

Reunion Theme:  
“Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts”

“And again, I would exhort you that ye would come unto Christ, and lay hold upon every good gift, and touch not the evil gift nor the unclean thing.”  
Moroni 10:27

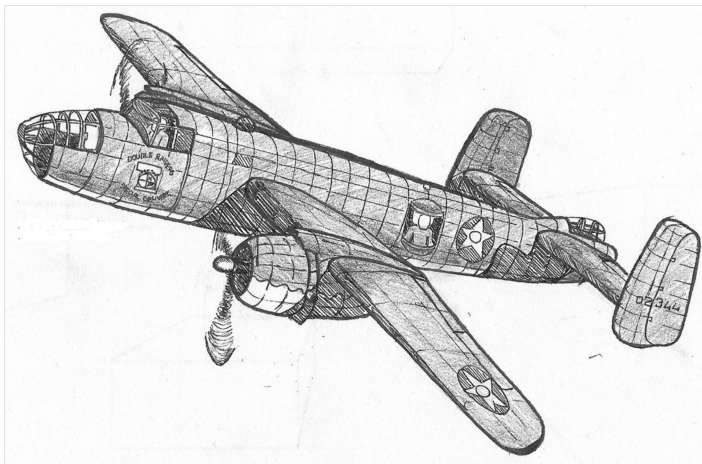


## God Was The Pilot

By Elder Frederic O. Weddle

This is the testimony of an experience I had while serving as a photo-reconnaissance combat pilot in Korea. It was important and dangerous work. Pilots found excuses to avoid it. Those who endeavored to by-pass the job were unsuccessful, but my crew knew we could do it. We planned an unheard-of strategy, and when our turn came, we were ready. From high altitude we quickly zoomed in over the target and then held the plane steady.

Success! We photographed some of the enemy's secrets, but now they were able to target our B-25. The sky was suddenly filled with flak (bursting shells from anti-aircraft guns). We



were hit and began to dive. My helmet and earphones were blown from my head, and cold Korean air rushed into the plane. Much of the nose was gone and we began to topple. The flak was as thick as rain, I finally secured my earphones and punched the signal for "Friend or Foe". Miraculously as I was given my reading, my compass was already set and ready to go. I asked the radio officer to take us low between the peaks as a very real fear of freezing grew stronger and stronger. We were guided through the valley of the jagged mountains and headed back - a crippled plane and a freezing crew.

I landed. I taxied the plane, and I parked it. We hurried to our quarters and fell exhausted into bed. Next morning an airman awakened me and to my surprise he gave me the news that I was to report to the Squadron Commander. When I arrived, I discovered

“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

### Daily Themes

Sat. - Good Gift Giver

Sun. - Gifts of Life

Sun. - Gifts for Eternity

Mon. - Gifts of Revelation

Tue. - Gifts of Inspiration

Wed. - Gifts of Power

Thu. - Lay Hold on Your Gifts

Fri. - Join Our Gifts for His Kingdom's Cause



that all the important administrators were there. They began questioning me almost angrily and asked how I got back with my crew and plane. I was confused. Were they placing some blame on me? I explained that the operations officer had "talked me home".

"Did you get your instructions by radio?" "Yes, Sir." "And you had instrument lights?" (This officer was almost shaking!) "You put down your landing gear and flaps and were able to brake?" "Sure. All the instruments were lit up. No problem. Everything worked fine. What is going on here?"

Down at the plane they showed me the hydraulic reservoir. Scrap metal. Lines severed. Most of the plane gone. Severed also were the wires to the steering controls. Then they showed me what was left of the radio set. It was fused into a mass of molten dry metal and asked me, "How can you possibly explain that?" I wasn't sure they agreed with me as I said, "Obviously there was a power greater than all of us that decided this plane and its crew was to come back."

Someone had instructed me over a non-operable radio. There were no steering controls, yet I flew through perilous terrain. When I landed, I used my brakes - which were gone. There could be no doubt - I did not bring that plane home. -- The plane was junked - a victory for flak. The general in Seoul sent a staff car for me. He said there were no formalities and asked me to sit down. He was very friendly and made me feel at ease. "Son, tell me about this flight

that seems to cause your superiors to frown." I did so. Then he asked how I was able to get that plane home. I answered, "A power greater than I am made that plane land." He wholeheartedly agreed with me and then said, "You are in very good hands."

Through the years many people refer to the title of a book called *God Is My Co-Pilot* which was well-known some time ago. I always reply, "No. God was the pilot. I was the co-pilot. To Him be the glory and honor. Amen!"



Reunion Theme:  
“Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts”



## Lehi Finds The Liahona

By Gary Hoover

The Book of Mormon is a precious book to me. For reasons best known to Himself, the Lord has seen fit to allow me to have testimonies of its truthfulness.

Many years ago I was preparing to preach a sermon in Butler, Missouri. I stood behind the pulpit and began to read for my text the scripture in the fifth chapter of First Nephi which tells about Lehi being instructed by the Lord to take his journey into the wilderness the next day. It describes how Lehi found the Liahona outside his tent when he arose in the morning, and it also describes the liahona.

A vision opened up to me as I began to read the scripture. In the vision I saw everything as Lehi himself would have seen it. It was as if Lehi was waking up in the morning. I saw the inside of the tent as if I was seeing through Lehi's eyes. The tent walls were black and the inside was richly adorned with tapestries and large pillows. I felt myself lying on the pillows and awakening. I could see that I had a robe around me that was also black with some kind of gold trim or braid around the sleeves. I could see the tent walls where they sloped out to the ground and I

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and cometh down from the Father of lights.”  
James 1:17

could see how tall the tent was. I was very much aware that it was the day to take the people into the desert. There was something compelling Lehi to rise up and walk over to



“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

the tent door. It was a flap type door. He reached out one arm and raised the flap to go out. I could see his hand as I would see my own hand move back the flap to go out.

Just past the tent door there was a sort of a "foyer" entrance in which another flap had to be opened to get outside the tent. The foyer had a fine rug or tapestry of some sort on the floor. I could see that Lehi reached forth his hand again and took hold of the second flap and parted it.

Just outside, to catch the dirt and clean their feet, was another small rug or tapestry. Before he even stepped outside, Lehi looked down to

the second rug outside. I looked down as with his eyes and felt his astonishment as he saw the liahona there outside his tent. I was not permitted to see the liahona, but to me it was a beautiful, glowing, round light. The glow intensified and grew brighter and brighter. It continued to get bigger and bigger until the whole vision faded and there I was back in Butler, behind the pulpit, finishing the reading of my scripture.

I bear witness today that I know the Book of Mormon is true and the events therein actually happened as they were recorded.



Reunion Theme:  
"Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts"

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son."  
John 3:16



## The Boy Joseph

By D. T. Williams

D. T. Williams, a former apostle of the church, bears this testimony of his grandmother. At this particular period of her life she was affiliated with another denomination.

A missionary preaching the gospel in her locality interested her. She began attending regularly. She was happy to discover the truth, that the R.L.D.S. Church was more like the New Testament church than any other. She had a desire to unite with it but she had reservations. "I would like to be baptized in your church," she said to the elder one evening after the service ended. "I find your church has the same teachings as the New Testament church," she continued. "But your story of that boy, Joseph Smith, and the Book of Mormon disturbs me. I simply cannot believe that part of your story."

"Well, sister," the elder stated. "If you go ahead and join the church and apply it to your life, I promise you that God will give you a testimony of the truth of that story."

"When viewed under the inspiration of the Divine Spirit, which is the gift of God, the whole creation has the appearance of a sacrament."  
*God's Spiritual Universe*, by Arthur Oakman, p. 9

She took the minister at his word and was baptized into the church and applied its teachings to her daily life so it could bear fruit.

Time went on. One evening at about dusk, a young lad, about fourteen years of age entered her kitchen. He came in, not by the outside door, but by way of the pantry. In his hand he was carrying the Book of Mormon. He walked about the room and then left the same way he had entered. This was the testimony she had



desired. Never again did she doubt the story of Joseph Smith.

D. T. Williams told this incident at the Second Church in a sermon. He explained that it was the

most profound and outstanding story in the life of his family.

*Called To Witness*, October 1979

## Spiritual Gifts

F G T B D J F L B E S A J E T C G X J G E B V Z  
P N E A K E O N I C O U J K Y H K T U F N C W Q  
Z I A L R Q L G H C W R C Y G S L I J R A H H B  
U V C R X A E A C E Z A C H E M T R V R H X L E  
Y R H U I P D C D M W E L T K S U K U W O B A W  
Q E I C S O H I H Y H E T Z W I F K B I Y D K M  
P S N Q L S Q T U P K K A B W L D B U F J R J M  
F B G F G T P W O Y P I H S R E D A E L B Z O D  
L D G I K L Z R O I M N N J Q G Y N K C R D G X  
E J B Q P E P S G D P O T I P N Y L X G S N J C  
H S V K A S N G Z U I Q I G F A M Y V I I E Z Q  
S O O O A H R U R T N C W O K V C U W V S L T K  
V N F J F I F V A Y J F U N I E Q N I K P X A F  
C Z I I X P X T S K K S A R P Z Y G X Z U G A E  
B P N U E U R X F K N O W L E D G E O F P I K M  
T A Z U V O M G I L T Q V B I J X S B V T G L T  
X S C E H E T I A U I G R K W Z I S S H V L H J  
N T W X R W N I X A J L L D L B V P J S H R D S  
C O E C A J T T A B Z O F W C F H Q T G S J G G  
H R Y P A D M I N I S T R A T I O N K I Z W Z B  
W K Q C Z J C G U R V F Y O N Y A K N P M Z L R  
Z F E V K K P E G R A B H K G Y D K H K V K T K  
G N R T N E M N R E C S I D G N W O E N P P Y V  
S O P D F G E Z E A U I G J D Q I B A S T S H Y

ADMINISTRATION

EXHORTATION

KNOWLEDGE

SERVING

WISDOM

APOSTLESHIP

EVANGELISM

PROPHECY

GIVING

FAITH

DISCERNMENT

LEADERSHIP

TEACHING

PASTOR

MERCY

Reunion Theme:  
"Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts"

## Feed My Sheep

By Carlyle E. Coppock, Seventy  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

I would like to relate an experience of spiritual significance that occurred one night in our family home in July 1965. Sometime after retiring for the night and falling asleep, I had a dream or a vision, and at one point I beheld my body lying on the bed. Breathing and body function seemed normal, but my spirit separated from my body and I was carried away in vision.

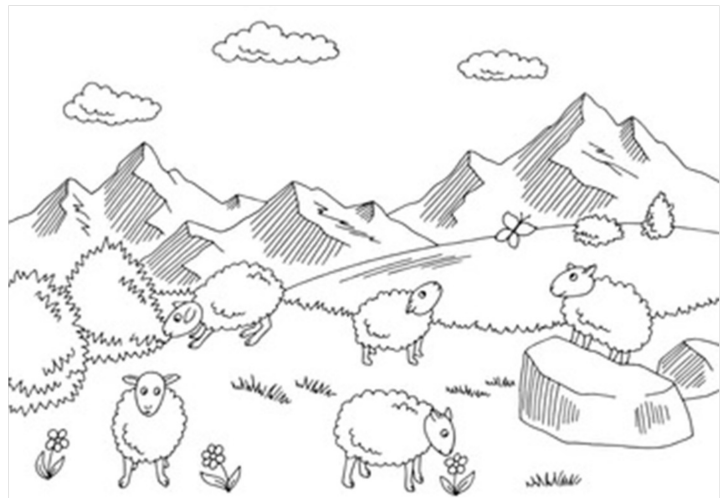
I beheld a beautiful green hillside. Almost immediately I found myself, and many of my brothers and sisters in Christ, very busily and very happily climbing toward the crest of this beautiful green hill. The Saints never looked more beautiful to my eyes than at this moment. Their faces were radiant with happiness and their eyes sparkled with the joy of anticipation. We were indeed, of all people, the most happy.

As we continued our climb however, we became weary and sat down to rest and perhaps to fall asleep for a short time to regain our strength. Suddenly a voice came unto us, gently, tenderly and yet authoritatively. The words were these: "Feed my sheep."

"...knowledge of God—the Absolute Reality—is an affair engaging the *whole man*, not only his conscious thought but his subconscious affections too. The kind of searching, we have found, is God's gift to us, and while we seek him thus, we are assured that already we have been found of him."  
*God's Spiritual Universe*, by Arthur Oakman, p. 80

"Everything which inviteth to do good, and to persuade to believe in Christ, is sent forth by the power and gift of Christ." Moroni 7:14

In a state of much alarm, I regained my feet and frantically looked about for my friends and the source of this voice. To my utter amazement, my friends had all become "sheep" - and yet, even in this transformed state, I could still recognize many of them. These were the nucleus families helping to form the Milwaukee Mission at that time. A pathway opened to us, that led toward the crest of yet another hill. This path that we were now walking upon, was old and deeply worn as if it had been used heavily for many, many years. Perhaps it had been used by



many such flocks of sheep as those that were now upon it.

Soon we attained the crest of the second hill and, weary as we had become, we sat down again to rest. Almost immediately, and with a greater urgency than before, the voice from above spoke again. The message remained the same as at first; "Feed my sheep."

We clamored again to our feet and resumed our climb toward the crest of another (the third) hill. Almost immediately there appeared in this old, old pathway, great dark stones that all but stopped our progress. Concerned lest the flock, finding it impossible to move on and become discouraged and give up, I, with great alarm, looked for a means of removing these obstacles. I found a pole, about six inches in diameter and about ten feet long. It was made of sturdy wood and had the appearance of oak; ideal I thought, for prying these dark stones from the pathway. As I positioned it for leverage, once again this voice, that I had now determined to be the voice of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, came to me. This time he said: "My Son, remove them not, for they are necessary, but walk around them." And as impossible as it seemed, we somehow continued onward toward the crest of this third hill.

As we reached the top of this hill, we paused and looked around us and below into the valleys. The sight was indeed breathtaking. The blue of these skies were bluer than any that I had ever seen in reality. The greens in various hues were more beautiful than any that I had ever known.

From out of our surroundings we recognized a beauty that is indescribable by words alone. And once again for the third time, He said, "Feed my sheep."

Again, we moved onward to a final and last hill, which was but a short way to the top, as compared to those that we had already climbed. We reached the crest and at this point, we beheld a scene that I shall remember even to the grave. Here was a pool of clear blue water, about thirty feet across, and on the opposite side, with his hands outstretched, stood our Lord beckoning for us to come yet closer. The one thing that held my attention now above all else was the light that radiated from His person. Words cannot adequately describe this light that came from His being, but I will attempt to picture some of it for you. This light was effervescent and illuminative as if there was no end to it. It was like a spotlight shining through a thin veil of spun glass and reflecting ever onward to encompass all that fell within its rays. As I said previously, words cannot adequately describe this light.

As He beckoned, He indicated that these sheep were to pass into and through this pool of blue water that separated us. As they walked into this pool, with their gray wool soiled from climbing so long and so hard, they were suddenly and miraculously transformed and as they emerged on His side of the pool, they glowed with a radiance almost equal to His own.

I approached the body of water, as the others before me, and He called to me to wait. As He gazed in my direction, He said to me, "Stand in that place (He indicated the

very edge of the hill) and tell me what you see." From this vantage point I could look back over the almost endless hills, and from the depths of the valleys, I could see other sheep coming up that old and worn path that we had traveled and into this transforming pool of blue water.

As I turned to look at Him again, I was amazed to see those that I recognized as the priesthood passing into the pool, and I alone remained. As they came out the transforming side, they were shining in the radiance and glory of their new light.

He gazed intently at me as I remained at this place of observation, feeling the privilege that was mine. I watched the endless lines of sheep and lambs, coming ever onward and upward to the Shepherd who had His arms outstretched.

I awakened at this point and the first thought that entered my consciousness was that this whole vision or dream was predicated on the word IF. IF we are faithful, all of this beauty can be ours. If we are not faithful, He is not bound and we have no promise.



*Called To Witness, August 1976*

**"I am the good shepherd."** John 10:11



Reunion Theme:  
"Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts"

## Why I'm a Member of Christ's Church

By Edwin I. Slemesen  
Woodward, Oklahoma

Although my mother and father were divorced while I was still rather young (three years old), I was fortunate enough to be reared in a Christian home by my mother, two uncles, and an elderly grandmother. They were not members of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints until many years later. In fact I had heard very little of any Latter Day Saints including the Utah Mormons.

As I attended my mother's church, I felt a lack of the "closeness," of God or Christ. This concern became greater as the years progressed, and the conversation about the Deity continued. I found myself questioning if there really is a God or Christ. I had enough faith to believe if they did exist, then one or the other would in some way make Himself known to me. In my prayers, I made this a special concern.

The following is the first of two closely related testimonies (which I will abridge) of why I am a member of this Church. (Bear in mind, I had never heard of the RLDS church at the time.)

Late on a cold December evening in 1958, I had retired to my bedroom where, as usual, I

"And again I exhort you, my brethren, that you deny not the gifts of God, for they are many, and they come from the same God." Moroni 10:8

offered my short, selfish prayer to God asking for some sort of revelation to me if He was real!

Then it happened. As I raised my head, there to my amazement stood a large handsome inviting man. He showed me his nail-scarred hands, and told me He was the Christ I had requested to hear from. I'm not usually one to notice apparel or features of a person, but His robe still remains vivid in my mind. It was a white beyond white with a brilliant red band near the bottom.

On this visit, He told and showed me many things in my life that were to happen in the future. He told me I would be a minister in His church. Just prior to leaving, He told me to fear not, for soon He would receive me unto His own. With this knowledge, I knew my Christ lives.

