

The GOSPEL NEWS

The Church of Jesus Christ: Monongahela, Pa.

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A NEW YEAR, A NEW PRESIDENT

The year 1976 has swiftly rolled away, and the year 1977 is ushered in. As we look back we rejoice as we call to mind the joys and blessings that we were privileged to experience both materially and spiritually. On the other hand, we are saddened anew as we recall the sorrows that some of us experienced.

However, we are comforted and strengthened in the knowledge that our Heavenly Father has never forgotten us. Surely, many of us have been supported through numerous situations of disappointment, distress, and even tragedy, whether in our personal lives, or in the lives of our relatives, friends, and others around us. In the loss of loved ones and friends, when grief and heartache seemed more than we could bear, God's sustaining grace and comfort were ever present.

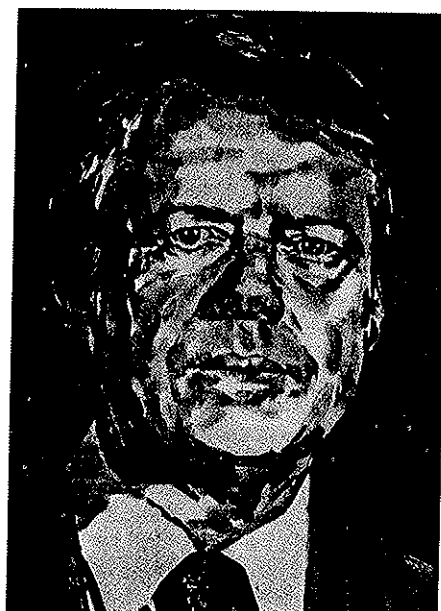
New People and New Locations

As a Church, we can reflect joyfully and with thanksgiving to God that the Restored Gospel continues to spread to new people and new locations. During the past year, the Mission in Mexico City, Mexico has been cheered and strengthened by the continuing support and visits by the American Saints. An added blessing was the erection of a church building there in which the Mexican Saints can meet more comfortably during their services.

Another happy and edifying event of the past year was the establishment of the Church in the country of Ghana, located several hundred miles northwest of Nigeria. As the Church continues to reach new locations, far and near, we are reminded of Nephi's remarkable and prophetic vision of events in the latter days. He beheld that The Church of the Lamb of God, although its numbers were few, yet it was upon all the face of the earth (*1 Nephi 14:12*).

With the dawn of a new year, let us take courage. We have much reason to look forward with new hope and anticipation. Let us continue to put our trust in God. How many wonderful times God has helped us in time of need! We are reminded here of the opening lines of Isaac Watts' grand hymn:

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.



Here in America, as we welcome a new year, we also welcome a new President. President-Elect James E. Carter will be inaugurated on January 20. We want to wish him well, along with a new administration. May the Lord direct him and all those who assist him as they endeavor to fulfill the awesome responsibilities and duties of their offices, both at home and abroad. The Apostle Paul's exhortation is appropriate here:

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." (*1 Timothy 2:1, 2*).

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO OUR READERS
EVERYWHERE!

The Gospel News Staff

DEDICATION SERVICE IN MEXICO CITY

May the peace and joy of our Lord be with you and all the Brothers and Sisters in that part of the vineyard.

As you probably know by now, my brother Joe and I have just returned from a very enjoyable trip to Mexico City. We dedicated the new building there and I can truly say that the Church should be very proud of it. Brother Joseph Cirolla, and Brother Sam Randy have really done a good work and may the Lord really bless them for the great sacrifice and time spent in Mexico by those Brothers.

We arrived in Mexico City on Friday, November 5 and were met at the airport by Brother Joseph Lovalvo and Sister Diane Surdock. It was a blessing to see their faces and we were grateful for the arrangement they made for our stay in Mexico.

Our services on Saturday and Sunday were filled with God's Spirit. We had visitors from California, Arizona, Ohio, Tijuana, Mexico, and Sinaloa, Mexico. It's such a blessing to hear Israel sing, pray and preach. The Brothers and Sisters from Mexico are a humble people. They don't have too much of these earthly goods, but are rich in God's Spirit. They are a dedicated people. It was nothing to see women come to the services and sit on plain benches with no backs to them, holding their little babies, wrapped in shawls for about five hours. The little children were so attentive. The power of God was prevalent as they attested to the healings they received. We anointed about eight people on Saturday and while we were anointing, Brother Joseph Lovalvo saw the Angel of God in our midst. He appeared twice as Brother Joe asked for a confirmation of the first vision. When Brother Joe asked all those who had been healed by the touch of God's hand, they all raised their hands. Brother Eugenio, our missionary there, had been bothered by kidney trouble and had lost 25 pounds in the last three months. After he was anointed he stated that the Lord had touched him and he wasn't bothered anymore with the affliction. I was blessed when I heard the testimony of one of our Elders in Mexico City. He had preached in a church for 35 years and could never love the white man. When he came to The Church of Jesus Christ it was altogether different. He now truly knows of the love of God. Now he has love for all mankind. He is of the Seed of Joseph. He had hate for the white man because of the atrocities and persecutions his people received at the hand of the Spaniards. He said they would not accept the white man's religion. He saw people's eyes pierced out with red hot irons and their fingers and hands cut off section by section.

It's so beautiful to hear them speak of the love they have for the *Book of Mormon* and the Church. These people have fast and prayer every morning at 5:30 A.M., before the men go to work. They are real dedicated Saints.

The dedication service on Sunday was spirit filled. Brother Edward Perdue gave a beautiful dedication prayer. We felt to have Brother Perdue give the prayer because of their true, great dedication to the work in Mexico. They have done a work that the Church should be very proud of. The people are taught in the spirit of the latter day Gospel. Brother Joseph Lovalvo was in-

spired in his talk in the afternoon. He spoke with the spirit of the restoration and also heard the voice of God say, "Tell them I gave them this building and not to forget". It was a day well spent. They have many visitors and much interest in the locality of the Church.

Brother Eugenio is planning a visit to another place called Michocan which is over a hundred miles to the west of Mexico City. There are people there that want to be members of the Church. Truly the harvest is great, but the laborers are few. We could have baptized five people in Mexico City but it is difficult when you have to travel 70 miles to the water. We spent the time visiting and instruction. We told the Elders to take care of it when it was convenient for them. The other Brothers in the ministry work during the week so they have to wait until a weekend to perform the baptisms. We left for home on Thursday, Nov. 11.

We also ordained a young man a Deacon in the Church there. We now have 3 Elders, 1 Deacon, and 1 Deaconess. We have approximately 20 members there.

In conclusion I can say it is a good work. The spirit of restoration is in Mexico. When you work among the covenant people of God there is a blessing hard to describe. When you sing the words "O Israel, O Israel, in all your abidings, Prepare for your Lord, when you hear these glad tidings", and you see the tears streaming down their cheeks, then you really understand the meaning of Restoration.

I've tried to give you a report of our trip to Mexico City so that you could put the article in the *Gospel News*. If there are any questions, don't be afraid to call.

God bless each of the Saints there. Give our best to the family.

With love in Christ,

Bro. Frank Calabrese

A Question Is Asked

The word love has been kicked around, used and mis-used so much that I'm not sure what it really means.

That is without a doubt an honest and accurate statement. Man has connected the word love to everything from a peanut up to his relationship with God. However the word in its purest and truest sense was displayed only once, by one person since time began. Yes you've guessed it, Jesus Christ. No one has ever displayed love in more abundance than Christ. He taught man that love was not just a word but a way of life.

I'll bet you're asking, "How can I obtain that kind of pure love?" It's very simple, by reading and following ALL of the teachings of Christ.

Remember even among those who do not believe that Christ was the salvation of mankind, they do believe that Christ was one of the greatest teachers that ever lived. So if you're going to learn the meaning of love, why not go to the best.

IT IS WRITTEN

By T. D. Bucci

The great Redeemer having complied with the institution of Baptism, and receiving a most convincing testimony of His Heavenly Father's approbation by the miraculous descent of the Holy Ghost upon Him, He therefore retired into the wilderness, in order to prepare himself by fasting, meditation, prayer and sustaining temptation, for the important work on which He was entering, the salvation of mankind.

Our blessed Saviour, as Moses and Elijah had done before Him, fasted forty days and forty nights, maintaining an incessant communion with His Heavenly Father, thus, being in the extremes of hunger and thirst, Satan, that implacable foe to mankind was permitted to assail Him with the most alluring temptations, in order to defeat Heaven's most gracious designs, and keep mankind under the dreadful dominion of sin and death.

At the expiration of forty days of fasting Jesus bore the sensation of hunger. The tempter came to Him and said, "If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread". But He answered and said, "IT IS WRITTEN, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth from the mouth of God".

Then the Devil took Him up and set Him on a pinnacle of the temple in the holy city and said to Him, "If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for IT IS WRITTEN, (the Devil knew what was written) He shall give His angels charge concerning thee, etc. Jesus said unto him, "IT IS WRITTEN, again, thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God".

Again the Devil took Him up to an exceeding high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them, and said unto Him, "All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me". Then saith Jesus unto him, "Get thee hence, Satan: for IT IS WRITTEN, thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve". Then the Devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered unto Him.

Since my conversion and ordination into the ministry of The Church of Jesus Christ I felt an inspiration to write something for the Church, and especially for the Seed of Joseph (American Indians). My first attempt was in 1952. *Apostasy and Restoration* is a booklet which I was so inspired to write, to clarify our position in the restoration movement. Though I did not have the formal education in the literary field, yet I felt the inspiration and the power of the Holy Ghost in writing this booklet.

My second attempt was in 1960. With improved knowledge in the literary field and with greater knowledge in the *Bible* and *The Book of Mormon* I felt an inspiration to write something concerning the Jews and the American Indians. So with this great urge, inspiration, and the power of the Holy Ghost I began reading, studying, searching the proper scriptures in the *Bible* and *The Book of Mormon*. As I would sit at the typewriter, composing, and putting scripture together, I would feel the power of God. Before each typing session I would kneel down and ask the Lord for direction and inspiration. While typing I would often stop and kneel in prayer for inspiration and when I would resume typing the manuscript, I would weep, tears rolling down my cheeks.

How marvelous and amazing was the word of God and the power of the Holy Ghost. The result is a booklet, "Jew And The American Indian". These two booklets are part of our Church literature.

For some years I felt an inspiration to write something concerning the Choice Seer. However, I kept putting it off until one day I received a letter from my grandson Mark Kovacic of Erie, Pa. who was 15 years of age at the time. In this letter was a dream he had in December, 1971. Mark was baptized at the age of 14, at the Youngstown campout. Here is the dream which prompted me to write a book.

* * *

Dear Grandpa:

I'm writing this letter to you because of a dream I had a few days ago. I'll tell you all of it.

It started with our family, and you grandpa, and grandma riding in a car with us, going across something like a desert, but there were a few mountains here and there. I happened to look out the window and saw Christ standing on a rock. He was so bright and shining. All around Him, there was a glowing light beyond anything I had ever seen. I next remember standing at His feet and seeing the nail prints on them. The next part of the dream took place in an all-dirt cellar of a house. I remember Christ standing there and telling you (Grandpa Bucci) to write a book and also remember you sitting on a rock writing a book. This is the dream. A Happy New Year.

Your Grandson,
Mark Kovacic

—

When I received this experience from my grandson I felt it to be from the Lord, and it got me started to do something about a book on the Choice Seer. After researching, prayer, inspiration, many hours of typing, tedious work, and patience, finally a book was published in September, 1975 entitled, *American Indian Moses*. The book is powerful. It holds a timely and profound message for readers of all faiths and a special message to the Jew, and the American Indian.

—o—

Ordination at Branch No. 3, Detroit

We enjoyed a wonderful day of fellowship as Brother Rocco Biscotti of Cleveland, Ohio and Brother Leonard Lovalvo of Modesto, California were visiting with us. Our Brothers gave us a beautiful sermon that was very uplifting for the entire congregation.

They also took part in the ordination of Brother David Andruccioli as a Deacon. Brother David's feet were washed by Brother Joe Furnari and he was ordained by Brother Rocco Biscotti.

Sister Ida Napolitano had Brother Leonard Lovalvo "lay hands" upon her as she took up her duties again as a Deaconess.

We had a wonderful day with our visitors in worshipping God.

Patricia Reynolds
162 W. Benton St.
Leavenworth, Washington 98826

Dear Ms. Reynolds:

In attempting to answer your questions I believe I can give you some information that will be of interest to you, your class, and other members of The Re-organized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

I assume that your interest has stemmed from the January issue of The Herald in which Mr. Howard has listed, churches, schisms or groups which have had historical connections with "Latter-Day Saints". We were of the opinion that the historian had more up-to-date information on The Church of Jesus Christ headquartered at Monongahela, Pennsylvania. I personally have mailed him more recent information on our group. Perhaps, noting your last question, he has information I do not know. I will attempt to answer your questions in the order they were asked.

- (1) What were the reasons for forming your congregation in 1857 after the death of Joseph the Martyr?

We were not organized in 1857. The Church of Jesus Christ traces its authority to Joseph Smith Jr., followed by Sidney Rigdon, William Bickerton, William Cadman, Alexander Cherry, William H. Cadman, Thurman S. Furnier, Gorie Ciaravino and now Dominic Thomas since April, 1974.

The reason for organizing under William Bickerton are: that he was called of God; that afterward Sidney Rigdon's following came to naught. The year that the Church organized under William Bickerton was 1862 in the month of July.

Between October, 1852 and July, 1862 they met only as humble followers of the Restored Gospel. It was officially organized in July of 1862 without a break in the continuity of Authority by Revelation of God. (We refer you to our "*Brief History of the Church of Jesus Christ*") Our church makes the claim that we have never split or become associated with any other group of the "Restoration" but in fact, exist, as the only remnant with the true authority, both by direct Revelation of God and the democratic process. (We refer you to "*The Divine Continuity*" pamphlet.)

- (2) What are now your basic Tenets of Faith?

We refer you to the *Articles of Faith* card and *Faith and Doctrine* of The Church of Jesus Christ. We use only the Bible (King James Version) and the Book of Mormon as Scripture. We do not use the Doctrine and Covenants because it is not consistent with the two records (Bible and Book of Mormon).

- (3) Why were these changes made, if any?

We have never made any changes in the teachings of Christ or His doctrines. Joseph Smith and others have.

- (4) What are your ideas concerning "Zion"?

We believe "Zion" will be built. Where? Only time will tell the exact location. By whom? Not by the Gentiles but by the seed of Joseph assisted by Gentiles (See

Nephi 21, Our book; your edition Chapter 9:86-106 & 10:1-8 and II Nephi 10th Chapter our book; 7th chapter, your book)

- (5) Do you foresee any reconciliation between the schisms which have divided the original church?

We look for the day when all the honest in heart will gather, including all Restoration believers. The Book of Mormon tells us that there will eventually be only two churches. One the church of the Lamb of God and the other the church of the Devil.

If you have any further questions please feel free to write to me personally.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph Calabrese

Note of Thanks

I would like to thank all my Brothers, Sisters and Friends throughout The Church for your prayers, thoughtfulness, cards and visits during my recent illnesses.

The prayers, in particular, offered to God, brought me hope and peace when I so desperately needed them.

May God bless and keep you in His safekeeping.

Your Sister in Christ,

Joanne Frammolino

To All Photographers

If you have a good, clear, black and white picture of the General Church Auditorium, please send a copy to:

Nick Francione
16020 Carlisle
Detroit, Michigan 48205

It is needed to make General Church stationery.

Thank you,
Editor

Coloring Books For Sale

If you want to convey the message of The Restoration to your children, friends, neighbors, give them a coloring book, telling the story of The Gospel Restored and The Church of Jesus Christ.

Just write to the following for as many books as you want. The cost is \$.75 per book.

Joe Ross
Ross Drive
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

John Ross, Jr.
119 W. Saguaro
Casa Grande, Ariz. 85222

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11294 Suffolk Drive
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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.

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 of 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 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.

—Continued on page 6



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

The Widow of Zarephath

Dear Girls and Boys,

This woman is identified only by the name of the town in which she lived in Phoenicia at Zarephath. For two and one half years there had been a draught in that area. She was a widow with a son. They were hungry and had only a handful of meal in a barrel and a little oil in a cruse. This time of famine had been very discouraging for her.

One day she was gathering sticks near the city gate when a man called to her and said, "Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel that I may drink." As she started to search for water, because the land was dry, he asked her for a morsel of bread. She replied that she had only a handful of meal and a little oil and now she was gathering two sticks that she could dress it for her and her son. Then she said, "We may eat it and die." The man, who was the prophet Elijah, could see she was very discouraged. He said, "Fear not, go and do as you said but make a little cake first and give it to me and then make one for thee and your son." What a test this was for this mother.

She went and did as Elijah said. Elijah said, "The barrel of meal shall not waste neither shall the cruse of oil fail until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth." Elijah, the widow and her son ate many days. A miracle had been performed because she believed God's prophet.

Later the widow was tested again. This time her son was very sick and, "there was no breath left in him". The widow upbraided Elijah and asked "What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? Or are you come to me to call my sin to remembrance to slay my son?" Elijah said, "Give me your son." He took the boy up to his room and laid him upon his own bed. After stretching himself on the child three times, he cried unto the Lord, "O Lord my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again." The Lord heard his prayer and the child was revived.

Elijah took the boy and brought him down to his mother. Elijah said, "See, thy son liveth." The widow said, "Now I know thou art a man of God." Another miracle had been performed.

Sincerely,

Sister Mabel



JONAH AND THE GREAT FISH MYSTERY

"Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah." —Jonah 1:17

My Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Let us reason together...

According to the Scriptures (as recorded in the Bible) Jonah was commanded by God to travel to the wicked city of Ninevah where the Hebrew prophet was to preach unto the sinful citizens concerning possible destruction unless the Ninevites repented of their sins.

Jonah, who became afraid and refused to obey the Lord's command, fled Ninevah and went to sea by way of a ship. While aboard the vessel, the Lord caused a great and mighty tempest to rise up from out of the east, thus threatening the ship and its crew with possible annihilation.

Each of the crew prayed unto his own god for safety. But Jonah was not to be found on the deck of the vessel; instead, the captain discovered the prophet sleeping soundly beneath the ship's deck!

Jonah was blamed for the raging storm because of his disobedience to the Lord God. Eventually the prophet was forced overboard into the raging tempest by the seamen, and the storm ceased its threatening winds.

But as Jonah was somewhere in the sea, the Lord God "prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah". After three days and three nights in the stomach of this "great fish" the Hebrew prophet was eventually vomited out of the mouth of the aquatic monster; thus Jonah obeyed the commandment of God and went back to Ninevah and preached repentance unto the Ninevites, and became the first foreign missionary to do so.

The Biblical tale of Jonah has been the target of great controversy among students of the Scriptures as well as scientists alike for some time now because of the doubtfulness concerning Jonah's miraculous plight with the "great fish".

What was this "great fish" which God prepared to swallow up the Hebrew prophet? During the nineteenth century scientists from all over the world pondered deeply over this puzzling mystery with relish. Some of these recognized savants claimed that Jonah was swallowed by a giant Zeuglodon, which was a prehistoric ancestor of the modern day whale. But the Zeuglodons became extinct at the end of the Tertiary period during the Cenozoic era, long before the first man appeared on the Earth!

EDITORIAL — continued

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.

By George A. Neill

Reprint from The Gospel News
of January, 1967

Other scientists were convinced that the "great fish" was, indeed, a true whale that just happened to be passing near the shore line at the time of the seemingly fateful incident.

In Matthew 12:40, we read the following concerning Jonah's historical plight with the "great fish" from the Lord Jesus Himself: "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

Even the Lord Himself refers to the "great fish" as a whale!

