

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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Wherefore, the fruit of thy loins shall write; and the fruit of the loins of Judah shall write;

And that which shall be written by the fruit of thy loins, and also that which shall be written by the fruit of the loins of Judah, shall grow together,

Unto the confounding of false doctrines, and laying down of contentions, and establishing peace among the fruit of thy loins,

And bringing them to the knowledge of their fathers in the latter days;

And also to the knowledge of my covenants, saith the Lord.

—2 Nephi 2:19-23—

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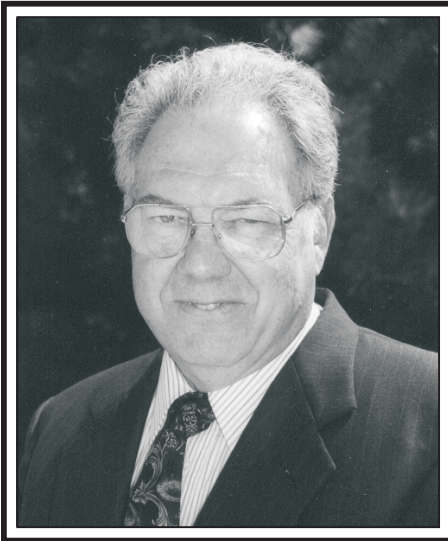
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ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

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.

THE GIFT AND SPIRIT OF REVELATION

THIS DOCUMENT WAS PREPARED FOR THE 2002 AUGUST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE
OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST BY APOSTLE ROLAND SARRATT



By Apostle Roland Sarratt

GOD SHARES HIS THOUGHTS

The reality of God is more fully experienced through the gift and spirit of revelation that God has bestowed upon His children than through any other experience they might have. From the beginning of time God has spoken to His ser-

PART #1

vants and given them knowledge not attainable to them otherwise. God has made it plain that His ways and thoughts are higher than man's ways and thoughts. Nonetheless, God desires to share His thoughts with His people that they may benefit from them. He sends forth His word that it may accomplish His purposes (see Isaiah 55:8-11).

Revelation is a very important part of the plan of God. Without it, the word of God would remain only with God. Communication between God and His creation would never have happened. Unless God had revealed His will and purposes to the world there would have been no reason for its existence.

God has spoken and His words have been recorded. The

The reality of God is more fully experienced through the gift and spirit of revelation that God has bestowed upon His children than through any other experience they might have.

superior intellect of God has graced the earth and changed the course of history from time to time.

GOD SPEAKS DIRECTLY TO MANKIND

In the beginning God declared His will to Adam:

"And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" Gen. 2:16, 17.

This is a verbatim statement; God said these words. Our conscience says that we cannot change them nor delete them. They are words to be remembered and preserved throughout all time because they are the words of God. All words God has spoken are to be regarded the same.

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH MAN

God spoke directly to our first parents. All that they needed to know was told them. God also revealed knowledge of things to come and used man to speak for Him as His mouthpiece. The first prophecy given through man, as recorded in the Bible, came through Adam when he said,

"...This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" Gen. 2:23, 24.

After Adam and Eve had sinned they heard the voice of God in the Garden of Eden and they hid themselves from Him (Genesis 3:8). Cain also heard

God's voice after he had slain his brother Abel (Genesis 4:9). God was not silent when man was in trouble. He was quick to react to man's actions.

GOD REACTS FAVORABLY TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE HIM

To those who obeyed Him, God showed favor. Enoch walked with God, which indicates his willingness to do God's will (Genesis 5:21-24). Noah found grace in the eyes of God (Genesis 6:10). Believing God and obeying God's instructions resulted in Noah and his family being saved from the flood. Noah's faith in God has been an example to all who have been privileged to hear and believe that story.

Abram (renamed by the Lord as Abraham) was favored of the Lord. Abraham proved to be worthy of God's favor by obeying Him without question when told to sacrifice his son, Isaac (Genesis 22:9-12; James 2:23). Unpretentiously Abraham was a prophet of God (Gen. 20:7) and his simple faith in all that God told him has been an example to many of his descendants down to the present time.

ABRAHAM BECAME A PATIARCHAL EXAMPLE

What made Abraham a prophet? Did he speak prophetically? Actually, it was not what he spoke but what the Lord spoke to him. It was not

only what the Lord spoke to him but how Abraham reacted to what the Lord spoke. Abraham believed God and as a result Abraham proved God to be true by his obedience to God.

During the time of the patriarchs the law of God was not clearly understood. It appears that Abraham introduced to his posterity the importance of obeying God as soon as God spoke. Abraham's experiences with God became traditionally accepted, and since he received them from God they became the established truth. Only those who valued the word of God through Abraham and followed his example of believing God were favored of the Lord. That line reached down through the family of Jacob (Israel) to his younger son, who was sold by his brothers into Egypt. The brothers' anger against Joseph was due to his telling them the dreams that the Lord had given him. Time proved the dreams to be true.

