

THE SHAPING OF A DESTINY

An Autobiography

by

Earl R. Curry

Someday all doubt and mystery will be made clear,
The threatening cloud which now we see will disappear,
Someday what seems punishment, or loss, or pain
Will prove to be God's blessing, our everlasting gain.
Someday our weary feet will rest in sweet content,
And we shall see how we've been blest by what was sent,
Someday in looking back o'er life's brief span,
We'll see with wondering, glad surprise, God's perfect plan!

Author Unknown.

INTRODUCTION

Quite a number of my good friends have urged me to write the story of my life. I am not particularly important in the great scheme of things, but some of the God-blest experiences, and great ideas, and immense concepts, that have been part of my life, are vastly important. So, with a good deal of hesitancy on the one hand, as befits a humble person, but with unashamed forthrightness on the other, I look back over the circumstances and experiences that have brought me to this present day. I am 85 at the time of this writing.

Uncle (by adoption) Gomer T. Griffith's last years were spent in Kirtland, Ohio. Kirtland had been his home many years ago, and he returned here for the years of his old age, which reached to almost 95.

Once or twice a week he would come to our home on Joseph Street, always telling experiences from his long life and ministry. I do not recall him ever repeating himself. Sadly, none of us had the wise foresight to record the testimonies that he shared with us. Now he has crossed over into beautiful Land Beyond. What a wealth of testimony has thus been lost to future generations!

If any of us have a wealth of helpful testimony to share, we ought to rise above a restraining modesty and share while we can. Unwittingly moving in the direction of this autobiography, I have for sometime now been assembling the record of my spiritual experiences, into what I call "My Ebenezer Book," having in mind the Ebenezers of Israel, of milleniums ago, and our hymn - "here I'll raise my Ebenezer, hither by Thy help I've come." These will be condensed for sharing, I hope, sometime.

Personally, I am fond of biography. Like the saying - I like to see what makes people tick.

Now, therefore, trusting that this writing may be inspirationally helpful, I, as it were, set my hand to the plow, and hope to plow a straight furrow. May this autobiography be interesting and comforting to many of my struggling fellow mortals, as they, too, try to reach up to God, in richly rewarding ways.

I shall try to set forth in each chapter what, as it seems to me now, has shaped my life, these four score and five years.

Also, I hope to include some testimony, or some experience, or some great concept, that hopefully shall reward each reader of this story of my life. There have been successes. There have been failures. But these latter years have been the best! For this I thank God.

A lot has happened during these eighty-five years of my life. I trust my readers will not find it out of place if, now and then, I shall comment on some of these happenings and events, on what they mean, and what they portend. Surely the story of a person's life ought to include, not alone details pertinent to his particular person, but also some mention of the times in which he has lived, as well as at least a few conclusions about what it all means.

May I be pardoned if and when I include an occasional "Invincible Surmise." Autobiography or biography, at their best, should give ideas and concepts, and fine generalizations to live by, and to inspire on-coming generations.

- IN APPRECIATION -

Perhaps, one of the quite dismaying characteristics of so many of we mortals, is to fail to say "thank you," when we should. So, I want to say thank you to any and all who have helped make the writing of this Shaping of a Destiny, possible.

Most of you will recall the incident, recorded in the New Testament (Luke 17:12-18), about the healing of ten lepers - when only one of the ten, and he a Samaritan, returned to Jesus, and with a loud voice, glorified God. Seeing this, the Master said to him, "Where are the nine?" "There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger." Who wants to be like the nine?

It seemed from the outset that this script typewriting would be more as if I were writing just to you, more friendly. Somehow it came about, in talking with my noble-hearted friend, Gregory I. Donovan, that he offered to have the manuscript typed at his office. To him, therefore, my heartiest thanks.

Also my appreciation to Loretta Mackenroth, for the quite lengthy and excellent job of typing done, and the labor involved.

God bless these two good people, and all who have helped in any way.

Earl R. Curry
Kirtland, Ohio

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Chapter 1.

Family background. Values of life on a farm in western Pennsylvania. Religious persecution bore some unexpected results. There is a beneficent influence in Family Prayer.

One ship goes east, another west
By the selfsame wind that blows;
It's the set of the sail and not the gale
That determines the way she goes.
As the winds of the sea, so the ways of fate
As we journey along through life;
It's the set of the soul that decides the goal
And not the calm or the strife.

Rudyard Kipling.

High thoughts and noble in all lands
Help me; my soul is fed by such,
But ah, the touch of lips and hands -
The human touch!
Warm, vital, close -
Life symbols dear -
These, I need most,
And now, and here!

Richard Burton.

A house is built of bricks and stone,
Of tiles, and posts, and piers;
But a home is built of loving deeds
That stand a thousand years!

Victor Hugo.

My advent into this world, I have been told, was on a night of fierce and vivid forked lightning. When there was what John Rushton used to call, a grand display of "elemental pyrotechnics." Curiously, those kind of storms are still a delight to me, awing my mind to an immense admiration of the Great Creator of the universe. Somewhat as Rudyard Kipling wrote about great waves of storm-lashed coastal waters, rolling in and pounding the shore--
"Oh who hath desired the sight of the sea,
The sight of salt water unbounded,
The heave and the halt, the hurl and the crash
The break of the comber, wind-hounded."

--just so could one write of the magnificent electrical storm, and the utterly tremendous awe inspiring, indescribably vast forces at work in God's seemingly unending universe! How much do such experiences and admirations set the course of a life?

Fortunately, my Scotch-Irish and Pennsylvania Dutch parents lived on a small farm -- somewhere around 40 acres, as I recall. This farm was on the hills of western Pennsylvania, about 14 miles south of Pittsburgh. Quite possibly, as one looks backward, he can idealize the farm considerably more than in the actual days of farm life. Certainly, one of its values was that it gave we four children something worthwhile to do, much in contrast with city dwellers, channeling our energies into productive effort.

It may be of some interest to you who may read to know the names of our family. They were

Lemuel Curry, my father,
Mary Catherine (Shepler) Curry, my mother,
Laura Belle Curry (later Phillip), deceased,
John Thomas Curry, deceased,
Lemuel Florence Patterson Curry,
Earl Roy Curry, author of these memories.

One of the priveleges of farm life is having pets among the animals. I still remember two that seemed peculiarly mine -- Petey Lamb, a sheep; and Nipper, the dog. I lavished a lot of affection on them -- and they on me. I remember with the greatest of pleasure how these two would race to see which could reach me first, in answer to my call, returning from the day in our one room school.

Another memory of the farm was my being sent to chop daisies out of our pasture field. I do not like daisies to this day!

Presumably, my sister and older brothers considered me, the youngest, as spoiled. I remember affirming occasionally, with tongue in cheek, -- "Not so. My parents' patience was largely exhausted by the time of my coming! Also, I had the advantage of all the good ways to raise children and in taking care of them."

Needless to say, they did not agree with this notion of mine, and it was just a notion.

When needed, my parents were abundantly able to exercise discipline. I can remember a few occasions when I had erred in such a way as to cause their wrath. Particularly, on two such times, when my mother saw me coming afar off, somewhat like the story of the prodigal son, she called sternly to me, "Your goose is cooked!" And it was!

Now this discipline, in so many young people - and older - seems to be almost completely lacking. This is one of many signs of decadence in the present age! Do you agree?

My father joined the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in the face of considerable persecution. Persecution is an ugly word. Who would ever think that any good could come out of it. As I recollect those days, it served to isolate our family from the not too high general life of the community -- a comparatively fine farming community, steadily being spoiled by the influx of coal mining.

Surely, one of the determining forces in shaping the lives of the individuals of a family is that the parents stand for something worthwhile! The more worthwhile, the better! My mother and I joined the church in 1904, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

We had a country coal mine on our farm. I remember the time when father mined and delivered a long ton of coal for \$1.75! What a change from then to now.

With regard to character shaping influences, I have always been grateful that Father and Mother established family prayer in our home. A hymn we often sang was about the story of Joseph in Egypt. This I remember with clearness, for it was my favorite. The words are found in the old The Saints Harp, and the music in the The Saints Harp and Harmony - that curious large hymnal with pages cut in the middle so that you could find the hymn desired in the words below, then flip the upper pages one way or the other until you found the music that would fit the words. I'm including the words because they are no longer to be found in the books of this present generation, and also hoping today's families may want to use them. Perhaps more hymns need to be written just for family worship. In our such periods, we four children learned to pray, as in public.

Here is the poetry, written, I seem to remember, by W.W. Phelps.

1. When Joseph his brethren beheld,
Afflicted and trembling with fear,
His heart with compassion was filled,
From weeping he could not forbear.
Awhile his behavior was rough,
To bring their past sins to their minds,
But when they were humbled enough,
He hastened to show himself kind.

2. How little they thought it was he,
Whom they had ill treated and sold!
How great their confusion would be,
As soon as his name he had told!
"I am Joseph, your brother," he said,
"And still to my heart you are dear;
You sold me and thought I was dead,
But God, for your sakes, sent me here."
3. Though greatly distressed before,
When charged with purloining the cup,
They now were confounded much more,
Not one of them dared to look up.
"Can Joseph whom we would have slain
Forgive us the evil we did?
And will he our households maintain?
Oh, this is a brother indeed!"

I have to confess to one disagreeable fault, or attitude in those youthful days, that must have been quite obnoxious to Father and Mother. They, of course, needed to correct me at times. I can recall the very real satisfaction, however, I had in watching what they did, in the course of a month or so, then observing one or both of them doing the same thing for which they had reprovved me. Then calling their attention to their so doing. Doubtless I quickly discovered this did not endear me to them, and mended my ways.

I often marvel at the amazing developments which have taken place during my lifetime: the auto, the airplane, moon travel, and on and on. I sometimes wonder, though, if we are building modern towers of Babel.

Oft times I think of what Daniel said to Belshazzar, at the great feast in the banquet hall in ancient Babylon - Daniel 5:22,23 - "the God in whose thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, has thou not glorified." Such also is characteristic of our age.

By and large, God is not glorified in all that the genius of the human mind has been able to achieve. Shall it yet be said, not by one Daniel, but by many to our wayward and sometimes boastful age, in clear words of sorrowful condemnation -- "Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting?"

Surely there needs to be the crying, loud voice, to hold before all men and all nations, the truth expressed in Psalms, centuries ago -- "Except the Lord build the House, they labor in vain who build it!"

It would be good for all our souls, if we individually and nationally, quite often sang Kipling's hymn that concludes -

"Lord God of hosts, be with us yet,
lest we forget, lest we forget."

During my lifetime the mighty British Empire has shrunken and faltered to almost a shadow of its former self. God must be kept in our lives, or else!

Chapter 2.

Youth. The influence of outstanding personalities on growing young folk. There is a "contagion of great spirits."

"Thank God! A man can grow
He is not bound
With earthward gaze to creep along the ground;
Though his beginnings be but poor and low,
Thank God a man can grow!

The fire upon his altars may burn dim,
The torch he lighted may in darkness fail
And nothing to rekindle it avail,
Yet high beyond his dull horizons rim
Arcturus and the Pleiades beckon him!

As I look back to those days of my youth on the farm, those were the days before the mechanization we know in these 1970's. I do recall raking hay with horses, and the excitement, and pain, consequent to disturbing ground bees, and how short-tempered the PESTS! were.

A sort of nostalgia comes to me when I remember, in haying time, using one horse, with a long rope tied to one trace, swinging around a hay shock, or cock, tying the rope end to the harness, then merrily riding the hay cock to where a stack was being made. Sometimes they upset!

Old time threshings, with their bulky and awkward, but very entrancing steam engines, were interesting; except that as a boy I usually got the job of working on the straw stack right under the projecting carrier that delivered the dusty straw.

A story of those days, told of two boys of our area, who had this same very dusty and disagreeable work at threshing time. A bright idea suggested that they could avoid their discomfort by striking a match to the relentlessly outpouring dusty straw. Their father came running to put out the fire, calling to his hired man to come help. The hired man had seen the boys set fire to the straw, and disgustedly replied -- "I will do nothing until you whip those boys!"

Two amusing incidents of milking come back on memory's beam. We had a silo, for storing cut-up field corn - stocks and all. One year we included a lot of mangel-wurzel beets in the ensilage. By the time we started to feed this to the cows, fermentation had set in. Did the cows like it? I'll say they did! But they never became tipsy. An inebriated cow would surely be a sight!

The other incident took place often at milking time -- squirting a stream of milk at open-mouthed cats, six feet or so away.

So much for the lighter side, the humorous side. Perhaps incidents like these have nourished a growing sense of humor. Indeed, such has its place in a well-balanced life.

In this writing, however, I am mostly concerned with forces and experiences that have shaped my life.

I've already mentioned two -- Parents, who stood for something worthwhile, and family prayer. To these I would now add more.

It was during these years I had my first spiritual experience. Our family was passing through what then seemed a never ending time of financial difficulty. I was quite deeply discouraged. This experience of gentle sustaining came to me in a horse stable while caring for the animals. Not in church. By it, I was made aware that the Holy Spirit desired to bless all of life, not just while in church services. The words impressed upon my mind were these - "Abide these conditions and all will be well." In other words, be patient.

Certainly, a very strong shaping influence was the coming of exceptional church personalities to our isolated farm home. Whether these were by the invitation of my parents, or whether it was priestly watchcare, I do not know. Because these were such an inspiring factor in my own life, I warmly encourage any parents who read these words of testimony to invite outstanding personalities into their homes. Invite your visitors to tell rich experiences, either their own or others. That is what these men who came to our home did.

One of the most appreciated of these men was C. Ed Miller, whom I, at least, adopted as an uncle. He encouraged us to think deeply and wisely. Quite likely, that was the beginning of a desire I have nurtured through the years, to take delight in thinking about Big Ideas! Big Concepts! As well as looking for them in study and reading.

I recall as of yesterday, his taking long hikes with we three boys. He would ask us such questions as, "Boys, what do you think would happen if an irresistible force came up against an immovable object?"

Maybe, we told him - that is impossible. Perhaps, anticipating a modern phrase, we told him that would truly be a "big bang" situation. Anyway, it stirred our imagination, and that was good for us. Surely, there is interest in becoming aware of theoretical concepts. The Doctrine and Covenants tells us there is a place for theory.

Uncle Ed, hoping to sharpen our instinct and appreciation for exalted points of view, I remember quoted such as the following -

A man is thot a knave or fool,
or bigot plotting crime,
Who for the advancement of his race,
is wiser than his time.
For him the hemlock shall distill,
for him the axe be bared
For him the gibbet shall be built,
for him the stake prepared.
Him shall the scorn and the wrath of men,
pursue with deadly aim,
And malice, envy, spite, and lies,
shall desecrate his name--
Yet, truth shall conquer at the last,
for round and round we run,
And ever the right comes uppermost,
and ever is justice done!

Or

He who may plant the smallest seed
Has a full consciousness, tho unacknowledged,
Of the need of God, to break a mystery
Deeper than alchemies have solved -
To cause the tender stem come up,
The roots go down, and young leaves break the earth
That cradled long the brown dull seed.

No! there is no unbelief -
He who may watch the darkened clouds for rain
Has a belief in that great power
Too vast for our small minds to comprehend

Surely this is good food for young minds!
Blessed be the name of C. Ed Miller!

