

# 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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## Seasonal Reflections

*I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round, as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys. . . And so as Tiny Tim said: "A merry Christmas to us all, my dears. God bless us, every one."*

*Charles Dickens*



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# Zion's Advocate

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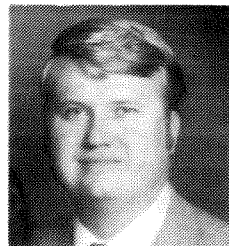
*Editorial . . .*

# The Answers Will Come

As I write this, I ponder over the fact that Spencer Kimball passed from this life just last night (November 5th) after serving over a decade as the singular head and president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, known popularly around the world as "the Mormons." Mr. Kimball was responsible for a radical change that took place with regard to his church's outlook upon a certain minority and while he was in office, the membership doubled to reach nearly six million. Who will his replacement be and what will his policies be?

On another front, the current president of the reorganized version of that church has not a son, but a daughter. And, as that church believes in a lineal descending priesthood, it stands to reason that their recent change allowing women in their priesthood nicely opens the way for their first woman president and a continuance of their tradition of keeping it in the family.

It is comforting knowledge — that of the fact that the Church of Christ has at its head, the



unchangeable Son of God, even Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever. He won't die and pass the reigns along to someone new, and He certainly won't change from that divine law and church structure established in the beginning. We may

struggle and falter in our attempt to live out our role as His Church - performing our obligatory and rightful functions, and trying to understand His many times not understandable ways, but having that sure knowledge that Jesus Christ Himself has all the correct answers is a comfort beyond mortal word's capacity to describe. That we have a body of twelve Apostles, each with

equal authority as leaders of Christ's Church here on earth (until Christ's return), indicates not only that the structure is divine (the way Christ set it up) but warrants added comfort by the simple fact that twelve men together are not likely to wander collectively from that straight and narrow way.

At times there may be as many as twelve different interpretations on a given point, indicating that

at least eleven of them are wrong. Would we be safe with a single person as our leader (other than Christ) when such conditions prevail relative to the nature of man?

Yes, it is comforting to me, not discouraging, that we as the Church of Christ have *not* come to a firm stand on several points of doctrine. Why? Sure, I would rather that we had all the right answers to all the questions, but the fact that we do not (yet), indicates that we have thus far successfully avoided the temptation of compromise to gain unity — compromise, that is, of what we believe, individually, to be right. Instead of one man to convince, there are twelve separate individuals to be convinced, each

with his own character and personality. Since there are two opposing forces doing the convincing, I am happy, and we are blessed that God had the wisdom and vision to appoint twelve rather than one to make decisions for His church.

We each need to fervently pray for that quorum to be full once again and for a blessing to each member of that quorum, and to have the gifts of the divine Spirit manifest in their midst. The answers will come.

I wish for each of us a Spiritually prosperous and joyful holiday season and, for Jesus, a truly happy birthday.

G.A.H.

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## Preaching Jesus Christ

(Apostle Roland Sarratt Sermon Excerpts Transcribed from Tape Recordings)

Jude 21: "Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life." This identifies an aspect that's very important. We know that Jesus Christ has offered himself as a sacrifice according to the will of the Father and in so doing he has provided us a means of salvation which we ourselves cannot earn in any way; because it has been bought for us. But it is up to us to choose whether or not we are going to accept it. And when we do accept it we must do something about it. We don't just go up to a mourner's bench and say, "I confess that Jesus is the Christ" and leave it at that, nor do we just go down into the waters of baptism, and say, "I will obey Jesus Christ." We must go on unto perfection; and this is the message of the gospel.

There is a very important lesson for us to learn. I don't know if I have the ability to say it as I would want to say it; this lesson is, that first of all, we retain a confident faith in Jesus Christ and in that which he has merited for us. He is giving it to us by our acceptance of him. If we do not accept him, if we do not accept that which He has told us to do, if we do not obey him, if we do not accept his commandments as being true and vital to our salvation, then we cannot be saved. We must obey his will. It goes beyond that a little bit more; sometimes we become depressed, we say, "I just don't believe I can do it," and you know, as soon as we say that we cut it off, right there. Our faith in Jesus Christ is not alive . . . it's dead. If we do not believe that he has merited our salvation we cannot have that salvation. It's as simple as that. The scriptures tell us over and over how important it is that we have a hope in him. That hope must be

Roland L. Sarratt



alive, a lively hope. It must be that as we serve him and obey him that ultimately our salvation will be that we will be on his right hand when he sits down with the Father. This is our hope. We have nothing less than that. If we hope for anything less than that we're setting Christ aside. So we must have a full realization of who Jesus Christ is. Not of who he was or who he will be, but who he is today. And it all goes together, what he has done in the past and what he has promised yet in the future has an immediate effect upon you and I in our attitudes today, toward Jesus Christ.

Our Father in heaven has a perfect plan; He has given it into the hands of Jesus Christ. Jesus is fully capable of bringing this gospel to us in a way by which we might serve and obey him. He is fully capable of giving us total salvation, he has merited that, and he has proven it, if we will but trust him. What we're doing is really in obedience to him, we're not meriting our own salvation, nor any one else's, he has done that, but we must be obedient to him to fulfill all righteousness as he did.

People can be very unwise in what they say to people that show an interest in the Church; those who are not yet converted. We can be unwise in the way we treat each other, we can say things that are not good and cause a stumbling block.

