



The GOSPEL NEWS

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa.

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The 1970's

By Carl J. Frammolin and
Dominic Moraco

The 1970 decade has been depicted as the golden age. Some have said that all wars would cease and that poverty and sickness would be completely eliminated during this span. Scientists have expressed the hope of harnessing solar energy, of introducing supersonic travel around the world, and of conquering endless miles of outer space to bring the entire universe into closer unity with the earth.

Many somewhat similar predictions to those mentioned may have already been realized, while others remain as yet unattained. It is interesting to note, however, that while many have looked to this period with great anticipation for improving the conditions of mankind, we find very little improvement in the area of human relations, especially among nations. The threat of war has not passed but hangs more heavily than ever, and poverty can be found in many places in the world. Despite the many discouraging and distressing situations, however, there is good reason to possess a great hope for the years ahead; and this hope is very prominent in The Church of Jesus Christ.

PEACE AHEAD

The Church believes there will be many peaceful strides made in the years ahead. The most prominent exponent of these expectations has been Brother Alma B. Cadman, President of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles. In his pamphlet, *The Seventh Day of Rest*, Brother Cadman points to 1970 as being the beginning of that period of time when Zion will travail and bring forth her children. He indicates that we are now nearing the end of the 6,000th year since the creation of Adam described in *Genesis*. He also draws a parallel to show that, as God labored for six days to complete His creation and then rested on the seventh day, mankind has likewise generally labored in its present condition until the sixth day or 6,000th year in its creation. The next day, or the ushering in of the 7,000th year, will bring the establishment of Zion and a "Peaceful Reign" upon this Western Hemisphere. Scriptural references and interpretations are, of course,

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Auditorium Progress

By Spencer G. Everett, Secretary
General Board of Trustees

The General Church Auditorium Committee, the General Board of Trustees and General Church officers met at Charleroi, Pennsylvania in the office of Melvin Bassi, Attorney-at-Law on Tuesday, December 2. They reviewed and discussed the statement which was later submitted to the Greater Pittsburgh Airport Authority in connection with the condemnation or involuntary transfer of real estate owned by The Church of Jesus Christ and known as the Imperial Auditorium site. Figures were agreed upon which represented costs and damages to The Church and which were submitted to Airport authorities.

The preparation of our claim was handled by Mr. Bassi's office and was formally submitted at a meeting held on December 16 by the Airport authority officials to become advised and well-informed about the position in which The Church has been placed. They wanted the appraisers whom they engaged to benefit from the knowledge of all the conditions which resulted from the action taken by the government in claiming our original Auditorium site near Imperial. The Airport authorities stated that they would give The Church special attention because of our unique situation. Mr. Bassi, the General Church President, Brother Gorie Ciaravino, Auditorium Committee members, and the architects (Pellis and Lettrich) were invited and attended this meeting.

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Types, Shadows And Things To Come

By Alvin Swanson, Evangelist

The honey bee returns home laden with honey and pollen. He does not enter the hive immediately to deposit the nectar in the six-sided cup of wax prepared for that purpose, because there is a ritual to perform first. The other bees gather to watch a dance he is going to perform. Through this dance, the bee will tell the other bees where he obtained the honey. This weaving, circling dance, or drama, goes on and the watchers leave by twos or by groups. They know now exactly where to go for honey.

The Holy Scriptures are designed by our Lord to perform the same functions. The people in the Bible and Book of Mormon enacted their little dramas and we read about their performances; however, reading about their performances is not enough. Proper interpretation is what will lead us to the "spiritual honey."

When I first came into The Church of Jesus Christ, this search for interpretations of spiritual things made me wonder. I asked for and am indebted to Brother Oran Thomas for his help on this matter. I inquired of him why God does not show us openly the meaning of everything. Why does it take constant effort to interpret the meaning of things we see, read, and hear, as well as the things we feel, taste, and touch? He asked me, in reply, whether, when I was in school, my teacher placed a question on the blackboard and then wrote the answer immediately below the question. I could only answer "No," and then I made up my mind to learn by this method of searching.

CAN SEE IN PART

Now I can see in part the wisdom of God. To get the interpretation of The Scriptures, I must go into prayer and ask God to illuminate my mind, and this counsel with God brings me closer to Him. It brings trust and closer fellowship with my Brothers and Sisters, because they too are receiving experiences and can supply my need for knowledge.

One of the first experiences I had along this line was the story of Isaac and Rebekah. The Lord let me understand some of its beauty. I think everyone knows how Abraham made his eldest servant, Eliezer of Damascus, swear to God to go to the City of Nahor in Mesopotamia and seek a wife for his son among Abraham's people. It was a long hazardous trip with camels laden with gifts for the bride, in the event he was successful in finding one. As the servant came to Nahor, he implored God to use a sign he suggested to verify the intended bride. God allowed this to happen, and the maiden's name was Rebekah. She and her family realized God had planned all of this, so she returned to Canaan with Eliezer. Isaac came out to meditate at eventide and beheld his bride coming to him; and shortly after, their marriage took place. I understood Abraham to represent God's sending out His servant, The Priesthood, to find a wife, The Church, for His

Son, Christ.

