

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 81

INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI—MAY 2004

NUMBER 5

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—

~ In This Issue ~

ARTICLE—God's Plan for Success in Changing Times, Part 2 - *Apostle Joel Yates*. 83
SERIES—Pondering the Words of Jesus Christ, Items 28-29 - *Apostle William A. Sheldon*. 87
SERIES—Articles of Faith & Practice, Article 17 - *Elder Gordon McCann*. 89

ARTICLE—The Father and the Son, Part 2 - *Harvey E. Seibel*. 91
MISSIONARY MOMENTS—Report of Activity in Mexico during the Christmas Season of 2003 97
ANNOUNCEMENTS. 86, 90, 96, 99

SPECIAL PULL-OUT SECTION: CAMP TEEN CHALLENGE REGISTRATION!

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 (816) 833-3914. The Church of Christ web site is: www.churchofchrist-tl.org.

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 the rate is \$2.00.

Non-member rates: \$4.00 per year; foreign orders add 50¢.

Send subscription requests with appropriate fees, donations to Church funds (Temple & Storehouse), consecrations, tithes and all other offerings to the Business Manager at Church headquarters as listed below.

PRIESTHOOD VISITATION: If you or someone you know (member or non-member) would like to be visited by a member of the Priesthood of the Church of Christ, please call or write to the Council of Apostles at Church Headquarters in Independence. The phone numbers and addresses are listed below.

THE APOSTLES' MISSIONARY FIELDS

Apostle William A. Sheldon, 1011 S. Cottage, Independence, Missouri 64055; 816-461-8956.

GENERAL CHURCH REPRESENTATIVE IN THE OFFICE assisted by Elder Charles Brantner, Evangelist Marvin Case, Elder Leslie Case, Elder Nicholas Denham, Elder Randy Sheldon and Elder Gerald Cox.

Apostle Smith N. Brickhouse, 5713, Logan Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64136; 816-356-9214.

Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, the provinces of Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec, the Atlantic Provinces Canada, Africa, Asian Sub Continent, Europe, Western Russia, and Missionary Outreach to Youth.

Apostle Frank Fann, 3808 Queen Ridge, Independence, Missouri 64056; 816-373-4346.

Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, the Asian Rim and Eastern Russia.

Apostle Placido Koyoc Matu, 99i Calle 24 x 17 y 19, Yobain, Yucatan, Mexico.

Caribbean, Latin America, South America, and to assist in areas with Spanish speaking populations, and Missionary Outreach to Youth.

Apostle Michael E. McGhee, 18907 E. 6th Street N., Independence, Missouri 64056; 816-796-6255.

Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, the provinces of Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec, the Atlantic Provinces Canada, the Asian Rim, and Eastern Russia.

Apostle Brian E. McIndoo, 18824 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-1900.

Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories, Yukon, Africa, Asian Sub Continent, Europe, Western Russia, and Missionary Outreach to Youth.

Apostle Donald E. McIndoo, 18830 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-1240.

California, Nevada, Latin America, South America, the Caribbean, and to assist in areas with Spanish speaking populations.

Apostle Alvin J. Moser, 18829 N. 29th Place, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-2414.

Arizona, New Mexico, Latin America, South American, the Caribbean, and to assist in areas with Spanish speaking populations.

Apostle Roland L. Sarratt, 15910 E. 36th Terrace, Independence, Missouri 64055; 816-373-6605.

Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, Wisconsin, Greenland, and Iceland.

Apostle Joel Yates, 2924 E. Rockwood Drive, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-9296.

Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Nunavut, Northwest and Yukon Territories, Greenland, Iceland, and Missionary Outreach to Youth.

Apostle Placido Koyoc Yam, 99h Calle 24 x 17 y 19, Yobain, Yucatan, Mexico.

Caribbean, Latin America, South America, and to assist in areas with Spanish speaking populations.

UNDEVELOPED AREAS: Council of Apostles in charge.



GENERAL CHURCH OFFICERS

SECRETARY, COUNCIL OF APOSTLES

Apostle Smith N. Brickhouse
5713 Logan Road
Kansas City, Missouri 64136

SECRETARY, GENERAL BISHOPRIC

Elder Leslie P. Case
8312 Lee's Summit Road
Kansas City, Missouri 64139

GENERAL CHURCH SECRETARY

Harvey E. Seibel
9800 E. 32nd Street S.
Independence, Missouri 64052

BUSINESS MANAGER

Elder Alvin L. Harris
Church of Christ
P.O. Box 472
Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

GENERAL CHURCH RECORDER

Elder Rick Olson
5629 Logan Road
Kansas City, MO 64136

ZION'S ADVOCATE STAFF

EDITOR

Elder Gordon McCann
18808 N. 30th Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85050
E-mail: gjmccann@cox.net

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Jim Case
15018 S. Outer Belt Road
Lone Jack, Missouri 64070

Marlene Oar
19012 N. 29th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85050

PRODUCTION STAFF

Harvey L. Seibel

WRITTEN MATERIAL REQUESTED

Priesthood articles and sermons, testimonies for Pathlights, submissions to other regular monthly *Zion's Advocate* features, and news items of Church-wide interest are requested, and should be sent to the Editor as listed above. Deadline for material requiring publication in any certain month is the 10th of the previous month.

Format of submitted material: Please type all submissions (if possible), on one side of the paper only. Please avoid overuse of underlining, ALL-CAPS and *italics*. The most important thing, though, is to send the material—the staff can arrange for typing or otherwise preparing anything you send.

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

STATUS OF PUBLISHED ARTICLES

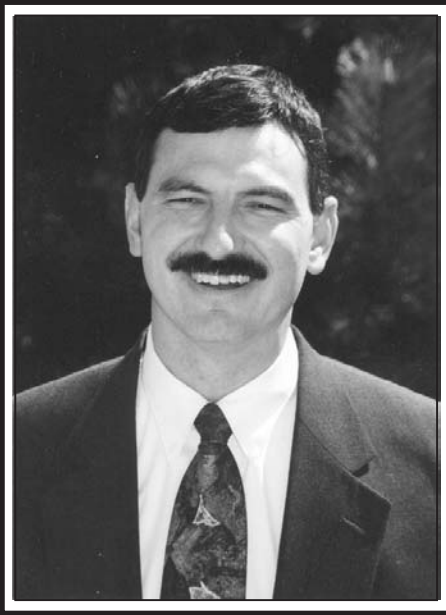
Articles published in this paper do not necessarily reflect the teachings of the Church, nor the opinions of the editorial staff. Declarations and notices authorized by the General Conference reflect the practices and beliefs of the General Church.

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.

GOD'S PLAN

for Success in Changing Times



By Apostle Joel Yates

In last month's issue of "The Advocate," I wrote about God's goal for us, which is the salvation of our souls, and how the organization of the Church plays a very important role in accomplishing this goal. I used scriptures that compared the Church to a body and its workings and how each part must function according to its design if the body is to work correctly. I also introduced five themes necessary for any body or organization to correctly work. Just like our physical bodies need food, air, water, exercise, etc., to carry out the normal functions of life, the spiritual body of the Church needs five things to be working correctly for the Church to be successful in its function and purpose of supporting God's people to accomplish His goal of salvation. These five things are Systems (Rules, Procedures, and Principles), Integrity, Customer Service,

Part 2

Accountability, and a Risk Management Program. Each one is important to the overall success of the Church in accomplishing its purpose.

The remainder of this article will be devoted to explain what each theme represents and how we each play a role in them. They are all connected. If one part is left out, the Church will not function according to its design. I pray that each of you will pay attention and give due consideration to what is shared in this article. Without the efforts of the people of this Church, we shall continue to function outside God's perfect design.

SYSTEMS - God's rules, His procedures, His commandments, and His principles by which to live.

