

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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An Address To All Believers Of The Restored Gospel Of Christ

One hundred and fifty six years ago there was brought forth on this continent, the restored Gospel of Christ and, with it, the authority to represent God through Jesus Christ unto all nations of the earth.

It is intended that we be engaged in a great war against evil, dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal and free to pursue the path to Eternal Salvation.

We are now tested as to whether this Christian nation (Church of Christ), or any other nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure.

We are met, as it were, on a great battlefield of that war. Is it not fitting for us to dedicate our lives anew to carry on the work of our forefathers, remembering those who, being so dedicated, gave their lives that this nation might survive?

But in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot make the efforts of our forefathers more hallowed.

Those brave and faithful people both living and dead who struggled through religious persecution and scorn, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract.

The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what we stand for.

It is rather for us, the living descendants, to be dedicated to the task remaining before us and take increased devotion to the cause for which they gave their last full measure of devotions; that we here hold to the Gospel truths and highly resolve that their labors and lives were not in vain; that this church of Christ, under God, shall see a new birth of freedom; and that this government of God, through Christ, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

D.W.H.

CONTENTS

Bury Your Hatchet	p. 50	The Voice of God	p. 55
The Temple of the Lord	p. 51	Does History Repeat Itself?	p. 57
Path Lights	p. 53	A Great And A Marvellous Work	p. 58
Temporal Preparations For Zion.....	p. 54	Vision Of War In The Americas	p. 60

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Editorial . . .

BURY YOUR HATCHET

But Don't Put Up a Grave Marker

In one form or another, the idea of a self-examination is put across to us in a great many sermons, and who better to analyze how we're doing towards earning our personal salvation than ourselves? . . . If we can be totally honest with ourselves in that examination.

The story has been told of several cotton farmers whiling away the afternoon discussing the merits of their respective religions. Finally they broke off and asked the eldest of the group who had been sitting quietly, just listening, "who's right? Which one of these religions is the right one?"

The old man proceeded to say that there were three ways to the cotton gin (Heaven), over the top of the big hill, around the rugged west side, or around the much longer, but easier, east side.

"But, you know," he said, "when you get there, the gin man don't ask you how you come. He just

asks, 'how good is your cotton?'"

This is the real purpose of those self-examinations: It is so that, once blemishes are found in our "cotton," we can take determined, positive steps to remove those blemishes — improve our standing with God. To do so takes a great deal of commitment.

Occasionally we discover that some of those blemishes we find are best removed by the removal of some material object from our lives. For example, you may discover that one of your problems is simply not setting aside enough time for personal service to God — and in order to remedy that situation you determine that you have to give up skiing (or television, a hobby, etc).

Or you may be too deep in debt and have no will power when it comes to not using your credit cards. In each case a material object (skiis or credit cards)

is representative of your "bad habit."

Now, most of you have heard the expression, "bury the hatchet," and know that it means to put aside something you don't want to use anymore or quit a bad habit. However, there is an important aspect to successfully burying the things that hinder our spiritual lives: We mustn't put a marker on the grave! Don't hang your skis in the garage — sell or give them away. Don't put the TV in the closet and don't leave the antenna on the roof — get rid of both of them. Don't put your credit cards away in a drawer

— cut them up and discard them. You might also consider calling your retail creditor and officially close the account (most allow you to charge even if you don't have your card).

The point is, when we make a change for the better, don't make it easy to return to the bad habit. The difference between a half-hearted attempt at change and total commitment to that change is not putting that marker on the grave that makes it easy to find your buried hatchet.

G.H.



The Temple of the Lord

by Elder Arthur G. Smith

One of the interesting beliefs that has been presented to the world as a part of the story of the restoration of the Church of Christ in these latter days is our belief in the temple to be built on this land. When we speak of the return of Christ to the earth as our hope that peace and righteousness may be established, it is to the temple of the latter days that we expect him to return and receive his people.

It is important to note that both the Bible and the Book of Mormon tell us that this will be in the latter days. The array of prophetic testimony as well as the words of the Lord, Jesus Christ, is not to be taken lightly. Surely the Lord shall do nothing save he reveals it to his servants, as one has written. We should listen to them today. The prophets of old were inspired of God to write many things that are true. The testimony of Jesus is true. Their testimonies and the words of Jesus will stand forever. What do they tell us of the temple of the Lord?

When Jesus came to this continent after his crucifixion and resurrection he gave to the people the same gospel of salvation that he gave to those in the land of Jerusalem. What they lacked he supplied, including the words of Malachi of whom they knew nothing. Their fathers had come to the land of the Americas before Malachi's words were written.

"And it came to pass that after they were written, he expounded them. And these are the words which he did tell unto them, saying, Thus saith the Father unto Malachi, Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me, and the Lord, Whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in; behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of

Hosts." Third Book of Nephi 11:3-4.

Now isn't it remarkable that he would bring this prophecy to their attention, and give instructions that it should be written? Can we say that this scripture was unimportant? Or did it have the purpose to establish the belief in the return of Jesus to the earth? Isn't it more than an incidental bit of information to them and to us?

The return of the Lord whom we "seek" and "delight in" is readily accepted. Equally acceptable should be the place where it is to take place, "his temple." It follows that we should expect this temple to be in place and built before He comes.

Now these people had a record in their hands of another people who preceded them.

"For behold, they rejected all the words of Ether; for he truly told them of all things, from the beginning of man; and that after the waters had receded from off the face of this land (America, A.G.S.), it became a choice land above all other lands, a chosen land of the Lord; Wherefore the Lord would have that all men should serve him, who dwell upon the face thereof; and that it was the place of the New Jerusalem, which should come down out of heaven, and the holy sanctuary (temple- A.G.S.) of the Lord." Book of Ether, 6:2-3.

I believe that we can understand how this record was in harmony with the prophet, Malachi. They now understood the writings of Ether better. Both prophets testified as to the existence of a temple or sanctuary to be built in the latter days. A particular place was to be the scene of the Lord's return.

Jesus also admonished these people to study the writings of Isaiah. So we read of a literal, physical structure that would be a shelter from sun, rain, storm, and a place of refuge for safety in these last days.

"And the LORD will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory shall be a defense. And there shall be a tabernacle (temple —AGS.) for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain." Isaiah 4:5.

