

The GOSPEL NEWS

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa.
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THOUGHTS FOR THE NEW YEAR

*If any little word of ours
Can make one life the brighter;
If any little song of ours
Can make one heart the lighter;
God help us speak that little word,
And take our bit of singing
And drop it in some lonely vale
To set the echoes ringing.*

*If any little love of ours
Can make one life the sweeter;
If any little care of ours
Can make one step the fleetier
If any little help may ease
The burden of another
God give us love and care and strength
To help along each other.*

*If any little thought of ours
Can make one life the stronger;
If any cheery smile of ours
Can make its brightness longer;
Then let us speak that thought today
With tender eyes aglowing
So God may grant some weary one
Shall reap from our glad sowing.*

Author Unknown

HAPPY NEW YEAR

"Happy new year!" These words are on everybody's lips at the dawning of a new year. In every walk of life these words will echo and re-echo, but only for a day or two.

The word happy is equivalent in meaning to the word blessed — that is, wishing someone only that which is good.

I wonder how many people will really have a happy and blessed new year? There is much sorrow and tension in our world, but we who have come to know Jesus Christ have His promise: "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." The 28th. verse of the 11th chapter of St. Matthew tells us how to be happy and blessed: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Perfect friendship can make us happy and blessed,

especially if that friend is Jesus Christ. We sing, "What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear; what a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer." Each line of this hymn presents the solution of every problem, sin, or grief that may keep us from having a happy new year. For in His arms He'll take and shield us; we will find a solace there. If God knows when a little sparrow falls from a tree, then how much more He knows about our cares. Doesn't Christ say that we are of more value than many sparrows? How marvelous and wonderful is our Saviour's love to us!

Mankind is vainly trying to secure peace, not in the ways of God but in the ways of man. Oh that the world could hear Him speak the words of comfort that men seek. To all, the lowly and unto the meek, Jesus whispers, "Peace." We, who have received that wonderful peace through obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, are the happiest people in the whole world. This happiness is revealed as we listen to our brothers and sisters testify of their new outlook on life and their hopes for the future. We can sing, "Like a blind man who walks in the darkness, I was helpless and searched for the light. Then I met the Master; now I walk no more in the night." Christ himself laid the pattern, setting examples for our own happiness. Poets were inspired by God to illustrate this transition from darkness and sorrow to light and happiness in such hymns as "Since Jesus Came Into My Heart," "I Love Him," and "Oh Happy Day."

After Christ instituted the ordinance of footwashing, He told the disciples, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." Do we not experience a portion of this spiritual happiness when we bow in humility before our brothers and sisters and wash their feet? The Lord wanted people to be happy and joyful as they serve Him. The key or solution for obtaining complete happiness can be summed up in one verse from the Bible: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you."

Would you have a happy new year? Then tell others what the Lord has done for you and the perfect happiness that can be found in His fold. Let us all exclaim, "How lost were our days 'til we met with the Gospel." With Jesus Christ as our leader and friend, we will have many glorious and happy new years.

In closing, let the joy of the Restored Gospel shine forth in the words of this beautiful hymn: "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now am found; I was blind, but now I see."

by Rose Scaglione

FOR ME TO LIVE IS CHRIST

James Heaps

What a wonderful blessing our lives would be if all of us could say, "For me to live is Christ!" If we were to take upon ourselves His thoughts, His character, His life, we would not have to sing "Make Me a Blessing"; we would be a blessing to some one today. The man who wrote this title had two lives; one before he met Christ and one after. Before he met Christ he could only say, "For me to live is Saul"; but after he had met the Master he could say, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." There never was a life so filled with anti-Christian thoughts and impulses, brought so completely to a halt. There never was such a total eclipse of the most brilliant worldly prospects, nor such an abrupt transition from a career of dazzling greatness to a humble and lowly life. He could say, "I count all things but loss that I might gain Christ." The stages by which this change comes about are now plainly before us. They are the discovery of self and the discovery of Christ. He was living the way of Saul, but now he can sing, "I've discovered the way of gladness; I've discovered the way of joy; I've discovered relief from sadness — 'tis a happiness without alloy. I've discovered the fount of blessing; I've discovered the living word. 'Twas the greatness of all discoveries when I found Jesus, my Lord." These two discoveries (discovery of self and discovery of Christ) fill the whole life, and until these discoveries are made no man truly lives. Some may discover themselves, but if they do not discover Christ their lives are still in vain.

That brilliant career of Paul's was a total loss. He had great character; he had a wonderful education which was never lost. But he was using it to persecute the saints; to put men and women in prison. But oh, the change when he met Christ! What a discovery! All that makes men true, pure, and godly goes with them everywhere. All that makes them false, impure, and wicked abides with them. Every man goes to his own place. A tree will not only lie as it falls, but it will fall as it leans. "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor than silver or gold." Character is built out of circumstances from exactly the same material. One man builds a palace while the other builds a hut. The character that needs law to mend it is hardly worth tinkering with. There is a broad distinction between character and reputation, but if I take care of my character my reputation will take care of itself. Character will back up the sermon, the poem, the picture, or the play; none of them is worth a straw without it.

Paul's life is an example of people who are religiously brought up. Touching the law he was blameless. There was no stricter man as far as his religion was concerned. No man took his place more regularly in the temple or kept the Sabbath day more holy. He

was not far from the Kingdom of God, so they felt. There is no middle way in religion; it must be self, or Christ. Then look at a life like this I lived for myself; I thought for myself — for myself and none beside; just as if Jesus had never lived and had never died.