Jacob, himself, was an example of a sort. By Christian standards we are inclined to find fault with him. Through the eyes of God, however, he was accepted, and he received the things he desired, not so much because he was worthy, but because he desired the spiritual things. Esau, on the other hand, failed to value his birthright and gave it up for a mess of pottage. The consequence of his lack of treasuring spiritual things led to his losing not only his birthright, but also his patriarchal blessing, which was to be bestowed upon the oldest

son. For that reason Esau was despised of God while Jacob was loved of God (Genesis 25:29-34; 27:1-36; Malachi 1:2, 3).

MOSES WAS RAISED UP TO BE A GREAT PROPHET

As we review the history of the Israelites we are made aware of God's intervening hand in bringing them to Egypt and again in bringing them out of Egypt. God raised up one of the greatest prophets ever to declare His word to the children of men to do that work. Yet Moses was not gifted in speaking. He had to have a spokesman (Exodus 4:10-16).

It is said that the first five books of the Bible were given through Moses. How he was ever able to record and preserve those records are not known to us. Later, the records had to be copied and recopied on scrolls to be able to preserve them.

It was given to Abraham to exercise faith in God and establish the tradition of simple obedience to Him. Moses, on the other hand, was given the tedious task of delivering the "schoolmaster law" (Galatians 3:24, 25). It is evident that Moses understood the difference when he said:

"The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law" Deuteronomy 29:29.

THE ISRAELITES FAILED TO HEED THE PROPHETS

The Israelites had the benefit of both the example of Abraham's faith and the strict Mosaic law to keep them in the favor of the Lord. Added to that the Lord sent prophets to warn them, but eventually sin and rebellion was their downfall. Their weakness in idol worship, among other things, brought them under condemnation. For many generations the Lord warned them by raising up prophets to deliver to them His word. Some heeded, but many rebelled. The dire consequence of their rebellion was the invasion of their promised land by the ever threatening enemies, which was the fulfillment of the prophets' warnings.

At a time far too late to save themselves from the controlling power of Rome a few remaining religious sects commenced practicing their varied forms of following the letter of the law. The Jews were in this mixed state of radical teachings when Jesus Christ came to save His people by preaching the truth of His gospel and establishing His church. Only a few of the Jews accepted Christ and His gospel; the majority, led by certain Jewish leaders, rejected their Messiah and sought His death.

THE COMING OF CHRIST WAS PROPHESED

The great events of Christ's birth, His life, His death and His resurrection from death

were prophesied many years before, and were recorded (Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; Zechariah 13:7; Psalms 22:1; 16:8-10). Certain descriptions and details about Him were given by the prophets (Isaiah 53:11). Also many types of Christ were revealed to the wayward Israelites, but only a few believers were able to recognize the Messiah when he came (Mosiah 1:110, 111). The Old and New Testaments are intricately connected through fulfilled prophecy, some of which Jesus himself referenced while teaching the people.

GOD CONVEYS HIS AUTHORITY THROUGH HIS WORD

Although God can reveal His will to man through spiritual inspirations, His direct approach through His spoken word is more truly characteristic of Him. It appears He would prefer to be recognized as the intelligent communicator that He is, rather than a simple feeling mixed in with human sensations which may not be clearly discernable to the recipient. Although translations of the scriptures may have lost some of the exact wording as originally delivered, the greater part of the word of God delivered first person through His ancient prophets distinctly shows His great superiority to man's contrived utterances.

The scriptures are primarily made up of the word of God as delivered and recorded by various prophets. The phrase, "It is written," gives authority

to their words (Psalms 40:7; Isaiah 65:6, 7). By their words all mankind will be judged at the last day:

“And behold, all things are written by the Father; therefore out of the books which shall be written, shall the world be judged. And know ye that ye shall be judges of this people, according to the judgment which I shall give unto you, which shall be just; Therefore what manner of men ought ye to be? Verily I say unto you, Even as I am. And now I go unto the Father” 3 Nephi 13:3-5.

“And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works” Revelation 20:12.

PROPHECY AND REVELATION IN THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

The gift of prophecy and revelation did not end when Jesus came to earth. Indeed, we find that John the Baptist, as the forerunner of Christ, was instrumental in identifying who Jesus was (John 1:29-34). Also, Peter was able to positively identify Christ through revelation (Matthew 16:13-18). Many were convinced that he was the Messiah which was prophesied to come, but the majority of the Jews rejected him.

Jesus promised His disciples a special gift which was to come after His death and resurrection. The comforter, Holy Ghost, did come on the day of Pentecost, confirming the prophetic promise Jesus had made (John 14:16, 26; Acts 2:1-4). With that gift came also the gifts of the Spirit, which we find referenced in the New Testament (1 Cor. 12:7-11). This substantiates the truth that the treasured gift of prophecy which was experienced by Abraham and the many servants raised up by God who followed him was to be an important part of the established church in New Testament times.

DARKNESS GAVE WAY TO THE LIGHT

We, the Church of Christ, are especially blessed with an added witness to the Holy Bible. In the Book of Mormon we find certain emphases upon prophecy and revelation as being an important part of the Jaredite and Nephite dispensations. The direct communications of the Lord with His servants are far too many to reference here.

