

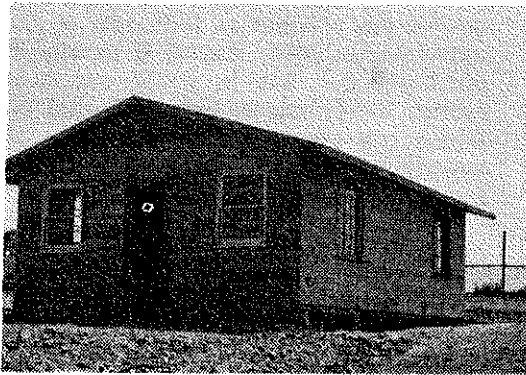
The GOSPEL NEWS

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa.

January 1967

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THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

Tijuana, Mexico

PROGRESS IN MEXICO

Joseph Calabrese

Chairman Sub-Committee for Mexico

80% Complete—Further Expansion contemplated

It is now about six years since Brother & Sister Purdue were directed to Tijuana, Mexico. It has been a challenge for them and no doubt some may have thought it could not last, not because our missionaries didn't have the strength to endure the traveling and the patience to deal with a new people, but probably because of the conditions of poverty that exist there. I have heard sister Purdue tell in her testimony how she was sorely afflicted and while in this condition she promised God she would work for Him if He would heal her. God heard and answered her prayer, and ever since she has been, along with her husband, laboring hard and diligently in face of all the unsatisfactory conditions. We have visited there the last four years and have seen first-hand how things are. However, there has never been any complaint.

At first a small building was erected where they might meet with the people. It was built on what seemed to be the highest spot on top of a mountain. Very soon the room was insufficient for the number of people who wanted to listen to the angel's message of the Restoration to his covenant people. It was then suggested that the small building be used for Sunday School and

to build a larger room. This was done, but very shortly this also was too small, so a larger room was built to accommodate the constant growing number, which at this time includes 80 baptized members and over 100 attending Sunday School. Again the Mission Board was approached. This time the suggestion was to build further back up the mountain to accommodate the Saints who live there, who would have to walk over four miles to go to church. While several members of the Mission Board were there this past June, we examined the situation (when dealing in Mexico for land, it is much different than in the states), and instructed Brother & Sister Purdue to proceed accordingly. Therefore, the above picture indicates the latest addition to our work in Mexico. It is our prayer and the prayer of the Mission Board that God might continue to be with our missionaries who are giving their full time to this work.

I believe, at this point, it is good to mention that there have also been others who have contributed to the success of the work in Mexico . . . such as Sister Norma Kennedy, the San Diego branch, the area M.B.A., the San Diego Ladies' Circle, along with Ladies' Circles throughout the Church and many others. It only proves to us that it takes many to help forward the work of the Church. In the words of the Apostle Paul, one planted, another watered, but God gives the increase (1st Cor. 3:6). May this be only the beginning of other buildings necessary among God's covenant people. We pray that God will inspire others to give full time to the missionary work of the Church.

Acknowledgment For Dedicated Service

By Gorie Ciaravino

General Church President

At our recent GMBA Assembly held in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, Brother Dominic R. Thomas asked the Conference not to consider him for re-

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT FOR DEDICATED SERVICE

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election as GMBA President. In his stead, the group elected Brother Isaac Smith of Monongahela, Pennsylvania who had served as Vice-President for the past four years. Brother Thomas had been President for the past 18 years.

On behalf of The General Church, I wish to express my appreciation for the leadership Brother Thomas has given our youth organization over the years. His self-sacrifice, dedication, and devotion for this worthy cause have been exemplary. While working for the MBA, he also found time to devote to his family, earn his Bachelor's, Master's and Doctorate Degrees at Wayne State University, fulfill his Ministerial duties, preside over The Michigan-Ontario District and travel extensively for the welfare of The Church. I am certain that everyone will want to join with me in saying, "Well done, Brother Thomas."

Recently, he was called and ordained an Apostle. This high calling greatly increased his responsibilities. By relinquishing leadership in the GMBA, Brother Thomas will be able to devote his attention more fully to the critical needs of The General Church.

I am confident that all MBA Areas and Locals will give Brother Smith their fullest cooperation as he assumes his office and strives to implement many of the unfinished projects and institutes new programs for our young people. As Presiding Elder of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch of The Church and as an avid traveler to many Church locations, he has learned many of the needs of the young. As recent Chairman of the GMBA Field Trip Sub Committee, he has been instrumental in framing the trips to the Muncey and Six Nations Indian Reservations the past two years and has worked conscientiously to organize this summer's trip to Arlington, Kansas. Election of Brother Smith, as it would have been in the case of any equally capable brother, assures a smooth and easy transition of MBA leadership. With the help of all of the other GMBA officers who have proven their interest and concern for The Church and its youth, we are certain that the many important contributions made by the Association will be equalled and perhaps surpassed.

