

THE GOSPEL NEWS

Vol. 20 No. 1 Jan. 1964

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa.

Office: 6th & Lincoln St.

LOOKING TWO WAYS

In ancient times one of the Roman gods was Janus, god of endings and beginnings. The god was symbolized as a two faced being, one face looking backward and one facing forward. A temple was built to his honor and during times of peace, its doors were always open; but in times of war the doors were closed. The Romans felt fresh hope when the temple doors were open. It meant that another war was behind them and the empire could look forward to the beginning of a period of peace.

So in modern times, we begin a new year with the month of January named for the two-headed god, and like him we take a look into the past as we open the doors of a new year to peer into the future. We pause as individuals, as groups, and as a nation to evaluate the closing year and to anticipate the hidden future.

The custom of making resolutions at the beginning of a new year has become a light hearted joke for the frivolous. However to the more serious minded persons, the opening of a new year is a time to take inventory of the past and find new determination for the future.

We, as followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, might take time to evaluate seriously our deeds of the past year. Surely we should find much good we have done, but there will no doubt be many good deeds forgotten beyond recall. This is as it should be. The good we are prompted to do daily should not be hoarded for remembering, but should be forgotten in the fulfillment of fresh opportunities as each new day arrives. However, sober reflection may bring pangs of regret for the kind word left unspoken, or the good intentions unperformed. This regret should not discourage us, but should serve to spur us on to more complete fulfillment in the days to come.

Our Church looks back upon a year which brought varied experiences and emotions. Great progress has been made in many areas; great blessings have been poured out in every part of the Church. Many converts, both young and old, have been added to our numbers. New fields have been opened up for preaching of the Gospel. But 1963 also brought sorrow to many. Sickness, tragedy, and death are always among us. Many have known suffering, and death has removed many loved ones from us. But even in such times, the blessings of the comfort and love of the family of Christ has made trials easier to bear. In the midst of adversities we can always sing the old hymn:

"We thank Thee for all that is passed
And trust Thee for all that is to come."

Our nation too has lived through an eventful year. We have had prosperity in most areas, and have enjoyed the blessing of peace for another year. Our nation, just as our Church, has known the loss of her beloved leader. But God has surely been mindful of this promised land and has poured out His blessing and bounty upon us, for which we give our unmeasured thanks as we ask for His continued care and protection in the days to come.

So each in his own way looks backward with var-

ied emotions of pleasure and regret. While looking forward to the future, in humility we view our omissions, but with confidence and faith in our ability to live better lives with the help of the Holy Spirit. May we resolve that

"Now my remnant of days would I spend in
His praise,

Who has died my poor soul to redeem;

Whether many or few,

All my years are his due,

May they all be devoted to Him."

Our wish for you for the coming year would be for happiness, prosperity, and good fortune. However we know life has always and will always contain rain mixed with the sunshine, sorrows and trials mingled with joys and successes. So we prefer to pray that when happiness and good fortune are your lot, that you will share those blessings with others and joyfully thank your Maker for His love for you. But when you must face trials of sickness, sorrow, and perhaps death, may you not cower before them but may you have courage, patience, and charity of the Lord enabling you to face with a submissive spirit whatever may come. May you really enjoy the abundant life, and learn like Paul in whatsoever state you are found to be content.

May God bless us all in His own wise ways in the coming year. Happy New Year!

Ruth Mountain

TWO GOLDEN DAYS

There are two golden days in the week about which one should never worry, two care-free days, kept sacredly free from fear and apprehension.

One of these days is Yesterday. Yesterday with all its cares and frets, has passed beyond recall, save for the beautiful memories we have nothing to do with Yesterday. It is God's.

The other day that we should not worry about is Tomorrow. Tomorrow the sun will rise perhaps in splendor, or behind a mask of weeping clouds. But it will rise. Save for the Star of Hope that gleams forever on the brow of Tomorrow, we have no possession of that unborn day of grace.

These are God's days. Leave them to Him. There is left for us then but one day in the week, Today. Therefore, think and do and journey but one day at a time. This is the easy way. Leave Today, so that when it becomes God's Tomorrow, it will meet with His approval.

Build a little fence of trust around Today,
Fill the space with loving deeds, and therein stay,
Look not thru the sheltering bars upon Tomorrow,
God will help thee bear what comes, of Joy or Sorrow.

Mrs. La Verne Williams

BEULAH LAND

By James T. Grazan Assistant Editor

My name is America, a name given me by men
in honor of another man called Amerigo Vespucci. I

am also referred to by another calling, "A Land of Promise". This honor was bestowed upon me by God Himself, to be set aside for all who suffer oppression by the hand of men for His sake.

My arms of welcome extend quite far; from north to south, half the circumference of the world, and from east to west my widest point is over four thousand miles across. I am divided into two hemispheres, referred to as the northern and the southern. Throughout my extent flow many rivers giving life to my vast areas of land. The climate is ideal in every way, making it possible for all things to be very fruitful. Within myself I have unceasing storehouses of resources such as oil, gas, coal, iron, gold and many others so necessary to mankind; so, as you can see in an overall picture, I truly am blest of God.

I have had many experiences since the time of my creation. The one I cherish most of all is when Jesus Christ, the living Son of God, visited me to administer unto His people who dwelled upon the face of my land at the time, and who proved to be such a receiving and humble people that only God could know of the happiness and fulfillment of their lives. History could never record this.

However, things were not always so pleasant. Many times I have wept, as mankind used my land as a battlefield, and the blood of their brothers flowed across my face. Great nations have risen and fallen by the sword, and through this I have seen the hand of God move many times.

