

# 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

VOLUME 74

INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI—NOVEMBER 1997 NUMBER 11

## THANKFULNESS

If one should give me a dish of sand, and tell me there were particles of iron in it, I might look for them with my eyes, and search for them with my clumsy fingers, and be unable to detect them; but let me take a magnet and sweep through it, and how would it draw to itself the almost invisible particles by the mere power of attraction.

—The unthankful heart, like my finger in the sand, discovers no mercies: but let the thankful heart sweep through the day, and as the magnet finds the iron, so it will find, in every hour, some heavenly blessings, only the iron in God's sand is gold!

—H. W. Beecher

### —In This Issue—

EDITORIAL—Laying on of Hands -

*Elder Arthur G. Smith* . . . . . 197

ARTICLE—Adultery -

*Elder Allen Kauffman* . . . . . 200

ARTICLE—What About High Priests? -

*Apostle William A. Sheldon* . . . . . 203

DEVELOPING A ZIONIC ATTITUDE—

Being Spiritually Minded -

*Apostle Roland Sarratt* . . . . . 206

VOICE OF NATIVE AMERICA -

*Sergio Uluac* . . . . . 210

NEWS . . . . . 211

FIRST NATIONAL THANKSGIVING

PROCLAMATION - *George Washington* 213

ZION'S ADVOCATE is the official publication of the Church of Christ, with headquarters on the Temple Lot, 200 S. River Blvd., P.O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472. Telephone (816) 833-3995 or 833-3914.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES:** Church of Christ members' subscriptions are paid from general Church funds, but donations are requested (suggested: \$4.00 each year). In bundles of 12 or more for missionary purposes: \$2.00.

Non-member rates: \$4.00 (one year); all foreign add 50¢.

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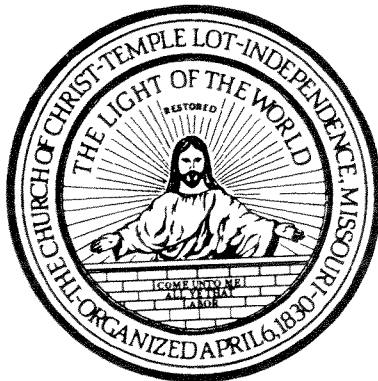
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**Format of Submitted Material:** Please type all submissions (if possible), on one side of the paper only. Please avoid overuse of underlining,

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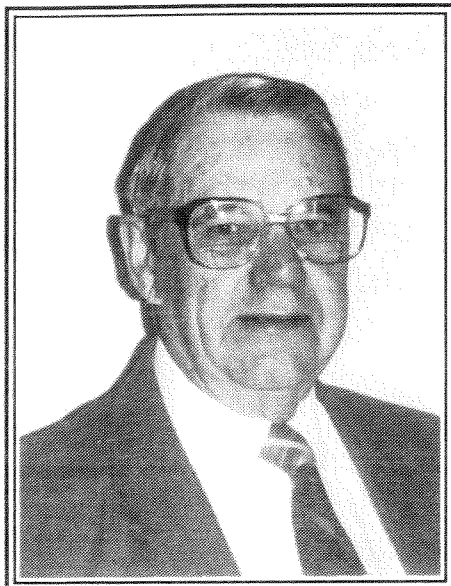
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### ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

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.

# Laying on of Hands



By Elder Arthur G. Smith

*“God came from Teman, and the Holy One from mount Paran. Selah. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise. And his brightness was as the light; he had horns coming out of his hand: and there was the hiding of his power”*  
Habakkuk 3:4.

Since the beginning of time God has been guiding the plan of salvation for mankind through the ministry of his servants, the prophets. It has been demonstrated consistently that it is always His choice who should represent His Kingdom. It is a recognized truth that any

government must have authority to rule its people.

The Kingdom of God is no different, and where and whenever it is found there will be those who are chosen to represent God. They will be ordained by the laying on of hands and given the authority to bestow the gift of the Holy Ghost. Through the power of the Spirit of God they will minister the Word of God.

The practice of laying on of hands is not just a custom—it is the exhibition of the authority resident in the priesthood. The authority to perform acts of ministry almost always requires the use of the hands in harmony with the voice raised in a prayer of faith, giving testimony, or a revelation of the Holy Spirit.

The restoration of the Church of Christ and the Gospel in these latter days will most surely include the same principles and practices as found in the early Church of Christ that Jesus set in motion when He was here. Otherwise it is not a restoration of what was in existence in the early church as we find it in the Bible, nor what was given to the Nephites according to the Book of Mormon.

Authority from God is essential to make the laying on of

The practice of laying on of hands is not just a custom—it is the exhibition of the authority resident in the priesthood.

hands a valid effective ministry; otherwise, it is only empty gestures. The scriptures offer no substitutes to this basic and fundamental principle. Neither can it be ignored or changed by man.

The ordination of the ministry was, of course, a primary function where the laying on of hands was practiced. In Acts 6:5-6 we read of the ordination of Stephen and six others to a special ministry by the laying on of hands. Barnabas and Saul were set apart and ordained by the laying on of hands in Acts 13:2-3. Later Paul (formerly known as Saul) admonished Timothy not to neglect the spiritual gift he had received by the laying on of hands. Read 2 Timothy 4:14.

