

The Gospel News

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Family Worship

*By Dick Christman, President
Quorum of Seventy Evangelists*

After the creation of the world, God instituted a very important relationship which He intended to further His plan and to provide an atmosphere of love and sharing for His Children. This relationship or concept was the family. The family unit was originally conceived as a father and mother and their children. God ordained this relationship and took special care to endow it with not only love, but concern, responsibility and cohesiveness. Down through the ages the word of God has recorded the various duties and joys that are inherent in this family circle.

One of the functions of the family unit is teaching the younger members many skills that you and I take for granted. Some of the most basic lessons were learned in the family, with love and concern. Walking and talking are two of the vital skills we learned in the family setting.

God has also given the family members another duty that is not only necessary to the well-being of the younger members but to the family group as a whole and individually. The single most neglected duty that I am referring to is that of family worship. God intended that family worship and the gift of love He bestowed upon the parents and children be the strength and inspiration of the group.

The modern family is suffering many setbacks and defeats. Broken

homes, divorcees, runaways, tragedies and heartbreak are common occurrences in today's families. Many children have no family unit they can call their own.

The major reason for this situation is the lack of love and devotion based upon God's word and inspiration. Many problems are insurmountable without God's help. In fact, God is willing, able and anxious to help in every family problem both individually and collectively.

One of the prime excuses family members give for their lack of family prayer, scripture reading or devotion, is their time schedule. Quite often both parents work, children are in school, some are working part time and others are engaged in recreational and social activities.

For something that is so very important to us then, we can surely find a way to start a practice of family worship or to renew it, or perhaps increase its time or frequency. Perhaps the family is together for breakfast or lunch, or as in most cases at supper. This is an ideal time to set aside just a few minutes to devote to scripture reading, discussion or comments. If this is being tried for the first time and the children have other time requirements, it can be very brief as a start so that they do not feel they are being crowded or pushed. The value and appreciation of this period of time will grow like a seed and soon will become a necessary and enjoyable part of their lives. Evening prayer can be done, particularly in younger families, just prior to bedtime. Certain holidays, when the family is all together, offer another

time for family devotion. This should be incorporated into the day in such a way as not to be offensive to any family members and yet be uplifting and worthwhile. Family worship does not depend on length of time for its value and God-giving strength, but rather the harmony, love and consideration of all the needs and interests of the family members.

A crisis or family troubles often brings families together in mutual concern. This is an ideal time for prayer, scripture reading or fasting.

Families that are starting family worship should not be overly ambitious in their worship plans. It will grow and expand on its own, and if it is done harmoniously it will reach into everyone's lives and improve their ability to cope with the problems of life and to help them find a good and proper relationship with God and His son, Jesus Christ, and our fellow man.

There are many novel and unique ways we can institute the word of God into our lives. Some examples would be that each week one member of the family would be responsible for finding, copying and placing an appropriate scripture on the family bulletin board, refrigerator, or wherever the family members will see it daily. Another method would be that alternate family members would be responsible for a scripture reading at the breakfast or supper table, nothing lengthy or boring, but something of inspiration and help to all the family members. Some other suggestions would be appropriate when the family travels together. This is an ideal time for singing, short talks or discussion

on scripture or spiritual topics or most important the application of God's word to our daily lives and the use of God's help in our problems and concerns.

All of us have good intentions, but not all of us follow through and continue to try to incorporate these things which are good into our lives. We must make an effort every day until it becomes a habit. It is important to the family, it is important to the parents, and it is vital to the well-being of the children.

The relationship with God that is intended for mankind, which God has worked so diligently to provide, even at the expense of His son, Jesus Christ, is our most valuable gift. It is stated so well in the scripture, St. John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." This life will be in the presence and family of God, and we must make preparation for it. The family unit is the first place the love of God should be exhibited and acquired.

Parents, do not shirk or ignore your responsibility. Continue to persevere until your family has some time for worship. "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump." Children, intreat your parents for this wonderful gift of God and you will be richly rewarded.

**"O, remember,
my son, and learn
wisdom in thy
youth."**

Alma 37:35

This is the plea of every God-fearing older person. Though Alma spoke these words to his son, it is the feeling of us all. Maybe it was the things that we older people have gone through, or the things that we realize are so necessary in life that we make this plea.

"Yea, learn in thy youth to keep the commandments of God. Yea, and cry unto God for all thy support; yea, let all thy doings be unto the Lord, and whithersoever thou goest let it be in the Lord; yea, let thy thoughts be

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"It Is Written"

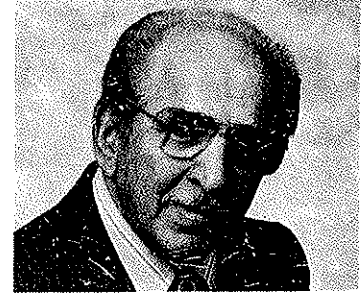
By V. J. Lovalvo, Fresno, CA

TOPIC: Other Books

"... out of the books which shall be written, shall the world be judged." So it is written in the *Book of Mormon*, III Nephi 27:26.