Approximately two thousand, two hundred and thirty-two years before Jesus Christ came to me, God saw fit to permit a race of people to inhabit me as a refuge for righteousness, after mankind had become too corrupt to live together. The people decided to build a tower unto heaven so that they could gain recognition with God, but God confounded their language to stop the foolishness. From this incident stemmed the only righteous people whom God had permitted to be set aside as His own, and He led them to my shores to populate my land with a people who would serve Him. However, where there is good there is also evil, and after many years of righteousness these people, who were called the Jaredites, fell prey to him who is evil and were destroyed to the last man.

Once again God led a righteous few to me six hundred years before the birth of His Son; they were a man called Lehi, and his family. This man, Lehi, gained enough favor in the eyes of the Lord to be permitted to be saved from the downfall and oppression of his home in Jerusalem, and was reserved for the right of being an instrument in the hands of God to once again populate my land with a righteous people who would love and serve Him. And so it was; they did populate my land and they served God to a degree. Like the former people, the Jaredites, however, they scarred my land with many battles, and once again the blood of men covered my face. It was these people who inhabited me at the time of the coming of the Son of God, and at that time they proved to be righteous for a season.

I also remember only too well the effects upon me of an unrighteous people who killed the Son of my God. At the hour of His death, I was shaken to

the very bowels of my center. My beautiful mountains were leveled and deep craters opened throughout my vastness; a darkness fell upon me that could actually be felt. The terrible wrath of God was upon me. He had sent His Son, Jesus, to redeem mankind from their fallen state and they had killed Him. My people remarked, "The God of nature suffers."

The way was then opened unto the Gentiles who, under oppression, after a space of time were permitted to throng to my welcoming shores to serve their Master and mine in the way God would have it. It had to be that way for the Gospel of my Lord was to be restored in a free land where its inhabitants could choose to accept it or refuse it at their own free will. The Gospel, defined as 'the power of God unto mankind', was taken away shortly after the death of Jesus Christ, and through the infinite mercies of God was to be restored once again on my land, which of course was meant to be free as long as its inhabitants loved and served God. Once again a great honor was to be given me by my Lord.

Many men have come to my shores for many reasons. Whatever they may be, my Lord reserves only one to be lasting unto Himself; That is, that I have been chosen to be hallowed and sanctified unto this purpose, that all people and nations who inhabit me shall be free indeed, inasmuch as they love and serve God. All others shall perish.

The restoration of the Gospel by God, through a youth named Joseph Smith, in the year eighteen hundred and twenty, proves conclusively that my destiny is something wonderful for man to behold; especially the young people of today, for they will live to see the prophecies of my Lord concerning me fulfilled by leaps and bounds, such as the building of Zion and the new Jerusalem, in the very near future. They will witness nation after nation coming to my shores in search of the truth, brought here by the hand of God. On my land the house of Israel will come home and take their rightful place in the plan of God once again, and I, Beulah Land, will await in earnest the coming again of my Lord, Jesus Christ, to stand and rule on Mount Zion and claim His Bride, who shall be adorned with righteousness and purity; a Bride so perfect and acceptable to Christ that the prophecies of God concerning His Church and my land shall be fulfilled. I am very proud that God has used me in the past, and will use me in the future within the completion of His perfect plan.

TEAMWORK

By Patsy Marinetti

A properly adjusted and coordinated organization, in which each individual is sincerely interested in all of the group's advancements, and which places recognition on the value of each individual's contribution, is bound to make progress.

The Church today is passing through a stage of transition and growth; it is spreading out beyond the borders of its early conception. The Church is now flexing its muscles, which indicates that it is growing in many directions, and it will normally experience the restless adjustments that are an in-

(continued on page 4)

*THE GOSPEL
NEWS*

Editor

George A. Neill

Assistant Editor

James T. Grazan

Office Editor

Sara I. Vancik

Editorial Consultants

Thurman S. Furnier

Joseph Bittinger

Alma B. Cadman

Circulation Dept.

Hertha Jones -- Mgr.

*DISTRICT
EDITORS*

Atlantic Coast

District

Eugene Perri, Jr.
80 New Brunswick
Hopelawn, N. J.

Ohio District

Travis Perry
250 Viola Ave.
Hubbard, Ohio

Michigan - Canadian

District

Frank Conti
20843 Lakeland
St. Clair Shores
Michigan

California District

V. James Loyalvo
8505 Louise Ave
Northridge, Cal.

Pennsylvania District

C. W. Holmes
311 Chamber St.
Clairton, Pa.

*Business and
Editorial Office:*

Sixth and Lincoln Sts.
Monongahela,
Penna. 15063

The Gospel News is published monthly by The Church Of Jesus Christ with headquarters at 6th & Lincoln, Monongahela, Pa. 15063

Subscription price is \$2.00 per year.

Entered as second class matter July 6, 1945, at Monongahela, City, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Editorial Viewpoint



by George A. Neill

Now turns the year: This phrase brings a question to our minds, "What lies ahead?" as we enter through the portals of a new year, the year 1964. This could easily be one of the most crucial years the world has ever known. The world is burdened with problems that seemingly stagger the minds of the best of statesmen: international problems, political problems, and there are yet some colonial ambitions, clashes between groups, men's hearts filled with selfishness, greed, hate and suspicion; all these make our world fraught with the greatest of dangers. We keep asking the question, "What lies ahead?"; surely no mortal man knows the answer.

Magazines and newspapers have prophesiers who come out in full force at the beginning of each year, and we must admit that quite often their predictions prove to be right. However, in spite of all the inside information they may have that other citizens do not have, I still say no mortal man knows what lies ahead for 1964. We don't know what a day may bring, let alone a year. Will this year bring about an exchange of rockets that could almost make man extinct from the earth? Here's a commentator who says there will be no nuclear war this year. How comforting! But how does he know? Yes, as we read his reasons we must admit they sound quite logical; but then we think, "How can he be sure?", and so the question arises again, "What lies ahead?"