The prophet Ezekiel gives his testimony about this temple or sanctuary:

"Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them . . . yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And the heathen shall know that I the LORD do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary (temple - AGS.) shall be in the midst of them for evermore." Ezekiel 37:26-28.

The purpose and need of such a place is presented in another familiar scripture.

"Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the LORD your God, and cry unto the LORD" Joel 1:14.

Isaiah also gives us insight as to the purpose of such a temple or sanctuary.

"Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the LORD be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed. A voice of noise from the city, a voice from the temple, a voice of the LORD that rendereth recompense to his enemies." Isaiah 66:5-6.

I would call your attention to what appears to be a question to the people Isaiah is addressing that provokes some deep thoughts:

"Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house (temple-AGS) that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?" Isaiah 66:1.

Indeed, where is his house? Solomon's temple was a most beautiful temple that was destroyed about 588 B.C. It was never rebuilt as great nor as beautiful. The temple of the return, completed about 515 B.C. and remodeled by Herod beginning in 20 B.C., was completely destroyed in 70 A.D.

Those who may say that it is not needed or unimportant perhaps should read the prophet Haggai. Those people also questioned the need to build the Lord's house. They were chastened of the Lord (1:2-5,8,10):

"Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, This people say, The time is not come, the time that the LORD's house should be built. Then came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying, Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie waste? Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways. Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD. Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed from her fruit."

The people obeyed the voice of the Lord, they built the house as was commanded. It then appears that when it was completed some interesting questions were asked.

"Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now? is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing?" Haggai 2:3.

This rebuilt temple was compared to Solomon's temple and found to be less glorious. Perhaps there was much less wealth among a people who had been only recently returned from exile. After Herod remodeled and repaired this temple that stood during the ministry of Jesus it was desecrated and had no glory attributed to it. A most unusual prophecy follows the questions above.

"For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; and I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: (Christ - AGS.) and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts. The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts." Haggai 2:6-9.

Haggai, the prophet of the Lord, leaves little doubt that this house is the temple that Malachi spoke of; the same holy sanctuary according to Ether; the temple or tabernacle that Isaiah and Ezekiel spoke of that should stand in the latter days.

The temple of the latter day will have the glory of God to fill it as promised. Those who will stand in that temple will have the Spirit of God to fill their hearts to overflowing. May God help us to prepare ourselves to be worthy to have a part in this Temple of the Lord.

Path Lights

The Precious Gift of Forgiveness

"... Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding, in all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths. ..." Proverbs 3:5-6

There comes a time within our lives, hopefully, when we begin to value the written word of God. We find it is there to help us in our everyday existence.

When I was younger I did pretty much as I felt, which was not the perfect will of God. I then started to make those decisions that most make at a young age: To live on your own, to be your own person, finding a job or career, and looking for a mate. Instead of consulting the scriptures and following the path that Christ laid to help me in my decision process, I chose my own wisdom and went my own way, as the song says, that Frank Sinatra sings, "I did it my way." Well, I continued doing it my way until I found myself to be a broken man with no will to live. I had successfully guided my life to the point that it was not worth living for, with a strong desire to escape. It was then that my thoughts were directed to the Lord for help. When I finally conceded my life over to God in all aspects, I started on that road to recovery. It was by no means an easy task. As I studied the scriptures I was stung many times because of its sharpness against sin. Many lessons were learned the hard way. Had I consulted the written word earlier in life and brought everything unto my father and trusted in His wisdom, many of those self-inflicted wounds would have been avoided.

The Lord has transformed my life through the precious gift of forgiveness, which gift comes through the atoning blood of Christ. He offered me the freedom that I needed from all my sins and I accepted it. The words which Christ spoke to the multitudes have a special meaning to me because I found His words to be words of truth: "... come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; For I am meek and lowly in heart: And ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light ..." St. Matthew 11:28-30.

Gordon McCann
Phoenix, Arizona

Someone Special Sent To Us

We have been in the church several years. The last few years we have been trying to meet for Sunday School, but it was just our family. It was hard to have Sunday School, because we would catch ourselves just in every day chit-chat. Then we started missing meetings and pretty soon we stopped altogether. We could feel ourselves drifting away, but still knowing this was the true church of Christ. I found myself thinking about going to other churches just for the fellowship we so desperately needed. Our other local branches are quite far away, so we found it difficult to attend them. Then about six weeks ago God sent someone very special to us. His name is Gale Brantner.

Along with Gale, others have joined with us and brought new life to our meetings. He has been teaching our Sunday School lessons and we even try to meet during the week once in a while. We now have the fellowship we so desperately needed, and we are learning a great deal about the Book of Mormon and the Bible. We are trying to study every day and we have a million questions that we are going to study. I know Gale was sent to us and that the Lord is guiding him in his teachings because he is so easy to understand. It almost seems that when I don't understand something he knows and explains it in a way that I can understand.

There is also something else that makes Gale special to us. His father George Brantner is the one who baptized Aaron and I and also married us. He was special to us, and we feel his work is carried on through his son. We thank God every day for sending Gale to us, and we pray for Gale and his family daily. Also we would not feel right if we didn't mention our special brother Max Spencer, who has tried very hard to keep our Sunday School together for the past several years. His efforts are not to be overlooked. Sometimes we all need help. By brother Gale coming to us it has renewed our desire to work together once again to try and hold our Sunday School together.

It is our hope that we can continue serving the Lord and we ask that our brothers and sisters in the church pray for our group, and our prayers are for all of you.

Your Brother and Sister,
Aaron and Sue Heath
(Michigan)

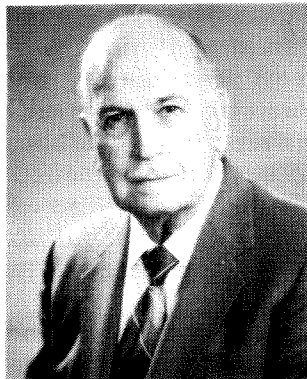
If there is a testimony in your life I can use in this series, please send it to me.