In all ages of time, God has commanded men and nations to write their histories. The reason is very obvious; there is nothing stronger nor more valuable than the written word. Tales related by word of mouth from parents to children or from one generation to another lose their value, their significance, their truth, and easily become adulterated as time passes. Can you imagine what kind of world we would have if there had been no written word or language? A very good example of this is found in the *Book of Mormon*. Lehi and his family brought with them the written word as found in the book of I Nephi, relative to the Brass Plates of Laban. Later on, the Brass Ball (Liahona) was given to them of the Lord upon which writing would appear from time to time to tell them the will of God. (I Nephi 16:26, 27, 29) The written word enabled them to remember in fullness the word of God. King Mosiah taught his sons the language of his fathers and also that which was written upon the Brass Plates. He told them that it was "... not possible that our father, Lehi, could have remembered all these things (on the Plates of Brass), to have taught them to his children, except it were for the help of these plates; for he having been taught in the language of the Egyptians, therefore he could read these engravings, and teach them to his children. ..." (Mosiah 1:3-4)

The preservation of that which has been written is an invaluable asset to the individual as well as a nation. It is especially important to the people of God to keep a record of His dealings with them lest that in process of time, His word becomes adulterated, forgotten, and finally traditionalized by the frailty of the minds of men. This is clearly exemplified by the people of Zarahemla, descendants of Mulek, the son of King Zedekiah. They had brought no written language with them nor any records to remind them of a Supreme Creator. Therefore, their language became corrupted; and



they denied the existence of their Creator. (Omni 17, 18)

It is the will of God that records be kept of His dealings with Mankind. Books shall be written, as have been written in ages past and gone. The Lord allowed the *Bible* to be compiled, and the books therein to be written by inspired men that mankind would know of His purposes regarding Israel and mankind in general. He also caused the *Book of Mormon* to come forth in these latter days to reveal His purposes towards the American Indian (Seed of Joseph) and the world in general. Nations have been motivated to write their histories by the Lord, without question to preserve their identity. (The individual person has been moved, in many instances, to write his or her autobiography as a record for future intelligence.) The *Book of Mormon* speaks loud and clear on this matter. It is written: "For I command all men, both in the east and in the west, and in the north, and in the south, and in the isles of the sea, that they shall write the words which I speak unto them; for out of the books which shall be written I will judge the world, every man according to their works, according to that which is written. For behold, I shall speak unto the Jews and they shall write it; and I shall also speak unto the Nephites and they shall write it; and I shall also speak unto the other Tribes of the House of Israel, which I have led away, and they shall write it; and I shall also speak unto all nations of the earth and they shall write it." (II Nephi 29:11-12)

It is clearly seen, by these words, that God is the author of inspiring men to write histories and nations to write records for future use. It is also quite evident that the above records, which God has motivated men to write and keep, are for very special reasons, as indicated by the following

words: "And it shall come to pass that the Jews shall have the words of the Nephites, and the Nephites shall have the words of the Jews; and the Nephites and the Jews shall have the words of the Lost Tribes of Israel; and the Lost Tribes of Israel shall have the words of the Nephites and the Jews." (II Nephi 29:13) There is also another good reason that God has commanded (and inspired) men to write, and it is thusly: ". . . for out of the Books which shall be written I will judge the world, every man according to their works. . ." (II Nephi 29:11)

It is also stated in III Nephi 27:25-26 that: ". . . out of the books which have been written, and which shall be written, shall this people (indicating the Seed of Joseph) be judged, for by them (the books) shall their works be known unto men. And behold, all things are written by the Father; therefore, out of the BOOKS WHICH SHALL BE WRITTEN SHALL THE WORLD BE JUDGED."

The *Book of Mormon* is filled with evidences of the many books which shall be written and which have been written in days past and gone. Nephi, the son of Lehi, in his wonderful vision where the angel of God made many things clear to him, was told ". . . Saith the Lamb; I will manifest Myself unto thy seed that they shall write many things which I shall minister unto them, which shall be plain and precious. . ." The above refers to the *Book of Mormon* in which was His Gospel, and His Rock, and His Salvation. (I Nephi 13:35-36)

In his experience, Nephi was also told by the angel, that others would write and bear record of the things which God would reveal unto them. The angel said, "Behold, one of the Twelve Apostles of the Lamb. Behold, he shall see and write the remainder of these things; yea, and also many things which have been. And he shall also write concerning the end of the world. . ." (I Nephi 14:20-22) The angel continued, "And also others who have been, to them hath He shown all things, and they have written them; and they are sealed up to come forth in their purity. . ." (I Nephi 14:26) The latter statement is no doubt referring to the writings of the brother of Jared.

