

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

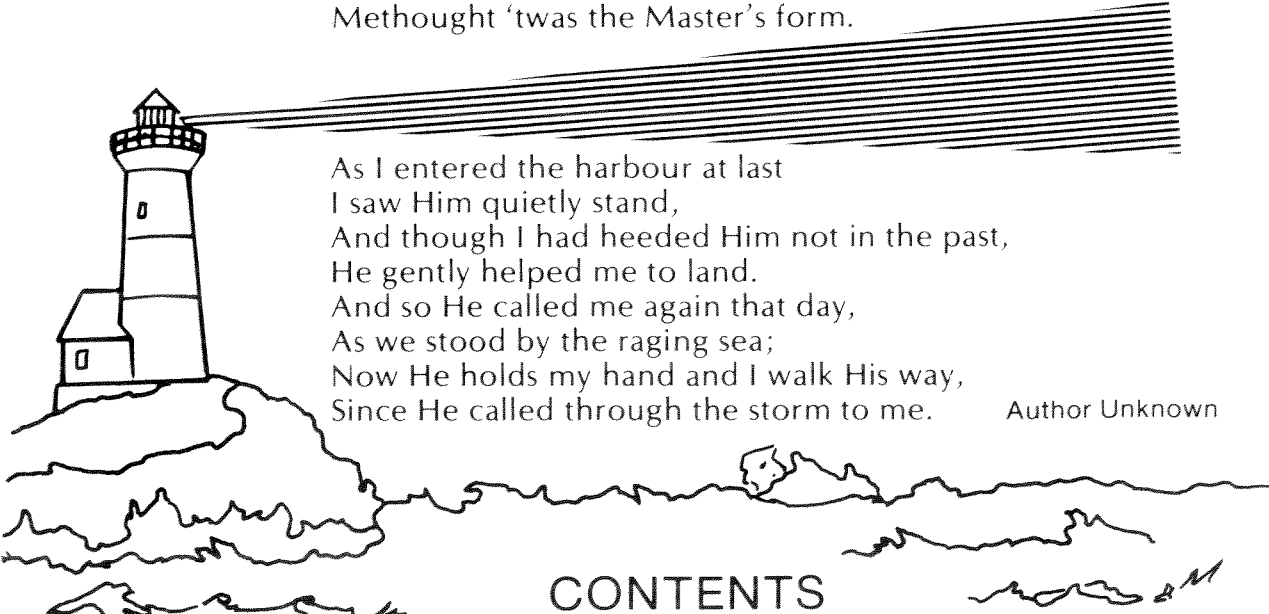
Independence, Missouri • March, 1986

No. 3

He Called Me Again

He called me first in the early morn,
As I stood by the smiling sea;
But I heeded not, for the day new born
Was a day that was all to me.
So I builded my castles, and dreamed my dreams,
And wondered why they should fall?
'Till night drew near, and the sunset gleams
Brought back the thought of His call.

He called me again one busy noon,
But my plans loomed large that day.
So I set sail and forgot so soon
That the Master had come my way.
But the winds were fierce that day, Ah me!
And I struggled alone through the storm;
Through the shadows, returning, off there on the
quay,
Methought 'twas the Master's form.



As I entered the harbour at last
I saw Him quietly stand,
And though I had heeded Him not in the past,
He gently helped me to land.
And so He called me again that day,
As we stood by the raging sea;
Now He holds my hand and I walk His way,
Since He called through the storm to me.

Author Unknown

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Zion's Advocate

ZION'S ADVOCATE (USPS 6993-0000)
 Official publication of The Church of Christ
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PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Temple Lot) 200 South River Boulevard, P.O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

Second Class Postage Paid at Independence, Missouri

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Zion's Advocate
 (USPS 6993-0000), P.O. Box 472, Independence, MO 64051-0472.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Subscription rates to members paid from general funds. In bundles of twelve or more for missionary purposes, \$2.00. Non-member rates: one year-\$4.00; Canadian and all foreign rates-\$4.50.

Send all donations for the Temple Fund, the Storehouse, Consecrations, Tithes, Offerings and Subscriptions for The Advocate to:

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WRITTEN MATERIAL FOR ZION'S ADVOCATE REQUESTED

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

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Editorial From the Past . . .

The Testimony Of Jesus

God calls all the world to repent of their sins. In this God speaks to all of the human family alike, to saint and sinner. This call is to be known from heaven, for it is written: "Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets." Amos 3:7.

The plan of salvation is a secret which is hidden from the world. No man can reveal it to another only as the Holy Spirit reveals it to him. The spirit of truth is to reveal God's message to the world. As it is written, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come." John 16:13.

The spirit of truth is for the purpose of inspiring God's servants to tell things to come. That is, the spirit will guide and inspire God's people how to live in daily life and tell things yet to come. The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

"But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full

of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." James 3:17. The wisdom of the world is destroyed when God reveals this wisdom from above. As it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent." I Corinthians 1:19.

Man's wisdom must work in harmony with the wisdom from above in order to please God. God's wisdom comes from above and we get the gift of wisdom when we yield obedience to the command that is given. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." James 1:5. Verse 17 says, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." Now if there is no shadow of turning in God's divine law, there must be present-day prophets, for God would act like Himself in every age of sinful man. God's will always was to reveal His will to and through His prophets.

We only know and prophesy in part while in this

sinful world, but when the wicked are destroyed and the righteous inherit the earth (Psalms 37:9) then we shall need no prophets, for all, from the least to the greatest, shall know Him. (Jeremiah 31:34.)

We need the spirit of truth now to guide us into all truth and tell us things to come just as much as the holy men of God of old did, when they were moved by the Holy Ghost to speak and warn the people. As it is written: "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." II Peter 2:21. And this same Holy Ghost was promised "to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." Acts 2:39.

Some will tell us the Bible is for the purpose of telling us things to come, but I say the Bible contains the written law, and is only a blank if read without the Spirit. It says "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."—II Timothy 2:15. When we read the written word of truth, the Bible, we must have the same spirit of truth to understand and rightly divide the written word. The Spirit of Truth is the author, who inspired the men who wrote the Bible. Of course the Author should be present to inspire the reader how to rightly divide his own written word. For this reason Paul, with all his wisdom, didn't try to divide God's written word. He says, "And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.—I Corinthians 2:4 and 5.

Now has God changed His first law of revealing His will to man? Has He permitted man to rightly divide His written divine law by his (man's) own wisdom? The colleges answer that question. They are sending out preachers all over the world without even claiming a divine call as Aaron was called. Aaron was called by revelation direct from Heaven.—(Exodus 4:27.)