In the third book of Nephi 8:70-71 we read of Jesus ordaining the disciples in this land:

*"And it came to pass that when Jesus had made an end of these sayings, he touched with his hand the*

**...Where and whenever it [the Kingdom of God] is found there will be those who are chosen to represent God. They will be ordained by the laying on of hands and given the authority to bestow the gift of the Holy Ghost.**

*disciples whom he had chosen, one by one, even until he had touched them all, and spake unto them as he touched them; And the multitude heard not the words which he spake, therefore they did not bear record; but the disciples bear record that he gave them power to give the Holy Ghost."*

Again we read in Alma 4:1:

*"And now it came to pass that after Alma had made an end of speaking unto the people of the church, which was established in the city of Zarahemla, he ordained priests and elders, by the laying on of hands according to the order of God, to preside and watch over the church."*

We read of Philip's ministry in Samaria in Acts 8:12-17, where some had received the baptism of water. When the apostles heard of this they sent Peter and John, who prayed for them and laid their hands on them, and they then received the Holy Ghost. This is an essential part of the baptism of the believers; the baptism of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands.

It is interesting to note that in Hebrews 6:1-2 the principles of the doctrine of Christ are outlined, including the laying on of hands; it reads, "the doctrine of baptisms," the plural form of the word is used.

Paul in his ministry to the believers in Ephesus who had been baptized improperly preached the same doctrine.

*"Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied" Acts 19:4-6.*

In the book of Moroni 6:3-4 we read,

*"And none were received unto baptism, save they took*

*upon them the name of Christ, having a determination to serve him unto the end. And after that they*

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*had been received unto baptism, and were wrought upon and cleansed by the power of the Holy Ghost (they had the laying on of hands, AGS.), they were numbered among the people of the church of Christ."*

The blessing of children or infants was also a part of this work of ministry that employs the use of the hands. Jesus was quick to challenge any suppres-

sion to practice this among the people, as we read in St. Matthew 19:13-15, and also in St. Mark 10:14-16.

*“And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them”* Mark 10:16.

In third Nephi 8:23, we read:

*“And when he had said these words, he wept, and the multitude bear record of it, and he took their little children, one by one, and blessed them, and prayed unto the Father for them.”*

Most of the miracles that Jesus performed were healings of the sick, both spiritual and physical, the blind, the lame; and it often was the poor and humble who had faith. Unbelief and lack of faith was and is the only barrier. Even Jesus was unable to heal sometimes, we read in St. Mark 6:5-6:

*“And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them. And he marvelled because of their unbelief.”*

This same scripture tells us that He then called the twelve and sent them forth two and two. They went out as He had instructed and preached that men should repent. Verse 13 reads,

*“And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them.”*

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**Of all the blessings that come with the laying on of hands perhaps the most precious is the gift of the Holy Ghost.**

This gift from God makes all the other gifts possible for the believer.

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Thus we find that the laying on of hands was an important ministry from the beginning of Jesus's work here on earth. Our scriptures are full of the accounts of the many healings, even the raising of the dead, through the laying on of hands. There are many today who can testify to the blessings they have received through the laying on of hands by the elders of the church.

It is no wonder then that we find that James admonished the church,

*“Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be*

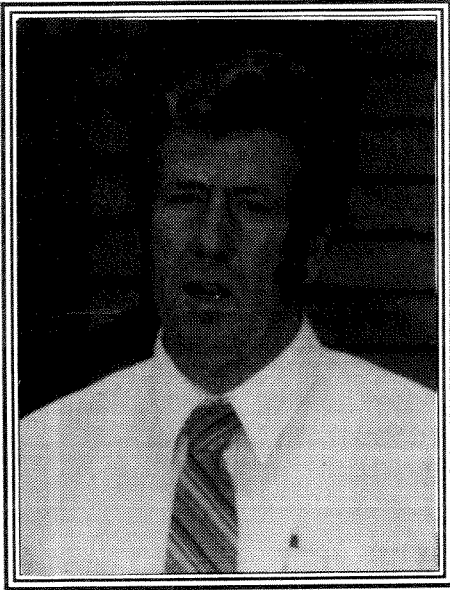
*forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much”* James 5:14-16.

Of all the blessings that come with the laying on of hands perhaps the most precious is the gift of the Holy Ghost. This gift from God makes all the other gifts possible for the believer. Faith in God, as well as repentance of sin, is then a requirement for us to have any hope of blessings through the laying on of hands.

All these principles are found in the scriptures we hold to be the authoritative Word of God, the Bible and the Book of Mormon. Inasmuch as God is unchangeable, so will these things be held to be truths we will enjoy to teach and be taught forever.

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# ADULTERY



**By Elder Allen Kauffman**

**A**s you glance through the *Zion's Advocate* as I do, and you see the title of this article, you may think that this is an article on adultery of the flesh, but I want to speak on spiritual adultery—adultery against our God. I wonder if we are endeavoring to serve God as we should, with all the energy of our hearts, or are we doing as the Pharisees in Matthew 15:7-9:

*“Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth*

*nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”*

I hear many times great debates on the Conference floor discussing an issue, and then someone else gets up and gives debate from the other point of view, and as I listen to and participate in these things I have to realize that something is wrong because both can't be right.

I don't pretend to have all the answers or know all the right things to say: but I hope that we might stop and examine ourselves, and ask God for the truth.

*“Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and*

## Are we committing spiritual fornication...?

*are not, and hast found them liars: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent”* Revelation 2:1-5.

(Let me say, before I go any further, that in this reading I am not saying anything against 'our Apostles'; I believe they are all called of God.)

