

Zion's Advocate

*"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day,
for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost;" 1 Nephi 3:187*

Vol. 63

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No. 1

Drinking from the Saucer

*I have never made a fortune
And I'll never make one now,
But it really doesn't matter
'Cause I'm happy anyhow.
As I go along my journey
I'm reaping better than I've sowed—
I'm drinking from the saucer
'Cause my cup has overflowed.*

*I don't have a lot of riches
And sometimes the goings tough,
But while I've got friends to love me
I think I'm rich enough.
I'll just thank God for the blessings
That His mercy has bestowed—
I'm drinking from the saucer
'Cause my cup has overflowed.*

*If God gives me strength and courage
When the way grows steep and rough,
I'll not ask for other blessings;
I'm already blessed enough.
May I never be too busy
To help bear another's load—
Then I'll be drinking from the saucer
'Cause my cup has overflowed.*

*Olive Roberts
Independence, Missouri*

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Zion's Advocate

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Guest Editorial . . .

The Time In Which We Live

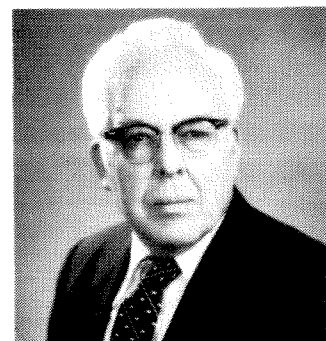
"Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets." — Amos 3:7

What love and mercy is conveyed in that divine statement of promise! What majesty is contained in God's benevolence toward His earthly Children!

As the Lord Jesus told His disciples: "For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them."—Matthew 13:17; so it is for our day and time. They sought earnestly to see them, for they knew that the glory of God and the fulfillment of all the prophecies would be drawing to a close so far as this mortal earthly dispensation is concerned. Then would come the Lord's return to the earth to reign in righteousness with His people for the Millennium.

There, perhaps, have been more prophecies in the scriptures awaiting fulfillment pertaining to our period of history than for all others. When asked of the signs of His coming again upon the earth, Jesus

said: "For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that ye be not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows . . . And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. *But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.* 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 24:5-8, 10-14 (Emphasis RHJ).

"For the kingdom of the devil must shake, and they which belong to it must needs be stirred up unto repentance, or the devil will grasp them with his everlasting chains, and they be stirred up to anger and perish; For behold, at that day shall he rage in the hearts of the children of men, and stir them up to anger against that which is good; And others will he pacify, and lull them away into carnal security, that they will say, All is well in Zion; yea, Zion prospereth, all is well; And thus the devil cheateth their souls, and leadeth them away carefully down to hell."—2 Nephi 12:23-26.

"And the Gentiles are lifted up in the pride of their eyes, and have stumbled, because of the greatness of their stumbling block, that they have built up many churches;"—2 Nephi 11:90.

There are so many more within the same frame, but perhaps just one more to retain brevity: "He that dasheth in pieces is come up before thy face: keep the munition, watch the way, make thy loins strong, fortify thy power mightily. For the LORD hath turned away the excellency of Jacob, as the excellency of Israel: for the emptiers have emptied them out, and marred their vine branches. The shield of his mighty men is made red, the valiant men are in scarlet: the chariots shall be with flaming torches in the day of his preparation, and the fir trees shall be terribly shaken. The chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall jostle one against another in the broad ways: they shall seem like torches, they shall run like the lightnings."—Nahum 2:1-4

If the question were to be asked, "which of the above pertain to our time?" the answer would have to be, "all of the above." Especially in the latter one do we recognize the United States: The "emptiers" are emptying out our excellency. This great country is fast losing its ability to competitively produce for the world market such basic goods as steel, clothing, shoes, appliances, automobiles, trucks, and a large bulk of other fabricated items. The only things we can still excel in are technology and agriculture, and they also face increasing competition abroad.

On our streets and broad-ways (interstate highways) mayhem reigns. When I was a boy the "tin lizzies" lumbered and clanged along the dusty or muddy roads at a top speed of 25 miles an hour on the best roads; but, today already in my life-time the "chariots" (Fords, Chevrolets, Hondas, Lincolns, and Oldsmobiles) run like the lightning with headlights resembling torches in the dark of night.

Many philosophical and diplomatic efforts are now being expended in the name of peace, but what is the measure of their substance? "But of the times

and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape."—1 Thes. 5:1-3.

With the increasing signs of the closing hour drawing ever nearer, the evil one has stepped up his efforts with terrifying force and frequency. There is now a monstrous new wave of opposition to the Latter-Day Restored Church and Gospel of Christ. It was to be expected. But now that it is here, it also is frightening and shall require all of our faith and diligent labor to stem it's tide. Renewed attacks are being made from every conceivable corner in an effort to discredit the testimonies of Joseph Smith, Jr., and his associates regarding the restored Gospel, Priesthood Authority, the Scriptures of the Book of Mormon, and the principles of Latter-Day Revelation.

But our God is not without adequate resources with which to strengthen His truths and sustain the faith of His children. Time and space will permit the citation of only one resource area. With enduring dedication, that special group of people known as archaeologists continue their largely unwitting witnessing of the truths of the Holy Scriptures and prophets. Yes, they are not just "scholars with dusty collars" as thought by some, but they are being used by the Almighty to uncover the mute stark evidences of both the Bible and Book of Mormon — that God both had and still possesses a chosen people in the "land shadowing with wings" (Isa. 18:1), from whom He did and still expects much. It all stands to verify the fact of the blessing of Joseph of Egypt, that his posterity was to possess a land of their own — a land of immeasurable wealth, that they would become a great people and civilization, have their own government in a land of liberty, and would have a sacred record (Book of Mormon) of their own.—(Ref. Gen. 20; Isa. 18:1; Ezek. 37:16-17).

For the past several years there have come almost day-by-day reports of new findings in both old and new archaeological sites of wonders of animal life and a past civilization in the Americas not long ago previously undreamed of. The Hot Springs, South Dakota, area continues to reveal the skeletal remains of giant creatures 14 and more feet in height weighing many tons, also camels, giant prehistoric bears, wolves and others. Each time such a feature article appears, one is reminded of the farm-yard relatives listed by Moroni in his abridged translation of the people of Jared and his brother: "And also all manner of cattle, of oxen, and cows, and of sheep, and of swine, and of goats, and also many

other kind of animals which were useful for the food of man;". They also had large beasts of burden, the names of which we still have not been able to attach to animals of our acquaintance: "And they also had horses, and asses, and there were elephants, and cureloms, and cumoms: all of which were useful unto man, and more especially the elephants, and cureloms, and cumoms."—Ether 4:20-21. The important thing is that no such discoveries were made prior to the coming forth of the sacred Book of Mormon, which is an irrefutable testimony that young Joseph could not possibly have known of such from any source other than the plates from which he translated.

