

CHURCH INTELLIGENCE



A CASE OF FAITH HEALING

A Remarkable Incident of Early Church History.

The Experience of an Elder Who Went to Aid in the Redemption of Zion.

In a letter dated Springfield, Utah, April 14, Oliver B. Huntington, Sr., relates the following incident:

Not very long ago I listened to a singular narrative, from Elder Uriah E. Curtis, concerning his father, Gardner Curtis, which I think will be interesting to the readers of the "Deseret News." The father of a place in Church history—at least it will show an unusual interest and devotion to the work of God, which perhaps the young of the present generation can hardly comprehend, because they cannot fully understand the conditions and difficulties and environments of the Saints in the early days of the Church of Christ.

After the expulsion of the Saints from Jackson county, Mo., in 1833, the Lord gave a revelation to Joseph Smith, His Prophet, requiring him to gather a certain number or not less than a certain number of His Elders to go up to the land of Zion, or Jackson county, for a certain purpose, starting from Kirtland, Ohio.

For this purpose, of gathering all the male members of the Church possible to the number required, word was sent abroad to all the organizations of the Church and scattered members as well, that the Prophet with his little band of followers would start from Kirtland at a certain date.

Gardner Curtis lived about forty-five miles east of Cincinnati, Ohio, and a long way from Kirtland. He wanted to be one of the volunteers called for to achieve results to be seen in fact, for the establishment of God's great and marvelous work. He could reach St. Louis by steamboat as easily and quicker than he could walk to Kirtland, and if he could hit the time just right to find a steamboat going up the Mississippi river he would be on the congested land as soon as the Prophet and his chosen band of disciples.

In those early days of frontier life in the western borders of civilization there were no regular steamboat lines running up the wild Missouri river country as now, for boats went there when they could obtain loading of supplies for government forts or military posts, and for fur trading posts far up the great river, among the wild tribes of Indians.

Brother Curtis did not find a boat going up the river, as he hoped, so he started out on foot, fearing he would, by waiting, lose the golden opportunity of contributing his services to accomplish the purposes of Jehovah in sending His Elders on foot 1,000 miles to be there in time to meet his brethren and soon become very lame and sore traveling on foot—he had several hundred miles to walk and must not lose time.

He soon became so lame that he felt he must give up and lay over a time for recuperation. Then came to his mind that promise of the Lord that "if any are sick they shall send for the Elders of the Church," etc. He was the only Elder he knew of in that country and yet he exercised that right and claim the promise of the Lord by laying hands upon himself.

He sat down by the side of the road, if there was any road, and laid his two hands upon his legs and prayed as he would have done for one of his children or brethren.

He was healed instantly and went on his way rejoicing without any lameness, until he reached the place of destination. But O, sad, sickening thought, his heart and soul almost left him when he found that the camp of Zion, his brethren, the Prophet had been there and all had returned home, as we find recorded in the Doctrine and Covenants. All his toil, expense and sufferings were nothing compared to the loss of being with and sharing in the experiences of his brethren.

He turned his face homeward and traveled alone without any assistance, his many hundred miles back to the place of starting. A short time before his death Elder Gardner Curtis related this incident in his life's experiences to his family here in Springfield, where he lived many years previous to his death. Let history credit him as a member of "Zion's Camp." It would do him justice and confer honor upon his posterity.

WITHOUT PURSE OR SCRIP.

But the Heavenly Father Provides for His Servants.

In a letter dated Luna, New Mexico, April 2, and signed by Elders Geo. A. Robinson and Arthur H. Taylor, the following incident is told:

Since the 14th day of December last, we have been laboring together in the New Mexico conference, mostly along the Gila river, where the hand of the Lord was made manifest in our behalf.

While at Mogollon we received word from our president to come to the conference at Denver, to convene about the 26th inst.

We are traveling without purse or scrip, and were instructed to leave our field of labor in time to arrive at Denver on the 25th inst. The letter bearing instructions was received the 23rd inst. Having several hundred miles to travel, we at once started on our journey, and were blessed with a ride most of the way to Luna, a small "Mormon" settlement. While here we were invited to attend a party given by the merchant, Mr. F. Shulze, a friend.