God's systems are perfect. They are necessary for giving the body the framework to operate. God's word contains general instructions for the whole Church regarding what it is to accomplish, look like, etc., and it also contains specific instructions for the different parts of the body, their purpose, and function. Contained in God's Word is everything we need to be successful in accomplishing His goal and

When each of us made a covenant relationship with Christ through baptism, we agreed to live by God's "Systems": His rules, His commandments, His principles, and His Word for the rest of our lives.

purposes in man. Let us consider four scriptures that lay this principle down for us.

2nd Timothy 3:14-17: *"But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 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 per-*

fect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

2nd Peter 1:2-4: “Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, 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: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

2nd Nephi 14:4: “Wherefore, I said unto you, Feast upon the words of Christ; for behold the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do.”

Hebrews 4:12-13: “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.”

To sum these scriptures up, the scriptures are able to make us wise unto salvation (God’s goal for man), and in them He has given us all things that pertain to life and Godliness. In the scriptures are the words of Christ, which tell us all things we must do. God’s word is alive, powerful, and gets to the heart of matters, having discerned the thoughts and intents of the heart.

...The scriptures are able to make us wise unto salvation (God’s goal for man), and in them He has given us all things that pertain to life and Godliness.

- God’s systems declare the core values of His Kingdom.
- They give us a vision of what God wants for His Church and us.
- They declare the specific (narrow) way to salvation.
- They give us principles by which to live.
- They give us hope in His promises and lay out a bright future.
- They outline the duties of the ministry and each different office.
- They outline the duties of fathers, mothers, and children.
- They outline the duties of the members.
- They tell us how to build good relationships with spouses, families, friends, co-workers, brothers and sisters in Christ, enemies, etc.
- They tell us how to handle trouble in life and declare

the dangers of our profession (Christianity).

- They give us examples of what and how to teach and how to reach out to others.
- They give us a procedure for discipline.
- They tell us how to deal with people in and out of the Church.
- They declare the Love of God for us.
- They list the order of our priorities as Christians.
- They describe the actions of our enemy (Satan), and how he works.
- They tell us what we must do to defeat Satan and sin.

We could go on and on with what wonderful things God has provided His Church through His Word, but it is important we realize when we accepted these things and made ourselves accountable to them. When each of us made a covenant relationship with Christ through baptism, we agreed to live by God’s “Systems”: His rules, His commandments, His principles, and His Word for the rest of our lives. In order to provide His people every opportunity to hear and receive His word on a regular basis, the Lord called ministry and gave them a responsibility to teach, preach, etc., His word.

Ephesians 4:11-16: “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints,

for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."

God called ministry for the perfecting of the saints, to edify the body of Christ in His Word—by doing this function the Church body begins to come to a unity of the faith and to the knowledge of the Son of God. The job of the ministry is to keep the people of the Church safe from the false doctrines, deceits, and lies of Satan that are abroad in all the world, always striving to influence God's people and take them away from His truth. We read in this scripture how the ministry must teach God's Word. It must be spoken in love, edified in love, so as a Church we will grow up in the ways of our head, which is Christ, and the body will make an increase.

We can see how important God's Systems are in accomplishing His goals and purposes in the Church, but we need to

consider another aspect of God's Word. When do the Systems that God has provided break down? Do they break down because they are not good enough? I have established that the Word of God is perfectly able to show how to accomplish His purposes and goals and lead us to salvation. There are many reasons why the written word breaks down and doesn't accomplish all God has designed it to do. Let us take a look at some of those things that make the laws, rules, and commandments etc., of God break down.

I find several reasons why God's Systems break down and are not as effective as they were designed to be. In large part, breakdowns appear because of lack of consistency in several areas. Let us consider these areas in the following list:

How do God's Systems Fail?

- They fail when the Church—from the top to the bottom of the organization—is not committed to following them.
- They fail when the ministry are not able to effectively teach and train our people in their use.
- They fail when we take the right to make our own private interpretations and require or disregard things that are not required or disregarded by the body as a whole.
- They fail when we misapply them.
- They fail when every part of

the body isn't willing to take them seriously.

- They fail when we are not willing to be accountable for our part of them.
- They fail when we are willing to make exceptions to the rules, commandments, etc., for family or friends.

I find in talking to many of our people that they often do not understand how God's Word applies to them. In order to teach the body effectively, it will require a commitment of the ministry to solid (based on God's timeless truths), realistic (why is this important to us, how does it apply to us today, and how do we do it), ongoing preaching and teaching. It is also important for those of us in the ministry to remember we often assume everyone knows the basic beliefs and practices of the Church of Christ. Most often this is not the case at all. We must do a better job of teaching and preaching the precious truths and be prepared to explain the most simple and basic principles to the body.

Another area of concern is differences in doctrine that often confuse our people. There is a time and a place to discuss these things, and certainly working together to be united on the Word of God is of vital importance and must be viewed as a process. This process requires love, patience, longsuffering, and commitment to labor together in fasting, prayer, and faith. We must remember whose Church it is and trust in

the abilities of our Commander and King to help us resolve our differences.

There is another part to Systems in the Church of Christ that needs to be considered and causes us some difficulty. This part of Systems (rules, procedures, principles) is one that falls under the government of the Church of Christ. I'm talking about resolutions, referendums, binding conference actions, etc., that many times try to follow God's laws, but have application to the temporal affairs of the Church. Unfortunately, the things that are written by the wisdom of men with the greatest desire for good are not always perfect and cause us many problems in the rest of the Church organization. The same rules apply to this part of the organization of the body of Christ as apply to our use of God's Word as found in the Bible and Book of Mormon. If we do not follow these procedures, or feel that we cannot because there are things that we don't agree with, the progress of the Church and how it is run breaks

down.

To remedy this problem we will consider those things that cause us difficulty and undo struggle to follow, and as an organization, consider making the changes necessary to make them right. A few years ago as a Church we had a binding action called the Procedure Against Iniquity. It had been in place for several decades, but many found it difficult to use and understand. It was not being used effectively so another, more simple process, was considered, sent to Referendum, and replaced it.

To consider making changes in the government of the Church of Christ is something that should not be done without much prayer and much wisdom. We have resisted changes for decades and still must in most cases; however, some changes may be necessary to accomplish God's will and purpose in us as an organization. The government of the Church may have procedures, laws, and binding actions, etc., that can hamper the Lord's

work, and the body must continually consider these things and determine if they are working as they should for the body, and if they are in line with God's Word. We should not be afraid of necessary changes, but must resist any changes that could hamper God's work.

I hope and pray I have been able to sufficiently explain how Systems are important to the Body of Christ and its ability to function correctly to accomplish God's purposes in us as a Church.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Idaho Reunion

Dear Brother and Sisters,
The Treasure Valley Local located in Eagle, Idaho, would like to announce their annual church reunion and invite everyone to attend. It will be held near Donnely, Idaho, at the seniors campground. This is the same place it has been held for the past two years. For more information see the C.C.E.G. web page. We have planned it so that those

wishing to attend can also attend the Colorado Reunion the following weekend. The Idaho Reunion will be held the **5th and 6th of June, 2004**. Come a day early and enjoy visiting and recreation. This is truly a beautiful place, with a lake close by.

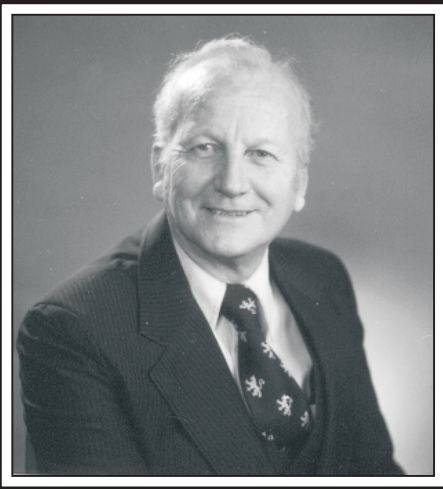
For those that are able to attend, or for more information, please contact Roy or Mary Coon at 208-365-3410 or

e-mail us at (racoon21@juno.com) OR (racoon21@earthlink.net). You can also contact Val Kelley at (teknowmom@earthlink.net).

