

# Zion's Advocate

*"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day,  
for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost;"*

I Nephi 3:187

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## A Prayer

*by Hans H. Hansen*

**W**hat is a prayer to me, you ask? A prayer I know is not a game, nor just a way with me. And surely not just a waste of time to me. But a prayer is more to me - much more to me. A prayer is my heartbeat, my pulse, and even the lifeblood that runs through my veins. A prayer will change my sadness into joy, and bring me a ray of

hope. A prayer is my open door to God divine. I talk to Him, and He talks back to me. A prayer is a way for me to thank Him for all He gave to me, and even more. No, a prayer is not a game, it is real, and surely it is not just a habit that I have formed. Oh, no, a prayer is more. It is a telephone, a telegram, a letter to my Lord.

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### Zion's Advocate is ...

To promote Jesus Christ as our only Saviour;  
To promote His Teachings & His Church, the Church of Christ;  
To be a voice of warning to His people; To be Zion's advocate.

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Priesthood articles and sermons, testimonies for "Path Lights," submissions to other regular monthly Z.A. features, and news items of Church-wide interest are requested, and should be sent to the Editor as listed above. Deadline for material requiring publication in any certain month is the 10th of the previous month.

**Format of Submitted Material:** Please type all submissions (if possible), on one side of the paper only. Please

avoid overuse of underlining, ALL-CAPS, and *italics*. The most important thing, though, is to send the material — the staff can arrange for typing or otherwise prepare anything you send.

**Word Processors/Computers:** We can utilize text files on an IBM® or compatible computer floppy disk of any size or format and nearly any word processor. If you have this capability, it is a *big* help to our process.

## STATUS OF PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Articles published in this paper do not necessarily reflect the teachings of the Church nor the opinions of the editorial staff.

Declarations and notices authorized by the General Conference reflect the practices and beliefs of the General Church.

## The Profitable Servants

### **Are we spending our time teaching the simple truth of faith, repentance, baptism?**

Jesus tells us the parable concerning a man traveling to a far country. In the book of Matthew, 25:14-30, delivering to his servants his goods, one received five talents, another two talents, yet another one talent. They each gave an account of their master's goods which they had been entrusted with. The first had gained five, in addition to the original five; the second had gained two in his dealings; but the third servant hid his one talent for fear of losing it and was punished for his laziness. Jesus told us the explanation in the verses following this parable, "For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in..." You possessed the knowledge of the key to salvation and introduced me to Jesus Christ the Savior (ALP).

As we continue to embrace the simple yet important gospel message, we need to work on being a fit example to portray the teachings which we are in possession of. What Jesus laid out in his explanation we can confine within the term *charity*,

the pure love of Christ. Matthew 25:40, "And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Our commission in the Church of Christ is a simple and direct goal: the spreading of the truth of the gospel story. This is the first and foremost of all our efforts. As Jesus commanded his disciples before departing, so he commands us: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world" Matthew 28:19-20. Yes, go ye my servants and teach in truth and righteousness (ALP). The Bible and Book of Mormon instruct us to lay down contentions and confound false doctrines. **THESE ARE OUR TWO MEASURING STICKS.** Let us rely on these two books. In 2nd Nephi, all of Chapter 13, we can find laid out for us how to concentrate our efforts on the only true doctrine of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost: repentance, faith and baptism—and take it to those capable of understanding their

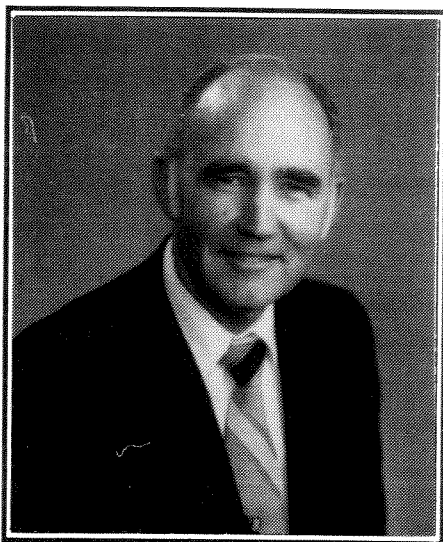
need to keep God's commandments. Those that are not capable of understanding, such as little children and those with mental difficulties, should still be taught to live as Jesus tells us: peaceably and in love.

We of the Church of Christ have a burden to bear, or a labor of love, because, "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more" Luke 12:48. A great task has been laid before us; let us therefore put our hands to our plows and plant seeds of truth, for which we are entrusted and will be held accountable. The reward for those who will labor in love for the Lord is the same for all and equal, yet beyond comprehension and human description (Matthew 20:1-16).

Let us truly pray for a unity in the Church of Christ in all things, for the time is too short, we are too few and the work is too vast.

*Your brother in Christ,  
Elder Adam Porter*

# Testify to the Truth of the Book



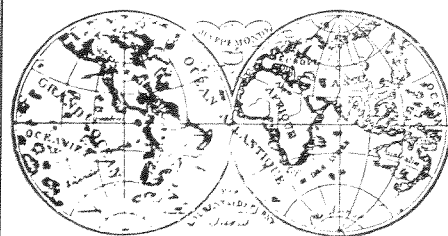
By Apostle Donald McIndoo

When Jesus walked among pre-Columbian Americans shortly after his resurrection, He taught them all the basic fundamentals of His gospel salvation, rehearsed for them words of prophecy they needed but did not have, and gave prophecies that would be applicable to them in the future. One such prophecy concerns His promise to return to this world in power and glory, a concept denied by many contemporary—and skeptical—Bible scholars.

The Book of Mormon simply states, “And he did expound all things, even from the beginning until the time that he should come in his glory...” III Nephi

11:30. Again we propose that all such major teachings found in the Book of Mormon should be represented in the literature and/or traditions of the Indian people. When they are found to exist, they present a strong evidence to the validity of the Book of Mormon. So what do the literature and traditions say about a promised return by the white, bearded God who walked among the ancient Americans? In this article we shall refer to the writing of just one anthropologist and the ramifications of his comment.