Is destruction inevitable in 1964? What time is it on history's clock? Again no man knows. Regardless of what time it is there is work to be done. There is before us a field that is white and ready for harvest. The Church has a message to give to the world this year, the old Gospel message which can best be summarized by Jesus' own words, quoting from the writings of the prophet, Isaiah, "He hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." There never was a time in the history of man when such a message was more needed than at this present moment. We should strongly stress the redeeming grace of God through His Son, Jesus Christ, and that His blood can make the vilest sinner clean; that this should be the year to prepare for eternal life.

This year may be one whereby you and I cease taking our Church for granted. Many of us were born in the Church; others were converted to it, and maybe over the years its philosophy may have reached a common place in our lives. If this should be so with any of us this is the year to relive our conversion experience, and mirror some of that joy that shines out from new members who have just found the Savior. The only New Year worth having is a **New Year in Christ.**

As Christians we live our lives in awareness that history's clock will some day run down and time will be no more. However, we are positive that 1964 will not bring that hour on history's clock. The hour of destruction may be here; in fact the word of God teaches that destruction will come to the Gentiles unless they repent. No matter how great the destruction, when it comes the Church will remain. Let us feel that for the Church this will be a good year. Progress will be made; it is in the plans. Let us all become ready and devoted; let us put these plans to work; let us each hear the call to labor. May none of us sit around singing "Hold The Fort" but crawl out of our trenches and attack the enemy. May the turning of the year 1964 find us all as spiritual architects and builders, picking up our blueprints and tools, and going into action.

(continued from page 2)

separable part of growth.

The world all around us is erupting with massive seething disturbances and unrest. The world's peoples are on the verge of entering upon the most important phases of prophetic history, while the dawning of a great spiritual awakening shall be its ultimate climax. What part shall our Church play in this great upheaval?

In recent years there has been an influx of a number of young people who have embraced the Restored Gospel. These young, converted people are stimulating our Church with new hope, boundless energies, the confidence of youth, and a zeal for activity and expression which must be directed into avenues of constructive goals. The bursting energies of youth must be tempered by the mellowed and seasoned wisdom of older minds. The experience and discernment that comes only by observation and reflection, tested in the crucibles of time and years, must be supplemented with the budding freshness of youth so that both youth and age, in balanced coordination, can present a strong united front before mankind in a joint effort to give the world leadership which is rooted on the foundation of moral integrity.

There are dangers, however, to which both the young and the old are exposed and might tend to yield. The youthful mind may sometimes be inclined to be hasty, and therefore rash in its judgment of older ideas. Youth with impatience may find itself trying to brush aside age with its wisdom of years. This is a pitfall that youth must avoid. On the other hand, senior minds sometimes tend to become too rigidly set in their thinking and might lose elasticity needed to cope with changing circumstances and ideas. The older folks must be careful of placing unreasonable emphasis on the laurels of past years. The inflexibility of tradition and custom which besets age must be replaced with tolerance and open-mindedness to give youth an opportunity to express and to try out new ideas which may bring improvement. Youth must develop a sincere respect for the wisdom of years which experience brings. The young mind must glean the good that has been tested through past years, and add its own constructive contribution for future use. For age and youth to function and diverge in opposite directions will bring failure.

On the other hand, actions by both groups, arrived at by cooperation, understanding, and confidence in each other's good motives, will blend firmly to develop a team which shall be hard to beat. It is a sign of maturity and stability in both groups when youth respects age, and age is considerate of the new thoughts and ideas of younger minds.

CONCEPTS OF GOD

(Continued)

By James Curry

Came the "Great Apostacy" or "Falling Away." The Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of Man ideas as established on earth by Jesus Christ had been turned completely upside down. The divine principle of revelation, which had been designed to reveal the will and nature of God to mankind, now served the evil

purpose of revealing the will and nature of the devil. The effrontery, the audacity, the duplicity of Satan! He must have gloated with bestial satisfaction when he noted that mankind accepted his worthless imitations as the pure light of heaven. The "One God" idea of Abraham was supplanted by the half-pagan, half-Christian worship of the Virgin Mary and a multitude of departed saints. The just, fairplay, "all men are created equal" God of Amos had succumbed to the spirit of dictatorship and the resurrection of the master-slave idea. The loving, forgiving God of Hosea had been thrown to the uncompromizing dogs of hatred and intolerance. The "Fatherhood of God" idea as enunciated by Jesus Christ had been displaced by a supine reliance upon the infallibility of an all-powerful popish father. Man not only ignored Christ's command to "Call no man father", but actually began to refer to the Pope as "The Holy Father." The heavens had never been so supremely insulted. Was this pattern of things a revelation of God's own nature; a copy of the heavenly order? Had this strange network of relationships originated in the Eternal Mind? Could this transcript of the devil's own nature be palmed off on the human family as the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ? It could and it was.

From within the once beautiful temple of God could be heard the sound of mocking laughter. It came from "the man of sin" who "sat in the temple of God (the Church) showing himself (and the whole world believed) that he was God." Mankind's concept of God had again fallen to a frigid zero.

The father image which existed in the mind and heart of man during the dark ages was everywhere reflected in his environment. The aggressive, dictatorial husband, whose word was absolute law; the cowed, over-awed wife, whose lot was hard to be borne; the fearful, reluctant, forced obedience of the children. As head of the home, the husband was everything—the wife nothing. The same Pattern of relationships existed in the Church. The Pope, the Cardinal, the Priest were everything — the membership nothing. Rome's serfs and slaves created a God concept in keeping with their environment — God is everything, man is nothing. Man needs God, but God doesn't need man. God's powers were glorified, man's belittled; as if man's urge and need to create is not a candle lit from the great white fire of God's own creativity!

