

# Liahona

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

October 1981

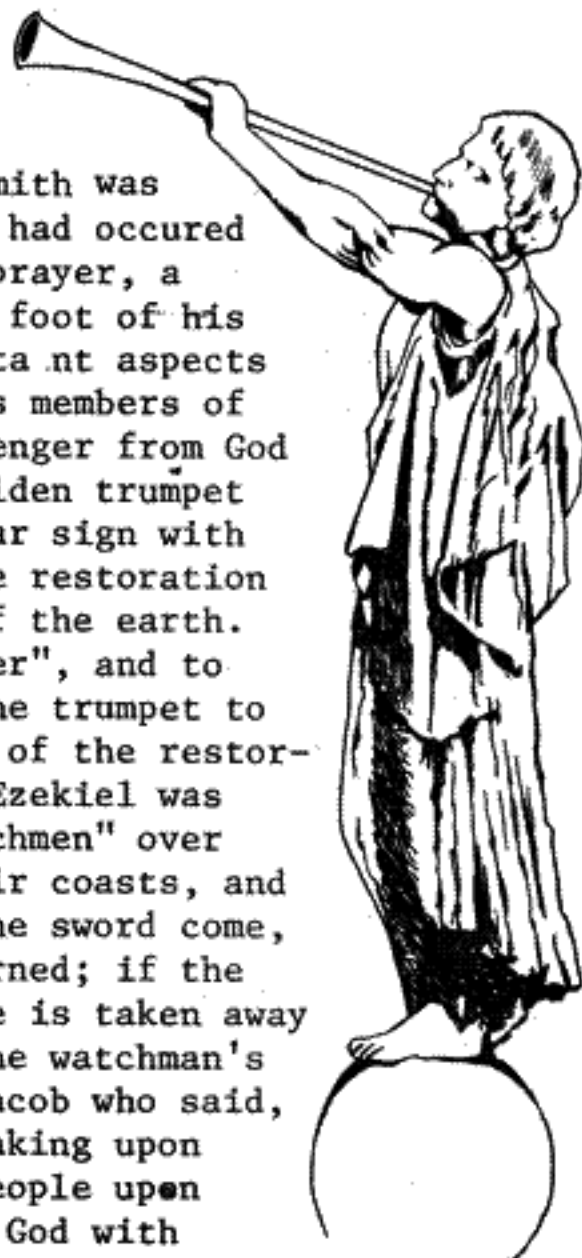
Oklahoma City 4th Ward

Vol. 1 No. 6

## MESSENGERS

On the 21st day of September, of 1833, Joseph Smith was meditating about all of the wonderful things that had occurred to him in the last three years. While in fervent prayer, a messenger from the presence of God appeared at the foot of his bed, and revealed unto Joseph one of the most important aspects of the restored Gospel.....The Book of Mormon! As members of the church of Jesus Christ, we recognize that messenger from God as the Angel Moroni. The Angel Moroni with his golden trumpet poised towards the heavens, has long been a familiar sign with the members of the church, symbolizing not only the restoration of the gospel, but a warning voice to the people of the earth.

It is our responsibility to act as the "messenger", and to use our talents and the things given unto us, as the trumpet to help our fellow man by sharing this marvelous news of the restored church with all that we come in contact with. Ezekiel was clear when he described our responsibility as "watchmen" over our brethren when he said...."...take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman...if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand." (Ezekiel 33:2,6) Let us all be like unto Jacob who said,..."And we did magnify our office unto the Lord, taking upon us the responsibility, answering the sins of the people upon our own heads if we did not teach them the word of God with all our diligence." (Jacob 1:19)





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### SPECIAL INTEREST

ROBERT MATCHLEY

"The mystic bond of brotherhood makes all men one."  
Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881)

Have you ever been in an unfamiliar situation, such as being out of town, and upon meeting a stranger, find out that he or she is a member of the Church? Almost immediately you feel a closeness to this person because you share the same eternal beliefs and goals. This "mystic bond" Carlyle describes begins to form.

However, think of all the members you see each Sunday with whom you don't share this "bond of brotherhood". One positive step we can take to overcome this lack of closeness is to get involved. In other words, rub shoulders with those around you. This involvement can take the form of home or visiting teaching, playing football on Saturday mornings, attending a fireside, working at the welfare farm, or participating in some service project. As we do this, we will become "one." In President Kimball's words, "Do it".