He gave all who were present a chance for a graphophone as well as several other articles which he raffled, free of charge.

sion, in the following words: "There are two 'Mormon' missionaries in our midst, traveling without purse or scrip, and although we may differ some in our religious faith, yet I believe they are doing good, and that we ought to help them." Accordingly the liberal-hearted man dropped some money in a hat, and thus started a collection.

The same spirit which actuated Mr. Shulze seemed to be universal among those gathered together, and both "Mormons" and outside friends contributed freely.

The contribution was gratefully received, and we feel to thank our Heavenly Father for the same. Many and various are the occasions upon which, by the power of the Lord, blessings have been bestowed upon us.

The work is progressing slowly, but it is indeed a day of blessing. We have a few converts and many friends. The "News" is an ever welcome visitor, and aids greatly in the spread of truth.

In West Colorado.

A conference of the Elders of the West Conference of the Colorado mission convened at Grand Junction April 13th and 14th. There were present: President Jos. A. Melroe, Conference President Geo. H. Lewis, Traveling Elders James F. Smith, L. M. Stevens, Wm. C. Hardy, L. J. Findlay and M. J. Miller. The conference began with a Priesthood meeting on Saturday afternoon, at which the reports of the Elders for the past year were given which had been performed, 263 books and upwards of 4,000 tracts distributed in the conference. Some instructions were given by Elder McKee.

In the evening the conference was held, as was also the meeting of the following afternoon, when the principles of truth were explained by the Elders. Immediately following the conference meeting another Priesthood meeting was held and the Elders further instructed in the line of their labors by Elder McKee.

Elder James F. Smith was released to return home, having filled an honorable and faithful mission.

Elder Geo. H. Lewis presided. L. M. STEVENS, Clerk of Conference.

THE GOSPEL IN NORWAY.

Quite a number in the Little City of Levanger.

Many People Listen to the Testimony of the Missionaries—God's Power Manifest.

The following report is sent us from Levanger, Norway, March 27, by Elders Enoch C. Lybber and Ambrey Norwell: At the September conference we were assigned to labor in and around this city, and as there had been no Elders here for many years, we were looked at as quite a curiosity by most of the people, and the priests must have thought us dangerous, as they commenced warning their flock from the pulpit to not let us have a room in the town. At two different places they succeeded in having us turned out, but in both cases we gained the sympathy of the people, and were compelled to turn us out. They found us the place where we are now.

The principal of the normal school then commenced to advertise for us. He published articles against us in the papers, but we obtained permission to correct the mistakes, and in this way an opportunity was given us to set forth our doctrine. The effects were satisfactory, as our small hall was crowded with eager listeners. Prof. Chas. J. Olsen came from Trondhjem and helped us entertain the congregation.

The people here have bought hundreds of our books, and thousands of our tracts. Our meetings are well attended, and the Lord has raised up quite a number of friends for us. Among those is a lady that was sick and wished us to administer to her, which we did, and a few days later, she said she was perfectly well. She had been treated by several doctors but to no avail.

A lady here by the name of Maren Anna Angor, has a brother in Utah by the name of Olaus Jensen from Ytteroy. She would be pleased to hear from him. She lost his address when the town burned down.

ENJOYABLE CATERING.

Conference of West Virginia Saints and Elders.

Southern Hospitality Liberally Tendered—Prejudices Vanishing—Additions to the Church.

Elder George Henrie writes from Charleston, West Virginia, April 13: The Southwest Virginia conference convened at Peachtree, Raleigh Co., April 10th, 8th and 9th. Only those who have passed through the trials of missionary life can truly appreciate the joy that was beaming from the faces of the fifteen Elders as they came in water-soaked and travel-stained from the winter's work, and meeting each other at the home of Mr. Jacob Pettry were welcomed by the conference president, Elder George Henrie and we all welcomed our new mission president, John G. McQuarrie.

