

Zion's Advocate

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

1 Nephi 3:187

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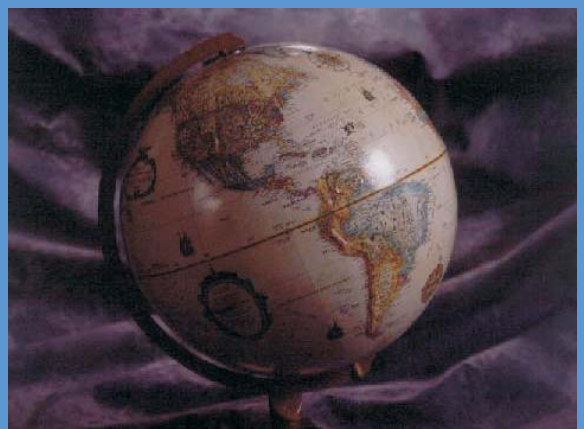
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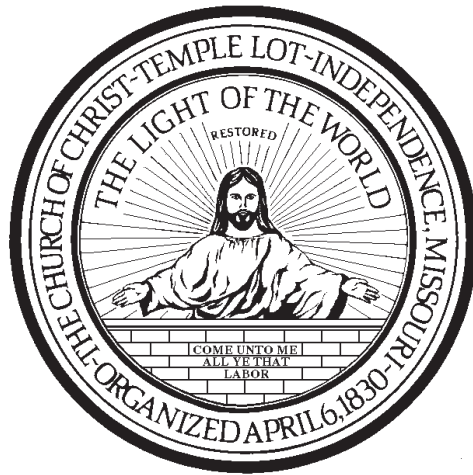


**"AND THIS GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM SHALL BE PREACHED IN ALL THE WORLD
FOR A WITNESS UNTO ALL NATIONS; AND THEN SHALL THE END COME."
MATTHEW 24:14**

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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 and His Church,
 the Church of Christ;
 To be a voice of warning to His people; to be
 Zion's advocate.

REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WORK IN YUCATAN-2005



By Apostle Don McIndoo

Once again I thank you each for your many prayers in behalf of the work of the Gospel and your prayers for your brothers and sisters in foreign lands. I would like to make a brief report of some of the activities Bro. Jay Moser and myself have been involved in while in Yucatan this year.

Each February the churches in Yucatan and Quintana Roo have an Anniversary Reunion commemorating the first visit of Apostle Clarence Wheaton in February, 1951. This year that reunion was held in Cancun, Q. R., to combine our reunion with the

dedication of their newly remodeled church building. People came by bus from almost ev-

ery congregation. We had a wonderful dedication service with lots of beautiful songs and



► Newly remodeled church building in Cancun, Quintana Roo.

testimonies, followed by a dedication sermon. We spent two days together before returning to our various homes.

Every summer, in the month of July, the church conducts a Youth Camp at a rented location somewhere on the Yucatan Peninsula. Brother Plácido, Jr. makes all the arrangements. This past summer we held our camp in a private facility on the outskirts of Mérida. As the weather was nice, we held most of our activities outside. However, the dormitory rooms were nice and a few classes were held inside. Each participant brings their own hammock and the S hooks with which to fasten them to the wall. In addition to our studies and scriptural themes there were many elective classes offered (cooking, art, electricity, mechanics, languages, etc.) which the young people enjoyed



► Girls' dormitory at the Youth Camp in Yucatan.

greatly.

As you might remember, July's Hurricane Emily diminished in strength and just seemed to hop right over our

area, so our activities were not negatively affected. Our camp began and ended in beautiful sunshine. The young people are already looking forward to next year's activities.

Every October the church enjoys a church-wide reunion on our reunion grounds in Mérida. The people travel from their various locals by bus, taxi or rented trucks. As we do not have kitchen facilities, each group brings their own food for the noon meal.

The meetings begin at 9:00 AM and dismiss at 3:30 PM, so the participants have opportunity to return home. This year there were members from ten congregations taking part in our reunion. We began the reunion, and for the first time, with a Communion Service. Plácido Koyoc Matú was in charge of the service. After the communion had been passed we



► Youth Camp on the outskirts of Mérida.



► Communion, Plácido Koyoc Matú officiating.

enjoyed several hours of prayers and wonderful testimonies. This was followed by a time for lunch and fellowship. In the afternoon we enjoyed a period of musical presentations by a number of participants. This was followed by a sermon from Elder Marvin Carroll. After the final prayer there is a lot of cleaning up to do, and no one seems in a hurry to leave for home.