Path Lights
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Independence, Mo. 64052

Temporal Preparations For Zion

An Admonition

(As appearing in the Hand of Fellowship, January 1986. Reprinted here by special request.)



by Apostle
Don W. Housknecht

I have been Spiritually involved in memory of counsels of the Lord in the past and I have been reminded of some of them through the testimonies that were born this morning, both in song and otherwise, and when the Spirit moved upon me it came at the singing of the song, "Living for Jesus," and the words "I own no other Master, my heart shall be Thy throne."

I was moved deeply by that thought and it was impressed upon me that that is so great a statement, and strongly, with it came remembrance of a Scripture that has been difficult to understand by many. It is said in the twenty-eighth chapter of Isaiah (v. 20) that, "the bed is shorter than that a man can stretch himself on it; and the covering narrower than that he can wrap himself in it." I believe that it would be well for us to consider what that means. I feel impressed to speak of it.

We have, as a people, been concerned about our approach toward a Zion condition and have at times taken steps in the right direction but too often the steps have been in the reverse of that which would advance us to that cause, and therefore the Spirit has admonished that, as the result, that bed which we have stretched ourselves upon is too short and we do not receive the full measure of comfort and restoring strength needed to more fully understand and apply ourselves to the cause of Zion. We endeavor to cover ourselves with the memory of accomplishment of past works which we feel are good and God evidently seen that it was good, but then through self-satisfaction, we ease off in our labor and seek to lay upon the bed that we have made. But it is too short and the covering is too narrow, and we arise not fully renewed in strength, because the covering was so narrow that it left us exposed to the element of a "not continuing" spirit. The blessings received are not of the degree that would keep us alert in works toward Zion and when we sing of the great ambition of our hearts, hoping that

God would accept our hearts as a throne, we sing not with the fullest understanding, for we are not yet capable of letting God occupy our hearts as fully as we would like because there are too many other things there of the worldly things that, perhaps, we feel are not harmful.

Therefore it would be wisdom for us in the times we desire to sacrifice (if it is properly a sacrifice) or give up as things of the world, to measure the enjoyment of the worldly things we have or are indulging in and see in effect if they have been strengthening to our souls' hope of salvation. We know the answer! Therefore, it would be well for us to examine our talk with the Lord wherein we say that we want Him to make our hearts a part of His throne, that we be careful in saying that without understanding what it means, for He desires to find residence within us to guide us and direct us and move upon His servants to speak wisely and admonish us all, in good works.

It is wise that the mothers, fathers, grandparents and Elders of the Church, the teachers of the Word of God, to admonish the youths who are still in their time of gaining an education, that they should endeavor to gain knowledge of the trades or vocations that will not alone help them to find gainful employment and eventually establish a home of their own, but to gain a vocation that can be an advantage to the church in the eventual gathering into Zion that we hope for and hope to be a part of. Therefore it is well that we bring back to remembrance, if not known, that the Lord has spoken in time past and advised we who are Elders of the Church, the fathers, mothers and grandparents, that we try to impress upon our children the importance of their talents being useful to the Church and to help guide them into channels of education and work and labor to that end. Then, when the time comes when that great gathering is known, for many things necessary for the well-being and sustenance of all, we may depend upon the vocations that our young people are enlisted in; such as the working of leather, textiles, the arts of physicians, nursing, veterinary, dentistry, husbandry, and smithing, to the extent that our people may be sufficient unto themselves when that need is evident.

Become industrious in establishing, now, local and central storehouses. Learn more fully the preservation of food against the time of being isolated by

opposing forces. Furthermore, establish your own personal storehouses and from such give a tithe for use of the local and central storehouses. Your Heavenly Father will give you further counsel and wisdom as you express to Him your desires to understand.

If you accept this counsel and practice your part in the setting in order the House of God and Kingdom on earth, you will be prepared to answer the call to Zion, which in a short time will surely come to pass.

Learn to depend upon the Lord in your counseling together. Stumble not over the opinions of your brothers, but be patient with each other and your Heavenly Father will unite your thoughts. By your faith you will receive further counsel as you prove all things whether they be of your Heavenly Father or the power that opposes good.

Remember the words of the prophets of old and of Jesus Christ as they spoke against serving two masters. One or the other, the world or your Father in Heaven, but not both; the "mark of the beast" or the mark of Christ's suffering written on the fleshy table of your hearts.

Can you understand and confidently say, "I own no other master, my heart shall be thy throne; my life I give, henceforth to live, O Christ, for thee alone"?

In Aprils Past . . .

. . . The Church of Christ was formerly organized according to the laws of the state of New York after having been restored by God after 1,260 years of apostasy (April 6, 1830).

. . . Thomas Jefferson was born (April 13, 1743). Besides being the third President of the United States and author of it's Declaration of Independence, he was a man of God and is, perhaps, more responsible than any other man for making God such an integral part of this nation at its birth and during its early growing years. I have visited all the great monuments in our nations capital and the writings of Thomas Jefferson engraved upon his monument are the most inspiring to me. To get an idea of the depth of his religious thinking, read Mr. Jefferson's statement: "I hold the precepts of Jesus as delivered by himself, to be the most pure, benevolent, and sublime which have ever been preached to man. I adhere to the principles of the first age; and consider all subsequent innovations as corruptions of this religion, having no foundation in what came from him."

. . . Congress authorized the use of the expression "In God We Trust" on all U.S. coins (April 22, 1864.) Has the Nation practiced what it prints?

The Voice of God

by Elder Howard Leighton-Floyd

One of the attributes of God, the creator of the universe, is that He has a voice, He is vocal, He can and does speak, His voice can be heard. In fact all nature is obedient to the voice of God. Light itself is the result of God speaking. "And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good . . ." (Gen. 1:3-4.) Another example of God's voice is also found in Genesis 3:8-9: "And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day . . ." And the Lord God called unto Adam and said unto him, Where art thou?" I wish to stress that God not only can but He wants to speak. I know personally that God has and does speak to His people today.

One of the great truths found in the Old Testament is that the gods of the heathen were not able to speak. Time and time again the prophets and the priests would make this truth clear. God's servants would say to the heathen. Your god's are dead. They cannot speak. They are nothing but idols. They cannot do the works of the God of Israel. Elijah demonstrated this before the people of Israel on Mount Carmel. Elijah challenged the heathen priests saying, "And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD; and the God that answereth by fire let him be God" (I Kings 18:24).

What Is God's Voice Like?