In I Corinthians, 13th chapter, verse 1, "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal." First of all, if we have the ability to speak in tongues or to speak in various tongues and we also have the ability to speak as angels, (and we know that angels speak those things that God would have them to say) so if we have the ability to speak all these things and we lack charity, what happens? We are as sounding brass and tinkling cymbal. And what is that? That's just mere noise, a lot of confusion and noise that means nothing. But what is charity? According to the Book of Mormon it is the pure love of Christ, and we must covet and treasure that ability to love that we might have the ability to fulfill whatever he might have us to do.

"And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing." I would like to bring out a lesson here. When we think about the Lord communicating with us, we know that he has the ability to communicate in various ways. He has given various gifts in the Church but they all come for one particular purpose, and that is for our soul salvation.

He has given the power to heal through the laying on of hands, and this will strengthen our faith as well as heal the physical condition. But when a gift is given, we must examine ourselves that we do not get caught up in what we might say is the sensation of the means by which the Lord would give it. In other words, if the gift of tongues were given to us, should we be so totally thrilled and overcome with the idea that the Lord has actually spoken to us through the gift of tongues, or should our attention be to that which He spoke? I believe the latter is the thing that we've got to do. We've got to change our attitude. The means by which he can communicate to us is secondary to what he actually communicates. If he tells us a certain thing is wrong, we'd better correct ourselves. That's the important thing.

Now we have an intelligent brain, we have an ability to discipline ourselves, to control ourselves, and we are communicating with One who has an intelligence far greater than ours and yet deals with us if we will put faith in Him. This is an important thing, that we learn not to be carried about by sensationalism. Now we know when the spirit rests upon us we are subject to become emotional because the Spirit of God is greater than we are, but I believe that sometimes our emotions guide us. Sometimes we work ourselves up into a state of emotion and we think we're being blessed by the Spirit and actually it's just a state of our own emotion and not the result of the Spirit. So let us beware and not allow ourselves to be deceived.

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## The Body of Christ

By Joe Hanke  
(Anderson, Missouri)

The television announced, "... and you'd better be goin' to a church that teaches the whole bible..." It continued to point out atrocities committed, such as the distribution and acceptance of the sexist bible, homosexuals being accepted and even married in churches, women being ordained, secular humanism encrusting our educational curriculum, and continued to add one abomination after another. Doctrines of churches surround me that hold to many doctrines of man and doctrines of tradition rather than seeking and trying to understand the doctrine of Christ.

What is Christ's Church? Where is it? How do we find it? How do we prepare ourselves to be able to accept it even if we find it? That's what this article is about. It's about my personal search, discovery, and acceptance.

To begin a quest as important as this, one must determine what tools to take to find his way and exhibit a willingness to add tools to his chest that he finds he needs along the way. I started my journey with two primary tools. One was the Bible, the other tool was the whisperings of the Holy Spirit.

For some time now, I felt the Lord wanted me to seek after Him and discover His many truths. I relate these many truths to be similar in concept to a large beautiful mural painted on a wall like in a museum. The lighting can be adjusted to highlight certain features of this gorgeous painting. The mural has an almost living quality in which one can perceive not only movement, but elapsed time. The truths I seek will one day enable me to stand back with my eyes closed and see the mural of God's greatness. I will be able to see and understand His world from before

its creation and as it transcends eternity. I will be able to see His total plan, joys, heartaches, and expectations of us. This vision will not be in pieces but in a unit that gives a fullness of wisdom and understanding. Though years may come and go before my journey is finished I know at least now where it will end. My journey will end face to face with my God.

Over my lifetime, I have always felt the presence of the Holy Spirit. There were times when I ignored God, times when I resisted him, but also times when I felt His warmth, glow, and intense love for me. My life to this point has been filled with joy and grief, rest and weariness, pain and peace, but He has always been near me even when I've tried to walk away.

I have started my journey. I have made it as far as the Body of Christ, but am yet only beginning. Permit me to share with you a few events of my trip thus far.

It all started, you might say, during the first forty years of my life. I'm forty now, you see, but it took the Lord a little more patience for me than most. I've always tried to do what the ministers of the churches told me I must do to be a follower of Christ. Only personal study in the Bible showed me the error of my ways. But there are so many ways a scripture can be interpreted, you say. Well, perhaps so, yet there is only one truth. That is where that most important tool becomes so very important: The leadings of the Holy Spirit.

Not the preacher, not the Church, not traditions, but the leadings of the Holy Spirit. In Exodus 15:26 we are asked to "diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes. . . ." His old commandments are clear in most peoples minds that seek Him. But what about after Christ came? Didn't that change things? In Matthew 5:17 the Lord tells us He came to fulfill the laws, not destroy them.

The Lord gave us a message that helped simplify a general understanding of his commandments. You might say he outlined the spirit, or the intent, of the law in Matthew 22:37-40. "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Okay, now that we have established with reasonable certainty what God's laws are, what do we do with them? I really believe this is a key. Follow closely with me for a moment as we examine John 7:17 where Christ said, "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God or

whether I speak of myself." Isn't that a key? Doesn't He mean that if we will do His will, He will let the truth of doctrine be made known to us? Isn't that a promise? I think it is, and that's one of His promises I'm trying my best to put into effect.

This was the first part of my journey where I felt the Holy Spirit held some real power to share with me. I continued trying to walk the way I felt the Lord wanted me to. I started reading His scriptures and it was then that I picked up the Book of Mormon and started studying it. I had read the Book of Mormon before but had confused it to be combined with what the Mormons call their Doctrine and Covenants, which conflict heavily with the Bible. Upon studying the Book of Mormon I determined that Mormon doctrine conflicted heavily with it too. I was confused. Was not this record the cornerstone of the Mormon Church. I found it is not the cornerstone. The doctrines rejected by the Bible were also rejected by the Book of Mormon. The Gospel is the same.

