

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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Number 3

The Builder

*A builder builded a temple,
He wrought it with grace and skill,
Pillars and groins and arches.
All fashioned to word his will.
Men said as they saw its beauty,
"It shall never know decay.
Great is the skill, O Builder.
Thy fame shall endure for aye."*

*A teacher builded a temple
with loving and infinite care,
Planning each arch with patience,
Laying each stone with prayer,
None praised his unceasing efforts.
None knew of his wondrous plan,
For the temple the teacher builded
was unseen by the eyes of men.*

*Gone is the builder's temple,
Crumbled into the dust;
Low lies each stately pillar,
Food for consuming rust.
But the temple the teacher builded
will last while the ages roll,
For that beautiful unseen temple
Is a child's immortal soul.*

Submitted by Jennifer Yates

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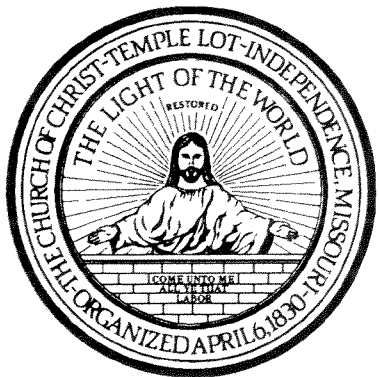
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To promote His Teachings & His Church, the Church of Christ;
To be a voice of warning to His people; To be Zion's advocate.

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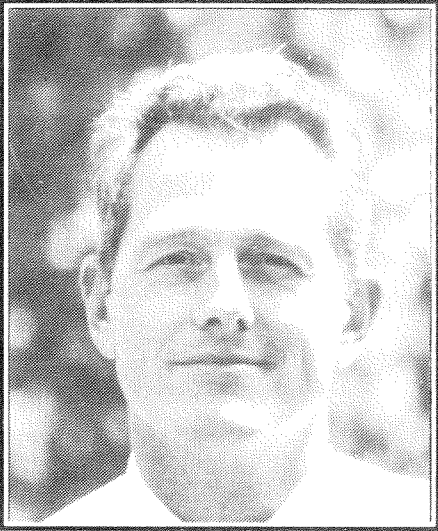
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Editorial...

Conscience or Mental Illness?



Apostle Alvan J. Moser

The Book of Mormon states that in the day in which it would be brought forth that even the “humble followers of Christ” would err because “they are taught by the precepts of men” (2 Ne. 12:16-17). This is nothing new, it has been going on from the beginning of time. Precepts are maxims or fundamental commandments for conduct. They do not necessarily apply to the doctrines or beliefs that we personally do not like. They more specifically are the rules for behavior or “works” (2 Ne. 11:146-151).

Today we have been

bombarded by the precepts of men on all fronts. Through the media, educational institutions, books, scientific naturalism, industrialization, urbanization, and technology we have received more than is possible to digest and learn in one lifetime. To say that these things have not impressed or infected us would be stupid. The dangers however have not really been from these outside sources. Darwinism, social and economic changes, new moral precepts in the world, problems generated by new so called knowledge, and the standards set forth by science are not the true enemy. The true peril has always been when the stewards of the truth have tried to adapt to meet these outside threats. We are our own enemy, often adjusting our standards to sound more reasonable to the educated and the wise of this world (those who are ever searching and never able to come to a knowledge of the

truth).

We in effect place a bushel basket over our candle when we allow the precepts of God (his commandments) to be altered by the discoveries of men. “Cursed is he that putteth his trust in man, or maketh flesh his arm, or shall hearken unto the precepts of men, save their precepts shall be given by the power of the Holy Ghost” (2 Ne. 12:39). It is impossible for any of us to correctly measure the extent of the influence of the world on us as the body of Christ. I believe only the Lord himself can correctly tell us. The question then is how shall we learn from him? (Jacob 3:14)

God has caused a great work to come forth in this modern era of time. A work which shall be everlasting (1 Ne. 3:214-216). He has given to us each the use of his word by which we may judge all things. “Wherefore ... search diligently in the light of Christ, that ye may know good

from evil” (Mrni. 7:18). The thing then to know is the light of Christ which is his word that he has caused to be written (2 Ne. 14:4). Jesus Christ used the written word to teach his light. He ever quoted from it to meet the needs of His people and His own immediate needs (Matt. 4:1-11). There is a question in our minds, “Did God give to man through these resources of the world, science, medicine, education, and immeasurable amounts of other types of research the secrets of peace, truth, and life fulfillment? Do they testify to the light (Mrni. 7:15-16) of Christ or do they write their own precepts (commandments: i.e., you must be trained and qualified to counsel.)? Can we mix these things with God’s word and benefit spiritually?

When true science (the word science actually means knowledge) discovers that an antibiotic will kill a virus it is useful. When scientists leave the true sphere of science, which is to pursue empirical data (that which can be observed) and launches itself into the world of theory, it

then becomes subject to the notions and precepts of man. In short man can never discover how we came to be or why we act the way we do. These things are the realm of God who knows all things and no man will ever learn enough to properly theorize. It is idolatry in the highest order to suppose that man can attain to the knowledge of God. This was the temptation of Eve and her husband in the Garden, when she saw that the tree was desirable to make one wise (“as gods, knowing”).

I do not believe man’s continuously inconstant theories of origin or his endlessly changing ideas of why we act the way we do (psychiatry, psychology). The Book of Mormon states that “man doth not comprehend” (Mos 2:15) what the Lord alone is able to understand. Why we act the way we do, can not be measured by man’s intellect. “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: Who can know it” (Jer. 17:9).