The dark ages and the comparable time of darkness among the Lamanites on this land (America) is descriptive of a condition where people no longer heard the word of God in its fullness. An awakening from that darkness is a glorious experience. And so it was when the Lord spoke to Joseph Smith, Jr., in answer to his question as to

which church he should join. This experience was the breaking of God's silence in communicating directly with mankind. The darkness was dispelled and the light of the gospel of Christ once more flooded the earth. It was prophesied by John, *“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,”* Rev. 14:6.

THE DEVIL'S DECEPTION AND DESTRUCTION

In all periods of time when the Lord spoke to his servants, God's enemy, the devil, was active in his efforts to deceive and destroy. He clouded the minds of the Israelites during Moses' time and on occasion aroused them in rebellion against Moses. Once established in their promised lands they were continually tempted in idol worship, among other things, and finally their minds were darkened to the truth. The Gentiles readily accepted the truth when it was preached to them in New Testament times, but they also fell victim to the devil's deception and great darkness covered the earth for a time.

As might be expected, when the gospel came forth in the latter days the devil used many of his tactics to oppose the work. This included not only direct opposition in physical ways, but also deception right

within the church. When his seeds of deception were well planted in the hearts of certain prominent leaders the more threatening physical attacks upon the church subsided. The aftermath of confusion, division and contention has presented a great challenge to the honest soul desiring to know the plain truth of the gospel of Christ.

GOD SAVED HIS CHURCH

By the grace of God a small remnant of the Lord's people escaped the throes of apostasy and have survived as His church, the Church of Christ. In the face of the many splintered churches who claim the right to that awakening experience over one hundred and seventy years ago, this body of faithful believers have struggled to maintain the structure of the restored church and retain the truth of the gospel of Christ in accord with the scriptures.

THE PREPARATION FOR THE RETURN OF CHRIST

There are many prophecies within the scriptures that point to the last days. It is imperative that the Church of Christ prepare herself to meet the Bridegroom, for the day of the Lord is near. Jesus Christ will return to the earth as He has promised. It is the duty of the servants of God to prepare themselves and the people for His return.

We are told that no man

knows when Jesus will return, but certain important events have been prophesied to come to pass before He appears. Jesus has given proper warning and instruction:

"Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" Luke 21:36.

THE DUTIES OF THE WATCHMEN

The servants of God today are the watchmen for the people of the church. The Lord has given His watchman the duty of warning the people when their enemy approaches. If the watchman gives warning when he sees the enemy and the people fail to prepare themselves their blood is upon themselves. If the watchman sees the enemy but fails to give warning their blood is upon him (Ezekiel 33:1-6).

A prophet of ancient times spoke these words:

"Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and the Lord hath not done it? Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets. The lion hath roared, who will not fear? the Lord God hath spoken, who can but prophesy?"
Amos 3:6-8.

The Lord, being the same yesterday, today and forever, will surely speak warnings to

the people of the land when the enemy comes. The peoples of this promised land (Americas) are being deceived and are falling away into wickedness. The Gentiles, as prophesied, are rejecting the fullness of the Gospel of Christ and will reap the results similar to what the Israelites experienced. Great destruction is eminent when the Lord sweeps the land clean (Ether 1:31-35).

The Church of Christ has the word of God in scriptural form and has accepted it as the fullness of the gospel and the standard of faith. Contained within that word are the prophecies that tell of the things that are to come. It is wisdom that the ministry of the church acquaint themselves with the prophecies, and, in turn, teach them to the people.

YE MUST REPENT



By Elder Dennis Trudgen

When the Lord personally presented His gospel to the Americas, He did so in the simplest terms so that His doctrine could be easily followed and understood by all. It is because of these plain and simple truths that the Book of Mormon has always been our primary missionary tool. As with the ancient Church of Christ, our foremost responsibility is to preach and proclaim the fullness of gospel. I am greatly encouraged to have seen, and

continue to see, our overseas missionaries proclaiming repentance and the simple plan of salvation to the world.

Notice the words used to ordain ministry in their day:

"...In the name of Jesus Christ I ordain you to be a priest; (or if he be a teacher;) I ordain you to be a teacher, to preach repentance and remission of sins through Jesus Christ, by the endurance of faith on his name to the end. Amen" Mor 3:2.

I've heard it said that when the Lord wants to make sure we get the message, He repeats Himself. If this is true, and I believe it is, what conclusions can we draw about His gospel when He mentions "repentance," "baptism" and His "doctrine" 31 times in just 29 verses (3 Ne 5:21-49)? To keep this article concise and to the point, I will quote from selected verses, but please read all 29 verses.