But is a whale capable of swallowing a full grown human and also vomiting him out?

First of all, a whale is not a true fish; it is an aquatic mammal related (as was stated earlier) to the prehistoric Zeuglodonts whose fossilized remains can be witnessed in museums. Probably the reason why the Old Testament story of Jonah refers to the marine monster as a "great fish" is because of its striking appearance and fish-like shape it takes.

There are, of course, dozens of different kinds of whales that inhabit our oceans throughout the world.

The largest of these marine monsters, the Blue Whale (*Sibbaldus musculus* or *Balaenoptera musculus*), attains a length of over one hundred feet or more! Although the mouth of this leviathan is large enough to contain a full grown human being, its throat is too small to swallow one.

The Sperm Whale (*Physeter catodon*) is another story. This monster of the deep attains a length of sixty feet or more; but both its mouth and its throat are equally large enough to devour a full grown human-being if it so desired!

The only other possible marine creature capable of devouring a human would be the Whale Shark (*Rhincodon typus*), but this is not a true whale; it is, in fact, a fish which attains a length of over fifty feet!

Not long ago (within the last half century), a whaler told the amazing tale of how he once fell overboard while on a whale hunt, and was actually swallowed up whole by an on-coming sperm whale! He lived exactly three days in the whale's stomach and was then vomited out of the leviathan's mouth unharmed!

The tale of Jonah and the "great fish" cannot be denied. It is, indeed, possible for certain species of these monstrous cetaceans to devour a full grown human being and throw the victim back out again unharmed!

May God bless the Saints. Yours in Christ,

Brother Gary S. Foster

Note of Thanks

I would like to thank The Lord and the Brothers and Sisters for their prayers, phone calls, and cards when I was ill.

I especially want to thank Elder Richard Onorato for coming to anoint me every time I asked him. It is wonderful how God comes to our aid in times of sickness.

May He richly reward you is my prayer.

Brother John Onorato

OUR WOMEN TODAY . . .

The Ladies Uplift Circle District Meeting

The Ladies Uplift Circle District Meeting was held at the San Fernando Branch, November 6, 1976.

Sister Joy Krasnasky opened in prayer.

Sister Sarah Vancik and her daughter Sister Paulette Griffith brought a van-bus of Apache Sisters from San Carlos. We had Sister Judy Calabrese and her daughter Kim from Red Lake, Arizona and Sister Grace Brutz from Tucson, Arizona. We also had Sister June Tenijeith from Pine Top with us.

We had a season of prayer for the dedication of our church building in Mexico City, which was being held this same weekend. There were some missing because of this. Lynette Ciccati read our scripture which was from the 6th chapter of Galatians.

Our meeting was opened for testimony. Sister Vancik testified how the Lord gave her the job of working on the *Book of Mormon* concordance. She said after they moved to San Carlos her husband came back into The Church. Sister Grace Brutz said she and Brother Anthony need our prayers. He has been out of work for a year, but her hope is still in God. Our Apache Sisters testified how good God is to them. Sister Isadore, who recently had heart surgery, gave God the honor and glory that she was able to be here today. Sister Judy Calabrese testified they gave layettes to Navajo women in the community and through this they were able to talk of the Gospel to them. She thanked the Circle for all they have done for Red Lake. Sister Paulette Griffith brought names and pictures of those at San Carlos that have received layettes. Sister June Tenijeith thanked everyone for what had been done for her. She said their Bible School was very successful. She said the Lord put it on her heart to take Apache children to camp. She said they have already started raising funds for next year's campout. She said they want to help themselves.

Reports were read. Sister Lydia Knowles read thank you letters from all those who have benefited from our help. It really fills our hearts to hear these responses.

Sisters are encouraged to help send layettes to the different missions. Money for layettes goes directly to Sister Paulette.

We are sending \$100 for Christmas needs to Pine Top, San Carlos and Tijuana. Our President, Sister Sylvia Curry spoke with great spirit when she told us that if we do all we can to help the missionary, that not only will we be blessed, but our Elders, our Church and our families will be blessed.

Our next meeting will be held in San Diego in April or May.

Sister Orletta Liberto asked us to please fast and pray for Sister Sharon and Brother Joe Smith. They have just found out they can have no children. Please join us. We know if we are united we can move the hand of God. Isn't it wonderful to be able to pray for each other's needs! Our evening program was entitled, "How Well Is Your Seed Planted?" This is pertaining to your spiritual seed. If it is nourished, it will grow, if not, it will die.

All in all we had a very successful meeting. We want to thank the Brothers who graciously agreed to help serve the meals and take care of the children so our Sisters can fully enjoy the meetings.

Sister Joan McNabb

Greetings In Christ

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea: though the waters thereof roar and the mountains shake with swelling thereof. *Psalm 46:1-3.*

Is your faith such that you can indeed stand secure and unafraid? If not, why not?

We desired once again to take a tour of some of our Missions. Joseph and Lena Bologna and my wife and I left Modesto on November 13, 1976, and our first visit was to Lindsay where we had feet washing. We found the Saints happy, and the young people outnumbering the older, so it is very promising there. The next meeting was at Yucaipa. They were happy to see us. We had so many very inspiring testimonies. Brother Frank Genaro is indeed the proper pastor for this mission of elderly beloved people. He is a man of patience and understanding.

The next stop was at Phoenix, Arizona. We held one meeting and then proceeded for San Carlos. There we held three meetings which had been prescheduled. We were richly blessed in every meeting, especially on Sunday morning. Sister Nash was reinstated again into The Church. This was a joyous occasion that filled our hearts with praise.

Monday we left for Tucson and held a meeting that night at Brother Richard Christman's home. Again we felt the same sweet spirit of love. Tuesday we left for Pine Top, and found Brother and Sister Joseph Calabrese there — a joyful meeting indeed. Brother Isaac took us visiting some of our Apache Saints, and we held a Wednesday night meeting. The Sisters had a busy schedule in preparing the Thanksgiving dinner for Thursday, which was the following day. There was a good turnout. Some of the young Saints from Fort Defiance came also. Brother David Majoros and Brother Richard Christman of Tucson and family, Brothers Nick, Tom and Paul Liberto and families from San Diego; that afternoon our son Sam came with truck loads of clothings and food from California. Some of the clothing was left over from the loads we took to Guatemala. This made Brother Smith happy and also the poor of this area. Friday, November 26th we left for Fort Defiance. There we were greeted by an enthusiastic, dedicated group of young people who are giving a good measure of service to God and the Navajo people. Saturday morning we were met by snow and cold, but warm at heart, went to the Red Lake Chapter where a Thanksgiving dinner was served. The Chapter Navajos brought some of their food and in spite of the cold, a wonderful love and warmth prevailed.

Sunday morning we met there for the usual service, with some driving difficulties due to the cold and snowy roads. But again, a blessed meeting prevailed in both days. There was some singing in the Navajo language and a fellowship of Christian love was shared. We visited seven Branches and Missions, a blessing in each place for us and everyone. Praise and thanks to God for such a blessing.

Brother Mark Randy

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Some Experiences

by Brother Dominic Giovannone

I've been hearing for quite some time that God has changed and does not work miracles as He did before. I have learned that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. For this cause, I want to share with others a few of my experiences throughout the years how God has worked with me. My purpose is to write a sketch of my life in the Gospel News. I wish to leave behind me a memoir when I shall have gone the way from which no traveler returns.

In March, 1923, my son, Frank, took sick and was dying and I was called at noon to come home from work. I had an Elder, Domenico DiPiero, working with me. He went home with me and when we arrived there Frank was black and stiff. Brother D. DiPiero prayed and Frank was healed. At the January Conference of 1924, I was ordained an Elder of the Church and right after God began to manifest His power with me. In that same month, I was called by a man that had to go to the hospital to have two operations and he was healed. The same thing happened to another man that I was called to pray for again during the same month and later, Brother Bill Gennaro came to the Church and obeyed the Gospel. He was a very sick man and quite often I was called by him to pray for him. After a long time, his wife said to me that everytime I prayed for Bill he felt better.

In October, 1924, there was a Brother who promised he would be baptized the following Sunday. On Saturday morning while I was working, the Spirit of God told me to go see this Brother. I was supposed to work until noon, but I was forced by the Spirit to go see this Brother at 8 a.m. that morning. I had about seven miles to walk to his home and I rode the street car for six miles making it thirteen miles in all to see him. The devil didn't want me to go but I forced myself to go. He had changed his mind and he told me about a dream that he had the night before. He saw a dead man and I went down and through me he was resurrected. I told him that he was the dead man and God had sent me to help him. The next day he was baptized by me.

In 1927, we moved to West Virginia and my son, Benjamin, (who was about two years old at that time) fell. He had a sharp, pointed stick which went through his right eye. My wife didn't want to call a doctor until I arrived home. This accident happened around 3:30 in the afternoon and I didn't get home until around 7:00 that evening. I anointed my son and he fell asleep and didn't wake up until around 9:00 the next morning. You could not tell which eye had been hurt.

In 1932, three men came to the place where I was working at 4 a.m. One of the men was Brother Paul Adam. His uncle was dying and they wanted me to go and anoint him. We arrived at his home at 11 a.m. that morning and was told that the man had died at 11 p.m. the night before just as the men had left to come and get me. I told everyone that was in the house to kneel down and pray with me. I prayed and then I laid my hands over him and he was resurrected.

In 1935, Brother Paul Adam's mother had a stroke in which she was paralyzed on one complete side of her body. This took place in Stubenville, Ohio. My family and

I went there and I anointed her and prayed for her. She recovered almost immediately and went and joined her son and his family and was baptized in Detroit, Michigan, at Branch Number 2.

In 1945, we went to Richwood, West Virginia, for the first time. One Sister by the name of Elnora Blake was very sick, and her son, age 7, had the bottom of one foot split open from side to side. At the first meeting held in her mother's home, the two of them were healed. Her father came crying in that he was sick. I prayed for him and he was healed. One afternoon, a minister by the name of George Peek took me to pray for a woman that was a member of his church. This woman was dying. After I prayed for her, she was healed.

In 1945, there was a man by the name of Carl Odel. His father came to a Saturday evening meeting and asked me to pray for him. After I prayed, he said that he felt like a 16 year old boy. He was 70 years old.

In 1950, Sister Frame sent for me through a letter. She said she had cancer of the liver. After I prayed for her, she had no more pain in her chest. After that, they took me to the hospital to pray for one of her friends that was dying. After I prayed, she was sent home two or three days later and lived for another ten years.

In 1952, my wife and I went to Richwood, West Virginia, again. When we arrived, there was a woman by the name of Alma who had a daughter about three years of age. She had a stiff neck that was twisted on one side for two or three weeks and could not straighten it up. They asked me to pray for her. After I prayed, she was healed.

Here in Florida, in 1964, there was a Sister's son who broke his arm and had to be operated on the next morning. She came to the home of Brother Frank Rogolino at our Wednesday night meeting and told us what had happened. Brother P. Rogolino and I went to the hospital at 9:30 a.m. that night. The lot fell on me to pray for the boy, age 15, and the next day he was sent home.

There have been many, many more things in the way of blessings that require more and more time but I believe that this should prove that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. May God Bless all those who read this.

Brother Domenico Giovannone

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Children Blessed

On October 24, 1976, three young children were presented to God to ask His blessings upon them. The three are children of David and Diane Little of Glassport, Pennsylvania. Brother James Campbell blessed Marsha Jane and Brother Nolfi blessed Michelle Jane. The two are twins born on October 1, 1973.

Brother John Ali blessed Vickie Kay who was born on July 6, 1976.

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BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS:—

A Special Event at Branch No. 1

On Sunday evening, September 12, 1976 we at Branch No. 1 in Detroit, Michigan were most privileged to welcome Brother Nephi DeMercurio as our guest speaker. He shared with us some interesting highlights of his missionary journey through Africa.

He began by telling us about the two-piece suit he was wearing. It was the Nigerian native dress. Brother Nephi said it was given to him as a parting gift. The handmade outfit is remarkably beautiful. If ever you are given the opportunity, please do see it.

Brother Nephi told us of the work and dedication Brother Ross has put forth in this area of the mission field. Brother Ross has been to the African continent six times.

Brother Nephi then proceeded to tell us about their journey across the ocean, and of how they faced machine guns and the military upon landing.

He went on to speak to us concerning the general living conditions there. Their diet consists mostly of starch with just a little fish and occasionally other meats.

The average wage is \$3.20 a day. Brother Nephi stated that he and Brother Ross paid \$6.50 for one chicken. A refrigerator, one half to three quarters the size of ours, costs \$700. A small gas range costs \$1200.

Brother Nephi told us several experiences and of healings that had taken place. He asserted that because of their sincere childlike faith many healings were possible.

The need for teachers was stressed as he began to tell us about our secondary school in Nigeria. We were also told that all students in Nigeria must study religion, it is mandatory. Brother Nephi stated that they had a great knowledge of the *Bible*.

Each of the missions he and Brother Ross visited, sang their own unique song of welcome. He allowed us to hear one such song that he had taped. Brother Nephi indicated that our members in Africa have accepted the *Book of Mormon* wholeheartedly, in full belief. Also we were informed that before he left, they had baptized 65 new members into The Church.

Several times throughout the evening Brother Nephi repeated the same words, so I will repeat them just once more. Our African Brothers and Sisters in Christ said, "Tell our American Brothers and Sisters not to forget us".

After the meeting, refreshments were served to all who were present. It was a most rewarding as well as enjoyable evening.

Sister Diana Thompson

Blessings Manifest Themselves at the Muncey Mission, Ontario, Canada

Truly we can say the Lord is in our midst. Sunday, November 21, the Saints in Muncey met with visitors from the USA, Brother Dominic Thomas and family,

Brother Alex Gentile and family, Brother John Gam-micha, Lisa DiRado, David and Jan Steinrock, and drivers Joe Cotellesse and Peter Scolero. During this meeting, the Spirit of the Lord was ever present and manifested itself in many ways. Brother Alex was inspired to speak to us from *Mosiah 4*, which was also the passage Brother Mario Coppa, Presiding Elder of Muncey Mission, had felt to preach on.

Sister Vickie Henderson who has recently moved to London, Ontario told how the Lord had spared her and her companion's lives the week previously as they traveled with Brother Doug, Sister Ethyl Henderson, Brother Ken Henderson, Sister Carolyn Henderson and Sister Karen Elzby, to the GMBA Conference and had a head-on collision with a tow truck on the icy thru-way. Shortly before the impact, Sister Ethyl had suggested to Vickie that maybe she should put on her seat-belt. Although the front end of their car was totaled, they proceeded to Conference a bit shaken, but with joyful hearts in a rental car.

Brother Rodney Dyer spoke of God's goodness to him by sparing his life the week before, when he was on a job out-of-town with his brother-in-law, Vaughn Albert, Chief of the Muncey Reservation, and another man, when a fire began in the small apartment where they were sleeping. They narrowly escaped with their lives as Vaughn dragged his friend, who was unconscious from smoke inhalation, outside and ran back in to wake Rod. They ran through the kitchen-dining room area to the only door, and were just barely outside when the place was rocked by an explosion. During the following week, Rod remembered the prayer he had uttered that night before retiring. He had asked the Lord to protect him through the night and not only him, but all those around him. Truly the Lord hears and answers our every prayer; and although all personal belongings and clothes with them on their trip were destroyed in the fire, they gave glory to the Lord for preserving their lives.

Brother Mario Coppa felt directed by the Spirit to call on Sister Judy Dyer to sing to us the hymn, "My Jesus I Love Thee" during Sacrament. As he felt that this was an unusual request, he asked the Lord to let Sister Judy have a desire to sing if it was His will. Later, in the testimony meeting, she rose and told us that she had had such a strong desire to use her talent at the beginning of the meeting, but was hesitant to ask, and was so happy the Lord had given Brother Mario the desire to call upon her.

Sister Marie Lunham then stood to tell us that earlier this week she had felt to pray and ask the Lord if he would send a few more Brothers and Sisters to fellowship there. How greatly He answered her prayers. Both she and Sister Faye Albert related how the Lord had worked with their bodies in such a way that surgery scheduled by their doctors had been unnecessary after they had been anointed and prayed for.

We closed the meeting with all the Saints rejoicing and holding hands in a wonderful circle of love as Brother Dominic Thomas asked a special blessing for all those gathered there to be able to endure as diligent servants of God. Truly it was another rich day of blessings at the Muncey Mission.

Please continue to remember us there in your prayers that this marvelous work of the Lord will continue on

and that the hundreds of children who have attended our Sunday School there over the many years will one day join us in spreading the Gospel throughout the world, as we know they will.

Sister Jan Steinrock

News From New Brunswick

Dear Readers,

We have been enjoying the blessings of God in our services.

On August 22, 1976, Brother Joseph Bonaduce was sitting in the afternoon meeting and struggling within himself whether he should testify to God's goodness or not. He then heard a voice say, "I am only showing you my power, but it is not time for you to ask for your baptism." During this time, he saw a bright light encasing the entire ministry.

Later that afternoon after the meeting, Brothers Sam Sgro and Frank Mazzeo felt to have a word of prayer with Brother Joseph, after which he asked to be baptized.

He was baptized by Brother Salvatore Sgro and confirmed by Brother Frank Mazzeo.

Wednesday, November 24, 1976, Brother Anthony Corrado visited with us and gave an inspiring talk from *Jeremiah 29:12 and 13*. He spoke about prayer and our seeking out the Lord and finding him. He stressed that if we pray with a sincere heart the Lord will hear our prayers and answer us.

Brother Frank Mazzeo followed on the same subject, adding that prayer is our silent conversation with God. Prayer is a very important part of our daily life. He added that our prayers are significant whether in our heart or verbal on our knees.

We can conclude by saying that we enjoyed the evening in hearing the wonderful words of life spoken to us.

A Wonderful Day At Imperial

Brother James and Sister Dorothy Curry, Sister Ruth Akerman and Sister Birdy Furnier visited with us on September 5, 1976. Brother James opened the service by using the *4th chapter, 18th verse of II Corinthians* for his text. "While we look not at the things which are seen but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." Brother James was inspired to bring forth many types and shadows of the natural and of the spiritual life. Righteous men of all ages have looked to that which is not seen, that which is eternal. May God Bless you Brother James with good health to preach this glorious Gospel. We enjoyed the testimonies of our Sisters as well, telling of God's blessings to them and how The Church has been their life. Brother James called Hymn No. 177 "Our Church", "Thru her great halls glad voices ring, as grateful hearts their homage bring; they leave the busy world outside and come where peace and joy abide. Raise a song of joy and gladness; put away all gloom and sadness; Christ the Lord is leading us on and on."

On October 23 and 24, 1976 we were privileged to have Brother Alvin and Sister Viola Swanson with us from Miami, Florida. Saturday night Brother Alvin showed slides of Jerusalem, many of the outstanding places and events with a beautiful narration. We also saw slides of Guatemala, a journey among the Mayan Indians and the pyramids of Yucatan. It was a wonderful evening. Coffee and donuts were served and we also enjoyed the fellowship of the Brothers and Sisters from the McKees Rocks Branch that came to share the evening with us. Brother and Sister Swanson stayed over night to be in our Sunday Service. Our morning service was opened by singing hymn No. 114 "On Mountain Tops, The Mount of God in Latter Days shall rise, above the summit of the hills and draw their wondering eyes. To this the joyful nations round, all tribes and tongues shall flow, up to the mount of God they'll say, and to His house we'll go." Prayer was offered by Brother Jimmy Moore. Brother Alvin took the 2nd chapter of *Joshua* for his text and spoke of how Moses led the children of Israel to the borderline of the land of Canaan and from the mountain was only permitted to view the land and it was time for Joshua to come forth and take God's people into the promised land. Brother Alvin spoke of Brother Ether Furnier's experience, "the Moses era is finished and it's time for the Joshuas to come forth." He spoke concerning the great restoration of the house of Israel and the latter day glory of the Church, the Joshua era. Brother Alvin also expressed his joy of having lived in the Moses era of the Church and having sat under the sound of the older Brothers, Brother Alma Cadman, Brother Charles Ashton and many others who with the eye of faith viewed the peaceful reign and the building of the New Jerusalem. We enjoyed God's blessing thru the day. Sunday evening service Brother Alvin exhorted us on the coming forth of the *Book of Mormon*, and the glory of the restoration. May God bless the Branches throughout The Church is our prayer.