Paul, speaking of the spiritual sacrifice says, "For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins: Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity. And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins. And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron."—Hebrews 5:1-4.

Aaron was called of God. God called all of His ministers. Abel was called, and Cain also. They understood God's voice; both offered sacrifice. But Cain, like many people in our day, just offered such as pleased himself. Abel offered the lamb as God had commanded, and Cain got angry, and slew Abel.

(Genesis 4:8). Men of every age have been angry and have slain the prophets that God sent with a message for their own good. Also they will slay the two last prophets that are yet to come to warn the people to prepare for the coming of our Lord. Shortly afterwards the seventh angel sounds, "and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever."—Revelation 11:15.

If people think that those who serve God as God has commanded are going along without being evil spoken of by the churches of men, they are sadly mistaken. Apostle Paul was brought before the council and they desired to "hear of thee what thou thinkest: for as concerning this sect, we know that every where it is spoken against." Acts 28:22. We of the Church of Christ, are also spoken against in the same manner in these days, but the promise of salvation is to those who endure persecutions and all things, unto the end. This is in accord with the testimony of Jesus.

Elder V.W. Pack
Shafter, California
January 1935

QUESTIONS



AND ANSWERS

"These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;" said Jesus Christ about himself in the book of Revelation (Ch. 3:14). Yes, Jesus Christ was the very first of God's creation, and thousands of years later God caused His Son to be born like you and I in the womb of a woman so that He could live among men and die for our sins.

After God created His Son, together they created the heavens and the earth and finally man when God said to His Son, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:" (Genesis 1:26)

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Have you ever been simply "bored to death" with a particularly long sermon? Beware if you have, for it really could be hazardous to your health to continue that practice!

Can you name the fellow who did nearly lose his life for becoming too bored with a New Testament preacher's sermon? . . . and why?

(Answer next month)

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 THREE (Conclusion)



Brother Oldham:

Why in the name of goodness would God in his great wisdom offer you and I this plan of salvation? Why is it to your benefit and mine to qualify ourselves recipients of such a covenant? Through the scripture I found that basically the answer to the first question—why would God create and offer us; overlook our wrongs, our weaknesses, our inadequacies time after time, very simply is because he loves every one of us. He desires that we put aside our petty differences, our misunderstandings, put aside our complexities of humanness and sociality and just come to him as little children and accept his love and bask in it.

Deuteronomy 7:7-14, declares this point much better than I, "The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: But because the Lord loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the Lord brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the Lord thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thou-

sand generations; And repayeth them that hate him to their face, to destroy them: he will not be slack to him that hateth him, he will repay him to his face. Thou shalt therefore keep the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which I command thee this day, to do them. Wherefore it shall come to pass, if ye hearken to these judgments, and keep, and do them, that the Lord thy God shall keep unto thee the covenant and the mercy which he swore unto the fathers: And he will love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee: he will also bless the fruit of thy womb, and the fruit of thy land, thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep, in the land which he swore unto thy fathers to give thee. Thou shalt be blessed above all people: there shall not be male or female barren among you, or among thy cattle." Why would God bother with you and I? Note in this scripture a commitment of love. He says to everybody, if you will accept my plan of salvation, if you will take into your heart the love that I will promise you, the gifts, the blessings, the rewards, the future is yours.

Jeremiah 31:1-4, "At the same time, saith the Lord, will I be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. Thus saith the Lord, The people which were left of the sword found grace in the wilderness: even Israel, when I went to cause him to rest. The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee. Again I will build thee, and thou shalt be built, O virgin of Israel: thou shalt again be adorned with thy tabrets, and go forth in the dances of them that make merry." A love of forgiveness; a covenant to love, to protect, to keep, a covenant to restore a fallen people. A covenant to offer hope, to offer joy, to offer fulfillment by and because of one reason, He is God. What have you got that God wants but your heart? No more, no less.

We've been instructed the last two evenings that God is the same yesterday, today and forever, that he changes not. If that is correct we should be able to look to the New Testament and see the very same promises that he offered back in the Old Testament, and I think we can. We can take a scripture Brother Gary used, "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." He sent his Son knowing his Son would die for you and me. We have two sons and a daughter and I'm not going to pretend that I could send them to die for you. God did send his Son for us. Christ did die for us. Note how the scripture confirms without question the commitment the Father made by sending his only begotten Son knowing that his Son would suffer and experience the pain of Gethsemane; the pain that Christ went through when he knew that he had to leave those that he loved, those that he wanted to teach, those he wanted to serve. But he knew it was his Father's plan that he would knowingly go to the cross; and experience the pain of the cross. We're told in Mark 14 that Christ agonized in Gethsemane. He was arrested and shamed, but as one of his disciples cut off the ear of one of the soldiers, with love he picked it up and placed it back.

The plan of God above; the plan of salvation had to be fulfilled. Christ also knew that by experiencing the pain of Gethsemane, that by going to the cross, he would pay the price that you and I can have eternal life if we will but submit ourselves to him. He knew that no circumstances or conditions that satan or his angels can afflict upon mankind could hold or keep us from the plan of love.

Now you and I have to make a commitment equal to that love. If we have not made our commitment, why haven't we? Well maybe we have. There are about three quick scriptures that can show us if we have made that commitment. Let's look at Mark 12:30 and 31, first, there was a question posed to Jesus, "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these." That's the criteria.

Last night Buzz read, "If you love me keep my commandments," plural form, all of them. In James we're told to "Be not a hearer but a doer also." Of what? Of his word, his whole word. Am I living up to my part of the bargain? Look at John 13:34 and 35, Christ speaking, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another, as I have loved you, that ye also loved one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to

another." Matthew 5:16 says, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Revelation 22:12 says, "And behold I come quickly;" Christ speaking, "and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." No place for many bystanders in this business of salvation, is there? Did you notice in those scriptures I read, the promises we will be recipients of, if we will incorporate these teachings into our daily lives?

I'd like anybody to stand up and tell me what sin you can commit if you obey all three of those commandments. What sin can you commit if you love the Lord your God with all your heart, might, mind, soul, and strength, and love your neighbors as yourself? What sin? If ye love me keep my commandments; what sin? If you love one another; what sin? None. There is none.

Is there anybody here that doesn't love God? But God said, "If ye love me keep my commandments," plural form. Let's look at I John 4:20 and 21, we're going to determine here if we're living according to the teachings and doctrine of the plan of salvation. "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also." Surely none of us is guilty of hating our brother. None of us would be guilty of talking about our brother, of laying him low because of his inadequacies, would we? Now I know there's a difference between constructively talking about (criticizing) someone and viciously gossiping about someone. What's the difference?