"Behold, verily, verily, I

As with the ancient Church of Christ, our foremost responsibility is to preach and proclaim the fullness of the gospel.

say unto you, I will declare unto you my doctrine. And this is my doctrine...that the Father commandeth all men, everywhere, to repent and believe in me. And whoso believeth in me, and is baptized, the same shall be saved; and they are they who shall inherit the kingdom of God. And whoso believeth not in me, and is not baptized, shall be damned. Verily, verily, I say unto you, that this is my doctrine...for he will visit him with fire and with the Holy Ghost...And again I say unto you, ye must repent, and become as a little child, and

be baptized in my name, or ye can in nowise receive these things. And again I say unto you, ye must repent, and be baptized in my name, and become as a little child, or ye can in nowise inherit the kingdom of God. Verily, verily, I say unto you, that this is my doctrine, and whoso buildeth upon this, buildeth upon my rock, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against them. And whoso shall declare more or less than this, and establish it for my doctrine, the same cometh of evil, and is not built upon my rock, but he buildeth upon a sandy foundation, and the gates of hell stand open to receive such, when the floods come, and the winds beat upon them. Therefore go forth unto this people, and declare the words which I have spoken, unto the ends of the earth. ...I have given power, that they may baptize you with water, and after that ye are baptized with water, behold I will baptize you with fire and with the Holy Ghost; Therefore blessed are ye, if ye shall believe in me, and be baptized.... Yea, blessed are they who shall believe in your words, and come down into the depths of humility, and be baptized; for they shall be visited with fire and with the Holy Ghost, and shall receive a remission of their sins."

Do you hear His message? What I find difficult to understand is why the big-

gest differences that we have with the religious Christian community are with the very doctrines that deal with salvation. Let me give just two examples: there are approximately one billion people alive today that were baptized as babies. Millions more believe that we're saved by faith alone.

So how could rational people believe these things? Part of the reason is that many people desire a church that requires they do little or nothing to obtain salvation. They choose to believe the perverted truth because their hearts are far from God.

"And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie..." 2 Thes. 2:10, 11.

Others, however, stumble because much of the simple truth was removed from the Bible so that Satan might lead men away from the plan of salvation.

"For behold, they have taken away from the gospel of the Lamb many parts which are plain and most precious; And also many covenants of the Lord have they taken away; And all this have they done that they might pervert the right ways of the Lord;

that they might blind the eyes and harden the hearts of the children of men..." 1 Ne 3:168, 169.

To counter the Devil's plan, the Book of Mormon was given to bring mankind back to the knowledge of the fullness of the Gospel and to bring the House of Israel back to the knowledge of their Redeemer (see 1 Ne 4:16, 17 and 3 Ne 7:28-35).

"And in them shall be written my gospel, saith the Lamb, and my rock and my salvation..." 1 Ne 3:186.

The Book of Mormon also first served as the "Blueprint for Organizing the Church."¹ Back in June 1829, nearing the final completion of the Book of Mormon translation, Joseph Smith, Jr., Oliver Cowdrey and David Whitmer prayerfully asked for "instructions relative to building up the Church of Christ, according to **the fullness of the gospel.**" According to these men, the answer given was:

*"...The things which **you have written** are true: Wherefore you know that **they** are true; and if you know that **they** are true; behold I give unto you a commandment, that **you rely upon the things which are written**; for in them are **ALL things written, concerning my***

church, my gospel, and my rock....”²

Coming from the “stone,” David Whitmer later explained that he believed this revelation and understood they were to rely on the things written: “...then, at that time, June 1829.” Although he believed that the Bible and Book of Mormon were to become one, regarding this commandment and doctrinal issues it is clear that he preferred relying on the Book of Mormon. “It says that the Book of Mormon has been kept pure, and come forth pure so as to make plain the doctrine of Christ; that we might know of the true points of his doctrine. Is it not plain that we should rely upon it on all doctrinal points, and order of offices in the church?” As a side note, David also tells us that the Book of Mormon was also completed in June 1829.³

A closer look at the revelation reveals that it was Oliver that was to rely on the things written for instruction in organizing the church. So, true to his commission, in 1829, Oliver wrote a document known as “Articles of the Church of Christ.” This is not to be confused with the later document written by Joseph in June of 1830, known as the “Articles and Covenants.” Oliver believed

that the Book of Mormon contained the exact plan of how Christ’s church should be organized and administered. In a letter to W. W. Phelps, Oliver talked about the role the Book of Mormon played in “the rise of this church”...“directions given to the Nephites from the mouth of the Savior, of the **precise manner in which men should build up His Church.**”⁴

Oliver’s 1829 document included mostly direct quotes or extremely close paraphrases of Book of Mormon scriptures (printer’s manuscript); the remaining portion consists of passages from Oliver’s scriptural interpretation on Book of Mormon passages, and from two of Joseph’s prior revelations. The document includes procedures on repentance, baptism, priesthood authority, ordination of ministry, administering and blessings on the sacrament and church attendance. Scriptures quoted include 3 Ne 5:24-27; 8:60-66; Mor 3:1-3; 4:2-4; 5:2,3.

As Christ’s simple gospel spreads around the world, it is up to each one of us to stay focused on those principles which are the key to His gospel of salvation.

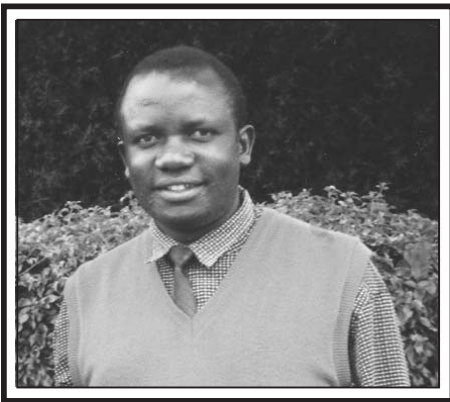
“...Thus saith Jesus Christ, the Son of God...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature;

and he that believeth and is baptized, shall be saved, but he that believeth not, shall be damned” Mormon 4:85-86.

