

2020
SCRIB
Reunion
40-Day
Preparation
Packet

Preface

This preparation packet contains reunion themes, scriptures and many testimonies gathered from recent and past. They are designed to encourage us in our preparation to meet His Spirit there. The greater degree of preparation on our part will allow His Spirit to work with us to a greater extent, and our reunion experience will be richer and fuller.

Day 40, May 5th, 2020
Weekly Theme: "Stand on Holy Ground..."

Is Grateful for Blessings

By Mrs. A. R. Batcheller—La Crosse, Wisconsin

I want to express our appreciation of the blessings which have been ours to enjoy as a family, and to thank God for his watchcare and blessings of healing. My companion and I visited Kirtland reunion last August and both of us regard that as the outstanding experience of our lives; we hope to go again next year.

It was a foretaste of Zion, as we felt the ties of sainthood binding us to our brothers and sisters, sitting in the Temple, listening to the prayers and testimonies and the singing of hymns which were heavenly. Two of our well known church choristers said they never had heard such singing. Surely it was done in the Spirit with perfect harmony.

Preaching series were of a high character also, but the prayer meetings seemed to bring one close to Deity, then we could hear Him speaking through many of his servants and several handmaidens, giving instruction and comfort and sometimes rebuking us for our failures.

I was administered to by Brothers Ullom, Hettrick and O. J. Tary, and while sitting in the Temple, felt a grating sensation in the back of my neck. I realized that the Lord had done for me what my chiropractor said could not be done, relieving pressure on the spine caused by a misplaced bone, due to a fall. I have had no more trouble from that source.

Each afternoon we enjoyed the experience of meeting under the maple trees on the Temple grounds conducted by Evangelist F. G. Pitt. How inspiring to hear of the wonderful things the Lord has done for his children.

And He said, Draw not nigh hither; put off thy shoes from off thy feet; for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.

Exodus 3:5

We met Saints from every walk of life, it seemed, yet they had a common interest, the gospel, and though we had met very few of them before, we felt perfectly at home among them and regretted leaving the place.

I have been thinking a great deal since coming home, of the promised endowment, to come to the priesthood in the Temple, and have wondered if the time were near for the ministers to gather there and tarry as they did in Jerusalem in order for the Lord to appear to them and bless them so that they may go out in the power of His Spirit, carrying the gospel to the nations of the earth.

It seems to me that is what this church needs most of all, before we can accomplish either Zion or the evangelization of the world. I believe the Doctrine and Covenants bears out this statement, and we read in the Book of Mormon how Ammon and Alma and others were able to cause the murderous Lamanites to repent, even the king, Lamoni, and all his household, under the power of God.

May the Heavenly Father hasten the day when his servants may receive this blessing so that the gospel may be preached in power and much assurance to a world that has forsaken Christ and his teachings, is my prayer, so that the honest in heart may be gathered in before the last pruning of the vineyard.

Every gift is a call to fellowship with God, an invitation and a power to adjust to his will.

God's Spiritual Universe,

by Arthur Oakman, p. 162

Day 39, May 6th, 2020

Weekly Theme: "Stand on Holy Ground..."

Build the Wall

By Todd Smith

Not too long ago I read a testimony out of a book called *True Restoration Testimonies*, compiled by Clara Thomas. The pastor of a branch in Oklahoma became very ill. During his long period of recovery, he had a lot of time to pray diligently for his congregation. One night, he was given a dream. In this dream, he was taken to the home of each member in the branch.

A beautiful wall of prayer was standing firmly around every home which had regular family worship. Satan was not allowed to enter. Each day of family worship added another stone of strength to the wall of prayer, and Satan could not penetrate it.

In the homes where family worship was observed only occasionally, Satan could creep in with sin and sorrow. And in the homes where there was NO family worship, he freely came and went as his evil heart desired.

Reading this testimony confirmed to me that in order for us to be able to continue to walk in the light of the gospel, we have to have this daily family worship. It has to become a priority. When you get home, what's on your mind, men? When you get home, what things are you going to do with your family?

When you hit that door, I want you to think of family worship. I want you to be thinking about building that wall. As I read that experience, in my mind I began to

And the captain of the Lord's host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.

Joshua 5:15

see myself as a stone mason laying nice big chunks of granite or limestone. Every day, you lay up another stone. When you complete that family worship, you are picking up that rock and setting the cornerstone of that wall. You must start to build that wall.

I've known about family worship for years; I've known ever since my wife and I have been married that we should be doing it. Sometimes we've tried it, and it just hasn't worked out. But recently, somehow, and I don't know just why, the Lord saw fit to give me the strength to do this. We've been having family worship for the last month. And things have started to happen, just like the experiences we had with our older son, Josh.

My youngest son, Jacob, has a problem with his eyes. He needs to wear glasses, but he's only one-and-a-half. We tried and tried to get him to leave his glasses on, and just had a terrible time with it. Frankly, my wife and I were very frustrated. We had just about given up on it until he got older and we could say, "Look, you have to wear these things. It's for your own good."

The same week that the Lord healed my older son's arm, my wife purposed in her heart that she

would try to get Jacob to wear his glasses again. Surprisingly enough it went fairly smooth. Every day since then he has been wearing his glasses and doing well with them. I believe as time goes on that Jacob will receive a healing, and that his eyes will be made whole.

What is it that you want? What is it that you desire? You know when you're having family worship, the phone's going to ring. Someone's going to be on the line wanting to talk to you. You need to tell whoever it is, "I'll call you back"

They might say, "Wait a minute. This is Publisher's Clearing House and you just won a million dollars!" You need to say, "I don't care," and hang the phone up. It's vital. You've got to do it. You've got to build that wall.

Men, I'm really speaking to you. I'm not a worthy servant, but I know that the Lord is speaking to us. He's concerned about this. And He has many, many higher things – many mysteries to unfold. I would exhort you to bind up the wounds in your home; seek out your Heavenly Father. Change those things which need to be changed. We've got to keep the sanctity of the home.

May the things the Lord wants you to hear burn upon your heart. Praise God and His Son and the Holy Ghost that bears witness of all that is true and faithful.

Living Testimonies, Book 2,

pp. 42-43

We talk about the good times to come and speak of the day when we shall dwell in peace and unity and harmony. But we ought to live as if that day were already here; the only condition upon which that day ever can be here is that we live as if it were now with us.

***The Call of Christ in an Age of Dilemma*, by Arthur Oakman, pp. 62-63**

Day 38, May 7th, 2020
Weekly Theme: "Stand on Holy Ground..."

A Prophecy

The Lamoni reunion of 1911 was pronounced by many, one of the best reunions ever held in the Lamoni Stake. The prayer meetings were spiritual feasts, the Spirit being manifested in an unusual degree. The following prophecy was given to the Saints by the Spirit through Apostle J. W. Wight at the morning prayer service of August 25.

Yea, thus sayeth the still, small voice of the Spirit – that Spirit that pierceth the soul, that comes as a comforter, sent to the people of God, promised by the Son of God as a comforter – saying to my people, I have come to you in special enduing power during the sessions of this reunion, and had my people been more faithful, more humble, I could have exercised greater power among you, and your lives would have been made to rejoice even more.

This special endowment has come to give unto my people a foretaste of what it means to dwell in Zion, and to help you to make the needed preparation for that great event. Oh, in pleading with you this morning, my people, will you from henceforth make greater effort and seek to overcome more of your own follies, foibles, and weaknesses, and to heed the injunction given thee? More especially will the young of my people, hearing, give heed to my voice and to my pleading, and forget not. Go not away and turn again to the follies of the world. Let all my people cease their bickering, their strife, their backbiting, their follies. Overcome these weaknesses. Cease to be jealous one with another. Seek to please God in all that you do and say, forgetful as to whether it shall please

Then said the Lord to him, Put off thy shoes from thy feet; for the place where thou standest is holy ground.

Acts 7:33

man or not; but seek to be examples of that life lived by your Master so long before you as an evidence of the attainment that my people may be permitted to reach.

Your Father has sent forth his Spirit this morning to witness unto your souls, to give you comfort and consolation, and has spoken to one of the handmaids of the church for special reasons, to give her encouragement in the hour of need, and now speaks to one and all, that inasmuch as you give heed to the injunctions of the voice of that Spirit, that still small voice that comes in the very hour of need, if you will but prepare for it, now speaks to you, and again admonishes to be faithful, be diligent, be earnest, be prayerful; overcome the temptations and trials of life; seek to build character for God, so that in the day of preparation, you may really be among the number that shall see Jesus; and diligently strive that you may be with the faithful, having made the necessary preparation to meet your God.

Oh, will my people hear the pleading of my voice, and live more humbly, more faithfully? And then will the blessings be poured out more and more, and there will come to you that comfort, that consolation that nothing else can bring. Thus saith the voice of the Spirit. Amen.

Saints' Herald, November 1, 1911.

Infallible Proofs, pp. 12-14

Communion with God, the creative spirit of the whole — *communion which takes man up into the "bosom of eternity"* — is the aim of all existence.

Resurrection and Eternal Life, by Arthur Oakman, p. 34

Day 37, May 8th, 2020
Weekly Theme: "Stand on Holy Ground..."

**Admonition
And
Promise**

The Interpretation of a
Tongue Given Through
Apostle J. W. Wight

Thus saith the Spirit unto you, my people now assembled: There are many, many things done by you pleasing in my sight; many, many things done that are not pleasing in my sight, and for which my people need to be warned. Yea, verily, I say unto you, that inasmuch as my people will put away the pride of heart and the pride of life, turn from the vanities of the world, cease from the vanities incident to outward adornment, and become more humble and faithful, I will pour out of my Spirit upon you, giving unto you wisdom and knowledge, enabling you to walk in

Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called a house of prayer for all people.

Isaiah 56:7

humility and in faith. Yea, be warned; for the time has come that calamities shall come upon the earth; yea, in the voice of earthquake, of famine, of pestilence, of thunder, and of lightning, will calamities stalk abroad, and the time is near at hand when you must needs stand in holy places; and, standing so, my Spirit will keep you from harm and danger.

Yea, my people need to take warning and become humble; and inasmuch as they will so do I will pour out of my Spirit upon them. The time is not far distant when, from the various parts of the earth, will I call my people together; and the Gentile nations need to be warned. For soon will I turn from them, lo, unto my people

that have been my people in times past. From the Gentiles will I turn, and then my people, sanctified unto me through their father Abraham, will come from the four parts of the earth, center together, and be prepared to meet my Son when he shall come upon this earth. Yea, thus saith the Spirit unto you, in warning voice this morning. Amen - Autumn Leaves, June, 1908

Infallible Proofs, p. 17

The most significant thing a human being can do is to have communion with his Creator! Prayer, or worship, is the supreme goal of all human endeavor, indeed of all existence so far as we know. In such communion is the power of the resurrection.

Resurrection and Eternal Life, by Arthur Oakman, p. 34

Day 36, May 9th, 2020
Weekly Theme: “Stand on Holy Ground...”

Standing on Holy Ground

By Nancy Lade

There were 3 occasions when I was impressed that I was standing on “Holy ground.” In March of 2011, I attended the SCRB Women’s retreat in Kirtland, Ohio. Each day we were blessed to go into the Kirtland temple. As we entered the temple, I was strongly impressed that we were standing in a holy place. It was a marvelous experience at the retreat, as the Lord poured out His Holy Spirit upon us.

After we returned home, the next time I was at the church, I was preparing for Handmaidens. When I started to walk into the sanctuary, I felt the same strong feeling come upon me that I had just experienced in Kirtland. It was impressed upon me, that this also was a holy place.

Then in the fall of 2018, after our family had just returned home from a mission trip to Taiwan, I went to Price Publishing. When I stepped out of our truck and walked toward the building that same strong feeling came upon me and to my mind came words that I was walking on holy ground. With tears streaming down my cheeks, I felt so much “Awe” and “Joy” as I again basked in His wonderful Holy Spirit.

God is Real

By Seth C. Newell

All my life I have believed in God, but I had a desire to know more. Monday, June 10, 2019, after the evening reunion service and our family devotions, I went to bed. I lay in bed praying, asking God to show me that He is real. Friday, June 14, 2019, Elder BJ Schultz was preaching in the evening service. He was talking about the woman who had the issue of blood

...but my disciples shall stand in holy places, and shall not be moved;
D&C 45:4e

and reached out in faith to touch Jesus’ garment. He shared that that day this woman’s faith met Jesus’ virtue. Then, he stopped. His entire appearance and stance changed. He then spoke these words: *“Seth Newell, know that your Father in Heaven is pleased with you. And know that the prayers you have offered up under the trees, and in the trees, He has seen. And that through those prayers you have begun to build a relationship with Him as your fortress. And if you will persist in this process with Him, you will become aware, by and by, of your weaknesses. And as you will confess those things to Him and humble yourself before Him, He will speak into your life and cause the faith that you now have to grow; by and by until you will be known in his kingdom as a man of mighty faith. And this faith will not be for your welfare and benefit only, but it will be, and is intended by your father to be used, for the welfare of others, that they too may come into His presence and partake of the living water that He offers through His Holy Spirit. And these things are shared with you in the name of Jesus Christ, by the will of the Father and through His Spirit, Amen.”*
—Given under the inspiration of the Spirit through Elder BJ Schultz

I know for sure that God is real.

To live to Christ is to die to sin. To live to self is to be dead to Christ. It is not alone that God wishes or desires our life to be as the life of Jesus. *The fact is, there is no life outside of him.*

God’s Spiritual Universe, by Arthur Oakman, p. 134

Day 35, May 10th, 2020
Sunday's Theme: "Look and I Will Show You..."

Message from the Lord

Given at SCRB on August 7, 2001 through Elder Ron Gamble. Confirmed by the presider, Elder Steve Smith

"Come, walk with me in the garden, even as my servants, so long ago walked with me in the garden of Gethsemane. Their physical eyes were closed, they went to sleep and they could not even watch with me one hour. And so my children, in this day are your spiritual eyes open? Are your ears attuned to the direction of my spirit?

Know this, the days will come, not so far away, when Satan will do his best to destroy this nation, which is to be free, in order that my Zion, at my appointed time, shall be. And you are called in these last days to recognize that there will be warfare in this country. There will be blood in the streets. There will be the attack of Satan and his

minions. That your freedoms will be lost and taken.

Be faithful and remember that I have called upon you in this day, that you might be humble and full of love knowing that the charity of which I am, must be in your hearts for each other. Thus saith the Spirit of God unto you this day."

North America

Given by the Spirit to a little girl, in the Early Days of the Church

From I.W. White's scrapbook

The day of trouble now has come,
And we must flee away.
A Bloody scene will soon take place
In North America.

Iniquity doth now abound,
And sin and vanity.
Much wickedness can now be found
In North America.

The warlike troops will soon appear
For battle in array;
Sudden destruction will appear
In North America.

Towns and cities shall be burned,
And smoke becloud the day;
No human pity shall be found
In North America.

He stood before my face,
and he talked with me,
even as a man talks one
with another, face to face;
and he said unto me, Look,
and I will show unto you
the world for the space of
many generations.

D. & C. 36:1d

A dreadful pestilence will rage,
And earthquakes shake the
ground;
O what a dreadful scene appears,
In all the earth around!

Sad lamentations will be heard,
By those who have been spared;
And soon they'll feel a famine
sore,
As prophets have declared.

Come, O my people, saith the
Lord,
Come, Israel, gather home;
Join heart and hand with one
accord:
Come out of Babylon.

Infallible Proofs, pp. 11-12

Where are we looking? At ourselves? Then we are worshipping an idol. At others? Then we may well be confirming ourselves in our dull, commonplace wickedness. At Christ? Then, and only then do we find the true meaning of life, of love, and the light of divine glory makes very clear the meaning of sin.

