

iChoose to Remember

This issue of iChoose to Remember deals with Ministering Angels in what cannot be called anything short of a miracle. In 2 Nephi we learn that, “Angels speak by the power of the Holy Ghost; wherefore, they speak the words of Christ . . . for behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do” (2 Nephi 32:3). The tongue of Angels is the Holy Ghost and they can only speak according to the will of Christ.

The following story is about my grandfather, Lanny Crockett. He is still living and was born in Arizona, 1939. He’s told this story at almost every family reunion. This will be my retelling of this great story.

My grandfather was five years old. Near his home in Arizona there was an empty canal that he would play in. He loved to play with his matchbox cars in the canal and would carve in the dirt of the canal wall little roads and garages for his cars to drive on and into.

One day, as he was playing there, he heard his mother call, “Lanny!” He was a little boy and thought, “Mom can’t see me in here. I’ll just stay and play and say I didn’t hear her.” She called a second time and again he ignored her. Then she called a third time:

“Lanny James Crockett!”

Well, my grandpa knew that if his mother used his full name, he’d better come and he’d better come quickly. He was a smart kid. He got to the house and found his mother changing his baby sister’s diaper. He asked her what she needed and she told him that she hadn’t called him. He knew someone had called his name. He asked the hired laundry lady and she also said that she hadn’t called him. Confused, my grandpa returned to the canal to continue playing. He found the canal filled to the brim with muddy storm water. Miles away, in the mountains, there was a rain storm and it filled this canal with torrents of run-off.

Every time my grandfather tells us this story he testifies that he was saved that day by an Angel who called his name. And she sure sounded like his mother!

Moroni chapter seven explains about the mission of Ministering Angels:

“Have miracles ceased? Behold I say unto you, Nay; neither have angels ceased to minister unto the children of men.

“For behold, they are subject unto [Christ], to minister according to the word of his command, showing themselves unto them of strong faith and a firm mind in every form of godliness.

“And the office of their ministry is to call men unto repentance, and to fulfil and to do the work of the covenants of the Father, which he hath made unto the children of men, to prepare the way among the children of men, by declaring the word of Christ unto the chosen vessels of the Lord, that they may bear testimony of him.

“And by so doing, the Lord God prepareth the way that the residue of men may have faith in Christ, that the Holy Ghost may have place in their hearts, according to the power thereof; and after this manner bringeth to pass the Father, the covenants which he hath made unto the children of men.” (Moroni 7:29-32)

I feel strongly that my grandfather’s story is in fulfillment of this scripture. By the ministry of Angels, sent by Christ “to fulfill and to do the work . . . of the Father,” my grandfather’s life was spared that day. Through him, to my family, he “bear[s] testimony of [Christ]” and thereby “prepareth the way that the residue of men [or my family] may have faith in Christ.” My grandfather has nine children and over fifty grandchildren. All seven of his sons served missions. They continue in the work my grandfather has exemplified in bearing testimony of Christ.

I know this story is true. The simple fact that I have a grandfather today is evidence of the truthfulness of this story. Let us listen to the Holy Ghost. Let us listen to Angels who speak by the power of the Holy Ghost. I close with the words of our Prophet, Thomas S. Monson, “Never postpone a prompting.”

In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

-Joshua Crockett