### ELDERS' QUORUM LESSONS (From Temple Preparation Manual)

Nov 1st	Lesson #9 "Stewards over the Lord's Possessions"
Nov 8th	STAKE CONFERENCE Elders' Quorum Fireside at IV Ward 7:00 pm
Nov 15th	Lesson #10 "You are a Temple of the Lord"
Nov 22nd	Lesson #11 "The Sabbath Day"
Nov 29th	Lesson #12 "Preparation for the Temple"

Institute Class has started as of October 1, 1981. We are studying The Life and Teachings of Jesus and His Apostles from the New Testament and a BYU Manual. We need your Spirits. Please come participate with us. Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at Oklahoma II and IV Ward Chapel Relief Society Room. If you have any questions, please call Sister Susan Creel, Class instructor, at 794-3974.



## Our Missionaries At Home and Abroad

THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY "THE LIAHONA" FROM THOSE REPRESENTING OUR WARD AS FULL TIME MISSIONARIES AWAY FROM HOME :

Al Robels, an investigator of ours, has experienced something we teach and believe, but which very few of us have ever experienced. Al Robels, in 1975, died for 92 seconds! As he described his journey into the after-life, Elder Joyner, my companion, was awe struck and felt we should teach Al the second discussion (the plan of salvation). Everything finally made sense to Al! All the years he searched in other religions, Al never was given a straight answer, until Elder Joyner and I presented him the restored gospel.

During the discussion, my companion felt that he should pay particular attention to certain concepts in which we would be able to have a personal view of the trek into the unknown. When Al was shown the illustration of the pre-existence, he stared, left his chair and held the flip chart. "Do only Mormons have pictures like these?" he asked. He described to us what he had seen in great detail, and pointed out minor differences in the picture. We explained the illustration was only an artist's idea of the concept from the discussion.

He recounted, "...for 92 seconds, I left my body, looked at myself, saw that I was whole; and yet, when I looked at my body, my hand was missing! Then I went to what I felt to be a peaceful place, a place where I wanted to stay. I saw what you missionaries teach! I was addressed by a person....not a mist or a bright light, but a person! I was told that it was not time yet, that I would have to go back, and I felt myself dropping like I did out of a plane as a paratrooper. The jolt of the Electric shock the doctor used to start my heart awakened me. I then passed out, and awoke three days later in the hospital. This has helped me so much; thank you!"

I felt I should have thanked him; these kind of times make my mission worth it. (From a letter written by Elder Joseph Mark Atchley, October 16, 1981.)

"I suddenly became acutely aware of where we were and what we were doing one night about a week ago. We had followed a path through a banana grove to a hut where the family lived that we were going to teach and show a film. The cook-fire was outside, the water pipe was outside and the film and lesson would be outside too. There was one light bulb, so we had electrical power. Family members kept coming out of the dark banana grove, each carrying something to sit on. We strung up a sheet and the film began. I looked up at the stars and at the cook

fire and at the twenty or more people we were bringing a gospel message to and thought of how the Lord was using us as His instruments to teach more than 20 people, in the dark, in a jungle, in a foreign language, under the stars in the Dominican Republic. What a wonderful situation to be in - how peaceful! (From a letter written by Elder Robert and Sister Winnie Atchley, October 1981.)

There isn't enough room in 4 books of paper to express the joys, blessings, experiences and challenges of the mission. But on these few lines, I'd like to share my ideas on the keys to missionary work and spreading the gospel.

First is LOVE.

We have the gospel because our Heavenly Father loves us, and it is our desire to share that love with our brothers.

Second is DESIRE.

He blesses us with opportunities when we have desires to share.

Third is FAITH.

To receive the blessings of conversion we have to believe that others will accept. We must believe the Spirit will touch their hearts and lives.

Fourth is PRAYER.

We express our faith and desire through honest and sincere prayer. Prayer is a real POWER and IT WORKS! We can do anything by prayer.

Fifth (This is the clincher!) MEMBERS! The missionaries and the members are a team; we're interdependent. There is no greater joy than to watch a member light up with the love of the gospel as a friend or associate accepts the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The gospel is a great lesson in love and brotherhood. Thanks for all your prayers and support.

(From a letter by Sister Kathryn Davis October 1981.)

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# MISSIONARIES CONTINUED

"Missionary work is one of the greatest works on the face of this earth. In the time I've been in the service of the Lord, I've known no greater happiness than when one of God's children accepts his gospel. There are also times of sadness when some of those people you come in contact with reject the true fulness of the Gospel! But the joy greatly exceeds the sadness. My brothers and sisters, the Prophets have counseled us to be Every Member a Missionary. If we would do this, we would baptize millions instead of mere thousands!

