

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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Threads of Gold

Little self-denials, little honesties, little passing words of sympathy, little silent victories over favorite temptations — these are the silent threads of gold which, when woven together, gleam out so brightly in the pattern of life that God approves.

Frederick William Farrar

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Zion's Advocate

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Articles, sermons, poems, news items, letters, notices, etc., which are appropriate to be printed in this paper are requested by the editorial staff. If possible, they should be typewritten on one side of a sheet only, double spaced and grammatically corrected. Send all material to the Editor (see address listed above). The deadline for each month is the 5th of the previous month.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

All individual articles published in this paper are opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the teachings of the Church or the opinions of the Editorial Staff. All authorized declarations and notices coming from the General Conference, the Council of Apostles or the General Bishopric reflect the practices and beliefs of the General Church.

Bits N' Pieces

Attention Church of Christ Local Pastors: Please be reminded that you may receive extra copies of each month's *Zion's Advocate* at no cost. They make a nice display for guests or for members to take to pass along to friends or neighbors. Some local Churches have already taken advantage of this and are receiving multiple copies each month. You may increase, decrease or stop the extra copies anytime. Send your name and address stipulating the number of extra copies desired to *Zion's Advocate* Mailing List, Church of Christ, P.O. Box 472, Independence, MO 64051.

Pass it on! Please share your *Zion's Advocate* with friends and neighbors and help expand the missionary potential of this periodical. If you need extra copies of a particular issue write *Zion's Advocate* Business Manager at the above address.

Attention Priesthood: We need your articles. Please put your inspired thoughts on paper, as we are lacking sufficient articles by Christ's priesthood.

We need your comments. Good or bad, we find it helpful to receive your comments or suggestions

about the *Zion's Advocate*, be it about the format, policy, or any of its articles or regular features. If you have contributions to any regular Advocate feature such as "Path Lights," "Questions and Answers," or "In (Month's) Past . . .", please send them in — although we cannot guarantee we will use all contributions.

Do You Have Questions You Have Been Afraid to Ask? Send them in — with or without names. We will see what the response is and may start a new regular column where the questions are answered in *Zion's Advocate* — if appropriate. We will ask a committee of local priesthood to answer the questions. If the question is inappropriate for printing in the Advocate, we will mail the response (if an address is given).

Associate Editor Expands Responsibilities! Your News Editor for the Advocate, David Rudd, has become a new Papa! He and Becky (mainly Becky) were "pushing" for a new year's baby (since they barely missed a tax deduction for '85) and only missed by a few hours. Congratulations David and Becky for bringing us 8 pound, 21 inch, Courtney Lynn at 1:15 P.M., January 1, 1986!

Editorial . . .

History Revisited

"The Dawn of a New Era for the Church of Christ"

Chapter twenty three of *An Outline History of the Church of Christ* is headlined, "The Dawn of a New Era for the Church of Christ." It mainly covers the events that transpired from 1916 through 1930 and reveals to its readers a resurgence of Christ's Church on earth. And I mean resurgence literally: "A rising again into life, activity, or prominence."

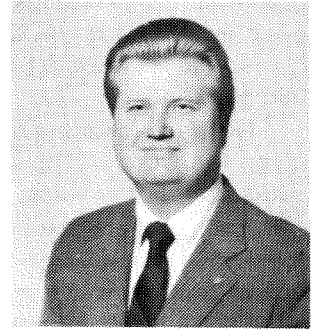
This era compares with the Church's first resurgence which occurred in the late 1820's and 1830's after a long apostasy. A major difference is that while innovations crept into the church in the 1830's that were contrary to God's will and the holy scriptures, the 1920's found the leaders of the Church discarding those innovations and repenting of ninety years of erroneous practice. It is an inspiring time of progress and courageous pronouncements. Though not without their share of mistakes and disagreements, they were never-the-less able to achieve both spiritual and numerical growth.

"At the 1928 April conference, three more men were called to be Apostles, thus filling the Council. The men so called were James E. Yates, E.E. Long, and B.C. Flint. These men were ordained during the year." Thus, for the first time since God restored His Church in 1830, there was a full quorum of twelve Apostles called of God and taking their place at the head of the Church of Christ with Jesus Christ their spiritual leader and "chief cornerstone." Also for the first time, in 1930 the Church "made provision for a Bishopric of seven men, instead of the three-man Bishopric" erroneously set up in the early days of the restored Church.

The Church organization was scripturally correct, the quorums were full, the numbers of converts were increasing — truly it was the "dawn" of a new era, but still part of the last dispensation of the Church of Christ that began in 1830. Much has happened since then, some good, some bad, and we stand today, 56 years later, on the threshold of considering callings to once again fill the quorum of Apostles; and for those at all conscious of the moving of the Spirit upon His Church, it is apparent that there is "something good" happening and a definite movement toward fulfilling what is required of this Church in these last days, subtle though it may be. We may now be well past high noon in that "new era," with still very much to do.

Another significant event occurred in 1918, when the conferences of both the Church of Christ and the RLDS church approved an "agreement of Working

Harmony" between the two churches. You may read more about this on page 119-121 in the Outline History to further understand its significance, but what is more significant is what occurred in 1924, 1927 and 1985 relative to this "Working Harmony" and the Reorganized Church (RLDS).



In the years following the adoption of this "Working Harmony," where each church's priesthood authority was recognized by the other, much change was under way. "In 1924 the doctrine of Supreme Direction Control vested in the First Presidency (of the RLDS), with Effective Discipline, was advanced." With this, the idea was also advanced "that revelation from God was not a direct communication, but was a result springing from the higher powers of man in himself. . . ." This philosophy could not be accepted by men of sound mind and a "spirit of inquiry" prompted a deep study of the scriptures and of Church history, such that hundreds of changes in the recorded revelations were discovered, including those revelations that purportedly called for a Presidency and High Priests. Thus, these innovative, man-instituted offices were abolished and the invitation went out to all known Restoration groups to repent of such things and join the Church of Christ whose headquarters were on the "Temple Lot." The "Working Harmony" was put aside and forgotten, until finally in 1985 the Church of Christ officially rescinded that agreement.