The camels laden with gifts represent the gifts for The Church (as listed in I Cor. 12). The servant asked God to verify the bride. Likewise, The Priesthood will only take into The Church those who repent of their sins and are approved of God. Rebekah made the long trip back to the land of Canaan, exemplifying the long history of our Church down to the Peaceful Reign. Next, we see Isaac coming at eventide and he sees his bride approaching. This represents Christ's coming at the end of the Peaceful Reign to claim His Bride, The Church. After this comes the marriage of The Church to Her Lord, or Christ. As Rebekah loved Isaac without ever having seen him, we likewise have a love for Christ without ever having seen Him.

WHY CITE HONEY BEE?

You may wonder why we cited the honey bee and then mentioned people. It is simply that everything God created is intended to glorify His Majesty and to tell of His plans, whether it be people, birds, trees, insects, plants, even reptiles; in fact, the whole universe. Most birds tilt their heads back and look upward when they sing. Trees struggle for light in the forest; the lower limbs that are denied light wither away and die. Plants turn on their stem to face the route of the sun. The snake we unexpectedly come upon slithering away, his face in the dust, shows evidence of his penalty for his part in sin in Eden. He is hated, distrusted, despised, hunted, and bruised.

We see there is a penalty for sin. Everything we behold is enacting little dramas for us to look at in our everyday life. Everyday the cloud formations are different, never fixed, as is everyday of our natural life, diversified, everchanging, nothing fixed. Alma said in Alma of the Book of Mormon 30: 44. ". . . The scriptures are laid before thee, yea, and all things denote there is a God; yea, even the earth, and all things that are upon the face of it, yea, and its motion, yea, and also all the planets which move in their regular form do witness that there is a Supreme Creator."

Now back to types, shadows and things to come in The Scriptures. Almost everyone has heard certain scriptures and their types mentioned over and over by our Elders, and to me these have become classics. A shadow is a representation of something that has happened before. The repetition bears a resemblance to the original but it contains deeper meaning and implications. For instance, Elijah, the Prophet, prayed that it would not rain for three - and - one - half years and God hearkened to him. Three - and - one - half years on the Jewish calendar equal 1,260 days. This was a type of the falling - away of The Gospel of Christ or the time of spiritual drought from the year 560 A. D. to 1820 A. D., or the dark ages.

Another type is Elijah representing Israel in the former days. Elisha, his successor, represents the latter day, or The Restored Gospel. We can see our future will be glorious, because Elisha asked for and received a double portion of Elijah's spirit.

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Editorial Viewpoint

By George A. Neill

We must prepare ourselves for the future by putting our trust and confidence in Him, for in Him the past becomes a stepping - stone, the present has real meaning, and the future is filled with hope.

The Apostle Paul, in **Philippians 3: 13 - 15**, writes, ". . . but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded . . ." We are to forget things of the past because it is right that we should do so. God forgets them and has cast all of our imperfections behind His back. Our shortcomings are all covered from His sight by the merit of His love for us, by Him who died for us and Whom we love and trust; Him in whose steps we are seeking to walk with more or less imperfection according to the defects we have inherited in the flesh.

We do not mean to suggest that slips or failures should be taken lightly or quickly forgotten. They should be rectified, and divine forgiveness should be sought for these defects daily. The beginning of the year is a good perspective point from which to look at the past, present and future. It is characteristic of some people to delight in the past; in fact, they almost live in the past. This type of people disbelieves the present and also dreads the future; these individuals dwell on "the good old days." Their disbelief in the present makes today meaningless, and their dread of the future causes every day to be dreary.

As I have already indicated, it is good to think of the past in a limited sense; but, while looking, let us make our failures stepping stones to the future. To notice past mistakes should help us win future victories. To draw comparisons of the past with the present can make us "do - nothing" individuals. When we relive the past unnecessarily, we stop living the present.

There are those who spend hours thinking over the past and complain that times are not what they once were. However, you cannot plow a furrow by looking back. Those who live in the past will most always disbelieve the present. They have the feeling that everything is going awry, and well it may be that some things are; indeed there are many things to discourage and depress one. This old world seems to be swinging back to savagery rather than away from it. But he who bemoans the conditions existing today is neither a help to God, to The Church, or to the world. Let us realize that God is very much alive, not dead as some think, and that He is on the throne.

