

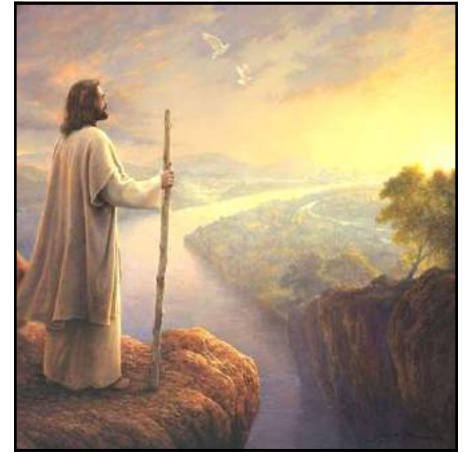
ZION'S PATH

Since 2005, a publication of the

**Church of Jesus Christ
Oak Grove Restoration Branch**

Volume 18, Issue 2

March/April 2022



“... and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths.”



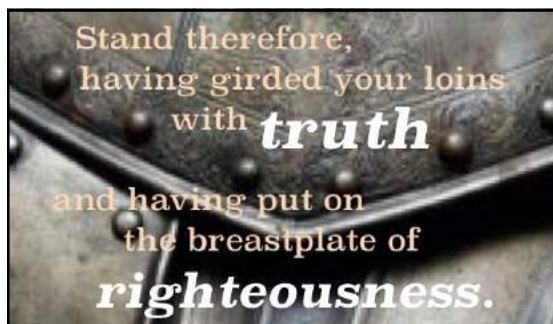
**By Elder
Don Norman**

Our yearly theme is **“Be Strong in the Lord and in the Power of His Might.”** In March we are considering the sub-theme: **“Be Strong in the Lord by Girding Up Your Loins with Truth.”** This theme is based on Ephesians 6:14: *“Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth...”*

“Girding” means to prepare for action, to muster up one’s resources for the battle. In Jesus’ day, men wore robes or tunics that could get in the way if they needed to move quickly or work hard. In battle, it was particularly important that the soldier was not hindered by his tunic. It could cost him his life if he stumbled or tripped.

The loin is the upper part of the thigh and so when the tunic was wrapped up and around the groin area and then tucked into the belt, it was called “girding up the loins.”

With this knowledge, we can see that Paul in Ephesians 6:14 is challenging each one of us as soldiers of Christ to be well prepared and equipped to **“fight the good fight of faith”** (Timothy 6:12). He calls us to do this by surrounding ourselves with truth. **Truth is what holds all the other pieces of the Armor of God together.**



Now more than ever, we need to gird our loins with truth. The past several years have been filled with fear, uncertainty, anxiety, and confusion. Even

as Saints of the Most High God, it has been difficult to keep our minds free from these negative emotions. The darkness and the lies are ever thicker around us. It is time to gird our loins with truth so that we are not overcome.

God’s truth is unchanging. It is a sure and steadfast foundation. The truth of God is powerful enough to overcome all the darkness, each fear, and every lie of the adversary.

How can we gird our loins with truth each day so that we are ready to face the battle? Doctrine and Covenants 83:7b says, *“For the word of the Lord is truth...”* **To gird our loins with truth means we must daily fill our minds with the Word of God. There is no other source of truth.**

Nephi said, *“I know that the words of truth are hard against all uncleanness; but the righteous fear them not, for they love the truth, and are not shaken”* (2 Nephi 6:78).

Standing on the truth of God, girding it about our loins, we shall not be shaken. **Let us put on the Whole Armor of God (see Ephesians 6:10-18) that we may be able to withstand in the evil day.** Then no matter what comes, we will be victorious in Christ and need not fear.

God has given us a wonderful promise: *“And this is mine everlasting covenant, that when thy posterity shall embrace the truth, and look upward, then shall Zion look downward, and all the heavens shall shake with gladness, and the earth shall tremble with you”* (Genesis 9:22).