Of present interest is the newly discovered ancient bison kill site near Lewellen, Nebraska. Bison bones have been uncovered that were half again as large as the modern bison; also, there were elk and other animal remains. Spear flint tips have been estimated by the scientists to be "6,000 to 9,000 years old, the period before bows and arrows." Recognizing the great margin of possible error in such dating by contemporary means, it is interesting to note that 1985 AD minus 6,000 years would be 4,015 BC. The Jaredites coming to the Americas from the Tower of Babel around 2,200 BC would leave an actual variance in the present scientific estimate of 1,815 years. The only favorable comparative consideration of such an estimate by those not familiar with the Jaredite historical record is to give it a rating of reasonably close compared to many other scientific estimates of aboriginal human habitation in the Americas that range from tens and hundreds of thousands to millions of years BC. Numerous estimates of artifacts and remains from other sites have been dated much closer.

Between the tips of the two American continents exciting discoveries are continuing to be made. On October 11, 1982, the New York Times reported the find of Roman artifacts found in a bay near Rio De Janeiro from a ship thought to have wrecked 1700 years before the discovery of that area by the Portuguese adventurers around 1500 AD. The objects were "amphoras (tall ceramic jars) of the type commonly carried by Roman ships in the second century BC for carrying oil, water, wine, and grain on long voyages."

In Guerrero, Mexico, there recently has been discovered a terra cotta model of an ancient ship with 10 oarsmen having "Japanese" faces. It is thought to be from the period about 500 B.C.

Relics of the Peruvian civilization have revealed marvels in the arts. "Especially gorgeous are the mummies' large embroidered mantles, which connoisseurs rank among the triumphs of the textile arts. They are worked with tiny figures of fishes, birds, animals, gods or mythological creatures,

sometimes mingled with geometrical designs and arranged in complicated patterns. The stitches of the embroidery are minute, each enveloping a single thread of the cloth and by some miracle of pre-scientific chemistry the dyes are almost as vivid as when the cloth was made. Nearly all weaving was done on looms consisting of two wooden bars between which threads were kept at proper tension by the weaver leaning against a strap around her back. On such primitive devices were created gorgeous brocades, tapestries and airy gauzes, and complicated double cloths — two layers of fabric of contrasting colors interlocked so that the design on one side appears on the reverse in the opposite color. Experts assert that ancient Peruvian women knew practically every weave and method of textile decoration used today as well as some that are too intricate to be handled on mechanical looms. Their finest work is incredibly close-textured. Ordinary modern shirting has about 60 cross threads per inch; the Peruvians often crowded 250, occasionally 500, threads into that space."—Ancient America, pp 82-83, 125 (Time-LIFE Books).

The ancient Jaredites (2200-2000 BC) had an abundance "of silks and of fine linen."—Ether 4:19, 73.

The Nephites later also "... because of the steadiness of the church, they began to be exceeding rich; having abundance of all things whatsoever they stood in need; an abundance of flocks, and herds, and fatlings of every kind, and also abundance of grain, and of gold, and of silver, and of precious things; and abundance of silk and fine twined linen, and all manner of good homely cloth."—Alma 1:43-44. See also 2 Nephi 8:61; Mos 6:32; Alma 2:8; Hel 2:133.

Students of the Latter-Day Restoration will easily recall the scriptural accounts of such accomplishments and many others by the Lord's people in ancient America when they read of present-day discoveries of archaeology.

And thus the Almighty allows the evidences of the truthfulness of His scriptures to be revealed in growing abundance; not only that the imaginations, theories and criticisms of the non-believers might have substantial proof of their inaccuracies, but also to more firmly establish the truthfulness of His word. It is scripturally stated that "in the mouth of two or three witnesses shall all things be established."—See Ether 2:3; however, in God's love for His mortal sons and daughters, He always provides many more.

(Copies of any news releases or book extracts on the above and related subjects will be greatly appreciated by the author.)

Apostle Robert H. Jensen
General Church Historian

Are You Satisfied?

(Transcribed and prepared for The Advocate by Amy Schrader)

"Are you satisfied?" was the title of a brochure announcing a three meeting series held at the East Local, Church of Christ on Holke Road in Independence, Missouri, on March 8, 9, 10, 1985, with the thought and desire of introducing our beliefs in the gospel of Jesus Christ to those of our community. The following is a condensation and integration of those three sermons with my own brief comments. Elder Gary Housknecht was the first evening's speaker followed by Elder Smith Brickhouse with Elder Robert Oldham concluding the series.

Brother Housknecht:

I found as I prayed and studied and contemplated as to the things God would have me bring to this people who would gather in this house tonight, and as I put together the thoughts that I felt God had given me, in the vision of my mind's eye I found myself looking at people I recognized. I believe that there is a significance in that. I think of the Apostle Peter who labored with Jesus Christ, himself, and yet after a period of time Jesus had cause to say something to Peter that I believe has something to do with why I saw within my mind that the people I would be addressing were already members of Christ's church. Christ said to Peter, "When thou art converted, strengthen thy Brethren." It causes me to believe, even in reference to myself, that people who are presently members of the Church of Christ are yet to be fully converted to the fulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ. We had better ask ourselves, "Am I satisfied?" And I think that the answer all of us should have is "no."

I'd like to read to you some of the thoughts of the Apostle Paul from Philippians 3:7&8, "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ." He's speaking of things that might have been his in the way of temporal possessions as well as position; of great respect and power among the Pharisees. "Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ." Jesus Christ, the focal point of our lives for those of us who recognize that He indeed is the Son of God, and all that means to us. And what is, perhaps, the most important thing upon our mind as we ponder our own lives; the hours and the minutes that tick by until the end shall come?

This in Ephesians could be representative, as we continue in these thoughts. This describes some-

thing so beautiful that it is my desire tonight that all might come to a knowledge of the fulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ and know at least a portion of its joys. Ephesians 2:19-22, "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye are also builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." Jesus Christ should be the center of our lives and the basis upon which we would build ourselves unto righteousness.