The brother of Jared was commanded of the Lord to write the things

which he had seen and heard while he was on the Mount with God; and these things were not to come forth until Christ had been lifted on the cross. And after Jesus showed Himself unto the Seed of Joseph (after His ascension into heaven), He commanded that they should be made manifest. However, after they dwindled in unbelief, Moroni was commanded to hide the records in the earth. He therefore wrote upon the plates the very things which the brother of Jared had seen. Following are his own words: "Behold, I have written upon these plates the very things which the brother of Jared saw; and there never were greater things made manifest than those which were made manifest unto the brother of Jared. Wherefore, the Lord hath commanded me to write them; and I have written them. And He commanded me that I should seal them up; and He also hath commanded that I should seal up the interpretation thereof. Wherefore, I have sealed up the interpreters according to the commandment of the Lord. For the Lord said unto me: They shall not go forth unto the Gentiles until the day that they shall repent of their iniquity, and become clean before the Lord. And in that day that they (Gentiles) shall exercise faith in Me, saith the Lord, even as the brother of Jared did, that they may become sanctified in Me, then will I manifest unto them the things which the brother of Jared saw, even to the unfolding unto them all My revelations, saith Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of the heavens and of the earth, and all things that in them are." (Ether 4:4-7)

A remarkable thing that stands out very impressively is the fact that the Nephites, immediately after Christ appeared to them, were recipients of the things which the brother of Jared wrote. (Ether 4:1-3) However, when we seek the reason for this, it emerges in all its splendor. It was the fact that they were a sanctified people! Remember, that only the more righteous people were spared from the terrible destruction upon this land at the time of the crucifixion. And the *Book of Mormon* reveals that the Nephites enjoyed a Peaceful Reign on this land for approximately one hundred and seventy-five years, more or less. They were such a righteous people that the records of the brother of Jared could not be withheld from them; their faith was so great that they became worthy

to read and know the things which God had revealed to that wonderful prophet of long ago.

In these days of the Restoration of the Gospel, God has decreed, as it is written in the *Book of Mormon*, that the record of the brother of Jared which Moroni hid in the earth, should come forth in the latter days to the Gentiles, only when they exercise faith as did that great prophet. This means that The Church of Jesus Christ, which is composed of members of Gentile extraction, shall be blessed to see and know of those wonderful revelations which the Lord bestowed upon the brother of Jared. Just think, dear readers, what a marvelous blessing is in store for the Church in the latter days. All things, from the beginning of the world to the end thereof, shall be made known unto the Church; because they are written upon the plates which were made by Moroni, plus the original writings of the brother of Jared which Moroni hid in the earth. Moroni also sealed up the interpreters along with the plates.

The Lord commanded the brother of Jared thusly: "Behold, thou shalt not suffer these things which ye have seen and heard to go forth unto the world, until the time cometh that I shall glorify My name in the flesh; wherefore, ye shall treasure up the things which ye have seen and heard, and show it to no man. And behold, when ye shall come unto me, ye shall write them and seal them up, that no one can interpret them; for ye shall write them in a language that they cannot be read. And behold, these two stones will I give unto thee, and ye shall seal them up also with the things which ye shall write. For behold, the language which ye shall write I have confounded; wherefore, I will cause in My own due time that these stones shall magnify to the eyes of men these things which ye shall write." (Ether 3:21-24)

That which the brother of Jared wrote was interpreted by King Mosiah when the Plates of Gold were brought to him by the people of Limhi. He did this by means of the two stones (or interpreters) which had been given to the brother of Jared, and now were in possession of Mosiah. (Mosiah 28:11-14) Then, after Christ had been glorified in the flesh, (crucified and resurrected) the Nephites also were permitted to read and know the contents of the above

records. Now, in the latter days, the Gentiles will have this great privilege.

Many wonderful things are in store for the faithful Gentiles (Church) in these latter days relative to having records which have been kept by other people. First, the Small Plates of Nephi and the abridgment of the Large Plates of Nephi by Moroni came to the Gentiles through the instrumentality of Joseph Smith who, when he was through translating them, revealed a record of the Seed of Joseph on this land, and the subsequent appearance of Jesus Christ who established His Church among the Nephites. The record also told of the story of the Jaredites; those people who were brought to the land of America from the time when the Lord confounded the language at the building of the Tower of Babel. The translation of the Plates by Joseph Smith was and is called the *Book of Mormon*. Remember, this record came through the Gentiles, as recorded in the *Book of Mormon*, to be brought by them to the Seed of Joseph. (Read II Nephi 27)

It is written also, that the *Book of Mormon*, called Records in its pages (I Nephi 13:40) shall establish the truth of the record of the Jews (the *Bible*) and, they shall grow together "...unto the confounding of false doctrines and laying down of contentions, and establishing peace among the fruit of thy loins..." (II Nephi 3:12)

Next, shall come the sealed records of the brother of Jared, as spoken of in the book of Ether, 4th Chapter. Also the writings of the Lost Tribes shall come to light in the Latter Days and all the faithful shall exchange the knowledge written in the records kept by them. (II Nephi 29:13) The blessings, therefore, for the Church in these Latter Days are beyond description regarding the knowledge that shall be revealed at the coming forth of all the above records.