We would love to see all of you there,

Roy and Mary Coon and all of the Treasure Valley Local

Pondering the Words of JESUS CHRIST



By Apostle William A. Sheldon

Item 28: **Trusting Only In God**

Matt. 6:25- 34 *Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you,*

(Quotations are from the King James Authorized Edition of the Bible and from the 1908 RLDS Edition of the Book of Mormon; same chapters/verses as Independence Edition.)

That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. (Practically the same in 3 Ne 6: 3-12.)

The foregoing is very clear divine counsel which is very generally ignored as a practical application to the needs and desires of humankind. It advocates a complete trust in God, but having said this, it should not be understood that we are to be “do-nothings.” We are still under the edict of God to earn our bread by the sweat of our brow; or in other words: we are to

perform conscientious labor for daily needs. A problem seems to be that we may attempt to use others to meet our DESIRES, or to gain those desires unscrupulously.

Additionally, desire often exceeds the basic needs, and includes many forms of recreation. Some recreation is needful, but so also is an observance of the Lord's Day (a sabbath), which is often used for other human desires, or presumed needs. Without doubt, a conscious regard for the foregoing teachings would reveal the marvelous provision of God.

Again: We are to place our trust in God and not in any man, including a purported prophet of God, as pointed out so graphically in Jer. 17:5, 6:

Thus saith the Lord; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord. For he shall be like the heath in the desert [a naked tree; see Rev. 3:17] , and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited.

On the other hand, see the

promise to those whose trust is in God -

ibid., vs. 7-8 *Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.*

Item 29: Righteous Judgment Necessary

Matt. 7:1-5 Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye (same in 3 Ne 6: 13-17).

The first statement of Jesus (above) would appear as unequivocal were it not followed up by other statements regarding judgment. We are most certainly to judge in righteousness, as opposed to wickedness, but this can only be done in the spirit of divine truth and in a pure love for the sinner; an abhorrence for sin but compassion for the one having yielded to temptation. One's own human frailty should cause him to fear lest he condemn unjustly.

One may easily be tempted to

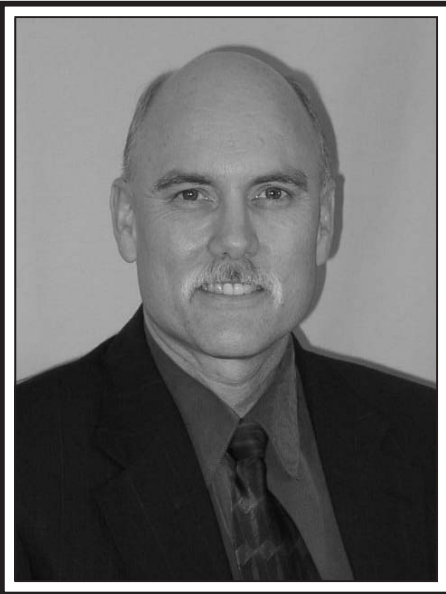
judge another for the same evil within himself, which may not have been evident to others. Thus we are admonished to put out of our own heart the proclivity of like or similar error before we dare to judge our fellow man. We are to cast out the "beam" from our own eye in order to see clearly to cast the "mote" from another's eye!

Alma 19:78-80 Therefore, my son, see that ye are merciful unto your brethren; deal justly, judge righteously, and do good continually; and if ye do all these things, then shall ye receive your reward; Yea, ye shall have mercy restored unto you again; ye shall have justice restored unto you again; ye shall have a righteous judgment restored unto you again; And ye shall have good rewarded unto you again; for that which ye do send out, shall return unto you again, and be restored; therefore the word restoration, more fully condemneth the sinner, and justifieth him not at all.

Moroni 7:9-18 For behold, a bitter fountain can not bring forth good water; neither can a good fountain bring forth bitter water; wherefore a man being a servant of the devil, can not follow Christ; and if he follow Christ, he can not be a servant of the devil. Wherefore, all things which are good, cometh of God; and that which is evil, cometh of the devil; for the devil is an enemy unto God, and fighteth against him continually, and inviteth and enticeth to sin, and to do that which is evil continually. But behold, that which is of God, inviteth and enticeth to do good continually; wherefore, everything which inviteth and enticeth to do good, and to love God, and to serve him, is inspired of God. Wherefore take heed, my be-

loved brethren, that ye do not judge that which is evil to be of God, or that which is good and of God, to be of the devil. For behold, my brethren, it is given unto you to judge, that ye may know good from evil; and the way to judge is as plain, that ye may know with a perfect knowledge, as the daylight is from the dark night. For behold, the Spirit of Christ is given to every man, that they may know good from evil; wherefore I shew unto you the way to judge: for everything which inviteth to do good, and to persuade to believe in Christ, is sent forth by the power and gift of Christ; Wherefore ye may know with a perfect knowledge, it is of God; but whatsoever thing persuadeth men to do evil, and believe not in Christ, and deny him, and serve not God, then ye may know with a perfect knowledge it is of the devil, For after this manner doth the devil work, for he persuadeth no man to do good, no not one; neither doth his angels; neither do they who subject themselves unto him. And now, my brethren, seeing that ye know the light by which ye may judge, which light is the light of Christ, see that ye do not judge wrongfully; for with that same judgment which ye judge, ye shall also be judged. Wherefore I beseech you, brethren, that ye should search diligently in the light of Christ, that ye may know good from evil; and if ye will lay hold upon every good thing, and condemn it not, ye certainly will be a child of Christ.

Articles of Faith & Practice



By Gordon McCann

From the very beginning God's purpose for mankind was for them to subdue and have dominion over the earth (Genesis 1:28). The earth, with all its beauty and bounty, including all of the life found in the sea, the air, and the land, was a gift from God to mankind to enjoy and to use. We are told that we were created in the image of God, and have been given the

authority on earth to do with the heavenly gifts, such as to pro-create (be fruitful and multiply), and to subdue the earth by building our homes, planting our crops, and harvesting the natural resources for our betterment. All these gifts came with one stipulation, which was that we are to keep the commandments of the God who had created us along with the heavens and earth and all things that are contained in them (2 Nephi 1:95; Mosiah 1:55-56).

We became stewards, under God, of the divine gift of life on earth. Jesus endeavored to emphasize the need to be "faithful and wise servants" when speaking to His disciples in Jerusalem, when He said:

"Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat

Article #17

We believe that all men are stewards under God and answerable to Him not only for the distribution of accumulated wealth, but for the manner in which such wealth is secured. The primary purpose of stewardship is not the increase of church revenue or the mere contribution of money by those who have to those who have not, but to bring men to a realization of the common fatherhood of God, and the universal brotherhood of man in all the affairs and expressions of life, and to maintain such social adjustment that each may enjoy the bounty and gifts of God, and be free to exercise his talents and ability to enrich the life of all.

in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when

he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods" (Matthew 24:45-47).

The words of Christ, as found in Matthew 6:33, tell us that our focus in life should be to seek the kingdom of God first in our lives. Then in the book of Jacob 2:23-24, afterwards having found the path that leads to all righteousness and obtaining a hope in Christ, if we then choose to seek riches it would be to do good, such as to feed the hungry and clothe the naked and to administer relief to the sick and afflicted in life.

When Jesus was asked,

Which is the great commandment in the law? our Lord did not hesitate to quote from one of the five books of Moses when He responded with:

"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might" (Deuteronomy 6:5).

Then Jesus took the opportunity to remind those that were listening to His response of another commandment that was just as important when He said:

"And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" (Matthew 22:39-40).

This last commandment was also given to Israel long ago, and it was a part of the Law of Moses found in Leviticus 19:18.

When we are a part of the kingdom of God our focus in life will be to emulate our Father in Heaven in all things.

"And also, ye yourselves will succor those that stand in need of your succor; ye will administer of your substance unto him that standeth in need; And ye will not suffer that the beggar putteth up his petition to you in vain, and turn him out to perish" (Mosiah 2:28-29)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Colorado Reunion

The 2004 Colorado Reunion will be held **June 11, 12, & 13, 2004**, at the Orchard Mesa local in Grand Junction, Colorado.

