

What then is our relationship to things and values?

What has God committed to us?

Nowhere does he say that we "own" anything.

He has time after time stated that he has given the land unto us to possess it.

Possession without ownership makes us stewards.

In our next letter we shall discuss stewardship more fully.

A Remarkable Dream and Vision

One of the brethren well known to many in the church furnishes the following for publication in the "Herald."—Editors.

About four years ago this month, in a dream the late President Joseph Smith appeared to me as a man dressed in working clothes, with black beard, and upright as he was in the vigor of his manhood, when I first saw him as a boy. He appeared as one who was going to work, and who had business to attend to. He greeted me and shook hands, and I remarked, "Brother Joseph, it looks as though you were working some over there."

He replied, "We are. We have no time for foolishness. The hastening time is upon us. You are not working half fast enough on this side." Then he said, "You should hasten the work to victory." And as he turned to leave he looked back and said, "Did you write down the vision you had twelve years ago?"

I told him, "No."

I was very much surprised at his asking this question, for I did not know that he knew anything about my having had such a dream or vision. I had never stated it publicly, nor had I ever told it to him.

The vision that I had twelve years prior to that time, which would be sixteen years ago this February, was as follows:

After returning home from a session of the joint convention of the Sunday School and Religio in Lamoni, I was thinking seriously of the church, wondering what would be the outcome of the work. That night in dream I saw a very beautiful building. The personage who seemed to be with me took me in the building. There I saw Joseph Smith, lying in state in a coffin. At the head of the coffin stood Frederick M. Smith. The personage who was with me said: "Frederick M. Smith will now have to take charge, and undertake the leadership of the church."

Immediately the church took on a new activity. Frederick M. Smith went out and sent out among the branches and districts of the church, and insisted upon a higher standard for the priesthood. The first work appeared to be one of cleansing the church. Those of the priesthood who would not come to this higher standard were released.

The priesthood took on new energy. Many young men were called and placed in positions of responsibility. I saw the work then pushed energetically under President Smith's direction, preparation being made for the establishment of Zion. Young women as well as young men turned to the work of the church. But before they undertook the same they went through a preparatory work, being then sent out. The work continued in preparation for Zion, the church making ready for the coming of our Lord and Savior.

I felt impressed at the time that Frederick M. Smith would do this work; and as it appeared to me he would continue till the coming of the Lord.

I again saw the beautiful building that appeared to me in the first part of my dream. The Saints were gathering, and attempting to enter the building. While some entered, others walked up as though they were about to enter, and then seemed to be suddenly stopped, turning around and walking away.

I was rather surprised at this, and asked my guide what it meant. He replied, "None but the pure in heart can pass the threshold. Those who are purified as though by fire can pass over with safety; but those who have not cleansed their garments and washed them with the blood of the Lamb, those who have not kept their garments free from the blood

of this generation, those who are not pure in heart, cannot pass over, as this place of entrance is to such as a consuming fire."

All those who tried and were permitted to enter were very fair, being clothed in white robes, pure as the lilies.

I was very vividly impressed with the necessity of cleanliness and preparation for the reward of the faithful.

I was made very happy in the experience. It has remained with me, vividly pictured as when presented. And I have many times in recalling it been strengthened. Especially in times of stress as these have come to the church I have been stayed and hopeful of the final outcome.

I have lived to see a part of the vision fulfilled. Whether I shall live to see its complete fulfillment I do not know. But this much I do know, the vision is of God and I have hope of its final and complete fulfillment.

From the Massachusetts District

A couple of the branches in the Massachusetts District have been doing some financial "stunts" recently. Boston has paid off the mortgage on its church. The money to liquidate the indebtedness was raised practically in an afternoon.

The Providence Branch planned to raise \$1,000 Christmas offering this year. The branch has a scattered membership of around 300, with an average attendance of 65. A thousand dollars was an ambitious program, and many thought it could not be reached as there are no wealthy members to give several hundred dollars casually and repeatedly. When the "bankbreaking" took place, lo and behold! it was found they had over \$1,200! One class of boys raised over \$300.

Brother A. B. Phillips found it necessary to again call upon the Providence Branch to prepare the baptistry for additional baptisms. He sowed the seed years ago and some of it fell on good ground and it has not been lost.

We held our first of the four winter institutes at Attleboro, and I believe it was the opinion of all that it was a successful gathering. We have a number of specialists here who are well qualified by special training for the work.

The Attleboro choir and members of it added additional prestige to their branch by the way the song service was conducted. We are also fortunate in having a live district chorister, Herbert Johnson holding the position. He is in charge of the Providence choir. We have some talented musicians here. Dutte Halls is a young violinist who can make you feel wonderful things when he plays. I hope your Boston correspondent will tell you about "their" violinist.

Sincerely,

C. EDWARD MILLER.

When Buying Moving Picture Machines—

Before any branch or district buys a moving picture machine, an investigation should be made as to the kind of a machine required. Many of the advertisements of "safety" machines are misleading. I doubt if there is a single State in the country which will allow *any make of machine* to be used in a church or hall without a specially built safety booth large enough to enclose the machine and operator, if the regular standard film is used. This celluloid film is highly inflammable and subject to an explosion when not properly handled, hence the safeguards demanded by the fire laws of the States.

The United Projector and Film Company of Buffalo, New York, handle a machine which uses noninflammable films only. The standard theater, Government, etc., films cannot be used on this machine, consequently films of this character must be rented from this concern. No booth is required where the non-inflammable film is used. There are a great many subjects, handled by this concern, but there is no free service, as can be obtained by using the theater style of machine.

Don't buy a moving picture machine of the standard kind using the standard films and expect to use it in the church or hall without booth and wiring approved by the fire marshal.