We have seen that God not only has a voice but he can and does speak to man. Fact of the matter is, God has many voices. He is not only *able* to speak, he is *willing* to speak. God can use infinite power in his voice. It was Job that asked, "Canst thou thunder with a voice like him (God)?" (Job 40:9).

David describes the voice of God in the following passage: "The voice of the LORD is upon the waters: the God of glory thundereth . . . the voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty." Psalms 29:3-5.

When Elijah heard the voice of the Lord in the

wilderness, it was not the voice of a strong wind, earthquake or fire. "And he (God) said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice . . . And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah?" (1 Kings 19:11-13). God not only can but he will speak in the way it suits him for the occasion, the way it most perfectly meets our needs, the way it most completely satisfies our soul.

God Is All-Wise Always

God makes no mistakes, neither does he speak carelessly, nor when no word is needed. God knows us more perfectly than we know ourselves. God knows when and if we need to hear his voice. But let the people of the Lord remember and take note: God seldom speaks to people in unbelief or of little faith, except to admonish or rebuke.

During his ministry among the Jews at Jerusalem, Jesus said to his people, "And other sheep I have which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold and one shepherd." The promise is, "my sheep hear my voice." "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:" (John 10:16, 27).

God knows why you "want" to hear His voice. However, there are times people want to hear the voice of the Lord for selfish reasons. For example, they feel it will be an experience of which they can boast to friends. Such a motive would be to take God's blessing and consume it upon their own lusts. "You ask, and receive not, because you ask amiss, that you may consume it upon your own lusts" James 4:3.

When asking the Lord to let us hear His voice on any matter let us be certain it will be to the honor and glory of God and not have an ulterior motive to use it for our own lusts, or just to get gain for ourselves.

Sometimes the voice of the Lord will come to one making known that a person is called of God. God will also speak to the person called making known that he is called of the Lord. I would like to sight the experience of Samuel, to show how God speaks and how His speaking has purpose. "And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep; That the Lord called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I. And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here am I; For thou calledst me And he said, I called

not; lie down again. And he went and lay down. And the Lord called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again.

Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, neither was the word of the Lord yet revealed unto him. And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the Lord had called the child. Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, go lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place. And the Lord came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth. And the Lord said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth shall tingle." I Samuel 3:3-11. Here we have recorded an event of the Lord speaking to the boy who later became the prophet Samuel, and we have his book written in the Bible. He spoke to Abraham, Paul and others. There are many other examples.

The Bible is a record of God speaking to man as is the Book of Mormon. He spoke to Nephi and others. To the prophet Abinadi (150 BC) He spoke and gave commandment. "And it came to pass that there was a man among them, whose name was Abinadi; and he went forth among them, and began to prophesy, saying,

"Behold, thus saith the Lord, and thus hath he commanded me, saying Go forth and say unto this people, Thus saith the Lord: Wo be unto this people, for I have seen their abominations, and their wickedness, and their whoredoms; and except they repent, I will visit them in mine anger. And except they repent, and turn to the Lord their God, behold, I will deliver them into the hands of their enemies; yea, and they shall be brought into bondage; and they shall be afflicted by the hand of their enemies. And it shall come to pass that they shall know that I am the Lord their God, and am a jealous God, visiting the iniquities of my people. And it shall come to pass that except this people repent, and turn unto the Lord their God, they shall be brought into bondage; and none shall deliver them, except it be the Lord the Almighty God. Yea, and it shall come to pass that when they shall cry unto me, I will be slow to hear their cries, yea, and I will suffer them that they be smitten by their enemies. and except they repent in sackcloth and ashes, and cry mightily to the Lord their God, I will not hear their prayers, neither will I deliver them out of their afflictions; And thus saith the Lord, and thus hath he commanded me." Mosiah 7:28-38

Does History Repeat Itself?

by Ray Feely

"I worry for Ray because he has left the Church." These words are in my mind, as I take pen in hand.

This statement was made by a close friend in the RLDS church; a man that has given much counsel to this, at times, very worldly and wayward person. It truly is sad that he, among many others, cannot understand the joy and happiness that I have found in becoming a member of the Church of Christ.

In December of 1984, I was more confused than any person probably should be. Due to experiences I had, I was literally scared back into attending church, something I had not done since I was fourteen years old. What I found was not the church I had remembered from my youth.

Does history repeat itself? I would like to turn to the Book of Mormon. Following is an abbreviated account of what some writers had to say:

"An Angel of the Lord appeared unto Alma, saying (Alma 6:20,22): "Preach again unto the people . . .

For behold, they do study at this time that they may destroy the liberty of thy people . . . which is contrary to the statutes and judgements and commandments which he has given unto his people."

"And Alma went forth, and also Amulek, among the people to declare the words of God unto them; and they were filled with the Holy Ghost; And they had power given unto them, insomuch that they could not be confined in dungeons; neither were it possible that any man could slay them;" (vv. 38-39).

"And it came to pass that they went forth and began to preach and to prophesy unto the people, according to the spirit and power which the Lord had given them." (v. 42)

And again, Alma began to preach unto them, asking (7:8), "how have ye forgotten the tradition of your fathers; yea, how soon ye have forgotten the commandments of God."

The Lord "will not suffer you that ye shall live in your iniquities to destroy his people . . . Nay; He would rather suffer that the Lamanites might destroy all this people . . . if it were possible that they could fall into sins and transgressions, after having had so much light and so much knowledge given unto them of the Lord their God; Yea, after having been such a highly favored people of the Lord . . . having the spirit of prophecy, and the spirit of revelation . . . And now, behold I say unto you, that if this people, who have received so many blessings from the hand of the Lord, should transgress, contrary to the light and knowledge which they do have . . . has not the Lord expressly promised and firmly decreed,

that . . . ye shall utterly be destroyed from off the face of the earth?" (7:26-38)

When Alma had spoken these words the people were wroth with him because he said they were a hard-hearted and a stiff-necked people.

When Amulek had spoken that an angel told him Alma was a holy man and told the truth, the people began to be astonished, seeing there was more than one witness who testified of the things whereof they were accused. Nevertheless, there were some among them, who thought to question them that by their cunning devices they might catch them in their words, that they might find witness against them, that they might deliver them to the judges, that they might be judged according to the law, and that they might be slain, or cast into prison, according to the crime which they could make appear, or witness against them.