Time went by and it seemed as if few people believed what I had to say. (Just like I had questioned others before.) The times again became discouraging and Satan again gripped my life.

Then one day I met a girl who told me she believed this testimony. She related some of

"...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



her experiences, so I asked her what church she belonged to. She answered (without catching her breath) "Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints." I blinked my eyes and decided I didn't care for anything with a name that long!

Well I married that girl in 1961. She tried to show me the great things of this church with a long name. Her mother and father tried to share. But I knew that Jesus Christ lives and that was all I needed. But God knew better!

One beautiful April in 1963, I was driving a truck near Scottsbluff, Nebraska. On this trip, as on all trips, I offered a short prayer. I had not driven very far when a heavenly messenger appeared to me. There were several things which he told me. Among the things He told me was, "Your present church and beliefs will be able to get you salvation, but your wife belongs to the true church of Christ." He also told me that later I would learn his identity, which I did. It was Moroni.

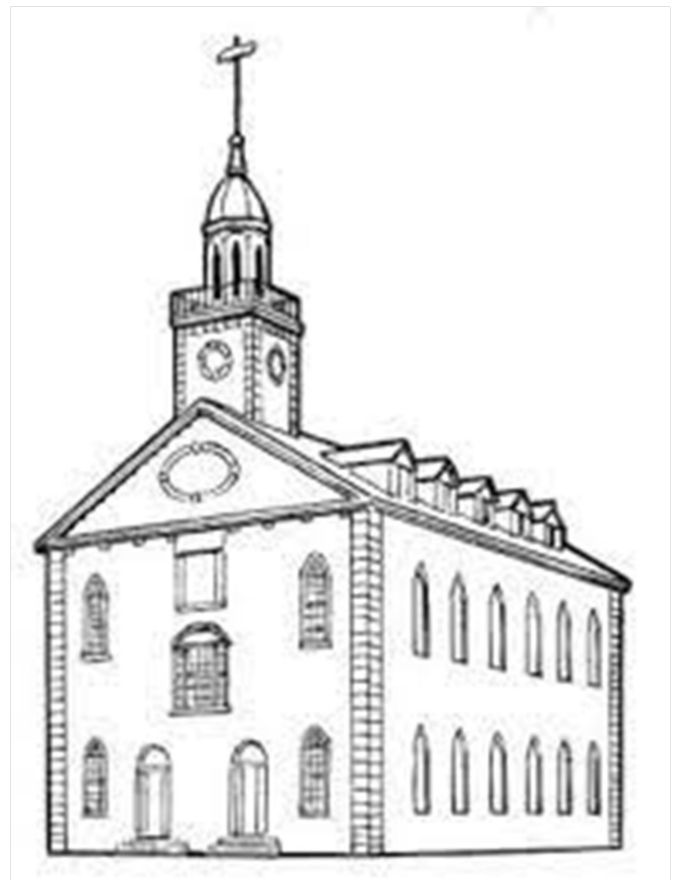
That evening when I arrived home, I said to my wife "What is your minister's name?" She replied "Ronald Spencer. Why?" I said, "Call him and tell him I want to be baptized."

My wife (dazed) called Brother Spencer who came to our home and proceeded to give me my one and only cottage meeting. During the meeting it was made known to Brother Spencer that I had a call to the office of teacher in the priesthood.

I was baptized April 1963 and ordained November 1963 to become a minister in Christ's Church just like Christ had told me in December 1958.

And this is why I'm a member of Jesus Christ's church.

*Called To Witness, March 1979*



Reunion Theme:  
"Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts"

**The Song Of Angels**

By Kathy Trepanier  
Grafton, Wisconsin



One night as I was praying and praising God I felt such joy and love for my Creator that all I could do was just thank and praise Him. When I pray, I often feel as if God is right there with me and that He is listening to everything I say just as if he were physically there.

Well, this night as I prayed, I felt that way. So I started singing "The Spirit of God Like a Fire is Burning." I sang this song with all the love and praise I could put into it. When I came to the chorus, "We'll sing and we'll shout with the armies of heaven. Hosannah, hosannah, to God and the Lamb! Let glory to them in the highest be given, Henceforth and forever! Amen, and amen!" I really sang. Then I realized that I was not singing alone anymore; there were angels singing with me. I could feel their very presence on both sides of me, yet I could not see them. Together, we praised our God! I then felt the presence of Christ at the foot of my bed. When I stopped singing and started talking to Him, I turned to that one area. I knew He was there but again, I was not permitted to see. I felt such love and I knew He had heard every word I said. It was so wonderful!

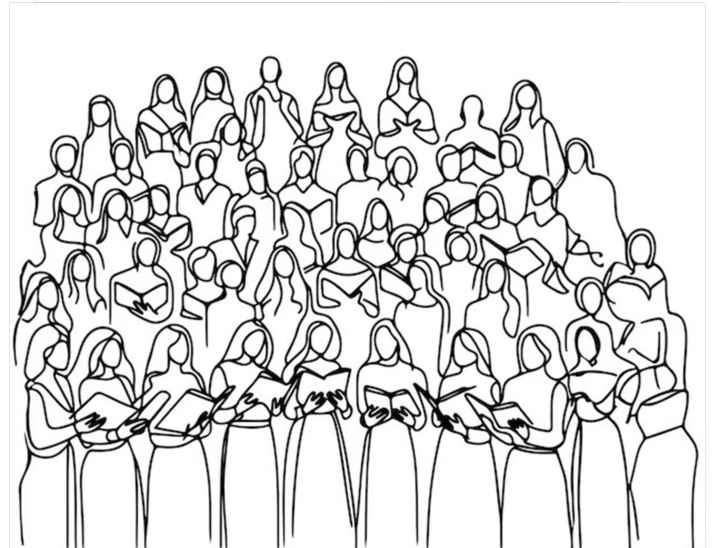
I had had a previous and somewhat similar experience with angels in which I was singing and praising God with them. I was given to know that there are angels who sing praises to God continually. That is all that they do and it brings them such a deep, deep joy to do so. Theirs is a deeper joy and happiness than we could ever express. As I knelt, I too praised God. Then it was also made known to me that when

"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness, and it was so." Genesis 1:27

Zion is here, the angels will come down with Enoch's city. Together, we will all praise God, the most High. There will be so very much happiness and everlasting joy and love.

It will be a beautiful time and I hope and pray that you and I will be there.

*Called To Witness, June 1976*



"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*

## GIFTS AND WAYS OF SPIRITUAL BLESSING, by which GOD SPEAKS TO MEN

1. To know that Jesus is Christ.
2. Wisdom.
3. Knowledge.
4. Faith.
5. Faith to heal.
6. Faith to be healed.
7. Faith to work miracles.
8. Prophecy.
9. Speaking in tongues.
10. Interpreting tongues.
11. Inspired hymns, as Admonition.
12. Gift to believe.
13. Ministry of angels.
14. Ministry of those who have tarried.
15. Special gifts of prayer.
16. Gift to administer affairs.
17. Diversity of ways to do same.
18. Gift of discernment.
19. Inspired dreams.
20. Interpreting dreams.
21. Gift to see visions.
22. Gift of inspired study.
23. Gift of inspired writing.
24. Gift of inspired preaching.
25. Gift of spiritual impressions.
26. Prophetic insight and foresight.
27. Discernment of true values.
28. Peace beyond understanding.
29. Gift of extraordinary love.
30. Gift of spiritual radiancy.
31. Interpreting scriptural prophecy.
32. Writing inspired music.
33. Blessing in developing talents.
34. Special gift of Mighty prayer.
35. Convincing power in preaching.
36. Lofty perceptions of truth.
37. Lofty generalizations in study.
38. Gifts of remembrance when needed.
39. Patriarchal Blessings.
40. Gift of exaltation.
41. Gift of Counseling.
42. Gift to guide prayer meetings.
43. Perceptions during sleep.
44. Hearing voice from heaven.
45. Blessings in surgery.
46. Guidance in scriptural study.
47. Seeing and talking with Jesus.
48. Guidance in matters of deep concern.
49. Sealing up unto eternal life.
50. Experiences outside our bodies.
51. Gift of semi-immortality.
52. Gift to tell gospel story.
53. Gift of insensibility to pain.
54. Gift of health-Word of Wisdom.
55. Discern signs of Christ's second coming.
56. Bosom burning witnessing correct decisions.
57. Gift of Aaron-use of Urim and Thummin.
58. Understand mysteries of the Kingdom gift.
59. Gift to have heavens opened and to see within.
60. Communion with God's servants of the past.
61. There is the gift of spiritual quickening.
62. There is the gift of spiritual energizing.
63. God can extend and magnify our sense of vision.
64. Paul blessed a handkerchief for healing.
65. Laws of space and time may be set aside.
66. Past historical events may be seen in vision.
67. When needed, God can send manna.
68. There can be grand apocalyptic vision.
69. Some have special gift to inspire people.
70. Others to discern unique potentials in people.
71. Forces of nature have been commanded by faith.
72. Armies of nations have been defied.
73. There can be gift of new heart and mind.
74. There is the gift of transfiguration.
75. Rare personalities can be discovered and nurtured.
76. Rare spiritual capacities can also be discovered and nurtured.
77. Likewise for statesmanlike qualities.
78. There is the spiritual gift to describe the otherwise undecipherable.
79. A more than apocalyptic experience is possible and desirable.
80. There is the gift of inspired imagination.
81. There is the gift of God covenanting with those who will covenant with him.
82. There can be power given over the elements.
83. There can be spiritual enrichment of voices.
84. Likewise with dedicated instrumental music.
85. The Spirit will help solve daily problems.
86. God has special ways of opening doors for us.
87. There is the gift of Spirit-Blessed homes.
88. At special times God witnesses to his being and His WORK in extraordinary ways.
89. Special gifts prepare us for life beyond.
90. There is the gift of being translated, without tasting death.
91. There is the marvelous gift of resurrection.
92. There is the gift of spirit-blessed marriage.
93. There is the gift of Super-charged transferable Spiritual Energy.
94. Some of God's servants have been seen in rich spiritual blessing though hundreds of miles away.

*The Endowment, by Earl Curry,*

Reunion Theme:  
"Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts"

**Meant To Be Shared**  
By Martha Stever  
Wilmington, North Carolina



This is the burial day of one of my neighbors, but I no longer feel the distress I felt at the death of my friend's son a few years ago. As a child, I was taught to believe in life after death and thought I did, but until the death of Michael, that belief had never been challenged. Michael was a young teenager at the time we moved to the small Georgia town. I saw very little of him because he had leukemia and was already spending much of his time in bed. But he had a sweet smile and a gentle personality that immediately endeared him to you.

After Michael died, I found myself saying several times, "I wish I really knew there was life after death." I was not praying, it was more a personal anguish and a grief for Michael's family that expressed itself in those words.

My husband and I had an upstairs bedroom and the children's rooms were down the hall from ours. If they came down the hall to the bathroom we were able to see them. This night, I was suddenly wide awake as I felt someone in the hall. I looked and saw, what I took to be, one of our sons coming down the hall. But he didn't stop at the bathroom, he came into the room and stood at the foot of the bed.

As I looked up, I saw that he was wearing a type of short, sleeveless Roman toga and I was impressed with his strong arms and shoulders. The expression, "His body is bursting with health," flooded my mind, and indeed, it was a beautiful, young body. I

"Thou mayest choose for thyself for it is given unto thee." Genesis 2:21

looked up into his face then and saw that it was Michael. At the moment of recognition, he disappeared from my sight.

I trembled with the meaning of this visit and the warmth that filled my heart has returned each time the thought of death comes to me. How wonderful to know, to actually know that life goes on after death.

A couple of days passed and I felt that I had to tell my friend about the visitation of her son, but I could not bring myself to do it. How could I? What if she didn't believe me? How could I bring more grief to her if she doubted me? Finally, the feeling was so strong that I could no longer keep it to myself. I drove out to her home and as she sat and talked, I finally told her.

When I had finished, she looked at me and asked me if I knew how Michael had been affected. Of course, I didn't really, having seen him only fully dressed or in long sleeved pajamas. And then she very gently said, "Michael's arms had nearly withered away." As we both sat there in silence, the same beautiful warmth and peace flooded over me. And the blessing I had thought was only for me, was really meant to be shared; it was for someone else as well.

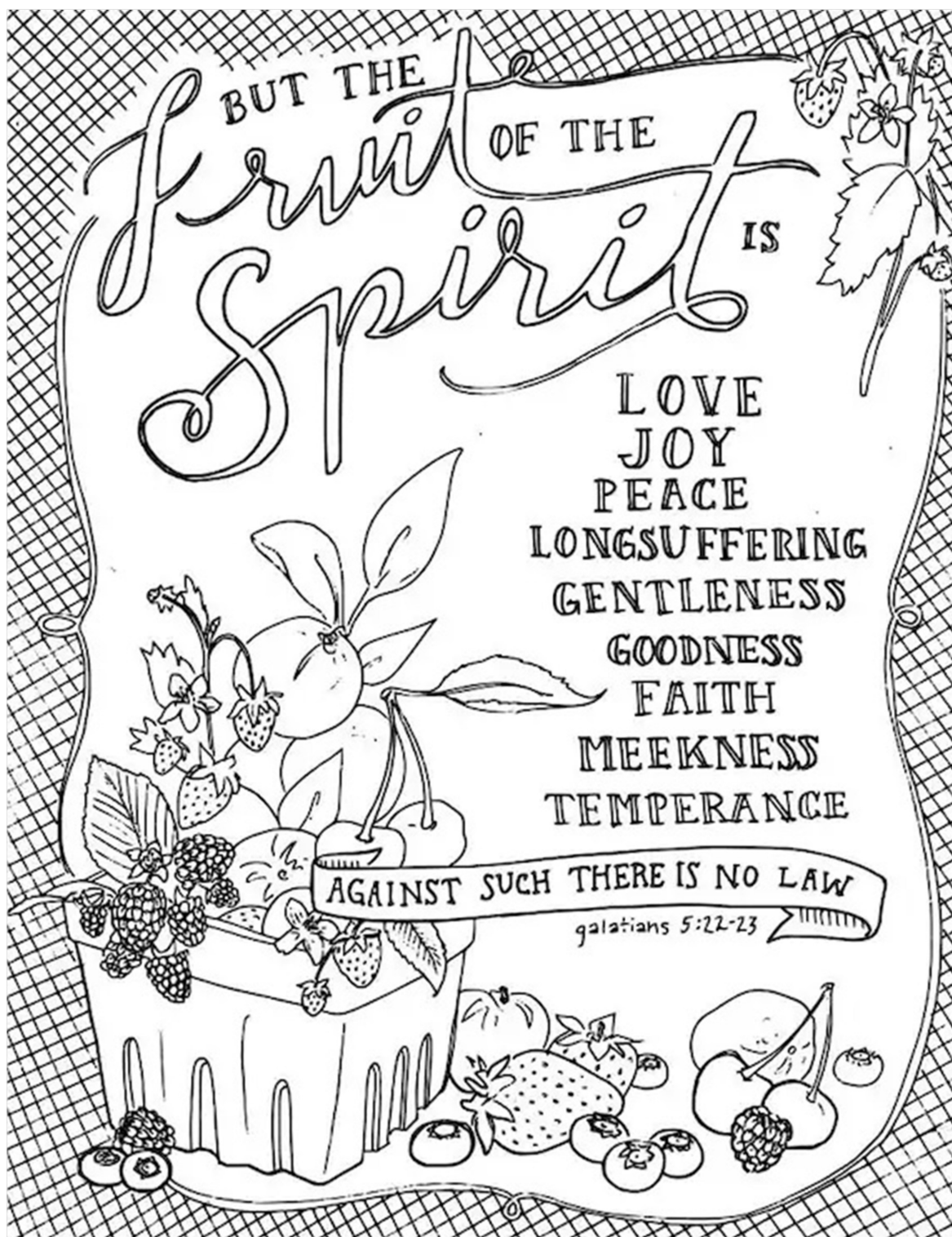
The theme of reunion this year was on Pastoral Care, caring and sharing. I have never

"...ideas cannot put men in touch with God; they cannot create communion with him. Only God himself can do that. The revelation of God creates communion with him, and it is the only process by which he can be truly known."  
*God's Spiritual Universe*, by Arthur Oakman, p. 157

been one who could easily share, even the beautiful experiences I have had. But during this reunion time I found the strength to share a couple of other experiences and I found the same thing true; they were not for me alone, but meant to be shared with someone else.

I wonder how often we deprive others of a strength they need or a peace they need to know because we have not been strong enough or cared enough to share.

*Called To Witness, August 1975*



Reunion Theme:  
"Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts"

## A Vision Of The Celestial Kingdom

By Joseph Smith the Seer

On the evening of the 21st of January, 1836, the First Presidency met in the west schoolroom of the Kirtland Temple, at which time they ordained Joseph Smith, Sr., Patriarch of the Church, and also received their patriarchal blessings under his hands. Joseph states concerning this meeting and other matters as follows:

"The heavens were opened upon us, and I beheld the celestial kingdom of God, and the glory thereof, whether in the body or out I can not tell. I saw the transcendent beauty of the gate through which the heirs of that kingdom will enter, which was like unto circling flames of fire; also the blazing throne of God, whereon was seated the Father and the Son. I saw the beautiful streets of that kingdom, which had the appearance of being paved with gold. I saw Fathers Adam and Abraham, and my father and mother, my brother Alvin, that has long since slept, and marveled how it was that he had obtained an inheritance in the kingdom, seeing that he had departed this life before the Lord had set his hand to gather Israel the second time, and had not been baptized for the remission of sins. Thus came the voice of the Lord unto me, saying:

"All who have died without a knowledge of this gospel, who would have received it if they had been permitted to tarry, shall be heirs of



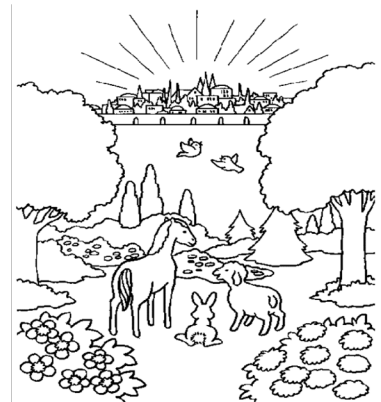
"For behold, the Spirit of Christ is given unto every man that they may know good from evil." Moroni 7:14

the celestial kingdom of God; also, all that shall die henceforth without a knowledge of it, who would have received it with all their hearts, shall be heirs of that kingdom, for I, the Lord, will judge all men according to their works, according to the desire of their hearts."