The renowned author and anthropologist, Frank Waters<sup>1</sup>, writes of the God known to the Aztec and Toltec peoples as Quetzalcoatl: “...a god who manifested himself as a white, bearded man, taught the people all the arts and sciences of civilization, and then disappeared with the promise to return someday in the year of his birth, Ce Acatl.” One of the most interesting aspects of the ancient Indian calendar is that any particular date was repeated in cycles of 52 years, so the Fair God’s promise to return on the date of his birth actually suggests an an-



## EVIDENCES

niversary of His birth.

Indian prophets from Peru to Mexico had been warning their leaders of the coming of another people to this land. In Mexico the Emperor Montezuma was so warned: “I have discovered that in a very few years our cities will be ravaged and destroyed. We and our children will be killed. ...Before many days have passed you will see signs in the sky....”<sup>2</sup> It was not long before the Emperor was to see one of the predicted omens—a marvelous comet cleaved the heavens above him.

Overcome with fear for his people and his kingdom, Montezuma prayed and did penance to the Morning Star, the symbol of the returning God, Quetzalcoatl. Lest we forget, we read again the revelation of Christ: “I am the root and the offspring of

David, and the bright and morning star" Rev. 22:16.

It is beyond the realm of coincidence that the prophesied coming of foreign invaders fell in the year 1519, one of the anniversaries of Ce Acatl, when the Aztecs would be awaiting the coming of their Fair God. News of the arrival of Cortes caused Emperor Montezuma great anxiety and distress. To the newly arrived bearded, white men he sent his messengers. He told them: "According to the legends, they are to acquire all the wealth that we now possess. If it is really Quetzalcoatl, greet him on behalf and give him these

◆ ... Major teachings found in the Book of Mormon should be represented in the literature and/or traditions of the Indian people. When they are found to exist, they present a strong evidence to the validity of the Book of Mormon.

gifts...I have always considered that my domain was only lent to me. Let him permit me to end my days here. Then let him return to enjoy what is his!"<sup>3</sup>

In this short article we find

the words of both anthropologist and historian lending support to the narrative of the Book of Mormon, verifying that American Indians were, indeed, given a knowledge of the promised return of Jesus Christ to His people.

1. Waters, Frank, *Mexico Mystique: The Coming Sixth World of Consciousness*, Swallow Press, Inc., Chicago, 1975, p. 5
2. Stuart, Gene, *The Mighty Aztecs*, National Geographic Society, Washington D.C., 1981, p. 148
3. *Ibid.*, p.153

# Interview with David Whitmer

(Deseret News, Friday, August 16, 1878)

We publish the following, the chief portions of a letter received from Dr. Poulson containing particulars of an interview with David Whitmer.

After a self introduction to David Whitmer and some general conversation, I remarked to him:

**Q**uestion: You are one of the three witnesses?

**A**nswer: I am one of them.

**Q**uestion: And you saw the angel, and he showed you the plates?

**A**nswer: The Book of Mormon is true, as true as any record can be. I saw the angel, and saw the sword of Laban, and the breast-plate, and the Urim and Thummim, and the plates, and the director, and the angel stood before us, and he turned the leaves one by one.

**Q**uestion: Did the angel turn all the leaves before you as you looked on it?

**A**nswer: No, not all, only that part of the book which was not sealed, and

what there was sealed appeared as solid to my view as wood.

**Q**uestion: How many of the plates were sealed?

**A**nswer: About the half of the book was sealed. Those leaves which were not sealed, about the half of the first part of the book, were numerous, and the angel turned them over before our eyes. There is yet to be given a translation about Jared's people's doings and of Nephi, and many other records and

Continued on page 142

# The Eleventh Hour

*From the November 1958 Zion's Advocate*

By Wm. F. Anderson

"If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15. This statement of Christ was made while He was here in the flesh. He had left His Father's side to come to earth and mingle with men, taking the form of man, that He might make it possible for them to return to the presence of God, or to be redeemed from the fall and be able to enjoy the association of God and Christ.

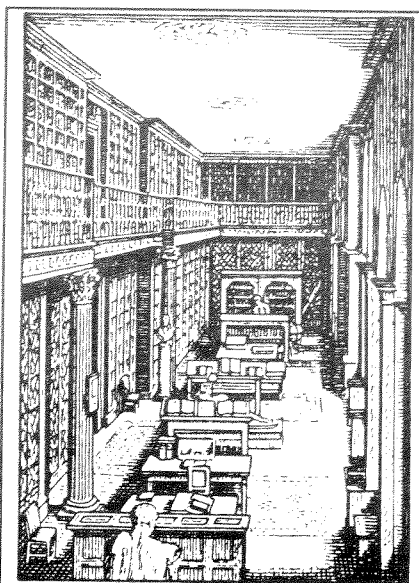
Following the transgression of Adam and Eve with their subsequent banishment from the Garden of Eden and the presence of God, the Lord sent messengers to the people of the earth to tell them the way they might be able to return to their God. Angels were sent to Adam and we find that he offered sacrifices, and later Cain did likewise. Abel was accepted because he was righteous and believed, but Cain, who believed not, was rejected. Surely it is not unreasonable to suppose that Adam had taught these things to his sons, or else

where did they obtain the idea of making an offering unto the Lord?

Many times through the years following, the Lord sent prophets who sought to direct mankind in the way of salvation whereby men might be able to return and be with God. But the prophets were rejected and killed and only a few of the people heeded, the others following the whisperings of Satan.

If you read Matt. 20:17, you will find a parable that divides the history of the world into periods: early morning hour, the third hour, the sixth hour, the ninth hour and the eleventh hour; each hour represents a period of time during which the Lord would endeavor to hire laborers to work in his vineyard (to call men to return to God).

**T**he early morning was the time of Adam. The Lord called the people to righteousness, but only a few heeded the call, and these were taken out of the world, for we



A R C H I V E S

read that because of the wickedness of the people Enoch was taken from among them (Gen. 5). In the Inspired Translation, in the seventh chapter of Genesis, we find a history of those who were taken away: they were called Zion because they were pure in heart.

**T**he third hour was the time of Noah. God again sent His messenger to call men to repentance and return to Him; but as always the world refused and only Noah and his family be-

lieved God, built the ark, and were saved.

**T**hen comes the sixth hour: the time when Moses led the children of Israel out of the slavery in Egypt to the land of Canaan. For years the Lord plead with them through the prophets. Because of the hardness of their hearts they refused the instructions of the Lord and were taken into captivity and suffering. But God continued to appeal to them through the prophets and the administration of angels. The last of the prophets was Malachi, who warned them that they had robbed Him (Mal. 3).

