

# 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;"*

1 Nephi 3:187

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## *The Garment*

*There's a garment set before you  
Which you weave your whole life through  
The pattern which you sew there  
Shows what life has meant to you.*

*Sew your stitches neat and even  
Each with tender loving care  
Knowing as you make each one of them  
For eternity they're there.*

*Follow close the pattern  
So your garment will fit right  
It must pass a close inspection  
As you walk into the light.*

*Be careful not to soil it  
With hands that are not pure  
From toiling long on other tasks  
That always seem to lure.*

*As you look your garment over  
Do you find it somewhat sad?  
Make the needed alterations now  
When it's finished you'll be glad.*

—Melissa McGhee

## *—On This Issue—*

### DEVELOPING A ZIONIC ATTITUDE—

*In Faith Believing - Apostle Jay Moser . . . 137*

### BOOK OF MORMON EVIDENCES—

*A Voice of Native America -  
Apostle Don McIndoo . . . . . 141*

### PATHLIGHTS—A Scripture Theme

*Camp Testimony - Don Hitt . . . . . 144*

### REUNION REPORT—1997 Michigan State

*Reunion. . . . . 145*

*NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS . . . . . 147*

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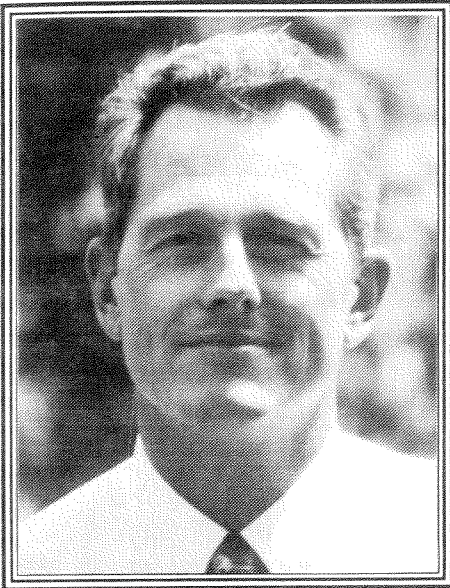
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## ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

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.

DEVELOPING A ZIONIC ATTITUDE

# IN FAITH BELIEVING



By Apostle Jay Moser

It is written in Habakuk 2:4 "the just shall live by his faith." This terse statement is quoted three times in the New Testament. It refers to our daily walk of life. God has defined faith as "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Faith has "substance" and "evidence." What is the substance of your hope? Our faith is not a blind faith because we know in Whom we believe. We believe in Jesus and trust Him completely. The word *faith* is only written in the Old Testament a couple of times. The word *trust* is used many times however. We trust Jesus based on what we have

read in scripture and from the Spirit's confirmation in our daily lives. We believe that Jesus will never mislead us. Faith is demonstrated when we follow, not knowing exactly what the consequences in this life will be. We have faith in Christ's promise that eternal life shall be ours if we are faithful and obedient to God. We must live in faith from today onward until we obtain that eternal life. God commands us to do as He has done and to become like Him. This can not mean to create or to do any thing reserved alone for God. The word of God does say that He is faithful, "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)..." Heb 10:23. Holding fast or being faithful is having faith, and this we can do.

Believing is trusting or having confidence that something is good or true. There are at least two ways to believe. One simply takes as true the existence of something or someone, as is the case with the demons who believe in the reality of God. The other way to believe is to put trust and confidence in something or someone, as is the situation when Jesus admonished his disciples, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye

Faith is demonstrated when we follow, not knowing exactly what the consequences in this life will be.

believe in God, believe also in me" John 14:1. He was not telling them to believe in His existence because they obviously knew that He was real. He was admonishing them to believe or trust in Him completely for salvation and their every need. One kind of believing could be selfish, not permitting the Lord to take charge through His commandments, while the other is willing to follow and allow God to lead.

Faith is needed more than ever. You must say in your heart "I believe in the promises of God." Your life must then show this faith. You must fear the judgment of God, for He has declared that all men will stand before Him to be judged of their works. Faith must be present to repent and have your heart changed by the Spirit. You must have faith in the power of Christ to forgive sin or you will not repent. God can and will change your life because He is faithful. You must have more

faith in God's way than in your own way. Our ways are often motivated by incorrect assumptions or fears. Jesus said "Let not your heart be troubled...believe also in me." Seek the kingdom of God first and everything that you need will be provided. Have enough faith to look for answers. A person may say "I believe in God," and then sit and wait all their life for God to do everything. A truly faithful person knows that the answers are provided somewhere and will seek for them, trusting that God is true and has provided what they need. It takes faith to look.

Attacks made on the gospel are nothing new. The early church during Christ's ministry and after His death suffered from persecution. How did they survive? God's promised gift of the Spirit enabled them to stand and face unthinkable trials after they exercised their faith. What was it that turned weak and fearful men who denied Christ into servants who would give their lives for the cause of Christ? What was it that made it possible for the Lord to bless the church in the Americas with happiness and peace after His appearance? Jesus said to those people, "So great faith have I never seen among all the Jews..." 3 Ne 9:35. After this we know that they enjoyed a golden era unsurpassed in world history. Why? It is a simple answer. Jesus had "seen" their faith.

Faith must be seen by some

sort of outward show or it is not a true faith. James wrote that "faith, if it hath not works, is dead." The faith that Jesus saw in Third Nephi was unceasing prayer. Is this part of your life? It was characterized by a complete turning to Jesus Christ in trust desiring to commune with Him. Those people were willing at that time to do anything that He told them to do. We must sincerely ask, What does He want me to do? Where should we begin to look for the answers? "...I would that ye should remember that God is merciful unto all who believe on his name; therefore he desireth, in the first place, that ye should believe, yea, even on his word" Alma 16:144. There is no mystery; we must believe in the word of God. That means that we should look to understand it and apply it to our every day lives.