Joseph Smith was not permitted to read or translate the writings of the brother of Jared, nor that which Moroni copied from the same writings. The *Book of Mormon* is very clear on this matter: "Touch not the things which are sealed, for I will bring them forth in Mine own due time; for I will show unto the children of men that I am able to do Mine own work. Wherefore, when thou hast

read the words which I have commanded thee, and obtained the witnesses which I have promised unto thee, then shalt thou seal up the book again, and hide it up unto Me, that I may preserve the words which thou HAST NOT READ, until I see fit in Mine own wisdom to reveal all things unto the children of men." (II Nephi 27:21-22) Joseph Smith was permitted to translate ONLY the small Plates of Nephi and the abridgment of the large Plates.

Now we can see the wisdom of God in commanding people and men to write and keep records for future generations. Records are for knowledge, historical purposes, reminders of a Living God and His Word, and also for judgments. "... for out of the Books which shall be written shall THE WORLD BE JUDGED."

The Seed of Joseph shall be judged by their own record (*Book of Mormon*); the Jews shall be judged by their own writings (the *Bible*); the other Lost Tribes shall be judged by their own records; and the Gentiles by the *Bible* and the *Book of Mormon*. (II Nephi 29:11-12)

APPENDIX: The "Other Books" spoken of in I Nephi 13:39 are the various books contained in the *Book of Mormon* just as the *Bible* is a compilation of many books. In Helaman 3:13, 15, a description of the "Many Books" is given: "...there are many records kept of the proceedings of this people, by many of this people... Behold, there are many books and many records of every kind, and they have been kept chiefly by the Nephites."

Greetings to All Readers,

In the world, you shall have tribulations. But be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

We shall overcome by the grace of God and our perseverance. Though we are tested and tried, we shall overcome, when we strive to win friends rather than points.

Though we lose for a time, we build a better character. The blows, though severe and devastating, when the oppressors will say I have overwhelmed him—we shall rise to greater heights when our inner man holds fast to the noble deeds rather than retaliatory acts. We are bettered and improved by trials and refined out of broken hopes and shattered dreams.

Because God is our salvation, we will trust and not be afraid. For the Lord Jehovah is our strength and our song. He is our salvation.

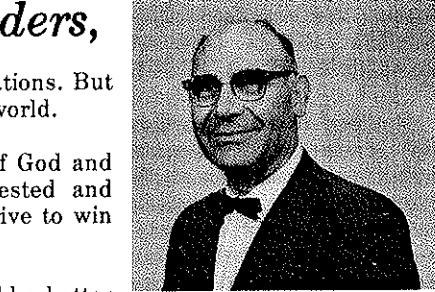
Gentle and still shall be His voice; no threats from Him proceed. The smoking flax He shall not quench, nor break the bruised reed. The feeble spark to flames He raises, the weak will not despise. Judgment He shall bring forth to truth, and make the fallen rise.

Men and beasts from the distant lands, arise with sounds of praise. Tongues and people in one accord, Jehovah's glories raise.

Thanks be to God, we were blessed with a second baptism at Portland, Oregon! Our new sister, Mabel Lassen, is Brother Eugene Lassen's wife. The door in Portland is ajar. Will it open wide? My heart says, "Yes, it will, by the grace of God."

If any of the readers know of anyone in beautiful Portland who might be interested, won't you let us know?

Who am I, O Lord God, and what is mine house, that you have brought me here, said David, and is it now likewise with all of us? Yes, indeed it is, because God is love. He brought us where we are.



Peace be with you in Christ,
Mark Randy

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

The Voice of the People

On Election Day last November, in keeping with the free and democratic principle of electing public officials by the voter's ballot, many Americans went to the polls and exercised this right.

As a result, the American people look forward to a new Administration in Washington. Both President-elect Ronald Reagan and Vice President-elect George Bush will assume their offices on January 20, 1981. Additionally, a number of new U.S. Senators and Congressmen will also take office. Too, many state and local officials newly-elected will be installed.

Let us thank God for a system of government that provides for peaceful and orderly transitions from outgoing administrations to newly-elected incoming public servants. Regrettably, this is not the case with some of the countries throughout the world, where changes in government have been marked by violence, terror and bloodshed.

May we note that our system of government was also enjoyed comparably by the ancient inhabitants of America as recorded so plainly in the *Book of Mormon*. A representative form of government was first introduced and recommended to them by good King Mosiah II in the year 92 B.C.

In a written message to all of his people, King Mosiah II appealed to them ". . . And now let us be wise and look forward to these things, and do that which will make for the peace of this people. Therefore I will be your king the remainder of my days; nevertheless, let us appoint judges, to judge this people according to our law; and we will newly arrange the affairs of our people, for we will appoint wise men to be judges, that will judge this people according to the commandments of God.

"Therefore, choose you by the voice of this people, judges, that ye may be judged according to the laws which have been given you by our fathers, which are correct, and which were given them by the hand of the Lord. Now it is not common that the voice of the people desireth anything contrary to that which is right; but it is common for the lesser part of the people to desire that which is not right; therefore this shall ye observe and make it your law—to do your business by the voice of the people.