God has given to us every thing that we need to know (2 Pt. 1:3) about life and happi-

ness. He has given to us the tool, his light, to discern “the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Heb. 4:12) and why we do the things we do. Scripture is given to us for “doctrine”, “reproof” (Christian confrontation of wrong), “correction”, and “instruction” that we might be “perfect, thoroughly furnished” (2 Tim. 3: 16-17) with all that we need for the good life. Perhaps you say this is unreasonable, knowing what we do today and having the witness of so many experts in the field of human behavior and science. The truth is that society has been so indoctrinated by self appointed experts in the fields of science and human behavior that we now accept them as the new infallible high priests of our culture.

How many of us use terms that have been introduced by these trained experts. The last time you heard of a terrible murder, probably yesterday, you likely said he/she is sick. This term is a psychological label of illness or disease placed on the mind by man. I am guilty of this myself. Why is it that we do

not question the precepts of men or the understandings of research? Is it because we by nature (Gen. 8:21 evil from youth) would like to believe that there are a host of actions that will really not be judged by God as sin? "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord." (Isa 55:8) It still seems unreasonable doesn't it? We know so much today. How was it that our forefathers and the fathers of the Israelites did without this knowledge? How did those ignorant people survive?

We do not have more stress today than they did. Wasn't Abinadi stressed out as he was burned to death? How did he cope with stress? What of Amulek who lost all (Al. 10:107) and probably watched as members of his family died (Al. 10:45) also by fire? Was it a trick of thinking or complete trust in their Savior? What of the Apostles in the Book of Acts who taught and were persecuted and killed? The scripture says that they were ignorant and unlearned (Acts 4:13) but the multitude "took knowledge of

them, that they had been with Jesus".

I realize that some may be a little angry for these words but our nation and the world have adopted once again the pagan approach to life. I picked up a book the other day in a used book store entitled "Psychiatry East and West". In thumbing through it the author stated in the first few pages that many people had already noticed the similarity between Buddhism, Taoism, and other eastern religions and Psychiatry. The thought presented, of which the author was in favor, was that Americans are already converted to the eastern philosophies through the use of psychiatry and psychology. I assert that we have adopted the precepts of men and mixed them with the Gospel truth. "What communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? ... what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?" (2 Cor. 6:14-16). There are many educated men and women who are not associated with these fields that have been coming forward for some time dis-

closing the fallacies of the psychological way. The sad thing is that today that some of the greatest proponents of this way are Christians.

It is a fact that can easily be proven that all of the fathers of psychology were or are presently atheists or at least do not attribute their knowledge to the inspiration of God. Many of them have used necromancy as a means of finding the solutions to their own problems (Isa. 8:19-20). They have observed man's behavior and then have humanly theorized their conclusions. God has said in his word "all have sinned" (Rms 3:23). He has also said that "it is by grace that we are saved after all that we can do" (2 Ne. 11:44) indicating that there is no act of man or thought process that will elevate us to righteousness without His act of grace through Christ His Son. Psychology has said however "Man is intrinsically good" (Rogers), "Man begins from a position of I'm Not OK — You're OK" (Harris - no one we know I'm sure), "Human love and human worthwhileness

are mans greatest needs” (Glasser). King Benjamin declared that we should remember how great God is and that we are “nothingness” and “worthless” (Mos 2:8;20). This is not bad news but essential knowledge if we are to begin to comprehend God’s love toward us by sending His Son to die for beings in a “worthless and fallen state”. The way is not to learn some new human way of thought of which there are thousands to chose from, but to trust God and learn to obey Him which goes contrary to feelings and human thought (Mos. 1:10).

Man is not ill because of the “birth process” (Otto Rank), nor are we damaged from “psychosexual stages of development” (Sigmund Freud) or even the “primal pool of pain” (Arthur Janov). Perhaps you did not hear your personal favorite. There are others: i.e. “primal anxiety”, “need for transcendence”, or maybe our problems are due to “cosmic loneliness”. No, man’s problem has always been sin and its consequences on ourselves or others. This is not to say that there are not

people who have true physiological problems that have given them this great need. There are children who are born lacking brain function because their mothers drank alcohol during the first two weeks of the embryos life in the womb. There are brain tumors, infections and injuries

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by the score. Some psychiatrists would have us believe that the majority of mankind is clinically ill with some kind of neurosis. Should we believe them?

The American Psychological Association considers anyone that has distress to be mentally ill. The great danger in this is that there is little hope for a sick mind. There are

thousands of people who have taken drugs to cure mental illness with little to no effect on their mental health. If however sin is the root cause there is always hope. We can repent. 58% of the psychiatrists of this nation voted, that’s right they voted, to remove homosexuality from it’s list of mental illnesses. There are thousands of neuroses on the list, is it possible that they have been wrong on any other illnesses on the list? We are mentally ill by the vote of a group of self appointed priests and priestesses to the ideology of human thought. Is it not better to choose rather to turn to God as David did in Psalm 139:23-24 “Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” Afterward turn to God though his light (his word) and search for your problem and its answer. This is not supposed to be a pleasant exercise but a testing, trying, proving one. By nature we turn to the easy road, take a pill, push a button, have a philosophical discussion, but

when Jesus tells us to do something that requires our all we go away sorrowing (Matt. 19:16-22). We do not appreciate what comes to us with ease, yet it could be easier with humility and faith in the Lord and his sufficiency (2 Cor. 3:5; Ether 5:27-28).

If we turn to the world and its training what will we find? There are 11,000 different types of therapy, many of which conflict with one another, which one is right for you? If you chose a Christian psychiatrist, he will either be given to the world view or he will be given to the view that you must repent of belief in the Book of Mormon. What of the cost of seeing a psychiatrist? Many, including so called Christian Psychiatrists, charge huge sums of money, \$75 to \$125 per hour. Consider this point all by itself. It is clear that these worldly methods are not available to the poor of whom Jesus made particular mention (Matt. 11:5). The gospel and victory in Christ Jesus are for all peoples, races, and nations - and the majority of them are poor. What answers do we have for

their needs physical, emotional, and spiritual (Psalms 19:7-9). I say that Jesus is for all and that man's basic problem is sin.

