

# 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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**A**nd it came to pass that the Lord of the vineyard saith unto the servant, Pluck off the branches that have not brought forth good fruit, and cast them into the fire. But behold, the servant saith unto him, Let us prune it, and dig about it, and nourish it a little longer, that perhaps it may bring forth good fruit unto thee, that thou canst lay it up against the season. And it came to pass that the Lord of the vineyard, and the servant of the Lord of the vineyard, did nourish all the fruit of the vineyard."

JACOB 3:69-71

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## ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

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

# WATCHMAN, WHAT OF THE NIGHT?



By Apostle Roland Sarratt

## Conclusion

**A**round four thousand years ago the Lord decreed that the lands known today as the Americas were collectively a land of promise. In other words, the Lord has promised that this land is preserved for a righteous people. Moroni tells us concerning the decrees of God:

*“And now we can behold the decrees of God concerning this land, that it is a*

*land of promise, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall serve God, or they shall be swept off when the fullness of his wrath shall come upon them. And the fullness of his wrath cometh upon them when they are ripened in iniquity; for behold, this is a land which is choice above all other lands; wherefore he that doth possess it shall serve God, or shall be swept off; for it is the everlasting decree of God. And it is not until the fullness of iniquity among the children of the land, that they are swept off.*

**The wrath of God has hardly been realized up to now, but we can be sure it will be clearly manifested in the near future.**

*“And this cometh unto you, O ye Gentiles, that ye may know the decrees of God, that ye may repent, and not continue in your iniquities until the fullness come, that ye may not bring down the fullness of the*



*wrath of God upon you, as the inhabitants of the land have hitherto done. Behold, this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ who hath been manifested by the things which we have written" Ether 1:31-35.*

There couldn't be a more direct and appropriate warning given to the peoples of this land today. It is quite obvious that the ripening in iniquity is happening among the Gentiles on this land. We can picture a giant broom sweeping across this land, eliminating the wicked in its path. The wrath of God has hardly been realized up to now but we can be sure it will be clearly manifested in the near future.

Some of the prophecies are rather specific, stating exactly what is to happen when the Lord acts in consequence to deliberate disobedience. As to the Gentiles, the Lord will bring His people against them, which will be unlike anything this nation has ever experienced.

*"And my people who are a remnant of Jacob, shall be among the Gentiles, yea, in the midst of them, as a lion among the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep, who, if he go through both treadeth*

*down and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver. Their hand shall be lifted up upon their adversaries, and all their enemies shall be cut off.*

**Surely the Lord has given this nation knowledge and abilities to rise to the highest levels of social and physical civilization that our histories have ever recorded.**

*"Yea, wo be unto the Gentiles, except they repent, for it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Father, that I will cut off thy horses out of the midst of thee, and I will destroy thy chariots, and I will cut off the cities of thy land and throw down all thy strongholds; And I will cut off witchcrafts out of thy hand, and thou shalt have no more soothsayers: Thy graven images I will also cut off, and thy standing images out of the midst of thee; and thou shalt no more worship the works of thy hands; And I will pluck up thy groves out of the midst of thee; so will I destroy thy cities.*

*"And it shall come to pass that all lyings, and deceivings, and envyings, and strifes, and priestcrafts and*

*whoredoms, shall be done away" 3 Nephi 9:99-105.*

What a calamity it would be to have all our chariots, our means of transportation, stopped! This would include the transportation of food, clothing and the various necessities for our present way of life. Commerce would come to a halt and our money would likely become worthless.

This would surely get the attention of the Gentiles, but would it cause them to repent? This prophecy indicates the Lord using this means of correcting the spiritual wickedness of witchcrafts, soothsayers and the worshipping of the works of their hands. Also lyings, deceivings, envyings, strifes, priestcrafts and whoredoms will be brought to an end.

We might ask the question, Why would the Lord allow such a destruction to come upon a people whom He has blessed with such great prosperity over the last two hundred years or more? Surely the Lord has given this nation knowledge and abilities to rise to the highest levels of social and physical civilization that our histories have ever recorded. More than that, the Lord has given us the fullness of His gospel which is the greatest of all knowledge mankind can obtain.

Through special inspiration Paul revealed the truth to the Romans, which answers the question above:

*"Because that, when they knew God, they glorified*

him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

"Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen" Romans 1:21-25.

It appears that God has a degree of tolerance for those who are ignorant of the truth, but to those who know God and choose to disobey Him He will give them up to follow the wills of their own lustful hearts until they become fully ripe in iniquity. There is the day of reckoning, however, when the Lord will rid this land, along with many other lands, of all such wickedness. That day is surely drawing near. The scriptures refer to it as the day of the Lord.

*"Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision.*

*"The sun and the moon*

*shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.*

*"The Lord also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and*

**...To those who know God and choose to disobey Him He will give them up to follow the wills of their own lustful hearts until they become fully ripe in iniquity.**

*the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the Lord will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.*

*"So shall ye know that I am the Lord your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more" Joel 3:14-17.*

The prophet's description of that time of reckoning as a valley of decision is divinely correct, yet it is a time of dread for the multitudes of the earth. When a people have been trapped in a valley where the enemy has closed off all means of escape they have the decision to either wave the white flag and submit to whatever fate the enemy might consign to them,

or they can fight to the death to escape such a consignment. Such a situation is aptly described as the day of the Lord.