"And now if ye have judges, and they do not judge you according to the law which has been given, ye can cause that they may be judged of a higher judge. If your higher judges do not judge righteous judgments, ye shall cause that a small number of your lower judges should be gathered together, and they shall judge your higher judges, according to the voice of the people." (Mosiah 29:10, 11, 25, 29)

"After king Mosiah had sent these things forth among the people they were convinced of the truth of his words. Therefore, it came to pass that they assembled themselves together in bodies throughout the land, to cast in their voices concerning who should be their judges, to judge them according to the law which had been given them; and they were exceedingly rejoiced because of the liberty which had been granted them." (Mosiah 29:37, 39)

May God's blessings of liberty and freedom continue with us as a nation, with other free nations, and eventually with people and nations everywhere.

Change in Feature Writer for "The Children's Corner"

Beginning with this issue, Sister Jan Steinrock of Branch No. 2, Detroit, Michigan will be the feature writer for "The Children's Corner." She is continuing the wonderful effort begun by Sister Mabel Bickerton in 1959.

On behalf of the entire *Gospel News* staff, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to Sister Mabel, who has written an article for the children every month for the past 21 years. In addition to this monthly endeavor, she has been quite active as the General Ladies Uplift Circle President for many years and has spent countless hours in writing Vacation Bible School Lessons for students from pre-school to high school levels. She has also composed many beautiful hymns. Once again, thank you, Sister Mabel, for your untiring labors in behalf of *The Gospel News* and the Church. May God richly reward you!

Sister Jan Steinrock is very excited about her involvement in the column.

Following is a brief testimony and account of her Church involvement, written per our request.

"I was baptized at the first GMBA Campout in Kansas thirteen years ago and became a member of the St. John, Kansas Mission. My family has been from that Mission for five generations, since the earliest days of our Church when William Bickerton led them via boat and then ox-cart from Pennsylvania to settle there in Zion's Valley.

I moved to Detroit and transferred to Branch No. 2 in 1972. Supporting our MBA, I became the teacher of the Young People's Class and still hold that office. Currently, I am the President of our MBA; in the Area MBA, I serve as the Missionary Liaison; and for the GMBA, I have enjoyed running the Campout Craft Workshops for three years.

Missionary work has always drawn me. As a college junior, I spent a summer as a volunteer teacher

working with third grade Apache Indian children in Whiteriver, AZ. That summer was the first Side by Side Chinle Project, and I joined my brother and sisters there to work. The first week I was in Detroit, there was a special Labor Day Retreat in Muncey, Ontario. I went and was "hooked". For the next four and a half years, I returned there to act as Sunday School teacher. In fact, my husband and I were married in that wonderful little Mission a year later. For the past two years, I have been involved with teaching the children in the Inner-City Branch in Detroit. These are situations and opportunities which have enriched my life immeasurably."

We of *The Gospel News* welcome you to our staff, Sister Jan. We are confident that our young readers will continue to enjoy "The Children's Corner" through your scripture stories as they have over the past years.

The Editor

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock

The Boy Jesus

Dear Girls and Boys,

At Christmas we celebrate and study the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. Now let us look at Jesus as a young boy.

You will remember that the wicked King Herod learned from the Wisemen that a baby, the King of the Jews, was born. King Herod was so afraid that this baby would grow up and take over his small country that he ordered his soldiers to slay all the children in Bethlehem and the coasts around that were two years old or less. There was great weeping and



mourning from the families of those babies.

Jesus would have been one of those murdered babies, but after the Wisemen found Him and gave their gifts of frankincense, and myrrh, and gold, an angel of the Lord appeared unto Joseph in a dream. He told Joseph, "Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word, for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him." When Joseph arose, he took the young child and His mother and departed into Egypt by night.

Jesus grew up in Egypt, a foreign child of a different religion and

nationality. His family spoke a different language also. Joseph was not a rich man. Perhaps he sold the gifts of gold, or frankincense, a sticky resin from special trees that smelled good when burned, or the myrrh which was resin used in making perfume and medicine. Their family stayed in Egypt until Herod died, returning then to Nazareth, a city in Galilee.

The *Bible*, in Matthew 13:55 tells us that Jesus had sisters, and that His brothers were named Josés, James, Simon and Judas. Counting Jesus, there were at least seven children in His family. It's not always easy being the oldest. We can imagine there was a lot of responsibility on the shoulders of the oldest child, the boy Jesus.

We do know that at the age of twelve, Jesus was allowed to go with His parents to celebrate the feast of the Passover at the great temple. When it was time to leave, His parents traveled a day towards home thinking that Jesus was also walking somewhere nearby with their relatives or friends. When they found Him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem very upset. They were amazed to find Him sitting in the middle of the great men listening to

them and asking them questions about God. His mother asked him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have looked for you sorrowing." Jesus said unto them, "How is it that you sought me? Don't you know that I must be about my Father's (God's) business?"