As we find the commitment God has made to each of us, and as we understand the commitment that God expects of each of us, we find that there is no half-way measure in the life of service. We must obey the whole law of God, or we are subject to the law of God.

In John 15: 1-17, this is Christ talking, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit." That's saying that if you will be obedient to the words and teachings of Jesus Christ you will be grafted into the body of Christ. "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." Without Jesus Christ we are incapable. "If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." Last night we were told about the blessings, the miracles, the healings, the gifts that are available. "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. These things I command you, that ye love one another." Has anybody here got a friend that laid down his life for them, say about 2,000 years ago?

Look with me at page 163 in the Book of Mormon. In my book I've got this marked in brackets, I think it's because I heard someone else say it, and it says, "the whole plan of God". Verses 29 through 32, "Wherefore, ye must press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of 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—" What? "eternal life. And now behold, my beloved brethren, this is the way; and there is none other way nor name given under heaven, whereby man can be saved in the kingdom of God." Let me read that again, "And now behold, my beloved brethren, this is the way; and there is none other way nor name given under heaven, whereby man can be saved in the kingdom of God." None. No other. "And now behold, this is the doctrine of Christ, and the only and true doctrine of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, which is one God, without end. Amen."

We believe that through the teachings of the scripture we can show that the Church of Christ more nearly teaches the true and living gospel of Jesus Christ. It's your job and mine to carry that message out, because they (others) can't know of it until we who have the fulness of the gospel share it. Are you willing to accept your burden of responsibility and go out and serve God's other children? Are you willing to put those teachings into your daily lives? Are you willing to put aside those petty, small, incidental sins that we all commit and make a concerted effort not to

commit them again? Are you willing to turn from sin and be a constructive builder of Zion, that which you've been called and set apart to do?

We're told to endure to the end. Who knows when the end will be? Can you afford to postpone your day of repentance?

Is there any one here that in some way or another has been touched by God? Have you, or have you in your family, anybody that's been healed by God's intervening power? Has anybody here ever been protected from danger? Been given the necessary insight to protect them from making the wrong decision? If anybody can answer yes to those questions, then what are we doing — not serving God? If he has fulfilled his commitment to us, are we not responsible to serve Him?

What is the plan of redemption, of salvation? What is grace? What is love? What is obedience? Look with me on page 220 of the Book of Mormon, 12 through the 17th verse, "And there is none other salvation, save this which hath been spoken of; neither are there any conditions whereby man can be saved, except the conditions which I have told you." Take these following as questions, "Do you believe in God? Do you believe that he is, and that he created all things, both in heaven and in earth? Do you believe that he has all wisdom, and all power, both in heaven and in earth? Do you believe that man doth not comprehend all things which the Lord can comprehend? And again, do you believe that ye must repent of your sins and forsake them, and humble yourselves before God; and ask in the sincerity of heart that he would forgive you?" Do you believe that? "If you believe all these things, see that ye do them." You can read that whole chapter and it's good counsel to live by daily.

Question: Are you satisfied? Probably not. Can you be satisfied? If you're willing to submit yourselves to the teachings and counsel of Jesus Christ, yes you can be, but only if you're willing to submit yourself totally. Hear me well, Brothers and Sisters, if Jesus Christ has touched your heart, if you feel in any way you are not living up to the expectations that God the Father and Christ the Son have of you, correct it.

My prayer is that God has been glorified and that we all may be strengthened because of it. May God bless you.

In looking back over the series, we've been admonished to love God, and to love one another. To keep his commandments and to do those things that Christ himself has shown us to do. So I hope that each of us will take these thoughts home with us and ponder them in our hearts. Study the scriptures and ask God for that understanding and discernment and wisdom that we all need for the strength to take those things out of our lives that aren't pleasing to him; and that we might make a recommitment to serve the Lord with gladness.

Path Lights

God's Dealings With Me

My daughter-in-law Betsy and our son Dennis are now in England, with Dennis's employment. The only contact with our Church they now have is through letters and the Zion's Advocate. Betsy says it is like she can go to church at least once a month, when it arrives. Betsy said something to me that made me realize how lazy, lacking or whatever, we as the Church of Christ people are. She said, oh I wish there were more testimonies in the Zion's Advocate. I enjoy reading them so much. This pricked my heart and I thought God has given me so much, I should take the time to send in a part of my life experiences and tell how God, in his wisdom, has always been there. My life has been a beautiful testimony of God's directing it, when I would let Him.

At birth I was fortunate to be born into a loving family, who had searched sincerely for Christ's true church on this Earth. With God's guidance, they found it before I was born. All my life I have been blessed with the gifts of the Church of Christ, being raised with the knowledge of trusting in Jesus. My mother had such a great gift of faith in God and His blessings, that it enlightened her family also in what God has to offer, through faith in Him. At the age of thirteen, I was baptized into the Church of Christ and had hands laid on for the gift of the Holy Ghost.

It would take a book to tell you of all the healings that God has given to me and my loved ones, through the gift of healing through His Elders and also through prayer. I can relate the time I was told by the doctor I had a growth and was referred to a specialist. The specialist confirmed there was a growth and it was about the size of a lemon. He wanted me to come back in two weeks. The next Sunday at church I was administered to. When I went back to the specialist, he said the growth was gone. He asked me to come back in three weeks so he could check again to see where it had gone. I never went back, I knew where and how it was gone. God had given me another gift of the love He has for His children.

There was also a very special healing God gave to our grandson Tony. Tony was very ill, and we were afraid it was Reye's Syndrome. He could not lift his head and he started to pass blood through his kidneys. Our daughter Laurie called Elder La Verne Lussenden to come and administer to him. When he arrived, we had a season of prayer before the administration. God gave Tony an instant healing. Oh, how our faith grew that night.

Another experience in my life was in 1964, when my mother, who was only 50 years old, was very ill and in the hospital. My husband Norman was not a member of our church at that time, but knew how we believed. When I knelt by my bed to pray for my mother, I asked Norman to kneel with me. He did and ever since that time we have prayed together. However, it was not in God's plan to let my mother stay on this earth with us. We received a phone call from the hospital asking us to come, as mother was dying. We were almost to the hospital, Norman was driving, I had my head resting on the back of the seat and my mother's spirit appeared to me. I could sense she had someone with her, although I did not see anyone. My mother sounded very happy but also like she was anxious to leave, like she was in a hurry. She said three things to me, "I am not alone, I am so happy, and You wouldn't want me back, would you?" I had tears streaming down my face, I shook my head and said no. With the happiness and joy I felt in her voice, I knew God had a wonderful place prepared for all those who love him. Sometimes we are so selfish and we don't want our loved ones to leave us, but I know my mother has a happiness beyond anything we have ever known in this life. Being the youngest daughter and very spoiled by my mother, her death would have been almost unbearable for me, if God hadn't given me this special gift of her words to me. When I looked at her, in the casket, all I saw was an empty body. I knew God had her with Him.