We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to meet with us for a weekend of worship and fellowship. Please let a member of the reunion committee know if you will be attending, how many, and if you will need lodging. It is time to start planning the meals and we need to have some idea of numbers.

The RV parks in the area are always full at that time of year. Here are the addresses and phone numbers for the RV parks in Grand Junction,

Colorado.

Big J RV Park
28419 US Hwy 6 & 50
Grand Junction, CO
970-242-2527

Grand Junction RV Ranch
3238 I-70 Business Loop
Clifton, CO
970-434-6644
1-800-793-0041
www.rvranches.com

We look forward to seeing you in June!

Karen Bell
kbell@gvii.net
P.O. Box 1137
Palisade, CO 81526
970-464-4624

John Bell
ebell@gvii.net
572 34 Road
Clifton, CO 81520
970-434-7100

Allen Downs
adowns@hotmail.com
515 28 1/2 Road
Grand Junction, CO 815011
970-245-8344

CAMP TEEN CHALLENGE Registration Instructions

Remove from the Advocate and make copies as needed

**TO REGISTER FOR THE CLASSES YOU WANT,
YOU MUST COMPLETE AND RETURN THE 2004 CAMP TEEN CHALLENGE CLASS SCHEDULE.**

How to fill out the Class Schedule Form:

1. Write your name, social security number and phone number in the spaces provided on the form.
2. If you plan to ride the bus from the East Local to Camp, write "YES" in the space provided.
3. Mark T-shirt size if you are purchasing a Camp T-shirt.
4. Mark the 9:00 a.m., 10:05 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. classes you would like to take. Indicate 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices!
5. Mail your completed Class Schedule and Registration Form to the address below.

IMPORTANT: We must have your registration fee before we can process your Class Schedule.

Directions to Camp Far Westa from Kansas City:

Take Interstate 35 north to 36 Highway west at Cameron, Missouri. Continue west on 36 for approximately 5 miles. A sign for Camp Far Westa will be on the right side of Highway 36. (The campgrounds are approximately 1 mile east of Stewartville, Missouri.)

Transportation:

For those needing a ride from the Kansas City area, a bus will be leaving the East Local at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, the 25th of July. **Check-in for campers is from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Camp Far Westa.**

Check List:

We must have the following before we can assign your classes to you:

- Registration fee—make check out to "Teen Challenge."
- Class Schedule form with completed 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices for each class time.
- Registration form with parent's and camper's signatures.
- The form must be notarized for camper to attend Camp.**

MINISTRY: There will be Priesthood in attendance at all times.

CHAPERONS: There will be one adult for every eight campers.

LIFE GUARD: The Camp provides a certified life guard.

FOOD: The Camp provides the food service—SNACK BAR AVAILABLE.

AGE GROUP: JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH, AGES 12-18

CAMP DATES: July 25-30, 2004

T-SHIRT ORDERS will be sent in on July 15th. T-shirts are \$5.00 each.

T-shirt orders and money must be received before July 15, 2004

TOTAL CAMP COST: \$110.00 (\$125.00 IF PAID AFTER JULY 15, 2004)

Mail Forms to:
Michelle Oldham
602 NW 20th St.
Ankeny, IA 50021
Fax: (515) 963-0984/Phone: (515) 963-0971
E-mail: jnmham@mchsi.com

Mailing Address for Kids at Camp:
Camp Far Westa
P.O. Box 257
Stewartville, MO 64490
Phone: (816) 669-3359

CAMP TEEN CHALLENGE 2004 Registration Form

Camper's Name:	Parent's Name:
Years in school, Fall 2004:	Street address:
Age: Birth Date:	City, State, Zip:
SSN#:	Home Phone Number:
Street Address:	Parent's e-mail:
City, State, Zip:	Camper's e-mail:
Phone Number () -	Insurance Carrier & Policy #:

CAMPERS ARE NOT TO ARRIVE AT CAMP PRIOR TO 3:30 P.M., SUNDAY, JULY 25th, 2004.

Will you be riding the bus? Yes No If not, who will be responsible to and from Camp? _____

Campers must leave on the bus unless written permission is given.

Camper and Parent Pledge: As a camper, I will come to Camp fully prepared to participate in all activities, unless specified previously. I understand that possession or use of any tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs will not be tolerated. I agree not to bring video or electronic game, knives or other weapons to Camp.

I agree to be respectful of other campers, staff and all facilities. I will be on time and prepared for all activities. I have read the Rules of Camp and agree to abide by them. I know that if I break the rules I may be sent home at my parent's expense, at the discretion of the Camp Director.

I understand I can only leave and return to Camp for emergencies or with prior permission from the Camp Director. I understand that I must bring a Bible and Book of Mormon.

Camper's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

In the event of a medical emergency, by my signature below I give permission for Camp Personnel to administer and/or obtain any necessary treatment for my minor child. NOTE: This form must be notarized to attend Camp. Additionally, please list any medical conditions (allergies, asthma, etc.) that we should be aware of:

Parent's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Medical: Any medication brought to Camp must be in the original container and given to the Camp nurse to be dispensed. Please list medications that will be brought to Camp:

Note to Parents: Campers will be dropped off at the Missouri Reunion on July 30th. If other arrangements are needed, please specify: _____

Do you want a T-shirt? If so, please enclose an additional \$5.00 per T-shirt with your Camp Fee. Please specify your size: S M L XL XXL

NOTARIZATION:

Subscribed and sworn to me this _____ day of _____, 2004

Notary Public _____

County of _____

State of _____

My Commission Expires _____

CAMP TEEN CHALLENGE CLASS REGISTRATION FORM

NAME (please print):

PHONE:

CLASS/ACTIVITY	TIME	1st	2nd	3rd
Choose 1 daily 9:00 a.m. class below; include a 2nd and 3rd choice.	9:00 a.m.			
Basic Beliefs Defended				
Comparison: Bible Time/Our Time				
Creation/Evolution				
A Few Good Men (ages 16 and up)				
Spiritual Warfare 1				
Think				
Women of Excellence				
Women in the Bible				
You're Baptized, or thinking about it...so now what?				
Choose 1 daily 10:05 a.m. class below; include a 2nd and 3rd choice.	10:05 a.m.			
Archery				
Candy Making				
Choir				
Emergency Roadside Survival (Basic Car Know-how)				
First Aid				
Junk with Spunk (Crafts)				
Science Experiments				
Soccer				
Spiritual Warfare 2				
Volleyball				
Woodcarving				
Study	11:05 a.m.			
Lunch	12:05 p.m.			
Choose 1 daily 1:15 a.m. class below; include a 2nd and 3rd choice.	1:15 p.m.			
Aerodynamics				
Archery				
Camp Journal				
Cooking 101: Cooking from Scratch				
Fishing				
Frisbee Golf				
Photography: combining artistic composition and darkroom work; adjustable 35mm camera required				
Sailing (must know how to swim)				
Sew Fun				
Woodcarving				
FREE TIME: Swimming, Boating, Challenge Course, Games, Quiet Time, Etc.	2:15 p.m.			
Planned, organized Group Activities available if desired	3:15 p.m.			
CABIN TIME	4:30 p.m.			
Dinner	5:30 p.m.			
Quest Class	7:00 p.m.			
Campfire (8:15 p.m. Thursday night)	8:30 p.m.			

CAMP TEEN CHALLENGE RULES and TO BRING LIST

MISSION STATEMENT: The Church of Christ Teen Challenge Youth Camp is committed to edifying all who attend through spiritual education and Godly association in a fun and moral atmosphere. Commitment to this goal will create an environment where the youth will be invited and encouraged to engage in a spiritual commitment that will help to equip them to take their place in the service of Jesus Christ.

CAMP RULES are to facilitate the camp mission and maintain the safety and well-being of all campers and staff. Campers who do not obey the rules will be subject to disciplinary action which may include sending the camper home at their parent's expense.