However, in 1927, a manifestation of the Spirit of God was received through James E. Yates (formerly an RLDS Elder), that was to have a great impact on the Church and was added impetus and inspiration for the work that was the "dawn" of the "new era." This revelation was accepted by the Church as being of God. It is one that will humble each of us; one that should not swell our heads but, instead, prompt us to greater achievement for Christ, the author of our salvation. You will find it on the following page. Please read it and let it inspire a new generation to more completely fulfill the obligations upon us as Christ's Church.

G.A.H.

“All Shall At Last Be Accomplished”

A REVELATION OF GOD

(This word of the Holy Spirit was given through James E. Yates, then an Elder, in answer to fasting and prayer at Independence, Missouri, May 1, 1927. It has been accepted as the word of God by the Church of Christ. Please refer to this month's editorial for further explanation.)

By the quickening power of the Holy Spirit, thus is given the word of the Lord to all who will open their souls to hear my voice, saith the Lord.

Your prayers are before me, ye who have asked that I shall lead all my people who put their trust in me, but ye must hear my voice if I am to be your leader indeed, and thus are you to know how to follow.

Ye have asked of me to know my will. Will ye hearken when I shall speak? Will ye obey if my word shall conflict with the thoughts and beliefs of your imperfect humanity?

Behold, thus saith the Lord, I lead my people when they have courage to follow me, and to keep my commandments.

By my spirit in the hearts of all those who truly feel after me I have been with the various broken factions of my church to bless and to comfort and to shield my people from much of the power of evil.

And today do I declare that I, the Lord, will continue to give of my Spirit and blessing to those of every name and kindred, tongue, and people, who feel after me daily, and whose delight is to seek my ways.

But thus saith the word of the Lord to all my people everywhere who will open their hearts to hear the voice of my Spirit as given through my servant in these words: Verily I have rejected the Reorganized Church, with its sins and follies and its system-making, because they have departed from me, and by the deceptions of the wicked one, their leaders have caused a defilement of much of mine heritage.

Yet in my love and compassion, I will continue to feel after those among them whose spiritual vision is darkened; and in as much as they will come unto me and forsake the worldly idols that have been set up before them, I will surely manifest myself unto them in might, and by the refreshing power of my Spirit in blessing.

But in as much as my people will continue to bow down before the idols of mammon, and to submit their backs to the bearing of financial burdens for an institutionalism that I have not commanded, and which is contrary to the purity of my word and way, behold, in as much as my people will continue to yield themselves to the will of task-masters, whose plans I have not appointed, verily my Spirit will not always strive with

them, and they must at last reap the results of their folly.

And verily, thus speaketh the Spirit to mine Elders everywhere, whose spirits have been burdened because you have beheld the havoc that hath been wrought in mine heritage. If ye will now hearken to the voice of my counsel, behold the fire of my spiritual zeal shall be renewed in your hearts, and a spiritual refreshing from the throne of my glory shall descend upon you, and your joy shall be increased in the labors of my vineyard.

Verily, out of the broken fragments of my spiritual kingdom of these last days I have preserved unto myself a remnant for the carrying forward of my work unto its final completeness.

The people of this remnant of my church on the Temple Land, which has been consecrated to me, have not been wholly in accord with my will, neither do they this day fashion all their work perfectly in me, but behold, for a wise purpose in me your Lord and your Redeemer, I have held them in the hollow of mine hand.

Their priesthood and their ministry hath been preserved in me, and their ministrations among men I will continue to bless; for they are an instrument of mine own choosing.

Ye of my people, and of my ministry have questioned the spiritual call of those men of the ministry chosen to be Apostles in this remnant of mine heritage. Verily, if ye will hear my word, today I declare unto you that these are my Apostles of the present day dispensation, and through their ministry, if they continue humble and faithful, and through this chosen remnant of my broken heritage, I will, from this day forward, quicken their spiritual ministrations among the people, and will continue to use these servants of mine, and this remnant, to bear the message of life and salvation to the souls of men.

In the midst of many trials, and despite the human weaknesses of my servants who shall remain true to the trust given them, I, the Lord, will carry forward my work, and in mine own time, and in mine way all shall at last be accomplished.

Thus speaketh the voice of the Spirit through my servant by whom I have chosen to deliver these words. And they who shall hear the voice of my Spirit speaking herein unto their hearts, shall find witness in me, that I, your Lord, have truly spoken. And it is by my word that all shall be judged at the last day.

Thus speaketh the voice of the Spirit unto all saints who will hear, and who will heed my word, even so.

Amen.

Path Lights

Along or Alone?

In the fall of 1983 I took a bus trip with a group to some historical points in Iowa and Wisconsin.

Our first day out the sky was overcast and a cold wind was blowing in. At noon the bus stopped at a state park picnic area beside a wind-whipped lake and the group leaders got off the bus, followed by all the other forty-eight passengers, except me. I sat in the warm bus munching on my sack lunch as I watched the other poor dears shivering in their shoes while trying to keep their lunches from blowing away as they struggled to eat. There had been no one forcing them to get off the warm bus to eat their lunches out there in the chill wind but, like sheep, they had blindly followed their leaders to their discomfort.

At another stop we got off the bus to tour the Little Brown Church. The leaders, followed by the sheep, all crowded into the Little Brown Church, everyone except me. I followed the path at the side of the building to the bath house and enjoyed the relief and privacy. Later as the group jammed the bath house I went inside the Little Brown Church for a few moments of serene and quiet worship.

In the fall of 1984 visiting ministers came from the Church of Christ to my town to bear witness that the Church which Jesus set up was alive today with the fullness of the gospel. While the sheep were scattering to strange calls, I was blest to detect the call of the Shepherd, and, picking up on it, I followed Him alone to the waters of baptism. It would have been a great comfort to me if even one other person had chosen to be baptized with me.