What is the most significant thing, then, in the life of Jesus Christ that would have bearing upon our daily lives today? I suppose we would all agree it would be the fact that Jesus gave His life, was crucified for you and I, making an atonement for all mankind. All the gospel is based upon that single man and that act which He did out of His and God's love for us.

But as significant as this is, is this the only thing Christ did that has bearing on our lives? Is it the only thing Jesus Christ did in His lifetime that has bearing on what the Church of Christ is to be in these latter days? No! Everything He did or said became a precedent and a law for the Church of Christ forever. I'm going to mention just a few things. Jesus was baptized by immersion, for a purpose, to set the example for us. Later, prior to being betrayed, He administered the sacrament. In His ministry He called out twelve apostles and other ministry. He performed the laying-on-of hands to heal the sick and bless little children. And when Jesus ascended to heaven, did all these things stop? The answer to that is no, for He sent the precious gift of the Holy Ghost, and He moved upon His priesthood and He admonished them to preach the gospel of repentance and baptism and to continue in the ordinances of his church, following his example.

He taught that without faith and a belief that He was the Son of God that it would be impossible to please God. One of the more commonly known scriptures among all Christianity is found in John 3:16. I'd like to read that and the 17th also, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." It's

speaking of the grace that God has for the children of men and his infinite love and compassion. The pure love of Christ was manifested in his life to the people He ministered to, and His people and His ministry are admonished to bear it one for another.

I'd like to read some more where Paul states that he is in a quandry: (Phil. 1:23-29; 2: 12-16).

For I am in a straight betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you. And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith; That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again. Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God. For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake. Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

Here we find an apostle speaking to a people supposedly established in the Church of Christ of that time. It becomes evident that we must strive with all diligence after we have entered into the Kingdom of God, and as the 24th chapter of Matthew says, "endure to the end."

The 10th chapter of Hebrews, verses 23-29: Again this is speaking to those already in the faith, "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; But exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery

indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?"

Once again it becomes plain that Paul felt it extremely important to stress to this people, who already professed faith, how they must adhere to the commandments and precepts of God. And John, almost in the same breath with the verses we read earlier from the third chapter, in the 21st verse continues: "But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God." This, speaking of that diligent effort on the part of the people to earn that salvation he speaks of.

What is required? I've already said that we must believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God: we must have faith, but also works: obedience to every precept and law that God gave through Jesus Christ; the example he gave, the words he spoke and the words that have been recorded in the Holy Scriptures each become important to us. In James 1:27 it says, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their afflictions . . ." Indeed that's a great work that we can perform.

We read in James 2:14-20, "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it has not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?"

This, to me, becomes a definition of what it means to believe. I'm going to interchange the words belief and faith to be the same and James says here he is going to show his belief in Jesus Christ being the Son of God by his works. A belief in Jesus Christ must necessarily be followed by a demonstration of that belief by obedience to the laws and commandments which Jesus Christ, the Son of God, gave us.

John, 6th chapter, verses 53&54: This is speaking of one of those things that is required according to the words of Christ himself. "Then Jesus said

unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of Man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day." Now we could read that 54th verse by itself and because it says — "whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life" —therefore that is all that is required of us: to partake of the emblems. Indeed it is required, but let us go to the 47th verse where Jesus Christ himself says, "Verily, verily I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life." These are almost the same words as in John 3:16. Turning to John 3:5, Jesus speaking, ". . . Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." So here we find three separate references in plain language by Jesus Christ himself, each naming a different way for us to earn eternal life in Heaven. But, obviously, neither one will do by itself; it takes more than belief in Jesus Christ, more than partaking of the Lord's supper, more than being baptized. We can't take a portion here and a portion there of God's word, we must consider the whole gospel message. The laws, commandments, examples and lessons are all there for you to read and weigh; to study and pray about. And we could turn to Peter 1:20, where it says, "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation."

In these last days we must believe that God is the same, yesterday, today, and forever, and that we do as James says, that in a demonstration of his faith he is going to perform the works of God and obey His commandments out of love for Jesus Christ. How strict we should be in the message that we teach our children in making them understand that God does expect us to obey him. The laws and the gospel of salvation have not changed from the beginning, and all that Christ did and taught are as true today as when the words fell from his lips.

I Corinthians 1:27, "But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty." There is a parable about an olive vineyard that speaks of the last days just prior to Christ's coming and it is said, those servants were few. Another prophecy speaking of the same time says, "And there are none, save a few only, who do not lift themselves up in the pride of their hearts, unto the wearing of very fine apparel, unto envying, and strifes, and malice, and persecutions, and all manner of iniquity; And your churches, yea, even every one, have become polluted because of the pride of your hearts. For behold, ye do love money, and your substance, and your fine apparel, and the adorning of your churches, more than ye love the poor and the needy, the sick and the

afflicted." Book of Mormon 4:48-50.

Today is the day of decision in your life, whether you like it or not. And by the merely not making a decision you actually make one. We must decide today what our tomorrow will be like. Are you satisfied that the fulness of God's laws, the fulness of the gospel, is evident in your life?

I want to read I Thessalonians 4:16 and 17, "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." The rapture, the common reference to that event that will take place. Most professing Christianity have the understanding that the rapture takes place prior to the tribulation to draw all the righteous up into safety. Brothers and sisters, this that is referred to as the rapture takes place *after* the tribulation. I'd like to read from the 24th chapter of Matthew in which the Lord responded to the question of his disciples of what would be the signs of his second coming. As a part of that, He described what I call the tribulation period, and we read in verses 29-31: "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

We can read throughout the scripture where God has said that the righteous will suffer persecution for righteousness sake. If we can make the right decision in this day of decision, choose to follow God and obey all his precepts and commandments, we will be on the side of that God whose power and might is so much greater than that of the god of this world that you cannot even compare it. We will see power, beyond our imaginations, clashing when the God of heaven and the god of this world show their might and strength.

"The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles." Psalms 34:17; this is a promise we can believe in. "The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit." *ibid* 18; "Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivereth him out of them all." V. 19

Turn back to Isaiah 55:8-11, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven,

and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." As the rains will not fall from

heaven for nought, just so his word is the same. All the things He has told us will come to pass. He will protect and save His righteous people, the people that adhere to His ways, obey His commandments, and thereby endure to the end.