1. You are expected to behave in a Christian manner at all times.
2. You are expected to obey all safety rules.
3. You are expected to participate in all classes and activities.
4. You are expected to stay with the group unless special permission is given. Pairing off or groups found in unapproved areas will not be tolerated.
5. Sexual misconduct will not be tolerated.
6. You are expected to remain on the camp grounds at all times.
7. You are expected to wear modest apparel at all times. Inappropriate clothing includes bikini swimsuits, tank tops with straps less than 1.5 inches or with drooping armholes, "No Fear" or concert t-shirts, or shirts that expose the midriff. All campers are required to wear a colored t-shirt while in the pool.
8. You are expected to turn in all prescription medication to the camp nurse.
9. You are expected to leave all body piercing jewelry at home (girls can wear one pair of earrings in their ears).
10. You are expected to turn your vehicle keys over to the Camp Director if you drive to camp. Keys will be returned when camp is over. Access to vehicles will not be allowed during camp. Vehicles will be parked in designated areas.
11. Absolutely no pranks at Camp. Any materials for pranks will be confiscated.
12. Absolutely no electronic equipment, including video or electronic games, radios, tape/CD players, cell phones or pagers. Phones will be available for emergency calls only.
13. Absolutely no tobacco, alcohol, drugs, weapons (including knives) or fireworks of any kind are permitted at Camp. Use of these items at Camp will be grounds for sending a camper home at their parent's expense.

This is a "suggested" **To Bring List**. Where clothing items are listed, bring enough for five days; packing may be in a suitcase, duffel bag or camp box. **Please see that all items are marked with your name or initials.**

PLEASE BRING:

- Bible, Book of Mormon, book bag and notebook are mandatory!
- Flashlight
- Lightweight sleeping bag or 2 twin size sheets and 1 light blanket
- Pillow and pillowcase
- Tennis shoes (old and worn are best)
- Extra shoes
- 6 pairs of socks
- 1 pair of jeans/pants
- Modest shorts or cutoffs
- Short sleeve shirts
- 1 long sleeve shirt
- 1 lightweight raincoat, poncho or jacket
- 1 laundry bag/pillow case

- Kleenex
- Underclothes
- Sandals
- Modest 1 piece swimsuit

PERSONAL ARTICLES:

- Toothpaste, toothbrush, comb, hairbrush, shampoo, soap, towels, deodorant, etc.
- Insect repellent (we recommend Cutters or Deep Woods Off)
- Please do not bring expensive jewelry which might become lost or broken.

OPTIONAL ITEMS TO BRING:

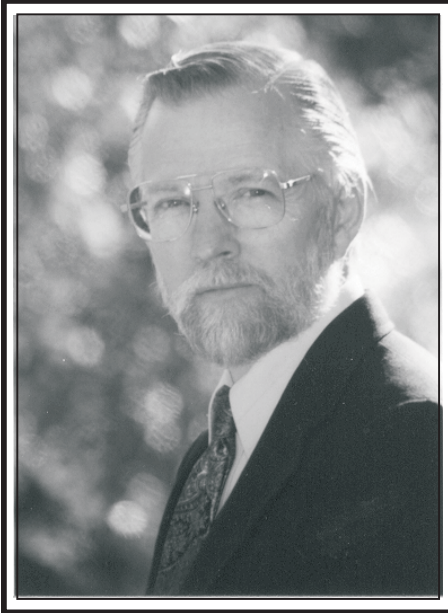
- Camera and film
- Fishing pole and favorite lures
- Stationery, envelopes and stamps
- Musical instrument

- Day pack or knapsack
- Baseball gloves
- Money—canteen will be available for snacks
- Alarm Clock (**no clock radios**)

LEAVE AT HOME:

- Immodest and inappropriate clothing
- "No Fear" and concert shirts
- Alcoholic beverages and cigarettes
- Video games
- Knives of any kind
- Electronic games
- Radios, players, cell phones, pagers, etc.
- Candy or pop
- Fireworks or firearms
- Body piercing jewelry

THE FATHER AND THE SON



By Harvey E. Seibel

CONSIDERATIONS & QUESTIONS

Who is this Being who spoke in times past unto the fathers by the prophets, but is now speaking to us by His Son? Did not Christ say, "...The word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me" (John 14:24)?

Who was it that made His Son heir of all things? Is it not written that, "...the Father had given all things into his hands..." (John 13:3)?

Is not the Son declared to be in the express image of His Father? Did not Christ tell Philip, "...He that hath seen me hath seen the Father..." (John 14:9)? It is even more than that;

PART 2

Christ also told Philip, "...The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works" (John 14:10). He also declared, "...The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do..." (John 5:19). "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father" (John 5:22-23).

Who made the Son so much better than the angels? And how did He, by inheritance, obtain a more excellent name than they? Does this not show that there was a time before Christ received this inheritance, and also a time before He was made? Consider:

"And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; these things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, THE BEGINNING OF THE CREATION OF GOD" (Revelation 3:14).

"THUS SAITH THE LORD, THE HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL, AND HIS MAKER, Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me. I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens,

...Both God and Christ, in two Persons, are One God, and besides Them there is no God.

and all their host have I commanded" (Isaiah 45:11-12).

"THE LORD POSSESSED ME IN THE BEGINNING OF HIS WAY, BEFORE HIS WORKS OF OLD. I WAS SET UP FROM EVERLASTING, FROM THE BEGINNING, OR EVER THE EARTH WAS. WHEN THERE WERE NO DEPTHS, I WAS BROUGHT FORTH; when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth: While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. WHEN HE PREPARED THE HEAVENS, I WAS THERE: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth: When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep: When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: WHEN HE APPOINTED THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE EARTH: THEN I WAS BY HIM, AS ONE BROUGHT UP WITH HIM:

AND I WAS DAILY HIS DELIGHT, REJOICING ALWAYS BEFORE HIM; Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men. Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed are they that keep my ways. Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not. Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the Lord. But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death" (Proverbs 8:22-36).

This shows that Christ was the begotten of the Father in the beginning long before His appearance in the flesh, at which point He became the only Begotten Son as pertaining to the flesh, being the only fleshly seed which was conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost.

Who or what Being said, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son? Did Christ not say, "I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God" (John 20:17)? Did not Christ also say, "My Father is greater than I" (John 14:28)?

Who is that Being who said to the Son, "Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever" (Heb. 1:8)? And that said to His Son, because, "Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even Thy God, hath anointed Thee with the oil of gladness above Thy fellows" (Heb. 1:9)? calling Him Lord, be-

cause in the beginning He had laid the foundation of the earth, the heavens also, and then, at the last, saying to Him, "Sit on

...He is both the Father and the Son, the Father of us and all created things, and also the Son of His Father, Who put all things under Him.

my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool" (Heb. 1:13)? Did not Christ say, "My Father is greater than I" (John 14:28)? Did not Christ also say, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel" (Luke 4:18)? And after His resurrection is it not written that, "...He was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God" (Mark 16:19)?

Does this not show in what manner Christ is both God and Lord? God, the Highest, Himself, addressing His own Son as God and Lord? And since the Son is the Creator of all things both in heaven and earth, does this not make him our Father and God as well? Isn't this also in accord with the words of Abinadi?

"And now Abinadi said unto them, I would that ye should un-

derstand that God himself shall come down among the children of men, and shall redeem his people; and because he dwelleth in flesh, he shall be called the Son of God: and having subjected the flesh to the will of the Father, being the Father and the Son; the Father because he was conceived by the power of God; and the Son, because of the flesh; thus becoming the Father and Son: and they are one God, yea, the very eternal Father of heaven and of earth; and thus the flesh becoming subject to the Spirit, or the Son to the Father, being one God, suffereth temptation, and yieldeth not to the temptation, but suffereth himself to be mocked, and scourged and cast out, and disowned by his people" (Mosiah 8:28-32).