The Lord has promised us, in D&C 18:15, 16 "how great shall be your joy" if you bring one soul unto God! It goes on to say that our joy will be greatly increased when we bring many! It's my testimony that if we will do this work, we will have great happiness and the Lord's truth will roll forth as it never has before. Just think of the joy you will feel with those that you have shared the gospel with at the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. I say these things in His Holy name, Amen!" (From a letter written by Elder Les Clark, September 15, 1981.)



INCIDENTLY, THE LIAHONA ACKNOWLEDGES THE RETURN OF ELDER LES CLARK!

WELCOME HOME LES!

## PRIMARY CHILDREN

Those called to work and teach in Primary are certainly special people. There are many women and men that devote many hours to their calling; time that could be spent with their family or perhaps relaxing. That is why we have chosen this month to mention our Primary workers that come faithfully to Primary Preparation meeting. They are: Laura Peay, President; Jane Force, First Counselor; Lorie Leighty, Second Counselor; Pati Mueller, Secretary; Martha Sells, Chorister; and the teachers: Sherry Fulmer, Florence Bigler, Estella Fulmer, Darrell Mueller, Viola Lindsey, J. R. Peay, and Irene Cummings. The hours spent working in Primary make it all worthwhile when we see our young children baptized. Douglas Haskins and Crystal Force were baptized October 11 by their fathers. Ester Donaldson was also baptized while gone for the summer.

We certainly had a fun time at Preparation Meeting guessing who was our "Mystery Person." When talking about Brother Darrell Mueller we used the word "she" when telling about him, since there were only two men present. We guessed him right away, though, when it was mentioned "she" was an Eagle Scout. One of his favorite childhood memories took place in Fairbanks, Alaska, where he skied off the roof of his house, something Oklahomans may never have in their memory banks!

Primary will be having another Activity Night in November. Watch for announcements of date and time.



# **HALLOWEEN**



## **AND THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST**

by G.J. Satterlee

Once again Octobers windy gate has blown open before us allowing Autumn to take possession of the season! Already Autumn leaves are in a frantic race to change colour and blanket the ground! Soon little hobgoblins will be wandering from door to door seeking baskets full of goodies. Still others will gather together, arrayed in costume, and enjoy various festivities from ducking for apples to unravelling frightening tales in dimly lit drawing rooms! Inevitably too, the pranksters will



be about engaging in harmless mischief, doing their works in darkness. Yes, wonderful Halloween has returned! That mystical magical celebration fashioned for children...or is it? The childish apparitions which

characterize the season were once not so long ago regarded with awe by adults as well...and in many parts of the world still are! From whence then do we derive the prevailing practices of the season?

Although many of our present-day practices have obscured the true origins of Halloween, many countries have preserved the meanings behind the traditions. But though most of our scholars and historians would insist that it began around the 7th century A.D., the aspects which characterize Halloween actually date back several millennia before this world existed!

It was there in the council of the heavens that Lucifer, the son of the morning, in arrogance exalted himself above all that is called God by asserting that he could act as saviour of the world and through force, bring about the salvation of mankind! Of course the self-centered plan of Lucifer was rejected in favor of the loving plan of Jesus Christ which allows all mankind the privilege to live as they may with total salvation being made available to those who accept the sacrifices he suffered in pain and humility for us! Lucifer was cast out and because he deceived one third of the host of heaven into following him, his name became SATAN. "And he became Satan, yea even the DEVIL, the father of all lies, to deceive, and to blind men, and to lead them captive at his will, even as many as would not hearken unto my voice." (Moses 4:4) This was the beginning of Satan's deception among men.

The Lord stated that his work and glory was to bring to pass the eternal life of man. (Moses 1:39) The beloved apostle John testified that eternal life would come to those who truly know God and Christ. (John 17:3)

The prophet Joseph Smith proclaimed it would be impossible for a man to be saved in ignorance.....and it is Satan who promotes ignorance among men in every conceivable form! To Adam's earliest posterity he appeared, proclaiming himself to be the son of God and influencing them to be carnal, sensual, and devilish. (Moses 5:13) Thus establishing the pattern for worshipping false deities for centuries to come! In order to reinforce the credibility of his false Gods, Satan also promoted a belief in false devils! (i.e. Batwinged, reptilianskined, horned headed, tail wielding beings) Satan, in his true form, was free to influence great multitudes unsuspected. History is replete with civilizations in the grips of apostasy which have developed customs based on such false ideas. These customs are called SUPERSTITIONS. Merriam Webster defines superstition as: "...beliefs or practices resulting from ignorance, fear of the unknown or trust in magic or chance. An irrational abject attitude of mind toward nature, the unknown or God."