**T**he ninth hour was ushered in by John the Baptist, who prepared the way for the coming of Christ. Please note that there was not a man living through whom God could speak or make straight the paths; therefore, he caused that a son should be born to an aged couple so that He could raise up one who would tell the people of the coming of Christ.

In the first few chapters of Matthew is recorded the coming of Jesus to the Jews. God had chosen the Jews to be a peculiar people, a Holy nation, but they had long since failed Him, and as a result they became divided and two nations developed. The ten tribes were

taken away and are referred to as the ten lost tribes. The kingdom of Judah remained in Jerusalem, for prophets foretold that Christ was to come by way

**◆ Men tell us today that Jesus saves: that is a mistake. Jesus tells us how to be saved. We are saved by following the plan He gave, "If ye love me, keep my commandments."**

of the Jews, who were considered the chosen of God. Yet they rejected the Christ and nailed Him to the cross, and eventually all His followers were destroyed in one way or another. Jesus had said, "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force" Matt. 11:12. John was the first Christian martyr, and Jesus was next, then followed the destruction of all the Christians, so that the kingdom of heaven was taken by force, and once again Satan prevailed, and the great apostasy was complete.

**L**astly comes the eleventh hour when the Lord would hire laborers and send them forth to gather the people together for the Lord.

In the first chapter of the

book of Revelation we find these words, "The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him, to show unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass; and He sent and signified it by His angel unto His servant John...." We note that which was shown to John was future from his time, "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people" Rev. 14:6. Each time the Lord sent an angel to point the way, and so it was to be at the eleventh hour.

While Jesus was with men He taught them the way, and he said, "I come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." John 10:10. Christ did not say, I come to give you life, but that they might have life. He came to tell the people how they might be able to obtain that abundant life.

"...If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him" John 14:23, also Matt. 24:27. Men tell us today that Jesus saves: that is a mistake. Jesus tells us how to be saved. We are saved by following the plan He gave, "If ye love me, keep my com-

mandments." In the keeping of His commandments we are saved. "Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall

◆ **He wants us to show by our lives in righteousness that we are a peculiar people, a holy people.**

be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people..." Ex. 19:5, Deut. 14:2, Ps. 135:5. We gather from these Scriptures that God wanted a holy and a peculiar people above all other people. And, as God is not changeable, He would expect to have a holy and peculiar people now.

Jesus gave us a standard, or measuring rod, by which we may measure our standing with God. He has always wanted a holy and peculiar people, not peculiar in our manner of dress or outward appearance, or even our professions. He wants us to show by our lives in righteousness that we are a peculiar people, a holy people. "Ye are the light of the world. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" Matt. 5:14, 16. "...Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye

shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven" Mat. 5:20. Read the entire sermon on the mount; it teaches the way of spiritual life.

Christ asks His people to be a peculiar people, a peculiarly righteous people, a people whose righteousness exceeds the righteousness of all other people, a people whom He can shine for the benefit of the world. Satan has ever sought to keep the people of the Lord from attaining this righteousness, for he convinces us to think it is something which cannot be obtained in this life. Jesus never at any time asked His people to do that which they were not able to do. He talked with the living, not with the dead. He instructed as to this life so that His people might become a great people. In His prayer, the burden of His appeal was for His followers (read John 17). Note that He prayed for those who were with Him, and for those who would believe on Him through their words, that they might all be one in obedience, one in righteousness, that the world might know that He had been sent by the Father. "...Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" II Cor. 6:2. It is an individual matter, and each person must develop in his or her life that righteousness which God will accept. No one

can perfect another. It is a task allotted to each person. "If ye love me keep my commandments" is as vital for us as it was for those to whom Jesus spake.

◆ **Read the entire Sermon on the Mount; it teaches the way of spiritual life.**

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" Matt. 22:36-40. Let us ask ourselves if we are keeping the first and great commandment. One thing is sure if we do: there is no commandment or instruction which has been given that we will not adhere to, and if we keep that commandment we will keep the others, and we will be righteous individually and as a people. If we love a person we will not do them an injury, for if we injure a person we do not love him.

The Lord spoke to the Jews through Malachi and accused them of neglect. "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse...and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the



windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there will not be room enough to receive it" Mal. 3:10. Jesus approved of that saying, as He gave it to the people on this land when He visited them, and it

◆ **... Each person must develop in his or her life that righteousness which God will accept.**

was to be preserved for future generations. There were no Jews or Levites here; and besides, the Levites were given a special work, and they were to be provided for from the tithes. Jesus said that the "laborer is worthy of his hire." Tithing has always been a law for the caring for those who give all their time to His work and those who are unable to do for themselves, the poor. We surely can claim to be a future generation from those to whom Jesus spake.

If we love God with all our heart and give Him first place in our lives, there will be no contention among us, and we

will not try to figure how little we can give the Lord, but will figure how much we can do.

How would it be to take the Lord at His word, and "prove Him" as He has asked?

Have you, dear reader, taken the Lord at His word and endeavored to prove Him? or have you been hiding behind the excuse that tithing is not for today, or because someone has done that which you consider wrong?

Dear reader, this matter of giving to the Lord His portion is between you and God, not between you and the Bishops or some other person. God has said the tithe was His, and to withhold it places us in the same category as were the Jews to whom God spoke. Do you want to be one who robs God, or do you wish to bear your share of the burden. The offering is what you give out of your nine-tenths. God does not say how much you shall give of that which is yours, but He does ask you to give Him what belongs to Him. You would have nothing if it were not for the mercies

of God that are extended unto you. If men do not handle the funds as they should, make a change or leave them for God to deal with, for they will surely have to give an account for what they do. Women and chil-