(To be continued)

CHRIST vs. GOLIATH

SPIRIT vs. FLESH

By Brother Rocco Tassone

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or distress, or persecution, or famine, or peril, nakedness, or sword? As it is written, 'For Thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.' Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us."

"Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."

We, the saints of the latter days, are called upon to fight a good fight of faith, and lay hold on eternal

life, and through long-suffering, patience, and endurance reap the reward and crown of righteousness. The fight of faith is an expression very seldom understood, for defeat brings sorrow and faith brings victory. The conversation most carried on by testimony and by other sources often reveals the **sorrow of defeat**, and not the **shout of victory**. Why is this? Let us search the scriptures for our learning and profit on this matter of a warfare in which we are engaged. Paul said, "Therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. Thou therefore endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life: that he may please Him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

Israel as a nation was God's covenant people under the old covenant and God was her husband. God promised Israel that He would not only go before her, but He would also be her rearward. Israel was the "apple" of God's eye and whatever nation thought to contend with Israel was contending against God. This is council unto all of God's enemies: "Refrain from these men," for ye cannot overthrow it, lest haply ye be found even to fight against God. Israel knew not the art of warfare like the surrounding Gentile nations whom God said they were to utterly destroy. Do you see where faith must be applied to believe God's commandments? He will not command us to do anything, save He perform a way to do it. Israel had to yield herself to God and the battle was won before they fought. AMEN.

Moses said unto the people, "Fear ye not, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord which He will shew to you today: for the Egyptians (a type of the flesh) whom ye have seen today, ye shall see them no more forever. The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace."

This experience Israel had at a crises yet remembered today by a celebration, for they had not really been severed from Egypt until Egypt's power was broken. All human possibilities failed at this point, yet God said unto Moses: "Wherefore criest thou unto me? Speak unto Israel that they go forward!" God wants us to move forward unto victory, for God is fighting for us and we shall not suffer loss. God proved Himself by His mighty arm to Israel in the time of need. Now if we have not faith to fight against the enemies of all unrighteousness we shall not prevail. If we try to fight by ourselves, without God's Spirit, we shall suffer defeat. Israel not only learned **victory** from faith obedience, but also learned defeat from faithless disobedience. When Israel was commanded to go up against her seven Gentile nations which were in her promised possession, they rebelled against the commandment of God. Why? They looked at their enemies through their own carnal eyes and not the eye of faith. They said their enemies were giants and their cities were walled up to Heaven. They stretched the imagination of their minds, for they had no faith to go up. Now when God heard this He commanded them to spend forty years more of wilderness experience and they would not reap their reward of possession. "Oh no," said Israel, "we will fight." So they thought; but God said unto Moses, "Go not

up, neither fight, for I am not among you: lest ye be smitten before your enemies." Yes, Israel suffered for not putting up a fight of faith against her enemies. (To be continued)

"A MAN OF PEACE"

I was given the following article recently when I was in Detroit, Michigan. I enjoyed reading it and believe others will enjoy it also.

Without further comments, I quote from "Parade's" Washington correspondent, Jack Anderson, dated December 25, 1960:

Thurman S. Furnier

The delegates' lounge at the United Nations was electric with apprehension. The disarmament debate that morning had been tempestuous. The behavior of the Russian had startled and shocked the assembled statesmen. Even Hitler and Mussolini at their wildest had never brandished their bayonets as this man brandished his rockets. With flailing fists and bellowing voice, he had set a new low in brutal diplomacy. Once more the world heard the familiar cry of the dictator: "Might is right!"

High in the press room clattering typewriters and teleprinters carried his message of force and fear to every country on the globe. In the lofty, spacious delegates' lounge overlooking the East River, the diplomats huddled in groups to discuss the portent of his performance. Out of his bombast and belligerence had come this apparent warning: "Who is not with us is against us." So the nations were choosing sides, some from fear, some from spite, some from ignorance.

It was at this moment that the Stranger entered. For some minutes he went unnoticed except by a watchful guard whose eye was caught by what might have been a trick of light from the great wall windows, now shimmering in the winter sun. The Stranger seemed to have a radiance around him, but the guard had a peculiar feeling that it came from some source other than the glinting sunlight.

The Stranger was tall, erect, lordly, without seeming stiff or haughty. He was dressed simply in an inexpensive but immaculate business suit. But it was his head that was most striking. He had thick chestnut hair, parted in the middle, which fell in waves to his shoulders. This was matched by a short, forked beard. His skin was tanned. His blue eyes had a piercing, commanding, yet curiously gentle look.

The guard was accustomed to seeing people of all descriptions, gathered as they were from all lands. He put the Stranger down as a representative of some peace organization, perhaps a crank but certainly harmless. Discreetly the guard edged toward him to challenge his credentials.

The Stranger had joined a knot of Asians and entered their conversation. His voice was deep, almost melodious, yet somehow penetrating. The guard, to his utter amazement, found he could understand every word that was spoken. It was like the instantaneous translation during UN debates—but without earphones.

"Before there can be peace on earth," the Stranger was saying, "there must be good will toward men. The love burning in a single heart gives off a glow. The glow from many hearts could create a light so

bright it would banish darkness from the world."

From group to group the Stranger moved, spreading his message. The awe-struck guard followed, drawn by the magnetic personality and the miracle of tongues. Others also appeared to notice that the Stranger's words were understood by men of different dialects. But they shook off the idea as if they distrusted their ears. As he pleaded, he encountered some cynicism but never lost patience. Most of the time his face was grave, even a little sad. But when he smiled, it was a sweet smile.

Then the Russian stormed into the lounge, surrounded by his entourage of satellites and sycophants. He was squat, strong, quick, like a wild boar. At once he was the center of attraction. Even those who hated and feared him drifted nearer to hear what he might say. He crossed the lounge cracking jokes, slapping backs, shaking hands. Then he proceeded to hold court. The diplomats bunched around him, all hanging on his words.