With the Psalmist, may we all say, *“I have chosen the way of truth.”* (Psalms 119:30)

**Theme for April:
“Be Strong in the Lord by Putting on the Breastplate of Righteousness”**

IN THIS ISSUE

Blessings	2
Baptism Word of Wisdom Class	3
Priesthood & Wives Dinner	4
The Lord is My Shepherd	5
Pray for One Another	6
Upcoming Events	7
♦ Worship Schedule	
♦ Youth Page	

Blessings --- by Chris Allen

We receive blessings every day, but do we recognize them? Below are some of the blessings that were received, or recognized, over the past few weeks while Mom and I were sick.



- I stocked the kitchen supplies at church before Christmas. Sam's Club had everything we needed, which has not always been the case lately with supply chain issues. When I got sick, I didn't have to wonder if they had everything for the priesthood retreat; everything was stocked.
- I work at Lake City and they normally shut down between Christmas and New Year's. This year was the first year we were not going to do inventory during shutdown and I had a list of things to get done at home. Unfortunately, I ended up getting sick. The blessing was that I did not have to take time off work.
- This year we did inventory on November 6th instead of during Christmas shutdown. Who knew that was a blessing? I am a key person at inventory and during shutdown I didn't have the energy to walk into the building, let alone give direction to those helping with inventory.
- Mom fell December 20th and went to the ER. She didn't get hurt during the fall, but found out that her cold was actually bacterial pneumonia. This allowed her to start getting treatment.
- Mom had been sick for a few days before going to the ER and her apartment needed cleaned. She called a friend and asked her if she would clean her apartment so that it would be ready when she returned after rehab. Although she did not return to the apartment it was a huge blessing when I went in to pack everything up and get it ready to turn the keys in. (I didn't have to clean.)
- On December 27th I found out I had pneumonia. I still wasn't feeling well on January 3rd and the question I kept getting asked was if I had had a COVID test. Lisa Postlethwait took me for a test on January 4th. When we got back to my house, we took my pulse/oxygen and she helped give me the push that I needed to go to the ER. That is where they found I had blood clots in my lungs and we started treatment.
- On January 10th I received the call that Mom was tired and wanted to go on comfort care. This was a hard call to take, but I was blessed in that I was feeling much better. I was also allowed to be with her while she passed since Mom was COVID positive.
- I called Elder Mark Nunn to give him an update on Mom and he said he would come to the hospital so I didn't have to be alone. If they wouldn't let him up then he would be sitting downstairs waiting for me. We were both blessed that he was allowed up to Mom's room and he was able to administer to her. I was blessed to have someone there with me while Mom passed. My family was happy to hear that I did not have to go through that alone.
- Mom's passing was quick and she didn't have to struggle for a long time.
- Mom was able to make all of her decisions to the end.
- Mom only had living needs at her apartment so it only took a couple of days to pack everything. We did the hard part three years ago when she moved (and she had to help).
- We put Mom's furniture on "Marketplace" on Thursday morning. Everything was sold and picked up by 6:30pm Friday. My sister was surprised that within 24 hours it was sold and gone. I counted it as another blessing.
- All of the prayers, cards and texts were a blessing. I cannot imagine what people do that do not have a church family.

Baptism at OGRB

On Sunday evening, January 23, Johnathan Lidberg, son of Jeremy and Carianne Lidberg, was baptized by his father, then confirmed by Elders Eric English (Johnathan's uncle) and High Priest Steve Bohall (Johnathan's grandfather).



Presiding Elder Don Norman presented Johnathan with a Church Member's Manual and a Baptismal Certificate.

Word of Wisdom Helps



Church of Jesus Christ
Oak Grove Restoration Branch
Women's Department

Word of Wisdom Class --- by April Smith

On Saturday, February 5, the Women's Department sponsored a class focused on the Word of Wisdom, D & C Section 86, taught by Debbie Norman. The class provided an excellent overview of the scripture and its implications, based on Debbie's years of studying, learning, praying, and seeking truth about God's ways regarding nutrition. A booklet of information was shared which even included recipes and suggestions. After the class, the participants were able to sample foods that Lisa Postlethwait and Chris Allen had prepared. [Sunday's February 13 potluck produced various WoW delights—including soups, salads, breads and desserts—and they were good! - ed.]

The class was livestreamed and recorded; view it by going to our www.ogrb.org website and click on "Videos." If you would like to have the booklet pictured at left, contact Debbie Norman or see the pdf copy on our website; click on Women's Department page.