How many times have we found ourselves alone because of a consciousness that whispers that one way is better than another, the gentle, guiding Holy Spirit? In the scripture we see Noah's family alone building an ark while others scorned.

Whenever we find ourselves going along with the crowd, we need to stand back and take a look at where the crowd is going, and then make a personal decision, with prayer, concerning our own journey.

Nephi warns us of the great and abominable church which gathers in multitudes of people, then he tells us: "And I beheld the church of the Lamb of God, and its numbers were few." 1 Nephi 3:226

Shirley Rose Bailey
Lamoni, Iowa

More Than A Testimony

The many painful things that are taking place about us do not incline us to "lift up our heads and sing." Nevertheless, on the morning of September 14, 1985, when I awoke from sleep, a song accompanied my waking. It was there — words and music deeply appropriate to the sorrow within me. The previous evening, mind and spirit had been stunned with the information that my dear sister, Josephine Winkler, had met with fatal accident on the highway at Warrensburg, Missouri, on her way home from having made arrangements to move into a senior citizen apartment in Kansas City, from Pittsburg, Missouri.

The song I awoke to was "The Last Mile of The Way", the chorus of which tells us "When I've gone the last mile of the way, I will rest at the close of the day; And I know there are joys that await me; When I've gone the last mile of the way." The song begins with the small word "If" and repeats that word five times in the four verses of the song:

"If I walk in the pathway of duty
If I work till the close of the day
If for Christ I proclaim the glad story
If I seek for His sheep gone astray
If here I have earnestly striven, and have
tried all His will to obey" . . .

(If I've done all these things:)

"I shall see the great King in his beauty . . .
I am sure He will show me His glory . . .
But no sickness, no sighing forever . . .
'Twill enhance all the rapture of heaven

When I've gone the last mile of the way."

When later in Independence I was asked whether I knew my sister's favorite songs, I said, "No, I really don't." Then I told the one seeking to know for the funeral service — "But I awoke singing 'The Last Mile of the Way'; and another song occupying my mind is 'Face to Face . . . What will it be, When with rapture I behold Him, Jesus Christ who died for me.' You notice that the words of these two songs embody the Gospel of Christ."

To say that my sister, Josephine, was one of my finest blessings is not just an extravagant statement to make because she is gone. That I held her in great regard was no secret. Once when I had written such in one of my frequent letters to her, she replied, "I can't think of anything very special I've done for you; but if I have, I'm glad." She made her part of the rocky Ozarks bloom with color, enticing the humming birds

to come and sip, and shared with anyone interested. Her friends' observations expressed were that Josephine's sweetness of spirit and loving personality put a special sparkle into any gathering where she was. For such dear ones, when they meet their Redeemer "Face to Face" their welcome home will be sweet.

"Jo", who wanted no attention drawn to herself, but who looked outward in kindly regard to all those whom she knew and those she didn't, would laugh in

embarrassment at the thought of a eulogy spoken or written with her as its subject. Therefore, I write as testimony of thankfulness to God for allowing me to be Josephine's sister. That He should also fill my mind with a great variety of song to help me through this time of sorrow has been of much comfort and a thing of amazement.

Irene Maley
Fridley, Minnesota

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

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.

PART TWO

Brother Brickhouse:

I ask that you might open up your hearts and minds and think about what you are doing in your life, and whether you have put Jesus Christ first in your life. There is nothing confusing, nothing hard to learn or understand in the gospel of Christ. It's plain, it's simple, it's straightforward. What gets confusing is the interpretations of man. If we would only heed the word that Christ has given us, if we would only follow his example and obey his commandments, we would be richly rewarded. The confusing issues would disappear; we would have understanding and we would have blessings untold.

Turn to 2 Timothy 3:16, where it says, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." I wonder if each of us can say that we have taken the time to read the scripture as we ought to. And do we make it a matter of prayer? Have we asked for meanings? Have we asked him to bring out those things He has for us for any particular day or circumstance? He has promised that if we ask we

will receive. That's good for each of us and always will be. Are we taking advantage of that promise of God? Are we humbling ourselves and diligently seeking him?

The Lord has set certain requirements before we can reach that ultimate goal to stand guiltless before our Father on the day we are to be judged. The requirements are; we must repent of our sins, we must be baptized in Christ's name, we must keep his commandments and endure to the end. That's true for all of us.

Brother Housknecht read verses 1 and 2 from the 55th chapter of Isaiah: "Ho, everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labor for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness." This is speaking of the Spirit of God present in our very beings, and of the gospel revealed in the written word as being free through the grace of God, "without money and without price."

Why do we spend our time and our labors for those things that don't matter when we can give ourselves to Jesus Christ, the only thing that does matter? It says that we should hearken diligently. If we hearken diligently to our heavenly Father we will be filled. We will have all the things that we ever need.

It says in the next verse, "Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; ..." Have we inclined our ears? What does inclining your ear mean? I think that means more than just listening, that we have to take an active role, diligently trying to understand and make those things a part of our lives.

Oh, we can hear, stand up straight and listen in our own pride and love for ourselves, come to church every week and sit and listen, but unless we put those things into our lives we become as Christ says in the 15th chapter of Matthew, "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me." v.8.

Turn to the 7th chapter of Matthew, 7-14th verses, Christ talking, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him? Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets. Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be that go in thereat: Because straight is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Ask and it will be given to us, if we seek we will find him; it takes action on our part. Then he says that there'll be but few that find the way. I wonder why that is? How many people have these scriptures available to them? There's quite a few who at least have the Bible, but it says there'll be but few that find the way, 'strait is the gate and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life'. What is that strait gate? What is the narrow way?

In verse 21 it says, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Let's turn to John 3: 5th verse, Christ talking to Nicodemus, ". . . 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." Over in Acts 2:38-39 verses, it says, "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. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." We must be born again. We must be baptized as Christ did, go down into the water and be raised up, and then it says, we shall receive what? The Holy Ghost.

