He who places the conditions can supply the grace needed to throw away our pitiful ideas of happiness in exchange for His magnificent offer of blessedness. Jesus said, "And blessed is he,

whosoever shall not be offended in me." (Matthew 11:6.) Is not, to be offended in him, to reject his teachings and commandments?

If we want this blessedness, have we really any other choice but to renounce ourselves, and all that would hinder us from taking up our cross and follow-

ing hard after him, following just as closely in his steps as we can possibly get; emptied of ourself, committed to him, dependant upon him to perform his transforming miracle in us. The greatest sacrifice becoming the greatest liberation.

Amy Schrader

But If Not . . . Nevertheless

I can almost hear the sighs, yet another piece on prayer! Prayer is as a many faceted gem; a subject inexhaustable, for it is one of the most important matters we can ever consider; it is our contact with God. Many things are taught concerning prayer. Most are wise, some not so wise.

Do we wonder about what seems to be ungranted prayer? It has been observed previously that answers to prayer requests may be "no," or "wait" as well as "yes," so that these are not unanswered even if ungranted.

There is much written and said about having sufficient faith to receive the thing(s) that we petition of the Lord, and truly without faith it is rather pointless to come asking anything of the Lord. But there is a naive'te' in the idea that God is bound to deliver according to our will, even sometimes unwise asking.

The scripture lays down numerous conditions upon which the Lord's promises are founded, including the promise of granted prayer. If our prayers are all to be granted it is essential that we meet these conditions, two of which are righteousness and obedience. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matt. 6:33) and "I, the Lord, am bound when ye do what I say, but when ye do not what I say, ye have no promise." (Revelation given April 24, 1832.) If our prayers go ungranted, best we check our whereabouts in regard to these conditions.

Perhaps the most important condition is that we ask according to his will, "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us; And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him." (1John 5:14-15.) Surely none can suppose or desire to bend God's will to use his power to bring our will to pass if it is contrary to his own, according to his love, wisdom, foreknowledge and purpose for us. The faith that knows God is able, also knows that he must be left free to say, "No, my child," as any good earthly parent often must do.

So then, what is this faith that must accompany prayer? Perhaps it is difficult to define. Sometimes a statement in reference as to what a thing is not, is more clarifying than one attempting to describe what it is. And in the matter of faith, it is not, not leaving room for God to make his choice in regard to our prayer. There is a faith that goes much deeper than the simple idea that we ask for and he gives.

As an example, let us go to the four Hebrew lads taken captive to a heathen kingdom in a heathen land. They would not bow to the King's demands to worship his idols. Their statement was clear and sure. "... Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O King." Nothing uncertain about their faith in God's ability to rescue them. But, they didn't stop there, they left God's choice open. "But if not, be it known unto thee, O King, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up." (Daniel 3:17-18.) Their faith left God free to do as he willed, and whatever that will would be, their trust in him was unwavering. Is this an example of that "nothing wavering" of James 1:6?

It is not faithless to put an "if" in our prayer. We may not always be able to determine God's will in a given matter. Even though it would seem that Jesus knew the atonement agreed to, in Gethsemane his prayer went thus, "Oh my Father, *if* it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, not as I will but as thou wilt." (Matt. 26:39.) And he went a second time, saying, "Oh my Father, if this cup may not pass from me, except I drink it, thy will be done." (Matthew 26:42.) Again the — if — again the — nevertheless.

In the case of the Hebrew lads, God was able and He did as they believed He could and would. With Jesus, apparently it was not possible to remove the cup that he not drink of it, and still achieve the purpose, and God honored Jesus' nevertheless.

Perhaps as a people as well as individually, we need to sink our desires, our aims, our ways and our wills deeper into the ways, will and purposes of God and when they are thus harmonized with his there will be no ungranted prayers, for there will be no asking amiss. (James 4:3.)

When all our desire is bound within the confines of God's will, whatever it is, there should be, there must be, a happy acceptance of all answer to prayer. There must needs come, also, something of a radiant contentment with the will of God as it relates to our affairs and circumstances, personal and collective. When our "nevertheless" is honored, it must evoke no complaint on our part. Rather we should be able to say with all acceptance, "This also cometh forth from the Lord of hosts, which is wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working." (Isaiah 28:29.)