Brother Bob Buffington
Imperial Branch

Erie Branch News

In response to the Ohio District evangelists' comment that the Missions and Branches in our District were not pursuing the many possibilities of the 'Visiting Evangelist Schedule', the Erie Mission placed an article in the *Erie Times News* on October 9th, 1976 as follows:

"...After these things the Lord appointed other Seventy also, and sent them . . . into every city and place."

On October 10 and 24, an Evangelist, one of the Seventy, will be at The Church of Jesus Christ. He is a member of that "Royal Priesthood" which is ordained and consecrated by the Lord God Almighty after the Holy Order of His Son Jesus Christ. He will testify of the fact that the Gospel "does in ancient glory shine", and the gifts and blessings have been restored to their fullness as they were found in the days of the Apostles. — The Church of Jesus Christ invites you to this event."

The article did not bring any strangers into our midst, but because of our effort and concern, the first meeting was like showers of blessing which descended upon us from Heaven.

Visiting with us that day were members from both Cleveland Branches and Perry Branch. Evangelist Elmer Santilli spoke on the establishment, apostasy, and restoration of The Church. His talk was surely seasoned by the Spirit of God, for all commented on the simplicity of his sermon.

After lunch, we began the testimony meeting with Brother August Perlioni relating experiences from when he first joined The Church. He was followed by the testimonies of almost all who were present, including many non-members.

On October 24, Brother Joe Genaro and his family came and he spoke with a strong spirit, emphasizing the Power of God and that with faith in Him, the manifestation and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit will be prevalent.

We urge all Missions and Branches to put forth an effort in ALL THINGS concerning the furthering of the Gospel and see if God will not pour out a blessing upon His People.

Ft. Pierce Branch News

November 6, 1976 will be a day long remembered by the Sisters of the Ft. Pierce Branch. It was on this day they hosted a Dinner and Program to commemorate the twelfth anniversary of their Ladies Circle.

The Dinner was planned by Sister Sally Romano and with the help of Sister Ann Costarella and another everyone seemed to enjoy all the good food.

A prayer by Sister Mary Lovalvo got the program underway. After singing a hymn Sister Ilene Smith our President greeted the assembly. She mentioned that even in the *Bible* women were used by the Lord to carry on His work. Some of us have had the privilege to meet and worship with some of the originals of the General Circle. We can serve God by helping others.

The Sisters of Ft. Pierce then sang to the tune of "It is Wonderful" an original song composed by Sister Ann Costarella with the aid of Brother Charles Smith.

Sister Juanita Rogolino then read a poem she had written expressly for this occasion.

We then had a brief history of the Circle, the work done by the Sisters, from the inception of the Circle up to the present, given by Sister Gladys Moore.

Five little girls, daughters of our Sisters, Melissa and Jennifer Rogolino, Laurie Fisher, Laurie Collison, and Diana Romano then sang a song.

Scripture reading from Proverbs followed by a short character sketch was given by Sister Maryann Bays.

Sister Joyce Rogolino sang a medley of songs with recitation showing how this country was discovered, our country's birthday and ours. This was a very moving piece of work.

A brief resume of The General Circle meeting was given by Sister Elsie Ensana. She also told of how busy the Sisters are all over the country doing their work for the benefit of our Church and the work of our Lord. Sister Carmella Mazzeo added a few words of the General Conference she had attended.

Taking the first letters of the words in The Ladies Circle, Sister Mary Glover wrote a poem and read it.

A quartet sang a song, Sisters Josephine Arcuri, Ann Costarella, Libby Pandone, and Mary Lovalvo.

Many of our visiting Sisters complimented the efforts put forth by our Branch. We, the Sisters of Ft. Pierce, tired but very happy want to thank our Good Lord we are in His Church, one of His, and were able to meet with and spend these few hours together in fellowship. Pray that we as well as all of you may continue to receive the blessings we have come to know since we dedicated our lives to God.

Branch Editor
Louise Micale

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I Thank My God

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today, November 4, 1976, as I write this experience, I could be in the hospital undergoing surgery. Instead, I am thanking my Heavenly Father for His goodness towards me, and I am thanking all my Brothers and Sisters who prayed for me.

On October 25, 1976, I went to the doctor for a check-up. He found certain complications, including an ovarian cyst. He told me to come back in one week, and then he scheduled me for surgery on November 4. Upon hearing this, I became quite upset. The next evening was Church, and I asked Brother Ron Genaro to anoint me, that the Lord would come to my aid. Brother Ron's prayer was filled with the Lord's Spirit. The following week we all fasted and prayed. I called my family in California and asked them to pray also. My parents taught me as a little girl to take all things to God in prayer, and in faith believing He would answer us.

The following Monday, November 1, I went back to the doctor. When the examination was over, he looked at me in amazement and said I no longer needed surgery because the cyst was gone, and everything was back to normal. He had such a puzzled look on his face, as silently in my heart I thanked my God.

Sister Sandy Scarna
New Orleans Mission

Church Calendar

DISTRICT CONFERENCES — 1977

ARIZONA (Phoenix) — Feb. 19 & 20
ATLANTIC COAST (Hopelawn) — Feb. 26 & 27
CALIFORNIA (Bell) — Feb. 18 to 20
FLORIDA (Lake Worth) — Feb. 19 & 20
MICHIGAN/ONTARIO (Branch No. 1) — Feb. 23, 24,
25 & 27
OHIO (Youngstown) — March 12 & 13
PENNSYLVANIA (Monongahela) — Feb. 1977

— NEW ARRIVALS —

Congratulations are in order to the proud parents for the indicated new members of their families. New arrivals have been as follows:

TWINS, Sebastian and Jessica to J. and Amy Sofikites of Sterling Heights, Michigan;

Lisa Leopoldo to Daniel and Joan Leopoldo of Sterling Heights, Michigan;

Pamela Marie to Clarence and Cathy Rossi of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania;

Kelly Ann to William and Debbie Jackman of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania;

Traci Ann to Dale and Kathy Graff of Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

— WEDDINGS —

MORNINGSTAR - WIRBICKI

Mr. James Patrick Morningstar and Miss Vicki Wirbicki were joined in holy matrimony on October 23, 1976, at the Glassport Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Alma Nolfi, uncle of the bride, officiated at the wedding ceremony, with Brother John Ali assisting.

Musical selections were presented by Brother Eugene Amormino with his wife, Sister Donna, from Detroit, Michigan as the vocal soloist.

The newlyweds will be residing in Baldwin, Pennsylvania.

● OBITUARIES ●

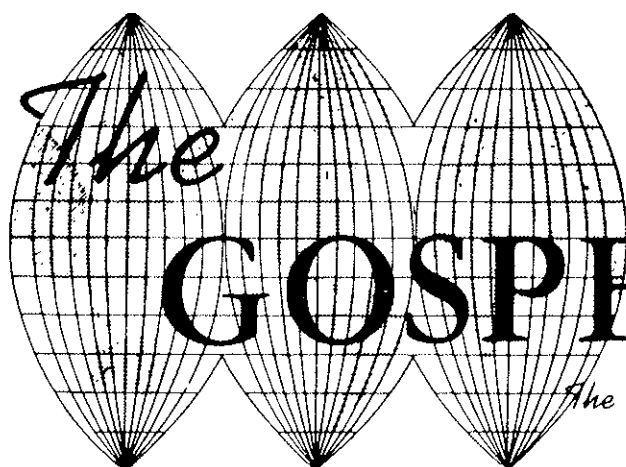
IDA LUPO

Sister Ida Lupo passed on to her heavenly reward on November 19, 1976. She was a member of the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. She was born on May 28, 1888 and was baptized into The Church on June 6, 1926.

Left to mourn her loss are three sons, two daughters, eight grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

The funeral services were officiated by Brothers Salvatore Sgro, Wilbur McNeil, Cleveland Baldwin of Florida, and Anthony Corrado of Youngstown, Ohio.

Sister Ida was ordained a Deaconess on April 29, 1928. She was a strong and faithful servant of The Lord all the days of her life. Christ was her life, and she did all she could in service to Him.



The GOSPEL NEWS

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa.

February, 1977

Volume 33, No. 2

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VOICES PAST FORESIGHT OF NEPHI

By William H. Cadman

First Nephi 13:35: "For, behold, saith the Lamb; I will manifest myself unto thy seed, that they shall write many things which I shall minister unto them, which shall be plain and precious; and after thy seed shall be destroyed and dwindle in unbelief, and also the seed of thy brethren, behold, these things shall be hid up, to come forth unto the Gentiles, by the gift and power of the Lamb." Verse 36: "And in them shall be written my gospel, saith the Lamb, and my rock and my salvation." (This refers to the writings of the Nephite people.)

First Nephi 13:38: "And it came to pass that I beheld the remnant of the seed of my brethren, and also the book (Bible) of the Lamb of God, which had proceeded forth from the mouth of the Jew, that it came forth from the Gentiles unto remnant of the seed of my brethren."

Second Nephi 30:3: "And now I would prophesy somewhat more concerning the Jews and the Gentiles. For after the book of which I have spoken shall come forth, and be written unto the Gentiles, (the Book of Mormon) and sealed up again unto the Lord, there shall be many which shall believe the words which are written; and they shall carry them forth unto the remnant of our seed, Verse 4: And then shall the remnant of our seed know concerning us, how that we came out from Jerusalem, and that they are descendants of the Jews. Verse 5: And the gospel of Jesus Christ shall be declared among them wherefore they shall be restored unto the knowledge of their fathers, and also to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, which was had among their fathers. Verse 6: And then shall they (the Lamanites) rejoice; for they shall know that it is a blessing unto them from the hand of God, and their scales of darkness shall begin to fall from their eyes; and many generations shall not pass away among them, save they shall be a white and delightsome people."

From the context of these aforementioned scriptures, it is the inevitable duty that the Gentiles shall carry the Gospel to the Lamanite people. It is also just as evident that the great work to be accomplished in these last days in restoring Israel, is not of a sudden nature and at least some generations will pass away before they (Lamanites) become a white and delightsome people again. In modern

times, a generation averages about 33 years, that is according to statistics. There were forty-two generations from Abraham unto Christ, *Matthew 1-17*. In *Deuteronomy 7-9* it reads: "Know therefore that the Lord thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love Him and keep his commandments to a THOUSAND GENERATIONS."

In *Matthew 11:4, 5:* "Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and show John again those things which ye do hear and see: The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them," please everybody take note: Jesus places the preaching of the Gospel to the poor, in the same category, even as the raising of the dead. It cannot be said today that the people of God are a poor people, Nay, but they are abounding in the riches and the fatness of Joseph's blest land. It is said in God's word that Ephraim is to be the firstborn, though he was the second son of his father. These people today are found in the condition that their prophets said they would be in, hence the accuracy of their predictions. It NOW behooves the TRUE people of God to preach the Restored Gospel to any and every soul that will listen, whether they be Jew, Gentile or Lamanite and through obedience to the Gospel it will eventually bring to pass the day, when the will of God shall be done on earth as it is in heaven. Let us all pray that the Lord will send more and more energetic laborers into the Vineyard of the Lord.

Church Calendar

MARCH

Ohio District Conference, Youngstown, Ohio, March 12 and 13.

General Ladies Circle, Vanderbilt, Pa., March 5, 1977.

APRIL

GENERAL CHURCH CONFERENCE, General Church Auditorium, Greensburg, Pennsylvania, April 14 at 9:30 A.M. to April 17, 1977.

MAY

G.M.B.A., Detroit, Michigan, May 21, 1977.

JUNE

G.M.B.A. Campout — Eastern Pennsylvania Camp Towanda, June 18-25, 1977.

A TRIP TO BE REMEMBERED

On September 24, 1976 Sister Mattie Arrington, Sister Stella Plummer and myself traveled to Tucson, Arizona. We went directly to the home of Brother and Sister Anthony Brutz where Sister Grace was waiting for our arrival. We thank God for our brother and sister who graciously opened their home to us.

On Sunday we met with the Saints of the Tucson Mission. Upon entering the little building where the Saints meet in Tucson we felt very much at home because they, as we are in Yucaipa, are small in number. Thank God He does not look at numbers for He said where two or three are gathered in my name I will be in the midst of them. Brother Jake Christman opened the meeting and a portion of time was set aside for fasting and prayer. We felt a wonderful spirit as many beautiful prayers were offered up to the Lord. We can surely say we felt His presence as our hearts were fed that spiritual food which comes from our Heavenly Father. After the meeting all the Saints gathered at the Brutz's for a pot luck dinner. During this time we enjoyed a wonderful fellowship with Saints whom we had never met before. We thank God for that kindred spirit which makes us one in Christ.

On the 29th of September with tears in our eyes we said our goodbyes to the Brutz's and the Francione's. With a prayer in our hearts and our road map beside us we were on our way to San Carlos Indian Reservation. We stopped in San Carlos and had a nice visit with Sister Paulett Griffith and her family. We then journeyed to the mission where we were welcomed by Brother David Majoros. We attended the Wednesday evening meeting at San Carlos. Brother David was in charge, the meeting was a prayer and testimony meeting. It was a wonderful experience to be in this meeting as our Indian Brothers and Sisters prayed in Apache. We could not understand them but we thank God that His spirit breaks down all languages and cultural barriers and we can say we enjoyed a wonderful fellowship with the Saints there.

Sister Isadore Anita and her daughter-in-law spent Thursday visiting with us. They expressed the many joys they have in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

On Friday, October 1st, we left San Carlos on our way to Red Lake. Upon our arrival in Fort Defiance Brother Peter Genaro directed us to the home of Brother and Sister Dennis Calabrese. Sister Judy insisted that we rest because there was a surprise in store for us. The members of the Ladies Circle planned a wonderful surprise, they took us out and treated us to a lovely dinner. We felt a special blessing to see the love of Jesus in each of our Sisters there. Surely this is what the Lord expects of us. If we live close to the Lord we cannot help but feel this love radiating from one another.

Saturday we visited the site where the quonset huts are being completed. The Brothers were busy hanging doors inside the building. We got a quick tour of the building and saw the results of much hard work on the part of the Brothers. Sunday we attended the meeting at Red Lake. Brother Dwayne Jordan taught the adult Sunday School. We had an enjoyable discussion of the prophecies found in the *Bible* concerning the Latter Days. Brother Larry Watson opened the morning meeting emphasizing that we follow the direction of the Holy Spirit. Our Brothers had much liberty in preaching of the Restoration of the Gospel. After Testimonies and the Sacra-

ment we performed the Ordinance of Feed Washing. All in all it was a day well spent in the Lord. Sunday evening we visited the jail and sang to the prisoners. I was deeply impressed to see how our young people are reaching out to bring some happiness into the lives of others. Our prayer is that the Lord will continue to be with them in their efforts to serve Him.

Monday evening we arrived back home to Yucaipa. We would like to thank all those who helped to make our trip a pleasant and memorable one. May God bless you.

Sisters Iva Bordeaux
Stella Plummer
Mattie Arrington

RISE, SHINE, AND GIVE GOD THE GLORY

by Paul D'Amico

Since my childhood, I was taken to the House of God to every meeting. One of these meetings is known as "The Fellowship Meeting" usually held on Sunday afternoon. It was in this meeting that many of our brothers and sisters (some gone and some still living) bore testimony to the Truthfulness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It was also in this meeting that the Lord's supper was administered unto the dutiful baptized members of the Church.

I can recall many wonderful testimonies given, and I can recall many wonderful manifestations of the Power and Spirit of God. At this time I cannot help but to mention how much I enjoyed the testimonies of Brothers Joseph, James and Anthony Lovalvo when they came into the Church as young men. The Lord truly blessed them, and blessed us for we were glad at that time not only for them, but for the many others who were being baptized almost every Sunday. I was but a youngster in the Church, nine or ten years old. I had not received my calling unto repentance, but I certainly felt and enjoyed the power and blessings of God not only in the Worship Service, but more so in the fellowship services. Time was of no concern to our people at that time especially when the Spirit of God flowed like a river in our midst. Meetings held at the Devine Branch (Branch No. 1) sometimes lasted from 2:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. I am a witness to this on a number of occasions where the Saints could not close the meeting or depart from one another.

It is the duty of the Saints of God, especially on Sunday; and also the privilege of the Saints of God, to Rise, Shine, and Give God the Glory. I have often told the Saints wherever I have traveled throughout the Church, that we get out of the meeting just what we put into it. I refer primarily to the Sabbath Day Fellowship meeting.

The tendency and trend has been to eliminate the number of meetings held; among which has been the fellowship meeting. I cannot say whether the Saints are all satisfied with this or not, but I raise a question for all of us to consider and answer before the Lord, "Is God pleased with this change that has come about in many of our Branches and Missions?" Are we justified in doing so, and if not, why not make efforts to return to the Old Time Religion which our fathers and mothers raised and taught us, in order to become closer to God in these perilous times?

May God bless you is my prayer.

PRACTICING WHAT WE PREACH

"And it came to pass that they did go forth, and began to preach the word of God unto the people, entering into their synagogues and into their houses; yea, and even they did preach the word in their streets.

And it came to pass that after much labor among them, they began to have success among the poor class of people; for behold, they were cast out of the synagogues because of the coarseness of their apparel —

Therefore they were not permitted to enter into their synagogues to worship God, being esteemed as filthiness, therefore they were poor as to things of the world; and also they were poor in heart." *Alma 32:1-2*

"And now when Alma heard this he turned about, his face immediately towards him, and he beheld with great joy; for he beheld that their afflictions had truly humbled them, and that they were in a preparation to hear the word. Therefore he did say no more to the other multitude; but he stretched forth his hand and cried unto those whom he beheld, who were truly penitent, and said unto them: I behold that ye are lowly in heart; and if so, blessed are ye." *Alma 32:6-8*

We had the occasion recently to speak on this portion of scripture. It carries a powerful message through the missionary zeal of Alma, Shiblon, Corianton, Ammon, Aaron, Omner, Amulek, and Zeezrom. Initially heard, and subsequently witnessed by the eight, was that the Zoramites became haughty and arrogant, having received the plenitude of wealth, though reviled in the midst of these people were the poor and lowly, barred from the synagogues they built with their own hands. Once a week those, so privileged, entered the synagogues and, standing high on a platform, called the Rameumptom, praised God with words memorized by rote, wherein the Supreme Maker was considered a spirit, past, present and forever. These, so haughty and arrogant, deprecated the childishness of those that prophesied of the coming of Christ, "—and also thou hast made it known unto us that there shall be no Christ." *Alma 31:16*

The exaltation of self comes forth with the words, "—and again we thank thee, O God, that we are a chosen and a holy people. Amen." *Alma 31:18*

We, of The Church of Jesus Christ, find the word "chosen" as an acceptable word for the definition of thanking God for choosing us from a world of sin and calling us, by His divine will, to the waters of baptism and regeneration. "Chosen", as defined in any dictionary carries words of meaning of different polarities. We were "chosen", i.e.—selected, by God to follow his precepts, with humble and contrite hearts, proclaiming our belief in Jesus Christ, with the full cognition that we were called for service, whether lowly or great. The other extreme of the word "chosen", meaning, bluntly, a choice cut of the meat—the best, the elite, or as some dictators have pronounced themselves, of a *chosen* race, lies latent. The spelling is the same but, being "chosen" of God can reverse an evil life, bring arduous duty, even death like the Apostles and martyrs of old. If I proclaim I am "chosen"—I can do it with arrogance and pride, such as the prayer of the Zoramites of high estate had shown; we then enter the field of semantics. In broad definition, we can say that "chosen" for elevation of self above the calling of God, or pride, however slight in church, and

self righteousness carry a dangerous over-extension beyond God's intent. It can be likened to sin—slight or gross. Sin can be as drastic as committing murder; likewise, the desire to commit murder—unrevealed to others—is sin in God's sight. Sin, like temporal death, is not of degrees; sin is total—unless true repentance follows, barring the denial of the Holy Ghost which Jesus indicated to us is not forgiven.