The hope of escaping the enemy is held out for those who strive to be worthy to be the Lord's people. The prophets have spoken and recorded the warnings and signs which point to this very day as being the day of the Lord.

The prophet Ezekial said:

*"The word of the Lord came again unto me, saying, Son of man, prophesy and say, Thus saith the Lord God; Howl ye, Woe worth the day! For the day is near, even the day of the Lord is near, a cloudy day; it shall be the time of the heathen" Ezekial 30:1-3.*

A cloudy day indicates a lack of being able to determine direction or time because the sun gives us both a sense of direction and the time of day. The rejection of true Christian principles leaves a people to their own devices in determining right from wrong. Consequently, the distinction between good and evil has been clouded with vain reasoning. As well, they lack the intelligence to prepare themselves for the great event of the return of Jesus Christ to the earth because they have ignored the words of the prophets.

Nephi gives inspirational expression to the wrongful attitude of those who pervert the right way of the Lord and of the Lord's reaction thus:

*"O the wise, and the learned, and the rich, that are puffed up in the pride of their hearts, and all those who preach false doctrines, and all those who commit whoredoms, and pervert the right way of the Lord; wo, wo, wo be unto them, saith the Lord God Almighty, for they shall be thrust down to hell. Wo unto them that turn aside the just for a thing of nought, and revile against that which is good, and say that it is of no worth: For the day shall come that the Lord God will speedily visit the inhabitants of the earth; and in that day that they are fully ripe in iniquity, they shall perish. But behold, if the inhabitants of the earth shall repent of their wickedness and abominations, they shall not be destroyed, saith the Lord of hosts" 2 Nephi 12:18-21.*

The insidious deceptions with which we are confronted daily should make the watchful and prayerful people of this nation steel themselves against the onslaught of wickedness that is overpowering this nation like waves of nausea. The attitude of rejection is much the same in any age: turning aside the just for a thing of nought, reviling against that which is good and saying it is of no worth can apply to the general mockery of the true traditional values which many of us hold today. It is a definite sign of our time that there is a ripening in iniquity

among the inhabitants of the earth.

Amulek warned the people in his day in Alma 8:28-29:

**If our personal appreciation of good over evil is lacking we are not properly prepared. We must desire good and be repelled by evil.**

*"Yea, well did he say, that if the time should come that the voice of this people should choose iniquity; that is, if the time should come that this people should fall into transgression, they would be ripe for destruction. And now I say unto you, that well doth the Lord judge of your iniquities; well doth he cry unto this people, by the voice of his angels, Repent ye, repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*

It may be that the silent majority of this nation still hold to true moral principles, but the very fact that the majority remains silent is an indictment against them. Their silence is consensual, while the vocal have total freedom to persuade the masses. Eventually the voice of the minority becomes the voice of the majority. The warning is that when the majority chooses iniquity and falls into transgression they will be

ripe for destruction. Just as Amulek warned his people, so are we warned to repent and come unto the Lord.

Paul's counsel to the Ephesians is appropriate to us also:

*"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand" Ephesians 6:11-13.*

It takes a spiritual armor to stand firm against the wiles of the devil. Paul called them by name: principalities, powers, rulers of darkness and spiritual wickedness in high places. The agreements between wicked people in positions of power and influence in the effort to govern and control the peoples of the earth is evident within this nation and other nations today. Moroni has warned us against secret combinations in our time (Ether 3:95-98) and Jesus indicated that this will be a day of deception (Matthew 24:4, 5).

Isaiah also gives a warning which can apply to our present situation:

*"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light,*

*and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him!"* Isaiah 5:20, 23.

Malachi spoke in a similar sense:

*"Ye have wearied the Lord with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him? When ye say, Every one that doeth evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and he delighteth in them; or, Where is the God of judgment?"* Malachi 2:17.

Again Isaiah describes the condition of a people in transgression against the Lord:

*"For our transgressions are multiplied before thee, and our sins testify against us: for our transgressions are with us; and as for our iniquities, we know them; In transgressing and lying against the Lord, and departing away from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood.*

*"And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey: and the Lord saw it, and it displeased him that there was*

*no judgment"* Isaiah 59:12-15.

What happens to something that falls in the street? It

**Our greatest threat in the world today... Is the conditioning of our sense of right and wrong, good and evil, which makes us less than spiritually alert to the influences around us.**

is trampled under foot and destroyed. Truth is failing to be recognized, and, in fact, lying is common even among notables in government, religions, business and entertainment. A person's word is not worth much under these circumstances.

It is truly alarming when the righteous are punished and the wicked are rewarded, or when he that refuses to do evil becomes a target of persecution. But whom should we fear more, man or God? Jesus said,

*"...Fear not them which can kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell"* Matthew 10:28.

Our only hope to survive the persecution that will come as a result of our personal convictions of the truthfulness of

the gospel of Christ is based upon the strength of those convictions. Until the day of our trial we will not know how strong our convictions are. Therefore we must prepare not just to preserve our lives, but, more importantly, to preserve our souls.

The essential knowledge of good and evil was explained to Moroni by his father, Mormon, thus:

*"Wherefore, all things which are good, cometh of God; and that which is evil, cometh of the devil; for the devil is an enemy unto God, and fighteth against him continually, and inviteth and enticeth to sin, and to do that which is evil continually. But behold, that which is of God, inviteth and enticeth to do good continually; wherefore, everything which inviteth and enticeth to do good, and to love God, and to serve him, is inspired of God"* Moroni 7:10, 11.