I also wish to acknowledge the work of the General Ladies' Circle. Sister Mabel Bickerton, as President, has diligently carried on the work started by her mother, the late Sister Sadie Cadman. Like the MBA, the Ladies' Circle has made many generous contributions to the missionary efforts of The Church.

Finally, I want to express my sincere gratitude to all those who work for The Church in both administrative and spiritual roles. Their diligent and untiring efforts are greatly appreciated by The Church.

It is my prayer that God will richly reward all of these good workers, as well as every mem-

ber of The Church. May God's peace and blessing rest with each of you during this New Year and forever.

PREPARE

By Valentine Fernandez
Glassport, Pa. Branch

Whoever reads these words will perceive the urgency and the attention given to the fact that Jesus Christ will someday return. The return of the Nazarene is a basic fact of the Christ-teachings, since the Master himself promised to return and He never fails to do that which He promises. On the other hand, today everything shows the rapid infallible, and pressing completion of the prophecies that refer to the return of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. It is true that we do not know the hour in which our Redeemer will return. Nevertheless, being mindful of the signs which are manifest in all aspects of life, it is not possible for the least doubt to remain concerning the certainty that the Savior will return.

To call our attention to this fact, the Saviour employs more than once the command, WATCH. That is to say, He tells us to maintain ourselves in a state of permanent alertness. Precisely with that expression the Saviour closes the parable we find in the first part of the 25th Chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew, which is known as the parable of the ten virgins. This parable is one of the most beautiful of the Holy Scriptures and of the literature of all peoples. Let us read it just as we find it. "Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him. Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, Give us of your oil, for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you; but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage; and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us. But He answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. WATCH, therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." In this parable the Lord emphasizes again the necessity of living each day of our lives as if it were that in which our Lord is to return. May God help us in order that our hearts and our lives may be prepared for that event so important.

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Editorial Viewpoint

Let us strive this year to get our lives more in tune with this wonderful Teacher that we may become channels through which His spirit can flow to refresh and bless all who are around us.



George A. Neill

We are standing on the threshold of a new year. The open door of this new year sends every soul adventuring into the future, for none of us know what lies ahead. The past is only a memory, and the future is unborn. This year will help determine our destiny. Let us be careful lest we write something that would shame us in time to come. Leaving the old year and entering the new can be likened to moving from one house to another. There are things we leave behind that are not worth taking with us. This is the time to leave behind or bury some things such as imagined ills. If someone has done us an unkind act and it still bothers us, we should bury it; if someone has spoken an unkind word and it is still stinging, we should bury it; if we feel someone hasn't forgiven us and perhaps we find it hard to forgive, we should bury it. Let us bury all the ills of the past and guard against becoming preoccupied with the past lest we fall under the same condemnation as the plow man which Jesus illustrated on one occasion. How much better it is to take only lovely things into the new year.

Our lives are marked for progress, and one way to progress is to open up new fields of thought and new realms of experience. May we turn an ear to the admonition of Paul when he said, "Forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth to those things which are before." Let us press on to the mark of our high calling in Christ Jesus. How much better for us, as Paul says in another scripture, to "think on these things" such as whatsoever things are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report. If we have virtue and praise we will think on these things.

This is the year we should seek to become more faithful; this is the year to become more diligent scholars in the school of Christ; for as He, the teacher, once said, "Learn of Me for I am meek and lowly of heart." Let us strive this year to get our lives more in tune with this wonderful Teacher that we may become channels through which His Spirit can flow to refresh and bless all who are around us. There is also the knowledge that this year will be the last year for some; some day there will be no tomorrow, and James says, "What shall be on the morrow? For what is your life? It is even a vapour that appeareth for a little while, and then vanisheth away." Knowing this, should we not enter this new year with thoughtful consideration? Should not sincerity and the characteristics of the Teacher mark our deportment toward all men? Let us withhold nothing from Him who gave His life for us. Let us consecrate to God everything He has entrusted to us. Let us give unto Him a freewill offering that consists of ourselves. Let us determine to do His will and He will make for us a Happy New Year.

I would like to leave with you another thought. I am told that on the navigator's chart of an airliner there is a certain mark which notes the point of no return. Until the plane gets to this point it can always turn around and make it back to the field. I understand that this point is determined by the fuel supply. Just as this is true in the launching of an airliner, I believe there is a point of no return in the lives of all of us. It is not determined by a fuel gauge, but by our acts and behavior in life. As we journey along the road of life most of us are unaware of passing any point of no return, yet every day someone is passing just such a point.

I trust, however, that for those of us who have begun this divine journey, this year will find us a little further on the road to our heavenly home. Finally, this is the year for the Church to work, to grow, and to become a branch of the Lord's house most beautiful.