We held several public meetings, all of which were filled to overflowing. The principles of the Gospel, such as faith, repentance, baptism, reception of the Holy Ghost, modern revelation, and also the history of the Church were explained by the Elders.

Elder George Henrie spoke on the personal purification as contemplated in the Word of Wisdom. Elder John G. McQuarrie spoke in all of the meetings.

The prejudice seemed to be completely broken down. Many expressed faith in the Gospel and we had the privilege of receiving one person, and feel sure that others will soon follow.

Many who came to the first meeting through curiosity continued to attend until the close of conference. They also joined our friends in entertaining the Elders, and the warm Southern hos-

pitality was manifested to such an extent that the Elders could not accept all the invitations extended to them.

At the close of the afternoon meeting on Monday a great crowd gathered on the bank of the mountain stream to witness the baptism. The services were solemn and impressive, as the sixteen Elders gathered on the bank and sang two appropriate hymns. President Henrie offered prayer and Elder J. J. Porter led the young lady into the stream and after the ancient pattern baptized her. Elder McQuarrie confirmed her.

The Elders met in Priesthood meeting on the 9th and gave in their reports, which were quite favorable. At the afternoon meeting we met to be instructed from our mission president. We all felt the loss of our former President E. H. Snow, as we had learned to love him, but in listening to Elder McQuarrie, as he spoke under the Holy Spirit, we realized the same. Priesthood remained and the same God rules over all.

As we parted from our friends at Peachtree we received many pressing invitations to return, and hold a mission conference, and they gave us the assurance that they would fit up a grove and entertain all comers.

A GOOD WORD OF DEFENSE.

How a Non-"Mormon" Regards the Elders in the Field.

He is Glad to Receive Them, and to Listen to Their Teachings and Doctrines.

Mr. H. A. Drennan writes from Holoway, Wilson Co., Tenn., April 13th: I have had a desire for a long time to write a few lines to your valuable paper concerning my acquaintance with the so-called "Mormon" people. I have known them for upwards of twenty years and always found them honest, upright and true in all their dealings with me. I have been investigating their doctrine for a good many years and have read the Book of Mormon through at least ten times.

The teachings of the Latter-day Saints have always appeared very reasonable and scriptural to me, although at present I am a non-member of the Church.

Since the Elders first began laboring in this country, I have formed the acquaintance of sixty or more, among the earlier ones being Elders Ford, Carver, Roberts and Snow. The Elders have been persecuted here at times, on account of the prejudice of the people caused by false reports being circulated among them, and their failing to understand the true teachings of the "Mormon" people.

But at it was in the days of our Savior, so it is in these days. For the scripture tells us that "all who live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." My doors have never been open to the Elders, and I have never met but see and understand as I do, they would not be so hasty in condemning them.

When the first Elders began their labors in this country, they had more opportunities of getting into the people than at present, for now most all the buildings are closed against them and the people seem very indifferent. But I believe the time will come when they will be glad to see a "Mormon" Elder. At present Elders A. G. Haskell and Wilbur Sowards, both of Manassa, Colo., are laboring in this country and tell me that they expect to finish re-canvassing it in two or three months.

There are not any Saints in this country at present, but a great many have moved to the West in time past.

I enjoy reading the Deseret News very much.

NEW ZEALAND MISSION.

Report of a Conference Held at Papawai, Wairapa.

Chiefs and Legislators Aiding the Elders in the Battle Against Sin and Immorality.

Elder J. A. Abbott writes from Bridge, Pa., N. Z., March 19, as follows: A conference was held at Papawai, Wairapa, New Zealand, on the 9th and 10th inst. Papawai is the seat of government for the Maori people, they being permitted by the general government to elect their own officers and enact laws for the general welfare of the Maori people. The 5th and 6th inst. being election day the Maoris began pouring in from every direction. Among them were many able speakers, and the large parliament buildings were freely offered to the Saints and Elders by the big-hearted chiefs, in which to hold the conference of the Wairapa district.