CMRB Priesthood & Wives Banquet — by Susan Booth

The annual Central Missouri Restoration Branches (CMRB) Priesthood and Wives Banquet was held on Saturday evening, February 19, 6:00pm, at the Oak Grove Restoration Branch.

A total of 50 people were served and in attendance for a good meal and the accompanying fellowship around the dinner table. Oak Grove was represented well by Mick and Becky Ballantyne, Gerry and Stephanie Bird, Charlie and Susan Booth, Jim Cawley, Dennis and Delores Heater, and Mark and Sheri Nunn. A choice of ham or chicken, along with green beans and cheesy potato casserole were served following a salad bar which included various dressings and a homemade thousand island salad dressing. For dessert we had a choice of strawberry-rhubarb pie or apple crisp. There was lemonade or water to drink. A big thanks to our cooks: Clayton and Glenda Foss. There was also a free-will offering for the well-mannered and diligent-to-meet-our-needs youth from New Jerusalem Restoration Branch who served and assisted in clean up.

We were given an ample amount of food as well as an ample amount of time for visiting.

Then we were beckoned into the sanctuary by Elder George Locke from the Warrensburg Restoration Branch for a musical program and testimonials; Elder Dan Brotherton offered words of praise to our heavenly Father along with encouragement. Worship extended until 9:00pm. It was good to be uplifted together.

Many of us at Oak Grove recall when the Brotherton family attended Oak Grove; Dan, Darcy, and the twins—Jared and Jordan. Dan is currently serving as Presiding Elder at the South Crysler Restoration Branch in Independence. (Jared and Kasey recently had a baby boy named Ezekiel.)

The musical ensembles by the Brotherton family (Dan, Darcy, Jared, Jordan and his wife Regan), included duets, trios, and the whole group—even with Dan and his guitar for one praise song.

Darcy shared a personal testimony about be-

coming more “thankful” and less complaining, murmuring and judgmental. For women in the role of priesthood wives, the points were well-taken.

Dan spoke of “Dreams & Visions” as being an avenue by which the Spirit of God DOES work personally with His

priesthood, and also all of His people (men, women, children) that draw close to Him.



He wants us to serve Him.

Do we KNOW “what” God wants us to do?

Be encouraged—Be directed—God may show us what He wants us to do through dreams and visions.

Our TOTAL DEDICATION is due to our relationship with Him and KNOWING His direction.

When we KNOW, we GO and DO!

So we must pray, fast, study; draw close to God to know His will for us; and then SERVE Him.

Take-away: When we know our Father’s voice, we trust Him, we love Him, and our ministry reflects Him!

The Lord is My Shepherd -- That's Relationship!
I shall not want -- That's Supply!
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures -- That's Rest!
He leadeth me beside still waters -- That's Refreshment!
He restoreth my soul -- That's Healing!
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness --
That's Guidance!
For His name sake -- That's Purpose!
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of
death, I will fear no evil -- That's Protection!
For thou art with me -- That's Faithfulness!
Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me -- That's Comfort!
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine
enemies -- That's Hope!
Thou anointest my head with oil -- That's Consecration!
My cup runneth over -- That's Abundance!
Surely goodness and mercy shall
follow me all the days of my life --
That's Blessing!
I will dwell in the house of the Lord --
That's Security!
Forever -- That's Eternity!



Created by Sheri Nunn

“Let Us Pray For One Another”

WHERE are YOU?