The thought comes to us — for me to live is business; for me to live is pleasure; for me to live is myself; or for me to live is Christ. Will Paul's sudden conversion show us anything about ourselves? Can we see that it takes a change if we are going to live for Christ? The old Saul thought of his ambitions, his seat of authority, his sitting at the feet of Gamaliel. But now he sees the foolishness of God is wiser than man; and the weakness of God (if there is any weakness) is stronger than men. Great principles are always best and freshest when studied from life. It so happens that Paul's life makes such study easy; he admonishes us to "follow me as I follow Christ".

MODERN PROVERBS

The wise and humble man looks into the mirror . . . and then calls for a magnifying glass. The proud, foolish man will not gaze into it until he first dons his rose colored lenses. Then he steps back a few paces, while he squints out of one eye.

Blessed is he who can take reproof as well as praise. The latter is given for encouragement, but the former is for his edification.

Shout out your words of praise, of another, if you must . . . but, when you reprove, speak softly.

Praise your brother in seriousness . . . but reprove with a smile.

My father used to say that a lie has short feet and soon stumbleth. I say: it has no feet at all, but is wafted on the short, vile breath of man, which is soon extinguished.

A wise man is grateful for the opportunity to look into his brother's heart, but the foolish man fears to do so, for fear of what he may see concerning himself.

My mother used to say: "Do no evil and fear no evil;" but I say: "Do good . . . and then, be on guard against Evil, for he will surely pinpoint you for persecution!"

Let not your brother's trust in you be shattered . . . or even slightly chipped . . . there is no glue invented which can securely hold trust together, once it is broken.

The Devil's greatest delight is in tempting people to commit sin. His second greatest joy is in later exposing them.

Catherine Vultaggio Poma

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Editorial Viewpoint



George A. Neill

True enough we cannot alter the past, but let us take the unalterable past and shape the future.

A few years ago a popular song came out (I never did know its title but I recall a few of the words), which went something like this: "The years go by quickly as a wink; enjoy yourselves, enjoy yourselves, it's later than you think." I remember Brother Furnier referring to this song in the opening of a Conference. He revised it somewhat by saying, "Prepare yourselves, prepare yourselves, it's later than you think." Those of us who have lived even half of our allotted time — three score and ten — are well aware of the fact that the years really do go by "quickly as a wink." A year ago in my editorial I stated I did not know what time it was on history's clock. However, I do know that some people believe we are living in the eleventh hour of time. The individual who has never given this much thought, and after doing so becomes convinced that this is the eleventh hour, will probably feel that it is later than he thought. Nevertheless, to me and perhaps to many others, the year 1964 has gone as the writer of the song says, "as quickly as a wink."

As we stand at the fast-closing door of another year we are reminded of God's words to Israel as they glanced back down the hard road they had traveled from Egypt, wherein He says, "Ye shall henceforth return no more that way." A more modern way of bringing out the same thought is that none of us shall ever again traverse the road we traveled in 1964. How true it is we cannot re-enter the past; on the other hand there are things of the past that we shall take with us as we step across another threshold, and while we may not be able to do anything about the past, we should endeavor to do something with it. We should recognize our mistakes and correct them; we should add to our achievements and by thus doing we shall improve the future by our lessons of the past. True enough we cannot alter the past, but let us take the unalterable past and shape the future. There are a number of people who get the feeling of turning over a new leaf; in other words, starting the year anew. Many of these people will make resolutions, and these resolutions may concern personal reformation which is good. However, what is most needed is spiritual regeneration and this can only take place by finding Christ. It is true the New Year is like a wrapped surprise package. We cannot know its contents, but I believe they can be changed by our personalities and characters. Let us take our personalities and make them radiate love, service, and concern for our fellowman. Let us take our character and develop virtue, honesty, meekness, trustworthiness; in so doing we shall find ourselves helping to build the Kingdom of God. Let us occupy this year of 365 days so it will be filled with delightful remembrances and memories of such worth that will want to pack them up and take them along when we move again. This is a year in which we prepare for eternal life. This year awaits, as others have, the manifestation of the sons of God.

I should like to pass along to you some excerpts from a memorandum by Lt. William G. Farrow of Darlington, South Carolina. The lieutenant gave his life for his country in April, 1942. He flew in the famous Doolittle raid on Tokyo but his plane crashed in Japanese-occupied territory in China. He was executed by the Japanese in 1943. While preparing to go into aviation in 1940 he wrote this memor-

andum entitled "My Future", in which he left a legacy of human gospel for the guidance of generations to come. It bears reading in these days of resolution-making, and is as follows:

"The time has come to decide what rules I am going to set myself for daily conduct. My aim is decided — I am going into some branch of aviation. I have only to apply myself daily toward this end to achieve it.

"First I must enumerate my weaknesses and seek to eliminate them. Then I must seek to develop the qualities I need for this type of work. It's going to be hard, but it's the only way. Work with a purpose is the only practical means of achieving an end.

"First, what are my weaknesses?

" 1—Lack of thoroughness and application.

" 2—Lack of curiosity.

" 3—Softness in driving myself.

" 4—Lack of constant diligence.

" 5—Lack of seriousness of purpose—sober thought.

" 6—Scatter-brained dashing here and there and not getting anything done—spur-of-the-moment stuff.

" 7—Letting situations confuse the truth in my mind.

" 8—Lack of self-confidence.

