

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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No. 9

WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM

We shall be like Him, for we'll have His nature,
What greater could our Father's love prepare?
Few are the words, and softly they are spoken,
But who shall tell the glories hidden there?

We shall be like Him. O how rich the promise!
He'll lift us up and with His glory bless.
He took our sin; O wondrous condescension!
That He might clothe us in His righteousness.

We shall be like Him, raised above all weakness,
Forever past all weariness and pain.
Even death itself shall have no power to touch us,
When like our risen Lord, with Him we reign.

While now in gracious love He calls us brethren,
And we His spotless robe with gladness wear,
Faith grasps the promise of the glorious future -
"We shall be like Him when He shall appear."

Submitted by Elder John Schut of the Netherlands

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Zion's Advocate

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THE ZION'S ADVOCATE IS . . .

To promote Jesus Christ as Saviour and His teachings;
 To promote His church, the Church of Christ;
 To be a voice of warning to His people;
 To be Zion's advocate.

This, we believe, is an important work. Please remember the editorial staff in your prayers.

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

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

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GUEST EDITORIAL . . .

THE GATHERING

There is a matter which relentlessly presses itself upon the consciousness of many of us in the Independence area; those within the Church as well as those of other "restoration" churches or other people who are identified with this latter day movement. This matter of concern is the evidence of an in-gathering from near and far of many people to Independence and its environs, in Jackson County. Nor is this gathering limited to those of latter day saint persuasion.

Of course there is a natural ebb and flow to most communities, but there seems to be something special in this case; and indeed there is. Do you suppose it to be in vain that Independence, Missouri, was pointed out 157 years ago as "the place for the city of Zion," the center place for the "land of Zion," which is Missouri, and that the "spot for the temple" is located in Independence? Do you imagine that the Lord did not make this appointment? Or have our hearts grown faint in faith because of all that has transpired in the dispersion of the saints from Independence in 1833 until finally driven from Missouri in 1839, and because of the spiritual divisions in their midst, that the purposes of God should not be fulfilled? Do you suppose that He who scattered ancient Israel will not yet gather them to the "lands of their inheritance"? That He cannot turn their stoney hearts into hearts of flesh, or that the vessels of clay may not yet be fashioned into vessels of His pleasure? By this same token, He is, even now, continuing the process of His "marvellous work and a wonder" which began in 1820-30: the coming forth of the Book of Mormon and founding again of the Church of Christ, all for the purpose of recovering the house of Israel unto himself, that He might be their God, and they His people, the sheep of His pasture, and that He might dwell in their midst.

O yes, He will gather many to the land of Canaan, but He is gathering the seed of Joseph to His appointed place — the Americas, and especially the United States of America; and even more specifically to Independence, Missouri!

The prophet Jeremiah appropriately described the initial phase of this process, speaking for the Lord:

"Turn, O backsliding children, saith the Lord; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion. And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding." Jer. 3:14, 15.

Then in its most critical phase, our Lord has said that there would be two in one bed, one taken, the other left; two grinding together, one taken, the other left; two in the field, one taken, the other left. When asked where they should be taken, He answered:

"Wheresoever the body is (the Church, or His saints, W.A.S.) thither will the eagles (scattered saints, W.A.S.) be gathered together." See Luke 17:31-37.

And so, we hear that individuals and families, moving by the whisperings of that Great Spirit of God, have come to this area, and many, if not all of such who are "latter day saints", are vitally concerned for the building of the temple at the appointed place (the Temple Lot, of which the Church of Christ has been given both a physical and spiritual custody). Others, not presently identified as having a connection to this "restoration", have witnessed that they, too, have come by some peculiar attraction.

Is it not incumbent, then, that the members of the Church of Christ give heed to that same, "still, small voice", as some have done already? Perhaps occasion may require the removal of a family for the sake of employment. Is it not worthwhile to consider Independence, or thereabout? Many of our families with children are in the midst of Babylon, a jungle of unbelief and wickedness, in temptation to forsake the God of Israel, morally and ideologically.

Thoughtful saints will be concerned with the possibility of moving to where they might have fellowship with others of like precious faith — and why should this not be (if possible) to Independence, Missouri? Nevertheless, such a move should not be undertaken except through sincere, humble prayer to determine the will of God.

To be sure: This land must be cleansed by divine judgment, even as in all this nation of ours; the saints must yet learn greater humility and learn to live in peace with others, in forgiveness, forbearance and compassionate love.

In many respects, there is a gathering out, as well as a gathering in, and this, too, in fulfillment of the divine purpose. It reveals the sobering fact that a physical gathering without a yearning heart toward God and man is more than vain; the end could be a casting away as an offense toward God (see Matt. 13:41). Yet, He will gather His saints "as a hen gathereth her chicks under her wings." The process is in motion; the culmination of the whole will surely be in this generation, for "... This generation shall not pass till all these things be fulfilled" (Matt. 24:34). Where will you be? Or, perhaps, more appropriately: What preparation have you made? If we have made a spiritual preparation in our lives to meet the Lord when He comes, then surely we will see Him, whether it be that we have departed this life, and shall be brought to stand upon Mount Zion with Him, or whether it be that we shall be changed here from mortality to immortality to reign with Him.

—Apostle William A. Sheldon

SELFLESSNESS

by Elder Rodger Bruner

We've been warned of the coming tribulation and persecutions. That's nothing new to us. We've known about it for a long time. As far as Satan is concerned, he's been making his plans and conducting his maneuvers in preparation for this battle for a long time. Satan is a very good strategist. He's an expert.

If you're a good strategist you'll start long before the battle begins by sending out feelers. You'll probe for your enemies' weakness. You'll check on the level of readiness of your adversary. You'll check on the mental resolve of those you're going to go against. When you get information back you'll plan your attack against the weakest point of your enemies' line. Now if you've misjudged them, or they're united, you'll probably fail in this assault. But if your line wavers, or it's confused, or it's misdirected, then you're adversary will win; Satan will win.