Let us consider some of the problems of man or of you

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personally. Do you feel bad?, and everything you do seems to make you feel worse? Do you spend your time worrying about whether people like you or whether they are plotting against you? Are you depressed? Are you angry? Are you hurt? A psychologist will begin to examine all of your feelings and emotions and begin to tell you why you feel that way and that you must now think differently. Presto! Chango!! Don't you feel better now that you know why

you feel bad and that its only a matter of changing bad thoughts to good thoughts? Has your marriage really changed? Are you a closer to all of the Body of Christ now or is there a new division that has suddenly appeared? In all of your new found freedom why do you still feel guilty? or angry? or estranged from loved ones? "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)

"The Spirit of Christ is given to every man that they may know good from evil" (Moroni 7:14). This statement is often misused by us to show that we all know automatically right from wrong, but that is not what it says. It says that we may know good from evil. The admonition later given in verse 18 that we "should search diligently in the light of Christ, that ye may know good from evil" and then we are to "lay hold" on

good things and not condemn them. We have each been given by God a conscience that tells us when something is wrong within us, but the only way to discern between right and wrong is through knowledge of God's word and will for our lives. By searching His light the Spirit will convince us of those things in our lives that must change. This is done by "real intent of heart" verse 8.

Psychologists would have you believe that if you feel something, that this is your true self (they love that word self, it is the most important thing of all to them), but the scripture tells me that the heart is not feelings but the will. A person may feel anger but refuse to give in to it through his knowledge of good and evil and chose to do good even if he still has a feeling of anger. I have heard it said that if you pray but you feel like not praying you should not pray because your heart is not in it. This is simply not true. "If we would hearken unto the spirit which teacheth a man to pray, ye would know that ye must

pray: for the evil spirit teacheth not a man to pray but teacheth him that he must not pray." (2 Ne. 14: 11-12). There will always be within us, until we die, a conflict about something. A decision to be made, or one we have already made will be ever present in the mind, but the heart may choose which way to go. The heart is the will. Jesus, in the garden prayed, "if it be possible let this cup pass from me" (Matt. 26:39). This was clearly not God's perfect will. Did Jesus sin here? Absolutely not for we read that he

Jesus felt the feelings of weakness of the flesh, but His heart never departed from God.

was "without sin" (Heb. 4:15). Jesus felt the feelings of weakness of the flesh, but

His heart never departed from God. "Not as I will, but as thou wilt." "Thy will be done". Then Jesus did a concrete action and got up to face the will of His Father. His feelings were not His heart or His true self.

A guilty conscience is a gift from God. The conscience condemns us while there is still time to repent. The Spirit speaks in whispers to us making us miserable in life (burnt out) and sounds an alarm "something is wrong" "you have to do something". If the smoke alarm in your house goes off do you destroy it simply because you can no longer sleep or do we look for the flames that may kill us? Sometimes it is the simplest of sins that cause us the most grief. Depression (Psalms 32:1-5; Mrmi. 10:16; 2 Cor. 7:10, overeating (Matt. 4:4; Luke 21:34), and hurt feelings (3 Ne. 5:89-91 correct response; Gen 37 incorrect response of Joseph's brothers) are all things that are covered by the scriptures, which also give instructions as to what to do.

James 1:25 "but whoso

looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." We look into the light of Christ and become a doer of it and when we do we shall be blessed. We shall be blessed! Let these words sink into your heart and mind. The blessing comes after we obey, then God rewards our faithful obedience and even strong feelings of the flesh change by repeated obedience.

Before I stop writing I would like to give one illustration of problem solving in the Lord. Anger is one of the most common of all sins. There are two basic kinds of sin: the ones we do by forethought and the sins that are the result of our sinful reactions to something else. We become angry because of impatience with our spouses because they burnt our toast (we are immature and didn't get what we wanted) and blow up saying some unkind thing. They respond by telling you that you have bad breath and a big nose. Then you get really

mad because now you are justified and we love to be justified, but only God is justified (Mark 10:18). After our self justification we lash out further by throwing the burnt toast and leaving the room.

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There are a least 9 sinful acts recorded here in this short example not to mention the depression that we will now feel after these sins. The psychologist will say that it is

your depression that caused it, or poor self worth or image. The truth is that these two people have shown that their feeling of self worth is very healthy.

We have begun a tangled web of self pity, and false justification, which will only lead to more sin and there is no human way to stop our sinning. There is only God's way, repentance; confession, humility, restitution if possible and forgiveness. We must speak the truth every man to his neighbor and remember that we are members one of another (Eph. 4:25). It is amazing to see that so many of our problems are because we have deceitfully tried to hide our own guilt. The next injunction (verge 26) is that if we are angry we must not let the sun go down on that wrathful attitude. Did you notice also that anger is often directly involved with being hurt. Yes being hurt has turned into not only anger but depression, hatred and murder (Gen. 4:6). Hurting usually leads to resentment and there we go on and on. Then if we do not settle our anger before the sun

goes down and the new day appears it can be even worse.

God's plan in the scriptures is quite simply a daily plan: i.e. daily bread, taking care of today and letting tomorrow take care of itself, choose you this day whom you will serve, etc.. The pride grows and grows. Why delay pain and suffering when repentance and humility backed up by concrete actions on your part will solve your need. It is because we want, as Satan did, an autonomous existence and to be elevated over some one else. But the guilt remains and will stay until your good conscience is seared, till it feels no more.

Praise God for we have seen through his word that we are in a worthless and fallen state and can now turn to Christ and confess our sins (1 Jn. 1:9) and forsake them by

obeying (Alma 19:17-20) the law of liberty and be blessed.

We can live with others not because it first feels so good but because through the light of Christ we can let Him be the master of our wills by knowing what he has caused to be written, trusting it to be the right way (God is the only one who knows man's true needs) and learning to obey. It is written that Christ learned "obedience" (Heb. 5:8). He was the giver of the law and already knew what it said and what needed to be done, but he learned to obey.