In *John 15:16*, Jesus speaks to his disciples, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain; that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it to you."

We, those baptised at the water's edge, arise to the calling of God. We proclaim that we have set our Saviour as the Eternal Light and we desire to radiate its beams. Let us ask ourselves, "Are we calloused on our knees in prayer or are we calloused from sitting?" If we bend not our knees to the Lord, numbness, apathy, set in in the other region and we are not chosen, using any synonym we desire, of the Lord. We have discovered that, approaching the Lord on our knees, requires much in humble prayer. We dare not, nay, we cannot do anything else when we seek those to come to the fold of the Gospel Restored. If we proclaim the sameness of our beliefs of other churches, we fall into the common stream of all that vie by prestige, by ritual, by the grandeur of the edifice, yet proclaiming the oneness of belief, of healings, of blessings. Is it service to God that the world's second largest church, in New York City, seating over 8,000, has on the average of 250 in attendance on a Sunday; yet some seek to expand the limits of the structure. Are we not God's own Temples? Why the size—and where the faith? If we look to numbers, we have failed; if we look to man, we have failed; if we *look not* to the service of the Lord in the name of Jesus Christ then already we are dead.

In *John 4:35*, Our Lord Jesus spake: "Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."

We have the missionary zeal to proclaim the Gospel. Do we practice what we preach when we see those around us—or are we the DEPLORED and not the Restored Gospel adherents? Let us all—lift up our eyes. Each baptized Brother or Sister can be a glow to the Lamp unto our feet and the feet of the unhearing. Prayer, concerted prayer, will open the windows of Heaven to Him who has proclaimed, "Without me ye can do nothing." United under the banner of Christ, we are RESTORED! The latter word can be given in all synonyms, "made strong again, repaired, cured, re-established, given back or surrendered"—but only under Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

If we disown the bond of the Stick of Judah with the Stick of Joseph, if we join the "—We are all the same in Christ" or—"we are all born again Christians," and fail to go to Church regularly, we practice not what we preach. We suffer like problems, like pains as other professed Christians—possibly more, yet we are a "peculiar" people and beware of the connotations. Are we to emanate the Light of Christ or are we going to join the melting pot, diluted into the commonality of the Zoramites and those of present day who come to church in decreasing frequency receiving blessings in diminishing proportions as

well? If we cannot profess that there is a Church, growing out of the darkness of Apostasy, but continue to lose adherents, fail to withstand the testings, we do not practice what we preach. If we are not the ONE Church of our Lord Jesus, we are relegated to the dark cold desolation of the Eternal fires of Satan. This is the Chosen Church; those baptized were chosen.

If we adhere to the Stick of Joseph and the Stick of Judah we can proclaim The Gospel restored, the true Universal Church. Dear readers, read the *Book of John, Chapter 17*, wherein Jesus prayed for the unity of His Church. It is our duty to proclaim the Restored Gospel in these Latter Days but Ye Saints and we must practice what we preach, praying constantly for Divine Guidance to bring the Restored Gospel to the entire world. In *II Nephi, 26:31*, we read, "But the laborer in Zion shall labor for Zion; for if they labor for money they shall perish." The fields are white with harvest, Brothers and Sisters. May God bless you.

Brother Julius Kovacs
Wittensville, Kentucky

A BEAUTIFUL EXPERIENCE

I wish to relate a beautiful experience and a very special testimony.

My mother and I have been coming to Church for over 43 years. My mother has been afflicted for many years. However, during August of last year she became so very ill that she had to be hospitalized.

She underwent extensive diagnostic tests and was finally prepared for surgery. I called upon our Presiding Elder, Brother Jim Benyola at this time. I requested that he please anoint and pray for my beloved and aged 83 years mother.

Later, I happened to be talking to her on the telephone just as Brother Jim walked into her hospital room. I immediately hung up the telephone. Knowing my dear Brother's faith in God, I then knelt down in prayer in my home. I felt that by praying along with him, our prayers would reach the throne of God.

I prayed that the Lord would forgive my shortcomings and to forgive me if I had sinned in any way. I asked God to bless Brother Jim as he anointed her, laid hands on her head and prayed for her healing.

When I arose and walked over to the kitchen mirror, I could see my face all aglow. Immediately I started singing the hymn, "I Surrender All."

Praise be to God! My mother, Sister Pauline Kowalczyk is just fine after surgery and a nine week stay in the hospital.

Sister Jenny Rosko
Hopelawn, N. J. Branch

OUR FAITH

We are Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

We must make this our whole life.

To trust and obey, in every way, not tomorrow
But today and everyday

We must give our whole heart and soul to our Lord.

For we must open that door, that leads to the Kingdom of God.

Don't ever stop for one moment, for those moments
Are never found.

And then our soul could be darkness bound.

Make The Church of Jesus Christ our life.

No matter what trials may confront us, remember
The Lord does want us.

He called us to be by His side, but remember
That He is the guide.

It's not easy to serve the Lord, for there are
Many things that try to close our door.

But we must be strong, and I know in my heart
We will belong, to our Maker the true and
Loving God.

Sister Pamela J. King
Vanderbilt Branch

POEM BY ARLENE BUFFINGTON, OCT. 31, 1976

Brother Jimmy Moore was preaching on the subject of the age of accountability, when we come to the crossroads of life and must make a choice if we're going to serve God or not. In my mind I could see a crossroads with two signs — one saying life, one saying death. I felt inspired to write the following poem:

CROSSROADS OF LIFE

Look up ahead, see the crossroads of life,
And today is the day to choose.
One road says life and one road says death.
One path you gain — one you lose!

See, one road is so bright and so clear,
And see such a few find the way.
But oh, down the other, the crowd is so great,
And death is the price they pay!

Now the road of life is eternal you know,
And the road of death has no end.
Both are forever and you must decide,
These roads part the dearest of friends!

The games of youth are behind you now,
And your childhood has vanished away.
Years pass quickly as dreams in the night,
Christ is calling strong soldiers today!

So consider the choice at the crossroads of life,
And don't let the crowd choose for you.
But run to the Savior, make Him your choice.
Salvation is yours if you do!

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

LOOKING FORWARD

The month of January already has rapidly circled away into eternity and we are forcibly and stirringly reminded to be up and doing. It behooves us to endeavor to muster up a little more courage and redouble our efforts in pursuing the tasks that lie ahead.

As individual persons and as a Church we want to look forward with cheerful hearts and hopeful anticipation.

May we diligently resist any thought that might tend to discourage us because of any past mistake or failure. Rather, let our attitude be such as to alert us to an increasing and continuing vigilance, to watchfulness and prayerfulness.

May we also look up to God, humbly and repentantly, seeking His pardoning grace for our shortcomings.

On the other hand, let us renew our gratitude to our Heavenly Father, for His guidance, strength and support that enabled us to successfully achieve some of our goals and to fulfill, in some degree, our duties and obligations to God.

AWESOME AND SOLEMN RESPONSIBILITY

In recent years the missionary labors and activities of the Church have expanded and mounted increasingly, here in America and abroad.

We are encouraged, cheered and edified by reports coming from the scattered mission fields. We have good reason to rejoice that new converts are being harvested into the Church. We pray that God will continually direct and strengthen our efforts in pursuing the awesome and solemn responsibility of spreading the Gospel.

Nephi foresaw our day and prophesied, "For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children, and also our brethren, to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God; . . ." (*II Nephi* 25:23) And again, "And, as I spake concerning the convincing of the Jews, that Jesus is the very Christ, it must needs be that the Gentiles be convinced also that Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God; and that he manifesteth himself unto all those who believe in him, by the power of the Holy Ghost; yea, unto every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, working mighty miracles, signs, and wonders, among the children of men according to their faith." (*II Nephi* 26:12, 13)

DILIGENT LABOR

It behooves all of us, the Priesthood and lay members together, to labor diligently, to encourage and financially support the continuing missionary efforts of the Church in all locations, far and near.

We are encouraged by the closing lines of Ammon's stirring and eloquent missionary report: "Now my brethren, we see that God is mindful of every people, whatsoever land they may be in, yea, he numbereth his people, and his bowels of mercy are over all the earth. Now this is my joy, and my great thanksgiving; yea, and I will give thanks unto my God forever. Amen." (*Alma*, Chapter 26)

Let us look forward!



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

Priscilla and Aquila

Dear Girls and Boys,

This is a story of Priscilla and her husband, Aquila. So closely did they work together, share each other's lives, that we couldn't tell the story of Priscilla without Aquila. They did not have an easy life. They went through many experiences together.

Not long after Jesus ascended into heaven, there was a stir in the Jewish quarters of old Rome. The ruler had decreed that all Jews must leave Rome at once or be killed. Aquila, who was a tent maker heard this disturbing news. Where would he go? Rome was a good location for a tentmaker! It was bad news for Priscilla too. But they must leave. Priscilla and her husband soon left their home and business in Rome and made their way to Corinth. At that time Corinth was one of the greatest trading centers of the world. Aquila established his business of tent making again. Their move proved to be a great blessing in disguise.

One day, Paul the missionary came to Corinth. He, too, was a tent maker. He made his living by using his trade as he went from place to place preaching about Jesus. He found Priscilla and Aquila, "because he was of the same craft and abode with them". They invited him to make his home with them while he was in Corinth. They became great friends.

Here they worked together and Paul went into the Jewish synagogues to preach. Priscilla and Aquila listened to his sermons and soon became followers of Jesus. Paul remained with them almost two years. But the Jews in Corinth began to resent Paul's message. They began to persecute him and even threatened his life. The chief magistrates were against him. Paul was compelled to leave Corinth.

When it became unsafe for Jesus' followers to preach in public places, Aquila and Priscilla opened their home for worship. Later Paul referred to Aquila and Priscilla as his helpers in Christ Jesus, who laid down their own necks to save his life. God's word states, "A man that hath friends must show himself friendly." Surely Priscilla and Aquila are good examples of this.

Sincerely,

Sister Mabel



My youngest daughter wrote this one evening to share with us during a family devotional night. I had it typed and framed for her grandparents.

Love in Christ,

Brother Paul Liberto

God Is The One

God is the one when there's no time
to run.
God is the one when there's no one
to turn to.
God is the one when the race is on.
God is the one when all pressure is
on me.
God is still there even if you don't
think so.
God is the one I love so very,
very much.
He is so unexplainable.
He is just so wonderful.
When I have troubles I turn to Him,
because I know He'll be there.
I just don't know how to tell you
He's so fabulous and
understanding and
I just can't wait to see Him.
I have faith in Him.
I have hope in Him.
I just know He's the one!

by Lisa Ann Liberto
at age 10

* * *

Second to God

Goodly parents were mine like Nephi of old,
And lessons learned never forgot.
I knew as a child God's proper place,
He must always come first mother taught.

Do you really love me, father would ask?
With a smile my mother would nod.
I felt warm inside when mother replied,
"You know you come second to God."

Growing in life, blessed thru the years,
Just happy in knowing my place.
Teaching the lessons once taught to me,
Standing second to God by His grace.

How are you living and what rules your life?
As for blessings you hunger and thirst.
Remember the lesson once taught to me,
God must always, must always come first.

Sister Arlene Buffington
Imperial Branch

BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS:—

Six Nations Trip

On Sunday, September 19, 1976 several carloads of Michigan, Ontario area Ladies Circle members and a few Brothers traveled to the Grand River Mission (Six Nation Res.) Canada.

All Michigan, Ontario Area Circle Presidents were present along with 4 area Officers.

Brother Tony Lovalvo welcomed all that came out and he asked Brother Richard Isaac to tell us of the honors bestowed upon the Six Nation Reserve by the Premier of Canada.

Brother Don Collison introduced the service and read from the *Book of Mormon, Alma 18th Chapter*, how the Spirit of God was so great upon Ammon that the king was converted and many other Lamanites. Brother Don went on to say how we as a Gentile Church should have that great desire to go among the Lamanites and tell them of the Great Spirit.

Brother Tony followed briefly, expounding more on the belief of the wife of the king and how they were all converted to the Lord.

Sister Mary Criscuolo, Area Circle President, expressed herself how thankful she was that the Lord called her into the Church at a young age and that her desire is to continue on. There were many more beautiful testimonies given to the honor and glory of God. Sang "God Be With You Till We Meet Again." Closed a beautiful day with prayer by Brother Harold Batalucco.

After the meeting the Sisters from the Circle walked to visit Sister Charlotte Hill who was very ill and had prayer in her home. She was very happy to see all present. Upon returning to the church building a very nice lunch had been prepared by the Sisters there and one had baked a beautiful cake and decorated it with the words, Welcome Ladies Circle. It was a beautiful day spent together in the service of our King.

The Windsor, Ontario Ladies Circle made up layettes and sent them to agencies to be distributed among the Indian people. They received thank-you notes from these agencies: North Cochrane District Family Services, Family and Children's Services and The Children's Aid Society. They each wrote beautiful letters of appreciation and thanks, commending the ladies of The Church of Jesus Christ for their volunteer efforts to help those less fortunate, putting into practice the noble teachings of our Lord.

A Time Will Come

October 11, 1976, was the national celebration of Columbus Day. During our Sunday service on October 10, 1976, America, its past, present and future were explored.

Brother Gorie Ciaravino first brought attention to the religious strife now taking place in foreign lands. The actions against these so called Christians appears to be as great as in the time of Christ and the martyrs of His followers. We are certainly privileged to be in a land that

continues to foster religious freedom. But Brother Gorie returned us to a time long before Columbus, a time when the Nephites journeyed to this promised land well over two thousand years ago. Reading from *II Nephi, Chapter 1:5*, Lehi is explaining the prospects of this land to his children and his seed, better known to us as the seed of Joseph.

This land has prospered and it will continue to do so as long as the inhabitants will serve and worship God to the best of their ability. However, a great destruction is also prophesied. As to when this destruction will come, we cannot yet accurately predict according to God's timetable or calendar. Another event we are waiting to take place is the arrival of the Choice Seer, who will come out of the now semi-captive Indian nation. But when? The timing for all of this is in God's hands.

The story of Lehi's two rebellious sons, Laman and Lemuel, was rehearsed to us by Brother Leonard Lavalvo. In his message, Brother Leonard tried to impress upon each of us how much more meaningful this land should be because of our awareness of its beginning, and the story of the restoration. Yet, that story is far from complete. We not only have to work out our own soul salvation or tell someone else about the Church, but we have a greater responsibility — to bring the Gospel to the American Indian. The task is by no means an easy or a speedy one and our endeavors toward this goal must take various methods: praying for those in the missionary field, assisting with financial obligations, visiting the missions, helping our children learn the story of the restoration and being hospitable to our Indian brothers and sisters we meet. If we are negligent in these responsibilities, God will find another people who will carry out His Plan.

In concluding our morning service, Brother Tony Lovalvo asked the members and friends to remember him in prayer, for he has a great desire to do more work among the Lamanites on the Six Nations Reserve after his retirement in the very near future. Returning to Brother Gorie's theme of the uncertainty about when the time will be that the Lamanites will firmly grip the Gospel, Brother Tony mentioned that it probably will not be in our time, but perhaps our children may see the beginnings. As he was saying this, Brother Frederico Straccia spoke in the tongues. There was no immediate interpretation; instead, Brother Frederico said that he was given to understand that "... This land belongs to Jesus Christ, and all the people who follow Him will enjoy this land."

After a hymn was sung, a confirmation of the tongues was expressed by a sister in the meeting. Sister Pro Palermo testified that after Brother Fred spoke, she was given the understanding that no one would receive the interpretation, except Brother Frederico.

Mary Spink was moved to tell of how this service had fulfilled her prayer of the previous evening. In her testimony, she explained that on Saturday evening she was led in a spirit of singing hymns and prayer as she was alone in her home. As she prayed for the various members and the Church in general, she felt she wasn't finished. The seed of Joseph came to her so forcefully and she continued praying in their behalf. Yet, still she felt there was more. She remembered when she first joined the Church and she found herself praying that this same feeling would prevail in the Sunday service, even to the extent that the gift of speaking in tongues would be heard.

It was after this that her prayer could end.

As you have been reading, this prayer was fulfilled. The interwoven theme had been the Lamanites and tongues were spoken. We are so thankful that God continues to answer prayer.

Sister Janet Buffa
Detroit, Branch No. 2

News from Anadarko, Oklahoma

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is now three years since we arrived in Oklahoma, February 20, 1974. The first few months, Sara, Louis and I (Sister Evelyn) were here by ourselves making our home in a strange land. Brother Bill arrived here in June of 1974.

Spending our vacations here in 1972 and 1973 we met many of the "Seed of Joseph". Those we kept as our most cherished friends. After moving here we met many more. Oklahoma has many Indians of many tribes. We have friends in all tribes. Our home is always open and any time of the day we may have a knock on the door. It is very hard to express our thoughts and feelings just having the "Seed of Joseph" living next door. This is all over Oklahoma as there is no reservation here.

God has blessed us in many ways here. We are so thankful to God for His many, many blessings that has come our way. There is hardly a day goes by unless we have the opportunity to witness of God's love and of our Church, The Church of Jesus Christ. Many are amazed we have chosen Anadarko and the state of Oklahoma for our home. Especially, when we have no Church near us. 75% of the population of Anadarko are Indians.

Living here has not been easy. As all of you know life is never without trial and each time God has brought us through.

Our greatest blessings have been our Brothers and Sisters visiting us as they travel from coast to coast. We have had visitors from California, Arizona, Kansas, Texas, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Florida and New Jersey. Each time we have an Elder visiting we have a meeting, which is quite uplifting.

Brother Dom Bucci, Youngstown, Ohio, visited us during the Indian Exposition this past August, 1976. All credit to our living here goes to Brother Bucci as he came here in the 1960's and began contacting Indians and passing out our literature. This past Exposition we had temperatures over 100 degrees. This did not discourage Brother Bucci. Each morning our son Louis would take him to the Fairgrounds and Brother Bucci would display the Church literature. Brother Bill would then pick him up in the evening and bring him home.

I wish to thank the Ladies Circle for sending to me all the baby layettes. These I can give personally to the Indian families. They are so grateful. Sometimes I may have two or three sets on hand and then the following week I will have none. At the present time I have one on hand but an Indian mother just had twins and I have only one to give. These twins, one a boy weighed over 10 pounds, the other a girl weighed over 7 pounds. With each baby layette we give a packet of our Church literature.

Where we live now in Anadarko, about the center of town, certain times of the year trucks pass our home loaded with wheat for the grain mill. Later the trucks will be loaded with peanuts for the peanut mill and after a couple of frosts the cotton wagons pass our home for the cotton gin. Brother Bill works for one of the oldest industries here, the Sequoyah Carpet Mills.

We are thankful to the various Branches for sending Hymn Books, Literature and the GMBA for the *Book of Mormons*.

We are so very thankful that we were able to attend the opening service of the Campout in Kansas. Remember us in your prayers. Often we think of you all and pray God will bless you as He has blessed us many times. We pray God will watch over you as you travel. May God Bless you all richly.

We are living in a beautiful home now and I wish to give you our new address and phone number.