Sources:

1. *Journal of Book of Mormon Studies*, Vol. 7 Num. 1, 1998 (FARMS)
 2. *Book of Commandments*, #15
 3. *An Address to All Believers in Christ*, David Whitmer, 1887, pp. 3, 30, 31, 49, 50
 4. *Letters of Oliver Cowdery*, letter 1, p. 3
-

Sharing through Prayer with Others



**By Elder Moses Ohuru
Chuma**

Prayer changes things. The Lord our God is very clear about this and every believer believes it. And yet there is much confusion about how to pray, when to pray, where to pray and who to pray for. As we approach God, always we need to Adore Him, Confess our sins, give Thanks and our Supplications (A.C.T.S.).

Sharing in prayer with others with the areas of this present life is of a great eternal value. From the natural viewpoint we could argue, "well it is their own fault that they are helpless" or we could say, "they are poor managers of both time and money and they only have

themselves to blame." There are many excuses that we could make to excuse ourselves for not taking the time to share with others in their time of need. This may be the case for some of those for whom you are asked to pray for, but isn't that part of the Christian life?

II Nephi 11:112-115: *"And he doeth nothing save it be plain unto the children of men; And he inviteth them all to come unto him, and partake of his goodness; And he denieth none that come unto him, black and white, bond and free, male and female; And he remembereth the heathen, and all are alike unto God, both Jew and Gentile."*

I Cor 15:10: *"But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."*

Wherein can any of us boast? It is God who works in and through us, working His perfect will for our lives. To God be the glory; great things He has done. Our duty is not only to uphold fellow believers in prayer, but also to pray for those who are lost.

The office of the ministry is to call men unto repentance,

and to fulfill and to do the work of the covenant of the Father, which he hath made unto the children of men. They are to prepare the way among the children of men, by declaring the word of Christ unto the chosen vessels of the Lord who came to redeem poor lost sinners, condemned to die, and bring them into His grace. Shouldn't we be willing to pray and share with others? The Lord God left us here on planet earth to be a witness and testimony to His saving grace.

Prayer is a wonderful way to share with those of like faith. The Christian fellowship through prayer unites us together as members of the body of Christ; we join both joy and sorrow. This is an important ministry, as we uphold one another in prayer. When we do this we are actually giving our best to the Master. It is God's way of working out in our new life what He has implanted within us by God the Holy Spirit. When we share with others in prayer we are promised special blessings from God.

"I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus,

how he said, *It is more blessed to give than to receive*" Acts 20:35.

As the Lord sent forth His disciples He said, "...*freely ye have received, freely give*" Matt 10:8. "*Give, and it shall be given unto you...*" Lk 6:38.

Sharing with others in prayer, especially those of the household of faith, is a wonderful privilege and joy. It is also a great way that we can show the love of God shed abroad in our hearts to our fellow believers:

"Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" 1 John 3:16-17.

The needs among the believers in many parts of the world are great, and we cannot always reach them with their physical needs, but we can lift them up in prayer that help will arrive.

"Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf" 2 Cor 1:11.

Prayer is a life of well established and mature believers. This life is only attained with the right relationship with the Lord of glory. We are prayer warriors for the Lord and should never consider prayer only as a quick rescue channel in times of emergencies. Prayer should be a daily source of reporting back to our supreme

headquarters. If prayer is your lifestyle then you're continually in touch with the Almighty Lord from heaven. God knows all about our daily affairs, so nothing is hidden; however, He wants us to talk to Him, which is sweet incense before the throne of His grace. One day when the silver cords break and the glory of God shines forth, we will be glad that we kept the communication line open to the praise of God. God has given us a special privilege in this life, to approach Him through prayers at any time. Our growth as Christians is linked by faith to the word of God. As we seek to do the will of God in sharing through prayers, let us do it consistently and continually with hearts filled with love for others. The Lord desires that we come to Him with our prayer requests. Our high priest is available in the presence of God the Father.

"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" Heb 4:15-16.

As Christians we should live a life of prayer and communion with our heavenly Father, with thanksgiving and praise to His name.

"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper,

and I will not fear what man shall do unto me" Heb13:5, 6.

God's will must be done in our life, as we uplift one another in prayer.

Alma 16:218-221: *"Therefore may God grant unto you, my brethren, that ye may begin to exercise your faith unto repentance, that ye begin to call upon his holy name, that he would have mercy upon you; yea, cry unto him for mercy; for he is mighty to save; Yea, humble yourselves, and continue in prayer unto him; cry unto him when ye are in your fields; yea, over all your flocks; cry unto him in your houses, yea, over all your household, both morning, mid- day, and evening; yea, cry unto him against the power of your enemies; yea, cry unto him against the devil, who is an enemy to all righteousness. Cry unto him over the crops of your fields, that ye may prosper in them: cry over the flocks of your fields, that they may increase. But this is not all: ye must pour out your souls in your closets, and your secret places, and in your wilderness...."*

It is through the prayers of the ministry, brother and sisters all over the world, which has made the work here in Africa prosper.