We are told in verse 2, “I know thy works”; and God does know the things that we do, and think and say, and He views our actions every day. He knows our very hearts.

It says in verse four “because thou hast left thy first love.” We might say, ‘But we love God,’ and I'm sure that we

do, but sometimes we let the natural man enter into the picture and act and react without the wisdom of God.

*“The Lord said also unto me in the days of Josiah the king, Hast thou seen that which backsliding Israel hath done? she is gone up upon every high mountain and under every green tree, and there hath played the harlot. And I said after she had done all these things, Turn thou unto me. But she returned not. And her treacherous sister Judah saw it. And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also. And it came to pass through the lightness of her whoredom, that she defiled the land, and committed adultery with stones and with stocks. And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah hath not turned unto me with her whole heart, but feignedly, saith the Lord”* Jeremiah 3:6-10.

I hope that we're not walking in the footsteps of Israel and playing the harlot with the things of the world, turning our backs on God and obeying the commandments of man instead of the commandments of God, which will cause Him to give us a writing of divorcement. I hope and pray that we're not

“trusting in the arm of flesh.” We of the Church of Christ believe that we are the “Bride of Christ,” and we wait for the re-

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turn of the Bridegroom. Will we be ready? Remember the parable of the ten virgins.

*“How shall I pardon thee for this? thy children have forsaken me, and sworn by them that are no gods: when I had fed them to the full, they then committed adultery, and assembled themselves by troops in the harlots' houses. They were as fed horses in the morning: every one neighed after his neighbour's wife. Shall I not visit for these things? saith the Lord: and shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?”* Jeremiah 5:7-9.

Our nation was founded one nation under God, but I'm afraid that we are rapidly falling away from what God has told us to do, and how His son Jesus Christ has shown us to live our lives. Our moral decay of this day is becoming as it was in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah. The world is calling good evil,

and evil good, as it says in the Book of Mormon.

*“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. And the fullness of his wrath cometh upon them when they are ripened in iniquity; for behold, this is a land which is choice above all other lands; wherefore he that doth possess it shall serve God, or shall be swept off; for it is the everlasting decrees of God. And it is not until the fullness of iniquity among the children of the land, that they are swept off. And this cometh unto you, O ye Gentiles, that ye may know the decrees of God, that ye may repent, and not continue in your iniquities until the fullness be come, that ye may not bring down the fullness of the wrath of God upon you, as the inhabitants of the land hath hitherto done. Behold, this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, which is Jesus Christ which hath been manifested by the things which we have written”* Ether 1:31-35.

As I look at our nation today, I see and hear many people saying that they are Christians and that they are followers of Jesus Christ. But as you watch them in their works they don't match. The Bible tells us "be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only." We of the Church of Christ must be that peculiar people, different from those of the world and even those that profess that they are Christians. We can see the world falling apart, but what about our lives? Are we committing spiritual fornication, and are we blinded by our own stubbornness? In Romans it tells us that we're to be in the world, but not part of it. We are not to partake of the worldly pleasures that are all about us.

As I was writing this article, Czerna came to the piano and started to play a song. The title of it was *Open My Eyes That I May See*. I thought to myself, 'How appropriate,' because it fit in so well with the things that I was trying to say. As we read some of those words they say, "Open my eyes, that I may see, Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me." I have heard many times, and have said, that we have the truth, and I believe it—but do we display it with our actions and our conduct?

Do we allow others to see that we have the truth, or do we have to tell them?

"Place in my hands the wonderful key That shall unclasp, and set me free." We have that key. Are we taking it to the

people of this nation and sharing it with our neighbors, or are we smugly keeping it to ourselves? "Open my ears, that I may hear, Voices of truth Thou sendest clear." Would we be able to hear the truth if it came to us? Or would we be blinded by our own concepts of what the scriptures say? "And while the wave-notes fall on my ear, Ev'rything false will disappear." The scriptures tell us to "try the spirits" to see if they are of God or of another spirit. Can we hear the truth when it comes? "Open my mouth and let me bear Gladly the warm truth ev'rywhere." Before we open our mouth and speak, do we pray about our words? Or do we speak from our own knowledge and understanding of the scriptures? (Open mouth, insert foot.) "Open my heart and let me prepare LOVE with Thy children thus to share. Silently now I wait for Thee, Ready my God, Thy will to see. Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!" Do we sit in silent meditation waiting for the Spirit of God to move upon us to give us direction in our lives, at our work places, with our families?

One of my most used scriptures:

*"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" Matthew 6:33.*

Do we seek GOD FIRST in our lives or just when it is con-

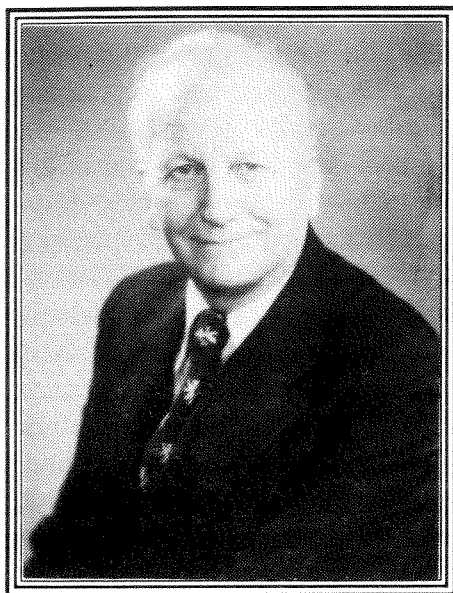
venient? God has great blessings in store for us. Are we willing to accept them? Do we go to God's house to learn of His ways, and to hear the gospel preached by those men called of God? Or do we allow other things to become more important in our lives that take us away from God? Churches of the world are having early morning service so they can be free the rest of the Sabbath Day to go have fun out in the world and do their own thing. That's the popular saying of today: "DO YOUR OWN THING." We need to stop and realize that God's hand may get tired of reaching out to us and trying to show us the way.