Carol Chris Julie Duane Charlotte Patrick Ryan Jennifer Lauren Cara Michael Beverly Randy Mick Becky Joyce Gerry Stephanie Charlie Susan Allison Johnathan Bradley Hope Robin Gary Sarah Ray Kathy James Joseph Karen Jim Hal Pat Karen Larry Mary Clayton Don Edie Vernon Margie Tom Synthia Claudia Mel Kim Charles Ryan Kevin Teresa Breanna Ruben Hal Bridget Brailey Hank Tina Jacob Jordan Adam Jennifer Chuck Dean Eric Cory Briggs Bryer Ames Catherine Dustin Abigail Eric Sarah Olivia Drew Kenny Roxanna David Brendon Erin Chloe Patience John April Lela May Phillip Susan Stuart Milee Shirley Joshua Tonia Annalisa Taralynn Josiah Neveah Chip Jill Jacob Joshua Bill Cindy Michael Daniel Larry Nancy Mark Tammy Marylyn Oran Jennifer Rachel Scott Cindy Dennis Delores Benjamin Grant Rachel Samuel Mickael Jennifer Danny Sue David Marilyn Dennis Linda Craig Heather Ethan Colton Karla Brian Jessica Hannah Miriam David Isaac Daniel Jennifer Audrey Nathan Vim Rachel Ryan Mindy Elle Danny Bill Jane Richard Mary Alyce Betty Todd Crystal Michael Alicia Dylan Mathew Joshua Hannah Zane Gordon Cindy Ray Pat Jeremy Carianne Ben Jacob Johnathan Megan Mike Val Nate Heidi Sheila Bunny Ralph Chasteen Gena Jim Connie Joel Lisa Darion Jason Lacie Taylor Kayleigh Mavrick Abby Ashley MJ Melanie Jonathan Jaclyn Peyton Trenton Ava Michael Valerie Alex Samantha Gabriella Mike Leslie Barbara Matt Katherine Kaleb Gillian Debbie Jared Katie Brice Gavin Myles Emily Joseph Kim Jamison Aaron Sarah Marleigh Reagan Don Debbie Jared Megan Mason Aubree Avalee Preston Mark Sheri Brent Jenessa Jasmyne James, Jr Jacoby Jordyn Eduardo Dalia William Sarah Elizabeth Harry Jackie Bryon Silvi Elle Siena Etta Darryl Lisa Molly Noelle Howard Wilma Ben Becca Owen Jayda Will Angie Darryl Jennifer Kyley Marley Sydney Rebecca Ron Julie Randy Tara Keith Aaron April Terissa Corbin Blake Andy Dana Andrew Ellie Lauryn Lyle Sherrie Sonia Heather Brent Aaron David Connie Mike Ed Karen Travis Lori Michael Samuel Shaun Mary Todd Amanda Charlotte Addie Ryan Brooklynn April Jim Mirandah Leighna Jimmy, Jr Joseph Rick Anita Kyle Marceia Jeff Sara Beth Alex Emily Cyrus Douglas Sherri Robert Cathy Janet Lloy David Carol Donna Ken Connie Joshua Brian Milana Alexis Claire Weston Pearl Amanda Riley Mackenzie Madison & More!

Please forgive any omissions or misspellings—thanks! - created by Susan Booth

John 1:1-5

“In the beginning was the gospel preached through the Son. And the gospel was the word, and the word was with the Son, and the Son was with God, and the Son was of God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made which was made. In him was the gospel, and the gospel was the life, and the life was the light of men; And the light shineth in the world, and the world perceiveth it not.”

SPECIAL NOTE:

In March and April, if you are unable to attend in person, OGRB is livestreaming the Adult Church School classes taught by Elder Aaron Smith on the subject "Latter Day Prophecy."

To watch, go to www.ogrb.org and click on "Videos." You can also download the class handouts from the website on the page "Sunday Classes and Handouts."



Bring canned goods (especially fruit) and boxed cereals—anytime—to donate to the Community Food Pantry in Oak Grove.
(Place in box in foyer coat area.)

Upcoming Events

- Mar 4** POZ Priesthood & Wives Banquet at Living Hope Restoration Branch 6:00pm
- Mar 6** Aaronic Priesthood Class 5:00pm
- Mar 8** Women's Class (Livestream) 10:00am
- Mar 10** Women's Meeting "Book Club"
Book: "Emma Smith: The Elect Lady"
Dinner 6:30pm, Meeting 7:00pm
- Mar 11-13** Jr. High Retreat at Odessa Hills
- Mar 13** Elders' Class 7:30am
Potluck Lunch
Evening Class—Benjamin Pederson
- Mar 15** Women's Class (Livestream) 10:00am
- Mar 18-20** Older Youth Retreat at Odessa Hills
- Mar 20** Aaronic Priesthood Class 5:00pm
Evening Class—Benjamin Pederson
Priesthood meeting after evening class
- Mar 22** Women's Class (Livestream) 10:00am
- Mar 25-27** Sr. High Retreat at Odessa Hills
- Mar 26** Women's Spring Brunch 9:00am-noon
at OGRB—Worship, Class, Craft, Brunch
- Mar 27** Elders' Class 7:30am
- Mar 29** Women's Class (Livestream) 10:00am
- Apr 2** Memorial Service for Glen Friend 2:00pm
Colbern Road Restoration Branch
- Apr 3** Aaronic Priesthood Class 5:00pm