Here all this time most people believed the Mormon church to be sourly influenced by the Book of Mormon yet all the while the Mormon Church has, in reverse, been a sour influence on the Book of Mormon. People have judged the book by a group that does not follow its teaching. John the Revelator states that he saw a vision and he tries to tell us about it. He "saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue." Revelation 14:6.

We know the Bible was brought forth by council, not an angel, so it is not the fulfillment of this scripture. Many witnesses have sworn the Book of Mormon was brought by an angel. In joining these two books, or "sticks" (scrolls), we also abide in the words of Ezekiel in the 16th and 17th verses of chapter 37 where he tells us to take the stick of Judah (the Bible) and the stick of Joseph (The Book of Mormon) and in verse 17, "join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand." I believe this represents not only the uniting of the two books that teach the same gospel, but it also represents a gathering together of the Lord's people. When Christ comes I believe it will be to His chosen ones that are trying to follow His will and His word. I think He will look for those holding both sticks in one hand, and that's where I want to be.

New revelations received need to be tested before they are accepted, lest we be deceived by the adversary. Are the new revelations in harmony with the word, or does it refute it? Also, ask the Holy Spirit to bring you wisdom and knowledge. I cannot study or receive without first praying with repentance, making my body clean so that it may receive Him, then praying for the Spirit to come into my heart and mind to help me discern and understand.

When I studied this record, I prayed this prayer and received knowledge even with tears. From that time I doubt no more that the Book of Mormon is the word of God.

As I continue my journey I have another tool to aid me in judging disputes in doctrine and to verify my understanding of the Bible: The Book of Mormon.

In Matthew 10:38, the Lord tells us: "And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me." My journey leads me to believe he wanted me to make a decision. Not sit back, lukewarm, as a fence straddler, but to assert myself using the things which I have been given. In doing so, if I err, He will let me know. As long as I am diligently seeking after Him He will let me find it. He wants a commitment. If it's right He'll confirm it, if it's wrong He'll tell me. In this do I place my trust.

If it is a commitment He seeks, what does He want me to commit to? First, He tells us to repent and believe His gospel. In Mark 1:15 He said, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye and believe the gospel." The gospel is recorded in both the Book of Mormon and the Bible. Repent ye, it says, repent ye. Have sorrow in your heart for the wrongs you have done. Feel discomfort because of your past, with sorrow, and ask him to forgive you. Then He said to believe in the gospel. What do you think he meant by "Today's use of the word makes it somewhat lethargic in it's function. I think of two ol' coon hunters fondly referring to "ol' Blue" and "believing" him to be one of the finest dogs that ever lived.

Our belief is demonstrated by our words and we will be rewarded eternally for them. By repenting and confessing not only our sins, but our belief, we are following His doctrine. 1 John 3:23 says "And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment." Okay, so now I repent and believe. Now what? As I walked, I stumbled. What did I stumble on? The same thing that a lot of people stumble on I'm afraid: baptism. Being baptized gives witness and evidence to God that you believe. I personally stumbled on Mark, in the new testament, it was in his 16th Chapter verse 16: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned." That's it, it's simple enough, even if you don't like it or don't think it's right, God does, it's His word. I've committed to follow His word, I've repented and believe, then I was baptized. What happens next, is about the biggest thing to ever happen to anybody. You receive a gift from God of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38: "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for

the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Several days ago, after I had finished my prayers, I closed my eyes to sleep. I saw, as though they were pictured on my eyelids, three different images that came, then left. The first was that of the two masks of drama, like you see in the theatre. One face was smiling and joyous while the other carried the down-turned lips of sadness. The second image was an appearance of diamonds in great quantities. So great were the quantities that it looked like bright tin foil that had been wrinkled and heaped in a pile. A light emanated from within, behind, and above this pile of diamonds. It was all nestled in a clean, sky-blue environment of beauty. The third image I saw was that of darkness. I could not make out anything distinct and felt lost. Suddenly, a huge hand extended down from above. It was open and seemed to beckon to me. I felt an urge as I lay in bed to reach up and take hold, then I saw this actually happen. As my hand joined the other, the image faded. I received no message or feeling of significance at that time. I did feel somewhat confused because I had never seen images like this before.

As I sat to record these notes, a message came to me concerning these images and I immediately knew a meaning to all of these things. The First was a sign to me that my decision to follow Christ would bring me great happiness, but I would also see sorrow, good times and bad, righteousness and temptation, safety and danger, sickness and health, as well as joy and sadness.

In the second image I saw riches beyond imagination, glory above description, and peace eternal. I had assurance that these blessings could be mine if I would stay on the narrow way and endure to the end.

The hand I saw, I believe, was the hand of my Lord extending down from above to guide me and lead me along that narrow path. To give me strength, wisdom, and knowledge in my times of need.

It is my taking these things into my heart that caused me to ask that I be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ that I may know and follow His commandments and receive the Holy Ghost. I seek to take His hand on the rest of my journey through this earthly life that I may find eternal life through Christ's most perfect plan. The pleasures I have received during this journey have been immense and fulfilling. I want more of the same and I want to share what I have with you. Together, we can become a part of the body of Christ, as do all His believers that follow Him. May the Holy Spirit bless you as you read these words as He did me while I wrote them. Through Jesus Christ my Lord and Savior, Amen.



# Path Lights

## Sure Witness

(BOOK OF MORONI 10:4-7)

On May 12th, 1985, I was baptized into the Church of Christ (Temple Lot). This event in my life is one that I will never forget, not only was this day special to me because it was the day of my entrance into Christ's Church, but also because I received a beautiful witness this day.