*"And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years" Genesis 6:3.*

God has destroyed mankind before. Do we not think that He will not do it again? We need to call upon God while He is near, and lift up our voices to Him in mighty prayer.



# What About High Priests?



By Apostle William A. Sheldon

Our real concern in posing this question is: Is it in accord with the Divine plan that there should be high priests in the Church of Christ, the church as restored and officially organized April 6, 1830?

Despite the fact that there were those ordained as high priests during the lifetime of Joseph Smith, and that this, together with provision for a presidency of the high priesthood, continued into this body through the time of Granville Hedrick and for several years thereafter, the Church of Christ has discontinued such provi-

sions. Briefly: this Church of Christ has rightly acknowledged the error of ordaining men as "High Priests," and thus also the error of a "first presidency" over the priesthood. However, research into our accepted standards of faith, i.e., the King James version of the Bible and the Book of Mormon, when objectively pursued, will shed light upon this important subject, and will correct misconceptions which have developed in this regard.

There have been two orders of priesthood authorized of God: the Levitical Priesthood (also including the order of Aaron) and the Melchisedec Priesthood, or that priesthood which was after the order of the Son of God. See Heb. 7:11 for a brief statement concerning both of these priesthoods.

The Levitical Priesthood was of the sons of those descended from Levi, the son of Jacob (Israel), who were appointed to a ministry of service in the tabernacle of the congregation (see Num. 8:9-26). It is not necessary here to detail that service; but it was only for Aaron and his sons with their descendant sons who were appointed as high priests. The appointed high priest only went behind the veil

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into the second area of the tabernacle, which was called the Holiest of all. He entered into this most holy part of the tabernacle just once a year, having cleansed himself according to the divine order that he might make offering of blood for the sins of himself and the people (see Heb. 9:1-7).

This, of course, pre-figured the most holy sacrifice of the blood of Christ, which was a perfect offering for the sins of mankind in behalf of them who bring their personal offering of a broken heart and contrite spirit through their faith and obedience to Him. The imperfect high-priestly offering for sins was put away by the perfect sacrifice of the Lamb of God,

Jesus Christ.

Also, the imperfect law given to ancient Israel, which Apostle Paul informs us was a "schoolmaster" to bring them to Christ (see Heb. 7:12,18,19 and Gal. 3:24), was done away. This "schoolmaster" was the many rituals or ceremonies enjoined upon them, and it was "added because of transgression" (Gal. 3:19). Added to what? It was superimposed upon the gospel (of Christ) law which was from the beginning (see Gal. 3:8 and Heb. 11:24-26); but this is of secondary importance here. The "ten commandments" remained in force, though more perfectly defined by Christ.

Now notice, as in a text previously referenced in Heb. 7:12:

*"For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law."*

Therefore, there is no longer a need for a high priest (aside from Christ) as an ordained office in the Church of Christ. Nevertheless, we should not say that there are no high priests today. Please bear with me in this as we explore further, especially in the Book of Mormon.

Firstly, however, we should remember that Christ is referred to as "a priest forever after the order of Melchisedec" (Heb. 7:11, 17, 21; Ps. 110:4). Why is it referred to as the "order of Melchisedec"?

*"Now there were many before him, and also there were many afterwards, but none were greater; therefore of him they have more particularly made mention" Al. 10:15.*

That high priesthood [Melchisedec] is "without beginning or end," and of whosoever has truly been called to that high priesthood, we are told that "they become HIGH PRIESTS forever..."

More correctly, that priesthood which is called the high priesthood was that of the Son of God.

*"This high priesthood being after the order of his Son, which order was from the foundation of the world" Al. 9:70.*

That high priesthood is "without beginning or end" (v. 72), and of whosoever has truly been called to that high priesthood, we are told that "they become HIGH PRIESTS forever" (emphasis mine, w.a.s.), v. 73. It is well to read and meditate upon the whole text of Alma 9, beginning with verse 63 and including chapter 10:1-15.

It seems evident that Moses was a high priest after the order

of the son of God (Melchisedec high priest) for in Ps. 99:6 the psalmist informs us that "Moses and Aaron (were) among his priests"; certainly, since Moses was a brother of Aaron, he was not descended from Aaron, and was not appointed as a high priest of that Levitical order of priesthood.

The high priests in the Book of Mormon (such as Alma, who is the first person so mentioned—Mos. 11:17) regulated the affairs of the church (Mos. 11:113-114) as their spiritual leaders, and directed others of the priesthood; but there was no priestly function of the offering of sacrifices and burnt offerings, as it was in the Old Testament of the Bible. Nevertheless, such offerings were sometimes made on an individual basis, such as with Lehi and his family in thanksgiving to God (1 Ne. 1:157).

The Nephites, being descended from Manasseh rather than from Levi, were not authorized to offer sacrifice for remission of sins. There were no Levitical high priests upon the American continent, so their high priesthood, as previously mentioned, was that of the Melchisedec, or of the Son of God.