Many people today live by their feelings. Personal feelings have become their life force. They are driven by a perceived need to feel good about everything they do. Personal inclinations are the deciding factor in many a serious decision. Often I have heard people use as their primary reason for doing anything, "I feel good about it." There certainly isn't any harm in feeling good about your actions; however, is this your guide in all things? Often six months later this powerful life force has brought no real fruit and then they don't feel good about it. An endless merry-go-

round is in your future if you are inclined this way.

A person may feel good or think they feel good about buying a new car when the reality is that they can not afford it. Many lack discernment about the common things of everyday life. You may feel good having thoughts of adultery, believing that you will find happiness if you follow your feelings. The truth is that thinking about following Jesus may cause conflicting feelings at first. This is where faith comes into play. Faith is a decision. I will put my trust in Jesus of Nazareth! I believe that after examining the evidence given to me in the scriptures, the world, and by His Spirit that He is trustworthy! I will follow His will regardless of what obstacles (including personal feelings) may be thrown at me. Because I trust Christ I will show my faith by being faithful!

A faith in the word of God brings action in the lives of those who believe, and accomplishes the purposes of God. "For after the book of which I have spoken shall come forth, and be written unto the Gentiles, and sealed up again unto the Lord, there shall be many which shall believe the words which are written; and they shall carry them forth unto the remnant of our seed" 2 Ne 12:80. It is apparent that a belief in God's restored word is demonstrated by taking this gospel back to the remnant of Lehi's seed. The people who

take the gospel back to Israel will know for themselves by experience that the gospel is true, good, pure, cleansing, and powerful. The natural course for a follower of Christ is to want everyone else to believe and follow Him also. When the gospel is alive in your heart you will want to share it with others. You will believe that it was restored for Gentile and Jew. "...My soul delighteth in the covenants of the Lord which he hath made to our fathers..." 2 Nephi 8:10. You will believe that it is needed in the world and that the salvation of many depends on belief in this restored gospel. "Therefore, wo, be unto the Gentiles, if it so be that they harden their hearts against the Lamb of God; For the time cometh, saith the Lamb of God, that I will work a great and a marvelous work among the children of men..." 1 Nephi 3:213-214.

You may ask, "How can I help to further the cause of Zion? Or how can I seek to bring it forth?" Zion will surely include the carrying of the gospel to his ancient covenant people. The gospel message is the chief tool to bring Zion into being. Faith has a vital roll to play in the spreading of the gospel. You must have faith, trusting in the gospel of Christ, to be able to witness to others. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" Rom 1:16. "Testifying both to the Jews,

and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ" Acts 20:21. It is not faith in Zion that will establish it but "faith toward our Lord Jesus"

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that will eventually establish the New Jerusalem. I may teach about Zion, but I will testify of Christ and trust in Him to establish Zion. "And behold, this people will I (Jesus, ajm) establish in this land, unto the fulfilling of the covenant which I made with your father Jacob; and it shall be a new Jerusalem" 3 Ne 9:58.

Jesus' disciples asked Him to increase their faith (Luke 17:1-19). This question came after they were instructed to forgive a brother seven times in a day if he came and said "I repent." The magnitude of this statement was a challenge to their faith. Therefore they made the request "Increase our faith." Jesus answered by saying that they needed to have a faith that would grow and produce later even if it was small at the time. He continued His teaching by admonishing them

to serve their master by doing their duty. They needed to complete their Master's requests of them before they could be served. Have you ever thought or stated something in your prayers asking to be served first? Give me what I want Lord and I will be your faithful servant. Jesus definitely stated that the master of the house was not under any obligation to serve them; nevertheless, the servant was obligated. This is the way that your faith will grow. Complete your obligations unto God and your faith will grow. If you are doing God's desire then it is probable that when praying you will ask for the right thing. You will be in the habit of fulfilling His requests. Hebrews 11:1-39 presents a long list of the devoted actions and behaviors of those saints who have gone before us. It is easy to see that faith in God's promises and in His word effects change in the life of the believer. Faith makes great sacrifices and offerings unto God, it seeks to please Him, it diligently seeks after God, it moves in fear of Him, and it obeys His commandments.

The continued work of the gospel depends on our faith in the word of God. The extension of the restoration rests on our continued faith in the teachings of the first work of God's restoration process, namely the Book of Mormon. The solution to life's real problems hangs on our reliance in the solutions that God has given us in scrip-



ture. Surely this faith will produce the needed work and love necessary to change the world one life at a time (1 Thessalonians 1:3): ***“Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father...”*** Without hope in the power of God to change lives we have no real hope at all. We must confidently state the truth and point to God’s absolutes to follow.

2 Ne 1:119: ***“Wherefore, men are free according to the flesh; and all things are given them which are expedient unto man.”*** Faith in God means to me that I believe He has given us every thing that we need. We are not left to our own devices to get along in life. He has made provision through His word and Spirit all things that we need. 2 Peter 1:3: ***“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:...”*** God has called us to glory and virtue and placed in us a sound mind. To see where we are going we must look above the pebbles in the path below. Our eyes must look to the everlasting hills. I have known people who lived in great valleys of problems but were undaunted by them. I have seen people carrying loads that would break a plow horse’s back but they kept

going. I have seen people who by the world’s standards appeared defeated by evil. At times it seems that bad people get all the breaks. Yet they still believe that in the end good will triumph over all. Why? What magical formula do they use? Is it a secret for only the chosen few or can anyone enjoy this strength? It seems as though these individuals have a blind faith. This is not the case. Faith is not blind. It has substance and evidence. Hebrews 11:1: ***“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”***