On Saturday evening, October 29th, we would celebrate the 15th birthday of Esteyli, one of Plácido Koyoc's grand daughters. This is one of the grandiose occasions in a girl's life and is usually a very formal affair, but also a religious one. For our members it always includes a church service. It is the coming of age of a young woman. Twenty years ago most young women married at this time or soon after.

Being a long-time friend of the family, I was asked to give the sermon. After the ceremony we all ate on the patio behind the church. The meal had been pre-



► Esteyli turns 15.

paring all that day. The fine chef in charge is an uncle of the celebrant.

On Sunday morning Plácido, Jr., Marvin and I headed for Merida. Plácido, Sr. remained in Yobain to conduct services. We were to spend the day in a Leader's Meeting. Each month that Brother Moser or I visit Yucatan, we meet twice with young men interested in preparing themselves for greater service to the Lord. This month Hurricane Wilma derailed one of our meetings. Only eleven of the usual sixteen young men were able to attend, but we had an enjoyable day studying about Book of Mormon geography and history. At 4:00 PM we left Merida and returned to Yobain. At church that evening, Brother Bill Malone showed the congregation his slides of Africa. Everyone was greatly interested in them. They keep the work in other countries always in their prayers.

On Tuesday morning Marvin, the two Brothers Plácido and I left early for Merida. It was the first of November and the day for the monthly Ministers' Conference. Apostle Plácido, Sr. was in charge. After an opening song and prayer, Brother Plácido read a scripture, appropriate to the work of the Gospel today. This was followed by a circle of prayers, with all participating. We spent the next hour and a half discussing various aspects of the growing effort and plans for the future.

The two Brothers Plácido



will present an article later about some of our new missionary projects they are opening in various parts of Yucatan. I never cease to be amazed at how quickly a month in Yucatan passes. Every day brings a new experience, wonderful fellowship and the greatest hospitality imaginable. Please keep the work in your prayers.

► Standing is Apostle Don McIndoo with future leaders (beginning at Don's right) Ángel Moo, Victor Moo, Miguel Moo, Rarael Moo, José Moo and Manuel Balam. Seated in the back is Apostle Plácido Matú.



► From the left, back row: Elder Felipe Uluac, Apostle Placido Koyoc Matu, Elder Roger Can, Apostle Placido Koyoc Yam, Elder William Seralta. From the left, front row: Priest Rolando Tuc, Elder Esaul Ku' Chan.

REPORT



By Elder Ken Oar

HONDURAS

The first local established in Honduras is in the little village of Zamorano. It is located about 70 miles from the capital city of Tegulcigulpa, and is the home base for missionary trips. Honduras is a country of many low-lying mountains with most of the missionary trips made on un-maintained, unpaved and rocky roads. In the rainy season from May until November these roads are many times im-

passable. The road from Tegulcigulpa to Zamorano is paved and one of the better Honduran roads, but the drive still takes almost three hours.

Zamorano has about 30 members, plus some non-members, that support this local. They have four services each week. They also have an active young peoples' group, with about twelve that meet weekly. They spend most of their time



► Some children that attended Sunday School in Agua Fria. Marlene is with Ruth, a partially deaf woman.