In brief: There were high priests of the tribe of Levi coming down through Aaron and his descendants, who offered sacrifice for sin—a continuing service, though imperfect—which function was done away by the perfect sacrifice of Christ. How-

ever, the office of high priest of that order was retained by the unbelieving Jewish nation for a period of time.

At the crucifixion of Christ, the veil of the temple which barred any but the High Priest to enter the "holy of holies" was "rent in twain from the top to the bottom" (Matt. 27:51). Consequently the Aaronic High Priests' function to offer sacrifice for sins was consummated by the sacrifice of Christ through this Divine action. It is apparent that the destruction of the temple in 70 A.D. finally and effectively abolished the office of High Priest to the Jewish nation.

There was a high priesthood which preceded that of the Levites, and was to continue forever (without end). Those holding this Melchisedec Priesthood are high priests, but are not ordained as such. They are ordained as Apostle or Evangelist or Elder, according to a divine calling by revelation from God.

In the restored Church of Christ, Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery were each ordained "an apostle of Jesus Christ, an elder of this church" on April 6, 1830, by the will and commandment of God. Therefore, they had received the Melchisedec high priesthood; they were high priests of the order of the Son of God. They were not high priests of the order of Aaron. The later addition of the office of High Priest in the church was a human error which estab-

lished an hierarchical order incompatible with the divine provisions of God as found in the New Testament era, and of the

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Nephite Church after Christ came to this continent; nor was it compatible with the order as given before the restored Church was organized. God had provided in 1829 for the calling of apostles, but outside of the ordinations of Joseph and Oliver, the appointment of apostles was not implemented until 1835. At that time twelve men were chosen, and the apostolic

council did not include these men—a serious mistake.

By that time the first presidency was established and "High Priests" were ordained providing for a "Standing High Council," while the "twelve" were a "Traveling High Council"; all of this being foreign to the scriptural pattern established through Christ and the Holy Ghost in the New Testament Church. Thankfully, the Church of Christ has seen these errors, admitted them, and has reverted to the ancient standard.

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# Being Spiritually Minded



By Apostle Roland Sarratt

There is a concern that each of us share as we live out our days on this earth: Are we accomplishing and experiencing the things most beneficial to us? The need to live life to the fullest seems to be important to most people, but those who share the conviction that the fullness of the gospel of Christ is true have much more to hope for, not only in this life but in the life to come. The need to prepare for an eternal reward is of great importance to us.

The scriptures are sufficiently plain in telling us how to prepare ourselves for eternal life, but too often we are sidetracked by things that take our

attention away from things of eternal worth. It is important that we seek out those things and study them frequently that we might make the necessary corrections in our lives to be prepared for the day of judgment.

As we look in the scriptures we find that the writers of old knew well the nature of man and his makeup. Nephi made this statement:

*“Remember, to be carnally minded, is death, and to be spiritually minded, is life eternal”* 2 Nephi 6:74.

Although this statement is also found in the Bible (Romans 8:6), it would be a safe guess that it is not commonly accepted as an absolute truth by most people today. Carnality is almost everywhere mankind is, but it has been that way for most of the history of man. Being carnally minded is to allow the will of the flesh to take charge with little or no self-discipline.

Being carnally minded, according to this scripture, indicates a total lack of spirituality, but as we continue our research on this subject we find that the natural man is also in trouble:

*“For the natural man is*

The scriptures are sufficiently plain in telling us how to prepare ourselves for eternal life, but too often we are sidetracked by things that take our attention away from things of eternal worth.

*an enemy to God, and has been, from the fall of Adam, and will be, for ever and ever;”* Mosiah 1:119.

Who among us have totally overcome our natural inclinations? What exactly is the natural man, but the trusting in our human ability to reason and to think out situations in our jobs and school activities, etc. That which seems common to us in our normal functioning and that which pleases us or entertains us may very well be the ways of the natural man. The only way we can truly identify the natural man is to compare him to the spiritual man. As we continue reading King Benjamin's words we get some important information on the subject:

*“But if he yieldeth to the enticings of the Holy Spirit, and putteth off the natural man, and becometh a saint, through the atonement of Christ, the Lord, and becometh as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father”* Mosiah 1:120.

Yes, the natural man in us is likely to be independent, self-willed, demanding and proud. The key to our problem then is the yielding to the Holy Spirit and the striving to put off the natural man. It appears that we have a war going on within ourselves, a war between the flesh and the spirit.

We might not want to admit this but the scriptures don't lie.

Paul explains this to the Corinthians:

*“For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the*

*natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can*

**Being carnally minded is to allow the will of the flesh to take charge with little or no self-discipline.**

*he know them, because they are spiritually discerned”* 1 Corinthians 2:11-14.

Paul makes the distinction between being spiritual and being natural so definite! Are we able to discern the difference that distinctly? Are we truly acquainted with the Spirit of God enough to say we are trusting entirely on Him and not on our own human resources?

*“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal”* 2 Corinthians 4:17,18.

The things which are temporal are necessary for our physical lives, and we cannot exist without providing ourselves and our families with food, clothing and shelter. As impor-

tant as these things are to our mortal existence, why should Paul emphasize the spiritual things over the temporal things?

Surely the difficulty of living from day to day in this harsh world is enough without being chastened for being concerned about temporal matters.

Our physical needs are very real and cannot be ignored, but if we are concerned only for those things, we lack the spiritual quality that takes us to the higher level of existence, that which we were created to experience in this life. If we live only for this life and what we might enjoy for the time that we are here, then we have missed the real purpose of our existence.