Now it was those men who sought to destroy them, who were lawyers, who were hired or appointed by the people to administer the law at their time of trials before the Judges.

These lawyers were learned in all the arts and cunning of the people. This was to enable them that they might be skillful in their profession and they began to question Amulek that thereby they might make him cross his words, or contradict the words which he should speak.

Now they knew not that Amulek could know of their designs. But, as they began to question him, he perceived their thoughts and he said unto them, ". . . ye lawyers and hypocrites; for ye are laying the foundations of the devil . . . And now I say unto you, that well doth the Lord judge of your iniquities; well doth he cry unto this people, by the voice of his angels, Repent ye, repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Yea, well doth he cry, by the voice of his angels, that I will come down among my people, with equity and justice in my hands." (Alma 8:25-30)

Now the people were more angry with Amulek, and they cried out saying: "This man doth revile against our laws, which are just, and our wise lawyers, whom we have selected."

But Amulek cried the mightier unto them, saying, ". . . why hath Satan got such great hold upon your hearts . . . I have spoken in favor of your law, to your condemnation. And now behold, I say unto you, that the foundation of the destruction of this people is beginning to be laid by the unrighteousness of your lawyers and your judges." (8:36-40)

The summary:

Because of the greatness of the number of the Lamanites, the Nephites were in great fear, lest they should be overpowered and trodden down and slain, and destroyed, yea, they began to remember the prophecies of Alma, and they saw that they had become a stiff-necked people, and that they had set at nought the commandments of God. That they had altered and trampled under their feet that which the Lord commanded. That their laws had become corrupted and because of their iniquity, the Church had begun to dwindle; and they began to disbelieve in the spirit of prophecy, and in the spirit of revelation; and the judgments of God did stare them in the face. And they saw that they had become weak, and that the Spirit of the Lord did not preserve them, because the Spirit of the Lord doth not dwell in unholy temples; they had fallen into a state of unbelief. And thus they had fallen into great transgression, in the space of not many years. For as their laws and their governments were established by the voice of the people, and they who chose evil were more numerous than they who chose good, therefore, they were ripening for destruction, for the laws had become corrupted; they could not be governed by the law nor justice save it were to their destruction.

Yes, I do believe history repeats itself. As fundamental as I was, I knew that within the RLDS organization, there was absolutely no place for me. I

stopped attending services altogether.

At this time I received a job offer at a printing shop. I accepted the offer, and just three days later, we did a job called "Zion's Advocate." Who are these people?

I went to the Temple Lot and receiving the information, I went home and read it front to back.

I know that all this was the work of God, but I still held back. I could not commit myself.

Calling up Apostle Sarratt, I talked with him at length. At the end of our conversation, I gave a brief description of myself and said I would be attending church that Sunday.

Saturday night, while laying in bed, I felt uneasy. Sleep would not come. I finally realized that my uneasiness was coming from not committing myself to joining the Lord's Church. There and then, in mind and heart, I knew it was right, and I thought, "I'm going to join the Church of Christ."

Almost before that thought was completed, four words were spoken to me with power and great assurance: "I am with you," the voice said. This testimony I cannot deny. The Father in Heaven let me know His will, in one of the strongest testimonies I have ever received.

I'm looking forward to the, hopefully, many years I will have with my new family, my family in Christ.

A Great And A Marvellous Work

by Apostle William A. Sheldon

PART SIXTEEN

A further, brief review may not be amiss, at this point.

1. With the gathering of the nations to battle, beginning at Jerusalem, in which the heathen (Gog/Russia and allies) are to dominate for 3½ years, the saints are to be gathered together for refuge, and will be visited by the Lord to correct as needful, and that He may receive the Church as His bride.

2. The remnant of Jacob (Indians) will also go through the gentiles so that every vestige of pride will be destroyed — their cities, their means of transportation, their groves and standing images of whatever character which has become a measure of idolatry.

3. There will be a general collapse of the national economies, and every form of priestcraft in the churches, or the pretensions of men, shall come to

naught. Babylon shall fall.

4. The servants of God, including a "marred" man, will go forth in the convincing power of God, crying repentance, prior to the great "day of the Lord." There also will be a mighty servant of God, an Indian, to convince the Lamanites (Indians) of the gospel of Christ and the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon. These servants are to smite the earth with the word of God, in great power, and the nations (as national entities) will crumble; but the poor in spirit will rejoice and receive the truth, and shall inquire

William
A.
Sheldon



for Zion, having endured the tribulation.

5. At the close of this tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, the moon "turned to blood," and there shall be a tremendous meteoric shower (the stars to withdraw their shining).

6. Then shall appear the sign of Christ, the unimaginable glory of His appearance in the heavens, a terrible shaking of the entire universe, in which every mountain is brought down and every valley to be raised. His fury will come upon the heathen to the utter destruction of their armies. Despite such catastrophe, the more righteous will survive as stated in item #4 above.

7. Thus will He prepare the way of deliverance of captive Israel in an awe-inspiring march to the lands of their inheritance; to Zion and to Jerusalem.

Now, let us further consider the gathering to Zion.

The Church of Christ is to a remnant, only a small body at the beginning of the tribulation. At this time, there will be, figuratively, only two churches: the church of the Lamb of God and that of the devil (the reader should read in this connection, I Nephi 3:220-231). There need not be a literal amalgamation of the churches which would constitute the two. By human choice, they will spiritually align themselves with one or the other: men will either be on God's side or the devil's side.

"Wherefore, he that fighteth against Zion, both Jew and Gentile, both bond and free, both male and female, shall perish: "For they are they who are the whore of all the earth; "For they who are not for me, are against me, saith our God." (II Nephi 7:23-25)

To this remnant will be gathered those of the saints whom Christ will draw, to be nourished within the body, and to escape the terrible tribulation. Afterward, then, after the day of the Lord, there will come those of Israel appointed to Zion, to "Joseph's land" (Deuteronomy 33:13), notably of Ephraim and Manasseh. Remember that Ephraim had been scattered among the gentiles, and so they are gentiles.