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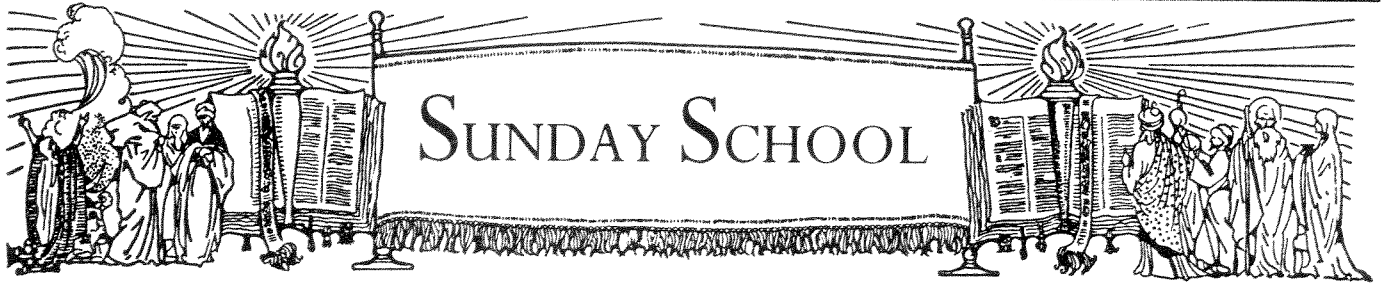
dren go hungry when you steal or withhold God's portion.

Let us put God to the test, "Try Him." Our hope of Eternal life depends on our individual righteousness.

*Yours in hope,  
Wm. F. Anderson*



GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION



Ages 12-15

The following are ideas I have accumulated over the past fifteen years in teaching ages 10-15. This age is wonderful to teach because they have been in school long enough to read, comprehend, pay attention, and contribute ideas and personal experiences. It is challenging to be interesting enough to keep their attention, yet not feel that we have to "entertain."

1. Teaching is a wonderful opportunity to teach of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Pray for guidance weekly. Be flexible in your lessons and allow for the leading of the Spirit through discussions and questions asked by children.
2. I have felt continued strong direction to teach testimonies of faith. Research Bible and Book of Mormon testimonies of faith. Invite ministry, members, and class to share a testimony of faith. Use other resources such as

*Guidepost, Reader's Digest, etc., for outstanding testimonies.*

3. Share personal experiences and testimonies with your class. Ask them to share experiences in their life. Sometimes a class will be really shy, but as they think about their life they will remember either personal experiences or share testimonies they have heard from others.
4. Christ's commission to his Apostles was to teach nothing but repentance. Young teens need repentance, and it is important to remind them that they are near or at the age of accountability and need to repent, be baptized, receive the laying on of hands, and endure to the end.
5. If they haven't already done so, memorize the books of the Bible and Book of Mormon. Not only is this something they will use all of their lives, it also aids in the class studies and finding references.
6. As a class, write cards or

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letters to scattered youth of the church, the elderly and shut-ins.

7. Study the ordinances of the church and how they are conducted as directed in the scriptures. Also study the structure of the church and verify through the scriptures.
8. Memorize scripture references (i.e. one per month).

I feel the most valuable tool in teaching Sunday School is to pray for guidance and the leading of the Spirit. So many times I have felt the Lord's guidance in what direction to follow in the lessons.

Some of the most remarkable experiences have happened when I have allowed myself to be flexible and open for questions. For example: on a Sacrament Sunday, one of the students asked a question out of the blue regarding prophecy, callings, etc. We talked about prophecy and how we can verify it's truth. We talked about callings, how they can come, how they are verified, etc. That very day in the service three men were called. After a season of prayer, witnesses were given. I feel my class had a witness to the truthfulness of that calling and the leading of the Spirit. I could see they were all looking at me and thinking "Did you see and hear that—just like you told us?" They all remember this incident and talk about it from time to time. Numerous times, sermons

have reiterated our Sunday School lesson. This is the greatest benefit of praying for guidance.

◆ **I feel the most valuable tool in teaching Sunday School is to pray for guidance and the leading of the Spirit.**

I have also taken advantage of really interesting sermons that I have heard preached by obtaining the tape of the message. I listen to the tape, note the references and points made and use this information for a lesson plan covering one to three or four weeks of study.

I have had several young adults come back to me and tell me they really appreciate my

making them memorize the books of the Bible and Book of Mormon, as well as passages of scripture. Many have told me that the scriptures would come to mind at important or needful times in their lives. They confide in me that in their humanness they would not discipline themselves to memorize scripture on their own.

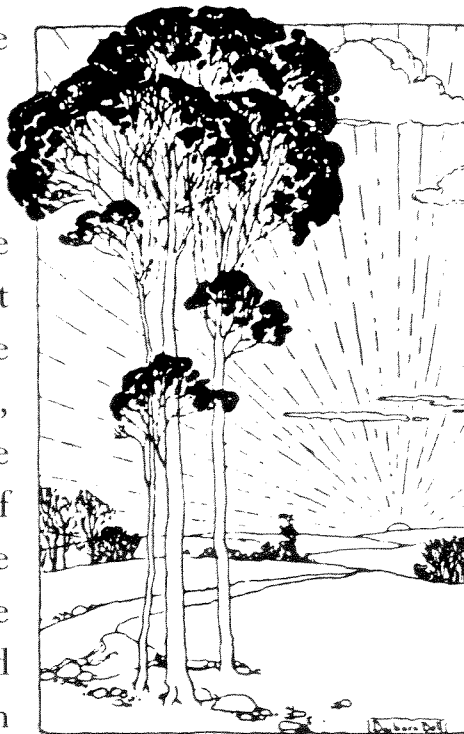
Wear a smile, be enthusiastic, be consistent. Don't become discouraged. I occasionally have felt like my class was ineffective, then unexpectedly a student would relate to me a whole lesson and tell me how it affected their life. Or a student would bring a friend, or a cousin, and ask me, "Tell us again about so an so—I love to hear that story."

*Jennifer Oldham*

# The Traditions of Their Fathers

My name is Jason Knott. I am of Pima and Meztizo decent. I used to practice traditional Native American ceremonies. I was baptized into the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) on September 11, 1992. Before I was baptized, I was told that the Gospel of Jesus Christ would replace all the native traditions. Being stubborn, I continued practicing these traditions. In October of 1992, I did a fast the Native American way. I sat in the Sweat Lodge for three and one half days praying. On the fourth day I left and called a friend to pick me up. He talked to me about what had happened. We went back to the place where I had fasted. The man and woman who persuaded me to do this told me, "that their demons would haunt me, that I

would divorce my wife, and my daughter wouldn't make it." As they were telling me these things I felt the



P A T H L I G H T S

Spirit of God move upon me.