Now that Paradise has claimed him, surely he must be as a bright angel among the holy hosts of all God's noble hearted great spirits!

Uncle Ed had a creative type of mind. He was among the first to use 3 1/4" X 4 1/4" lantern slides, as they were called. As I remember, there were about 500 of these quite heavy glass slides, mostly concerning the Book of Mormon. It is just possible that this example of pioneering, has, in considerable measure, encouraged my own pioneering in the fields of a growing understanding of the deeply spiritual, and a sharing perception of the immense possibilities of divine Endowment!

Other persons I remember with appreciation were Harry Thomas, who was quite a spiritual minded man; James Davis, later a missionary to Australia. Once or twice the Pittsburgh branch picnicked at our farm.

In my mature years, I have had a lot of interest in history and poetry. In poetry, both in collecting - lovely expressions in words, of ideas of moment, - as well as writing in my later years. What sparked these interests? In poetry, perhaps such examples as those here shared with you. In history? Interesting teachers, perhaps, or the drama of Restoration experiences.

Surely, there is a "contagion of great spirits." This phrase I discovered in one of Arthur Oakman's books. Again, surely, fathers and mothers are wise in inviting outstanding personalities into their homes - "great spirits," people of wisdom, people of exalted maturity and spiritual development.

Chapter 3.

In the year of 1911, our family moved to Kirtland. The Concept of Zion, of communities of gathering, of sacred and holy communities, of "Beloved Communities," and of "Universal Communities" - is an immensely worthwhile concept. We all need inspiring association. Such is truly a desirable factor in the shaping of personality. Recollections of those early days - about persons, about the Temple, and the characteristics of the times, of those years, are always worthwhile.

Daughter of Zion, awake from thy sadness!
Awake! for thy foes shall oppress thee no more.
Bright o'er thy hills dawns the day-star of gladness:
Arise! for the night of thy sorrow is o'er.

Strong were thy foes, but the arm that subdued them,
and scattered their legions, was mightier far:
They fled like chaff from the scourge that pursued them;
Vain were their steeds and their chariots of war.

Daughter of Zion, the power that hath saved thee,
Extolled with the harp and the timbrel should be.
Shout: for the foe is destroyed that enslaved thee,
The oppressor is vanquished and Zion is free!

Bruce E. Brown

What a beautiful vision of time yet to be!

I'm not quite sure of all the reasons that caused us to move to Kirtland in 1911. I remember going to High School in Kirtland in 1907, and particularly being attracted to a very fine young woman who lived there. So, I had reason to rejoice in the change. This dear person became my wife in 1913.

Alma and I met in the Temple. She was wearing a broad brimmed, merry widow hat (I seem to remember their being called that). She was reviewing a Sunday school class of children. We were married in the Temple, and when she passed into the beautiful Land Beyond, the funeral service was also there. We parted after 52 years of happy marriage.

I spent two or three weeks alone in the house the family had bought in Kirtland, until the rest of the family came. One amusing incident (as of now) comes back to me. I tried baking a cake. It was a three-layer one, and was evidently too rich. When the layers were removed from the oven, the centers sort of collapsed, so that when I put the three together, the depressed center must have been

about two inches below the cake rim. This collapsed area I filled with icing, and, I think, topped off with plenty of shredded coconut. This story is merely put here as a suggestion to young brides, maybe confronted with the same dilemma! This was before the days that we became aware that so much sugar is not good for our health. Nevertheless, it tasted good to me. Ummmmmmmm.

Another reason for moving must have been that all of us might have church association. The idea of Zion must have been part of our Pennsylvania experience. We, all of us, must have considered our move to Kirtland a move toward the realization of our Zion hope and ideal.

What a world of meaning is caught up in this word "Zion." I particularly treasure David's use of it - "Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined!"

Occasionally, it is good to try to phrase the great idea back of it all, in our own words. I like to put it in these terms -

The Sacred Community, or
the Holy Community, or
the Delightful Community of Brotherhood and Sisterhood, or
the Sermon on the Mount Community, or
the Godly Community, or
the Civilization at Its Best Community, or, perhaps,
the God-With-Us Community, or, possibly,
God's Ideal Community, or
Associated Ideal Communities.

In the old Testament, they thought of it as the Promised Land, and of God's chosen (and choosing) people.

In the New Testament, they seem to have thought of Zion as an all things common community. Saint Augustine - called the ideal, when realized, the City of God. John, in the Book of Revelation, refers to the Holy City, coming down, ultimately, from God out of heaven, to be on this earth.

Josiah Royce, around 1900, put it this way - The Beloved Community, or, the Universal Community.

As the years pass by, the concept of Zion becomes increasingly a motivating and treasured concept to me. May I affirm, with complete certainty, that Zion, though seemingly afar off, will only be achieved when we become a delightful, gloriously profoundly spiritual people! Thus, has the Great Idea grown from 1911 to now! But, I'm getting ahead of my Story.

One of the very worthwhile benefits of our move to Kirtland was contact, and to some extent, association with people who have stood or do stand for the worthwhile. These contacts have ranged over a very wide variety of personalities.

John H. Lake, a quite spiritual Apostle of other years;
Gomer T. Griffith and Sister Hattie Griffith;
U. W. Greene,
Charles Fry,
Myron McConley, and
John W. Rushton, who wrote, "The church must not be
a mere museum of fossilized ecclesiasticisms
nor a collection of moribund ideas - but,
rather, a center whose dynamic energies
inspire the soul to heroic effort."

There was:

Bishop Benjamin McGuire,
Bishop L.F.P. Curry,
Bishop G. Leslie Delapp, and
Bishop Harry French.

There have been such stalwarts as Gilbert J. Waller from Hawaii, Paul Hanson, Arthur Oakman, Richard Baldwin, John R. Grice, and a whole host of others.

Nor should I fail to mention that Frederick M. Smith, President of the Church, has been in my home on Joseph Street. I still remember a story of his, which Book of Mormon students can appreciate.

It seems that two Latter Day Saints went to a spiritualist meeting (not a very wise thing to do, by the way). After the medium, or man on the platform, had finished his program, he invited any of his audience who wished to talk to the spirit of any departed person, to speak up. One LDS nudged the other, and whispered, "ask for Gadianton."

Almost immediately they heard the table upset, the furniture flying apart, and roushhouse in general.

As soon as the medium could get his breath he called out -- "Who in H--- was that man Gadianton?!" Needless to say, all around the table where it was told had a very hearty laugh.

Israel A. Smith, Frederick M.'s brother, has passed through my door. We could go on and on. Inevitably, something of the personality of each and all of these rubbed off on me.

Like all of our church people, the Temple attracted me, and delighted me. I do remember, however, that when I first visited the Temple, the unnumbered dead flies that lay on so many of the window sills, particularly those not easily reached for cleaning. Nitwits, too, had scribbled on the plaster walls of the third floor. Many years later, I was also to find the building was in great need of repair.

Little did I realize in these, my first years at Kirtland, the rather tremendous part that the Temple would be in shaping my life. High School end-of-the-year doings were often held in the Lord's House. One time I recall Negro minstrels singing silly songs in the Temple.

In those days the old hotel building stood across the street from the Temple. It appeared to be several buildings moved and joined together. We understood that its history reached back to the early Kirtland days. To the north of it stood an old red barn. I make mention of this hotel to lead to the telling of a beautiful story of an incident that occurred there. This was related to me by C. Ed Miller, already mentioned.

C. Ed had come to the last General Conference held in Kirtland in 1904. That was before the road was paved, and in April the mud could often be two inches or more deep. As Brother Miller went into the main room of the hotel, he noticed a big man kneeling, cleaning the boots of another big man. The man standing was, as I remember, David Daneer, of Lamoni. The one kneeling was Joseph Smith III. "Let him who would be great be the servant of all!"

The old hotel was torn down in 1936, as a beginning of improving the appearance of the Temple area. How miserably slow are worthwhile goals sometimes achieved.

We moved to Kirtland in 1911, yet real repair and beautification of the Temple and surroundings did not begin until 1935, and were not completed until somewhere around 1970 -- A span of 60 years. Why must it be that this too often is so?

We are reminded of the wry saying that is somewhat like this - "Error runs with seven leagued boots, while truth puts on her shoes." I have always felt that the Temple is as a very precious jewel that should have a beautiful but dignified setting. But, more about that later.

In comparison with the present generally hectic pace of life, those were good times to be alive, or so it seemed. Behind the scenes, in books, in military minds, in the chancellories of nations, in the minds of some warlike rulers; notions, ideas, and intentions were more or less quietly being developed that would drastically overwhelm and eliminate the peace of those years.

In Amos 3:7, are these words - "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, until he revealeth the secret unto his servants the prophets." Both Matthew 24, and Luke 21, in the Inspired Version, indicate that there shall be signs of many kinds, including those seen in the heavens, that shall make God's people aware of the nearness of Christ's return to the world. Such a sign as this was seen in Kirtland in February of 1914.

I had returned from the labors of the day. After darkness had come, I was looking out of an east window of our home toward the Temple, some 800 or more feet away. To my amazement, there, in the sky above the tower of the Temple, was a perfect cross of light. Included in the lighted area was the moon itself.

The vertical part of the cross was perhaps 10 or 12 times the diameter of the moon. The horizontal part, 6 to 8 times. The cross remained for probably less than one-half hour, then vanished. It was not caused by the screen on the window, for I went outside to make sure.

The cross always makes us think of Christ's crucifixion. In this sense, it prophesies trouble and distress. What better place in the wide world could the Lord choose for a prophetic sign to His people, than the House of the Lord in Kirtland? It was truly a sobering sight.

What did it mean? A little more than six months later, World War I erupted, with all the changes, the death of hundreds of thousands, the suffering, the evils, the loss of wealth, the degrading of standards and nobler concepts that followed in its wake. It truly was a catastrophe, with far spreading consequences, that have continued to this very day.

World War II, about a score of years afterward, still further cursed the world. With the terribly amplified destructiveness of the instruments of warfare, now possessed by the nations, what will World War III be like? Ghastly? Surely!

The war broke into the open on the 4th of August 1914. In Whitehall that evening, Sir Edward Grey, standing with a friend at a window, as the street lamps below were being lit, made the remark that has since epitomized the hour: "The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime." Neither, in the grand sense, have they. The preceding is quoted from The Guns of August, by Barbara W. Tuchman, McMillan Co., 1961, page 122.

No wonder God's providence caused that warning sign to appear over the House He had commanded to be built in Kirtland, in May 1833. As I write these words this January 8, 1976, I feel compelled to assert that we have not seen the last of catastrophic, devastating war. We had better remember this dire inevitability in our thinking and planning, and prepare ourselves in a spirituality that moves us toward divine Endowment, and as rapidly as God makes possible.

Truly, I have been blessed, in watching this enacting of history's unfolding, since this miracle of the luminous cross above the Lord's House, sixty-two years ago.

Chapter 4.

Young Manhood.

Marriage. Alma and I were together 52 years.

Further Education. I enroll in Ceramic Engineering at Ohio State University.

The Birth of a Great Idea. The balanced development of Sacred Communities of Zion. A holy work environment and influence must surely be ultimately achieved. Beautiful people in beautiful homes in beautiful and godly communities.

Failure to Achieve My Hope and Ideal.

Gathering Diamonds and Jewels.

My Wife,

1. Trusty, dusky, vivid, true,
With eyes of gold and bramble dew,
Steel true and blade straight-
The Great Artificer made my mate.
2. Honor, anger, valor, fire,
A love that life could never tire,
Death quench, or evil stir,
The Mighty Master gave to her.
3. Teacher, tender comrade, wife,
a fellow-farer true thru life,
Heart whole and soul free,
The August Father gave to me.

Robert Louis Stevenson

-
1. Love is made of tenderness,
Love is made of fire,
Of glory and of wonder,
And longing and desire,
Of dreams and hopes and fantasies,
Of passion and of pain,
Of showers after sunshine,
And sunshine after rain.

2. But love that lasts a lifetime
Is of more material stuff,
It's made of dogged patience
When the going's rather rough.
It's made of understanding
Of a lot of little things -
The irks and quirks that daily living brings.
3. Love that lasts a lifetime
Needn't lose its high romance,
But it's got to be of fiber
That can battle circumstance!
It must have fire and tenderness!
And loyalty intense!
And faith and hope and charity!
And simple common sense!

Berton Braley

What a time in life is young manhood! If, fortunately, you are in good health, you are alive with energy. You tend, if you have had a good upbringing, to be full of idealism and conviction that you will change the world for the better,

"As you go about in the world of men,
As servants of God and saviour of them!"

In short, as the saying is, you tend to consider the world as your oyster.

As a young man, too, another kind of fever(?) usually rather overwhelms you. As Longfellow expressed it --

"In the Spring a young man's fancy
Lightly turns to thoughts of love!"

As I think back to those days, I remember myself as being rather serious minded. I therefore, when contemplating marriage, was looking for someone with whom I could share and discuss worthwhile ideas and my deepest thoughts. I also hoped for someone who loved the church and cherished its ideals and goals. Thus, in my young manhood, I found these qualities in Miss Alma Oella George.

Happily, she ultimately decided to join her life with mine in October 1913. I think that maybe I was as happy as Adam when Eve, that dear, beautiful, delightful, and at times hard to understand creature, the Creator gave to him, became his lifelong companion.

Alma was beautiful, tender, fondly loving, spiritually minded, and many other good qualities I admired. I used to tell her she was 95% perfect! One of my pet names for her was "chum." To this I could add the letter "p" when the imperfect 5% once in a very great while, was evident.

Alma must have found me quite companionable, for she was my deeply cherished wife from 1913 to 1965. She is in the beautiful Land Beyond now.

While I am writing about marriage, and the dear qualities I found in mine, may I express the hope that some present day movements will not betray God's intended dear, feminine qualities that make noble womanhood a great gentling, saving force in the world. If the beloved qualities of noble womanhood become as manhood has tended to be the wide world over, what a monumental loss that would be!

I owe a great world of thankfulness to guiding spiritual experiences that have increasingly opened up to me in life. I use the word increasingly advisably. It must be true that if one's interest and concerns are on the level of the pig sty, there is little the Lord can say to us.

If, however, we have great hopes and purposes that are as of the lofty mountains, there is then a great deal the good Lord can share with us. Furthermore, if we respond to the "light" that comes to us as adequately as we can, that, in turn, opens the way to more light! This observation is expressed humbly and reverently.

Somewhat like Saul on the way to Damascus, when the Lord speaks to us, our whole life's course can be changed and redirected, in a very few moments. Would that he spoke to more!

It must have been in 1914, in a prayer meeting in the Temple, that Sister Hattie Griffith, wife of Gomer T. Griffith, spoke to me in a gift of prophecy. Essentially, the message was this:

"Brother Earl, it is the Lord's admonition to you, that because of the problems and opportunities that will arise in your life in the future, it will be pleasing to Him if, along with your study of the three Books, you will make a special study of history and economics."

The history part of this prophetic admonition, not only gave added interest to a concern already enjoyed thus far, but stimulated as well my observation of current history that is being made around us, both near and far, and the careful estimation the forces that are back of the events as they occur - are these forces for good or for evil? Are the various works of men, both in the church and out,

wise or unwise? Beyond this, because of what was said to me, I have a book started, but as yet far from completed, on--The Golden Ages of History - Golden Ages of the Future. What a study this is!