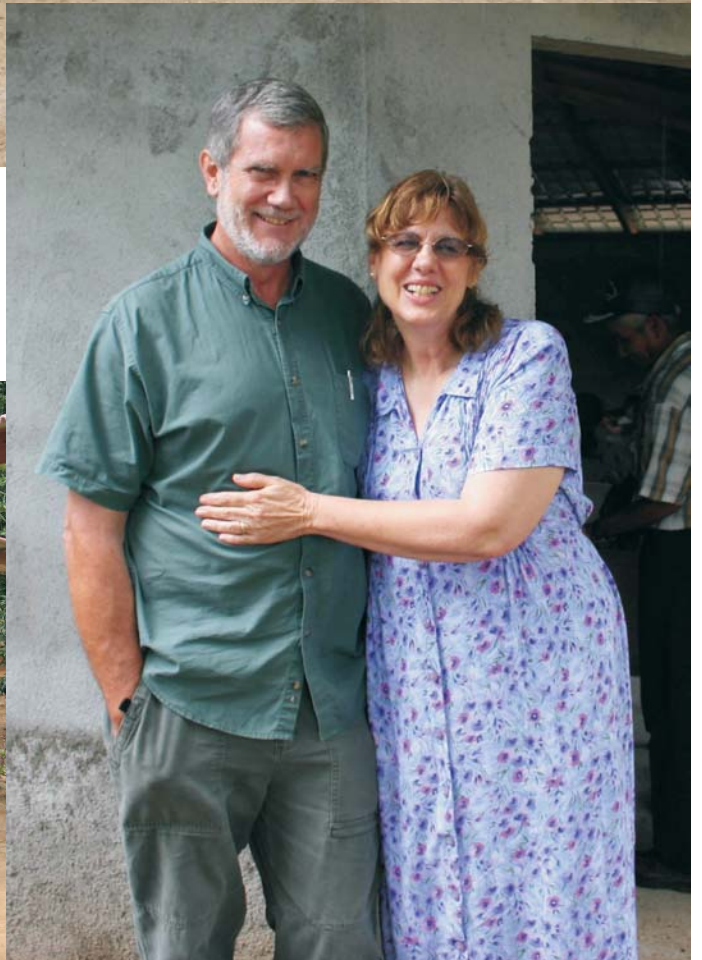


▶ A group in Rio Abajo (Upper River), pastored by Luis.

together; you can hear them as they walk on the road by our house visiting and singing gospel songs.
The other local church is in the little village of



▶ Sunday School building in Occuli.



▶ Ken and Marlene Oar.

Oculi, about a 45-minute drive from Zamorano. They have about 20 members and about half that number walk about 45 minutes from the community of Upper River to attend the services. They have a new elder, Luis, who is taking up his responsibilities with enthusiasm. They meet Sunday mornings at the church and on Wednesday afternoon the members in Oculi meet at the church for a study class. The members in Upper River also meet each Wednesday for a study in the home of the pastor. Elder Ronnie Gill alternates meeting with each group on Wednesdays.

They are in the process of constructing a new church building in Oculi. The members there are very active in reaching out to



► Sunday School class being taught by Sister Tomasa.



► Congregation with Elder Ronnie Gill standing outside the church building in Oculi.



► Marlene Oar learning how to make tortillas in the home of members Juan and Minolda, who live in Piedro Colorado (Colored Rock).

the community. While Marlene and I were there last November she had as many as 35 children attend the Sunday school classes she taught.

Ronnie spends much time on the road spreading the gospel, as well as supporting his home local in Zamorano. A typical month for brother Ronnie would be two trips to three villages about two hours from Zamorano. There are two members in one of the villages with others who are contemplating baptism in the three villages. He also would make 2 trips to the community of Colored Rock, a 3-4 hour drive into the mountains and, depending on the time of year, this could involve another hour and a half of walking.

Walking in Honduras is not flat land walking by any stretch of the imagination. This walk takes you down one side of a mountain and half way up the other side. At the bottom is a

small stream that is crossed on what some might consider a bridge. The last time I crossed the stream it was on one or two small trees from one bank to the other.

Ronnie also attends services in Oculi each Sunday morning, as well as home visits

with those who inquire about the gospel. Each Sunday morning he drives another 30 minutes or so up the mountain road to pick up two members so they can attend church. The wife has arthritis and until she was unable to walk that far they would walk two hours to attend services each Sunday.

Of course, for Ronnie, there is always the emergency trip to the clinic, calls for administration and general support of 50 members. Ronnie is supported by his wife, Joani, and family, as well as his brother Tommie and his wife Santos, and also his father and mother, John and Nana Gill.

Your prayers for the continued success of the work in Honduras are greatly appreciated. There are many opportunities that the Lord is opening for the spread of the gospel among His people in Central America.



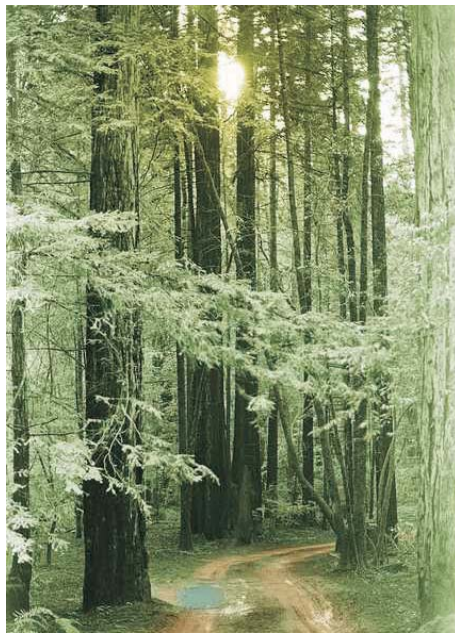
► Ken Oar doing the laundry.