" 9—Letting people influence my decisions too much. I must weigh my decisions — then act.

"10—Too much frivolity—not enough serious thought.

"11—Lack of clear-cut, decisive thinking.

"Second, what must I do to develop myself?

"1—Stay in glowing health—take a good, fast one-hour workout each day.

"2—Search out current, past, and future topics on aviation.

"3—Stay close to God—do His will and commandments. He is my friend and protector. Believe in Him—trust in His Ways—not to my own confused understanding of the universe.

"4—Do not waste energy or time in fruitless pursuits—learn to act from honest fundamental motives—simplicity in life leads to the fullest living.

"5—Order my life—in order, there is achievement—in aimlessness there is retrogression.

"6—Fear nothing—be it insanity, sickness, failure, —always be upright—look the world in the eye.

"7—Keep my mind always clean—allow no evil thoughts to destroy me. My mind is my very own, to think and use just as I do my arm. It was given me by the Creator to use as I see fit, but to think wrong is to do wrong!

"8—Concentrate! Choose the task to be done, and do it to the best of my energy and ability.

"9—Fear not for the future—build on each day as though the future for me is a certainty. If I die tomorrow, that is too bad, but I will have done today's work!

"10—Never be discouraged over anything! Turn failure into success."

PRAYER, WORKS AND FAITH

By Elmer R. LaRue

Prayer is the way we talk to God. But without faith our prayer is dead and God doesn't hear us. For

we know that prayer is the key to Heaven, and faith unlocks the door. When we open the door through prayer and faith in God, and we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, He will hear and answer. For prayer, works and faith are as one.

We must be believers and workers of God, giving our all unto the Lord and keeping ourselves unspotted from the world. We must also keep the commandments of the Lord. Two of the greatest commandments given us by the Lord are found in St. Mark 12:30, 31: "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these." If we do this, God will be with us and answer when we call to Him in prayer.

We know that through prayer and faith in God, through His servants the dead are raised, the lame walk, the sick are healed, the crippled made new, the deaf hear, the blind see, the afflicted made well, the dumb talk, the weak are made stronger and the strong made stronger still, the evil spirits are cast out, the Holy Ghost is given to men, and the sins of all are forgiven by Jesus Christ, our Lord, if they will come unto Him through baptism by submersion—the way our Lord came, Who had no sin, to set an example. If we will have eternal life, we must follow Him. All this and much more is given through prayer, works and faith in God.

Through prayer we find peace, salvation, hope and abundant life. Not here only, but with Jesus Christ, our Lord, forever. For it is written, we that endure unto the end shall be saved. Prayer is not something new. You find prayer being used all through the Bible: Abraham praying for Lot when Sodom and Gomorrah were threatened with overthrow, Moses praying for the people of Israel when God threatened to destroy them because of their sin, and Jesus Himself taught His disciples to pray. It is known as the Lord's Prayer.

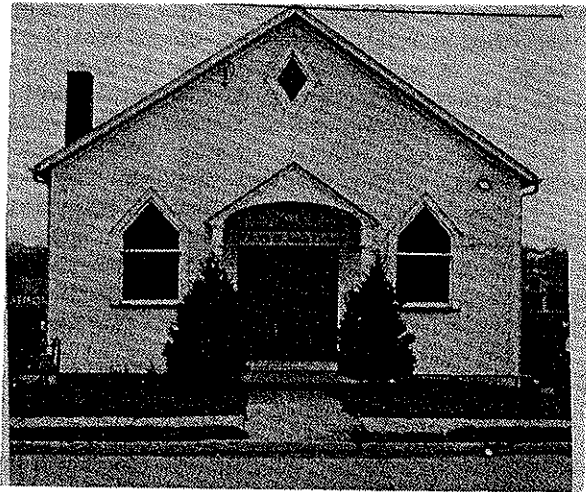
We find that Jesus often went alone up on the mountain, into the garden of Gethsemane and into the wilderness to pray to God, His Father. He prayed for His disciples—all that God would call to serve Him, His enemies and for the world. As He hung there on the cross being crucified by the very people He came to save, He prayed "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do." If we be followers of Jesus, we must follow His example that He has set before us. We must pray not only for ourselves, but for others also; not only looking at our own needs, but also looking and praying for the needs of all, like the centurion who came to Jesus not seeking anything for himself, but seeking recovery for his stricken servant.

When we pray, pray not only for our friends and loved ones, pray even for our enemies. Jesus teaches in Matt. 5:44, "Love your enemies, . . . and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you." Hard you say? No! Not if you have truly been converted in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Stephen prayed to God to forgive the Jews as they stoned him to death. (Acts 7:60)

Pray for others. The Elders of your Branch need

it; the saints of your Branch and throughout the Church need it; those sick, in sorrow, in trouble and faced with temptation need it; our missionaries need it; our President, Brother T. Furnier and his counselors need it; The Church of Jesus Christ needs it; our country needs it; this writer needs it—the scope of prayer is endless.

If we pray for each other, our Church and the world around us, and pray with faith, believing that God will and is able to give whatever we ask that is pleasing to Him, we will be a most blessed people and need fear nothing, for God will be with us and we shall walk in the light of the Lord, forever. My prayer is that these few words that I have written as moved by the Holy Spirit of God will be a blessing to you, the reader, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



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A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST SOUTH GREENSBURG, PENNA.