Resurrection and Eternal Life, by Arthur Oakman, p. 126

Day 34, May 11th, 2020
Sunday's Theme: "Look and I Will Show You..."

For behold, I am God; and I am a God of miracles; and I will show unto the world that I am the same yesterday, today, and forever; and I work not among the children of men, save it be according to their faith.

Isaiah 29:25

Inspired Dreams and Visions of Modern Times

A Vision of the Judgment, by W. N. Dawson

It was about nine o'clock, Sunday morning, April 19, 1908; I was thinking of the great plan of salvation, of death, the resurrection, and the great judgement day, when suddenly the scenery was changed. I saw myself walking on a vast plain toward the southeast. It did not appear to be as light as noonday, but more like a cloudy day, yet there were no clouds to be seen, neither sun, moon, nor stars. I could see in the vast distance toward the north and northwest a low mountain range, with here and there a tall mountain peak. In the west and southwest I could see at a great distance where the land merged into the sea. Before me, some forty or fifty miles away, there was an elevation in the land, beyond which the land was undulating. The land where I was walking was not white like alkali, but was of a dark gray color, with no signs of life, neither beasts, birds, insects, nor man. There were no trees, shrubs, nor vegetation of any kind, neither had there ever been. The land was not dusty, but exceedingly dry. There was no road or trail, but I was going in a direct course southeast. I seemed to know that the judgment day had come, and that I was to be judged.

I was walking along studying about what the result would be with me, when suddenly I felt some one take hold of my right hand. On looking up I saw it was the angel of the Lord, the one whom I had seen

many times before. We walked along together in silence, neither one speaking to the other; when presently I looked up and saw, not a hundred yards ahead, the elevation in the land, at the edge of which was a great white throne, with steps leading up at the front. The wall at each end of the steps, the floor, which was some forty or fifty feet square, and the great chair of state, were all composed of the same white material, unlike anything I had ever seen before, not like marble, crystal, nor glass, but more like diamonds. As we walked up the steps I noticed that the steps were six inches high, eighteen or twenty inches wide, and twenty feet long, twelve of them in number. When we approached the throne, I saw two persons; one sat on the throne and the other stood at his right hand. They looked so very much alike that I could not tell one from the other until I saw the hands of the one standing. There were the wounds made by the nails. I instantly recognized him as the Lord Jesus. My eyes unbidden by me looked at his feet. He had on sandals. I saw the cords that passed round his feet and between his toes. There were the wounds made by the nails on Calvary. Then I wondered if the spear-wound would show in his side. At this moment he turned his body slightly toward the Judge, his beautiful white robe parted, showing the wound made by the spear; not like the pictures we have seen.

The wound was on the left side below the lower rib and pointed upward, and judging from the size of the wound the spear must have reached the heart. Then I found that I could speak and I said, "Lord Jesus, I heeded and recognized your voice, as you spoke through your servants; I accepted the plan of salvation that you offered. I followed

...only the pure in heart can see him as he is. Only love enters the holy of holies. Only by longing "as the hart pants after the water brooks" do men become pure in heart... Only by practicing virtue do men become holy. Only by obedience to His own law do men practice virtue.

Resurrection and Eternal Life, by Arthur Oakman, p. 34

not the strangers when they called to me. I loved your law, and I tried to keep your commandments. I know that I did many things wrong, but I did that which I thought was for the best under the circumstances at the time. My hope, my trust, and my faith are all centered on you.”

Then I noticed an angel sitting with his back towards me, and a little to my right in front of him was the largest book I had ever seen. It was about two feet thick and nearly six feet square. It seemed to open of its own accord. It was ruled in bright lines, more than an inch apart. I saw my name written about the middle from top to bottom on the left hand side in the most beautiful hand-writing I had ever seen. The letters were more than an inch in length and I wondered why my name only was there, when I was informed that there was a name between each of the lines, but they who looked on this book saw only their name and their sins written opposite. Then I noticed my sins written between the lines in the smallest letters I had ever seen, too small for me to read. Some places they were very dim and some very bright, indicating the degree of the offense. Some places were so thick, they almost seemed to be written on an incline, crowded together. Along toward the farther edge of the book it was thinner and dimmer.

As I looked back and forth over this record of sins I was surprised. I never thought that I had committed a hundredth part of that many sins. I felt sick at heart, and thought that my heart would sink away within me. My knees knocked together. I felt that I should sink to the floor. Then I felt the strong left hand of the angel, as he put it up under my right arm at the shoulder, to hold me up. Then I looked again to my Savior. He turned to the Judge and said, “This is my child. He has tried to keep my commandments; with my blood have I purchased him.”

Then the Judge, looking directly at me, said, “Inasmuch as you have tried, wherein you failed the blood of mine Only Begotten is sufficient. Your sins are forgiven you.”

The angel who had the big book took up what appeared to be a marking-brush, or a small paint-brush. He did not dip it in anything. He set it down on the first word of my sins. It filled the space between the lines, then he drew it across the two pages of the book some ten or eleven feet. It left a trail or streak of red like as of fresh blood. When he got to the farther edge of the book he raised the brush

off the book, and all the red blood and the writing of sins vanished, leaving the book clean, as though no blood or writing of sins had ever been there. Then that passage of scripture came to my mind, where it reads, “They washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb, and made them white as snow.”

I noticed now, for the first time, that I no longer had on clothes as we now wear; instead I had a most beautiful white robe. It was made rather low in the neck, with a broad, loose band at the waist, of the same material. It was unlike the dead, dull, stiff, starched white linen; but instead it was soft and pliable to the touch, as the finest silk, with a luster far more beautiful than satin, not a dazzling white, but a white most beautiful to behold. I tried to express my thanks to my Savior, but could do so only in looks.

The look he gave me I shall never forget, when he said, “You have done well; enter into the joys of your Lord.” Then the angel who held my hand led me around to the right of Jesus, and back of the throne. I was so busy admiring my beautiful robe and thinking of the wonderful things which I had seen and heard, that I did not notice where the white of the throne left off and the green of the grass began, but there were no steps going down at the back of the throne. How far we had gone before I looked up I do not know, but the most beautiful sight I had ever seen met my view when I looked up, -- small streams of clear running water and the green grass, the most luxuriant I had ever seen, with tall trees with overhanging boughs, with bright green foliage an hundred times more beautiful than any spring of the year I had ever seen in any place. – Autumn Leaves, October, 1908. Sacramento, California.

Infallible Proofs, pp. 186-188

Day 33, May 12th, 2020
Sunday's Theme: "Look and I Will Show You..."

**Dream By
Joseph Burton**

Found in His Biography
by His Wife

After this I sought earnestly for a testimony, but received none until near three weeks had passed. I had attended a temperance meeting in the evening, and coming home late, found all the family in bed, asleep. I thought as all was quiet I would once more supplicate our Father for a testimony in reference to the latter-day work, that in its strangeness we had obeyed, because we loved it, but now wanted the promised evidence of its divinity. I bowed in prayer, but all I could utter was, "Lord, have mercy upon me, and show me the truth," or words to that effect.

I went to bed and was soon asleep. I dreamed my brother John and I were on the road to Hollister and as night drew on we had stopped for the night at an adobe house, were in bed in a room that had two doors, one by the head and one by the foot of the bed; while lying there the room got very dark, and the darkness increased until it caused an intense feeling of horror, so that I thought I must surely die. Just then a man who was standing at the head of the bed, but unobserved by us, said: "This

Show me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths. The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will show them his covenant.

Psalms 25:4,14

always precedes a vision." Then the darkness slowly passed away, and the room became lighter and lighter until it was filled with a beautiful, mellow light – very clear. Then a woman came into the room through the door at the head of the bed, carrying in her hand a lighted candle in a candlestick. She passed through the room, then came back and went through the door by which she entered. I spoke to my brother, being very indignant that a woman should come into our room, but looking up towards the ceiling, I saw a hand holding a spear-head, with a few inches of the shaft attached. They appeared very beautiful, with a halo of brightness surrounding them, greater than the light of the room, which I thought was as light as could be. While looking with much pleasure at this, the same woman entered the room again, with the same lighted candle and candlestick. Again I felt indignant, but as she passed by the bed I sat up, and after she had gone through the room I found myself holding my hands together, and upon opening them – as one would open a book – found I was holding the spear-

head. It dropped into seven pieces lengthwise, the first piece off one side, the second piece was the full length from the tip of the spear to the end of the staff; the other side fell into five pieces. As I sat examining these, the man who spoke before said: "These are the seven prophets of the last days, two have been, i.e., one was and one is." I then thought this: "Joseph was, and Joseph is. It is forty years since Joseph came; if the other five each have forty years it will be two hundred years yet till Christ comes, and that is too far off." The man answered my thoughts by saying: "Why do you murmur and wonder in your thought? Behold, the other five come quickly."

I awoke; the day was just dawning. I was happy and satisfied that God had sent to the world a great light. That Joseph was his servant and that Joseph is our prophet. May God ever keep us in the light till the bright millennial dawn; that we may ever be with our Lord.

Infallible Proofs, pp. 201-203

We ought to search the scriptures with all the powers of intellect of which we are capable. We ought to bring to bear upon the printed page all the resources of our personalities, and certainly our imagination should be inspired with all of which we are capable as we study the divine word. But in the last analysis...it is only through worship that we really come to know the Lord Jesus.

He Who Is, by Arthur Oakman, p. 85-86

Day 32, May 13th, 2020
Sunday's Theme: "Look and I Will Show You..."

Inspired Message given at SCRB on October 6, 2002 through Elder Ron Gamble

Behold, the voice of inspiration to you this day is that I, the Lord who ascended the cross that all men might be drawn up before me, has watched over you in this hour and will watch with you as you leave.

To the elderly who struggle with physical and difficult pain, who lack the strength that you had in your youth: Rely upon me, for my arm is strong and I shall lift you up.

And for those who live alone: Remember that I am always with you and that you but need to pray and my hand shall be extended to you and guide you and lift you up, and you shall no longer be alone.

To the young parents in this congregation: The council is that you set your homes in order; that your children be raised without harsh words, without harsh comments, and that when you offend them you ask for forgiveness; and as you teach them from the book of Scriptures that have been given to you, your children shall blossom and go forth and become my servants in the days to come. Be tender and careful and loving with them, for they are tender in spirit.

And to you young men: Hear me – that each one of you who are now hearing this message, must prepare yourselves that the Lord might use you as His servant. And is His time, and in His way, and by the power of His word, you shall be called to stand forth and witness for Him. Do not let the world influence you, and turn you away, and make you deaf to hear and blind to see that which is of eternal nature

And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered; for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call.

Joel 2:30-32

and purpose in your life.

And to my servants, the priesthood: Many times I have called many of you and you have chosen to not hear, and you have walked with the world. And this is not pleasing unto me. And you are called to stand forth and bear your testimony. Bear your testimony to those with whom you work, and with whom you live, and find yourself in this place that you might strengthen one another with the blessings that I have poured out upon you by my hand.

Forgive one another. May the Spirit of peace reign with you. May you know that I love you more than you shall ever know in this life. Amen and Amen.

To discover the will and purpose of Deity and then to conform our lives to it is the process of resurrection, since when this is done man's whole life is lifted.

Resurrection and Eternal Life, by Arthur Oakman, p. 237

Day 31, May 14th, 2020
Sunday's Theme: "Look and I Will Show You..."

Vision by John Landers

From His Autobiography

A conference was called in November 1836 and I was ordained an elder. I immediately formed a circuit and began to travel, preaching every night. My nephew, a young man, traveled and labored with me. One night we had appointed a meeting at a private house. After the meeting was closed a man came to me and asked me how this doctrine that I was preaching came into the world, and I told him in response all that I had been told concerning it and the origin of the Book of Mormon. The man sat down beside me, and just then my brother's son arose and began speaking in tongues, and immediately I was carried away in a vision and stood on the hill of Cumorah.

I looked and saw the

And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one who asketh, receiveth; and he that seeketh, findeth; and to him that knocketh, it shall be opened.

Luke 11:10-11

box containing the plates. I stood at the southeast of the box, and the cover was removed from the southeast to the northwest corner, so that I was enabled to look into the box. The box was made of six stones, a bottom stone, a top one and four side stones; at the corners and edges they were joined by a black cement. The bottom of the box was covered by the breastplate; in the center of the box and resting on the breastplate, were three pillars of the same black substance that was used to cement the stones.

Upon the pillars rested the plates which shone like bright gold. I saw also lying in the box a round body, wrapped in a white substance, and this I knew to be the ball

or directors which so many years ago guided Lehi and his family to this land. The top stone of the box was smooth on the inner surface as were the others, but on the top it was rounded.

All this was described by the young man speaking in tongues, and as he talked I understood all he said, for I saw it in the vision. Thus was fulfilled the prophecy that had been pronounced upon my head, and the Spirit of the Lord said to me that this had been granted me that I might speak with certain knowledge when questioned concerning the origin of the Book of Mormon and the latter day work. - Autumn Leaves, February, 1900.

Infallible Proofs,
pp. 148-149

I do not know, and do not expect to know the day or the hour when our Lord shall return. But this I do know: that his coming can be hastened or delayed by the quality of our response to his love; by the quality of our service to each other; and by the outreach of our witness to those who know him not.

He Who Is, by Arthur Oakman, p. 132

Day 30, May 15th, 2020
Monday's Theme: "I AM THAT I AM"

The Words of Eternal Life

By Scott Nixon

Recently in a small gathering of priesthood, we were asked to share our favorite scriptures. When it was my turn, I gave the locations of a couple that were favorites of mine. But I said, almost apologetically, that my all-time favorite scripture was a very simple one: "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10 and Doctrine and Covenants 98:4f).

From my youth this has been my favorite. When I heed its counsel, it is as if a hush comes over me and a reverence begins to be felt for my God. Perhaps my head is bowed in thought, but my spiritual eyes gaze upward as I think upon Him, upon His great works, and upon His glory.

How is it that so few words of scripture can bring about worship such as this? Perhaps this is a mystery to some. But we know, yea, we have His Word, that it is by His Spirit that such things are not only known, but they are felt and even enjoyed! "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit; for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God" (1 Corinthians 2:9-10).

And the more we look, the more we see. Oh, the great love that God has for us! His words are more than a guide to weather the storms of this life. His words call each of us upward – not symbolically, but in reality – to prepare us to stand in holy places. From Section

And God said unto Moses,
I AM THAT I AM;
and he said, Thus shalt thou say
unto the children of Israel,
I AM hath sent me unto you.
Exodus 3:14

83:7a, we have these words: "And now I give unto you a commandment to beware concerning yourselves – to give diligent heed to the words of eternal life; for you shall live by every word that proceedeth forth from the mouth of God."

If only we would try to understand every word. Surely we can easily see the confusion that comes when we select only bits and pieces of His Word to live by. But when we put it all together, then His holy purpose begins to be seen, understood, and felt! Sooner or later – I think it happens to each of us – we have a moment or time when we do stop long enough to truly consider the greater things of God!

This happened to Enos. He went hunting by himself; and he said, "The words which I had often heard my father speak concerning eternal life and the joy of the saints sank deep into my heart. And my soul hungered; and I kneeled down before my Maker, and I cried unto him in mighty prayer and supplication, for my own soul"

If God would cease to be, immediately all else would cease to be. But if the whole of what we see, what we feel, and what we half perceive, if the totality of existence as we know it were to vanish, God would still be God. He *is*. In him is *being*. He is *absolutely*.

He Who Is by Arthur Oakman, p. 16

(Enos 1:4-5). Enos was blessed as he began to give consideration to the words of eternal life. He received the testimony for himself, as he became concerned with the condition of his soul. He knew the words and requirements of God were true and unwavering.