I want to thank God that through prayer He has allowed many to believe the scriptures in the Book of Mormon and its importance.

LEHI'S DREAM

I Nephi 2 41-92

INTRODUCTION:

Do you all have dreams at night? Do you remember your dreams? Some dreams are scary. Some dreams are funny. Most of our dreams don't mean anything, but once in awhile God tells us something important in a dream. God often spoke to Lehi in dreams. One night as Lehi and his family were traveling to the wonderful new land that God had promised them, Lehi had a dream...a special dream.

In his dream as far as Lehi could see, there was nothing. Nothing but a dark wilderness. Then an angel, a messenger from God, appeared to show him the way. "Follow me," said the angel. Lehi followed the angel for a long time. At last they came out of the wilderness into a big field. There stood a tree.

What a beautiful tree it was! It's branches were covered with delicious looking fruit, fruit that glowed with light! It was the brightest light Lehi had ever seen! Lehi picked a piece of fruit from the tree. He took a bite. Never had Lehi tasted anything so sweet and delicious! The fruit gave Lehi a wonderful happy feeling.



GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

It was the most wonderful feeling he had ever felt. Lehi wanted his family to taste this wonderful fruit. Lehi saw his wife Sariah and faithful sons Sam and Nephi coming behind him. They looked lost. "Come this way," Lehi called. "Come and taste the wonderful fruit!" Nephi, Sam and their mother Sariah all came to the tree and tasted the fruit. They were so happy! Lehi wanted to find his oldest sons, Laman and Lemuel, and tell them about the wonderful fruit. Lehi looked and looked but he couldn't find Laman and Lemuel. At last he saw them. "Laman, Lemuel!" Lehi called. "Come to the tree. Come and eat the delicious fruit!" But Laman and Lemuel wouldn't come. They just walked away.

Then Lehi saw a path coming toward the tree. Beside the path was a railing, a powerful iron rod. Lots of people were coming down the path. They all wanted to come and taste the wonderful fruit. Suddenly a dark mist appeared! It was hard for the travelers to see where they were going. Would they find their way to the beautiful tree? Some people grabbed the rod of iron and hung on to it. They just kept walking and walking, hanging on to the rod so they wouldn't get lost. The rod led them to the tree at last! Everyone tasted the wonderful fruit.



How happy they were! Then Lehi saw a big building full of people, people with very fancy clothes. The people in the big building were laughing at the people gathered under the tree. Some were ashamed because the fancy people were laughing at them. They walked away from the beautiful tree and went into the big building. The people who stayed under the tree were so happy they did not mind the people in the big building laughing at them. They stayed together, sharing the delicious fruit and resting under the shade of the beautiful tree.

Then Lehi woke up. He knew right away what God was showing him in the dream. The fruit from the tree was God's love. God's love makes us happier than anything in the world. Lehi knew that just like the people in the big fancy building laughed at the people who ate the fruit, some people would make fun of him and be mean to him because he loved God. He knew God's love would make him happier than being friends with people like the ones in the big fancy building. Lehi knew that the rod of iron along the path to the tree was God's word, the Bible and the Book of Mormon. God's word shows us the way. Lehi was sad because Laman and Lemuel wouldn't come to the love of God. God wanted Lehi to tell Laman and Lemuel that they needed to love Him. God wanted to give Laman and Lemuel a chance to do better. We'll find out in a later story what happened to Laman and Lemuel.

We can all find that wonderful love that Lehi felt in his special dream from God. When we pray, go to church, follow God's laws and learn from the Bible and Book of Mormon, we're finding our way to the love of God. If people laugh at us or are mean to us because we believe in God, God will help us just like He did Lehi.

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FROM A TO Z

Discover the scripture by reading I Nephi 2:50. Cross out all the letters below that are not found in this verse. Find the letters of the verse in the remaining letters and copy them below. The letters aren't in order and letters can be used more than once. One letter appears 13 times in this verse!

ADXCIG

TKFJSR

DWZQUO

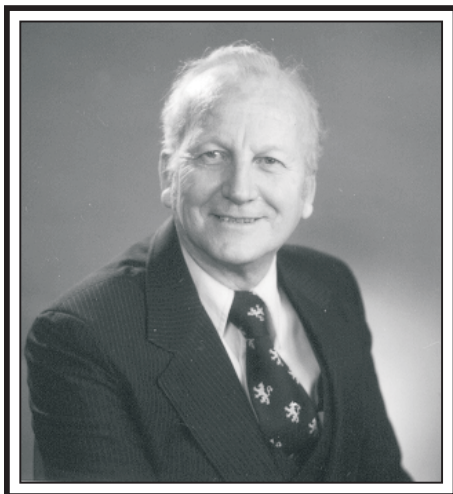
LVYPNH

MBEA

I Nephi 2:50 _____

_____.

Pondering the Words of JESUS CHRIST



By Apostle William A. Sheldon

Item 9: Salt of the Earth

Mat 5:13 *Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.*

3 Ne 5:60 *Verily, verily I say unto you, I give unto you to be the salt of the earth; but if the salt shall lose its savor, wherewith shall the earth be salted? The salt shall be thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.*

Our Book of Mormon rendering is a clearer statement: it is the earth (the world) which is to be salted or seasoned by the saints of God. But if the baptized members of the body of Christ have not been quickened by the Holy Ghost (if they have not been “born again”), or if the saints have set aside their holy calling of sainthood

(Quotations are from the King James Authorized Edition of the Bible and from the 1908 RLDS Edition of the Book of Mormon; same chapters/verses as Independence Edition.)