In 1923 two sisters from Glassport, Pa. came to the home of Patsy Fallavollita as friends. They knew each other from Italy. The sisters were Sister Dentino and Sister Dineno. They had come with the desire to introduce the gospel to these people, and, as our sisters were asked to stay for lunch, one of them inquired if they had permission to pray before eating. This prayer impressed these people so much that it was a blessing to all who sat at that table. The saints of Glassport then asked if they could send a few brothers to tell of the gospel to them. Brother Joseph Dulisse, Brother Peter DiPiro and Brother Anthony Battista came the following week. Yet, it took one year before any were baptized.

By 1924, we had 13 members. Brother DiCarlo was the first member and Brother Paul DeBaldo, the second. The Elders then went to the home of Brother and Sister Lavella who were not yet baptized. It made our sister very angry at first. She thought they were like other churches in this world, but a voice spoke to her saying: "These people will be your friends someday." How true these words were, for in just a few weeks

Brother and Sister Lavella joined the Church. God has blessed our sister so much! She was baptized when she was 44 years old, and she is now 84 and still serving God.

Brother and Sister Patsy Fallavollita were the next ones to join the Church, and for a long time Sunday meetings were held in their living room. God was always with us, just a handful of people.

Brother Paul DeBaldo lived not far away from Brother Anthony Todaro, so he invited him and his wife to come to our meetings. They only attended a few meetings and then asked for their baptism. Sister Mary Todaro said that this is the true church. God blessed them with visions and dreams. Brother Todaro, being a friend of Brother Fred Fair, told him of the gospel and within a month Brother Fred Fair and his wife joined the Church. These brothers and sisters were all baptized in Glassport, Pa. As the saints of Greensburg would stand at the water's edge there was always such joy and God always blessed us. As time went on many more members were added to our number and eventually we obtained a place of our own in Greensburg to baptize.

Brothers Fred Fair and Anthony Todaro were ordained as Elders, and Brother Fair was made Presiding Elder. Our meeting place was then moved to a schoolhouse. We would be in church all day and then go to visit with our brothers and sisters in their homes, always singing a hymn first and ending with a prayer. We always praised God for His wonderful blessings and were taught to pray all the time. On leaving our homes or going shopping we would always ask God to be with us. When someone was sick the blessed oil was used and God came to our rescue as He still does today.

As the membership increased the schoolhouse became crowded, and on June 7, 1942, a church was built on Broad St. in South Greensburg, Pa. We are still at this location with 54 members at the present time.

The Elders then started to preach the gospel out of town. Mt. Pleasant was the first place we went, baptizing a few there, and Sunday evening meetings were held. These faithful brothers and sisters have gone on to their reward leaving only one brother in Mt. Pleasant. This is Brother Leash who has lost one leg because of illness but he is still strong in the Church. As we go to visit him he gives us courage to carry on. This brother is 89 years of age, and we pray that God will be with him to the end of his days.

The Elders continued preaching the gospel, going to Etna, Derry, Herminie and Somerset, Pa., and some joined the Church in these places. Brother Alvin Swanson also went to Washington, D.C. to preach the gospel. Thank God we have members there who are serving God. We also have a brother who was blessed as a boy in Greensburg, and is now an Elder in Washington, D.C. He is Brother Aldo DiAngelo.

At one time we got a call to go to Greensburg Hospital to anoint a five-year-old girl. The doctor told the mother to buy her a wheelchair, as the girl was paralyzed from the hips down. Brother Fair and the girl's father were the only ones allowed in her room, and she was anointed with oil. In a few days she was

home walking again. This girl is now the mother of three children. She has never joined the Church but she knows God helped her, and we still have hope for her.

The first time a Church Conference was held in Greensburg three of our young sisters were in charge of the lunch and had plenty of food for the crowd we expected. However, a much larger group came and we were worried that we would not have enough to feed our brothers and sisters. God provided and we had plenty of food for the brothers and sisters and so much left over that all our members took home two or three loaves of bread, and meat was also left over. We will never forget this experience.

As time went on the saints of Greensburg had their children blessed, as the Lord said, "Suffer little children to come unto me," and He took them in His arms and blessed them. Most of these children have grown to be young adults and are now baptized and serving God. Some are Deacons, Teachers, and even Elders in the Church. We are so proud of our young people. We also have a wonderful choir and love to hear our young sing praises unto God. May God keep them always humble and faithful so we can be a light to the world and many more may come to obey this wonderful Gospel of the Lord.

Besides Brother Fred Fair, Brothers James Grazan and Alvin Swanson have also been Presiding Elders in Greensburg. Some have now moved on to other branches, and at the present time Brother Paul Gehly is our Presiding Elder.

Rose Nalevanko, Branch Editor

MISSION BOARD REPORT

The Board of Missions met on September 19, 1964 at the General Church building, Monongahela, Pa. We wish to submit the following report of the business transacted, etc., for your information and ratification:

In Africa, the activities and affairs of the church in Nigeria are going along very well. The President, E. U. A. Arthur and the entire Priesthood and teachers are doing well in taking care of our church there. They are anxiously looking forward to the arrival of Brother John Ross who will leave on October 7, 1964 for a stay of approximately seventeen weeks. Our people in Nigeria will soon have their own hymn book of approximately seventy hymns printed in Efik. The two Nigerian elders, authorized to visit the various Branches of the Church to make certain the order of the Church and faith and doctrines are being observed, are continuing to meet with much success. The Board recommended this program be continued. The secretary reported that the Mission Home and Secondary School Plan continues to grow with \$11,629.86 in the fund as of this date.