Now Satan already knows what his prey is going to be, what his object of conquest is going to be, and that's us. He knows our weaknesses because he knows the weaknesses of natural man. He really knows them better than we do. He knows what to draw on from within our ranks to divide and to conquer. He can do that either as individuals or as a group. It's the same method he used on Eve when Adam and Eve fell. It will be the same thing because it's worked so well for him since that time. Eve fell because of her ego. Eve fell because of her concept of "myself." The serpent offered her the forbidden fruit so she would have the knowledge of God and her ego accepted that. She acted in disbelief or unbelief and then convinced Adam to do the same. She fed his ego and he acted in unbelief. Hence, the fall of man.

When you act for self, or selfishness, that puts me first and you last. If it's obvious enough we'll recognize it and act accordingly. But if it's subtle, and we don't give any direct attention to the subtleties, that's what is dangerous. That is where Satan excels. That's what he can get our soul with. He was subtle with Eve. It's even recognized in scriptures: The serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field.

Natural man has ego. Natural man has pride. When you address problems as individuals or as a Church with your ego and your pride as your concept of self, that begets you malice and envy and revenge

and hurt.

There was a group of people of the Church that took this concept of self and never checked it or recognized what they were doing.

And it came to pass in the eighth year of the reign of the Judges, that the people of the church began to wax proud, because of their exceeding riches, and their fine silks, and their fine twined linen, And because of their many flocks and herds, and their gold, and their silver, and all manner of precious things, which they had obtained by their industry; And in all these things were they lifted up in the pride of their eyes, for they began to wear very costly apparel. (Self-satisfaction, self-importance) Now this was the cause of much affliction to Alma, yea, and to many of the people whom Alma had consecrated to be teachers, and priests, and elders, over the church; Yea, many of them were sorely grieved for the wickedness which they saw had begun to be among their people. For they saw and beheld with great sorrow, that the people of the church began to be lifted up in the pride of their eyes, and to set their heart upon riches and upon the vain things of the world; That they began to be scornful, one towards another (There's a progression here. Human nature is dynamic. It moves. It's not static.), and they began to persecute those that did not believe according to their own will and pleasure. (and tolerance) And thus in this eighth year of the reign of the Judges, there began to be great contentions among the people of the church; Yea, there were envyings, and strifes, and malice, and persecutions, and pride, even to exceed the pride of those who did not belong to the church of God. And thus ended the eighth year of the reign of the Judges; and the wickedness of the church was a great stumbling block to those who did not belong to the church (We advertise in our daily actions for our church for our commitment to God. The people watch that.); and thus the church began to fail in its progress. And it came to pass in the commencement of the ninth year, Alma saw the wickedness of the

church, and he saw also that the example of the church began to lead those who were unbelievers, on from one piece of iniquity to another, thus bringing on the destruction of the people. (Alma 2:8-18. Emphasis and parenthetical insertions throughout: RB)

That's an excellent example of how Satan uses self to destroy. He uses our egos; our selfishness. But that was just one scrimmage in his war for the destruction of the souls of men. His weapon? He used them; he used from within. He drew from within the church. He didn't come from without. He used their selfishness; their sense of self-importance; their sense of self-gratification. That put their concept above the needs and the feelings of those around them. It came out as intolerance; it came out as greed; it came out as envy, revenge, vanity, pride. It was more destructive than from anybody that could attack them from without. Satan made a spectacle of the people. He made a spectacle of the church. Their light didn't shine. That's what happens when men place more importance on their own sense of selfish works, their own loss, their own feelings, than those of their brothers and sisters.

Paul addressed the same kind of problems in I Corinthians. The people at Corinth were caught up in their own sense of status; they were caught up in their own sense of self-importance; their own sense of pride. The people weren't concentrating on the entire gospel that God wanted them to concentrate on. They were taking a little bit from each one of the apostles that came through—from Paul, Apollos, Cephas and Christ—each one of their writings; each one of their sermons. They were just using one part, and then because of their intolerance, they divided. That was Paul's admonition to them. They are not of Apollos; they are not of Paul; they are not of Cephas; they are of Christ. They're all together. What happened back then has happened today. Look at all the churches we've got today, and that's exactly what they've done. The things that caused dissension in our churches go back without exception, almost, to 300 A.D., 200 A.D. when the Greek Orthodox broke away from the Catholics and so on down the line. It's the intolerance of man that divides—his sense of self-importance.

Further on in Corinthians you'll see where their egos prevented them from settling differences that cropped up between them. Paul addressed that. They were suing each other in courts. That only comes from one thing and it's a very basic thing. But if you get caught up in it and it goes unchecked, you don't realize what you're doing. Satan has a heyday.

They were preoccupied with self-satisfaction; self-indulgence. There went their immorality. They were preoccupied with status; who was to have what in the way of diversity of gifts of the Spirit. But the importance to them was of one position of responsibility within the church over another. Paul kept coming back to worship the Lord. They weren't the owners of the flock. They were the shepherd of the flock. We don't own the sheep. God owns the sheep.

It never ceases to amaze me as I read the scriptures that with every problem I have to surmount today, I can find a solution in the scriptures if I just recognize it. That's because the nature of man has never changed, from the beginning of time until now. Our civilization's changed; technology's changed. The way we do things has changed; but the nature of man has never changed. It's the same because we laugh and we cry just like they did back then. We envy and we're generous just like they were back then. We love and we hate just like they did. We understand and we misunderstand just like they did. The beauty of it is God knew that then and caused these things to be recorded and then He had them restored to us in 1800's. It was the same. There was nothing new in it but we change. We tend to forget. We sway; we need to be reminded. You can take anything in the scriptures that Christ addresses and when you apply it to your daily life and your daily problems, it is something so powerful that I'm in awe of it because of the healing power of it. But when you missed the point, or when you gloss over it, or when you don't want to accept it because it doesn't fit what you want to be in your life, that's where the problem comes in. And that's self. That's selfishness.