("Are You Satisfied?" series to be continued next month)

Path Lights

A Healing for Lisa

Our little girl Lisa, who is two years old, has been blessed two very special times. Shortly after she was born, she had a brain hemorrhage which would cause her to stop breathing. Dad administered to her and she hasn't had any further problems.

When she was five months old, she started to have trouble breathing and swallowing. She also lost her voice so she couldn't cry or make any noise. After several trips to a doctor who couldn't help us, he suggested a throat specialist. After trying to do tests in the doctor's office and being unsuccessful, Lisa was scheduled for outpatient surgery. From the time we arrived at the hospital, one thing after another went wrong. Finally the doctor came and told us Lisa had polyps on her vocal cords. They were so big and there were so many that they were slowly suffocating her.

The hospital was not equipped to handle a situation like this so Lisa was transferred by ambulance to a larger one. There, another doctor said he could burn the growths off with a laser beam but, at that time, the laser was broken. The laser was repaired that night and surgery was the next day. The surgery went okay and Lisa seemed to be much better.

The doctor told us he had never seen a case so bad in such a young child and could not understand what had caused it. He also said the growths would have to be burned off every four to six weeks until she was in her teens. Then possibly the growths would stop.

Well, Lisa had surgery again in four weeks and more growths were burned off. When she went back for surgery in six weeks, there were no more growths. It has been two years now and she has not had any more growths on her vocal cords. God has healed her again.

Kathy Jensen Clark

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

Questions



and Answers

Who was that real super hero that single handedly turned aside a Syrian army and led them to the King of Israel? And how did he do it?

Read in II Kings 6:11-24 about the prophet Elisha. Elisha had been forewarning the King of Israel as to each place the King of Syria made camp, thus making the King of Syria "sore troubled." So he sent an army to capture Elisha.

However, Elisha prayed that the Lord God would blind the eyes of this army, which He did. Elisha then approached the army and led them to the King of Samaria having told them he was taking them "to the man whom ye seek."

The Prophet Elisha performed many more miracles — exciting ones by any standard — all with the help of the power of God and his own faith. But Elisha is only one of many of God's specially chosen "super heroes" all of which may be read about in the Bible and Book of Mormon; stories that equal or surpass the excitement of today's TV shows and movies portraying fictitious heroes of a shallow sort. The big difference? God's heroes are real and their feats are things that really happened.

God's holy writ has no chance to compete for our youth's attention against today's glamorous and colorful media (that requires no effort to absorb) — unless. . . Unless we at least encourage our children to read stories like those about Elisha — as a start.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

If any of you men (you're either single and courting now — or once were!) are ever faced with a proposed courtship with a young lady you aren't particularly overwhelmed by, what could you do to back out? I suppose you could always refuse to offer any horses or blankets to her father — but more probably some other method, equally obvious.

In a similar circumstance in Old Testament times, when a Hebrew gentleman chose to refuse a marriage proposal by the widow of a close relative, what do you suppose he did?

G.A.H.

(Answer Next Month)

A Great And A Marvellous Work

In connection with the second advent of Christ, and as previously quoted from Revelation 6:12-17, we are informed of a "great earthquake;" that the heavens shall depart "as a scroll," "and every mountain and island were moved out of their places" (verses 13 and 14). Isaiah prophesies that (40:4,5)

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

Just think of the magnitude of such an earthquake! and of the indescribable glory of His appearance! Indeed — "who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for He is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:" (Malachi 3:2).

Now notice the admonition as found in Hebrews 12:25-29 (Emphasis W.A.S.):

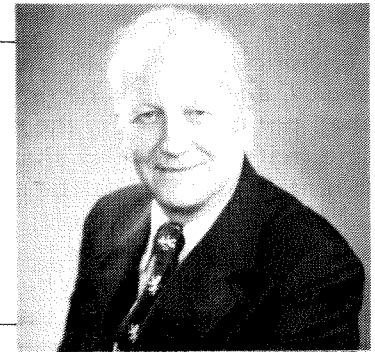
See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. *And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.* Wherefore we receive a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire.

God will care for His saints; they need not fear; but now is the hour of preparation and of resolve to stand fast in the restored gospel, that we be not moved from our faith in Christ, nor to follow the "cunningly devised fables" (II Peter 1:16), of men, nor the evidence of any supernatural power of manifestation, save it may be tested and vouchsafed by the word of God in our sacred scriptures of the Bible and Book of Mormon.

Such a cataclysmic disruption of the universe would seem to destroy all flesh upon the earth, just as the flood in Noah's time destroyed all except him and his family, for "so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matthew 24:37). Again, Isaiah prophesies: "... therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left" (Isaiah 24:6). Nevertheless, it appears that the word "few," as used here, is in a relative sense, and refers not only to those

by Apostle
William A. Sheldon

PART THIRTEEN



who are saved in the Lord's spiritual ark (Zion), but to others of the more righteous inhabitants of the earth, for there will be those of the nations who will survive, as will be shown later.

Now, let us consider if there be a divine reason for an earthquake of all-encompassing proportion aside from the destruction of the wicked, and to engender a fear of God. After the great flood, in enumerating the descendants of Noah, we find this interesting, though brief, statement: "... the name of one was Peleg; for in his days was the earth divided. ..." (Genesis 10:25).

Prior to the time of this man, Peleg, when the flood waters had receded, it appears that the land was all together, and the water (so far as any sizable body is concerned) was in one area. The land being then divided in Peleg's time — and that was *some* earthquake, too! — we have the present general arrangement of our earthly continents, with the sea waters being moved accordingly. In this manner, the Lord arranged also for a division of the nations of men (can any really believe that God does not rule in the affairs of men to accomplish His purpose??)

So, also, in reverse fashion, He is to prepare for the great gathering of His people, the house of Israel! Concerning this ancient covenant people, whom He has chastised again and again for their hard-heartedness in the face of undeniable evidence of His sustaining power, and in which they repeatedly turned from His commandments which were ordained to eternal life, yet, He says unto them (Isaiah 54:7-10. The reader is urged to read the whole chapter.):

For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer.

"For this is as the waters of Noah unto me: for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee. "For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be

removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee."

Notice in verse 10 that "*the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed*, but my kindness shall not depart from thee. . ." Remember: Isaiah said that "every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low" (40:4). This is both figurative and literal: he that abases himself shall be exalted, and he that exalts himself shall be abased; and there is to be a literal leveling of the earth's surface so that the great bodies of water shall come together again! and this because of another tremendous earthquake!