"And I also beheld that all children who die before they arrive at the years of accountability, are saved in the celestial kingdom of heaven."

"Many of my brethren who received the ordinance with me saw glorious visions also. Angels ministered unto them as well as myself, and the power of the Highest rested upon us, the house was filled with the glory of God, and we shouted, Hosanna to God and the Lamb."

Church History,  
Vol. 2, p. 16



"...[God] made man in his own image and sacrificed himself for man. Thus God fulfills his own nature, for sacrifice is the discovery of oneself in the act of imparting oneself. Love is the discovery of self in the act of self-surrender."  
*He Who Is*, by Arthur Oakman, p. 68

Reunion Theme:  
"Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts"

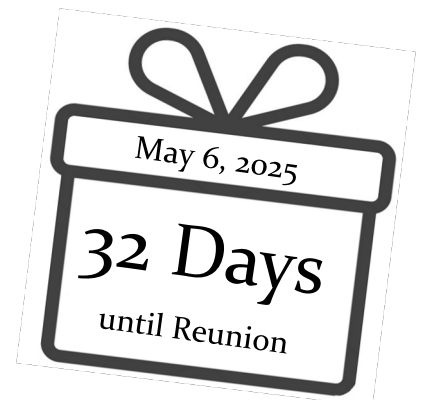
## The Lost Keys

By Rick & Nancy Lade

In April 2009 when our family went to Nauvoo with the Saints of South Crysler Restoration Branch, we had a marvelous experience. The Holy Spirit was at the retreat in great power. Our every need was met.

The first evening there, our family set up the camper we were staying in. Later that evening we were unable to find our camper keys. We were grateful when David said that he had the extra set in his pocket. All that evening as we worked, we kept praying and kept a lookout for the lost keys. There was a special key on our key ring that was lost that was very important.

Rick and I had previously volunteered to cook the meals for the retreat, so after sending the children to bed, we continued our meal preparations for the next day. We had to make a trip to HyVee in Keokuk, Iowa and while there at the HyVee, we took advantage of the lighting in the parking lot to



"And again, it shall come to pass, that on as many as ye shall baptize with water, ye shall lay your hands, and they shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, and shall be looking forth for the signs of my coming, and shall know me. Behold, I come quickly. Even so. Amen" D&C 39:6

make a thorough search of the vehicle for the lost keys -- but to no avail.

When we returned to the dining hall at the Nauvoo campground, I got out of our truck, and as I did, something on the ground caught my eye. There in the dark, right at my feet were the lost keys.

We thank the Lord for this blessing.



"Our hope is in God, and in him alone, and our trust is in his Spirit and its guidance which he gives to all who are called according to his purpose. Our hope is in the vision he has given and does now give and will continue to give to all who seek that vision in faith."

*God's Spiritual Universe*, by Arthur Oakman, p. 52



Reunion Theme:  
"Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts"

**Spiritual Message given through  
Patriarch Henry Schaefer  
Restoration Festival  
Graceland College, Lamoni, Iowa  
Sunday Morning Prayer Service  
September 24, 1978**

Being a God of love. One who loves you more than anyone else ever can love you, I want you, my people to know that I have been aware of your longings, the desires of your heart, the burdens that you bear. Your fastings, as well as your prayers, have been a delight to me, for you have come with a deep desire to express your thanks and gratitude. And I, the Lord your God, have spoken once more in these the latter days to restore my church and entrusted them with the greatest of all challenges - to bring to pass my great purposes in the building of my Kingdom.

My heart has been heavy when so few have responded to the blueprint that I have given through my servants up to this very day. And I would challenge you to arise to the heights to which I want you to come, by keeping all my commandments, all of the sayings of my beloved Son, so that as a result, I can entrust you with that greater power from on high, even that endowment that has been promised to my people in these the latter days, and I am anxious to pour out upon those that can be entrusted by the disciplining of their life ever more perfectly after the pattern of my beloved Son.

"What was wrought on Calvary and in the Resurrection was not merely a revelation of the divine purpose. It was the purpose itself working in history with dynamic power."  
*Resurrection and Eternal Life*, by Arthur Oakman, p. 57



"Let the young men and maidens cultivate the gifts of music and of song." D&C 119:6d

Time is urgent. I have pleaded with my people for so long that they might become unified by praying for each other, fervently, by expressing their love for each other in acts of deep concern for each other, so that under this power you can indeed go forward and become a light to the world.

Remember, I have not forsaken you, for I am anxious and willing to go with each one of you. individually, as well as a corporate body of my church, -- go forward with you all the way, encouraging you, giving you light and understanding as well with strength that is needed, so that you can stand as pillars in this day and age where the world will yet have to confess that you are my people, and that Zion is indeed the Kingdom of your God and of his Christ. Go forth from here renewed, rededicated to the great challenge of the Restoration. Go forth from here with greater



determination than you have ever had before to do your Father's will, so that the day may speedily come when indeed the gates of Zion shall indeed be open and it shall flourish and "blossom as a rose" and the world will have to confess that I have residence within each one of you, as well as the body of my Son.

Never fear for the future, for remember what I have promised --- that my work will never be frustrated because I am still God. I

still rule in heaven and on earth. My arm is not shortened. There is still within me all wisdom and all power which shall bring forth that which I have designed to be accomplished in the culmination of my Kingdom. Trust in me. Be a holy people in which my spirit can dwell to sustain you for every effort, for every task that will be placed before you, and I will be with you to the end, even so. Amen.

# Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit

R	Q	L	O	R	T	N	O	C	F	L	E	S	S	E	N	L	U	F	H	T	I	A	F
E	R	Z	X	J	G	C	O	T	B	J	W	T	W	W	O	L	H	E	U	D	O	C	O
O	E	C	N	E	R	E	V	E	R	V	S	J	O	G	M	J	M	R	P	N	E	M	K
A	L	O	J	H	W	Y	P	O	C	O	I	E	X	G	S	S	E	N	D	O	O	G	F
Z	C	O	X	I	A	S	A	Y	G	Y	L	C	U	I	V	J	Z	C	M	F	S	E	I
M	S	X	V	I	N	R	T	P	G	L	K	Q	S	S	E	N	E	L	T	N	E	G	C
X	U	L	W	E	F	D	I	J	L	C	N	X	U	K	V	S	P	X	T	U	J	R	R
W	O	N	D	E	R	N	E	Q	I	C	A	D	A	V	M	H	A	W	I	S	D	O	M
H	Y	U	U	Y	A	V	N	P	A	O	I	U	J	K	B	J	Z	W	I	Z	Q	O	E
P	H	N	M	V	F	Y	C	B	E	U	K	F	C	K	J	V	B	J	F	C	S	B	L
I	S	S	O	O	P	W	E	Q	C	R	I	J	H	R	B	H	B	X	O	H	K	G	X
D	E	N	S	V	Y	T	U	S	L	A	R	Z	F	M	B	C	W	U	J	B	J	E	M
Y	Z	O	A	E	O	M	E	S	T	G	A	K	M	T	L	T	C	N	E	D	W	N	M
Q	T	Y	W	Y	N	C	S	P	I	E	E	Q	E	P	B	S	E	D	Z	L	O	E	R
U	V	M	O	A	B	D	J	K	E	S	G	V	K	E	Z	C	Q	E	D	Z	X	R	V
I	J	O	V	J	C	C	N	K	X	D	D	U	M	A	G	W	Y	R	G	B	H	O	Y
Q	M	D	T	B	R	Z	C	I	Y	M	E	L	D	C	F	W	F	S	K	V	X	S	T
G	R	E	L	S	G	O	V	J	K	F	L	T	F	E	J	B	H	T	V	U	O	I	I
W	E	S	W	Q	H	O	A	N	S	J	W	N	M	A	L	E	E	A	G	E	N	T	T
G	D	T	X	O	D	V	Y	X	U	A	O	F	I	Y	I	Z	V	N	D	Q	T	Y	S
C	U	Y	V	U	I	L	N	P	M	D	N	A	E	Q	K	V	M	D	F	N	S	G	A
R	E	K	Z	D	O	S	O	L	R	Q	K	O	R	F	E	T	P	I	T	A	Y	C	H
W	G	N	X	I	C	T	J	K	S	Z	J	H	S	Z	E	P	P	N	B	V	A	F	C
X	B	R	I	G	H	T	J	U	D	G	E	M	E	N	T	B	Q	G	S	D	L	F	O

Right Judgement	Understanding	Self-Control	Faithfulness
Gentleness	Generosity	Reverence	Knowledge
Patience	Kindness	Goodness	Chastity
Courage	Modesty	Wonder	Wisdom
Peace	Love	Joy	

Reunion Theme:  
"Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts"

**My Experience Traveling to Illinois on  
Interstate 70  
By Richard Lade  
September 2001**

While traveling East on I-70 at 70 mph. about an hour from Columbia, Missouri, the words of the hymn "My Jesus I Love Thee" which I had heard the day before, came into my mind. As soon as the first words were in my mind, the power of the love of Christ came over me like a mantle. The power of that experience was overwhelming. Total unity. I knew that while that spirit was with me, there wasn't anything that I would not do for my Lord. I recognized that this is the power of unity that will bring about the redemption of Zion. This experience lasted for about an hour.

<----->

**Mary Lade At A Service In Bethesda, Ohio  
In 1956**

Mary was 20 years old. The experience was at the Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio Reunion in 1956.

Apostle Arthur Oakman in a morning prayer service spoke in tongues and then interpreted the message. The content of the message was on preparing for Zion. The grandmothers were to teach the young handmaidens how to sew, so they could sew their own clothes and how to can so food could be preserved. Everyone was told to get out of debt and stay out of debt. It was an admonition. Immediately following the end of the interpretation, he looked down to his left on the front row where several young boys

"Now it is natural for men to be self-centered. It is supernatural for them to be altruistic and wholly selfless. Human nature, as we know it, does not have the power of itself to exhibit the life which is God's own nature which was mirrored in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ."  
*He Who Is*, by Arthur Oakman, p. 31



"If thou wilt do good, yea, and hold out faithful to the end, thou shalt be saved in the kingdom of God, which is the greatest of all the gifts of God, for there is no gift greater than the gift of salvation." D&C 6:5e

were sitting. He looked down and pointed at them and said with emphasis, "And you will live to see the redemption of Zion". These young boys were 8-10 years old. Psalms 90:10 says the age of man is three score and ten and maybe fourscore. 70 to 80 years old.

<----->

**My Experience During A Seminar On Zion  
At SCRIB By Richard Lade, January 1995**

The ministry was being provided by several priesthood, including Elder Ray Zinzer and Patriarch Bill Davies. My experience happened while brother Davies was preaching. I heard an audible voice in my mind, it began in a normal volume and increased in volume two more times, being the loudest the third time. The words spoken to my mind were, "Israel, Come Home", "Israel, Come Home", "Israel, Come Home". My understanding of this message was that the Lord will soon call His people Israel to come home. It also was impressed on my mind that this message was for those who are of Israel who are already here in the land of Zion, who need to repent and come home.



Reunion Theme:  
"Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts"

**A Confirming Dream**  
**By David Griner**  
**Independence, Missouri**

"And ye shall receive the gift of  
the Holy Ghost." Genesis 6:53



I was laying plans for an early morning youth prayer service, and made preparations by fasting and prayer. Our pastor and his associate promised to assist in this worthy cause. Just prior to the date set, I had a most unusual and confirming experience.

As strange as it may seem, all of this experience transpired while I was still asleep. I awoke my wife about one-thirty in the morning and asked her to get pencil and paper and write what I told her. She sat up in bed, turned on the light, reached for a pen and scrap of paper and began writing as I spoke in prophecy in my sleep.

She filled the first scrap of paper and searched about for another. This she had to repeat several times. She testified that I stopped speaking each time she was getting the paper, then proceeded in prophecy only when she was prepared to continue. When the prophecy was completed, she arose, fitted the scraps of paper into place, then rewrote the message on sheets of paper. During all this, I slept.

When I awoke in the morning I began telling her of the most wonderful prophecy that had been given me during my sleep. I started trying to recall it. Reaching over to the bedside, she picked up those sheets of paper and handed them to me. "Is this what you received?" she asked.

I read her writings and found them to be the exact words given me in the dream, with the exception of two words which were wrong. I called her attention to these. She explained that she had changed the two words herself because she thought I had intended to say it that way. She had corrected those two words.

My spirit was high with anticipation for our young people who assembled early Sunday morning. As the meeting progressed, our pastor arose and spoke in prophecy. He spoke collectively to the whole group, then individually to two young people. To my great joy and satisfaction, the prophecy was given verbatim as the message was given me during my sleep.

I was able to stand and bear witness to the truth of words from God, telling of the unusual experience my wife and I had when the very same prophecy was given to me in my sleep. The Spirit of God lifted me to a great spiritual height during that service. I am so thrilled that He saw fit to use me as a confirming witness to His words that morning. God changes not and He still speaks to His people today.

*Called To Witness,*  
Conference Edition 1976

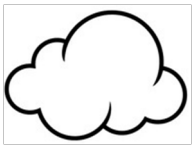
"...the love of God is sovereign, demanding that we be raised to his own level; and he spares himself or us no pains until this is fully accomplished."  
*God's Spiritual Universe*, by Arthur Oakman, p. 19



Reunion Theme:  
"Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts"

**Keeping The Sabbath Day Holy**  
By Barbara Wilkinson  
Nevada, Iowa

Roy Hugget had a vision or dream in which he saw four clouds over Zion which were holding back the spiritual development of the people. Those **four clouds** are our failure in these areas:



- 1) Keeping the Word of Wisdom
- 2) Keeping the financial law
- 3) Sanctity of the home
- 4) Keeping the Sabbath day holy

When my husband and I began to follow the "What's Your Heart's Desire?" plan, we found that simultaneously we were led to areas of change the Lord wanted us to make. One of the first changes we were led to was keeping the Sabbath day holy. This was a growing and learning process for us.

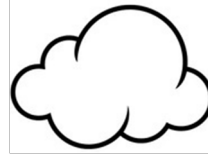
The first thing we did was to try to make it as much a day of rest as possible. We always try to get an afternoon nap. There are times when we get that nap while traveling for the Lord. We switch off driving so both of us get at least a short nap.

We decided not to do "our own thing", during that time. That meant no yard work, TV watching, knitting, etc.

Saturday evenings we would retire right after dinner and read the scriptures or other good books out loud to each other. We also used the time to prepare our Sunday School lesson or talks or sermons.

"God loves all men and it seems his love is unquenchable. Men may defy him, ignore him, wound and crucify him, yet nothing they can do can alter, one iota, God's never failing love and concern."

*God's Spiritual Universe*, by Arthur Oakman, p. 131



"That ye may have that precious gift of eternal life."  
Helaman 2:70

I try to have as much as possible of the Sunday noon meal prepared on Saturday. After lunch, I put the dishes in the dishwasher; any pots and pans that need washing by hand are rinsed and stacked neatly to be done when the Sabbath is over.

We never shop on Sunday anymore. Sometimes this has been difficult as we have missed some things that we considered real bargains.

I don't mean to give the idea that we have it perfected. There are times when we slip. For example, during the Olympics and the all-star football games, we laid down for our nap and watched TV. I never feel as rested and I know I'm breaking the Sabbath so my conscience bothers me.

But in spite of those slips, we feel our home has been blessed with a peace we had not known before. At times when conflict seems to be on the increase in our home, we try to re-evaluate our Sabbath activities and we find adjustments here help our association together throughout the week.

*Called To Witness*, April 1978



Reunion Theme:  
"Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts"

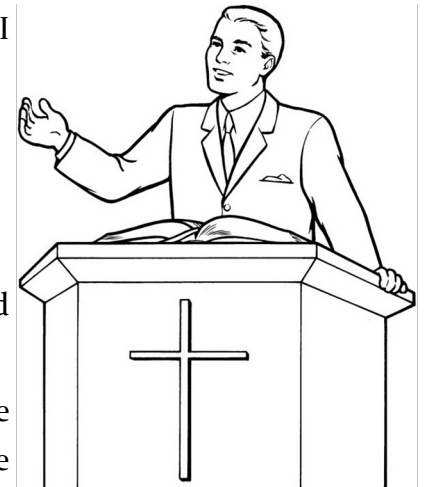
**Counsel Given Thru Patriarch Walter Weldon  
At South Crysler Restoration Branch**

**September 1990**

"For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom,  
to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;"  
I Corinthians 12:8-9



- "Tell my people, I have gathered many of you to the land of Zion, including those who have been born here. You are here to build My Zion."
  - "Where there is no vision, My people perish. Many have lost their vision of Zion."
  - "Tell My people, this is the day of your preparation."
  - "I am waiting for you, My people, to sanctify your lives."
  - "Tell My people to keep the Lord's day holy and many homes and lives are being polluted."
  - "Come out of Babylon. Be not partakers of her ways."
  - "Tell My people of the parable of the Ten virgins (Matt. 25:1-12). We are now in that time period that this parable is being fulfilled." (I felt that great emphasis was placed upon this parable.)
  - "Tell My people My coming is near. Be ready."
  - "Tell My people, keep My commandments."
  - "Tell My people My word must become flesh."
  - "Foretold calamities are coming to cleanse My people and the land of Zion."
  - "Tell My priesthood, (D&C 38:9), go ye out from among the wicked. Save yourselves. Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord."
  - "I am pouring out my Spirit now upon those who are cleansing and purifying and sanctifying their lives."
  - "This is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes."
  - "My people cannot build My Kingdom on the level which they are now living."
- Even so, Amen.