You can take any sin or crime that we have a label for today and selfishness is the cause of it. Selfishness is a catalyst for murder. That's when two people disagree, and neither will give up, and because of their intolerance it grows to the point that one has to take the other one's life. He does that with complete disregard for the other one's life. Me first. Take assaults. Any kind of assault. It's the same thing only on a lesser degree. It just never got to a killing. But it's-me first. You last. Stealing. Self-explanatory. You want what someone else has and you don't care about their feelings or their considerations or their rights to their own property. Suicide. Woe is me, I can't stand it anymore. I have to end it all no matter what it does to friends or family. Me first. Divorce. Every divorce is caused by one person being selfish or maybe both. But it is always a catalyst. Child abuse. Parent abuse. Elderly abuse. Spouse abuse. Selfishness.

Look at all the pain that selfishness causes. Look at all the anguish, the misery, all the hurt. You know that selfishness is really a thorn in our soul. Paul had a thorn in his side. We have a thorn in our soul. Everybody has it to one degree or other. Now Satan knows all these things. He understands a lot of times better than we do. And I also think he understands the gospel of Christ better than we do. But because he thinks of himself, he thinks he has an angle. It was because of this selfishness that he was cast from heaven. But because he knows the gospel of Christ more than we do, I think there are times that he's afraid of it more than we are. But with all of Satan's abilities, all his capabilities, all his knowledge, and all the power that he can exert over things like that, there's one thing that we as a group or as individuals should never forget—that God's power is greater; God's knowledge is greater; God's abilities are greater. God also knows all about Satan and God also knows all about natural man. He loves us in spite of it, and he's forgiving of us in spite of it, and what God gives right here is his method which is foolproof. If we follow what God gives us as opposed to what Satan gives us, guess which one is more effective. Guess which one heals. Guess which one's greater. Take something simple like the foundation of the gospel of Christ: It's something we've heard time and again and yet often we forget it.

"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." (Matthew 22:37-40)

There's the foundation: unselfishness. Caring for others. Everything is based on a concern for our fellow man and the ones that we usually miss are the ones we are around everyday and get used to. Then our human nature starts interacting with theirs. But we still have to have concern for them. That's pretty plain. That's pretty simple. It's pretty basic. It's pretty important, but it's pretty simple. God gave that first instruction back in Deuteronomy.

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, (and I think that's put there first on purpose because that's our church in forty years. Our children.) and shalt talk of them

when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates. (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

The Jews took that instruction literally. Christ addresses the misconception when he was chastising because what the Jews made out of that was what they call today their phylactery or their frontlet. Now "phylactery" is a little container that they either tie to their arm (because it says you bind it to your arm or to your hand) or it's a container they strap on their forehead. It contains two passages from Exodus and two passages from Deuteronomy where they're supposed to bind it as frontlets between the eyes. That's a misconception. We don't do that today. We know not to do that today. We know what that means. It means that's to be the first and foremost thing in our minds constantly and when it is it will show in our actions.

But since they misconstrued that, they also missed something else and it shows in their religion even until today. That was their lack of concern for each other and their lack of commitment for the concerns of their brothers and sisters. Christ ran into it in his time with the Pharisees and the scribes. It was all rote to them. There was no personal commitment of their souls, their actions. It was a ceremony. It was empty. And needless to say, when the caring part is missed, that of "I'm first and you're last," it doesn't work at all. We've had example after example of that even until today. And it's getting worse. But Christ handled that beautifully. Right after he was baptized and went into the wilderness for 40 days, fasted and came out, Satan tempted him.

"Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered. And when the tempter came to him, he said, if thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread." (Matthew 4:1-3)

Now what Satan was wanting him to do was to satisfy his own needs first. He knew the physical condition Christ was in at that time, and what he was offering Christ was self-satisfaction to feed his own body first.

Christ, being Christ, answered him and said, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by

every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4)

Now what was he thinking about? He wasn't thinking about filling his stomach. He was thinking about my soul's salvation, and what his commitment was and what he had to do; what he had to give and that was the first thing in his mind. No selfishness.

"Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone." (Matthew 4:5-6)

Here's Christ on a temple in a city and what Satan wants him to do is to throw himself off. Can you imagine the stir that He would have caused when the angels would swoop down to save Him from being killed? Take that situation to downtown of any large United States city and if that was to happen, what would have been the reaction of the people? Needless to say, it would be spectacular. It would give instant fame. People would want to learn about it, but it's a cheap shot. It's a cheap way of going about things. It's a quick-fix way that really doesn't fix anything, as is pointed out today by the many things that people mindlessly imitate from Christ or that somebody did in the Bible. How many people would have jumped off a building between now and then trying to imitate Christ had He done this? What did Christ come back with?

"Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God." (Matthew 4:7)

Very simple, very short, very effective. You don't use the promises of God for self-edification. You don't use the promises of God or the gospel of Jesus Christ for your own gain. That's what He told Satan, and it worked because Satan got off it and went on to the next one.

"Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;" (Imagine what the kingdoms of the world are today and the glories of the world are today. Natural man is the same, so it had to be the same thing back then. Different players; different teams; same rules.) "And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me." (There was His chance. There was His chance to be the big man of the world, to have all the pleasures and all the power at his command. He could tell anybody to do anything. What'd he do?) "Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." (Mat-

thew 4:8-10)

That's really what He wanted to present. Christ told Satan that the most important thing in life is obedience to our heavenly Father. That takes humility; that takes self-sacrifice; that takes giving; that takes caring. He was thinking of my soul salvation and that's charity; that's the true love of Christ; that's the caring. Personal recognition, personal comfort, and personal pleasures were not important to Christ. That's very important.

The concept of the true love of Christ of which we so often hear praised hasn't changed from when He experienced it with Satan back then. We've changed it. Churches today will take that and run it out and give it so many definitions to justify their own reasoning, their own existence, their own actions, that actually the whole thing in many churches is an empty phrase.

I've got to keep it personal because it's personal for me and should be personal for all of us, individually, and as a group of people. I'm talking about the Church of Christ. That's what we should be doing. We often do it. I see it in our conference or in our meetings where several locals meet together, especially the ministry, for one reason or another. But that's not to diminish the membership meeting together and doing this. Often times we make the glass that we look through fit what we want to see, and sometimes it's just an honest confusion of what we do.

