

## Appendix B: From the Pulpit, etc.

In his role as a church leader Duncan had many opportunities for public speaking. Among his duties as a Bishop and also as the family “patriarch” was the request to preach at weddings and at funerals.

The following is a transcription of the voice of Duncan Weaver on an audio tape recorded at the funeral of Charlotte Templeton about 1950.

*“I shall not grieve that this life is extinguished. If the Father designs to touch with divine power the cold and pulseless heart of the buried corn and make it burst forth from the prison walls, would He leave neglected in the earth the soul of man who was made in the image of his creator? If He stoops to give to the rosebush whose withered blossoms float upon the breeze, the sweet assurance of another springtime, would he withhold the words of hope from the sons of men when the frosts of winter come?”*

*“Does matter, mute and inanimate, though changed by the force of nature into a multitude of forms that never die—will the imperial spirit of man suffer annihilation after the master has payed a brief visit like a royal guest to this tenement of clay, so ask we?” J. Bryan*

*Like Sister Dedekind, I think that we could reach out and touch Charlotte by the hand—she is so close. She is my friend. For years she used to sit in Sunday School class and I had the opportunity of teaching that class. I came to know her for her integrity, for her worthiness. I came to understand the foundations of the strength of her belief and I learned to appreciate her fine Irish wit.*

*I have been thinking today of the things I might say, but my words are poor indeed to lend tribute to such a noble woman.*

*Not all of us are privileged to rear a family as she did. Therefore we cannot use as a measuring rod the glory of her family—but it was a glorious thing.*

*Take away a man’s wealth—you haven’t hurt him very much. Take away the honors of the world and you’ve probably given him strength. Remove his frineds and you will touch him considerably. But like Job of old, you will really reach down and touch... (inaudible.)*

*It has been my privilege to know members of this family and it was through them, the knowledge of them, that I can make a fair estimate of this noble woman.*

*I was relatively a latecomer to Chicago. I did not know her husband. But there must have been a great bond between them because the other night when I was visiting with her, she remarked that someone had been there in the room with her and that it was her husband. And she believed, as we do, in the closeness of the other sphere and the importance of the work that we are engaged in, in relation to the life we are to lead in the hereafter.*

*I think the devotion of her family in her final days was a beautiful thing that speaks highly of the training that they received as children at her knee. The hours, the days, the nights, weeks, months that they have spent in loving care and kindness with their mother bespeaks a fine family relationship that I pay great tribute to.*

*Wherein shall we find associations unless it is with those that are close to us in our families and those that we love that are near and dear to us. Sheared of everything else, these remain as the most important things in the world today.*

*Charlotte Templeton will remain as a power, as a force in the lives of her children. I know that her example and the things that she has taught them will continue with them and that their mother is but gone away now, and that they will be able to realize her dynamic personality if they so desire.*

*Charlotte Templeton believed firmly that she would meet her husband and her son. I have envisioned the picture of a glad reunion in which arms are outstretched, and smiling faces are there to greet her. A bereavement here—a reunion there.*

*Sometimes we are bothered a little bit or we worry a little bit about these bereavements here in this life, and we take great store in this short period of time we are allowed to live here, compared to eternity. Almost as the twinkling of an eye, so these important things sometimes seem. The store of years are only as a moment and then we too will be in that glad reunion.*

*We are spirits, and a body should be on us when we can afford its pleasures, assist us in acquiring knowledge or in doing good to our fellow creatures. Death is a kind and benevolent act of God when [our bodies] become unfit for these purposes and afford us pain instead of pleasure—instead of aid, become an incumbrance, and answer none of the intentions for which they were given. It is kind and benevolent that a way is provided by which we may get rid of them. Death is that way.*

*We have been invited on a trip which will last forever. Her chair was ready first. And why should you and I grieve at this if we are soon to follow, and know where to find her? Often we search for words of comfort and cheer. I believe that as her friend we do not mourn for Charlotte Templeton, because we know she has the glory of her goal. We mourn because we miss her presence. So I would say to these beloved bereaved ones—be of good cheer. Lean on the strong arm of the Lord and He will give you aid and help. Learn to understand that your mother and father have gone to prepare a place for you and none of us knows the hour or the day or the shortness or the length at which we too will cross the divide.*

*I ask the blessings of our Heavenly Father upon you. And may you find solace and comfort in the knowledge that your mother has fulfilled the purpose of her creation and has lived the gospel of Jesus Christ and has been taken to the bosom of her Savior.*

*I do this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Duncan also made several trips to Canada to speak at funerals. One was mentioned by Dora Meldrum Tompson in a letter to Ellen Claire in 1981: "Speaking of pictures, I often think of one your dad took when he came up here and spoke at my dad's funeral. My mother's only brother Henry is in it and he is the same age as Duncan but you would never know it. Henry was an alcoholic and never seemed to care about the Church. He looked so shriveled up and old, which he was, compared to your handsome father. I often compare the two men. The way you live certainly shows, and Duncan was my ideal. I was always so proud to be a relative of his."

