

A Brief Look at the Fulfillment of a Divine Promise

D&C 43:13

*“And again, I say unto you, that **if ye desire the mysteries of the kingdom, provide for him (Joseph Smith) food and raiment, and whatsoever thing he needeth to accomplish the work** (Book of Mormon translation) wherewith I have commanded him (Joseph Smith).”*

Joseph and Emma stayed in Emma’s parents home then moved into a small house 150 yards away. He faced the divine command to translate etched characters on gold plates into the English language. He had no training or education to meet this challenge. He worried about providing food and income for himself and Emma.

He and Emma rode the 30 miles to the Knight’s Colesville, NY home. Father Joseph Knight Sr. gave him “some provisions, a few things out of the store, a pair of shoes and three dollars.” In January 1828, Father Knight gave Joseph some money “to buy paper to translate.” Later, Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery asked Father Knight to help again. He gave them “a barrel of mackerel and some lined paper for writing. And when I came home I bought some nine or ten bushels of grain and five or six bushels of potatoes and a pound of tea.”

Father Knight’s provisions allowed Joseph and Oliver to concentrate on translating instead of looking for work and income during the seven-week translation effort. Other Knight family members gave also. Joseph Knight Jr. gave the Prophet \$50 plus a one-horse wagon, after selling his house lot: “Father and I often went to see him (Joseph Smith) and carry him something to live upon...”

Joseph Smith expressed in his history his gratitude for the supplies the Knight family shared with the Prophet: “Mr. Joseph Knight Senior...having heard of the manner in which we were occupying our time, very kindly and considerately brought us a quantity of provisions in order that we might not be interrupted in the work of translation by want of such necessities of life. And I would just mention here that he several times afterwards brought us supplies, (a distance of at least 30 miles) which enabled us to continue the work, when otherwise we must have relinquished it for a season.”

Some of the surviving pages of the original Book of Mormon manuscript are on lined paper Joseph Knight gave to Joseph Smith.

In fulfillment of the promise the Lord made to anyone who would help Joseph Smith in D&C 43, the Knights received manifestations revealing “the mysteries of the Kingdom” more specifically on two separate occurrences:

1. Newel Knight attempted to pray to know the truth of the Restoration, Joseph Smith and the Book of Mormon. He became possessed by a devil and his body was caught up off the floor. Newel asked Joseph Smith to cast the devil out of him, which he did. Friends laid Newel on a bed when he experienced a second rapture, this time divine, one which opened the heavens to him and levitated him:

“I now began to feel a most pleasing sensation resting upon me, and immediately, the visions

of heaven were opened to my view. I felt myself attracted upwards, and I remained for some time enwrapped in contemplation, insomuch, that I knew not what was going on in the room. By and by, I felt some weight pressing against my shoulder and the side of my head, which served to recall me to a sense of my situation, and I found that the Spirit of the Lord had actually caught me up off the floor and that my head and shoulder were pressing against the beams."

This was the first recorded Priesthood miracle in the new Church. The experience converted Newel and he was baptized by David Whitmer at the Whitmer farm in May of 1830.

2. During the first conference of the Church on June 9, 1830, at the Whitmer farm about 30 members attended. Newel Knight recounts that the "Holy Ghost was poured out upon us in a marvelous manner. Many prophesied while others had the heavens opened to their view." The conference resembled the early Christians' Day of Pentecost. Spiritual outpourings filled the meeting. Many were so overcome, Joseph Smith said, "...we had to lay them on beds." Newel declared that he saw the heavens opened and beheld a vision, much like Stephen the Martyr's:

"It was a scene long to be remembered. I felt my heart filled with love, with glory, and with pleasure unspeakable. I could discern all that was going on in the room and a vision of futurity suddenly burst upon me, and I saw, represented, the great work, which, through the instrumentality of Joseph Smith, was to be accomplished. I saw the heaven opened. I beheld the Lord Jesus Christ seated at the right hand of the Majesty on High, and it was made plain to my understanding that the time would come when I would be admitted into His presence, to enjoy His society for ever and ever."

When the spiritually-overwhelmed brethren regained strength, Joseph Smith said, "they shouted hosannas to God and the Lamb, and rehearsed the glorious things which they had seen and felt, whilst they were yet in the spirit."

Quotes taken from *They Are My Friends*, William G. Hartley, 1986