It would be impossible to address every type of sin in this short writing, but I hope that if you have become upset by what I have said that you will consider again the power and completeness of God's ways in dealing with problems. "And they were healed

everyone" (Acts 5:16). Temptation is always present and not new, but "God is faithful" (1 Cor. 10:13) and has prepared a way of escape so that it can be born. This promise is based on God's faithfulness, not on new and human ways of thinking. The scriptures have been written for our benefit and learning so that with "patience and comfort" of them we might have hope (Rms. 15:4). They can only comfort us if we read them and obey them. The Comforter or Holy Ghost is the Spirit of Truth that moved on holy men (made holy by God) to write them. Comfort is found in repentance and obeying your good conscience that is tormenting you to change your life.

It Matters Not

It matters not the path on earth
My feet are made to trod;
It only matters how I live:
Obedient to God

It matters not how rough the way
If God is there to bless,
For only He can bring sweet peace
Through tears or happiness.

THE WISE PURPOSES OF THE LORD

Part One



Apostle Roland Sarratt

In pondering the various events of the Bible and Book of Mormon histories, we can recall many testimonies of the Lord's work among His people. Nephi, the son of Lehi, was quick to acknowledge the wise purposes of the Lord in his life. Under adverse conditions, that young man did a work through obedience to the directions of the Lord from which we of the Church of Christ today greatly benefit. That work was the commencement of what we know

as the Book of Mormon. Nephi tells of the instructions that the Lord gave him concerning the two records that he was to make on metal plates in 1 Nephi 2:96-101:

“Nevertheless, I have received a commandment of the Lord that I should make these plates for the special purpose that there should be an account engraven of the ministry of my people. Upon the other plates should be engraven an account of the reign of the kings, and the wars and contentions of my people; Wherefore, these plates are for the more part of the ministry; and the other plates are for the more part of the reign of the kings and the wars and contentions of my people. Wherefore, the Lord hath commanded me to make these plates for a wise purpose in him; which purpose I know not. But the Lord knoweth all things from the beginning;

wherefore, he prepareth a way to accomplish all his works among the children of men; for behold he hath all power unto the fulfilling of all his words.”

Obedying the commandment of the Lord, Nephi mined the ore, smelt it, rolled or beat it out into thin sheets and laboriously engraved the letters of their ancient language while making records of his people. Many generations later, Mormon did likewise in obedience to the Lord's commandments. Mormon made an abridgment of the greater record of Nephi from the time of Lehi down to his time. Just prior to his death he gave the care of the records over to his son Moroni. While making his abridgment, however, Mormon found the plates that contained the smaller record (more part of the ministry) made by Nephi, Jacob and others that gives an

account down to the reign of King Benjamin (see Words of Mormon 1:4-12). Following the whisperings of the Lord, Mormon placed those records with his own stating that it was for a wise purpose of the Lord of which he knew not. This would have given two abridged accounts of the same period of time.

What was this wise purpose of the Lord? It was not known unto man until many centuries later after Joseph Smith, Jr. had translated 116 pages of manuscript under the direction of the Lord. We are caused to believe that the 116 pages were Mormon's abridged account of the same period of time that Nephi, Jacob and others had given down to the time of King Benjamin's reign.

As we are told in church history, Martin Harris, Joseph Smith's scribe for that part of the work, had persuaded Joseph to let him take the 116 pages of manuscript to show his wife and others that they might be convinced of the validity of the work in which Joseph and he were engaged. This was done even after the

Lord had instructed Joseph against letting this work go out of his hands. The result was that the 116 pages were lost. Knowing all things from the beginning to the end, the Lord had made provision for an account for that same period of time that would have

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otherwise been lost to us. The Lord would not let Joseph retranslate those plates and Joseph repented much before he was allowed to continue translating.

It may be comforting to us to know that the Lord compensates for human error and disobedience many generations in advance, but the real lesson here for us is not that the Lord would always have to

do so. The real lesson is that his servants should follow the Lord's instructions precisely as He has given them.

The wise purpose of the Lord was in the fact that He had moved upon Nephi to make that abridgment and gave instruction to continue it for a period of time. The Lord also moved upon Mormon to place Nephi's abridgment among his plates at the right place. Nephi nor Mormon knew why this was to be done, but they knew that it was a wise purpose of the Lord. That was all they had to know.

There are many such incidents in scriptural history that bring to light the wise purposes of the Lord. Noah was instructed to build an ark, and when it was ready and the doors were closed, the Lord performed His work in cleansing the earth. Noah, his family and the many creatures that the Lord had commanded Noah to place on the ark were saved. This was possible because Noah put his full trust in the Lord. He did the peculiar work that the Lord had commanded him to do and he gained the favor of the Lord.

Let us consider the fact that Noah and his family had no control over the ark after the waters rose and floated it away from the place that it was built. Previous to that, their work was to build the ark exactly as the Lord had instructed so that it would be adequate to meet their needs for the long time that they and all the creatures would occupy it. One error on their part could have brought the demise of all mankind and the various creatures which were of their charge. Again we are caused to believe that the Lord's instructions to Noah were precisely correct, and they had to be followed precisely. All this was done to fulfill the wise purpose of the Lord.

Another incident similar to Noah's experience was when Jared and his brother and their families were led away from the Tower of Babel when the Lord confounded the language of the people there. As the result of the Brother of Jared pleading to the Lord to not confound their language, they as well as many of their friends and families were granted this favor. They were

then led a great distance away to the seashore. Here they remained for four years.

At the end of the four years the Lord spoke unto the Brother of Jared and chastened him for not remembering to call upon the name of the Lord. After all the Lord had done for him, he forgot to call upon the Lord? Again we see the weakness of men. But as a result of the Lord's chastening the Brother of Jared proved his faith in the Lord even to the point that he could not be kept from beholding within the veil, and the Lord showed himself unto him.