MUST GUARD AGAINST CONFORMITY

Let us guard against The Church's conforming to the conditions of the age. It is the adversary's desire to cause us to doubt the ability of the God we serve to triumph through every age and condition. He would have us believe the doctrine that "the existing world is the worst of all possible worlds and that all things naturally tend to evil" (the dictionary's definition of pessimism), and that everything depends on man; God is either dead or too slow. But you and I know God is on the throne, and His Son, Jesus Christ, is still mighty to save. It is because the world has lost sight of God that we are so much on edge for fear of what might take place.

We are called to serve this present generation according to the will of God; we cannot live in any other time. We dare not disbelieve and deplore the present until life loses its zest and meaning. As Christians, we see that many things of the past were good because God was there; we also see that many things in the present are good because God is here. Because time passes so swiftly, if you or I intend to be a blessing to this generation, we had better get busy; God deals with us at the present time, or now.

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M.B.A. Highlights

Lay Program Latest Project Of Association

By James D. Gibson,
GMBA Editor

The most recent project undertaken by the General Missionary Benevolent Association is the Lay Missionary Program. There has been much favorable reception to this endeavor which has been sanctioned by The General Church and the General Board of Missions.

As reported in previous issues, the purpose of this activity is to allow our young people to be of assistance to our missionaries during brief tours in the field, as well as to receive first hand information about The Church's missionary work. Basically, this is a valuable opportunity for lay members to be with the Ministers of The Church of Jesus Christ in their missionary efforts and to extend help as they are directed by these permanent laborers.

The Monongahela, Pennsylvania "Golden Rule Sunday School Class" had previously sent young volunteers to the San Carlos Indian Reservation in Arizona to assist Brother Daniel and Sister Dolores Picciuto and their family in manual tasks for the residents there. Reports received from these workers who availed themselves of this chance have been heartwarming and thought provoking. They pointed out that their experience had given them a greater realization and a keener appreciation of the immediate necessity for the propagation of The Gospel of Christ. Observing the actual natural and spiritual needs which are present could not help but stir up their desire to aid those who are less fortunate. Some of these volunteers were so impressed that they moved to Arizona to offer help on a more permanent basis.

SUB-COMMITTEE FORMED

From this illustration, it is apparent that helpers are required in the missionary fields. The GMBA was therefore asked to incorporate a program to carry on, in essence, the work begun by Monongahela and to expand it as the situations developed. The willingness and interest of the Association members to implement this project have been most encouraging and inspiring, and the administration of this activity has been assigned to a GMBA Activities Sub-Committee. This unit is working in conjunction with the General Church Board of Missions.

The program is designed to permit young volunteers who are desirous of entering lay mission fields (at present only the San Carlos location is open) to fill out an application form, expressing their desires and availability. Other pertinent information and answers to specific questions must also be supplied, after which the applications must be submitted to the Area MBA Activities Committee of the regions in which the applicants reside. From there, the paperwork

is forwarded to the GMBA Activities Committee which will initiate the final processing and approval to be obtained from the General Board of Missions.

The Lay - Missionary Sub - Committee is looking forward to reaping many rewards for both the participants and The Church. While the volunteers are gaining many valuable insights and deeper awareness of the energies which must be expended in assisting others, The Church is benefitting from having additional people laboring to further spread The Gospel as they offer their testimonies and examples. The mutual good realized cannot help but aid both and lead to greater efforts in the future.

OTHER SUB-COMMITTEES

Other sub - committees have been functioning in the Association, as in the past. These have included the groups for lesson - plans, field trips, and fund - raising drives. All of these units are part of the total General MBA Activities Committee which meets regularly to review progress being made and to suggest future programs and goals which may be incorporated for the betterment of the MBA and The Church. The whole committee is composed of most GMBA officers who are duly elected at each November Conference by the membership. In addition, specifically appointed assistants function with this body to help attain the desired results.

Usually, the General Activities Committee meetings are held in a central location for most members who serve. This allows for better attendance at the sessions, appointed by the GMBA President (the head of the whole Committee, customarily for a Saturday. Many of the problems encountered by the various sub - groups are analyzed and solutions are proposed, as the members attempt to carry out their assigned tasks which have been delegated to them by the general body.

Besides having specific given duties on the GMBA level, the Committee also functions as an aid to the Area and local levels. At the regional layer, there are Area Activities Committees which are composed of Area officers and which carry out the same kinds of duties which are discharged by the General group. The flow of information between the layers helps to transmit the necessary plans and procedures which are essential for the success of the undertakings.

WORK TOGETHER

The importance for working together is fully realized by all Association leaders. The General MBA Committee is aware of the necessity for having dedicated officers and leaders throughout the organization. Enthusiasm and dedication at each MBA level can be maintained through positive and effective leadership, so these characteristics are cultivated by all people in command. Likewise, the feedback of information from the Locals and Areas to the General MBA is most essential in determining future courses of action. Also, suggestions, news, and projects which come through to the GMBA Activities Committee become the basis for further considerations.