## Marriage Ceremonies Performed by Duncan Weaver:

On Logan Square Ward stationery the following marriage ceremony was written out in Duncan's hand:

### Marriage Ceremony of Steve Valverde and Edna Irene Czerny:

*We are here assembled to participate as principals or as witnesses in one of the most sacred ordinances instituted for mankind. These two fine young people bring to this altar all they possess, both materially and spiritually and proffer it before God, in the building of a new home. They leave a vacancy in each of two other homes—but such it has always been. May the foundations that are laid today prove broad and deep and give to this union a strength and stability that will last all the days that you both shall live.*

*There are really four parties to this compact—the man, the woman, the state and the church. You as contracting parties enter this union of your own choice and volition out of the love you bear each other. That love is the origin and basis of your union. Today you pledge to each other a new way of living. The future spreads before you filled with tremendous possibilities and responsibilities, and the path you now place your feet upon can lead to supreme joy and happiness. If you keep this path in the faith and unselfishness that you enter it, yours will be a happy lot, and the blessing of heaven will be poured out upon you.*

*Marriage was designed by God. He commanded every creature to seek its perfection in another. He made man in His Own Image, male and female, and has declared that one is not perfect without the other. In all ages since the world began God has commanded, approved and blessed the union in marriage of good men and women.*

*Marriage is not a union merely between two creatures. It is a union between two spirits, and the intention of the bond is to perfect the nature of both by supplementing their deficiencies with the force of contrast. God our Eternal Father united our first parents in the bonds of Holy Matrimony. He commanded them to be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth. This command He has never changed, altered or annulled; but it has continued in force throughout the generations of mankind. It is part of the divine plan for the eternal progression of His children.*

*The foundation stones of your marriage are intelligent love, continued courtship, unselfishness, true respect for each other, mutual self-revelation and trust, mutual self-giving, mutual interests, high moral aims and a belief and faith in the goodness of God.*

*Surround yourselves with that which is beautiful. Seek ever to improve the conditions of your present state and environment. There is much of beauty and worth all about us. Use these things to embellish your marriage. Let no cheap or mean thing creep into your relationship. Be ever patient with each other. If you must get angry do it one at a time. Be calm—the storm is soon*

*followed by the sunshine. Yield often to the wishes of each other and let self denial be the daily aim and practice of each. Always speak lovingly even when you feel it just to point out a fault. Never taunt each other with past mistakes. Never part for a day without loving words to think of during absence. Never meet without a loving welcome. Clear away the wreckage of any grievance or fault before the sun sets upon it and confess to each other and ask forgiveness before darkness descends.*

*Avoid the vicious triangle that wrecks hearts, and hopes and homes. Keep your feet ever from the pitfall of attempting to make each other jealous, lest in so doing your heart strings part with the strain and your life becomes a desolation.*

*Pray often together that God may bounteously bless you.*

*The state is interested in this marriage because the state is concerned as to the welfare of society. The home which you are to build is the foundation of the community and indispensable to a righteous society and an enduring nation. Let your home ever foster the great and lasting virtues of purity of life, honesty, thrift, benevolence and patriotism.*

*The church is deeply concerned because through its office is your marriage sanctified. By divine power your lives are to be united and consecrated to holy purposes. Faith and the hope of immortality should find a place in your hearts. The manifest implication of this ceremony is that you take God into this partnership with implied promise that you will sustain Him and His truth as you look to Him to sustain you.*

*Until today you have each lived an individual personal life. This day, of your own free will and choice, you jointly contract and vow to cleave unto each other as husband and wife to love, to trust and to honor the being and name of each; to share the blessings and joy of life and to jointly endure life's adversities, disappointments, sacrifices and sorrows.*

*Henceforth you shall no longer be twain; but one flesh, united in body, heart, mind, spirit and purpose. May your holy union in marriage endure throughout your lives.*

*You will take each other by the right hand.*

*Steve Valverde, do you take Edna Irene Cerny by the right hand in token of the covenant you now enter into to become her companion and husband, to love, honor and cherish her as long as you both shall live; and do you hereby promise to observe all the laws, covenants and obligations pertaining to the holy state of matrimony; and this you do in the presence of God and these witnesses of your own free will and choice?*

