

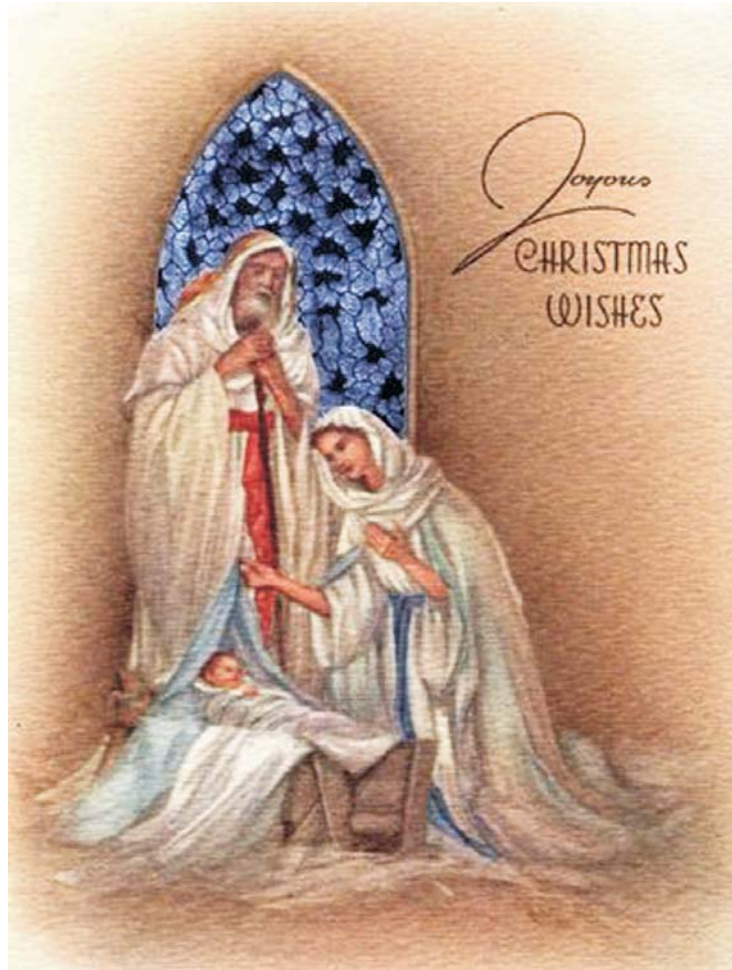
Zion's Advocate

*"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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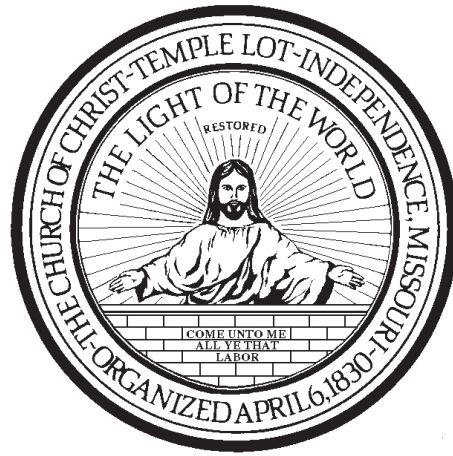
NUMBER 8



And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. —Luke 2:7

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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.

GOD'S WORK IN INDIA



By Apostle Brian E. McIndoo

After a few years of correspondence between the church and some men in India we decided it was time to personally go and seek those whom God had prepared to receive the truth of the gospel. Fortunately for us, Elder Dennis Trudgen and his family were living in Delhi and had also been in contact with some of those in India who showed an interest in the Church. When Brother Smith Brickhouse and I first arrived

in India, April 2006, we met up with Elder Trudgen and headed south to the cities of Hyderabad, Rajahmundry and Gollaville where we held services at several locations and preached to hundreds of people, some Christian and some not.

As we traveled through this continent, I felt akin to Paul's experience in Athens: ***"And then immediately the brethren sent away Paul to go as it were to the sea: but Silas and Timotheus abode there still. And they that conducted Paul brought him unto Athens: and receiving a commandment unto Silas and Timotheus for to come to him with all speed, they departed. Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry" Acts 17:14-16.***

As Paul waited the arrival of Silas and Timothy he looked about him and found Athens to be a city given to

Upon our arrival in India I, too, found a place given over to idolatry, not just a city, but an entire country.

pagan worship. Every direction he looked, he saw idols in the form of a shrine, statue, temple or religious edifice erected to a pagan god. It is believed that Athens had more images than all the rest of the world put together. Some experts suggest Athens housed 30,000 public statues, and countless private ones.

Upon our arrival in India I, too, found a place given over to idolatry, not just a city, but an entire country. The streets, the countryside, river banks and curio shops were overrun by enormous statues of pagan gods, half human, half animal. Countless tem-



ples, ornamented with pagan images, were available on every roadway. Most of the vehicles carried images of pagan gods painted on them, or dash ornaments reflecting their beliefs.

Where Paul encountered philosophers of the Epicureans and Stoics, we found ourselves in a land predominately populated by Hindus, Buddhist, and Sikhs.