Now notice concerning Israel:

"Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shalt thy land any more be termed Desolate: but thou shalt be called Hephzibah (i.e., my delight is in her), and thy land Beulah (i.e., married): for the LORD

delighteth in thee, and *thy land shall be married.*" (Isaiah 62:4) Not only will Israel again be wedded to her Savior (spiritually speaking), but her land, indeed, all lands, shall be "married" (brought together).

Let us see further what the great prophet Isaiah has to say of this remarkable occurrence (11:15-16): And the LORD shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea; and with his mighty wind shall he shake his hand over the river, and shall smite it in the seven streams, and make men go over dryshod. And there shall be a highway for the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt."

The Lord is to destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea in order that men may go over it "dryshod" (with shoes). It shall be prepared as a highway "for the remnant of His people, which shall be left, from Assyria." There will be more on this in our next part.

(to be continued)

Liberty To Become

by Amy Schrader

Musing by the open fire I'm once again reminded of the "figures of the true" Hebrews 9:24, of the spiritual found in almost all the tangible of creation, for those with eyes to see and ears to hear. In the fire I see the need for a closeness of the burning logs if they are to burn brightly and efficiently. Separated, each diminishes to nothing but a smoking smolder or goes out altogether. Here is the figure of Paul's admonition, "Not forsaking the assembling of yourselves together, as the manner of some is; . . ." Hebrews 10:25

And yet, there is a togetherness which smothers, whether of wood or of spirituality in the human experience. With each, breathing space must be allowed. If firelogs are laid too compactly together that there is no space for passage of air, they will not burn. Likewise, how often is the spiritual growing or burning of some choked off by a dominating solicitation of others who would mold to their own image those about them, and limit to their own limitations, fearful of leaving room for them to grow into their own best selves, the image in the mind of God when he created?

It has not yet been discovered that God ever exactly duplicated anything; not a blade of grass or a snowflake, surely not a human-being. Distinction is a God given inevitability and prerogative, and the distinct beauty of any spirit flowering fully in holiness is neither a threat to, or a lessening of, the beauty of any other. The beauty of a living soul is not

relative. Liberty to become what God created one to be is the breathing space which must be allowed within the family of God.

It is an essential thing for the disciples of the Lord to meet together oft to partake of the sacrament, to fast and to pray and speak with one another about the welfare of their souls, Moroni 6:6. It is desirable that a disciple of the Lord be bold in presenting and promoting the doctrines and teachings and commandments of the Lord especially in a living example of them, but not overbearing, Alma 18:14, insomuch that another is hindered in the exercise of their distinct God given personality and character in service to God's glory. The gifts of the Holy Spirit to one are never measured by those given to any other, I Corinthians chapters 12 and 13. Each will be measured by the use made of that given, to his honor and glory. In words given through Joseph Luff—

Distinction on obedience waits
In heaven's economy;
And righteous service brings apace
Celestial dignity.

And still, in a final analysis of this "figure of the true" it must be noted that it is not the particular burning of any one piece of wood that produces the desired result, but the harmonious unison of the fire involving all. So it is and will be with the family of God, no one can bring about the Lord's purposes by themselves, without the others.

In January's Past . . .

. . . Benjamin Franklin was born (January 17, 1706). He died 84 years later after an illustrious career as statesman, scientist, foreign diplomat, author, printer, publisher, philosopher, and philanthropist. He was a self-made and self-educated man, though he recognized his dependence on God. He was the "Elder statesman of the American Revolution," and signed both the Declaration of Independence and, later, the U.S. Constitution. That he was a man of God having strongly influenced his peers and our forefathers to mold this nation as one being "under God," is evident in this quotation: "God governs in the affairs of man; and if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground with His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?"

. . . the first day of this month was designated as the beginning of the year in most English speaking countries (1751 A.D.). Prior to that, the beginning of the year was March 25. In some countries, January 1st is "everyman's birthday," as everyone ages one year on this date rather than on the anniversary of their birth. Traditionally, January 1st is a time for personal examination and commencing newly made personal resolutions. This year, for those of you privileged to be in close proximity to a local Church of Christ, be resolved to attend church regularly. There are many who would dearly love to be near a local congregation and would most certainly attend at every opportunity. As the days draw nearer to the end, you'll wish you had made and kept this resolution.

G.A.H.



OBITUARIES

Lovita Grace Seibel

Lovita Grace Gould was born July 7, 1908, at Lamoni, Iowa, the daughter of Leon A. and Alice Whiting Gould and departed this life on November 19, 1985, at her home at the age of 77 years.

She was married on June 10, 1936, to Melvin Harvey Seibel at Janesville, Wisconsin, and to this union five children were born.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Harvey; one brother, Winfield Gould and two sisters, Phyllis Black and Leona Nerrin.

She is survived by two sons, Harvey E. Seibel of Independence, Mo.; and David Seibel of Ridgecrest, California; three daughters, Lovita and Sylvia Seibel of the home; and Alice Carney of Newark, Delaware;

three brothers, Arlo, Eugene and Don Gould; four sisters, Darlene Smith of Ava, Mo.; Amy Schrader and Helen Taubert, both of Independence, Mo.; and Stella Winegar of Montana; and twenty grandchildren. She was a member of the Church of Christ at the Temple Lot, Independence, Mo.

Funeral services were held Friday, November 22, at 1 p.m. in the Duncan Funeral Chapel at Mt. View with Apostle William Sheldon officiating. Burial was in Greenlawn Cemetery under the direction of the Duncan Funeral Home.

Gertrude Loretta Adams

The family of Sister Gertrude Adams wishes to honor their mother with this poem by Jane Taylor;

MY MOTHER

Who fed me from her gentle breast
And hushed me in her arms to rest,
And on my cheek sweet kisses prest?
My Mother.

Who taught my infant lips to pray
To love God's Holy Word and Day,
And walk in wisdom's pleasant way?
My Mother.

And can I ever cease to be
Affectionate and kind to thee
Who was so very kind to me,—
My Mother.

Oh no, the thought I cannot bear.
And if God please my life to spare
I hope I shall reward thy care,
My Mother.

When thou art feeble, old and gray,
My healthy arms shall be thy stay,
And I will sooth thy pains away,
My Mother.

And when I see thee hang thy head,
Twill be my turn to watch thy bed,
And tears of sweet affection shed,
My Mother.