He laid these words upon my heart. "You have been bought with a price through the atoning blood

of Mine only Begotten Son. Fear not for I have set a wall about you, to protect you. Their demons cannot touch what belongs to me. Turn away from these traditions and return no more. My ways are above all ways and my thoughts are above all thoughts. Don't rely on the arm of flesh nor trust in any man, for I the Lord am one and beside Me there is no other."

Today is March 12, 1993. I am happily married and I now have a beautiful daughter. I give God all the glory, honor, and power, because He is the Almighty True and Living God. Amen.

*Jason C. Knott  
Independence, Missouri*



N E W S



N E W S

**Ravenna, Michigan**

**Greetings from Ravenna Michigan, Local Church of Christ.**

**D**ear Brothers and Sisters: Brother Gale Brantner is back from the missionary field. He told us about his work among the Indians, getting them to believe that the Book of Mormon is a history of their forefathers, and trying to get them to see the need to come to church and pray. One said he liked to go to the water to pray.

During a recent sermon on charity Elder Aaron Heath told us of an article he found containing 27 secrets to happiness. He said there are no secrets—it's all in the Bible, God's plan for us.

Elder Max Spencer and his wife made a trip to Cherokee to help with the school for the Indians held by Elder Sam Gould. They were back in time for our reunion.

*Sister Lois Heath  
Reporter to Advocate*



**Lima Center, Wisconsin**

**June 12, 1993 Gathering At Lima Center, Wisconsin**

**C**hurch was held at the Lima Center Town Hall. The weather was ideal for this all-day meeting. It started with Elder Bob Oldham, assisted by Elder Andrew Brantner, presiding. After opening remarks by Bro. Bob, Elder Isaac Brockman presented a sermon which was very appropriate to this meeting. The food for thought that he gave us was that this gathering was, in fact, a "Rally." Webster's dictionary defines rally as "to summon or bring together for a common purpose." We must rally around the banner of Christ, our Lord and Heavenly Master. We must have a renewed commitment to God. After this wonderful sermon, a Sacrament Service was held, after which prayer and testimonies were given with fine participation. Administration were received by Paul Likeness, Hazel Niedens and Ray Hunholz. A spiritual feast was our reward.

In the afternoon we were privileged to hear sermonettes from Elder Merlin Eddy, followed by Elder Ray Hunholz, who reminded us that everything will be shaken that can be shaken. We must study to show ourselves approved, to search the spiritual so that we will not be deceived by twisted scripture. We must be equipped to test the theological spirits.

Apostle Robert Jensen followed by reminding us that the Lord will do nothing without first telling his prophets.

We were then treated by the Lussenden's to a medley of songs that delighted all of us.

The afternoon services continued with Elder Gale Brantner telling us that we will be judged by the choices we make.

Elder Aaron Heath followed by asking us "Are we trying hard enough for the Lord?"

Apostle Smith Brickhouse ended the sermonettes with a reading and comments on 2nd Nephi.

Elder Andy Brantner closed the service.

We wish to thank all who attended our gathering. A special thanks to those who went the extra mile to make our meeting an extra special event. The people from Michigan who came here and left for home immediately so that they could hold services at home on Sunday have a special place in our hearts. The same applies to Merlin Eddy. We were so pleased that Apostle Robert Jensen was here despite the physical difficulties it presented. The attendance of the brothers and sisters from Missouri was an act of love, not only of the Lord, but of the family of Christ.

*Brother Bud Gage*



**Farmington, Minnesota**

In the trust of the blessings of Jesus Christ in each of our lives, the Church of Christ Farmington local also adds its testimony in this monthly report. The month of May brought about the observance of Mother's Day, which prompted Brother Merlin Eddy, officiating as a servant of Jesus Christ, to remind mothers of their servanthood to God through loving and instructing their children in the pathway of God, with verses such as Proverbs 29:15-17 and Alma 26:56-58.

"The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame. When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increaseth: but the righteous shall see their fall. Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul" Proverbs 29:15-17.

"Now they never had fought, yet they did not fear death: and they did think more upon the liberty of their fathers, than they did upon their lives; yea, they had been taught by their mothers, that if they did not doubt, that God would deliver them. And they rehearsed unto me the words of their mothers, saying, We do not doubt our mothers knew. And it came to pass that I did return with my two thousand, against these Lamanites who had pursued us" Alma 26:56-58.

Nana Gill has served as a mother to numerous children besides her own. Two of these

children, Mary Calix and Jahaira Pena, graduated from high school in May. Church services were held at John and Nana Gill's home in Ellsworth, Wisconsin. Visitors included: Sally Schneider, Kathy Rubio, Merlin Eddy Senior (Hook), his wife Grace, Julia Pena (Jahaira's mother), and Lydia Calix (Mary's mother). [Lydia Calix, who resides in Danli, Honduras, visited the United States to see her daughter graduate from high school.] Following the graduation ceremonies, a potluck was held at the Gill's. Congratulations are extended to Mary and Jahaira, as well as the brightest hopes and many prayers for the future.

In May, "Zion's Children" nominated Laura Gill, another of Nana Gill's children, to assist Mrs. Joani Gill as a Youth Group Coordinator. "Zion's Children" made puppets during a Sunday school class, which will be used when they put on a puppet show for nursing homes and Orvilla (a home for developmentally disabled adults). It is such a pleasure to see our children so very desirous to do activities focusing on God.

When brother Merlin Eddy gave another sermon, in May, he directed his sermon to the children. The topic of the sermon was "Circuits." Merlin drew components of a circuit including: a generator, battery, fuse, light, switch and resistors. Meanwhile, he asked the children for ideas, and explained how a circuit can be compared to our life's walk with God. (Generator = God, light = the light of Christ within us, resistors = sin.) The light's brightness would

depend on how clear the pathway to the generator, or the lack of resistors in its way, just as our light's brightness is affected by the clearness of our path, or the lack of sin to our generator, who is God.

Some of the counsel Merlin offered was:

"We have let our light shine by praying and repenting. We are the ones who put resistors in the circuit by going against the counsel of God and not keeping His commandments." In other words, "When we sin, there are resistors in our pathway to God, and our battery will run down. We need to get hooked up to the power or enter the gate which will close the switch. We should be baptized and rectify the path. We have to keep our battery charged."