I also think of the gift of our three lovely children. Our oldest daughter, Laurie, has always been like my right hand and I never had to ask for her help, it was done before I asked. Our son Dennis was a normal boy, he was busy in the things of the world. His dad and I spent many hours in prayer to God in his behalf. God has a beautiful plan for Dennis, He has given him the thirst for knowledge. Dennis spends many, many hours studying and learning. He has almost worn out many of the brothers of the church with questions. I can recall the times he spent talking to Brother Archie Bell and Brother Maynard Case. Dennis and his wife Betsy are now in England and they spend much of their time, in old book stores, in search of God's mysteries. God guided him to his lovely wife Betsy, who was baptized into the Church of Christ last summer. Norman and I and my sister Joyce Lussenden and her husband La Verne Lussenden took a motorcycle trip to Washington D.C. where Dennis and Betsy were living, at that time. Betsy asked La Verne to baptize her. God in His magnificent greatness, in the busy place of Washington, D.C. area, provided us with a private and beautiful lake for this special ordination. A few months later Dennis and Betsy left for England (his job has taken him there). However, I know

God is with them both, as they have taken God with them. So many times, we go places but we forget to ask God to please come with us. I guess it is like the poem "Footprints In the Sand," He is there with us even when we don't know it. I know He would rather we would invite Him.

God has always provided us with a lovely, loving Church family. We are all members of the Bradley Michigan Local, Church of Christ, except our youngest, and I might say quite a surprise, daughter Kendra (born fifteen years after Dennis) who is now eleven and our son-in-law Michael. At this time they are not baptized, but we know in God's own time, all things will be done if we sincerely pray for it. Getting back to our church family at Bradley, Michigan, we are blessed each Sunday with the gift of preaching by Elder La Verne Lussenden, a very talented organist Laura Ritsema and pianist Mary Lee. We have many song specials by the Lussenden quartet. Our very special gifts of all come at our monthly Sacrament, prayer and testimony services. There are all very wonderful gifts of God to me. God has also

given me, at His appointed times the gift of prophecy, which is something no man or woman can even try to explain to someone else. It is beyond all the joys of this world. It makes me think of the Bible verse St. Luke, chapter 18, verse 27 ". . . THE THINGS WHICH ARE IMPOSSIBLE WITH MEN ARE POSSIBLE WITH GOD."

My prayers are, that we as God's children, will be in the condition that God will bless His church with all the wonderful gifts and blessings we all need to obtain Eternal Life with Him. God bless you all and may our prayers always be for each other.

Your sister in Christ
Georgia L. Trudgen
Bradley, Michigan

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

A Great And A Marvellous Work

By Apostle William A. Sheldon

PART FIFTEEN



William
A.
Sheldon

Having previously discussed the ministry of a "marred" servant in connection with an endowed ministry of others to the nations, preliminary to the great "day of the Lord," we wish to also discuss a vital, fulfilling ministry to the Lamanites (Indians), which will be contemporaneous to it, or practically so.

Almost from the inception of this latter day restoration of the fulness of the gospel, efforts have been made to reach out to the Indians in our enthusiasm to bring them into the "light" in fulfillment of the numerous Book of Mormon prophecies which clearly reveal God's intentions to recover these people of Israel unto himself. These efforts have only succeeded to a limited degree, and the primary

reason for this is because it really was not in accord with the Lord's time table.

He has said (1 Nephi 3:199-200) that:

After he has manifested himself unto the Jews and also unto the Gentiles; then he shall manifest himself unto the Gentiles, and also unto the Jews. And the last shall be first, and the first shall be last.

The Indians (Nephites, Lamanites, etc.) originated in the land of Jerusalem, living among those of Judah, though descended from Mannasseh, the son of Joseph. They were of the kingdom of Judah, and, generally speaking, were termed as Jews. Now, in a very real sense, the gospel of salvation (Christ) was offered first to the Jews and then to the gentiles. Again, in latter days, those who had formerly been the last to receive it, that is, the gentiles, were to receive it first. With a general rejection by the gentiles in the latter days, then it is to be taken from them (as nations) and offered again to the Jews, and to all of Israel.

As is often the case, we of gentile derivation have tried to run before the Lord, and our efforts to

convert the Indians have been substantially ineffective. The Lord's timetable sets the period of Indian conversion to follow the gentile rejection of the fullness of the gospel, and when these gentiles (notably the U.S.A.) would be lifted up in pride above all nations and be filled with all manner of lying, mischief, hypocrisy, murders, priestcraft, whoredoms and secret abominations (including the prevalence of secret societies). See III Nephi 7:34,35. Surely the cup of iniquity is nearly filled to the brim!

Because of these things, the Lord will bring the remnant of Jacob among the gentiles as a young lion to tread down and tear in pieces, with none to deliver. This matter has been discussed previously.

Surely, then, there is also to be a preparation among the Indians in order that they may come to the light of the true gospel restored! The Book of Mormon is clear that it is to come unto them by way of the gentiles. Please read from III Nephi 9:86-93, but we quote here verses 92,93:

For thus it behooveth the Father that it should come forth from the Gentiles, that he may shew forth his power unto the Gentiles, for this cause, that the Gentiles, if they will not harden their hearts, that they may repent and come unto me, and be baptized in my name, and know of the true points of my doctrine, that they may be numbered among my people, O house of Israel: And when these things come to pass, that thy seed shall begin to know these things, it shall be a sign unto them, that they may know that the work of the Father hath already commenced unto the fulfilling of the covenant which he hath made unto the people who are of the house of Israel.

Now, we wish to emphasize that those of the gentiles who do repent shall be numbered with the Indians, and with all of Israel; and Christ will not suffer the remnant of Jacob (Indians) to go through among *them* to tread them down. See III Nephi 7:38,39.

The Indians, as a people, are yet to receive the fullness of the gospel. It will be done through a ministry of those of the gentiles, and we are persuaded, largely through efforts of the Church of Christ. Incidentally, a preparatory work of exposing Indians to the Book of Mormon is being done with some success by factions from this Church.

We expect that the greater work will be done by Indians who have been converted into this gospel and into this Church; there is one to be raised up from that people who will do a mighty work among them; this is clear, from the Book of Mormon. Could it be that our present work in Mexico will prove fruitful to that end? Perhaps this notable "Indian"

servant is yet to be converted and united to the Church of Christ here in the U.S.