We say that we have received the Holy Ghost through the laying on of hands, but let's just see what that is. In the 14th chapter of John 15-17 verses it says, "If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive,

because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye shall know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." In the 26th verse it says what that Comforter is, "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." And in the 26th verse of chapter 15 it says, "But when the comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me." That's a powerful promise that we have available, each and every one of us, that that Holy Spirit will be with us in all things if we listen, if we incline our ear, if we are tuned to that still small voice. Are we taking advantage of it? Are we yielding to the enticing that he's giving us? We have to allow it to do that teaching. We have to allow it to direct us. I say that if we aren't allowing the Holy Ghost to work within our lives there is not any way that we're going to endure to the end.

Turn to the Book of Mormon, page 161, starting with verse 16, "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, I know that if ye shall follow the Son with full purpose of heart, acting no hypocrisy and no deception before God, but with real intent, repenting of your sins, witnessing unto the Father that ye are willing to take upon you the name of Christ, by baptism: yea, by following your Lord and your Savior down into the water, according to his word; behold then shall ye receive the Holy Ghost; Yea, then cometh the baptism of fire and of the Holy Ghost; and then can ye speak with the tongue of angels, and shout praises unto the Holy One of Israel. But behold, my beloved brethren, thus came the voice of the Son unto me, saying, After ye have repented of your sins, and witnessed unto the Father that ye are willing to keep my commandments, by the baptism of water, and have received the baptism of fire and of the Holy Ghost, and can speak with a new tongue, yea, even with the tongue of angels, and after this, should deny me, it would have been better for you, that ye had not known me. And I heard a voice from the Father, saying, Yea, the words of my beloved, are true and faithful. He that endureth to the end, the same shall be saved. And now, my beloved brethren, I know this, that unless a man shall endure to the end, in following the example of the Son of the living God, he cannot be saved; Wherefore, do the things which I have told you I have seen, that your Lord and your Redeemer should do: For, for this cause have they been shewn unto me, that ye might know the gate by which ye should enter. For the gate by which ye should enter is repentance and baptism by water: and then cometh a remission of your sins by fire, and by the Holy Ghost. And then are ye in this strait and narrow path which leads to eternal life; yea, ye have entered in by the gate; ye have done according to the commandments of the Father and the Son;

And ye have received the Holy Ghost, which witnesses of the Father and the Son, unto the fulfilling of the promise which he hath made, that if ye enter in by the way, ye should receive. And now, my beloved brethren, after ye have gotten into this strait and narrow path, I would ask, if all is done?" And that's the question I have this evening for us here, is all done?

He goes on to answer that question, "Behold, I say unto you, Nay; for ye have not come thus far, save it were by the word of Christ, with unshaken faith in him, relying wholly upon the merits of him who is mighty to save; Wherefore, ye must press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and all men. Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life." Are we pressing forward? Are we taking opportunity to feast upon the word of Christ?

We asked in the brochure we sent out, 'Are you satisfied?' Are we satisfied with what we as individuals, each of us, have accomplished? Are we satisfied with our spiritual lives? Are we satisfied with the blessings, the fulfillment of the promises we've experienced? I hope that none of us at this point have really become satisfied; because if we've become satisfied, and I'm afraid that to some extent we might be, we will no longer incline our ear; we will no longer be listening to that still small voice, we will no longer ask and seek; we will no longer yearn for the truthfulness of the gospel. I am convinced that our heavenly Father has much, much more for us today and every day. Oh, we are told we're going to have to go through tribulation. We're going to have to suffer for Jesus Christ's sake, but we are told he will always be with us that we'll be able to get through any and every trial that's put in front of us.

I believe that we have an unchangeable God, that he is the same today as he was in days of old and that he's going to be the same tomorrow and any day thereafter; that he never changes his position, that he never varies from what he has said. Turn to the 16th chapter of Mark, 15th verse, Christ is talking, "... Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name they shall cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." Do you believe those words? He didn't put any time limit on it, that's for all time. I have to admit I'm not satisfied. I don't see that outpouring of untold blessings, however, we have experienced many blessings right here in this congregation. I think each of us have more than one testimony. But I believe that the things

we have this day are just the crumbs compared to the meal the Lord has for us. I have to ask the question, what's happened? Have we for some reason allowed ourselves to be caught up in the ways of the world? Have each of us in some form or fashion laid up treasure on this earth over and above laying up treasures in heaven? Have we become prideful?

In 2nd Timothy, 3rd chapter, reading the first 7 verses, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof; from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." In the last days perilous time shall come, men shall be lovers of their own selves. You could pick up any newspaper in the world today and what's printed on the front page is a testimony of the truthfulness of what is written here.

We've all become proud, lovers of ourselves to some extent. We have become disobedient to the commandments of God, and if we want to admit it or not we've become lovers of the pleasures of this world. To some extent we fit verse 5, 'having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof.' We've become lukewarm. Christ has given us the choice, are we satisfied with the crumbs?

In Malachi 3:6, the Lord asked us to prove him, "For I am the Lord, I change not. ..." He tells us we are to return unto him with our tithes and offerings, we are to make sacrifices for him, we are to be dedicated to him, we are to seek his ways, we are to put him first in our lives; he is to be the cornerstone of our activities, and he says, try me, prove me, see if I'm telling you the truth, see if I will not open the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room to receive it. Can you imagine that? Just think about that promise the Lord has made. I ask that each of us might go to our heavenly Father where we might yield to the enticings of the still small voice, that we might take time out of our busy lives and study the scripture. That we might be careful not to just take part of them but to take them all, to pray about them, to try to understand them, to ask God and then to set our lives in order. We need to make sure that we're doing the things that Christ has shown us to do; that we submit ourselves to his will. Let's make sure that each of us reaches that goal and that we aren't found short at that last day. Let's not be satisfied with anything less.