PREPARE

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Let us return for a few moments to some aspects of the parable of the ten virgins. Five of them were prudent. They worked with wisdom. Not only did they maintain themselves with their lamps brightly lit in an attitude of hope, but moreover they saw to it that the oil might be replaced by carrying a reserve to replace that which was spent or used in the lamps. They maintained themselves united in spirit. Their faith and their works corresponded in like manner to tell of the presence of the Holy Spirit, symbolized by the oil. The others were foolish, or stupid, as is demonstrated in other parts of the Scripture. They have an appearance of light and religion. They believe that the Lord will come. But this truth has not entered their hearts in such force that they will live only for that hope. While their lights shone they did not concern themselves with obtaining oil with which to replace that used. That detail did not worry them. They considered the matter with indifference as many of us nowadays do in religious matters. No doubt they thought, "Everything will turn out alright. At the end, all is going to be well." Many people today say the same thing when their attention is called to the fact that in order to be worthy of eternal life and of the blessings of God, and in order to be ready when He comes, it is necessary to live in remembrance of the Christian desires and rules. But they say, "That isn't indispensable. If God is a God of love, He will have consideration upon me. He will take into account my problems. All will be well somehow." Perhaps this for some is not very pleasant, but it is that which is given in the parable. This attitude is considered as foolish or stupid. How important is it that we work with prudence from now on? Perhaps the foolish virgins mocked the others for what they considered unnecessary provision of such an abundant supply of oil.

But the hour of necessity arrived and it was revealed who was right. The sounds which announced the approach of the husband were heard. The virgins, who had fallen asleep, awoke and the first thing they did was to dress their lamps. The five who had the oil of replacement did not have any inconvenience, but the others found them in an anguished situation because their lamps were not burning, the oil being all used. They asked of them who had oil to give them a little. But it was impossible for the wise to give oil; the time was so short that they were hardly able to be ready to meet the bridegroom. Moreover, for them to give of their oil to the foolish would be dangerous for themselves, for the bridegroom's coming might be delayed. Their wisdom is manifested in the attitude adopted in this emergency. The only thing the unprepared ones could do was to go out to search for oil. This they did. Meanwhile the Lord arrived. The doors were securely closed and the foolish virgins found that they had fulfilled the words of the

Apostle St. James who says, "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" Those women had believed but their works had not corresponded to their faith. We hope that our works correspond to our faith that the Lord Jesus Christ will return and that our lives reflect, through the medium of works, that our faith is alive and real.

Upon further considering this parable we understand that the Lord calls unto us imperatively, **WATCH**, in order that His second coming will not find us unprepared. The word, **WATCH**, means to observe attentively. We ought to observe the signs which mark the time of the advent of the Master. We are to consider them not only with our intellects, but also with our hearts.

Watch also means "to be without sleeping the time ordinarily designated for sleep." This applies to our hope of the second coming of our Lord.

We ought to be awake in the spiritual sense. Let us put aside the drowsiness and lethargy. Let us sacrifice the common and passing things, and let us **WATCH**.

This is the hour of shaking the indifferents. The prophesies of our Lord Jesus Christ are fulfilling themselves before our own eyes. The hour of the dawn of the glorious eternal has arrived.

We cite the question of the prophet, "What of the night, Watchman, what of the night?" Now we are able to answer positively. "The morning cometh," and there will be no more anguish, no more grief, no more misunderstanding, no more hatred. LOVE will fill all the bounds of the lands, free from sin and from death.

THINK

By James Heaps

A sign, THINK, hung in the office of the American National Life Insurance Company. When any of the employees made a mistake the manager would call our attention to the sign. No other being has the capacity to think like man. "What is man, that Thou art so mindful of him, or the Son of man that Thou visitest him? Thou madest him a little lower than the angels. Thou crown'd'st him with glory and honor, and did set him over the works of Thy hands. Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him. But we see Jesus." Hebrews 2:6, 7, 8. Jesus says, "All power is given unto me, in heaven and in earth." So when man begins to rob Jesus of any glory he is going too far. Man is made in the image of God, no other creature is made in His image. We are His glory; He has been mindful of man.

God thinks more about man than any other creature. He is interested in his life, in his death, in his resurrection, in his eternal glory. Paul says,

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The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

"As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of Man." St. Luke 17:26.

Dear Girls and Boys,

The story I have for you this month is about Noah's ark and our ark of safety. We are happy to have a safe place today just as Noah and his family had in their day.

As the days and years passed after the creation, there were many people on the earth. Adam and Eve, our first parents, had learned about good and evil. God looked down upon the earth and saw the wickedness of the people. He was sorry and repented that He had made man. There was a good man named Noah, who loved God and prayed to Him often. God told Noah He was going to destroy all the people because they were wicked, but He would save Noah and his family. He gave Noah instructions to build an ark, an ark of safety. After it was completed, he was to take his family, and two of every living thing—the beasts of the field and the birds of the air—into the ark; also food for his family and all the animals. Then for forty days and forty nights, God said, He would cause it to rain and everything on the earth would be destroyed.