But since Satan's so deceptive, he knows these things. Since he's so deceptive he'll use what Christ tells us to do along with our own floundering around and our reasoning, and he'll give us a deception over something that we think we're doing right. How do you tell what is of God and what's of Satan? What's the difference between discipline and malice? What's the difference between ego and honest fervor in the gospel? What's the difference between ecstasy, religious ecstasy for the sake of ecstasy itself, and the manifestations of the Holy Spirit? What's the difference between edifying myself and edifying God? What nourishes my soul and what nourishes my ego?

In Galations 8 is the description of the works of the flesh, and that's plural because you only need one of them; and the fruit of the Spirit, and that's singular because you need all of those. To reap the fruit of the Spirit from the tree of life you've got to plant the proper seed. That's just like planting any field or any garden or any flower bed. It's God's seeds and it's our labor. His gift to us would be the seed, the soil, the water, and the sunlight. We've got to provide the tilling, the planting, the irrigating, and

THE URIM AND THUMMIM

And the Beginning of the Restoration

by Priest Peter

A peculiar claim of the restoration message is that we have received the record of the inhabitants of the ancient Americas which was translated "by the power of God." The claim is that God prepared certain instruments - the Urim and Thummim by name - to be used by those of His choosing to receive divine instruction or knowledge in matters that were otherwise too difficult for men. By this means, we believe that Joseph Smith received the translation of the ancient record of the American inhabitants as well as instruction for the building up of Christ's Church on the earth.

We have this testimony from those who were present:

"Be it known unto all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people, unto whom this work shall come, that we, through the grace of God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, have seen the plates which contain this record . . . and we also know that they have been translated by the gift and power of God, for his voice hath declared it unto us; . . . that we should bear record of it; wherefore, to be obedient unto the

commandments of God, we bear testimony of these things . . ."

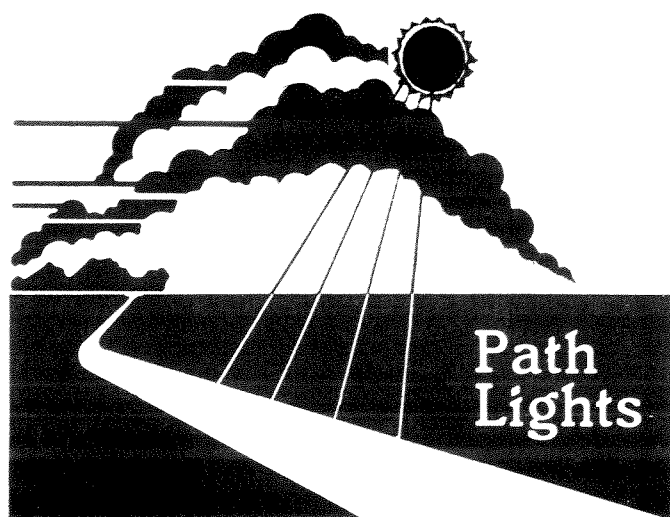
Oliver Cowdery,
David Whitmer,
Martin Harris.

Also, the following revelation through the Urim and Thummim:

"A revelation to Joseph, Oliver, and David, making known the calling of twelve disciples in these last days, and also, instructions relative to building up the church of Christ, according to the fullness of the gospel: . . ." - Book of Commandments 15:1.

Although the Christian world finds this claim rather incredible, and are mystified by the terms, the Bible never-the-less speaks of the Urim and Thummim. Even the many commentaries available offer only vague conjecture as to what the Urim and Thummim are. Yet, the Bible offers considerable information on the matter as we see in the following passages.

The first passage referencing the topic is Exodus 28:30, which indicates that the Urim and the Thum-



The squeal of brakes, and the grinding crash before the car jolted to a stop will remain with me all my life. It was a beautiful day in June and I and my rider were on our way to work when the accident occurred. The car about two car lengths ahead of me slammed on his brakes for no apparent reason. I saw if I couldn't maneuver my car over into the right lane I would plough into the rear of that car. As I swerved the car to the right I lost control completely, not because I was driving too fast, for I was going only about thirty-five or forty miles an hour. At that speed I should have been able to stop if something had not gone wrong with the steering apparatus. My car then darted back into the lane I had been in, across the median strip of the divided highway and into the path of a Meadow-Gold Ice Cream truck. My little 1962 Rambler was demolished, but my passenger and I received only minor bruises and shattered nerves. I believe with all my heart that the silent prayer I offered as the car went out of control is what saved us from being killed. The Man upstairs heard and

URIM AND THUMMIM

The Work of Restoration

by P. Gould

Urim and Thummim were kept by the one of the Lord's choosing and were used in connection with the judgment of the people. "And thou shalt put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and Thummim; and they shall be upon Aaron's heart when he goeth in before the Lord: and Aaron shall bear the judgment of Israel upon his heart before the Lord continually."

Later, we see that the Urim and Thummim were used to ask counsel of the Lord. "And he (Joshua -ppg) shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall ask counsel for him after the judgment of Urim before the Lord. . . ." Numbers 27:21.

Thus the Urim and Thummim were in fact used for inquiring after the counsel of the Lord. This fact is also seen in the following passages:

1) "And when Saul inquired of the Lord, the Lord answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets." (I Samuel 28:6)

2) "And the children of Israel arose, and went up to the house of God, and asked counsel of God, and said, which of us shall go up first to the battle against the children of Benjamin? And the Lord said,

Judah shall go up first." (Judges 20:18) Also see verses 23, 27, 28 and chapter 1 verses 1 and 2.

3) "If there shall arise a matter too hard for thee in judgment. . . then shalt thou arise and get thee up unto the place which the Lord thy God shall choose and thou shalt come unto the priests and Levites, and unto the judge that shall be in those days, and inquire and they shall shew thee the sentence of judgment. . . ." (Deuteronomy 17:8-13)

Thus the children of God were able to go to inquire after the Lord's will in matters that were too difficult for them, and He would answer them by the Urim and Thummim (except when He should choose silence as in the case of King Saul).