The economics part was more easily understood. They used to call it "a dry and dismal science!" Economics enters, like it or not, into so many aspects of life - including Zion.

Within the next year or so, I had some association with Harry Smith, head architect of the Auditorium, in Independence, Missouri, that began to interest me in a certain kind of further education. But, what kind? My thoughts were often about the economic aspects of the Restoration's Gathering communities, and gradually a Great Idea began to develop in my mind.

These communities need industries! They need industries and businesses, not alone for the creation of wealth, but even more they need these industries and businesses that resolutely develop a spiritual and wholesome atmosphere in which God's people can work! There is no such atmosphere in places where most people now work, anywhere in the world.

I believe it was this architect friend who headed my thinking toward Ceramic Engineering training. This was natural, inasmuch as he was concerned with building. Also, after high school. I had followed my father's trade of carpentry, so this, along with the Great Idea of the last paragraph, seemed to lead toward Ceramics, one part of which includes building materials.

Perhaps, also, the idea of taking simple plastic clay and shaping it into durable and beautiful surfacing for homes, etc., had its appeal. In fact, it must have, because of another Great Idea that later began to shape my life.

Thus, at 27 (far too late in life), I entered Western Reserve University, in Cleveland. Two experiences of spiritual guidance stand out from that first year of college.

As I was sitting in the office of the registrar, waiting to enroll, a quite sudden depressing sense of dismay overwhelmed me. I thought, "What a fool I am! I'm 27 years old, I'm married, and I'm responsible to provide a home." I only had a little more than \$300 ahead to start a four-year course. I must have been tempted to dash for the outside, and to say to heck with it all, when suddenly, the Holy Spirit in its gentle, heartwarming way, strongly impressed on my mind one verse of a good old hymn--

"Fear not I am with thee, oh be not dismayed,
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid,
I'll strengthen and guide you and cause you to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."

I enrolled! Oh, what a change it made in my life!

The other experience occurred sometime later.

I had been out of school for ten years, and had no good study habits. I felt as if I were a one or two-quart can into which they were trying to pour five gallons! I was having trouble with part of my course in chemistry, and just could not adequately understand it. One afternoon, I knelt down in one of the quiet rooms, and asked the Lord's help. Very quickly, help came, and I wondered why it took me so long to see.

The last three years were at Ohio State University in Columbus, During the last year, my wife, who was working to help me meet expenses, had a severe nervous breakdown. The Lord's help in healing did not come until the priesthood of Kirtland branch joined together in fasting and prayer!

After graduation a job opportunity opened up for me in Lincoln, California. Fortunately, it was a big concern, manufacturing many different kinds of clay products. My first love was terra cotta for the facing of large buildings.

Terra cotta is a beautiful building material. Since the clay is plastic, you can shape it to so many varieties of forms. As to surface, so many possibilities open up - natural clay surface, or stony like surface, or glazes in wide ranging colors.

Gradually, another Big Idea formed in my mind - the making of a form of terra cotta for Zion's homes! I wanted to combine beautiful color, modeling, permanency, with fire-flashed roof tile, for the building of extraordinarily attractive Zion's homes.

In this I perhaps, was a little like Augustus Caesar, Emperor of Rome, who, I seem to remember, said, toward the close of his life, "I found Rome made of brick, and left it made of marble." I hoped, then, to someday be able to gladly say of some holy community, "I found its homes built of wood and brick, but I leave it made of beautiful, beautiful, polychromed, artistically moulded and shaped terra cotta!"

But, to my almost tearful sorrow and dismay, I did not succeed in getting one single house built. Returning from California in 1927, I could find no one at all the least interested in my bright vision. There was no one who cared to invest one single dollar with

me to achieve my vision. I wonder if I may join with others in such a worthwhile venture in the Millenium? If so, utterly delightful communities will stand forth.

Perhaps it was all for the best. The great depression hit us very hard indeed in 1929. One time in that depression I worked for fifteen cents an hour. Someone has written that Columbus set out to find a new way to India, but ran into an obstacle - the American continent - that proved to be of infinitely more value than just a new route to India.

God sometimes uses the wrath of men to bring about His purpose. I believe this was so with myself. I was slowly to discover several more Great and even Momentous Ideas!

From one point of view, my engineering training could seem to be wasted. The habit of study that was part of it has stayed with me to this day, but has expanded and expanded into areas of extreme importance and eternal value, and into topics not many are thinking or writing about. Besides, I have greater mental capacity, and much broader perception of life's possibilities.

Chapter 5.

There comes to a me a rare opportunity - the repairing of the House of the Lord. Slowly, I become aware of the immense possibilities for spiritual and intellectual empowerment that can be made available thru the use of a richly Spirit-blest Lord's House.

I repair the Temple, and with it there comes a spiritual awakening and widening of spiritual horizons. There are very great advantages in having a holy environment in which to work, think, prayerfully envision, and gain a lofty and prophetic view of the Lord's way of Life!

-
1. The spring blew trumpets of color,
Her green sang in my brain -
I heard a blind man groping
"Tap, tap," with his cane
 2. I pitied him his blindness;
But, can I boast, "I see!?"
Perhaps there walks a spirit
Close by, who pities me -
 3. A spirit who hears me tapping
The five-sensed cane of mind
Amid such unguessed glories
That I - am worse than blind!

Harry Kemp

Passage, immediate passage! The blood burns in my veins!
Away, O soul! Hoist instantly the anchor!
Cut the hawsers - haul out - shake out every sail!
Have we not stood here like trees in the ground long enough?
Have we not grovel'd here long enough eating and drinking
like mere brutes?
Have we not darkened and dazed ourselves with books
long enough?
Sail forth - steer for the dark waters only,
Reckless O soul exploring, I with thee, and thou with me;
For we are bound where mariner has not yet dared to go.
And we will risk the ship, ourselves and all.
O my brave soul! O farther, farther sail!
(Therefore)
Push off, and setting well in order, smite
The sounding furrows; for my purpose holds
To sail beyond the sunset, and the paths
of all the western stars, until I die.

Strong in will,
To strive, to seek, to find and not to yield.

From The Odyssey

(There is still possible the most magnificent Epic
of all time! E.R.C.)

Immense is our need to grow up in the Lord!
O why do we tarry, so stubborn! so blind!
When God wants to bless with magnificent power,
And pour out His Spirit on drifting mankind!

E. R. C.

The financial collapse of 1929 ushered in a depression (a little nicer sounding word than panic), the worst that this country has known. It took well unto a decade to recover from it. Building was almost completely at a standstill. I know, for carpentry work was extremely scarce.

During that period I recall working for fifteen cents an hour, in building a home in Kirtland. Not long after the depression, I remember reading in a Herald a prediction at one of our reunions that a depression would overtake us in the future in which the one of 1929 and 1930's would be looked back to as a time of prosperity in contrast. Certainly one of the causative factors, should this prediction be fulfilled, would be the very tremendous indebtedness of our country, and its cities, and its people.

All this brings to the fore in my mind some comments made by a German president not long before that country turned to Hitler. Said he, "There are two kinds of panic-crises. In one, there is the collapse of financial stability. In the other, there is the collapse of spiritual and moral standards. When the two coincide, look out!"

We seem to be headed toward such a time as this. This 1970's generation has little conception of what the 1930's were like. He who avoids deep debt is safer by far.

These observations are from one who has been through the crisis of economic nationwide breakdown. There is no warrant that such will not again come our way. So, my readers, be careful. Ask God's guidance.

In 1935 I was ordained an elder and, a little later, counselor to Bishop Harry French in the Bishopric of Ohio. Quite unusually, for a little known person such as myself, the spokesman in the counselor ordination was Frederick M. Smith, President of the Church.

Immediately, I was asked to become Bishop's agent for Kirtland District, and also to work with and oversee the repair of Kirtland Temple. Little did I dream of the rather great changes and enlargement of vision that would arise out of this appointment and work.

First, I will summarize the many items of repair I was privileged to make. Speaking of privilege - surely it was a rare opportunity to be able to undertake that work. This repair, much of it, was carried on by myself, inasmuch as the church in these days was laboring under what then seemed an immense debt, and every outlay had to be very carefully planned. This work engaged my efforts from 1935 up to about 1957 -- some years taking almost my entire time, other years not so much.

It may be of historical interest to list the main body of repairs made, under the guidance of the church leaders:

(1) The first project was a proper and safe means of heating the Temple. Quite oddly, in the layout of the Temple, there just is no place for a chimney, from basement to roof, without throwing the whole plan out of balance. There was no place within or without to place one without spoiling the architectural appearance.

You ask, how then had the building been heated? As far as I can find, the building had no means of heating in the early days of the building. When a means of heating was established, stove pipe and flues were used. These were of heavy metal, and went up through floor to floor in the northeast and northwest bays between the seating, several feet out into the body of the rooms. Chimneys were built on the trusses, above the ceiling of the third floor and through the roof.

The lower floor had an inside and an outside pipe. They must never have had a soot fire. I shudder to think what could have happened, had there been such a fire. Unsafe? Very! Dangerous? Extremely!

When were these coal burning furnaces put in? My guess would be when the first general conference was held in the Temple in 1883, according to Inez Davis's Story of the Church.

It was decided in 1935, to remedy this dangerous situation by putting in a steam-hot air system with the boilers located across the street in a special heating basement room, with ducts and pipes

leading across to the Temple. Presumably, this project was undertaken to prepare for the 1936 Centennial of the Temple dedication. Incidentally, the weather for this centennial was exactly the same as reported for the dedication 100 years before.

(2) In those days the roofing on the Temple was slate. Due to the unevenness of the roof boards and the sag from roof truss to roof truss, this took a lot of repairing, particularly in the spring of each year.

(3) The entire electric lighting system was done over. Indirect lighting replaced pendant lights in the lower auditorium. Lights were placed in upper auditorium and the third floor for the first time, and the first outside flood lighting installed. This was done about 1940 - 1942.

(4) Originally, the gable ends and dormers were sided with flooring boards. In driving storms, water would pass through the cracks between floor boards, causing some rotting of wood within. Such had to be cared for.

I undertook to cover all these with lap siding. Hanging scaffolding was developed for this work for gable ends and tower. Some boards of the tower were almost to the falling-off place.

(5) The roof was straightened and reinforced. The slate and heavy dormers caused a sag in between roof trusses. The worst sag was nearly three inches. All was raised to almost perfect straightness.

(6) During my years there, the old stucco on the outside, quite pervious to moisture penetration, was replaced with dense moisture repellent, pressure concrete.

(7) All the interior plaster, except the arched ceilings of the lower and upper auditoriums, was replaced.

(8) A thorough search continued for any rotting timber anywhere from basement to the top of the tower.

(9) Other improvements during my years of caring for the Temple, were lightning protection and a sprinkler system in case of fire.

(10) Since my time, all window sash have been replaced throughout the building.

Kirtland Temple is now in good repair, and if looked after constantly, should be O.K. for a long, long time.

Also, the grounds have been landscaped. It is now as the House ought to be, and we can all be glad that this is so.

The above roughs in the record of an immense amount of hard labor, spent on its care. A complete record was forwarded to the office of the Presiding Bishopric.

This restoration of the Temple, was to be a delightful labor of love. I, of course, admire the hardihood of those who built it, and was glad to be an instrument in making the Temple once again a monument to their dedication.

However, as the years passed by, notwithstanding the thrill of working under a holy environment (such as sacred communities of Zion ought to be), yet, by perhaps almost imperceptible degrees something very much more everlastingly worthwhile began forming in my mind.

The very fact of an increasing perception of an abiding Spiritual Presence made me aware of the continuing seal of the Almighty, on the purpose for which the Temple was built. Also by a number of means I began to discern this purpose with a growing clarity.

The remainder of this chapter, and the next chapter, will delineate this expanding perception of an immense concept, which was, and is God's Magnificent Intention!

I mourn that I, and all of us, grow so very slowly, in perception of God's high intentions for life!

Looking backward, it is difficult to establish just what year a sort of spiritual yeast began to ferment within me. I know now I should have set down dates.

It must have been after World War II that I became interested in the Study of Prophecy, seeking to discover what light the Scriptures throw on these latter days. In this Study, it is vital to be guided by the Holy Spirit, if satisfying progress is to be made.

Particularly is this so, when attempting to understand what is hidden in the Book of Revelation, about the Signs of Christ's Return to the World. Especially, I wanted to become aware of what we may expect to happen from now until the time of that return. This we must know if we are to be far-sighted in what we do.

Also, as an elder I began having experiences such as the following when confirming a keen thinking brother in the church:

I was led to say to him, "Brother Jack, in going down into the waters of baptism, you made a covenant with the Heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, that you would love them and serve them, the remaining days of your life. Now thru the light of the Holy Spirit and the voice of their servant, God is going to make a covenant with you!" It was a beautiful experience.

About this time also, I began a study to discover the depth of meaning in the Lord's kind of spirituality. Almost inevitably, then, as I worked in the spirit-blest atmosphere of the Temple, there came not only an awakening, but a deepening of perceptions, and a widening of spiritual horizons.

In this study, in the course of time, I discovered almost 100 distinct gifts of the Holy Spirit. I rejoice to testify that the Lord blest me in the use of more than two score of these holy gifts, either in a major, or minor way, at least to know that they existed.

I hasten to add that being thus blest must have been because I was reverently concerned, not because I was anyone special in the sight of the Lord.

Indeed, as I try to estimate myself in the Lord's great world of the deeply spiritual, I marvel at his so many rich blessings. For so long a part of my life, it seems to me I was quite a spiritual dullard. In the grand sense of the amazingly possible, spiritually, I am still too much of a dullard, and fall far short of spiritual expertise.

Among these gifts, the one that has been most fruitful and helpful to me is the gift of inspired writing. This gift is mentioned, by the way, in Genesis 6:5, of the Inspired Version.

It came to me first in a rather unusual way, that reminds me of Paul's saying that sometimes the Lord uses the wrath of men to bring about his purposes. I'll not take time here to describe how this gift comes to me, but simply affirm that the depth of content and prophetic envisionment continues to increase as the years go by, thank the Lord.

I appreciate this gift more than the verbal and extemporaneous expression of the holy gift of Prophecy. Why? Because the word of the Lord ought to be expressed in as clear and beautiful language as possible, as witness the Book of Isaiah.

Moreover, you have the inspired message to consider, think over, study, and treasure; whereas I, at least, find it very difficult to remember verbal presentations. Undoubtedly, it is difficult, if not impossible, for the vast majority of us to so remember.

All this experience has led to a number of Great Ideas, some far-sighted concepts of future possibilities, much clearer perception of what the Lord would like to do for us and with us, and a slow development of spiritual potential and comprehension.

Let me emphasize again that the gains I have indicated in this chapter and the chapters that follow, beyond doubt, so far as I am concerned, are in considerable measure due to that Spiritual Presence that abides in the Temple. Believe me, this is not mere imagination!

Quite a number of years ago, I took a Sister Criley, from Independence, through the Temple. Toward the close, she said to me, "Oh, if our people could only get together in the Spirit that abides in this place, the things that divide us would melt away like snow before the summer's sun."