The purpose of our existence is to know our Creator. Jesus made this statement in His prayer to the Father:

*“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent”* John 17:3.

Is having eternal life dependent upon our knowing God and Jesus Christ? Knowing God seems like an impossibility considering the fact that it's a rare thing for a person to even see God in this life. Yet eternal life is not impossible to attain. Neither is it impossible to know God.

Jesus told the Jews:

*“Search the scriptures;*

*for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me"* John 5:39.

Yes, Jesus told them exactly what to do to find eternal life: search the scriptures. The same advice is appropriate for us today. We can only know God if we search and seek for that which testifies of Him and of Jesus Christ.

The scriptures tell us that God and Jesus Christ are eternal:

*"For I know that God is not a partial God, neither a changeable being; but he is unchangeable from all eternity to all eternity"* Moroni 8:19.

*"For behold, the time cometh, and is not far distant, that with power, the Lord Omnipotent who reigneth, who was, and is from all eternity to all eternity, shall come down from heaven, among the children of men, and shall dwell in a tabernacle of clay"* Mosiah 1:97.

*"Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen"* 1 Timothy 1:17.

*"And the angel said unto me, Behold the Lamb of God, ea, even the Son of the Eternal Father!"* 1 Nephi 3:62.

Our acquaintance with God and with Jesus Christ is our means of having eternal life. We are dependent upon them.

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The only way we can truly identify the natural man is to compare him to the spiritual man.

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Eternal life cannot be acquired without knowing the value of the things that Jesus has given to the world. When Jesus asked his twelve disciples,

*"Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life"* John 6:67,68.

Peter knew that Jesus had the words of eternal life, yet in his own strength he was unable at that time to remain firm to his conviction; he denied Christ three times at a most crucial point in the test of his faith. Prior to that Peter had positively identified Jesus by answering his query,

*"...But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it*

*unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven"* Matthew 16:15-17.

It was evident that Peter had received knowledge not common to many people at that time by way of revelation from the Father in heaven, but he had hardly understood all the things that were about to transpire. Jesus tried to prepare his disciples for His death and resurrection, but Peter could not accept it. He began to rebuke Jesus and said,

*"...Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men"* Matthew 16:22,23.

It is very hard to accept the fact that a person can be spiritually right on target at one time and completely off the next. Although we are continually admonished to be spiritually minded we have to realize that we do not control the Spirit; rather, we must be willing to be controlled by the Spirit of God. And this is the truth of the matter: sometimes in our human logic we resist the prompting of the Spirit because we do not understand the workings of the Spirit in that particular instance.

Does that mean that we shouldn't even try because we can't be sure that we won't be

right every time? No. The Lord has told us that He has given unto men weakness that they may be humble (see Ether 5:28). It is necessary for us to be humble and submissive to the Lord and exercise complete faith in Him for us to receive the greater outpouring of His Spirit. When we become over-sure of ourselves we are not open to the Spirit of God and we cannot receive those things that would counter our own human reasoning.

Yes, we are subject to make mistakes the same as did Peter, and who among us can say that we don't make similar mistakes from time to time? How often are we so blessed to have such spiritual experiences as did he? Surely we should look closely at the scriptures and consider more fully our spirituality as compared to our more natural inclinations.

We might ask the question, did Nephi speak the profound truth when he said that to be carnally minded is death and to be spiritually minded is life eternal? Likewise did King Benjamin proclaim the truth when he said that the natural man is an enemy to God? Yes, their words are true and their words will judge us at the last day.

On one occasion Alma asked these questions of his brethren:

*"And now behold, I ask of you, my brethren of the church, Have ye spiritually been born of God? Have ye*

*received his image in your countenances? Have ye experienced this mighty change in your hearts?"*  
Alma 3:27-29.

How much more pointed could Alma get than to refer to the heart. There had to be a change in the heart before a person could be spiritually born of God. It would actually change a person's countenance, his outward appearance.

Peter and the other disciples did receive a greater outpouring of the spirit at the day of Pentecost. It was said that they were all with one accord in one place (Acts 2:1). Peter stood and addressed the people on that occasion. He had survived an awkward, spiritually immature state and became one of the Lord's stalwart servants in carrying the gospel to the Gentiles. Most of us who are ministers probably can relate to Peter in his trying times. We would do well to strive for that greater spiritual outpouring.

Do we know what it means to come together in one accord in one place? If we all have individually experienced that mighty change in our hearts and been spiritually born of God we can come together in one accord in one place. We can experience the outpouring of the Holy Spirit like those on the day of Pentecost. Surely this is something we would all want to experience. Is it impossible? Is it too much to hope for?

Not at all. The words given

to the prophet Isaiah concerning the coming of Zion tell us this in part:

*"Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the Lord shall bring again Zion" Isaiah 52:8.*

This is not just an ideal; it is the profound truth. If we hope to be there when the Lord brings Zion then we will have to prepare ourselves spiritually. It's not an option; it's a requirement. We must become spiritually minded.

If having a hope for Zion or eternal life is not incentive enough for us to be spiritually minded, perhaps we should reflect once more upon the things that we have just read from a more practical standpoint: If you are spiritually minded and remain faithful to the end of your life you will have the assurance of having eternal life. But if you are content to let your natural wills rule your life, or in other words, be carnally minded, to the end of your life, you will experience a spiritual death like unto Satan himself. So if you desire to experience good things in your life you have only one choice: become spiritually minded and know the things of God first hand.