Some have supposed from these passages that the Urim and Thummim were used as "lots," so that when they were thrown, if they landed a certain way, the answer from God was "yes," another position meant "no," and a third meant that the Lord refrained from answering. This idea has been taught by some as "fact," yet, from the scripture we see that it is not true. The best example exposing this "lot"

heeded my plea for help.

Faces appeared on all sides of the wreck asking if we were hurt, could we get out, and on and on. The doors were jammed closed and had to be pried open by several men before we could climb out.

There had been a state patrolman sitting beside the road whom I had seen just before the crash, who was summoned to the scene. He was one of the individuals that helped free us from our place in the wreck. He was courteous though business like in his manner. His words still ring in my ears, though to this day I do not know who he is. "Mrs. Smith, you did all that was humanly possible to avoid a more serious accident. I'm not even going to give you a citation."

Have you ever been a part of something, yet felt you were watching a play? That was the sensation I had during the moments all this took place. I was in shock yet able to move, speak halfway intelligently and answer the questions asked of me.

There were visions of court scenes and long

drawn out insurance hassels scurrying through my mind all the while I was answering the things required of me. Had those things taken place, utter financial ruin would have been mine and my family's.

My husband was not at home at the time and knew nothing of my plight. I begged everyone concerned not to worry him for he was in Colorado with some friends and he could not get home without causing a hardship to the fine people he was with; anyway I was not seriously hurt. Needless to say I had one badly shaken husband when he did arrive home and heard and saw what had happened in his absence.

That experience has taught me many valuable lessons, the greatest being that there is a God who cares what happens to us; that prayer isn't a lot of words thrown on the wind to go unanswered. My feeble prayer was answered for which I am eternally grateful.

Sister Edna Smith
Independence, Missouri

fallacy is I Samuel 10:17-25. Here, the people had been gathered together to inquire who among them should become Israel's first king. Saul had hidden himself among his families "stuff" or baggage, and although he wasn't present at the gathering, he was chosen, but could not be found. We find then: "Therefore they inquired further, if the man should yet come thither. And the Lord answered, Behold, he hath hid himself among the stuff." (I Samuel 10:22)

The answer, here, is definitely not a simple "yes" or "no," thus the Urim and Thummim could be used to receive answers of whole thoughts in this manner. In fact, seeing this example, any amount of information could thus be conveyed through these divine oracles.

Looking again at this question, we note that the meaning of this word "Urim" is "lights" (see Young's Analytical Concordance to the Bible). Based on what we have seen thus far, it does not seem presumptuous to say that this name refers to the "light" or knowledge from the Lord. This is in contrast to the "darkness" that exists when there is no direction or guidance from God, as mentioned in Micah 3:6&7 - "Therefore, *night* shall be unto you, that ye shall *not have a vision*; and it shall be *dark* unto you that ye shall not divine; and the sun shall go down over the prophets, and the day shall be dark over them. Then shall the seers [see-ers in the "light" - ppg] be ashamed . . . *for there is no answer of God.*" (emphasis - ppg)

Thus the Urim was used to receive "light" from God, through the one appointed by God to "see" for the people, when they inquired after the Lord's counsel. Thus, too, it is that those who were chosen to "see" by this means were known as "seers."

In the Old Testament we read of these appointed seers to whom the Lord's people came to inquire after the counsels of God through the Urim and Thummim: "Beforetime in Israel, when a man went to inquire of God, thus he spake, come, let us go to the seer: . . ." (I Samuel 9:9) Also, since the seer was generally the most prominent of the prophets he was often referred to as "the prophet", or "the man of God". ". . . for he that is now called a prophet was beforetime called a seer." (I Samuel 9:9)

Apparently, the Urim and Thummim were lost to those in Palestine about the time of the Babylonian captivity (600 B.C.). After the captivity, there arose a matter which would require the Lord's judgment and counsel, as there were some of the Levitical priests who had lost the proof of their lineage and yet desired to partake of the offices and duties of the

temple. The answer that was given to the prophet Nehemiah (who was then the governor or "Tirshatha") was that the Levites who had no proof of their lineage would not be allowed to partake of those temple duties until a priest stood up with the Urim and Thummim - Ezra 2:63: "And the Tirshatha said unto them, that they should not eat of the most holy things, till there stood up a priest with Urim and with Thummim."

The importance of this matter is more evident when we note that no one today has proof of a Levitical lineage, since all who had that proof were killed in the 1st century after Christ, just after the destruction of the temple by Titus (about 70 A.D.). Yet we see in the prophecy of Malachi concerning the last days - "And he [Christ - ppg] shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the *sons of Levi*, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness." When will this take place? The answer follows: "Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the Lord, as in Days of Old, and as in former years." Thus a "priest" must arise with the Urim and Thummim *before* this prophecy can be fulfilled, that Judah and Jerusalem would be "pleasant" in the sight of the Lord whom they crucified and rejected, and the "Levites" will again take their place in the service of the Lord's temple, before the Lord. (Emphasis ppg throughout)

We find more concerning these righteous Levites of the last days in Isaiah. There, the Lord speaks of the gathering of Israel thus: ". . . and they shall bring all your brethren for an offering unto the Lord out of all nations. . . to my holy mountain Jerusalem, saith the Lord, . . . And I will also take of them for priests and for Levites, saith the Lord. (Isaiah 66:19-22)". Thus, we see that the "Levites" will "offer" the offering of righteousness after the children of Israel are gathered out of all nations. Yet, according to the words of Nehemiah, those Levites, having not written proof of lineage, could not partake of their offices and duties in the Lord's temple until the Urim and Thummim should come forth in the hands of a priest. The fact that there will be those in the last days who are thus called "Levites" implies that there will be a temple in the last days where such might serve.