Many non-members experience this Presence, as well as very many of our own people.

All this is not to say the Lord cannot bless you wherever you are, this wide world over. More and more I am aware, however, that the Lord wants this house to be a very special place for the ministry of the Holy Spirit, that vast and amazing power and intelligence that radiates out from His presence in the heart of His Creation!

More and more, He wants the Temple to become as a Mount of Transfiguration, where the divinity of Christ, and the glory of His purpose shine out, as it did for Peter, James, and John, centuries ago!

Chapter 6

A detailing of the slowly evolving perception of tremendous Ideas, such as --

The Amazing Possibilities of a Lofty Spirituality

The School of the Prophets

The Temple was Intended for a Marvelous Spiritual Endowment

God's Magnificent Intention for the Restoration

The Writing of the Booklet entitled The Endowment

As the Years go by, the Vision Broadens

The Gathering of All This Broad Envisionment

Into a Sacred Drama, entitled God's Magnificent

Intention for the Restoration and this Closing Age

The Bearing of a Mighty Testimony to the World

It can be done!

Windows for My Soul

I will hew great windows for my soul,
Channels of splendor, portals of release; -

Out of earth's prison walls will I hew them,
That my thundering soul may push through them;
Thru the strata of human strife and passion
I will tunnel away, I will carve and fashion
With the might of my soul's intensity,
Windows fronting on immensity.

Towering out of time --
I will breathe the air of another clime -
That my spirit's pain may cease!

That the being of me may have room to grow,
That my eyes may meet God's eyes and know; --
I will hew great windows, wonderful windows,
Measureless windows, for my soul!

Author Unknown.

What this parish needs - what every parish needs -
is men who know God at more than second hand!

Thomas Carlyle

Greater than an army with banners,
is an idea whose time has come!

Victor Hugo

I have often felt a spirit o'er our congregations bend,
Like the strong, electric presence of a dearly loved friend,
And have known that Christ was looking
 with His patient eyes - and true,
At the promise of the future
 which was slumbering in you.

Elbert A. Smith

Open the doors to the Lord's Holy Temple -
Yea, search the intention for which it was made!
Scatter the darkness enshrouding its purpose -
The Lord's mighty arm too long has been stayed!
Long we have wandered in paths that are barren -
With eyes that are holden to His beck'ning hand,
Sweep now aside all the sins that have bound us!
Behold, as from Nebo, the Lord's promised land!

E.R.C.

O, why are we so blind and so stubborn?
Neglecting God's thinking that towers?
Depending on man's human wisdom?
When the wisdom of God has vast powers?
This wisdom is boundless and mighty!
It is this that we need in these hours!

E.R.C.

In the preceding chapters of this autobiography, I have referred a number of times to Big Ideas, Great Concepts, Lofty Perceptions, and the like. Now, in this chapter, I want to set ten of these down, in relatively condensed expression, then expand some, or perhaps all, hoping to make them thus more enthralling, more persuasive to you who may read. Please, dear reader, do not go thru them with a whoosh. I have found them to have destiny shaping power.

So, HERE THEY ARE!

Great Ideas and Concepts, that have grown out of my experiences while working in the Temple, and from many other experiences there since.

1. The Lord wants the Temple to be as a bright Mount of Transfiguration and glory. It has become that to me! To appreciate, please read Matthew 17:1-12, Mark 9:1-12, Luke 9:28-36, in the Inspired Version.
2. A heart-warming Spiritual Presence abides in the Temple, as an oasis like Testimony that God is, and loves mankind. The uplifting enlightenment of this presence can be and should be used to the uttermost.
3. It is God's high intention that the Temple be used for Divine Endowment, and for a heaven-inspired enlightenment. The Holy Spirit will make such realization possible.
4. The School of the Prophets, adequately understood, is a Magnificent Concept. This Concept is presented and set forth by the Creator of the Universe, and is therefore immensely important! It offers a dynamic facility for the broad empowerment of the Restoration.
5. The Temple should, therefore, be an inspirational and motivational center for Kirtland Stake of Zion, and a Center, as well, when farsightedly developed, of wide-spread sharing.
6. Stakes are intended by Him, whose glory is intelligence, to be dynamic instruments of uplift in all aspects of life, not just in ecclesiastical life. In the exalted natures of God and Christ, this must be so!
7. There is, therefore, the need to develop balanced communities of Zion - in spiritual ideals made part of religious life, a very high type of home life, in godly individual life, in industrial life, in business life, in educational life, in cultural life, and on, and on.

8. There is utterly immense spiritual intelligence and wisdom, illumination and guidance, power and energy, that centers in God (the marvelous Creator), yet in indescribable vastness, that can radiate out to all who tremendously love Him and trust Him completely.
9. It is God's immense desire, that through and by His Holy Spirit, the Restoration shall be so richly and dynamically empowered, as to gloriously transform human life and human association - the church first, then reaching outward.
10. Therefore, growing out of all this, a delightful, Christ-like, ennobling Golden Age, must be the overall goal of the Restoration, its leaders, its people, and increasingly all men and women of good will. Then shall it be said that God's will is done on earth as it is in heaven! Then shall men say "a colony of heaven" is here on the earth! Glory to God in the highest, at long last, there begins to be peace on earth, goodwill toward all men!

Come to think of it, very little needs to be added to those ten, so just a comment or two on each one:

1. Surely, a very special place for meeting with God - for transfiguration, if you please - is highly desirable. Surely, if we reach out and up, God and Christ will gladly respond! From experience I testify that it is increasingly possible to ascend up toward the higher mountains of the Spirit!
2. Again, in affirming number two, I speak from not alone my experience, but the experience of many. The need for such inspirational association should be apparent to all, in this world where forces of decadence are attacking all that is good.
3. If Pentecost was needed, even after the marvelous ministry of Jesus, by all means it is needed now. There are so many "isms."
4. This concept was definitely part and reason for building Kirtland Temple. Sorrowfully, it has never been at all adequately developed. It is God's idea, not man's.

5. Ask yourself, which is better, and offers uplifting consequences - The Temple as a place for visitors, a sort of museum, or increasingly its use as suggested in number five?
6. This is self-evidently true. Please read Isaiah 33 Inspired Version.
7. What a goodly prospect is this. Please, dear God and Father, hasten the day!
8. The universe bears witness to this!
9. God would not be what He is, if this statement is untrue.
10. This sets before all, a supreme, compelling, greatly needed goal, a seemingly far-off, but necessary goal!

In these pages, I have already expressed my gratitude to our heavenly Father for the many ways in which He has richly blessed me as I have sought to understand, and grow, in the experience of the deeply Spiritual.

In 1976, it seems to me, as I observe these present times, that profound spiritual experience, in general, is not sought, yes, even frowned upon, and quite generally discouraged.

I have sometimes wondered if part of the reason for this frowning may be that, in the past, we have seemed to be content with the comparatively shallow, rather than reaching up toward the deeper and most inspiring experiences of the Spirit. It is a dreadful mistake to disregard the deeply spiritual, and tremendous experiences with the Lord!

That, in a deep and wholesome sense, has been a shortcoming of christendom for centuries upon centuries, and of this very present.

It is entirely possible for the sober warning of an apostle of old, to be fulfilled in we of today - "he that leteth will let until he be taken out of the way." Moroni warns us that if spiritual gifts cease, it will be because of unbelief.

We ought to remember that the Restoration arose out of mighty spiritual experiences. These affirm that the Restoration will only fulfill her grand destiny when the tremendous enablement of God's Holy Spirit is again sought and experienced! Woe to our cause if we let human wisdom and ways, and procedures take the place of God's infinitely higher wisdom and ways!

All this is to open the way to my bearing testimony to the truth of an insight expressed by a Jewish Rabbi, Martin Buber, in his study of the life of Moses, - Moses, the Revelation and the Covenant, Harper and Brothers, New York, page 14. Commenting on the extraordinary spiritual experience of Moses at the marvel of a burning yet unconsumed bush, and the voice of the Lord of Hosts speaking to him, the Rabbi writes:

"It is a primeval state of amazement which sets all the creative forces of the soul to work."

Truly, tremendous experiences with God do set the creative forces of the soul to work! To this I testify. Such has been the result with me of my spiritual experiences!

There is no record, so far as we know, of any build-up preparing Moses for his desert confrontation with the All-Holy One. Almost certainly, most of us will develop in this area quite gradually, covering many years. It has been thus with myself. It would seem better so. We would not have a strong enough faith to enter into projects of effort that more mature experience leads us to undertake.

Also, I have come to know that the most meaningful experiences with the Holy Spirit, are those which set us to work undertaking projects of effort which can benefit the Lord's work among men - thus "setting the creative forces of the soul to work."

Akin to this conclusion is this - such spiritual development as a kind providence has enabled me to make, has largely come from consciously undertaken, worthwhile projects of understanding, or discovery, or achievement, or in response to an observed need, or the gentle nudging of a holy power far above my own limited horizon.

These kinds of life experiences do shape the destiny of anyone to whom they come, emphasizing the main reason for this autobiography.

In the preceding chapter, I mentioned the spiritual gift of Inspired Writing. Now, I want to discuss this gift first, how it came to me, and second, to indicate a little of how I use it, and third, a little about the ends to which it is used. Then, in the following chapter, I want to condense such of these experiences as may be helpful to you who read this story of my life.

Here is the unusual way in which the gift of Inspired Writing was discovered. At our branch, our pastor had somehow gotten into the habit of scolding at each sacrament service. He must have had the best of intentions, I'm sure. But scolding is not a very effective way of persuasion. Jesus started his Sermon on the Mount by emphasizing the blessedness of His way of life. One Sacrament time I was asked to make the address. I resolved there would be no scolding. Rather, I would talk of the great love of the heavenly Father. Yet, when the actual service time came, I was not able to say what I wanted to say, although there was a strong spiritual blessing present.

The week following, I was working repairing on the third floor level of the Temple. About midweek, I was impressed to sit down to an improvised writing place, when under the Lord's blessing I rapidly wrote what I had wanted to say the previous Sabbath.

Surely, if we try with all our hearts, to live near to the Lord, He will help discover the spiritual gifts we can use to his glory!

Some of you may wonder how one proceeds to develop and use such a gift. You know, I sometimes tend to feel that we saints are quite like baby birds in a nest, concerning the Lord's spiritual blessings. We sit, as it were, with our mouths wide open (maybe), for whatever may be dropped into them.

The advantage of the gift under discussion is that it arises in a felt need. You set out on a voyage of Spirit blessed discovery, and this Spirit can reason with you. See Isaiah 1:18.

The steps I follow are these:

1. I become aware of a real need - for understanding, or guidance, or illumination, and the like.
2. This is thought about enough, so as to either verbalize or write in as clear terms as possible, the content of my inquiry.
3. I pray about it, and sort of set it to one side in my mind, occasionally thinking reverently about it.
4. Then, light will come to me from time to time, in clear condensed part-answers.
5. Then, sooner or later, I am impressed to sit down and write. My thoughts flow freely. I do not have to search for ideas or words, but write quite rapidly. My mind is clear and vivid. There is usually little emotion, just a delightful mental elevation and illumination, plus a holy peace that passes all understanding.

6. Lastly, I read over what has been written, weighing, evaluating, judging. It is in this part that the Holy Spirit bears heartwarming, emotion-stirring testimony, that helps me to know that what I have written is pleasing to God. Sometimes, I share with spiritual minded friends, to get their reaction, to content and spirit.

7. In general:

- a. The topic of inquiry must be very much worthwhile.
- b. That which becomes content must be sound and scriptural, and reflect God's glory of intelligence.
- c. Perhaps it is largely for one's personal use.
- d. Where shared, emphasize it stands or falls on its own intrinsic merits, and such witnessing testimony as the Lord may give to those with whom shared.
- e. Wisely used, it is an effectual means to spiritual growth.
- f. It can lead to the gift of inspired study.
- g. It can be a fine asset in prophetic inquiries.
- h. It will be good, for anyone who has this gift to build up a list of possible topics.
- i. These possible topics can be short in achieved content, or lengthy, - quite lengthy, depending on the importance and the character of the topic under consideration.
- j. Some considerations may be quite time consuming.
- k. An excellent biblical prophetic saying to keep in mind is this - "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." Jer 33:3.

This Spiritual Gift of Inspired Writing was the one used in writing the booklet - The Endowment. The background and incidental experiences in producing this booklet, may be both interesting and informative to many. They should be a matter of record, anyway.

During the Temple repair time - about the spring of 1956 - and because so much in our Doctrine and Covenants about the building of the Temple sets forth about Endowment, I became concerned to develop a better concept of what it means, as the Lord thinks of the word "Endowment."

First of all, I search the Scriptures for what information they might supply.

The Bible: Particularly the Book of Acts.

The Book of Mormon: Especially III Nephi and Christ's visit to ancient America.

The Doctrine and Covenants: Specifically sections referring to the Temple in Church History,

And its record of the partial Endowment of 1836.

After all this, I still was not satisfied as to the breadth and depth of my understanding. So, after quite lengthy reflection, I wrote down 10 questions, and resolved to reverently attempt to use this gift I am discussing - the Gift of Inspired Writing.

Working on the third floor at the time, I took two hours from my work day, on my own time. After a period of prayer and dedication, I sat down to an improvised desk, and began to write -- Two hours each workday morning, for between twelve and fourteen weeks.

There was never any hesitancy, never any doubt or struggling to keep going, and no rewriting.

Often as I wrote I was so deeply moved by the Holy Spirit that tears made it almost difficult to see. Sometimes, I knew there was the unseen ministry of angels.

What wonderful, very enthralling, dynamically uplifting experiences we can have when we reach upward toward our loving and inspiring Father in heaven! The more worthwhile our concerns, the more illuminating the Lord's response!

One part of this experience I have never shared widely, because it would easily be misunderstood, in some quarters, yet which should be permanently recorded:

I was about halfway through the total project, when the 1956 Kirtland Reunion was held at Kirtland. Apostle Arthur A. Oakman was in charge. During the Monday morning prayer service, I was both listening and reverently thinking about the fifth of the ten questions about the Endowment, which was - "What are the Characteristics of the Endowment?"

During the meeting, the Holy Spirit opened to my understanding ten basic characteristics. These were written down in brief - see next chapter.

Brother Oakman discerned light had come to me, and after the service suggested I prepare myself during the week, and he would make an opportunity for me to share during the Friday morning service.

Friday morning I arose at five. A wee bit later, as I started to cross my rustic bridges to care for my pet goats, suddenly, the Holy Spirit rested upon me in such tremendous power that it seemed I would be almost instantly consumed, as by a kind of fire!

People of old were not speaking idly when they wrote about being baptized with fire and the Holy Ghost! It was far more than I could bear! I had to pray that the intensity of this "fire" be lessened to what I could stand.

Then, the "still, small voice" of the Spirit began to speak to my soul; not audibly, but in a way that far transcends ordinary hearing, about the Kirtland Temple and its intention for a coming time of the future, and about the Lord's Endowment!

"Just as a little more than a century ago, the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to two of the leading men of the church, in the lower court of the Temple, even so, the time is nearing when once again he will appear to his leading servants there!"