Epicureans were considered to be "Practical Atheism," to mean they did not deny the existence of gods, but regarded them as unconcerned about the life of man here on earth. Seeking pleasure and avoiding pain are the supreme good and principle goal of an Epicurean's life. Their teachings were to follow your heart, desires, ambitions and feelings. They use the argument: we are made with physical sensations so we can enjoy certain tastes, feelings; therefore, they must be good and we should seek them out while there is time before we die. The Book of Mormon warns us about modern religions which will teach the Epicurean philosophy, **"Yea, and there shall be many which shall say, Eat, drink, and be merry, for to-morrow we die: and it shall be well with us" 2 Nephi 12:9.**

Stoicism came from the teachings of Zeno in 360-260

BC and their beliefs were almost the opposite of the Epicurean. They taught virtue came through the lack of feeling of love, pain, joy or pleasure. They took pride in absolute control over their emotions. They believed no personal dealing with God was possible.

The Epicureans and Stoics are not much different than the Eastern Religions. Let me give a little background on Eastern religions. The religion of the East carries the quest "enlightenment." When man reaches the highest of enlightenment he will merge into God. The roots of the Hindi religion (the biggest part of India) go back to somewhere between 1500 and 800 BC.

It began from the writing referred to as Vedic. For the most part the Vedic writings contain 1208 Hymns, sacrificial formulas, legends, anecdotes and philosophical treatises, but very little doctrine. There is a wide variation in Hinduism, depending on the Guru and what he teaches his followers. Their beliefs range from deep analytical theories to belief in demons. Some believe in one god, where others have an almost endless list of gods. Some have a total abhorrence to anything carnal, others participate in the crudest sexual activities. Many will carefully avoid kill-

ing any living thing where others engage in the bloodiest of sacrifices.

The two chief elements of the Vedic religion, from which Hindi originated, are the "cast system" and "reincarnation" which interlock each other. The caste system is more than an arrangement of society based on division of labor. To the Hindi, a person is locked into his caste for a lifetime, but he is able to change his caste for a future life through the right spiritual exercises of yoga and meditation. Likewise, he can reduce his caste for the future life; if the total sum of Karma is negative in his present life then he will be in a lower caste in the next. The law of Karma declares every thought, word, action, choice brings about specific consequences. Hinduism teaches evil has its origins in man and man must shape his own destiny and future life. It is because of his ignorance that he is imprisoned in race, gender, caste, or nation. The individual's actions are added up during his lifetime and after death they are returned to him in his next incarnation. If he has bad Karma he will fall into a lower caste or species; however, if his Karma is positive he will move up.

Eventually, they believe, they can escape the incarnations and arrive into the "Ab-



solute.” But the unenlightened might have to go through hundreds of thousands of life forms to reach his state of divinity. Salvation for a Hindi is, “Enlightenment,” and enlightenment can break the limitations of his body and mind to where he can discover the “God-Self.” This is where Yoga and meditations come to play, bringing the individual into the “Path to insight.” An important part of worship is repetition or chanting, usually the name of gods. Doing this produces good Karma, having others hear it brings good Karma, and getting others to involve themselves brings about good Karma.

In the 1970s George Harrison, who was deeply involved in Eastern religions released the songs, “Instant Karma” and “My Sweet Lord,” both expressing the Eastern religion philosophies. “My sweet Lord,” begins in the chorus singing “Hallelujah” but ends with the chorus singing, “Heri Krishna and Ali Baba” enticing the hearers to unwittingly involve themselves by singing along or chanting the name of these pagan Gods. George Harrison said in an interview, that he intended to bring Christian and Eastern religion together in the song. But I have to wonder if he was not also trying to gain good

Karma by having others sing the name of his lord, Hare Krishna.

For many years ago, meditation for stress relief and relaxation is ever more being pushed on the people of America by their employers, doctors, fitness trainers and

Paul tells the pagans there is a God which they do not know, just to be safe they had erected a alter to him also. Paul seized the opportunity to declare to them Jesus Christ. When my brothers and I arrived in India, we had the opportunity to do just as

I, too, rejoice knowing Jesus can change men from condemned creatures into a new creature, alive in Christ and a people full of hope of eternal life.

self-help books. Philip H. Lochhass in his book, *The Eastern Religions*, (pg. 15) quotes the founder of Transcendental Meditation, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi as saying: “Transcendental Meditation is the path to God.” Instructors of Transcendental Meditation say they would prefer the general public and those becoming involved in the first levels to think it is only as a physical-mental relaxation process.

In the Book of Acts, Paul found himself surrounded by pagan beliefs, but he took the opportunity afforded him to teach the truth of Jesus Christ: **“For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, To The Unknown God. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you” Acts 17:23.**

Paul did: bear witness of Jesus Christ to many who did not know him. We also were able to teach the doctrines of the Church of Christ to several Christians who were looking for the truth of the Gospel, and had their hearts prepared by God to receive truth.

In August 2006, we returned to the cities of Rajahmundry and Gollaville. During our time, we held several days’ worth of teaching. We had the opportunity to share the gospel and witness about the Book of Mormon to about seventy-five people whom we had taught on our trip in August, and who had made the commitment to come and participate in the all-day classes. Our first classes were held in Rajahmundry, after which seven men and women made



a covenant with the Lord and were baptized in a small river cutting through a rice field. After the classes at Gollaville, sixteen men and women joined themselves to the body of Christ, being baptized in the Bay of Bengal.