Revelation, chapter seven, informs us that 144,000 of Israel are to be sealed unto God, 12,000 from each of the tribes. Apparently these same people are to stand upon Mount Zion (see Revelation 14:1); but it would seem that Mount Zion is used as a symbol referring to both Jerusalem and the "new Jerusalem," for there is undoubtedly a gathering to the old Jerusalem as well as to Zion, the new Jerusalem of the American continent.

We must assume that the 144,000 of all Israel includes Ephraimite gentiles, and those who have become Israel through adoption (Ephesians 1:5; 2:11-19), be they of whatever nationality, through obedience to Christ. In a word, those who will be standing upon "Mount Zion" with the Lamb will number 144,000 souls, and are His saints.

I am aware that some have interpreted these references to refer to 144,000 high priests, or otherwise the ministry of Christ at that time. This is because of the language in Revelation 14:4 — "These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins." But notice that which immediately follows: "These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the first fruits unto God and to the Lamb".

Surely it is not only those of the ministry who "follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth." Nor are they the only ones "redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb." With this view, we must also include women. But, what about the statement: "These are they which were not defiled with women: for they are virgins."

Apostle Paul in speaking to the saints in Corinth, said: "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ." (II Corinthians 11:2)

A virgin is one who is pure, wholly clean from fornication. In its spiritual significance, as above, Paul was fearful lest those Corinthian saints "should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ: (verse 3); in a word, the gospel of Christ.

So, then, the 144,000 who will stand on Mount Zion, "having his Father's name written in their foreheads" (verse 1), are those who, because they listened only to the voice of the Good Shepherd, had not been defiled with the corrupt or tainted doctrines of men; they had qualified as "virgins," and thus would be the saints of God. They will have been "redeemed from among men" (verse 4) because of their gospel covenant in the waters of baptism, and thus are "firstfruits" (James 1:18) "unto God and to the Lamb."

"And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God." Verse 5.

"The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth: for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make them afraid." Zephaniah 3:13.

This should be sufficient to establish the 144,000 of Israel as being the saints of God who are to reign with Christ in Zion and in Jerusalem.

But now notice (Revelation 7:9,10,13-15):

"After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came

they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them."

Here is also revealed a great multitude who had been required to endure the "tribulation," yet had kept their faith in Christ, or otherwise lived righteously. No doubt, the servants of God had gone among them during their trial, and they believed,

and were baptized. These, too, shall come upon Mount Zion, for they shall be found "before the throne of God" (Christ), and serving Him in His temple (verse 15). They had not been privileged to gather to Zion previously, and thus to escape the tribulation, but during that period of great distress, were purified as by fire, and so found worthy to join the saints. Read also verses 16 and 17. For further testimony concerning this great multitude, the reader is urged to read the almost identical language found in Isaiah 2:2,3 and Micah 4:1,2.

(to be continued)

Vision Of War In The Americas

(September 21, 1985)

The dreams and events related here are submitted for your prayerful consideration and edification. I have been given to understand that a short space of time has been allotted for the Saints of the Church of Christ to set their spiritual and financial houses in order in preparation for the tribulation that is even at the door. The dates presented for this period of fasting, prayer, and supplication is October 1986 to November 1987. Prepare Ye, Prepare Ye, for destruction is even at our very door.

Preamble of Events

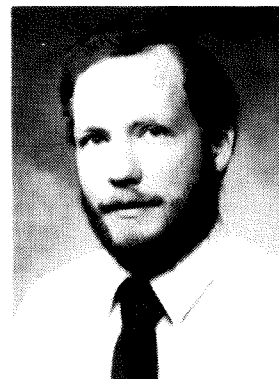
Friday night, September 20, 1985, I was studying the scriptures and contemplating whether I should go into the mission field in Cherokee, North Carolina, the following day (which is our custom). I was given to understand that I would not be going to Cherokee the next morning and that I would fully understand the reason why in the morning.

As I was reading scriptures regarding Israel's history of turning from God and then God chastising them through war, my mind was drawn to one of the particular scripture verses that expressed that idea, and was brought to consider our state as a nation. The expressed thought was that this nation has likewise separated itself from the Lord's people and gospel because of the pride of their hearts and for this reason God was going to bring war upon this land. This sad situation was deeply upon my mind as I retired for the night.

The next morning I found myself with a case of stomach upset from a long night of tossing and turning in broken sleep. Linda called my brother, Peter, and informed him that I was ill and we would not be going to Cherokee. I remained in bed and entered a deep sleep until about 11 AM. I was awakened after having the following most vivid dream.

Dream of War Planes

I found myself in a very fertile mountain valley which I am accustomed to viewing in the Smoky Mountain area of western North Carolina. My eyes were directed toward the skies and viewed bombers flying low overhead. I strained to see what markings were on the planes to determine whose they were for I knew they were not ours. I could readily detect the bombs that were carried on the wings of the silver planes. After the planes passed by I was assured that they posed no threat to me and the people who were in my immediate vicinity. Then I saw a good number of American camouflaged hover-craft appear and a couple landed a distance from us and I saw marines leave the crafts in land vehicles. They disregarded us to a great degree as if something just east of our area had their full attention. I woke up to ponder this strange dream.



Elder Samuel S. Gould

That afternoon my brother Peter and his family stopped by to see how I was feeling. I discussed the dream with him as we discussed the Cherokee mission field and spreading the gospel of Christ. I continued to be burdened with this dream and the thoughts of the night before and retired with them again that evening.

I was awakened by my wife and my son Joshua about 11 PM. He had been disturbed from his sleep and she had seen a very vivid and distressing dream concerning our family. I had just awakened from the vision I relate below.

Vision of the Americas

I was in North Carolina, maybe Bryson City, in the vision and speaking with a Reorganized Church member interested in joining the Church of Christ. He stated he was interested in joining the Church of Christ but would not be able to attend our services in Cherokee. At this moment I was given the knowledge that Peter was with the Cherokee local on this particular day (he held the priesthood in the vision). (Note: Since then Peter was called and ordained into the priesthood and owns the 1973 Dodge car I was driving in the missionary activity.) As I finished speaking with the RLDS man, a second vision unfolded.