Noah was six hundred years old when he built the ark. It was made of gopher wood, covered with pitch inside and out. It was three stories high, with rooms in it, a window, and a door. Finally the time came to enter the ark. Noah, his wife, his three sons, and their wives went in. The beasts of the field and the birds entered two by two; the clean beasts went in by sevens. After they were all inside, the Lord closed the door. After seven days passed, the windows of heaven opened and the fountains of the great deep opened up. It began to rain. For forty days and nights it rained! The water lifted the ark. All the high hills and mountains were covered and everything under heaven was destroyed. This event was referred to many years later by the Saviour in telling about His coming again to earth.

As Jesus walked and talked with His disciples, He tried to prepare them for His second coming. He told them, He would soon leave them but He would send the Comforter. They wanted to know when He would return. He said, "Watch therefore; for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. Therefore be ye also ready for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of Man cometh." He told of many signs; men's hearts would fail them because of the trouble on the earth. There would be wars and rumors of wars, nations would rise against nations, famines, earthquakes in divers places and false prophets would come

among them. Also there would be signs in the heavens as well as upon the earth. All these things, Jesus said would be the beginning of sorrows but this would not be the end. We have seen many of these signs in our day. We know God's Word never fails.

Jesus said, as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be when the Son of Man comes again. The people were all busy in Noah's day and no doubt wouldn't listen to him as he built the ark. Noah, who was a righteous man, was saved from destruction by obeying God. We know the Lord will again save the righteous when destruction comes today. Yes, there is an ark today, an ark of safety; it is the Gospel, The Church of Jesus Christ. Jesus told the people to be ready and we today must be ready too. Jesus taught the way to follow Him which is the only way to enter this ark.

In the Book of Mormon, a man named Lehi had a dream of the way. It was a straight, narrow path which led to a tree of precious fruit. Along this path was a rod of iron. Many people started on the path but soon fell by the wayside. Lehi had a great desire to see his family partake of the fruit. His son, Nephi, desired the same vision his father had had. He understood the tree was the tree of life and the rod, the word of God. Whoever held fast to it would never perish. We have learned the way to enter the ark or salvation is by obeying God's commandments. Faith, repentance, and baptism are the requirements. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. Let us start on this path Lehi saw, be alert as to the happenings around us, put on the whole armour of God and find our place in the ARK.

Search the Scriptures

Find the nine fruits of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22, 23. What is necessary for the whole armour of God? Ephesians 6:11, 18.

Sincerely,
Sister Mabel

JESUS SAID

By Samuel J. Kirschner

The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you. And He said unto the disciples, The days will come, when ye shall desire to see one of the days of the Son of man, and ye shall not see it. And they shall say to you, See here; or, see there: go not after them, nor follow them. For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in His day. But first must He suffer many things, and be rejected of this generation. And as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.

Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

M.B.A. Highlights

ACHIEVEMENTS, PLANS, ELECTIONS HIGHLIGHT LAST GMBA CONFERENCE

By Carl J. Frammolin

Notable achievements, plans for the future, and election of some new officers, including a new General Association President, were the highlights of the General Missionary Benevolent Association Conference held at the Hopewell High School, Hopewell Township, Pennsylvania, just outside Aliquippa, on November 12.

The surpassing of the past six-month MBA-wide \$3,000 fund-raising drive for the GMBA Land-Purchasing and Auditorium Fund by \$526.71 unofficially, not including \$400 donated to this cause by the Conference, occupied equal attention with the disclosure that one-half of the lessons from the *Book of Mormon* for children between the ages of 10 and 13 was in the process of final typing. In addition, the official decision to visit an Arlington, Kansas campsite the week of July 30 through August 6, 1967 for the next annual Association Field Trip spurred enthusiastic plans to spend more time together in the future. The establishment of another \$3,000 goal to raise funds for the future General Church Auditorium during the current six-month period was also set.

The selection of the new GMBA President, Isaac Smith, was prompted by the request of Dominic R. Thomas that he be replaced to allow him more time to devote to his other Church activities. Brother Thomas is a Church Apostle and President of The Michigan-Ontario General Church District, in addition to serving on many General Church committees. The Conference unanimously passed a touching resolution to thank Brother Thomas for his many years of MBA service. In addition, past and present GMBA officers gave him a pen and pencil set in recognition of his 18 years as General MBA President.

In Brother Smith, the Conference elected an experienced GMBA Officer, who served as GMBA Treasurer until chosen to be the Vice President in 1962. Other General Association officials who were elected to the following offices were Joseph Milantoni, Vice President; August D'Orazio, Chaplain; Rose Mary Furitano, Assistant Recording Secretary; Anthony Scolaro, Treasurer; and Louis Pietrangelo and Charles Naro, Organizers. Other General incumbents were reelected.