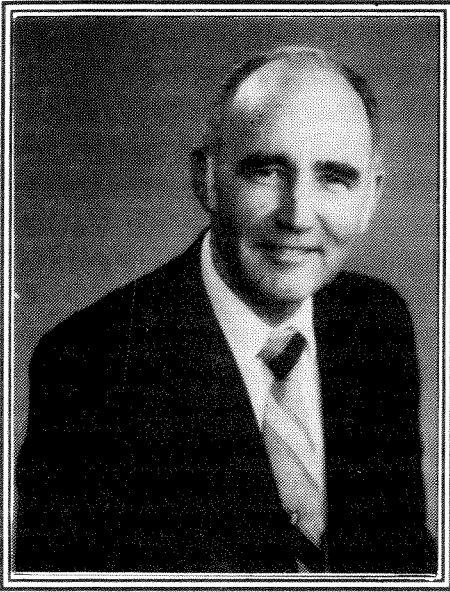
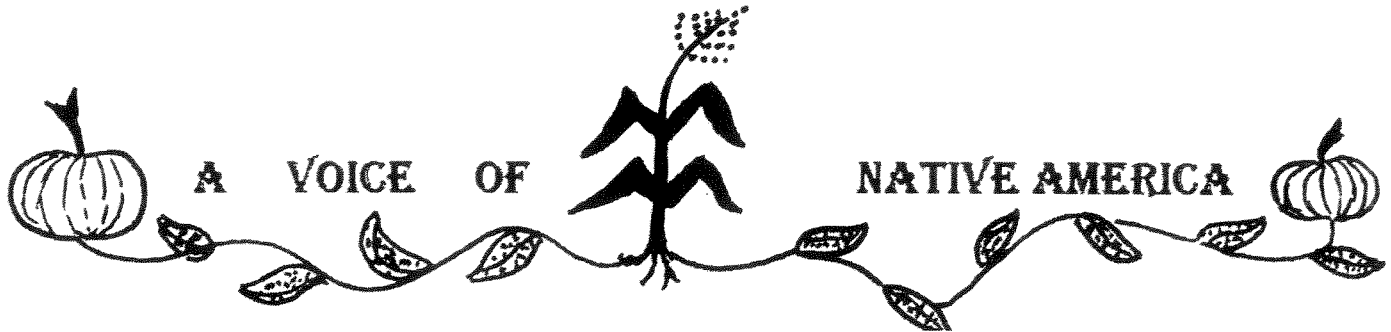
Those people that seem to me to have the greatest faith are those who have little voice in the world. They do not stand in crowded places and demand that others believe as they do. They are not slack when others mock or scorn at the promises of God. They are not able to debate well in the heat of the moment. They just live by faith and deal justly with others. They have heard the Master’s voice and follow because something (God’s spirit) tells them that His scriptures are true.

Faith has substance and evidence. These stalwarts are helping to provide the substance of faith for others. No, their faith is not blind, but is firmly gazing at their Redeemer and friend Jesus Christ. Faithful believers know what they see. Faith does not know what tomorrow brings but it knows what it is hoping for. God’s

promises and God’s commandments are in its view. No, faith is not blind but has its eyes open to what God has given for man to see. Praise God because anyone can live by faith and prove God. God is faithful! (1 Corinthians 7:9.) Faith is belief but has another important element. I may say I believe in Jesus Christ but to have faith in Him means that I absolutely trust Him as well. It is written that the devils believe in Christ, but they certainly don’t trust Him. They trust in their own wills and not in the absolute sovereignty of the Lord. They have a better idea and want their own desires to be supreme. Their belief is actually unbelief because it does not trust (see Hebrews 3:13-19; 4:11).

Those people who find the answers to life’s problems trust, or in other words have built their lives on the Rock, the Way, the Light, and the True Vine. They believe what Jesus said and what He caused to be written and look for guidance there. They find the keys to life’s everyday questions in the writings of scripture. “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works...” 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

BOOK OF MORMON EVIDENCES



By Apostle Don McIndoo

Tecumsah's heart was broken as he considered the desecration of his cherished land by the continued encroachment of the white man. In the depths of his soul the great Shawnee warrior struggled with the perplexing question so difficult to frame in words: **"If Moneto loves us as we love and respect Him, as well as the grain and animals and birds He provides for our use, why then does He let them kill us? Why does He let them destroy our forests and our crops**

**and our fields? Why does He let them destroy our homes and our families and our friends?"**<sup>1</sup>

It was a troublesome question for a proud leader to put into words that did not sound like weakness. There is an answer to that question that was not known in Tecumsah's day, and it comes from the same God that first brought the Native Americans to this beautiful land and gave it to them as an inheritance forever. Yet even more difficult for a proud people to voice the question, is to hear with an open mind the answer.

Engraved in the stone of ancient temples and instilled in the legends of many tribes is a record of the coming of a new god to ancient America in the remote past. Quetzalcoatl he was named by the Aztec, and each tribe had its own descriptive name for the pale, bearded god who visited America's hidden shores before the Aztec, the Inca or the Iroquois were a people. The anthropologist, Sejourné, calls him **"the greatest figure in the history of the New World...."**<sup>2</sup> It was He who brought civilization, light and

Quetzalcoatl he was named by the Aztec, and each tribe had its own descriptive name for the pale, bearded god who visited America's hidden shores before the Aztec, the Inca or the Iroquois were a people.

peace to the peoples of ancient America. It was He who created this land of majestic beauty, and He who led the ancestors of many Native Americans to this place of their inheritance. By whatever name He was known in antiquity, He was, and yet is, the God of America. Today we know Him as Jesus Christ. The history of His coming to America can be read in the Book of Mormon. It is a book filled with God's words to both Native Americans and to those who followed them to the shores of America.

Almost two thousand years ago a warrior and prophet of a tribe who was being destroyed by its enemies wrote a warning to both the Indian peoples and to the white men he knew would one day come to this land. He wrote that this was to be a **"... land of promise, which was choice above all other lands, which the Lord God had preserved for a righteous people.... And now we can behold the decrees of God concerning this land, that it is a land of promise, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall serve God, or they shall be swept off when the fullness of his wrath shall come upon them. Behold, this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall be free from bondage, and captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ ..."** Ether 1:29,31 & 35.