God Himself, the Only Begotten of the Father, who is called both Father and God in Isaiah 9:6, whom God, the Highest, also called God and Lord in Hebrews 1, came down among the children of men to redeem them. This One, who was in the beginning with God, took upon Himself flesh to fulfill the will of His Father. We find this so recorded in Hebrews 10:5, "Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, *Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, BUT A BODY HAST THOU PREPARED ME.*" Continuing, He says, "In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God" (Hebrews 10:6-7). Who is the 'I' here but Christ?

It is this body of flesh which

Jesus subjects to the will of His Father. While doing so, our Lord Jesus Christ was, in His own right, both Father and Son. Why? Because He was conceived so by His Father. Did we not read above that it was through His Father that He was appointed heir of all things? Was it not through His Son that all things exist? Was it not He which laid the foundations of the earth and the heavens also? Did not God anoint him with the oil of gladness above His fellows and bid Him to sit on His right hand until His enemies had become His footstool? And lastly, did not God Himself declare that He would be to Him a Father, and He should be to Him a Son? It was by virtue of the Creation, Christ being our Creator, that He is become our Father and our God. In this manner He is both the Father and the Son, the Father of us and all created things, and also the Son of His Father, Who put all things under Him. Because He dwelleth in the flesh He is called the Son of God. But the flesh in itself is not God, nor the Son of God. Nevertheless the relationship is established, so that when Christ put on flesh, a Father/Son relationship existed between Himself and His Father, and it is they which are One God, the very eternal Father of heaven and earth. It was His Father in heaven to whom He subjected His flesh.

Notice in what manner that Christ is the Father according to the following Scriptures:

“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

...Did not God Himself declare that He would be to Him a Father, and He should be to Him a Son?

come down from heaven, among the children of men, and shall dwell in a tabernacle of clay” (Mosiah 1:97).

“And he shall be called Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of heaven and earth, the Creator of all things, from the beginning; and his mother shall be called Mary” (Mosiah 1:102).

And again in 3 Nephi 4:44, *“Behold I am Jesus Christ, the Son of God. I created the heavens and the earth, and all things that in them are.”*

“But, behold, they shall have wars, and rumors of wars; and when the day cometh that the Only Begotten of the Father, yea, even the Father of heaven and of earth, shall manifest himself unto them in the flesh, behold, they will reject him” (2 Nephi 11:21).

“And also that ye might know of the coming of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of heaven and of earth, the Creator of all things, from the beginning, and that ye might know of the signs of his coming, to the intent that ye might believe on his name” (Helaman 5:66).

“And in that day that they shall exercise faith in me, saith the Lord, even as the brother of Jared did, that they may become sanctified in me, then will I manifest unto them the things which the brother of Jared saw, even to the unfolding unto them all my revelations, saith Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of the heavens and of the earth, and all things that in them are” (Ether 1:101).

Is it not plain from these scriptures that while Christ is the Father of all created things He is also the Son of God, His Father? These scriptures show in what way Christ is both Father and Son, yet distinct from His own Father which is in heaven. Jesus confirms this in Ether 1:77 when he stated, *“Behold, I am he who was prepared from the foundation of the world to redeem my people. Behold, I am Jesus Christ. I am the Father and the Son.”* This statement does not negate, but rather confirms, His Father who brought Him forth to this work. While being the Father and Son, Who was that One Who prepared Him from the foundation of the world to redeem His people?

And again in Mormon 4:71, *“Behold, he created Adam; and by Adam came the fall of man. And because of the fall of man, came Jesus Christ, even the Father and the Son.”* There is no conflict here for the prophet Isaiah also records that this child born of woman would be called the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Says our Lord, *“I am the*

same that leadeth men to all good; he that will not believe my words, will not believe me, that I am; and he that will not believe me, will not believe the Father who sent me. For behold, I am the Father, I am the light, and the life, and the truth of the world" (Ether 1:107-108). Should not our Lord make this claim? Did He not create us? Since this is so then He is also our Father. But Christ here states that those who will not believe His words will not believe in the God who sent Him. Jesus was by no means claiming to be that Father who sent Him. He was only showing again, as He has done many times, the distinction between God as His Father, and Himself as the Father of this world.

"And it came to pass that the Lord spake unto them, saying, Arise and come forth unto me, that ye may thrust your hands into my side, and also that ye may feel the prints of the nails in my hands, and in my feet, that ye may know that I am the God of Israel, and the God of the whole earth, and have been slain for the sins of the world" (3 Nephi 5:14).

Is this not so? Did not God, His Father, call Him God and Lord? But there is more. God has also given Him a name that is above every name, that every knee should bow to Him and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, AND GIVEN HIM A NAME WHICH IS ABOVE EVERY NAME: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in

heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:9-11).

There is still more. All power is given to Christ, both in heaven and earth. From Whom does He get this power?

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (Matthew 28:18).

There are three other statements. Christ says, "I and my Father are one" (John 10:30). Deuteronomy 6:4 says, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord." Finally, Isaiah 44:8 which queries: "Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any." The Book of Mormon confirms this by saying, "...the Father, and I, and the Holy Ghost, are one" (3 Nephi 5:38).

Is there a conflict here? What is this oneness? Consider the following:

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Genesis 2:24).

This earthly oneness here does not constitute one person. While they may be one flesh, because God has put them together, they are still two persons. But consider again:

"What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit" (1 Corinthians 6:16-17).

The earthly is a type of the heavenly. If the joining of the flesh makes one flesh, so also is the joining of the spirit, for it says here that he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. This is why the worshiping of idols is called spiritual adultery. Again this oneness does not make for a single entity. But consider again:

"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; THAT THEY MAY BE ONE, EVEN AS WE ARE ONE: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world" (John 17:20-24).

This shows in what manner this spiritual oneness is to be. The disciples or apostles of Christ are to be one in exactly the same manner that the Father and Son are one, for He says "that they may be one, even as we are one." The twelve no more became one person than the Father and Son are one Person, but Both are united in spirit and purpose, the Son yielding to the will of the Father and the disciples to that of Christ. As Christ is in the Fa-

ther and in us, and the Father in Christ, so also were the disciples to be one in God and Christ.

But does the existence of God and Christ as separate Persons denote two Gods, or one? What say the scripture?

“For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him” (1 Corinthians 8:5-6).

God here distinguishes and separates those which are called gods, but are not, from the one God, which is, The Father AND the Lord Jesus Christ.

Says Tertullian, a writer in the second century,

“They are constantly throwing out against us that we are preachers of two gods and three gods, while they take to themselves pre-eminently the credit of being worshippers of The One God.”

Continuing, he says:

“If, moreover, there be a son belonging to him whose monarchy it is, it does not forthwith become divided and cease to be a monarchy, if The son also be taken as a sharer in it; but it is as to its origin equally his, by whom it is communicated to The son; and being his, it is quite as much a monarchy...since it is held together by two who are so inseparable.”

And again,

“When, however, all things

shall be subdued to Him, (with The exception of Him who did put all things under Him,) then shall The Son also

The disciples or apostles of Christ are to be one in exactly the same manner that the Father and Son are one....

Himself be subject unto Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all. We thus see that The Son is no obstacle to The Monarchy, although it is now administered by The Son.”

Again there is an earthly type of the relationship of the Father and the Son in the administration of the kingdom. This is found in Genesis.

“And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art: Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou. And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt. And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck; And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler

over all the land of Egypt. And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I am Pharaoh, and without thee shall no man lift up his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt” (Genesis 41:39-44).

This is precisely the situation that exists in the heavenly realms. And though Joseph was the second in the kingdom, all the power of Pharaoh was in his hands, the same as all power in heaven and earth was given to Christ. But the kingdom still continued as a monarchy. It did not become a bi-narchy. There was still only one Pharaoh, one rule (or in the case of the kingdom of heaven, one God and one administration).

Let's refer back again to Isaiah 44:8 above wherein the question is asked, “Is there a God beside me?” The answer follows: “Yea, there is no God; I know not any.” This quotation is taken rather out of context. Now consider the full quote.