It is my prayer that we all may be so blessed to know the things of God and to experience the outpouring of His Holy Spirit.

## VOICE OF NATIVE AMERICA

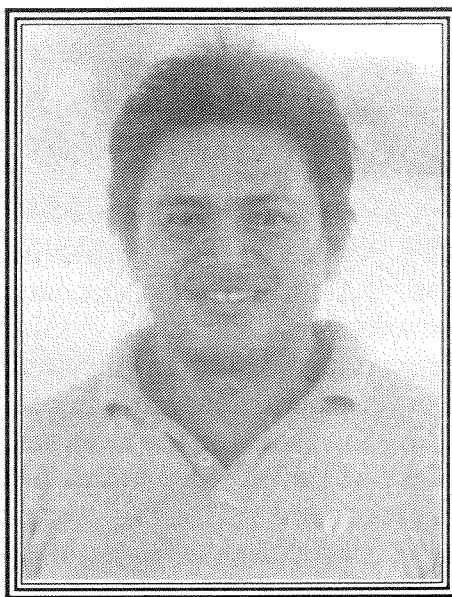
## A VOICE OF NATIVE AMERICA

Jesus told us, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin" John 8:34. Perhaps nowhere can we see the truth of this statement more clearly than in lives of those who have a drinking problem. In our country millions of lives are destroyed because of alcohol abuse, and those who misuse alcohol certainly become, as Jesus said, slaves to it. I would like to share with you this testimony.

Before I really knew God my life was filled with woe and sorrow because of the vice of drunkenness. I often worked day and night, and the greater part of what I earned was spent on drinking. Many times I never arrived home at night, lying drunk in the streets. Two times I was taken to jail. Meanwhile my wife, waiting for me at home, was crying and worrying about where I was. She was suffering for my errors and begged me to quit drinking, but I was unable to do so.

I told my wife that I was going to quit drinking, but I felt sure that I was unable to break the habit. My wife had attended the Church of Christ once in a while with my mother, who lived in a little town called Vayalceh. She had heard how the brethren prayed, and so she began praying for me. About this time Brother Roger Can came to our city and asked our neighbor if he could hold church services in her home, but the neighbor declined to do so. Then he asked my

wife if he could hold church services in our home and she was willing to do it. He held services there, and later Elder Placido Koyoc was



responsible for the services. I did not enjoy the services, and on those days when there were services I did not come home early; I preferred to go to a movie because I did not want to hear the preaching. At times I would arrive home in the middle of a service.

These brethren counseled me to leave behind the things of the world, and I did begin to attend services once in a while. One day I returned to our home town of Vayalceh with my wife for a celebration and a dance. That night I dreamed that I went to the dance and in the dance hall I saw fire falling from the ceiling. My wife

begged me not to go to the dance, because God was calling to me, but I didn't pay any attention to her. I went to the dance and I got drunk. I spent all my money and was robbed of my ring. With this, my wife had enough and told me she was going to leave me.

I promised her that I would change; that I would serve God, and I did begin to attend the services. However, I felt that I would never be able to quit drinking. But one night as I listened to the words of a hymn, *My Redeemer*, I felt the power of the Spirit of God. I began to cry and then understood that I must serve my God. Then I heard a sermon which explained how with men many things are impossible, but with God all things are possible. I began to plead for the help of God, and the Lord granted me that for which I asked. I was able to worship God with all my heart, and I made a covenant with Him. Today I am very happy serving my God. I enjoy participating in the church reunions, the study of the scripture, etc. Now I never feel alone: whatever sickness or problem we have, God is present to help us. We have received many blessings while in the hands of our God.

*May the Lord bless each of you  
Sergio Uluac*



## NEWS

## TEMPLE LOT LOCAL

Summer is over now and we're enjoying the delightful changes of another Missouri fall. Although our local experienced the usual fluctuating attendance of summer, we still had a full schedule of activities and special occasions.

It is with great joy that I report that there were eight baptisms this summer. On July 23, four young people were baptized. They were Stacey Hill, daughter of Mark and Lana Hill; Jesse Lawrence, son of Dan and Manon Lawrence; Meghan Morgan, daughter of Jim and Paula Morgan; and Kate Vogel, daughter of Dave and Debbie Vogel.

The following weekend two more young people were baptized at a camping area in southern Missouri. The two were Jennifer Affholder, daughter of Terry and Linda Affholder, and Leslie Hill, daughter of Mark and Lana Hill.

Then on Sunday, August 31, Vern and Wanda Farrell were baptized at the Temple Lot. They had been meeting with us for only a few months, but testified that they had been searching for the truth for many years. The joy experienced at these services by those baptized and by those who loved them was full and sweet. We thank God for His increase.

Our membership also grew with the transfer of Kenneth

Carroll from the Orchard Mesa Local in Grand Junction, Colorado. We enjoy having Kenneth and his wife Heidi as a regular part of our services and activities.

In addition to the local expanding through baptisms, we have a beautiful baby girl in our midst. Carmen Ornelas was born July 12 to Miguel and Maria Ornelas, who have worshipped with us for the past year. A shower/potluck was given for them earlier by Angelita Sprague and Becky Sheldon.

On July 28, a baby shower was given by Patricia Fleming and Susan Harris for expectant parents Donald and Tracie Gill. Their daughter, Katherine Rose Gill, was born on September 2.