Some worthy goals have been attained and valuable projects completed through the efforts of all our members. Many good results have been

reported in past writings in this column. An example of these accomplishments was found during the past six - month period when donations to the General Church Auditorium were given as in the past even though no goal had been established. The accumulation of over \$2,200 prompted the establishment of a \$3,000 goal for the next semi - annual span. Interest in this project has been maintained since the land - purchasing fund was initiated about a decade ago, and efforts are being earnestly directed toward supplying as much of the funds as possible for this facility.

The sincere desire to carry out Association programs has been demonstrated many times over the years. These have involved the resources and strength of our youth, as well as of the older members. Through their efforts, many endeavors have been brought to a successful and rewarding conclusion.

The Lay Missionary Program is the latest illustration of how the MBA can help The Church, and the Association is most grateful for this opportunity. Its desire is that all young people who are interested in working in this project will follow - up in making themselves available. By so doing, they will further extend the contacts of The Church of Jesus Christ in reaching more people and in exposing them to The Restored Gospel.



UR WOMEN TODAY

Ladies Circle Memorial Fund

A resolution adopted by the Ladies' Circle over nine years ago is called to the attention of readers. The motion passed was to establish a memorial fund for departed loved ones, with the proceeds to be used by The Church of Jesus Christ in the future. The legislation, taken from the General Circle Minutes of June 25, 1960, reads:

"At the passing of Sister Sadie Cadman, our Circle President, many Circles sent money to the General Circle to be used for a tribute to our Sister. Some felt we should have a lasting memorial instead of giving flowers at that time. The General Circle now has a Memorial Fund with Sister Mabel Bickerton, 6 Ronald Street, West Elizabeth, Pennsylvania 15088, as treasurer. Circles or others wishing to contribute may do so in memory of departed loved ones. This money will be used to help The Church, if and when it has homes for the aged or a similar project."

A memorial card is sent to the bereaved family telling of the contribution and from whom it has been sent. The amount is not stated. Also, a card of thanks is sent to the donor. At present, there are approximately \$2,000.00 in the fund.



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

JOSEPH'S BROTHERS RETURN

Dear Girls and Boys,

Do you remember in last month's story how Joseph tested his brothers? He had a great desire to see his father, Jacob, and his youngest brother, Benjamin, so he told his brothers of his plan. He said one of them must be bound in prison and the others must return home; but when they returned to him again, they must bring Benjamin with them. If they did this, then Joseph knew he could believe them. You remember he had called them spies.

How frightened and worried they were! They still remembered how they had treated Joseph and left him in a pit and told their father the wild beasts had eaten him. They felt they were being punished for this. As they talked to each other, Joseph heard and understood, and he wept. Simeon agreed to remain in Egypt. Joseph took Simeon and bound him before them.

Joseph commanded his servants to fill the brothers' sacks with corn and restore every man's money into his sack. The brothers started on their way, their animals carrying the provisions. One of them opened his sack to feed his animal and spied his money at the top of the sack. He said, "My money is restored; and, lo, it is even in my sack:". The others were afraid and asked each other, "What is this that God hath done unto us?"

Soon the brothers arrived home in the land of Canaan. They told their father all that had befallen them. Jacob was very happy to have the food but was sad that Simeon had not returned home with the others. As the sacks were emptied, behold every man's bundle of money was in his sack. They were afraid! Jacob said, "Me, have ye bereaved of my children: Joseph is not, and Simeon is not, and ye will take Benjamin away: all these things are against me." Ruben tried hard to comfort his father.

Soon they must return to Egypt for more food and the only way they could get it was to take Benjamin with them. Poor Jacob, he could not agree to letting Benjamin go. Ruben said they could slay his two sons if he did not bring Benjamin back home. But Jacob was firm and said, "My son shall not go down with you; for his brother is dead, and he is left alone: if mischief befall him by the way in the which ye go, then shall ye bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave."

The famine continued and grew worse. Soon Jacob's family needed more food. There was only one thing to do: go back to Egypt and ask the governor for more food. They remembered his words to bring their younger brother if they wanted to see him. Poor Jacob! He did not know what to do! His family could not starve. Judah

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The Children's Corner

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understood his father's fears for the safety of Benjamin, and he realized too that they all would die if food was not brought from Egypt. He promised to be responsible for the safe return of Benjamin.

At last their father consented. His family must not starve. Jacob brought gifts to give the governor and gave his sons double money needed to buy corn. He also had his sons return the money that was in their sacks. With a heavy heart, Jacob watched his sons, including Benjamin, leave for Egypt. He said, "If I be bereaved of my children, I am bereaved."

What do you think will happen now? Will Benjamin return to his father or will Joseph keep him to test his brothers further? Read next month's story to find out.

Sincerely,
Sister Mabel

The 1970's

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furnished by Brother Cadman in his inspired writings.