*"I do."*

*Edna Irene Cerny, do you take Steve Valverde by the right hand in token of the covenant you now enter into to become his companion and wife, to love, honor and cherish him as long as you both shall live; and promise to observe all the laws, covenants and obligations pertaining to the holy state of matrimony, and this you do in the presence of God and these witnesses, of your own free will and choice?*

*"I do."*

*As an elder in the Church of Jesus Christ and minister of the Gospel, and by the authority of the Holy Priesthood, I pronounce you, Steve Valverde and you, Edna Irene Cerny, husband and wife, legally and lawfully wedded for the period of your mortal lives.*

*RING*

*In further token of the covenant you now enter into you may place this ring upon the bride's finger, which ring is symbolic of never-ending loyalty and affection. It is without beginning or end, even as life itself.*

*May God bless your union and enable you to keep sacred the covenants you have here made. May the Holy Spirit ever guide you that life may be purposeful and useful and bring you everlasting joy and happiness. These blessings I invoke upon you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

*You may now kiss each other as husband and wife.*

The names of other brides and grooms for whom Duncan Weaver performed marriages included:

Homer Walden and Belle Harvey  
Joseph Faillo and Grace Wilson  
Edward John Smith and Helen Jane Brian  
James Walter Ostrowski and Rose Elaine Creger  
John Henry Gasnchow and Violet Magdalene Toth  
Keith Wall Nutt and Florence Anna Short

Because of the great distance of the only temples, (then only in Utah) Duncan often accentuated the religious aspect of the ceremony of the L.D.S. couples. The following excerpts from several other ceremonies reflect the fact that it was not until much later that Chicago couples were urged to "Go West" for their weddings.

*Marriage is a sacred personal relationship arising out of a civil contract and a religious covenant. It involves sacred rights, sacred duties and obligations.*

*One should believe in marriage as in the immortality of the soul. Marriage was instituted and ordained of God. He made man in His own image—male and female and in their creation it was designed that they should be united together in sacred bonds, and He hath declared that one is not perfect without the other. God has set the type of marriage everywhere throughout creation. Every creature seeks its perfection in another. In all ages since the world began God has commanded, approved and blessed the union in marriage of good men and women.*

*Marriage is not a union merely between two creatures. It is a union between two spirits, and the intention of that bond is to perfect the nature of both, by supplementing their deficiencies with the force of contrast. God our Eternal Father united our first parents in the bonds of Holy Matrimony. He commanded them to be fruitful and to multiply and replenish the earth. This command he has never changed, altered or annulled, but it has continued in force throughout the generations of mankind. It is part of the divine plan for the eternal progression of His children.*

*Edward John Smith, you have recently become a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. You now have the pathway opened to you whereby you may possess the Holy Priesthood and perform the Priestly duties of the Church. You may become a leader in Israel, and it is your sacred duty to become the comforter of your family, to administer to their needs in health*

*and sickness, to share in their joys and sorrows, and to become indeed, the divinely appointed patriarch of your family. For this stewardship you will be held accountable by God your Eternal Father.*

*Helen Jane Brian, to you are given the responsibilities of a wife and a potential Mother in Israel. Your mission in life is a holy one, sacred and distinct from that of the man, yet the purposes and objectives are mutual. To both of you: consecrate this marriage to the fulfillment of all righteousness. Work diligently to bring to pass the day when you can stand in the temple of your God and [seal] the union for all eternity that we make here for this life only...*

Duncan had the talent for holding his audience in rapt attention, whether it be a lecture or a sermon. He gave lectures on art and color as well as sermons and ceremonies. As the Chicago Stake grew, Duncan was assigned as High Councilman to visit outlying wards and branches. He would travel, sometimes with one of the family, sometimes alone, to give talks and sermons to these units. Duncan was always a favorite speaker with the people of the stake. It was after one of these speaking assignments in 1955 that he had the first noticeable episode of his fatal illness.