The Bible tells us that His parents didn't understand what He said unto them. Perhaps they didn't understand, that from that day through all time, He was truly to be the Savior of the world who would teach us the right way to live in all things.

Jesus returned home with His parents obeying them as He grew. Luke 2:52 tells us that "he increased in wisdom and stature, and increased in favour with God and man."

Sincerely,

Sister Jan

Living Creature: WHO AM I?

(Growing up in Kansas, my mother took my five brothers and sisters and I twenty-five miles to church each week. Sometimes in our Sunday afternoon MBA meetings, my uncle would let us play "WHO AM I?" for memory practice. Let's see how well you do. If you get stuck, check the verse location at the bottom of the page, or go ask your Grandma. That's what we always did.)

1. We have the likeness of a man.
2. Each one of us had four faces and four wings.
3. A prophet of God saw us.

(Find the WHO AM I? answer in Ezekiel 1:5-24)

Young People Ask

By John Griffith, Monongahela, PA

Beginning in this month's issue of *The Gospel News* and continuing every month thereafter, space will be given to the questions and needs of our young people throughout the Church.

Any young individual who has a question on any area of interest can write asking comments or suggestions on the subject. Personal data such as names, etc. will not be printed in the article. All correspondences will be considered confidential. Just formulate your comments and questions clearly and mail them to:

Young People Ask
c/o John Griffith
The Church of Jesus Christ
Sixth & Lincoln Sts.
Monongahela, PA 15063

If for some reason your question cannot be handled properly in this column, you will receive a personal communication by mail, so make sure that your return address appears clearly on the letterhead.

This column is not intended to in any way discourage our young people from counseling with parents or the Church's Ministry in the area; rather it is hoped that it will encourage our youth to use the Priesthood along these lines of thought.

This column is also hoped to encourage our young not to be discouraged when problems arise or answers are sought. By reading about others' questions, you will soon realize that you are not alone.

Guest consulting Priesthood members will be used. We read in the *Holy Bible*: "But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost." Mark 13:11

And so this writer, through faith in God's word along with prayer, will rely on the spirit of the Holy Ghost to direct his mind and pen.

Without your participation, Young People, this column will not continue. Waiting to hear from you. . .

MBA HIGHLIGHTS

GMBA November Conference
Headed Toward '81,
We've Just Begun!

By Ryan Gene Ross, GMBA Editor

Representatives from all the major areas of the MBA were reunited at The Church of Jesus Christ General Church Auditorium on Saturday morning, November 8, 1980. After an opening hymn and a prayer, GMBA President, Donald Ross, welcomed those in attendance. In requesting our prayers, Brother Donnie hoped that not only would we complete all business matters smoothly, but also that we might have ample time to enjoy the spiritual side of meeting with one another. Thanks to God, we did both.

In a written report, Brother Tim Scolaro from Detroit, who was Camp Director at the 1980 GMBA at Massanetta Springs in Harrisonburg, VA, commended both his supporting staff, as well as all those who attended camp for a great week. Financially speaking, the GMBA Campout once again came out of the week "in the black", as all our expenses were more than met. Reports by Arline Whitton (Camp Development Committee) and Joseph Ross

(Camp Procurement Committee) brought us up to date on the status of each project. Sister Arline will submit a final report in the spring of 1981 that will summarize the work of their committee and will recommend further actions to be taken in the future.

Speaking of Campout, there is a special twist to the upcoming 1981 GMBA Campout to be held at Massanetta Springs—mainly a date. Yes, that's right! This campout is dedicated to all those who, year after year, cannot go to camp because their schools are still in session the week of camp. This year's campout will be held the week of July 4 to July 11! Camp Director will be chosen at the next GMBA Activities Committee Meeting, according to protocol.

Officers reports were presented and accepted. As usual, everyone enjoyed the parade of delegates representing the individual locals. We, as a GMBA, had a banner year for financial matters. Details will be included in the GMBA minutes which

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MBA Highlights Continued

should be read aloud in each local when they are received. However, a noteworthy figure of \$150,000 has been donated to the General Church over the past six years.

Under new business, all newly elected officers are as follows:

Corresponding Secretary, Sister Karen Milantoni; Assistant Secretary, Sister Iva Fedorka; Assistant Secretary, Sister Cindy Prentice; Treasurer, Brother Stacey Light; Assistant Editor, Brother Fred D'Antonio; Historian, Brother Ron Dziak.

Also, according to the policy that has been determined by the majority vote over the past two to three years, the May GMBA Conference will be rotated to another area of the Church besides Pennsylvania. This coming May, the Michigan-Ontario Area has graciously accepted the responsibility of hosting the event. Speaking in behalf of the GMBA, we are anxious to be able to visit the saints of the north and together enjoy a blessing of serving and worshipping the Lord Jesus Christ for a week end. Finally, a motion from the floor was accepted that a fund-raising goal of \$200.00 be set for the next six months period for each local, to be used to support the missionary work of the Church.