Furthermore, just as almost two thousand years ago, after the dreadful experience of the crucifixion of the Lamb of God, the most perfect being ever to walk the face of the earth, was so cruelly put to death, and the apostles were assembled in a room, there in Jerusalem, in fear and trembling, and in the depths of dismay - saying among themselves, all is lost! When, lo, suddenly, without the opening of a door or window, the risen Lord Jesus stood among them, saying, "Peace be unto you," and making them aware of his resurrection.

Just so, not very far in the future, when the School of the Prophets shall be assembled in the upper court of the Temple - one moment they shall be engaged in their deep concerns - the next moment, again without the opening of door or window, the Lord Jesus Christ, fresh from the presence of the Everlasting Father shall stand among them!

He shall teach them! He shall prepare them for what He wants them to do and to say, as He sends them forth for the last time, to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, with a grand message of invitation and of warning, and before the worst of the scenes of trouble and turmoil that the prophets have foreseen shall engulf the world, before the Lord's return.

Then after He has prepared them as best He can, he will select those whom He can trust, and will delegate and bestow upon them such vast spiritual power as the world has never known, some to achieve Zion in its fullness, other He will send forth to "bind up the law and seal up the testimony, ere the destructions of the wicked and wickedness, and the ushering in the millenium shall come!"

Surely, I knew what I was to say in that Friday morning prayer and testimony meeting!

May I emphasize here, that what is to be done in any other Temple, is in the providence of the Lord, and He must guide.

There is no conflict at all in the destiny of the Temple we have described and what may yet be. This glimpse of the future, given to me, is a word picture of God moving in majesty and power! May He hasten that time of Endowment, and may we hasten to prepare ourselves for it! The need of the world for such a time is indeed very great!

Moreover, nothing less than Divine Endowment, in dynamic, vast ways of tremendous empowerment, can halt the widespread forces of evil and decadence, and bring to pass those glad times for which the earth was made!

Oh! that the Restoration could see this!

In the next chapter, it is our purpose to include the condensation of a few of these gifts of inspired writing, that may hopefully be helpful to those who may read this autobiography.

Suffice it to say here, and I bear this testimony to other searching, up-reaching minds, that as the years go by, the Vision of the Lord's Mighty Intention, broadens out! It becomes more comprehensible! It becomes more enthralling!

Sometimes I think, after experiences of expanding vision, surely this is all that will open to me. Yet, over the years, thanks be to God the Father, and Christ the Son, time after time, deeper insights come; somewhat like the sky rockets we send up on July 4th, which burst in a series of brilliant explosions, each brighter than the one before!

Jeremiah was a true prophet of the Lord when he wrote -
"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not!"

Jer. 33:3

I am quite convinced that we have many potential talents, which, in the main, go unused, perhaps all too often, for the want of a stimulating challenge! This stimulating challenge, for me, has largely risen out of my efforts to understand the deeply spiritual aspects of the Lord's work, and the holy experiences that have been part of that effort.

The writing I am doing in my years of retirement is one example. The writing of spiritually and intellectually stimulating poetry is another. Also, because of a very special music project slowly evolving, whose beginnings arose out of enlightened motivation, and which ultimately will need a series of oil paintings, I found I could do moderately well in doing an oil painting.

Perhaps the most unusual of all such projects has been the development of a Sacred Drama, entitled - God's Magnificent Intention for the Restoration, and This Closing Age. I have never trained myself in such writing.

Quite possibly, Sacred Drama is more difficult to write than ordinary drama. There can be no blood and thunder to cater to human love of roughhousing. Neither can there be any human sort of love scenes and interests, such as Portia and Bassanio, in The Merchant of Venice.

In Sacred Drama, your total concept and manner of expression must almost be epic in character. The dialogue must be on a lofty level of ideas expressed. And, almost inevitably, the content expressed by each actor must be longer than in ordinary drama.

I started this drama on Christmas Day, 1974, after perceiving it ought to be written. The objective in view was to work into and express in dramatic form, all I've tried to make part of this chapter, and all I've written about the deeply spiritual, and all about Divine Endowment, and much, as well, of the Lord's great hopes for the Restoration.

This was surely quite an undertaking for one who had never written even a ten or twenty minute simple drama.

In the last two years or so, it has opened to my vision of neglected possibilities, in influencing humanity, that there is a very important place for Sacred Drama. A few of us here in Kirtland hope to see an amphitheatre developed in a natural area for such, and within a few hundred feet of the Temple.

Insofar as I am aware, there is no drama at all such as ideally could portray the story of the Temple, and the Restoration, and the Lord's tremendous objectives behind it all. Realizing there ought to be such an immensely influential Sacred Drama written, I felt I should give the project a try.

Besides, I have a very real confidence and strong faith that the Holy Spirit can help us achieve accomplishments that are otherwise impossible! I thank the Lord that He did help me by this marvelous Spirit!

It was comparatively simple to rough in the basic concepts, and then in a series of steps to expand these in considerable detail. Looking ahead, I wondered if it would be possible for me to express these ideas in the dialogue of drama. I felt if I could not do it, I could get the help of someone like Dr. Wallace B. Shute, M.D., of Canada, author of Christus. Nevertheless, I could not think of doing that until I had made a strenuous effort myself, asking the Lord's blessing.

When the time came to write this dialogue, a delightful clear-headedness, a mind-stirring intelligence, and a spiritual warmth so richly blessed me, that it was not difficult to do at all! Again, I thank the Holy One!

I hope to live to see it performed in the amphitheatre mentioned, and possibly be taped as a movie, and made usable far and wide among our people.

There is a very big idea back of it, and I urge a sober and painstaking consideration on the part of all to whom it may come!

Just possibly, this Sacred Drama may wield its influence through being read, slowly and carefully, rather than be acted in an amphitheatre.

The bearing of a mighty testimony to the world and millions of people, in the Chapter 6 heading! Can it be done? Yes! But only when we avail ourselves of the immense powers of helpfulness the Creator of a tremendous Universe, longs to share with us! Jesus said one time, "Have faith in God! Have great faith in God!" It can be done!!

Chapter 7.

This chapter, in the main, is devoted to prophetic experiences. Let's not be afraid of the word "prophetic"!

The experiences which can be helpful and stimulating to others, will be condensed - some were quite lengthy, because of illustrative detail. We are extremely short-sighted, and spiritually blind, if we depend on human wisdom only!

By all means, we ought to desire the immensely intelligent, far-sighted safeguarding, empowering experiences that the marvelous Creator alone can give us, which alone can enable the up-building of His so greatly needed Kingdom.

Alberta, God's gift to me in my old age.

Some Scriptures, quotations and poetry.

"The testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy."

Rev. 19:10.

"The way of the prophet is the via dolorosa" - (the way of sorrow).

Author Unknown

"Keep a place in your heart for the unexpected Guest,
an altar for the unknown God!"

Henri T. Amiel

"I am enthralled with the luminous figure of the Nazarene."

Albert Einstein

"Those who feel the gale of the Holy Spirit go forward,
even in their sleep."

Thomas A' Kempis.

"A man is that a knave or fool,
Or bigot plotting crime,
Who for the advancement of his race,
Is wiser than his time.

For him the hemlock shall distil!
For him the axe be bared!
For him the gibbet shall be built!
For him the stake prepared!
Him shall the scorn and the wrath of men
Pursue with deadly aim,
And malice, envy, spite and lies
Shall desecrate his name!

Yet, truth shall conquer at the last!
For round and round we run!
And ever the right comes uppermost!
And ever is justice done!"

(Remembered from the long ago)

The sometimes dilemma of the prophetic minded, from
Jeremiah 20.

"I am derision daily. Everyone mocketh me.
(Because of the word of the Lord, I am in derision daily.)
Then said I, I will not make mention of him, nor speak
any more in his name.
But his word was in my heart, as a burning fire shut
up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing!
And I could not stay!"

To some who may read the preceding quotations and poetry, they
may seem too dolorous. The consequences that hinge on prophetic
experience and presentation are not always disagreeable, as far as
the expressors are concerned. Far from it!

There is also given to the prophetic minded, grand and most
delightful experiences.

Theirs is the exalted joy to perceive heaven-inspired great
ideas and concepts. They tend, when extraordinarily faithful to
their high calling, to "mount up with wings as eagles," as Isaiah
expressed it, and increasingly behold the glories of that marvelous
realm where God dwells!

Often, they are shown "the things of many generations to come."
There is a growing exaltedness of spirit that is grandly satisfying.

Not finding any poetry that extols the bright and delightful
aspects of inspirational experience, we have written the following:

The Joys of Prophetic Mindedness

1. What a wonderful fact, is the fact of God's Spirit,
That radiates out from the realm where He dwells -
And that rules and creates all the vastness we see! -
The Reflector of truth, and of wisdom and light! -
The bright Sharer of all the tremendous worthwhile --
It's the only great force that can set all men free!
2. It's a glorious gift that is thus shared with men,
When He makes us His prophets and bids us to speak,
That mankind may behold the high mountains of God! -
His great Love! His great hopes, and His gift of the Christ,
His great Spirit to guide, with its power to bless! -
That mankind may ascend up to heights yet untrod!

Perhaps the worst that most prophets and prophetic minded servants of the Almighty have to bear is to be regarded a bit "tetched," or a fanatic, or visionary, or other-worldly, or even crazy.

It makes me smile, tolerantly of course, when some dear folk who deem themselves to be highly educated, tell me that they no longer need the enlightenment that the Creator of the Universe can give! Or that spiritual gifts are no longer needed, or that education will solve all the world's problems.

A story was told me one time, of Elbert A. Smith assisting a young man at a church service. In prayer, before going up to the rostrum, brother Elbert asked for the Lord's Holy Spirit to bless the young man in his speaking. This young man considered himself to be very highly educated. So, leaning close to Elbert A., he whispered, "You do not need to pray like that for me; I'm educated!"

Brother Elbert was quoted as saying, "I could have puked."

Just perhaps, it was some such experience as this that caused him to write the poetry called -

THE INCH WORM

The man who from earth's lowly sod
Presumes that he can measure God,
With naught but Reason's measuring rod,

Is like a worm upon some knoll,
Whose arching back has set its goal
To measure Earth from pole to pole -

Not reckoning of the season's change,
The deep morass, the desert strange,
The heaven-abutting mountain range,

Or the chill hearted glacial heap!
Or moon-led tide's uncharted sweep
Or ancient terror of the deep.

Poor worm! The next fool thing I wot,
Will be for him, from his low spot,
To teach all worms that Earth is not.

What I am saying here is that it is extremely dangerous to exclude God and an illuminating spiritual guidance from the educational process, and also to testify that this guidance is possible for those who honestly and eagerly seek it.

Please note characteristic number one, in the condensations of the Characteristics of Divine Endowment, that follows in this chapter.

More and more, as I mature in age, I become utterly convinced that a growing spirituality must be motivated by, evaluated by, and farsightedly projected by, a growing and controlling intelligence!

On the other hand, our developing intelligence must be inspired by and illumined by a growing and increasingly high order or kind of spirituality!

When we move thuswise, it becomes more and more possible for God to fulfill His marvelous promise that there shall be a time when we shall comprehend even Him! Blessed, indeed most blessed, are all they who wisely combine these two!

CONDENSATIONS - GIFTS OF INSPIRED WRITING

See Gen. 5:6 Inspired Version

A. Concerning the Love of God for His people.

Notes:

This was my first experience with this Gift. It came to me while working in the west room of the third floor of the Temple, July 7, 1953. It was quite brief, but made me aware of the unique possibilities of this delightful spiritual gift.

1. The Heavenly Father looks upon his earthly sons and daughters with a great and yearning love.

2. Thru the outpouring of His great love and Spirit, He wants to -

- Eliminate evil, selfishness, and low purpose from our personalities, and so refine them, that we may grow from grace to grace, and so be "anointed with the oil of gladness," like as was Jesus.

If we really try; He will bless us marvelously!

- Repeats the promise of Rev. 3:20, to sup with us and we with Him.

The world is starving for that which is born of the Spirit. God wants to enliven us with many loving gifts of His Spirit.

- When and as we open our hearts to God, the Endowment will increasingly come to us, and this will bring persuasiveness, and He shall be witness to our outreach.

Predicts troubles will increase in the world.

- He will give courage and prophetic understanding to do great things. God is a God of miracles.
- Amazing results will follow our response to His love.

B. Have Faith in God

The value of this experience was the suggestion of seven ways to increase our faith.

WAYS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF GREAT FAITH

1. Earnestly and reverently try to become increasingly holy, in thought, in desires, and in every aspect of life.
2. Treat your desire to believe, and to grow in faith as you would a seed which you would have come to life, to expand, to grow.
3. Associate yourself with those who have great faith.
4. Through searching in the Scriptures, in Heralds, both old and new, in Autumn Leaves, or in any other possible way or source, find what has already been done by faith.
5. Set projects of personal effort, which shall require the exercise of continuing and growing use of faith to achieve.

6. Faith and Power to perform miracles can only come to those who are profoundly spiritual and therefore keenly sensitive to the mind and power of the Holy Spirit.

7. As insights into the truth, into personal needs, into collective needs, into the needs of the world, into the needs of the church, and into the needs of the times, shall come to you; set down these insights in what shall become an expanding list of imperatives, which, because of the very weight and burden of their necessity, will tend to build up a sense of great urgency within you, that you will grow in faith.

C. Satan and Satanic Powers

Such powers are always seeking to overthrow Christ's church. Persecution is not too effective an instrument, but if ways can be found to work from within, this tends to get much better results (from Satan's point of view).

Knowing that overthrow attempts will increasingly be made, I asked the heavenly Father to show me some of these ways. To be forewarned is to be forearmed.

It seems to me that a prophetic church - and surely the Lord must have intended the Restoration to be that kind of a church - ought to be farsightedly aware of all that will hinder, dilute, or destroy it. So, having perceived, under the Holy Spirit's light and intelligence, what some of these destructive ways can be, I feel it is my duty to share them. This is the rationale for the inclusion of the following nine ways. May I suggest to all who may read these words, that they read Ezekiel 33:1-6, and 34:1-16.

Ways Satan and Satanic forces will use to try to overthrow the Church from within:

1. He will tempt leadership and priesthood to abuse their powers of office, and cause them to seek for a mastery and domination.
2. He will tempt the Church - its ministry and its people - toward an arid intellectualism, that neither nourishes nor sustains.
3. He will tempt all of us to substitute lessor interests and concerns for the greater and really important ones.
4. He will tempt us to become deeply involved in worldly movements and concerns, which have some value, but not Kingdom building value.

5. He will try to bring about a distrust of spiritual gifts and guidance, and of spirituality in general.

6. He will encourage a counterfeit spirituality and life.

7. He will try to cause disrupting division, and a paralyzing dismay.

8. He will try to overwhelm the church, and the world, with reading matter that is evil, corrupting, and wicked in its devastating influence.

9. He will deceive with the notions, philosophies, theologies, and theories of men.

Note: These insights came to me somewhere around 1954 - 57, in much more detail than expressed in this condensation.

D. Characteristics of the Endowment

This gift of inspired writing came to me in 1957, while engaged in repairing the Temple. In it, my desire and prayer was for an expanding understanding of the Lord's grand concept and promise of spiritual Endowment, which, by the way, was the great reason for the building of the Kirtland Temple. The answers to ten questions were sought. All this vision of a time yet to be, is written in a booklet of 40 pages, called The Endowment.