Before I was baptized I knew of my need to be baptized by someone with authority. I willingly stepped down into the waters of baptism with this conviction. However, at this time I didn't have a full conviction that the Book of Mormon was the word of God, although I wanted to accept it by faith as such.

After my baptism and the laying on of hands, I was lovingly welcomed into the church of Christ. Following my baptism we were to have a sacrament service so I took a seat in the congregation. During the service my mind suddenly became very calm and I heard a small, still, but bold, voice speak to me saying twice, "The Book of Mormon is true. The Book of Mormon is true." Realizing where this voice had come from, I was filled with much happiness. I had received a long awaited answer to a prayer that meant so much to me. I had received a sure witness to the truth of the Book of Mormon that I could not refuse.

I hope this testimony will help to strengthen your faith as much as it has mine.

Love, Your Sister in Christ  
Judy Sedlak  
(Pt. Lookout, Missouri)

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## The One-Hundredth Sheep

*("There were ninety-and-nine that safely lay . . .")*

I have a few things to say concerning people that fall away from the church. It is hard to understand why a person that has the truth can become confused and be led astray. One wonders, if this happens suddenly or by steps, how such a thing can happen, and has happened.

Let me introduce myself. I'm Maybelle Woiak, the oldest daughter of John and Verna Jones. Knowing my parents, you know I had a good example at home, so no excuse there for turning from the truth. I was baptized in Sparta, Wisconsin when I was 12 years old. I loved my parents and I loved the Lord, but I hadn't studied on my own. I just took what my family said as being the truth, never doubting at that time. I was faithful and bore my first testimony at a

Wisconsin Reunion as I was dragged to my feet by the Spirit. The Lord was good to me. I still had no doubts as to the truth but neither had I been put to any tests. Finally this girl, myself, was 18, on her own, out in a world she had never seen before. She was starting to drift, not bad at first; a little drinking, everyone was doing it, then visiting other churches. They didn't seem to think anything was wrong with this worldly life so maybe my parents didn't know what they were talking about. The doubts started! Then you start finding fault with the people in the church, saying to yourself, "if these were really God's children they wouldn't talk about each other: They wouldn't do this or that or another thing." After these arguments, still not bothering to study nor pray too hard about anything, you allow yourself to drift into another religion. Now how long did that take? Four years.

I think I was in spiritual limbo, at least I was not feeling anything too much, just drifting. Then at the ripe old age of 24, things started happening. I needed the Lord; there were trials and anguish. What brings comfort and peace to this troubled soul? Not the prayers taught in the new religion, no, not those, but prayer the way my mother taught me. What songs gave me peace? The songs I had learned as a child. This new religion wasn't holding up, it wasn't meeting the test. I only felt close to my Lord when I went back to the teachings of my mother, and of Uncle Burt.

Even after all this time God heard and sent comfort time and time again. Now the journey back. You'd say, that this girl should be able to see; but no, it isn't that easy. The old devil has a good hold and hates to let loose. Things drift like this for a few years. Now the children are studying religion and all at once you are forced to see things. You start to remember and look things up in the Bible. Finally, you just stop going to church. You start asking more questions, and praying, studying. Where does all this lead after 20 years but back to God's church and people, the Church of Christ.

Thank you, my Lord, for never leaving me; and thank you my loved ones for your prayers. This child has come home! Keep praying for all the lost sheep of this fold, for the Lord does not forget them even if they seem to have forgotten Him.

Please remember me and mine in your prayers.

Maybelle Woiak  
Nekoosa, Wisconsin

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

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

# I Dreamed A Dream

by Amy Schrader

Thirty-two years ago I dreamed a dream. It seemed a dream filled with illuminated understanding of spiritual realities portrayed through physical events. I related it to only a few persons. I had not thought of it in a long time. Recently during the opening scripture reading and remarks of the minister in charge of a mid-week prayer service, relative to feasting upon the spiritual fruits, the final scenes of that dream were brought vividly to mind, with a prompting to tell it. This impulse I at first resisted because of what seemed the rather involved nature of the dream; its length and thus the time required to relate it. Nevertheless the impetus strengthened and I compiled, somewhat briefly. Several who heard urged me to write it, and so for those who were present, if there are details which I passed over in the oral relating of it, it was done so in the interest of brevity.

In the telling I generally left those listening to draw their own spiritual parallels to the events and situations portrayed. In this writing I will footnote some lessons as they have appeared to me. Perhaps you and they will find other illuminated lessons which I have overlooked, according to your experiences.

At the time the dream was given, I was living in Independence and working in Kansas City. In the very beginning of the dream I was on a bus, I thought returning home from work. However, the bus stopped before reaching a transfer point that I expected. I reasoned that the corner I wanted was just around the buildings before me. I proceeded around them and was confronted with a sight of great devastation. There was nothing familiar at all. I stood there confused, frightened, dismayed. I did not know where I was. I was utterly lost.

(This is a point we all must come to; the place we all must begin from.)

Presently a voice spoke. I sensed a Presence at my right side slightly behind me and felt the pressure of a hand or arm across my shoulders. I did not look around. I seemed to know that I would not see anyone. The voice said, "You don't know which way to go; come I will show you." and the pressure on my shoulders guided me through and around the piles of debris which cluttered the area; masses of tangled steel, brick and smouldering embers. The thought, "Its been burning" crossed my mind.

(Not only did the nature of man fall with Adam's transgression but the forces of destruction came against all things pertaining to man's mortality.)