The Lord gave the Brother of Jared instructions to build eight vessels or barges to carry them across the sea to the promised land. The design of those vessels as described by Moroni are so peculiar that I have never been able to grasp a mental picture of them, but that is not important. What is important is that they were adequate for the needs of that people and their livestock as they traveled for nearly a year across the ocean to the promised land without loss of life. Again we have to believe that

the Brother of Jared and his brethren followed the plans of God precisely as instructed or they would have been lost in the sea.

Another such happening in Book of Mormon history was the building of a ship by Nephi in which a group of his father's family and people were to travel to the promised land. Of this ship Nephi said: "And the Lord did shew me from time to time after what manner I should work the timbers of the ship. Now I, Nephi, did not work the timbers after the manner which was learned by men, neither did I build the ship after the manner of men; but I did build it after the manner which the Lord had shewn unto me; wherefore, it was not after the manner of men. (1 Neph 5:169-171)

We are not given any information concerning the design of their ship except that they could steer it. In one incident recorded by Nephi where his brothers had tied him up in an act of rebellion against he and their father, the compass, which was prepared of the Lord, ceased to work and a great tempest arose threaten-

ing their very lives. Fearing that they might be swallowed up in the sea, they untied Nephi and they completed their journey to the promised land.

Again that which the Lord had designed was adequate for the needs of his people as long as they were obedient in following his instructions, but when they turned away into rebellion against that which the Lord had commanded they were left unto themselves and would have suffered loss had they not repented. We are given to believe that Nephi followed the Lord's specific instructions not only in building the ship but also in following the writings given in the ball or compass both in their travels in the wilderness as well as across the waters.

There is yet another historical event that would be worthy to mention here. David of old was highly favored of the Lord. An outstanding feat was accomplished when David slew the giant, Goliath, and he continued in the favor of the Lord when he was chosen to replace Saul as king. A special work

that David was called to do for the Lord was to build the Lord's house (temple) in Jerusalem. Plans and materials were prepared according to the design and will of the Lord. However, David was not allowed to erect the build-

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ing because he had been a man of war and had shed much blood. That made him unworthy in the eyes of the Lord to build the Lord's house. After David's death, Solomon, David's son, accomplished that work.

Although there are other historical happenings that I

might recount here, I feel that these few might be sufficient. Each of these events have to do with temporal matters: the literal making of records, building vessels to carry people and various creatures, and the building of the Lord's house. These great tasks were all to be done according to the will and purposes of the Lord. These various works did not originate in the mind of man, but the Lord revealed unto man, not just the general idea of what was to be done, but the very designs and plans of each work in precise detail. In each case man could have frustrated the work of the Lord by trying to do it his own way, but the Lord proved that his ways are always right.

(To be continued)

WATCH YOUR LITTLEST PINK FINGER

Irene Maley

(Reprinted from *Zion's Advocate* Sep. 1963)

Stop! You will not wish to waste your time reading further if you seek the answer to profound mysteries. I pretend not at all to understand all of the wisdom contained in God's word. My days are spent caring for the needs of a family of five lively children, ages fourteen to two, and a busy husband. You may be sure there is no time for long hours of concentrated study. Fortunate it is for me that I need not "lay again the foundation" for I had the loving, prayerful help in this task, of two wonderful parents who worked diligently with me. I had, too, the help of a group of good people who also sought to know the ways of God.

In the course of my education I was taught two things very well: One, "Agree with thine adversary quickly". And this became my motto. Two, rule one does not apply when

your adversary is that old boy known as Lucifer, Satan, the Devil, etc. With these two rules and God's help I was able to escape a great deal of personal turmoil in growing up. I had much respect for parents, teachers—and grown-up people in general. Not to brag, but I was a really nice girl. Not a world shaking type, just a quiet shy, "easy to be entreated" girl.

Then all of a sudden the shock treatment began. One of the first shocks was given to me by a Junior high school English teacher. She was a fine teacher. I liked her. In her teaching she branched out considerably into the etiquette field. In so doing she slipped in a bit of "Just smile and wave your littlest pink finger at old Lucifer. Don't be so crude as to insult him by telling him "Get thee behind me." I quote from memory one sub-

tle wave of the little pink finger: "If you are offered a cigarette you need not recoil in horror and say 'I wouldn't touch the filthy thing!' A calm little no thank you will suffice." You see this was a shock because no one had ever offered me a cigarette at that time. None of her teaching was deeply injurious, but it established innocently, the attitude, "never question anything socially acceptable to those who have accepted it. Be polished, be polite and you will be well liked in all circles."

But there have been in recent years those who have done much more than say a polite "No, thank you". They have established and publicized the fact that there is a direct relationship between smoking and lung cancer; and have also sought proof that women who smoke heavily

are subject to miscarriages and difficult child birth. These damning bits of evidence threw the cigarette industry into quite a panic. The advertising business which realized a big profit from cigarette and tobacco advertising was hard hit when the industry withdrew some of its advertising. Other industries not directly concerned with manufacturing the stuff were likewise affected. Still millions of people will continue to smoke—some of these will die of lung cancer, some will be childless; but there may be many wise ones who have not yet been trapped who will because of this finding recoil in horror. Would we rather have nice people who wouldn't want to cause trouble any place?

Another shock stands out in my mind, given to me by a high school sociology teacher. In discussing heredity and the part it plays in our lives, he asked, "Do you think (referring to fornication and personal moral turpitude) those people *want* to be the way they are?"

Would that I could shout back over this 24 years' dis-

tance and say, "Yes! God gives to everyone his own agency. He promises no burden too grievous to be borne. He will forgive the truly penitent man or woman who says, "Cleanse me, dear Lord!" and will help them to go their way and "sin no more".

