

**From the personal journal of Louise Andrus Knapp.**

Journal entry date: March 20, 1972

At this time, I would like to try to put into words the experiences and feelings I have had lately.

Lisa walks home from Edgemont School kindergarten to Blain Poulsen's house with their daughter Heather. I became acquainted with Heather's mother Jean. I found out that she teaches gospel doctrine class in her ward. I asked her where the idea came from that "we" meaning the Latter-day Saints will walk back to Jackson County, MO. She said she didn't believe that we'd walk back and that she had her own idea of that. I asked her to tell me. She said she would when we had a long time. We made the appointment for Thurs. morning March 2, 1972.

We talked and she began to explain the importance of the atonement of Jesus Christ. She had me read D&C 45:3-5, Moses 6:57-60, Enos 1:4-8, and Mosiah 4:1-3. She told me that people usually list their sins in their minds and decide to overcome them one at a time and check them off as they go – but as soon as you overcome one sin, you have another to replace it. It is like Paul says, "The good that I would do, that I do not and the bad that I would not do, that I do." She pointed out that Christ said repent of all your sins. He said that we can become new creatures in Christ. The Holy Ghost will purge out our sins and that He will forgive them and then we must continue in the path. And these are the words that struck me to the inside of my heart: OUR HOPE IS IN CHRIST. This thrilled me because I could see that by myself without Christ I could not become perfect. There are some sins I'd tried to overcome but just couldn't get them cleaned out of me. I could see that the atonement of Christ is the only way. Christ said, "My yoke is easy. My burden is light." He told us to lay our burden at His feet.

Well, I became so thrilled at my new hope that I couldn't quit thinking about it. I went home and read in McConkie's book Mormon Doctrine about Justification and being born again. I read the scriptures and become more thrilled. I talked some to Bernie and Mom and Pa who are staying here now. I wrote to Mazie Lee who is probably back in Hawaii

now after returning to Taiwan at the passing away of her dear mother  
23 Feb. 1972.

I became so thrilled that I called Jean Poulsen Fri. night 3 March 1972 to tell her. I told her I didn't think I had been re-born because I felt so thrilled that I had not been able to humble myself and have a broken heart and contrite spirit. She said, "There are two parts of the gift. The first part is that the gift is given. The second part is that you must claim the gift. Otherwise it is of no value,"

I went into the back room and thought about it and knelt down and prayed to the Lord. I said that I totally acknowledged the reality and the necessity of the atonement and that without it I knew I had no hope. I said that I was willing to dedicate my life to Christ and that I would suffer anything that He would ask.

The burning in me became very great. I have never felt a burning like that before. I couldn't eat. I couldn't sleep easily and yet I was very tired.

Saturday I went to the Hospital and told Marilyn Harris about it. Sunday I went with Jean Poulsen to her friend Bonnie Card's house to a fireside. Monday I took Mom, Pa, Uncle Willard Andrus and aunt Marie to a funeral for George Staley in Park City. I was still burning inside. I remember that as I was driving I felt like I almost had to gasp for air because the burning inside me was causing me to feel so full.

And so my testimony is that the Holy Ghost bore witness to me that the atonement of Jesus Christ is all important and is real and true. I know this. Whether or not I can term this being born again I'm not sure because I never did hear a voice saying, "Your sins are forgiven." And yet I know they can and will be. I do know this. I am determined to dedicate my life completely to Jesus Christ and pray for the help of the Lord that I might overcome all sin and be pure and holy before Him. And I am seeking to make my calling and election sure so that I will know of a surety that I will be exalted on high with Him.

There are many scriptures that say we must be born again. One that I love is Mosiah 27:24-31. The mercy and goodness of God to me are so

great that I don't deserve one millionth of the blessings that I receive. I am so thankful to the Lord that I can't begin to express it.

The above is the end of quoting from my journal.

Note: Seven years after having the above mentioned experience I wrote a note saying: Seven years have gone by and I claim this as my BORN AGAIN or re-birth experience. I realize that although I was totally thrilled, yet my heart was broken and my spirit was contrite as I prayed to my Redeemer feeling deep remorse that my sins had caused Him such great suffering. I covenanted to do anything He would ask of me in order to try to repay Him for His infinite sacrifice for me. I realized that my personal sins had caused Him to suffer and it broke my heart. It still does.

It is now March 13, 2021 and I am typing this excerpt from my journal so it is more easily readable. My born again experience was the most important and thrilling experience of my life. It is my testimony that to be born of the spirit is the most important thing that we can have happen to us in this life. I think King Benjamin Alma, Nephi, Jacob, Enos Mormon, Moroni etc validate this truth.

I hope and pray that everyone of you seek for and have this experience.

Love Louise