Gertrude Loretta Adams was born to Mary Elizabeth and William Charles Bigford on November 8, 1902 in Farwell, Michigan and passed from this life on October 26, 1985 at the age of 82 years, 11 months and 13 days. She had endured an extended illness during which her family fulfilled the sentiment expressed in this verse. They tirelessly cared for their mother. She entered the Golden Valley Memorial Hospital in Clinton, Missouri on October 25th, one day before our Lord bid her to "come home."

Sister Adams was a long time member of the Church of Christ, with headquarters on the Temple Lot in Independence, Missouri.

She was united in marriage to Leslie Wilber Adams on November 30, 1920. To this union were born four sons and three daughters. They lived in Michigan until 1964 when they moved to the Clinton, Missouri area.

Sister Adams was preceded in death by her husband, Brother Leslie Adams, her parents, her son Earl, and a grand-daughter, Laurie May Brogg, four brothers and three sisters.

She is survived by three sons, Harold E. Adams, Warrensburg, Mo., Leslie Adams, Lebanon, Oregon, and Glen E. Adams, Windsor, Mo., three daughters, Mrs. Juanita Opper, Birch Run, Michigan, Mrs. Winona A. Onstott, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, and Mrs. Wanda Jo Eddy of Clinton, Mo., one brother Belton Bigford, Marion, Michigan, one sister, Mrs. Iva J. Giddings, Ewart, Michigan, 23 grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren, and a host of friends.

Family and friends gathered at the Vansant-Mills funeral home in Clinton, Mo. at 2:00 p.m. to honor their mother and loved one. Some of them coming from Oregon, Utah, and Michigan. A grand-daughter Sharen Eddy was with the Peace Corps, stationed in Africa, and other grandchildren and great grandchildren were unable to be present.

Sister Mary Lois Bryant played the organ and sang a duet, "Ivory Palaces" with Sister Janice Welch. Janice also sang "Be Still My Soul" and "Safe in The Arms Of Jesus."

Elders Leslie Case and James Maynard Case officiated in the service using the scripture which read in part: 2 Tim. 4:7-8 "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith, henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness." 1 Cor. 2:9 "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." Matt. 25:21 "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter you into the joy of thy Lord. Mos. 2:9-29 which tells

us the atonement was prepared from the foundation of the world, that salvation might come to him that put his trust in the Lord, and should be diligent in keeping His commandments and continue in the faith even unto the end of life of the mortal body. Alma 19:43-46: the spirits of all men as soon as they are departed from the mortal body — whether they be good or evil will be taken home to that God who gave them life — the spirits of the righteous are received into a state of happiness, which is called paradise; a state of rest, a state of peace, where they shall rest from all their troubles, and from all care and sorrow, etc. Mos. 1:79-89 ". . . there is a resurrection therefore the grave hath no victory and the sting of death is swallowed up in Christ." Rev. 21:1-5 "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. . . . Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

Her grandsons Timothy Eddy, Brian Eddy, Paul Adams, Eddie Adams, Ronnie Warner, and Aarnad Isabel carried the casket to the grave site at the beautiful Englewood Cemetary in Clinton, Missouri.

At the grave-side 1 Corinthians was read and in part says: "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Sister Adams knew these promises of our Lord unto the faithful and looked to the day that she could be with Him.

Our words can not add to or detract from that which our sister has so nobly performed in her life by her beautiful example of faithfulness to God and of thoughtfulness for all. She will most certainly be greatly missed.

Tempus Fugit

As each new year begins its fitful reign,
It's time to pause and pray for what's ahead,
For even though there's much to fear and dread
Beyond the dark horizon, and we feign
Would fall beneath the weight of worried woe,
How grand it is to leave the plan with Him,
And know that when the harbinger is grim,
We still can look with confidence, and go
Into the future hand in hand with God,

Who wrote the story and who knows the route
To take for greatest joy. It may not suit
Our fancy, but we need His staff and rod.
Look forward, now, to every day He gives.
No matter what the test, we know He lives.

—From "A Sonnet for Sunday"

by Joseph A. Springer
(Used by Permission)

NEWS

AVA, MISSOURI

(Reporter Estella Davis)

Our traveling grandmothers have been on the way again. Sister Dorothy Burgin has been to Washington to visit her children and grandchildren there. We welcomed her back and were glad to hear that she had had a good visit.

Sister Minnie Smith migrated as usual in October to spend the winter in Arizona, but returned briefly in the last days of November to be with us for the services for her daughter and our dear Sister Myrle Darlington. We all feel a deep loss, but must try to remember the words of the song that sustained Sister Myrle during her illness: "Jesus took the pain and gave me a song." If we keep our attention on Jesus, he will give us a song and praise that she has gone on to be with Him in a place of peace and love.

We had good sermons in October and November from our resident Elders, but still we regret that circumstances prevented us from hearing sermons by the visiting ministers. We have an interest and anticipation for the messages these men bring to us. However, as stated, we received good instructions and council during these months.

On October 13, Brother Joseph Smith stressed the importance of prophecy and of watching the fulfilling of prophecies. He asked what can be more sure than seeing prophecy fulfilled in history books. He reminded us that the pilgrims who sought religious freedom, the establishment of the government of the United States, and the return of the Jewish people to their homeland were in fulfillment of prophecy.

On October 20, Brother Arthur Smith counselled us about the heroes we choose. Brother Smith stated that we are hero-worshippers. We tend to like persons such as sports figures, TV characters; we would like to be like them, do the things they do. If our hero is Jesus Christ, we get something we never find in a book or TV hero; we find someone to worship in truth; and we receive spiritual gifts as a result.

On October 27, Brother Joseph Smith asked us to examine our attitudes towards the gospel as in the parable of the sower. This is an apt description of many people today. Sometimes we hear the words, but don't get the message. Sometimes we don't strive to understand, to heed, and sometimes we just forget it. Sometimes we become offended, even deny knowing Christ because of peer pressures. Sometimes we hear, but the cares of this world or the deceitfulness of riches choke out the

word. But he that understands the word, doesn't doubt, and is baptized in the good soil that increases 30, 40, even 100-fold. Somewhere in this parable is the condition of our soil (soul). What have we done with the seed? We can look at ourselves and see what kind of soil we are today. We can always improve.

On November 3, Brother Arthur Smith told us to look at ourselves as to our desires. If we are tempted, it is because we desire something in our hearts that is not according to God's will. If we listen to our hearts and heads we are led astray. The seed, the beginning of our temptations is in our own hearts, the seeking of our own desires. This seed, when allowed to grow, brings sin and death.