Testimonies from Honduras



► Adalberto Juarez

My acceptance of the church came by a dream. I was walking in a very pastoral landscape. The entire area was green and all around me were sheep, white sheep. I walked a path through this field for a very long time and finally I arrived at the end where there was a shepherd holding a staff. As I came close to the shepherd he said, "Finally you have arrived so that I may leave you to watch these sheep." I responded saying, "This is very boring." And he replied, "But you must watch them." I did not want to watch the sheep, but he had told me that I had to do it because it was an order. He handed me the



PATHLIGHTS

staff and when I grabbed it, I felt a strength come over my whole body. I began to walk and I saw a great light. Then I woke up. When I awoke I felt a great desire to accept God, but I knew that He had told me that I could no longer do things that I had been doing. I could not drink alcohol or beer and I could no longer keep friends who would take away my desire to get closer to God.

I was in this struggle a long time and I saw that I was losing my family, and had to do what God had ordained. I had to repent and leave behind all of the bad to follow the commandments of God. I am happy in the Church of Christ, light of the world. I owe much to God and thank Him.

Adalberto Juarez

On the 20th of September, 2005, I was in bed resting at about 8:00 p.m. The room was light and I could see clearly. I rose and went outside to see if the moon was shining so brightly, but when I got outside I saw a great surprise. It was not the moon but a star that shown in the direction of the church. This was very important to me because God was illuminating my own life. In that same moment I called my wife to come and see this vision. She saw the clarity and said, "God is with us."

I went inside to pray and search the scriptures. I wanted to find in the scriptures what the light was telling me, and upon reading, every indication was that God was talking to me so that I might have a testimony of Him.

I was also told to write this vision that it would go to other brothers and help them, that through this vision others may know that the light of Christ is for all of us.

This is all that I can write.

Adalberto Juarez

(Adalberto donated the land for the church building in Oculi. He faithfully maintains the church and witnesses of the Church of Christ to everyone he knows.)



► Mirian Yolanda Colindres.

My name is Mirian Yolanda Colindres. I was born on the 17th of May, 1967. The following is my testimony. I was

raised to be very timid and have always been so, even with my husband who treated me badly because neither he nor I knew the plan of our Savior Jesus Christ. I left my husband because of his treatment of me and because he had other women. He did not care for our children or myself but only for the pleasures of the world. We continued to live in physical and spiritual poverty, but we do not live like that anymore.

Thanks to God my life has changed since my husband and I were married and I was baptized. I have been greatly blessed by God through every trial and I pray that He will keep my husband and myself always in His hands.

I am very happy that my husband is also part of the Church of Christ. When we are sick we do not visit the doctor because we have faith that God can cure any sickness. I thank God that He has blessed my family not to have sicknesses.

I am also thankful for our brothers and sisters in the United States who remember us in their prayers. Also, I thank God for our brother Ronnie and his wife who always remember us in prayer and who are like parents to us.

Please remember us in your prayers because only two of our daughters are members. I am a mother of 11 children and I am expecting another

child this November.

This testimony is for those who do not know Christ who is the bread of life and who we are nothing without.

I am thankful to my sister Marlene and her husband for requesting this testimony and I would like to send my wishes to all of my brothers and sisters who meet throughout the world. Though we do not know each other now, one day we will meet together...until then.

(Mirian is the wife of Luis who is now the Pastor of the Oculi local.)



Making An Outreach To Others

When my father had the inspiration of God to go to other places to reach out to people for the kingdom of God, he thought about the people who are living in small towns around the Yucatán Peninsula. During that time he postponed it many times, but he decided to go and he invited one of our leaders from a town called Mayapan. His name is Carlos Moo.

They went first to a big city but decided to go to the small towns around it. They went to a small town called Ek Balam where they went house to house giving pamphlets to the people and talking with them about the gospel. It is not an easy job, especially if you do not know anyone there, but the people were very friendly and they wanted to hear about the Word.

Ek Balam is a town of about 500 people. Most of them speak Maya but they understand Spanish too. We had a service downtown with some brothers from our local church of Yobain and some came from Mayapan also. It was a very good experience for all of us. This was the first time we held services like that, but we felt encouraged with this kind of activity. Now we have a family that is interested in the gospel. The father's name is Paulino Puc and I want you all pray for him.

We in our local church made the decision to go with some young people and some adults to a small town called

Hacienda Kancabchen. It is about twenty miles from the place where we live. We distributed pamphlets to the people, and we talked to them about the Gospel. They were very receptive and I remember the words of a woman who said, "Thank you very much, that's something I really need."