Activities Committee To Meet

The GMBA Activities Committee is scheduled to meet on January 14, 1967 in Monongahela, Pennsylvania to plan this year's Field Trip thoroughly, as well as to attend to other matters. Machinery will be instituted to coordinate all efforts to make certain that all persons who want to attend the Field Trip event can be accommodated. There are various sleeping and eating ac-

commodations available at the site, and travelers there will be allowed the option of using whichever they prefer. In addition, a camping area is also present at this Young Men's Christian Association Camp located about 30 miles from St. John, Kansas. The cost will be disclosed, and questionnaires and application forms will be drawn up to obtain the necessary information and to insure the reservations. It will be up to the GMBA to coordinate the use of the facilities as the entire camp will be turned over for the period. Details will be furnished to the MBA units immediately after this meeting.

The MBA lesson-plans which are being prepared will be submitted to The General Church for approval as suitable materials after completion. It is hoped that by the next GMBA Conference the lessons for the 10 to 13 group will be completed. A series for younger children, along with an activity book, is also being readied. In addition, a series of lessons on the history of The Church is being compiled.

The way in which the various MBA units responded in raising funds for the last GMBA Land-Purchasing and Auditorium Fund Drive was highly acclaimed at the Conference. It was noted that many groups had worked diligently to attain the goal, and it was mentioned that renewed efforts during the current period would be highly valued in this matter.

All Conference reports were accepted. The Gathering additionally approved disbursement of \$500 to The General Church Missionary Fund, besides the previously reported \$400 to the GMBA Land-Purchasing and Auditorium Fund. Also, the next General Association Conference on May 20, 1967 was appointed for the Michigan-Ontario MBA Area, and it was decided to continue to hold every November Conference in the Pennsylvania Region. The Ohio and Atlantic Coast Areas were designated to alternate hosting the May gatherings with the Michigan-Ontario Area.

Area Reports

The Area reports indicated that all of the Regions were working on projects. These ranged from activities for the very young to weekend gatherings for older members of the Association. They included spiritual, social, and money raising endeavors.

An enthusiastic vote of thanks was extended to the host Pennsylvania MBA Area for its superlative efforts in attending to all accommodations for the weekend and for its generosity in paying all the Conference expenses. In the evening, the Area, through its Aliquippa, McKees Rocks and Imperial Locals, gave an inspirational program entitled "Youths of God." Included were beautiful hymns and songs describing the role of people, both young and old, in serving God. Numerous narratives were presented to accentuate the theme. Children, as well as adults, took part in this inspiring presentation.

At the Sunday morning service held in the Stowe-Rocks Junior High School (formerly called the Miles Bryan Junior High School) in McKees

Rocks, Pennsylvania, the portion of scripture found in **Romans 8:35-39** was used as the subject. In this meeting, held under the jurisdiction of the McKees Rocks branch, Gorie Ciaravino, General Church President, introduced this passage which deals with the question, "Who can separate us from the love of God?" He was followed by Dominic Moraco, Joseph Calabrese, and Dan Cassasanta. All speakers emphasized how realistically the love of God has been prevalent throughout The Church and MBA. Numerous examples of how past manifestations of this bond have been experienced were reviewed. These explanations brought the eventful and edifying weekend to a fitting conclusion, reminding departing travelers and hosts alike of the ties that are in The Gospel.

THINK

(Continued from Page 4)

"Let this mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." What kind of a person would man be if he had the mind of Christ? What would he be thinking about? "Never man spake like this Man," said one of the Pharisees. We would be talking about the things of God at all times, for Christ said, "I do always those things that please my heavenly Father." "I must be about my Father's business," said Jesus when He was 12 years old. So if we have the mind of Christ we will be about our Father's business too. Man is able to explore even into space; to invent, to write music, to preach. But he is not able to put life into a grain of wheat; only God can make a tree. Yes, we can prune it and graft into it that it may bear two or three different kinds of fruit, but only God can give life. In Him was life, and the life became the light of men. The best cosmetic in the world is an active mind that is always finding something new. The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step. Courage is the power of being mastered by and possessed with an idea.

Wisdom About Life

The difference in human life depends for the most part, not on what men do, but upon the meaning and purpose of their acts. All are born, all die; all lose their loved ones; nearly all marry and most all men work. But the significance of these acts vary. One act may be vulgar and another holy; one may be elevating and another degrading. It is not the act I perform, but the frame of mind in which it is done. I may give a dollar and begrudge it. It may do good for the person I give it to but it won't give me any blessing because I begrudged it. It is more blessed to give than to receive, we are told; but it all depends on the mind. Most of the shadows of one's life are caused by standing in one's own sunshine. Whoever it was that searched the heavens with a telescope and found no God would not have found the human mind if he had searched the brain with a microscope.