On November 10, Brother Arthur Smith spoke of the prophecies about the Second Coming of Christ. Speaking of the words spoken to a group of Christ's followers in Acts; where they were told that Christ will come in a manner like they had seen Him go, could it be that Christ would come to a small handful of followers, not to the whole world at first? There could be more than one time that He will come or appear in the Second Coming. He could appear to a few followers first, superintend the building of the Temple, and then reveal Himself to all the world. There is a time, a place, a manner in which He will return. Those who are faithful to the end shall see our Lord.

INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

(East Local Reporter Helen Taubert)

Greetings from the Independence East Local, to all of you from all of us. May God's spirit be with each one in blessing and guidance in the days ahead.

We have had an unusually wet fall, with cloudy skies and chill in the air, so the few days of sunshine sprinkled in have been much appreciated.

On the week-ends of the 21st and 22nd of September, and the 19th and 20th of October, a number from our local went up to Lamoni, Iowa, for special services held up there. A very enjoyable and uplifting time was reported of these trips.

Prior to our November sacrament service, we were pleased to witness the baptism of our brother Brian McGhee, oldest son of Brother and Sister Michael McGhee. Our pastor, Elder Smith Brickhouse officiated in this ordinance, assisted by Elder Robert Oldham. It was a happy and joyous occasion, and we pray God's rich blessing upon our brother. Earlier in the summer, Brother Gregory Brickhouse had made his covenant with the Lord, in the waters of baptism, and though I was unable to be there that evening, I know that joy prevailed in the bringing of another soul into the kingdom of God.

We would ask an interest in your prayers in behalf of these young people, that the Lord's spirit might bless and direct their pathways. How much all of our young people need our prayers, in this day of evil, that they may be able to avoid the pitfalls on every hand, and resist the constant pressures and influences of the world upon them.

From the pulpit in the past weeks, we have heard many words of counsel and direction, including cautions and warnings of the day and time in which we live, and of the nearness of the coming of the Savior of men. May we be more aware of, and recognize the changes we need to make in our lives, putting from us the things of the world and drawing closer to the Lord, that we might be instruments in His hands for the accomplishment of His work.

Our women's department had their annual craft sale on the 9th of November, and were blessed with substantial proceeds for their year's work and efforts.

On the evenings of the 11th, 12th, and 13th of November, a special series of meetings was held at our local, with Elder Joseph F. Smith, of Ava, Missouri, as the speaker. His topics for the three sermons were, Joseph Smith the Prophet, The Restoration, and Zion; all very interesting and informative discourses, and indicative of the latter days in which we live. In his closing sermon, Brother Smith made a special plea, that we search out the truths of Zion, seeking the Lord's direction in how to prepare ourselves in readiness to achieve this great goal. We are happy to report that there was a goodly attendance each evening, with many present who are not affiliated with our church. We would like to again express our appreciation to Brother Smith for his time and efforts in this endeavor.

"Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation."—Isaiah 12:3

Oh! precious gift, divine and pure,
Oh! fountain of eternal life;
From whence salvation's cup is filled,
Deep wells of truth, 'gainst sin and strife.
Rejoice, oh soul! with faith unfeigned,
While traveling life's uneven way;
Draw deeply of this living source,
Our sure defence to Endless Day.

INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

(THE EXAMINER, 11-16-85):

AREA WOMEN TO BECOME RLDS MINISTERS.

On Sunday four women in the Kansas City area will blaze a pioneer trail.

They belong to churches in the Kansas City Stake of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Soon they will belong to the

church's priesthood.

Worldwide, 132 RLDS women are taking the historic step, which became possible in April 1984 when the church, at its world conference, approved ordination of women.

Not all RLDS members welcomed the change. Kansas City will be the only one of six stakes in the Central Stakes area to ordain women Sunday. The Santa Fe Stake, which includes part of Independence has rejected four women who were candidates for ordination. So far no pastors in the other four central stakes have nominated women's ordination candidates.

Grant McMurray of the church's Office of the First Presidency says some members have left the church as a result of women's ordination.

In the RLDS Church, the pastor initiates calls to the priesthood. The candidate is chosen because of commitment to church work, sense of inspiration and their qualifications.

(One candidate) says she thoughtfully considered the opportunity to enter the priesthood. She almost declined.

"But when I thought about how good the Lord has been to me I decided to accept. I have received a lot of blessings in my life," she says.

Three women will be ordained as elders in the church. (One) will be ordained as a priest.

INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

(THE EXAMINER, 11-29-85):

CRITICAL RLDS ELDERS GATHER.

A group of dissatisfied elders and former elders are meeting this weekend to discuss what they see as a trend away from the fundamental teachings of the RLDS Church.

The International Elders Conference is being held at Hope Day School, Independence, through Sunday, December 1st. More than 200 people from 30 states and Canada are expected.

They will focus on their concerns about doctrine of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

On Saturday, the group will discuss the legal steps that would be needed to form a separate organization. They also will discuss working within the current organization.

The church . . . is in disarray and should be returned to order, said Dennis Cato, chairman of the steering committee of the International Elders Conference.

He estimates about half of the RLDS church members are dissatisfied with trends in the church.

Part of the dissatisfaction arises from the ordination of women into the RLDS priesthood.

Cato says the group also is dissatisfied that the

church is hinting at open communion, allowing non-members to participate in the sacrament.

The thrust today is for the RLDS Church to become like a Protestant Church, said Lloyd Cunningham, also a member of the steering committee. "And we're not a Protestant church."

Cato said attendance at RLDS church services has been decreasing.

The first International Elders Conference was held in April. Another will be held next April, said Cato, after the 1986 World Conference in Independence.

SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

(Reporter Florence Kommer)



Hello from Springfield! Autumn has arrived and we, in Springfield, have celebrated our first anniversary as a local. Our little local has received many blessings this past year; The greatest of which are the "Servants of the Lord" who come down to minister to us twice a month. They have always been so encouraging and are shining examples of "... Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only...". Saying thank you seems so inadequate, but we send a very loving thank you!

There is an extra special "Light" shining at the School of the Ozarks in Point Lookout, Missouri. The result is we have some new members. They bring such a wonderful spirit to our meetings and we are all enriched.