Bill and Evelyn Crall
404 E. Oklahoma
Anadarko, Oklahoma 73005
Ph. 1-405-247-6712

Sincerely,

Brother Bill, Sister Evelyn Crall
Louis and Sara

Tampa Has Baptism

The sun shone peacefully here in Tampa that Sunday morning. But the Mission was touched with sorrow over the departure of our beloved Brother Jim and Sister Mary Lovalvo. The Bays and Obradovich families drove many miles to share with us in the honor of hearing Brother Jim on his last Sunday in Florida.

Brothers Billy Tucker and Duane Lowe spoke on the many wonderful blessings we've enjoyed with Brother Jim and Sister Mary so nearby. Then Brother Jim sang two beautiful selections and brought forth the message of the Lord's Prayer. The Spirit was just so real to all of us.

We then shared a beautiful testimony meeting and the Lord's Supper.

It was then, our newest Sister Mae Dettori asked for her baptism. We all went down to the waters, where everyone seemed to notice the cold but Mae. Our new Sister was baptized by Brother Jim Lovalvo and confirmed by Brother Duane Lowe. After such a great spiritual meal, we had a dinner in honor of the Lovalvos. We then returned home full both spiritually and naturally.

The Tampa Mission solicits your prayers in behalf of the work in Tampa as well as for our newest Sister Mae Dettori.

Sister Kim Heller

Ordination At Vanderbilt, Pa. Branch

Sunday, November 7 of last year proved to be a day of blessing and joy to the Vanderbilt congregation as well as visiting Saints from the Monongahela and Glassport Branches.

Brother Emmett Dale related an experience of his feelings while washing the feet of Brother Milford Wade Eutsey, Jr. He felt he was washing Brother Milford's feet for even greater things in the future provided he proves faithful. Brother George E. Fuller voiced the prayer ordaining Brother Milford to the holy office of Deacon.

It was a day well spent in the service of God. May the Lord strengthen and sustain Brother Milford in the duties of his office.

Levittown Mission Grows With 9 Baptisms

By George Funkhouser

During a six month period ending 1976, the Levittown Mission of Levittown, Pa. welcomed several new Brothers and Sisters into its fold. It marked a continuation of the cooperative efforts of the Edison Branch and the Mission to introduce more people to the Gospel and bring souls to the Lord.

The new members of The Church are:

Sister Connie Jean Connor, baptized July 25th by Brother Samuel Dell, confirmed by Brother Samuel.

Sister Adel Renee Connor, baptized July 26th by Brother Samuel Dell, confirmed by Brother Matthew Rogolino.

Brother Anthony S. N. Jones, baptized August 2nd by Brother Samuel Dell, confirmed by Brother Nathan Peterkin.

Brother David Connor, baptized by Brother Matthew Rogolino, confirmed by Brother Nathan Peterkin.

Brother James L. Speck, baptized July 29th by Brother August D'Orazio, confirmed by Brother Mark Randy.

Brother Horace M. Connor, baptized October 10 by Brother Samuel Dell, confirmed by Brother Nathan Peterkin.

Brother Merle C. King, Jr., baptized September 26 by Brother Samuel Dell, confirmed by Brother Samuel Dell.

Sister Wendy Micale, baptized October 17th by Brother Samuel Dell, confirmed by Brother Samuel Dell.

Sister Carol D. King, baptized by Brother Samuel Dell, confirmed by Brother Samuel Dell.

The baptisms took place across a span of the nation — from Freehold, N. J. to Augusta, Kansas. Proof positive indeed we may be called any time, any place.

An interesting aspect of the conversions is that most were introduced to The Gospel by the Saints as a body. This is evidence we are all responsible to offer our testimony. May the Lord bless our Mission and The Church in extending the word.

Lorain, Ohio Branch News

It is truly amazing to look back at all the events of this past year. One can hardly select one as being the most outstanding event of the year because all of them are. Not one can fade into insignificance. Out of the 52

Sabbaths we have met to worship God, we have been well rewarded. There were healings performed, there were home problems resolved, there were six baptisms, there were blessings performed. There were weddings performed both in private homes and at Church.

Then there was the word of the Lord to exhort, instruct and to comfort. And can we fail to make mention of the Sabbath day when John Divine made his appearance in our midst through vision; instructing us all "to continue to fast and pray, and to be comforted for soon we would see many miracles take place, as well as witness the wrath of God upon our nation." A very somber message!

However, if we continue in the service of God we are assured of divine protection. What a glorious heritage! Can we ask for more than this? The Lord our God has blessed, nourished, protected, and provided each and all of us our daily bread. He has extended us protection as we go to and fro to our daily duties. He has prospered our spiritual labours and our meager efforts were rewarded with blessings that linger, and help to lift our spirits when all other helps fail. As our Brethren have traveled about our Father's business they always returned weary from the journey, but always abounding with good news and blessings to cause our hearts to rejoice. Who among us can fail to praise God to live in this day; to have a part to play in the glorious work of restoring Joseph's seed.

May we all stand ready to be filled by the Spirit of God which will enable us to glean from our desires that which is heavenly and promotes good for all.

Let us remember that our God will not leave any of us empty of His bounty, except those who are full of themselves. May God bless us all.

Sister Marie Caldwell
Lorain Branch Editor

God of Miracles and Love

On Sunday, November 21, 1976 we were pleased to have at Branch No. 1 in Detroit, Michigan, Brother Paul D'Amico and Brother Paul Whitton.

The meeting was left open to our visiting Elders, and Brother Paul Whitton opened in prayer. Brother Paul D'Amico was our speaker for the morning service.

Brother D'Amico spoke to us about the power of the Spirit. He reminded us, that it's not the amount or lack of education you have, that makes the difference in your ability to spread the Gospel. But simply the amount of God's Spirit within you.

Brother D'Amico told two separate experiences that some may have heard in the past, but are certainly worth repeating. One experience took place before Brother Ishmael D'Amico passed from this life. Brother Paul said, he and others within the Church were fasting and praying for his father, Brother Ishmael. Brother Ishmael D'Amico because of illness had lost his ability to speak.

One night Brother Paul had a dream. In the dream he saw our people gathered together. From the side pew of The Church, he saw his father stand up and begin singing. He said it was not like we sing but a "beautiful angelic song". He ran out of the building to tell his

mother that, "Daddy is speaking again, he is singing the songs of Zion".

Brother Paul told us he knew by the dream that his father would never speak again in this life, but he would when he would come forth in the First Resurrection.

Brother Paul also reminded us of an experience, which is very comforting, at a time when many are unemployed and barely making both ends meet.

It was the experience of Sister Helen Campitelle. In the experience Sister Helen said, her husband was out of work because of illness. It was the night before Thanksgiving and they had nothing in the house beside beans. She had no money to buy anything else.

At 7:30 that evening there was a knock at the door. Her oldest daughter Rose answered the door. The man asked for Mrs. Campitelle. The man said to Sister Helen, "Mrs. Campitelle what is the reason you don't want to give a Thanksgiving dinner to your children?" Sister Helen told him the truth that her husband was out of work.

He looked at Sister Helen and smiled; then he said "Mrs. Campitelle, I have brought a Thanksgiving dinner for your children".

He brought into the house all kinds of groceries; fruit which looked like it had been freshly picked, fresh dressed chicken and many other things.

Sister Helen wanted the man's name and address, so she could remember him for what he had done. The man said, "Mrs. Campitelle you don't need my name or address now". He looked at her children and said, "You have wonderful children and a wonderful family". Then he left.

Finally, Sister Helen says in her written testimony; "The next day at dinner time, all the food was prepared, and we were seated around the table. Brother and Sister Frammolin were with us. While Brother Frammolin was asking the blessing on the food he saw the same man come in and stand near the table; and he said, 'I fed my people in the time of Moses and I will feed them today too'."

In closing I can only say, He is the same God yesterday, today and forever.

Coloring Books For Sale

If you want to convey the message of The Restoration to your children, friends, neighbors, give them a coloring book, telling the story of The Gospel Restored and The Church of Jesus Christ.

Just write to the following for as many books as you want. The cost is \$.75 per book.

Joe Ross
Ross Drive
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

Alex Gentile
11294 Suffolk Drive
Southgate, MI 48195

John Ross, Jr.
119 W. Saguaro
Casa Grande, Ariz. 85222

Joe Draskovich
527 Fairfield Drive
Greensburg, Pa. 15601

Golden Anniversary

Brother John and Sister Mary Ross celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on November 17, 1976. They have four children: Anthony, Alma and William of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania and John, Jr. of Casa Grande, Arizona.

Their children honored them with a dinner on November 17, 1976 at a local restaurant and there were over 200 guests in attendance.

They were both baptized in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania: John on December 2, 1928 and Mary on December 9, 1928; both by Brother Philip Mileco.

Brother John has been very active as an Evangelist of The Church in the work in Nigeria and recently Ghana. He has made six trips to Nigeria. His wife, Mary, accompanied him on the trip in 1962 and they stayed there for six months. His most recent trip was in 1976 when he visited Nigeria and, along with Brother Nephi DeMercurio of Detroit, Michigan, established The Church in Ghana.

They are members of the Aliquippa Branch.

Let Your Love Lead Me

Love of God,
turn me inside out—
place my goals on satisfying others
before satisfying my own selfish wants,
and above all, let me glorify you in all that I do.

Love of God,
lend me a hand that will destroy
all inward jealousy,
and make me to realize that the greenest grass
lies within my own backyard,
waiting to be watered and taken care of.

Love of God,
refuse hatred to enter between my nearest
friends and home,
where so often this disease begins to grow
and replace yourself within our midst whenever we are
together.
Let us be of one mind, and of your spirit.

Love of God,
let life not be a contest but a revelation,
where we all can SHARE what we've been blessed with
and take the time to help our weak brothers and sisters,
and pray that the strong ones will remain strong.

Love of God,
wash out our rebelliousness and most of all PRIDE
that we may be humble enough to experience the ultimate
in life and meek enough to receive all your good blessings.

May our God, who is love, flow in and through us, out to others, stand among us, give us courage, build us strong and unite His people so that we may be even as He planned us to be . . . sanctified and happy.

Sister Denise DiFalco

Dear Brother Paul,

Following are some verses taken from various scriptures:

Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. *John 14:1-3*

...Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. *Matthew 22:37*

...Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. *Matthew 22:39*

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. *I Corinthians 2:9*

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Romans 9:38-39*

May God bless my Brothers and Sisters throughout The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Oliver Lloyd, Sr.
Cleveland, Ohio

— NEW ARRIVALS —

Congratulations are in order to the proud parents for he indicated new members of their families. New arrivals have been as follows:

Angela Christine to Peter and Candace Genaro of Fort Defiance, Arizona;

Ruth Naomi to Ronald and Loretta Brutz of Fort Defiance, Arizona;

DeWayne Charles to DeWayne E. and Sharon Hall of Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania;

Jared Matthew to Roger and Ada Patterson of Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania;

Rena Lee to Joseph J. and Sherry Lee Stroko of Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania;

— WEDDINGS —

NARDOZZI - RIFFE

Mr. Leonard Frank Nardozzi and Miss Tammy Sue Riffe were joined in holy wedlock on December 23, 1976 at the Lorain, Ohio Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Joseph Calabrese officiated at the wedding ceremony.

Musical selections were presented by Sister Betty Alessio with Sister Carla Naro as the vocal soloist.

The newly wedded couple are living in Lorain, Ohio.

● OBITUARIES ●

EMMA GARMOE

Sister Emma Garmoe passed away from this life on January 4, 1977. She was a member of the Cleveland, Ohio Branch No. 1 of The Church of Jesus Christ.

She was born on November 1, 1901 and was baptized in Rochester, New York in 1965.

She leaves to mourn her loss six children, 24 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren, two brothers and four sisters.

Brother Vince Gibson officiated at the funeral services at the Thomas-Wheaton Funeral Home. Sister Roberta Hufnagle sang "Beyond the Sunset" at the service.

ROSE MULLA

Sister Rose Mulla passed from this life on November 17, 1976. She was a member of Branch No. 1 in Detroit, Michigan. Sister Rose was born on December 11, 1890 and was baptized May 15, 1932.

She leaves to mourn her loss two sons, one daughter, seven grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Brothers Carl Frammolin and Dominic Moraco officiated at the funeral service.

Our dear Sister Rose was known and loved throughout the entire Michigan-Ontario District. Her presence will be deeply missed.

Service

Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

Matthew 25:34-36

We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.

Luke 17:10

Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Romans 12:1

Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.

Romans 12:10, 11

By love serve one another.

Galatians 5:13

ADDRESSES OF ALL BRANCHES & MISSIONS OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST AS OF JANUARY 1, 1975

ARIZONA

Phoenix Branch
2502 N. 28th Place
Phoenix, Az. 85017
Organized Oct. 1966

Pinetop Mission
P.O. Box 674
Pinetop, Az. 85935
Established 1971

Redlake Mission
Box 308
Fort DeFiance, Az. 86504
Established 1975

San Carlos Mission
Box 65
San Carlos, Az. 85550
Organized Oct. 1961

Tucson Mission
6402 S. Hildreth
Tucson, Az. 85706
Established 1975

CALIFORNIA

Anaheim Branch
2446 Orange Ave.
Anaheim, Calif. 92804
Organized Nov. 1959

Bell Branch
4796 Filmore St.
Bell, Calif. 90201
Organized Jan. 1948

Lindsay Branch
25375 Ave. 208
Strathmore, Calif. 93267
Organized Sept. 1974

Modesto Branch
329 Briggsmore
Modesto, Calif. 95350
Organized April 1955

San Diego Branch
3830 39th St.
San Diego, Calif. 92105
Organized Jan. 1948

San Fernando Branch
15157 Roscoe Blvd.
Van Nuys, Calif. 91402
Organized April 1955

Yucaipa Mission
13626 2nd Ave.
Yucaipa, Calif. 92399
Established 1963

FLORIDA

Ft. Pierce Branch
R.D. 1, Box 164
Ft. Pierce, Fla. 33450
Organized 1960

Lake Worth Branch
4260 N. 10 Ave.
Lake Worth, Fla. 33460
Organized 1959

Miami Mission
Southwest Y.M.C.A.
4300 S.W. 58 Ave.
Miami, Fla. 33155
Established 1971

Cape Coral Mission
Cape Corral Yacht Club
Cape Coral, Fla. 33904
Established 1968

Tampa Mission
3403 Paxton Ave.
Tampa, Fla. 33611
Established 1973

KANSAS

St. John Mission
5th & Exchange St.
St. John, Kansas 67576
Established 1875

MICHIGAN

Detroit Branch No. 1
16241 Harper Ave.
Detroit, Mich. 48224
Organized 1927

Detroit Branch No. 2
14722 Morris Ave.
Allen Park, Mich. 48101
Organized 1933

Detroit Branch No. 3
13420 E. Seven Mile Rd.
Detroit, Mich. 48205
Organized 1935

Detroit Branch No. 4
14722 Morris Ave.
Allen Park, Mich. 48101
Organized 1938

Sterling Heights Branch
33312 Dequindre
Sterling Hgts., Mich. 48077

NEW JERSEY

Edison Branch
20 Knapp Ave.
Edison, N. J. 08817
Organized Nov. 1952

Freehold Branch
4 Factory St.
Freehold, N. J. 07728

Hopelawn Branch
393 Florida Grove Rd.
Hopelawn, N. J. 08861
Organized Jan. 1948

Metuchen Branch
New Durham Rd. &
Hampton Place
Metuchen, N.J. 08840
Organized Oct. 1956

New Brunswick Branch
21 Charles St.
New Brunswick, N.J. 08902
Organized July 1935

NEW YORK

Bronx Branch
751 East 217th St.
Bronx, N. Y. 10467
Organized Sept. 1940

Brooklyn Branch
2650 Bath Ave.
Brooklyn, N. Y. 11214
Organized March 1964

Lockport Branch
339 Ontario St.
Lockport, N. Y.
Organized July 1948

Rochester Branch
1529 N. Winton Rd.
Rochester, N. Y. 14069
Organized Nov. 1931

OHIO

Cleveland Branch
471 E. 200th St.
Euclid, Ohio 44119
Organized Jan. 1921

Cleveland W.S. Branch
Middleburgh Hts. City Hall
Middleburgh Hts., Ohio
Organized Nov. 1957

Kinsman Mission
Rt. No. 1 State St.
Kinsman, Ohio 44428
Organized Aug. 1956

Lorain Branch
2655 Broadway
Lorain, Ohio 44055
Organized Oct. 1923

Niles Branch
614 Warren Ave.
Niles, Ohio 44446
Organized Jan. 1923

Perry Branch
2643 S. Ridge Rd.
Perry, Ohio
Organized Nov. 1954

Warren Branch
2955 Caleb Rd. N.W.
Warren, Ohio
Organized Jan. 1923

Youngstown Branch
2750 Gibson St.
Youngstown, Ohio
Organized Jan. 1919

PENNSYLVANIA

Aliquippa Branch
Ross Drive Terrace
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001
Organized Dec. 1922

Erie Mission
3126 State St.
Erie, Pa.
Organized March 1948

Fredonia Branch
R.D. No. 2
Fredonia, Pa. 16124
Organized April 1959

Glassport Branch
614 Michigan Ave.
Glassport, Pa. 15045
Organized Oct. 1915

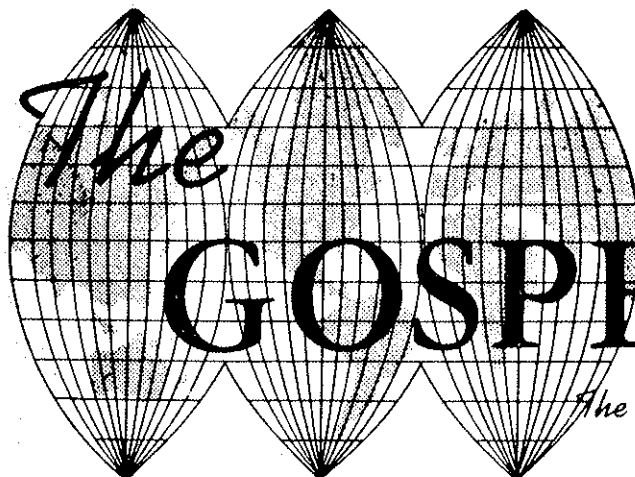
Greensburg Branch
Route 136
Greensburg, Pa. 15601
Organized Oct. 1928

Imperial Branch
R.D. No. 1 Moore Rd.
Imperial, Pa. 15126

McKees Rocks Branch
1498 Park Ave. &
Island Ave. Ext.
McKees Rocks, Pa. 15136
Organized July 1929

Monongahela Branch
Sixth & Lincoln Sts.
Monongahela, Pa. 15063
Organized April 1897

— To be continued —



The GOSPEL NEWS

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa.

March, 1977

Volume 33, No. 3

Offices: 6th & Lincoln Sts.

Greetings In Christ:

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea." *Psalms 46:1, 2*

The Guatemalans have composed a beautiful hymn out of these verses. I heard them sing it as tears ran freely from their eyes.

Chimatelmongo, a commune of San Martino, Santiago, and Antigua lost thousands of men, women, and children in their recent earthquake. I saw a mountain slide on a town where no one escaped. Death and suffering resulted mostly among the poor and common laborers.

Were they more sinful than the rest? I can only think of the words Jesus related: "...or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem?" *Luke 13:1-5*. This is a fair warning to our generation.

As we gave food and clothing, I saw some share with others whatever little they got, as the need is far greater than what we gave. But, thanks be to God that we were able to give even a little. My heart has never been more moved with compassion.

I saw a man trying to drive used nails into hard lumber on a roof; the nails bent. I climbed on the roof and said, "Dame en el clavos." (give me those nails) He stared at me then gave me the nails.