Suddenly as if by signal the crowd parted, and the Russian was face to face with the Stranger.

"Good will!" the Russian roared. "This is a phrase to induce sleep. But we shall not sleep. The cannibals wish to disarm us, so they can pop us into their kettles. Only our military might prevents them from destroying and devouring us. We cannot defend the gains of communism with good will."

"You have built great military strength," agreed the Stranger. "So have other nations which now lie in the dust of history. How much more lasting is great spiritual strength. Without it, a military nation is a ferocious beast with no conscience to control its appetites."

"We Russians," growled the Soviet, "have a saying: 'If you live long among wolves, you must have teeth to bite back.' The imperialists prowl around the communist countries like hungry wolves around a sheepfold."

The Stranger smiled. "Who," he asked, "profits from a wolf fight? Which of the bitten wolves is better off for his wounds? So long as nations meet force with force, fear of death, not love of life, rules the world. Hate breeds hate, violence breeds violence, one war sows the seeds for the next. Who is to break this terrible cycle?"

"You talk of peace," retorted the Russian. "We want peace. We are against war. We live on the same planet as the capitalist countries. All we ask is peaceful coexistence. People do not always marry for love, yet they live out their lives together in reasonable harmony."

"Those who leave love out of human relationships will not find peace," the Stranger warned softly. "You have extended your rule without the consent of the ruled. Force and fear may make men obey you. They will not make men love you. Yet the power of love alone can disarm the world."

The Russian snorted like a wild boar. "The capitalists do not love their fellow men," he said, "They have created a paradise for the rich and a hell for the poor. Millions talk about their belief in God, but they go on robbing the people. It is the kingdom of the dollar."

"Man is not perfect," agreed the Stranger. "Many who worship with their lips do not worship with their hearts. Love is a tender plant. Over the centuries it has sprouted and bloomed and faded again. It has many roots—honesty, compassion, humility, gentleness—and they flourish best in freedom. Why are you so alarmed by the simple word, love? A man does not love his neighbor less because he loves his country. He does not love his country less because he loves all mankind. But without freedom, true love cannot survive."

The Russian scowled, then grunted: "Enough of these fables about freedom. The capitalists boast of their free world. Free from whom? The workless are free from work. The poor are free from money. In the Communist countries, we are building true freedom—freedom from unemployment, from hunger, from exploitation. The capitalists say, 'Trust in God, love your fellow men, then you will go to paradise when you die.' We Communists trust in our own labor. We will create a paradise in this life, not in the hereafter."

The Stranger sighed. "Without freedom of the spirit, the word has no meaning. All men desire the good things of this earth. But there is more happiness in a full soul than a full belly. Yours is a strange paradise indeed that causes so many people to flee from it."

"Some people cling to their old shoes," snapped the Russian. "They behave toward communism as they do toward new shoes. They are afraid the new system will pinch. And it will pinch those who oppose it. They will be cast onto the garbage of history."

"I know your fondness for Russian proverbs," answered the Stranger. "One says that garbage can best be recognized by its smell."

"History is on our side!" the Russian shouted. "Might is on our side!"

"Might has been forever on the march, and right forever trodden down," said the Stranger. "But the future always rises out of the dust. For right lives on in the hearts and minds of men after might has been buried in the graves it has created."

Then he looked piercingly into the Russian's eyes until the burly one began to sweat and fidget.

"What is wrong for one man to do to another is equally wrong for one nation to do to another," the Stranger declared. "The deeds of a nation are now upon your shoulders. No longer can you hand your conscience over to Lenin or Stalin. You have taken the responsibility upon yourself. Let me say to you that it is better to suffer wrong than to cause it, to feel pain than to inflict it."

The Stranger smiled that sweet smile. The Russian looked at his watch, scowled and barged off, followed by his clique.

The Stranger watched them go without a word. Then slowly he walked from the lounge to the Meditation Room where all men, no matter what their faith, may pray. His face seemed sadder, his shoulders bowed. In one hand he clutched a small, well-worn Bible.

The guard waited outside in the Meditation Room. Several minutes passed, and the Stranger had still not emerged. Finally, the guard opened the door a crack and peered in. The room was empty. The only ev-

idence that the Stranger had been there was his Bible, left open on a chair at the tenth chapter of St. John. Drawn to it, the guard's eyes fell upon verses 14 to 16:

"I am the good shepherd and know my sheep . . . And I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice."

PERSONAL TESTIMONY OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

By Elder S. A. Agbor
Lagos, Nigeria

NO VENTURE — NO GAIN

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

I appeal to Saints all over The Church Of Jesus Christ to join with me in giving thanks and praises to Elder N.J. Umoh for his tireless efforts and benevolent abilities; seeing for the establishment and, at the same time, the stainless administration of The Church Of Jesus Christ here in the Western Region of the Federation of Nigeria, without minding the forces of the aggressors after him since 1958.

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32 I may proudly recall the year of our Lord, 1957 when Mr. N. J. Umoh (both of us were soldiers serving in the same unit) first acquainted me with the information about the Church. He further told me about one young man by the name of Akpan Dick of Abak, Eastern Region of Nigeria, who had been invited to America by the said Church and that I should join him to serve the Organization here in Lagos, the Federal Capitol of Nigeria, until his return when he would take over and represent the Mother Church in Nigeria. I accepted the opinion without any hesitation. Mr. Umoh then allowed me the address of the late Brother W. H. Cadman, then President of the Church, to write to him myself for verification. This I did. First and second letter, the God-appointed President replied to all and lastly sent to me via Umoh the inspired Book Of Mormon.