Dear Saints and friends, there is no end to His works, neither to His words. His work and His glory is to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man (see Doctrine and Covenants 22:23b). And His work is now! Another way to consider our purpose is to say, "Welcome to Eternity!"

We recently heard this question from the pulpit: "Where did eternity start, and where does it end?" We are in the midst of eternity, aren't we? And while our daily walk is currently a time of trial, tribulation, and probation, there is an eternal purpose behind it. How we live now affects and determines our eternal path.

In your quiet times, allow yourself to imagine what great things the Lord has ready for those who love Him. Even though our minds can't even conceive of such, by His Spirit we are drawn upward and are blessed.

Over time, we see more clearly a world different from the one we now know. We see a future place where there is no pain or suffering, a place where sorrow of any kind is a thing of the past, a place where there is no limit of learning because "all things" are made known to us. There, time has no meaning. There we behold beauty beyond the combined efforts of our greatest imaginations. Eternity for the faithful will be made up of all His greatest creations.

Along the way, the experience will be very different, where a lion and a lamb can play together, where there is no fear, where thousands of voices sing anthems of praise together. But best of all, it will be a place where our walk will often bring us face to face with the God Who created us.

"Even so ye must be born again into the kingdom of heaven, of water, and of the Spirit, and be cleansed by blood, even the blood of

mine Only Begotten, that ye may be sanctified from all sin and enjoy the words of eternal life in this world and eternal life in the world to come – even immortal glory" (Genesis 6:62).

May we choose to walk now, in these moments of eternity, preparing to be with our Father in heaven.

Restoration Voice, #233, pp. 14-15

Be Still

Be still, be still

and know that I am God.

I am a God of miracles

And nothing's impossible!

I am your God. I am your God.

Be still, watch and see

The mighty wonders of My hand.

Be still, be still

and know that I am God.

I see your laughter and your tears;

I'm always by your side.

Trust in Me. Trust in Me

With all of your heart

And know the love I have for you.

Be still, be still

And know that I am God.

(compiled by an SCRB saint, May 2019)

The Light of Christ

By Duff Daugherty

I would like to share an experience my grandfather had when he was a seventy in the Church. I never knew my grandfather very well. He died when I was eight years old, but he lives through the testimonies which have been passed on by my father. One particular testimony of my grandfather has caused me to think about cleaning out my heart and making myself more acceptable before the Lord, so that the light of Christ might shine into every corner of my heart.

My grandfather presented cottage meetings to a man who was about fifty years old. The only reason this man came to the cottage meetings was because his wife was a church member, and she

Remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me.

Isaiah 46:9

made him. He drank, smoked and cussed, and had other worldly habits that needed cleaned up in his life. He needed to be taught the restored gospel of Jesus Christ, and my grandfather was doing this using the "Go Ye and Teach" slide series.

This man never seemed to have much interest in the slide presentation; he just sat back and waited, checking his watch frequently. But one night, his countenance seemed different. He said, "Can you flip back a few slides from where we stopped last time? I'd like to tell you something."

He had my grandfather flip back through the slides which showed Christ's birth, life,

death and resurrection, and stop at the slide where the Romans were scourging Jesus with whips. He told my grandfather that the previous night, he had had a dream. He was *there* at the scene depicted on that slide.

He said he could feel the air on his face and hear the sounds around him. He was standing there as two Romans scourged Christ, putting stripes across His back. He heard the "woosh" of the whip and the crack as it hit Christ's back. He could see the blood and the sweat dripping off the back of Jesus. Each time that whip came down, it hurt this man in his heart.

After a few minutes, he couldn't stand it any longer. He went up and grabbed the arm of that Roman soldier who was whipping Christ so vigorously. He turned him around . . . and found that he was looking into his own face. It was made known to

God cannot coerce men to righteousness but must seek to control them by an appeal to their own appreciation of the good. So He, besides whom there is none good, comes into the course of time and shares himself with his creatures, and does this at great cost to himself.

God's Spiritual Universe, by Arthur Oakman, p. 67

him that through the actions of his life, through the things that he was doing on this earth, he was actually laying stripes across Jesus' back.

Jesus cries for me sometimes, when I do things that aren't pleasing in His sight. The shortest verse of the Bible is when Jesus went to Martha and Mary after Lazarus had died. It says, "Jesus wept." The Jews, who were gathered around to comfort Mary and Martha, said, "Behold, how He loved him." He loves us, too, more than we know.

This man who had the cottage meetings with my grandfather saw the light. He cleaned up his life and eventually joined the Church. He repented, because of the light of Christ that was shown to him.

It's this light of Christ that will unify us as His people. It will bring us closer together as husbands and wives, sons and daughters, fathers and mothers. It will unify our priesthood and set them on fire to go forth and preach the word of God.

It's this same light of Christ which this man saw that will prompt us to come to church every Sunday –

morning and evening – and Wednesday evenings, too. No one would go to the store and buy fifty dollars worth of groceries, and then leave half of it there. If we don't attend Sunday evenings and Wednesday evenings, we're leaving half of our groceries behind. We're missing something that's available to us for free.

Often when I eat ice cream and no one's looking, I lick the bowl. I want to get every last drop, because it's so good. This is how we need to feel about our church services. Every time I come, I am blessed.

Jesus wants us to let Him into the secret places of our hearts so He can cleanse us, so His light can shine through us to the world. He wants us to repent and grow in His light. Let us go forward into the light of Christ.

Living Testimonies, Book 2,
p. 15

Hymn in Tongues

Sung by Sister Kate Turner,
June 4, 1893

Rejoice! For I, your God, am nigh. Your prayers ascend to me on high; Your weary hearts shall strengthened be, if you will put your trust in me.

Rejoice! And do my sovereign will, my arms of love are round you still; My angels, too, shall guide the way, and lead you on to endless day.

My holy law you must obey, and walk within the narrow way; and I will be your shield and guide, whatever evil may betide.

Go forth and labor with your might; my power shall ever with you be, Yea, darkness shall be changed to light, and many souls shall be made free.

Lift up your heads, I hear your voice, your many sins are now forgiven; with you my angels here rejoice; Your names are written, too, in heaven.

Ye who have sought the narrow way, and yet outside the kingdom stand; Arise! The gospel truth obey, the day is now, the time's at hand.

Infallible Proofs, p. 164

Day 28, May 17th, 2020
Monday's Theme: "I AM THAT I AM"

Be A Light To The World, Part 1

By Frederick A. Smith

It was my good fortune a few years ago to go into one of our cities where we wanted to hold a few meetings. We did not have a church building of our own there; and somebody suggested if I would go to the People's Theater, they might let me use it. I supposed I would find a regular theater building; but when I called upon the man they told me to see, I found that he was the pastor of a congregation. They called his church the People's Theater.

I had a good conversation with the man and told him my object and purpose. He said, "Yes, we will let you use the building. Come out and see my plant." We went into a very beautifully arranged auditorium which would seat about 250 people. I looked on the stage and saw an artistically built pulpit with what seemed to be a panel wall behind it with a perfectly arranged stage.

I said, "Then you give theatricals here?"

He said, "Oh, yes."

Then he took me downstairs, and there he had a very fine banquet room. I looked it over and asked, "Do you have something else here

Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh; is there anything too hard for me?

Jeremiah 32:27

besides banquets?"

He said, "Well, we have dances occasionally."

He took me into another room, and there were all kinds of games. You could go in there and play most anything; there were all sorts of things for amusement.

He took me to a very nicely equipped reading room. Then he took me out back of the church, and I saw a swimming pool and a tennis court.

After we had looked them all over, I said, "Well, brother, you have pretty nice equipment here for amusement and all that. But let me ask you a question frankly and candidly. Has all this increased your membership?"

And he said, "No."

"Has it increased your spirituality?"

"No, it has not."

"Has it kept your young people in the church?"

The universe and man are not necessary to the existence of God. But the universe and men could not exist unless He did.

God's Spiritual Universe, by Arthur Oakman, p. 142

“No,” he said. “It has failed. I am discouraged and disappointed in it instead. I believed it would be an incentive to my young people to do these things in a nice way here. But I have followed some of them and have found them on the public dance floors after they had learned to dance in my building. I have found some in the gambling dens who had learned to play their games in my building. There was no kick in it here; they went where they could get it. I have not kept them here.”

I am in favor of games; I am in favor of amusement in proper places, in proper manner. But if we get too much of the worldly amusements in the Church, they will shut out the sacred things which should be there and prevent our knowing the things we ought to know. They will prevent the accomplishment of the purposes of the Church as a saving institution.

I am very sad to say that we find more dancing, card playing, smoking, coffee and tea drinking, theater going, etc., in Church members today than there has been at any time I have known the Church. Of course, this is not a part of the Church’s activity; it is not approved by the officers directing recreation.

Will those things help to build Zion?
Do they help us let our light shine?

The purpose of the Church is to save souls; to spread this gospel to the world, to redeem men from the world and the evils that are in the world. The Lord said we should be in the world but not of the world. We should not be partakers of the things of

the world. If we are, how are we going to let our light shine?

Restoration Voice, #233, pp. 7-8

(Tune: “Admonition”)

Hearken, oh, my covenant people,
‘Tis “I Am” that speaks to thee,
And your prayers and testimonies
Have ascended unto me.
In times past, have I not blest thee
With a measure of my grace?
And my hand is not now shortened
But will guide you safely through.

Yea, though trials and temptations,
By my Spirit, I will be
Your salvation, shield, protector,
Till the dawn of perfect day.
Lift, then, up your heads, my people,
Cling more closely unto me.
By the measure of your service
I will measure unto thee.

Be ye not disturbed, my people,
By the rumors that you hear,
Though through darkness some may falter,
Multitudes my work will hear.
Zion’s beauty shines before you,
Beckoning that you forward go,
Will ye heed my loving counsel,
And by deeds my purpose show?

Swift destruction waits the heedless,
Who my work have tried to thwart,
Having grieved my loving Spirit
Heedless of the things I’ve taught,
Why, then, will ye linger longer?
I, your Savior, call for thee,
Come, oh, come, where peace and pardon
Offer joy so full and free.

Infallible Proofs, pp. 83-84

Be A Light To The World, Part 2

By Frederick A. Smith

The way of Christ is the way of peace. The individual who lives a clean life – who follows the Master and does the things He says – never has to hide his face in shame from anyone or anything. His conscience is clear toward mankind and God, and he is able to look anyone squarely in the face without fear. Just as the Master said, we should know the truth, for the truth shall make us free; and if He makes us free, we shall be free indeed (see John 8:32,36). There is no other way in which we can be absolutely free.

God has placed various officers in the Church for a reason: "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers – for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we, in the unity of the faith, all come to the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of

...have ye not read that which was spoken unto you of God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.

Matthew 22:31

Christ" (Ephesians 4:11-13).

The perfecting of the Saints makes clean and pure hearts and thoughtful individuals who will walk as the Master walked. The work of the ministry is to sow the seed and spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to the four quarters of the earth. And they edify the body of Christ through education and feeding the flock with necessary principles of eternal life.

We cannot reach perfection until we hold our ideal higher than the world, until we make our purpose different from that of the world, until we demonstrate in our lives that we are climbing toward the ideal that we have established. That is going to take effort upon our part; it will mean some sacrifice of worldly things and worldly pleasure. But in response to our effort and in place of the sacrifice, it will give us satisfaction, joy, and peace that the worldly pleasures cannot bring.

"Thou shalt love the Lord, thy God, with all thy heart, with all thy might, mind, and strength; and in the name of Jesus Christ thou shalt serve him. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Thou shalt not steal, neither commit adultery, nor kill, nor do anything like unto it. Thou shalt thank the Lord, thy God, in all things. Thou shalt offer a sacrifice unto the Lord, thy God, in righteousness, even that of a broken heart and a contrite spirit" (Doctrine and Covenants 59:2a-e).

Shall we listen to the wisdom of God? Shall we heed the admonition given? Shall we follow the instructions that are given? If so, then we have some work to do.

We must recognize the requirements of God and study to keep every word and every command that He has given unto us. Then God shall give the blessings we need. He shall be with us and bless us with power such as man cannot exercise by himself. Under its influence we may develop and rejoice and grow and

What is revealed through the prophets is not truth concerning God, but God himself!

God's Spiritual Universe, by Arthur Oakman, p. 57

receive the wonderful blessings that He has said should come to us. Only then will we be fulfilling the statement of the Master to the disciples: "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? . . . I give unto you to be the light of the world . . . Therefore, let your light so shine before this world, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:15-18).

May God help us to realize our duty and – in our comprehension of it – to lay to with all our might, mind, and strength, demonstrating to the world that the gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God unto salvation (see Romans 1:16). As we are blessed of the Lord, may we grow and increase until we shall be like Him and rejoice in the eternal salvation He has promised.

[Excerpts from *The Saints' Herald*,
March 14, 1928]

Restoration Voice, #233, pp. 7-8

Song of Entreaty

Tune: "I will sing of my Redeemer"

O, my people! O, my people!
Is it to you my counsel vain?
Why call me your God and Father,
While unhonored I remain?
Are my utterances but language
To be mingled in your song?
Do the lips that call me master
Unto aliens belong?

Think ye I have joy or honor
In the sounds that laud my name,
Where my voice is held to silence
And my ordinance to shame?
What to me your loud hosannas?
What your gifts or zeal's pretense?
Righteousness hath voice in service -
Music in obedience.

Ye have said, "God is sufficient—
He alone our strength shall be;
His the glory of achievement—
His the sword of victory":
What, then, means this quest for armor?
What this lust for equipage?
That your energies consume and
Cumber in the war you wage?

Who is wise shall learn my secret;
Whoso trust shall understand:
Wisdom with obedience walketh—
Faith with victory—hand in hand.
Ishmael shall not Isaac fetter,
Nor my temple David build;
Uzzah's hand, my ark approaching,
Will be with disaster filled.

My ways are not yours, but, now ye,
I am God, nor speak in vain:
Be not slow my call to answer—
Few the moments that remain.
Not by skill or wisdom human—
Not by wealth of carnal lore;
But with panoply from heaven
Seek ye conquest evermore.

Heaven lingers for your answer—
Angels wait your faith's appeal:
Zion's course must clearer impress
Of my Spirit hence reveal.
If by these be pledge your triumph
Favor waits you from on high;
Whoso finds not here contentment
Soon must cease to occupy.

Infallible Proofs, pp. 120-121

Day 26, May 19th, 2020
Monday's Theme: "I AM THAT I AM"

Reunion Testimony

It was reunion time at Brush Creek, Illinois. Brother Ammon White was scheduled to be there to offer ministry. He was a patriarch in the Church and six Saints from isolated areas made much effort to be at the reunion so they could receive their patriarchal blessings while they were in attendance.

Brother White met with each one and agreed to give their blessings. He told them how to prepare for this important occurrence. He used an electric Dictaphone to record the blessings which he gave. (The Dictaphone was an instrument that recorded and reproduced dictation for transcription at a later date and was in use in those days.)

When the morning arrived for the first blessing to be given, Brother White offered a short prayer and just as he finished, the electricity went off. One of the men went quickly to the powerhouse on the reunion grounds to investigate but returned with the message that there was some kind of local trouble that would take several hours to correct.

Of course, the candidates for their blessings were quite disappointed. They had waited a long time for this opportunity and had made the best preparation they

And it came to pass that the Lord said unto me, "Stretch forth thine hand again unto thy brethren, and they shall not wither before thee, but I will shock them," said the Lord; "and this will I do that they may know that I am the Lord their God."

1 Nephi 5:163

could.

Brother White said, "We'll see if we can find a stenographer on the grounds." Inquiry was made but no stenographer capable of reporting the blessings could be found. Then Brother White made a phone call to a family he knew who lived in a town seven miles away. He asked if the group could come to the family home and use their electricity. The family readily agreed.