Shortly after establishing the Church of Christ in India, God gave the following dream to one of the women in the Gollaville Mission. Brother Sharat B Tokala of the mission reported the dream as follows: One night this woman had a dream, and in her dream she saw her hus-

band was drawing the images of men and women on a wooden cardboard. One day some white men (maybe from US or UK) came to their home and conducted a gospel meeting. At the end of the gospel meetings the white men took the images of men and women (drawn on cardboard) into the water and baptized the cardboards in the water. As soon as they (white men) baptized the cardboard images of men and women in the water the images came to life as men and women walking out of the wa-

ter with joy. People watching all these incidents were in wonder and believed in the Lord and in the words (gospel) of white men. This dream made all the congregation rejoice and thanked the woman for her testimony.

I, too, rejoice knowing Jesus can change men from condemned creatures into a new creature, alive in Christ and a people full of hope of eternal life.



▶ India 2006 Members



Grace versus Works-based Salvation



By Michael Kelley

In the previous installments of this series it was shown how grace was essential for salvation, yet it was by the works that we do in this life that we may obtain this grace and be judged by our works. Also it was shown that those who professed Christ with their mouth but denied Him by their works would not have salvation, and that it was possible for the truly converted to apostatize later in their life and forfeit their salvation. How then do we explain the scriptures written by Paul saying it was a free gift, and that we are not saved by our works, lest we should boast?

PART 3

Romans 5:18 *Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.*

Ephesians 2:8-9 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

Galatians 2:16 *Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.*

Just reading the above scriptures it is easy to see how many would believe that the free gift of grace is all that is required for salvation, that our works would have little import. However, there should be several points taken into account before this doctrine is accepted at face value. Paul was a learned Pharisee and often

wrote in language that was scholarly and hard to understand, making it easy to be wrested by the unlearned or wicked. Peter warns us to beware of those who wrest Paul's writings in the following passage:

2 Peter 3:14-17 *Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.*

It is understandable for Paul to focus on grace so much in his writings as he was such a recipient of grace. He had persecuted the church and consented to the murder of the martyr Stephen. These sins



weighed heavily on Paul, causing him to focus on grace and his gratitude towards God in his writings; however, this does not negate the other scriptures concerning the necessity of works, some of which Paul himself writes:

Romans 3:31 *Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.*

Romans 6:1-7 *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin.*

Paul emphatically states that we should not continue in sin that grace may abound. Rather he teaches the very opposite: that the convert buries his sin by baptism and arises a new creature freed from sin. So, then, what are these works that Paul is referring to that are meaningless to our salvation?

Galatians 2:11-13 *But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the*

face, because he was to be blamed. For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision. And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation.

Romans 3:28-30 *Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. Is he the God of the Jews only? is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also: Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith.*

Isaiah 66:3 *He that killeth an ox is as if he slew a man; he that sacrificeth a lamb, as if he cut off a dog's neck; he that offereth an oblation, as if he offered swine's blood; he that burneth incense, as if he blessed an idol. Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations.*

Romans 3:10-12 *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*

Clearly the works that Paul was referring to were the works under the Law of Moses: the old rituals, animal sacrifices, temple works and circumcision. These works became dead because Israel had apostatized and performed them with a

grudging and unbelieving heart, and they understood not that these works were types and shadows intended as a schoolmaster leading them to Christ.

Galatians 3:24-25 *Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.*

Once Jesus died on the cross, the Law of Moses was fulfilled and no longer needed following. Even the Apostle Peter had difficulty understanding this, thus requiring Paul to confront him to correct his error. In each passage that Paul teaches grace and the deadness of works there are other passages prior or after that tell you exactly what those works are: artifacts of the Law of Moses. Nowhere does Paul ever put down the practice of Christian works, i.e.: faith, repentance, baptism, partaking of the sacrament, keeping Christ's commandments, and enduring to the end. Rather, Paul teaches and promotes those works. Those who wrest Paul's teachings do so in the pursuit of "cheap grace" wherein they can more easily justify their sins and lukewarm Christianity.

In the next issue the term "perfection" will be explored and how misunderstanding this term can cause many to stumble.



Learning a New language

By Betsy Trudgen

A couple of years ago I felt inspired to study how to learn languages. Knowing the Lord wanted me to give a class on it, I knew I had from August to June to learn as much as I could. I began to research and test curriculums, always using a new language to evaluate more accurately, and every day feeling driven by the Lord to research the subject. Many things fell right into place. The other day I received an email from a church member telling me that they too felt inspired, that as a Church we need to learn new languages. So, Brothers and Sisters, I submit my findings to you.

So, you're thinking about learning a new language?

Even if you are thinking you will never have plans to leave the States, and so you don't need a second language, I leave you with this. There are thousands of people entering the U. S. every year, some as tourists and some as permanent residents. In the past few years, with the tragic event of Hurricane Mitch through Central America, was the drive for Hondurans, Salvadorans, Guatemalans and Nicaraguans to enter the United States, bringing Spanish speakers into your neighborhoods and schools. In

the past few years Dennis and I have noticed a big change in the market place, as many products are now advertised in Spanish. My sister told me of over 1,000 Somalians moving into their area because of ethnic cleansing in their own country, and how the U. S. has taken in thousands of Somalians (all but 1,000 of the Bantu tribe), and have placed them in major cities around the U. S. The congregation of the church she attends has sponsored families. As we travel to foreign lands and talk to young adults, because we found their English to be excellent, we are hearing the same story. I am increasingly hearing stories of young people coming to the U. S. because their countries have now opened borders because of the joining of the European Union (E.U.) and they are able to go to the U. S. to study. Many of them have not been able to practice religion freely in their own countries.