The Church of Jesus Christ believes that The Gospel will be preached in spiritual power to the American Indians, who are the seed of Joseph, and that God will raise up from among these people a "Choice Seer" who will be like the original Joseph. This latter-day Joseph, like his predecessor, will become the deliverer of his lost brethren. Readers will recall that Joseph was sold by his brothers as a common slave. Never did they realize that one day they would meet him again this time as the governor of Egypt. It is believed that, just as Joseph saved his brothers from a famine, so will the Choice Seer be used by God to deliver his brothers, who comprise part of the House of Israel, from their economic poverty, sin, and spiritual famine.

CHOICE SEER

Through the preaching of The Gospel of Christ, the entire House of Israel will eventually be gathered "home" to accept the teachings and the doctrine of their Saviour whom they vehemently rejected when He was on earth. The Israelites will then claim The Gospel which was originally given to them, and they will adopt the gentiles into the fold of Christ. These beliefs and expectations are based upon the inspired predictions made by holy Prophets about the establishment of Zion upon this Western Hemisphere.

Perhaps the most eloquent of all the great Prophets on this subject is Isaiah who foretold how the House of Israel will be restored. The result of such a restoration will be the establishment of Zion upon this hemisphere. Particularly illuminating is his description of Zion's Hill in his second chapter:

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall

flow unto it.

"And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law; and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

"And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." (Verses 2-4).

BASIS FOR OPTIMISM

Obviously, this passage presents the basis for the optimistic outlook which is present. It is not humanly possible to press a button and bring peace instantaneously, but it is evident that a sequence of events will begin to occur which will bring about the desirable status. God's hand will move in such a way as to put behind us the calamitous situations which have been and are being faced by nations individually and collectively. The significant thing to be remembered is that we must be prepared to meet the challenges, opportunities, and responsibilities as they arise.

The Gospel of Christ must be preached with power to every creature so that God's plan will come to pass. The Church is charged with this great and wonderful mission, and she looks eagerly toward accomplishing this objective as the new decade begins. The future developments will be viewed with great interest and renewed desire as the years and events unfold. Accordingly, best wishes for this year and the ensuing annual periods are particularly noteworthy in view of the things to come!

Auditorium Progress

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Formal notification was received that our first site was to be included in the land to be condemned for the Greater Pittsburgh Airport expansion. It is understood that the General Church Board of Trustees and Auditorium Committee, along with the legal advisor and architects, will be working closely with County officials to effect the final settlement. The Church Attorney has estimated that this final action with the county may not be reached until the latter part of 1970.

In the three months since the Greater Pittsburgh acquisition plan was announced, over 370 properties have received either one or both of two appraisals. The acquisition agents for the County, Beynon & Company and Bill Green & Company, have been given authority to begin negotiations and purchase of over 50 properties.

A large number of owners have requested "early acquisition" appraisals. Homeowners in this group have had appraisals completed.

Sixteen fee appraisers are now at work in the acquisition area. With two appraisals required for each property, the second appraisal may be assigned to a County Claims, Records and Investigation employee or to a second fee appraiser. A third appraiser may be brought in if the

two parties cannot get together on an acquisition price after the first two appraisals are completed and an offer has been presented to the property owner.

NO FORMAL PROCEEDINGS

No formal proceedings for condemnation of the Auditorium property have been filed by the County of Allegheny. It is anticipated, however, that, if we are not able to arrive at some agreeable price for the acquisition, the County will enter formal condemnation proceedings.

To date, no government financing or assistance has yet been provided but these may be available during this year. Local financing is a possibility at the present time, however. Measures relative to this alternative are being pursued by the Trustees and the Auditorium Committee.

A more comprehensive report for readers may be included in the next issue if developments have been finalized. In the meantime, donations should be continued so the necessity for borrowing finances at prevailing high interest rates can be minimized, if not eliminated.

Donations should be sent through Branch and Mission Financial Secretaries or may be mailed directly to the General Church Financial Secretary - Treasurer, Meredith R. Griffith, R.D. No. 1, Box 117, Bentleyville, Pennsylvania 15314.

The American Indian

WHAT ONCE WAS WILL BE AGAIN

By Thomas Everett

Recently, it was my privilege to spend some time on the White River and San Carlos Indian Reservations in Arizona. Impressions and insights gained there at the locations where The Church of Jesus Christ has full-time missionaries were very valuable and enlightening.

During my stay at these missions and while assisting at the Six Nations and Muncey Indian Reservations in Ontario, Canada, I have been fortunate to have experienced first-hand many of the things which have been written about the American Indian in the *Gospel News*. Problems such as poverty, education, and self-determination among these people are more real and vivid when viewed personally. Obviously, one can read and write about the plight of the Indian people, but their situation does not become meaningful and significant until one actually witnesses the conditions under which many of them live.