As a mother my shock treatment continues—No, only a surprise—to see again an old worn-out rag of advice entitled "How to be Popular." This lesson originated with Lucifer, but the boy who passed it on to my son received it from an admired big brother. They are both nice, clean boys who just want to be "popular" among the other fellows. This business of being a man is a serious one to any 14 year old boy with that bit of soft fuzz about his fair cheeks. Lucifer knows it! I am thankful that my son was able to say good-naturedly, "So, who wants to be popular?" The advice was, "Don't use any big words and add some profanity to your talk."

Just yesterday I received another shock. My eldest daughter who is 12 years old, is a tall girl. Her eyes are very

wide and very blue and at times have a disturbing way of seeming to probe into my mind for the many times she seeks to know about. She had just come into our yard and was still astride her bicycle. The day was quite warm and I had been on hard at work. Her question, asked with that wide-eyed gaze, made me long for a serene appearance instead of muddy hands and sweaty face. But all mothers know the time to answer a child's question is when it is asked. The question was this, "If I should join some other church than yours how would you feel?" As I straightened from my work position and sought to gain a bit of "Dear Lord, help me answer this one right" time, she said, "I'm so tired of confusion! Would you blame me?"

I might have said, "It doesn't matter whether I blame you, you must consider would *Christ* blame you?" — Children like brief, concise answers, you know. Or may be I could have said, "We have been working at the tremendous task of being The Church of Christ for only 133

years. Satan has been working at making people tired of trying to understand God's ways for a long, long time. You may be sure *he* never tires."

But I answered the question as simply as it had been asked. "I would be very much disappointed if you would join some other church; because I think you would be making a mistake. You would find confusion in any other church, too; because all churches are composed of people, and human beings are always subject to confusion. The only way to know what to do is to pray to God."

Wouldn't it have been fine if I could have said, "Daughter, isn't eternal life worth a bit of work? Isn't some questioning and weighing worthwhile? Would we like Satan to use his special

blindfold on everyone? Then we could all listen serenely and happily to everything the respected and loved, (and well paid for it) minister says because he read it from a book (without bothering to question which one, or is it true.) Would you settle for some nice, polite spiritual soul cancer or would you like to have life abundantly."

(You know, those weeds I had pulled just as my child came home on her bicycle, wouldn't have bothered me at all if I were blind! But, I couldn't have enjoyed the color of the flowers, either!)

Remember I didn't promise you answers to any profound mysteries. It isn't my fault at all that you've wasted your time reading what I was impressed this day to write for the benefit of my children and

other boys and girls who are beginning the shock treatment of entering a grown-up world.

Precious hope of a brighter world, Hold up your lamp and take a good close look—Identify your adversary before you agree with him too quickly. Fact is, it isn't safe to give him even a wave of your littlest pink finger.

Mothers, would you bow your heads with me?

"Dear Lord, I've only had these few years of experience in trying to guide my children. That's but a drop in the bucket compared with Satan's countless centuries of experience. Help my sons and daughters to by-pass these "little" snares. Help us to be worthy of the name of thy Son. Amen."

Hold This Date!

The 1995 Arizona Camp for All Ages will be held Friday, June 30th through Sunday, July 2nd at Walnut Ranch near Heber, Arizona. Mark your calendars now and watch for more information coming soon.

Path Lights

Does Jesus Care?

I have been praying during 1994 for the Lord to increase my patience. I guess I didn't realize what would happen in my life in order for my patience to increase, but God did. Many instances this past year have been trying and stressful for me—from buying a different vehicle to coping with a fast-paced life with two young children. I have learned the same basic lesson throughout each episode—let go and let God. I just can't remember that until I am frazzled, stressed, and in tears! My patience flees, my composure leaves, and only then can He work with me and make me what I need to be. If only I would realize my need for humility before God has to humble me, then I would always be open to His will without the stress.

The most recent instance of God's blessings to me in this way involves a Christmas present my husband bought for me. He surprised me by

giving me a CD-ROM and sound system for our home computer. I was extremely excited and (of course, after all the lessons I've learned about patience) quite anxious for Joel to install it right away. I wanted to have it running Christmas evening, because that's only logical to be able to use a Christmas gift within hours of receiving it, right?

After church that evening, Joel set out to install it, but found that we had to purchase some brackets so it could mount into the computer correctly. So that meant I had to wait until Monday to buy the mounts. When I got to the computer store, they informed me that they did not carry those type of mounts and that I would need to order them from the manufacturer. This was too much for me. Why did this always have to happen to me? I wanted to use my CD-ROM, but circumstances were denying me that pleasure. It just wasn't fair!

Tuesday, Joel came home from work and promised me the first thing he would do would be to try to make some brackets from sheet metal. I was sure everything would be running by noon, but I hadn't counted on my perfectionistic husband. Every edge had to be sanded down "just so"—aargh! Finally, he was able to put the sound card and the CD-ROM into our computer. Now all that was left was to install the software. Easy job. Just put in the first disk, put in the second disk.... Well, this time the software wouldn't install correctly. It would just flash an irritating message on the screen. All I wanted to do at that point was scream, cry, pound my fists, anything to relieve my frustration about this computer. I took back the disks, assuming they were faulty, and got another set of "faulty" disks. I took that set back, and received a new set of disks, and I was sure this set would work instantly. As I

was driving home, I began to pray. I had been praying all through this frustrating ordeal, but then I was praying, "God, make this work, please make it work this time." The difference was this time as I prayed in the van I realized that this addition to the computer was not a need. Whether it ever got installed or not did not have a thing to do with my soul's salvation. So, I prayed that God would help me control my anger and frustration toward this situation so that it wouldn't affect me as it had. Up to this time I was actually dreaming about the different ways to fix it and everything that could possibly go wrong with it. It had totally consumed my thoughts. I continued to pray, to beg God to help me with my attitude and to help us install this the correct way, but above all that His will would be done. I was determined to try not to be upset if we couldn't get it running soon. As I was praying, I noticed a song that had come on the radio while I was driving. It was titled "Does Jesus Care?". I started singing along and then I actually heard

the words that I was singing. "Does Jesus care when my heart is pained too deeply for mirth or song, as the burdens press, and the cares distress, and the way grows weary and long? Oh yes, He cares, I know He cares, His heart is touched with my grief; when the days are weary, the long night dreary, I know my Savior cares." I was convicted by that song. As tears streamed down my face I sang the chorus "O yes, He cares! I know He cares!" as loud and as praising as I possibly could. Jesus cared about me, about my temporal, selfish wants and the frustrations associated with them. His heart hurt for me, because I was upset by this trivial matter. He still was willing to help me and bless me when I would ask him, even though I was acting like a spoiled rotten child. At that moment I fully realized what a compassionate entity Christ is.