As I was driving them, several came to see, and some asked, "Who is this man?" One of them said: "This is Brother Marco who came to help us."

I find it difficult to express the gratitude of my heart to hear that. We rightly praise the Lord. Were it not for His abiding love we could do nothing. But, because of His love we can do all things.

Reverend Ricardo Elias Duarte always introduced me as the Brother who came from an Italian family. I would then say, "It is true that I was born in Italy, but, it is also true that I was born in Christ. When you are born in Christ, we become Brothers."

One day the Lord inspired me to say, "Una tragedia crea un oportunidad." (A tragedy has created an opportunity.)

They were very moved, for indeed, this is true.

I was in the very center of the Mayan tribes where no white man lives. You must make a sacrifice when you come into baptism, as The Church of Jesus Christ teaches. You must forsake your pride, you must become a new creature—no more Mayan or Italian, but, children of God, the family of Christ.

Pray for them, if at this time God will open the door of grace unto them, and the pure Gospel go to them.

The Lord bless you and keep you in His love.

Grace and peace be with you.

Mark Randy

PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul;

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me;

Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;

Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;

And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Church Calendar

APRIL

GENERAL CHURCH CONFERENCE, General Church Auditorium, Greensburg, Pennsylvania, April 14 at 9:30 A.M. to April 17, 1977.

MAY

G.M.B.A., Detroit, Michigan, May 21, 1977.

JUNE

G.M.B.A. Campout — Eastern Pennsylvania Camp Towanda, June 18-25, 1977.

A LIVING MIRACLE

I would like to thank God this day and days to come for the mighty miracle He performed in my life.

I was helping a neighbor of mine set up an antenna on top of his house. The antenna consisted of a very long pole with cable wire leading into the house to connect to a radio. As I was holding this pole and pulling upward, the pole whipped downward and touched the main power line of the electric lines next to his house. At the time it happened, I noticed nothing unusual. But in a matter of time, the electric company serviceman was in the front yard. He approached us and asked if we had seen or heard anything, for throughout the neighborhood, the electric had completely burned out. Then we noticed smoke coming out of the house.

As we went in, we noticed all outlets on the walls were melted, every light bulb had burned out, the radio was burned up, and the cord from this radio was burned down to bare wire and where the cord had lain on the carpet, it had burned the carpeting.

The house was so full of smoke, it was hard to breathe. The electric company serviceman couldn't believe it. He said that 12,000 volts were going through that power line, and whomever touched it, should be dead many times over, and more damage than this should have taken place.

Well, I thank my God, because I was the one holding the pole that touched that power line, and I didn't even feel as much as a shock. It's hard to express in words how I felt that day, and still feel today. Thank you for allowing me to share this experience with you, and may I ask that you remember me in your prayers as well.

Thomas Davis

The above experience was had by the husband of our faithful Sister Iva Davis. He has been attending our Church services as faithfully as his work schedule permits. Once again we wish to praise God for His loving protection over our loved ones. Whether they are members of the household of faith or not, He cares for them. We must admit the faithful, fervent prayers we offer in behalf of our loved ones are answered again, and again.

While Thomas is not yet a member of our Church, our hope and prayers are that he will not let go of the opportunity given him by our Lord, to know that He is the same yesterday, today, and forever, a God of miracles. Praise His holy name.

What a wonderful heritage is ours to enjoy and to be called the children of God. Can we ask for more? Or can we attain to greater material goals? At best they are but glittering, empty bubbles. But the gift of God is eternal life. Free to all who will obey.

Sister Marie Caldwell
Lorain Branch Editor

SISTER ELIZABETH DAVIDSON MARKS HER 105th Birthday



Sister Elizabeth Cadman Davidson marked her one hundred and fifth birthday last month. She is the daughter of the late Brother William and Sister Elizabeth Worral Cadman, who came to the United States from England in 1856.

She was born on February 16, 1872 in a log house on the Mose Thompson farm in Jefferson Township, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, and was named Elizabeth Amanda Heath Cadman. In a family of twelve children, she was the youngest girl. Of this large family of children, only Sister Davidson is living.

Her early years were spent in the Cadman homestead on Hogback Hill near West Elizabeth, Pennsylvania. She was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ at the age of fifteen years by Brother William Skillen, the father of our late Sister Hannah Skillen. Brother Cochran Lynch and her sister, Mary Cadman Love, were also baptized the same day.

Sister Davidson cared for her aged parents for many years. Her mother was an invalid for over nine years after suffering a stroke. After the death of her parents, she moved to the state of Kansas to live with her brothers Alma and William Cadman. She has enjoyed traveling, and has been in the South and Southwest and has also visited England.

She later was a nurse-companion to Miss Anna Scott, making their home in Florida and North Carolina. After the death of Miss Scott, she married Mr. William Davidson of McKeesport, Pennsylvania. The Davidson family at one time were also members of The Church of Jesus Christ. After their marriage, the Davidsons lived in the old Cadman home near West Elizabeth, Pennsylvania. Sister Davidson is the mother of four step-children, Ada Griffith, Garnet Pinetta and James Davidson, all of McKeesport, Pennsylvania, and Larry Davidson, of Lorain, Ohio.

Sister Davidson is now living in the Metcalf Nursing Home near West Elizabeth and is in excellent health, except for failing eyesight. She is a member of and still attends the Monongahela Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ, since the West Elizabeth Branch was dissolved.

She was the first G.M.B.A. president; she held the office of vice-president of the General Ladies' Uplift Circle for many years, and also served as a General Church Deaconess.

"Aunt Dee", as she is affectionately known by her many nephews and nieces, makes each one feel "It is good to be a Saint of Latter Days".

She was honored on her ninety-ninth birthday by a birthday greeting from President and Mrs. Richard Nixon.

The following scripture is fitting for Sister Elizabeth Cadman Davidson:

"Honor thy father and mother that thy days may be long upon the land which The Lord thy God giveth thee."
Exodus 20:12

appreciation were given to laborers who were not members of our Church.

After the services a lunch was served to all at the Memorial Building in Lindsay. It was a week-end that will always be remembered and cherished in our hearts. We pray that the Lord will bless us with many souls for Him.

In conclusion we could not have completed such a beautiful building to our Lord if it were not for the love and the faith and the patience of our loving Brother Tony Picciuto, we love him dearly.

Sister Theresa M. Biddle
Branch Editor

Lindsay, California Branch News

The youth group of the Lindsay Branch presented a pre-dedication program on September 11, 1976 at 7:00 p.m. It was written and directed by Anita Picciuto and assisted by Sister Theresa Biddle, pianist was Sister Rose Dulisse.

The program started out with the younger children welcoming the congregation by holding up the letters W-E-L-C-O-M-E and giving their opinion of the meaning of each letter, they were the following: Scott Carneval, Tina Picciuto, Dan Picciuto, Kevin Picciuto, Jeffrey Picciuto, Gina Picciuto, and Beth Carneval. Matt Picciuto gave the Welcome Address. Kevin Picciuto honored the Lindsay Branch Senior Saints and presented them with a corsage and boutonniere for the following: Sister Mary Dichiera, Sister Catherine Carneval, Sister Josephine Genaro, and Brother Alex Cavallaro, Sr. Our youth sang, "We've Come This Far By Faith". Kathleen Biddle read a poem, "Climb Till Your Dream Comes True". Bruce Picciuto sang a solo in memory of Brother Cosmo Dichiera, "The Way That He Loves". Dan Picciuto, Jr. followed with words on faith. Youth group sang, "Mustard Seed Faith". Regina Biddle recited, "Bless This House" accompanied by Sister Rose Dulisse on the piano. Mark Picciuto — "Like This Lord". Youth sang, "Thank You Lord", "Everybody Ought To Know", and, "We Shall Not Be Moved". Mindy Brown gave the closing remarks followed by youth singing, "The Family of God" and joined in by everyone.

After the program slides were shown by Sister Ellen Hendricks from the beginning of the renovation of the building to the completion of the church building. The evening was enjoyed by all. Our youth gained much love and admiration for one another during the practices and I am especially proud of our youth because important decisions had to be made for those who were involved in sports and participating in the program for that evening. They were all there and it was a beautiful program. May the Lord always bless our youth for they are the Church of tomorrow. There were over a 100 in attendance.

The next morning was our dedication to the Lord. Those in attendance were from all parts of California. There were 80 visitors from Lindsay. Those from out of state were Dr. David Dichiera and Karen. Certificates of

90th Birthday

Sister Bernadina Thomas celebrated her 90th birthday on December 31, 1976. Sister Thomas was born in 1886 in Bugnara, Italy. She was baptized in the Church on November 2, 1924 in Glassport, Pa. Sister Thomas is a faithful, loving Sister. She has always been very willing to give her testimony to all.

She was honored on her birthday with an "open house" and many Brothers and Sisters in Christ, relatives and friends were present as she blew the 90 candles out on her beautiful cake.

The occasion was especially happy and unique as "four generations" were present to help her celebrate. The new arrival of her great-great-grandson, Charles Thomas Jackson, on December 14, 1976 made her very joyous.

Sister Thomas was able to attend the watch meeting service that same evening in San Diego, California where she has been a member since 1948. She is just as staunch, firm, and happy in the Gospel as that day 52 years ago when she made her covenant with the Lord.

Sole Heir

Ernest Digweed, who died at 81 last year at his home in Portsmouth, England, has left an interesting theological puzzle in his will.

Digweed left \$44,000 to Jesus Christ, but only if he comes "to reign on the earth" during the next 80 years. In case of dispute, the Public Trustee, which administers the British crown funds, shall decide if the claimant is Christ.

"Who can tell who is the real Lord Jesus Christ?" asked the lawyer handling the will. Different people think different things. I certainly anticipate we are going to have a lot of trouble, with cranks particularly."

If Christ doesn't show up to claim the money, it will go into the royal treasury.

From the Plaindealer.

M. B. A. Highlights

GMBA ACTIVITY COMMITTEE MEETS

By JAMES D. GIBSON
GMBA Editor

The GMBA Activity Committee met February 5, 1977 at Aliquippa, Pa. in the church building. It was a cold day with much snow on the ground and it kept many from attending the meeting.

At the start of the meeting Saturday morning, Brother Richard Scaglione, newly elected GMBA Chaplain, made a few comments relative to the day's meeting.

Brothers Paul Palmieri and Don Ross, GMBA President and Vice President also made some comments to those in attendance. Brother Paul reviewed the items on the day's agenda. The order of business was as follows:

1. *Missionary Brochures* — Brother Don Ross brought us up to date. He stated that the brochures were printed but the quality was very disappointing. The brochure is composed of cards on each established mission field of The Church. After some discussion, it was decided that a financial arrangement would be attempted with the printer for a reprint of the brochures.
2. *Lesson Plans* — Brother Paul Palmieri reported that the lesson plans that had been misplaced were located. As soon as possible they would be delivered to the GMBA Librarian, Brother Joseph Draskovich.
3. *Lay Mission Program* — It was reported that the interest and involvement in this program has almost come to a complete stop. It was agreed that we should take other avenues of approach. A letter will be sent to the General Church Mission Board requesting their support for this project.
4. *Organizing Arizona as an MBA Area* — Brother Paul Palmieri reported that he communicated with the locals in the Arizona Area. There is some disagreement in the locals on wanting to organize as an Area. It was agreed that a letter be sent to each local suggesting that when a majority favors an Area, they should contact the officers.
5. *Coloring Books* — Approximately twenty-five per cent of the books have been sold. It was suggested that we consider selling them to organizations other than Our Church.
6. *Committee to Re-Construct By-Laws* — At the past GMBA Conference permission was granted to form this committee. A rough draft will be sent to the Locals and they in turn will send their comments to their Area. The Areas should make a compilation and send it to the committee no later than September 30, 1977. A committee was then selected to enact the re-construction of the By-Laws. The committee elected were the following: Brothers Don Ross, James Link, Kenny Lombardo, Augie D'Orazio and Sister Mary Ann Ensana.
7. *Book of Mormon Concordance* — The fund contains \$6,700.00 and to date the project is in a somewhat stagnant situation.

8. *GMBA Campout* — Date set for campout is June 18 to 25. As of now the school closing situations in various states has developed a special problem. Late school closing dates could very well interfere with a camp date. It was decided to appoint a camp director and form the committees necessary. Brother Jim Huttenberger, of the Atlantic Coast was elected the camp director. He will pick his committees for camp.

9. *Fiscal Book Closings* — A reminder — all GMBA Officers books are to be closed by March 31, 1977.

10. *Hill Cumorah Trip* — If the campout is not held, a trip to Hill Cumorah will be considered. Possibly Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 12 to 14.

11. *GMBA Campout "78"* — Southern Ohio or Kentucky Area are being considered for campout, and GMBA Campout "79" possibly the California Area is being considered.

The Activity Committee dismissed the meetings for day at 4:30 P.M.

A supper was held in The Church basement and some of those from out of town left.

We would encourage all to attend the GMBA to be held in Detroit, Michigan this coming May 21, 1977.

California Area M.B.A. Campout

The California Area M.B.A. Campout will be held on Saturday, July 30, 1977 at 12:00 noon and will end on August 6, 1977 at 12:00 noon.

The campsite is Camp Radford.

Anyone having questions please contact the camp director

Brother Bill Meo
12037 Penford Drive
La Mirada, Calif. 90836
213-943-6253

AN EXPERIENCE

On July 28, 1976, at the G. M. B. A. campout in Kansas we were singing outside in a circle after an evening meeting. Brother Dan Ciarolla said, he saw Angels guarding the camp.

While we were having prayer by Brother John Mancini, I shut my eyes and looked upward. I began to thank God for the blessings He was bestowing upon us when I saw the stars and a Man, sitting on His throne with His arms stretched wide open.

The next day, July 29, at a prayer meeting, I saw an Angel in the corner of the auditorium where we were praying.

I personally want to thank God for the experiences He has given me. It seems that God does so much for me and I do so little in return. My prayer is that He would use me as He sees fit.

Brother Keith Donkin
Glassport, Pennsylvania

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

THE HAND OF PROVIDENCE

Shortly after the death of Nephi, his younger brother, Jacob, was directed by the Lord as follows: "Jacob, get thou up into the temple on the morrow, and declare the word which I shall give thee unto this people." (*Jacob 2:11*)

Because of the presence of many tender-hearted women and children in the temple, it was with grief and reluctance that Jacob exposed the creeping pride and wickedness among the people.

On the other hand he reminded them that the Lord had led them forth out of the land of Jerusalem by the power of His arm and brought them to the land of promise that He might raise up a righteous people.

Jacob also told them, "And the Hand of Providence hath smiled upon you most pleasingly, that you have obtained many riches..." (*Jacob 2:13*)

MAN'S FORGETFULNESS

How soon man seems to take for granted God's many blessings and providence, oftentimes forgetting the source of all good. This has been true down through the ages and it is true today.

The abnormally cold winter and related hardships we are experiencing may well serve to remind many of us of how much we need God's continuing providence and care.

Additionally, due to prolonged frigid weather our national economy has sustained extensive damage and loss. Because of depleted natural gas reserves in many areas of our country, hundreds of factories and businesses have been compelled to either suspend or curtail operations. As a result several million workers have been idled for varying lengths of time depriving them and their employers of needed income. Likewise, many homes, schools and public buildings have either been deprived of fuel or restricted drastically.

Freezes in Florida have damaged a wide variety of fruits and vegetables. It has been reported that even chickens are not laying as many eggs as usual in the cold areas, which could seriously reduce the national egg supply.

On the other hand, in the Great Plains states, concern has been aroused that dry soil from lack of precipitation and lack of snow insulation, together with the start of the heavy wind season may sharply reduce winter wheat yields. Also, in the far West, fruit and vegetable crops have been hurt by lack of rainfall.

MANIFOLD BLESSINGS AND BOUNTIES

Perhaps we too, like people in the past ages, have at times taken for granted God's manifold blessings and bounties. We may well ask ourselves, "Have we been sufficiently grateful to God? Have we endeavored to sufficiently praise Him?"

Surely, there is room here for an eloquent and timely reminder by the wise and good King Benjamin, "For behold, are we not all beggars? Do we not all depend upon the same Being, even God, for all the substance which we have, for both food and raiment, and for gold, and for silver, and for all the riches which we have of every kind?" (*Mosiah 4:19*)

Thank God, as this goes to press, the frigid weather has begun to moderate and we pray that He will grant relief from other climatic problems.

We pray that God will stir people everywhere to respond with gratitude to the Hand of Providence.



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

The Woman From Endor

Dear Girls and Boys,

I want to tell you a story that took place during King Saul's life. There was a woman who lived in Endor and many think of her as a witch. In Israel there were people who had evil spirits or "familiar spirits". People would talk with the spirits and ask them questions. They were wicked and it was a great sin to have such a spirit. In Exodus it reads, "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live." King Saul put those out of the land who were wizards and had familiar spirits.

A time came in Saul's life when he was very troubled. The Philistines were preparing to fight Israel. They had a huge army and Saul was afraid. He asked the Lord what he should do but the Lord did not answer him. He said to his servants, "Find a woman who has a familiar spirit that I may go to her." The servants knew of such a woman in Endor. King Saul disguised himself so no one would know him. He took two men with him and off they went to this woman. Now the woman did not recognize Saul. Saul asked the woman to call up a man that he would name. She asked him if he didn't know the king had sent those who had familiar spirits and the wizards out of the country. She thought he was setting a trap for her. But King Saul assured her saying, "As the Lord liveth, there shall be no punishment happen to thee for this thing." She asked, "Who shall I bring up unto thee?" Saul said, "Bring up Samuel." Now Samuel had been dead many years. He was a prophet of the Lord. The woman cried with a loud voice. "Why hast thou deceived me? Thou art Saul. An old man cometh up and he is covered with a mantle." This woman had brought forth the voice of Samuel, who predicted Saul's downfall and death. The Philistines would be victorious and the kingdom would go to David. Saul and his sons would die.

Saul was afraid, he was not able to go on. He fell to the floor of the woman's cold cave, a very weary old man. Seeing this, the woman said, "Let me set a morsel of bread before thee and eat, that thou mayest have strength when thou goest on thy way." She and his servants compelled him to eat and rest on her bed. While he rested she killed a fat calf, then took flour and made unleavened bread. This was probably the last meal Saul had, for the next day he and his sons suffered a terrible death. Saul's head and armour were taken into the land of the Philistines so all their people would know he was dead.

When David heard of Saul's and Saul's son's death, he was very sad. He became the new king of Israel. The prophet's words were all fulfilled. God's Word never fails.

Sincerely,
Sister Mabel

OUR WOMEN TODAY . . .

Ft. Pierce Ladies Circle 12th Anniversary

November 6, 1976 will be a day long remembered by the Sisters of the Ft. Pierce Branch. It was on this day they hosted a dinner and program to commemorate the 12th anniversary of their Ladies Circle.

The dinner was planned by Sister Sally Romano and with the help of Sister Ann Costarella and others, everyone seemed to enjoy all the good food.

A prayer by Sister Mary Lovalvo got the program underway. After singing a hymn, Sister Ilene Smith, our President, greeted the assembly. She mentioned how even in the Bible women were used by the Lord to carry on His work.

The Sisters of Ft. Pierce then sang to the tune of "It is Wonderful" an original song composed by Sister Ann Costarella with the aid of Brother Charles Smith. Sister Juanita Rogolino then recited a poem she had written expressly for this occasion. A brief history of the Circle, the work done by the Sisters, from the inception of the Circle up to the present, was given by Sister Gladys Moore.

Five little girls, daughters of our Sisters, Millissa and Jennifer Rogolina, Laurie Fisher, Laurie Collison, and Diana Romano then sang us a hymn.