Mormon went on to warn against misjudging between good and evil and stated that we can know to distinguish the difference even as the daylight is from the dark night. He explained it thus:

*"For behold, the Spirit of Christ is given to every man, that they may know good from evil; wherefore I shew unto you the way to judge: for everything which inviteth to do good, and to persuade to believe in*

*Christ, is sent forth by the power and gift of Christ; wherefore ye may know with a perfect knowledge, it is of God; but whatsoever thing persuadeth men to do evil, and believe not in Christ, and deny him, and serve not God, then ye may know with a perfect knowledge it is of the devil, for after this manner doth the devil work, for he persuadeth no man to do good, no not one; neither doth his angels; neither do they who subject themselves unto him” Moroni 7:14-16.*

The knowledge of good and evil is given through the Spirit of Christ as Mormon has stated. That which persuades us to do good is of God. Conversely, that which persuades us to do evil is of the devil. The simplicity of these facts is lost to the reasoning minds of those who seek to fulfill their own wills; but those who are conscious of God’s will are able to quickly discern the difference. How important it is that we are so acquainted with the word of God and His Spirit so that we can readily distinguish between good and evil.

However, knowledge alone is not our only defense. If our personal appreciation of good over evil is lacking we are not properly prepared. We must desire good and be repelled by evil. Amos the prophet points this out:

*“Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the Lord, the God of hosts, shall*

*be with you, as ye have spoken. Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may*

**If we follow the counsel to let the affections of our heart be placed upon the Lord forever we will survive whatever trials will come our way and will be called the people of Zion.**

*be that the Lord God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph” Amos 5: 14-15.*

Our greatest threat in the world today is not the great calamity of destruction that looms ever near nor the loss of possessions, properties or even our lives. It is the conditioning of our sense of right and wrong, good and evil, which makes us less than spiritually alert to the influences around us. If we accept the gray areas between good and evil and do not have the keen sense to love the good and hate the evil we are in danger of being deceived. If we become deceived we are subject to the power of the devil.

Alma counseled his son Helaman with these words:

*“O remember my son, and learn wisdom in thy*

*youth; yea, learn in thy youth to keep the commandments of God; yea, and cry unto God for all thy support; Yea, let all thy doings be unto the Lord, and whithersoever thou goest, let it be in the Lord; yea, let thy thoughts be directed unto the Lord; yea, let the affections of thy heart be placed upon the Lord for ever; counsel the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for good: Yea, when thou liest down at night, lie down unto the Lord, that he may watch over you in your sleep; and when thou riseth in the morning, let thy heart be full of thanks unto God; and if ye do these things, ye shall be lifted up at the last day” Alma 17:68-70.*

The counsel of the Lord to His people stimulates the very soul of man. Let it not be said that the Lord has given us that which is too grievous to be born. If we follow the counsel to let the affections of our heart be placed upon the Lord forever we will survive whatever trials will come our way and will be called the people of Zion.



# PROMISES *of* DELIVERANCE *in* HARD TIMES

By Elder Don Hitt

There are trying times coming on the earth. Every time we talked about that in church one of the young people would get up and leave the room. I asked him about it and he said that it scared him to hear about those things. This article is written to bring encouragement to all, because it will show how His word has promised to bring us deliverance, and what the word of God has to say about what we can expect to happen in those times when we pray for deliverance. I hope it will help everyone to have hope and look to God for deliverance because of what He said about it.

1 Ne 7:32-37: *"For behold, saith the prophet, The time cometh speedily, that Satan shall have no more power over the hearts of the children of men: (Through it all this is what we need to keep our minds and hearts focused on.) For the day soon cometh, that all the proud and they who do wickedly, shall be as stubble; and the day cometh that they must be*

*burned. For the time soon cometh, that the fullness of the wrath of God shall be poured out upon all the children of men: For he will not suffer that the wicked shall destroy the righteous. Wherefore, he will preserve the righteous by his power, even if it so be that the fullness of his wrath must come, and the righteous be preserved, even unto the destruction of their enemies by fire. Wherefore, the righteous need not fear; for thus saith the prophet, They shall be saved, even if it so be as by fire."*

2 Ne 12:20-21: *"For the day shall come that the Lord God will speedily visit the inhabitants of the earth; and in that day that they are fully ripe in iniquity, they shall perish. But behold, if the inhabitants of the earth shall repent of their wickedness and abominations, they shall not be destroyed, saith the Lord of hosts. (Look at that 'they shall not be destroyed.')*

2 Ne 12:90: *"For the time speedily cometh, that the Lord God shall cause a great division among the people; and the wicked will be destroy; and he*

*will spare his people, yea, even if it so be that he must destroy the wicked by fire."* (In this division, you may be required to go someplace. They usually cast the righteous out from among them.)

1 Ne 5:121-130: *"Behold, the Lord esteemeth all flesh in one. He that is righteous, is favored of God. But behold, this people had rejected every word of God, and they were ripe in iniquity; and the fullness of the wrath of God was upon them; And the Lord did curse the land against them, and bless it unto our fathers; yea, he did curse it against them unto their destruction; And he did bless it unto our fathers, unto their obtaining power over it. Behold, the Lord hath created the earth that it should be inhabited; And he hath created his children, that they should possess it. And he raiseth up a righteous nation; and destroyeth the nations of the wicked. And he leadeth away the righteous into precious lands, and the wicked he destroyeth, and curseth the land unto them for their sakes. He ruleth high in the heavens, for it is his throne, and this earth is his*

footstool. And he loveth those who will have him to be their God."