Are you planning on future missionary work to foreign lands? I asked myself, "Why would I learn a second and third language, and where do I even start?" There is so much to consider:

- How many countries are there in the world?
- How many of them know the Church of Christ?

- How important is it for me to know a second or third language?
- How do you pick a second or third language to learn when there are over 2,700 languages to choose from and over 7,000 dialects?
- What language would you choose to share your testimony to the world in?
- Would you choose by which is the most popular by population, by amount of countries that speak it, or by a language family?

Here are some facts:

- Many places we will go, as a Church, will not speak English, especially in the small, poor villages.
- There are 191 countries that are part of the U. N.
- One country chose not to participate in the U. N. - the Vatican (Did you know that is a country?)
- One country would like to be part of the U. N. but they do not recognize it as a country (Taiwan) because of politics with China.
- We have around 6,000 Church of Christ members in 11-12 countries out of billions of people on the planet.

Many surveys vary, but all



say Mandarin is the number one language by world population.

Mega languages including Alternate (second language) and Primary (mother tongue) are:

- 2 languages reached 1 billion speakers by the end of the 20th century: Mandarin (Putonghua) Chinese and English
- Next pair of demographic importance are Hindi + Urdu, which are interchangeable when spoken, but different in writing
- Next pair of languages is Spanish + Portuguese, largely interchangeable when written; Spanish is understood in a Portuguese environment, although Spanish speakers less easily understand Portuguese. Spanish is also accessible with relative ease to speakers of the other Romance languages
- The 4th further languages are: German in Europe and French throughout the world. German is spoken in a few countries as the official language but is very common all around Europe and sometimes used as the common language as Germany and Austria are bordered by most other European countries. It is spoken by the Amish, some Mennonites, and Hutterites in the USA. We've used our German in places such as Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia. French is notable for several reasons. It is the

only language apart from English with important representation in all the continents of the world. It is the official language of more nation-states than any other language. French is spoken officially in 39 countries; 23 are in Africa!

Language families determine whether a language will be easy or difficult to learn. If you know one language in the following families, the other languages in those families will be easier to learn and understand.

- Romance Languages: Spanish, Portuguese, Romanian, Italian and French
- Germanic Languages: German, English, Dutch, Icelandic, Norwegian, Danish, Afrikaans (a form of Dutch), and Swedish.
- Slavic Languages: Russian, Czech/Slovak, Bulgarian, Polish, Serb-Croatian (Yugoslavia), and Ukrainian (in the USSR).

Do you think you can't? So you say...

- I'm too old.
- I have a hard time remembering the words.
- I can't hear the sounds.
- My mouth won't make those sounds.
- It's too difficult
- I've tried, but it's useless.
- I just don't have the time.

Something to think about: Everyone has a different learn-

ing style (the best way you take in new information). It will help to find yours. People put together curriculums and teach according to their learning styles; it may not be yours. This could be why you try and it feels useless.

Do you ever answer the phone or call someone and recognize who it is by the sound of their voice? Or can you tell when someone is singing out of tune? Than you can hear sounds.

Do you ever wonder why little boys can make the best noises for cars, guns, and animal sounds? Or why someone can whistle? It's because they practice! And it's important to them. Someone probably showed them how to hold the tongue and mouth so they could make those sounds.

Do the following words look and sound familiar to you: Slim, Admiral, Dinghy, Gung Ho, Robot, Smile, Snack, Ammonia, Sauna, Hunk, Detour, Galore, Kindergarten, Athlete, Cider, Bandana, Paprika, Balcony, Futon, Gorilla, Sleazy... to name a few? Congratulations! You speak some Afrikaans, Arabic, Bengali, Cantonese, Czech, Danish, Dutch, Egyptian, Finnish, Flemish, French, Gaelic, German, Greek, Hebrew, Bandana, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Congo and Latvian. SO YOU CAN REMEMBER new words! This is proof that if you hear something enough, it becomes as common to you as your first language!

If you introduce it into your



daily life it will make it common—but how? Immersion in your own home: learn as a family. As you learn new words, use only the new language in your homes and with each other. Using something all the time is habit forming and soon you don't even have to think about it—it just pops out naturally, as your mother tongue. And soon you'll be dreaming in it.

No time? Do you have routines? Routines are things we do without having to think about them. Do you routinely have time to listen to the radio in the car? Then you have time to listen to tapes. Do you do repetitious chores or jobs? Then you have time to listen to tapes. Do you go for walks? Then you have time to listen to tapes. Do you routinely play computer games? The facts are, everyone can find the time: it only takes 15-30 minutes a day and they don't have to be consecutive. I learned more German by doing errands in my car in one month than going to class for four months. Make it convenient. Have copies of tapes and put them in the different locations where you do mundane chores, such as in your car, in your bathroom when you are getting ready for the day or getting ready for bed; put them in the kitchen while you cook or clean up—they need to be ready and convenient.

Do you ever have a song that plays all the time, coming into your head when the radio isn't on? Then it will work for a new language too.

So, how do I pick? I would

consider these things.