The Nigerian Secondary School Committee reported holding several formal meetings during the past six months and have made a very comprehensive study of all aspects of the project. They have obtained a more realistic estimate of the cost of this endeavor, and spread over a five year period covering the erection of the buildings, supplies, teacher salaries, etc., the total estimate is \$34,000.00 required from our Church in America. The Committee has reviewed the Educa-

tion Handbook of the Nigerian Government. They also reviewed and revised a draft of the School Constitution and By-Laws as prepared by Brother Moses Akpan to satisfy the requirements of the Nigerian Ministry of Education and to conform with the regulations of the church. The committee stated they already have a qualified teacher and a school administrator from our church in America, anxious to go to Africa to help in this school along with other competent persons who are or will soon be available both in this country and Nigeria. The Nigerian School Committee has authorized the filing of the formal application for the erection and operation of a Comprehensive Secondary School in Nigeria with the Minister of Education. Brother John Ross was authorized to make all necessary tentative arrangements, preliminary to construction of the school while he is in Nigeria. The Committee is continuing to work actively to recruit qualified persons in addition to those who have already pledged their services, to staff the school when it is completed.

A motion was passed by the Board to accept all reports and actions by the Nigerian School Committee. A motion was carried granting Brother John Ross a power of attorney. Brother Griffith will have our lawyer prepare this legal document. The secretary also prepared a letter to the Bank of West Africa Limited authorizing Brother John Ross to handle all financial matters through our account there. A motion was carried, at the request of the Nigerian School Committee, to add Brother Kenneth Yonkee as a member of the Committee.

Brother Bittinger reported a mission of thirteen members at Calabar. Brother Joseph E. Asuquo, who had been ordained a teacher by Brothers W. H. Cadman and Joseph Bittinger, was ordained an elder on July 26, 1964 in the Calabar Division.

Brother A. A. Corrado reported for the Italian Mission Committee that Brother Raymond Cosetti is in Italy as authorized by the Board and is visiting various places where the church is located. He is holding meetings and has baptized a few new converts. The need for competent church leaders from America is ever present.

The work in Mexico is progressing very well. Brother and Sister Perdue who are in charge of this work, report several baptisms the past six months and an ever increasing interest in the church. They are in need of a replacement for their old car and suggested Medical and Hospital Insurance for Sister Perdue. A motion was carried authorizing the purchase of another car to replace their old one at an approximate cost to the church of \$800.00 and that Medical and Hospital Insurance be secured for Sister Perdue if possible.

The Secretary read a report from the Michigan-Canadian District Mission Board which has been placed in charge of the missions at the Six Nations and the Muncey Reservations. It was reported Brothers Anthony Lovalvo (in charge) and Ralph Leet have been serving the Six Nations Mission during the past six months with Brothers John Veldtman and Jerry Benyola assisting them. Other Elders have relieved these brothers periodically. They have a membership of thirteen and a Sunday School of twenty to thirty

persons. Brother Joseph Milantoni with the help of Brothers Anthony Gerace and Anthony Sciaro, has been serving the Muncey Mission during the past six months. Other elders have helped these three brothers whenever it was necessary. As in the past, several brothers gave valuable assistance by driving the church bus and station wagon. The membership at Muncey is eighteen and the Sunday School attendance averages better than fifty persons. Brother Joseph Milantoni, who was serving the Mission full time for the past six months and was living close to the Reservation, has returned to Detroit to live. It was felt by Brother Milantoni and all others involved that this mission could be served very well from Detroit and thus not cause any undue financial spending by the church.

A complete report of the San Carlos, Arizona Mission Work was received from Brother Daniel Picciuto, who is in charge there. He stated that during the past six months they have continued to enjoy the blessings of God with two baptisms and seven children blessed. They always have many visitors attending their meetings and there is a need for additional room for Sunday School. Brother Picciuto reported receiving much help from the California District. A motion was passed to request the California District to review the building needs at San Carlos, Arizona Mission considering a 16' x 24' divided room addition to accommodate their large Sunday School. Cost of such an addition is estimated at \$800.00. If it is decided to construct this addition, the Board authorized that a financial request for the necessary finance be given to the Finance Committee and to construct same. The secretary read reports from Brother Gabriel Mazzeo and Brother Richard Christman who have been in charge of the Indian Mission Work in South Dakota. There were five baptisms, and four persons renewed. Also Brother Isaac Usefulheart has passed away. The church building at Wakpala, South Dakota has been repaired and painted. Brother Gabriel Mazzeo and his wife, who were sent to South Dakota after the April Conference, have returned to their home in Florida. This leaves Brother Richard Christman in charge of our work there. All our missionaries from time to time are faced with discouraging conditions which can always be expected where good is being accomplished. This gives much reason for all our people to support their efforts completely and as one in prayer and financial assistance. Much of the success of the church depends upon these. The church will continue to keep in contact with all the various General Church Established Mission Fields. When conditions arise that are not conducive to effective missionary progress, they will be corrected that the promotion of the Gospel of Jesus Christ shall not be hindered and peace and love can be brought to all people.

The Board of Missions wishes to commend all our Missionaries and their families in the field for their devotion and sacrifice in this great work. We gratefully acknowledge their priceless contribution to the promulgation of peace on earth, good will toward men, to which end our church is dedicated.