In this autobiography, I am condensing only the answer to question number five, which was, "What are the Characteristics of the Endowment?"

After quoting a brief statement preceding the delineation of the answer, I will set down a very brief condensation of that which opened to me.

The ministers of the Lord, do well to think about this day of Endowment, for it is even as He has disclosed to one of His servants concerning this House of the Lord - "You have not even begun to dream of that which I the Lord had in mind in the erection of the Temple; things which have as yet been but slightly realized, and when they are their effect and influence shall be felt over the entire world."

He who thus spoke was Apostle John F. Garver.

Now, the Condensation.

Characteristic No. 1

There shall be an endowment of spiritually won knowledge. Knowledge is power. Spiritually won knowledge is power to the nth degree!

Characteristic No. 2

There shall be endowment resulting from shared spiritual experiences. To be truly spiritual, is to have experiences with God. In this there are utterly amazing possibilities. God's ways, thoughts, intelligence and power is infinitely above man's.

Characteristic No. 3

Endowment will build up as we earnestly and in faith seek for and receive light on difficult problems that face us, individually, as a church, and even the whole world. "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." John 10:10.

Characteristic No. 4

There will be a growing endowment, as ministry and members of the church, shall, under divine guidance, find the places, and areas of activity where they can best work and serve. Men shall be raised up who are particularly gifted for such work.

Characteristic No. 5

Endowment shall come, also, thru an abundant outpouring of marvelously deep and intelligent spiritual gifts of uplift and guidance. "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

Jer. 33:3

Characteristic No. 6

The ministry of angels, is part of the Endowment process! They are beings who dwell in the presence of God. They are his messengers. They are greatly aware of his higher intelligence. God has sent angels to many of the spiritually great of the ages. They can help in extraordinary ways. If we cannot abide the ministry of angels, how can we abide the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ? God will richly minister by angels as endowment proceeds.

Characteristic No. 7

Part of the endowment process will be the visitation and ministry of those who have tarried - the three Nephites, and John the Revelator. They have been and are now already endowed ministers. They know what it is all about! They are extraordinary instruments and personalities of uplift and testimony.

Characteristic No. 8

A very vital part of the endowment process will be purification of mind, spirit and purpose. How? By trial, by hallowing association, by exalting spiritual experiences, and by the radiant glory and exaltation and presence of the Son of God. In part, what this purification is, is thus indicated.

Characteristic No. 9

Endowment will come about as a result of special appearances and the finest kind of instruction by the Son of God. "The words and truths He shall express will be far above and beyond any that we mortals can offer!" The "fire" of the Holy Ghost, in burning out the dross, will replace with Christ's kind of exalted personality. He will share, lift up, and exalt, as no earthly being can!

Characteristic No. 10

There shall be endowment experiences in which Christ, our heaven-sent Leader and Commander, shall delegate and bestow vast spiritual power upon His transformed and grandly prepared servants. Some examples of workings of this spiritual power are indicated.

This power is needed in the uttermost because of the needs of these last days. To each Christ will give special commission and power to do what the Lord expects him to do. He will say to them -

"Go to every nation of the earth. You shall not be confounded, nor shall prisons hold you, nor iron curtains prevent you. After the travail of those days will I appear from above the clouds of the heavens.

My voice will be heard, and I will usher in and set up in its completeness that great kingdom shown to Daniel, that kingdom that shall roll forth until it has filled the whole earth, that kingdom that shall smite the feet and toes of the kingdoms of this world, and all these kingdoms shall collapse and fall to pieces, and become as dust and chaff upon a summer's threshing floor; then shall that glorious kingdom be set up that shall last forever."

The vastness and the glory, the effectiveness and wholeness of it all, are beyond my power to put into words.

Another immense concept entralls me. The Endowment process will continue until his second coming!

E. HEALING

This is an explanation of how Healing can and does take place, in various religious organizations, and even outside any religious association.

This explanation is different in character from the preceding condensations, but is included as a possible solution to a problem that sometimes puzzles us.

An interesting book for reading and study, about healing, is Psychology, Religion, and Healing by Leslie D. Weatherhead, Abingdon Press.

1. This kind of healing or any healing would seem to take place, possibly, either as the result of an intense exertion of a force, or power, or energy, that is potentially part of every normal human personality. This may be called faith, or willpower, or the possible exertion of mental powers of mind over the human body. Or, Healing can take place as the result of God's Holy Spirit blessing his ministers with an exceptional blessing or power of His Spirit, that somehow has within itself utterly immense energy.

2. Concerning the human part of the preceding, the Scriptures tell us that man was created in the image of God and Christ. It is logical to accept that, to some extent, the spiritual characteristics of God and Christ, were also made part of the individual being.

Also, likewise, just as our heavenly Father moves and uses stupendous spiritual forces in reaching out into the vastness of the Universe to bring creation to pass, just so, but within infinitely less and largely unknown limits, there may radiate out from the mind of man a somewhat comparable creative or controlling power. The concentration of various personality characteristics varies from person to person, as a Beethoven in contrast with the average individual. Even so, exceptional qualities may, in the sense of this paragraph, be concentrated in a few rare personalities.

3. The greater creative power of God moves in space without being limited by the vastness of space. Likewise may an individual's exceptional outreaching capacity, in very much less degree, move within the limits of his sphere of action and influence.

4. The mighty spiritual power of the Creator always moves to bring organization out of disorganization, order out of disorder, kingdoms of being out of dispersion and confusion, life out of death, and the like. He always moves to perfection and improvement. Likewise, when man's lesser and somewhat similar powers are used.

5. The All Wise One, because of the vast nature of the power He so intelligently uses, can bring immense creations into existence. Man, by himself, is very limited in the outreach of the special qualities he may have, as indicated. Therefore, the need to combine what he has with others. Therefore, mass healing services.

6. This kind of procedure, and these perceptions explains how healing takes place, as sketched in at the head of this Explanation. Such healings, in the finest sense, are not divine healings, except as the Lord has made this a potential power of human personality. There is no reason, however, why we may not use it.

7. Tentatively, to use this asset of human personality evidently requires intense consecration of mind and will. We may best use it by centering our minds on God, reverently making use of a natural endowment, and consecrating it to the Lord.

8. This concept suggests the wisdom of administering to our most difficult cases in our prayer meetings, and before a congregation, rather than apart from them.

9. Still further, it suggests the advisability of exercising faith for healing in special cases at a given and agreed upon period of time, and of energetically uniting in the interest of others.

NOTE: The above must not be confused with divine healing, where very extraordinary spiritual power blesses the administration to those who are ill.

F. Excerpts of Inspired Writing Experiences.

1. Shared at a women's retreat. The Creator's high ideal for womanhood!

My daughters, in order that you may envision a larger view of womanhood and the delightful and holy people you can increasingly become, would that you might share the lofty hopes that were in the mind of your Creator when womanhood was placed on the earth.

You were made more beautiful in form and personality than, in general, are your more rugged brothers.

You were created to be gentle and loving.

You were intended to be uplifting and lovable in your personalities.

You were endowed with a conserving tenderness.

You were made pure and holy as your natural birthright.

You were made to be more sensitive to the impress of the Holy Spirit than most of manhood has tended to be.

Your Creator made you with inner gifts and capacities to wonderfully nurture and bring up in holy ways those who might come to you in your mature years.

In your life of the present you are largely the shaper of the characteristics of your homes. In your home life and in all your life, the Great Father desires you to become so saintly and noble and Christlike before Him, that He can share with you His wonderful Holy Spirit, enabling you to become all that womanhood was intended to become, in the morning time of creation.

You can wonderfully influence all around you.

2. From an Eastertime Experience. The Immense Possibilities of a Holy Spirit Blessed School of The Prophets. 1975.

You marvel and are even astounded at the discoveries being made in the scientific researches of men -- researches that enable them to build amazing machines and equipment. Or, that enable them to communicate around the world almost instantaneously. Or, that calculate with incredible swiftness. Or, that make it possible to place men on the moon. Or that, dismayingly, may almost blow the world apart, causing widespread genocide - almost in the twinkling of an eye.

Behold, I the Lord Jesus, unequivocally say unto you, my people who have such marvelous possibilities, waiting to be aroused within you -- I say unto you that which is my intention to be done here (in the Lord's House, in Kirtland) ought to be done, and must be done, to the glory of God in the highest, and the reaching out and uplifting of multitudes of humanity - these great outpourings of the Holy Spirit, these amazing developments that will come out of a supremely blessed School of the Prophets, this very extraordinary development of prophetic mindedness of a very high order, this ennoblement of human personality that will make men so pure and so holy that the heavenly Father can increasingly share vast powers of the Holy Spirit with them - - - all this and much more ----

Behold, such will far exceed any of the extraordinary achievements of men engaged in scientific research!! My servant has not words nor power of enlightened imagination to adequately describe the richly, God-blessed experiences, that are, in my highest intention, before you.

My people, my dearly beloved people, what a wonderful destiny will open up to you as you increasingly become truly co-laborers with myself, with the Holy Spirit, and with that supremely glorious being who is the Everlasting Father.

I say unto you my people here, together with my people elsewhere, if you will respond to my pleading and my setting before you lofty goals and shall, with increasing earnestness and dedication move toward the development and realization of my far-sighted magnificent intention, you and my church will quickly become a tremendous influence for uplift in the world. You will win to your expanding influence thousands and tens of thousands of men and women of good will and holy desire, who long to see God moving in majesty and power. You will see the Word of God made flesh in splended zionic living and achievement. And, yea, the powers of wickedness and hell will not be able to withstand you.

When these things come to pass, and a glorious redeemed people arise, then shall the dismay of Gethsemane and the anguish and the agony of the cross be forgotten in the immense joy of both myself and my people.

Very near the beginning of this chapter is this phrase --
"Alberta, God's gift to me in my old age."

Certainly I ought to, and want to, include a few affirmations about marriage.

Marriage is indeed a sacred venture in which a man and a woman join their lives together in a life-long holy and noble association. God, by His Holy Spirit, wants to guide men and women in their choosing of life partners, for He is immensely concerned with human happiness and welfare. True, loving, inspiring, dedicated, deeply spiritual association in enduring marriage, is surely one of the grandest aspects of life on earth. Certainly, part of its purpose is procreation. But I feel to assert that an even greater aspect is for a noble, helpful, sustaining, delightful, God-ordained days - and years of beautiful association.

Alberta and I were married in 1966. Our meeting grew out of some words of inspiration, expressed in the Temple, which led to a small group of (I think very special) people undertaking the creative writing and development of an Oratorio about Zion. Alberta became part of that inspirational project.

Alma, the marriage companion of my youth, crossed over into God's Beautiful Land Beyond in 1965. Anyone who has enjoyed a saintly home, and a noble-hearted life partner, can appreciate my loneliness.

As we came to appreciate each other's personality and situation in life, we each, in prayer, asked our tremendously loving Heavenly Father for His guidance. In spirit blessed ways He did guide us in our final decision. Alberta has been a very great help and blessing to me, and I sincerely hope I have been to her.

Surely, the Lord wants to bless and guide in all aspects of establishing and ever maintaining godly, saintly Zionics homes!

It is a delight, in this my autobiography - The Shaping of a Destiny, to bear this testimony. God cares! He longs to help us if only we will seek that help.

Chapter 8.

There are immense possibilities in a richly, God-blessed, School of the Prophets - for this present day, and thru this School, the achievement of God's Magnificent Intention for the Restoration, and for this Closing Age. And this to so do with increasing rapidity, as it develops. Also, we share a sort of Isle of Patmos Experience - "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day."

1. Hush be the noise and the strife of the schools,
Volume and pamphlet and speech.
The word of the wise, and prattle of fools -
Let the Son of Man teach!
2. Who has the key to the future but He?
Who can unravel the knots of the skein?
We have groaned and travailed and sought to be free;
We have travailed in vain!
3. Bewildered, dejected, and prone to despair,
To Him now at last we turn and beseech -
Our ears are all open! Give heed to our prayer!
Oh, Son of Man, teach!

from Horton's Seven Laws of Teaching

Note: In verse 3, line two, I have taken the liberty of changing "as at first" to "now at last."

Dwell Deep

1. Dwell deep! the little things that chafe and fret,
I waste not golden hours to give them heed!
The slight, the thotless wrong, do thou forget.
Be self-forgot in serving others' needs.
Thou faith in God, thru love of man shalt keep
Dwell deep, my soul, dwell deep.
2. Dwell deep! Forego the pleasure if it bring
Neglect of duty; consecrate each thot;
Believe thou in the good of everything,
And trust that all unto the wisest end is wrought.
Bring thou this comfort unto all who weep;
Dwell deep, my soul, dwell deep!

James Buckham

Results and Roses

1. The man who wants a garden fair -
Or small or very big -
With flowers growing here and there,
Must bend his back and dig.
2. The things are mighty few on earth
That wishes can attain;
Whate'er we want of any worth
We've got to work to gain.
3. It matters not what 'tis you seek
Its secret here reposes:
You've got to dig from week to week
To get results - or roses.

Author Unknown.

Our purpose in this chapter is not to provide an all-out discussion of the School of the Prophets concept, but rather to share my unique spiritual experience regarding the Concept, to condense that experience into its very basics, to bear testimony to the value and necessity of such a Lord-richly-blessed School, and hopefully to interest you, who may read this autobiography, so as to have faith in its immense promise.

You can find the complete record of my experience in my Divine Endowment and Related Concerns, in condensation number 9. It is impossible, of course, in this sharing and very condensed story for me to so tell it so as to impart full comprehension. I do hope, however, to stimulate your interest and deep concern.

In the first chapter of the Book of Revelation, John testifies that the following chapters came to him by inspiration, by writing,

"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, saying, 'Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which will be hereafter.' "

There is no indication of how long his great vision took to come to him, unless we may infer it was all on the Lord's day. Spiritual experiences tend to come to us with extreme rapidity. Writing them is something else.

My experience came to me on the Lord's day also, as I recall it now, in September 1973, at my desk in my home, in about two hours, around 4 to 6 p.m. I had been studying about the 1836 School of the Prophets, and had begun to sort of daydream of the Lord's kind of a School of the Prophets, now, in these very present years, and the immediate years ahead.

I was not thinking at all of a School largely developed and carried on after the manner of men. I became aware that the very name of the second floor of the Temple - The School of the Prophets, implied a School in which because of the extraordinary outpouring and manifestation of God's Holy, Guiding Spirit, and His glory of intelligence, in a large number of much above ordinary ways, that truly a very high order of prophetic minds would be raised up to carry on the Lord's tremendous work yet to be done --- spiritual and intellectual giants!, if you please, but after the Holy Order of the Son of God!

Then, praise the Lord! I became aware of a tremendous Spirit of Light and Intelligence flooding my soul!

My mental powers to think, to envision, to perceive the what ought to be, to comprehend what the Son of God and the Creator of the Universe would like to do for the empowerment of His Restoration, and His ministry, and His people -- were immensely quickened and expanded.

I was not told to write. I could not help myself but write!

Moreover, this quickening made possible expressing in words the beauty, the depth and the enthralling tremendousness of all that opened before me.