Brother Merlin Eddy followed his counsel and let his light shine for scattered members in Wisconsin when he and his family traveled to Black River Falls to hold church services.

As the month of May also produced many birthday celebrations for church members, "We praise our Heavenly Father for His glorious handiwork He places around us: the trees in full green dress standing in a carpet of beautiful flowers, and His refreshing rains giving life to all around. We thank Him and praise Him" (Nana Gill).

*Your sister in Christ,  
Patricia Gould*



**1993 Michigan State Reunion**

**Our love and greetings to one and all!**

Once again the Michigan State Reunion of the Church of Christ opened on a beautiful sunny day, Friday, June 18th, at the Ravenna Local. The prayer service began at 10:30 a.m. with Elder Gale Brantner opening with prayer and welcoming us to the 57th Annual Michigan State Reunion. He read scriptures pertaining to the purpose of prayer service (references in the Book of Mormon: page 285 vs. 149; page 362 vs. 4-5; page 399 vs. 103; page 429 vs. 219 & 238; page 163 vs. 4-5 & 11-12; page 777 vs. 27-30). Many beautiful prayers were heard. Closing prayer was given by Elder Ray Hunholz from Independence, Missouri.

After a delicious lunch downstairs, we assembled in the sanctuary for a song service. The afternoon preaching service was opened with prayer by Apostle Smith "Buzz" Brickhouse of Independence, Missouri, and he introduced the preacher of the hour, Elder Charles Brantner, from Lone Jack, Missouri. Brother Charles spoke of Charity being the true love of God, and being filled with His love and desire to help mankind. He remembered those early missionaries who were so filled with zeal and desire to serve. Our first step in serving is our faith and we must stay in the strait gate, and beware of false prophets. We will know them by their fruits, they promote their own desires, which are contrary to the teachings of the

Bible. Read warnings from Paul in Galatians 1:8-9, Deuteronomy 13, and II Corinthians 11:13-15. We must defend the gospel of Christ. We must be an obedient people and let our light shine in unity and fellowship. The closing prayer was given by Brother Buzz.

Next we all enjoyed the fellowship of each other and a wiener roast, while being joined by other members arriving with their campers. There were joyful hearts and many mosquitos, thanks to much rainfall, even during the previous night.

Saturday morning we once again assembled for a prayer and testimony service. The opening prayer was given by Elder Max Spencer with Elder Adam Porter giving us some words of admonition. He told us that we need to condition ourselves in humbleness and meekness of spirit so that the Lord's Spirit will work among us. We need to be open to that Spirit that we savor. Brother Adam then led us in a season of prayer. Testimonies and songs followed. The closing prayer was given by Brother Max.

At 11:30 a.m., a preaching service was opened with prayer by Elder Gale Brantner. Elder Ray Hunholz admonished us that the Book of Mormon teaches the same as the Bible: we must grow in faith; we must be baptized, walk in the light, keeping out the leaven (worldly influence) of false doctrine in modern churches of today; we must study, cling to the scriptures, not letting the multitude persuade; and we must beware of

false prophets who shall deceive many. We must pray for God's help in all things, so as not to be influenced by our 'educated' minds, for men are influenced by

**◆ We must pray for God's help in all things, so as not to be influenced by our 'educated' minds...**

the leaven of the world that teaches not the power of God. God's word and Spirit will reveal all. People not thoroughly grounded in the scriptures can easily be misled, for many have perverted the gospel of Christ, so beware of the leaven of the world and the influence of the worldly. The closing prayer was given by Brother Gale.

After another wonderful meal, prepared by the Kitchen Committee (thanks so much for a job well done!) we were physically well fed as well as spiritually filled. Before returning upstairs, we all took a few minutes for a photo session.

At 2:30 p.m. we assembled again in the sanctuary for another preaching service, while a Children's Class took place downstairs. The children each received a '93 Keepsake Lesson Book, and planned a presentation for Sunday. We also reviewed some Book of Mormon history, and they received some home study materials on the Stela 5, Izapa stone. We did enjoy ourselves!

Upstairs, the preaching service was taking place with

Apostle "Buzz" Brickhouse opening with prayer and introducing Priest Peter Gould, now from Independence, Missouri, as our preacher of the hour.

◆ **... We're created in God's image and we have to bear that image faithfully...**

Brother Peter admonished us that we're created in God's image and we have to bear that image faithfully, and God desires that those who take upon them the name of Christ take also His image spiritually. We can do this by not having divisions or contentions among us, but we must first yield our hearts to the spirit of God. Brother Peter read from John 17:1-7, and asked us to ask ourselves: "Do we glorify the name of God here on earth?" In reading II Peter 1:4, he also explained that we must put aside our earthly nature to be able to progress in a divine nature, with faith and baptism as our first steps, then "Giving all diligence add to your faith virtue (love for that which is good) and to virtue add knowledge. (We are all commanded to study the words of Isaiah and understanding will come from the Spirit). Add to knowledge temperance (actions tempered by the Spirit of God), add to that patience (reliance on the Spirit), then Godliness (remove all things which would inhibit the Spirit of God in our lives), add brotherly kindness with charity

(the pure love of Christ which binds us to that Godly walk), add these things to your nature and you WILL be fruitful."

Next, a song service took place, with the highlights being a beautiful "Amazing Grace" sung by The Cherokee Witnesses (Elder Sam Gould, teens Liza, Beth, Amy, and Tiffany) in both the English and Cherokee languages. There were also specials by Ken and Sister June Haines, and Elder LaVern and Sister Joyce Lussendon.

The 4:30 p.m. preaching service was opened with prayer by Elder Aaron Heath, and he introduced Elder Sam Gould, from Independence, Missouri, as the preacher of the hour. Brother Sam entitled his sermon "A Call to Faithfully Establish Zion." He quoted III Nephi 10:9-11 and II Nephi 6:98-100. He read Matthew 5:16 and commented that we have gone from Zion builders, to Zion thinkers, to world thinkers. Not one of us is following ALL of God's Commandments. Brother Sam admonished us that we should "just do it," as written in Psalms: they just went and did it. God will empower us to build the Temple, as they were led by the Spirit in I Nephi when they obeyed God. All men should have Charity; without it they'll have nothing. Laborers shall not work for money. Read II Nephi 15:10-11 and believe in Christ. The closing prayer was given by Elder Charles Brantner.