("Are You Satisfied?" Series Concludes Next Month)

A Great And A Marvellous Work

By Apostle William A. Sheldon



PART FOURTEEN

You may recall that we have treated upon a latter day desolation of Israel, and of the nations of the gentiles, in that many are to be subjected by Gog/Assyria/Russia, and some to go into captivity in the course of this third world war. Then the Lord's fury is to come up into His face; there is to be a great shaking in the land of Israel, and all men are to shake at His presence (see Ezekiel 38:18-20). Thus with great power will the Lord wreak vengeance upon the heathen, upon all who fight against Zion and His covenant people. He shall deliver them with a mighty hand stretched out. They shall come out of the north parts, from Russia, from the isles of the sea which are no more, and from all nations whither He has scattered them; and they shall come to the lands of their inheritance, to Jerusalem of old, and to a New Jerusalem (Zion) upon the land of the Americas! It staggers the wildest imagination! Who can visualize it all?

What is this "tongue of the Egyptian sea" (Isaiah 11:15) which is to be destroyed that men may traverse by foot? Remember that through a world shaking quake, the land is to be "married" and the seas come together. How fittingly is the Mediterranean Sea described as a "tongue," and which courses the north African coast, all, or most of which, in ancient times was designated as "Egypt!" This tongue of the Egyptian Sea will disappear in preparation for the march of Israel to her homeland! And what a march it will be!

Isaiah 49:24-26: Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the lawful captive delivered? But thus saith the LORD, Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children. And I will feed them that oppress thee with their own flesh; and they shall be drunken with their own blood, as with sweet wine: and all flesh shall know that I the LORD am thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob.

Isaiah 51:10,11: 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.

Jeremiah 23:5-8: Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that they shall no more say, the LORD liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; But, The LORD liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land.

Jeremiah 50:4-5: In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the children of Israel shall come, they and the children of Judah together, going and weeping: they shall go, and seek the LORD their God. They shall ask the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, saying, Come and let us join ourselves to the LORD in a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten.

This stupendous exhibition of divine power in the deliverance of Israel will be so marvellous that her earlier deliverance from Egypt shall pale into insignificance, forgotten in the magnitude of this future deliverance and gathering, no more to part, for her King shall dwell in the midst!

Much more could be said, and quoted from scripture, but we leave this item of our study so as to not be tedious and to handle other matters relative to God's marvellous establishment of His kingdom in the last days.

(to be continued)

In Christ's Service

by Priest John R. Gill

The service we are called to as members of the body of Christ is to do whatever is necessary at any time or place to assist another. If someone calls at any time and needs you to help, even though you have a myriad of personal things to do and need sleep, peace, or rest, you would go; or, you would offer a place and the love of your home as was needed.

We are not called to cut but to mend. We are not called to prevent but to graft in. We are not called to preach to the righteous (and become their bosses) but to the sinners toward their salvation. We are not called to judge or condemn but to raise up and give hope. We are not called to be members in a mutual admiration society but to be fellow servants for the poor, the downtrodden, the sinners, the oppressed, and the captive. We are not called to have better homes and gardens but better service and self-denial. We are not called to have better jobs and possessions but to have more zeal and service to our fellow man. We are not called to have larger farms and grain bins but to feed the poor and the needy better. We are not called just to purify ourselves through fasting and prayer but to walk with His Spirit in power and service to our fellow man.

Isaiah 58:1-12 (A description of true religion):

Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins. Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and forsook not the ordinance of their God: they ask of me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching to God. Wherefore have we fasted, say they, and thou seest not? wherefore have we afflicted our soul, and thou takest no knowledge? Behold, in the day of your fast ye find pleasure, and exact all your labors. Behold, ye fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist of wickedness: ye shall not fast as ye do this day, to make your voice to be heard on high. Is it such a fast that I have chosen? a day for a man to afflict his soul? is it to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the LORD? Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh? Then shall thy

light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy reward. Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity; And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noon day: And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not. And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.

We will not be judged righteous by what we quit doing, or haven't done that is evil. We will be judged righteous by what we have done that is good, charitable, loving, kind, longsuffering, just, patient, merciful. This is the pure love of Christ, which is charity.

The fact is, all have gone astray and none can be delivered except by the mercy and atonement of Christ, and if you have not been merciful, mercy cannot be extended unto you.

QUESTIONS



AND ANSWERS

He would remove his shoe! It was Hebrew law that a childless widow was to be married by her dead husband's brother — and if there was no brother, the obligation passed on to other male relatives.

However, a man could refuse such a marriage (even though it was frowned upon by the community), and the sign of refusal was the removal of one of his shoes. Read Ruth 3:12,13; 4:1-11

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What was the first of God's creation?

Hint: You won't find the answer in Genesis.
(Answer Next Month)

Should We Buy Or Sell In The House of God?

by Jeff Butts

We find the answer in plain English in St. Matthew 21:12 and 13: "And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the money changers, and the seats of them that sold doves, And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves."

We can see what Christ said and did to the people that bought and sold in the temple of God. I know none of us want to be cast out of the house of God, so we should not do any thing in the house of God that would cause us to get cast out.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ the reason that I am writing this is because I Love all of you, and I hope when we go into the house of God we will do all the things that pleases our God, and if we do this when we meet together in the house of God He will pour out the power of his Holy Spirit to guide and direct us in His holy ways, and then His Son, our Lord

Jesus, will smile upon us. Verse 14 tells us what Christ wants done in the temple of God: "and the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed them. We read in the holy word of God that Christ healed in the temple of God, when the people came to him with faith and a desire to follow him.

I would like to see all of us, when we go to the house of the Lord, to keep Him first, and have a desire and a determination to serve Him to the end. If we can do this, Christ will heal all of our sick and afflicted as He did then. Let us all serve Christ exactly the way He tells us, so all who serve Him can be saved in the kingdom of heaven.