“THUS SAITH THE LORD THE KING OF ISRAEL, AND HIS REDEEMER THE LORD OF HOSTS; I AM THE FIRST, AND I AM THE LAST; AND BESIDE ME THERE IS NO GOD.... Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? Ye are even my witnesses. IS THERE A GOD BESIDE ME? YEA, THERE IS NO GOD; I KNOW NOT ANY” (Isaiah 44:6 & 8).

This clearly demonstrates that both God and Christ, in two Persons, are One God, and besides Them there is no God. In the Book of Mormon Nephi testified (2 Nephi 13) that the

voice of the Father spoke, then the voice of the Son, followed again by the voice of the Father. John, however, when he was caught up to heaven, saw the Lamb of God (Revelation 5) take the book out of the right hand of Him who sat upon the throne. Both these scriptures bear eloquent testimony as to the separate Persons of the Father and the Son.

In conclusion, we quote: "In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established" (2 Corinthians 13:1).

From Tertullian we read,

"Indeed, this was The sum and substance of what He was teaching them, that they were inseparably Two; since, after citing The law when it affirms The truth of two men's testimony, He adds at once: 'I am one who am bearing witness of myself; and The Father (is another,) who hath sent me, and beareth witness of me.' Now, if He were one - being at once both The Son and The Father - He certainly would not have quoted The sanction of The law, which requires not The testimony of one, but of two. Likewise, when they asked Him where His Father was, He answered them, that

they had known neither Himself nor The Father; and in this answer He plainly told them of Two, whom they were ignorant of.... When He was asked by The Jews if He were The very Christ (meaning, of course, The Christ of God; for to this day The Jews expect not The Father Himself, but The Christ of God, it being nowhere said that The Father will come as The Christ)...He says, 'My Father, which gave them to me, is greater than all;' adding immediately, 'I and my Father are one.' Here, then, they take their stand, too infatuated, nay, too blind, to see in the first place that there is in this passage an intimation of Two Beings - 'I and my Father;' then that there is a plural predicate, 'are,' inapplicable to one person only...."

In regard to the work of these latter days we read the following words:

"And in the mouth of three witnesses shall these things be established (Martin, David and Oliver); and the testimony of three, and this work, in the which shall be shewn forth the power of God, and also his word, OF WHICH THE FATHER, AND THE SON, AND THE HOLY GHOST BEARETH RE-

CORD" (Ether 2:3).

Not only were there to be three earthly witnesses of these things, but also three heavenly witnesses of these things. And so we read the clear word of the Lord:

"Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. FOR THERE ARE THREE THAT BEAR RECORD IN HEAVEN, THE FATHER, THE WORD, AND THE HOLY GHOST: AND THESE THREE ARE ONE. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one. If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son" (1 John 5:5-10).

ANNOUNCEMENT

Michigan Reunion Notice

The Ravenna, Michigan, local would like to extend the hand of fellowship to all to join us for our annual Church of Christ, Michigan Reunion. Please mark your calendars and reserve the **26th**

and 27th of June, 2004, so you can come and be with us for this spiritual feast, as we have ministry from four different states coming to expound the gospel of Christ to us.

For housing and questions contact Pastor Aaron Heath.

Camping at the Church is available. Call-(616) 281-3971 or e-mail at ahsh@joimail.com.

MISSIONARY MOMENTS

Report of Activity in Mexico during the Christmas Season of 2003:

A number of the members of the church in Mexico recently produced a play titled "Niño de Amor" or "Child of Love." They spent months preparing for the presentation in Yobain on the week of Christmas 2003. Many people from several locales participated in this work. Even some of the townspeople friendly to the Church of Christ contributed by playing key roles in the play. On the night of the performance the churchyard filled up and the crowd spilled into the street to watch the spectacle.

Later on that week they hired a professional cameraman from Channel 2 in Merida to videotape the production. They spent all evening of the 29th of December taping the production. All the costumes were handmade by two or three sisters in the church. Some of the local men built, painted and set up the props for the play. They spent their own money and many hours of time, building, sewing, traveling and practicing.

Since that time many of the townspeople have begun to ask questions about the church and the Gospel. This effort has given several of the locals a sense of oneness in the work in Mexico.

Weeks before the show was scheduled, Angel Efrain Koyoc Matu, the youngest son of Placido Koyoc Yam, wrote and printed a poster that was placed in the town square. Unfortunately, someone later took it down and it has not been seen since. He did have a copy of the words and read them at the opening of the play and again for the video. I have placed them below, together with their

translation in English. Efrain was the director of this work and also played the role of Joseph in the play.

CHILD OF LOVE

CHRISTMAS: A word that year after year we say and that makes us happy in our hearts. It is the most beautiful, the busiest time of year; every home is illuminated, the outward show declaring that we are happy; the stores are full, the streets changed to a sea of people that come and go; the month in which many stretch out their hand; they want happiness, children wait anxiously for presents, many preparations are made for diners, there is laughter and happiness, everything appears the color of roses.

NIÑO DE AMOR

NAVIDAD: Palabra que año, tras año, pronunciamos y que nos alegra el corazón, es el mes más hermoso, es el mes más ocupado del año, todos los hogares se iluminan y parecen decir que feliz estamos, las tiendas se encuentran llenas, las calles se convierten en un mar de gente que va y viene, es el mes en que muchos se estrechan la mano, se desean felicidad, los niños esperan ansiosos los regalos, se hacen muchos preparativos la cena, hay risas y libaciones, todo parece ser color de rosa.

The dictionary puts the first definition for Christmas as: The birth of Jesus: then Christmas is the greatest gift of God for the world to send your only son to be

born and live to save the world from their sins and to bring peace for every human being and the hope of eternal life. It is a month to have a moment to lift up a prayer of gratitude for this unequalled love.

El diccionario pone en primer lugar el significado de Navidad como: El Nacimiento de Jesús: entonces NAVIDAD es el más grande regalo de Dios para al mundo al enviar a su único hijo a nacer y morir para salvar al mundo de sus pecados y así traer la luz para todo ser humano y la esperanza de la vida eterna. Es un mes para tener un momento de elevar una oración de agradecimiento por ese amor único.

His birth was the light that shined on the earth.

He was executed by a method which Cicero describes as the most cruel and terrible of all: The crucifixion.

Su nacimiento fue la luz que iluminó a la tierra

Fue ejecutado por el método al que Cicerón describe como el más cruel y terrible de todos: La crucifixión.

The crucifixion has been one of the most terrible ways of all that men have been killed by their peers. The crucifixion is not just death, but also prolonged torture, pain, agony.... The crucifixion as used by the Romans was the most terrifying method of legal assassination.

La crucifixión ha sido una de las maneras más terribles en las que los hombres han sido asesinados por sus semejantes. La crucifixión no es solo muerte, sino también tortura prolongada, dolor, agonía... La crucifixión tan utilizada por los romanos, era el método de asesinato legal más terrorífico.

Tonight we ask a question. Why was Jesus, being the Son of God in the flesh, living as you or as I, different in that He had no sin, punished by the sentence mentioned previously? Is it because the majority of the people of that time did not know to value this most precious gift?

Hagámonos una pregunta esta noche, ¿Porque a Jesús siendo el hijo de Dios encarnado, viviendo como yo y como usted (la diferencia es que él aborreció el pecado) fue castigado de la sentencia antes mencionada? ¿Porqué la mayoría de las personas de esa época no supieron valorar tan preciado regalo?

I think that the people of that age did not understand and never considered the marvelous plan of God the Father as it would be in reality, that we crucify Him again when we occupy ourselves in superficial things, forgetting this valuable gift or thinking that God is a God of love forgiving all, but we remember that which He said in His word, He is a jealous God and an avenger who visits the evil of the fathers unto the third and fourth generations, if we do not change our lives.

Pienso que la gente de aquella época no entendió y nunca reflexionó acerca del maravilloso plan de Dios padre tal como sucede en la actualidad, que lo crucificamos de nuevo ocupándonos tanto en las cosas superficiales,

olvidándonos de ese valioso regalo ó pensando de que Dios, es un Dios de amor que todo lo perdona, pero recordemos lo que dice en su palabra que él es un Dios celoso y vengador que visita la maldad de los padres hasta la tercera y cuarta generación. Si no hacemos un cambio de vida.