Isa. 3:10-11: "Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him: for they shall eat the fruit of their doings. Woe unto the wicked! it shall be ill with him: for the reward of his hands shall be given him."

2 Ne 8:48: "Say unto the righteous, that it is well with them; for they shall eat the fruit of their doings." (This is a tough one, because the fruit of your doings is going to come back on you. How is the fruit of your doings with your spouse? You probably need to know if you are righteous, and what righteousness is.)

2 Ne 10:22: "And the wild beasts of the islands shall cry in their desolate houses, and dragons in their pleasant palaces: and her time is near to come, and her day shall not be prolonged. For I will destroy her speedily; yea, for I will be merciful unto my people; but the wicked shall perish."

2 Ne 11:72: "But behold, the righteous, that hearken unto the words of the prophets, and destroy them not, but look forward unto Christ with steadfastness for the signs which are given, notwithstanding all persecutions; behold they are they which shall not perish." (Persecutions are probably coming from both within and out of your family. So don't lose your patience; it is how

you are going to possess your life.)

Luke 21:19: "In your patience possess ye your souls."

Jac 2:53: "And the time speedily cometh, that except ye repent, they shall possess the land of your inheritance, and the Lord God will lead away the righteous out from among you."

(Maybe we ought to be praying as in Joel 2:17: "Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?")

Omni 1:7-9: "Behold, it came to pass that three hundred and twenty years had passed away, and the more wicked part of the Nephites were destroyed: For the Lord would not suffer, after he had led them out of the land of Jerusalem, and kept and preserved them from falling into the hands of their enemies; yea, he would not suffer that the words should not be verified, which he spake unto our fathers, saying, That insomuch as ye will not keep my commandments, ye shall not prosper in the land. Wherefore, the Lord did visit them in great judgment; nevertheless, he did spare the righteous, that they should not perish, but did deliver them out of the hands of their enemies." (Be-

cause He is the same yesterday and forever I believe He will do this again.)

Isa. 65:13-14: "Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, my servants shall eat, but ye shall be hungry: behold, my servants shall drink, but ye shall be thirsty: behold, my servants shall rejoice, but ye shall be ashamed: Behold, my servants shall sing for joy of heart, but ye shall cry for sorrow of heart, and shall howl for vexation of spirit." (If you're hungry you can't beat a deal like that.)

1 Nephi 1:23: "But behold I, Nephi, will shew unto you that the tender mercies of the Lord are over all those whom he hath chosen, because of their faith, to make them mighty even unto the power of deliverance."

Hel 3:25: "For behold, thus saith the Lord, I will not shew unto the wicked of my strength, to one more than the other, save it be unto those who repent of their sins, and hearken unto my words...."

Zeph. 2:3: "Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD'S anger."

Psalms 97:10: "Ye that love the LORD, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked."

3 Ne 4:64: "And their mourning was turned into joy, and their lamentations into the praise and thanksgiving unto the Lord Jesus Christ, their Redeemer."

3 Ne 4:65-68: "And thus far were the scriptures fulfilled, which had been spoken by the prophets. And it was the more righteous part of the people who were saved, and it was they who received the prophets, and stoned them not; and it was they who had not shed the blood of the saints, who were spared; And they were spared, and were not sunk and buried up in the earth; and they were not drowned in the depths of the sea; and they were not burned by fire, neither were they fallen upon and crushed to death; And they were not carried away in the whirlwind; neither were they overpowered by the vapor of smoke and of darkness."

2 Ne 5:37-39: "Wherefore, he will manifest himself unto them in power and great glory, unto the destruction of their enemies, when that day cometh when they shall believe in him; And none will he destroy that believe in him. And they that believe not in him, shall be destroyed, both by fire, and by tempest, and by earthquakes, and by bloodsheds, and by pestilence, and by famine."

2 Ne 9:84-85: "And what will ye do in the days of visitation, and in the desolation which

shall come from far? To whom will ye flee for help? and where will ye leave your glory? Without me they shall bow down under the prisoners, and they shall fall under the slain."

Psalm 78:51-55: "And smote all the firstborn in Egypt; the chief of their strength in the tabernacles of Ham: But made his own people to go forth like sheep, and guided them in the wilderness like a flock. And he led them on safely, so that they feared not: but the sea overwhelmed their enemies. And he brought them to the border of his sanctuary, even to this mountain, which his right hand had purchased. He cast out the heathen also before them, and divided them an inheritance by line, and made the tribes of Israel to dwell in their tents."

Dan 12:12: "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book."

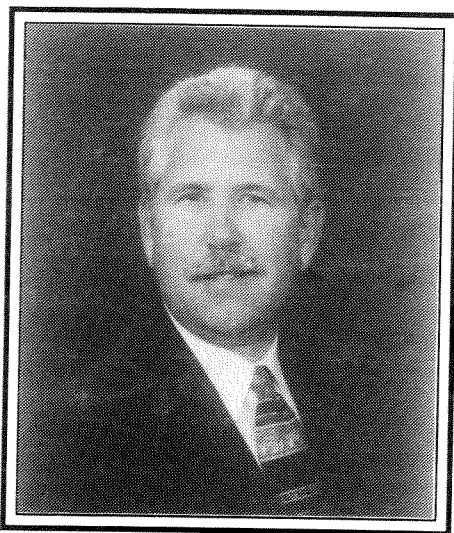
Alma 22:23: "And those who were faithful in keeping the commandments of the Lord, were delivered at all times, whilst thousands of their wicked brethren have been consigned to bondage, or to perish by the sword, or to dwindle in unbelief, and mingle with the Lamanites."