When I go to the house of God and see a Brother or Sister administered to and they do not get an immediate healing, I ask myself why. "Am I doing something wrong?" Christ healed them and He will heal us today if we will serve Him!

OBITUARIES

Josephine (Yates) Winkler

Josephine Harriet Yates, daughter of Arthur and Willie Grace Yates, was born April 19, 1911 in Seiling, Oklahoma, and passed from this life September 13, 1985 at Warrensburg, Mo. as a result of an automobile accident.

Her family moved to the Independence area in 1916, where she spent most of her life.

Josephine married Earl Franklin Winkler in December, 1929 and to this union was born one son, Roy Keith Winkler. Her husband preceeded her in death August 25, 1976. Besides her son, she is survived by two brothers, Emerson Yates of Sugar Creek, and Donald Yates of Independence, and two sisters, Bertha Florence Norris of Lindsay, California and Minnie Irene Maley of Freidley, Minnesota, two grandsons and five great-grandchildren.

Josephine was a member of the Church of Christ since her girlhood and a member of the Collins, Mo.

local since moving to that area a number of years before her death.

Memorial service was held at George C. Carson Funeral Home with Nicholas F. Denham and Leslie P. Case in charge. Interment was at Oak Ridge Cemetery at Independence.

In Appreciation

The family of Josephine Winkler, of the Collins, Missouri local, wishes to express our gratitude for the services of Brothers Nicholas Denham and Curtis Yates, for the music of Gigi Yates Scott and Becky Maley Downs; for the translating of sermon, prayers, and songs into sign language by Beth Yates Gregory; for the floral tributes; for the family dinner at the home of Emerson and Georgia Yates. Thanks to Czerna Kauffman, Collins, Missouri, reporter to the Advocate, for your prompt and loving tribute. The sympathy and many kindnesses extended to the family in many ways are all appreciated and remembered.

Bertha Florence (Yates) Norris Myrle Lee (Smith) Darlington

Mrs. Bertha Florence Yates Norris, the third child of Amos Arthur and Willie Grace Powell Yates, born June 27, 1913, in Seiling, Oklahoma, passed from this life on November 29, 1985. Her funeral was conducted on Monday, December 2, 1985 at 10:00 A.M. at the Webb-Sanders Funeral Home in Lindsay, California, with Reverend David Estes officiating. Organist and vocalist was Merrill P. Womach. Casket Bearers were Bruce Reeves, Jerry Ellis, Rusty Martin, Travis Yarborough, Stan Yarborough, and Lee Millsap. Interment: Olive Cemetery, Lindsay, California. Bertha Norris was a member of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. She leaves her daughter, Judith Lynne Mandara, five grandchildren, and five great grandchildren, two brothers, Elbert Emerson Yates and Donald Wayne Yates of Independence, Missouri, one sister, Minnie Irene Maley of Fridley, Minnesota.

Bertha's husband, William Glenn Norris, her son, William Glenn Norris, Jr., her oldest brother, Arthur Leonard Yates, and her older sister, Mrs. Josephine Harriet Winkler all preceded her in death. Teenagers Travis and Stan Yarborough, sang a special song at the graveside service. Their sweet, young voices were beautiful. Bertha Norris, a gentle and loving woman is sadly missed by her family and friends. Her compassion, her willingness to keep her Father's commandment "judge not", and the special gifts her God had given her were a blessing to all who knew her.

Bertha attended the Church of Christ in her girlhood years with her parents and siblings. Her two children were blessed as babies in the Church of Christ at Independence, Missouri. Bertha was acclaimed in syndicated news in 1979 as "The Grandma Moses" of toy designers. She was in the words of her daughter, "a gift from God" whose magic fingers are now at rest.

A friend, seventeen year old Chuck Fox, by name, describes Bertha in a poem he wrote for her daughter and grandchildren:

"In memory of one we'll always love;
Asking so little yet giving so much
And always with that loving caring touch.
A beautiful woman so sweet and kind.
Now it seems she's found peace of mind.
Why her, why her NOT ME?
I guess there's no knowing what fate will be.
Not really family, But *my* Grandma
all the same.
What can we do to make the hurt go away?
Just remember her EACH and EVERY DAY..."

Our sister has surely earned her rest.

Myrle Lee Smith was born September 14, 1926, to Minnie and Arthur Smith in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and departed this life on November 22, 1985, at the age of 59 years, 2 months, and 8 days.

She was preceded in death by her father, one brother, Alex Smith, and one grandson.

Myrle Lee spent most of her young years on a farm east of Ava, Missouri. As a young girl she was baptized and joined the Church of Christ.

After teaching in one-room schools in the rural area around Ava, Myrle Lee moved to Montana where she married Earl Darlington at Polson, Montana, on September 14, 1948. To this union four children were born and one adopted.

In 1957, Myrle Lee, her husband, and their young family returned to the same farm in the Ava area that she had lived on as a girl. Here they lived and farmed for the last 27 years.

Myrle Lee will be missed by her family and by the community for she was always involved with people. She was known for her drawing and painting, the sewing and knitting she did for many people, and the work she did in the program for transporting the elderly to shops or doctor appointments. She was quick to visit and help those who were ill.

Survivors include her husband of 36 years, Earl Darlington; her daughters: Cindy Rily of Ava, Missouri; Catherine Emery of Mountain Grove, Missouri, and Dorothy Deewall of Edmond, Oklahoma; her sons: Clyde Darlington of Ava, Missouri, and Joey Darlington of the home; her mother, Minnie Smith, of Ava, Missouri; her sisters: Beth Smith of Fair Oaks, California, Georgia Tate of Phoenix, Arizona; Lorraine Welton of Ava, Missouri, and Barbra Burgin of Ava, Missouri; her brothers: Carl Smith of Highland, California; Kenneth Smith of Independence, Missouri; Arthur Smith of Ava, Missouri, and Joseph Smith of Ava, Missouri; 10 grandchildren; and many other relatives and friends.