"Men need a new spirit in which to view life, a spirit in which there is power and motivation to reorient life around the divine purpose. The spirit men need is the testimony of Jesus—the Spirit of Prophecy."  
*God's Spiritual Universe, by Arthur Oakman, p. 151*

Reunion Theme:  
"Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts"

**Christ and the Children**

By Susan Pimblott

Independence, Missouri

Looking back upon my first encounter with Christ, I realize just how lucky I really am. Most people can, and do go through their entire mortal lives without seeing Christ. Their faith must be stronger than mine because they believe without seeing while I have been in His Presence and have talked to Him. This was many years ago but I will never forget.

I was a small child around the age of five. Every night when I went to sleep I would pray to see Jesus Christ. Then, one night, He came to me and took me by the hand. We went to a beautiful field where other children and I played, laughed, and sat on Christ's lap. Christ answered the questions we asked in a way simple enough for us small children to be able to understand. Finally he escorted me back to my bedroom.

He came every night for me until after I started kindergarten. Then upon His last coming He told me that I would not see Him again until I was like unto a child again, (perfect, without sin). He said this because I was learning things in school and was becoming accountable for my sins.

At one time, I began to doubt this experience and looked upon it as "child's

"He hath written many things which he saw in visions and in dreams." 1 Nephi 1:15

imagination." But God sent someone to me. This person told me that he had had a similar experience and that he had been one of those children in the field with Christ.

This is the reason for my faith. All I can offer to those who haven't seen Christ is my testimony that He is. It is a testimony of Christ's love for little children, and if you ask it of God you shall receive it. He loves each of us and always is looking after us in ways which we may never know.

*Called To Witness*, Conference Edition 1976



"The eternal God chooses to make himself known. He gives the desire to know him. To know him is to be like him. To be like him is to know as we are known. So we discover ourselves in him. In his light we see light. In his peace we are at peace. In his humility we are exalted. As he makes himself known to us, so others are to us made known, and the love wherewith he loves them is kindled in us and we are led to endeavor for them what he has done for us."

*God's Spiritual Universe*, by Arthur Oakman, p. 154



Reunion Theme:  
“Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts”

**The Book of Mormon is True**

**By Lulu M. Frisbie**

**Pittsburg, Kansas**

Although I had joined the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, I did not have the opportunity to attend services for some time after my baptism.

After I moved to Pittsburg, where I could attend, I bought a Book of Mormon and decided to read it through.

When I came to the part about Alma being struck dumb by the Spirit of God, I didn't believe it. It seemed the same as the activities of some of the more boisterous churches, where I had seen this happen to people.

I decided not to read the Book of Mormon anymore.

I got a table from the porch, put a box on it, then a chair on top of that, in order to

“And having the spirit of prophecy, and the spirit of revelation, and also many gifts, the gift of speaking with tongues, and the gift of preaching, and the gift of the Holy Ghost, and the gift of translation.” Alma 7:31

reach the highest place I could find. There I put the Book of Mormon, determined not to read another word.

That night, the Lord appeared to me and said, "It was my Spirit that struck Alma dumb. The other is not my Spirit. The Book of Mormon is true."

The next morning, I could hardly wait to get my Book of Mormon. I have read and studied it ever since.

*Called To Witness*, January 1976



“Jesus was concerned that each one see the purpose of God for him, and in every detail of life he would have his followers work out his purpose, leaving the larger matters, over which they had no control in the divine hands.”  
*God's Spiritual Universe*, by Arthur Oakman, p. 18





Reunion Theme:  
“Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts”

## This Is My Church

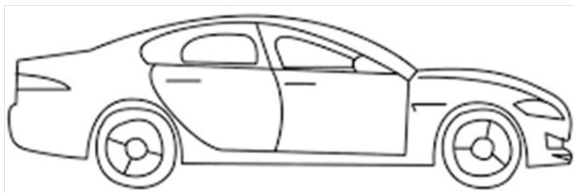
By Gary Hoover

After high school and after the girl I was dating went off to college, I continued going to her church. I knew she had her family and friends going to that church and they would report to her on my attendance.

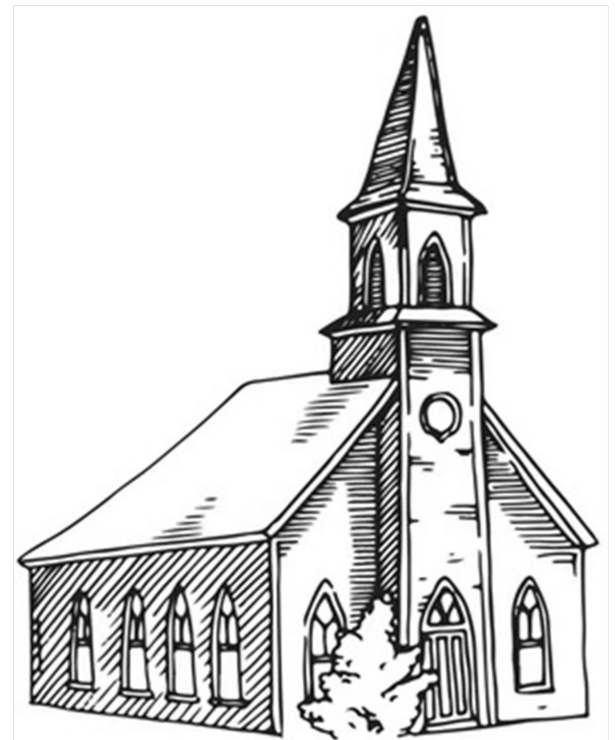
One Wednesday I was running late as I drove into the parking lot, popping gravel as my car came to a stop. I walked in a hurry to the church steps and stopped. I could hear the service had already started and they were singing the opening hymn.

At that moment as I had one foot on the first step, I heard an audible voice say, “These are my people. This is my Church.”

Today you will find me in His Church and with His People.



“Seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom,  
seek learning even by study, and also by faith.”  
D&C 85:36a



“To know the Lord Jesus as he really is means that he himself must make his own impression upon us. He must be permitted to bear his own image in our souls.”  
*He Who Is*, by Arthur Oakman, p. 84



Reunion Theme:  
"Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts"

**A Voice Out Of The Whirlwind**

By Victor Fisher  
Independence, Missouri



The "Dust Bowl" or "Depression" years were trying times which many older persons would rather not reflect upon and yet, during that period, there were many wonderful and inspiring experiences.

The church had asked me to accept an appointment to Manitoba, Canada with the warning that there were no available funds to aid an appointee. It was my mother's advice that souls were just as precious during depressions as other times. She had enough money saved to provide train fare from Saskatchewan to Winnipeg.

Winnipeg is situated on the southerly tip of what was once a great inland sea and takes its name from this great body of water, Majestic Lake Winnipeg. It was seventy miles wide and extended northward two hundred and seventy miles into the arctic regions of the Hudson Bay. It was in this vicinity that I shared many wonderful experiences with the saints who were dedicated to the cause of Christ.

Through great labor and perseverance of the priesthood and the saints of Winnipeg, many people were being converted to the church. However, the months and years of depression had frayed the nerves and tried the patience of almost everyone and it was becoming a problem for all to avoid being slightly resentful.

"And again, to some is given the workings of miracles, and to others it is given to prophesy, and to others the discerning of spirits. And again, it is given to some to speak with tongues, and to another it is given the interpretation of tongues." D&C 46:7d,e

One day, word came that there was an opening for services a hundred and twenty-five miles up the lake by trail at Mary and Arthur Watson's ranch. I set out for this point early one morning on my "depression Cadillac," a bicycle furnished by the Winnipeg saints.

After two days of grueling trail cycling, the ranch home of the Watsons was reached. Two weeks of services were held, after which it was necessary to return to Winnipeg for a scheduled business meeting. I judged that by riding hard from sunrise to sunset, I could complete the journey in a single day.

Mary Watson prepared a lunch for me and I set out for Winnipeg at daylight, Sunday morning. I encountered a strong head wind which resisted every effort to make progress. By ten o'clock, six hours from the time I had left the Watson's ranch, I had only traveled about ten of the hundred and twenty-five miles. To be stranded out in the wilds of Canada, miles from anywhere, was a depressing experience. However, it was pointless to continue at a mile per hour speed.

"[The] 'word' has been objectively displayed in the life of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit entered the realm of human life in him and gave specific and complete revelation of the love of God, thus obtaining a new power over the hearts of men."

*Resurrection and Eternal Life*, by Arthur Oakman, p. 226

Close to the trail lay a beautiful meadow surrounded by large, tall trees. I judged it had been an ancient Indian campsite. The campfires and ashes had destroyed and checked the growth of trees, but the grass grew luxuriously on the site. I decided to halt and wait in the shelter of the large trees until the elements were more favorable and it was practical to travel.

I decided to have lunch and had taken a couple of bites from a sandwich when a small whirlwind formed on the meadow. It appeared to be whirling rapidly, picking up grass and dust and advancing slowly towards the surrounding forest. I expected it would lose itself in the midst of the trees, but surprisingly it changed its course, moving closer to where I was seated and then returned across the meadow. It kept repeating this operation in a zigzag path. Each pass grew closer until I could feel the breeze from it and dust began to fall around me. It was annoying after struggling against the wind for six hours. I had retired to a peaceful nook to rest and eat, but the wind still had to plague me.

As the whirlwind edged closer, I covered the lunch and watched it intently. When it was close, and directly opposite me, it stopped, not its rotation, but its forward advance. At that moment, a voice came out of the whirlwind. It was not a small, still voice as sometimes is heard when the Spirit speaks to us, but a resonant voice, as one speaking from a canyon. It said, "Go now, if you wish to reach Winnipeg today."

The words, "Go now," seemed to ring like a bell struck with a hammer. I didn't wait to ponder or reflect upon those words. To me, it was a directive. I stuffed the lunch into a pocket, mounted the bicycle and wheeled out onto the trail, followed by a driving wind. For the first hundred yards, I was traveling at a

speed above my control and it resulted in a fall. The bicycle clattered as it skidded on the rocky trail and I was almost positive it would be ruined. It was undamaged and I again mounted but proceeded more cautiously.

The first three miles of the trail led away from the lake around a point and then returned close to the lake again. Going out, the wind was in my favor and I expected I would have to walk back, and then walk and ride as the direction of the wind proved favorable. As I rounded the point and headed back towards the lake, the wind turned with me so that the same speed was maintained on the return. I felt a strange sensation coursing up and down my spine. Job had heard a voice speaking out of the whirlwind. I had heard a voice from the whirlwind also saying, "Go now." The whirlwind was giving me a ride I had never dreamed of, mile after mile, in and out, hour after hour, until at last, I reached the treeless prairie near Winnipeg. Within a half mile of the city, the wind ceased as if a fan had been turned off. I continued on to the church arriving in time for the business meeting.

The saints asked when I had left, for home and I told them on the same day I arrived. They were not able to understand how I could ride so far in a day on a bicycle. I explained that I was propelled by a "rushing, mighty wind." They looked at me quiscally and replied, "There has been no wind whatsoever in Winnipeg today."

*Called To Witness, August 1975*



Reunion Theme:  
"Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts"

## The Ministering Angel

By Margilee Ramlow  
Marshfield, Wisconsin

The reunion experience, 1973, was certainly a most blessed one. I had felt the power of the Lord moving in a glorious way which fills the soul with joy.



As the days progressed, my spirit soared ever higher and the end of one day would be anxiously spent looking forward to the next ... until Thursday. Early that morning I awoke to find that I was deathly ill, so very ill that even to turn over in bed was almost too much. Thinking perhaps hunger was my problem, I tried to get up for a snack but found my body so weak it could not hold me up.

Knowing what the scriptures teach about healing and God's will for me, I had been in an attitude of prayer since awakening but now the prayers became more prevent. "Lord, I

"Having then gifts differing according to the grace given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;" Romans 12:6

know it is not your desire for me to be like this. What would you have me do?"

In this manner more than two hours passed but, rather than getting better, I seemed to be getting progressively worse. At 9:00 a.m. I had a class of young people to teach. At 8:15 my very dear friend came charging in the door of the tent remarking sternly, "What are you doing in that bed? Get up! You know it is the Lord's will that you be well." Whereupon she began to read to me the familiar scriptures I have loved so well. But yet I said, "Angie, I just can't."

Then she said those beautiful words, "Let's pray." Oh, praise God for His lovely sons and daughters who stand at our side to help build our faith when we fall. "Two are better than one ... for if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up." Eccl. 4:9,10

Her prayer being finished, I began praying and at that moment my four-year-old son, Darin, walked into the tent and around to the side of my bed. He fidgeted around a little and then, though I was still engaged in praying, I remember being very aware of his total and complete silence, a silence so strong that it was almost overwhelming.

"All through the ages he has been preparing the souls of man by the power of his Spirit. By ordinance, by drama, by his prophets, chosen ones sent into the world, by the voice of angels, by the voice of judgment, by the voice of prosperity, by the voice of peace and by the voice of war, by every voice known to him, he has been seeking to prepare the souls of men that they may be open to receive the word of God."

*He Who Is*, by Arthur Oakman, pp. 129-130



Following the prayer, I turned toward him and his beautiful, bright, shining little eyes were as wide as they could be. "Mommy," he said, "there was an angel behind you. I saw him!"

Yes, surely, I believe in angels. But, oh the unbelief of the adult mind. He's only four, he must have been imagining. But then again, the look on his face, just maybe. . . "Tell me about him."

"Well, he had a white sheet wrapped around him." He tried to show me with his little hands.

"Can you tell me anything else?"

"Yes. He put his hands on your head while you were praying." And then I knew. It was so! It was so! Praise the Lord!

Twenty-five minutes until class time. **Run** to the shower house. **Run** back to the tent. **Run** to class. As a matter of fact, I think I ran everywhere that day.

The story of Darin's angel spread quickly and I knew that the experience was not given for Darin and I alone, but for the building of the faith of God's people, and so I stood to bear my testimony that morning.

In the congregation was a priesthood member who had earlier heard the story and had not believed, for surely it must be the product of a four-year-old mind. However, he prayed to the Lord that if it was true, he wanted to know.

As I stood to bear my testimony, he bore the feelings I had felt earlier that morning and the Holy Spirit just flooded his soul in witness that, yes, Darin's angel was real!



Reunion Theme:  
"Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts"

## Importance of Prayer

By Richard Hensley  
Lee's Summit, Missouri

Shortly after I was married, my wife became ill with strep throat. She was sick for a period of time but received continual blessings under the hands of the elders. One evening after returning from work, I felt my whole body begin to ache and my throat becoming sore.

Since we were just getting started in our marriage, we were operating on a very strict budget, and my first thought was, "Lord, I can't get sick now. We would have no income at all and we have no savings". I realized if I got strep throat and was out of work, it would be a terrible thing for us financially.

Later that evening I called for the elders to come and administer to me. When they arrived I explained how my wife had just suffered with strep throat, my fear of getting it now, and the problem of being left without an income. As they laid their hands on my head I prayed that God would heal my throat. Almost immediately I felt a wonderful soothing come to my throat. I knew that God had answered my prayer and my throat had been healed.

After the elders left I realized that although my throat had been completely healed, my body was still aching with fever. I couldn't understand why the Lord would heal my throat and leave the rest of my body in pain and sickness.

As we retired, I laid there contemplating the events which had transpired that evening. I began to pray for a complete and total healing. I prayed, knowing He could heal me

"And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues." 1 Corinthians 12:28

and believing He would, because the Lord knew our financial situation and how important it was for me to be able to work. I continued to pray, still feeling the ache and pain in my body, until sleep overcame me.

The next thing I remember is waking up with the realization that my body was no longer in pain. In fact, I felt so good that I jumped out of bed and began to get ready for work—thanking and praising God. Presently, I laid back down on the bed and in the spirit of meditation and praise asked the Lord, "Why didn't you heal me completely before?" In the quiet way of God's Holy Spirit, these words came to me:

"Oh, Son of Man, you must learn to select your words in prayer very carefully, and take thought of those things you stand in need of before approaching your Heavenly Father. Thy faith has made thee whole."

This has been a wonderful lesson to me and a help in my prayers. I hope from this testimony all who read it will realize the importance of how we approach our Heavenly Father.

*Called To Witness*, September 1978

"Worship is the essence of the resurrected life and is the supreme business with which we have to do."  
*Resurrection and Eternal Life*, Arthur Oakman, p. 257



Reunion Theme:  
"Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts"



## I Asked For A Testimony

By Richard Hill  
Independence, Missouri

In 1964, shortly before I was called into the priesthood of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, I was living in Pasadena, Texas, a suburb of Houston. In the summer of that year, I attended a men's retreat held at the Texas Reunion Grounds in Bandera, Texas. This was a weekend retreat; we drove up on Friday night and closed on Sunday afternoon. I went to this retreat expecting great things and asking the Lord to give me an experience that would be useful in my ministry, which I knew was a responsibility soon to be placed upon my shoulders.