After the coming of Quetzalcoatl, or Jesus, to America the tribes lived in peace and righteousness. They shared the abundance which the land so richly provided and all were free and prosperous. There was no inequality in the land and all enjoyed the bounty and blessings God had promised to the inhabitants of America. Some activists would have us believe that such wonderful conditions remained until the coming of the white man to these shores,

yet all true students of history know that this is not the case.

The tribes did live in peace and righteousness for several

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Here, then, is the answer to that question which, many years later, was to trouble the heart of Tecumseh and many another: **more important than being in harmony with Mother Earth and all the elements of life of which we are an integral part is to be in harmony with Him who created all—Jesus Christ.**

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hundred years after the visit of Jesus among them but, sadly, it did not continue so. Some grew rich and proud. This led to pride, inequality and strife. Soon the tribes were divided and at war with one another. As the years passed conditions worsened: warfare, slavery, idolatry, human sacrifice and even cannibalism became common. Each tribe lived in fear of its stronger neighbors. The teachings of Jesus, the ways of beauty, peace and righteousness were forgotten. And so a great prophet among the ancient

Americans spoke to his people: **"For this people shall be scattered...and this because of their unbelief and idolatry. For behold, the Spirit of the Lord hath already ceased to strive with their fathers, and they are without Christ and God in the world, and they are driven about as chaff before the wind"** Mormon 2:44 & 45.

Here, then, is the answer to that question which, many years later, was to trouble the heart of Tecumseh and many another: more important than being in harmony with Mother Earth and all the elements of life of which we are an integral part is to be in harmony with Him who created all—Jesus Christ. When the tribes who once knew and obeyed Him turned away from His simple teachings and doctrine, they took themselves from under His protecting hand and the covenants He had made with their fathers.

And so the white man was led to this beautiful land. The tribes were scattered before them and their lands were taken from them. But they did not come unannounced. Before their coming Indian prophets were raised up among the various tribes, wise men who sadly saw the coming devastation. Nezauapilli told the powerful Aztec ruler, **"The time has arrived when the sons of Quetzalcoatl were to come from the East to take possession of the land."**<sup>3</sup> In the



jungles of Yucatan an Indian prophet named Ahcambal publicly announced to the Maya, "... they would soon pass under the rule of a foreign people who would preach to them one god..."<sup>4</sup> These tribal prophets, along with many others, had foreseen the fulfillment of that ancient prophecy and warning found in the Book of Mormon.

With the coming of the white man to these shores, the suffering of the Indian peoples is almost beyond description. But there is written in the Bible a description of the tragedy which befell the Indian peoples; it is the description of what God said would befall the house of Israel in the land He had given them:

**"The Lord shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth..."**

**"And he shall eat the fruit of thy cattle, and the fruit of thy land, until thou be destroyed...."**

**"Also every sickness, and every plague...them will the Lord bring upon thee, until thou be destroyed. And ye shall be left few in number, whereas ye were as the stars of heaven for multitude...."**

**"And the Lord shall scatter thee among all people...."**

**"And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the**

**Lord shall give thee there a trembling heart...and sorrow of mind"** Deuteronomy 28:49,51,61,62, 64 and 65

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From the richness and generosity of Mother Earth springs forth all life. Now from her dust come words out of the distant past. Voices of your fathers, long buried in her bosom, cry out to the Native American of this day.

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Now these sad and terrible words were directed to the house of Israel because they "wouldest not obey the voice of the Lord thy God" (verse 62). That the terrible tragedy which befell the Native American is so similar to that which came upon Israel is no coincidence, for many Native Americans are of the house of Israel. Their history can be found in the Book of Mormon. From the richness and generosity of Mother Earth springs forth all life. Now from her dust come words out of the distant past. Voices of your fathers, long buried in her bosom, cry out to the Native American of this day.

The promises of God have come full circle: now it is the white man who is rejecting the words of the Lord and becoming

an idolatrous people. Now it is time for the indigenous people of America, and later all the house of Israel, to receive the fullness of the Gospel and take their place as the remnant of God's chosen people. To the Native American people the Lord Jesus Christ spoke this promise long ago: **"And behold, this people will I establish in this land.... And the powers of heaven shall be in the midst of this people; yea, even I will be in the midst of you"** III Nephi 9:58-59. Come!

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1. Thom, James Alexander, *Panther in the Sky*.
  2. Sejourné, Laurette, *Burning Water; Thought and Religion of Ancient America*, p. 26.
  3. Honoré, Pierre, *In Quest of the White God*, p. 67.
  4. Pagden, A.R., Editor and Translator, *Diego de Landa's Account of the Affairs of Yucatan - The Maya*, p. 49.
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## A SCRIPTURE THEME CAMP TESTIMONY

The Theme Camp was great. I think we only had one casualty. It was a bad sun burn brought to the camp by a suffering victim. Other than that all went well. I'm going to tell of the last class we had on Sunday morning. It was an adult class, and it got down to "where the rubber meets the road."

It started with a question about having the "do's" in our lives, and we considered what to do if someone is overtaken in a fault. We found that we are to restore them, and the interesting thing that was mentioned was in Alma 19 about restoring them to what they were, and not trying to restore them to something they were not. I didn't understand it then, but I can see now that if someone has fallen from the path, you take them back to the path to where they fell, and then you can help them on down that narrow path, but you must be careful and not fall off yourself.