Shortly there opened ahead of me a passage, seemingly a sort of tunnel or subway into and through which any number of persons were flowing. Toward and into this the Presence guided me. The passage was not dark though I could not see any system of lighting. After some distance I noticed small wisps of smoke seeping through the timbers overhead, and a little further on, these became tongues of flame licking about and over them. My heart jumped up to my throat at the thought, "The city is burning over our heads." And with horror I saw ahead the flames increasing, swirling down into the tunnel, and I hung back against the pressure of the Presence urging me on. At last I cried out within myself, "Don't you understand? You're immortal, I'm not, I can't go through those." Immediately it was as if a canopy was brought up and over me from behind, invisible to the natural eye, and with my likewise invisible companion I walked through the flames with no smell of smoke, no sense of heat nor did they ignite upon my clothing.

(There is a verse to one of our songs which had been impressed personally upon me at a much earlier date,

"When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
My grace all-sufficient shall be your supply.  
The flames shall not hurt thee, I only design  
Your dross to consume, your gold to refine.")

Soon having passed this point the light of the end of the tunnel appeared and we all burst forth running to escape the burning destruction of the city above and now behind us. I no longer had the distinct sense of the unseen Presence nor felt the pressure on my shoulders, but seemingly had become one with the body of people thus fleeing this threatening destruction.

(Destruction by these devastating forces are ever present wreaking their havoc and taking their toll. It's not something of a future time to be literally experienced. Remember the lesson is of spiritual parallels.)

We were now in what seemed the outskirts of a city whose streets and alleyways were all walled, and we fled down them. The scriptures say, "Narrow is the way and straight the gate that leadeth unto life."

(The word is strait, meaning a narrow pass or passageway; close; strict; exact; difficult. It is not straight meaning- having the same direction throughout its length; having no turns or curvatures; as the shortest and most direct distance between two points.)



As we fled, looking back over our shoulders we could see the billowing black clouds of smoke shot through with the red flames as from a great fiery furnace. That sight alone was enough to keep us fleeing. At times we would find ourselves in a short dead-end passage and would have to retract. At other times it would again seem we had entered a passage from which there was no exit, but we were caused to know that we had to quiet our minds and search it out and the way would be revealed to us. It did not seem that this understanding was a thing given to my mind personally but that mine was a part of a corporate mind and understanding given commonly among us. Two distinct episodes remain clear in my memory. One such opening on the way was as if it had been plastered over and was shown to us as a very faint hairline crack in the plaster. Pressure applied caused the door to swing open and we could pass on. The second was, of a sort of low window opening in a secluded place in the wall where no window would be expected to be, and also obscured by a hedge.

(Thus the deceiver obscures our way; and thus the human mind deceives itself by building in the imagination an expectation which is not an accurate picture of the reality, and the reality is not sought and is not found.)

At one point coming to the top of an embankment we were elated to find a river across which were flower speckled green meadows and shade trees. We crossed over what seemed a sort of natural bridgeway and thankfully sank down in the cool shade to relax, congratulating ourselves that we had escaped from the devastating fires whose smoke we could still see now at a distance, only to be informed that this was not the place of safety. Those fires could even reach here, but it was a place of refreshing and was similar to the place we were seeking. There were resemblances; but we must go on. We must not stop here!

(How easy, yet deceiving to think, for instance, that once we are baptized, have joined the church that we have it made; or to think that truly spirit-filled services are the goal; or that an outpouring of the gifts of the spirit is the end in view. It is not so, these are only a means; acts and times and places of refreshing to enable us to reach the end purposed.)

So, we continued on and found ourselves again within the walled passageways. Finally the time came when we had gone as far as we could, having reached an enclosure from which the only exit was a long but fairly shallow opening in a wall, above our heads. In order to continue we would have to scale that wall; to climb, to rise to a level above ourselves, and there seemed no way, not even a toe hold in that wall. At my height I could, reaching as high as I could, only barely bend my fingertips over the edge

of the ledge.

It truly seemed an impossibility but, as with the Jews in fighting to win a homeland in Palestine, the incentive was, *ein brera*, translated meaning, 'no alternative'. There was little we could do to aid one another from below, but when some by dint of great effort, perhaps of greater stature than I, and without a doubt, assistance from beyond ourselves, some got over the top, they were able to reach down and give the rest great assistance to follow; to draw others up after themselves. Through some such means I found myself on that higher level. Here again were broad meadows and flourishing orchards, similar to the places of refreshing only far more vast, reaching as far as the eye could see. A place of liberty, far from the encroachment of the devastating forces from which we had been fleeing.

However, as we prepared to venture forth into this delightful place we were saddened for some few remained at the enclosure level. They said they couldn't make that ascent, and that someone would come and show them an easier way. Our entreaties and offers of assistance were in vain and our hearts were sore because there was no easier way. All paths or passages eventually abut against that formidable wall necessitating that rise to a plane above ourselves.

As we started out again into this inviting terrain, some expressed the need for nourishment. Others reminded them that we had been at a place of refreshing not long before. (Let me explain here that although I have described specific times and places, all but the last were somewhat repetitive occurrences.) The answer was, "But we were not yet with you, then."

Immediately we knew, 'no matter'. Here nourishment was available all the time. The orchards bore fruit perpetually, at all seasons. And we all began looking for a fruit bearing tree. In my mind I pictured somewhat of a wild plum tree which I began looking for.

(Again, how often our minds trick us with the wrong pictured expectation. As George McDonald said, "We mistake almost everything at first.")

Suddenly someone called out in amazed exclamation, "Here it is!" Rushing over there I saw, not a tree resembling a wild plum, but what appeared to be a perfectly formed Christmas type fir, only in place of needles there were tiny needle-shaped deep green leaves of a texture like velvet. Along each of these perfectly plumed branches hung translucent fruits of a golden color tinged with a blush of rose-red on one side, about the size of a small plum. The whole tree glistened as a luminous alive thing and we all stared in awe and amazement.