This matter of a future appearance of one who will be descended from Joseph, the son of Lehi (and a descendant from Joseph of old who had been sold into Egypt) has been "hashed" and "rehashed" many times, so we will not enter into a discourse from II Nephi, chapter two at this time, which covers it.

He has been mistakenly referred to as a "choice seer" because this chapter has much to say about such a seer. It is the author's firm conviction that the "Indian" prophet who will do this mighty work (see verses 46,47) will *not* be a seer at all.

We are plainly informed in the Book of Mormon that a seer is one who has in his possession a divine instrument, called interpreters (or as the Bible gives it, Urim and Thummim), and is commanded of God in its use. Refer to Mosiah 5:72-78 and 12:14-21. Joseph Smith was a seer, and this author firmly believes he is the one referred to in II Nephi, chapter two, as a "choice seer." Incidentally, Joseph Smith is the only seer who has been revealed to date since the inception of this latter day work, by the above definition. What does this say, then, as to the successive ordinations within the factions of the restored Church to the office of "prophet, seer and revelator?"

Now, why do we say that this future, mighty "Indian" servant will not be a seer? It is because that the work of a seer, who *is* yet to be revealed, and who will translate the "sealed" plates which Joseph Smith was not permitted to translate, shall also be a gentile. This we shall endeavor to prove in the proper time frame of this treatise.

Following, is the prophecy (II Nephi 2:44-47) relative to the powerful work to be done among the Lamanites/Nephites by this man whom some refer to as the "Indian Moses":

And now, behold, my son Joseph, after this manner did my father of old prophecy. Wherefore, because of this covenant thou art blessed: for thy seed shall not be destroyed (the seed of Joseph, son of Lehi, is mingled with those of Laman, W.A.S.), for they shall hearken unto the words of the book (Book of Mormon, W.A.S.) And there shall raise up one mighty among them, who shall do much good, both in word and in deed, being an instrument in the hands of God, with exceeding faith. To work mighty wonders, and do that thing which is great in the sight of God, unto the bringing to pass much restoration unto the house of Israel, and unto the seed of thy brethren.

(To be continued)

The True Church of Christ

by Elder John J. Schut
(Missionary To The Netherlands)

Where is this one true church? What is this one Church like? By what is this one true church known? You may well ask such questions. This one true church is composed of all pure in heart and mind, and true believers in Christ Jesus. It is made up of all Christ's Elect — of all converted men and women — of all creed.

They are born again of the spirit. They all possess repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Christ Jesus; and holiness of life and conversation. They hate sin, and they love the Christ; they worship alike in various places, in prayer and fasting. Some worship kneeling while others cannot kneel anymore but they all worship with one heart.

They are all led by one spirit; they all build upon one foundation; they all draw their faith from the scriptures of the restoration: The Bible (K.J.V.), and the Book of Mormon; they are all joined to one great center — that is Christ the Savior. They all, even now, can say with one heart, "hallelujah;" and they can all respond with one heart and voice: "Amen and Amen."

It is a church which is dependent upon no ministry upon earth, however it values those of the priesthood who are called to preach the gospel of Christ to the membership.

It has but one great head — one Shepherd, one chief bishop — and that is Christ Jesus.

He alone, by his spirit and through his appointed Ministry, has shown the members the door to eternity.

Until He opens the door, no man on earth can open it — not any priesthood or whomever it may be.

Once a man repents and believes the gospel, he may become a member of His church through the administration of the ordinances.

The Church existence depends on nothing but the presence of Christ and His Spirit; and they being ever with it, the Church cannot die.

This is the Church to which the scriptural titles of present honour and privilege, and the promises of future glory, especially belong; this is the body of Christ; this is the Bride; this is the Lamb's Wife; this is the Flock of Christ; this is the Household of Faith and the Family of God; this is God's Building; God's chosen temple site and foundation and the temple of Christ and the Holy Spirit.

This is the Church of the First Born, whose names are written in Heaven; this is the Royal Priesthood, the chosen generation; the chosen people, the purchased possession, the hesitation of God, the light of the world, the salt and the wheat of the

earth. This is the Church about which the Lord Christ Jesus promised: "The gates of Hell shall not prevail against it." And to which He says: "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

This is the only church which possesses true unity. Its members are entirely agreed on all the weightier matters for they are all taught by one Spirit: About God, and Christ, and the Spirit, and Son, and their own hearts, and faith, repentance, and the necessity of holiness, and the value of the Bible and the Book of Mormon, the importance of prayer and fasting, and judgment to come — about these points they are of one mind.

Take a few from them, strangers to one another, from all parts of the Globe, and examine them separately. You will find them all to be of one mind and have a brotherhood which is stronger than you will imagine.

This is the Church which possesses true Sainthood; its members are called Saints. They are not merely Saints by profession, or in name, they are saints in act, deed, reality, life, and truth. They are all more or less conformed to the image of Christ Jesus.

No unsaintly man wants to belong to this Church. This is the only Church which is truly Christ's Church. It is not the Church of any one nation or people; its members shall be counted and found by every human who receives and believes the Gospel of Christ. It is not confined within the limits of any one county or country, or pent up within the pale of any particular form of outward government.

Its members will be gathered from North, and South, and East and West in the latter day; and will be of every name and tongue — but all "one" in Christ Jesus.

This is the only Church which is truly apostolic. It is built on the foundation laid down by the Apostles, and holds the doctrines which they preached, and still preach. This is the only Church which is certain to endure unto the end.

Nothing can altogether overthrow and destroy it. Its members may be persecuted, oppressed, beaten, etc., but the true Church is never altogether extinguished; it always rises again from its afflictions; it lives through fire, and when crushed in one land, it springs up in another.

This is the Church which does the work of Christ upon earth. Its members are a little flock, and few in number compared with the peoples of the world; one here, two there, and two or three there — a few

in this local and a few in that.

But these are they who shake the numbers of others; these are they who are active workers for spreading the knowledge of Christ's Church, and undefiled.

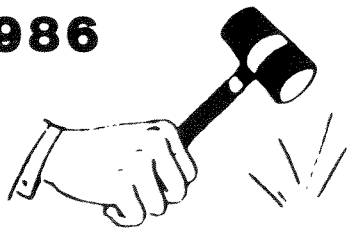
This is the Church which shall be truly glorious at the end. When all earthly glory is passed away, then shall this Church be presented without spot before the Father's throne.

Thrones, principalities and powers upon earth shall come to nothing; dignities and offices and

endowments shall pass away, but the Church of Christ shall shine as the star at the last, and shall be presented with joy before the Father's throne in the day when Christ shall appear.