On Saturday evening, we were sitting in the assembly hall which was also used as the dining hall. There were men there from several districts as we were all meeting together for this retreat. And there were several world church appointees and officers of the church. They were acting more or less as a panel, while the rest of the men asked questions about church policy or the teachings of the church or anything else we would like to ask regarding the operation of the church. These men were taking turns answering the questions as best they could, by whoever felt best qualified to give the answers.

It was a wonderful time of learning for me. And as we sat there that evening, I sensed the presence of an angel descending from heaven and standing outside a corner of the assembly hall. I felt this presence so strongly that I looked, expecting to see the angel, but I could

"And there are different ways that these gifts are administered, but it is the same God who worketh all in all, and they are given by the manifestations of the Spirit of God unto men, to profit them." Moroni 10:9

not see him with my physical eyes. I could however perceive in my mind's eye a white light silhouetting the form of an angel descending to earth, with one foot raised higher than the other.

As I couldn't see anything, I turned around and began paying attention to the meeting again. Once more this feeling of angelic presence came to me, and again I sensed an angel in the same posture descending to earth near the corner of the dining hall. Again I looked, expecting to see one, but did not, at least not with my physical eyes, but I knew that he was there, nevertheless.

Again, I began to listen to the things that were being said in the meeting. A third time, I sensed the presence of an angel at the corner of the building. After this third time, I told the Lord that I thought it would be wonderful if these angels whose presence I sensed could come in and teach us as these men of the church were teaching us there in the dining hall. The Lord answered me almost immediately that we weren't ready for this kind of ministry as yet.

That night, we went to our cabins and we were asked to offer our prayers before we went to bed, but that we were not to pray for anything for ourselves. This we did.

"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, pp. 16

The next morning during our prayer service, we again had a break for personal prayer and we went out to be by ourselves on various parts of the reunion grounds. This time we were asked to pray to our Heavenly Father for our own needs ... to pour out our hearts to the Lord for the things that we needed.

Near the close of this prayer meeting, one of the men in charge arose to speak and he said that he had risen to speak by the impress of the Spirit of God. We were told many things that morning. He said that the things were given by John the Beloved. He said that the night before, the three Nephites had walked upon these grounds, and that these grounds were holy grounds.

Immediately I knew that this was a confirming testimony to me of the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon. Because many times, I had read the story in the Book of Mormon of the three Nephites and marveled at the ability the Lord gave these disciples to remain on earth and to bring souls unto Him. I knew from the experience I had had the night before and from the degree of the Spirit that was present in that meeting that this was true ... that this had actually happened. This, then, was the testimony I had asked for which would be useful in my ministry.

The Spirit of God was very strong in that meeting ... so strong with me that it caused tears to run down my face and caused me to tremble all over. I couldn't stop trembling because of the power of the Spirit.

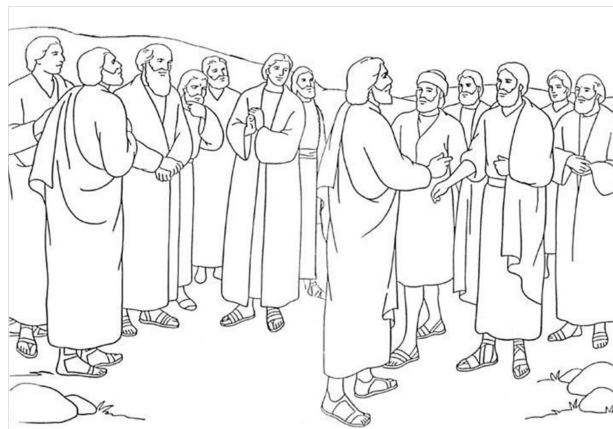
The man who was speaking under the influence of the Good Spirit continued to speak to us for about thirty minutes under this kind of a Spirit. We were told many things, one of which was that the Lord had forgiven us our sins. And I can bear testimony to this also; it felt that a physical weight had been lifted from my shoulders because of the forgiveness of my Lord.

I later talked to other men who were there who also had confirming testimonies

that the prophecy brought to us that morning was indeed of the Lord and that the three Nephites had been on the grounds the evening before.

This was truly a marvelous experience and was a testimony to me of the divinity and truthfulness of the Book of Mormon, as held by the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Because of this experience, I do know and can testify that Christ did minister upon the continent of America, that He did call twelve disciples here, and that He did give three of them, at their request, power to remain on earth and to win souls to Christ until He should come again.

*Called To Witness, March 1976*





Reunion Theme:  
"Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts"

## A Vision Of The Holy Family

By Esther Brockway

Independence, Missouri

Some time ago, I was experiencing a severe problem. In answer to my earnest prayers, the Lord blessed me with an experience which has given me a great deal of strength and comfort. I share it with you in the hope that it will enrich your understanding of the Nativity and bring you a portion of the joy it has brought to me.

The entire experience unfolded in my mind's eye and was as real to me as if I were actually a part of it.

First, I saw a magnificent sunset in flaming colors. Silhouetted against this beautiful backdrop, I saw Mary and Joseph moving toward the stable. Mary was riding a donkey and Joseph was walking slowly alongside, as close to Mary as he could get and still not interfere with the donkey's gait.

Neither of them spoke at first, but I was given to know what they were both thinking.

Every movement Joseph made was in rebellion against going to the stable. His whole being revolted against taking Mary there. He loved Mary with all his heart, a love that combined both "agape" and "eros." In this beautiful marriage, the two were combined.

"For behold, to one is given the Spirit of God, that he may teach the word of wisdom, and to another, that he may teach the word of knowledge by the same Spirit, and to another exceeding great faith, and to another, the gift of healing by the same Spirit." Moroni 10:10

Joseph loved Mary with such fervor that he felt nothing was too good for her. If only he could reach up and pluck the stars to make her a necklace! If only he could take her to the most beautiful palace on earth where she could have her baby in luxury! She deserved it! Wasn't her child the Son of God, as the angel had said!

Why couldn't he at least take her to her friends and loved ones at home in familiar surroundings!

The Lord had chosen Joseph to be Mary's husband and act as father to the Christ child. The responsibility weighed heavily upon him. What kind of a father and husband would take his lovely wife to this filthy stable! "Oh, God, why does this have to be, when I am so anxious to be good to my beloved Mary and her baby! Why does it have to turn out like this! Surely You intended something better!"

Mary knew that Joseph was fretting about her. He had reassured her several times that

"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 A. Oakman, p. 75



as soon as she could travel again, they would go back and he would build her a nice home, the best he could afford.

She spoke comfortingly to him. Considering that she was about to go into labor, she was cheerfully relaxed. Going to the stable did not trouble her. She told Joseph, "I have my Heavenly Father and my loving husband to look out after me. What more do I need?"

"Please don't worry," she continued to assure him. "I am so happy with you and our new baby we have been entrusted with that nothing else matters."

When they reached the stable, Joseph did his best to help Mary, wishing with all his heart that one of the midwives from home could be there. To be sure, he had been around animals enough that he understood the birth process. But he was a rough man, and surely the touch of another woman would help Mary so much. He almost wept in his anguish.

But the Heavenly Father blessed Mary and soon she had the baby Jesus in her arms. She looked so thrilled and peaceful that Joseph was able to relax a little.

Then suddenly, they had company! A small group of excited shepherds called on the new family and told them of the angel chorus that had appeared to them. Joseph listened with great interest to their story.

They told him about the star over the stable. And I understood for the first time that it was not a star as we think of it. That is why astronomers have never been able to account for the experience. A real star or even a comet so close as to appear over the stable would have burned up the countryside.

The shepherds called it a "star" because it was the best word they knew to describe what they saw.

Now the shepherds took Joseph by the arm and led him outside to see it. He had been so busy helping Mary and worrying about her that he hadn't noticed it before.

The shepherds looked at the stable, a place of great familiarity to them and they said to Joseph, "He is the Son of God, but He is one of us, too. He has come to live on our level!" They were so deeply moved that they were privileged to see the Divine and human combined to bring life to all mankind!

In his heart, Joseph began to understand why he had had to take Mary to the stable. The shepherds would not have been allowed to enter a palace, even if they wanted to.

The Heavenly Father understood Joseph's anguish about wanting to give Mary and the baby the best care possible. It was because of Joseph's compassion that he had been chosen for this great responsibility.

But God was also able to look beyond the immediacy of passing moments and realize that countless multitudes would bow in reverence before a Savior who was willing to enter the world under such difficult circumstances.

And I was keenly aware of this paradox in the process of revelation. The shepherds were ecstatic to find the baby Jesus in such lowly surroundings, but the same experience tried Joseph's faith greatly.

I realized that this is an aspect of the revealing process that all of us need to appreciate. At the same time we may wholeheartedly accept a revelation as an

answer to a problem, some other person might be deeply disturbed because of his viewpoint or situation.

If one of the excited shepherds had suddenly traded places with Joseph, to be responsible for Mary and the baby Jesus, he would probably have exclaimed, "What! In this dirty place?"

Mary, I must get you out of here as quickly as possible!"

I was also given to know that creches that show the wise men at the stable are historically incorrect. After Jesus was born, the wise men went to Herod, inquiring about the child. Quite a period of time elapsed before they found Him.

"When they had heard the king, they departed; and lo, the star which they saw in the east went before them, until it came and stood over where the young child was.

"And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshipped him." Matthew 3:9,11.

Joseph, as a loving husband and father, provided his little family with a house, as soon as he was able to move her away from the stable. He was not a passive figure standing aloof. He was actively concerned in fulfilling his role as a good father and husband.

*Called To Witness, December 1979*



Reunion Theme:  
"Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts"

**A Testimony Of The  
Book Of Mormon**  
By Margaret E. Tucker  
Pleasant Hill, Missouri

It happened on a cold February day. I was a young mother in my thirties. The Young Adult Class had been studying the Book of Mormon under Leah Rowland, in our Pleasant Hill, Missouri congregation. This day I knew that during my study time in the afternoon I would read through Moroni 10:4-5 with the exhortation to ask God for a knowledge of the truth. I decided to seek that knowledge. I had never really doubted, as I had loved the book from the time I could remember. Nevertheless, I knew that believing and knowing were two different things.

I skipped lunch, filled the wood stove that was the heat for our little farm house, and sat down to read the Book of Mormon. So interesting and absorbing was the reading to me that all else was forgotten. I began to feel the cold creeping in as the fire burned low, but simply moved a little closer to the stove and continued to read. I came finally to the words: "And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; And if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you by the power of the Holy Ghost; and by the power of the Holy Ghost, ye

"The revelation of God in Christ come first—and out of this issues a covenanted relation between man and God. Charity is a fruitage of this revelation, and can grow in man from no other source."  
*God's Spiritual Universe, by Arthur Oakman, p. 12*

"And again, to another, that he may work mighty miracles, and again, to another, that he may prophesy concerning all things, and again, to another, the beholding of angels and ministering spirits, and again, to another, all kinds of tongues, and again, to another, the interpretation of languages and of divers kinds of tongues."

Moroni 10:11

may know the truth of all things." Moroni 10:4,5

I laid aside the book and knelt there in the cold room. My lips had only begun to form the words of my petition, when, beginning with my feet, the most wonderful, warm and sweet feeling moved upward through me, flooding my entire being, until I rose rejoicing and exclaimed, "It is enough Lord; I love Thee." I cannot say how long the presence was there, but time was not important. Gradually it was withdrawn and at last I found myself alone in the cold room as before.

I know the Book of Mormon to be a true record of the ancient people of this land—that it is another witness that Jesus is the Christ. I know that we are living in the last days before His return, and that I must heed the warnings contained therein or I will be lost. My prayer is that I may be able to help someone else to know and love the Book of Mormon as I do.

*Called To Witness,*  
July 1979



Reunion Theme:  
"Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts"

## Hands Of An Angel

By Richard Hensley  
Lee's Summit, Missouri

One of the most memorable experiences I have had was shared with Brother Gene Walton. I had the opportunity to work with Brother Walton for some time in the same company where he was employed. This, in itself, was one continual growing experience. Each day was a new adventure, which brings us to this testimony.

Brother Walton's wife received an urgent call from the hospital for him to come as quickly as possible to administer to a young boy who had been burned severely. She called the office and we left immediately for the hospital.

Upon arriving we learned from a burdened and concerned mother the grim details. Her son, around five years of age, had observed his father starting a fire in the back yard by using a can of gasoline. The boy noticed the fire going out and picked the can of gasoline up to pour on the fire. Next, there was an explosion and his mother ran to the back door to see her son running for the house in a ball of flames.

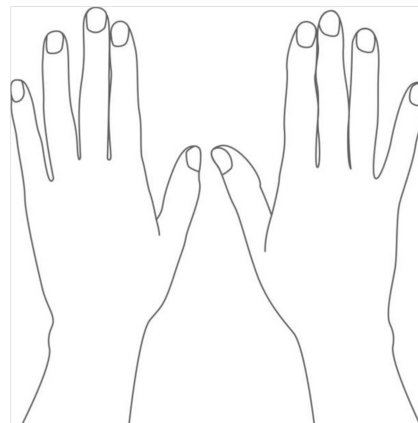
Immediately she picked him up and submerged him in a large washtub filled with water on the back porch. As she related the tragic story she remembered filling the tub with water early that morning, but couldn't remember for what reason. The doctors told her that submerging the boy was probably what saved his life.

"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."  
*Revelation and Eternal Life, Arthur Oakman, p. 243*

"And all these gifts come by the Spirit of Christ, and they come unto every man severally, according as he will." Moroni 10:12

I was just a new member and didn't hold priesthood office, but Brother Walton asked me to offer a prayer before he administered to the boy. Since he was under an oxygen tent and in isolation we had to put on masks and robes before entering his room. It was during this that I noticed something very wonderful about the boy's mother. Although her son was terribly burned and in great pain, she had a glow in her countenance. She was hurting for her son but yet rejoicing, knowing God was there and having a faith beyond words. As we left her in the hall to enter the boy's room she said almost reverently, "Look at his eyes." Remembering her description of the gas can exploding in the young lad's face I thought, "Why should we look at his eyes? He will probably be blind for life".

Looking toward the covered bed we approached the charred body of her son. As we looked through the clear oxygen tent, looking back were two clear, beautiful eyes, full of pain and fear, but untouched by the



fire. As we looked closer you could see the white imprints of hands that had been held over the boy's eyes just as the explosion must have taken place.

Now I understood the meaning of her words. I understood why the boy's mother was rejoicing. God had spared the life of her son by impressing upon her to fill a tub of

water, and had sent a protecting angel to cover the young lad's eyes, because he would need his eyes to accomplish the work his Heavenly Father had for him to do.

Truly, I was witness to the ministry of angels as I saw the work of the "Hands of an Angel".

*Called To Witness, April 1978*

## Book of Mormon

L A M A N I T E M T K P B B E A T I T U D E S S  
A J E S I O R D J M J E S F K A I B C W H U E P  
D Z W U A Z D D I Z Z Y J R G D G Q O Y K C V R  
B A P T I Z E Z G C Q N E L E U M E L F B Q U O  
N Q L I O Q X P N O O P S Y Y M E O L A Z U G P  
U K N O A H R F Q M E G N I L P I R T S T N S H  
R I D C J A S I M N C N N M Z H V S E B N C L E  
U L B Z Y H M A T K Q T T R T R G B R O H G A S  
R U Q Y L A L S P J I Z F I E V Z J M R R P M I  
E S C R U X F I I A N N M G K F M R I W L D A E  
R R C K H G V F C O A S W E H C O S A L V Z N S  
B O O E T Y F O L M H K L G J M T T B Z C E N D  
I I F M C I N E J P Y U H X M C O I O Q Q C A N  
M R L J M V H X E I M D Z V X N D I N O R O M J  
W R U X E I T S K A H K F O E I H M T Z F M A S  
K A D N B L O G H D N P Y M B V E A V I T J L S  
D W A K L J H G W Y S I E C D S P O I Z E K E Y  
Y N A F E T I H P E N N O N W V D B K S N M H L  
T A Q B I F T Q G W T U H U J J M C U E O O P Z  
K K R U Y H O L Y G H O S T H F B S C C Q M L V  
L R X S V R W O Z T O V R Z L F U S R A M L A Z  
S A F A I T H K T Q B R W A L S I H V F I D N T  
T U D U T Y N A T I R A M A S F T J O A T G B P  
O M P O H R W F N L N K P N U A N O H A I L T S

Joseph Smith	Holy Ghost	Prophecies	Beatitudes	Atonement
Convenant	Stripling	Samaritan	Warriors	Lamanite
Baptize	Helaman	Nephite	Liahona	Repent
Mosiah	Amulek	Moroni	Christ	Lemuel
Mormon	Ammon	Faith	Laman	Jesus
Nephi	Noah	Pray	Alma	Lehi

Reunion Theme:  
"Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts"

**God Gives Me Even More Than I Ask For**

**By Thelona Stevens**

**Independence, Missouri**



One summer I was asked to go to Chicago to teach some classes. It was something that I thought was highly important so I studied hard and fasted and prayed for God's help.

When I left home it was uncomfortably hot and sultry. I had to make a long journey on the bus from Independence to the railroad station in Kansas City. About half-way there suddenly a great storm arose which looked for a time like a tornado. Rain came in torrents and gusts of wind blew the rain so hard against the windshield of the bus that the driver pulled to the curbing several times because he couldn't see to drive. I was glad in my heart that I would be on the bus another half hour at least. I hoped the rain would be over by the time we reached the station. But alas the half hour passed and when we approached the station the rain was still coming down hard. I knew I would not be fit to board the train if I got off the bus in that torrent of rain. So because of the preparation I had made, I felt justified on calling on God for His help. Hence I prayed that the rain would stop long enough for me to get into the station.