The Mission Board is continuing our program of trying to interest qualified people of our church to

secure positions on the Indian Reservations of our country, working for the Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs. We have representatives in South Dakota and would like to get our people on all reservations where an opportunity is present. The Secretary would like to be advised of all likely candidates, that he man contact and interest them in this possibility of serving the church and entering a promising field of endeavor for themselves.

The Secretary reported for Brother Bittinger and himself, who were elected as a committee to investigate the possibility of providing benefits or security in the present and later years of life for our full time missionaries, that they have not completed their study. The welfare of our missionaries is very important to our missionary program and has many aspects to be considered.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph Bittinger, Chairman
M. R. Griffith, Secretary

PENNSYLVANIA DISTRICT M.B.A. GATHERING

The Pennsylvania District Missionary Benevolent Association meeting was held in the Monongahela Church Building on Saturday, October 24. A large number of brothers, sisters, and friends gathered for the evening program. All of the locals represented sang selections, and the praises of God filled the building.

After the singing, testimonies were given by Sister Jean Pickford, and Brother Oscar Hagen from Greensburg; Brother Anthony Ross from Aliquippa; and Brother Paul Ciotti from McKees Rocks. These testimonies told of some being reared in the Church and baptized at an early age, while others knew the Church but weren't baptized until later in their lives. There were also those who never heard about the Church until later in life. These testimonies showed the need for obeying God's call the first time we receive it and the wonder of having God take charge of our lives.

Out guest speaker, Brother Joseph Calabrese, then spoke from the 7th Chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 24th through the 27th verses, concerning being wise in the things of God and the importance of being grounded on that solid rock which is Christ. He urged us to be strong and firm in the faith. Although his talk was not lengthy, it was well seasoned with the Spirit of God.

A free-will offering for the Nigerian Secondary School was taken, and \$82.97 was donated for that purpose. We can truly say that it was an evening well spent in the service of the King.

Dick Lawson, Dist. Sec.

NOTICE

To those wishing to be placed on our mailing list for an index to The Gospel News each year, please send your name and address along with 25 cents for each year's index. The 1963 Index is ready and the 1964 Index will be prepared soon after the first of the year.

A complete Index from 1945 through 1962 will be available in the near future;



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

"Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow."
James 4:14

Dear Girls and Boys,

Since we are starting another new year, we no doubt are making many plans. We may say, "This year I would like to do this or that" and maybe we have left God out of our plans. In James' writings he tells us, "For we ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live and do this or that." (James 4:15) If we put our trust in Him, he will guide us. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life, yesterday, today and forever.

Moses, the great leader of the Israelites, assured the people from time to time, that God would go before them. He said, "The Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee." We can begin our new year with the same assurance.

It was a great day for the Israelites when they left Egypt. They had been in bondage for four hundred and thirty years. The Lord told Moses to tell Pharaoh, "Thus saith the Lord God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me." After God sent ten terrible plagues on the Egyptians they were willing to let them go. The Israelites had been slaves for hundreds of years and now they were going to a land where they would no longer be under bondage. God had chosen the land of Canaan to be their new home.

The Israelites were a large, mighty group of people. There were six hundred thousand men plus the women and children. Pharaoh had called for Moses and Aaron in the night to tell the Israelites to leave Egypt. He said to take their flocks and herds and be gone. The Egyptians hurried the people out of the land also. They feared they would all be dead. This last plague had been severe. In every Egyptian's house the death angel had been during the night. The Israelites prepared to leave at once. The women took their kneading troughs and their dough before it was leavened. They had no time to put yeast in it. Moses told them to borrow silver and gold jewels and raiment from the Egyptians. They were glad to give the Israelites these things. It was a night long to be remembered. Moses told the people, "Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand, the Lord brought you out from this place; there shall no leavened bread be eaten." Even the Jews today observe this event.

The people went as far as Etham at the edge of the wilderness. Here they set up their tents. The Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud to show them the way. At night he gave them light in a pillar of fire. The pillar was always before them. God never took it away.

After the Israelites left Egypt, God hardened Pharaoh's heart. Pharaoh and his people were sorry they had left the Israelites go. They had lost their

slaves. Pharaoh got the chariots and horsemen ready. He took six hundred chariots, the captains and his army and started after the people of Israel. As Pharaoh came near, the Israelites looked back and saw them. They were afraid and cried out to the Lord. They blamed Moses for bringing them here in the wilderness by the Red Sea. They said, "It would have been better to stay and serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." Moses was not afraid. He trusted God. He said, "Fear not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will show you today; for the Egyptians whom ye have seen today, ye shall see them again no more. The Lord shall fight for you and ye shall hold your peace."

Pharaoh and his army were coming closer! Then a wonderful thing happened. This cloud that had gone before the people now went behind them. It stayed between the camp of Pharaoh and the camp of the Israelites. It was a cloud of darkness to the Egyptians and a cloud of light to the Israelites. Moses stretched out his hand over the Red Sea. The Lord sent a strong east wind that night which blew the water back and made the sea, dry land. The waters were divided like a great wall on each side. The people of Israel passed safely over to the other side on dry ground.

When Pharaoh saw that the Israelites were gone, he and his horsemen followed them. He thought they could pass through too. The Lord looked through the pillar of fire and cloud at them. He made the wheels of their chariots come off. They were troubled and feared the Lord. They knew the Lord would fight for the Israelites. Before they had time to turn back, the Lord told Moses to stretch forth his hand over the sea. The great walls of water came together and covered the Egyptians. Not one of them was spared. Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the seashore. They feared the Lord and Moses. They sang a song of praise to God for saving them from the Egyptians.