Reference has been made to Condensation Number 9 in my booklet - Divine Endowment and Related Concerns. The particular part that unfolded before my mind in the greatly Spirit blessed two hours already mentioned, is found on pages 25 through 28. This in turn provided the impetus for working out pages 20 through 24, in the next few days.

My purpose here is to note just enough of pages 25 through 28 as to hopefully awaken the interest of my readers, and to motivate their desire to read all.

Yes, not only that, but, who can tell, perhaps some motivated readers may be so set on fire by the tremendous possibilities that, under the providence of God, they can take steps toward the achievement of what so greatly needs to be done!

What a concept! that by means of the Lord's kind of very special, highly Spirit-blessed School, that prophets - prophetic minds of a very high order, can be developed, resulting in immensely empowered and endowed spiritual and intellectual giants - and, that, in the finest sense of these words!

Moreover, this is not a humanly conceived proposal but a proposal that comes from God, himself! It is therefore possible!

How? What are the Steps to be taken?

1. To use the Temple for such effort would be its crowning glory! For such grand effort, and mounting up in divine empowerment, was it built! Were such far-sighted development to be made, God, the amazing Creator of the Universe, could not and would not withhold His richest blessing!
2. Very carefully select a group of our most deeply spiritual priesthood, be they two or three, or quite a number, but men of great faith.
3. Initiate the grand project by individual and group calling on God in mighty prayer. Continue the effort in the same spirit.
4. Meet together, as often as needed, in the Temple, to compare growing insights and perceptions, and to share enlarging experiences.
5. Nevertheless, carry on the needed reading, study, and research in the homes of the men, and, if possible, enlist the interest, support, and growing understanding of the wife, as well.
6. Proceed to inspiredly research all the scriptures -- Bible, Book of Mormon, and the Doctrine and Covenants, plus any available present day prophetic experience, plus experiences the brethren would themselves inevitably have.

This should be done in the nature of original investigation, rather than a gathering of so-called scholarly opinion. It is a going to original sources.

7. Discovering, looking for such as:
 - a. The thought content of all examples of God's prophetic outreach to mankind, in all the ages.
 - b. The characteristic of each incident.

- c. By-products, such as gems of prophetic insights - such as Isaiah's "God's thoughts are higher than man's." There must be many, scattered through the scriptures.
- d. Note different ways and methods used.
- e. Note, as far as possible the personality characteristics of the prophets themselves.
- f. Note the characteristics of the different times.
- g. Perhaps also the characteristics of the peoples to whom the prophets wrote or spoke.
- h. If advisable, note result of incidents.
- i. If there is spiritual witness and guidance at anytime, keep record of what such may be.
- j. If an emerging purpose appears, note it.
- k. Observe how repeated are prophetic confrontations.
- l. Observe, if possible, the circumstances, when long-range prophecy blossomed forth.
- m. Note the different kinds of prophetic outreach. (Some of these are indicated in my booklet - A Definitive Study of the Holy Gift of Prophecy.)
- n. Certainly, the ethical content of all prophesy should be clearly noted.

Note: Undoubtedly, many other aspects, as to the outreach of the eternal prophetic Spirit, would become evident, as such Spirit-guided research proceeded.

- 8. Each participant should be working on the same assignment. The Experience and Study will be much more complete if done this way.
- 9. Come together, at quite regular periods, to compare discoveries and observations.
- 10. Gradually, because of your use and sharing of what you find, you will become a prophet in a secondary, or once-removed sense.

11. Ultimately, there will tend to develop prophetic experience in a primary sense. This will be based on a deep and broad background of prophetic depth, and scope, and perception.
12. Out of such continuing experience there will develop prophetic expertise.
13. When this level of divine blessing is reached, problems needing prophetic illumination, special light, and solutions should be referred to this God-blessed expertise. Individual, congregations, etc.
14. Once a group such as this has been built up by the Lord's kind of prophetic schooling, others would be inspired to want to make like effort.
15. This way of doing should be a continuing procedure, undertaking many prophetic projects as indicated in my Lord's day experience.
16. Such procedure will lead to hastening the time of all-out divine Endowment, and will keep the power-expression of Endowment on an ascending scale.
17. By all means, read Condensation No. 9, referred to.

The preceding delineation of steps in developing the Lord's kind of a prophetic school, is not what I intended to write, but will, I hope, awaken interest and a dynamic motivating concern in those who read.

The title of our autobiography is - The Shaping of a Destiny. Surely, the destinies of all who would take part in such projects as has been sketched here, would be wonderfully influenced. They in turn would wonderfully influence others, spreading out and out and out.

I am so utterly sure that this immense concept I have tried to delineate here (and not as good as ought to be done, surely), is of God, and is His way to lift up and magnificently empower His Restoration - at long last - that I challenge all who read - Ask God if it is of Him?

Chapter 9.

This chapter is an illustration of the kind of projects that can be appropriately, and delightfully carried on in the House of the Lord. It is a survey of means or ways that can be inspirationally used to persuasively share the Lord Jesus Christ with a tremendously needy world. It can well be entitled, also, as *A Prophetic Inquiry*. Historically we seem to have mostly relied on missionary services for our outreach. There must be many other ways! This study or inquiry sought to discover as many other ways as we could.

Ways of Persuasion

1. Divine Endowment
2. Lofty Goals
3. Exalted Teaching
4. Great Projects
5. Miracles
6. Inspired Preaching
7. Radiant Ministry
8. Communities of Zion
9. Personal Experience
10. A God-Blessed People
11. Promises of the Lord
12. Christ's Way of Life
13. Sacred Drama
14. Inspired Writing
15. Communities of Brotherliness
16. Personal Testimony

Note: These 16 Ways need to be studied in detail to be appreciated.

March, 1977: 14 added Ways have been perceived, delineated, and condensed since the above 16 Ways were written.

We will now elaborate somewhat on each of these Ways of Persuasion:

1. There is the very great persuasive power of Divine Endowment! Remember what Pentecost did.

Why does Endowment have such moving, motivating, dynamic power? Because it is God and Christ working in very extraordinary ways. Because, thru Endowment God's ways stand out in wonderful clearness and beauty, in contrast with the confusion of the religious world around us.

Because, holy, utterly convincing "signs" shall play their part. Because, God's marvelous uplift and enlightenment will so richly bless, that people will no longer need to drift aimlessly upon the turbulent cross currents of life.

Because an endowed people will become a wonderfully effective people - humanity at its finest! And much, much, more!

2. There is persuasive power in the clear presentation of Lofty Goals, be they near or distant, or both.

Such help mankind to rise above boggling, bungling and blundering through life.

The ideals of the Kingdom, clearly presented, are enthralling. God's people, in disciplined ways, need to clearly perceive themselves. And this is where the ideal of becoming intelligently spiritual and spiritually intelligent can so wonderfully help us.

3. There is persuasiveness in clear, definite, exalted teaching. We must start from where we are. Therefore, we must better prepare a nucleus of inspired and inspiring teachers!

Surely, when we develop Highly Inspirational Teaching - in priesthood, church, school, or whatever, such will propel the church and its people into a magnificently effective influence of uplift.

Our methodology and content of our teaching must reflect the glorious intelligence of God and Christ! A spiritual radiancy helps wonderfully.

4. Great projects for understanding, comprehension and development attract dynamic personalities.

Development in any worthwhile direction requires dynamic individuals to motivate and lead the way - Seers, if you please.

Great projects are such as lead to far-sighted, uplifting, decisive action - action that transforms individuals and communities.

How to discover them? Said Jesus, "Ask, seek, knock." Said James, "If any man lacks wisdom, let him ask of God."

Developing spiritually certainly helps. Talk with people of project stature.

Undertake the above-ordinary.

The kingdom ideal must be divided in project sizes that people can understand.

5. Christ used miracles to authenticate His message.

Miracles may vary from just above the ordinary to the very extraordinary.

Also, miracles are wide-ranging in nature!

Only the above ordinary will attract. If the kingdom is the same as the world around, what good is it? "If the trumpet gives an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself for battle," said Paul.

It must grieve the Lord when centuries and milleniums, and unnumbered generations rise and fall, between the times when He can bless His people in very extraordinary ways!

What are miracles? Study the life of Jesus.

Jesus said, John 14:12, to His disciples - "You will do greater things than I have done." I, personally, have a very strong spiritual testimony, while writing in the upper court of the Lord's House, that the coming time of immense spiritual endowment, will see this promise of Jesus wonderfully fulfilled.

6. There is persuasiveness in Inspired and Inspiring Preaching.

Book-inspired preaching is not the Lord's kind of preaching. He wants the super-intelligence, and warmth, and power of the Holy Spirit to be in what His ministers say!

There is need of inspired study. Always keep preparing. Seek learning by faith. Point out sins and abominations. Encourage spiritual mindedness. Present great ideas and concepts. Cultivate gift of spiritual radiance. Be humble when blest. To God be the glory! Ours is the joy!

Our very best, remember, cannot possibly be good enough and uplifting enough in comparison with the greatness of God and Christ!

7. Spiritually radiant ministry and people have magnetic persuasive attracting power.

Blessed are the spiritually radiant, for this radiancy hallows all life around it.

Radiancy arises out of the degree of spiritual power abiding in each individual person.

Jesus is the supreme example. They are most spiritually radiant who live very near to God, and all He stands for.

Further ways to achieve radiancy are: what we think about; our guiding concerns; the characteristics of what delights us; the breadth and depth of our faith; our selflessness; our associations; our great objectives and concerns; our gentleness of spirit; and such as are like unto these.

8. Communities of Zion, which are becoming increasingly holy, will be wonderfully persuasive. A presumed Chinese saying - "One look-see worth a million tells."

"Thy kingdom (Zion) come," is the third phrase of the Lord's Prayer.

Zion is a people choosing exalted ways of life. The world in general chooses the easy way.

Zion is a people profoundly instructed in the high ways of the Lord, so that they supremely understand what God wants for human life. Then, understanding, man can with power and effectiveness, get on with the great and delightful work.

Zion is high religion put to work in all aspects of life - seven days a week.

Zion is, of course, much more than these, also.

9. You must know that what you are setting forth is what the Lord would have you set forth, and you can affirm - This is of God - Ask Him!

The Book of Mormon, in closing, asks those who may read, to do just this. Ask God if it is true. Our ministers used to say that. Do we hear it now? If not, why?

Therefore, seek personal experiences of your own. Please read Isa. 55:6, 7. Concerning the immense concept of Endowment - without any hesitancy at all - seek to understand for yourself! God, in His own way will answer.

Woe unto any people who substitute human wisdom and learning for God's wisdom.

We strongly advocate the Lord's kind of a School of the Prophets. Think of it! Numbers of God-led men coming together, and not only sharing such wealth of spiritual blessing as has come to them, but having enlarging, mind-stretching, intelligence - expanding, spiritually profound, prophetic experiences together!

10. The good life of a richly God-blessed people will attract searching souls, distressed by earth's so many confusions.

Individuals, groups, and congregations that are warmly spiritually alive, are as a light set on a hill. What are such people like?

- a. They love the Lord and all He stands for.
- b. They cherish noble concepts and ideas.
- c. Theirs is a seven-days-a-week religion.
- d. They are warmly and thoughtfully friendly.
- e. Scores of the many spiritual gifts are experienced among them.
- f. They undertake projects of betterment.
- g. Their communities are communities of brotherhood.
- h. Theirs is a spiritually-won intelligence.
- i. There are healings and hundreds of blessings.
- j. They are a forward looking people.

Note: A distraught world awaits such arising!

11. The promises of the Lord, when clearly and beautifully set forth with spiritual warmth, are delightfully persuasive.

Such are a source of Guidance enabling good and wise choices. The Scriptures are full of bright promises. Great men of God perceive God's rich promises. Ask them to share such. For example, there is the grand promise of divine Endowment.

Speak to others of God's wonderful promises. Write about them, delightfully. Seek, above all, the radiant, illuminating, guiding light of the Holy Spirit.

12. When Christ's way of life is radiantly, intelligently, and clearly set forth - Challenge: Try it out! And see for yourself! It Will Work!

It is easy to put off. Only by trying can the world be changed. Jesus challenged, even in the Beatitudes.

Of what good is the noblest teaching and sharing if it all goes unapplied?

Essentially, Christ's approach and appeal is scientific. Try it out. When this rule of action is far-sightedly made part of human experience, tremendous consequences will follow!

13. Sacred Drama which has wide-ranging content, is concerned with great issues of time and eternity, and with the tremendousness of God's immense purposes for life, when inspiringly conceived and developed, can be amazingly persuasive!

The forces of ordinariness and of evil make abundant use of Drama - and it achieves their kind of results. It is a facility that can be used to inspire life - not degrade it! People like Drama.

Book of Mormon historical incidents are successfully dramatized at Hill Cumorah, in New York.

The world is in dire need of persuasion that moves them toward Christ's way of life. Ordinary drama that is entirely outside of any spiritual blessing greatly influences people (as note such use on television programs). Think of what a noble, uplifting abundantly Spirit-blessed drama could do!

Sacred Drama is defined.

Examples of possible topics or drama subjects are suggested, under three headings:

a. Wide Ranging Content

Twelve subjects - including some of Christ's parables.

b. Great Issues of Time and Eternity

Ten subjects, including - Zion is the Hope of the World.

c. The Tremendousness of God's Immense Purposes for Life.

Six subjects, including - The days will come when you comprehend even God.

None in group b or c would be simple to develop. To adequately develop them would require inspired genius of a high order.

With God, the impossible becomes possible! There is the gift of inspired imagination!

Perhaps the development of subject content could be worked out by groups, small or large, by brainstorming, a prayerful, and rare, and very reverent people.

The writing would need to be done by special, gifted personalities.

What wonderful experiences could come out of such projects!

14. A noble, inspired and inspiring literature, can be a strongly persuasive instrumentality of outreach and influence.

Sweeping changes have taken place over the centuries in ways that words can be written and put into print, to describe them.

Brother, how Moses would have enjoyed a typewriter! And many Brothers! How Matthew and Luke and all the others, would have enjoyed a cassette! There are so many ways to print that have been developed.

It is very much of a question if the production of the ennobling literature has kept pace with the facilities of production.

In the very nature of God's Universe, there are yet marvelous concepts and ideas to be perceived and put into words. There are yet glowing, grand, and glorious truths to be expressed and widely shared.

What shall be the content of this literature of the future?

Theology? No threshing of straw - but as if God were speaking.

Poetry? Not nothingness - but exalted thinking beautifully expressed.

Fiction? Not trash - but built upon great themes!

Short Stories? Not just entertaining - but upliftingng!

Scientific Writing? Not agnostic in tone - but reverently done.

Prophetic Writing? If so, set forth clearly and inspiringly!

A Noble Literature? Yes, with God at the heart of it.

The destinies of multitudes are at stake!

15. Brotherly and sisterly communities, friendly individuals and congregations are persuasive influences.

Jesus surely chose that way. Good will means brotherhood. This is the choice - brotherhood and survival, or - selfishness, hate and murder; catastrophe and chaos!

16. Through church association, in daily living, in every aspect of life, convincing testimonies of how Christ's way meets all of life's needs, has persuasive appeal and power!

These testimonies arise not only out of deeply spiritual living and having profound experiences with God, as He intends, but also, and richly, by taking Christ's teachings and trying them out in actual living. They will surely work!