Finally someone said, "Take, eat." And I wondered in myself what the texture and taste of such

delicate fruit would be like. I supposed it would be very soft. To my surprise and pleasure it was crisp and cool, giving a bit of a crackle when bitten into. The taste was like nothing I've ever tasted, nor ever imagined, nor is it describable, there being nothing to liken it to. But the effect was both like having been hungry for a long, long time and then being given delicious wholesome food to eat until satisfied, and like being parched with thirst beyond bearing and being given long droughts of pure cool water until all thirst is quenched.

("For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness." Ps. 107:9. "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." Matt. 5:6. ". . . If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith unto thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water." John 4:10 "But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water

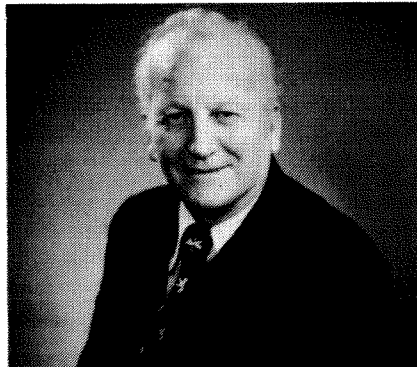
that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." John 4:14.)

Yet even here in such a blessed place and circumstance we were not to sit down or stay but were to press onward. And although somewhat reluctant to leave this wondrous tree and its fruit, we were assured that whenever or wherever there was need, there would always be other trees and an abundant supply of fruit for the partaking. Here the dream ended.

(I am convinced that the experiences of the dream portray spiritual realities parallel to our mortal life; that the final place portrayed is a spiritual state of being that the Lord intends we should occupy now in this mortal life. It is a state and relationship or communion on a spiritual level available to those who will not be hindered or distracted from their pursuance of it; and which being partaken of in mortality will continue on into eternity in ever increasing abundance and richness.)

## A Great And A Marvellous Work

by Apostle William A. Sheldon



### PART TWELVE

We have previously discussed the glorious appearance of Christ in the heavens, and how that, by the power of His word, He is to overflow and consume the nations. I feel it safe to conclude that this will be accomplished to some extent through an endowment of power upon His ministry.

"And *this gospel of the kingdom* shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Matthew 24:14 (Emphasis W.A.S.).

Many of those of the Christian belief have been deluded into supposing that the sending of missionaries by the innumerable churches, sects, and evangelizing bodies of every description is fulfilling the above. In the first place, they are not preaching the gospel of the kingdom, the fulness of the gospel of Christ. Secondly, and despite the fact that socie-

ties have published the Bible into many tongues and dialects, yet they have not begun to reach all with the written word, let alone the need of reaching them with a called, ordained ministry of Christ.

Now, let us return to the scriptures concerning this important aspect: A ministry of power which will save the meek and humble, the willing and obedient, but will literally strike fear and bring destruction upon the wicked. Let us read Isaiah 31:6-9:

Turn ye unto him from whom the children of Israel have deeply revolted. For in that day every man shall cast away his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which your own hands have made unto you for a sin. Then shall the Assyrian fall with the sword, not of a mighty man; and the sword, not of a mean man, shall devour him: but he shall flee from the sword, and his young men

shall be discomfited. And he shall pass over to his strong hold for fear, and his princes shall be afraid of the ensign, saith the LORD, whose fire is in Zion, and his furnace in Jerusalem.

Note that the Assyrian is to fall with the sword, and we have previously found that through a spirit of confusion generated by the Lord, those of his fellows will fight with him and with each other. But now, also, he is to be filled with fear because of an "ensign". Just what is this ensign, which evidently proceeds from the Lord? Turn to Isaiah 11:10-12 (Emph. W.A.S.):

And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and *his* rest shall be glorious. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

In Revelation 22:16, Christ identifies Himself as both the root and offspring of David, son of Jesse. So, Christ is to be lifted up as an ensign to the nations. This will be by the servants of God through great power.

In Isaiah 59:19, this ensign is presented as a standard: "So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west (the U.S.A.), and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the spirit of the LORD shall lift a standard against him (or, as in my margin: put him to flight)."

"And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD." Verse 20. Now notice from Isaiah 41:14-16:

Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the LORD, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel. Behold, I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth: thou shalt thresh the mountains, and beat them small, and shalt make the hills as chaff. Thou shalt fan them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them: and thou shalt rejoice in the LORD, and shalt glory in the Holy One of Israel.

In verse 15, the Lord is to make His servants to be "a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth" (margin: *mouths*) with which to thresh the moun-

tains and hills (the nations).

Turning further to Isaiah 51:9-11, we wish to read concerning this "threshing instrument," which is the "arm of the Lord":

Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD; awake, as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. Art thou not it that hath cut Rahab, and wounded the dragon? Art thou not it which hath dried the sea, the waters of the great deep; that hath made the depths of the sea a way for the ransomed to pass over? Therefore the redeemed of the LORD shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.

By the power of His word, Rahab (or Egypt) was cut, and the dragon (Pharaoh) wounded; and by divine power was the waters divided for Israel to pass through. Bear this in mind, for the deliverance through Moses was a similitude for Israel's deliverance in the last days.

Now, let us read (Deuteronomy 33:17) concerning the seed of Joseph in the last days, for these will be "the arm of the Lord," His powerful servants:

His glory is like the firstling of his bullock, and his horns are like the horns of unicorns: with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth: and they are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and they are the thousands of Manasseh.