Submitted by Vida Filley

ALONE

Hospitals are not much fun! If you're sick and unfortunate enough to be in one they seem even worse. Undergoing surgery is an experience that we would all like to avoid. It puts us in the hands of strangers, where our wishes no longer seem to matter. You find yourself in a strange, sterile, foreign world, and it seems as if you're suddenly isolated from all that's safe and secure. You realize how completely alone you are. When they push you into an operating room away from those who love you, who held your hand and comforted you, you really see how weak and powerless you are by yourself.

How wonderful it is to know we have God to turn to. Have you stopped to think how privileged we are to have the Elders to call for? Our Heavenly Father foresaw our needs and gave us the ordinance of administration. We even have loving Brothers and Sisters who pray for us even when we're unable to pray for ourselves. So next time you feel isolated, or find it necessary to put your health in the hands of a doctor, try to remember what a wonderful plan God has prepared for us. When you're in God's care and among those who love Him you are never really alone.

Melissa McGhee

LEONA MAY THOMPSON

Leona May Thompson, daughter of Roy and Nina Frisbey, was born May 1, 1925, at Independence, Missouri, and passed from this life October 30, 1984, at the Medical Center of Independence. She was a lifelong resident of this area.

Leona worked for the Remington Arms Co. at Lake City for 29 years and was foreman in the quality control department before taking sick leave September First of this year. She was a member of the American Business Women's Association and a member of the Church of Christ on the Temple Lot.

She leaves a daughter, Mrs. Kelly Jo Biggs; a granddaughter, Heather Biggs, of the home; two brothers, Ralph A. Frisbey, Great Falls, Montana, and John F. Frisbey, Independence; four sisters, Helen R. Smith, Ft. Meyers, Florida, Mrs. Georgia L. Hutcheson, Andover, Kansas, and Mrs. Mabel B. Hines and Mrs. Vera R. Kramer, Independence; three brothers and a son having preceded her in death.

Her body was donated to the University of Kansas Medical Center.

A memorial service was held November 3, 1984, at the Carson Funeral Home conducted by Elder Nicholas F. Denham and Elder Leslie P. Case.

The Crucible Of Life

"Teach me Thy Will; for Thou art my God." Ps. 143:10
Spiritual and moral experience, however and wherever gained only becomes really ours as it is tried in the crucible of life. You may have received a blessing

at some great Convention, but it is only as it is tried out in the rough and tumble of daily life that the blessing really becomes part of yourself.

Jewish Hope

Temple Lot Local News

Autumn, the time of harvest. Making apple cider, which in some instances refuses to stay within the limits of the glass jugs, what with warm air and the constant jostling in the trunk of a car. A large gathering joined in making this tasty beverage at the home of Bonnie and Jim Case.

Since October is a lovely month for travel, Irene and Forest Maley were here for a fine visit. Forest also favored us with a fine message from the scriptures. Good spiritual food we need.

On November 25th, Brother Joe Givens was baptized. It was raining and dreary, but just as he was to be baptized, the sun shone brightly. The faces of the whole family shone all morning. Such a happy time for us all.

With a twinge of sorrow to see them go, and yet

with joy for their future in perhaps bettering their circumstances, we watch John and Barbara Case and boys make their way to Rochester, Minnesota. Quite a few feel it is the Lord's will for them to go to their new home. I know the Minneapolis branch will be overjoyed to have them near.

We are now preparing for the Christmas program to be held December 23rd. The children are all excited, and the teachers and parents hopefully and gently persuading in hopes that the wonderful story will take hold for future needs, as well as to praise the Lord now for all He has done for us.

Linda Affholder is reported gradually gaining back her strength again. They wish to thank everyone for their prayers and deep concern in her illness.

Katy Moyer

CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 1985 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) will commence Sunday, March 31, 1985. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 1. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, March 29 and 30, 1985.

The 1985 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 14th, 15th and 16th at Independence, Missouri.

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Article No. 20 (Marriage)	N/C
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AUDIO VISUAL MATERIALS

The following materials are available on loan to members of the Church of Christ from the Audio, Video, Visual-Aid and Archeology Committee. Send all requests (except for sermons) to Elder Gary Housknecht, 2901 S. Norwood, Independence, MO 64052.

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"Mexico, Land of Contrast" (39 minutes) — Illustrates how modern archeological finds in North and Central America lend credence to the Book of Mormon and the story it tells of the continent's former inhabitants.

"Out of the Dust" (45 minutes) — Tells the story found within the Book of Mormon. Also available is a 35 minute version directed toward Indian viewers and entitled "A Lamp Unto My Feet."

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