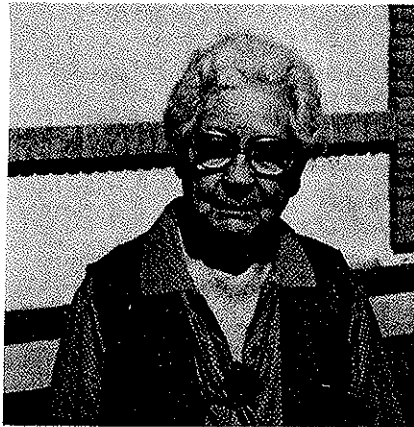
Saturday evening, a choir from the Pennsylvania Area MBA enthusiastically presented a program centered around the latter day glory of the Church that will come in due course of time, namely the Kingdom of Zion. Scripture was read aloud periodically throughout the chorus of songs that featured songs of Zion written through inspiration by Sister Arlene Buffington of Imperial, PA. Brother Brian Smith and Sister Karen Progar were in charge of the program.

On Sunday morning, a nice turnout gave audience to several speakers, including Apostle Brother Russell Cadman. Emphasis was placed on the state of our souls and the opportunity of salvation through Christ Jesus to those who have yet to render obedience to the Gospel. This capped off an enjoyable week end of business and socializing with the saints. Without a doubt, the GMBA, which recently adopted a new local in Clairton, PA, continues to grow in size and strength as an aid to both young people everywhere and the

General Church's missionary work. We must continue to remember that the most important letters of GMBA are MBA because without all the locals and their work, there would be no "G". So, continue to support your local MBA for the sake of the GMBA.

Experience and Testimony of Birdie M. Furnier

By Sister Birdie M. Furnier



I was raised by *Bible* reading, believing parents from the time I can remember. Anything that troubled me, I went to the Lord in prayer, and I realized that God answered my prayers. I lived to be twenty-six years old before I ever had a direct experience from the Lord. I was married and had two children and lived in a little country home with about four acres of land, located beside the Smock, PA reservoir on Highway 51 not far from Uniontown, PA. One day I was all alone in my little country home. My husband was at work. My two children were at my mother's home. I always had good health and loved to work. I am not a good singer, but I would sing all day while working. I loved to sing hymns as well as good songs. With all the good desire I had, I never had my name on a church book in any church. I respected all churches, never found fault with any, and thought they were all right, and to this day, I believe there are good people in every church. What I want to do now is give my testimony as to how I came to belong to The Church of Jesus Christ.

Being alone in my humble little farm home, I was very busy and

singing the hymn, *Is Thy Heart Right With God?*. I knew it was something from heaven, something I had never witnessed before; I knew it was the voice of the Lord. I fell on my knees, and I talked to God. I said, "Lord, I know this is You, what will You have me do?" As I prayed there alone, a blanket of love completely covered me. I left myself in His care. As I recovered from this blessed experience, I went back to my work. When my husband, Thurman, came home, I told him of the wonderful experience I had. We both rejoiced together. A portion of this wonderful experience stayed with me for weeks and months. I know I was in the hands of the Lord, and that He had spoken to me just as I would speak to anyone and ask them a question; only He questioned me with compassion like no man has ever done.

I loved my mother and always talked everything over with her when I was confronted with any problem. As I carried a blessing from this experience, I also carried a problem I could not solve myself. So I talked it over and over with my mother; she was a very devoted *Bible* reader and would console me. She told me of a woman she had talked to that was a *Bible* reader. This woman did not mention the name of a church or invite her to come to church, but she left the impression with my mother that I might want to talk to her. The next time I had a visit with my mother, she told me about her conversation with this woman. I asked, "Where does this woman live?" She told me. I went straight to her house; one of the daughters came to the door when I knocked. I asked if her mother was home; she told me, "No." I asked, "Is your father home?" She said, "Yes. He is upstairs sleeping." It came to my mind right away, I must talk to him. I had never met him, I had never heard a word about him, but I felt a great desire to talk to him. I asked the girl if I could talk to him a little while, and she said, "He will be glad to talk to you." She went upstairs and told him I wanted to talk to him. He got up right away and came downstairs. I introduced myself and told him I wanted to talk to him about the *Bible*. I, being a *Bible* reader myself, asked him many questions as to what he believed, not knowing he belonged to any church or professed any religion. I continued to ask questions. Here are some of the questions I asked him: Do you think people should take

sacrament? Do you think it is right to wash feet? Do you think it is right for women to preach?

I asked question after question as he answered me to what he believed. He allowed me to talk about the *Bible* quite a while, then he asked, "Would you like to have a prayer meeting in your home?" Oh, those were the sweetest words to me. I said, "I surely would." He then told me that he was an elder in The Church of Jesus Christ. That was the first time I had ever heard of The Church of Jesus Christ. This was the first time I had ever heard of him or had ever seen him. His name was Martin King; he was an elder and later became an apostle. He came to my house with his family. I called in a few of my farm neighbors. We had a nice cottage prayer meeting. Brother King held many meetings with us from that time on, not only prayer meetings, but Sunday meetings.