The conference convened on the 9th. The Elders from Zion were J. E. Magleby, J. W. Wilde, Joseph Hodges, Frank Knell and the writer. Conference lasted two days in which time six very interesting meetings were held. The chiefs admonished the people to look upon the Elders as servants of God and accept the principles taught by them. They said, "You, Elders, have fought the battle alone for these many years trying to instill into the hearts of the people those precious principles, forsaking loved ones and home, spending

much money together with time in earnest toil, in order to elevate this Maori people. But now the government has enacted laws against many of the practices." In years past, the Elders seeing the evils prevalent and being unable to cope with them, sought the Lord in earnest fasting and prayer to influence the government to assist them. Those noble prayers were heard and are now being answered. Two years ago the government enacted a law to imprison Maoris, or (Maori) magicians, who were destroying the people, now it is to be before the house, but in by the Maori minister, proposing for that offense capital punishment. Laws are also being enacted against gambling and filthiness. There are inspectors appointed for each district by the government to inspect the Maori villages and give orders to destroy old filthy houses and clean up in general. For disobedience to orders there is a fine of one pound or 10 shillings. For the first offense, a second offense is five pounds. This law came in force one year ago. This is a testimony to the Elders in this mission that the Lord is assisting in this great work among this branch of the house of Israel. The work is prospering in this part of the vineyard. The Saints and Elders feel much encouraged.

The writer was honorably released to return to Zion, after the April conference.

On March 12th President Magleby, Elder Wilde and myself took the train for this place after bidding good-bye to Saints and friends, we met with Elders Teddies Johnson and J. A. Magleby together with Saints and friends, who had assembled to hold conference in the Hawks Bay district. Tomorrow we go to Wairoa by steamer, and after some labor in that district we will proceed to Fox Bay where the annual conference will be held.

Change of Headquarters. An Arbor, April 8.—Owing to the fact that the city council of Detroit have passed an ordinance prohibiting preaching or other demonstrations upon the streets of that city, the city has been abandoned by the Elders, and headquarters changed from 233 Howard St., Detroit, to 701 E. Main St., Jackson, Mich., at which latter place all correspondence relative to writing friends, searching genealogy or other matters will receive prompt attention.

FRANK A. BRINTON, Secy. Michigan Conference.

In the British Mission.

Change of address.—The address of the conference headquarters is now 72 Beconsfield Road, New Cotton, Norwich.

Arrivals.—The following Elders arrived all well on the steamship company, Great Britain—Thomas J. Howells, City, and Joseph Rife, Eden, Weber county, Utah. For Scandinavia—James M. Peterson, Richfield; Hans C. Larsen, Mayfield; Hans Hanson, Manilla, and J. E. Christensen, For Germany—Lawrence L. Beckstead, Brinton. For the Netherlands—John W. F. Myers, Ogden.

Appointments.—Elder Thomas J. Howells is appointed to labor in the Sheffield, and Elder Joseph Rife in the Grimsby conferences respectively.

Releases.—Elder George H. Toome of the Birmingham, and Elder Orson Day of the London conferences, have been honorably released to return home on the steamship New England, leaving Liverpool April 11th.

Transfers.—Elder D. H. McAllister of the Nottingham and Elder William A. Shapley of the Sheffield are each hereby transferred to the London conference.

STAKE CONFERENCES.

EMERY STAKE.

Report of the Quarterly Conference Held at Price.

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There were present, of the Council of Apostles, Elders Matthias F. Cowley and Abraham O. Woodruff; Reuben G. Miller and John H. Pace of the Stake presidency; High Councilors, Patriarchs, Bishops of wards and the counselors, and a large attendance of officers and members of the Stake.

The conference convened at 11 o'clock in the forenoon on Sunday, Elder Reuben G. Miller presiding. He made a few opening remarks, complimenting the Saints upon their attendance, and urged them to attend to all their duties.