This latter day temple is also referred to by David in prophecy, who, though he would not see the first temple which was built by Solomon, his son, yet he spoke of another toward which he would pray: "But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude

of thy mercy: and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple." (Psalms 5:7) This same temple is referred to in the Book of 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. . . . But who shall abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like a fullers' soap: And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi. . . ." (Malachi 3:1-3) This, too, was told in revelation to Joseph Smith and others, i.e.: "And let my servant Sidney consecrate and dedicate this land, and the spot of the temple, unto the Lord." (Book of Commandments 59:7) This temple will be built in the last days and will exist through the thousand year reign of Christ on the earth foretold by the beloved Apostle, after the resurrection of the righteous: "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years." (Revelation 20:6) Also: "And he that over cometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron." (Revelation 2:26&27) Thus, David will be there and see that holy temple of the Lord which will be the very heart of the holy city long foretold by the prophets: "But ye are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels. . . ." (Hebrews 12:22) Also, "Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King. God is known in her palaces for a refuge. . . ." (Psalms 48:2&3) That city, and its holy temple will come, for the faith of our fathers was not in vain.

The place for that temple and city is pointed out here as "the sides of the North." Strange language this is to most people, and yet how descriptive of this land! Surely this land IS at the far sides of the

northern hemisphere to those in Palestine. Thus, Biblical prophecy comes together with Indian legends which tell of the great spiritual lodge to be built here in the last days, and their scriptural record - The Book of Mormon - speaks of the Holy City, Zion, to be built here. All of these testimonies come together in confirmation of the revelations given in these last days, in the work of restoration.

It is noted, also here, that at no time in the past have any but those with proven lineage been permitted to serve in the temple and partake of the most holy things, not even the very apostles of Christ, and this is in accord with the words of Nehemiah. But we have seen another temple, wherein the "Levites" will again serve, thus a priest must arise with the Urim and Thummim, to usher in the time that those who have no proof of lineage will be found acceptable before the Lord to serve in his holy temple.

We believe that the Urim and Thummim have come forth and were in the hands of one - Joseph Smith Jr. - who was indeed ordained as a priest by the hands of the angel - John the Baptist.

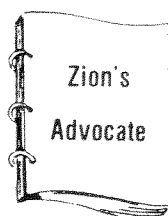
According to the accounting of that incident, there were two people present - Joseph Smith, and Oliver Cowdery - who were ordained with the following words: "Upon you my fellow servants, in the name of Messiah, I confer the priesthood of Aaron. . . and this priesthood shall never be taken again from the earth, until the sons of Levi do offer again an offering unto the Lord in righteousness." - Outline History of the Church of Christ, page 35.

Notably, Oliver Cowdery who was one present, separated himself, in 1838, from the church established through Joseph Smith, and he disclaimed many of Joseph's actions. Because of this, he received a great deal of persecution from those who followed the errors into which Joseph and others had drifted, as well as from those of the Christian and non-Christian world around him. In the face of all this, while trying to "wash his hands" of the errors

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Sincerely,
Your Editorial Staff

which he, too, had been a partaker, he could not deny the fact that he had indeed seen an angel, as he says: "... as the angel was John the Baptist, which I doubt not and deny not." (Defense, pg. 2) Oliver also remained firm in his testimony that the book which Joseph had translated by the Urim and Thummim was indeed a true work.

Some have challenged the ordination of Joseph and Oliver to the "Aaronic" priesthood, since both history and prophecy indicate that Joseph was a descendant of Ephraim, the son of Joseph of Egypt, and thus could not be of the Levitical priesthood. To explain this supposed "problem" we must look back to the beginning of the Levitical priesthood.

We find in Exodus 13:1&2 that the Lord required the "firstborn" to be given unto him as an offering - "Sanctify unto me all the firstborn..." These were to be a type of Christ - God's firstborn, and only begotten - and were thus to be set apart and given unto the Lord, as the prophet Samuel was given unto the Lord (I Samuel 1:9-11&19-28). It was their duty to minister before the Lord and to perform the ordinances of the Lord for the people. - "Thou shalt not delay to offer the first of thy ripe fruit... the firstborn of thy sons shalt thou give unto me."

We find, too, that because of the transgression of the people with the golden calf, the Lord chose the Levites to be his in the stead of the firstborn, for the Levites had stood on the Lord's side when Moses returned from the mount (Exodus 32:19-29). Thus the Levites were given the priestly functions that once belonged to the firstborn - "Thus shalt thou separate the Levites from among the children of Israel: and the Levites shall be mine. And after that, shall the Levites go in AND DO THE SERVICE OF THE TABERNACLE of the congregation; and thou shalt cleanse them for an offering. For they are wholly given unto me from among the children of Israel... INSTEAD OF THE FIRSTBORN of the children of Israel... AND I HAVE TAKEN THE LEVITES FOR ALL THE FIRSTBORN of the children of Israel." (Numbers 8:14-18)

Two things are of special note here: 1) The priesthood of the Levites was not a new priesthood, but those duties which once belonged to the firstborn, (in the similitude of Christ) were given to the Levites because of their faithfulness.

2) We note the phrase: "And I have taken the Levites for all the firstborn." This is the same wording used in Isaiah, chapter 66, when the Lord gives those priestly duties "of the tabernacle," belonging to the Levites, to those whom He chooses of ALL the

children of Israel who are brought unto him, as he says: "And they shall bring all your brethren... and I will also take of them *for* priests and Levites." (Isaiah 66:20&21) Thus we see that at this point the "Levites" are not necessarily the direct descendants of Levi, so that there is no longer the need of a lineal proof. This change occurred with the rising of that priest, bearing the Urim and Thummim, so that lineal proof was no longer required, rather, those of faith are chosen, and all this according to the prophecy of Nehemiah, and looking forward to the day that the "Levites" would again be acceptable before the Lord.

