

# Preface

It has been estimated that since human life began, more than sixty-nine billion people have lived on this earth, and that currently there are nearly five billion people that inhabit it.<sup>1</sup> This little book contains stories about some of them. There have been people that have shaped history for better or for worse – the great ones. The people in this book may not



Kenneth Glyn Hales have left marks that shape history, but they made it possible for others to enjoy life. Perhaps one of their descendants will achieve historical success and make them proud in their celestial sphere. As for me, I leave behind a simple **I was here.**

Since someone may one day want to know, I leave a record of my days. This record does not start at the beginning or finish at the end. It is a collection of stories, sketches, memories and events recorded as accurately as I can make them. They are not deliberately embellished or falsified; the stories are true and accurately recorded. The sequence is as I wish to present it.

Many times I would listen to my father and his brothers as they told stories of their youth. It seemed that they had so many to tell that I wondered if I would ever be able to live a life as full as theirs. The *olden days* seemed to hold so many treasures. Now my youth

is the olden days. I wish that I could remember all of the stories that I have heard. It is such a waste to lose memories. Perhaps this book will record the memories of my olden days in a way that will please my posterity and relatives.

The age in which I live contains men who think that their learning encompasses all. Indeed great achievement has been made in understanding and invention. Yet because the people of this age relax in their comfortable circumstances, and because they are so enlightened as they suppose, most feel that there is no room for things outside of their small formatted minds. They think that they know everything, yet like sheep they go following the wolves that prey on them, believing in nothing and living off the fat of the land. This age does not know everything. The wisdom of this age does not encompass all. There is still disease, war, famine, pestilence, hate, greed, envy, and all manner of counter-productive humanistic tendencies. Man has not become God-like. The knowledge and wisdom attributed to God is not considered a virtue in this age and belief in God is ridiculed.

Nearly two thousand years have passed since the Son of God walked on the earth. The volumes written about Him are innumerable. But the people of today are blinded by the brightness of the current day and cannot visualize the dimness of so long ago. Peter, Apostle of Jesus Christ, truly saw our day and the scoffers walking after their own lusts that populate it. As he prophesied they would, they discount the story of the great flood of Noah's day and promote the theory of gradualism by the name evolution. They reason that people are more intelligent today than they were during Peter's time. They are willingly ignorant of revelation given to the prophets because revelation does not fit in with their

theories.<sup>2</sup>

Shall a trumpet be blown in the city and the people not be afraid? If the Lord God suddenly appeared in the heavens would the people then turn from their transgressions? If the people had certain knowledge that there is a God in heaven and that Jesus Christ is His Son would they still have free agency? When father Adam was given his agency in the garden, God the Father had to withdraw to protect and honor that agency. Surely the Lord God will do nothing, else that agency would be compromised, but, in His mercy, He gives us guidance by revealing His secrets unto His servants the prophets.<sup>3</sup>

I believe that the wisdom and knowledge taught to man through the ages by the prophets of God are true principles. To follow them, however, is not the path of least resistance. As with most habits true principles must be learned and practiced. Happiness comes to followers of His precepts, and dismay and anguish to those who try to bend them to suit their own purposes.

I believe that God does exist. I believe that there is purpose in this life. I believe that there is a life that follows this life, but there is also a plan that must be followed to realize the greatest blessings of it.

"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"<sup>4</sup> Is it possible to walk the paths in the celestial kingdom and associate with the inhabitants there without learning obedience to the ways of the master?

This book contains stories of people that believe like I do. It contains descriptions of their trials as they lived their beliefs on their path to the promised entrance to the life beyond. They lived a good life full of service to their fellow men. They learned the benefit of controlling their habits so that they would not be slaves to them. They learned how to live and how to protect their

agency. They tried to be in agreement with the teachings of the master so that they could walk with Him. I hope to be numbered among them at the final counting.

1. Boyd K. Packer, *From You To Your Ancestors*, (Salt Lake City, Utah, 1980), p. 1.
2. 2 Peter 3:3-8.
3. Amos 3:4-7.
4. Amos 3:3.