When I got home, I tried the three disks hoping they would work. I thought maybe that since I had realized that this did not matter as much and because I had given it up

to the Lord, that He would somehow make it work. Well, He didn't. I still had the same problem, but I was not quite as frustrated. I decided to call a friend who lives in Missouri and works with computers, Dan Lawrence, to see if he could help me in my predicament. He talked me through many computer acrobatics to try to get the software to work, but to no avail. I have to admit that by this time frustration was beginning to increase. I tried to keep my priorities straight, but I was still allowing this to overshadow what was really important, so I took a coping break. I said a prayer that I would be less stressed and that He would help me figure this problem out. I then picked up the manual and looked over the "Troubleshooting Guide" once more. The solution just leapt out at me. All I had to do was revise the config.sys file and the autoexec.bat file—whatever those were! I thought I could figure this out by myself; I didn't want to bother Dan again with my stupidity (hmm, pride?) so I just typed the phrases in...and

watched my entire Windows program, with all of my files disappear. I was practically in tears! All of the frustration and worry poured back upon me, and I completely forgot my determination to not get upset. What could be worse than this? So, in total desperation, I called Dan again to plead for help. He was very willing to help me. (I just had to reset my computer to get my Windows program back.) With just a few minutes of Dan dictating and me typing, we actually got

the software to work, and my CD-ROM running!

God uses people and their talents to accomplish His will in so many ways. Dan was available to help me and God had given him the knowledge to be able to work with me to fix this problem. God can use others to assist us in so many ways, we must be willing to ask and accept the help others can give. I am thankful that God helped me get it running, even after I had lost my patience and faith that God would

help me with this difficulty and gave into frustration. I am thankful that He works through others, like Dan, to help us in temporal matters, as well as spiritual things. God taught me such valuable lessons about patience, humility, and faith just to name a few. I am so thankful that Jesus does care about the mundane, but seemingly important to us, things in all of our lives, and that He uses all things for good.

Jennifer Yates.

Awakened Gratitude

I have a testimony I feel I must share with all believers and potential believers of the restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. I have had the privilege these past several months of helping in the work of producing a book entitled, *A Book of Mormon Companion: Witnesses to its Validity*. This book, written by Apostle Don McIndoo, is a comprehensive, up-to-date compilation of tangible proofs of the authenticity of the Book of Mormon. Dealing mostly with a vast collection of archae-

ological finds, it also reveals many spine-tingling proofs involving language peculiarities in a comparison of Book of Mormon styles to those of Bible authors and others. But please read further ... as I share my personal testimony concerning the impact I feel this book will have on the latter-day work.

I mentioned "spine-tingling" above, and spine-tingling it has been, for me. I do not remember the exact stage nor the specific chapter that the

spirit moved upon me so strongly for the first time, but I know it occurred very early in the work, perhaps after the first dozen chapters or so. I was working on the book's layout on my computer one evening. My spine literally "tingled," if I may call it that. My skin was suddenly covered with goose bumps and moisture filled my eyes — suddenly I was overwhelmed with feelings of great joy. I don't know why, but the testimony of Oliver Cowdery re-

garding his work as scribe for Joseph Smith came immediately to mind.

Oliver, in 1829, testified: "These were days never to be forgotten — to sit under the sound of a voice dictated by the inspiration of heaven, awakened the utmost gratitude of this bosom." Now I don't pretend to compare myself to Oliver Cowdery, nor Brother McIndoo to Joseph Smith; nor do I dare compare the work on the Book of Mormon to that of this modern-day witness to it! But the gratitude awakened in my heart that evening, and that remains to this day, is just as real as Oliver Cowdery's was in 1829 ... and I knew of a surety that this, also, was a work "dictated by the inspiration of heaven."

As I sat there that evening, and on many evenings after, I realized that here was a work that was going to be a real boost to our people's faith. Here was powerful and overwhelming evidence confirming that the Book of Mormon is indeed a book from Heaven. Before I started this work, I hadn't a single doubt about the Book of Mormon, and I have read several books on a variety of evi-

dences of the Book of Mormon. I also have shown and lectured many times about the Church's audio-visual presentation on the subject of archaeological proofs, called "Mexico, A Land of Contrast," but I say without any hesitation, that this remarkable witness to the divinity of the Book of Mormon, has lifted my spirit and my faith in the Book of Mormon to even greater heights. If there is one thing this latter day work needs, it is a greater faith on the part of our own people. This book may have been written partly to convince non-believers, and it will certainly do that ... but its worth to our own people cannot be measured.

In one of the later chapters, mention is made of Apostle Clarence Wheaton's first missionary visit to the Maya Indian of Central America. Brother Wheaton had found a people very much aware of the legend of a "golden-haired white prophet" who had visited their ancestors many years before and who had promised his return some day. So it is said that they were ready to "more fully believe" when Brother Whea-

ton arrived. I guess that was how I felt and didn't know it! Maybe more of us are ready to more fully believe ... perhaps we should be if we're not.