All these 16 are Destiny Shaping Ways!

Chapter 10.

In this closing chapter, about the Shaping of a Destiny, I must strongly testify to all who read these words, that the Holy Spirit, in the rich providence of God, will help us in the working out of our destinies. This is a wonderful privilege He makes available to those who love Him greatly. In order that He can do what He wants so much to do for the sons and daughters of men, He needs and must have helpers! This, all this, is the emphasis of this final part of our memories.

Need I emphasize, that each person must seek this kind of guidance very humbly, reverently, and in great faith, as he or she tries to find the ways to influence upward the lives near and dear, or this time and age. I testify to you that this Spirit can open up to us an understanding of the deep issues of time and eternity! It can open up to us Big Ideas and Concepts of tremendous breadth and sweep!

God needs increasing numbers of men and women, young and old, to become effective instruments in His hands, to try to meet the world's great needs. There must arise an army of good people who "know Him at more than second hand." He needs strong and inspired voices to cry out for Him in the wilderness of human affairs of our present day. This day when many prophetic signs indicate that it is the age of the Return of Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to the world, with all the tremendous things that are part of that age!

Great voices, clear voices, pleading voices, voices of a mighty endowment - crying in the wilderness, yes, the wilderness and confusions of the nations --

- The wilderness of Theologies and Philosophies!
- The wilderness of benumbing notions and decadent styles of life!
- The wilderness of arrogant trust in the saving powers of science and human wisdom!
- The wilderness of unbelief and false beliefs!
- The wilderness of futility so evident in so much of radio and television programs!
- The wilderness of a heedless intellectualism, on the one hand, and a dedication to trifling empty headedness on the other!
- The wilderness of selfishness, of hate, of trust in and use of brute force, killing catastrophic wars, blotting out millions of lives!

Mighty voices crying in the desert wilderness!!!

Mighty voices, calling! - Summoning! - Urging man toward his high and proper destiny - the delightful and marvelous destiny for which the world was made! What an age! For a God-led people! What an age! For the noble-hearted who have found their way! What an age! For the triumph of God's righteousness!

Now, to descend from this sort of high mountain top of thinking to say just a few more things about this guy who is me.

First of all, the experiences, the blessings from our heavenly Father, about which I have written in the course of this autobiography, have not come to me because I am some very special person. No, not at all. They have come to me because I was and am concerned, and have humbly and in deep trust and reverence, have asked the Lord's guidance. Surely He will bless others who make similar or even much better effort.

All of us ought to keep in mind, however, that we must be patient. These years since I retired, at 70, have been my most interesting and best years, and also my most fruitful years of service.

Undoubtedly the times in which we live, and the struggles, and changes, and debated issues, the personalities with whom we have associated, and surely such environment as working in the Temple, and gradually comprehending the Great Ideas and Concepts back of its building - all these, and and such as these, have had their part in the Working out of a Destiny.

The vision of things to be that the Lord wants to share with His servants, I have found, are not always for sharing when that vision opens. The little booklet entitled "The Endowment" was not put into print for some fourteen years, when some of the notions, and what I felt were "far out" ideas were being bandied carelessly about, made me conclude that this immense concept of the Endowment ought also to find expression and emphasis. The Vision of the Prophet Daniel has taken ages for its outworking. Likewise, the Book of Revelation.

I confess to you that outside of these great blessings of guidance, of uplift, and inspiration, that the Holy Spirit has so very kindly given to me - outside of these, I am a very ordinary and average person. I have never felt myself a naturally spiritually gifted person. What I am trying to express is this - Whatever of value, and a bit exceptional, there may be to my life - I am immensely indebted to my heavenly Father, to my beloved Elder Brother, and that glorious power called the Holy Spirit.

There are so many persons, too, to whom I am deeply grateful. My earthly family into whose circle I came in 1890. Alma, my wife and helper from 1913 to 1965. Alberta, my wife, who has blessed my life in so many ways from 1966 to this present 1976. There are a whole host of kind friends whom I value very highly. They are scattered far and wide. There is also a host of friends whom I have never met, but with whom I have become acquainted because of books about the deeply spiritual, it has been my privilege, and my blessing, -- and my destiny to write.

I do not at all want to appear egotistical or have any appearance of boasting, as, in closing, I express my highest gratitude to Our Heavenly Father for the gift of writing. This gift, many times has been amplified and illuminated by the added gift of inspiration. I know I could not have written in the depth that has been possible without that enlightening inspiration. And so, marveling that a fellow like myself, here in Kirtland, just an ordinary person, could write about Great Ideas and Concerns, in such a way as to affect the thinking of perhaps many thousands of good brothers and sisters, scattered far and wide, I humbly set down the titles about which I have written. Most of them are in print, and some yet to be printed, as of this date of March 1977.

I put them down here, because they are certainly a part of my life dedication and effort. Also, that my readers and friends may know what materials are available, if titles interest them. And, further as a list, in part, of unfinished work I must try to complete.

1. This is A Study of Spirituality, what it is and can be. Something of or about the place of spirituality in the past. It was concerned with discovering, and describing, and listing the gifts God bestows on those who love Him. The list has expanded to 94. Ways of discovery and nurturing these gifts are described. An illustration indicating the enormous possibilities in the use of spiritual power, was found and explained, in Albert Einstein's equation E-MC².

2. The Endowment. This is a booklet of 40 pages and is the record of a day after day, continuing experience, morning after morning, on my own time, while repairing Kirtland Temple, using the spiritual gift of Inspired Writing. See Gen. 6:5, Inspired Version. After gathering such information as I could from The Books, and Church History, I wrote down ten questions. I then most reverently asked God to give me their answers. The Endowment is the record of those answers.

3. Divine Endowment and Related Concerns. This is further light from above, on the tremendous concept of divine Endowment - the result not of the Gift of Inspired Writing, but of Holy Spirit guided study. It is in quite condensed form, and has 12 chapters or condensations, as they are called. One of these considers the present day possibilities of the Lord's proposed way of training His ministers - The School of the Prophets. It is a marvelous way!

4. Thirty Kirtland Temple Meditations and Testimonies. These were written in the School of the Prophets Room (the second floor) of the Temple. They open with in-depth discussion of the four ways the Lord provided in Doctrine and Covenants 92:3, by which his ministry could become intelligently spiritual. In part it considers how to become spiritually intelligent. They close with an idealistic discussion of the facilities now at hand to achieve a World's Golden Age! Closing, it affirms - "with a noble, very Christlike people, He (the Lord) will bring Zion, move the world toward millenium, and beyond, when the tabernacle of God shall be with men, and God shall dwell with His people!"

5. A Definitive Study of the Holy Gift of Prophecy. This affirms that anyone under responsibility to express the Word of the Lord, is either limited, or empowered, by the low, or the high characteristics of his or her individual degree of perceptiveness, and breadth of comprehension, of the indeed vast areas of prophetic concern, that the Lord has!

Twenty different areas of such prophetic concern are briefly discussed.

Part 3 discusses Cultivating the Holy and Responsible Gift of Prophecy.

The affirmation is made that in the entire history of this world the times have been very few when the glory of God, the tremendousness of Christ, and the amazing helpfulness of the Holy Spirit, and the far-sighted purposes of the Trinity have been adequately and persuasively held before mankind!

6. A Theory of Spiritual Revival, Plus. This theory is based on an Easter, 1975, experience, in which I was asked some two months before by the pastor of the Kirtland Congregation, to prepare myself, in drawing near to the Lord, so that I, being blessed by Him, might bring some words of Light and Inspiration at the close of the Easter sermon. I prayerfully made the effort, and a rather unique message opened to me. I am sure I would not have made the

effort if I had not been asked. This experience suggested the Theory - Let administrative officers, with discernment, and wisdom, and inspirational guidance search out and motivate the potentially gifted! It is just as simple as that. Suggestions are made as to how this Theory may be implemented.

7. Poems at Eighty-Four, Plus Other Poems from Years Before. These are inspirational poems, covering quite a range of subjects. There are 55 in all. The first one - "There is the Exquisitely Exquisite," and the last one is entitled "Longing and Yearning." The last verse-

Great Father, fill our souls with longing!
Beckon now from heights afar!
We shall respond to Thy great yearning!
Moving toward bright gates afar!

To give ourselves to Thy high purpose!
Walking hand in hand oh Lord with Thee!
That man may see Thy loving outreach
Meets life's needs and sets them free!

8. Assurances, Proofs, and Characteristics of Life Beyond. This is written in the personal conviction that a clear perception of the glory and the complete worthwhileness of Life Beyond the Grave, can be a motivating, stabilizing, and inspiring factor in the lives we live here. Also, that the church and its ministry, using grandly available inspiration of a very exalted nature, ought to hold this vision before its people and before the world! This Study is my personal attempt to respond to this envisioned need. This study includes a theoretical way of predicting with a considerable degree of accuracy, what many aspects of Life Beyond are like. I am writing about the finest kind of such life, of course.

All the above are in print, and available.

Titles written, and hopefully available soon:

9. A Study of Prophecy; or the Signs of Christ's Return to the World. This will include an analysis and interpretation of the Book of Revelation and its bearing on those signs. This was written in the hope of discovering, at least the main prophetic signs, we may expect between now and the time of Christ's coming. It is a very worthwhile study to try to do.

10. A Sacred Drama - God's Magnificent Intention for the Restoration and This Closing Age. There is a very special, but quite largely undeveloped place, for Sacred Drama, as you will note if you read - A Prophetic Inquiry, or Persuasive Ways of Outreach in Winning Men and Women, and Young People, to Christ's Way of Life (below). This Sacred Drama was written with a projected outdoor amphitheatre in mind, located not far from the Temple. It will probably take about two and one-half hours to present, if and when. It is quite possible, however, that it will do as much good just being read. It attempts to present in dramatic form the great Ideas and Concepts that are the essential message of many of these monographs I have written and just described. It was a delightful, and, I feel, a Holy Spirit-blest, experience in writing. I hope I live long enough to see it presented. Its content is vastly different from ordinary dramas of the world. This is now available, July, 1976.

11. A Prophetic Inquiry - on Persuasive Ways of Outreach in Winning Men and Women, and Young People, to Christ's Way of Life.

This monograph grew out of a dimly perceived, then growing impression, that there must be many more ways of impressive and persuasive outreach than we have traditionally used. Finally, I made it a School of the Prophets Room Project, going to this Room for a number of days. There is a Spiritual Presence abiding in the Temple, that is wonderfully helpful in such projects of inspired research. 15 ways opened to us. These are all described in some detail. The first is the Way of Divine Endowment. Another is the Way - the Use of Sacred Drama. Another is the development of a special spiritually illuminated, inspired, very noble type of literature. This monograph is written, but not as yet in print for sharing. March, 1977. This list has been expanded to 30 Ways.

12. A Definitive Study of the Spiritual Gift - Speaking in Tongues. This study is partially done, but awaits a somewhat fuller amplification. Quite a number of religious groups seem to be experiencing the use of speaking in tongues, or sometimes praying in tongues. With us - R.L.D.S., it is seldom heard, in these last few years. Some aspects of this gift has caused me to wonder if perhaps real Gifts of Tongues, and their Interpretation - in their presence or absence - may be a sort of barometer of the spiritual level of a church.

13. The Basics of the Kingdom of God, as Set Forth in the Lord's Prayer. Many years ago, in reading in Daniel 2:44, the firm declaration that in the last days the God of heaven would set up a kingdom that would never be destroyed, a profound desire welled up within me - "Oh, that there were a Scripture that in few words would

clearly set forth the basics of that never-to-be-destroyed Kingdom, that Daniel saw, coming in the future." Almost immediately, as if someone were speaking to me, came the answer - "Yes, there is such a Scripture, it is in the Lord's Prayer!" This experience and study was written, shortly after that. Now, I want to rewrite it, and share it as widely as I can. It more and more becomes utterly logical that this is so. The kingdom of God, achieved on earth, in the very nature of God and Christ and the Holy Spirit, must be their supremest desire. Alas! how blinded we mortals are! Our eyes are so holden! All too much of the time!

14. A Collection of Poetry, Concerning Life Beyond. This is already made, and is intended to be used with No. 8, just preceding. A lot of typing, making of plates, securing of permission to reprint, and the like remains to be done. Some of this poetry is very, very, beautiful. The mind of a high type poet, I find, is considerably akin to the prophetic mind. No. 8 is incomplete without it.

15. Golden Ages of the Past! A Golden Age for the Future! This is started, but is far from finished. May providence provide me enough years to complete it! I have long wanted to write about the finest periods of history. All the good, the beautiful, the delightful, the worthwhile, all the uplifting - ought to be preserved and continued. Peradventure, much could be sought out and emphasized, that could be used and developed in far-sighted, creative effort now! A verse or two from Rev. 21, has long intrigued me. Surprisingly, perhaps, it refers to an aspect of the Holy City that John saw yet to come down from heaven. "They shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it."

Such a Study ought to be made! Such a Book ought to be written!

In the preceding chapters, quotations or poetry have been placed at the beginning of each chapter. Here they are placed at the end.

The deeper he (man) looks, the more effectively, in the end, he acts.

Lewis Mumford.

Without excessive pride, we may still nourish the hope that one day man will discover a more viable way than even the saints have yet found to nourish and enlarge the province of the divine.

Lewis Mumford

The submission of mans' nothing perfect
To God's all complete.
as by each obeisance of spirit,
I climb to his feet.

Robert Browning

Progress is
The law of life- mans' self is not yet man!
Nor shall I deem his object served, his end
attained, his genuine strength put fairly forth,
While only here and there a star dispels
The darkness, here and there a towering mind
O'erlooks its prostrate fellows; when the host
Is out at one to the despair of night.
When all mankind alike is perfected,
Equal in full-blown powers - then, not till then,
I say, begins mans' general infancy.

Robert Browning.

Dawn of a Better Day
Upon the bloodstained road with funeral tread,
O wanderer, aweary of horrors, and drunken with darkness -
March, march on, - and listen to the Omnipotent!
He tells you: "This night cannot be eternal."
He tells you: "It bears the day in its own soul."
He tells you: "Compel the dawn to be born by believing."

written by Herman Hagedorn?

Come Up Higher.

1. I have often felt a spirit o'er our congregations bend,
Like the strong, electric presence of a dearly beloved friend,
And have known that Christ was looking with his patient eyes
and true,
At the promise of the future which was slumbering in you.

2. Oh, my Zion! White-robed Zion! Stand no more contending here,
Should the brother strike the brother with the victory so near?
As the soul of man is higher than the flesh which turns to dust,
Let our spirits higher rise to meet the infinite and just.
3. Heed the voices that are calling, thru the storm and thru the
calm,
Come up higher! Come up higher! Nearer to the great I am.
Come ye chosen of Jehovah, ye anointed to the truth,
Let the banner of the higher call unfurl above your youth.

Elbert A. Smith

Lo! Lofty are God's hopes for life!
His kingdom's flag will be unfurled!
His holiness shall bless all men!
And saintliness shall grace the world!

E. R. C.

God bless you and make you strong! Surely! He has the spiritual
wisdom, intelligence and power, to aid us in the Shaping of our
Destinies. Moreover, He longs to do just that!!!

THE END

Kirtland, 1976