Two weeks later we went back to Hacienda Kancabchen to have a service in the center of town. We went with all the church people and we had a very nice activity. Now I am visiting a family there, and they are very interested in the Gospel. They have started to attend the services.

I want you all to pray for Higinio Herrera and his family. They are interested in the Word of God. The most important part is that he is inviting other people. Last Sunday when I went to pick him up for church, he told me, "There are ten of us."

I had to look for a taxi for them. For the first time he invited his mother-in-law to come to church and his sister-in-law too. Please pray for them! Some day they will be members of our church.

I am also ministering to a family in Cansacab which is a town close to Yobaín where I live. I pick them up to go to church to have sacrament and for other activities in the church. Last week Froilan Cohuo was very sick. He is a

man of about 72 years. His family took him to the hospital, and the doctors told them that Froilan was going to pass away because after some tests they discovered serious problems with his heart and liver. The doctors said that it was possible that he would die that night.

We in the church were praying a lot for him, and Roger Can, who is an elder in the church, visited him and prayed for him that night. When his doctor heard the prayer he said, "You all have a lot of faith." And that's true. We only have faith!

The next day Froilan got better! In four days he was out of the hospital with no problems at all! The doctors asked him, "What did you do with the problems you had? Did you give them to the other people?" Because three of the people that were with him in the room with the same problem passed away that night.

Brothers and friends, these are some of the marvelous things that our Heavenly Father is doing among our people here in Yucatán, Mexico.

I want you to know that we are praying for each one of you, and that God will help you always.

Apostle Placido K. Matu
My e-mail address is:
p_matu@hotmail.com

A Dream Fulfilled

By Teacher Dan Lawrence

My life has been richly blessed over the last five years with the privilege of serving the Lord in the mission field of the Yucatán Peninsula. I have met many of our church families there and have shared with them the love of Christ. They have taken me into their homes and accepted my family as part of theirs.

In February of 2004 I received the following dream that to me was a verification of the Lord's will for me in that lovely country and among those precious people.

In my dream I was walking the streets of Mérida, Yucatán, looking for an office where I needed to file some official documents with the government. I was told to look for a tall metal door or gate facing the sidewalk. I found the gate and entered into a large courtyard that was poorly kept, full of rocks and refuse, barren of any foliage. There was a long line of people which I joined.

After quite some time the Yucatecan man in front of me turned around and entered into conversation with me. He asked me what I was doing there and I told him that I needed to file some official pa-



► Teacher Dan Lawrence and Apostle Placido Koyoc Yam

pers, and that I was told to enter the gate to that courtyard. He told me that I was in the wrong place and that I needed to go to the palace on the south side of the central plaza in Mérida. I recognized that place as the building that now houses the bank where we do business. I responded that I was sure I entered the correct gate, and that I was in the right place.

At the far side of the courtyard was a small stone and thatch building, much like the typical home found in the small villages of Yucatán. The man told me that it was a special home, perhaps an ancient

shrine, that had been dismantled and moved to that spot where it was reassembled.

He then asked me why I was in Yucatán and I told him that I was a missionary. He got very interested, to the point of excitement, and held his hands up and began to tell me that he had once heard a story about two brothers. After some thought he remembered their names as Laman and Lemuel and asked me if I knew the story. Great joy came over me as I told him I knew all about the story and that I could tell it to him. He began to weep and embraced me quite emotionally. I remember holding his face in my hands as both of us wept, and telling him over and over that I could tell him the story. He was overcome with joy.

I then awoke.

Just a few weeks later, prior to the 2004 General Conference, I received a phone call asking me if I would be willing to serve on the *Zion's Advocate* staff and possibly assist in the publication of a Spanish language version. I accepted the offer and began to consider what I could do to serve the Church in this capacity, thinking primarily about the English version.

During the Solemn Assembly meeting prior to the Conference while asking the Lord to help me to understand my

dream I had a vision of the front page of the *Zion's Advocate* in Spanish. My mind began to fill with ideas for articles, photographs and details for the production of this new publication. I knew then that it was the Lord's will that I accomplish this work, but this was not the entire meaning of the dream.