I stood before an Indian woman dressed in deerskin outer garments over the purest white robe-like gown. She stood next to a small wooden table that contained a leather atlas of the Americas (it was out of proportion to that which I am accustomed to seeing). She beckoned me, "Come, and I will show you the prophecy of this land." As I came over, she moved her right hand over three provinces of Canada in three sweeping motions. As she did so white/grey clouds of destruction billowed up. She then moved her hand down the eastern seaboard of the United States in three sweeping motions and as the billowing clouds arose I felt the destruction of the most populous cities of the United States. Some time was spent over the New York and Washington, D.C., areas as the destruction multiplied. I was stunned. I felt a great sense of the internal turmoil and tribulation of the peoples of America. With two sweeping motions with her left hand she went down the eastern side of South America with much less destructive force and sparsely located clouds. I saw great masses of peoples boil forth out of South and Central America into the western section of the United States.

The Indian then walked around to the western side of the table and broke off the western states from the deerskin atlas. I was about to speak, first in wonder that such a pliable skin could be broken off with such quick ease and, second, because I knew it meant a true separation of governments, but she put forth her hand to stop me from speaking and then presently restored the western portion of the United States. I then saw a great concourse of peoples, a mix of the old inhabitants and the previous influx of peoples from South and Central America, cross the border of separation toward the center land and peace was again established and the United States was again restored in Union.

She then cast the whole scene before me again and asked if I would like a copy of the atlas. I told her no, that instead I would that she would give me the words that I might record them and that with the words I could reconstruct the scenes upon the atlas.

She stated that such a request was much more difficult to fulfill because of the many frailties of man. I asked again for the words as I was awakened.

Elder Samuel S. Gould

"'Twill Come, and Come Shortly"

Sung by Joseph Luff at Sunday Afternoon Prayer Service in the Stone Church, Independence, Mo., November, 1907.

The flood gates are lifting—beware of the tide!
'Twill sweep o'er the nations, subduing their pride;
No barrier can stay it—no hand can prevail—
For God moves in judgment—His word cannot fail.

The fires are kindling—beware of the flame!
For havoc and ruin 'twill surely proclaim;
'Twill feed on the structures, and laugh at the wall
Defiantly builded, and science appall.

Fierce tempests are brewing—beware of their blast!
Their fury will gather in strength to the last;
The roar of their rushing the world will astound,
And woe in the wake of their whirlings abound.

A plague is in nesting—beware of its breath!
Its touch is as mildew, its watchword is death;
No rank will escape it, no station be free,
Nor safety be found on the land or the sea.

A panic is pending—commotion and dearth
Lie close in its path, and the treasures of earth
From hands that have held them like dust shall
be swept,
And poverty enter where wealth has long slept.

A famine is coming—the long fertile field
Will mock at man's labor, refusing to yield;
The earthquakes, increasing, shall sport, as they
reel,
With towers of granite and strongholds of steel.

Disorders upon and disasters beneath
Earth's surface shall terror and sorrow bequeath;
The nations shall war and people contend,
And man must himself 'gainst his neighbor defend.

The vials of fury, poured forth everywhere,
Shall fill the ungodly with woe and despair;
No bond shall withhold them, no cov'nant restrain
From slaughter for vengeance nor pillage for gain.

Though millions are heedless and scoffers deride,
'Twill come, and come shortly, and WHO WILL
ABIDE!

(continued)

Make answer, O Zion, for surely within
Your borders shall cleansing and judgement begin.

If, loving your God and neighbor, you'll purge
Yourselves of all selfishness—fear not the scourge!
For angels will camp where beholding this sign
Of Sainthood, and guard you, because ye are mine.

The Father saith "Yea!"—the Spirit "Amen!"
Repeat to the Nations this warning again:
The end is approaching—Redemption is near
And Jesus ere long, will in glory appear.

QUESTIONS



AND ANSWERS

Who nearly lost his life for becoming too bored with a sermon? Luke writes in the Acts of the Apostles (20:9-12) that a young man named Eutychus fell asleep while he was sitting in a third tier window listening to Paul's "long preaching." He fell while asleep and, at first, the people thought he was dead. However, Paul was able to revive him after a good healthy hug.

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The Gadianton Robbers and later the followers of Akish are examples of societies held together by evil oaths of faithfulness and secret combinations kept up by the power of the Devil. Such societies exist even today and have existed under one name or another since their very inception.

To whom can such societies be traced?

(Answer Next Month)

WORDS

A careless word may kindle strife;
A cruel word may wreck a life;
A bitter word may hate instill;
A brutal word may smite and kill;
A gracious word may smooth the way;
A joyous word may light the day;
A timely word may lessen stress;
A loving word may heal and bless.

Author Unknown

Ava (Missouri) News

One highlight of December was our gathering on the 22nd. During the Sunday School hour we sang the old loved hymns about Christ's birth and the primary class presented readings from the Bible and Book of Mormon which they illustrated with puppets. Then, before we had our annual dinner and gift exchange, Brother Arthur Smith gave us a peaceful talk. He placed Christ's birth as one of the most important events in time, along with the Creation, Christ's death and resurrection, His return to reign on earth, and the Judgment Day. Brother Smith reminded us that secular historians recognize that Jesus was born and lived on earth, even though they may not accept His gospel; that the story of His birth has been told for 2000 years and will continue to be told just as the stories of the flood and the Creation are told; and that many will hear and believe.

Our small group in Ava has welcomed two babies to make a good start on the year. A grandson for Brother and Sister Joseph Smith, Brian Dale Davis was born January 11. His parents are Kim and Greg Davis of Ava. Then on February 25 a grandson was born for Brother Earl Darlington. His name is Cody Ray Riley, and he is the son of Cindy and Bobby Riley of Ava.

The cold weather stopped our building though the winter really has been mild. We hope soon to begin again to do the work on the building. We have continued to meet in our building and even have our monthly dinners together with smiles through the inconvenience, but we study longingly the drawings of the facilities we will have someday.

In sermons during the months of December, January, and February, we were reminded to actively search for the truth and to commit our lives more fully to God and His work.

Brother Tony Grzincic quoted from the 2nd chapter of 1st Timothy when he emphasized that God would have us all come to the knowledge of the truth. He further declared to us that we must not go to church for a social event but to get the bread of life for our souls — even then we must not believe anything because the preacher says so, but we, individually, must search the scriptures using the Spirit of Discernment to find truths.