Good evening to all. On this night I feel very happy to be able to see our friends of this area and my brethren from other churches in the state, because you are our honored guests for this Christmas Program that young people and brethren together with your servant have prepared in thanksgiving to our God for having sent His Son to be born in this world and to take back the significance of Christmas.

Buenas noches tengan todos, en esta noche me siento muy contento de poder ver a nuestros amigos de esta localidad y a mis hermanos de diferentes Iglesias del estado, porque ustedes son nuestros invitados de honor en este programa de Navidad, que los jóvenes y hermanos junto con un servidor hemos preparado como acción de gracias a nuestro Dios por haber enviado a su hijo al nacer en este mundo y para retomar el significado de la Navidad.

Now that life would rejoice and that we be able to fly high as the eagles, we are humbly here to reflect together with you by the means of this work where we will observe the hope of Israel for their Redeemer, the faith, the obedience, the simplicity of Mary and Joseph, the envy, selfishness and cruelty of King Herod and the amazing voice of "A Child of Love."

Ahora que la vida nos sonrío y que

podemos volar tan alto como las águilas, estamos aquí humildemente para hacer una reflexión juntamente con ustedes a través de esta obra donde podrán observar la esperanza de Israel por su redentor, la fe, la obediencia, la sencillez de María y José, la envidia, egoísmo y crueldad del rey Herodes y la voz estremecedora de un Niño de Amor.

Turn off the lights, up with the curtain, appreciate, meditate and validate this beautiful gift through this theatrical work titled, "Child of Love," and return to long ago to the first Christmas.

*By Angel Efrain K. Matu
Translated by Alvin Joseph Moser*

Que se apaguen las luces arriba el telón, apreciemos, reflexionemos y valoremos ese bello regalo a través de esta obra teatral titulada "Niño de Amor" y que vuelva como antaño la primera NAVIDAD.

Autor: Angel Efrain K. Matu

ANNOUNCEMENT

Camp Teen Challenge 2004

Date: 4 January 2004
To: All Prospective CIT's
From: Bro. Robert Hedrick
RE: 2004 CIT Sign-ups

Prospective CIT's:

Happy New Year to all! The New Year is here and so it is time to start preparing for the Teen Challenge 2004. We are calling out to all prospective CIT's who would like to take the Challenge and sign-up for Camp.

It may seem early to sign up for camp; however, we need your help from the very start of this important service. As taken from Mosiah 1:49: "...that ye may learn that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings, ye are only in the service of your God." We are **CHALLENGING** you to be in **SERVICE** of your God. **WE NEED YOU!!!** Below are a few details relating to camp.

When is Camp? Camp will be held this year from July 25th through July 30th 2004.

How do you sign up? That is the easy part. Please e-mail Bro. Bob Hedrick at (bobnliza@juno.com) or call at 602-494-9661.

When do you need to sign-up by? We are asking that you sign up to be a CIT no later than May 10th. We need your help in setting up classes and taking part in the planning process of camp.

Don't miss out on this great opportunity! Additionally, be thinking about any suggestions or ideas that you may have for a class at camp!

Don't delay, and sign-up today! We are looking forward to seeing you there!

May God Bless,
Brother Robert Hedrick

P. S. Keep in mind the camp theme for this year. At your first chance, please look up and read the following: **Mosiah 2:13-17.**

CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

Speed delivery of your *Zion's Advocate* by sending us your new address immediately. Each undeliverable *Zion's Advocate* costs the church more than the value of a first class stamp, in addition to regular postage.

CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The **2004 Ministers' Conference** (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, August 2, 3 and 4, at Independence, Missouri.

The **2005 Ministers' Conference** (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 3. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 4. A **Solemn Assembly** will be held prior to the conference, on April 1 & 2. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

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

Zion's Advocate Subscription Rate:	Price Each†
Members (optional)	\$4.00
Non-Members	4.00
Foreign	4.50
Babylon's Fall and the Way of Escape	1.85
Book of Commandments (plastic bound)	6.00
Book of Commandments (hard bound)	9.00
Book of Commandments Controversy Reviewed	4.00
Book of Mormon (1990 Independence Edition—plastic)	12.00
Book of Mormon (1990 Independence Edition—hard bound)	18.00
Book of Mormon Companion, A (plastic)	5.00
Book of Mormon Companion, A (hard bound)	12.00
Book of Mormon Concordance	8.00
Changing of the Revelations50
Libro De Mormon (Spanish)	7.00
Marvelous Work and a Wonder, A, by Daniel MacGregor	4.50
Outline History of the Church of Christ	9.65
Temple Lot Deed30
What the Restoration Teaches Concerning God	2.50
Zion's Hymnal (members)	15.00
Zion's Hymnal (non-members)	18.00

THE FOLLOWING GENERAL CHURCH PUBLICATIONS ARE FREE OF CHARGE:*

Ancient Prophecies Fulfilled in 1830	De La Iglesia De Cristo (Spanish)
Apostasy from the New Testament Church	Book of Commandments Commentary)
Articles of Faith & Practice of the Church of Christ	Evidences of the Book of Mormon First Presidency or First Apostles?
Article of Faith, #1 (concerning God; earliest Restoration history)	God's Promises to Israel
Article of Faith, #9 - (concerning the Bible and Book of Mormon)	God's Purpose in America
Baptism for the Dead—A Fallacy	Great Plan of Redemption, The
Book of Commandments, The - Its Role in the History of the Restoration	Is Marriage for Time and Eternity?—A Fallacy
Brief Commentary: Book of Commandments & Doctrine and Covenants	Last Maya King and the Liberation of Jerusalem, The
Brief History of the Church of Christ, A	Latter Day Apostasy, A
Call to National Repentance, A - Hearken to the Words of Jesus Christ	Latter Day Restoration, The
Christian Sabbath is the Lord's Day, The - Sunday	Priesthood—Divine Authority
Colored Tracts to Native Americans: 1) Book in the Stone Box, 2) Did you Know?, 3) Epistle to American Indians, 4) Promises of God and Straight Talk	Principles of the Gospel—Baptism
Concerning Marriage and Polygamy	Principles of the Gospel—Faith & Repentance
Cost of Salvation, The	Principles of the Gospel—Laying on of Hands
Does it Make a Difference to Which Church You Belong?	Resurrection and Eternal Judgement
El Libro De Mondamientos - Su Funcion En La Historia De La Restauracion	Sermonettes on the Teachings of Jesus
	Some Misconceptions about the Book of Mormon
	Synopsis, A (Compares beliefs of three Restoration churches)
	That Sacred Spot is Definitely Located
	What about the Book of Mormon?
	Why? (Amplifies absence of a First Presidency in Scripture)
	Zion and the Temple of the Lord

†Cost of mailing will be added.

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

Church of Christ

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
 TEMPLE LOT
 200 S. RIVER BLVD.
 P. O. BOX 472
 INDEPENDENCE, MO 64051-0472

NONPROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 INDEP., MO
 PERMIT NO. 259

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS

The following materials are available on loan to members of the Church of Christ from the Audio, Video, Visual-Aid and Archeology Committee:

SLIDE PROGRAMS WITH TAPED NARRATION

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

Allow adequate advance time for handling and shipping, and for your own preview of the programs. Write to the AVVAA Committee, Church of Christ, P.O. Box 472, Independence, 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 of the entire Book of Mormon. Write to Dan Lawrence, 8420 Lee's Summit Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64139. Specify which set is desired and the estimated length of time you expect to use it.

SERMONS ON AUDIO & VIDEO CASSETTE TAPES

For a sermon on cassette tape write to Dan Lawrence, 8420 Lee's Summit Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64139; on video tape contact your local missionary.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS

Send orders for Sunday School materials to Debbie Vogel, 403 West 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.