(Just in case you are wondering what commandments to keep, think on this: 3 Ne. 5:68: "For verily I say unto you, that except ye shall keep my commandments, which I have commanded you at this time, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.") Jesus gave these words while giving the sermon on the mount to the Nephites.

Mos. 1:21: "For I say unto you, that if he had not extended his arm in the preservation of our fathers, they must have fallen into the hands of the Lamanites, and become victims to their hatred." (I believe He will extend His arm in the preservation of the righteous in the tribulation.)

Hel 5:16-18: "Yea, wo unto this great city, for I perceive, saith the Lord, that there are many, yea, even the more part of this great city that will harden their hearts against me, saith the Lord. But blessed are they who will repent, for them will I spare. But behold, if it were not for the righteous who are in this great city, behold I would cause that fire should come down out of heaven, and destroy it. But behold, it is for the righteous' sake that it is spared. But behold, the time cometh, saith the Lord, that when ye shall cast out the righteous from among you, then shall ye be ripe for destruction. . . ."

# T H E L I F E O F PAUL the APOSTLE and the Cost of His Conversion



By Apostle Brian E. McIndoo

## Part 3 of 4: Paul's Conversion to Christianity

**A**ccording to his own testimony, the greatest change in Paul's way of thinking was brought about as a consequence of his vision of Christ on the Road to Damascus. He often writes about the impact this experience had on him:

Gal 1:1, 11, 12: *"Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;) But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ."*

1 Cor 9:1: *"Am I not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord?"*

Prior to his conversion we find Paul headed off to Damascus from Jerusalem, a 130 mile, six day journey by caravan. In his hand he carried the papers giving him the authority, and in his heart he carried his purpose to persecute the Christian Jews living there. His intentions were to bring them all, men and women, bound and shackled, back to Jerusalem to be thrown in prison. His reasoning: because they believed and were

**According to his own testimony, the greatest change in Paul's way of thinking was brought about as a consequence of his vision of Christ on the Road to Damascus.**

followers of this man Jesus which had caused them to have fallen away (apostasy) from following the dictates of the Law. After several days travel, the Lord intervened in behalf of the believers, and manifested himself to Paul as he neared the city.

Luke's account of Paul's conversion:

*"And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul,*

*Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man. And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus” Acts 9:3-8.*

Paul tells an angry mob a similar but slightly different version of this event:

*“As also the high priest doth bear me witness, and all the estate of the elders: from whom also I received letters unto the brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem, for to be punished. And it came to pass, that, as I made my journey, and was come nigh unto Damascus about noon, suddenly there shone from heaven a great light round about me. And I fell unto the ground, and heard a voice saying unto me, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And I answered, Who art thou,*

*Lord? And he said unto me, I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest. And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they heard not the voice of him that spake to me. And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said unto me, Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do. And when I could not see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of them that were with me, I came into Damascus” Acts 22:5-11.*

There are three points worthy of mention and a closer examination from this text.

**1**st—There seems to be a contradiction between Luke’s account and Paul’s version of the same event. Luke writes in Acts 9:7:

*“And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man.*

Whereas Paul says in Acts 22:9:

*“And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they heard not the voice of him that spake to me.”*

However, there is no contradiction between the two accounts. The Greek word “phone,” pronunciation: fo-nay, is interpreted in

English as “voice,” and means noise, sound, voice. Hearing a sound and seeing a light does not mean they heard the message. This is what Paul is saying, only I (Saul) heard and understood the very words of the message.

**2**nd—Next comes that message which Jesus spoke to Paul:

*“...Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks” Acts 9:4-5.*

It is doubtful that Saul had ever laid eyes on Jesus before this encounter; how then did he persecute Him? Paul was not there to participate in the mocking, smiting and striking as Jesus stood blindfolded, nor did Paul hammer the nails into His hands, but he is accused of persecuting Him. This, of course, shows the Lord identifying Himself with His people, and blessing them who endure the persecutions.

Matt. 5:10-11: *“Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my*

sake.”

**3**rd—What does this phrase “kick against the pricks” mean? The English word “prick” comes from the Greek, “kantanusso,” which means primarily to stick or prick violently, to stun, is used with strong emotion, as in Acts 2:37:

*“Now when they heard this, they were pricked (kantanusso) in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?”*

Some Bibles interpret the word pricks to “goads” from the Greek word “kentron,” pronunciation: ken’-tron, which means (to prick); a point (centre), i.e. a sting (figuratively, poison) or goad (figuratively, divine impulse): - prick, sting. With these definitions in mind, it would be reasonable to say that Jesus was asking Paul why he was resisting the leading of the Spirit, which had pricked his heart to believe the truth.

After this divine encounter, Paul was blinded for three days as the text says, saw no man when he opened his eyes. In the center of Damascus is a three mile long street named Straight, which still exists today. Paul, being led by the hand through this street was brought to the house of a man named

Judas. While Paul dwelt with Judas, the Lord began to work a miracle to bring him into the light of Christ.