Not very long and Umoh was discharged from the Army and we could not see ourselves for more than three years. The position of things became darkened. I quickly retreated to my old Orthodox Presbyterian. All could agree with me that I was to the New Organization as a little child who is learning how to walk. He needs the frequent guidance of the loving parents and chiefly, there was no spiritual light in me of the Church.

"God moves in mysterious way His wonders to perform." It was late October, 1960 or so that we accidentally have to meet again. He then shaped me with the condition of things about the Church: (1) That he had been able to open a branch at Ikotum, in Ikeja District, Western Region of Nigeria; (2) And that, through his efforts, two brothers have arrived from America Home Mission, John Ross and Alvin Swanson, to rectify condition of things of the Church in Nigeria and they have gone to the Eastern Region of Nigeria. I never doubted his story because personally I have known him to be a "Busy Bee." He then questioned about my stand. At the same time

I was a leader of some polluted Church as a "Potential Pastor." I had to get a second and a final pin. He handed me some of the Church literature for perusal.

The night of November 26, 1960 will ever be commemorated in my life history. I knelt down beside my bed, appealed to Jehovah God in prayers to direct and dictate to me the truth about the Church (See James 1:5). In my sleep, I dreamed I was taken and escorted by an unknown person in white uniform to a large hall filled to capacity. Umoh was in charge, seconded by his righthand man, one (then Mr. but now Elder) A. E. Etim. Umoh saw and hailed me, introduced me to the audience. After that a Bible was given to me and I started immediately expounding the Scripture right from the Acts of Apostles, 3rd chapter. The following day, Sunday, I attended the service in The Church Of Jesus Christ for the first time at Ikotum together with my wife and baby girl of one year and seven months. After the service Umoh introduced me to the congregation and likewise I revealed the dream to them. Without hesitation, I accepted and embraced the doctrinal principles of the Church.

Not very long the futility forces of the enemies sharply focused on me with all fruitless attempts to eradicate my validity from following Umoh. Many time cajole and deceitful promises were made to me merely to revolt my faith and mainly to mar the splendour teaching of Umoh. To me all were just shedding of crocodile's tail. (He probably means tears.)

On November 12, 1961 I was baptized along with twelve others and confirmed same by Elder N. J. Umoh. October 4, 1963 Elder and Sister John Ross arrived from America on routine Mission duties. On October 21, 1962 I was ordained an elder with one other faithful brother, A. E. Etim, into the Ministry of our Saviour by Elder Umoh upon the permission from Elder John Ross. On March 3, 1963 I was appointed the Second Counselor, while T. E. Etim, First Counselor to Umoh as Presiding Elder in the Western Region Branch of the Church. I must be proud to say this, that the doctrine of The Church Of Jesus Christ is the foundation for all truths in comparison to others. Personally, I believe the material gain of this world cannot satisfy the spiritual heart and there is a vast difference between pleasure and happiness. Make haste whilst the sun shines.

The above theme helps to substantiate my personal experience and understanding in the lives of the Christians in other denominations. My happiness has no limit. Glory be to God in Jesus' name. Amen.

MISSION BOARD REPORT

In Africa, the activities and affairs of the Church in Nigeria are well in order as reported by Brother John Ross, a member of the Board, who has remained in constant touch with the Church in Africa. The President, Brother E. U. A. Arthur, and the Priesthood are doing very well in taking care of our Church in Nigeria but all are looking forward to the day when the parent Church in America will send a missionary to live and work with them in God's work.

Permission was granted Elder John Ross to ap-

point two qualified elders in Nigeria to travel to each branch of the Church to spend a week or so, instructing and seeing that the Order, Faith and Doctrine etc. of the Church is carried out.

Plans for the construction of a Mission Home were received by the Board and a motion was carried that we accept these plans; the home will not be built until the deed to the land is cleared and the Mission Board and the general Church so directs.

Copies of our Conference Minutes are to be sent to the President and Secretaries of the Church in Nigeria.

A motion was passed that we continue to solicit donations from our membership for the erection of the Secondary School in Nigeria; also that we authorize Brothers M. R. Griffith, P. Marinetti and D. Moraco to draft a letter for use in soliciting financial assistance from outside sources.

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The work in Italy is in the hands of our elders residing there. Brother A. A. Corrado reports there is a great need in Italy for competent leadership and in some locations the work is not very encouraging. He reports that Brother Bonofiglio has visited Sardinia and other Italian Missions, including one in Rome; also another elder visited the Island of Ponza.

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The work in Mexico is progressing very well as reported by Brother and Sister Perdue. They reported several baptisms and have been visited by many elders. It was stated also that Brother Urias is in Southern Mexico and has baptized a few people.

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Brother Joseph Milantoni, who is in charge of the Muncey Mission work, reported he has moved with his family to within seventeen miles of the Reserve. The Saints there appreciate the Church placing a Minister close to them. Brother Milantoni states, "We should be of whatever service we can for this wonderful Church."

The purchase of a twenty-four passenger bus for use at Muncey was authorized. The Muncey Mission will pay the major cost with the General Church standing approximately \$1,100.00 of it.

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Brother Ciaravino reported the work at Grand River, presently under the Michigan-Canadian district, as going well. A motion was passed to grant them permission to hold meetings at Grand River Mission in the building or location they consider for the best interests of the Mission.

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Missionary work in South Dakota has become very encouraging. Brother Gabriel Mazzeo and his wife have spent the summer at Wakkpala and Eagle Butte and have reported much interest there. They were very well liked by our Indian people and enjoyed working among them. A plot of ground at Wakkpala, South Dakota has been purchased for burial purposes.

A report was read from Brother Richard Christman, who with his family moved to Eagle Butte, South Dakota; Brother John Ross, Jr. and his family moved to Pine Ridge. Both are teaching in Indian schools there. Brother Christman, who has been plac-

ed in charge of the work in South Dakota, reports much good has been done there by Brother and Sister Mazzeo, and regrets their leaving.