Some may say our faith should not be grounded upon the certainty of such evidence as this book reveals. The book of Hebrews (ch. 11) tells us that without faith we cannot please God, and I believe when verse one defines faith as the "substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen," it was speaking specifically of that faith we must have in Christ. The Book of Mormon, itself, is "evidence of things not seen," and if you or I can build or further substantiate the faith we have in the divinity of that book by means of real, physical evidence we can actually see with our own eyes, then so be it! Anything that will help build the required faith in an unseen God and His Son, is good ... good for our souls. And that, I feel, is part of God's reason for inspiring the creation of the book, "A Book of Mormon Companion: Witnesses to its validity."

Gary A. Housknecht

Anna Keeney

Anna Mac Cox Keeney, 92, daughter of George Albert and Mary Jane Haney Cox, was born June 28, 1902 at Houston. She died Jan, 22, 1995, at Texas County Memorial Hospital in Houston Mo.

She was a rural school teacher in Texas County for a few years.

She married Charles Ernest Keeney Sept., 10, 1918. They had four children and lived at Houston.

Mrs. Keeney was a member of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot).

She was preceded in death by her husband; a daughter, Alzada Massey; two sisters, Florence Keeney and Iva Fisher; and two grandchildren.

Surviving are a son, Ireatess Keeney of Houston; two daughters Mary Jane Medders of Houston and Florence Marie Kommer of Springfield; nine grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and one great-great-granddaughter.

Services were Jan. 25 at the Evans Funeral Home Chapel with Elder Arther G. Smith and Elder Tony Grzincic officiating . Burial was in the Pine Lawn Cemetery.

THANK YOU MOTHER

For all the weary steps you took for me
when I was much too young to understand,
For midnight vigils and for sympathy,

For the cool touch of your remembered
hand,

For your low voice that echoes down the
years.

For patience and unshaken boundless
trust,

For happy laughter and for healing tears.

For swift decisions that were always just,

For memories of days spent by your side,
For hours of harmony achieved through
you,

For little rooms your presence sanctified,
For high ideals and childish dreams come
true,

For health of body and for strength to press

Forever forward on life's painful way,

For all my Heritage of Happiness,

I Thank you, Mother dear on this day.

Author Anne Campbell

A tribute to my dear mother Anna Keeney,
from Mary Jane.

The most beautiful word in our language
is Mother. Her tender hands wrought for us
before we entered the world. Her weary feet
never failed to carry her at night to see that we
were safe in dreamland. In the long, dark hours,
she watched and prayed. She shared our sor-
rows and gave us our joys. We will see you in
Paradise.

L.G. Elton Cogan

Mr. L.G. Elton Cogan, 93, lived at the Jefferson Home Health Care in Lee's Summit, Missouri, died January 17, 1995 at the St. Mary's Hospital in Blue Springs, Missouri.

Mr. Cogan was born in Kansas City, Missouri and lived there most of his life. He was a truck driver for Riss & Company Trucking of Kansas City, retiring in 1954. His wife, Irene G. Rice Cogan preceded him in death in 1981.

Survivors include a son, John R. Cogan of Lee's Summit; three daughters, Dorothy Lee

Harrison, Mary Helen Johnson and Bonnie Lou Bauer, all of Independence; A brother, James Cogan of Oak Grove; 25 grandchildren, 35 great grandchildren and several great great grandchildren.

He was baptized and became a member of the Church of Christ September 17, 1917.

Services were held at Speaks Midtown Chapel, Independence with Elder Isaac Brockman officiating. Burial was at Mound Grove Cemetery, Independence, Missouri.

N E W S

Houston Local

Our winter has been mild, yet we long for those spring days. God is so good to us, we are so thankful for all the good things in life,

I am sorry to report that our pastor, Bro. Arthur G. Smith has resigned because of health reasons. He has promised to see us when he feels like making the trip. We will be looking forward to our visiting ministry to continue to visit us.

I have missed a lot of Church this fall and winter because of my mothers illness. I know we have had a lot of good sermons.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our church family for beautiful flowers, love, prayers and many cards, telephone calls, and letters expressing sympathy, and the beautiful words of tribute to our mother, grandmother, great grandmother and great great grandmother.

God made the lovely sunshine, and the blossoms on the trees. The rainbows and the starlight, and the gentle springtime breeze. God gave the earth its beauty, and as a final touch , He blessed our lives by giving us a mother who meant so much.

Mary Jane Medders

CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 1995 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. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

The 1995 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 16 through 18, at Independence, Missouri.

CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

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- Book of Mormon, The (tract)
- Brief History of the Church of Christ, A
- Cost of Salvation, The
- Does it Make a Difference to Which Church You Belong?
- First Presidency or First Apostles?
- God's Purpose in America
- Great Plan of Redemption, The
- Latter Day Restoration, The
- Marriage for Time and Eternity? — A Fallacy
- Mighty Acts of the Ages (Spanish)
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- Principles of the Gospel, The — Baptism
- Principles of the Gospel, The — Faith & Repentance
- Principles of the Gospel, The — Laying on of Hands
- Resurrection and Eternal Judgement
- Sermonettes on the Teachings of Jesus
- Synopsis, A (Compares beliefs of 3 Restoration churches)
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- What the Church teaches about Matrimony (Spanish)
- Why? (Amplifies absence of a "First Presidency" in Scripture)
- Zion and the Temple of the Lord

*NOTE: Donations will be accepted to cover postage & printing costs.
(Multiple copies available: 6-50¢ / 100-\$5.85 plus postage)

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Send orders for SS materials to Debbie Vogel, 403 Colonel Drive, Indep., MO 64050. All materials are free of charge to members of the Church of Christ except as noted. Donations will be accepted to cover postage

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Allow adequate advance time for handling and shipping, and for your own preview of the programs. Write to the AVVAA Committee, Church of Christ, P.O. Box 472, Independence, MO 64051.

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PRIESTHOOD VISITATION

If you or someone you know (member or non-member) would like to be visited by a member of the Priesthood of the Church of Christ, please call or write to the Council of Apostles at Church Headquarters in Independence. The phone numbers and addresses are listed on the inside front cover.