We also had our losses, though. In August, Dennis and Rachel Bruner and daughters Cora and Anna moved to Minnesota because of a job transfer. The company also transferred the Sam Gould family to Minnesota. Their son Joshua attended with us regularly and is missed. We also miss J. Paul and Deborah O'Haro and their sons Ryan and Brennan. They have relocated to Ballwin, Missouri, near St. Louis, also because of a job transfer.

Melody Christian, another of our distant members, was married to Tony Wayne Hayes on August 16, in Nashville, Tennessee. Melody moved to Nashville several years ago with her parents, Dick and Marcia Chris-

tian.

One of the highlights of summer for most of our children is Vacation Church School. Around 65 children attended this year. Under the guidance of the director, Sister Carolyn Hedrick, the week of July 23-27 was full of classes, crafts, games and music. A program was enjoyed by a full congregation on the following Sunday evening.

The United Workers sponsored an ice cream social for the local in August; and in September, they had an evening meeting. Following a soup and salad dinner, Bonnie E. Case taught the women how to make pounded-flower designs on cloth and paper. Their annual garage sale in September netted \$1,100.00.

The CARE Group met with the Jr. Young Peoples for a July 4th celebration at the home of Don and Tamara Grim. The children enjoyed playing games which they'd made at their meeting in June. In September they met together again, along with the YPCL, for a presentation by Glenn Gill on "How to Protect Our Children Against Pornography." Tamara Grim provided a corresponding program for the Jr. Young People, appropriate for their age.

The YPCL enjoyed a variety of activities: a trip to the zoo; a Royals baseball game; Starlight production of "Music Man"; sand volleyball; study with Elder Forest Maley; campout at Watkins Mill; pie auc-

tion; miniature golf and teen camp.

On July 9, the local business meeting was held. Elder Alvin Harris will continue as pastor and has chosen Elder Gary Housknecht as his assistant. A week later, at the annual Sunday School business meeting, Brother Don Case was elected as superintendent. Sister Manon Lawrence will be Vacation Church School Director for 1998.

As a final thought...At a recent prayer service, a few days

after his baptism, our brother Vern Farrell stood up to praise God and to express his joy over his and Wanda's baptisms. "For three years we stayed at home on Wednesday nights," he said. He felt such joy to be able to meet with brothers and sisters. "I want to love you. How can I know you if you don't share with me? I'd like to know what is on your hearts. Maybe your testimony will help me. Maybe the scriptures you share will strengthen me. God wants us to talk to Him through our hearts

and to bow our hearts down to Him. Share with me, with us, so that I can grow to be a good member of this kingdom of God."

*God bless you,  
Debbie Vogel*

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#### MOGOLLON LOCAL

Greetings Brethren, the scattered, the beloved. In our heart we hope you are well. Hoping, trusting and believing that the Lord is guiding your affairs, that He will mend and strengthen every heart until the time He will openly cast down every false accusation.

Our local is small, like so many, yet our pastor, Jim Yates, Jr., schedules visits from other ministry as their time allows. Joel Yates, Don McIndoo, Jay Moser, Bob Hedrick, Gordon McCann, Jim Yates, Sr., and Hube Yates all share in our welfare. Others come as well to say hello and enjoy the Sabbath day.

The winds of change blow over us; the Lord strengthens us for the challenge. We are reminded of our need to pray, to seek, to endure and also to re-

member the promises to the saints: we can have optimism for the last days.

Zech. 8:13,16: "And it shall come to pass, that as ye were a curse among the heathen, O house of Judah, and house of Israel; so will I save you, and ye shall be a blessing: fear not, but let your hands be strong. These are the things that ye shall do; Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbour; execute the judgement of truth and peace in your gates..."

Let the gates of Zion be established, and His people's garments made clean. Let our lips be opened to praise and our hearts joy in worship. Let the weary be renewed in strength. Let the meek blossom and the feeble be bold as the enemy. Let those that tarried accomplish their desires. Let our children prophesy. Thy Kingdom come,

Amen.

Let us pray for one another, and all men everywhere.

*Sister, Reporter,  
Kathy Cloyd*

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THANKSGIVING

# First National Thanksgiving Proclamation

**W**hereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humble to implore His protection and favor; and whereas both houses of Congress have, by their joint Committee, requested me "to recommend to the people of the United States a day of Public Thanksgiving and Prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceable to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness."

Now, therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday, the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the Beneficent Author of all good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in tendering unto Him our

sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country, previous to their becoming a nation; for the single and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of His providence, in the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquility, union and plenty, which we have since enjoyed; for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish Constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted; for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing knowledge; and, in general, for all the great and various favors, which He has been pleased to confer upon us.

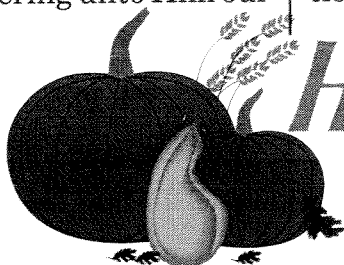
And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the Great Lord and Ruler of Nations, and beseech Him to par-

don our national and other transgressions; to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually; to render our National Government a blessing to all people, by constantly being a government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed; to protect and guide all sovereigns and nations (especially such as have shown kindness to us) and to bless them with good governments, peace and record; to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increasing of science, among them and us; and, generally, to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best. Given under my hand at the City of New York, the third day of October, 1789.

—George Washington

—Reprinted from the

November 1962, Zion's Advocate



# Happy Thanksgiving

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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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**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.