Unbelievably, just as the little group was ready to begin their service in the home, the village light plant whistle blew, indicating there was trouble at the light plant. **THE POWER WAS OFF.**

Some in the group were beginning to think that perhaps they weren't supposed to get their blessings at that time. But Brother

The gospel deals with human relationships, but only in a secondary sense. Primarily, the gospel is a declaration of the nature and mind of God, and is concerned first to secure the proper relationship of man to his Maker.

God's Spiritual Universe, by Arthur Oakman, p. 12

Ammon White remembered that in years past the wife in that home had been a stenographer and was experienced in reporting patriarchal blessings for various patriarchs, including for Brother White himself. He excused himself from the group and went in search of her.

When he found her and before he even asked, she said, "Wait! Please don't say it, Brother White. I know what you are going to ask me, but I'm not in practice. I haven't reported a blessing in eight years."

Brother White smiled gently and said, "Yes, I know, Ruth. But you think it over and remember the need is urgent. We'll all go back to the reunion grounds now, for I am to preach at eleven o'clock. I'll see you down there after the morning service."

What a battle raged in Ruth's mind then. "I simply cannot report these blessings without some preparation or practice." Then again, "Why should I fear taking a few blessings when I've reported thousands of them before. Of course, I'm out of practice. I don't believe I'm capable now of reporting these." And so she argued with herself as she prepared for the trip to the reunion grounds. One minute she decided she **COULD NOT** and **WOULD NOT** report; the next minute she felt she **MUST** and **WOULD**. Finally, she said to herself, "How foolish I am! This is God's work and if I make the effort, I'm sure He will supply wherein I lack."

Before leaving their home, Ruth asked her husband to go to the store and get a new stenographic notebook for her while she made ready. She slipped several pencils in her purse with a silent prayer for God's help that day.

At the appointed time, the little group who anticipated receiving their blessings again met in the chapel. However, this time there were eight candidates instead of the original six. Someone suggested to Brother White that they try the Dictaphone again. He did so but the electricity was still off. "It's alright," he said. "We will have a good stenographer and I'm confident everything will be A-OK"

The service began and Ruth, assisted by God's Holy Spirit, reported the eight patriarchal blessings with ease. No trace of nervousness nor haste marred the experience and she even found herself anticipating the words uttered by the patriarch. Indeed, Ruth went home that night and transcribed the eight blessings, and as she did so, she was accompanied by the same blessed Spirit that had assisted her earlier in the day.

True Stories, by Ruth Lewis Holman

Day 25, May 20th, 2020
Monday's Theme: "I AM THAT I AM"

Brothers in Christ

By Dan Friend - Missouri

I would like to share with you one of the most spectacular experiences and marvelous testimonies that I've ever had in my life. This testimony happened many years ago in Germany during World War II. I cannot recall the exact city, nor the names of the people involved, but the date was in July, 1944.

I was a member of the 478th Ambulance Company, and sometimes I was also a First Aid man. I was a member of the Medical Corps of the United States Army. I happened to be in a certain town that was being shelled by gunfire.

I came across a young man in one of the burning buildings who had been shot several times in the abdomen. I really didn't think that he had long to live, but I didn't say that to him. As I recall, I got him on my back and managed to crawl across the street and get him into our first aid station. While I was there with him, he handed me a letter what he had written to his mother. He wanted me to read that letter out loud to him, because he didn't feel he had

Listen to the voice of Jesus Christ, your Redeemer, the great I AM, whose arm of mercy hath atoned for your sins, who will gather his people even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, even as many as will hearken to my voice, and humble themselves before me, and call upon me in mighty prayer.

D&C 28:1a

long to live. As I read the letter back to him, I discovered that his mother was a member of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and lived in Independence, Missouri.

I turned to this young man and said, "Shake hands, Brother. I belong to that church and I'm from Independence, too."

He smiled at me, then asked if I could administer to him. I said, "No, I can't. I don't hold any office of the priesthood, but I can pray with you."

After the prayer was over, the Protestant chaplain, who was a very caring man, visited with us. I told him of the request of this G.I. to be administered to by an elder of our church. He said, "Would there happen to be any of your elders in the big hospital tent here?"

I didn't know, so he suggested that we go and find out. We checked, but didn't find an elder. Then the chaplain turned to me and he asked, "Do you have any

German Latter Day Saints?"

I said, "Yes, we do, but I have no idea where they are or who they might be."

He said, "Well, you know there is a German prisoner-of-war camp just five miles from here. I'll see if I can get a jeep and we'll go down there and see if any of those men are members of your church." He got a corporal who spoke good German to go with us.

At the camp, the guards came up to us with their machine guns ready. They asked us what we were doing there. When we told them what we wanted, one of them said, "We're not allowed to let anyone in here, but I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll call the colonel who is in charge of this camp and see if he can come to the gate. In a few moments, the colonel showed up at the gate.

The colonel talked to us a bit and then said, "Fellows, I'm going to do something that is highly irregular. I'm going to let you in for this purpose, but these armed guards are going with you. If you try anything, you'll never have a chance to try it again."

And so it was that we took the armed guards and the corporal with us and went

Any "personal" God conceived by man is man-made and an idol. Such an idol does and "says" what is desired by the creator of the idol and is therefore subject to the creature. But the God of revelation is different and other than this. He is in no sense subject to the creature. He breaks up man's thought-world by revealing himself.

God's Spiritual Universe, by Arthur Oakman, p. 157

through the camp. The corporal inquired for German Latter Day Saints.

Finally, one man stood up and said, "Yes, I am an elder in the RLDS Church." We got him and put him in the jeep. The guards fastened their arms to his with chains and we went back to the tent hospital.

The German elder turned to the corporal and said something in German. The corporal turned to me. "I don't know what he wants it for, but he wants a bottle of olive oil. Do you know why he wants it?"

I said, "Yes, I know what he wants it for. Please get some for him."

After the chaplain got the bottle of olive oil from the dispensary, the German elder took off the lid and blessed the oil in his native language.

While I didn't understand a word of it, I felt the Spirit of God like I had never felt it before. Then the German elder turned and anointed the young brother who was injured with the oil, and laid his hands upon his head. And mind you, the armed guards were still chained to his arms. He began to pray in his native language.

Again I felt the Spirit of God in power. There wasn't a man there who didn't have tears streaming down his face. Of course, the corporal understood the prayer while the rest of us did not.

When the German elder had finished the administration, I told the corporal, "Would you tell this German brother that I'm a member of the same church that he is and that I'm from Independence, Missouri?" The corporal turned and told him.

This German elder ran over and threw his arms around me and gave me a big hug (dragging the guards with him). He was overcome with joy! I didn't understand his language, of course, but the corporal translated. He said, "He's telling you how much he loves you and what a joy it is to meet you. Someday he hopes to go to the Land of Zion and become a part of Zion."

I had tears in my eyes again as we had to part with this brother in Christ. We had to take him back and turn him over to the camp for German prisoners-of-war.

I learned then and there that God Almighty is not limited to any language or to any conditions. He is all powerful! And I learned that he understands German very well.

A week or so later, I went back to the hospital

camp to see the brother who had been wounded so severely. He was doing very well. They were going to put him on a plane along with other wounded soldiers, who would be sent to England, and then to the United States to recuperate.

I turned to the chaplain and said, "I've got one more favor to ask."

He said, "What is that?"

I said, "I would like to be privileged to be one of those who take this soldier to the airport in the ambulance and put him on board the plane." I was granted the opportunity the next day.

What an expression of joy that young soldier had on his face! We hugged each other with tears of joy. As we parted, we shook hands.

Saints, this is my testimony. I know that God lives. Jesus Christ is alive and active. One day he will return and Zion will be a reality.

I regret that I did not get the German elder's name. But this I know for sure: God knows him. God knew him then and he knows him now, wherever he might be.

May God bless all of you and keep you strong in the faith until he shall appear. Remember, Jesus is he who is, who was, and who will always be the Son of God.

Living and Learning, by Francis Harper, Jr.
pp. 314-317

Day 24, May 21st, 2020
Tuesday's Theme: "You Are Created After My Image"

Prophecy Through Sister D. Peterson

Given in Independence, January 24, 1909

Behold, thus saith the Spirit unto you, oh ye my people that have assembled yourselves before me. Behold, I say unto you, be of good cheer; yea, mine eye is continually over you. Yea, as I have led the children of Israel in days of old, so will I lead my people if they will come near unto me and hearken to the words that I give them from time to time. Oh, be ye faithful, and behold, I say unto you, purify yourselves that you may become pure, that you may be redeemed and in mine own due time I will redeem you, saith the Spirit. Behold, the harvest is white. My work must go forth. Yea, this gospel must be preached as a witness before the end can come. Oh, I say unto you, my people, you are sitting as a light before the world. See to it that your example, that your conduct before me is blameless and that you come under no condemnation because of the example that you set before those with whom you are surrounded.

Love one another. Uphold one another in love and righteousness and those that are weak, lift them up. And there is a work for each and

Seest thou that ye are created after my own image? Even all men were created in the beginning after my own image.

Ether 1:80

every one. Oh, reach out and perform the duties and the work that lies before you on every hand. For the wickedness is abroad and Satan is trying to deceive and to bring into his net those that will be deceived. And if you stand steadfast and firm before me, and if you have faith and confidence in me, I will not leave you alone. I will uphold and sustain you and you shall be my people, and I will be your God saith the Spirit.

Infallible Proofs, pp. 170-171

We are made in the image of God, and all of us imitate him. We play God to ourselves. We set ourselves up as our own lords in the imaginations of our hearts. We carve out a future for ourselves, a future which does not exist except in our own imagination, and then we have the colossal cheek to turn and use every gift that God has given us to realize what was imagined. If we are not committing that sin right now; we are about to. And if we are not about to commit it, we are repenting from it.

He Who Is, by Arthur Oakman, p. 42

Our Faith and Works

By C. H. Booten

The sifting time is upon us. Satan is, if possible, trying to deceive the very elect. He and his forces are trying to make us believe that there is a much better way than the right way. But we know that there is only one way whereby we can be saved. Whosoever climbeth up some other way, the same is as a thief and a robber (see John 10:1).

God's way is founded on a rock foundation, and it reaches to perfection. He that is founded on the same cannot be shaken by every wind of doctrine or disturbing element.

Have we any faith? If so, is that faith a living faith, or is it without works and dead?

We may believe with all

And I, the Lord God, formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul; the first flesh upon the earth, the first man also;
Genesis 2:8

our souls that God is; but if we do not prepare to meet Him, our faith is without works and dead.

We may believe that Zion will be established. But if we fail to prepare ourselves, our faith is without works and dead.

We may believe that the Church is the right Church. But if we fail to give it our support or strengthen the feeble knees, our faith is without works and dead.

And if our faith is dead, being without works, how can we ever hope to be judge by our works?

God did not put us on this earth to be like drone bees, to glut ourselves on the substance of the workers. Nor

did He mean for us to be like the sponge, continually accepting and never giving. Nor did He mean for us to be like weather vanes, turning with every wind.

He put us on this earth to be like mountains and to turn the winds. He put us here to be a growing force. Are we doing our part to conquer this world with our righteous works?

"Show me thy faith without works, and I will show thee my faith by my works . . . Faith without works is dead" (see James 2:15, 25).

[Reprinted from *Zion's Ensign*, September 11, 1930]

Restoration Voice, #233,
p. 21

All of us part of the time play God to ourselves. Some of us do this all the time, until our whole lives are consumed in service to the self which we have imagined we would like to be. In the economy of God, only that much of the self which is like him survives. The universe destroys all else.

God's Spiritual Universe, by Arthur Oakman, p. 129

Day 22, May 23rd, 2020
Tuesday's Theme: "You Are Created After My Image"

Moldy Cheese

A mother, a member of our congregation, had been praying for her 15-year old son. She prayed that he would be given a testimony of light and truth. She asked the Heavenly Father to "bless him and maybe even send someone into his life to help him."

Her son was employed at a local grocery store during that summer. One morning while he was working alone in the stock room, a man came in whom he did not recognize. He noticed the style of the man's clothing was that of an earlier time. The stranger carried a piece of moldy cheese, which he used to illustrate the truth he had come to teach. He said, "If we quickly remove the mold from this cheese, it will not be lost. But if the mold is allowed to continue to grow, it will eventually completely destroy it. The mold is like the sin in our lives; if it is quickly removed, the ill effects will be minimal. But if it is allowed to remain and grow, in time, our lives will be entirely lost." He then added, as an admonishment, "Do no wrong for that man" [referring to the boy's boss in the far corner of the stock room, not visible from where they stood].

"Did you pray this morning?" he asked. When the answer was no, the two prayed the Lord's Prayer together. Then he asked, "Do you feel better now? You should pray every morning." The boy was so awestruck that his legs felt weak and numb. Recognizing the boy's condition, the man advised, "Take a deep breath and see if you can see the Holy Spirit." As he followed this instruction, the stock boy could see a glowing light encircling the visitor as he gently said, "I must leave you now." Then he was gone as quickly as he had come.

As the stranger left, a fellow worker came in, and the boy asked, "Did you meet a man as you came in here?" The answer was, "No, I didn't see anyone." The aisles of the store were quickly searched, and also the

And I, God, created man in mine own image, in the image of mine Only Begotten created I him; male and female created I them.

Genesis 1:29

parking lot, but the visitor could not be found. There is little doubt he was a messenger sent from God, and the answer to a mother's prayer.

This testimony was shared on Sunday morning, October 7, 2007, as we met to observe the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Two days later I read these confirming words which appeared in the magazine, *Israel My Glory*: "Evil is a progressive malady. If tolerated, it will eventually consume the entities [person, church, community, country, world] that allow it to feed off them."

The allowance of even the smallest sin in our lives is the first step toward moral decay. We must not forget: "For, I the Lord can not look upon sin with the least degree of allowance; nevertheless, he that repents and does the commandments of the Lord shall be forgiven; and he that repents not, from him shall be taken even the light which he has received, for my Spirit shall not always strive with man, saith the Lord of Hosts" (Doctrine and Convenants 1:5f-g).

Living and Learning, by Francis Harper, Jr.
pp. 174-175

...the whole created order is on a pilgrimage back to him who first articulated it, since it bears his image in the person of our Lord. And Jesus Christ leads in this pilgrimage. God is in all and through all, and we ourselves are in the midst of a journey between creation and redemption in which all share. The universe is spiritual in nature.

God's Spiritual Universe, by Arthur Oakman, p. 75

Day 21, May 24th, 2020
Tuesday's Theme: "You Are Created After My Image"

A Job for Sarah

By Alice Zion Buckley

"The more we get together, together, together, the more we get together, the happier we'll be."

Sarah liked that song. She hoped they would sing it every day of reunion. Singing was one of the nicest parts of being at the campgrounds for a whole week. And she liked how the people all worked together. The adults, the children, and the ministers were like a big family.

Sarah thought of all the reunion helpers – the cooks, the ministers, the lifeguards, and the teachers of the classes. There was something for everyone to do to help – everyone except Sarah.

She wanted to do something to help someone else.

For a commandment I give, that every man's brother shall preserve the life of man, for in mine own image have I made man.

Genesis 9:13

She wanted to let God know how happy she was. So, each day Sarah watched for some special job she could do.

Finally, it was just one day until reunion would be over. And Sarah still was waiting to find a job.

That evening after dinner, she was sitting with her father and Brother Jones while they talked. Brother Jones was a patriarch. He told of many times God had helped him do his work.

It was almost time for the evening service. And Brother Jones was going to preach. Suddenly, he said, "I left my briefcase in the cabin up on the hill, and I need it tonight."