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. Read their song of praise found in Exodus 15:1, 19
2. What did Miriam, Moses' sister, and the women do? Ex. 15:20, 21
3. After they had traveled three days, what happened? Ex. 15:22, 26
4. What was Elim like? Ex. 15:27

Sincerely,
Sister Mabel

TO THE SAINTS OF THE ATLANTIC COAST AND THROUGHOUT THE CHURCH

As I compose this tribute to a worthy servant of the Lord, I feel very humble and desire that it be in the form of a testimony. First I ask myself this question: How can I ever forget?

Today as I recollect my memories and set aside a moment to write what is within me, I hope it will be for the good of those who never had the opportunity that I had to know Brother Joseph Benyola. He and I were nearly the same age. It was he who took me to the waters of baptism in the year of 1951. The first time I met Brother Benyola a powerful voice told me, "Here is one of My true servants." I was then a poor, lost sinner, a man in distress, without hope; and above all, a man without the Lord. It was at our

brother's home that my family and I first visited as friends in this blessed land of America. How surprised my family and I felt when we found that in his home was the genuine love of God! I can never forget how he received us, especially me; how kind, sweet, and soft his words were. They began to circle me in the form of a wave. This was something that suddenly opened my heart; his words began to penetrate my mind, and I felt so happy because I found in him a friend. The kindness of his words was decorated with the melody of truth which was the authority that the most high God had entrusted upon that servant. For this reason, as he finished talking to me, for the first time I saw something glorious in that great servant. I stretched forth my hands, asking him this question: "May I call you brother?" How can I forget that moment? As Brother Benyola looked at me I was so happy. I had tears in my eyes; my heart was beating hard, my voice was lost, and I looked at him just as if I were a baby with no power within me. His face was red, his eyes were smiling as he pulled me toward his chest, and very softly and sweetly (with a very clear and heavenly voice) he answered me, "Yes, my friend, you may call me Brother Joseph Benyola; this is your home and God bless you, Brother Frank Rivera." How could I ever forget?

In Brother Benyola I found the type and shadow of an Apostle, of a man who, though living in the world and serving it, was not of the world. It was Brother Joe who first told me about the Restoration. He was the servant that the Lord used to introduce me to the most marvelous of all books, the Book of Mormon. How can I ever forget the day of my baptism? The next day in the evening hours, he stopped at my house. After greeting me he waited in a corner until I asked him to sit down. At this time Brother Joe had two books with him. After we talked for about half an hour I asked him if there was something important that had brought him to my house. He looked at me as if something were burning inside of him. He said something like this: "Brother Rivera, we haven't told you all about the Church. Tonight I have come to let you know that we are not common Christians; we are pure saints. We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and also in the Bible." I asked him, "But what makes you so different? What is there in you that I don't know?" He then smiled and said, "This is the point I'd like to bring forth. We believe in the Book of Mormon. Have you ever heard of this book?" I answered, "No, I have never heard about it." At this moment the power of the Holy Ghost fell upon us, and just as if we were commanded we both stood up, and I said, "Brother Benyola, give me the book. I'd like to read it." Then I saw in his face a new smile, the smile of victory that is so sweet in the face of those who are true servants of the Lord as was Brother Benyola.

As I continued to read the Book of Mormon and learned more about the Restoration movement, I worked closer with Brother Joe. We gave our testimony to many Puerto Ricans in the Perth Amboy, New Jersey area. Some of them have returned to Puerto Rico and I am sure his name is known there and that they too would declare he was a true servant of the

Lord. Today as I write, I remember he told me one day, "Brother Rivera, we are now in the same tree. In this tree we are the branches and the trunk is the Lord Jesus Christ." I also remember that one night he stopped at my home where I now live. It was midnight and how surprised I was! It was the last time he visited me. He knew me better than anyone else because he met me when I was a poor, lost sinner. So how can I forget Brother Benyola! It is my personal hope that not one of the Atlantic Coast District saints can ever forget the qualities of that great servant of the Lord.

Today I might say, even though my branch is dry and broken on the ground where only the good memories, the joy, and happiness of the past keep me alive, I have one satisfaction: his branch is not seen in the tree but it is there. I know his branch is there, and I also know that his branch is blooming as it was before. I know that it will bloom in spring, in summer, and in autumn. I also know that today I am very far away, alone, forgotten, and poor; but my beloved Brother Joseph Benyola is up there where there is no cold, no dust, no poor, and no rich, but only those true servants of the Lord. As I close my words and continue on my lonely way I testify with words of truth: My brother, the first one I had in this blessed land of America, is in Heaven. I close saying that Brother Joseph Benyola, that true servant of the Lord, is living today in the Paradise of God. This is my testimony in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Francisco Rivera
Painesville, Ohio

OBITUARY MICHAEL FIORI

Brother Michael Fiori passed from this life on November 13, 1964 following a prolonged illness. He was born on December 2, 1880 in Italy. He was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on March 13, 1938 and was a faithful and devoted member of The Church. He was loved by all, both young and old.

Brother Fiori is survived by his wife Elizabeth, five children and eleven grand-children.

Services were conducted at The Church of Jesus Christ Detroit Branch No. 2 by Brother Reno Bologna, assisted by Brother Anthony Lovalvo.

May the Lord comfort and bless the bereaved.