Contentment is peace of mind. Let us learn

to be content with what we have; a quiet home, vines of our own planting, a few friends worthy of being loved and able to love in return, a simple gospel empty of all bigotry but full of trust and hope. To be carnally-minded is death, but to be spiritually-minded is life and peace. Peace then comes from God by being spiritually-minded. All good comes from God also, but if our mind is evil we do not see the good. As Jesus said, "If thine eye be evil thy whole body is full of darkness; if thine eye be single thy whole body is full of light. And if the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness." So let us walk in the light as He is in the light. Then we shall have fellowship one with another and the blood of Jesus Christ, God's own Son, cleanseth us from all sin.

Study

It is hard work to study. It means putting the mind into action. What a sad mistake some ministers make when they believe if they just open their mouths the Lord will fill them! Jesus said He, or the Holy Ghost, will lead you or direct your mind into all truths, but if you have not studied them how is He going to lead you? 2nd Timothy, 2:15 tells us; "Study to shew thyself approved unto God. A workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." My dearly beloved, do not be ashamed. Study, meditate on these things. A child cannot rightly divide if he does not know anything about arithmetic. So it is with a preacher; if he does not study the Word, how can he divide it? You don't have to study medicine to be a lawyer; neither do you have to study space to be a welder. But Brother, you have to study the Word of God to be a preacher, and if you don't it will show up in your ministry. Peter could quote the prophet Joel because he had studied his writings, but I doubt whether he could have done so if he had never read or heard them read. Joshua told his people to teach their children, to let it be frontlets before their eyes. What is a frontlet? It is a piece of leather on a horse's bridle which keeps the animal from seeing on either side but only straight ahead. Encourage your children to go to Sunday School. Don't send them but take them.

There is a lot of talk about obscene books. This word means "offensive to chastity." What would be our thinking if we were reading this type of book? Would this mind be in us that was in Christ Jesus? Telling smutty stories and things of that nature are not the kind of things we would do if we had the mind of Christ. We need to study. There is a saying that we are what we eat, but I say we are what we think. Let us teach our children that all real knowledge and truth come from the Creator. As one writer says, "By whom all things were made, with misunderstanding comes vision." The Bible tells us that without vision the people perish. This does not mean you are seeing white horses all the time; it means that first you should see what is in your own lives.

(Continued on Page 11)

Light From The Watchman's Lamp

By Spencer G. Everett

(Isa. 21:6b)

"Go set a watchman, Let him declare what he seeth."

LOST OPPORTUNITIES

In one of the old Greek cities there stood long ago a statue. Every trace of it is vanished now. But there is still in existence an epigram which gives us an excellent description of it, and as we read the words we can surely discover what these wise old Greeks meant it should teach to every passer-by. The epigram is in the form of a conversation between a traveler and the statue.

"What is thy name, O statue"?

"I'm called Opportunity."

"Who made thee"?

"Lysippus."

"Why art thou on thy toes"?

"To show how quickly I pass by."

"But why is thy hair so long on thy forehead"?

"That men may seize me when they meet me."

"Why, then, is thy head so bald behind"?

"To show that when I have once passed, I cannot be caught."

The words of Ammon to his brethren in the 26th chapter of Alma in verse 2 says—"And now, I ask, what great blessings has He bestowed upon us? Can ye tell?" and in verse 3 he answers his own question as follows: "Behold, I answer for you; for our brethren, the Lamanites, were in darkness, yea, even in the darkest abyss, but behold, how many of them are brought to behold the marvelous light of God! And this is the blessing which hath been bestowed upon us, that we have been made instruments in the hands of God to bring about this great work."

"Behold, thousands of them do rejoice, and have been brought into the fold of God. Behold, the field was ripe, and blessed are ye, for ye did thrust in the sickle, and did reap with you might, yea, all the day long did ye labor; and behold the number of your sheaves!" (Vs. 4 & 5)

How about your loved ones, your fellow employees, your schoolmates, your neighbors? Read these statistics and blush, for the story is not a pleasant one. Some 37 million young people walking our streets have never seen the inside of a church, have never heard the Gospel. And adults are just as untouched by the Gospel! We have churches by the thousands, but how many attend? Only about three out of ten manage to get to Sunday School; only eight out of one hundred attend a preaching service in the morning, and only two out of one hundred make the evening services.

*A hundred thousand souls a day
Are passing, one by one, away
Into Christless guilt and doom.*

*O Christian, what will you say,
When in that awful judgment day
They charge you with their doom?*

Ammon was rejoicing because God had seen fit to use him for winning lost souls to Christ. God has great blessings in store for those who will labor to bring lost souls into the Kingdom. Ammon was rejoicing in the Lord for the efforts of his brethren every day in telling others what the Lord can do for them.

Is the Lord using you today? Did He use you yesterday? Will He be able to use you tomorrow? Does your testimony ring with what the Lord did for you last year, ten years ago, twenty years ago? Or, praise God, does it thank God for using you to-day? Did you miss that once in a lifetime opportunity today?

