



Brother Evan Fry was Radio Minister for the church through a period of time which is rare in history — a time of clear-cut change. Not only was there the wonderment of new types of communication, (mass radio, infant commercial television) and the second war to end all wars but the introduction of the world into the nuclear age. He began his radio experience (1930) in an age when horses were still used in the United States to cultivate fields. He began his radio ministry slightly before the United States entered World War II (1940) and before the society in which he lived would be rocked by war, racial change, cold war philosophy, detente, and a shortage of oil and numerous other items.

Still from his words come the hope and insight needed by those with a mind-set which allows the consideration of all men, everywhere. Such was the theology and philosophy taught by Brother Evan. He looked to the future of a more perfect person; grounded in the Christ for the cause of the kingdom of God on earth. Zionic community was his watchword, but he knew that it took more than watching. People had to change by being introduced to the Son of God. Fry's ministry, both on the radio and in individual confrontations, was to bring a person into the glory of God as seen in Jesus Christ.

His radio sermons, "Hear Ye Him," from which the material of this book is compiled, began January 4, 1953. He was a teacher, preacher, musician (the first *Saints' Hymnal* was largely his work), historian, and radio man, but mainly a minister whose ministry continues even after his death on Easter Sunday of 1959.

To many thousands of people the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints has meant Evan Fry. For eighteen years he ministered to people whose only contact with religion was what they heard over the radio—and he was their favorite radio preacher.

So he prepared his messages with nonmembers in mind and the distinctives of the Restoration in his heart. Brother Fry's death on Easter Sunday in 1959 brought an end to his radio ministry, but his effectiveness carries on in the things he has written, in the memories that people hold, and through the continuing association with his family.

Evan Fry was born in 1902 to missionary parents. His parents' missions took him many places, so he soon learned to be at ease wherever he was. At school he majored in English and also expressed great interest in music. While working for his master's degree, he was asked to come to Independence, Missouri, to help prepare a hymnal for the church and to work in radio. Then came the Depression, and he turned to employment in radio stations in Kansas City and Wichita, Kansas. In 1940 he became radio minister for the church and served in that capacity until 1958. He then became church historian and served in that position till his death.

Taken from the covers of two books: "Evan Fry, Illustrations from Radio Sermons" by Norman Ruoff and "The Restoration Faith," a collection of sermons by Evan Fry.