EARLY ICTHUS HISTORY
By Rev John Shackelford

You may be interested in my adding my bit to the history as I remember it. God really is the author, and we were only tools in His hands. I am grateful for Don Weisbrod and how beautifully and enthusiastically he responded that summer of 1964 at Monte Sion in Guatemala. I marvel at the wonderful way God has blessed and prospered the ideas and concerns for the youth of Latin America. I marvel at the way Don picked up on the ideas, looked for leaders in the Spanish world and developed a program that has been responsible for winning so many youth in Latin America to Christ and the Christian life. The spiritual growth in so many youth in Latin America is a great blessing from God..

When Don spent the summer at Monte Sion, he was not happy with busy work we gave him and asked us to give him a job that he would be fulfilling and he could give himself to that summer. As we discussed his background and experience, we found that he was a veteran Boy Scout with could serve as a background for a new program for the junior youth in the Church.

There was a crying need to have a program that would be interesting, fulfilling, evangelistic, and serve others. The idea of a step by step manual Similar the Boy Scout Manual that would guide the members in making a personal decision to become a Christian and guide in the spiritual growth through the years was on his mind. That way one could then graduate to Christian Endeavor and other more "grown up" activities that would meet the needs and interests of the maturing youth in the church. In our discussions, the Lord gave us the concept of the Christian Soldiers Equipment and the idea of "I'm Third"…

All of these Don developed into a program that today we know as Icthus. I loaned Don the electric typewriter in my office at the camp and some of Mount Zion's stationary to put down his these ideas a now he could make it work. The office files may still have that statement purpose of what Icthus should be.

I thank God for your vision and response to the urging of the Holy Spirit in a program that was for the junior age children in Latin America.