When the Lord's jewels are made up, and the manifestation of the sons of God take place, all that is or was will not be mentioned; one Church only will be named and that is the church of the Elect, the Church of Christ with headquarters on the Temple Lot in Independence, Jackson County, the State of Missouri, in the United States of America and its local churches throughout the world.

Conference To Convene April 6, 1986



Following instructions of the 1966 Referendum, the annual conference of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot), will begin on the Sunday of the week in which the 6th of April occurs, which, this year, will be April 6.

Business sessions, however, will start at 9:00 a.m., Monday April 7. A Solemn Assembly is scheduled April 4 and 5.

As per Bill #1, 1972 Referendum, "all committees and boards, etc., of the Church empowered to expend general Church funds or collect the same shall be required to submit an annual report of their activities, to include a financial statement of funds received and disbursed and submit to a joint meeting of the Council of Twelve and Bishopric at least one week prior to the opening of Conference, a proposed budget for the ensuing year."

Officers and committees, as noted in the directory, should see that their reports are filed with the conference secretary as early as possible. Persons needing a place to stay should contact a Conference Coordinator. Those wishing to donate food or money to the conference, should contact the Dining Hall Committee.

In accordance with action of the 1985 Conference, all requests for funds should be submitted to the General Bishopric one month prior to the conference convening.

We are looking forward with eager anticipation to greeting each of you and pray that the Lord's will be done in all things.

R. W. Oldham
General Church Secretary

MARCH NOTES

"Help Someone See Week"



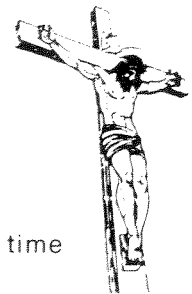
(March 1-8)

Purpose is to remind everyone to save and donate your discarded eyeglasses for distribution in needy countries by Medical Group Mission of the Christian Medical Society. For information, write to Dr. and Mrs. Fleming Barbour, 2015 Lincoln Drive, Flint, Michigan 48503.

You can also "help someone see" in a different sense, and closer to home: Share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with those around you.

Central America Week (March 16-24)

To commemorate the assassination of the Salvadoran Archbishop in 1980. Meant to focus attention on the deepening crisis throughout all of Central America. The Communist influence in Salvador and other Central American nations is also directly or indirectly behind pressures that exist in ever greater measure against the work of our Church of Christ missionaries in Yucatan and elsewhere. It would be well for us to dedicate this week to fervent prayer on behalf of those people and our missionaries that courageously set forth to do the Lord's work in that land.



Holy Week (March 23-30)

As we enter into this week, let us try to feel what Christ must have felt as He entered into Jerusalem for the last time on Palm Sunday; had a last supper with His disciples; was betrayed by His own and taken captive by Roman soldiers; was condemned to die and was crucified (Good Friday); and gloriously arose from the grave (Easter Sunday). If we can have empathy with what Jesus felt and went through — all for you and I, perhaps we will be better able to muster the desire and necessary strength to more fully become His disciples.

NEWS

Phoenix, Arizona

(Reporters Evalena Sills & Becky McIndoo)

Greetings from "The Valley of the Sun!" After one unseasonably cold spell and a little snow in early winter (believe it or not!) we've enjoyed shirt sleeve weather out on our patios and in our back yards.

Because of our editor's necessary early deadline for receiving material for publication, and due to unavoidable delays sometimes, the items in this column may not qualify as "news," but we hope they may still hold some interest for you.

Our yearly election of Church officers in early January sustained Elder Gordon McCann as Pastor for 1986, and Elder Jay Moser as assistant Pastor. I was elected reporter for *Zion's Advocate*. We hope to share our activities with you from time to time during 1986, through these pages, and we always enjoy hearing from you.

Since the Thanksgiving Time Reunion, about which Becky McIndoo writes later in this report, various events of note have occurred. A very significant and beautiful one took place at the church on December 7, 1985. Cindy Foreacre, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Foreacre of Peoria, Arizona, was given in marriage to Gerald W. Gill, son of Harold and Donna Gill and grandson of Apostle Don Housknecht and his wife, Doris. Elder Jay Moser performed the ceremony, and Joel Yates sang the Wedding Song, accompanied by Doris Housknecht at the organ. A lovely reception followed the ceremony, where many useful and beautiful gifts were opened for everyone to "Ah!" and "Oh!" over.

Cindy had been baptized into the Church of Christ by Apostle Don McIndoo, at Walnut Ranch, Heber, Arizona, during the Camp For All Ages meeting in July, 1985. Gerald, of course, has been a member since childhood. Being *one* in the Gospel will surely increase their potential for marital happiness. All of us wish for the newlyweds a long and happy life together in a home where the Spirit of God is ever present.

One of the features of a New Year's Eve party in the church dining room was reading aloud a list of New Year's resolutions brought by those in attendance. The resolutions expressed some very worthy goals. The New Year's party featured a pot-luck meal, fellowship and fun games, one of which was guessing the identity of a display of baby pictures. How the years do change us all! When the clock struck midnight, the gala occasion quietly turned to

sober thoughts, and one of the ministers asked that all heads be bowed while a prayer was offered seeking God's blessing and guidance in the days and hours of the new year. Could any act be more appropriate for the first moments of a new year? After that, let the bells ring, the fireworks blaze and the whistles blow. A new year is ours to live! Let us rejoice and live it well!

A business meeting on January 22, 1986, established a Young People's Organization, with the intent to further the physical and spiritual wellbeing of the young. Teacher Joel Yates was elected as the first leader of the group. Joel has been called to be an Elder (through Apostle Don Housknecht) and by the time this report reaches you he most likely will have been ordained to that office. We hope he will perform the duties of an Elder to the spiritual good of the young people, as well as his own good and the good of the Body of Christ in general.

Our Local Church services consist of Sunday School at 10:00 A.M. each Sunday morning, followed by a preaching service at 11:00 A.M., except on the first Sunday each month when we celebrate the Sacrament Service (communion) with prayer and testimonies. Every other Wednesday night there is a Prayer meeting. The intervening Wednesday nights are devoted to Song Services. The Song Leader, (Chris Moser this year) invites the audience to select a favorite hymn to be sung. Even the little children hold up their little hands to be recognized and to request their favorite song. They sing, too—sometimes gathering in a body up front to sing for us in their high-pitched voices the sweet words of "Jesus Bides Me Shine" or "Don't Step There," or some other inspiring hymn. What joy this gives those of us whose childhood is far, far in the past!

We have six classes in the Sunday School: Adult Class, Young Adults, Intermediate, Junior, Primary and Nursery. Our dedicated S.S. teachers this year are: J.E. Yates Jr. (temporary until May, then Joel), Andy Brown, Jay Moser, Debbie Biringner, Marlene Oar, Chris Moser and Valerie Stavro. Ken Oar served faithfully the past two years, then felt to resign and let someone else take over.