Bishop Lars P. Overson of the Cleveland ward referred briefly to the late general conference, and spoke of the ten thousand non-literate payers which are found among the people professing to be Latter-day Saints.

Elder Alven Thayne, who had just returned from a mission to Australia, bore his testimony to the truth of the Gospel. Bishop John Potter of the Sunnyside ward spoke upon the subject of Sunday school work.

At the afternoon session, after the opening exercises and the administration of the Sacrament, the General Church Authorities were presented and sustained, after which the Stake authorities were presented and unanimously sustained.

Elder Abraham O. Woodruff was the first speaker. He said the Saints in general are on the improve. He referred to the strong character of President George Q. Cannon, who had just passed into eternity, and spoke of President Lorenzo Snow as being a prophet of God.

Elder Matthias F. Cowley spoke upon the mission of Jesus Christ. He referred to the restoration of the Gospel, and said Christopher Columbus was inspired of God when he discovered America, and said it had been predicted by the Nephites that it would come to pass in the last days. He said Zion would be redeemed by the law of consecration. He exhorted the people to be obedient to the Priesthood and keep the commandments of God.

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Elder Matthias F. Cowley spoke of the people moving from one ward to another, and said they should take a certificate with them that they might be identified.

Elder Reuben G. Miller made a few closing remarks, the choir and congregation sang a hymn, benediction was pronounced by Elder Uriah E. Curtis, and conference adjourned for three months to meet at Ferron, Utah, July 14 and 15, 1901.

ARTHUR W. HORSLEY, Stake Clerk.

St. Joseph Stake.

Thatcher, Ariz., April 2.—The St. Joseph Stake conference convened in the assembly hall said Thatcher Sunday and Sunday, March 30th and 31st. Elder Andrew Kimball presiding. Besides the Stake presidency there were present, the High Council and alternates, Patriarchs Philemon C. Merrill, Samuel Claridge and William F. Butler, and a good representation from all the quorums of the Priesthood. The singing for the entire conference was furnished by the academy choir. All the wards of the Stake were represented except St. David, Bishop P. A. Lotgreen of that ward sending in his report by letter. All the Bishops reported the Saints in their respective wards as striving to live up to the requirements of the Gospel.

Elder W. D. Johnson reported his labors as acting president in the absence of Elder Kimball. He had visited several wards and found them all prospering temporally and spiritually. Elder Kimball said his labors in the territorial legislative assembly had been very satisfactory and he found that a feeling of friendliness and good will toward the Latter-day Saints in which latter place all correspondence relative to writing friends, searching genealogy or other matters will receive prompt attention.

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At 7:30 Sunday evening the Young Men's and Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement association conference was held in the Town hall, Elder Joseph E. Johnson presiding. Remarks were made by Elder Matthias F. Cowley, Miss Edna Barker, Elder Hyrum Nelson and Elder Abraham O. Woodruff.

Monday morning, April 15, the conference was again called to order by Elder Reuben G. Miller. Elder George Cluff, principal of the Emery Stake academy, addressed the conference. He spoke of the work done in the Stake academy and referred to the benefits derived by attending Church schools.

Elder J. W. Nixon said he could endorse all the remarks made by Elder Cluff, and spoke of the necessity of young men schooling themselves in the principles of the Gospel.

Elder Matthias F. Cowley addressed the conference upon the subject of Attitude and the order and duties of the Priesthood.

Elder Abraham O. Woodruff called upon the Bishops and High Councilors to stand up, and it was noticed that only half of them were present. He then said if there was any Bishop or High Councilor who could not attend to Stake conferences, he wished they would hand in their resignations.

At the Monday afternoon session Elder John H. Pace of the Stake presidency was the first speaker. He made some very encouraging remarks and exhorted the Saints to be faithful in all things. Elder Reuben G. Miller said the condition of the Stake, and said it had been well reported this morning when a vote was called and it was shown that only 50 per cent of the Bishops and High Council were present. He said he had been called upon to make a report this Stake by the mouthpiece of God and he wished to do his duty. He said he had not made any call upon the peo-

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