Since that time several issues of the *Luz de Sión* have been printed and distributed in Mexico, Honduras and the United States. During my last visit to Yucatán I was asked to accompany Brothers Plácido K. Yam, Plácido K. Matú and Carlos Moo to the small village of Ebtún. We visited door to door and handed out literature about the Church, including copies of the *Luz*. I then remembered my dream. I under-

stood that this was indeed the realization of its promise that I would be allowed the privilege of assisting our brothers in taking the Gospel to the humble people of Yucatán. I am reminded of the promise Christ made to the Gentiles in the tenth chapter of Third Nephi when He said that,

"...If they will repent, and hearken unto my words, and harden not their hearts, I will establish my church among them, and they shall come in unto the covenant, and be numbered among this the remnant of Jacob, unto whom I have given this land for their inheritance, and they shall assist my people, the remnant of Jacob; And also, as many of the house of

Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem...and then shall the work of the Father commence, at that day even when this gospel shall be preached among the remnant of this people."

It is a humbling experience to be a part of the unfolding of prophecy and have the Lord reveal His will in this marvelous manner. I pray that the efforts of all His servants will be blessed and that the Church of Christ can accomplish the task of taking the Gospel to "every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people."



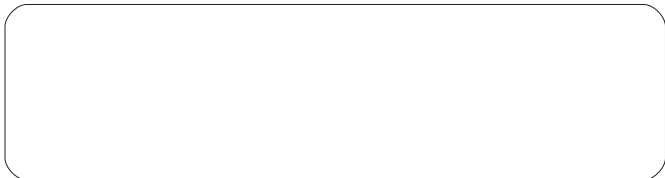
► Baptism of a young man from Dzan, Yucatan.



Church of Christ

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Church of Christ TEEN CAMP 2006

Prospective CIT's,

We are calling out to all young people who want to take the challenge and sign-up as a Counselor in Training (CIT) for Teen Camp 2006.

We need your help from the very start of this important service. Mosiah 1:49 says, "...*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!!! Following are a few details relating to camp.

When is Camp? Camp will be held this year from July 23rd to the 28th.

How do you sign up? That is the easy part. Please e-mail Sister Kim Yates at (cofcteenecamp@yahoo.com), or call 602-374-3688, to get a CIT application.

When do you need to sign-up by? We are asking that you submit your application 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—sign-up today! We're looking forward to seeing you there!

*May God Bless,
Bro. Jeff Oldham*

P.S. Keep in mind the camp theme for this year. *"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near"* Isaiah 55:6.

APRIL MINISTERS' CONFERENCE 2006

As instructed by the 1964 April Ministers' Conference be advised that the 2006 April Ministers' Conference (general membership) will begin on Monday, April 3rd, 2006, with Conference Sunday on April 2nd, 2006. The first business session will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, April 3rd, 2006, at the General Church building on the Temple Lot. According to action taken during the 2005 April Ministers' Conference, two days of fasting and prayer will be held Friday, March 31st and Saturday, April 1st, 2006, at the General Church Building on the Temple Lot.

All Committee Reports should be forwarded to the Conference Secretary at least two (2) weeks in advance of the beginning of the first business session. As is always the case, it is requested that all business to be placed before the 2006 April Ministers' Conference be forwarded in advance of the first business meeting so that document packets may be completed for distribution.

The mailing address for the above requested information is:

Harvey E. Seibel,
April Ministers' Conference Secretary
9800 E. 32nd Street S.
Independence, MO 64052
harvenes@juno.com

Your brother in the Lord's work,
Harvey E. Seibel,
2006 April Ministers' Conference Secretary

TWO DAYS OF FASTING AND PRAYER

Be it resolved that services be held at the Temple Lot the two days preceding the April Ministers' Conference, on March 31st and April 1st, 2006, and that all members of this Church of Christ who are hindered by circumstances beyond their control from assembling on the Temple Lot are encouraged to dedicate this same period to fasting and prayer in their locals or in their homes, that the whole Church may be united in one heart and one mind.

"And the church did meet together oft, to fast and to pray, and to speak one with another concerning the welfare of their souls: and they did meet together oft to partake of bread and wine, in remembrance of the Lord Jesus;.... And their meetings were conducted by the church, after the manner of the workings of the Spirit, and by the power of the Holy Ghost; for as the power of the Holy Ghost led them whether to preach or exhort, or to pray, or to supplicate, or to sing, even so it was done" Moroni 6:6, 9.

Respectfully submitted,
The Council of Apostles

Smith N. Brickhouse
Secretary

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 **2006 Ministers' Conference** (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 2. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 3. A **Solemn Assembly** will be held prior to the conference, on March 31 and April 1. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

The **2006 Ministers' Conference** (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held the three days following the April Ministers' Conference, at Independence, Missouri.

ZION'S ADVOCATE SUBSCRIPTIONS

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