Sighing, he said slowly,

"These tired old legs hate to climb hills. But they will have to get started. I have never heard of briefcases walking by themselves." Then he smiled and added, "It's a little thing for me to do for the Lord."

Sarah jumped up quickly. "Brother Jones, Brother Jones, I'm not very big. But I'm big enough to run up and get your things for you. Just tell me where they are. I can get them and be right back."

Brother Jones looked surprised at her excitement. Then he looked at Sarah's father, who just smiled and nodded.

"Well, God has come to my aid again. He has sent you to help me," said Brother Jones. "You will find the case at the foot of my bed in the fourth cabin from the pine tree. Do you know a pine tree when you see one?"

The image of God in us has been perverted. It is not alone that we do things wrongly in an ethical sense. It is not alone that our thoughts are impure. It is rather that we ourselves are sinners at the core. *We set ourselves up as gods to ourselves. We sit in our own bodies and show forth the man of sin, which we are. It is not a sin to be a self. What is a sin is to be self-centered—to be exclusive gods to ourselves.*

Resurrection and Eternal Life, by Arthur Oakman, p. 245

Sarah nodded her head.

He continued, "Fine. We'll stay here and chat while your young legs do this errand for the Lord."

Sarah fairly flew up the hill. She found the pine tree, counted four cabins, and went inside. Sure enough, there was the briefcase.

She wanted to hurry back to Brother Jones. But the briefcase was very heavy. She took a few steps. Then she had to set it down and rest. She took a few more steps. Then she stopped. She took a few more steps. Then she stopped again.

The briefcase was heavier than the one her father carried on Sundays. And that one was heavy enough.

Sarah thought maybe she wasn't big enough after all. Perhaps she should run down and get her father to help her. Then she remembered what Brother Jones had said: "God has come to my aid again. He has sent you to help me."

Sarah got down on her knees right there on the path and prayed. She didn't ask God to make the briefcase lighter. But she asked Him to give her the strength to carry it to Brother Jones in time for the service.

Picking up the case, she started again. At first she held it in one hand as she had before. Then she decided she would try carrying it in both arms like a doll. That way both arms could help with the load.

Steadily she went down the hill. She was glad to see that the men were still talking. And the bell that called the people to church had not yet rung.

Sarah put the case at the feet of Brother Jones. Then she sat down by her father to rest. He put his hand on her head and smiled.

Brother Jones picked up his briefcase. Then he said, "Oh, lassie! I forgot to tell you to take out some of the big books. This is heavy. How did you ever carry it?"

Sarah answered quietly, "I asked God to help me. He knew I wanted a job to do, so He gave me one. And I remembered what we had learned about Nephi. He said the Lord would provide a way to do whatever He asked us to do. And He did!"

Zion's Hope Stories Book 2, adapted by Paul V. Ludy, pp. 97-100

Day 20, May 25th, 2020
Tuesday's Theme: "You Are Created After My Image"

By Small Means

By Steve Bohall

In my work, I have often driven into Kansas City. I have seen a lot of old churches in the city that are vacant. Some of them are beautiful buildings, but they are unused. I saw that one building was being demolished, and I learned a little about it. It was a Catholic church that was begun in 1911. Lack of money caused the people to cover the basement and worship in it for a number of years. The beautiful structure was finally completed about 1928. But it never came to be the success that was planned. It did not fulfill its destiny. People were not attending. Some moved away. And a different set of people moved into the neighborhood.

Hoping to interest more people, church leaders at one point installed a bowling alley in the basement. During some racial tension many years ago, there was an attempt to get young people off the streets. So they had a dance in the basement of that church. The police thought it was some kind of protest, and they fired tear gas into the church building.

How sad it was to see that building being demolished! It was a place that should have had a great effect in the community.

Apostle Arthur Oakman has told about the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church in Berlin. It had been bombed several times by the English in World War II. In later years, the only thing that

Ammon said unto him, I am a man; and man in the beginning, was created after the image of God, and I am called by his Holy Spirit to teach these things unto this people, that they may be brought to a knowledge of that which is just and true;

Alma 12:112

could be seen was the framework of the church. There were big holes in the walls. The church had contained a number of beautiful mosaics. All but one had been utterly destroyed. The remaining mosaic was practically undamaged. It was huge, and its color was stunning. It depicted the Magi offering their gifts to the Christ child. Brother Oakman said, "I could not help wondering if men had given their gifts to Him, as the mosaic depicted, would there have been any ruin?"

In their pride, men seek honor from one another. The Magi sought that which comes alone from offering their gifts to Christ. Love for Him will eventually bring peace on earth, as angels sought in their song at His birth. In the 1950's people in Berlin began to say they needed that church. So they built a new church building, but parts of the old bombed church were left standing as a memorial. One man who gave money to help rebuild was the pilot

Nothing men can ever do can make God stop blessing them. His will to them is one of never failing goodness. He does not love us because we are lovable. He loves us because he is love. He has paid us the almost intolerable compliment of loving us and will spare us or himself no pains until we shall be found in the likeness of his Son, Jesus Christ.

He Who Is, by Arthur Oakman, p. 75

of one of the bombers that had dropped bombs on that very building.

Towns come and go, and churches come and go. Some never live up to their potential.

We have a stewardship over the Church of Jesus Christ. The Church cannot be left to naught or to become a waste place. It is important, and we have to use it in the proper manner.

Our churches must not be allowed to go down to ruin. Our churches must not be victimized by selfishness over stewardship. Our churches must offer value to the world. We see that the need is desperate. Our branches are the loaves and the fishes. Little do we know the importance of one loaf or one fish.

How many loaves do we have? We may say, "Well, in our little church there are only a few of us." But what can the Lord do with a loaf or a fish? There is great value there. It is very desirable. It is like a pearl of great price. "The Lord God doth work by means to bring about his great and eternal purposes; and by very small means the Lord doth confound the wise and bringeth about the salvation of many souls" (Alma 17:36).

We sometimes think that the great things are in nice building and huge numbers of people. But the real worth is in your life and mine. The few loaves that we are or that we have can be multiplied and magnified by the Master of the universe. "With God nothing can be impossible" (Luke 1:37).

I believe the Lord calls to the Restoration branches today and asks, "How many loaves do you have?" We can't use the excuse that we don't have many. We need to espouse the value of being together and working together.

The Church must offer value to the world. We are called to be the instrument of salvation. The time will come that the world understands the value of this treasure just as the merchant in the parable understood the value of the pearl of great price. We must not offer an empty basket with only a few crumbs in it. The fullness of the gospel cannot be served with baskets which are only partially full.

We must, in faith, be ready to offer everything that we can possibly give, whether it is much or little. The gospel cannot be served by half-hearted Saints or people who are asking, "What is in it for me?" That which we are giving must be a pearl of great price and a treasure for the people around us and for the world.

"I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice – holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God is" (Romans 12:1-2).

The body is the body of Christ. The body must have value, and the world is waiting to receive that value. We are called to sacrifice for the work of the body and the salvation of the world.

***Restoration Voice*, #233, pp. 12-13**

Day 19, May 26th, 2020
Tuesday's Theme: "You Are Created After My Image"

Keeping Our Reunion Promises

By Mrs. Ray Wolfe
Webb City, Missouri

Many of us attended reunions this past season, finding wonderful schools there. At the end of the ten-day periods, we were able to say that we had found what we sought and more. We made big promises to God, to ourselves and to our brothers and sisters under the peaceful Spirit we found there, and those promises seemed easy to keep as long as we remained together in saintly fellowship. But when we returned home to take up routine duties, we have found it not so easy to live on the high plane. At home we found problems, difficulties, and the way is not so clear now. Nevertheless, if we have learned to love God a little better, and if His plan of life has become a little

And I, God, said unto mine Only Begotten, which was with me from the beginning, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and it was so.

Genesis 1:27

plainer to us, we shall be able to stand and have strength to do the task assigned us.

Since those peaceful reunion days, wars have begun abroad and rumors of strife and struggle encircle the world. Scarcely do we know how to pray at times. One thing we do know: "God is still King over all kings, Ruler over all." Let us pray that His will be done.

There is one battlefield which I feel is to be avoided above all others, and that is the battlefield of sin. Many victims are left there. Satan works havoc and destruction on this field. To resist him we must be obedient to divine law; we must rise up from our lethargy and indifference, and be prepared to oppose the forces of evil. Is the soul more

than the body? We say that it is, but are we fortified to protect it? Let us remember that Christ gave His life that we might live. Surely no suffering ever was so great as His. And today - is He smiling in approval upon our lives, or are we, by our thoughtlessness and our disobedience causing Him to suffer? What are we doing with the plan of life which He demonstrated for us? Let us arise and be about our Father's business.

Testimonies of the Saints,
compiled by Melvin Quick,
p. 10

We are free to follow after our own wills. *But we are bound hand and foot, because from ourselves there is no deliverance.* No man ever turned himself into his own creator.

He Who Is, by Arthur Oakman, p. 43

Day 18, May 27th, 2020
Wednesday's Theme: "Obey My Voice and Keep My Covenant"

Giving Up Sin

By Diane Anderson – Lamoni, Iowa

Recently, my husband Ed and I watched the movie *Faith of Our Fathers*, a story based on the true-life events of Senator John McCain's experiences as a prisoner of war in Vietnam. After his fighter jet was shot down and he activated his ejection device, he was captured by North Vietnamese soldiers. The movie was difficult to watch – and at times I was unable to do so. But it had a profound effect on my spiritual health.

As I grieved and repeatedly reflected on the inhumane treatment and torture of men, I thought of the depth of God's sadness to see His creation in such a heinous state. I wondered at the path men follow to lead them to a gutter, as it were, where the pain and sufferings of others at their mercy bring them pleasure. It hit me to the core as I considered this path.

The Holy Spirit opened my heart as I realized that the devil and his enticings to do evil are the starting blocks. Those seemingly "minor sins," such as "white lies," unjust anger, a refusal to forgive, or other such behaviors that we may think don't hurt anything are steps that help to forge the chains of the devil. Each time I indulge myself in some worldly pleasure – no matter how "harmless" it may seem – I help that old serpent add another link to the thick chain I don't want around my neck.

What I do want is to thank my heavenly Father for sending His Son Jesus Christ into this world of sin to give every soul an opportunity to repent, be forgiven, and obtain eternal life in His service. I realize that

Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people; for all the earth is mine.

Exodus 19:5

each "small sin" I commit brings pain to my heavenly Father. I know it does because I read in the Scriptures: "For I, the Lord, cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance; nevertheless, he that repents and does the commandments of the Lord shall be forgiven" (Doctrine and Covenants 1:5f; also see Alma 21:18).

My goal – to avoid sin, be in service to God, and endure to the end – is best summarized by Moroni when he wrote these words: "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 . . . Wherefore, I beseech you, brethren, that ye should search diligently in the light of Christ, that ye may know good from evil; and if ye will lay hold upon every good thing and condemn it not, ye certainly will be a child of Christ" (Moroni 7:10-18).

Restoration Voice, #233, p. 15

Understanding follows obedience, not vice versa, and obedience is a form of *preparation*, through which men receive the Holy Ghost.

God's Spiritual Universe, by Arthur Oakman, p. 108-109

Day 17, May 28th, 2020
Wednesday's Theme: "Obey My Voice and Keep My Covenant"

The Power of Truth

By Deborah L. Sherman
Seattle, Washington

It was about 37 years ago, that this Gospel came to me in power with much assurance, proving to me God's watchful care over us.

We were in the cattle business in the Blue Mountains, where a few settlers were scattered here and there. On Sundays we would meet at a little log schoolhouse where we held a union Sunday school.

On Sunday after our lesson study, we were told that a "Mormon" had asked for the schoolhouse to preach in, after our school was dismissed. We all became curious, thinking he was of the Utah Church. We had read of their practices and had heard different sayings in regards to the two churches, but even yet, some were not pleased.

Verily, thus saith the Lord, It shall come to pass that every soul who forsaketh his sins and cometh unto me, and calleth on my name, and obeyeth my voice, and keepeth my commandments, shall see my face, and know that I am, and that I am the true light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world;

D&C 90:1a

He was a short, well-built old gentleman, with a kind face and wonderful memory. He took his place in the stand, and asked for a hymn. Some sang, and some acted as if they had no desire to take part. We had been seeking for light, but as yet had failed to find a church like the one Christ organized while here upon this earth. Little did I realize I was to hear so soon of that for which I had been searching so long.

The minister offered prayer and I seemed to be lifted off my feet. I seemed to be standing in mid-air. After another song, he quietly glanced over the audience until his eyes fell upon me. He said, "Will you please bring your Bible up here and read

my text?" The letters I read seemed to stand out, and as I continued reading I was unconscious of my surroundings and of those who were ready to criticize him. All was peaceful and quiet as I took my seat among those of my class, consisting of ten young folks full of life and about my own age.

The minister gave a brief talk then commenced preaching. He seemed to cover the pages from Genesis to Revelation, and the time was very short. I know some souls were fed that day who had been starving, not for physical food, but for the word of God.

When he had finished, he asked us to stand. We sang "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow," then we were dismissed. The little band of mountaineers

The "Day of the Lord" will be hastened as we give ourselves *wholly* to the cause of the kingdom and obey the Spirit's impulses in our lives.

Resurrection and Eternal Life, by Arthur Oakman, p. 235-236

walked out of that place with bowed heads. They had nothing to say.

I asked the preacher if he would go home with us for dinner; but he said he was holding meetings across the Grande Ronde River, on what was known as Lost Prairie. The only mode of travel in that mountainous country was on horseback, and very slow progress was made, for the trails were long and steep.

He gave us tracts, references and books to study. Every opportunity we had we studied those Scriptures, until we became fully convinced that this was the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. We were looking forward to the time when the minister again might come to our little schoolhouse.

One day in early spring, just at the time the ice was breaking in the river, the elder came to our cabin on the banks of the Little Salmon River. He stayed with us that night and spent many hours answering our questions, giving us more light on the Gospel. Next morning as he was ready to mount the old gray mare, he turned to my husband and said, "Well Oscar, when will you be ready to be baptized?" My husband answered, "Tomorrow." Then turning to me he said, "What about you?" I answered, "I am ready also, if you think me worthy."

He then told us that a star had led him from Lost Prairie that day down the long winding trail across the river and up the trail on the other side, stopping just over

our cabin. By that he knew we were ready.

The next day, he led us both out in that river. He baptized my husband, then me. He led us both back one on either side.

There are some left who will remember the good Spirit that was with us on that day and the many good times we had together later. I have never doubted this work and I know that if we trust in God and are ready and willing to say, "Thy will be done," all will be well.

Since that eventful day I have had many trials, sorrows, deaths, and have made many mistakes, but I am still clinging to the ladder, trying to make the next rung. Through my own experience I can tell others, to search the Scriptures, ask for wisdom, trust in God, love your neighbors, and see all the good qualities of your brothers and your sisters. Let us together, be ready and willing to do our part, and we shall be as a big cable twisted so tightly together that nothing can tear us asunder.

Testimonies of the Saints, compiled by Melvin Quick, pp. 49-50

Day 16, May 29th, 2020
Wednesday's Theme: "Obey My Voice and Keep My Covenant"

A Mighty Man of God

By Mrs. Roy M. Young
Independence, Missouri

I wish here to relate a testimony which was divinely given to me concerning the President of our Church. In 1925, just before conference, I read the call to prayer in behalf of the conference. The call was sent out by the First Presidency. I felt much concerned about it and when in meditation on the matter, I said, "Lord, what can I do with work so pressing that I scarcely have time to pray?" Immediately I felt strongly impressed to pray. "Go and pray," were the words spoken to me. And instantly I was filled with the Spirit. I sought a secluded place and knelt in prayer and supplication. "Lord, thou knowest my limitations," I said, "But I am willing to do anything I can if it be only to bear a testimony. Lord, if thou hast a testimony for me, give it to me and I will give it to Thy people."