We had a dinner at the church on January 14, 1986, to raise money for the Yucatan Mission. No charge for the dinner (hearty soups and salads) but donations totaled \$1,051.00. Apostle Don McIndoo and Elder J.E. Yates Sr. who are now in Yucatan on

their yearly mission to the many Church of Christ locals there will be able to help those very needy people with the funds raised here. It gladdens our hearts to be able to help them!

Our ministers, two apostles, six elders, two priests and two teachers, take turns behind the pulpit, when able, to bring us the message of salvation. If we heed the inspiring messages they bring us we will be changing and improving our lives in 1986 — a time most surely near the end when "man's work is done."

The ancient Greek philosopher and mathematician, Pythagoras, said: "Time is the soul of the world." May we all strive to make the very best use of the time yet allotted to us! Remember us in your prayers.

The 1985 Phoenix Reunion

For all those unable to attend the reunion here this year I will try to outline in brief what transpired. We accommodated approximately 150 people for three days of feasting both of the spirit and body. It often is hard to unwind from all the preparation that goes into a reunion and I might say for most of us all it took was the opening remarks on the first day. The Spirit of the Lord was with each and every speaker, each heart felt testimony and even the unspoken thoughts for the remaining time spent together. A reunion like this is the best medicine any soul could receive here on earth.

The sermons we were fortunate enough to hear were so powerful and full of the Spirit of God, that mere words on a piece of paper can do no justice. In brief though, here are some thoughts brought to us. "The fullness of the gentiles", unless we become more like Christ we do not have the true fullness of the gospel. Now how can we become more like Christ? "Charity", this was made known to one, that this is our biggest need. We must pray with all our energy for this, because this "Charity" is the "pure Love of Christ" and a "Perfect Love" is "Charity"! And put on "the armour" Jesus says . . . "I am a light to the world, who believe on me, will not abide in darkness. . ." And now that we have come to a "crossroads" and have seen our problems, now is the time to replace the confusion in our lives with unity! Replace mistrust with confidence! Replace fear with boldness! Replace indecision with decisiveness! That is how we can "take the yoke of Jesus on you." Be constant in prayer like never before. Be ready to meet our Master. Take courage and be prayerful always.

On the closing day of our reunion we came fasting to our sacrament service and we were filled greatly. It was given to us to know that there have been six men called to be Apostles, to serve in the

Lord's Work but the names were not given at that time and it would be wisdom for each of us to pray earnestly for a witness and confidence of this to be God's blessing. There is a work to be done in these "The last days". And it will be work. There will be great persecution unfolding. We can see it now and it will be on the increase. We must be armed with the power of God. Be ready to make the right decisions according to God's Will. Each and every decision determines the security of each of our names in the Book of Life. This upcoming conference will be an important one to all of us and I personally believe that each of us should make every effort to join our hearts and prayers in one accord to that perfect will of God and that we may prepare ourselves for that time. I would urge everyone to make every effort to attend this conference also. In closing I will pass along to you the thought that there are always two choices in everything . . . the right choice and the wrong . . . I know which one feels better, don't you!! Let us all try to live the right way.

Flint, Michigan (Reporter Adam Porter)

I pray that our Lord Master will forgive us for being so slack in sharing the news from our lives. I would like to go back through last years news, because I know a lot has been missed. On July 11th, 1985 a beautiful little girl was born to Brother Adam and Sue Porter. She was given the name Emily Jane Porter. On July 21st, 1985 she was blessed by Brother Edward Toulouse. We thank God because she is blessed with being a healthy baby. For several months we had the pleasure of sharing our worship services with Brother Rex and Sister Marie Weaver from California. They were an inspiration to us all.

Due to Brother Rex's health, they were forced to return to California, and our prayers go with them. We normally have a long prayer list for those who have asked for prayer. We now have one less on that list. Our Sister Pearl M. Giem, whose prayer was to be with her Lord and Master, was called home Friday, October 11th, 1985. She was born on October 24th, 1927 in Otsego Lake, Michigan to Joseph and Gertrude Eddy, also of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot). She suffered long and hard with diabetes, which left her blind for her last 10 years or so. I know Sister Pearl saw more things in life which were more beautiful and precious than many who have their full eyesight and still see nothing. She was a "Pearl of Great Price" who not only believed, but lived and showed others by what she believed. She will be sorely missed. From time to time we have the privilege of meeting with our Brothers and Sisters from

Bradley. We are glad they are able to make it, for it is a long drive from there. I know our Master is pleased with efforts like this to enrich our lives toward him. We ask the Lord to watch over them in their travels. Beginning this fall Dan and Cheryl Conley and their little son Jesse have been joining us for worship services on a regular basis. We are happy to have them with us. For some time our Thursday night study meetings had been cancelled for whatever reasons, but were resumed before Christmas. We pray that we might gain enlightenment and understanding through them.

For three weeks surround Christmas we were blessed with an overly large attendance. Among them were our own congregation, our Brothers and Sisters from Bradley, Brother Bob and Sister Jo Eddy from Missouri with their daughter Sharon who recently returned from a Peace Corps assignment in Africa, and many others from Brother Orville Eddy's family. It was a very enlightening and joyous Christmas for us all. My prayer is that throughout this new year we share more of our news and blessings with all through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Independence, Missouri

(Temple Lot Reporter Margret Gill)

The following officers were elected in the local at the fall business meeting:

Pastor: Bro. Alvin L. Harris; Assistant Pastor: Appointed by the Pastor; Treasurer: Bro. Virgil Rudd; Auditing Committee: Sr. Margret Gill, to serve with Bro. Rodger Bruner and Bro. Dan Lawrence; Secretary: Sr. Margret Gill; Recorder: Sr. Susan Harris; Reporter: Sr. Margret Gill; Chorister: Sr. Manon Lawrence; Assistant Chorister: Sr. Martha Bruner; Organist: Sr. Martha Morris; Assistant Organist: Sr. Grace Rudd; Social committee: Sr. Grace Rudd; Storehouse Committee Member: Bro. Leslie Case, to serve with the Pastor and Treasurer; Maintenance committee Member: Bro. Dan Lawrence to serve with the Pastor and Treasurer.

Elder Glenn Gill officiated in the exchange of marriage vows betweenm Lisa E. Moore and Steven E. Gill. Lisa is the daughter of Mr. Paul Moore and Mrs. Lois Carr, from Indiana. Steven is the son of Bro. and Sr. Glenn Gill, North Kansas City, Missouri. Many relatives and friends extended best wishes.