Have you comforted your conscience with such conclusions as, "I don't have time now," "I don't have any literature with me," "It's not the right time," etc. You may never have the opportunity again. This may have been the once-and-for-all opportunity.

A man driving to church one morning was attracted by a group of young people assembled together talking and laughing with apparently nothing to do. As he approached the group, the spirit of God spoke to him, beckoning him to stop and invite them to Sunday School and give his testimony to them. "I don't have time," was his argument, "I have to get to church, some other time." It seemed that the Lord insisted that he tell them now. That now was the time. Today was the acceptable time. But he refused, released his brakes and sped on toward Sunday School. During the service God spoke to him again through the message (Ezek. 3:17, 18) —

"When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thy hand." He immediately confessed his disobedience to God, asked for forgiveness, and when the service was over he jumped in his car and headed for the place where he had seen the group of young people assembled. It was unbelievable, it was incredible. The corner was deserted. He went back that afternoon, that evening, the next week, but he never found more than a couple. He had reached for the head that was bald behind, but the opportunity had passed, and could not be caught.

Look all around you, find someone in need, help somebody to-day!

Tbo' it be little — a neighborly deed — help somebody to-day!

Many are waiting a kind, loving word,

Tbou hast a message, O let it be heard.

Many have burdens too heavy to bear,

Grief is the portion of some everywhere;

Some are discouraged and weary of heart,

Someone their journey to heaven should start, help somebody today!



UR WOMEN TODAY

— She Hath Done What She Could.

A New Year! Another start, another opportunity to fill twelve months with service to the Lord.

Sincere greetings for a year filled with God's blessings and an ever increasing desire to keep on keeping on.

— Rose Corrado

Midwest Organization —

The Ladies Uplift Circle was first organized in St. John, Kansas, April 21, 1939 at the home of Sister Lillie Sanders by Sisters Sadie Cadman and Gertie Smith of Pennsylvania who were visiting here at that time. Sister Fry was our first president and our first secretary was Sis. Eva Sanders. Total membership was seven. As time went on, others were added to our roll. Meetings were held each Thursday afternoon from 2:30 to 4:00 at the homes of the various members. Many times there were as many as 20 at our services.

Our lessons were taken from the New Testament. After the passing of many of the sisters, we abandoned our Circle, but in June 1960, Sister Burnett and Sister Budge made a trip to Pennsylvania and while they were there they were able to attend a General Circle Conference and upon their return home it was decided that we would re-organize our Circle.

A meeting was held at the home of Sister Eva Delp on April 24, 1960 and we again organized a Circle. Our president this time was Sis. Maude Budge and our Sec.-Treas. Sister Gertrude Burnett. We meet the second and fourth Thursday evenings of each month at the homes of the sisters.

Since our organization Sister Lydia Robinson and Sister Louise Robinson, who were living in California have returned to St. John and are members, as well as Sis. Louise's daughter, Marietta. We have had visitors attend our meetings and have, in turn, invited us to their homes for our circle meetings.

Sister Jane McFeeters usually spends her summers in St. John and attends our Circle. At present we have 7 members and the officers are the same as when we reorganized.

Eva Delp.

History of the West Elizabeth, Pa. Circle.

Our Circle was organized in November, 1932 at Sister Mabel Bickerton's home with a membership of nine. Sis. Hannah Skillen was our first president and Sis. Clara Stevens our first Secretary.

Since our organization, five sisters have gone to their reward. Our teacher, Sis. Ruth Griffiths,

was ninety-three years of age at her death. Sister Elizabeth C. Davidson, her sister, was then elected teacher and has held that office since 1958, she being ninety-four years old at this writing. She is still active in the Circle work, but has recently asked to be relieved of the office of teacher and Sister Ethel Crosier is teacher at present.

We now meet on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Church at Jefferson, Pa., and have a membership of thirteen. There are seven active members, as some work and others are not well or aged. We have read the Bible through twice, studied the literature of the Church, such as "Daniel's Little Horn," "Jew and the American Indian," "Apostacy and Restoration," "and "The History of the Church." Currently, we are reading The Book of Mormon. We enjoy looking for the answers to questions, having three or four each meeting — thus causing us to really search the scriptures. To date we have answered 3,885 Bible questions and 135 Book of Mormon questions. We have peace and joy in our hearts and souls as we meet together to read God's Word and sing His praises.

The Lord has blessed our circle sisters both spiritually and naturally as we worked together. Every effort put forth to help in missionary work has been very rewarding to us.

While the world is in such turmoil, there is a peace in our hearts that the world never gave, and a peace it cannot take away. Tho' the trials of life may surround like a cloud, we have found peace that has come to stay.

Our Circle has helped us to keep on the straight and narrow path. May God bless all our sisters as we work together for The Church of Jesus Christ.

Clara Stevens.