- Prayer – only God knows when and how He is going to use you, so ask Him.
- The Apostles divided the world missionary field up a few years ago. Whose field are you in? Which language would you need to learn to help them in that field?
- Establish a need – for now, to talk to your neighbors in Spanish, French...or a future goal for a missionary trip to a foreign land.
- Pick one of the Mega Languages or one language out of the Language families.
- Find out your learning style before picking your curriculum.
- Helpful tools – A tape recorder, homemade flash cards, labeling the house.
- Pick a time – know whether you are a morning or an evening person and make it part of your routine, such as while doing dishes, driving a long commute, using a walkman while gardening (or weeding) and so on.
- Pick a curriculum that will show you pictures and explain how to hold your tongue in your mouth to form those new words, such as Abeka for Spanish and French.
- Write a testimony down in English and then translate it into your new language (the verbs will be in past tense).
- Learn Bible verses in a new language.

Great websites that will get you started, in suggested order:

- www.unforgettablelanguages.com - word association. Free demos. You can download a 200 page Word document for around \$9. It downloads in about five minutes. It's a great starting point.
- www.Pimsleurapproach.com - Auditory only. No homework or grammar rules. Just listen and repeat. They add new words to each new lesson, but are always recalling words you already learned to make them concrete. And they are very helpful in getting the correct pronunciation. The "Quick and Simple" costs about \$19 plus shipping, with eight lessons, taking about one month of learning. They say in all languages we use only about 2,500 words on a daily basis. They concentrate on those words so you will speak fluently at a faster rate.
- www.Pentonoverseas.com - Has a big variety of curriculums, especially for children and for those that find they are kinesthetic (learn with movement – hands on). I recommend the children's curriculum to start with. They have videos and card games that are helpful. The "Teach Me" series goes over kid's songs like, "Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes...."

Wal-Mart – has old-time Spanish movies on DVD for only



about \$5.

Buy a label maker for around \$20, or type words in a Word document, print them and use clear tape to stick them around your house and on your hobbies.

■ www.abeka.com - as mentioned above, it also teaches many words used in the missionary field, plus King James Bible verses.

■ www.Rosettastone.com works on all three learning styles, but can be very expensive.

Looking for a discount? Try these:

■ www.half.com

■ www.ebay.com

■ www.amazon.com - they have secondhand books, curriculums, videos and language tapes. Also a "Culture shock" book series, such as "Culture shock - China."

Borrowed Words that we now use and are common in English:

Slim - Afrikaans for small

Admiral - Arabic for ruler of the Sea

Dinghy - Bengali for small boat

Gung Ho - Cantonese for trigger-happy

Robot - Czech for forced labor

Smile - Danish

Snack - Dutch for casual meal

Ammonia - Egyptian for camel dung (produces ammonia)

Sauna - Finnish for steam bath

Hunk - Flemish from hunkeren, to lust after

Detour - French for turn away

Galore - Gaelic for plenty

Kindergarten - German for children's garden/school for very young children

Athlete - Greek for contender for a prize

Cider - Hebrew for apple drink

Bandana - Hindi for dyed cloth

Paprika - Hungarian for spice/pepper

Balcony - Italian

Futon - Japanese for sofa turns into a bed

Gorilla - Congo for a large ape

Sleazy - Latvian from Silesia when made imitation fabric (low grade)

China - Mandarin for porcelain

Shark - Mayan for large carnivorous fish

Albino - Portuguese for white

Pastrami - Romanian for cured meat

Hacienda - Spanish for things to be done/large house on plantation

Dengue - Swahili for painful fever

Smorgasbord - Swedish for buffet meal

Boondocks - Tagalog for remote place

Siamese - Thai is the old name for Thailand

Yogurt - Turkish for curd from fermented milk

Flannel - Welsh for woolen

Bagel - Yiddish for hardened shape

Common Foreign Phrases:

Bona Fide - Latin for good faith.

Faux Pas (Foh Pah) - French

for a social blunder.

Pro bono - Latin for donated without charge.

Savoir Faire - French for ability to say or do the correct thing.

Verboten - German for forbidden, as by law, prohibited.

Hasta la vista - Spanish for until I see you.

As you can see there are many words from foreign languages that are common to us already. As a member of the body of Christ I feel that I have to make goals in my life as to how I am best to serve the Lord. Maybe some of us will never travel, but we could be witnessing to neighbors or corresponding to members that feel alone to strengthen them spiritually.

Matt 5:16: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Your Sister in Christ,
Betsy Trudgen
New Delhi, India



REPORT

Honduras Marriage Retreat

On July 19, 2006, eight couples met in the Zamarano, Honduras, local church for a Marriage Retreat. Elder Ronnie Gill opened the Retreat with an overview of the spiritual and temporal responsibilities of husbands and wives to each other. The presentation was divided into two parts: one defining the scriptural model for a husband; the other, God's counsel to wives. Throughout the presentation Brother Gill paused for questions and discussion. Some thorny issues were addressed: wives not treating their husbands with respect, and husbands treating their wives like slaves. We broke up, agreeing to meet for three more meetings. Sadly, two of our brothers felt un-



► Elder Ken and Marlene Oar of Phoenix, Arizona

comfortable with the presentation and did not return after the first meeting.

