

EXPERIENCES OF MAY ELLIOTT AS RELATED TO MARGARET HEIDE

I remember an event that happened when attending the Lamoni Stake reunion with my mother May Elliott when I was perhaps ten or twelve years old. That would have been between the years 1950 and 1952. (This is approximate). We were sitting in the newly finished Graceland student center, and the congregation was large. In a prayer meeting, I remember a man rising to his feet who spoke with the gift of tongues. Then another person arose and gave the interpretation of the message. As soon as the meeting was over, my mother told me she could understand the man who spoke in tongues, and she said she could verify that the interpretation the second person gave was correct. She said the tongues were given in the Tuamotuan dialect of the Tahitian language, which she understood. When she and my father were married, they went to Tahiti as missionaries, and that is why my mother knew the language.

My mother May Elliott would talk to me as she went about her housework, telling about our ancestors, or talking about the gospel (which was more precious to her than anything), or telling about experiences of people she knew that illustrated the values she hoped I would acquire, etc. She didn't often repeat herself, but I do remember something she told me a number of times. She said that one year, I. N. White gave a prophecy at a Far West reunion. As I remember the message, it was, "The time will come when people will leave the church like the leaves falling off the trees. But there will still be enough left to build Zion." Looking up I. N. White in Church History, I found that he and J. F. Curtis were appointed to a district that included Missouri in 1909 (Vol. 6, p. 332), and that in that same year, thirty reunions were held in the United States and Canada between July 3 and September 26, 1909 (Vol. 6, p. 337). I don't know if that was the year this was given or not, but my mother would have been eleven years old in 1909, and old enough to remember hearing it; and she probably heard it re-told as she grew older. I remember my reaction to this: I thought to myself, "What could possibly make people want to leave the church as leaves falling off the trees?" I couldn't imagine such a time.

Margaret Heide, Written June 26, 2011