We had election of Officers on September 22, 1985 with Apostle Roland Sarratt presiding. They are as follows: Pastor - Elder Victor Bates; Sec.-/Treasurer - Jane Ann Stancil; Chorister - Janeen Addie; Zion's Advocate Reporter - Florence M. Kommer; Sunday School Superintendent - Martin Addie; Asst. Superintendant - Kim Stancil; Adult's Teacher - L. Marleen Cobb; Children's Teacher - Jane Ann Stancil.

Please remember us in your prayers that we will be faithful and strive to spread the gospel and glorify our Heavenly Father!

BOOK OF MORMON NOTICE

The April 1984 General Conference determined a rather ambitious and worthy project for this Church of Christ, namely, the publication of our own Book of Mormon. It may, in fact, be a necessity if we hope to have this cherished scripture available to us in its presently accepted form.

It is planned to make considerable revision of reference texts only, as found at the bottom of each page, including an increased referral to Bible texts, etc., as appropriate. Provisions will be made, as presently, for publication with a plastic material for binding, with the book to be sold at minimum cost, with no profit. However, a limited supply with a better binding (leather or hardback) will be provided, also at minimum cost.

Therefore, we urgently request of the membership, and others with a common interest in the preservation and use of this book, your prayers and financial support. For a donation of \$10.00, the donor will receive a copy of the Book of Mormon with the economical binding. A donation of \$25.00 will secure a book with the better binding. These are only initiatory prices, which may be changed after publication, depending on cost factors. Donations exceeding the above figures will apply to a free distribution of the book by missionaries as may be needed. This is an important contribution you may make to our missionary effort. If it is desirable to obtain more than one copy at these initial figures, it will be honored. This book will not be available for at least a year.

Please send your contribution, with an expression of your desires, to: Business Manager, Church of Christ (Temple Lot), P.O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051. It will be credited to the Board of Publications fund. In the unlikely event that, for reasons beyond our control, the Church would be unable to complete the publication of the Book of Mormon, your money will be refunded upon request; otherwise, it would remain in the fund for other worthy publications, most of which are given free of charge.

This being a conference action, we would like to emphasize the importance of supporting this worthy cause to its completion. It is hoped that you will generously donate even above your anticipated order of new books, and if feasible, you will locally raise funds for the publishing of our own Book of Mormon. We pray that this precious record may always be available to us and our posterity.

Council of Apostles

CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

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.

The 1986 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 20 through 22 at Independence, Missouri.

CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

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

	Price Each
Zion's Advocate Subscription Rate: Non-Members	\$4.00
Foreign	4.50
Book of Mormon (Missionary Edition)	6.00
Outline History of Church of Christ	4.00
Book of Commandments (Paper Bound)	2.80
Book of Commandments Controversy Reviewed	2.90
The Marvelous Work and a Wonder	2.30
What the Restoration Teaches Concerning God	2.50
Historical Facts Concerning the Temple Lot	1.30
Temple Lot Deed30
Changing of the Revelations50
Comprehensive Comparison of Changes to the Revelations	1.30
A Brief History of the Church of Christ	N/C
The Principles of the Gospel, Faith and Repentance	N/C
The Principles of the Gospel, The Laying on of Hands	N/C
The Principles of the Gospel, Baptism	N/C
The Latter Day Restoration	N/C
Apostasy or Succession, Which?	N/C
The Book of Mormon (Tract)	N/C
Articles of Faith and Practice of the Church of Christ	N/C
Articles of Faith and Practice (Spanish)	N/C
Article No. 9 (Bible and Book of Mormon)	N/C
Article No. 20 (Marriage)	N/C
Sermonettes on the Teachings of Jesus	N/C
What the Church teaches in Respect to Matrimony (Spanish)	N/C
Mighty Acts of the Ages (Spanish)	N/C
Priesthood, Divine Authority	N/C
"Why"	N/C
A Synopsis of the Church of Christ's Beliefs and Practices	N/C
First Presidency or First Apostles	N/C
Marriage For Time and Eternity?	N/C
Baptism For The Dead?	N/C
Zion and the Temple of the Lord	N/C

NOTE: Donations accepted to cover postage and printing costs. Lot prices of tracts exclusive of postage are in packs of 6-50¢, 100-\$5.85.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS

Send all orders to the General Sunday School Association c/o Becky Sheldon, Rt. 1, Box 315, Grain Valley, MO 64029. All materials are free of charge to members of the Church of Christ, except as indicated. Write for more information, or see Synopsis in June, 1985, Zion's Advocate.

CHURCH HISTORY for JUNIORS—34 page booklet includes a teachers guide.

THE BOOK IN THE STONE BOX—7 page booklet

BIBLE STORIES TO GROW BY — 52 lessons in 12 themes about God and Jesus (ages 5-7). (Free to local Sunday Schools)

JESUS' LIFE and TEACHINGS—Series of 4 quarterlies (ages 8-10)

WE SING and WE TALK ABOUT JESUS—14 primary lessons with pictures and songs on cassette (On loan only)

WHO AM I?—A Bible game (cards) with multiple uses (Free to any local Sunday School, but \$1.30 for individuals)

CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

Speed delivery of your "ADVOCATE" by sending us your new address immediately. Mail to:

ZION'S ADVOCATE
(USPS 6993-0000)
P.O. Box 472
Independence, MO 64051-0472

Each undeliverable "Advocate" is now costing the church 25¢. We would rather spend this on delivering your paper than its return to us.

<p>ZION'S ADVOCATE (USPS 6993-0000) P.O. Box 472 Independence, MO 64051-0472</p>	<p>Second Class Postage Paid Independence, MO 64051</p>
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Aaron Heath
159 E. Beech
Fruitport, MI 49415

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.

Slide Programs with Taped Narration

Specify program(s) wanted, anticipated dates of use, and the make of your projector. Slide projectors and tape players are not provided except in the Independence area.

Allow adequate advance time for handling and shipping, and for your own preview of the programs. For more information on these slide/tape programs, see the March 1984 issue of the Zion's Advocate, page 47.

"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."

"Light at Evening" (27 minutes) — Story of the bringing forth of the Book of Mormon and the restoration of the Church of Christ in the 1820's and 1830.

"The Return" (12 minutes) — Reveals the significance of the return to the "land of Zion" in 1867 by the members of the Church of Christ especially as holders of Title to the dedicated Temple Lot.

Holy Scriptures on Cassette Tapes

Complete sets narrating the King James Version of the Bible New Testament and the entire Book of Mormon.

Sermons on Cassette Tape

Write to Joel Yates, AVVAA Committee, 18819 N. 29th Place, Phoenix, Arizona 85024.