HUMBLE DWELLINGS

One of the first things most noticeable upon entering a reservation is the sub-standard quality of the homes in which the residents live. Some of these humble dwellings barely serve the purpose of keeping out rain and cold. Furthermore, from one to 14 people may reside within their small and limited confines.

The poverty of these people is also portrayed by their dress. Unfortunately, these articles of clothing, or lack of them, have placed them at a

distinct disadvantage. For example, some children in Arizona are reportedly unable to attend school because they do not have sufficient clothes to wear. Under different circumstances, it is certain that only God's hand has been accompanying others as they have overcome the wintry seasonal weather in more northern locations. Many of the children at the aforementioned Ontario reservations have only light jackets to wear in bitterly cold weather, but they seem to have built up a resistance to the cold, otherwise they would surely suffer several repercussions if not dire physical consequences and illnesses.

The water supply which is usually taken for granted by most people is not available for the average Indian on the reservation. Located right next to or within a few feet of the more fortunate houses is a water pump or a well, enabling the immediate inhabitants to have access to a most valued water supply. If the pump should freeze or malfunction or the well should run dry, however, the family may also be required to buy its water at what would be considered to be an exorbitant and almost prohibitive price.

TRYING TO IMPROVE

It has been stated in previous articles that the Indian people are becoming more involved in dealing with their own problems. They are trying to get factories located on reservations, and Indian organizations are offering scholarships to Indian students so they may further their education. Also, in San Carlos, for instance, the Indians are building their own homes instead of paying the government to do it. This is called the "Self-Help Program" and illustrates the determination which many of these people possess to improve their status.

The subject of building houses reminds me of a city which the Seed of Joseph will construct. The scriptures have explained that this will occur and will indeed return the American Indians to a prominent position. As pointed out in the past, they will build, with the aid of the gentiles, this precious city which will be called the New Jerusalem.

EDITORIAL VIEWPOINT

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The future is dreaded and feared by many people; they do not want to talk about tomorrow. Unless we have hope for the future, however, the present becomes meaningless. The future is faced by many in the way of anxiety and despair. Others face it by doing what they want and living unconcerned with the thought that tomorrow may not come. The other alternative is to walk the way of Christ; in Him we have a hope. He called us not to death but to life. The downward course of our present world is doomed except by Christ. We must prepare ourselves for the future by putting our trust and confidence in Him, for in Him the past becomes a stepping-stone, the present has real meaning, and the future is filled with hope.

Best wishes to everyone for a happy and prosperous new year.

Sell Your Garment And Buy A Sword

By John Ross, Evangelist

On one occasion, Jesus said to His twelve disciples, as recorded in Luke 22:55 - 38:

"When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye anything? And they said, Nothing.

"Then said he unto them, But now, he that hath a purse, let him take it, and likewise his scrip: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one.

"For I say unto you, that this that is written must yet be accomplished in me, And he was reckoned among the transgressors; for the things concerning me have an end.

"And they said, Lord, behold, here are two swords. And he said unto them, It is enough."

The reply of the disciples is evidence that they had not fully comprehended all of The Lord's previous teachings and instructions to take no thought for their lives or for what they should eat or drink. If they had understood, they probably would have said: "Lord, you previously told us that you would take care of us and that we should lose our lives for thee; yet now you tell us that we need purse, scrip, and even a sword. Lord, what are you trying to tell us now?" Instead they said: "Lord, behold, here are two swords." Further, they were ready to use them in self-defense. Later, Peter proved his complete lack of understanding when he used the sword to smite off the ear of the servant of the High Priest. Jesus had to remind him to "Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword." Christ then rectified the misdeed by touching the servant's ear and healing him.

WHY BUY SWORDS?

Now the question arises, if the disciples were not to use their swords in defense, why did the Saviour tell them to buy swords? As I see it, Jesus wanted to prove them. Also, he wanted to teach them a lesson in human weakness. Without the Spirit of God, man resorts to violence. Peter, without the Holy Ghost, used the tool of violence, the sword, instead of relying upon God to defend him against the evil doers of his day. The Lord quickly reminded him to: "Put up again thy sword . . ."

To say, in effect, "Sell your garment and buy a sword" and "Put up again thy sword . . ." at first glance seem to be at variance with each other. Analysis finds, however, that Jesus wanted to expose the weakness of man to His disciples by putting them to a test. They failed the test: but we see that, after the day of Pentecost, they had learned their lesson and were willing to lay down their lives for Him.

The Apostle Peter is indeed a prime example of how man, by himself, cannot do anything spiritual or Godly. On the one hand he confessed, by the Holy Spirit, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." On the other hand, the evil

power caused him to rebuke The Lord for telling His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things of the Elders, Chief Priests, and Scribes and to even be killed. We know quite well that what happened to Peter can also happen to others, even though their intentions may be honorable.