The next Sunday was the first Sunday in April, and in the Sacrament service when President Frederick M. Smith was bearing his testimony, these beautiful words were given to me by the Spirit: "He is a mighty man of God, our Prophet and our leader. Someday we shall know him better and appreciate him more."

I have borne testimony of this experience many times. This assurance never grows old. Let

By faith that new and eternal life may be appropriated by all through repentance—and what is more significant, in such faith is found the power to repent.

God's Spiritual Universe, by Arthur Oakman, p. 88

Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him.

Deuteronomy 8:6

us remember that when we are in the presence of President Smith we are in the presence of a mighty man of God, our Prophet and leader. Our love and appreciation are due him and our confidence and support.

I am grateful that the Lord has given me this testimony, and I wish to pass it on so that those who are weak and wavering may be strengthened to walk again in the straight and narrow way. It is he who remains steadfast and faithful to the end that is saved. Let us be faithful and strong members of the Church. Let us labor for Christ's cause with all our hearts.

Testimonies of the Saints, compiled by Melvin Quick, p. 40

Trust and Obey

When we walk with the Lord
In the light of His word
What a glory He sheds on our way
While we do His good will
He abides with us still
And with all who will trust and obey

Trust and Obey
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus
But to Trust and Obey

Why I Am a Latter Day Saint

By George W. Robley

It is somewhat difficult to tell all of the reasons why I continue to be a member of this Church of my choice, after over fifty years in its communion, but I will record some of them, as they appear to me to be a reasonable answer to the question, Why am I a member of the Church?

I can hardly say that I selected this Church in preference to others, because I never belonged to any other and, in fact, knew nothing about churches or what they believed, and cared really less. I think it would be better to say that the Church selected me; or better still, say that the Spirit of God drew me to His Church, and that in order to be honest with myself I was compelled to come in.

I am a Latter Day Saint

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me. And now for a man to take up his cross, is to deny himself all ungodliness, and every worldly lust, and keep my commandments."

Matthew 16:25-26

then, first, because of the influence of the divine power of God manifested through the Holy Spirit, which I felt as a melting and beautiful influence whenever I was in the assembly of the Saints. It had a peculiar effect upon me, as it made me see my defects, morally and spiritually, and urged me to try to overcome them. And these thoughts remained with me, whether I was in a meeting or not. I began to leave off some of the things that I thought would displease God; and then the urge became greater to yield all and obey all of the law of God. Not being hindered much by any creed, my mind was somewhat virgin soil for the teachings of the Church.

A few days after my baptism, I attended a prayer meeting and spoke a few words, and immediately a

sister arose and said I was a "chosen vessel of the Lord to do a work for Him." I had read in the New Testament, just before coming to the services, that many were called but few chosen, and I wondered if I were among those that would be chosen of God to do His work. I had prayed about this and desired to know, and this was the answer.

At the time I became acquainted with the Church, I knew absolutely nothing about the Scriptures. About the only verse in the whole Bible that I knew was, "Jesus wept." However, I soon found a necessity of knowing more than that, because I found that a simple assertion that, "I know the Gospel is true," did not satisfy either my boy companions or my adult friends. So from necessity I began to study; first, the standard books of the Church; next, every book which was published by the Church, then, that I could buy or borrow. I went to the

...men can only build up his kingdom if all they have is yielded in obedience to the demands of the divine Spirit, a gift which they in no way originate, but to which they subordinate their lives.

God's Spiritual Universe, by Arthur Oakman, p. 111

public libraries and began to read all of the books on American archaeology that I could find.

Armed with some of these facts, I thought I could convince almost anybody that this Church was the Church of God. It was not long, however, before I found out that it was one thing to know something yourself, and quite another thing to convince others. I met with all kinds of questions that were hard to answer, so I continued to study. I would not advise any young man to read the number of books that I did without guidance. I asked no advice; I just went ahead. If I had asked advice of some of the elders I knew, I am quite certain they would not have advised me to read some of the books I read. Some of them were: The Koran, Thomas Paine's Age of Reason, The Synthetic Philosophy of Spencer, Darwin's books, Ingersoll's Lectures, and I don't know what else, with a hodgepodge of good reading, trash, astronomy, philosophy, and theology, church history, ancient and modern.

I am a Latter Day Saint because the Gospel as taught by this Church is a superior philosophy to anything that has been taught from the times of Thales of Melitus up to the latest philosopher.

I am a member of the Church because the Church teaches that God is unchangeable, and will do for His people today what He did for them yesterday.

I am a Latter Day Saint now because in all of my reading and searching I have failed to find anything better; in fact, I have found nothing as good; and when it comes to churches, there is no organization I have found which fills the spiritual bill as nicely as does the Church I represent.

First, it has the laws as taught by Christ,

all of them. Second, it has the divine officers put in the Church by Christ and His apostles to carry out those laws. Third, it has the Holy Ghost that is given to the members of the body of Christ, if and as they live faithful to the covenant made with God in the waters of baptism.

This Holy Ghost acts as the Holy Spirit did when the early Christians received it. It is an actual power, or force, and is sensibly felt by the human body and in the human mind. It is intelligent, and it reveals God, and Jesus Christ whom God sent.

All of the gifts given by God and mentioned by Paul in the 12th chapter of the 1st Corinthian's are in the Church and there are more.

Fourth, the Church desires to carry out the Christ principle of the Golden Rule, and in such a practical way that the sentiment uttered in the Declaration of Independence may be a fact in this life; "All men are created equal."

Whether Zion ever becomes an actual fact or not, one thing must be said: the principle is godlike and must meet with the good will of the Divine.

I am a Latter Day Saint because, in obedience to the law of God as taught by the Church, I received an actual power that rested upon me, not imagination, but an intelligent power which can hardly be described, but can be very sensibly felt. This power made me know that it was God's power, and it filled my mind with the most holy thoughts.

Testimonies of the Saints, compiled by
Melvin Quick, pp. 41-42

Day 14, May 31st, 2020
Wednesday's Theme: "Obey My Voice and Keep My Covenant"

An Impressive Evidence of the Gospel's Truthfulness

By Elsie Slocum

Over fifty years ago Brother's Columbus Scott and James McIntosh were doing missionary work near my home in Ontario, Canada. The meetings were held in the home of my neighbor, Mr. Brown, who invited my husband and me to attend.

After we had attended one service, we were visited by Brother McIntosh, who talked concerning the restored Gospel and the blessings which God was bestowing upon His people. I said to him, "If what you are telling us is true, it is the most wonderful thing I have ever heard...". "It is the truth," the elder replied, "Nothing can take from me the knowledge I have that this is the Gospel restored in its purity as has been promised. And, sister, when you kneel down tonight to pray, if you will ask God, I feel sure that He will let you know that what I am telling you is the truth!"

That night as I knelt at my bedside to pray, I asked God to show me if the elder was telling us the truth. I did not expect an answer; I believed the days were past when God spoke to the people. I had been reared in the Presbyterian Church, and believed that God heard our prayers, but that we had to be guided by what was written in the Bible.

In the night I had a dream which, while it

And they testify that a man must be obedient to the commandments of God.

1 Nephi 7:67

contained much significance to me personally, also has sufficient general application to make it of interest to many people. I dreamed that I stood in an open common. Over on the right were a group of people gathered about one who seemed to be preaching. I went over to hear what he had to say. As I drew near, this man turned to me and told me a little of what he was teaching. I went over to hear what he had to say. Then he said that I should be baptized. I replied that I had already been baptized, referring to my baptism when an infant, by sprinkling. The preacher said, "But that was muddy water!" Then he explained the Gospel to me, and convinced me that it was the truth, the restored Gospel.

Near where the preacher stood, I saw what looked like an open grave. There were steps cut in the ground and leading down into the grave which was partially filled with water. I was ready and willing to be baptized, so he took me by the hand and led me down the steps into the water. Still holding my

Can a conscientious doctor look on any cancer in a patient, however small and apparently insignificant, with the "least degree of allowance"? No. "Have it cut out," he tells the patient, "or it will kill you." Sin is like cancer. It has within itself no means of cure and it feeds on the best of men.

Resurrection and Eternal Life, by Arthur Oakman, p. 95-96

hand, he lifted his other hand, and saying, "Elsie, I baptized you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost," he buried me under the water. Then leading me up out of the grave, he said, "You are now a child of God."

Thinking that I was now on my way to Heaven, I walked west a short distance until I came to a straight road running north and called it the King's Highway. The road was raised about two feet higher than the ground, and was covered with very small, shiny white pebbles. On this road I was given a spiritual guide, not a man of flesh, but a shadowy form of a man. I was not afraid as I knew that he was my guide. He stayed by my side all the way.

There seemed to be a fog over the road ahead; I could see only a short distance before me. After walking what seemed to me a long distance, I came to the end of the highway. On the left hand side was a large gate. This gate was in two parts, each section seeming to be at least six feet wide and over twelve feet high. I thought it was the gate to Heaven. On the right side were a number of booths, some large and some small. In these booths were people dancing, drinking, playing cards, etc. A man came toward me from the direction of the booths, and tried to persuade me to go over there and enjoy the amusements. He said, "Don't go in there where those gates are; that is not heaven, it is hell. There are thunder and lightning in there!"

I felt very sad, as I had come a long way expecting to get into Heaven. Pausing only a moment, I clasped my hands together, and looking upward, said: "Hitherto hath the Lord led me, and I will go in!" As soon as I said those words, the big gates opened, and I

walked in.

When the gates closed, I saw my brother's wife standing just inside. At one side of the gate stood also a man who looked like a monk. He had on a long cloak and black hood; his head was bowed, and he was muttering prayers.

My sister-in-law and I started to go forward to that which we expected to see – the Holy City. We had gone only a few steps when an angel passed us and spoke to the monk, saying, "That is not the way to serve the Lord your God, with a hanging head and a drooping countenance. Lift up your head and with a joyful countenance serve the Lord your God."

I cannot express how happy I felt. I said to my sister-in-law, "Oh I wish I could go out and tell them to come in, that this is Heaven after all!" "Yes," was her reply, "but those who come in cannot go out again."

There seemed to be a light pink fog before us which receded as we walked forward; occasionally we could hear what seemed to be a faint rumble of thunder. We kept going on and soon we could see the fronts of the roofs of buildings through the fog, shining like gold. The Holy City! Then I awoke.

My husband and I went several times to hear the Gospel preached, and sat up late at night studying the Scriptures. Finally, we were convinced of the truthfulness of the gospel and were baptized by Brother Columbus Scott. Since then I have received many evidences of the truthfulness of the Gospel.

Testimonies of the Saints, compiled by
Melvin Quick, pp. 37-38

A Message of Reassurance

By Helena Stark
Oak Grove, Missouri

Not long ago I arose in the night, and a message came to me from one whose presence I felt in the room but did not see. This is what was given: "Let nothing separate thee from Me, or from the work whereunto I have called thee."

Before I became a member of Christ's Church, I was honest and feared to offend God, and so he blessed me with a portion of his Spirit from time to time. But I did not understand the working of that Spirit as I do now, neither did it give to me the help I now have in the development

There is no other name given, whereby salvation cometh, therefore, I would that ye should take upon you the name of Christ, all you that have entered into the covenant with God, that ye should be obedient unto the end of your lives.
Mosiah 3:11

of my talents.

I believe that God gives to all honest hearted people a portion of his Spirit no matter to what church they belong. But only to the followers of Christ, those who obey his gospel, is the Abiding Comforter promised which will lead into all truth and give the more abundant life.

I believe that the honest in heart will be brought into the fold in God's own way and in his due time. Those who really want the gospel of the kingdom will be led out from other churches and into the one Christ established, for it tells us

in Ephesians 4:5, "One Lord, one faith, one baptism," and in Jude 3 the people are told to contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints. So we who are called Saints must be wide awake.

At one time when my trials seemed more than I could bear, a poem message was given to me which brought me courage and faith. I have given it to a few of my brothers and sisters, but there are many who should have these precious words. I sent it to the *Herald* and feel assured that those who are passing through severe trials and temptations will find help there.

We must unlearn all the conceit and self-will we have acquired, for in us, as in all men, the selfish drift of centuries must be arrested and reversed.

Resurrection and Eternal Life, by Arthur Oakman, p. 201

I UNDERSTAND

Hast thou been hungry, child of mine?
I, too, have needed bread;
For forty days I tasted naught
Till by the angels fed.
Hast thou been thirsty? On the Cross
I suffered thirst for thee;
I've promised to supply thy need –
My child, come unto me.

Perhaps thy way is weary oft,
Thy feet grow tired and lame;
I wearied when I reached the well,
I suffered just the same;
And when I bore the heavy cross,
I fainted 'neath the load;
And so I've promised rest to all
Who walk the weary road.

Doth Satan sometimes buffet thee,
And tempt thy soul to sin?
Do faith and hope and love grow weak?
Are doubts and fears within?
Remember I was tempted thrice
By this same foe of thine;
But he could not resist the Word,
Or conquer power divine.

When thou art sad and tears fall fast,
My heart goes out to thee,
For I wept o'er Jerusalem –
The place so dear to me;
And when I came to Lazarus' tomb,
I wept – my heart was sore;
I'll comfort thee when thou dost weep
Till sorrows all are o'er.

Do hearts prove false when thine is true?
I know the bitter dart;
I was betrayed by one I loved –
I died of broken heart.
I loved my own, they loved me not,
My heart was lonely, too;
I'll never leave thee, child of mine,
My loving heart is true.

Art thou discouraged in thy work?
Doth ministry seem vain?
I ministered 'midst unbelief,
Midst those with greed of gain;
They would not hearken to my voice,
But scoffed with one accord;
Thy labor never is in vain,
If done unto the Lord.

Have courage then, my faithful one,
I suffered all the way;
Thy sensitive and loving heart
I understand today.
Whate'er thy grief, whate'er thy care,
Just bring it unto me;
Yea, in thy day of trouble call,
I will deliver thee.

Day 12, June 2nd, 2020
Thursday's Theme: "Fear Me and Sacrifice All"

To Whom Shall We Go?

By Steve Ruoff

"Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God." (John 6:67-69)

Sixteen years ago, I had an experience which opened my spiritual eyes to an understanding of that which the twelve realized at Capernaum. As a result of this experience, I understand to a greater degree than ever before that there was no place else for me to turn. There was nothing that this world had to offer which was worth giving up that which the Lord Jesus promised to those who were obedient to His commandments – and who would love and endure to the end.

The year 1975 had been a good one for me. After several years of struggling, I began to understand that I must walk in the pathways in which the Lord had called me to walk. In February, I was ordained to the office of priest. In October of that same year, I was elected branch president of the Sacramento, California Branch. In September, we found that we were expecting our first child. Things couldn't have been going much better. I thought, "How wonderful it is to be in the service of the Lord."

Then things changed. I began to feel that I had some physical problem. We were in the military at the time, so I went to a doctor on the base. The very next day, he sent me to a regional health center at Travis Air Force Base. I was given a thorough examination. Then, on a Thursday morning, I listened to a doctor tell me that what I had could be a tumor – and if it was, it could cost me my life.

At three o'clock that afternoon, I woke up from surgery. The first thing I did was look into the face of the nurse and ask her if I had cancer. She simply nodded her head, "Yes."

The initial reports from the doctors were good.

For now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only Isaac from me.

Genesis 22:15

The type of cancer which I had could be treated by radiation. There was a 95 percent chance that I would recover. Apparently, that wasn't good enough to cause me to turn to the Lord, because I simply said, "Well, we'll just leave that in the Lord's hands. Surely, He can handle the 5 percent."