At once the rain stopped! I thought, "How wonderful, just ask and it is done." Then a little doubt crept into my mind and I thought, "Well, it has rained long enough, perhaps, and I guess the storm was about over anyway." Then it began to

"And I would exhort you, my beloved brethren, that you remember that every good gift cometh of Christ." Moroni 10:13

rain hard again. I begged forgiveness for doubting and prayed again that the rain would stop, but it did not. It kept right on. I asked again and again, but it kept raining. Then I said to myself, "That's alright. When this bus stops, the rain will stop. There was nothing to do but to get off in the rain, which I did.

At the station there are two little traffic islands with double track-ways between, which must be crossed after alighting from the bus before reaching the curbing. Hence I stepped off the bus and ran into about four to six inches of water. I splashed through the water as I ran across the car tracks, and then across the second traffic island and down onto the street into a little stream of dirty water deep as the first. I ran a good half block from there to the station entrance with the rain still coming down. I hurried through the station and on down the steps to board the train, but on the platform it was again necessary to step out of the shelter. This platform was much dirtier than the street, with soot and dirt and grease all mixed with the water. I splashed through this and finally boarded the train.

"The testimony of the kingdom brings heaven down to earth. The work of righteousness among the people lifts earth to heaven."

*God's Spiritual Universe, by Arthur A. Oakman, p. 50*

Then I looked at myself. I felt my hair, which was not wet and neither was my hat. Neither was my dress wet, nor my hose or my shoes. They were white shoes and I took them off and examined them. There was not a spot on them. They were just as clean and white as when I left home.

Then I realized that God had given me even more than I had asked for. If he had just stopped

the rain, I would still have had to go through all the water and all the slush, and the only pair of shoes I had with me would have been ruined and unfit for me to have made the trip.

God was so good to me all the way!

*Called To Witness, November 1981*





Reunion Theme:  
"Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts"

## A Blessing Of Increase

By Norma Anne Holik

Independence, Missouri

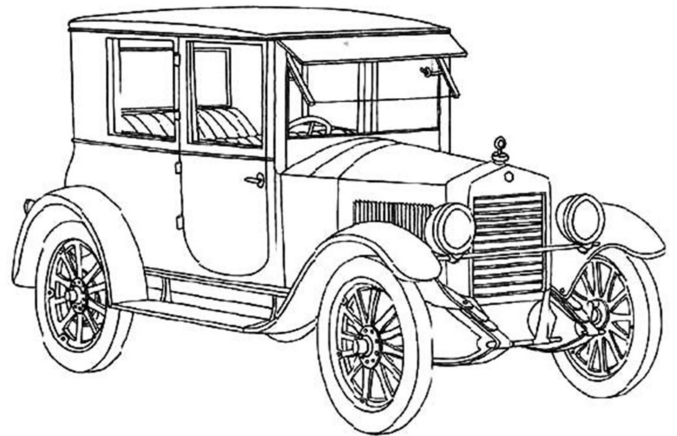
My family has experienced many blessings and we believe that part of them were due to our strict observance of the financial law, a habit instilled in me very early by my parents. We have had so many unusual experiences. One of the wonderful ones is about the gasoline tank.

During the depression, my father was a district church officer. He had an appointment to go to a branch about one hundred miles away on a Sunday to preach. We had just enough gasoline in the tank to take us there and back and no money to buy more.

On the Saturday before, our district president came and told my father that he was due in a branch the other direction and asked my father to take him. My father agreed to do so, knowing full well that if the gasoline was used on Saturday for church work, there would be none on Sunday for church work. We all went in that little Ford coupe. I was about seven years of age and sat on the lap of the district president, Brother Jim Bishop.

We completed the trip and started home. When we arrived, my father went to put the car away. He measured the gasoline with an

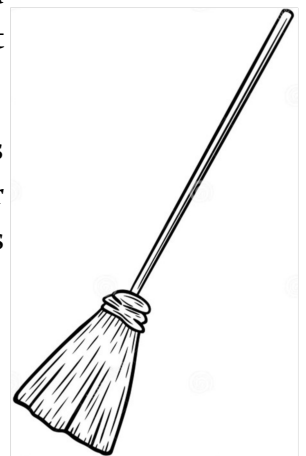
"For there are many gifts, and to every man is given a gift by the Spirit of God." D&C 46:5b



old broom stick. (There were no gas gauges on model T's.) In a few moments he came bounding into the house with a wide, wide smile. He had measured the gasoline, thinking that it would show practically none. But the truth was that the gasoline tank was full, even fuller than it had been when we started out that morning.

So instead of the widow's meal increasing in our family, the gasoline was increased on that occasion.

*Called To Witness*, August 1975



"On the cross Jesus atoned for the pride and rebellion of men expressed in history by taking to himself the sin of man and changing its value so that when men are confronted by God in Christ they find redemption from their own past."

*God's Spiritual Universe*, by Arthur A. Oakman, p. 118



Reunion Theme:  
“Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts”

## A Reunion Experience

By Linda Bauhaus  
Skiatook, Oklahoma

Three years ago our family attended a reunion. It was a good week of good experiences. At our last service, we were told that we had been ministered to by angels. That angels had walked with some and that Jesus, too, had been there. He had been with the children and had walked with those who would let Him.

I came home from that reunion knowing I had not prepared enough for an experience such as this to have been mine.

After we returned, we became busy putting things away and washing clothes. As the day came to an end, I went to put my children to bed and have prayer. My son had just turned three years old and still was asking me to help him with his prayers. As usual I would say a sentence and he would repeat it. He would always look at me as he repeated. I wondered if he knew who he was talking to when he said his prayers.

After we were through, I asked him if he could tell me who he was talking to. His answer was, "Jesus. I ran and jumped and He caught me." Surprised at his answer, I questioned him further about what he just

“For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required.” Luke 12:57

said. He told me that at reunion he ran and jumped and Jesus caught him.

I left his room knowing that he truly had seen Jesus. That he was one of those that had walked with Him that week.

*Called To Witness, Conference Edition 1976*



“...revelation not only reveals the movement of God in history—it creates a history of its own, a history, *induced, guided, and fulfilled only in the future it creates—the kingdom of God.*”  
*God’s Spiritual Universe*, by Arthur Oakman, p 154



Reunion Theme:  
"Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts"

## A Vision Of The Last Days

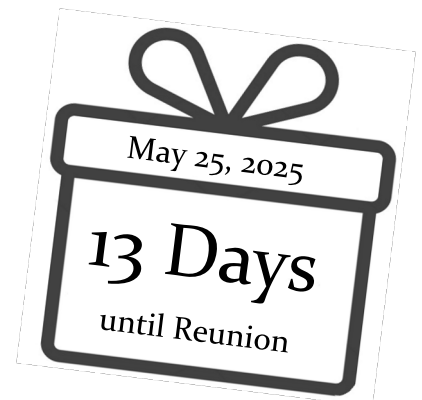
By Joseph Burton

This morning I felt very happy. Being in enjoyment of the Spirit of God in my heart, I desired to be alone, where I could commune with God, and went out for a walk in a field (they are now so green and beautiful), and while there the following passed before my view:

From the western side of Asia there arose a great cloud of smoke which rolled westward until it enveloped all Europe, and extended even to America. I heard a great noise accompanying this smoke, as of heavy artillery, and the clanging and clashing of cavalry and arms; and the dark cloud was pierced from time to time with shafts of light or fire, the sight and sound of which caused an intense feeling of horror to rest upon me, insomuch that I felt to be sinking to the earth.

I then saw near the center of this (the American Continent) a large temple, facing the west, which was surrounded by an evergreen wall at an equal distance from the temple on either side. At the northwest corner stood a man, tall of stature and pleasing to look upon.

Another man came out from the temple and walked down the steps, and to the gate. He was called "a servant," though I knew him



"His lord said unto him, well done, good and faithful servant, thou has been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things, enter thou into the joy of thy lord." Matthew 25:23

not. He who stood at the gate guarding the entrance put into the servant's right hand a large leaf, shaped like a palm-leaf fan, which was composed of a great many small leaves of the same shape; and he bound on his left arm in bright golden letters the words, "Bind up the testimony, Seal up the law."

The "servant" then went on his mission, traveling rapidly and crying his message with a loud voice to the inhabitants of the earth; and as he neared a town, I saw a crowd of men with dark, threatening countenances, armed with guns, knives, clubs and stones, seemingly determined to take his life.

The "servant" saw and apparently knew of their evil designs but heeded them not. I trembled for his safety; but as he neared the angry mob, a way was made for him through their midst. It was as though he was encircled by a great chain about waist high and at a little distance from him on either side, over which the angry mob had no power to harm him. They made desperate efforts to reach and stab him, but as quickly fell backward,

"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 A. Oakman, p. 58*

powerless, and he passed through their midst, calm as a child, only shouting his message of, "Bind up the testimony! Seal up the law!" They fairly gnashed their teeth, and their countenances became distorted and hideous in their disappointed rage. But the "servant" went on his way over the country, through cities and towns and villages, fearless and unharmed.

I saw a little form continually by his side, ever looking up into his face—and so happy! Occasionally he would stop to give a leaf to the "children," who always seemed pleased to see him, and received the leaf with gladness. I then saw and heard that after he had thus gone shouting his message, war, famine, pestilence, and all manner of evils that ever have been spoken of followed in quick succession. There were fearful plagues such as caused sudden death. Men who at one moment appeared to be in the enjoyment of health, the next moment fell to the earth dead, and others were eaten with worms. There were also terrible thunders and fierce lightnings; mountains were rolled and tossed, and cities destroyed by earthquakes. The dagger of the assassin and pistol of the communist deluged the earth with blood, and I heard the roar of a great fire rushing and crackling through towns, cities and over the earth.

I then saw two angels standing with one foot on the sea and one on the shore of the Atlantic, and the Pacific coasts, each having a long rod in his hand with which they smote these coasts simultaneously saying, "Thy bands are broken!" immediately after which there were many towns and cities destroyed

by tidal waves such as were never known before, and much land was covered with water.

I then heard in a clear, full voice from one "mighty and strong," the words, "Come Home! Come home!" the sound of which filled the whole earth, and reverberated from



the vault of heaven. But none of all the inhabitants of the earth heard it except the "children" those to whom the "servants" had given a leaf.

I saw the "servant" return from whence he started, weary and travel worn, bearing in his right hand the skeleton stalk of a palm leaf. I then noticed many other servants returning also, and I understood that the mission of each had been to stay out until he had given away all the leaves from his palm—one to each person who was worthy, which leaf was a passport to enter through the gate into the temple. As this servant returned the leafless stalk to him who sent him forth, his eyes beamed with joy, and his countenance became radiant as he heard from him the words, "You have done well and have been faithful. Enter; no power can hinder!" As he passed through the gate, a bright crown of glittering gold descended and rested upon his head; and as he who bound the golden letters upon his arm adjusted the crown to his head, he again spoke, saying: "Now is fulfilled the promise made to you by my Father, that if

you would be faithful you should receive a crown when his Son visited the earth again."

At these words, I realized who the servant was. O, what joy flooded my soul! I seemed to be entranced, and beheld a beautiful city above the earth which was exceedingly bright; and heard in midair, music, O, so sweet, as from thousands of angels.

The atmosphere opened and my wife and I ascended; and I heard a voice saying: "Those who are faithful and remain, shall not die, but shall be changed with power and glory! This is the end!"

When I became conscious of my surroundings, I was lying on the ground powerless to move, but gradually my strength returned.

Language utterly fails to describe the feeling of perfect joy and peace that now filled my soul, after viewing these fearful calamities, to again behold the earth in all her beauty, and feel the quiet of a holy Sabbath morn.

From Autumn Leaves, April, 1891  
Called To Witness, September 1976



Reunion Theme:  
"Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts"

## The Dream

By Francis Baker

Independence, Missouri

One day, some of the men where I work were making fun of the story of the golden plates. One of the men had just been to visit the Liberty Jail. Here, he had heard the story of Joseph Smith and how he had translated the Book of Mormon from golden plates. The man was telling the others about it and many of them were ridiculing the story.

"Over there is a Mormon," one of the men said and looked in my direction. "He can tell you all about it."

Coming over to me, the man began talking about what he had been told and asking questions. Although I was not a Mormon, I knew this story to be true. I answered his inquiries and quoted passages from the Bible which prophesied that the records would come forth in this manner. The Spirit of God accompanied my words and caused the man to say, "I feel differently since talking with you. I'd like to know more about your church."

I explained about cottage meetings which tell the story of the church and that they could be meetings.

"Why don't you and your wife come to our house Saturday evening?" I invited. "We'd love to have you."

"As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." 1 Peter 4:10

"We don't have any plans for this Saturday evening," he said. "I'll tell my wife about it." Saturday evening arrived and so did the couple. The conversation drifted into spiritual experiences, dreams and visions.

The man's wife stated, "I have been very much disturbed over an experience that I have had repeatedly. A very big, strong man just keeps coming to me night after night in a dream or vision. I have no idea what it could possibly mean." No one could enlighten her as to the significance of her experience.

Before they left, I invited them to attend church with my wife and me the next morning. I explained that our speaker was to be a missionary whom I thought they would enjoy. They agreed to attend and Sunday morning found the four of us seated together in church.

As the missionary arose and began to speak, this lady began whispering in an excited tone to her husband. They talked together, creating quite a disturbance. I was a bit disturbed and wondered, why don't they be still and listen to the sermon?

"To no other purpose have we been called than that we should lay down our lives for his sake. To no other end will he teach us, and for no other purpose will he discipline us, or come close to us."  
*He Who Is, by Arthur A. Oakman, p. 108*



Later, I learned the real cause of their excitement. The missionary who was speaking that morning was the very same man who had been appearing to her night after night in her dream.

*Called To Witness*, January 1976



Reunion Theme:  
"Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts"

## He Cares

By Ethel Kirkendall  
Independence, Missouri

For some time during the past Spring, I noticed a soreness on the right side of my neck. I didn't think too much about it, for at my age (81) I could expect many changes in my body.

Then I began to notice and feel a lump appearing right under my ear. My daughter, Norma Anne Holik, insisted she was going to take me to a doctor. I kept refusing for, as I told her, I am on my way out and I did not want to go through surgery and the following suffering should it be a malignant situation.

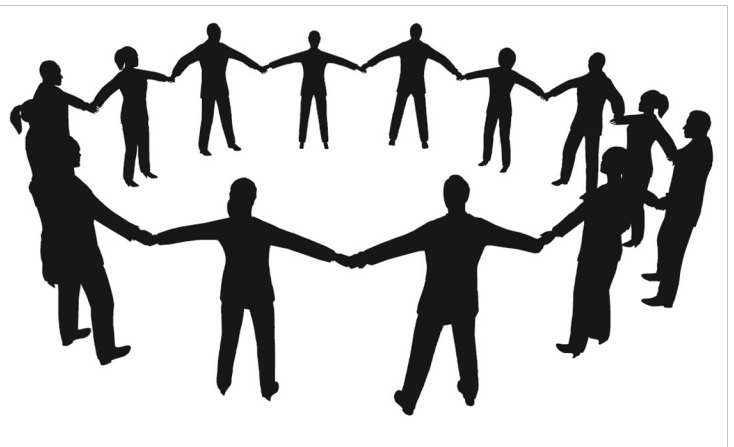
One morning I had occasion to go over to the Center Stake building. I did not know that they had a prayer service each morning before starting to work. I was invited to worship with them, which I did. The prayers and testimonies were sincere and accompanied with a good spirit. At the close of the service, Brother Wallace Farley, who was in charge,

"And again, it shall come to pass, that on as many as ye shall baptize with water, ye shall lay your hands, and they shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, and shall be looking forth for the signs of my coming, and shall know me." D&C 39:6

suggested that we join hands for the closing prayer.

After he said, "Amen," through habit I put my hand up to my neck and, lo, the lump and soreness was gone. I immediately told the folks what had happened and we all rejoiced together. I thank God many times daily for my many blessings over the years. During my fifty-five years as a member of the church I have seen many miracles happen and I am very sure that He cares.

*Called To Witness, July 1975*



"...what is of cardinal significance for us now is that the Spirit is always available to make Christ known to those who seek him."

*God's Spiritual Universe, by Arthur A. Oakman, p. 36*





Reunion Theme:  
"Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts"

## Because They Believed

By the late Lillian Cross, British Columbia  
Submitted by her sister,  
Irene Pope Rannie

This is the true story of a young Canadian girl and her parents who believed in the restored church, and what they did because of their belief.

Editha Louisa Mortimer, usually called Edith, attended the Church of England each Sunday morning because her father was of that faith. In the evening, because her mother was a Methodist, she went to the Methodist Church.

After some consideration, it was decided that when Edith was the right age, she should be confirmed in the Church of England. She attended the preconfirmation classes and learned the catechism thoroughly. Shortly before this impressive confirmation service was to be held, Edith said: "I don't want to be confirmed." When her parents asked her why, she had no valid reason—it was just a feeling she had. They wisely said if she felt that way, she did not have to be confirmed.

Sometime later the family moved to St. Mary's, Ontario, where Elder Joseph Luff, a missionary of the Reorganized Latter Day Saints Church, was conducting a series of meetings. Mr. and Mrs. Mortimer attended all the services. One day Mrs. Mortimer said to Edith, "We would like you to come with us tonight, to the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints."

"Why do you want to go there?" asked Edith. "People call them Mormons. First thing you will be joining them." "Yes, dear," answered her mother. "Your father and I are

"And all these gifts come from God, for the benefit of the children of God." D&C 46:7f

going to be baptized tonight and we want you to be there to witness it."

Edith went and often said later that the sermon preached by Joseph Luff convinced her that the church was the right one for her to join, but she did not feel quite ready for baptism at that time.