The Lord spoke to Ananias, giving instruction to go to the house of Judas where he would find Paul, and was instructed to heal him (Acts 9:10-18). Ananias understandably was reluctant, knowing Paul’s reputation, but followed the Lord’s instructions. Ananias put his hands on Paul, causing the scales of blindness to be lifted. Paul’s account of this event is recorded in Acts 22:11-16:

*“And when I could not see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of them that were with me, I came into Damascus. And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt there, Came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, Brother Saul, receive thy sight. And the same hour I looked up upon him. And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth. For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard. And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”*

After this experience Paul

was baptized and accepted Jesus Christ as the Messiah. Paul, a zealot of the Law with strong convictions, had now adopted Christianity. In doing so could he maintain his previous beliefs and practices, or did he have to rethink and change his understanding?

*To be continued.*

## PATHLIGHTS

# Honduras Trip

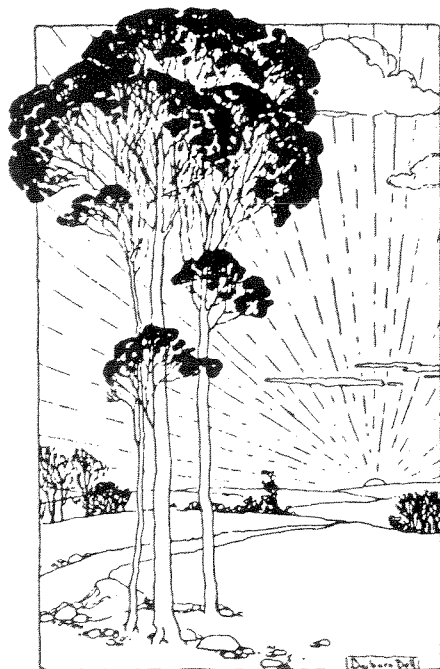
## DAY 2 WITH THE GILL FAMILY IN HONDURAS.

Sunday morning as usual we awoke to the sounds of roosters at 5 a.m. Around six o'clock people started opening doors to their rooms, coming into the kitchen for tea or coffee. Nana was fixing lunch for a man fumigating the fields. Others were starting the pump to the well to fill their pilas (cement sinks). John and Nana's last project was to purchase and install pilas for each home on the project at the bottom of the hill. The well supplies (I think) eight homes, other than their own. Since there is no running water in homes, including John and Nana's, everyone fills the pilas at the beginning of the day. This will have to last them for the day. They bathe, wash clothes, wash dishes and use some to cook with.

I began to boil water for the cup baths we were going to take. Others were brushing their teeth—camping style (spit in the bush).

Sharon was mixing the dry milk for cereal and making juice with the papaya.

Church started at ten. John gave a sermon on taking advantage of our opportunities. John is



### PATHLIGHTS

doing much better with his Spanish. Nana helps him with some words. Afterwards we broke up into Sunday School classes. Ronnie gave the adults their class. Dennis attended and said Ronnie did a very good job. It was my turn with the little kids, since I brought some new felt figures that I was asked to demonstrate. The age span is great: three years old to ten years old. It was a large group, about 35-40 kids. I started out rough with my Spanish, and the fact that I was a Gringa and

not their normal teacher didn't help. We started with prayer, then the lesson of Hannah and Samuel, and we learned the Bible verse Psalms 122:1: "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go unto the House of the Lord." Then they colored a picture of two kids giving thanks in prayer. I went around and asked each one to participate in repeating the verse, for I had a treat for the participants. They all responded well. After the class, they all wanted recognition for well colored pictures. I began noticing a pattern of each child only using two colors. I realized they were using one box of used crayons I had given Joanie on her last visit to Guatemala for all 40 kids. Each child was given two (broken) crayons to use for their picture.

I have to paint you a picture of the room we held our Sunday School class in. At the bottom of the hill, next to the store "Pulperia," there is a building called "el Comedor." *Comedor* means dining room or place to eat. This the place that the group, Cita, uses to feed the mal-nourished kids. Cita is the group John and Nana started coming down to Honduras with years ago. As the funds to Cita are drying up, John and Nana continue to feed the chil-

dren at a cost of about \$1,000 a month. (If I am wrong on this amount, I hope to be corrected by Ronnie.) "El Comedor" is where the kids have their class. Joanie Gill and Leda (Honduran, baptized member) are the usual teachers for the little kids. The room is rather large with four short, long wooden tables with benches. The floor is cement, the windows are wooden shutters, and there is a long blackboard that is propped up against the wall. For Sunday School materials they have the box of used crayons that we donated, and they make photocopies out of a coloring book. I really enjoyed the kids, and they were really responsive to the felt board and enjoyed the story. On the walk back to John and Nana's I explained the game Red Light, Green Light. We had a great time. The children helped me carry my things back up the hill.

We then ate lunch and had a nice visit with Ronnie, Joanie, Sharon, John and Nana. Ronnie was having trouble finding ink cartridges for his printer. He bought a used model for his computer. He also is trying to raise shrimp in a couple of tanks behind his house. Let's all pray it works—they will all have more meat in their diets and some income. Joanie had brought up about six loaves of homemade bread to have with our chicken soup. She made the bread in the newly purchased oven, donated by the women's group in Missouri. They also mentioned it was great

to have an oven, and the ladies have been making baked goods to sell. They mentioned they sold baked goods at a fair they had for the area. They made up games and special events. They even had a parade for the kids. Nana, Sharon and other church ladies made costumes, with supplies Sharon brought down with her.

