

Loose Thyself from the Bands of the Neck

Testimony of Lucy Mack Smith

Written by Pat Chadwick

Lucy Mack Smith, the mother of Joseph Smith the prophet, was in charge of moving about 80 people, mostly women and children, from New York to Kirtland, Ohio. They were traveling by river in the winter. At Buffalo, New York, the wharf area iced over and no one was able to go forward on the river. Other Saints were stranded there and cautioned Lucy not to tell anyone they were of the Mormon faith. Lucy replied she should tell the people precisely who she was. She was not

ashamed of Christ and expected that her group would get to Kirtland before the stranded Saints.

Speaking to her group she said, "Now brethren and sisters, if you will all of you raise your desires to heaven, that the ice may be broken up, and we be set at liberty, as sure as the Lord lives it will be done." At that instant a noise was heard like



bursting thunder. The ice parted, leaving a narrow passage for the boat to pass through. The ice then closed together again.

This story of Lucy Mack Smith reminded me again of the power of God to assist us in the work. We see here it was the power of prayer and faith that made the difference. Prayer is powerful because it connects us to the very source of power, even the Creator of heaven and earth.

Is this not another parable, as it were, to us today? Ladies let us not be discouraged at the ice/bands that seem to have encased our people, but let us pray that the ice/bands be loose/broken, just as Lucy prayed for the ice that held them captive to be broken. **My sisters if we pray in faith believing, surely God will hear our prayers and set us free.**

We also need to be repentant of those things that we have done that hinder the work and the sins that have beset us. Let us be repentant and pray for God to move in great power that His Kingdom will be set free from all that holds it captive.

A Prayer of Blessing

By Elbert A. Smith 1959

Recorded in Saint's Herald Vol. 106 #26. Elbert A. gave a special blessing to the church that included the women of the church; this blessing still rests upon us this day.

"Being alone in my home on a Sunday afternoon ... I felt the urge to indict a prayer of blessing upon all those of the church membership in need of divine aid and willing to receive it. I am persuaded that all who are so minded will have help."

"O God, our heavenly Father, most humble I do beseech thy blessing to be upon thy church and upon the individual members of thy church, to each according to his or her personal need.

We dwell in the shadow of great danger which threatens all people. These are such times as the prophets warned us would come in the latter days when peace should "be taken from the earth." But with the warning went promises of blessings to all those who love thee and keep thy commandment.

Forgive us, Lord, our blunders and our shortcomings. May we from this time on serve thee more diligently and more intelligently. May thy people be blessed as never before with unity and good will, with light and divine guidance, for this is a time of great need.....

Bless those devoted women of the church who serve according to their gifts and talents in the branches and departments of the church. Thou knowest the needs of each. May their needs be fully met.

In an especial manner bless the women who are homemakers and homebuilders that they and their companions may build Godly and enduring homes from which may come the next generation to serve the church.

Bless the homes that are truly devoted to thee, and reach out and help us reclaim the homes in which there is contention and worldly folly... ..once more I invoke the blessing to be upon thy church now and evermore. Amen."