The rest of my family, including my husband, became very much interested. Brother King had asked some of the other brothers to come up from down the river from Monongahela, Roscoe, Little Redstone and Coal Valley, PA. The word soon got around of the new interest Brother King had found, and many of the brothers and sisters met with us. It was on Sunday, August 23, 1914, the meeting was held in my sister, Alverdia Gibson's home. A wonderful blessing was being poured out upon us. While Brother William Bailey was bearing his testimony, I was so filled with a portion of my early experience, when God's voice asked me if my heart was right with Him. The spirit of repentance fell upon me; I felt as if I was right in front of Jesus at His feet. I asked for my baptism, and seven of my family followed. We were buried in the water in the reservoir beside my home on Route 51. It was a most beautiful evening, just before sundown. My husband, Thurman, my sister, Alverdia, her husband, Henry Gibson, my sister, Gladys, her husband, Ray Hillen, and my youngest brother, Winfield Riggen, made our promise to God to serve Him. We were confirmed in my home. I thank God for that day. I am now past 75 years old, and I wouldn't trade the last 50 years of my life for all the gold in the world. Being baptized in August, I was privileged to go to conference in October at a small place called Hawk Eye, near Scottdale, PA. It was the most glorious conference I

was ever in.

As I have said, I was always well and healthy, never sick in my life since I can remember. I was only baptized two weeks when I took sick. I went to conference sick, and when I returned home, I fell in my bed and never got out for several months. My illness all started with typhoid fever, which left me a complete cripple, not even able to raise my hands. They fed me soup which was strained through a cloth. I was completely helpless and did not weigh 75 pounds. When the next January conference came, I wanted to go. Sick as I was, my mother and father argued over ever thinking of such a thing as taking me out in snow and ice in January. My mother said I was going to die anyway so she arranged with a farm neighbor to take me to the railroad station to McKeesport, PA to conference. I was rolled in blankets and carried like a baby to a horse and buggy and carried into the depot. When the train came the conductor got off the train and helped the farm man put me on the train. At the other end where I got off the train, Brother Nephi Federer's son was there with a horse and buggy; they carried me from the train just as they carried me when I got on the train. I was taken to conference, which was held on the second floor of a lodge hall. I was carried up eighteen steps and set on a chair with my feet on another chair. I sat all day on Saturday. On Saturday night they got me a room close to the hall. On Sunday, I was carried back upstairs for the Sunday meetings. There were about three hundred people there, outsiders as well as saints. I had been anointed by just about all the Twelve Apostles and our President, Brother Alexander Cherry, during these months of sickness, but was not healed or even benefited. I still lay sick, not even able to move myself. When they took me to Sunday meeting, they set me on a chair in the back of the hall. I enjoyed the morning service. When the afternoon meeting opened for testimony and sacrament, a voice spoke to me. I recognized it as the same voice that had spoken to me when I was alone in my little farm home; this is what it said, "Now is the time." I spoke right out and said, "Brothers, if you will anoint me, now is the time." Two elders came back to me and carried me to the front of the hall. They anointed me with oil, and made a very simple, plain prayer with their hands on my head. I was healed right there,

one hundred per cent back to perfect health. I got up from the chair I sat on, walked back to my seat, went home with the crowd in perfect health.

The next day was Monday. I went back home on the train, walked to my home in the country, two miles, and have been blessed with good health ever since. I praise God for this wonderful testimony. I feel that God has spoken to me twice, in a very special way, in the 50 years I have tried to serve Him. The first time when He spoke to me and asked me the question, "Is your heart right with God?"—that was in preparation for the saving of my soul, and the second time when it was for the healing of my body. I very seldom speak of the healing of my body, but I will never forget the experience of the way God visited me when He called me to serve Him. The healing of my soul means so much more than the healing of my body. I thank God with all my heart for His loving care. My desire is to serve Him as long as I live. I know for sure with a testimony as I have given it to you, it will either stand for me or against me. I ask an interest in all your prayers, that with God's help, I will be able for it to be for me. I am not seeking any honor or glory, only to give Him the praise that He ever saw me worth speaking to, and that I have been privileged to become one of His servants with the rest of all who are trying to serve Him. May God bless the Church in these trying times, is my prayer in His Holy name.

Sister Furnier is now 91 years of age.

"O remember, my son, continued... directed unto the Lord; yea, let the affections of thy heart be placed upon the Lord forever."

If every person would only listen to these words, how happy they would be! They would bypass so many sorrows in life. Their purpose in life would have so much more meaning.

"Counsel with the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for good; yea, when thou liest down at night lie down unto the Lord, that he may watch over you in your sleep; and when thou risest in the morning let thy heart be full of thanks unto God; and if ye do these things, ye shall be lifted up at the last day."

Who is wise son, or daughter that will listen to what we say? This person will never be confused or ashamed.