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ANNA CERAME

Sister Anna Cerame died on November 1, 1964 in Trinidad, Colorado. She had been instrumental in bringing The Church of Jesus Christ to Sopris, Colorado. She was a very firm believer in her religion, and was kind, charitable, and very considerate of all.

She was well known in Detroit, Michigan as she was baptized there in The Church of Jesus Christ in 1927. There was no Church of Jesus Christ in Sopris until Anna Cerame moved there from Detroit in late 1927 or early 1928. There were a few members, and Brother Paul Costa was then baptized and later made an Elder. When he died, the Church was left without an Elder except for some brother who was sent from Detroit for a while. Brother Ishmael D'Amico

was sent to Sopris and stayed for some time as well as others who came and went.

Surviving are her husband, John Cerame; three daughters, Mary A. Skinner and Sally Howell of Santa Fe, and Frances Wade of Denver; two sons, Joseph of Detroit, and Frank Cerame of Sopris.

Sister Cerame was born in Italy, but came to the United States as a very young girl and much praise must be given to her because of her great belief in the Church and her efforts to bring others into the fold in Sopris. We know God has prepared a place for her, for certainly she was most deserving.

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LIBERA ROMANO

Sister Libera Romano, mother of Brother John Romano of Dearborn, Michigan passed away on October 26, 1964. She was baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ on July 16, 1939. Sister Romano was a faithful and devoted member of the Church and will be sadly missed by all.

Sister Romano is survived by five sons, one daughter and six grandchildren. Services were conducted at The Church of Jesus Christ, Detroit Branch No. 2, by Brother Reno Bologna.

May God bless and comfort the bereaved.

BLESSINGS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS HIGHLIGHT GMBA CONFERENCE

Spiritual blessings and required organizational accomplishments highlight the semi-annual General Missionary Benevolent Association Conference held in Aliquippa, Pa., on Saturday, November 14. The climax to the entire weekend's activities occurred the next day when two new souls were baptized into the Church.

The two new members, Sister Patricia Checchi of Greensburg, Pa., and Brother Virgil Costarella of Youngstown, Ohio, made their decisions after the Sunday morning service, which was officially under the jurisdiction of the Aliquippa branch. Speakers at this meeting had been Brothers Thurman S. Furnier, Dominic Thomas, and Dominic Moraco.

The topic discussed was the spiritual "House of God," and scriptural direction as to how it should be built were presented. In addition, historical and personal experiences emphasizing the satisfying rewards from working on "God's House" were recalled.

Revision Ratified

In the Saturday Conference sessions, the new MBA By-Law Revision was officially ratified. General Church approval for the revision had been given previously, and the MBA local organizations had accepted its adoption. A two-thirds majority of the local groups had been required.

To more smoothly incorporate the revision, the Conference voted to continue with the existing area and local structures until the changes and additions in their compositions can be put into practice. The current Area Committees were empowered to function as before, and additional officers as required to complete the expanded structure will be appointed to serve with the Committees on a "pro-tem" basis until the permanent election of officers in the respective Area Conferences on July 17, 1965. No alterations will be made at the local level until they can be incorporated at

that unit's next Business and Organization meetings prior to the GMBA Conference in May, 1965. The revision took effect immediately at the GMBA level.

Major Revision Items

One of the major items in the revision was the expansion of the Area Organizations. This enlargement, made along the lines of the General Church Districts, had been requested by the GMBA By-Law Delegate Conference held in McKees Rocks, Pa. last January so that the Area Organizations could perform a more useful function. Also, additional offices at all levels were included to more fully service the entire organization.

The revision has been in process for two years. During this time, several drafts by the By-Law Committee had been presented to the member locals for their consideration, comment, and correction.

Election of Officers

Most GMBA officers were reelected for a one-year term. Among the newly-elected officers were five Organizers. They were Brothers Charles Curry, California Area; Frank Mazzeo, Atlantic Coast Area; James Cadiou and Raymond Cosetti, Ohio Area; and Leonard A. Lovalvo, Michigan-Canadian Area.

Under the new GMBA structure, a permanent three-member Relief Committee to help needy individuals was authorized. Brothers Gorie Ciaravino, Joseph Calabrese, and Joseph Milantoni were elected to form this group.

Gratitude Expressed

A motion was passed to acknowledge officially the valuable work rendered by our late Brother Joseph Benyola who had labored faithfully on behalf of the Association for many years. At the time of his death, he was an Organizer in the New Jersey-Washington, D.C. sector. A letter, detailing this tribute, was requested to be sent to his surviving wife, Sister Margaret.

A vote of thanks was also extended to the host Aliquippa local. The efficient handling of lodging accommodations, meal services, and required transportation, as well as the attention to other Conference arrangements, were gratefully recognized.

Two More Locals

Among the reports presented was the information that two more MBA locals have been organized within the last six months. One is in Ft. Pierce, Fla., where Brother Frank Rogolino is the Organizer. The other one is in Cumberland, Md., where Brother John Ahlborn is the Organizer.

The financial status of the GMBA, after discharging the obligations and donations from the Conference, reflected a balance of \$479.97 in the General Fund and a total of \$3,434.14 in the Land Purchase Fund. Donations granted by the Conference included \$500 to the General Church Missionary Fund and \$300 each to the African Secondary School, Indian Missionary, and GMBA Land Purchase Funds.

Area Next Host

The next GMBA Conference, on May 15, 1965, was appointed for Detroit, Michigan under the auspices of the Michigan-Canadian Area. This will be the first time an area will host the Conference.

Until now, the individual member locals had spon-