A personal concern was mentioned about a loved one helping another and there was a concern for the one helping not to be pulled down. I wish you could have been there for the rest of the study. It was devoted to what the whole camp was about: "How can we demonstrate our faith?" Wonderful comments were made like

"Bloom where you are planted," "Demonstrate faith where you live," "Be a friend, listen, pray, and don't participate in the wrong." Ephesians chapter four and five were skipped through with the thought of how to act in your life if you wanted to show by example the life you are to live. It was *very* good. You as the reader of this article need to read those two chapters, Ephesians 4 and 5, with the thought of how to demonstrate your faith. It will bless you. Eph. 5:6-11: "Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them. For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

It meant a lot to me when someone said that we should show that we were comfortable living with dedication to the gospel. I thought that was neat. 2 Peter 3:9 said that God didn't want anyone to perish so we shouldn't ever give up on trying to rescue anyone from sin.

Another attitude we should have for demonstrating faith to someone who has fallen from the path was found in 1 Peter 3:15-17: "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing." We should pray for them, and not have the attitude that "They had brought this misery upon themselves, so it is okay if you don't do much for them."

Last of all it was told how our attitude should be, and what the Lord will do as we try to help others see the light. 2 Tim. 2:24-26: "And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will."

*Don Hitt*

## REUNION REPORT

# 1997 Michigan State Reunion

In spite of the threat of rain Friday, it held off and the Lord blessed us with two beautiful days for the annual Michigan reunion. The Bradley folks, as always, were most gracious and we sincerely appreciated their willingness to host the reunion again this year.

## ■ SATURDAY, JUNE 14

Elder Lavern Lussenden, pastor of the Bradley Local, welcomed us to the reunion. Following a few opening remarks in which he quoted from Isaiah 40:31, "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint," he introduced Apostle Smith "Buzz" Brickhouse as preacher of the hour.

Brother Brickhouse commented on the importance of reunions and the strength we gain from coming together and communing with one another. We come to reunions to bask in His spirit and take His words home with us. He mentioned how blessed we are in these last days to have two records—the Bible and the Book of Mormon—both teaching the same gospel. He pointed out that the key when reading the scriptures is to remember that Jesus is the same yesterday, and today, and forever.

Quoting from Moroni 7:46, "How is it that ye can attain unto faith, save ye shall have hope? And what is it that ye shall hope for?" we were reminded that without faith we can't have hope. And we must needs have charity, for charity is the greatest of all, and is that which separates us from the world, that we don't get caught up in the things of the world. Also, we have to use the blessings that God has given us to overcome the world. What He requires of us is a broken heart and a contrite spirit.

Brother Brickhouse pointed out the need for more ministry. He urged wives to pray

for their husbands, sons and daughters to pray for their dads that the Lord might be able to use them in service to the church. He urged us to pray for local congregations that don't have ministry. There are few of us; we're not going to outnumber anybody, but with God's help we can overcome the world. We, as the body of Christ, need to pray for one another. The scriptures say we can overcome all things through Jesus Christ.

Brother Brickhouse quoted from the 17th chapter of Alma, verses 65-70, in which they were told, among other things, to preach repentance and faith on the Lord Jesus Christ; to teach them to humble themselves, to be meek and lowly of heart, and to withstand every temptation of the devil; learn wisdom in their youth, and to keep the commandments of God. If ye do these things, ye shall be lifted up at the last day. Always seek to do good works. Remember—He is faithful, He will always be there. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Preacher for the 11:00 o'clock service was Elder Charles Brantner, who opened his sermon by reminding us that it is very important that we remember the promises the Lord sent down to us. Quoting from the 6th chapter of Genesis, it was pointed out that Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord because he did according to all that God commanded him. We, too, need to follow through with what the Lord has given us; we need to have the desire to move ahead and be prepared spiritually and temporally for the things that are coming upon the earth. The most important thing we can do is develop a personal relationship with God and Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. If we do, we will always be comfortable with ourselves. Jesus said He has overcome the world. The only way we can overcome the world is through Him.

Brother Brantner pointed out that the greatest task of life is to learn the will of the Lord and do it, and the greatest command-

ment is to love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Following a delicious lunch prepared by the ladies of the Bradley local for the nourishment of our bodies, we reconvened at 1:30 for an inspiring song service. We were treated to both vocal and instrumental music by the young and the not-so-young. It's good to see our young people especially playing such an active part in the ministry of music.

Preacher for the 3:00 o'clock service was Elder Aaron Heath, who asked "Are we aware of what's going on around us, or do we walk around in a daze? Do we allow ourselves to become complacent and neglect to realize what's going on in the world?" Do we find ourselves making excuses for not attending church? He pointed out that the more we stay away from church the easier it becomes to stay away. The adversary is very cunning, and sometimes by staying away from church we are giving in to him without even realizing it.

Quoting from I Nephi, 3:27-32, we were again reminded that He is the same yesterday, today, and forever, that the way is prepared for all men from the foundation of the world, if it so be that they repent and come unto him, and he that diligently seeketh shall find. We were reminded that when we are discouraged He is the One we can go to.

Brother Heath quoted randomly from the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th chapters of John. Following are excerpts from the quotes:

"A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from Heaven."

"God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth."

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life."

"I am that bread of life."

"Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you."

"Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh

my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

Brother Heath reminded us that that is why we have communion, so that we might have His spirit to be with us. Even if you get discouraged, don't let it upset you so much that it takes you away from God. Don't let it keep you from receiving the Spirit.

Following dinner and a short song service, we again gathered in the chapel for a short sermon by Elder Adam Porter, who spoke about the gospel message. He reminded us that to whom much is given, much will be required, and that we all have a responsibility to spread the gospel message. He pointed out that in the last days there will be save two churches only.

Brother Porter read from Chapter 1 of the book of Ether, verses 1-5, which gives an account of the people who came forth from the tower of Babel, and that their records would come forth. He also read from the 4th chapter of the book of Mormon, which acknowledged that the records handed down of the Nephites were written in reformed Egyptian. He also quoted from 3rd Nephi 10:23-32, which has Jesus speaking to the multitude concerning keeping the records which would go forth unto the Gentiles. He further quoted from the 4th chapter of the book of Jacob, which speaks about setting his hand the second time to recover his people Israel. Finally, quoting from 3rd Nephi, chapter 12, we were told that we must take upon us the name of Christ, and that we shall call the church in His name.