After lunch Sharon and Nana told us of a lady that lives down the road and around the corner. They said when they first met Patricia, her daughter Gracia (ten years old), and her baby son (I think he's six months old), she was in a house with only three walls. The house was empty, no furniture, just a couple of plastic bowls on the dirt floor that they used for food. Later, Nana purchased a bed for them to sleep on. They told of a visit to her house, when only the daughter and baby son were home—mom was out trying to sell food she made for an income.

Gracia was running down the street to get some water for her baby brother's bottle. She wanted to do it while he was asleep. Sharon and Nana went in and looked around. They couldn't find him anywhere. They looked at each other. "Didn't she say he was in here sleeping? Yeah, I thought she said that too." Sitting down on the bed, confused, they noticed a movement in the dirt. The reason they couldn't find him was that he blended in with the dirt he was sleeping on (no clothes). After the story

Sharon said, "Do you want to visit her?" Sure, we did. As we walked around the corner Gracia ran with open arms to Sharon. She had on an outfit Sharon had given her. Mom, Patricia, was not home. Shortly she arrived. She said she was sorry she didn't have anything to offer us. Not even a tortilla. She didn't have anything in the house to eat. She was out asking the neighbors for a little flour to make tortillas, and they didn't have any for her. The man at the little store said he couldn't give her any credit until Wednesday. Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and part of Wednesday.... Hmmm 3½ days without food for her and her two kids. We had full bellies—something we suddenly felt very guilty for. Sharon said, "Come up to the house, we'll find something for you." She was very thankful and gave us hugs. She sent her daughter with us. After this I had to ask myself, am I sufficiently humble?

*To be continued....*

*Betsy Trudgen*

*Guatemala*

*Mail to: [dtrudgen@c.net.gt](mailto:dtrudgen@c.net.gt)*

*Extracted from the Church of Christ e-mail group*



## NEWS

## BRADLEY, MICHIGAN

**W**e have had an exciting Fall season. God has been great to **US!** We are enjoying having all of us together in our congregation during this season.

Soon several will head south for the winter, in one direction or another.

Now that Norm Trudgen is retired, he and Georgia will extend their stay in Florida.

The Porters and Tony Jones traveled to Minnesota for the Tri-State Reunion. They all truly enjoyed themselves and were richly blessed by the fellowship. Tony met many wonderful people. The reunion helped Tony make the decision to be baptized, which hap-

pened Sunday, September 26th, the day after our local's annual pig roast.

The church picnic pig roast was a great success. Many people attended from a distance within Michigan and from other states. Friends traveled from New York, Ohio, and Missouri. We also had many new friends come from Brantford, Ontario, Canada. Tony's baptism topped off the highly spiritual weekend. Preachers for Sunday's services were Ken Oar and Gerry Case.

The following weekend, Adam Porter and his family traveled to Brantford, Ontario, to enjoy services and assist in the ordination of Elder Keith Hoare. A decision was made that next year, the first weekend in October, would be the first Canadian reunion, in

Brantford. Mark your calendars now.

On the prayer list, please remember all of our young people, along with Sister Joyce Lussenden and Sharon Salter. Baby Laura Ann Carpenter is doing well, gaining weight and breathing on her own. She is expected to come home in early December, close to her original due date. Also, please remember Roxy Toulouse from the Flint local, who recently had two heart bypasses and repair of a valve.

May God Bless each and everyone of you.

*Sue Porter*

## RAVENNA, MICHIGAN

**B**ecause it's been quite a long time since anything has been reported from the "north country," I will try to bring you all up to date as to what has been going on with us.

Our little local here at Ravenna was saddened by the loss of two of our beloved members during the past few months. First, Sister Marie Piatt on February 5, and then Brother Ken Haines on March 15. The loss of these two special people left a great void in our midst, but we are all comforted by the knowledge that they are at home with their heavenly Father, free from the pain and cares of this world.

All was not sadness, however, as we witnessed the joining in marriage of two of our young couples. On May 15, Sister Annette Horn became the bride of Tony Bazinaw. The ceremony, which

took place at the Ravenna Local church, was performed by the father of the bride, Elder Max Spencer. Adding to their happiness, on June 20, Tony entered the waters of baptism and was united with the Church of Christ. Then, on October 2, Sister Deb Brantner and Brother Bruce Haines were united in marriage. The ceremony, which also took place at the Ravenna Local church, was performed by the father of the bride, Elder Charles Brantner. We ask that your prayers might be for God's blessing to rest upon these two young couples that their lives might be dedicated to the service of the Lord and his Church.

Recently in our Sunday School class we took on the challenging study of the book of Isaiah. We have quite often avoided this book because of the difficulty in understanding it. We have made it a matter of prayer, and through everyone's input hope to better under-

stand the many prophecies contained in this important book. The going is slow, but hopefully by the time we finish we will have a much better understanding of what lies ahead for us.

Information-wise, at our annual business meeting last month, Elder Aaron Heath was elected to serve as pastor of the Ravenna Local for the coming year. We would ask for an interest in your prayers for our little group as we strive to grow and hold our little local together and seek to do the will of the Lord.

Until next time, God bless each and every one of you. May God's work go forward in power and according to His will.