After another wonderful meal we rejoined for another preaching service. Elder Charles Brantner opened with prayer; an

administration took place; and then Brother Charles introduced our preacher of the hour, Elder Joseph Smith of Ava, Missouri. Brother Joe reminded us of the story of the

◆ **... We have gone from Zion builders, to Zion thinkers, to world thinkers.**

Prophet Daniel in the second year of the reign of King Nebuchadnezzar. The King asked that his dream, which he could not remember, be interpreted. Daniel did so, with the aid of the Spirit. Daniel told the King of the latter days in which the prophecy would be fulfilled, and it is being fulfilled, beginning with the church being restored in 1830; and that this Kingdom of God will stand and never be destroyed. We must register the importance of this...the Kingdom of God is here on earth, never to be taken from it again! And we are to build up that Kingdom...not tear it down! Satan is the author of confusion...we must not confuse the teachings of Christ, but we must earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to this church! In Hebrews 10, Paul said, "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering, for he is faithful that promised." Brother Charles gave the closing prayer.

On Sunday, June 20th, the sacrament service was opened with prayer by Elder LaVern Lussendon. There were then ad-



ministrations for five who had called forth the elders in faith believing for healings. Brother LaVern then introduced Elder Aaron Heath. Brother Aaron told us that

◆ **We in the body of Christ are ALL called to serve as missionaries.**

ultimately it is our own responsibility whether we attend church or not, we have our own free will to make choices. He then reminded us that in III Nephi chapter 5, just before Jesus came to the people in America, the people heard a voice from Heaven but they could not comprehend it. Three times the voice spoke to them, then they understood it. It was God introducing His Son Jesus Christ, and it did pierce them to their very souls. Now is the time to prepare ourselves for His second coming, Brother Aaron told us. He then read the ordinances of baptism and of sacrament. In III Nephi 8, we are told, "This do in remembrance of my body,"... "it is a testimony unto the Father that you do always remember"...and... "Ye shall have my spirit to be with you." Our rock is Jesus Christ; if you do these things you are built upon this rock, and not a sandy foundation, which will not hold. "Ye must watch and pray always lest you are tempted by the devil and ye are led away"...and... "I have set an example for you..." Remember, Charity is the true love of Christ.

Elders Max Spencer and

Adam Porter then served the emblems, after which many prayers, songs, and testimonies were given in praise and thanksgiving for the blessings received from our heavenly Father above. The closing prayer was given by Brother LaVern.

After being spiritually fed, we then enjoyed another meal together, once again feasting on the fellowship of the Saints who were gathered there, and remembering those who were not with us. The Children's Class rehearsed the planned presentation for the afternoon special during the latter part of this lunch period also.

At 2 p.m. we assembled in the sanctuary for the special and song service. Our Children's Class did their presentation holding signboards or "sticks," and wearing either Hebrew or Indian headdresses. They read verses from Ezekiel and demonstrated how the "stick of Joseph" and the "stick of Judah"... "shall be one in mine hand"...evenly. They did a very nice job and learned in the process. The congregation then continued on with songs chosen by us all, while Sister June Haines and Sister Laura Ritzema played piano and organ for us, and we do thank them much!

The afternoon preaching service was opened with prayer by Elder Gale Brantner, and he then introduced Apostle Smith "Buzz" Brickhouse. Brother Buzz asked if we ever wondered what our reason or purpose for being here is, and explained that the Lord has a reason (other than the desire to accumulate worldly possessions)...we must

diligently seek and serve the Lord. We in the body of Christ are ALL called to serve as missionaries. With Charity, we must be strong soldiers for Christ. As our old

◆ **We must desire to and work together to bring forth Zion and the gathering WILL take place!**

missionaries set an example for us, we are the old missionaries of tomorrow. The joy and responsibility is on our shoulders. Are we committed to build up the Kingdom of God? We must "just do it," one step at a time, so that we may pass this exam. In Moroni 7:45, we read that hope without faith is no hope, for the Holy Ghost must touch our hearts for true conversion. The knowledge of Christ isn't difficult; it's our carnal nature that makes it difficult. We must put the gospel into practice and work unto perfection, then we'll obtain Charity...for if you have none...you are nothing. Don't neglect blessings that have been given us. There is a time for everything and NOW is the time for us; we need to be abounding in good works; steadfast, to promote the gospel of Christ; immovable, that the Lord God might seal us His. He's waiting for us to get out and do it so He can bless us! Our time is now! It is our responsibility to let our light shine, and it will go forth and the windows of heaven will be opened in our behalf, with Charity. We must desire to and

work together to bring forth Zion and the gathering WILL take place!

Brother Gale then mentioned that at the opening of the Reunion he'd forgotten to tell us that at the end there would be a test...here's the question...were you well fed at this reunion? He told us, "there's no free lunch"...so in payment take your testimony of this reunion and share it with others. Before he closed there was another

administration and then in closing we sang the song "One Fervent Prayer." The closing prayer was then given by Brother Gale.

And so, not wanting to part, we did so with a fervent prayer of thankfulness for His Son, for His plan of Salvation, and for the nourishment our souls received at this reunion of the Saints. We ask that it will strengthen us and that we may carry His spirit with us and on

to others for "God is ever true and kind." We also pray that this report will uplift you and kindle your desire to seek the Lord, to "Come Unto Him" and be strengthened by His spirit and His love.

*With a thankful heart, once again, your sister and reporter,  
Debbie Brantner Vogel*

## Interview with David Whitmer

*Continued from page 129*

books, which all has to be done, when the time comes.

**Q** *uestion:* How large were the plates?

**A** *nswer:* About eight inches wide and six or seven inches long, as they appeared a little wider than long, and three rings kept the plates together; one above, one in the middle and one below, so the angel could turn every leaf entirely over. The thickness was about of a common sheet of tin used by tinsmiths.

**Q** *uestion:* How did the engravings look?

**A** *nswer:* They were characters. We copied some, and if you visit my brother John, one of the eight witnesses, who wrote for Joseph, John can show you some of the old

manuscript which he borrowed from me. I must have it returned to me again, as it belongs to the Church, in connection with other records. \*\*\*

**Q** *uestion:* How did you know Joseph to be at the time?

**A** *nswer:* As a very humble and meek man...He did the will of the Lord, and an arduous task it was to translate the Book of Mormon.