## ■ SUNDAY, JUNE 15

Sunday morning dawned bright and beautiful as a large group of us drove to beautiful Dumont Lake to witness the baptism of Joanie Austin by Elder Lavern Lussenden. Following the baptism, we drove back to the little church in Bradley for the confirmation by Elder Lussenden and Apostle Smith Brickhouse, after which we all extended the hand of fellowship, with hugs, to our newest "little sister." Other than Joanie herself, probably the happiest person in the congregation was her mother, our dear sister Ellen VanDuine.

Following the confirmation, we partook

of the sacrament and enjoyed a wonderfully spiritually uplifting prayer and testimony service. Many related experiences of how they were first introduced to the church and gave details of their conversion; others testified of the wonderful blessings received and miracles they had experienced; some testified as to God's goodness to them and to the truth of the gospel.

Following another delicious lunch, we reconvened at 3:00 o'clock for the final service of the day, a sermon by Apostle Brickhouse, who commented on how much he enjoyed the prayer and testimony service. We were richly blessed. He pointed out how important it is for us to stand and testify one to another of the blessings of God.

We were reminded that we are living in the last days, that we are of the body of Christ; we are of the Church of Christ and we have a great responsibility. We are a remnant from the true Church of Christ, the church that was placed in Jerusalem and again on this continent. We are to be an example of Jesus Christ here on earth, and we each have an opportunity to work in the mission field, and a responsibility.

Brother Brickhouse read from Romans 10:14-15, which says:

*"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they bear without a preacher?"*

*"And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, **How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!**"*

God calls men to preach, and we have an obligation to bring friends and loved ones to hear the gospel. It was pointed out that the ministry needs our help and support. In the Articles of Faith and Practice it says that the primary function of the general church, of which each local is a component part, its mission is the building up and extension of the kingdom of God. That's our mission.

Brother Brickhouse gave a brief report on the missionary work being done, especially

among the native Americans on the Navajo Reservation, in Yucatan, and Central America, as well as outreaches to other branches of the Restoration, especially groups that have broken off from the Reorganized Church. He is encouraged by the work in Yucatan, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, as well as on the Navajo, Mohawk, and Cherokee Reservations. We are few, but we can accomplish much with the prayers and financial help of the membership.

Brother Brickhouse also mentioned the outreach we have for our youth. He was amazed at the number of young people we have in the Church of Christ. We can't forget our youth; we have to get them involved. They need our prayers. We need to continue to provide them with reasons for them to meet together. We were reminded that we all have a responsibility, that we are all part of the missionary outreach. We are the Church of Christ; *we are that remnant!*

In closing, Brother Brickhouse quoted from 1st Nephi 3:181-189, which is part of Nephi's vision concerning the destruction of his seed, the coming forth of the gospel to the Gentiles, and the bringing forth of Zion in the last days; and 2nd Nephi, 13:27-31, in which they were told, "Wherefore, ye must press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men. Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life."

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the "Bradley Bunch" for again this year hosting such a wonderful reunion. We would especially like to thank the ladies who spent hours in the kitchen preparing food to feed our temporal bodies when, I'm sure, they would much rather have been sitting in the chapel enjoying the spiritual food that the rest of us received. We also appreciate their willingness to host the 1998 Michigan reunion. Dates and schedules will be announced later.

God bless each and every one of you until we meet again.

*Your Sister in Christ and Reunion Reporter, June Haines*

## NEWS

EAST INDEPENDENCE,  
MISSOURI

The preachers of the month of June have been Brothers Issac Brockman, Robert Oldham, Steven McGhee, Roland Sarratt, Andy Brantner, William Sheldon, Samuel Gould and Frank Fann. As you will see we have been counseled strongly to seek the Lord's commandments and obey them.

Mosiah 12:1: After their conversion, repentance and preparation the sons of Mosiah could not bear that any should perish. We should have that same desire that all should hear and know about the gospel of salvation. To be able to do that we must be doing what God has commanded. As with Moroni, it is only by the grace of God that we have that privilege (Moroni 7:1-8). Moroni 7:14: The Spirit of Christ is that we may discern the good from the evil. We are known by our works (actions) and will be judged by them. Our lives are a testimony of what we believe. There must be no attempt at pretence. All that invites to do good comes from God. If we follow Christ we cannot choose to yield to the enticements of the devil. Of these things we must judge. Moroni 7:26: Whatsoever things we ask the Father in Jesus name—which is good—we shall receive. If miracles cease it is because of unbelief. Verse 46: How shall we have faith lest we have hope also? But to have these we must be meek and lowly in heart; and these two are in vain except there also be charity, which is the pure love of Christ. For this we should pray with all the energy of our souls.

Genesis 3:8: Adam and Eve heard God's voice and hid themselves. They had disobeyed. Adam blamed Eve; Eve blamed the serpent. When we fail to obey we make excuses. Are we responsible for our own actions? Hebrews 6:1: We are to go on to perfection. In and of ourselves alone we cannot, but with all that the Lord offers to us we can become so. Jacob 3:30: The words of Zenos, Harken and hear—when we do not it is because we choose not to. In the parable of the vineyard was it not

the loftiness of it that corrupted it? Is that not pride? The Restoration in its beginning was pure and blessed. Man's choices alone have corrupted it, what we have and have not done. If we want to be true Christians we must become Christlike. What is required? Alma 17:65: An everlasting hatred against sin; faith and repentance; humility and meekness; resist temptations; never weary of good works; learn wisdom and obey the commandments of God; pray over all things with thanksgiving.