*Your Sister in Christ,  
June Haines, Reporter*

## NEWS

## COLLINS, MISSOURI

Today is the first day of September. It's my daughter and son-in-law's 14th anniversary (Shawna and Dale Herd). I guess their special day has caused me to reflect over the last several years and to consider the changes and occurrences that have taken place. God has been very mindful of my family, and although He lets us choose for ourselves—which often times is not the best—He will help to smooth out our bumpy paths IF we will call on Him in reverence. How many times we have come to Him holding out our problems, our broken dreams and lives, much like children with tear-stained faces, asking for His help, His forgiveness, and love! I've seen with my own eyes how He has carefully mended lives that otherwise would have been ruined. He cares very much for His children, but we must—we simply must—be obedient to His word so that all of His efforts to redeem us will not be in vain.

Another of our dear ones has left this life to take her rest. Our sister Blanche Martin quietly passed away Tuesday evening, July 13th, 1999, at Country Villa Healthcare of Humansville, Missouri. Blanche was known there for her humming and singing of hymns. Her favorite was "Near The Cross." Blanche had "misplaced" a lot of memories, but the beauty of these hymns had been retained for her consolation.

Funeral services were held here at our local church with Apostle Joel Yates officiating and Bruce Kidd assisting, along with a beautiful tribute to Blanche written and read by Sam Kidd—"The Rose." Blanche was bur-

ied beside her husband, Ray, at Robinson Cemetery near Weaubleau, Missouri.

Wedding vows were exchanged between Michael Burkhart and his lovely bride, Susie, in the beautiful backyard setting of Michael's step-brother, Chuck Shaw, of Springfield, Missouri. Allen Kauffman officiated in the presence of God and many happy friends and relatives. May God give guidance to Michael and Susie, and may their choices be pleasing to Him who loves them.

Allen and I were privileged to attend the Colorado Reunion this past June. Our trip out and back was very enjoyable, and we counted our blessings that our old car with seemingly a million miles on it just did fine. We got to stay with Johnny and Enid Bell, along with several other Missouri friends. We had such a good time. Also along our way we made time to stop and visit our kids and the grandkids we haven't seen for far too long a time.

I can hardly realize that summer is almost over. The "chatty" little barn swallows have left our farm until next spring. I'll miss them. Also, the kids are back in school and homework is wrestled with every evening. Allen is working in Joplin and only home on weekends, so there is quite a bit of empty space in my days now.

I have a few sermon notes to share with you. Hope you enjoy them.

- *If we dabble in things of this world, they will leave you scarred. You'll have a harder time crawling out of the hole than falling into it.*
- *We make our own choices when we are tempted. We can't blame what we choose on anyone else—we do the choosing!*

■ *God isn't going to make any mistakes in our salvation—we are the ones who will make the mistakes.*

■ *Referred to hiring men at work and getting them to commit to work for the company as opposed to converting people to the gospel and getting them to commit to serving (or working for) God.*

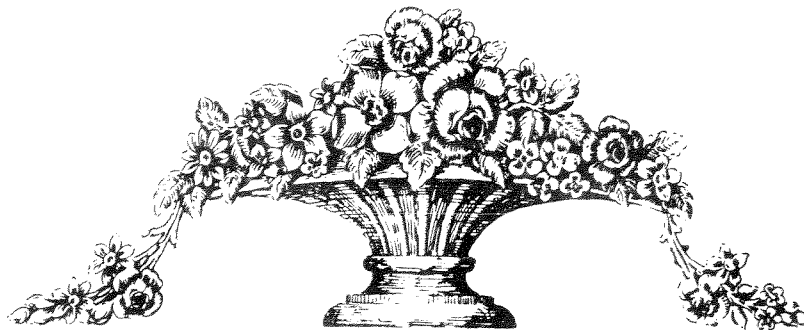
■ *The devil will not leave you unless you resist him.*

Your reporter,  
Czerna Kauffman

OBITUARY

# Menarva Naomi Comegys

March 23, 1908—September 27, 1999



**M**enarva Naomi Comegys was born March 23, 1908, and passed from this life September 27, 1999, at the home in the village of Charlack, in St. Louis, Missouri, at the age of 91 years, 6 months and 4 days. She was the third child of William Henry Graham and Maudie (Lankford) Graham. She had five brothers: Ervin, Jim, Charley, Homer, and Edgar, and one sister, Thelma.

Menarva was born in Chula, Missouri, and lived most of her childhood in the area of Des Moines, Iowa. She married Lawrence Velo Comegys, and to this union was born three daughters: Cohen, Jacqueline (Jack), and Murrle. Lawrence preceded her in death in 1939, at the age of 39 years, from heart disease. Menarva worked as a seamstress and upholster to provide for her family, some times holding three jobs at a

time. She turned down the opportunity to marry again, rather than abandon her daughters. She retired from her work in 1973 at the age of 65 years.

Menarva loved people and made many friends, and was a special friend to children. She had a way of giving a helping hand to those who needed it. She was a member of the Church of Christ with headquarters on the Temple Lot in Independence, Missouri. Though often she was unable to attend church services because of being isolated from her church, or the need to work to provide for her family, her faith was strong in her commitment to Jesus.

Menarva is survived by one sister: Thelma Schwegler, of Vienna, Missouri; and three daughters: Collen Blaton, Jacqueline Brooks, and Murrle B. Comegys, all of the St. Louis area. She also leaves 8 grand-

children, 13 great grandchildren, and 3 great great grandchildren, as well as a host of friends and relatives who loved her dearly.

Menarva was laid to rest in Memorial Park, Jennings Missouri, in Metropolitan St. Louis, September 30, 1999.

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The 2000 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, on March 31 & April 1. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

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