**The Story of the Church of Christ**

**I. In the Beginning**

 To fully understand the mission of Jesus Christ on this earth and the purpose of His church, we need to go back to the very beginning of life on earth. Most of us know the story of the first man and the first woman, Adam and Eve, and the beautiful garden God prepared for them. He even talked with them as we talk to each other. There was only one thing God asked of them. He told them not to eat of the fruit of one tree in the middle of the garden. If they disobeyed, they would surely die. A serpent came to Eve and told her she wouldn’t die but would only become wiser. She believed the serpent, and both she and Adam ate of the fruit. When they heard God’s voice again, they were so frightened they hid. Because they didn’t listen and obey God, they were forced to leave the garden for the world outside where life became very hard for them. They had the freedom to choose whether or not to obey God just as we have today. When they chose to disobey, sin came into the world. In spite of their disobedience, God had a plan that one day would save mankind from their sins.

 Adam and Eve became the parents of two sons--Cain and Abel. God was pleased with Abel and displeased with Cain. Cain because angry and jealous of his brother and committed a terrible sin. He killed his own brother. Cain had to flee to a far land. Other people were born, and soon great crowds of people were living on earth. While many of these people continued to sin, there were some righteous ones whose goodness pleased God. He continued to labor with mankind--blessing those who chose righteousness.

(References: Genesis, Chapters 2,3, & 4)