

# **FAMILIES: Close to our Hearts, Living Far Away**

(Handout #6)

## Family Reunions

Family reunions are a great way to share time as a family. Here are some tips to getting started:

In the Beginning:

Decide how often, and what time of year you would like to plan the reunion. Summer is usually the best time, since children are out of school, and many people take vacations. A yearly reunion is nice, but sometime they work better every other year. Plan a date and length of the reunion, and realize that you can't please everyone, but try to accommodate at many as possible. Choose what's best for your family.

Location:

If a large majority of family lives in one location, this is usually the best place to hold the reunion. Visiting can stay with family, and make it less of a financial burden to attend.

Who's in charge?!?

Assign someone responsible to be in charge. This person can put together a committee, or organize in any manner they choose. Rotate the person in charge after each reunion. This helps to provide a variety of activities and doesn't overwhelm the person in charge.

Theme:

Pick a theme for the reunion to plan the activities around. It can be western, a carnival, honoring pioneer heritage, sports, etc. Be creative, and this helps in all the planning.

Invitations:

Once the date, location and theme are decided on, send out invitation EARLY. Six months or more is ideal, especially for those who are going to travel. Send a follow up at 3 months out, then again within a month of the activity. Include as many details as possible, including any supplies they may need to bring.

### Activities:

The reunion can be a small one day activity at a park or someone's home, or it can be several days with multiple activities. There are many families that use their reunions as a vacation, so you may choose to go camping, or to a popular vacation spot, or rent a beach house. There are so many options at this point.

### Identification:

Assign every family a color, so that it is easy to distinguish who belongs to what family. A common idea is to make t-shirts or sweatshirts with some kind of logo, and have everyone wear them in their families color. You can also use nametags or cord necklaces for the same effect at a much cheaper price.

### Ideas:

Use the internet and your local library to get ideas. A very popular website with great family activities is [www.familyfun.com](http://www.familyfun.com). Use a search engine on the internet for more ideas.