Brother Mazzeo has expressed his desire to return to Wakkpala and a motion was passed that the Board request Brother and Sister Mazzeo to take up residence there as soon as they can.

Brother Christman requested authorization for the purchase of a building in Eagle Butte, South Dakota at an approximate cost of \$1,000.00. A motion was passed authorizing Brother Christman to purchase this building.

A motion was passed authorizing Brother and Sister John Ross, along with Brother and Sister Domenick D'Antonio to visit South Dakota for three weeks during Brother Ross' vacation in October, to do what they can for the Church. Brother Ross stated he will not require any financial help from the Church.

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Brother Daniel Picciuto reported everything is going along well at the Mission on San Carlos Reservation in Arizona. He requested the Board grant him authority to construct a one-bedroom addition to the Church home, as he is in need of more sleeping room, at approximate cost of \$300.00. The Mission Board granted this request.

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Brother S. Suriano left a will bequeathing the sum of \$2,000.00 to the General Church Missionary Fund for use exclusively for missionary work in Italy. Further, he gives the sum of \$500.00 for the Church in San Demetrio, Corona, Province of Cosenza, Italy, and \$500.00 for the Church in Cannitello, Province of Reggio Calabria, Italy. He also bequeathed \$200.00 to each of the above-named Missions to be given to a fund for widows of each of the above Missions.

The Board of Missions Secretary has contacted a number of qualified people of the Church advising them of the opportunities open with the Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs; and at present two of our brothers, along with their families, have moved to South Dakota and are teaching in the Indian Schools as has been previously mentioned. The secretary also has tentative promises from at least two other brothers who are in the process of making application for this service. Many others are expressing an interest in this effort which is being encouraged by the Church.

The Mission Board wishes to call to the attention of the Church at large the personal sacrifices made by our present missionaries serving in the various General Church Mission fields, especially any who must give up their jobs in order to serve the Church. To keep our present core of workers encouraged, and stimulate desires in others to volunteer, it was unanimously agreed we should exert every effort to create a dependable program of support and security for them and their families.

A motion was passed, therefore, that we authorize Brothers M. R. Griffith and Joseph Bittinger to draw up a plan for consideration which would include Social Security and other benefits which the Church could provide our permanent missionaries.

The Board of Missions



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

"I will deliver thee and thou shalt glorify me."
Psalms 50:15.

Dear Girls and Boys.

We haven't had a Book of Mormon story for a long time. I think you will enjoy this one. You can read about it in Mosiah chapter nine.

Once there was a man named Zeniff. He was a Nephite and had been taught their language. He was sent as a spy among the Lamanites who occupied the land of the Nephites' first inheritance. Zeniff went to spy out their forces so that his army could destroy them. But when he got to their land he found so much good among them that he did not want to destroy these people. He discussed this with his brethren in the wilderness. He wanted his ruler to make a treaty with them but he was a firm, bloodthirsty man. He commanded that Zeniff be killed. It was a terrible time, father fought against father and brother against brother, until most of the army was destroyed. The Lord protected Zeniff. He and the ones who were spared went back to Zarahemla to tell their wives and children about this.

Zeniff was a very zealous man. He still wanted this land of their fathers. He took as many as desired to go, back to the land. They pitched their tents in the wilderness. They were sorely afflicted and were smitten with famine because they were slow to remember God.

Zeniff and four of his men went into the city to the king. He was desirous to know what kind of a man this king was. Zeniff wanted to get the land peaceably. This king's name was Laman. He made a covenant with Zeniff that he could have part of the land and that his people would leave. Zeniff and his people went in and began to build buildings and repair the walls of the cities of Lehi, Nephi and Shilom. They planted all kinds of seeds, corn, wheat, barley, peas and sheum. Also all kinds of fruits. They began to prosper and multiply.

Now King Laman was very cunning. He had given this to Zeniff and his people that he might bring them under bondage. After Zeniff had lived in the land for twelve years, Laman became uneasy. He saw how very strong they were and how they were prospering. The king thought maybe he could not overpower them and bring them under bondage. His people were lazy and wanted to feast upon the flocks of Zeniff's fields. Laman began to stir up the people's minds against Zeniff. There began to be war between them.

Once when Zeniff's people were tending their flocks and working in their lands a great host of Lamanites came upon them. They began to kill them and take their flocks and corn. The men fled to the city of Nephi and called Zeniff to protect them. Zeniff gave them bows, arrows, swords, cimeters, clubs and slings and they went out to battle. The Lord gave them

strength to conquer the enemy. Zeniff cried mightily to the Lord to deliver his people. He remembered how God had delivered their fathers. God heard their prayers. In one day and a night they slew three thousand and forty-three and drove the Lamanites out of the land. Only two hundred and seventy-nine of Zeniff's army were killed. It was a very sad time.

Zeniff and his people took possession of the land and lived in peace. Guards were placed about the land so the Lamanites could not come unawares and destroy them. The Nephites began to till the ground and raise all kinds of grain and fruits. The women learned to spin. They made fine linen and every kind of cloth. Again the people began to prosper and have peace. As long as they served God they were a happy people, which has been true in all ages.

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURE

1. What happened when Laman died? Mosiah 10:6
2. How did the enemy come to battle? Mosiah 10:8
3. Read Mosiah 10:9. What kind of a leader do you think Zeniff was?
4. What kind of people were the Lamanites? Mosiah 10:11, 12
5. After Zeniff's death, who was the leader? Mosiah 11:1
Read several verses and see what kind of a man he was? Was he like Zeniff?