By the meridian of time, false teachings and superstitious beliefs were wide spread even among God's chosen people. During his earthly ministry, Christ taught the Israelites: "...if you continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:31-32) The heavens poured forth its blessing of light and knowl-

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# HALLOWEEN \_\_\_\_\_ CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

edge to all those who would accept it and the earth, for a period, enjoyed the freedom offered by Christ. Still, some false doctrines persisted within the church from converts clinging to their old ways. These, the Apostles combatted until their assassinations, which resulted in the eventual withdrawal of revelation and the priesthood authority of God from the earth! What was left of the body of the church was a mere shell of it's former self infested with the worms, maggots and disease of ignorance and apostasy. Dead without the spirit of truth to give it life!

Without continuous revelation to guide them, many became self-appointed leaders in the church and Christianity underwent innumerable changes and compromises in doctrine. Among the many heresies which this new Christianity adopted from the pagans, was the belief in vampires, were-creatures and other related beings.

These monsters came more vividly to life with the encouragement of the priests who would sell religious icons and blessings...etc...to ward them away. (obviously a false church with no real authority could not cast out REAL devils and so replaced them with IMAGINARY ones!) The Papacy gave it's endorsement on the authenticity of such creatures in a document entitled MALLEUS MALEFICARUM published in 1489.

Pagan practices were not so far removed from the doctrines of this church of the dark ages. The Papacy was not so much concerned with correcting false beliefs as it was with substituting a "christian" motivation for them: The Druids were a group of pagans who occupied most of northern and western Europe. They noted two important feasts: Beltane on May 1st and the Autumn festival of Samhain on the last day of October. A supernatural element was a part of the Autumn festival for Druids tried to placate the lord of death. It was believed that he allowed the spirits, both good and evil, of those who died during the last 12 months to return to their homes at this time. The church also had a celebration honoring it's dead instituted by Pope Boniface IV in 615 a.d. called: The Feast of all Holy Martyrs. In 844 a.d. Pope Gregory IV transferred the celebration from May 1st to Nov. 1st, to christianize the pagan holiday. Pope Sixtus IV established it as a Holy day of obligation for the entire latin church giving it a liturgical vigil and octave in 1484. Pope Sylvester II in 1084 approved and recommended the following day, Nov. 2, as a day to honor all the departed ones, (Omnium Defunctorum) not only the saints. Thus Novembers 1st and 2nd became ALL SAINTS DAY and ALL SOULS DAY respectively, superseded by ALL HALLOWS EVE on Oct. 31st, or "HALLOWEEN" as we know it.

The customs of ALL HALLOWS EVE were largely derived from its pagan counterpart, such as the notion that the souls in purgatory and living dead creatures are allowed to wander the earth on this night. It became common practice to honor departed relatives by visiting the cemetery bearing food and tiny gifts to place on the graves, but fearing the vengeance of some departed soul overlooked, such provisions were also made available on doorsteps. Of course, craftier persons, (perhaps those responsible for promoting these superstitions) realized the potential for robbing and pillaging disguised as the apparitions which were so feared. Any home found not providing this offering was in jeopardy of vandalism by the masquerading monsters. This began the evolution of our modern day practice of "Trick or Treat."

Thus this "children's holiday" originated in the fears of superstitious men, men who were blinded by Satan's deception. A holiday which testifies of the apostasy of the early christian church. Yet the day of reckoning shall come when before all mankind, Lucifer's masquerade will draw to a close..."They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying...is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake Kingdoms..?" (Isa. 14:16)



In observing the modern celebration of Halloween it is well to preserve fun traditions of masquerades and Trick or Treat, Jack o' Lanterns, and things which go bump in the night....however if you should find yourself harboring BELIEFS in superstitions, it's better to remember the statement of Paul the Apostle: "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things." (1 Corin. 13:11)



# RELIEF SOCIETY



The Visiting Teacher's message for November 4th, at 7:00 p.m., will be "Know the Shepherd". We are admonished to "Fill your mind with thoughts of Christ, your heart with love of Christ, and your life with Service to Christ." (Wells, Ensign, Nov 1980, p. 13.)