Shortly after this, she was very ill with typhoid fever. She was so sick that the doctor said she could not live. Edith told her parents she wanted to be baptized. She was so very weak that she could not possibly be taken out of the house to be baptized.

Someone suggested building a real large box, in which the baptism could be performed. This was done.

Elder John H. Lake, who was later a patriarch, was in a nearby town. Mr. Mortimer wrote to him, asking him to come and baptize Edith, and explained the whole situation.

The night before Elder Lake received the letter, he dreamed he was standing in the foot of a coffin and somebody said, "Be careful Uncle John, you are going to tip the box." He felt this was a most peculiar dream. He had no idea what it meant, but he kept thinking about it, feeling it had some significance.

When he received Mr. Mortimer's letter, he went to St. Mary's to the Mortimer home. As he prepared for the baptism, I think it was



"Too much of our lives these days are burned up in the feverish pursuit of one attractive idea after another. Our generation has committed the cardinal sin of substituting a love of the search for truth for the love of the truth." *He Who Is*, by Arthur A. Oakman, p. 89

just as he stepped into the box that someone said, "Be careful Uncle John, you are going to tip the box."

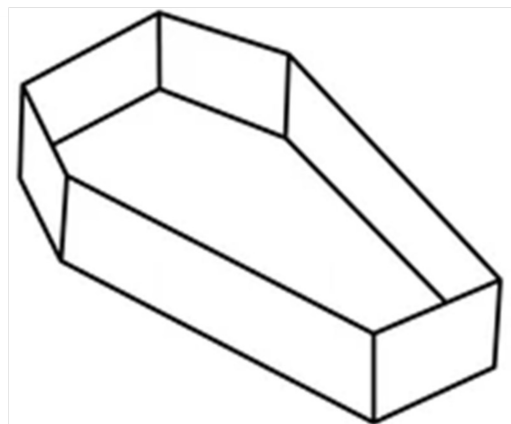
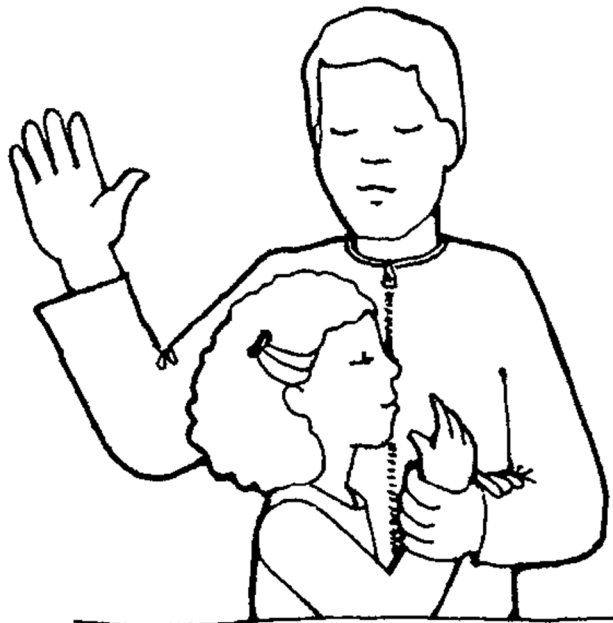
I do not know why Elder Lake dreamed of the coffin, but knowing that dreams are often symbolic, I have always thought that the coffin was symbolic of death, which from a human standpoint was not far off for Edith. Even Elder Lake did not know if she would live or not, because in a letter which he wrote to her a short time later, he said: "If you should be spared to meet with the Saints, and you felt to say, 'I love Jesus and wish to serve him,' that would be enough."

Edith did not die. She slowly recovered and lived to be sixty three years old. Her talents were many and she gave them all to the service of the Lord. She was about sixteen years old at the time of her baptism. She married when she was in her twenties. When my sister and I were little girls and our mother would tell us a story, I often used to say, "Mama, tell us about the time you were baptized in a box."

In Joseph Luff's autobiography, he mentions baptizing the Mortimers who were my grandparents. Grandpa was a well educated man and a fine musician. He became a missionary in our church and served in this capacity until ten days before his death.

I am so glad that my grandparents and my parents believed and did something about it. I am grateful that I was taught to believe, and I hope that I am doing something about it.

*Called To Witness*, January 1976



Reunion Theme:  
“Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts”



## The Idea for Called To Witness

The idea for Called to Witness was conceived about four years ago. We were hearing so many beautiful testimonies at Witnessing Weekends, Reunions, etc. about how God was working in the lives of his people. We were lifted up and felt a great longing to share these beautiful experiences with everyone.

The thought occurred to us that these testimonies might be compiled into a monthly magazine and the longer we pondered such a possibility, the more the Holy Spirit prompted us to produce such a magazine.

We had access to artists, typesetting and a printing press, so the actual production was no problem. But we needed editorial assistance.

We shelved the whole idea for a few months, but the Spirit kept nudging us to come back to it. Finally, we went to the Lord and prayed that if He wanted us to proceed, He would have to send us some editorial help.

Unknown to us, there was at this same time, two young ladies who were praying that their talents might be used in some way for the building of the Kingdom. Both were professional writers. During World Conference, a mutual friend told them about our desire to publish a witnessing magazine and the fact that we needed help with the writing. They immediately knew that their

“All are called according to the gifts of God unto them, and to the intent that all may labor together...with God for the accomplishment of the work entrusted to all.” D&C 119:8b

prayers had been answered. Thus it was that the means were supplied to produce this magazine. It is our aim to make available to all interested persons those testimonies which witness of Christ and teach the mysteries of His kingdom.

Our prayer is that the testimonies you read here from month to month will inspire you as they inspire us and will reassure you that God is still the Great I Am, Who rules in Heaven and on Earth.

*Called To Witness*, Conference Edition 1976



“He called all men, for only thus could he choose any man. But his choice of any man was dependent upon that man’s choice of him. He claimed the allegiance of all, but would use his miraculous power to compel none.”  
*God’s Spiritual Universe*, by Arthur A. Oakman, p. 147

Reunion Theme:  
"Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts"



## We're Coming Back

By Lena George

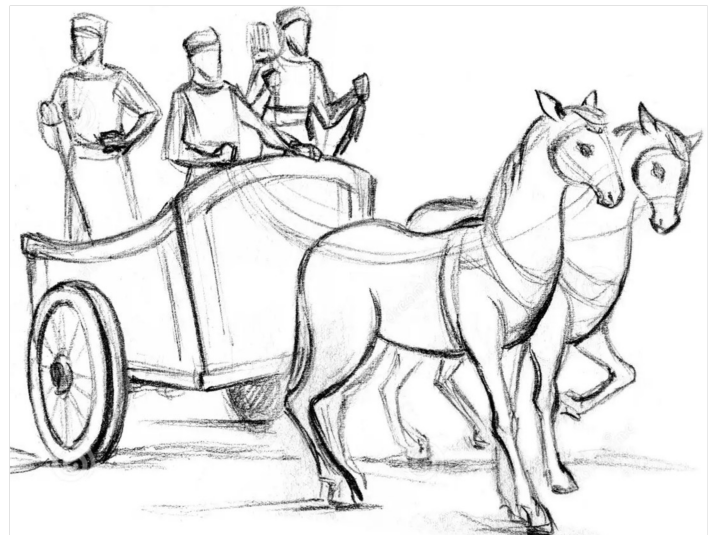
Fall River, Massachusetts

I will never forget an outstanding experience I once had. I was seated comfortably in an easy chair in my living room when my attention was focused upon a beautiful golden chariot. In it I recognized several good Latter Day Saints who had now passed on to their reward. I'd never had such an experience previously. Therefore I wondered what was happening. Maybe I had fallen asleep and was dreaming. Then an audible voice defined the situation. "You are now having a vision!" Was I hearing things as well as seeing them? I pinched myself to make certain I was awake and conscious of my surroundings. Then someone in the chariot spoke. It was the same familiar tone I was accustomed to hearing when she was alive. "We're coming back!" "When?" I asked. "Soon!" was the reply.

The vision faded. I was back in my easy chair glad and thankful that a kind heavenly Father had seen fit to reveal information of such importance to a humble servant like me. Now I am sure the resurrection will not be held back for eons of time.

*Called To Witness*, January 1976

"Seek to bring forth and establish my Zion. Keep my commandments in all things; and if you keep my commandments and endure to the end, you shall have eternal life; which gift is the greatest of all the gifts of God." D&C 12:3



"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 A. Oakman, pp. 95-96

Reunion Theme:  
"Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts"



## The Angel Mormon

By Juanda Doubledde  
Oronogo, Missouri

Preparation was being made for a final attempt to correct my thyroid condition under the hands of throat specialists, Drs. Jorden and H'Doubler. The usual array of medical assistants, nurses and technicians were dressed in their masked surgical attire. I was fully conscious, as it was planned I should be during the entire operation.

Everyone looked much alike, except for a tall man who suddenly caught my attention coming from almost the center of the room. I didn't see him enter, as I had so many of the others. He was dressed in a plain brown business suit, and was wearing a brown felt hat. He was perhaps six feet four inches tall, and was well built at considerably more than 200 pounds.

He approached the right side of the operating table on which I lay, moving almost without effort despite his size. He politely removed his hat, calling me by name in a friendly manner. "I am Mormon", he said, "The father of Moroni."

I noted his eyes were hazel, and his hairline was gray at the temples, with a firm band of brown hair on each side. He was bald from the crown of his head forward to a very pleasant, well shaped face. He was neither extremely fair, or very dark, definitely of the white race. His countenance was open and pleasant.

He spoke in perfect English, using simple sentences only. He continued, "I am the abridger of the Plates. I have come to see that all goes well with you this time." At once, I

"Every elder, priest, teacher, or deacon, is to be ordained according to the gifts and callings of God unto him; and he is to be ordained by the power of the Holy Ghost which is in the one who ordains him." D&C 17:12

knew a complete feeling of well being, as he continued, "I will stay as long as I am needed."

He seemed to understand my thoughts, and while we conversed together with mutual understanding. I was not sure of the time of his departure. Much like his arrival when he seemed to materialize, my attention was directed elsewhere, and he was gone.

From the beginning of the experience I was aware it was a vision, as no one else seemed to be aware of his presence there. The comfort as well as assurance he left with me is hard to describe...Each detail was stamped so indelibly on my mind that throughout my stay in the recovery room, it filled my being.

On being returned to my room and again meeting with my husband, my first words were, "I've had an experience. I'll tell you about it when I'm stronger." After this, I felt completely relieved, and a pleasant peacefulness settled over me as I went to sleep.

Almost eight years have passed since the above experience was received. I now speak very well, and have enjoyed splendid health since. The problems more or less vanished.

*Called To Witness*, January 1979, pp. 6-7

"He seeks from us the life of his Son or the life revealed in his Son, and for this purpose was that life manifest; namely, that we, in God, might be one—of one Lord and one faith and one baptism."  
*God's Spiritual Universe*, by Arthur A. Oakman, p. 127

# Book of Mormon

H A I R A S V L E A M H S I O X M  
 W I L D E R N E S S T J L Q E I T  
 X C O A X S H O L Y G H O S T R S  
 Q J J V P X A P C V X H C J E C D  
 P L L C J E R U S A L E M E H O U  
 M E E A N T D L M K R S O R G M B  
 D O C H N C E L I L A F W F M G R  
 K Q K N I D U T E A L R O G O A A  
 B H M M E K O U T I H E F B G R S  
 C T K U P I M F F R V O E U W M S  
 I Z V I T E D E P O E D N P C I P  
 H D H N L N W E L R I S R A R L L  
 P S Z A S X A O B E O A S O B E A  
 E J O M B P H E N O Y M N E Q W T  
 N U R A L Z Y C R E S R I K D J E  
 J A A L Z L E M R R O I L S N U S  
 M V M V U T J D T D I O D N E J F

land of promise  
 love of god  
 jerusalem  
 ishmael  
 sariah  
 ship

disobedience  
 holy ghost  
 obedience  
 liahona  
 zoram  
 lehi

tree of life  
 wilderness  
 iron rod  
 prayer  
 laman

brass plates  
 irreantum  
 sam  
 lemuel  
 nephi

Reunion Theme:  
"Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts"



## **Two Visions**

By Edgar Pillsbury  
Fall River, Massachusetts

While attending a reunion in Onset, Massachusetts, I had the pleasure of meeting Brother Dan MacDonald of Stradford, Ontario, Canada.

He told me of an experience he had in Port Elgin. He had been wondering why there were two priesthoods in the church. While attending a priesthood meeting, he saw a vision of a beautiful white flower. It was made known to him that this flower represented the Melchisedec priesthood while the Aaronic priesthood was represented by its root. It took both the flower and root acting in concert to bring about the entire plant. So also it takes influence of both priesthoods to develop people into the kind of highly spiritual folks who will inhabit the kingdom.

On another occasion, this same brother found himself part of a reunion class. The class members were trying to decide which was more important, the past or the present.

Suddenly Brother MacDonald had a vision in which he felt himself projected into an automobile going down a highway. Before him was a wide windshield through which he had a panoramic view of the road ahead. Above the windshield was a small round rear-view mirror in which he saw the road behind in an insignificant way.

It was revealed to Brother MacDonald that it was not so important where we, as a church, have been as where we are heading.

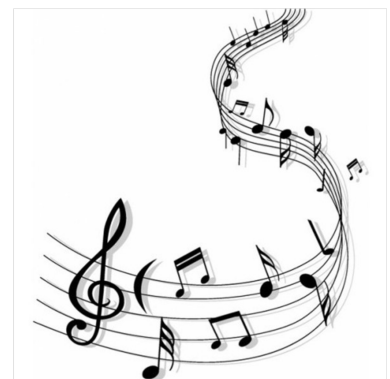
*Called To Witness*, February 1979

"Wherefore, beware, lest ye are deceived, and that ye may not be deceived, seek ye earnestly the best gifts, always remembering for what they are given; for verily I say unto you, They are given for the benefit of those who love me and keep all my commandments, and him that seeketh so to do, that all may be benefited, that seeketh or that asketh of me, that asketh and not for a sign that he may consume it upon his lusts."  
D&C 46:4

## **Testimony During SCRB Reunion**

Lamoni, Iowa  
By Richard & Mary Lade

This testimony took place at one of the last reunions we had at the Graceland College campus. Mary & I were attending one of the evening preaching services. As we came in and sat down, the service was in progress. The choir was providing the ministry of music. When they stood to sing, the Spirit was very strong. Sharon Warner was the director, as they sang. The Spirit was very, very strong. The name of the song was "You Alone Are God" we could hear angels singing with the choir. The power of the Spirit was so strong, it was so beautiful.



"The prophet must testify of righteousness and its ultimate triumph in the kingdom of God, of its peaceful blessings here in the 'vale of soul making' and its joys in the world to come. The very heart of the prophetic function is testimony of this kind."

*God's Spiritual Universe*, by Arthur A. Oakman, p. 50

Reunion Theme:  
"Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts"

## I Walked With An Angel

By Judith Harden Hawley  
Independence, Missouri

One afternoon in February 1978, I felt the need of spiritual uplift. My husband had died the year before and I still grieved deeply for him. I thought immediately of our new neighbors who had recently moved here from Ohio. They were very spiritual people. I felt a few minutes with them would lift my Spirits tremendously. It was about four in the afternoon when I started off across the snow-laden field of about three-quarters of a mile.

I have a vision problem and it was not wise that I walk across an unknown field, but I was eager to go and the road was much longer. Fortunately, I reached their home safely. We had a most wonderful visit, sharing testimonies. Time passed, when I suddenly realized how late it was getting. It was becoming dark rapidly and I did not see well in the dark. After farewells, I started across the field.

I had not gone far when I became lost in an overgrown garden spot covered with deep snow. I wandered for some time in this place until at last I found the fence, climbed over it and discovered my tracks leading back from whence I had come earlier in the day. I started home, but had not gone far when I realized it was too dark for me to go any farther. I was stranded in the middle of this big field in the dead of winter. Even if I called, no one would hear me.



"Wherefore, the final state of the souls of men is to dwell in the kingdom of God, or to be cast out because of that justice of which I have spoken; Yea, and it is the greatest of all the gifts of God." 1 Nephi 4:61,63

I did the only thing I knew to do. I bowed my head and prayed, "God, here we are in the middle of this field. Now what are we going to do about it?" Immediately, a light shone round my feet. I blinked my eyes, shook my head, but still the light persisted. I began walking towards home with the light showing me the way. When I would stop, the light would go out or if I turned back, it went out. As long as I walked towards home, the light continued to shine at my feet.

When I had finally calmed down, I began to perceive just what was really happening. I was looking forward with my physical eyes, but I found myself looking backward with my spiritual eyes and I beheld an angel carrying an old-fashioned lantern in his left hand. As we walked he would occasionally swing the lantern forward and as he did, the light would go before me to lead the way to the left or to the right. Then he would swing the lantern back to his side and the light would return to my feet. We walked on this way and my heart began to swell within me for I wanted to walk on and on with this angel. I did not want this experience to end.

Then God spoke to me. He said, "My word is a lamp unto thy feet and a light unto thy

"...the purpose of the tithe is to help men recognize that all their property belongs to God, and not one cent can be exempted from God's claim to use it as He thinks fit. 'Thou shalt not covet thine own property' is not a command given in isolation to Martin Harris to meet an emergency.  
*God's Spiritual Universe, by Arthur A. Oakman, p. 16*



path." He told me I would always have the light if I continued doing what I was doing, but if I stopped doing my work, or went back from whence I came I would lose the light.

He further said I would find that path on which to go and the light in the three Scriptures. Then the song "Let Us Walk in the Light" came flooding through my mind. What joy filled my very being! I had walked with an angel and God had talked to me!