\* \* \*

## Ten Golden Points for Mental and Emotional Health

Attached to this list was a note in Duncan's hand: "These are from a speech I have given at several wards. So many have asked for them that I had a student prepare these sheets. You may like it. HDW"

1. *Always remember that all circumstances are transient; your worries, your problems, your apprehensions and adversities are essential but of passing significance. Find solace in the truth of following bit of philosophy, "And this too shall pass away."*
2. *Never permit yourself to stew and fret about things and situations that are none of your affair or over which you have no control and about which you cannot do anything anyway.*
3. *Avoid the tendency to allow yourself to fall into a dither of frenzied hurry and anxiety because of the accumulation of responsibilities. Your proficiency diminishes at the same ratio that you lend yourself to excited haste and frustration.*
4. *Avoid the common tendency of fighting sham battles. So many people exhaust themselves in the battles of imagination. So many people indulge in the neuroticism of "over readiness."*
5. *Do not live in retrospect, nor in premonition, nor in the regret of what might have been. No human was ever born who did not make mistakes.*
6. *Never lend yourself to hate, envy or hyper criticism. They represent the "dry rot" of personal happiness.*
7. *Constantly be aware of the fact that agnosticism, cynicism, fatalism and pessimism are the malignancies of the mind.*
8. *Shun the conventionalism of the New England concept of "old age." Retain the spirit of romance and adventure. Live courageously and always meet the challenge of new things and quests.*
9. *Always retain your faith in people. Do not look for perfection in them but rather for individual grains of virtue and capacity. Regardless of what people may or may not do to you, the potential of their goodness ordinarily far surpasses their mistakes.*
10. *Recognize that your problems are fundamentally the same as everyone else's, no matter what your particular job may be. Do not criticize your part in the play—study it, understand it, and then play it, sick or well, rich or poor, with faith, with courage and with proper grace.*

\* \* \*

## **DUNCAN WEAVER'S 10 GOLDEN RULES FOR SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING:**

1. Pray each day. Thank the Lord for what you have. Be modest in what you ask for, and He will, with charity and love, shower you with an abundance far beyond your needs and expectations.
2. Forever keep the words *love* and *understanding* in the vision of your mind. To love and to understand are the happiest of all human adventures.
3. Seek to do the will of the Lord not because of fear but because of the joy that it brings and the good that it accomplishes.
4. Never permit your religion to convert you into a moral prude or a spiritually egotistical self-satisfied individual who feels that humanity is divided into two groups, the good and the bad, the white sheep and the black sheep. We so frequently, as the result of our own weaknesses, change color so readily.
5. Sustain yourself in faith and hope because these are the spiritual attributes that lead to sovereign life.
6. Let the Spirit of the Lord condition all your actions. Things done in the Spirit of the Lord are things done in righteousness and reap but one harvest, the glorious harvest of happiness.
7. Be charitable in attitude and conduct. Charity is the diplomacy of the Gods. It is the mainspring of human relations.
8. Always remember that He who created you understands and knows you better than anyone else ever could. Consequently your God is your authority whose counsel you should constantly seek.
9. Religion is the eternal science. It contains the keys to who you are and what you might become. Consistently seek to enhance your life and the lives of your loved ones by diligent recourse to its laws and principles.
10. And this is the promise: "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock; and the rain descended and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not; for it was founded upon a rock."

\* \* \*

## SONGS

Duncan sang this song to his children. It was Gary's favorite when he was about three years old:

### I LOVE MY ROOSTER

*I love my rooster, my rooster loves me.  
I'll cherish my rooster under the green bay tree.  
My little rooster goes cock-a-do-do,  
Do-doodle do doodle-do-doodle do do.*

*I love my hen and my hen loves me.  
I'll cherish my hen under the green bay tree.  
My little hen goes cluck, cluck, cluck.  
My little rooster goes cock-a-do do,  
Do-doodle do doodle-do-doodle do do.*

*I love my dog and my dog loves me.  
I'll cherish my dog under the green bay tree.  
My little dog goes bow, wow-wow,  
My little hen goes cluck, cluck, cluck.  
My little rooster goes cock-a-do-do,  
Do-doodle do doodle-do-doodle do do.*

Keep adding cat, pig, pony, etc. ending each with the rooster.

Among the songs Margaret sang to her children, one stands out as being particularly memorable. It had been passed down through many generations of mothers and grandmothers. Ellen Claire would go behind the kitchen door and cry whenever she heard this song:

### BABES IN THE WOODS

*Oh, don't you remember a long time ago,  
Those two little babes whose name I don't know.  
They were stolen away on a bright summer's day  
And lost in the woods so I've heard people say.*

*And when it was night so sad was their plight.  
The sun, it went down, and the stars gave no light.  
They sobbed and they sighed and they bitterly cried.  
And those two little babes, they laid down and died.*

*And when they were dead, the robins so red  
Brought strawberry leaves and over them spread.  
And all the night long they sang their sweet song:  
"Poor babes in the woods! Poor babes in the woods!"*

\* \* \*