The Homemaking Mini-Courses will be held following the Visiting Teacher's Message at 7:30 p.m. Projects will be: Home Beautification - Hanging Soap Dishes; Food Preparation Class - Hard Bread Baskets; Quilting pillow tops; Varied Interests - Finishing Advent Calendars; Sewing Stitchery Class - finishing Mr. and Mrs. Snowman.

Congratulations are in order for two families in our ward: Robert Allan was added to the Tim and Vicki Church family; and Mark Lindsley, to Jim and Becky Armstrong.

Relief Society lessons for sunday mornings for the month of November 1981

November 1 Spiritual Living "Teaching by the Spirit" May 1980 Ensign, pp. 46-47, 12-15.

November 8 STAKE CONFERENCE

November 15 Social Relations "Morality" November 1980 Ensign, pp. 94-98.

November 22 Cultural Refinement, "Personal Journals" December 1980 Ensign, pp. 60-61.

November 29 Homemaking "The Discipline of Economy" November 1980 Ensign, pp. 108-109, 85-86.

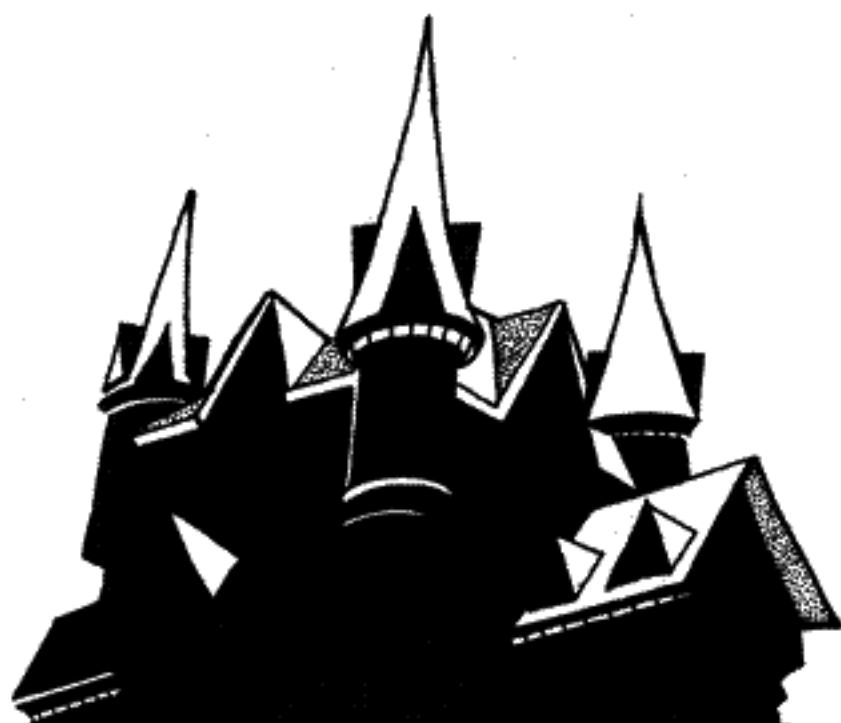
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## YOUNG SPECIAL INTEREST

We had a Young Special Intrest forum fri day the 16th of October, and we discussed what problems we have and we did come to a concensus on that subject. On November the 6th at 7:00 pm we will be having a Thanksgiving party at Donni Murley's home. Every Special intrest person is invited. If you are 26 years old to 110 years old and single, you are of special intrest to us and are urged to come out and support us. Saturday November 14th we are also planning to have an Ice skating party. Where and at what time will be announced latter.

If you don't know who your Special Intrest representitives are.....The female Rep. is Donni Murley 120 N.E. 21st Apt. 218, Moore Oklahoma. 793-7221. The Male Rep. is Robert Atchley, 1907 Fox Ave., Moore Oklahoma. 799-5072.

We will also be planning a goal setting and testimony meeing, where we will be discussing ideas for an upcoming fireside. If you are interested in any of the activities here, please contact your representative, and he or she will be able to give you any of the details.



Since it's the time for Goblins and bats, Halloween  
Spirits, Ghosts and black cats, weird happenings  
and witches brew,  
These are the things we wish for you:

May the only Ghost that comes to stay  
be the Holy Ghost to guide your way  
may the only Spirit you chance to meet  
be the Spirit of love and friendship sweet

May the only Trick you are asked to do  
be the trick of getting a friend or two  
to come to church and spend some time  
Treating them to the gospel sublime.

These are our Halloween wishes for you  
May you find blessings in all you do!

The Liahona Staff

#### LIAHONA

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