Scripture reading from *Proverbs* followed by a short character sketch was given by Sister Maryann Bays. Sister Joyce Rogolino sang a medley of songs with recitation showing how this country was discovered, our country's birthday and ours. It was very moving.

A brief resume of the General Circle meeting was given by Sister Elsie Ensana. She also told of how busy the Sisters are all over the country doing their work for the benefit of our Church and the work of our Lord. Sister Carmella Mazzeo added a few words of The General Conference she had attended.

Taking the first letters of the words in The Ladies Circle, Sister Mary Glover wrote a poem and read it. Sister Josephine Arcuri, Ann Costarella, Libby Pandone, and Mary Lovalvo sang a quartet.

Many of our visiting sisters complimented the efforts put forth by our Branch. We, the sisters of Ft. Pierce, tired but very happy want to thank our Good Lord we are in His Church, one of His and were able to meet with and spend these few hours together in fellowship.

Louise Micale
Branch Editor

REFLECTIONS

While 1976 was the year our nation observed its 200th birthday, some of us from the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch observed our 50th year in the beautiful Gospel of Christ.

As I write this article, I have vivid memories of our church building being built. My father, not yet converted,

worked side by side with the other Brothers to help complete the structure which today still stands as a monument unto God. Great were the blessings we enjoyed throughout the years in this beautiful house of God.

As I glance back over the years, they were not all roseey. Many were the trials and heartaches that life brings. No doubt all the ones converted that year would agree. But what a glorious blessing it is to look back and remember how wonderful the Lord has been to us in our time of need.

I hope and pray as we have approached our golden anniversary in this beautiful Gospel our dear Lord will grant us to endure to the end even to the moment He calls us home. Many have gone to their reward fulfilling the commandments of the Lord. We are in hope to meet them in the Paradise of God.

These are the ones I was able to find baptized during 1926 at the New Brunswick Branch:

R. Ensano, Highland Park, N. J.
Ann Valenti, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Frank Sirangelo, Florida
Nancy Morone, Arizona
Carmela Mazzeo, Florida
Jennie Miller, New Brunswick, N. J.
Theresa Venuto, Edison, N. J.

Love to All,
Sister Carmela Mazzeo



Me And Blue

Me and Blue
were cruising down Lakeshore
Just another cold, brisky night
Not yet had the sun darkened
your love, Lord sparkled in the
daylight

I could feel your freshness
in each maple leaf
Falling from the tired trees
Before nature took a long, long
sleep

The Golden yellows, the bright
Bright reds
encircled me and Blue
And I felt like a rich woman
knowing that the answers were
hidden within you, God.

For your secrets were unfolding
and I knew this beautiful
creation was not made by man
and oh, the people who do not
understand the simplicity of life

Must everything be complicated
to be right?

Sister Denise Ruyle

BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS:—

Ice Cut For Baptism At Aliquippa, Pa.

Sunday, January 16, 1977 started at 8:30 A.M. as we met in fasting and prayer that the Lord would bless us. It was the coldest day we had experienced as the temperature dropped to 10 degrees below zero. Approximately 25 Brothers and Sisters came to the meeting, braving the frigid weather.

After our prayer meeting, we had Sunday School and because of the inclement weather the Elders decided to have one meeting so people would not have to travel back to church.

Brother Anthony Ross opened the meeting and spoke on the importance of being attached to the vine. *John, Chapter 15*. He was followed by Brother John Ross who stressed that completeness means being able to partake of all of the ordinances of the Gospel. He made particular mention of being able to observe the ordinance of the Lord's Supper.

Before the communion was passed, the meeting was opened for testimonies. Brother Anthony Ross invited the young people to express themselves. Karen Progar thanked God for everything in her life. She had attended college, graduated and was unable to obtain employment. Karen testified that through the prayers of the Saints, she obtained a job which she enjoys very much. She now found that she was lacking something. At this point she asked to be baptized.

Plans were immediately made to travel some 10 miles to the Imperial Branch and baptize Karen in a lake near The Church. Fifty people went to witness the baptism.

Before we were able to baptize our new convert, some large obstacles had to be overcome, such as the snow and ice. There was three feet of snow going to the lake as Brother James Moore got his tractor and plowed a path for us to travel. At the lake Brother Bob Buffington was cutting through 14 inches of ice with a chain saw. Without these two Brothers, we would not have been able to baptize our Sister. Brother Bob cut a hole in the ice that resembled a grave.

Brother Joe Ross took our new candidate down to the liquid grave and baptized her. We all returned to the Aliquippa Branch for the confirmation of our new Sister and to observe the Lord's Supper.

Brother Bob Buffington brought a piece of ice to the Aliquippa Branch to show those who could not make the trip. After prayer by Brother Paul Palmieri, Sister Karen had hands layed on for the reception of the Holy Ghost by Brother Bob Buffington.

We had a wonderful day, that started early and ended at 5:00 P.M. Our time schedule was changed by God, for which we praise His name.

Sister Joyce Jumper
Branch Editor

Fire And Holy Ghost

On Sunday, December 6, 1976 at Branch No. 1 in Detroit, Michigan, Brother Spencer Everett opened in prayer. You could tell by looking at him, that he was

filled with the Spirit, as he asked us to kneel while we prayed.

Brother Tony Scolaro then was inspired to sing a solo. Everyone felt a blessing.

As Brother Spencer Everett proceeded to speak, the Spirit which had fallen upon him, slowly began flowing into the entire room. You could feel it moving about like a gentle wind.

In Brother Spencer's opening words he told us that this would not be a preaching but rather a teaching service. Among the many things he covered, he spoke to us about a feeling that he had a little over a year ago. He became very frustrated and said to himself, "There has to be more". He stated, "Then God began to show me things".

He reminded us of the scripture which states that whatever you ask in faith believing you will receive.

Then by use of the *Book of Mormon* and *Holy Bible*, Brother Spencer began teaching us about the fire and the Holy Ghost.

In Acts, Chapter 1, the Apostles not knowing what to do after Christ's death, did no work and patiently waited. Finally, the Holy Ghost fell upon them and guided them.

Brother Spencer told us there are two ways to present the Gospel, on our own or with the Spirit.

He said that as a boy he was raised on a farm. Sometimes he would go into the woods with a hand saw, and cut up the wood. He added that later on they came out with power saws. It got the job done much faster.

Presenting the Gospel is the same. You can do it the slow way on your own, or the fast way with the power of the Holy Ghost. The results are eventually the same, only one is just a lot faster than the other.

He included with his statement a warning: "The man who uses a hand saw is better off than a man who has a power saw and never uses it".

Brother Spencer told several very recent experiences, one in particular I would like to share with you.

One day his secretary told him that her aunt had a spongy terminal cancer. The doctors said if they did exploratory surgery on her, she would have only 60 days to live instead of 90.

She said that her aunt decided to have the operation. It would take place at 11 o'clock in the morning. She asked Brother Spencer to pray for her aunt. At 5 minutes to 11, Brother Spencer was on the expressway. He began praising God and said, "I don't know how to pray for her, You pray through me".

He felt as though he was expanding inside, like a balloon. He said, "I began speaking in another language".

After this experience, he spoke to his secretary. She told him that when they opened up her aunt they found no cancer at all.

Later, Sisters Ruth Braendle, Grace D'Angelo and Jean DePerno made known to us experiences which had been given to them. They were confirming testimonies adding to the beauty of our day.

A circle was formed among our Elder Brothers, and closing prayer was said. About half way through the

prayer Brother John Impastato spoke in a loud powerful voice which almost shook the room. Repeating it 4 times he said, "The Lord is here with us".

Sister Bessie, his wife, was standing next to him. She tried to stop him because she felt Brother John was disrupting the prayer. As she reached out to touch him, she felt a force around him, and could not put her hand on him.

While all this was going on Sister Patty Gioia heard a voice say, "This is only the beginning". She looked around and seeing no one, Sister Patty thought she had imagined the voice. But again the voice told her, "This is only the beginning".

This was not the half of what took place that day. Needless to say blessings and tears flowed in abundance.

Sister Diana Thompson

A Well Balanced Meal

There are times when either a Sunday morning or afternoon service may stand out more prominently in one's mind because of a special blessing, experience or message that was had. Our January 16, Sunday service had to be one of the most balanced Sunday "meals" that we at Branch 2 have had in the past few weeks.

We were privileged to have Brother Nicholas Pietrangelo, Apostle from Branch 1, visiting with us. He began by reminding the congregation about his previous visit to Branch 2 and a near mishap he encountered. He and his wife were traveling on the expressway, when a van swerved into the side of their car. The noise jolted them both and he feared the worst. However, when he went to assess the damage, he found not a scratch! This experience is one he cannot forget.

As he opened his text to *1 Corinthians, Chapter 12*, he spoke of the spiritual laws. With all the laws man has created, none are really necessary if he would simply obey God's laws. In doing so our Brother emphasized the need for charity in our everyday lives. He expressed himself very liberally on this subject and then continued on quite a different topic—that of envy. Brother Nick warned the Saints about feelings of greed and envy creeping into our midst. We, especially, should not harbor such feelings toward one another or toward those about us. The Saints are an extremely blessed group of people both spiritually and naturally.

In his concluding remarks, our Brother read two dreams that were given a few years ago. These dreams indicated some things we as Saints should be putting into practice in our personal lives. There remains a strong need to pray unto the Lord, to pray diligently and to pray often. Brother Nick was certainly inspired of God in the message he delivered that Sunday morning.

As our afternoon meeting got underway, we were delighted to see Brother Corie Ciaravino back with us and looking so well after his brief illness. He thanked everyone for their prayers and spoke of how he had received so many calls and cards from the members of every district. Next, Brother Dominic Moraco talked on his recent trip to the Florida District and his visits to the Tampa and Miami Missions. We were also glad to see once again Brother Leet who had not been with us for some time.

The Brothers and Sisters then received a wonderful blessing. Brother Timothy Lambert asked to be reinstated in The Church. This was truly an answer to many prayers. As the Elders of Branches 2 and 4 formed a ring and offered prayer, Brother Tim was reinstated by Brother Reno Bologna. After this prayer, as Brother Tim was about to embrace Brother Fred Straccia, Brother Fred spoke in the gift of tongues. Immediately, Sister Clara Gentile arose and stated that she understood the tongues to say "Put on the breastplate of righteousness and walk in the righteousness of God." We pray that God will bless Brother Tim abundantly in his service to Him and that He will give him the wisdom and courage in dealing with any obstacles in his life. We were truly thankful for a wonderful day in God's house.

Sister Janet Buffa
Branch No. 2, Detroit

Florida District News

Brother V. James Lovalvo, President of the Florida District, informed us that he and his wife will be moving to California within the next two weeks. We are sad to see them leave, and feel it to be a great loss to us.

We want to express deepfelt appreciation for his guidance and self sacrifice here in the Florida District. He has been a good worker during the 6½ years spent in God's service in Florida, greatly encouraging the Saints to move forward in The Church.

Brother Jim will always be remembered as a man who willingly put his talents, knowledge, and divine inspiration to work for the good of each and every individual in and out of The Church. He is always ready to speak out forthrightly for the Lord, The Church and the Restored Gospel.

His mediating spirit will be missed in the conferences of the Branches and Missions in Florida. Whatever he had to say was well worth listening to. The strong, competent and sympathetic leadership he has given to the Saints here, are very much in evidence. The friendship of Brother Jim and Sister Mary are greatly valued by us all.

May God bless both of them in their return to California with joy and peace and a long and happy life in Christ.

Brother Eugene Perri, Jr.

Fort Pierce Branch News

Saturday, November 13, 1976, many Saints, from all over the state gathered together to hear Brother Eugene Perry, Jr. who had scheduled two Lecture-Sermons at the Ft. Pierce Branch. The message consisted of Historical and Archeological proof of those things that are related in the Book of Mormon.

It was a remarkable meeting as well as very educational. While he was speaking, a vision was seen, of a tall Indian, dressed in white, standing next to Brother Gene Perri.

Brother Alvin Swanson also related some personal experiences concerning the ruins in Central America from his trips there.

Sunday evening, Brother Eugene Perri, Jr. spoke on "No Failures In Bible Prophecies". He proved through scripture, the fall and demise of cities as well as countries. It was a very enlightening and educational piece of work. All in all we can truly testify we were well fed spiritually.

Sunday, November 14, 1976, after the singing of several hymns, our morning meeting was called to order. A vision was seen of a high white cloud with a multitude of Saints going up into it waving palms. A voice said "According to the Multitude of Souls in the world my people are few".

Brother Mike Radd read the first few verses of *Alma 17th chapter*. His words were fittingly spoken, encouraging the DUTY of spreading The Gospel. Brother V. J. Lovalvo followed, speaking on the subject with the manifestation of the Spirit, in several instances, and tongues spoken which was interpreted by Brother Jim as he closed the meeting.

These were the words spoken in the spirit — "As smoke is scattered by the wind, so shall your enemies be if you keep my Commandments and do my will. I will surely keep you in the circle of my arm."

Mary Glover

Erie Mission News

Erie Mission had a very memorable day November 21. We were visited by Saints from Kinsman, Perry and Youngstown, Ohio and Brother Ron Dyer, originally from Erie, now residing at San Carlos Reservation, also Ron's friend Chris Cameros from Arizona. Though the weather was treacherous outside, we thank God all arrived safely.

Many beautiful words were spoken during the morning service as Brother Phil Jackson opened the meeting by speaking on God in our heart. Brother Gene Kline of Perry, Ohio followed speaking on commitment and involvement stating one is as important as the other.

After the morning service, lunch was served and enjoyed by all.

Brother Howard Jackson opened the afternoon meeting followed by Brother Ron Dyer telling of his involvement among the Seed of Joseph and how important it is that the Saints help the missionary work. Many testimonies were given and after the close of the service, Brother Ron and Chris took their flight back to Arizona. Supper was served and then our M.B.A. service was held in which slides were shown on the archeology findings in South America. Scriptures were used showing how the findings coincide with the *Book of Mormon*.

We thank God for the visitors that traveled many miles to be with us in Erie. It was a glorious day, well spent in the House of God. We also thank God for the Restoration which has shown us the Truth and Love for one another.

Sister P. Kovacic, Editor

Joy In Georgia

We feel like we owe the Gospel News readers a note of our work here in the state of Georgia.

We had no big news to send in because really we were just sowing the seed, "The Word of God," everywhere we had an opportunity. Our first convert for 1977 was Samuel Kunkel, our 24-year-old grandson.

Brother Frank Rogolino came here Sunday, January 23, 1977, watered the seed that had been planted in Sam's heart and God came and gave the increase. Our meeting started out with the spirit of praise and gift of tongues spoken by Sister Rose Rogolino. "Come unto me, and I will give you rest," was the interpretation of the tongues. Sam came forth and asked for his baptism. We went down to the lake and Brother Stewart Byars chopped about 3 inches of thick ice. A rare thing here in Georgia. Brother Frank took Sam down into the water and with a powerful spirit baptized him in the name of the "Father, Son and Holy Ghost." What a joy we all received. There were 23 of us and some neighbors who witnessed this beautiful work.

We returned to our meeting and Sam was confirmed into The Church by laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost by his grandfather, Brother James Moore, Sr. He got up immediately and gave his testimony and praised God for his calling into The Church. Each one gave a testimony following Sam, praising God for His goodness. We realize it isn't easy for our young to leave the world and join the army of the Lord, but there are some who recognize their need for God to help them find their way, and Sam was one of these.

We appreciate the help we have received from Brothers who have come here to see us. Brother Frank Giovannone, Brother Alvin Swanson, Brother Raymond Co-setti, Brother Bob Buffington, Brother Jimmy Moore and of course their wives also have been a blessing to our Sisters. We have also had Brother Bob Morris and his family with us often and they have been a blessing to us. We did have Brother Augustine and his wife Ense Etukuda from Nigeria, Africa for several months attending our service.

We received a letter from Robyn Noel White who with her husband is stationed in Germany. She was raised among the Greensburg Saints and misses them. She misses the fellowship of The Church. Pray for their welfare.

We are meeting in a home of Stewart and Kathy Byars because there are no available buildings to rent in our area. We purchased an acre of land and if we cannot build a church building we know the younger generation will do it — (Jim is 76 years old.) This work has been quite a challenge for us. We feel like Abraham — (pilgrims in a strange land) — or like pioneers opening up new land.

Jim takes his scythe, ax, and chain saw and is clearing the acre of land for a future church site. That's faith, isn't it? He said it's good exercise. Some one asked us what we do with all of our time. Well, we went and bought some fishing equipment and learned how to fish, but all we catch are tree limbs out of the waters, but on the banks of the lake we often have an opportunity to tell others of Jesus and give them invitations to Church.

One old gentleman came to us and I said, "Mr. Windlorn, you live so close to our Church, please come." He said, "My wife can't get out of bed on Sunday morning because she works." I said, "When you stand before God on the day of judgment God will not ask you, 'Where is your wife?' He will ask you, 'Mr. Windlorn, where

have you been all your life, I don't seem to know you?'" Then Mr. Windlorn said, "O.K. I'll come one time for you." He did come.

We also have been trying to rehabilitate a family. Did you ever hear the desperate cry of an alcoholic, or did you ever hear the lonesome cry of a retarded child who cannot talk? Did you ever see a drug addict beat his mother and wife? We have been exposed to this and more.

Brother Sam Kirschner used to say, "Can you hear them cry out there?" Yes, we have seen them crying. Fear is in the hearts of many people. Churches are torn in two. Some say, "This is the way." Others say, "No, this is the way." Division is great in the religious world today, but we believe the time is at hand when God will come forth in His power and might to execute His commandments.

So, we thank God we had big news to send in — a new soldier in the army of the Lord.

Samuel Kunkel
Building 42
2135 Godby Road
College Park, Georgia 30349

Sister Eva Moore
Georgia Mission

Whiteriver, Arizona News

Dear Gospel News readers,

We at the Whiteriver Mission wish to thank all for the help this mission receives both spiritually and materially.

We have just finished having our annual Thanksgiving dinner. As usual it was very successful. There were in attendance about 200.

We had many Gentile visitors, Brother Joseph Calabrese and wife from Ohio, Brother Mark Randy and family, Brother Joseph Bologna and wife, Brothers Paul and Tom Liberto and families, Brother Nick Liberto and wife, from California along with those from Phoenix, Tucson, Red Lake and San Carlos. We wish to thank them all for helping out.

There were many Apaches present, the church was full. While sitting at a table with an Apache couple (not members) I was really blessed as he mentioned how he felt the spirit when Brother Calabrese prayed. As he finished telling me this, Brother Randy sat down with us and began to tell him of his life in the Gospel. Both the Apache man and his wife began to cry.

So, not only were we well fed with the natural but, as Jesus said, "I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." *John 6:35.*

We are grateful for your prayers and help. Continue to pray for us, dear Brothers and Sisters, as you are our constant support.

God bless all of you who have taken the time to visit the mission this past year. Come again, the Apaches say, "Honda"—welcome.

Sister June Tenijeth, Editor

P.S. We put the extra copies of The Gospel News in the laundromat on the reservation. I have seen people read it when I go there to wash.

Farewell Meeting At Tampa, Florida

Sadness lay heavy over the Tampa Mission as the time grew nearer to saying farewell to Brother and Sister Jim Lovalvo. Their presence had become such an integral part of this little mission that their departure would be painful.

On December 12, 1976, my family and I had decided to go to Tampa after hearing that this would be the last opportunity to see Sister Mary and Brother Jim before they left for California and also a chance to see, who were soon to be our dearest friends, Brother and Sister Duane Lowe and family.

The meeting opened with Sister Mary preparing the communion table. Her flowing movements bespoke the many times she had performed this duty as Deaconess. Brother Billy Tucker told of the numerous occasions the Lovalvo's had given of their time, driving 200 miles to and 200 miles from Tampa twice a month. It was not difficult to see the void they would leave in the lives of those in Tampa who depended so on the strength of these two pillars.