Besides the fact that there were two witnesses of the visit of the angel John the Baptist, to restore this priesthood to the earth, it should also be noted that his coming was to be before the great day of the Lord. For evidence of this, I turn your attention to the words of Christ: "And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias [Elijah - ppg] must first come? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias TRULY SHALL FIRST COME, AND RESTORE ALL THINGS. But I say unto you, that Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise, shall also the Son of man suffer of them. Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist." (Matthew 17:10-13)

Here, Christ refers to John as Elias who "truly shall first come and restore all things," that he was the one who would come "in the spirit and power of Elias" (Luke 1:17) and fulfill the words of Malachi - "Behold I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord:..." (Malachi 4:5&6)

Wonderful to behold - the word of God fulfilled in every detail. And so we have, as long foretold, the restoration of Christ's church (by restoring the priesthood authority) by this "Elijah" whom Christ said should surely come. And the priest has arisen having the Urim and Thummim, preparing for that day when the Lord would take of all the children of Israel "for Priests and for Levites," not by lineage or lineal proof, but because of faith, that they may do the "service of the tabernacle," or the service of the temple of the Lord to be built in these last days, as the heart of the Holy City Zion, where the righteous of all ages being called forth by the power of Christ, will rejoice, and reign with Christ for a thousand years. Indeed, that priest was none other than Joseph Smith Jr., who, by those divine oracles, translated the ancient record of the prophets among

the Indian people, even the "stick of Joseph" or the record of the descendants of Joseph of Egypt - as prophesied by Ezekiel: "I will take the stick of Joseph [the record of Joseph's descendants - The Book of Mormon - ppg] which is in the hand of Ephraim [Joseph Smith was of this lineage, as noted earlier - ppg], . . . and will put them with the stick of Judah [the record of Judah, or the Jews - the Bible - ppg] and they shall be one in mine hand." (Ezekiel 37:15-20)

Only in this restoration of Christ's church can the fulfillment of all these things be found, and that to the very letter. Man may look for another fulfillment, but will wait in vain, much as the Jews still wait for Messiah's first appearance - yet he has come already and soon will come again!

SELFLESSNESS from page 131

the cultivating, or there will be no tree of life for us because it's what we do with His gifts, it's what we recognize as being His gifts, and it's how we utilize those gifts that decides whether we'll be victorious or whether we'll be defeated when the tribulation comes. When you bring that down to day to day living, its actions and it's what we try to attain in life that we've got to keep in mind; the state of the soul while doing it is the important thing.

Alma compared the gospel to a seed. It gives us

an example for checking to see that we planted, are cultivating, and are irrigating the seed correctly. Read Alma 16:152-173. It is a good example of a measuring stick for us. He used an example from the law of nature, Mother nature, which is the law of God, in describing it. Because planting is something that we do to one degree or other, or have contact with, or exposure to, we can understand it. We need this standard to check to in our actions and our efforts in the projects that we put forth. We've seen this work at times. It never ceases to amaze me and fill my heart how powerful and how moving that is because as it says in the scriptures, that can move mountains. That can move a lot of adversity out the door; that can move Satan out the door. I've got to thank my heavenly Father for that because it's His gift to me and I didn't have to earn it.

Let's let our thoughts mirror those of Christ. If we let our thoughts mirror those of Christ, our actions will mirror those of Christ, and if we do anything with it we'll see the results. If we're diligent with it, when Satan checks our line for the point of least resistance, he'll find Christ. It doesn't mean we won't have problems and it doesn't mean there won't be a tribulation. It means we'll be able to survive in spite of it because it's our souls that count, not our bodies. It's how we treat people that counts, not our paranoia, nor our defenses. Let our actions and let our prayers be for each other.

ALERT! ALERT!

A new movie entitled, "The Last Temptation of Christ," is scheduled to be released in September by Universal Studios. This movie is not fit for viewing by any member of the Church of Christ for it depicts the Lord and his followers sacrilegiously and blasphemously as lustful and immoral degenerates. It absolutely distorts the character and mission of our Lord. It cannot help but warp the minds of all who view it for it seeks to associate the Lord with the worst kind of carnal filth.

It is time we begin to seriously awaken to the wickedness that is threatening to overwhelm us and begin to become a people separate and peculiar unto God. The attacks upon godliness and against all things right and true are rapidly gaining momentum. This new release is a giant leap into the abyss of total degradation. "X" and "R" rated movies also should not be entertainment fare for our people whether at the theater or on T.V. God is not pleased with this. "PG" rated movies and, yes, even some "G" rated ones also give a lying message and should not be attended.

In addition, magazines of almost all varieties (95% or more of all magazines) are unfit for a saint of God. Today's media is not geared for the righteousness of the viewer. This is to be expected since Satan is the prince of this world. Evil is glorified. The good and true are villified. It is time we begin to serve the Lord by taking a stand against these evils in our lives. Many among Protestant Christianity are doing so increasingly. Can we do less? Can we say that we have been sufficiently righteous? If so we would have the gifts and blessings of the gospel in great abundance. But all is not well in Zion. And whether we pay heed or not and prefer to continue being sleeping virgins, this know assuredly, that judgment shall begin at the house of God and sooner than we may think. And if the righteous among us shall scarcely be saved what shall be the end of them who do wickedly?

One final word: If the music we listen to does not glorify God then we have no business listening to it. We are simply going to have to make up our minds. The question was recently raised, "Would you play

rock music in the church on a Sunday morning or during a prayer service or at any other time in the house of God? Likely not, and if such music is not godly nor appropriate in either the service of God or in his house, is it any more appropriate for the tem-

ple of God? Know you not that your bodies are the temples of the Holy Ghost? And you are bought with a price! But he who will defile his body, him will God destroy.

Harvey E. Seibel

-NEWS-

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BAPTISM

On Wednesday, July 27, 1988, beautiful Glen Lake, Leelanau, Michigan, provided the setting for the baptism of Larry Don Leo, with Elder Conley Addington officiating. The sun was just setting and the sky was a brilliant orange, and as Larry and Brother Addington walked out into the water two majestic white swans glided through the area, completely oblivious to the peaceful, solemn ceremony taking place. Following the baptism, our little group walked back to the home of Brother and Sister Addington for the laying on of hands.

This, our new young brother in Christ, has made a real commitment to turn his life around and serve his Lord, but needs the prayers of the saints to help him over the rough spots that he knows he will encounter. We would ask that you remember him.