The following Thursday, the doctor came to my bedside and dropped a bombshell on me. Looking somewhat forlorn, he said, "Steve, your reports have come back from the National Pathology Lab. Your chances for survival have decreased significantly. You have a multiple-cell tumor that is growing faster than we had thought. We're not sure what the outcome is going to be."

I controlled my emotions for a short period of time. Then the nurse, sensing that I needed to be alone, put me in a room where I cried for three hours. Although I thought that I would never utter such a phrase, I said over and over, "Why me, Lord?"

In the days that followed, my concerns were caught up in my family and in thoughts of perhaps never seeing my son. Many tears were shed as I contemplated that which was ahead.

Then, the Lord opened my eyes to an understanding of that which is greater than those things for which I had been concerned. I began to realize that the life which I had lived, although I thought it was going pretty well, was not sufficient for me to stand before the judgment bar of God. I felt that my opportunity had been lost – the opportunity to declare my allegiance to God, and to

...the kingdom of God has only love by which it can achieve its purpose; and the only instrument which love knows by which it can achieve its purpose is sacrifice. Love is the discovery of one's self in the act of sacrifice.

He Who Is, by Arthur Oakman, p. 108

demonstrate it in the life which I lived.

I began to pray, not that I might see my son born, not that I might spend the rest of my life with my wife, although those things were terribly important to me. The primary focus of my concerns and my prayers turned to asking the Lord to allow me to have another opportunity to live for Him. I did not want to pass from this life and present my life to my Lord. I knew that it wasn't worthy of that which He had to offer. I wanted to live eternally in the presence of God and His Son, Jesus Christ.

That thought became the focus of my petitions unto my Lord. I realized that the commitment which I had previously made, was one of convenience. If it was convenient for me to serve the Lord, then I was committed. If it interfered with the life which I was living, and it wasn't convenient, then I wasn't committed.

The news of test results became worse and worse. The tests indicated that the cancer had spread into my lymph system. The chances for my survival continued to decline. There was nowhere else for me to turn.

One evening, I lay in a hospital bed in California, facing a second major surgery to remove the lymph nodes (a surgery which the doctors indicated could in and of itself cost me my life). Although my wife and my mother were at my bedside that evening, I was far from the Saints in Independence, far from my family. I just wondered what the Lord had in store for me, whether I would even wake up from this surgery!

My father, who was in Independence, did something that evening that he hadn't done for some time. You see, he too had nowhere else to turn. He was not willing to leave the fate of his son in the hands of the world. And so, he took my brothers and sisters and he went to prayer service.

The Lord honored the desire and the faith that was exhibited that night. He spoke to my father in the Spirit of prophecy, and said, "I have heard the prayers of the Saints. I am aware of the condition of your son, and I will bless him."

As soon as my father arrived home, he called California and shared that experience. The Spirit of Peace came over me that night, as I realized that my life was in the Lord's hands. I knew that those hands were capable, and I trusted Him.

Two years later, after the surgeries and after radiation therapy, I was struggling with my testimony concerning this experience. I had asked the Lord over and over to confirm to me whether or not it had been His involvement that had made me well. I didn't want to stand before the Saints and bear testimony that I had been healed by the power of God if it was not true. I wasn't sure if it had been the hands of the doctors, or the radiation therapy, or if it was the Lord's intervention.

That summer I went to a weekend retreat. The Lord spoke to me through the Spirit of prophecy. He said, "It was by the power of my Spirit that that which is in you was arrested." That message came through the presiding elder, who had no knowledge of my concern or my struggle.

Brothers and sisters, my experience has brought me to a keen awareness of the finite and fragile nature of mankind. I understand to a greater degree than ever before that this life is given that men might prepare to meet God. After the day of this life, there can be no labor performed.

Saints, NOW is the time and the day of our salvation. The direction in which we set our sails in this life, is the direction in which we shall find ourselves going in eternity. It is the force that shall govern that which we will become in the life hereafter. For that spirit and character and personality and allegiance which is demonstrated in this life, shall have power to possess our bodies in the life to come.

We shall not suddenly change that which we are, or that which we have become in this life, when we shed this tabernacle of clay. Our allegiances will not change simply because we have separated ourselves from our bodies. WE SHALL BE THAT WHICH WE ARE! If Jesus Christ has been at the center and the focus of our lives in this life, so shall He be in the life to come.

Living Testimonies, Book 2, pp. 16-17

Day 11, June 3rd, 2020
Thursday's Theme: "Fear Me and Sacrifice All"

Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

2 Corinthians 7:1

I Had an Experience

By Apostle D. O. Chesworth

From the pulpits and in the classrooms, as well as at reunions and weekend institutes, we have received instruction concerning the efficacy of the ordinances of the Gospel. In our epitome of faith is the statement: "We believe all men may be saved by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel."

Early in the history of the Church (1832) on the anniversary of his receiving the plates under the direction of Moroni, the Prophet Joseph presented what is designated as a revelation on priesthood. Herein the church is told that "in the ordinances thereof the power of godliness is manifest; and without the ordinances thereof, and the authority of the priesthood, the power of godliness is not manifest unto men in the flesh" (Doctrine and Covenants 83:3c).

Three months later, July 25th, at Blue Water Reunion, while administering to the sick through the ordinances and the power of the holy priesthood, we were permitted to go

behind "the veil"; there, five elders and the candidate enjoyed a few moments in the courts of glory. This joy, which we experienced in the divine Presence and about which I write, has been promised to those who would share in the Master's service. I testify that this promise is genuine.

Testimonies of the Saints, compiled by
Melvin Quick, p. 88

This is no easy gospel. If you are looking for an easy way, this is not the place to find it. There is no remission of sins without sacrifice. There is no restoration of the image of God in the souls of men unless other men are willing to suffer that it might be restored.

He Who Is, by Arthur Oakman, p. 42

Day 10, June 4th, 2020
Thursday's Theme: "Fear Me and Sacrifice All"

A Marvelous Experience

By Emerton J. Williams – Fresno, California

Since my letter in which I mentioned Brother Bob Fowler, appeared in the Herald of November 4, 1939, I have received several messages requesting more of my experiences, and today, I received a letter from Brother Fowler's sister in Pennsylvania. She also sent me a copy of a book of her mother's testimonies.

When the 18th Amendment was repealed, I felt so strongly about the matter, that I said I would never again darken a church door. I felt that those who professed to be Christians had fallen down on the task of keeping out liquor and of enforcing the law as it stood. I had been a Baptist 41 years.

Then God sent into my life an angel for a companion. The first time I met her, she asked me to go to Modesto, California, to church with her, saying, "Brother Frederick M. Smith, our President, is going to preach." In reply, I said: "Let's have an understanding. Should we marry, I will never join your church. I am of English and Welsh descent, and set in my ways, and am done with churches!" "You couldn't join our church unless you understood it," she smiled.

We went that evening, and I marveled at the sermon. Afterwards, Brother Smith shook hands with me and asked: "Are you a Saint?" "No," I answered. "I am a Baptist." "You will be a Saint some day," said he. I thought: "That's what you think."

My calling to join the Church, I feel, was equal to that of Paul. We were at the Modesto church a third time. We were listening to a stimulating sermon when suddenly a beautiful light glowed around the speaker's head. I rubbed my eyes, looked back at the

...Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come; and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

Revelations 14:7

door and wondered what this meant. When I looked again at the speaker, God had transfigured his face; his countenance was the most beautiful I have ever seen. He stopped preaching and said: "Thus saith the Lord, arise, Brother Mert, and be baptized. I have a work for you to do."

When the service was over, a sister sitting back of me said: "Wasn't that the most beautiful sight you ever saw?" "What?" I inquired. "Why that beautiful light and Brother Howe's face." My little companion nodded and said: "Yes, Daddy, I saw it too." We three were witnesses to this divine experience. My companion also saw angels stand around Brother Howe several times when he was preaching under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

Testimonies of the Saints, compiled by Melvin Quick, p. 69

The affirmation in the gospel is that "once for all" there is no salvation in any other name, and no other sacrifice can avail to redeem man and set him free to pursue the good which is good absolutely, because it is that which God himself seeks.

Resurrection and Eternal Life, by Arthur Oakman, p. 57

Of Such Is The Kingdom

By Le Roy Palmer

I began to realize that Charlie was a special child about the third day of the Ozark Reunion. The children had joined the adults for a general prayer service and I was on the rostrum. As I looked out at the people's faces, my eyes fell upon a young boy about eleven years old. Tears were streaming down his face and I knew that he was having an experience with his Lord.

On another occasion, I observed him standing apart from the camp, obviously engage in prayer.

Friday morning, we had a prayer and testimony service for the children, aged twelve and younger. During the service, Charlie stood and gave a beautiful prayer. Then, instead of sitting down, he turned and left the

Fear God and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and sea, and the fountain of waters, calling upon the name of the Lord day and night, saying: O that thou wouldst rend the heavens, that thou wouldst come down, that the mountains might flow down at thy presence.

D&C 108:7c

assembly. He went a short distance from the group and knelt in prayer.

I followed him and knelt beside him and listened to him. In his prayer, he thanked God and praised Him in a way few adults could pray.

As I knelt there beside him, the Spirit of God came over me and I was given to know that this child was very special in the eyes of God and that God had a specific work for him to do one day.

Finally, Charlie rose and together, we went back to the group. By this time, they were into the testimony portion of the service. Charlie stood and told us that he had seen Christ in the grass and the flowers

and in the people around him.

God's presence was so strong in that gathering that three children spoke under the influence of His Spirit.

Later I went to Charlie's parents and told them of our experience and of the knowledge I had received about their son. They told me that when Charlie was born, God had told both of them that he was a special child set apart for a great work.

Called To Witness
(August 1974), p. 13

If we are to be delivered from ourselves, it can only be by the power of love, for love is the only power known to men by which men can go against themselves and yet be free. Love has only one means by which it can accomplish its purpose, and that one means is sacrifice.

He Who Is, by Arthur Oakman, p. 58

An Immediate Answer to Prayer

By Frank H. Laverty – Senlac, Saskatchewan

Reading of the divine experiences of others makes me want to tell you of an extraordinary blessing which was given to me. It was in the month of May, 1927. I started a little fire in front of our house, thinking it was a good time to burn the rubbish which had collected in the yard during the winter.

We had had several dry days, and there was a fence close to the place where I built the fire. The fire which I started was not large, and I thought that I could watch it as I worked around near it; I had no thought of the flames spreading. I was hard at work when suddenly I realized that the wind had risen and was blowing the fire near the fence. There were dead weeds and grasses along the fence, and soon the fire was roaring up the posts. I fought hard trying to extinguish the flames, but they rushed past me as fire can when backed by a brisk wind.

There was a road between the end of the fence and the straw stack and granary, and I thought that it would surely stop the conflagration. My wife and I and three or four of the children secured wet sacks and tried to beat out the flames. We carried water from a

And it shall come to pass that he that feareth me shall be looking forth for the great day of the Lord to come, even for the signs of the coming of the Son of man;

D&C 45:6a

nearby lake and did everything we could to pound out those licking red tongues of fire. But our efforts were not successful; the flames burned up the fence posts, jumped the road, and sped like mad into the straw which was piled up over the end of the granary. There was about 700 bushels of wheat in the granary and 130 bushels of chop-feed and a grain crusher. If the granary and its contents were burned, we could not seed the land that spring.

We had done all we could, but the fire had been helped by a strong wind which had risen since I lit the bonfire. Desperately I grabbed the water pail and started for the lake. I was getting nervous and excited, and as it has always been my habit to try to check my nerves, I paused a moment. Then I heard a voice say as if someone were by my side: "Be calm in thy soul and pray." I looked back at the fire flaming eight or ten feet high in the straw pile by the granary. Again the voice commanded: "Pray!" "Why pray now? It's far into the dry straw – we can't stop it!"

We must sacrifice our present life in this world if we would attain to the blessings which we will obtain when Zion is fully redeemed. It means that the principle of sacrificial love must dominate our lives.

The Call of Christ in an Age of Dilemma, by Arthur Oakman, p. 42

“Haven’t you seen those who were given up to die raised by the hands of the elders of the branch?” questioned the voice; “pray.” I obeyed this time. Kneeling down I poured out my feelings something like this: “Dear Lord, we have done all we can. We can do no more. We know You have answered our prayers many times. Will you please cause this fire to stop? In Jesus’ name I ask it. Amen.” I arose from my knees feeling that my prayer would be answered.

Looking up the road I saw coming two plowing outfits. They had seen the fire for a half a mile or more and were coming to offer help. As I went to meet them, I turned and looked at the straw pile and granary. The fire had gone out, but still was smoking. The wind had changed directions, and the flames had died down. They had burned to within about four or five feet of the granary where the straw was nearly six feet deep and very dry. In answer to prayer the fire had been extinguished by the power of God.

The charred fence posts and other posts are still standing as a reminder to me of God’s great blessing on the day. My wife told me afterward that she had prayed for help in putting the fire out two or three times during the battle against it. She has great faith in prayer, and has had her petitions answered many times. We are very thankful to God for His goodness to us. After hearing about the fire, several of the brothers in Artland Branch, of which we are members, came out to see for themselves. “Nothing but answer to prayer could ever

have saved that granary,” they said, and I agreed with them.

Testimonies of the Saints, compiled by Melvin Quick, p. 16

Day 7, June 7th, 2020
Thursday's Theme: "Fear Me and Sacrifice All"

Sanctification – The Law Of Life

By Hermann Peisker

Jesus was already sinless and holy. He had no need of mental, moral, or physical cleansing. The act by which He "sanctified" Himself was as high priest for the human race.

In the days of ancient Israel, after the firstborn sons had been saved by the blood of the Passover lamb, "the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, sanctify unto me all the firstborn . . . among the children of Israel . . . It is mine . . . The firstborn of thy sons shalt thou give unto me" (Exodus 13:1-2, 22:29). The "firstborn" represented each family before the Lord.

Later, the whole tribe of Levi was separated and consecrated to the Lord in the place of the firstborn: "I have taken the Levites from among the children of Israel instead of all the firstborn; therefore, the Levites shall be mine" (Numbers 3:12). The right hand, ear, eye, and foot of each priest was touched

Ye shall walk after the Lord your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.

Deuteronomy 13:4

with the blood of sacrifice, symbolizing the full consecration of every faculty and power to the service of the Lord. The tribe of Levi was set apart and "sanctified" as representative of the whole nation.

As the Levites represented Israel, Israel in turn stood as the representative of the human race before God. When the Lord took Israel out of Egypt for Himself, He said "Ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people; for all the earth is mine; and ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Exodus 19:5-6). They were not His favorites because they alone were His, but because He designed them to show forth in one nation what all should be – a nation of priests, the part for the whole. Paul also said: "If the firstfruit is holy, the lump is also holy" (Romans 11:16). Jeremiah called Israel "the firstfruits of

his increase" (Jeremiah 2:3).

Jesus Christ was both the "firstborn" and also the "firstfruits" of both Israel and also the human race. He was set apart, devoted, and appointed by a divine decree to represent humanity before God as their great high priest: "Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest, because I said, I am the Son of God?" (John 10:36).

Jesus had already been sanctified by the Father – selected, consecrated, and devoted for a special work. In this prayer He freely accepts the appointment of the Father and makes it His own act. "I sanctify myself." In Him God loved the world.

Restoration Voice, #233,
p. 19

We talk about the good times to come and speak of the day when we shall dwell in peace and unity and harmony. But we ought to live as if that day were already here; the only condition upon which that day ever can be here is that we live as if it were now with us.

The Call of Christ in an Age of Dilemma, by Arthur Oakman, p. 62-63

Day 6, June 8th, 2020
Friday's Theme: "This is My Son...Hear Ye Him"

A Spiritual Dream of Jesus

By Sister J. Kent
Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

I was reared in the Gospel, my parents being baptized by Brother Joseph Burton. I remember the Burtons well and Brother T. W. Smith. I received my patriarchal blessing from Brother Alexander Smith, on my 21st birthday.