The angel led me safely to my front door, then the light went out and the angel was gone. But the light did not go out in my heart nor did the memory of that cold, wintry night when I walked with an angel.

*Called To Witness, September 1979*

## About Jesus

A	Y	L	O	R	D	O	B	M	E	W	E	N	I	V	J	K	S	W	C
R	B	E	L	I	E	V	E	T	D	D	U	Q	Z	E	F	S	U	A	M
I	V	J	V	R	S	I	J	G	C	M	D	W	X	O	M	F	S	Y	W
A	A	M	G	Q	B	E	J	W	P	R	Z	P	V	M	Y	G	E	X	X
S	Z	F	F	Q	J	V	S	N	I	S	F	R	G	T	G	P	J	K	U
I	S	L	W	I	F	T	M	H	A	I	S	S	E	M	L	S	L	R	K
R	N	E	T	W	R	E	P	L	E	H	T	M	L	O	M	W	Y	E	C
F	O	A	N	G	Y	S	L	M	S	K	Y	S	P	C	C	I	F	V	F
B	I	D	W	E	J	O	T	B	S	T	L	W	A	R	S	J	S	W	K
W	T	E	F	X	V	T	D	N	E	I	R	F	S	V	O	R	M	U	S
B	C	R	K	E	N	I	C	F	N	E	C	X	T	G	I	A	D	O	N
J	E	S	I	E	T	A	G	P	S	O	C	K	E	N	N	O	E	N	V
U	R	E	L	A	E	H	J	R	U	R	G	I	A	L	F	I	U	R	S
A	R	P	C	S	K	Y	M	E	O	X	Y	T	C	O	G	M	K	R	R
Q	U	H	G	R	I	K	X	S	E	F	B	Y	H	A	G	L	J	P	E
P	S	G	T	T	E	H	S	L	T	B	R	D	E	A	E	Z	K	U	B
Z	E	F	H	U	I	A	A	C	H	K	C	H	R	G	U	M	O	C	T
Q	R	G	Z	G	R	O	T	Y	G	L	E	F	I	L	M	A	B	S	I
Q	I	Q	K	H	J	T	K	O	I	F	L	Z	M	L	N	E	A	U	Z
L	P	L	W	B	O	L	O	Y	R	X	L	T	B	H	V	L	R	L	J

- |                |                 |               |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| • JESUS        | • MESSIAH       | • KING        |
| • SAVIOUR      | • HEALER        | • FORGIVENESS |
| • HELPER       | • FRIEND        | • LORD        |
| • CROSS        | • SINS          | • TEACHER     |
| • RESURRECTION | • LIGHT         | • GATE        |
| • VINE         | • FIRST         | • LAST        |
| • WAY          | • TRUTH         | • LIFE        |
| • LOVE         | • BELIEVE       | • LEADER      |
| • CREATOR      | • RIGHTEOUSNESS |               |



Reunion Theme:  
"Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts"

## Admonition To The Children

By Shirley Mae Mason  
Warrensburg, Missouri

One summer in the late 1940's, I was asked to assist with the music for worship services in a Vacation Church School in Des Moines, Iowa. This was a new experience for me—just how new, I was soon to learn. Remembering the words in my blessing, "Help out and assist whenever asked, and the way will open that you may render a service that will bear much good fruit," I consented.

As I led the children in singing, I felt the presence of God's Spirit as much or more than I had ever experienced it in adult prayer meetings or at reunions. It almost seemed as though God might speak to the little children, were one of His servants present.

I pondered this thought as I walked home and found a question arising in my mind: Would God ever speak to His little children when they are prepared and receptive? Not knowing the answer, I dismissed the thought.

Before I was even aware, I was humming the tune "Admonition," but other words were coming into my mind and they were coming fast. I fairly ran home and wrote on the first paper I could find upon entering the house. It was a note pad by the telephone.

In approximately ten minutes or so, four stanzas of "Admonition to the Children," came rapidly, effortlessly and inspirationally.



"Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit."  
1 Corinthians 12:4

God even provided the sign when it should be sung: by the picture of "Christ, The Good Shepherd," chosen for the worship service the following day. He also provided two witnesses: Florence Freberg, who had asked me to help out, and Elder Clarence Tyree, who had merely come into the children's auditorium that morning to observe, but, unknowingly, in answer to prayer petitions to give his testimony: "Boys and girls, Shirley could never have written this song. It is of God."

May God ever have all the praise and the glory for it, and may it further be a blessing and guide to the little children.



"Every revelation of God is a demand, and the way to knowledge of him is by obedience. We can never know God as we know things, because he is not a thing. We can only know God by personal and sympathetic communion with him, because he is personal."  
*God's Spiritual Universe, by Arthur A. Oakman, p. 57*

## **Admonition to the Children**

Tune: Admonition # 297,

The Hymnal

O, my children,  
I am your Shepherd,  
You my lambs, obey my voice!  
I have called you  
and have blessed you;  
Lift up your heart,  
and always rejoice;  
For I have spoken to my people,  
And given them my Word;  
O, be faithful,  
read my Scriptures,  
Eternal Life is your reward.

O, my lambs, forsake all evil;  
I cannot come to those untrue;  
But in the light  
of this restored gospel,  
You will know  
what you should do;  
Place your hand  
in mine extended,  
I am your Friend,  
I'll strengthen you  
To meet all trials  
and temptations;  
I will keep you pure and true.

Zion waits,  
the world is in darkness,  
My sheep and lambs  
must heed my voice!  
Live my gospel,  
learn its purpose,  
Love all men,  
then angels rejoice;  
For I have died  
to save all people;  
If they come, I freely forgive;  
O be filled, then, with my Spirit;  
It will teach you how to live.

O my children,  
I have loved you  
With an everlasting love!  
Such as you inherit my Kingdom  
In your Father's House above;  
If you stay close  
by your Shepherd,  
I will lead you all the way;  
You will help  
to bring the dawning  
Of Zion's great and glorious day!

*Called To Witness, September 1979*

Reunion Theme:  
"Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts"

## Miracles Do Happen

By Gilbert A. Ard, Sr.

I was privileged to attend Graceland College for three years under the "Liberal Studies" plan for people over sixty years of age. I enjoyed my time there very much because of the love shown to me by the young people and the faculty. I would like to relate two Of the outstanding experiences that I had while I was there.

One of my young sisters, Rose Marie, wanted to go to a prayer service that was being held in a home seven miles out in the country. It was raining, but we decided to go in spite of the weather.

When we were returning, we had gone only about a mile when the fan belt broke. At first I was concerned, for without the belt, the water pump and generator doesn't work. Usually a car will go only a mile or so under these conditions before the engine gets very hot and stalls. But somehow we both knew that we would get back to the college.

Because of the rain, I missed the turn-off to Graceland and had to drive through Lamoni and back up the hill. Then after I had let Rose Marie out, I still had to drive back into town to where I lived.

When I drove into the yard my motor didn't seem excessively hot and my lights were just as bright as they would have been if my generator had been working.

"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;" Ephesians 4:11,12

I believe that God gave us this blessing because we were "going about His business."

In March of 1978, I had a second operation on my left hip. I had been on crutches for almost a year and was feeling rather despondent. It had been raining almost continually for about two weeks.

One evening I visited some friends and when I left it had started to rain again. I had parked my car on the opposite side of the street. The street runs downhill and there was about a three-foot-wide stream of water running swiftly down the gutter.

I placed one of my crutches in the stream and found that it was several inches deep. I decided that if I had to get my feet wet I might as well get it over with.

I stepped down but I didn't feel any water. I walked on through and looked down at my feet. I was wearing low-cut shoes and neither they nor my pants legs were wet and when I got home my socks weren't even damp. I don't know why the Lord allowed this to happen unless He wanted me to know that He cared for me.

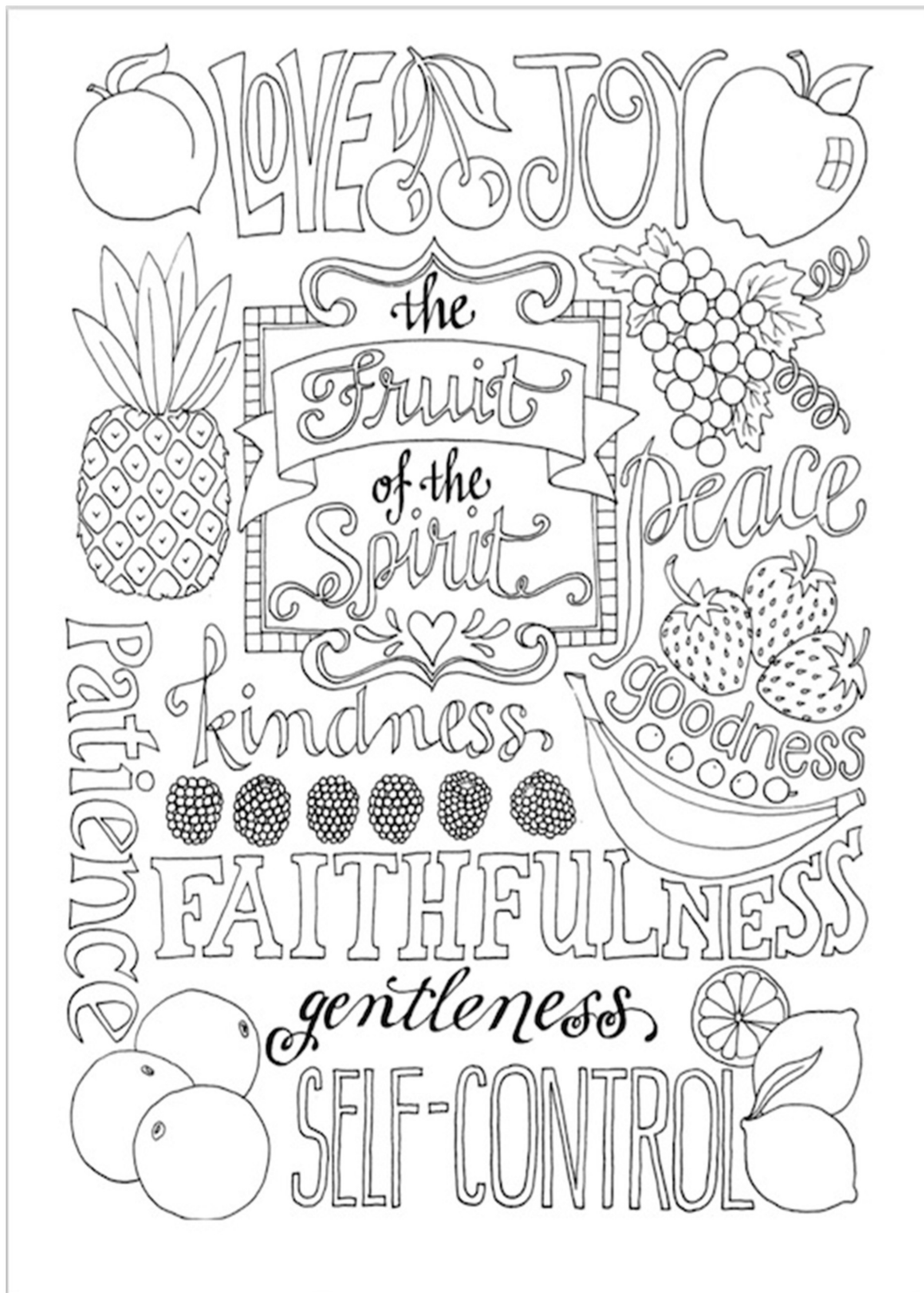
"This is the law of repentance—namely, that man adjust to the demands of the kingdom way of life or be judged unfit for the kingdom."

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



Many people believe that miracles are a thing of the past, but because of the Lord's goodness to me, I know that they do happen today.

*Called To Witness, March 1979*



Reunion Theme:  
"Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts"

## Spirit Of The Living God, Fall Afresh On Me

By Darlene Boggs  
Sulphur Springs, Texas

At this particular time in my life, we lived in Chicago and attended the First Chicago Branch. Although my husband at this time was not a member of the church, I tried to attend as often as possible. On this specific Sunday, our speaker was from out of town. As his sermon progressed, I felt God's Spirit very strongly. I experienced such happiness at being able to meet with the church people. My heart was filled to overflowing. As tears of joy ran down my face, I felt very blessed to be present. The minister then spoke through God's Spirit and said something to the effect that Christ was coming soon, but the words I distinctly remember were, "and there are those within the sound of my voice who shall see the coming of Christ." Words cannot express the deep joy I felt. As I continued to thank God for this privilege, a feeling passed over my entire being as that of a mild electrical shock. It did not hurt me, but I found it very surprising. I wondered for a moment if I were becoming ill.

Just as quickly, the thought came to me, could this be God's Spirit in such power? Once again this same sensation passed over me, confirming to me that this was indeed His Spirit. I knew Christ was present and I believe He allowed me to experience this physical touch so I would never forget the words spoken that day.



"And I would exhort you, my beloved brethren, that ye remember that he is the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever, and that all these gifts of which I have spoken, which are spiritual, never will be done away, even as long as the world shall stand, only according to the unbelief of the children of men." Moroni 10:14

That was the first, time I had ever experienced God's Spirit in such depth and I have not felt it that intensely since. But I have enjoyed His gift of happiness, peace and knowledge and truth which only our Savior can give.

I love my husband and my children, Chris and Robin, dearly, and there are many of the saints with whom I have enjoyed fine associations as we have endeavored to work toward the spiritual development of Zion, or His kingdom here on earth. I live today to testify that there is nothing, whether it be the love for another person, the joys of material blessings, or whatever, that can compare with the gift of love we will know when serving and being in the presence of our Lord.

Truly, the "Spirit of the living God" fell afresh on me and lifted me up to higher places.

*Called To Witness, July 1975*

"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 A. Oakman, p. 233*

Reunion Theme:  
"Come Unto Christ and Receive of His Gifts"

## A Modern Day Miracle

By Charlcie Yeoman  
Springfield, Missouri

It was a hot June morning back in the early 1900's, but Elder Henry Sparling of Springfield, Missouri was out working in his bean patch in spite of the heat. He couldn't afford to wait until the cool of the evening because the weeds and the grass were about to take his garden—he'd been away from home so much this spring preaching, administering to the sick, and visiting the isolated saints. Even when he was home, there were constant calls on his time. So, Brother Sparling was out in his bean patch working when he heard a voice say, "My servant is needed in Willow Springs."

Brother Sparling had heard that voice before, and he recognized it as the voice of God. But he was so far behind in his gardening that he brushed it aside and went on with his hoeing. A second and a third time



"And again I would exhort you, that ye would come unto Christ, and lay hold upon every good gift and touch not the evil gift, nor the unclean thing."  
Moroni 10:27

the same voice repeated, "My servant is needed at Willow Springs."

He picked up his hoe and started for the house. Sally, his wife, seeing his hurried preparations, asked, "Where are you going—and in such a hurry?" "I don't know," he replied as he slipped on his suit coat. "The voice of the Lord told me to go to Willow Springs—and there's where I am going."

Slipping a little box of lunch under his arm, she said, "I do hope you won't have to walk far. Perhaps the Lord will see that someone comes along to give you a ride."

That is exactly what happened. Brother Sparling had no sooner started down the road in the direction of Willow Springs than a man, driving the mail wagon, pulled his horses to halt beside him and inquired, "Where are you going, Stranger? Could I give you a lift?"

"To Willow Springs," replied Brother Sparling.

"Spiritual things are spiritually discerned, discerned by the whole man—not by his intellect alone, not by his 'intuition' alone, and certainly they are not contained in any study of history made apart from the Holy Ghost. The order of heaven is disclosed to men whose lives are progressively adjusted toward God in the spirit of repentance, which is the activity of faith."

*God's Spiritual Universe, by Arthur A. Oakman, p. 168*



"Why, that's exactly the direction I'm headed. Jump in and we'll be on our way."

Just outside Willow Springs, the stranger in the mail wagon let his passenger off at a house where Brother Sparling knew that an elderly member of the church lived. A long flight of stairs led up to the second floor apartment where she lived with her daughter. The voice of the Lord told him to go up to see her.

As Brother Sparling proceeded up the stairs, he met a group of sad-faced people leaving the apartment and commenting among themselves, "Poor Grandma. Too bad she had to pass away."

Just then the lady's daughter came out of the door. Recognizing him, she exclaimed, "Oh, Brother Sparling, Mother just passed away. If you'd only gotten here sooner, she wouldn't have died. The doctor just left with the death certificate."

Brother Sparling and the daughter went back into the bedroom where Grandma's lifeless body still lay. He and the daughter knelt and prayed. Then Brother Sparling anointed her head with consecrated oil and laid his hands upon her head, praying that her life would be restored.

No sooner had Brother Sparling taken his hands from her head than Grandma opened her eyes and arose from the bed, alive and completely restored to health.

There was great joy in that home that day and much wonder and amazement throughout the countryside; for news of Grandma's death had preceded the story of her marvelous restoration from the dead.

"Yes," the doctor said in a sworn statement for the press. "Grandma was dead. There was no doubt in my mind about that."

The news of this modern-day miracle traveled fast, as it passed from one astonished person to another.

"The Mormon elder did it," they told each other.

When they questioned Brother Sparling, asking him if he had indeed raised a woman from the dead and how he had done it, he humbly replied. "No, I was merely an instrument in the hands of God. It was the power of the Lord that raised her from the dead!"

Should one find it hard to believe this testimony, he may consult the files of the Willow Springs newspaper; for an account of the incident was published in the next issue of the local newspaper. You ask: "Were many converted and baptized as a result of this marvelous experience?" The answer is: "No." Only the daughter, of all the people who learned of this miracle, was baptized.

*Called To Witness, November 1981*