(that is, if they have lost their savoring quality of blessing to the world by returning to the world instead of being an evidence of goodness through their faith in Christ), it is of such that Jesus said they are “good for nothing but to be cast out and to be trodden under foot of men.”

Do you think this an idle statement? When men turn from righteousness to wickedness they suffer personal loss in multiplied ways despite any apparent momentary gain; and they usually lose personal liberty or life through civil law. They are trodden under foot of men! It is the gospel of Christ, effective in the hearts of men, which contains savoring goodness unto others; it blesses them and lifts them, for which honorable men will return honor; and even those of less honor will entertain grudging admiration and respect. More than this: it is the effect of gospel righteousness (even though it be a subdued faith in Christ) which has lifted the gentile nations to higher standards of living and international power. Unfortunately, it is their assumption of self-power, having subdued or cast out the influence of the Holy Spirit, which brings them down to be trodden underfoot of men of other nations, even of the heathen.

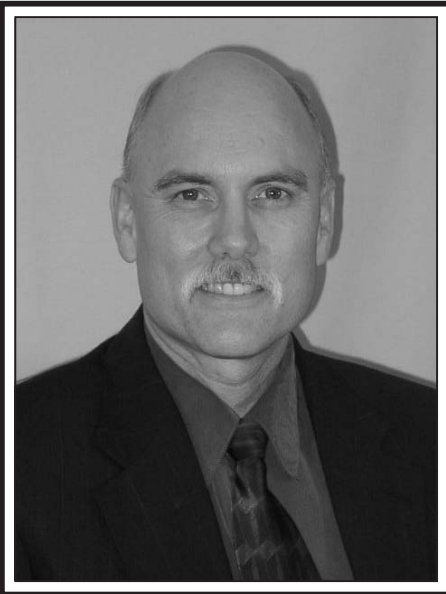
Salt has two contrariwise general characteristics: 1) on the one hand it increases thirst, enhances fla-

vor, promotes healing, and preserves; 2) on the other hand it also irritates and burns. For those who love the light of Christ but, for instance, have not received the Restored Gospel, the sense in 1) above will apply; for those who shun the light of divine truth, the sense of 2) applies. Such will often resent not only the truth but also the one who presents it, even if offered in meekness. Enmity and violence may occur.

The concept of salt having lost its savor is carried to a national level by Christ with reference to Gentile nations, but especially applicable to this American nation:

3 Ne 7:38-41 *But if the Gentiles will repent, and return unto me, saith the Father, behold, they shall be numbered among my people, O house of Israel; And I will not suffer my people, who are of the house of Israel, to go through among them, and tread them down, saith the Father. But if they will not turn unto me, and hearken unto my voice, I will suffer them, yea, I will suffer my people, O house of Israel, that they shall go through among them, and shall tread them down, And they shall be as salt that hath lost its savor, which is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of my people, O house of Israel.*

Articles of Faith & Practice



(A continuation study by
Elder Gordon McCann)

Article #10

The word "revelation" found in the New Testament means to uncover or unveil. God has uncovered or unveiled His thoughts and purposes to mankind from the days of our first parents to this present dispensation of time. With Adam and Eve God spoke directly with them as you and I would if we were standing in front of each other. For example, the Holy Scripture tells us that God uncovered or unveiled what

would happen to Adam and Eve if they were to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Other examples are when Noah was instructed to build an ark for the purposes of God to cleanse the earth, and when Moses and his brother Aaron were given specific instructions for the liberation of the House of Israel from Egypt. God has also used dreams, visions, and direct communication by way of His Holy Spirit to our minds to uncover or unveil His perfect will. Some recorded examples would be King Nebuchadnezzar's dream and Daniel's ability to properly interpret the King's dream. All of God's prophets and servants that have prophesied by way of the Holy Spirit have been used by God to uncover or unveil God's plans for individuals and nations.

"Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets" (Amos 3:7).

With the advent of the Son of God came the promise of the gift of the Holy Ghost. This gift was to come from the Father and was to be an abiding comforter by way of uncovering or unveiling God's thoughts, intents, and desires directly to your spirit (see also "Arti-

Article #10

We believe in the principle of continuous revelation; that the canon of scripture is not full, that God inspires men in every age and among all people, and that He speaks when, where, and through whom He may choose.

cles of Faith and Practice #3").

Jesus had an opportunity to be alone with His disciples and He confronted them by asking, "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?"