I have received many, many blessings from the Heavenly Father, and know from personal experience that God does help us in our hour of need. I have had remarkable experiences along this line; have been blessed with spiritual dreams, and have been visited and spoken to by angels. Always I have had a keen appreciation of our blessed Redeemer, and I suppose that accounts for the fact that I have been permitted to see Him in a dream as He preached to a multitude of people in the holy land. The people were dressed as they did in the days when the Savior was on earth, and they sat about on what appeared to be sandstone knolls. Our beloved Master, robed white, stood in their midst and read out of a book to them. The beauty of His countenance was glorious to behold. Never have I seen a human face so perfect in contour and coloring. I seemed to

While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and, behold, a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

Matthew 17:4

stand beside Him, and a prayer of thankfulness went from my heart to God that He had permitted me to see the Redeemer. How the sweetness and humility of Jesus' face impressed me! After He had finished reading, He addressed the mothers on the importance of teaching their children while they were young, giving them spiritual training. In my dream my son was with me, and several times, he asked the Savior questions. Smiling kindly the Master answered, and Jack's face glowed with pleasure.

Testimonies of the Saints, compiled by
Melvin Quick, p. 71

...Christ who knew no sin was made sin for us. In the Lord Jesus Christ the sin of man is shot through with the radiance of the love of God. For Jesus said to himself, "If I can put sin in my body and can make men see it for what it really is, if I can illumine it so that it shines down through the years across the centuries, if I can do this in a way that will arrest their attention, perhaps they will come to love me, and in the measure of their love for me they will come to hate sin. And then in my strength I can help them do away with it."

He Who Is, by Arthur Oakman, pp. 100

Come Unto Christ

By Merva Bird – Bates City, Missouri

Come unto Christ now, and feast on His words
That tell you the way to His Kingdom;
Reach forth your hand and hold fast to the Rod;
There's no other way to His Kingdom.
You'll not be deceived by the tempter of men,
Although he will try you again and again,
If only you trust and endure to the end;
For there's no other way to the Kingdom.

Come unto Christ; He is calling to you
To show you the way to His Kingdom;
Choose now His straight way; be faithful and true.
There's no other way to His Kingdom.
Come unto Jesus and walk in His way.
Be faithful, repent, all His precepts obey;
Choose Him Who loves you while it is yet day,
For there's no other way to His Kingdom.

Come unto Christ; be perfected in Him.
His is the way to the Kingdom.
His truth shineth bright through a wilderness dim;
His is the way to the Kingdom.
Come to your Savior; serve Him with your might;
Hold fast the gospel and walk in the light.
The way straight and narrow will always be bright,
For there's no other way to His Kingdom.

Restoration Voice, #233, p. 32

Day 5, June 9th, 2020
Friday's Theme: "This is My Son...Hear Ye Him"

And it said unto them, Behold, my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, in whom I have glorified my name, hear ye him.

3 Nephi 5:8

An Experience of Divine Healing

By J. L. Sandige
Saskatchewan, Canada

I seldom write anything for publication in the columns of our valuable little missionary paper, but the thought has come to me a number of times that I should write of a confirming experience in divine healing by which a young sister was healed of an acute attack of appendicitis.

This took place in August of last year. After returning home from quite a strenuous day of hill climbing and berry picking, the young lady complained of her appendix hurting, and her mother called on me to administer. I had planned to do this later on in the evening but received word to come at once. I found the young sister in agony, and I proceeded

at once with the anointing. When I commenced to pray she appeared to gain immediate relief and became calm, and immediately after I finished the administration she felt a great deal better. That evening she attended the service and helped with the singing without the least sign of pain. The next day she went about her daily activities on the farm and was free from distress.

About two months afterwards, I visited the home again and found her in good health. This family lives in the country fourteen miles from Maple Creek, Saskatchewan, and are Latter Day Saints. There are ten children, and though isolated, they have their own Sunday school regularly and the family altar every day in which all who are old enough take part.

The power of the "Angel's Message" still continues, and to God be the praise.

Testimonies of the Saints, compiled by Melvin Quick, p. 32

What men need is twofold. They need to know the *direction* in which they should go, and they need to have *power* to take that way. "I am the way," said Christ.

Resurrection and Eternal Life, by Arthur Oakman, p. 246

When Zion is Near

By Camilla Collins

"Mother, is this the day?" John asked soon after he woke up.

"Yes, John, this is the day!" she told him.

John hummed and sang as he helped pack some of his things. He wanted to take a few books and toys. His mother sang along with him,

"We're traveling off to reunion with lots of families. The bells will ring, and we'll all sing, of Jesus 'neath the trees."

Soon the suitcases and other things were in the car. Then John, his little brother Aaron, and their parents were on their way to reunion.

"Let's share a going-to-reunion game," suggested their mother. "It will be like our going-to-church game. You start it, John."

"I like to go to reunion to sleep in a tent. And I like to visit with people. And I like to be in a class. And I like to have my birthday - but not my birthday cake."

"That's right, John, we will have a party when we get back home. Now it's my turn. I like to go to reunion to learn. And I like to help the little children learn more about Jesus."

"You take Aaron's turn, Mother. He's too little," John said.

And he that will hear my voice, shall be my sheep; and him shall ye receive into the church; and him will I also receive.

Mosiah 11:128

"Well, I'm sure Aaron will like to sing and play. And he will like to see all the pictures of Jesus. Won't you, Aaron?"

"He would answer if he could," said John. "Now it's Daddy's turn."

His father said, "Well, I like to go to reunion because God meets with us there, too. He sends His Spirit as we pray and sing and think about Him. And sometimes He speaks to us through His ministers."

"Really?" asked John. He had not heard that before. "What does He say?"

"If God is pleased with His people, He tells us He is happy," his father replied. "But if we have not done right, He tells us how to do better. Almost always He talks to us about building His Zion."

"We can have Zion in our tent, can't we, Daddy?" asked John. "Mother and I have it all planned. Oh, I can

In the Lord Jesus Christ humanity behaved as God had intended it should. The only perfect measure of material things in the visible universe would be a perfect man, and there was only one perfect man. What he has to say about life is thus supremely important.

He Who Is, by Arthur Oakman, p. 77

hardly wait!"

At last, the family came to the campgrounds. Their tent was under a big tree not too far from the lake.

"Now we can unpack," said John. Soon even little Aaron was carrying something into the tent. In a little while, their father called, "Time for bed, boys. Have you forgotten what tomorrow is, John?"

"Oh, goody, it's my birthday!" he said. "Tomorrow the bell will wake us up. I will like to go to church on my birthday."

John was so happy in the morning to find little gifts hidden about the tent. He took his new book about Jesus to class. He was a happy little boy when class was over. He skipped and hopped back to the tent.

"Mother," he said, "I showed everybody my book. And I shared my birthday, too. I made a little riddle like, 'Guess what today is?' And I told the teachers I would have my birthday cake when I get home. Hurry, Mother. The bell says, 'Come to lunch.' And my tummy tells me it's time to eat!"

It was nice to eat in the big dining hall like one big family. When it was time for dessert, a lady came from the kitchen. She was carrying a big cake with 7 candles. John said, "Look, Daddy! Is someone having his birthday cake here?"

Sure enough, somebody was! The lady set the cake right in front of John. Then everyone began singing the happy birthday song. John's mother and father looked as surprised as John.

"How can we cut a piece for everyone?" asked John. His mother told him a plan.

Soon John was knocking at all the tent doors. He asked, "Are there any children here? I have some cake for them." In a little while, his birthday cake was gone. But John's heart was full of joy.

"Everyone shares at reunion, Daddy," said John. "Ella shared her crayons. William shared his scissors. And everybody shared with me. I think Zion must be almost here."

"Yes, John," his father agreed. "When everyone shares the love of God, Zion is very near."

Zion's Hope Stories Book 2,
adapted by Paul V. Ludy, pp. 36-39

Day 3, June 11th, 2020
Friday's Theme: "This is My Son...Hear Ye Him"

"In The Temple"

A Dream Related by Allie
Thorburn

One Sunday morning in September, 1904, at six o'clock, I awoke, after dreaming the following:

I found myself attending a prayer-meeting in a beautiful new temple. It looked as if it were not built by mortal man, but by divine hands, eternal in the heavens.

I know I shall never be able to describe it, but the structure was grand to behold. There were small galleries all around the place of worship, some higher than others. A small rostrum projected directly in front of another larger rostrum and it was made purposely for one person to stand in. In my dream I found myself in one of the small galleries right in front of the small rostrum. The temple was about half full of Saints, assembled for prayer-meeting. There were

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.
Revelations 2:7

three elders on the large rostrum. After singing, all bowed in prayer, with a feeling of awe, for already had the Spirit's presence met with us. At the close of the opening prayer, the second elder began praying by the Spirit. I know such a grand prayer has never been offered by mortal man. The only part of his prayer that I can remember was, "O Lord, do appear unto thy people this day!"

So earnestly and so fervently did he pray that one could almost feel the presence of the divine One in our midst, but no sooner did we arise and sit down then, uplifting my eyes, to my astonishment I saw a man walking down the aisle dressed in a long white robe and with a golden crown upon

his head. He took his place in the small rostrum.

As he turned himself about to the congregation, we could see his face. I fell on my knees and wept aloud, O Jesus, Jesus, my dearly beloved Jesus, for I knew him just as soon as I gazed upon his dear face! It seemed that my joy was indeed full, now that I had beheld his loving countenance.

Such a glorious power filled the entire room that on all sides people were melted to tears. It seemed that I could not weep hard enough, so great was the power that accompanied the dear Savior, such a shining countenance, beaming full of gracious love; it seemed that I was almost overpowered, and I clasped my hands for joy. Then came the voice of Jesus instructing his servants in words like this, as nearly as I can remember: "Behold I

Christ is offered as a solution to the problem of sin and, by his living and eternal Spirit, persistently reveals himself to all who really seek to know God as he is.

Resurrection and Eternal Life, by Arthur Oakman, p. 243

speaking expressly to my servants; see that my law is kept, and those that will not repent and live according to my law, shall be cut off from among my people; for how can my church prosper when ye will not do the things which I have commanded you? Yea, how can it prosper when ye will not impart of your substance to the poor and the afflicted of my people? Behold, now is the time that my temple should be built, but my people are not prepared to build it.”

Much more did he say, but it has passed from my memory. Waving his hand over the congregation and sadly shaking his head, he said: “How often, oh, how often would I have blessed you with many, many blessings, but ye would not let me.”

I awoke in tears, for I had been weeping all the time that he had been talking, and it was so real it seemed as though I must surely see Jesus in reality. I felt the same Spirit’s presence in my room, which stayed with me all that day, so that beautiful September morning will ever be one of the bright spots along the pathway leading me onward and upward to that glorious haven of rest which is the celestial glory of God where the ransomed and the redeemed of earth are and where the heavenly host is singing glory and honor and power to him that sitteth upon the throne forever and forever. -- Autumn Leaves, November, 1911. Lamoni, Iowa.

Infallible Proofs, pp. 196-198

The Savior’s Second Advent

Given by the Spirit through the gift of tongues.

Great and glorious is the Savior,
Who has sent his servants forth,
To proclaim his glorious gospel,
And restore the ancient faith,
See he cometh, earth behold him,
Fire and clouds attend him down;
All the wicked burn as stubble,
And the righteous he will crown.

Soon we’ll hear our Savior saying,
All my Saints are gathered home;
From the North and from the South,
No more in darkness you will roam,
When the Saints are come to Zion,
From the East unto the West,
Then my arm you will rely on,
From your labors you will rest.

Saint’ Herald, September, 1862.

Day 2, June 12th, 2020
Friday's Theme: "This is My Son...Hear Ye Him"

The Blessed Message

My father's employer was a dedicated and active church member and although we did not belong to his denomination, he succeeded in getting our family involved in some of their functions. About the middle of July last year he took my sister and I to a reunion in Racine, Missouri.

At first, when we got there I was scared to meet anyone. I didn't really want to come in contact with anyone, but I soon lost this fear. Everyone I met seemed so kind and really glad to know me. The atmosphere seemed full of love and generosity.

The first night we were there, a youth singing group performed for us. They gave beautiful testimonies about how God had worked in their lives. That was when I started opening my heart to Jesus.

For the next two days I prepared myself with prayer to go forth to the Lord. Then one night after the campfire I knelt under a big maple tree and prayed for my family and for forgiveness of my sins. I prayed that God would help me to be strong and help me to lead a pure, Christian life.

Then, as I sat under the tree, I heard a small, still voice call my name. I knew right away

And lo, he heard a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear ye him.
Matthew 3:46

it was Christ. I answered. He told me to listen. I listened and I heard a voice over the loud speaker. It was the nightly sermon, but this night the sermon had a special meaning for me. The message said to always have faith for the Lord is always near. After this message I prayed and asked, "Lord is that the word you have sent me?"

Then again I was answered. He said, "You shall have a long journey ahead, and there will be times of trouble and grief, but remember I will always be at your side."

For the rest of the week, I and many others shared in the same joy and love of the Spirit. All I can say, is that I'm one of God's children and I wish everyone could feel the love I have deep down in my heart.

Called To Witness, (August 1974), by Michelle Haller, p. 6

Deliverance from self can come only if some power altogether other than self, objective and outside of self, shall come to our rescue. Such power centers in Jesus.

Resurrection and Eternal Life, by Arthur Oakman, p. 233

Day 1, June 13th, 2020
Friday's Theme: "This is My Son...Hear Ye Him"

Why I Am a Latter Day Saint

By Mrs. Bertha Kinney
Morgantown, West Virginia

I have been in the Church two years, but I have realized more than ever during the last six months that God's promises are true and that He hears and answers prayers.

Six months ago my baby girl was born, and was very ill for six days, having spasms one after another until she had had over one hundred. The doctors and those nursing the infant had no hope for her life, thinking each time she went into a spasm that she would not survive it.

But these women who were caring for us did not wait for that. They worked night and day trying with God's help to save our lives, and I know that if ever the love of God dwelt in the heart of anyone, it dwelt in

...and I am the good Shepherd (and the stone of Israel: he that buildeth upon this rock shall never fall), and the day cometh that you shall hear my voice and see me, and know that I am. Watch, therefore, that ye may be ready. Even so. Amen.

D&C 50:8g

the hearts of those six women who came voluntarily into our home and worked asking no other return than that we might be allowed to live.

The baby grew worse and the doctors gave her up. My aunt, a sister in the Church, came to me and said: "Bertha, I went off alone and told God that if I was worthy of one blessing, I wanted that blessing bestowed on your baby, and if it dies, I shall think that I am not worthy even one blessing."

I sent for Brother Harry Joseph, and when he administered to the baby the Lord did what human agency could not do; healed her instantly. When Brother Joseph anointed her she looked like a dead baby, but when he took his hands from

her head after praying, she opened her eyes, and looked into his face. He said, "Sister Bertha, your child will be all right." And from that moment she was well.

This was the first healing I ever witnessed, and I am thankful God let us keep our little child. My husband and I have promised to consecrate her life as far as it is in our power, to God, and we know that the first thing we must do is to set our home in order and make ourselves examples, by doing our best to be Saints of God. We ask the prayers of the Saints everywhere that we may try harder every day to be of service to Him and that we may rear our little daughter to be a good Latter Day Saint.

Testimonies of the Saints, compiled by Melvin Quick, p. 44

The whole spiritual world revolves upon the axis of these two gifts: the gift to know that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and was crucified for the sins of the world, and the gift to believe on the testimony of those who have received this gift.

He Who Is, by Arthur Oakman, p. 85