COLLINS LOCAL NEWS

June is often thought of as "the wedding month" and so it was for pretty Sharron Eddy, daughter of Robert and Wanda Jo Eddy of Clinton, Missouri. On Saturday, June 11th Sharron was united in marriage to a fine young man by the name of Jack Lee Gough. The ceremony was conducted by Brother Alvin Harris of Independence in a beautiful outdoor setting on the couple's farm near Stockton, Missouri. After the wedding a lovely reception was given at a picnic area on the Stockton Lake. Our hopes and prayers are for the welfare of Sharron and Jack as they begin their lives together as husband and wife. May God bless them.

The following Sunday we had several welcome guests at church due to their attendance of the wedding the day before. Among them were Brother and Sister Toulouse, Opel Adams, Art, Pat, and Aaron Bermister, Winonna Orstott, Nita Opper, who I believe were all from Michigan. Also Katie Moyer from Independence and Lois Harris of Cowgill along with Rodger and Martha Bruner also of Independence.

While I'm listing guests—our guest speaker for June was Brother Leslie Case of Independence. Brother Leslie's wife, Sister Irene was also in attendance. Brother Frank Fann and Sister Caroline of In-

dependence were our guests in July. Also, slipping in from time to time is our Sister Frances Yates who is now walking with only the assistance of a cane! She looks (to me) wonderful. Brother Joe and Sister Floralise Yates were able to join with us the Sunday Brother Fann was our speaker. And I believe it was the following Sunday our very much missed Sister Esther Caviness and daughter, Sharon Kelley surprised us with a visit. What a joy it is when we can get together—to hear the gospel, to visit and share some time with one another. Thank you all so much for coming. And please, if I left someone out, excuse my forgetfulness. Your visit was appreciated and enjoyed by everyone.

More good news! On the afternoon of July 17th Gary Adams of Warrensburg, Missouri made the decision to enter the Kingdom of God through the waters of baptism. Gary was baptized by Brother Robert Eddy who also confirmed Brother Gary by the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost. Brother Gary was accepted as a member of the Collins Local and was welcomed by the giving of the hand of fellowship Sunday, July 31st. I request your prayers on his behalf that he may be strengthened from day to day.

Here are some lines from notes I've taken during sermons. I hope they will be of some good to you.—

We are nothing without the power of God.

It is dangerous when we begin to deny the scriptures because to deny the scriptures is to deny God and we must not deny God.

Disobedience to our parents is the first step toward disobedience to God.

Do we overlook the hand of the Lord and consider it only good fortune?

Christ admonishes us to "be ye perfect . . ." How willing are you to become perfect? How desirous are we to do His will? Do we really want to keep His commandments?

People are too concerned with their own lives and too busy to spend their time in the presence or the worship of God.

When we fail at something we should turn it over to Christ.

Have you counted the cost of being a Christian? Do you have the ingredients to become a Christian? Are you short of patience or love? If you're short of some of these ingredients where do you go to get them? Go to God in prayer and ask.

Lord, don't move that mountain, but give me strength to climb it.

When we come to the end of the way and see that we didn't have time to partake of the feast God prepared, God's house WILL be filled, but oh, the sorrow we will have if we are left out because we were too busy.—

May we encourage one another to take the time to feast at God's table and share this precious gospel with others.

Your reporter,
Czerna Kauffman

TO BE A DIAMOND

by Amy Schrader

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:16

We are constantly in the presence of more than we can see; in all the many factors that make up the physical, tangible part of our experience is a figure of a spiritual reality, "the figures of the true" Hebrews 9:24. In our whole universe there is only

one source of light, the sun, all else that seems to give light is a reflection of the sun; the moon, the stars, even the earth as seen by the astronauts.

Another 'figure of the true' is the case of the gem; the diamond for an example. In the dark, this priceless above all other gems is as dull and drab as any mere stone. It is found only by the reflection of the miners headlight from it. Even then a rough diamond reflects dimly. Not until it is a cut stone does it reflect brilliantly. A diamond is only carbon which has been subjected to intense heat and pressure; intensely tempered. Only then is it ready for the work of the lapidary in whose skilled hands it is cut, shaped and polished into the many faceted gem with all its light reflecting potential perfected. Still, to reflect, it must be in the presence of light which is outside itself. It has no light of its own.

As the sun is the only light of the universe, spiritually speaking is not Jesus the only light of all that is spiritual, the light that we are to let reflect from us? And should we not expect to be processed much as the diamond if we would reflect Him to the greatest degree possible from a poor human creature? Or would we prefer to be left a rough stone from which little of the light that is Jesus can be discerned?

BOOK OF MORMON NOTICE

Because of the passing of James Hedrick, who had undertaken the responsibility of preparing the Book of Mormon for publication, this project was virtually at a standstill for nearly a year. However, due to the continued interest of Alma and Daniel Hedrick, there is a renewed effort being made. The services of these men were and are without cost to the Church, and we are deeply indebted to them for their kindness and dedication. We understand that at least one other, a fellow-employee with Brother James Hedrick, is also offering valuable assistance.

With previous publication of the original notice in the course of a couple of years, many donations are on hand, held in reserve for the time of publication, which we anticipate may be in the fall or early winter months. That notice offered the Book of Mormon with a cheaper binding for a donation of \$10, and the book with a better binding for a donation of \$25. We may offer a limited number of these with better binding also with thumb-indexing; this would cost a few dollars more. These are only initiatory prices, which may be changed after actual publication costs have been determined; but these pre-publication prices are good for any who will donate until those prices have been fixed. If it is desirable to obtain more than one copy at these initial figures, it will be honored.

Please send your contribution with an expres-

sion of your desires to: Business Manager, Church of Christ (Temple Lot), P.O. Box 472, Independence, MO 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 publications, most of which are given free of charge.

Considerable effort has been made to prepare this book even more nearly in accord with original manuscripts than the present 1908 authorized edition of the RLDS Church. The preface goes into historical detail not previously given, and answers some notable criticisms against the book. Reference text material has been revised and expanded, and study helps have been included at the back.

This project 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 raise funds at the Local church level for the publishing of our own Book of Mormon. We pray that this precious record may always be available to us and our posterity.

The Council of Apostles
Church of Christ (Temple Lot)

CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 1989 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 2. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 3. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, March 31 and April 1.

The 1988 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 17 through 19 at Independence, Missouri.

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