In Appreciation

Since it has become known that I am afflicted with my eyes I have been receiving many letters and cards of encouragement and comfort. Needless to say this correspondence has been a great help to me. All I can say is . . . Thank you one and all, and please continue to remember me in prayer.

Brother Joe Calabrese
Lorain, Ohio Branch

REMINDER

To: All members
From: Ft. Pierce Mission

May this letter find you searching for treasures that never perish. We are enjoying the blessings of God, and growing daily in the faith, having hope of the crown of eternal life when labors are over.

Winter is near, and we feel to remind you of our little Mission here in Fort Pierce, Florida. We look forward to the visits we often have this season of the year, and we use The Gospel News to extend a welcome to worship with us if you pass this way. Though we are only a few members, we praise God for His many blessings.

Recently three souls have been added to our Mission, and we have hope of several more to ask for their baptism soon.

Assistant Editor of Ft. Pierce Mission
May God Bless You
Mary Glover

Westward, Go!

Destination, San Diego, California

Preface

Time is a gift of God to us, His children; a gift we have received whether we are obedient to Him or not. However, only the present belongs to us now, for a short time, to do with as we please. The past has already been molded by us for either good or evil; and it has once more been reclaimed by God. If we have lived it according to His desires He may entrust the future unto us, and one day we may even see the whole converge together to shape and form the wonderful plan of God.

Occasionally, for reasons unknown to us, God gives us a glimpse into the future; one such glimpse was given to our Sister Lena Liberto, formerly of Pennsylvania and now of San Diego, California.

Many years ago she was given a dream in which she was riding in a car. With her was Brother Anthony DiBattista of Glassport, Pennsylvania. Suddenly the car took to the air and they flew over much territory, a great deal of it mountainous. After a lapse of time Sister Lena asked of Brother Anthony, "Where are we?" He answered, "We are flying over Mexico."

This dream, we feel, was given to our Sister long before our brethren ever contemplated travelling west to establish a Church there . . . yes, before any of them had even visited this part of the country. God had made unto Himself another witness to His wonderful plan of bringing His Church to the west.

Westward, Go! is a spiritual history, depicting how God worked with various individuals, guiding them and protecting them as they journeyed to the West Coast. Its inception was in the year 1943 when the very first saints came to San Diego to establish residence there.

WESTWARD, GO!

The Forerunner

One day in 1943, God turned His gaze to the Far West and said to the Angels and the heavenly host: "It is Time!"

From the very inception of Time, from the very beginning of all things, God could see the various Missions and Branches of the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Hope of Salvation to all mankind.

He saw them flung over the far corners of the Earth. He saw those that do not even yet exist, but one day will come into being. Yes, He saw them in the East, West, North and South and even in the Islands of the seas.

It is possible that with these words: "It is Time!" He set in actual motion the plan for His work to begin in California and the West.

He had already set His eyes upon a young

adventurous man who had a sweet lighthearted young woman for his wife . . . a woman who could not deny him his wishes, and this God knew, too.

And thus it was that one day in 1943, Brother Tom Armormino, who lived with his wife Catherine and family in Detroit, Michigan said: "Catherine, we're leaving for California!" "You're joking," replied Catherine, in disbelief. "No," said her husband, "I'm not joking. As soon as I finish shaving, I'm going to the Real Estate office and put our house up for sale."

Within three weeks their house was sold, they said goodbye to all that was dear to them in Detroit, and left for San Diego with their youngsters.

Brother Tom was motivated by a strong and compelling urge which directed him in every move he made.

They arrived in October of 1943 and quickly became established, thus fulfilling their destiny in this wonderful plan of God by opening their doors to the other first Saints who ventured into San Diego.

"This," says Sister Catherine, "is what I believe was our sole purpose in being led into California . . . to open the way for the Gospel to be established in the West."

To which one can say: "So it was."

Especially is this believable when one looks back into what is now history and considers the fact that within a few years Brother Tom and Sister Catherine returned to Michigan to reside. Their work "out West" was finished.

Brother Tom, who has since left this earth may be in a position to KNOW that this was truly his assignment; Sister Catherine believes through faith that it was. (to be continued)

Catherine Vultaggio Poma
Editor, San Diego, California

PART OF GOD'S WONDERFUL PLAN

*I, too, am a part
Of God's great and wonderful plan;
He touched my heart,
Old things faded away and the new life began.
Unspeakable joy!
When He looked at me and said,
In His sweet loving way: "Follow Me, today,"
Every fear of eternity fled!
I, too, have a part
In erecting that city of gold.
Joy floods my heart
When I think of fair Zion with beauties untold;
I've nothing to lose;
I will serve Him while I can.
My reward is secure, not uncertain, obscure,
Since I'm part of God's wonderful plan!*

Catherine Vultaggio Poma
San Diego, California

Augustine said: "Faith is to believe what we do not see, and the reward of this faith is to see what we believe."