Brother Eugene Gould stressed that if we do not search out the truth we cannot write the commandments of God on our hearts so that we can keep them. He preached that we must study the scriptures given to us in these latter days and search out the truths. He stated that we have the Book of Mormon given to restore to us the missing record of the Nephites and the Inspired Version of the Bible to restore the missing things taken from the record

written by the Jews. He referred to p. 725 of the Book of Mormon that tells us there are more things to come forth that we do not have because of things of the gospel that were not written because of unbelief.

Brother Joseph Smith stated that we are committed to the gospel too much from a sense of duty rather than from the heart as we should be. We must practice putting our trust on God for spiritual salvation and also for physical existence. He warned us that the civilization we rely on will fail and to survive the chaos that will result we must become firmly grounded in the love of God for our own sakes and the sakes of our children and friends who may turn to us for help as is prophesied in Malachi 4:5,6. He reminded us that we have a hope that we can live in such a manner that we will survive the chaos and be worthy to live in that city of joy and victory with Christ and enjoy the labor of our hands in rest and peace for 1000 years.

Brother Leslie Case presented us with a decision to make: is the gospel something we devote our lives to or what we do in our spare time? He said that to abide in Christ takes more doing than we do. We want to abide, but we want to hang on to some pleasure of the world too, we don't put the love of God foremost. He stressed that to really abide in Christ doesn't leave much time for ourselves.

Brother Marvin Case reminded us of what we must always do as we are finding the truth or committing our lives more thoroughly: Jesus set the example for our living and He gave all glory to God. To follow His example, we must not take glory to ourselves, but we must help people see that any blessing we have comes from God and the glory belongs to Him.

Estella Davis
Reporter

Grand Junction (Colorado) News

Western Colorado is enjoying an unusually mild winter with temperatures averaging ten degrees above normal. Besides enjoying the sunny days, the citizens appreciate the lower fuel costs.

We held our annual local business meeting the evening of January 18. Brother Marvin Carroll continues as our pastor with Brother John Bell as his assistant. Sister Enid Bell succeeded herself as secretary, and Brother John Bell is the treasurer. For the Sunday School, Brother David Larsen will be superintendent for another year with Brother Allen Downs as assistant. Sister Jeanie Larsen ably fills the secretary's position.

Our Colorado Reunion is set for the second weekend in June, which falls on the 13th, 14th and

15th of the month. The meals will be served at the Clifton Hall and we look forward to greeting all who can share this time with us.

Brother and Sister Bob Ely spent the month of December in Phoenix with their children and grandchildren. While they were gone, their home was broken into, but the Lord watched over their possessions. Apparently the intruders were frightened off before they had time to take anything. A rash of break-ins and robberies continued in their immediate neighborhood, however, and a citizens' meeting was called where they were instructed in ways to protect themselves. Then it quieted. The same conditions existed in the neighborhood where Sister Jane (Bell) Pennell lives. These happenings have brought the neighbors into closer contact with each other, so perhaps some good things will happen.

We are happy to welcome Sister Mildred Hooker into our local. She came to us from the Cowgill, Missouri local.

Sister Becky Downs was hostess of the January meeting of the United Workers. After our study period, we passed baby shower gifts around for all to see before wrapping them to be sent to Alaska. Brother John F. (Jack) Bell and wife Kellie expect their newcomer in March. We enjoyed the refreshments Sister Becky served, including a cake decorated in the shower theme.

Brother Tom Larsen and three children from Bridgeport, Nebraska, spent a long weekend, between Christmas and New Year's, with relatives here, adding to our congregation on Sunday. Also, Brother Raymond Roberts was here over the holidays visiting his mother, Sister Helen Carroll and her family. We always welcome visitors.

We are glad to have Brother Marvin Ely with us again after his travels through his missionary field. He and Sister Berneice have spent some time in Denver recently with their daughter, Sister Janice Moore. She had an auto accident and had to have surgery and is now recovering nicely.

Brother and Sister Dave Hinkle spent some time with their families in Phoenix this winter. It is nice to see them in their accustomed places again at our services. Since their return home, Brother Dave has spent some time in Veteran's Hospital. He is home now, but quite weak, so we ask for your prayers in his behalf.

The usual colds and viruses have visited our local. Our numbers were greatly reduced at our last Sunday services, but all seem to be on the mend.

Time seems to pass so quickly that we realize Conference time will soon be here. We are remembering it and the Solemn Assembly at our services, and pray the Lord's will be done in all.

Alvina C. Bell
Reporter

Colorado Reunion Notice

Welcome once more to beautiful Western Colorado. Come and worship with us on June 13, 14 and 15, 1986, at the Orchard Mesa Local, 3233 B½ Road, Grand Junction, Colorado.

If you make it a vacation trip with your camper, we'll find a place to park with one of our local families. If you need accommodations in our homes, we will be happy to have you.

Please let us know you're coming by contacting one of the committee:

Bob Ely
3201 B½ Road, Grand Junction, CO 81503
Phone: 303-434-8090

Marvin Ely
236 - 32 Road, Grand Junction, CO 81503
Phone: 303-434-8149

Ron Church
322½ - 27¾ Road, Grand Junction, CO 81503
Phone: 303-241-5372

We look forward to having your voices raised with ours in worship to our Heavenly Father.

Missouri Reunion Notice

Please note the following dates for the 1986 Missouri State Reunion: Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 1, 2, and 3. Further information will be given in future Advocates.

Your Reunion Coordinator,
Elder Isaac Brockman

Our Heartfelt Thanks!

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We have received donations, presumably from church members in various locations, which came through the East Local Church treasurer of Independence, Missouri, for the purpose of providing Doris and I with better transportation and/or living facilities for our travels in missionary activity. With this, and other available means, we have obtained a 1979 Ford Econoline van, clear of any debt. It contains a small ice box and a wash basin with pressurized water facility, four seats, and a real full-width seat which makes into a small bed. We feel this will greatly increase our comfort and living conditions with a minimum of increased travel cost (fuel expense).

With our gratitude and love to all the saints who have responded to someone's appeal in our behalf, or who would have done so if possible, in gospel bonds,
The William Sheldons

CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

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

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

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

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

AUDIO VISUAL MATERIALS

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

Slide Programs with Taped Narration

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

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

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

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

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

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

Holy Scriptures on Cassette Tapes

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

Sermons on Cassette Tape

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