Alma 16:149: Here we are told the Lord is saying, try Me. Make a beginning. Then talk to the Lord over and over, about everything. Faith and confidence come with experience. It is by faith that miracles are wrought. If these things cease it is because of unbelief. Why do we let our problems become desperate before we turn to the Lord? The Lord can take care of every problem, if we have faith.

If we want to know the Lord better we must become meek and lowly in heart. If we are meek and lowly Jesus will become our confident, our Friend, and we will talk to Him about everything. There will be no formality in our praying. Do we listen when the Lord seeks to get our attention? His answers may not always be what we want them to be. He alone is our source of strength.

3 Nephi 8:46: We are blessed if we keep that which is commanded by God. We have been given a charge, and a promise. This land will be a land of liberty if we do God's will. If not we will lose that liberty. We must choose to follow Christ. If not we will lose the promised blessing. This applies within the Church also. If the majority choose that which is not right, apostasy will follow. What is the most important thing? Only one thing, the will of the Father. We must give up our own will to maintain that relationship with God. It is those that obey His commandments that love Him.

John 15:9: As the Father loved, so Jesus loves. To abide in this love we must keep His commandments. To claim our right to choose opposite of His will puts us on the outside, and nowhere to turn for help when needed. Does obedience restrict us? Only if our hearts are not in harmony with that pure love of God. The

Lord gave specific instructions for children to obey their parents. Also to parents regarding their children. Malachi 4 makes a statement of turning the hearts of the fathers to their children and of the children to their fathers. This refers to our day. We need to consider this as a warning; the need is apparent.

John 8:28: "He that sent me is with me..." Christ would do nothing except as directed by the will of the Father. This is the perfect example of obedience. Pleasing God by obedience is a great privilege.

Ether 1: Who does not believe Jesus will not believe the Father either. The Holy Ghost will guide us if we will hearken to it. If we will hearken to the Holy Spirit there will be a unity, not a multiplicity, of beliefs. A majority isn't always right. All can be wrong and have been at times. How do we become one? By humbling ourselves in prayer and yielding our wills to His. There is only one right way in all things. Only He can tell us what it is. John 5:39: Jesus said, "Search the scriptures, they testify of me." Matthew 9:19 (inspired version): "Ye keep not the law, if ye had kept the law, ye would have received me, for I am he who gave the law." Amos 3:7: The Lord does nothing without revealing it through his prophets. Even the happenings of early history can be prophetic of that which follows. Acts 2: The Holy Spirit as a rushing wind was the same Spirit that caught Elijah up into heaven.

Ephesians 4:14: If our blessings are not what we want, expect or need, it's our own fault. We, then, are not what He has asked us to become. As His children we are not to be tossed to and fro. We are to be children in humility not in learning. If or when we think of ourselves as the most righteous, then is when we are furthest from God.

Ezekiel 37:16: There are to be two sticks: a stick of Judah and one for the house of Joseph, Ephriam and Manasseh. The Book of Mormon is a record of the Lord's working with the Nephites, descendants of Manasseh. It was those of the house of Ephriam through whom the Lord brought it to light in the latter day, with the coming forth of the Restoration, it thus becomes part of the stick of Ephriam along



with the direction of the Lord, His revelations to Ephriam of this day.

There are two terms applicable to man: wisdom and integrity. There's been no time when these have been more needed than now. Jesus is the personification of these traits. Proverbs 8:22-31 indicates that the Lord delighted in His creation. This continues on to this day with those who choose to believe and follow Him. Colossians 1:19: it pleased God that all fullness should dwell in Jesus. By us following Him we receive of that fullness. All that is not of the Lord's wisdom will fail. Book of Commandments 44:13 says that the fullness of the gospel is in the Bible and Book of Mormon. The principles of truth and righteousness are there. Without those principles in our lives there is no happiness.

Ephesians 4:11-14 gives the Lord's appointments for the purpose of the perfecting of the saints, until we come to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. It states that we must come to a unity of the faith. We have not reached that yet. Except we do judgments will follow. John 3: Jesus Himself had to work the works of the Father. Obedience is believing, by our works, actions, life we will be judged. We are to love God and our neighbor, all else hangs on these two. To love is to have faith in, trust, and obey. If the gifts of the Spirit are lacking it's because we are not following the teachings and directions that He has given.

How well do we know God? How much time do we spend seeking His guidance and righteousness? Are we walking in righteousness? If not we are walking in our own way. Man's ways do not lead into the righteousness of God. Only by that gate He has given, into the

depths of humility if we would walk with God. We are accountable, which means we have to choose. To grow closer to the Lord we must turn from our errors. 2 Nephi 6:99: He invites all who thirst after righteousness to come and receive without price. We need to feast on the word of God. Verses 100-103: We should not waste money, time or thought on that which is of no worth. Ether 5:36: Moroni prayed for us that we might have charity. Charity is the pure love of Christ.

The Lord persuaded me, we need a revival. The spark is still there but the flame is lacking. 2 Nephi 12:87: And it shall come to pass that the Lord God shall commence His work, He will reprove with equity, cause a great division, will spare His people. Then shall the earth be full of the knowledge of the Lord and Satan shall have power no more for a long time. This by the righteousness of His people. This is why we need a revival. We must prepare ourselves. Each one needs to do this.

Psalms 51:10: "Create in me a clean heart, renew a right spirit..." Only then can we show what His righteousness is. The sacrifice He calls for—a broken heart and a contrite spirit. Have we allowed that right spirit to become tarnished?

Jeremiah 6:16: "Thus saith the Lord..." How long since we've heard those words? Isaiah 40:31: They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. We need that renewal; that strength of faith, resolve, purpose and determination to put down those things that come between us and the Lord. Does our everyday life show our belief, or do we spend too much time and thought on the temporal things of life rather than the spiritual? 2 Nephi

11:145: "I am a God of Miracles..." according to the faith of the children of men. Can our faith receive those miracles?