- Apr 8-9** Spring Gathering of the Saints
Waldo Restoration Branch
"Take Upon You the Name of Christ and
Worship God in Spirit and in Truth"
- Apr 9-10** Junior Retreat at Odessa Hills
- Apr 10** Elders' Class 7:30am
Potluck Lunch
- Apr 17** Aaronic Priesthood Class 5:00pm
- Apr 24** Elders' Class 7:30am
Priesthood Meeting after evening service
- Apr 30** RWC Women's Spring Gathering at
Living Hope Restoration Branch
"His Blessings Abound"

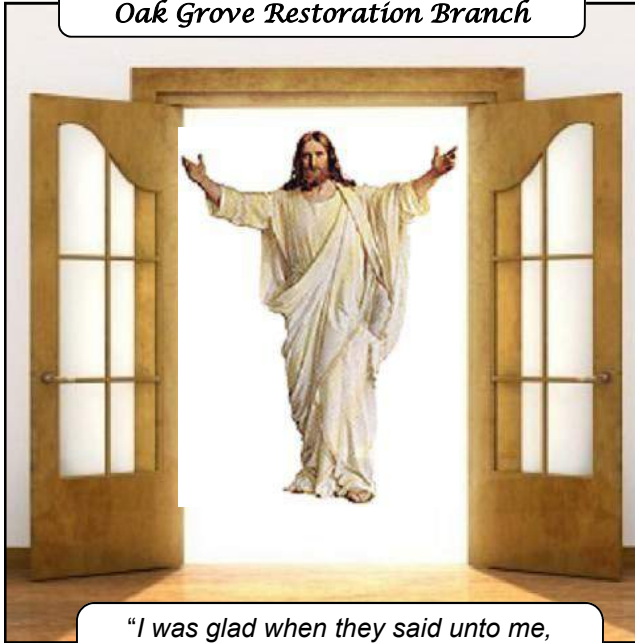


May 13-15 Oak Grove Branch Spring Retreat
at Odessa Hills

June 4-11 CMRB Reunion at Odessa Hills
"He Only is My Rock"

July 18-22 OGRB Vacation Church School
"Prepare for Victory in Christ"

*Church of Jesus Christ
Oak Grove Restoration Branch*



*"I was glad when they said unto me,
Let us go into the house of the Lord."
(Psalm 122:1)*

**THIS NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE
ON OUR CHURCH WEBSITE.
*Tell your neighbors, friends and family!***

Worship Schedule		Sacrament Service 1st Sunday of each month
		8:00 am Priesthood Prayer Service
Sunday Morning Early Worship	9:00 am	9:00 am Time of Quiet Meditation
Church School	9:15 am	9:15 am Prayer Service
		10:15 am Song Service
Sunday Morning Worship Service	10:30 am	10:30 am Sacrament Service
Sunday Evening Worship Service	6:30 pm	6:30 pm
Wednesday Evening Prayer and Testimony Service	7:00 pm	

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**Church of Jesus Christ
Oak Grove Restoration Branch
1203 N Broadway
Oak Grove, MO 64075
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Church Phone: (816) 690-6996
Watch most of our services by going to
our church website! (Click on "Video")

Zion's Path

“Just for You” — by Sheri Nunn (See Ephesians 6:10-14)

When I was in high school, I attended a youth camp at Camp Santa Fe at the Lake of the Ozarks. On the last evening of the camp everyone was down at the lodge getting ready to watch a movie. I had been thinking about what the camp pastor had said earlier in the week. He had asked us to prepare ourselves before the final worship service as though Christ would be there to meet us. I felt that staying and watching the movie wouldn't allow me to prepare to meet Christ so I walked to the tabernacle to meditate and pray.