**Q** *uestion:* Did Joseph use the Urim and Thummim when he translated?

**A** *nswer:* The Urim and Thummim were two white stones, each of them cased in as spectacles are, in a kind of silver casing, but the bow between the stones was more heavy, and longer apart between the stones, than we usually find in spectacles. Martin Harris, Oliver Cowdery, Emma and my brother John each at different times wrote for Joseph as he translated.

**Q** *uestion:* When will the Temple be built in Independence?

**A** *nswer:* Right after the great tribulation is over.

**Q** *uestion:* What do you mean by that?

**A** *nswer:* A civil war more bloody and cruel than the rebellion. It will be a smashing up of this nation, about which time the second great work has to be done, a work like Joseph did, and the translation of the sealed plates, and peace all over.

**Q** *uestion:* Will you live and see those things?

**A** *nswer:* It was said to us that the second great work should commence when nearly all the witnesses to the first plates had passed away. \*\*\*

**A N N O U N C E M E N T S**

**Missouri Camp for All Ages**

The Missouri Camp for All Ages will be at Camp Aurora. It is a private church camp located near Wendyville, Missouri. We will have EXCLUSIVE use of the entire camp. The dates are September 3-6, Friday evening to Monday morning, Labor Day weekend.

The sports facilities include a swimming pool, basketball and volleyball court, softball diamond, and archery range. There is a dining hall with kitchen, a covered outdoor meeting place, and an outdoor chapel.

We are planning a float trip down the Niagara River, as well as other activities that will make use of the camp.

The cost for cabins will be \$16.00 for adults and \$8.00 for children 3-12 years old. There are limited tent and trailer sights at \$11.00 for adults and \$5.50 for children 3-12 years old. There will be an additional \$9.00 charge for electrical hook-up at tent and trailer camp sights. Tent and trailer reservations are on first CALL, first get basis. These prices are for all three nights and can not be pro-rated. Plan to pay ahead of time. For more information about what to bring and directions contact:

**RICK OLSON**  
1911 1/2 E 18th  
Independence, MO 64056  
(816) 796-4526

**JEFF OLDHAM**  
1247 Baker Drive  
Independence, MO 64050  
(816) 252-9705

**1993 Tri-State Reunion**

We have again procured the Whitewater State Park Youth Camp for our 1993 Tri-State Reunion, September 3-5, the three days preceding Labor Day. This facility on these dates has proved, for us, the best. The minimal cost, a use tax stamp procured for your car at the Park Office, has proven favorable.

There will be time for prayers, group discussions, question and answer periods, and good, plain fellowship, together with addresses from the pulpit and time for the sacrament together. These, together with the best food to sate our physical hunger, keep us well occupied and our spirits gratified.

Come prepared for some cool weather: the season breaks about that time. We have beds for 120—help us fill them. The road north from St. Charles, Minnesota, is well marked. You are wanted and welcome. For more information address:

**MERLIN EDDY**  
3370-203d W  
Farmington, MN 55024  
(612) 463-2218

**CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES**

The 1993 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 4. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M., Monday, April 5. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, April 2 and 3. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

The 1993 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 18 through 20, at Independence, Missouri.

**CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS**

Send all orders to the Church of Christ, P.O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

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The balance of these General Church Publications are free of charge.\*

- A Brief History of the Church of Christ
- The Principles of the Gospel - Faith & Repentance
- The Principles of the Gospel - Laying on of Hands
- The Principles of the Gospel - Baptism
- The Latter Day Restoration
- The Book of Mormon (tract)
- Articles of Faith & Practice of the Church of Christ
- Articles of Faith & Practice (Spanish)
- Sermonettes on the Teachings of Jesus
- What the Church teaches about Matrimony (Spanish)
- Mighty Acts of the Ages (Spanish)
- Priesthood - Divine Authority
- Why? (Amplifies absence of a "First Presidency" in Scripture)
- A Synopsis (Compares beliefs of 3 Restoration churches)
- First Presidency or First Apostles?
- Marriage for Time and Eternity? - A Fallacy
- Baptism for the Dead? - A Fallacy
- Zion and the Temple of the Lord
- Does it Make a Difference to Which Church You Belong?
- God's Purpose in America
- The Great Plan of Redemption
- The Cost of Salvation

\*NOTE: Donations will be accepted to cover postage & printing costs. (Multiple copies available: 6-50¢ / 100-\$5.85 plus postage)

**Sunday School Materials**

Send orders for SS Materials to Becky Sheldon, 31607 E. Major Rd, Grain Valley, Mo 64029. All materials are free of charge to members of the Church of Christ except as noted. Donations will be accepted to cover postage.

- Church History for Juniors - includes a Teachers Guide
- The Book in the Stone Box - About the Book of Mormon
- Bible Stories to Grow By - 52 lessons about God and Jesus for ages 5-7
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The following materials are available on loan to members of the Church of Christ from the Audio, Video, Visual-Aid and Archeology Committee:

**Slide Programs with Taped Narration**

Specify program(s) wanted, anticipated dates of use, and the make of your projector. Slide projectors and tape players are not provided except in the Independence, Missouri, or Phoenix, Arizona, areas.

Allow adequate advance time for handling and shipping, and for your own preview of the programs. Write to the AVVAA Committee, Church of Christ, P.O. Box 472, Independence, MO 64051.

Out of the Dust (45 minutes) — Tells the story found within the Book of Mormon.

Light at Evening (27 minutes) — Story of the bringing forth of the Book of Mormon and the restoration of the Church of Christ in the 1820's and 1830.

A Lamp Unto My Feet (32 minutes) — Directed specifically toward American Indian viewers, compiled from three other programs.

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For a sermon on cassette tape write to Mike Kelley, 1949 E. Libby St., Phoenix, AZ 85022, or Ron Temple, 5621 Logan Rd., Kansas City, MO 64136.

**PRIESTHOOD VISITATION**

**If you or someone you know (member or non-member) would like to be visited by a member of the Priesthood of the Church of Christ, please call or write to the Council of Apostles at Church Headquarters in Independence. The phone numbers and address are listed on the inside front cover.**