DREAM OF PRESIDENT LORENZO BELNAP

The following treatise is a dream that was given to the writer the night of May 19, 1965. (Lorenzo Belnap) I had been chosen by election to be the president of the Belnap Family Organization at their bi-annual reunion held in August of 1964. The summer was approaching and I felt a need for activity of the family officers to encourage greater genealogical participation among the many families of our kin. I had offered to attend the reunions of the Children Families of the Parent Organization in an effort to explain our objectives and solicit their cooperation in a more complete and effective accomplishment of our goals. With this brief explanation I will now relate my dream.

"I was attending a meeting of some of our relative families and was asked to address the assembly. As I arose to speak it seems we were in a small auditorium which was well filled with a mixed group of adults and their children. I started my speech by expressing my feeling of honor that had been accorded me as being chosen for the leadership of our great family organization which numbered well into the thousands of descendants of our common progenitors.

Just as I was making that expression the rear wall and the side walls became invisible and I could wee beyond them where a large number of people were walking in small groups. Their faces were all turned in the same direction and they were all moving steadily along. I observed one of their number that was down on the ground vainly struggling to rise. She reached out her arms for assistance from those around her but they either could not see her or were unable to give her assistance as they completely ignored her efforts to attract them. When I concluded that none of those around her would give her aid I asked if some member of the congregation would please go to her and help her to her feet so that she could go with those of her group.

At that moment the area of vision expanded and I could see many thousnads of people, all determinedly heading toward some distant goal. This vista resembled somewhat anexpansive beach, the end of which I could not see. The light, as of a brilliant sunrise, glowed brightly in the heavens and the hordes of people were heading towards the light. Most all of them moved at a steady pace, seemingly oblivious of anything occurring around them, as they unhasitantly strode on to their destination. A few, that is a few in comparison to the many thousands which I could see, were like unto the first one I saw struggling to attain their feet, but could not of their own efforts. Their arms outstretched to the passersby begging for assistance, but being totally ignored in their pleas. I spok loudly and asked if someone would please help those poor souls to rise that they too could join the others as they so much desired to do.

I was deeply moved and somewhat perturbed at this conduct and I shouted, "Why don't you help those unfortunate souls?" A firm, strong voice came from somewhere and from someone I could not see and said, "You are the one who must help these people. You are not only the president of those on earth, but you are the leader responsible for all of your family kin. You are the one to whom they are pleading for help."

The dream ended here and as I awakened I lay for some time pondering its significance and I firmly resolved that while I served as president of our family organization that I quuld give my best efforts in the accomplishment of those duties expected of me.