We gathered together on November 27 for services with Elders Arthur Smith and Marvin Case. Myrle Lee's nephew, Jimmy Smith, sang two beautiful and meaningful songs. Her body was laid near the resting places of her grandson and father in the Ava cemetery, but we know that her spirit has gone to be with theirs with Jesus waiting for the time when we will all be reunited again.

"Far and away the best prize that life can offer us is the chance to work hard at something worth doing."

Theodore Roosevelt

Collins Local News

Here we are, facing a brand new year. It seems only a few days ago I was learning to write "1985" on everything that required a date and now I'm practicing writing "1986". A lot has happened in "85", but there's no standing still. We must go on. We can look back and take inventory, so to speak, but then we need to look forward, reach out, and take hold of the Almighty's leading hand and go on.

Back in November our guest speaker was Brother Gerry Case from Independence. He told us of a time when he was very ill and was administered to seven times in all before he was healed. Now, maybe this doesn't sound too impressive on paper, but it was to me. His point was that we must be faithful and not give up when life gets tough. We must not deny the gifts of God when we don't get a healing or certain blessing. The Lord is faithful and true through our hard times and our good times.

It is the custom in Collins that on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter the three churches here (Baptist, Christian, and Church of Christ) join together to offer our tribute of praise to God. The Sunday night before Thanksgiving we met at the Baptist church and enjoyed a program, a short sermon by their pastor, followed by pie, coffee and lots of visiting. It was an evening well spent.

Earlier that Sunday morning we enjoyed our own little volunteer Thanksgiving program. Brother Allen Kauffman was our speaker that day and as he took his place behind the podium he smiled a little sheepishly at us and said he wanted to "break tradition" a little bit. He asked US to preach his sermon. He asked for volunteer testimonies to tell of what we were thankful for. The list covered just about everything. We may be small in numbers, but we sure are big in thanksgiving! Brother Allen thanked everyone for their participation and added, "Where else, but in this nation, could we stand and testify so freely!"

December 15th was a special Sunday at our little local. Yes, it was our dinner day and so we had a guest speaker, Brother Nicolas Denham of Independence. But before Brother Denham was introduced to speak to us a lovely, shall we say, ceremony was held — the blessing of a beautiful dark haired, dark-eyed little dolly by the name of Kerri Lynn Cook. Kerri was born October 31st to Terry and Debbie Cook. She was held up before the Lord for a blessing by Brother Allen Kauffman, assisted by Brother Jack Martin.

Brother Denham spoke of the real purpose for our being born — to make a decision whether to serve God or Satan. He said, referring to a picture on the wall, Christ doesn't drive his sheep, he leads them. He reminded us that we must keep our hearts and minds on that which is most valuable, life eternal.

December 22nd was our Christmas program. Brother Larry Shaw was the speaker of the hour. Most of you know Brother Larry so consider these few notes I took from his sermon:

"Most of us only pay attention out of desperation (or need). Like when we're sick, poor, etc., we need Christ. Sophistication is not what we need, but humility. God's way is simplicity at its very best. We think in terms of physical things and should be thinking of spiritual things. We want approval of our peers. This won't do us any good when we stand before God. God doesn't pay attention out of desperation, He just pays attention AND — He doesn't forget. (Speaking to the kids), If you wanta be tough just try to be a REAL Christian!! 'Like to leave you with the desire to "pay attention".

That Sunday evening was our Christmas program with the other churches in Collins and our turn to be host. We had a nice program with participation from all three churches. Brother Jack Martin gave a short sermon linking the Christmas story to the beginning of time through to the crucifixion of Christ and his resurrection, fitting it all carefully together. Afterward we enjoyed a time of fellowship with our community neighbors.

So, Christmas 1985 is over and the new year of 1986 is begun. Brother Allen asked us some questions in his last sermon that I'd like to pass on to you. Why are you here? What do you hope to gain? What is your purpose and are you fulfilling that purpose?

These are questions we might all consider, especially the last one. Time is moving on. We need each other. Please remember us in your prayers and may we all be quick to pick up our cross and follow our God when he calls us. God Bless!

Your reporter, Czerna Kauffman

A Christmas In Michigan

Sweet the time, exceeding sweet, when the saints together meet. How descriptive these words of the time we spend in communion with our brothers and sisters, whom we love so much, in the gospel and service of our Lord. This feeling of love was especially strong a few weeks ago as a goodly number of Michigan saints gathered at the Bradley Local to partake of the sacrament, followed by a beautiful prayer and testimony service and the annual Christmas program.

In keeping with the spirit of the season, we opened the service with the singing of "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful," followed by prayer by Elder Conley Addington. Before proceeding with the sacrament service, Brother Lussenden mentioned that one of the brothers, Brother Norman Trugden, had inquired as to why we wait until after the service to administer to the sick when they are probably suffering until the

time they receive administration. It was his idea that possibly they should be administered to first and if the Lord sees fit to heal them at the moment they can further enjoy the blessing of the meeting. Brother Lussenden made references especially to the 5th chapter of James, which instructs us: "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church..." and emphasized that the prayer of faith shall save the sick. So, with the congregation kneeling in silent prayer, Elders Addington and Lussenden administered to those who had requested administration.

Brother Addington then introduced brother Lussenden, who opened the service by remarking on the singing of songs, indicating that we should sing our songs as prayers to God. He pointed out that the last commission given to the disciples was to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature (something that we as a church have not done), that he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, that he that believeth not shall be damned. It is still a commission given to the Church of Christ.

Brother Lussenden then pointed out that the reason we are gathered here this morning is to honor God, and one way for us to honor and glorify God is to partake of the sacrament. If we want to celebrate the true spirit of Christmas, we should think about the greatest gift ever given to man, the gift of the cross by Jesus Christ; the shedding of his blood that we might have life and have it more abundantly. There is no greater gift ever been given to man than the gift of Jesus Christ. We were reminded that this morning we have the privilege of partaking of the gifts of the bread and wine, which we take in remembrance of Jesus Christ and what He did for us on the cross, because that was the only way salvation could come.