The sun had almost set and it was dusk as I entered the tabernacle. After I sat and prayed for a while, I walked back to my cabin and read the notes I'd written from a class that day. As I was walking, the still small voice in my mind very strongly told me to go to the cabin and Do Not Look Behind You! From past experiences I knew to obey this prompting without doubting.

After five or ten minutes of reading my notes, one of my friends walked into the cabin. She was really scared and crying. She said, “I watched you walk into the cabin. I have this feeling of evil I can't get rid of and I have had some really bad thoughts about people I know. Then I saw you and I struggled to follow you.”

The notes I had been reading were just the words she needed to hear at that moment. A dream I had been given earlier came to my mind; in that dream, Christ comforted me with an embrace. So I put my arms around her and whispered in her ear, “*Jesus loves you very much. You'll never know exactly how much. Even if you had been the only one He had to die for to save you from your sins, He would have done it; Just For You!*”

I felt God's pure love as in my dream when Christ put His arms around me. I then sensed this love flow from me to her. She felt it too! She asked me to not mention to anyone the thoughts she was having or what happened, as it would embarrass her. I did as she asked.

The next morning, during the worship service, the camp pastor prayed. He asked that

Christ would be among us, then paused for several minutes. Then he called my name and told me I had been given the gift of love. He said that my growing up in the neighborhood that I had was for a purpose, and that it would be a strength to me in years to come.

I knew Jesus was talking to me through the pastor. The Christ-like love I had felt the night before with my friend was fresh on my mind. He addressed a few questions I had prayed silently about at the tabernacle the night before specifically. Only Jesus knew those questions and He spoke to me through our camp pastor.

Reflecting back some 46 years, I have seen how the conditions I grew up in as a child have been and continue to be a source of great strength to me. Many people seem to always be caught up in their own lives, jobs and families, and it is hard for them to take time to reach out to others or keep in touch. The conditions of my childhood created a desire in me to reach out to others and keep in written contact with many of my friends, both old and new.

It gave me strength to cope with being separated by distance from family and friends as a military spouse and mother. Over the years I have lost contact with some of the many friends I have made while we were in the military. However, I have had the joy of finding and reuniting with a lot of my lost friends in recent years. Now, after my husband retired and we moved back to the Center Place, I am making new friends.

I look forward with hope to a joyous reunion with more friends that I have been separated from. I have hope in the renewal of my friendships with those who have passed on before me when we meet again in Zion.

For now I can only work on my life in preparation to meet once again with our Creator, God the Father and especially Jesus, my Lord and Savior who “... *loves each of us very much. We will never know exactly how much. Even if you had been the only one He had to die for to save you from your sins, He would have done it; Just For You!*”

Youth Activity Page

All words for this crossword puzzle may be found in this March-April 2022 Zion's Path Newsletter!

ACROSS

- 3 MONTH IN WHICH THE 2022 CMRB REUNION TAKES PLACE (P.7)
- 4 ODESSA ____ (P.7)
- 6 PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL ____ FLOW (P.2)
- 9 WHERE CHRIS ALLEN WORKS ____ CITY (P.2)
- 11 THE OGRB BRANCH WILL BE IN MAY ____ (P.7)
- 15 THIS EDITION OF THE NEWSLETTER IS ____ 18, ISSUE 2 (P.1)
- 16 AARON SMITH'S ADULT CLASS "LATTER DAY ____" (P.7)
- 17 WORD OF ____ (P. 3)
- 18 NEW BROTHERTON BABY'S NAME (P.4)

DOWN

- 1 MY ____ RUNNETH OVER (P.5)
- 2 SCRIPTURE: 2ND ____ 6:78 (P.1)
- 4 THE JR. RETREAT IS MARCH 11-13 (P.7)
- 5 BE STRONG IN THE ____ (P.1)
- 6 OF RIGHTEOUS-NESS (P.1)
- 7 OUR PASTOR, DON NORMAN (P.1)
- 8 IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE GOSPEL PREACHED THROUGH THE ____ (P.6)
- 10 COMMUNITY FOOD ____ (P.7)
- 12 PRIESTHOOD AND BANQUET (P.4)
- 13 WHAT TOOK PLACE AT THE EVENING SERVICE ON JANUARY 23 (P.3)
- 14 PREPARE FOR ____ IN CHRIST (P.7)