The children of The Junior Church in Monongahela have been studying about the Restoration of the Gospel. At the conclusion of the study, they were asked to write what they had learned. Here is what Michael Gandley wrote;

THE RESTORATION STORY

God sent Jesus to set up a church. After Jesus died the men made laws of their own. God took away the church. Many years later a young boy named Joseph Smith asked God what church to join. God said not to join any, they were all wrong. Then God sent the angel Moroni for five years. The angel said if Joseph was good he would lead him to the plates. Joseph was good and he was given the plates. We call this The Book of Mormon. God wanted to show that he was restoring the Gospel and setting up his church again.

Sincerely,
Sister Mabel

A CURSE UPON THE LAND!

By Brother C. W. Holmes

Unable to concentrate upon my work after hearing the news of President John F. Kennedy's death by violence on Friday, November 22, 1963, I uttered a brief prayer: "Dear Heavenly Father, what is Your word to us in this hour?" and reached into my desk drawer for the Bible; but as my hand went forth its course was altered by a thought: "Not the Bible, the Book of Mormon." Without looking, I opened the Book of Mormon and placed my fingers on a page. When I lifted it I was surprised to read, "**A curse upon the land—Continued strife and bloodshed . . .**" which is the italicized introduction to the 14th chapter of Ether in the Utah edition.

The important question is not whether my finger was divinely guided, but whether secret combinations and the iniquity of the people have brought a

curse upon this land. A fruit is usually more rotten within than it is without, and the Gentile fruit on this land is growing repulsively rotten on its surface. Official recognition of God has become of questionable legality and evil forces appear to be concentrating on removing all leaders who sincerely strive for peace and good will toward men.

But the forces of evil cannot prevail because the seed of a greater force has been sown; that is, the seed of divine love planted in the hearts of chosen men and women, called to be Saints, which is evidenced by their unity in the Spirit of Jesus Christ, the martyred Leader that the bonds of death could not hold. Only through the guidance of this indestructible King will the goal of peace on earth and good will toward men be attained.

Jesus has warned us that "because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold; but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." It is, therefore, of utmost importance that each individual nourish the seed of divine love in his heart and keep it warm so it will grow and be the dominating ingredient in his every thought and deed. If our hearts are bursting with the Love of God, there will be no room for evil seed to lurk, and it will be impossible for us to become instruments of evil during this hour of God's judgment.

**NEWS FROM OTHER PARTS
OF THE VINEYARD
BRYSON CITY, N.C.**

Dear Brother Editor:

This past weekend (November 9th and 10th) we had a visit from Brother Henry and Sister Jean Border of Cumberland, Maryland. We enjoyed their visit so much. You don't realize how much you take the brothers and sisters for granted until you don't have them around. It is always wonderful to have them come visit with us. Brothers Domenic Giovannone and Frank Giovannone visited with us on their way to Florida this Fall. We certainly enjoyed their visit also.

There is not much news here. We are still striving to do our best. We still have our meetings with the Indian folk and look forward to the day they will come into the Church. We are planning to have them with us again on Thanksgiving. It will be eight years tomorrow since we moved here, and our Thanksgiving dinner with the Indian Folk has been an annual affair.

Sincerely

Brother Jonathan and
Sister Virginia Molinatto

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FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA

It is with joy that I write to praise our Heavenly Father, and to share with you the blessings He has bestowed upon us here in this part of His vineyard. The ordinance of washing feet was attended to October 12, 1963, accompanied by a wonderful outpouring of the spirit of God. The gift of tongues was manifested and the interpretation, as given, was; "The Prophets will administer to those who are lowly in heart." A vision was also seen of two prophets holding towels and standing with the elders.

A gathering was held October 27, 1963 with many

attending from different parts of the state of Florida. Again we were blessed with tongues. The interpretation was as follows; "Beware of the world; watch and pray." We thank our Saviour for these and the many other blessings He does bestow upon us from time to time. Our constant prayer is that we will all remain faithful and true to Him who saw fit to call us from darkness and gives us so much for so little. What could we ever do without our Redeemer? Praise His precious name for His name is worthy to be praised.

We are happy to have visiting with us for a season Brother and Sister Oran Thomas and Brother and Sister Louie Theodore from Pennsylvania. We pray that this letter will find the Saints in all branches and missions of the Church well and enjoying the peace and love of God. From all the brothers and sisters here in Florida.

Sister Ruth Morris
Ft. Pierce Mission Editor

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ERIE, PA.

On November 17, 1963 the Erie Mission was privileged to have Brother Anthony Picciuto and his family, from the Perry, Ohio branch, in our presence.

His sermon confronted us with a great challenge, the challenge of our changing society. Do we see, hear and understand these changes, or are we like the text Brother Tony used from Matthew 13:13: "Therefore, speak I to them in parables; because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand"? If we do see, hear, and understand these things, and yet do not follow through with the purpose, we are being hypocritical and neglecting our duty as members of the Church.

Brother Tony didn't speak in parables but pointed out the plain, solid facts. The pressures and changing values of today's society do influence us as individuals and as a Church. Today's world of commercialism, advertising, and competition definitely affects our relationship with God and humanity.

Just how great does this really affect us? Are we drawn into isolation? Do we tend to conform? We must uphold the "pure and unadulterated Gospel" as Jesus Christ set it up.

Let us pray that God will open our eyes that we may see, and open our hearts and illuminate us to meet the pressures of our changing society.

Carol Sue Mancini
Branch Editor

We invite your comments on this subject, **Where is the Church in our changing society?** Send your articles to your District Editor.

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McKEES ROCKS, PA.

Sunday, November 3, 1963, was a joyful day for us. We were blessed much in McKees Rocks in our Sunday School, the morning service and the afternoon meeting. The ten virgins were spoken of in the Sunday School; five wise and five unwise. "Using our talents and not hiding them" was the subject of the morning service. Then the spirit of testimony prevailed throughout the afternoon service.

In the evening some from McKees Rocks went to the Imperial Branch. Other visitors were there and