Another time, Jesus tested His disciples in another way. In John 6:5, 6, we read: "When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he said unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do." After the huge crowd was fed with the five barley loaves and two small fishes which were abundantly multiplied to feed the 5,000 present, not only Philip, but all of the disciples, must have learned a great lesson to depend upon God for all things both spiritual and temporal. As a matter of fact, there even was a large surplus quantity of food which was left-over, leaving no doubt of the magnitude of the miracle which was performed.

PROVED DISCIPLES

Through His examples, Jesus proved His disciples to see whether they remembered or understood what He taught them previously and to show them their weakness, which is also the weakness of all mankind. The manner in which these great men reacted when they were proven in regards to their knowledge of Christ's teaching at that time is an indication of how all men will react without God's Spirit in them. This also shows the need for all men to learn to rely upon God's Spirit to lead, guide, and direct them at all times.

It is important that all men know and understand that at the day of Pentecost, or after the Twelve had been filled with The Holy Ghost, they were able to understand and do all things The Lord had commanded them to observe in defending their beliefs and The Gospel with their very lives. They proved, however, that they could only do all things through Christ who strengthened them by the gift and power of The Holy Ghost. This gift and power of The Holy Ghost was promised to all those who obey His true Gospel.

Yes, all men must be born again of the water and of the Spirit and must observe all things He has commanded. When all men have been truly and completely converted to Christ, they will then be willing to beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks and throughout the land of Zion everyone will be heard to exclaim: "Lord, the sword has vanished from the earth, for great is your power and glorious is your name throughout the earth."

In conclusion, in this day of wars and violence, all true followers of Christ must live in peace and complete dependance upon Him who is called "The Prince of Peace." Laying down the sword and lifting up the mantle of Christ is what will remove the use of this weapon, and of others, so that all men can live as He taught them. Threats of battle, strife, and constant conflict will be gone, and there will be no need to "Put up again thy sword . . ." for no man will want to have one to manipulate or use.

God's Love To Man

By Mark Randy, Evangelist

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16).

Jesus Christ is the manifestation of God's love to man, and everything that He did portrayed love. The very Angelic message to man was peace on earth and "good will toward men." In every miracle that He performed and in all of His teachings, He showed love, not only for the Jewish people but for all mankind.

When some of the men of Judea felt superior over their surrounding nations, Jesus reminded them that in the days of Elisha, though there were many lepers in Israel, none were cleansed except Naaman, the Assyrian. This He said to show them that God was a lover of all mankind, and He helped any one who had faith in Him.

In the story of the Canaanite woman, Jesus taught a lesson of mercy which stands above tradition. Here, the disciples, being taught from their childhood that the gentiles were inferior in the eyes of the Israelites, could not see why any mercy should be shown to the woman of Canaan. Jesus suffered their tradition for a while and gave no heed to the woman who cried after them, "Have mercy on me, O Lord . . ." Then he stopped and told the woman the manner of the Jewish tradition: "It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs." She said, "Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." Jesus said, "O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt."

LESSON LEARNED

The disciples did not learn the lesson of mercy to all who come to God — and God has love toward all men — until the divine experience received by Peter in the house of Cornelius when the Spirit of God fell on all his household. Seeing this manifestation on the gentiles, Peter was compelled to say, ". . . I perceive that God is not a respecter of persons." It was hard for the Jews to accept the fact that the Gentiles were equal to them. It is still hard for the so-called civilized world, the intellectuals, and certain races to accept the truth that God is no respecter of persons and that He created all men out of one blood.

Love is not shown by words spoken, but by deeds. The love of God through Jesus Christ was typified by the following words of The Saviour: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." (Matt: 28:19, 20). On another occasion, Jesus said, ". . . love one another . . . By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if you have love one for another." (John 13:34, 35).

Jesus prayed asking, "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world

may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me." (John 17:21 - 23).

DEEDS OF LOVE

According to the words of Jesus, we cannot be perfect until we have first become united with Him, as He is one with our Heavenly Father. His love toward us is that He does not want to have anyone become lost. As a result, we should strive to convince others to obey The Lord. We can help by deeds of love, not by just words. What has man gained through strife, greed, hate, and discrimination toward his fellowmen? We only deprive ourselves of each other's love when we feel we are better than our fellowmen. The love of God toward us is reflected by the fact that He wants us to have life, and life more abundantly.

The Church of Jesus Christ was established by The Saviour to gather all His children into His kingdom and be happy people. His teachings are steps toward happiness. Have you ever seen the face of a repentant soul when he has fully surrendered to Christ? This look of relief, joy, and dedication cannot reflect anything but happiness.

Let us love one another even as God loves us, so that we may be made perfect in one.

Love is beautiful knows no creed;
Makes me grow younger, and bears no need.

Love does not stand by itself alone,
Deeds make love sit upon a throne.

Love is wonderful, true, pure, dear:
Love is a perfect gift, knows no fear.
Love, faith, and hope are one indeed.
The Love of God is the Saints' own
creed.