The following day we met in the Oculi local for the same purpose. I was impressed to see both the

men and the women whipping out notebooks and pencils to take notes on the meeting. About the middle of Brother Gill's presentation to the husbands an afternoon thunderstorm hit. As Ronnie cranked his voice up a notch or two to be heard over the deafening rain his PowerPoint presentation went out. Something had gone wrong with the car battery which was powering his computer for the presentation. The nice thing about afternoon rain in Honduras is that it can be very intense, but it is often over in just a few minutes. The rain soon stopped and the car battery problem was resolved. After Brother Gill completed his presentation to the husbands, we



► Armando and Juanita of Oculi





► Elder Luis and Midian, Pastor of Oculi

took a break for coffee and cookies—a definite sugar fest as Honduran coffee is always served strong and loaded with sugar. Then we gathered again for the wives' portion of the presentation. Many of the people here seemed very willing to consider the things they had heard.

The following week in Zamarano the husbands and wives met separately to fill out and discuss a worksheet with questions like: "What are your husband's responsibilities as leader of the house?" "What should husbands and wives do to honor each other?" There was lots of discussion with several of the sisters opening up about the strengths and weaknesses in their marriages. In this meeting we gained some insight into Honduran culture. In America, a quick hug or kiss between a husband and wife in public is considered very appropri-

ate. Not so in Honduras. Husbands and wives do not show any open affection to each other, even in the home.

The following day we met again in Oculi. Joani Gill led the wives' group and Elder Ken Oar moderated the husbands' group. Both the wives and the husbands were very open. We learned another in-

teresting bit of information about Honduran culture that made something that had happened the previous Sunday make sense. Near the local in Oculi is a large dirt field that is used for soccer games and as a local gathering place. That Sunday Ken and I had decided to take a short stroll through the field between services. Just as we happened to be walking past a group of teenage boys sitting on the ground, I reached for Ken's hand. The young men all began to snicker. I just figured they were laughing at the gringos and I didn't think too much about it. As the wives met the following Wednesday in Oculi, I found out why they were snickering. Our sisters told us that in Honduran culture, if a man and a woman hold hands it either means that the woman is jealous



► Elder Ronnie and Joani Gill of Zamarano





► Tommy and Santos Gill of Zamarano

or that she controls the relationship. They said the people of the village are saying that all the American women are jealous and controlling because we make our men hold our hands when we walk together. Thankfully our church brothers and sisters do not believe this.

Our brothers and sisters throughout the other cultures of the world may be slow to be comfortable with, or never be comfortable with, public affection. The work of missionaries is not to Americanize our brothers and sisters, but to teach Godly role models. In our meetings with both the husbands and wives we did emphasize that husbands and wives, showing proper and appropriate affection to each other and to their

children in the home, can strengthen the family. It can be a good example to the children. If the children see and receive appropriate affection at home, as they become adults they are less likely to be tempted themselves.

Another issue that was stressed

is the husband's role as protector. To the Honduran men, walking with their wives is a sign of the wives' dominance. It is difficult for a Honduran man to overcome this cultural taboo, but in a culture where there are bandits and predatory men on the streets women need the protection of their men.

In anticipation of the wives' meeting in Oculi, I had been praying to be given words of wisdom about Godly submission. Instead when I awoke that morning I felt led to speak to the wives about sacrificing their husband's time for the Lord—that all of their husbands were active in the church and some of them might one day be called to be ministers.

The following week the husbands and wives met together. Each couple was given a private checklist for their marriage. The



► Florentino and Tomasa of Oculi





► Leonel and Mevis of Zamarano

checklist asked: What areas of your marriage are strong? What areas are a moderate problem? What areas are a severe problem? One of the items on the checklist was family. In Honduras, sometimes several generations live together and the influence of family is very powerful, for good or for bad. Husbands and wives were encouraged to not prefer relatives but to put their spouses before all others.

At these meetings we talked about what first attracted us to our spouses. It was very uplifting to hear the husbands and wives talk about each other's good qualities. At the end of the meetings the women were encouraged to support and respect their husbands and the men were encouraged that if they treat their wives with honor, they will not have to force

their wives to follow—their wives will follow them willingly.

The final meeting was all in fun. Both locals got together in Oculi for potluck and games. We played the Newly Wed game. One of the

questions asked of the men was, "What household chore does your wife hate the most?" The difference between wives from an urban culture and a rural culture was apparent. I answered that question, "Dusting the furniture," while sister Tomasa of Oculi answered, "Feeding the pigs!" Another question was, "What food does your husband dislike the most?" There were some startling revelations for all the couples in that one. Beans are a staple in Honduras but it was surprising to hear how many Honduran men tire of plain beans.

We also had all the women stand behind a blanket and stick out a bare foot. The husbands were asked to find their wife's



► Tonio and Alba of Occuli





As meat is scarce in Honduras our potluck was almost all starch. We had spaghetti with meatless sauce, tortillas, rice and several kinds of breads. The only protein was a little chicken in the rice and some meatballs. Sister Joani made some wonderful Jamaica tea for our beverage.

We pray that marriages were strengthened by this retreat and stronger families will be working together for the Lord.

Marlene Oar

► Priest John and Nanna Gill of Zamarano

foot. Some of the men nailed it the first time; others had to come back several times to identify the correct foot.



► Honduras End of Retreat Potluck



NEWS



MICHIGAN MOMENTS, BRADLEY LOCAL

Michigan- ders have experienced many blessings, along with some trials, this past season. In the spring, April 26, 2006, Marion Addington, wife of Elder Conley Addington, passed on after a courageous battle with a lung disease, along with diabetes. She had a strong faith and encouraged her family that everything would be all right, and she was excited to meet her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

During the Michigan Reunion in June, the theme "In the Garden" prevailed. Our first preacher of the reunion, Elder Mike Bevaart, of Brantford, Ontario, opened with this song. Sitting in the pew in front of me, joy was brought to Brother Addington and his family. This was one of his wife's favorite hymns. We were blessed with two more messages from the Lord on Saturday through Conley Addington and Elder Brandon Tarbell.