With power, as in horns, there will be "ten thousands of Ephraim" and "thousands of Manasseh" to "push the people together to the ends of the earth," gathering the saints by the convincing power of their words to the New Jerusalem (Zion) and to the Jerusalem of old, both being sanctified as dwelling places for the King of kings.

As concerning Israel, and their gathering through the power of God's word, we read (Jeremiah 16:14-16):

Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that it shall no more be said, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; But, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he had driven them: and I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers. Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith the LORD, and they shall fish them; and after will I send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks.

(to be continued)

# A Christmas Reverie

by Evelena Sills

I sat alone on Christmas Eve. My loved ones were far, far away. I turned off my chair-side lamp and watched the many miniature twinkling lights on my little Christmas tree. They shone upon the bright ornaments hanging from the tree's green boughs, and multiplied the myriad reflections from their glossy surfaces.

Why had I bothered to decorate a tree this year, just for myself to look upon? *All pleasure must be shared to really enjoy it*, I told myself. Was decorating the tree mere habit? Why hadn't I saved my energies and just left the Christmas decorations packed away carefully in their cardboard boxes?

I close my eyes and pondered those questions, remembering, happily, many past Christmases with my family all around me. Fond memories lulled me into slumber and I dreamed.

Like a kaleidoscope in reverse nearly 2000 years reverted into position and there, as on a huge screen, I saw a young mother smiling down at her infant son lying in a manger. Cattle were feeding in nearby stalls. It was nighttime, but one bright star lighted the scene as if it were full day. And there, bowing beside the child, I beheld three noble looking men dressed in kingly attire, offering costly gifts to the newborn infant. Some lowly shepherds were there too, laying their own gifts at the feet of the babe — a babe whose countenance was unlike any other I had ever looked upon. In size and proportion the child was like other babies, but the look on that little face was indescribable! "Holy" was the only word I could think of that might describe it.

And the mother, that sweet faced young mother looked as though no evil thought or deed had ever touched her innocent life. A halo of chastity radiated from her cameo-like features.

Then I heard singing, such singing as earth could never know. It seemed to come from the star-studded sky — a chorus of heavenly voices harmonizing in indescribable paeons of praise to God on high! As I contemplated the wonder of it all a soft voice spoke to me from I knew not where.

"Don't you remember?" the quiet voice asked. "Don't you remember what wonderful events God's holy prophets foretold would take place centuries beyond their own lifetime? Behold some of those events fulfilled! This babe that you see is Jesus, the only begotten son of God. His birth and all the major circumstances pertaining to it were foretold hundreds of years before the event! Even what his name should be! This young mother is the virgin, Mary. Isn't she beautiful? She is the very virgin who, at the appointed time, was visited by a heavenly messenger, the angel, Gabriel, who said to her:

'Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.' "

"You do remember that wonderful story, don't you?" the quiet voice inquired.

"O, yes! Yes, I do remember," I cried. "And this town must be Bethlehem, for that is where the prophets said Jesus would be born!"

And the quiet voice replied, "Yes, this is Bethlehem, birthplace of the Savior of the world."

Then I awoke and sat a long while thinking of that marvelous dream. I recalled the story of Jesus' life as told in sacred scripture: his thirty-year ministry; the miracles he performed; the plan of salvation he gave; his death on the cross; his ascension into heaven and his promise to return again someday.

Tomorrow, I remembered, all Christendom would commemorate the birth of Jesus. And I would be one of them! *Being alone could not bar me from celebrating this wonderful event!*

The little glistening lights and objects of beauty on my Christmas tree became symbols of joy, and I was glad I had decorated and made festive my humble home.

I sat alone that quiet Christmas Eve, but I didn't feel alone. My heart sang out in joyous celebration with believers everywhere. Jesus, our Savior was born!



## Pass It On

Would you like to be a missionary for Christ's Church? You can, it's easy!

Pass It On. Yes, by merely passing on each issue of the *Zion's Advocate* to a friend not yet a baptized



member of this Church, you will have greatly expanded the missionary potential of this paper.

If you need extra copies of any issue, write or call the Business Manager of the *Zion's Advocate* listed on the top half of the inside cover page before the editorial.

Sincerely,  
Your Editorial Staff



What connection did Hagoth the Nephite (Alma 30) have with the legendary white god Kon-Tiki? It is said that the ships of Hagoth may have carried the first people to inhabit what is now the Polynesian South Sea Islands. Authentic tradition among native Polynesians concerns a traveling messenger called "Hagota" ("Fatonga" in some dialects). This messenger had a son "Tiki" and native traditions tells that Hagota arrived from abroad.

The tradition of the white god "Kon-Tiki" tells of his disappearing from ancient America many centuries ago. You may draw your own conclusions, but these traditions may have derived from the same man, the son of Hagota — or Hagoth, as it may be — and may explain the origin of the Polynesian race.



Today is a day of Super Heroes. From the myriad of Saturday morning cartoon heroes to the old timers like Superman and Wonder Woman, every child has one or more to idolize.

Turning to non-fiction, God has a few super heroes of His own. One, for example, single-handedly turned aside a Syrian army out to take him captive, and led them to the King of Israel in Samaria.

**Can you name this Biblical super hero and how he was able to accomplish such a feat?**

## MY BIBLE AND I

Viola Petrie

We've traveled together,  
My Bible and I,  
Through all kinds of weather,  
With smile or with sigh!  
In sorrow or sunshine,  
In tempest or calm!  
Thy friendship unchanging,  
My lamp and my psalm.



We've traveled together,  
My Bible and I,  
When life had grown weary,  
And death e'en was nigh!  
But all through the darkness,  
Of mist or of wrong,  
I found there a solace,  
A prayer, and a song.