Several disciples spoke up and offered the names of John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. Then Jesus asked them a very direct but simple question: "But whom say ye that I am?"

Simon Peter spoke up and answered, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus was well pleased with the answer that Pe-

ter gave. Jesus knew that only by the Power that would come from His Father could these truths be uncovered or unveiled to Peter. This knowledge would be available to all who would apply their faith and come according to the commandments of God. Peter became an example of what Jesus had already taught among the people.

"All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him" (Mat 11:27).

There are many places recorded

in the scripture that show that the canon of scripture is not complete (Rev 20:12; 3 Nephi 13:1-3; Jacob 3:9-11). God is the same yesterday, today, and forever and will, according to our faith and His desire, uncover or unveil His truths to the children of men.

"Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness,

whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love" (Eph 4:13-16).

CHURCH HISTORY

Church History in Review

By Elder Gordon McCann

At a special conference at Council Bluffs, Iowa, held on the 21st of October, in the year 1848, Brother Oliver Cowdery, one of the three important witnesses to the truth of the Book of Mormon, and who had been absent from the church through disaffection for a number of years, and had been engaged in the practice of law, was present and made the remarks here annexed....

"Friends and brethren, my name is Cowdery – Oliver Cowdery. In the early history of this church I stood identified with her, and one in her councils. True it is that the gifts and callings of

God are without repentance. Not because I was better than the rest of mankind was I called; but to fulfill the purposes of God, he called me to a high and holy calling. I wrote, with my own pen, the entire Book of Mormon (save a few pages), as it fell from the lips of the Prophet Joseph Smith, as he translated it by the gift and power of God, by the means of the Urim and Thummim, or, as it is called by that book, 'holy interpreters.' I beheld with my eyes and handled with my hands the gold plates from which it was translated. I also saw with my eyes and handled with my hands the 'holy interpreters.' That book

is true. Sidney Rigdon did not write it. Mr. Spalding did not write it. I wrote it myself as it fell from the lips of the Prophet."

(Ref.: *History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Later Day Saints*, Volume 1, Ninth Edition, chapter 4, page 50.)

PHOENIX LOCAL REPORT

It has been quite some time since the Phoenix Local news has appeared in the *Advocate* so there is much to report. Our part of the country is finally showing small signs that fall truly is approaching. We have had several days where the temperature dipped into the frigid high 90's. (It's nearly time to pull out our sweaters and jackets!) In spite of the recent cold front, most of our time is still spent in the triple digits. It may seem unbearable, but come December when our temperatures can still reach the 70's and it is all worth it. Many of us Phoenicians look upon cold weather with apprehension. It must be a fear of the unknown.

There have been many changes to our local during the past few months. We have had a marriage, a birth, an adoption, and two who are expecting. Gary and Alesha Jacobsen were married in March at a beautiful ceremony in our church building. Several of their family members traveled from across the country to be there with them, as well as their church family. All those in attendance were very happy to share this day with them. Our sister Abbi Scher also gave birth to a healthy, beautiful boy named Colin. Patricia and Isaac Ferrier adopted twin boys, Caleb and Gage, in April. These two adorable boys have been a wonderful addition to not only their family, but our local as well. Each of these little ones can bring a smile to any face that sees them. We are also looking forward to the birth of two more babies in the near future. Aaron and Amy Moser are expecting

their first child, a boy, in early November, as well as Bob and Liza Hedrick, who are awaiting the birth of their third child, a girl, in December.

The summer months leave our local with fewer numbers. Many of our brothers and sisters travel with their families to the various reunions that take place in June and July. We miss them when they are gone, but are thankful they have the opportunity to meet with our brothers and sisters across the nation to support their activities as well. Our brothers in the missionary field are busy all year, but we see them even less during this time.

Apostles Don McIndoo and Jay Moser made several trips to Mexico, one in July for the Youth Camp in Yucatan. They were joined there by the Lawrence family (Dan, Manon, and Jesse), Laura Gill, and David-Andrew Vogel for a short time. I know the willingness of others to participate not only helps the ministry, but means a great deal to the people there as well.

Don also made a recent trip to Honduras with Elder Robert Oldham. During this trip they were able to hold several meetings and administer to many. There were several illnesses that were spread throughout the people there at that time, and they were very thankful to have additional ministry there to turn to.

Apostle Brian McIndoo has also made several trips to Africa. It is always exciting to hear how the Lord is opening up new opportunities in many countries on that continent. There have

been baptisms in each new area they visit.

Apostle Joel Yates and his family have taken a two-week trip to Alaska. This is just one of the many trips to the Northwest Brother Joel has made. He has at times been accompanied on these trips by different ministry from our local. Brothers Andy Brown and Duane Ely have visited our members there as well.

There are many things that often keep our ministry away from home. Although we miss them we know they are out doing the Lord's work. It is easy to see how God has opened up the way for each one of these individuals to travel, and has kept them safe. We know the Lord will only continue to open up new opportunities to spread the gospel to the world.

The Phoenix Reunion is quickly approaching and we look forward to seeing many of you there at the end of November!

*Your Sister in Christ,
Rebecca Oar*

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