We were encouraged to examine ourselves and ask ourselves how much we love Christ and then partake and that we not eat or drink unworthily, remembering that we make mistakes but God is forgiving. We were reminded that this morning we have the privilege of renewing our covenant with God, that this is the day the Lord hath made.

Following Brother Lussenden's inspiring message, the congregation sang "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," after which we partook of the sacrament and enjoyed a beautiful season of prayer and testimony and the singing of praises to our Heavenly Father.

At the close of the prayer and testimony service, we enjoyed a sumptuous repast prepared by the sisters for the purpose of feeding our earthly bodies, after which we reconvened in the upper chambers to enjoy the annual Christmas program. It's impossible to really appreciate the beauty of the program unless you were actually there and difficult to adequately describe all the talent that took part. Those participating were: Mary Lee and Laura Ritsema at the piano and organ; the beautiful children of the Bradley Sun-

day School under the direction of Sister Joyce Lussenden; Mike and Gwen Ballard at the piano and organ; Ken and June Haines, duet; Jim and Jeffrey Butts, coronet solos; Evelyn and Mary Lee and Al Bergey, trio; The Lussenden Quartet; Beverly Scott, recitation; Lowell Scott, organ solo; The Lussenden Trio; Beverly Butts, piano solo. If I've missed anyone, please forgive me. There was so much talent, it would be possible to do that.

We closed the beautiful Christmas program with the singing of "God Be With You Till We Meet Again" by the congregation, followed by prayer by Brother Lussenden. It is our sincere hope and prayer that what we did this day was as acceptable to our Lord and Master as it was a joy to each and every one of us who joined together to praise and adore Him on the celebration of His birth. God bless you all, and may the year 1986 find us going into all the world and preaching the gospel to every creature.

In Christian Love,
Sister June Haines

Minneapolis News

Fall here should not be described in a Church publication, since it has been positively *unholy!* Due to winter's woes the children were not able to get in enough practice for the Christmas program. Iowa shared our weathered-in condition on Thanksgiving weekend and closed their highways to all traffic, which kept the Glenn Gill family who were visiting Glenn's parents, in Minnesota a day longer.

Our Pastor, Thomas Maley, is recovering quite well from triple by-pass heart surgery. An inundation of good wishes and prayers from far and near included Birthday greetings on December 14. We have been most thankful to see Brother Tom a bit stronger with each passing day. On December 29 for the final meetings of 1985, Tom and Ruth were chauffeured to church by Brother Jim Case accompanied by Sister Bonnie E. and the family, from Independence, Missouri. Sister Nancy Case honored us with piano accompaniment for singing. We're sorry we do not get to keep her! Brother John Gill was our speaker. The word EMPATHY was written on the board. Are we inclined to judge others according to what is in our own heart? Those who have mercy . . . will receive mercy.

On December 22, truly a Holy Day, a balmy breeze escorted us to church with above freezing temperature, just for the day of our Christmas dinner together. Uncanny! Next day we were plunged back into the deep freeze! The morning sermon by Forest Maley was based on Matthew 22:1-14 and Luke 14:15-24 which tell us about another feast. "The promises of God and the rewards of the spiritual life are like a lavish banquet which is already prepared, and to

which have been invited. But some prefer the lesser rewards; representing the cheap, the convenient, the customary, the peer-expected ways of our current existence. Consequently we deprive *ourselves* by choosing the less rewarding options. — Therefore Repent."

Among the various families had been flu, strep throat, pneumonia. Prayer and administration had put God's healing Power way ahead of "advice and wishes".

A goodly number was present to enjoy feast and fellowship. Brother and Sister Merlin Eddy, Sr. were here to help celebrate their son, Merlin's birthday, and stayed for church and dinner with us. Their visits add a special glow to our times together. Soft sculpture baskets on tables, and patchwork trees and wreaths on walls in a variety of needlework designs provided a warm, colorful touch for our dining hall.

We belabor the gates of heaven in behalf of the John and Nana Gill family who is planning a trip to Honduras to check into ways and means to get help to the Miskitos Indian tribe which was driven out of the east coast of Nicaragua. This tribe of Christian Indians speaks English, because of the considerable number of buccaneers who mixed with the Indians in the area for some one hundred years. By the time this report reaches you the Gill family may be well on their way, or perhaps returned, subject to the Lord's consent. John is taking a sabbatical from his teaching of handicapped.

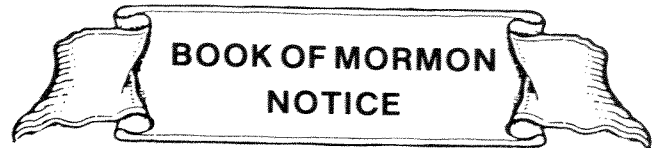
You want to know how Brother Tom Maley fared upon and after his first day back to church? He says, "It did me a world of good!" It was good to have Brother Wayne Krause from Seaforth, Minnesota worship with us this day, also.

Our sister Ida Boettcher lingers on at the nursing home in poor condition. Please remember her and her family in your prayers.

My sister Bertha Florence Yates Norris, departed this world on November 29. Her home was in Lindsay, California. Though Bertha did not transfer her membership from the R.L.D.S. Church, she attended the Church of Christ through her girlhood years with our parents and her siblings. Her two children were blessed in the Independence Church of Christ. An outgoing, friendly, and compassionate woman, she leaves a deeply felt vacancy in her family and her community. Her obituary will appear elsewhere in this publication. It is not always within us to rejoice except in God's great love. My sisters, Josephine Winkler and Bertha Norris whose deaths occurred so close together were the best of pals. One day when God chooses, I will be again the tag along younger sister. May the reunion be sweet!

From the Minneapolis Church of Christ we wish you the best for the year 1986.

Irene Maley reporting



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
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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)

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AUDIO VISUAL MATERIALS

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

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.