On Sunday, we started the morning with a baby blessing. Caleb Hunter Jones was presented to the Lord by his parents, Tony and Heidi Jones, to receive His blessing and the watchful care of the heavenly angels. Each of the ministry in attendance stood with Grandpa Elder Adam Porter as the blessing was asked. Apostle Roland Sarratt led the sacrament service and also preached an inspiring message after dinner. We are thankful for all those who traveled to join us in our weekend of worship.

On June 28th, Tammi Gates and Ty Lussenden joined together in marriage

at the church with Elder LaVerne Lussenden performing the ceremony. Their outdoor reception was held nearby and was enjoyed by all who attended. Tammi and Ty have been faithfully attending church throughout their year's engagement, strengthening their

firmation service was held at the church, followed with a hand of fellowship and sacrament service.

We do have many brothers and sisters suffering from physical afflictions in our local. To list a few of those who would appreciate your prayers are:



► Ty and Tammi

faith in the Lord.

Jay and Evelyn Lee, formerly of Marion, Michigan, have relocated to Hastings, Michigan. A two-hour commute has become difficult with the winters; however, it would take quite a storm to keep these two from attending services. Randy and Mary Sue Lee, along with their son Jared, are pleased to have Mom and Dad living next door.

Brother Mark Laseur was baptized on Sunday, September 3, 2006. The calm water of the lake beautifully reflected the morning rays of the warm sun as Mark was born again. The con-

Robin Blakely, Carol Lee, Joyce and LaVerne Lussenden and Sharon Salters. We pray that as a group we are found going about the Lord's business and letting His light shine.

*May God bless each of you,
Sister Sue Porter*



INDEPENDENCE EAST LOCAL REPORT



By Sr. Deb Haines

Our love and best wishes to all from the East Independence Local! We are so thankful for all our Lord's blessings upon us, and we would like to share some of them with you.

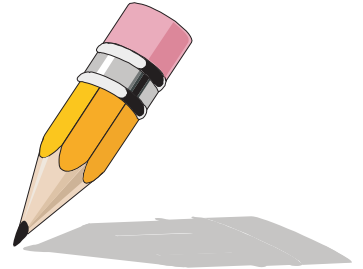
Our East Local women's group held a garage sale on June 17th to benefit the Philippines missionary effort. It was a successful day, which allowed us to give the fund a generous donation. Thank you, ladies, for all of your hard work.

A Patriotic Picnic took place on July 1st at Santa Fe Park in Independence. There was lots of good food and fellowship for everyone, despite the heat. It was a very nice way to celebrate our nation's birth.

Prayers were requested in April

for Br. Jeff and Sr. Michelle Oldham and sons, as they desired to be able to move back to the Independence area. On July 1st we learned that our prayers had been answered... Br. Jeff's company is moving his whole division to the Kansas City area! Thank you, God!

We were greatly saddened by the passing of our brother Elder Prudencio Alameda on Friday, July 7th. Apostles Frank Fann and Michael McGhee were able to arrive in time to visit Br. Prudencio. Within just a few hours of their arrival he passed from this life into the glorious arms of our loving Savior. There were funeral services for four consecutive evenings, in which Br.



Frank and Br. Mike were called to service. The customary funerals in the Philippines are usually 7 to 9 evenings of full funeral services. Please keep all of our brothers and sisters in your prayers that the work will go on and flourish there. We thank the Lord for the time we had with Br. Prudencio and Sr. Lolita a few years ago when they were able to attend the General Church Confer-



► Emma Blessing





► Elizabeth confirmation

ence in Independence. We all fell in love with them. Our thoughts and prayers go out the Alameda family, as we send them all our love.

Blessings came with the birth of a beautiful healthy baby daughter born to Sr. Holly and Kenny Cook—Emma Johnston Cook made her entrance into this world on July 17th, weighing 8 lbs., 7 oz., and being 20 inches in length. Big brother Michael wasn't sure he welcomed the new addition at first, but now has taken a liking to her. Proud grandparents are our Sr. Belinda and Br. Mike Smith.

A bridal shower was held for Sr. Pamela Whitehead and Br. Joseph Olson on August 1st at the East Local annex. The shower was given by Sr. Erica Olson, Sr. Aimee Brockman,

and Sr. Michelle Oldham.