Our congratulations go to Brother David and Sister Becky Rudd who became joyful parents of a little girl, Courtney Lynn, January 1, 1986. She was blessed on January 19 by her Grandfather, Elder Frank Fann, assisted by Elder Nicholas Denham.

The Independence East Local and Temple Lot Local combined their Christmas service. Brother

Smith Brickhouse, III, gave the Christmas sermon followed by the combined choir presentation of a Christmas contata arranged by chorister, Sister Manon Lawrence. The service was blessed by God's Spirit. We were reminded of the story of Christ's birth through the inspirational music. Brother Brickhouse reiterated the meaning of Christ's birth to us and gave us an admonition on applying that meaning daily, not just during the Christmas season.

Out of town trips, bad weather, and illnesses have had their effect on Church attendance, but we thank God for his watchcare over us. This includes the blessing of His working with the ministry. Each sermon has helped us gain the tools to add a rung to the ladder toward our heavenly path. We have been admonished, instructed, and encouraged in our attitudes, application of love, repentance, and striving for perfection. One recent sermon very nicely summed it up with a visual aide, a rope. It is easy to tie knots in the rope, representative of the daily sins we commit. These become habit and make it hard to untie the knots. But with continued repentance, the knots (sins) can be undone (erased) one at a time and once again we have a straight rope being back on the straight and narrow path.

Independence, Missouri

(by Donna Biddle in The Examiner, Jan. 26, 1986)

Temple May Become Reality Within 5 Years

(Editor's Note: This, and previous similar reports from The Examiner, Independence's local newspaper, are direct quotations and are given strictly as news items, especially for those not from the Independence area and interested in events and news within other groups having historical ties to the Restoration. It should be noted here that the Church of Christ owns the parcel of land upon which the Temple of the Lord shall be built when He so instructs, and any structures built by anyone on any other parcel of land cannot be God's Holy Temple. The "Temple Lot" was dedicated by Joseph Smith, the Prophet, according to the instructions of God—and the Church of Christ still maintains that lot as a sacred trust for God Almighty.—G.H.)

The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints will probably be building a temple near its auditorium within the next five years, said Wallace B. Smith.

Smith, president/prophet of the RLDS church, spoke at a Thursday luncheon of the Independence Ministerial Alliance.

(An) issue that has caused controversy for the church in recent times concerns the Book of Mor-

mon. Smith said. Traditionally, church members believe Joseph Smith received plates from the hands of an angel which he was later able to translate into the Book of Mormon.

But some members of the church and those outside of the church have criticized this belief.

"We have never taken the position that our belief in the Book of Mormon was contingent on it being received by Joseph from the hands of an angel," Smith said.

"Nevertheless, we feel it is valuable scripture. It's another witness of Jesus Christ; but it does not replace the primary witness of the Old and New Testaments of God."

Another controversy yet to be dealt with by the church concerns whether the church should practice open communion — allowing non-members to participate.

"There are those within the church that feel this would be a meaningful step," Smith said. "It turns on the issue of authority."

Oklahoma

(Reporter Alzada Massey)

"Give me thy heart and a willing mind." Isn't this quotation from the Book of Commandments beautiful? Perhaps that would be a thought we could ponder and discuss from time to time. At one of our fall Sunday worship services, this quotation was read to us and we discussed its meaning.

On November 10, we met at the Elwell home with the Marvin Cases as our guests. As usual, we enjoyed Brother Marvin's sermon. After church, we all gathered around the table that held our Thanksgiving dinner. We joined hands, asked our table blessing, and our hearts swelled with thanks to our heavenly Father. Our hearts were happy because we could celebrate Thanksgiving with our brothers and sisters of the church.

We chose December 8 as our Christmas Sunday. All our church families were together to enjoy singing carols, a Christmas program, worship service, gift exchange, and our Christmas dinner. The Frank Fanns joined us at this special time. Brother Fann gave the sermon. It seemed like old times having them with us. To hear his powerful sermon, gave us all a spiritual uplift.

In January, our special people were Apostle Roland and Sister June. Eric came, too. Brother Sarratt delivered the sermon. His analytic mind, sincere and humble spirit, and love for his brothers and sisters continues to be spiritual food to us. After the sermon, we all gathered around the table to enjoy our meal together.

As is customary, the sacrament service is held

on the first Sunday of each month. Brother Larry Beem presides, just as he does on other Sundays when we don't have guest speakers.

Last fall, one beautiful sunshiny day, I learned I was one of twenty migrant education teachers in the United States chosen to help write a resource guide for migrant education. Needless to say, I was very, very happy. I was chosen for this honor from an essay I had written in May. I remember as I sat at a table in my school to begin my writing, I bowed my head, closed my eyes, and ask the Lord to help me do my best. I know the Lord helped me. Through the national meetings I have attended this fall and winter, I have become acquainted with two teachers that are LDS members. I tell them about the Church of Christ. They are happy to become friends with another church in the Restoration.

We continue to enjoy God's blessings with good health and we all have good jobs. We continue to be very grateful for our little local. Our love and appreciation for each other continues to grow. Remember us in your prayers and in the words of King Benjamin, "I would that ye should be steadfast and immovable, always abounding in good works, that Christ, the Lord God omnipotent, may seal you his, that you may be brought to heaven, that ye may have everlasting salvation and eternal life, through the wisdom, and power, and justice, and mercy of him who created all things, in heaven and in earth, who is God above all. Amen." (Mosiah 3:21)

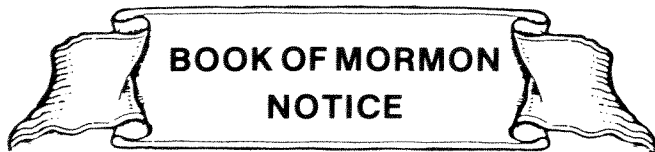
OBITUARY

William F. Anderson, Jr.

William F. Anderson, Jr., son of Apostle William F. Sr. and Metta Anderson, was born November 11, 1919 at Warrensburg, Missouri and departed this life December 27, 1985 at the Independence Sanitarium and Hospital.

He was a member of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) East Local. He and his wife celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on June 21, 1985. Bill retired from the Gas Service company, Independence, Mo. in May, 1984 after 37 years of service. He was a member of the Kansas City Metropolitan Board of Realtors.

Besides his wife, he is survived by a son, William F. Anderson III and a daughter, Lisa Harris, both of Independence; and three grandchildren and two sisters, Mrs. Dollie Dickens of Arlington, Texas and Mrs. Jerry Rupe of Independence. Memorial service was held at the Speaks Memorial Chapel in Independence with Nicholas F. Denham and James Reeves in charge. Burial was at Mound Grove Cemetery in Independence.



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

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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.