Mosiah 3:8-9: "Ye shall be called the sons and daughters of Christ." That is awesome to be a child of God, spiritually begotten of Him. Yet how easy we lose the sense of that spirituality. We are to be Christ-like in all our thoughts, words and actions. Proverbs 10:14: Wise men lay up knowledge. Proverbs 24:5: Men of knowledge increase in strength. The knowledge that comes of God is what we need to learn. We need to study. All scripture is profitable for instruction in righteousness, that we may become perfected.

John 13:34-35: "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another, as I have loved you..." That's a love greater than we can imagine, an unconditional love, not a reciprocal love. By this love we will be known as His disciples. Romans 13:8: Love is the fulfilling of the law. Psalms: 19:7-10: The law of God is perfect, the statutes of the Lord are right, the commandments are pure, His judgments are true, more to be desired than gold, sweeter than honey. Do we always put His love first? The Beatitudes of Matthew 5 enumerate the blessedness of filling our lives with that pure love of God.

Ephesians 4:24: We are to put on that new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. All that hinders must be put down that we grieve not the Holy Spirit. Mosiah 3:21: We must be steadfast, abounding in good works that Christ may seal us His.

*Amy Schrader*

## GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO

Summer greetings from Grand Junction. Thanks to the diligent efforts of those who could put their time into the addition. We had indoor plumbing, and a place to eat and visit, all under one roof. It all paid off, too. We

had a reunion to treasure. Saturday, we witnessed the baptism of Jack Bell's daughter, Abby. The songs we sang during this service were songs of Abby's choice. Jack surprised us all by announcing the engagement, and upcoming wedding to his fiancée, Kathy Saran. Sunday afternoon, we were privileged to witness their commitment to each other in matrimony. In between all of these events, were spiritually strong services of songs, testimo-

nies, and prayers. But it didn't end with the Sunday night service. Monday, following the Reunion, Karen Bell entered the waters of baptism.

Thank you to all who came to worship with us, and to those who remembered us in their prayers. Again, thank you to all of you who contributed, in any way, to the addition to our little Church in the Rockies.

*Kathy Larsen, Advocate Reporter*

## 1997 Tri-State Reunion

**T**he Tri-State Reunion will again be held at the beautiful Whitewater State Park. Services and fellowship start at 5:00 PM, August 29 through 11:00 AM, September 1. The Indoor Group Camp is located between St. Charles and Elba, Minnesota, on Highway 74. All are welcome. The reunion committee would like those who come to furnish a miracle in written form so that we can compile them into a book.

For further information, please contact:

**Elder Merlin L. Eddy, Pastor**  
3370 203rd Street West  
Farmington, MN 55024  
(612) 463-2218

Please come and join us in worship and fellowship. If you cannot come, please remember us in your prayers.

## Missouri Camp For All Ages

**M**issouri Camp For All Ages will be held at Watkins Mill State Park on the 26-28th of September. Camp sites will be available on Friday, the 26th, at 3:00 p.m. Through Sunday, the 28th, at 3:00 p.m. Sunday morning services will be held in the historic chapel at the park.

We are looking forward to seeing you there. Come and enjoy the park and each others' good company.

For more information contact:

**Rickey Olson**  
5629 Logan Road  
Kansas City, Missouri 64136  
Phone (816) 358-8530

## No Sparrow Falls

As no sparrow falls—

No tear from the eye nor

Those that bleed into  
the heart of man, escape  
the Father's notice;

each heart-rent cry is  
heard and answered; if  
not here, then there—

when He, himself will  
open our eyes that we  
might behold the why  
and how His love in

Infinite wisdom nurtured  
us, in these the days of  
our finity; and asked  
us to wait in patience  
and trust in Him until  
He gathers all that belongs  
to us into that final  
and ultimate blessing.

By His grace He sustains  
us, In His love he enfolds

us. By His power He  
preserves us that our faith  
fail not. And for the  
glory of His own purpose

when in the beginning He  
created, He will in the

end enable us to become  
what he intended us to be.

This I believe!

Praise His Holy Name.

—A.E.S.

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The 1998 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 5. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 6. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, on April 3 & 4. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

The 1997 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, August 11, 12 and 13, at Independence, Missouri.

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#### 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, Missouri 64051-0472.

**LAMP UNTO MY FEET, A** (32 minutes)—Directed specifically toward American Indian viewers, compiled from three other programs.

**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.

**OUT OF THE DUST** (45 minutes)—Tells the story found within the Book of Mormon.

**RETURN, THE** (12 minutes)—Reveals the significance of the return to the "land of Zion" in 1867 by the members of the Church of Christ, especially as holders of Title to the previously dedicated Temple Lot.

#### HOLY SCRIPTURES ON AUDIO CASSETTE TAPE

Complete set narrating the King James Version of the Bible New Testament and a set for the entire Book of Mormon. Write to Ron Temple, 5621 Logan Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64136. Specify which set is desired and the estimated length of time you expect to use it.

#### SERMONS ON AUDIO CASSETTE TAPES

For a sermon on cassette tape write to Mike Kelley, 3006 East Wescott Drive, Phoenix, Arizona 85024, or Ron Temple, 5621 Logan Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64136

### SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS

Send orders for SS materials to Debbie Vogel, 403 Colonel Drive, Independence, Missouri 64050. All materials are free of charge to members of the Church of Christ, except as noted. Donations will be accepted to cover postage.

**Bible Stories to Grow By**—52 lessons about God and Jesus for ages 5-7

**Book in the Stone Box, The**—About the Book of Mormon

**Church History for Juniors**—Includes a Teacher's Guide

**Jesus' Life and Teachings**—4 Quarterlies for ages 8-10

**Who Am I?**—Bible game on cards; free to Sunday Schools/\$1.30 to individuals.