On Sunday, August 13th, we were

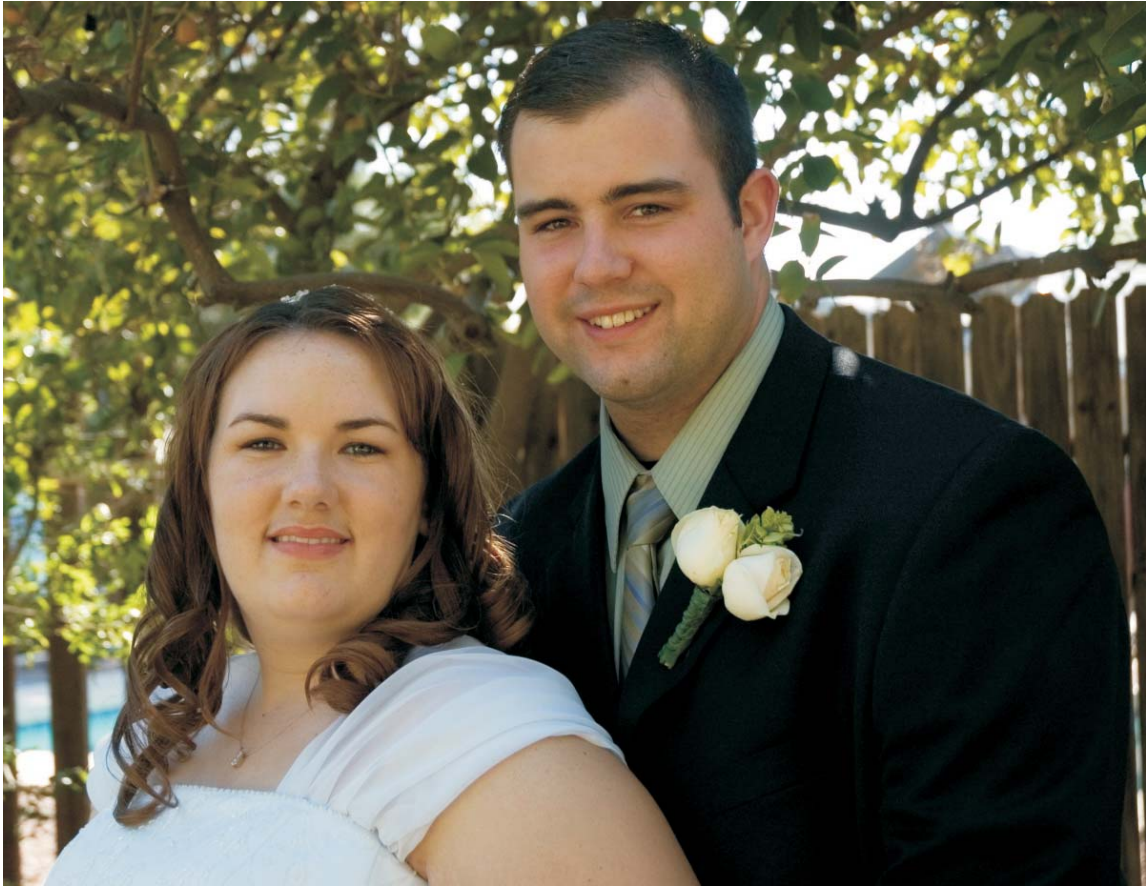
thrilled with two baptisms at the East Local. We welcome Br. Matt and Sr. Elizabeth Gahner into the family of God. Sr. Elizabeth is the daughter of Br. Mike and Sr. Belinda Smith. Sr. Elizabeth and Br. Matt were each led into the waters of baptism by Elder Robert Oldham. The laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Spirit was given to Sr. Elizabeth by Apostle Frank Fann and Elder Larry Beem. The laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Spirit was given to Br. Matt by Apostle Frank Fann and Apostle Roland Sarratt. What a joyous event we beheld as we praised the Lord for His leading of these two precious loved ones to join the Body of Christ. Welcome into the family, Elizabeth and Matt, and may God bless you!

The blessing of baby Emma Cook



► Matt Confirmation





► Joseph and Pamela Olson

took place August 20th, at the East Local. Sweet Emma was blessed by Apostle Frank Fann and Elder Larry Beem. Emma's happy parents are Sr. Holly and Kenny Cook. Big brother Michael and many other family members looked on. It is always such a joy to witness this beautiful ordinance which our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ gave, as He set the example for us by the blessing of children.

Apostles Buzz Brickhouse and Brian McIndoo recently returned from a fruitful trip to India. We are joyful with the news that we have new brothers and sisters in India. There were baptisms of 23 new

members, which make up two missions there. May God bless our new family in India! We welcome you into the Church of Christ!

Camp for All Ages took place on September 8-9th at Longview Lake Park and campground. Activities included bike riding, picnicking and an evening campfire for those who could attend. Sunday morning services were held at the camp also.

The wedding of Sr. Pamela Whitehead and Br. Joseph Olson took place in Phoenix on September 16th. The ceremony was performed by Apostle Joel Yates. Parents of the groom are Sr. Becky and Br. Rick Olson from Independence; the

mother of the bride is Sr. Annette Whitehead from Phoenix. Grandparents are Br. Hubert and Sr. Louise Yates from Phoenix, and Sr. Betty Olson from Independence. A reception was held for the newlyweds at the East Local annex on October 7th. We pray for God's blessings upon them as they begin their marriage and for their lives together in the days ahead.

Until next time... May God bless you all.



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The **2007 General Conference** of the Church of Christ will commence on Sunday, April 1st. The business sessions will start at 9:00 a.m. Monday, April 2nd, at Independence, Missouri.

A **Solemn Assembly** will be held prior to the confer-

ence, on Friday and Saturday, March 30th and 31st. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

The **2007 Ministers' Conference** of the Church of Christ will be the three days following the General Conference.

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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 on the inside front cover.

Change of Address Notice

To insure your membership records remain as current as possible when moving or relocating, fill out this form and return it to the Church of Christ (Temple Lot), Attn: General Church Recorder, P.O. Box 472, Independence, MO 64050-0472, or e-mail the information to cofcrecorder@sbcglobal.net. One form per family, please.

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