So now who shall part us,  
My Bible and I?  
Shall "isms" or schisms,  
Or "new lights" who try?  
Shall shadow for substance,  
Or stone for good bread,  
Supplant thy sound wisdom,  
Give folly instead?

Oh, no, My dear Bible,  
Exponent of light!  
Thou sword of the spirit,  
Put error to flight!  
And still through life's journey,  
Until my last sigh,  
We'll travel together,  
My Bible and I.



## In Decembers Past . . .

. . . Nicholas was born (December 6th, c. 4th Century A.D.), and later sainted by the Catholic church. Little is known of his life except that he was Bishop of Myra and is one of the most often pictured catholic saints. Legend says he was noted for his charity. Today's fictitious Santa Claus, said to have derived from St. Nicholas, and the tradition of giving gifts have become the dominant theme during the annual Christmas holiday season.

. . . modern day prophet of the Lord, Joseph Smith, was born (December 23, 1805) in Sharon,

Vermont. He was killed by an angry mob at Carthage, Illinois, June 27, 1844.

. . . the U.S. Seventh Calvary (December 29, 1890) massacred more than 200 American Indian men, women and children at Wounded Knee Creek, South Dakota. This massacre was the culmination of the U.S. government's efforts to suppress a ceremonial religious practice called the Ghost Dance (which called for a messiah to return and bring back the old Indian way of life). *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* by Dee Brown is recommended reading.

## Collins (Missouri) News

Brother Larry Shaw made a statement a few Sundays ago in a sermon, saying there is only one thing permanent on this earth — change! How true. Already the leaves on the trees have gone from green to red and gold and on to brown. It's that time of year, a time of change.

A young lady, Lucinda Crow, from Point Lookout, Missouri, has felt in her life a need for change and requested baptism. On Sunday afternoon, September 29th, Lucinda was baptized by Brother Jack Martin. Following, was the laying-on-of-hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost by Brother Victor Bates of Springfield, assisted by Brother Allen Kauffman.

Again I ask an interest in your prayers for not just Lucinda, but all the young people of Point Lookout who are trying to serve God and share this gospel with others around them. As a result, oftentimes they are persecuted and mocked in various ways. Please help support them with your prayers.

Brother Marvin Case of Independence was our guest speaker for October. His sermon gave me hope and encouragement to study, pray, and follow after the light of Christ. He asked us to pray for the ministry and ourselves that we might recognize and know the truth. He said, never follow a man any more than he follows Jesus Christ.

Our Collins Rally was held October 27th and a lovely day it was too! We had a prayer service followed by a sermon by Brother Allen Kauffman. He talked about marriage, the marriage of people to Christ, the wedding feast.

After over-indulging at lunch we gathered in again to hear Brother Roland Sarratt of Independence speak to us. He said we tend to fatten ourselves with comforts, but fail to feed the soul. What are you doing for yourself with your energy? The proof of our righteousness is our works. Are we appreciative of this gospel? What does it mean to us? Do we forget to feed our souls? If we accept and believe these things we must bring forth fruits that prove our beliefs.

On Saturday afternoon before the Rally the young folks from Point Lookout, along with Brother Victor Bates of Springfield and Brother Bob Oldham of Independence came up to have a study class with us in Isaiah. Brother Bates led the class. We had quite a bit of discussion and I hope we can continue this again. After supper we had a little time left to just visit and talk about certain trials and problems the young people have to face where they go to school. It was good to have this time to share and get to know them better.

I left this last bit of news until last as I always

find this type of news hard to report. On October 21st Merl Kauffman passed from this life. He had been sick for such a long time and unable to do for himself. It was so sad to watch him waste away. Our prayers have been that God would have mercy, and so He did. Merl was Brother Allen Kauffman's father. He was not a member of this church, but used to attend regularly until his wife, Ethel, passed away three years ago. Merl was never quite the same after that. He had cancer and finally had to be in a nursing home where he could have constant care. This life is over for him and now he's in God's hands.

May God bless and strengthen us while we walk in this life that when our time is up God will rejoice at our coming to meet Him.

Your reporter, Czerna Kauffman

## Cowgill (Missouri) News

Greetings to our loved ones from our little local.

Each month we are blessed with a guest speaker from the traveling ministry. We feast on the word of God — they bring hope, inspiration, guidance and instruction. We enjoy and look forward to these welcome guests as many times they bring family and friends. We love to see every seat filled. We also have a basket dinner on these Sundays and have been provided wonderful bounties by our Lord.

We miss Brother Loren and Sister Mary Lois Bryant when they visit other locals in the same effort.

On the evening of September 7th our church was filled when Brother Loren Bryant officiated at the marriage of Karen Bryant and Kenneth Claypole.

Later in September we were gladdened when Rose Adams entered the waters of baptism. She was baptized by Brother Gerald Bryant, who assisted Brother Loren Bryant in the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost. This Sabbath day our church was nearly filled again, as many of Rose's family came. The congregation extended the hand of fellowship, singing "Blest Be The Tie That Binds."

On October 6, John Bryant brought a friend he'd met at his work, who lives in British Columbia, Canada. He is a minister in the R.L.D.S. church. Other visitors that day were Dick, Marcia, Jason and Melody Christian and Jeff Oldham.

Ron, Penny and Robbie Warner from Marshall, Missouri often attend our services. Many times they bring other members of their family. We are always happy to see new faces. We are few in number and ask to be remembered in your prayers.

Your reporter,  
Karen (Bryant) Claypole



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The 1986 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) will commence Sunday, April 6. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 7. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, April 4 and 5.

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