If we happen to think that we are better than others, let us show it by the good that we do and not by the words that we speak. In conclusion, it should be remembered that love prevails over hate. To love is life; the love of God means that whosoever believes, repents, becomes baptized, and remains faithful shall never die.

Meditations

PSALM 1

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Week Of Meetings Held In Roscoe

A week of Evangelistic Meetings was held at the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch Sunday, October 26, through Saturday, November 1. Guest speakers and visitors from various parts of The Church joined in worshipping with the local group during this period.

On the Sunday morning, Brothers Gorie Ciaravino and Nicholas Pietrangelo from Detroit, Michigan; Joseph Calabrese from Lorain, Ohio; and Donald and James Curry from Glassport, Pennsylvania were in attendance. Brother Ciaravino, General Church President, opened the service, using St. Matthew 4 as his subject scripture. He spoke on the life of Jesus after His baptism and how The Church began. He told how Jesus was tempted by the devil and how Satan has tried to frustrate the work of God throughout all ages. He also traced the events from the death and resurrection of Christ through the "Falling-Away" to the "Restoration of The Gospel."

Brother Pietrangelo, General Church Secretary, followed, telling what The Gospel means to him, how it is our staff in life, and how it is going to grow, as promised by The Lord. He asked the congregation to review the blessings they have received from God and to reflect upon the chance they have been offered to work out their soul's salvation.

During the week, the Roscoe Branch was blessed with many speakers, wonderful singing of hymns of praise, and visitors from the Pennsylvania locations of Vanderbilt, Aliquippa, McKees Rocks, Imperial, Greensburg, Monongahela, Glassport, and West Elizabeth. The entire week was very successful and uplifting, and the members of Roscoe want to thank all the visiting Brothers and Sisters for their valuable help and participation.

Baptisms In Detroit And Imperial

Two baptisms were reported recently. One was performed at Detroit, Michigan Branch No. 2, while the other was carried out at Imperial, Pennsylvania.

Donald Wood was taken into the waters on Wednesday evening, November 19. He was baptized and confirmed by Brother Reno Bologna.

Louis Cimino was baptized on Sunday, October 26. He was immersed by Brother James Moore and confirmed by Brother Jacob Christman at Imperial.

Both congregations have been uplifted by their new additions and are grateful to God for the blessings they have received.

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him. (St. John 3:36).

Brief News Of Interest

BRAVERY ACCLAIMED

Readers will recall that it was reported in the September issue that for the first time a Church member who is a medical doctor was the camp physician at the General Missionary Benevolent Association Field Trip at Camp Radford in California in 1969. It has been called to the attention of the Gospel News that, while this marked the initial time that this occurred on the General MBA level, the same person, Brother Michael Randazzo, was the camp physician for the California MBA Area Campout in 1968. At that time, Dr. Randazzo's bravery in trying to keep Brother Ralph Vega, Indian member of The Church from Phoenix, Arizona, alive until he could reach a hospital by helicopter received widespread attention from the various news media.

Although Brother Vega, who had suffered a heart attack, passed away two hours after arriving at the hospital, Brother Randazzo's attempts and those of the young men whose help he summoned were widely hailed. Brother Randazzo applied mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and heart massage to Brother Vega who was strapped to the side of the helicopter in flight. Observers termed the efforts of Brother Randazzo, while hanging out of the aircraft in mid-air to treat the stricken Brother, as being most risky.

All endeavors to assist in the attempt to prolong Brother Vega's life were carried out precisely as required almost to the point where they appeared to have been rehearsed. Brother Vega, knowing of his condition and of the perils encountered in the mountainous area of this camp, had stated that he would be happy to depart from this life while in the company of the Brothers and Sisters. The combined efforts in prayers and deeds on his behalf, although in vain, illustrated the love and devotion which Brother Randazzo and everyone else possess and stand as tributes for The Church of Jesus Christ.

LIVES SPARED

A note of thanks for prayers on behalf of their son has been received from the parents of John C. Nusida of Monongahela, Pennsylvania whose life was spared in Viet Nam. John, who is also known as Jack, stepped on a land mine just after being released from the hospital for a previous injury. The land mine explosion threw him 25-feet into a ditch and pieces of shrapnel just missed inflicting fatal damage. Several pieces of shrapnel were imbedded in a Book of Mormon which he kept in his hip pocket, thus averting the possibility of splintering his hip. A piece of metal went up his back and split his flack jacket like it was cut with scissors.

Although his injuries have been of a major nature, Jack has miraculously been able to learn to walk again with the aid of crutches. He has been recuperating at the Bethesda Naval Hospital, Bethesda, Maryland. Anyone wanting to send best wishes may dispatch them to the address of his parents, Mr. John and Sister Marj Nusida, R. D. No. 2, Finleyville, Pennsylvania. It is certain everyone's