Brother Jim, with tears streaming down his face, bid a farewell to each person at the mission. Testimonies were given, one after the other and each with a sameness love of these two people.

Before the meeting ended the Lord touched Mae Dettori and she asked for her baptism. What a wonderful day to be locked into my memory where not even time can erode it. There was no place I would rather have been December 12 than at the Tampa Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Sister Letti Obradovich
Lake Worth Branch Editor

Activities At Lake Worth, Florida

The Lake Worth Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ has been pulsating with excitement and activity, due partly to the good organization of the leaders, partly to the enthusiasm of the members, and largely to the love of one another we find the following accounts of a busy time in Florida.

For those visiting Lake Worth Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ it may have seemed Thanksgiving fell on a Saturday this year. Lake Worth, Miami, and Ft. Pierce M.B.A.'s celebrated Thanksgiving November 27, 1976 with a traditional feast of turkey and trimmings, roast beef, sweet potatoes, pumpkin and blueberry pies and oh, so much more.

There was such a willingness to cooperate from the youngest to the eldest that there was much to thank the Lord for. No one needed reminding to do but rather Brothers and Sisters were gently urged to sit down and let someone else take a turn.

Wanting to hold on the moment, Brother Doug Obradovich invited all who could to come to his house. Many did and the bond grew stronger between Brothers and Sisters as it always does when love motivates fellowship.

Thanksgiving '76 will long be cherished by those in the Florida Area.

Waistlines swelled and so did the treasury of the

Lake Worth Ladies Uplift Circle as pizzas were made, sold, and eaten at the annual Christmas Bazaar December 5, 1976. For those who gave up their Saturday and worked from sunup to sundown for the Lord, their efforts did not go unrewarded. One hundred and thirty-four dollars was earned after expenditures. It is worth noting how many customers remembered our booth from the previous year and more surprising still how many asked for the recipe; no one was telling.

We are so grateful for each small success the Lord gives to us.

Lake Worth and Ft. Pierce Circles met at the Carlinghouse Restaurant for the yearly secret pay dinner and the gift exchange. "I knew it was you" or "Oh, no I never dreamed it was you" could be heard from all corners of the banquet room as names were revealed after a year of expectations.

A red carnation lay beside each Sister's plate and a bouquet of flowers was placed by Sister Mary Lovalvo's setting for all the dinners we would no longer be sharing with her. She and Brother Jim would leave early the next morning.

A program was presented by the Lake Worth Circle with Sister Peggy Benyola, Lake Worth Circle Vice-President, as chairperson.

The Lake Worth scrapbook was displayed which is fast filling with pictures, mementos and cards of the doings of this circle.

Still another activity worthy of mentioning was the Christmas caroling by the Florida Area M.B.A. at Medica Nursing Home for the aged in Lake Worth on December 18, 1976.

Walking up and down the halls singing Christmas songs and peering into many sightless eyes and suffering hearts, I could sense what this precious little time meant to these lonely people. Some were wiping tears, some cried unashamedly, while others were content to sing along. One dear little soul followed us as a puppy runs to keep up with his new master. There was no doubt we brought comfort to many who otherwise know only bleakness and despair.

It was the feeling of the M.B.A. that this was the most worthwhile happening of the year. We touched the real meaning of Christmas; we brought "Joy to the World" to those unfortunate but not forgotten people.

Sister Letti Obradovich
Lake Worth Branch Editor

Coloring Books For Sale

If you want to convey the message of The Restoration to your children, friends, neighbors, give them a coloring book, telling the story of The Gospel Restored and The Church of Jesus Christ.

Just write to the following for as many books as you want. The cost is \$.75 per book.

Joe Ross
Ross Drive
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

John Ross, Jr.
119 W. Saguaro
Casa Grande, Ariz. 85222

Alex Gentile
11294 Suffolk Drive
Southgate, MI 48195

Joe Draskovich
527 Fairfield Drive
Greensburg, Pa. 15601

— NEW ARRIVALS —

Congratulations are in order to the proud parents for the following new members of their families. New Arrivals have been as follows:

Alison to Joseph and Joann Cotellesse of Detroit, Michigan Branch No. 2;

Christopher William to John V. and Joy Azzinaro of San Fernando Valley, Calif.;

Tessa Christine to Gary and Tina Anderson of San Diego, Calif.;

Charles Thomas to Michael and Debra Jackson of San Diego, Calif.;

Belzonia III to Belzonia and Rosemary Brown of Ashtabula, Ohio.

— WEDDINGS —

HENDERSON - DIMELIS

Brother Donald Wayne Henderson and Sister Vicki Lynn Dimelis were united in holy matrimony at The Church of Jesus Christ in Allen Park, Michigan Branch No. 2 of Michigan-Ontario District on Saturday, July 17, 1976.

Brother Allen Henderson, grandfather of the bridegroom, officiated at the wedding ceremony.

Musical selections were presented by Sister Judy Dyer and a trio from Windsor, Ontario.

The newlyweds are residing in London, Ontario.

● OBITUARIES ●

VILLA MORLE

Sister Villa Morle of Branch No. 2 of Allen Park, Michigan passed on to her eternal reward on January 27, 1977. She was a faithful member of The Church of Jesus Christ since December 31, 1933, when she was baptized. She was born on April 27, 1904.

She leaves to mourn her loss, husband, one son, one daughter, three brothers, one sister and six grandchildren.

The funeral services were officiated by Brothers Dominic Thomas and Reno Bologna.

Sister Villa died two years after suffering a stroke. She was a devoted servant of the Lord and will be missed by many who knew her.

JOSEPHINE BUCELLATO

Sister Josephine Buccellato of the San Diego, California Branch passed on to be with her God on January 17, 1977. She was born on October 22, 1888 and was

baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on May 15, 1932 in Detroit, Michigan.

She leaves to mourn her loss, seven children, 18 grandchildren, 41 great-grandchildren, two brothers and two sisters.

Brothers Lou Ciccati and Thomas Liberto officiated at the funeral services.

Sister Buccellato was a wonderful, faithful sister in the Gospel.

ANNE LOMBARDO

Sister Anne Lombardo passed from this life on December 26, 1976. She was born on April 3, 1902 and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on May 1, 1932.

Left to mourn her passing are her husband, Brother Joe Lombardo, two daughters, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

The funeral service was conducted by Brother Anthony Scolaro.

Sister Anne lived most of her adult life in pain. In spite of that, her testimony always told of her thankfulness to God and her love for the Gospel.

Addresses of Branches and Missions — continued

Roscoe Branch

Latta Ave.

Roscoe, Pa. 15477

Organized April 1933

WASHINGTON

Washington D.C. Mission

YMCA - 18th & G Sts.

Washington, D.C. 20006

Established Sept. 1962

Vanderbilt Branch

R.D. No. 1

Vanderbilt, Pa. 15486

Organized 1949

SOUTH DAKOTA

Wakpala Mission

Box 28

Wakpala, S. D. 57658

Established Sept. 1963

Clairton Branch

609 Large Ave.

Clairton, Pa.

Organized Oct. 1882

TEXAS

Dallas Mission

511 Spring Creed Drive

Richardson, Texas 75080

Established March 1974

Levittown Mission

563 Levittown Parkway

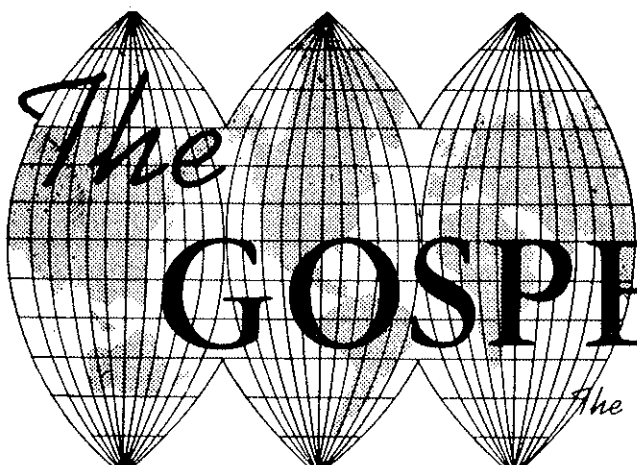
Levittown, Pa.

Established

HUMILITY

It was pride that changed angels into devils;
it is humility that makes men as angels.

Augustine of Hippo



The GOSPEL NEWS

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa.

April, 1977

Volume 33, No. 4

Offices: 6th & Lincoln Sts.

THE LORD'S BIRTH, CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION

AN EXPERIENCE BY ALVIN SWANSON

Some years ago, I noticed what seemed to me a contradiction in some scripture in the *New Testament* and the *Book of Mormon*. I have always been interested about the incidents of the Lord's birth, crucifixion and resurrection as to the exact dates and time.

The *New Testament* states our Lord was crucified on the Passover or the 14th day of Nisan on the sacred calendar that God told Moses and the House of Israel to observe. Christ was crucified at 12 noon or the sixth hour. Hours were counted after the end of the fourth night watch or 6 A.M. in the morning, thus the crucifixion at the sixth hour would be 12 noon; *Matthew* 27:45. He yielded up the Ghost and died about the 9th hour or 3 P.M. in the afternoon; *Matthew* 27:46. He was to spend three days and three nights in the tomb. *Matthew* 28:1 — In the end of the Sabbath (our Saturday) as it began to dawn toward the 1st day of the week (our Sunday) came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to the sepulchre. In *Matthew* 28:6, "He is not here: for he is risen". To spend 72 hours in the tomb from 3 P.M. the closest time before Sunday (first day of the week) would make the resurrection on our Saturday (the 7th day of the week, or the Jewish Sabbath) at 3 P.M. This would make the Lord's death on Wednesday at 3 P.M. on the 14th day of Nisan. The Jews began their day at 6 P.M. one day to 6 P.M. the next day. This would be — 6 P.M. Wednesday to 6 P.M. Thursday = 1 day; 6 P.M. Thursday to 6 P.M. Friday = 1 day; 6 P.M. Friday to 6 P.M. Saturday = 1 day.

The *New Testament* does not say how old the Lord was at His crucifixion. No mention is given of His exact birth date. Not so with the *Book of Mormon*. In *3rd Nephi, Chapter 8, verse 5* it states our Lord was 34 years and 4 days old when He was crucified. In verse 2 it states He had fulfilled his 33rd year and began His 34th year and 4 days. Using the sacred calendar the Nephites brought from Jerusalem, they state His death was on Nisan the 14th. This was the contradiction of ten days I was concerned with.

On the evening of January 20, 1977, upon retiring, I entered into prayer, and after praying about several things, I began to pray about this matter of the Lord's death and resurrection. Finally, I asked God if it was offensive to inquire about this subject, both to Him and our Lord, and I determined if it was, I would drop the subject and never pursue it again. At this point, He illuminated my mind why it was written this way in the scripture. The Apostles in the Holy land didn't mention the Lord's age, although they knew the exact day, because they met Him when He was about 30 years old, but were only affected by His crucifixion and His resurrection. The Nephites were affected greatly at His birth since their enemies promised to kill them if the prophecy of his birth did not come true. And this is what the Lord inspired me to know—that the Nephites started their calendar over on the 10th day of Nisan (the Lord's birthday) to Nisan 1. This is the reason for the 10 days difference.

All this sums up to the following:

Christ was born on Nisan the 10th (our Saturday)

Christ's crucifixion was on Wednesday, the 14th of Nisan.

Christ was 34 years and 4 days old when he was crucified.

Christ's ministry was about 4 years.

Christmas is a Pagan holiday and not Christ's birthday.

There isn't any Good Friday.

God commanded the Israelites to select a perfect male sacrifice from their flocks on the 10th day of Nisan for their sacrifice at the passover. It was to be a male without blemish. God chose His sacrifice also on the 10th day of Nisan for the passover, or His only begotten son. At the resurrection, a few hours were left of the seventh day (our Saturday). This is a type of our Lord shortening the Peaceful Reign, or else the very elect would perish.

At 6 P.M. on the 7th day, the first day of the week began (our Lord's day). It may also be said it is the 8th day since it follows the 7th day. This would represent the first resurrection. Our Lord would have had to arise before Sunday. He could hardly represent the resurrec-

(Continued on page 2)

AMERICAN INDIAN MISSION BOARD MEETS IN PHOENIX

On the weekend of February 5, 1977, we were privileged to have the following Brothers of the American Indian Mission Board meet with us: Joseph Lovalvo, Frank Calabrese, Fred Olexa, James Grazan.

Saturday was devoted to business. Sunday was a very special day for all of us. The rostrum was filled to capacity with visiting Elders from various parts of the country and this sight in itself was a great blessing.

We were favored by the singing of a group from the San Carlos Mission and a beautiful solo by Sister Elaine Jordan.

Brother Fred Olexa opened the service by speaking on the first chapter of Daniel. Here are a few of his excerpts:

- In II Nephi, taught prophecies to come forth.
- Gospel simple and not complicated.
- Reminder that we have been called to be a peculiar people and the importance of being used to be a part of the ship of Zion.

Brother James Grazan was the next speaker. The gist of his remarks:

- The need to look at things through the eyes of a child — even after attaining much natural and scholastic training — like the complete faith a little child has in his parents.
- Security in the teachings of Jesus.
- About a ride he had through the South Mountain in Phoenix where one can see the entire valley—Is it possible that one spot (Church in Phoenix) will save Arizona? That similar spots throughout the country will save the U.S.A.? Yes, yes, yes.
- We need the constant prayer and continued input of our people.

Brother Joseph Lovalvo followed on the "awakening" of the Indians.

Sister Virginia Lovalvo told an experience which verified the darkness and the awakening of the "bound giant" (Indian people) who, after being apprised of the situation, took steps slowly to join in the great work of the Gospel.

Brother Lovalvo further commented:

- that he obeyed the Gospel in 1933 and today feels the same burning desire to serve God.
- The Indians will come again into their glorious position when Ephraim will be in the driver's seat.
- Urged us all to rely on the word of God. If we are not pure before God, the gifts will not be manifested.
- Destruction will come like a bolt of lightning.

Brother Ike Smith followed and commented:

- Mission is having growing pains.
- Slowly, but surely, the little ones are growing into adulthood and expressed his desire to have our children pick up the reins of the Church even as we did.
- His joy in becoming a part of the Arizona District. (To this date, the Pine Top Mission has been a part of the California District)

Brother Watson spoke and said:

- Talk is cheap and things are easier said than done.
- At times we have deep fears and other times we have deep courage.
- The job will be done when all is placed in proper perspective.

SUNDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 6, 1977

We were blessed beyond measure to drink in the words of our two Apostles, Joseph Lovalvo and Frank Calabrese.

They preached on the Faith and Doctrine of our Church and as they spoke, they were filled with the Spirit of God which touched every person who was privileged to be there. If only every member of our Church could have been with us to share in these wonderful blessings! If the whole world could have been there to listen!

WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 9, 1977

Again the Lord chose to pour His blessings upon us. We heard Brothers Joseph Bittinger and Frank Calabrese as they encouraged and reminded us of our great responsibilities as members of The Church of Jesus Christ.

How privileged to be a member of the Gospel Restored and to hear the admonitions and beautiful words of our Brothers.

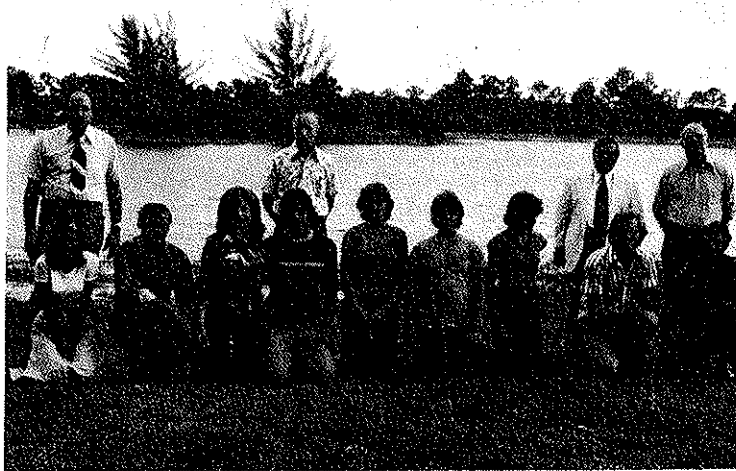
We are very grateful to the visiting Elders who made these days a most memorable and never-to-be-forgotten time. Your sacrifices are appreciated and we shall continue to pray and to hold up your hands that you may long endure in the Gospel work.

Sister Frances J. Capone
Editor, Phoenix Branch

THE LORD'S BIRTH, CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION . . .

(Continued from page 1)

tion on Sunday if He was not risen before that. Since each month began with the 1st new moon over Mt. Moriah, it is easy to see that the month of Nisan began on Thursday of that year. Nisan is the first month of the year, so it was also New Year's Day. A moon's cycle is 29½ days, so toward the end of the 14th day, it would be a full moon when our Lord was crucified. This sacred calendar (Lunar) was on a 19-year cycle. It has 12 ordinary years of 353, 354 or 355 days known as deficient, regular and abundant years. It has 7 leap years that may contain 383, 384 or 385 days known as deficient, regular and abundant years. These 7 years of 13 months are in the following years of the 19-year cycle. The 3rd, 6th, 8th, 11th, 14th, 17th, and 19th. In the period of the Patriarchs, the day began at sunrise. This was changed to sunset or 6 P.M. during the fourth Century B.C. Rabbi Hillel devised the permanent program for the 19 cycle calendar in A.D. 358 or how to insert the 13th month.



Candidates were left to right: Lori Kimmel, Lake Worth; Danny Naples, Rose Naples, Joe Naples, Donna Karr, Jerry DiFede, Sherry Karr, Robert Padgett, Ft. Pierce; and Joe Catone, Sr., Miami.

NINE BAPTISMS AT FLORIDA CAMP-OUT

The Florida Area MBA held its yearly camp-out March 4, 5, and 6 at the Everglades Youth Camp in West Palm Beach. We anticipated the Lord's blessings but they were in such abundance starting with the first evening around the camp fire. Our theme was "Involvement" and the seminars all centered around being involved with the Lord's work. The Lord blessed us with His Spirit all Saturday, several experienced His presence, asking for laying on of hands for strength, wanting to give more to the Lord.

Three young Brothers; Paul DiNardo, Doug Obradovich, and Mickey McGuire, went across the lake on an island, they knelt to pray on behalf of those unbaptized and seeking. All three felt the ground shaking, even the whole island.

Our Saturday evening meeting was touching when over 110 gathered, the young sang and gave testimonies and one young Sister asked for prayer and a young Brother volunteered to pray for her. Several had experiences. As Sister Angie Moccio was saying her prayers before bed Saturday night she looked out her cabin window and in a vision saw a group of people dressed in white standing at the water's edge, it was so quiet. Also Saturday night, Sister Kathy Warden while saying her prayers felt moved to pray for Joe Naples. Later that night she dreamed that Joe was praying and asking God to forgive him. Then a voice told him not to worry, that he was forgiven.

Sunday morning service was opened with Brother Charles Smith using for his subject the 2nd Chapter of Mosiah, on King Benjamin. Brother Tony Ensana then spoke asking if anyone in the congregation wanted to sign a contract of baptism. The meeting opened for testimony, the Lord's Spirit started working, all were touched when the 3 young Brothers told of their experience on the island praying. Several Sisters witnessed seeing groups of young people kneeling on the ground. When Jim Miller

got up to give his testimony, Sister Rose Rogolino, speaking in tongues, felt to touch him. She walked over and touched him and the Spirit told her, "Keep on speaking, Brother, the spirit of baptism is starting with you". Immediately after, Robert Padgett rose, asking for his baptism. The meeting closed and all seemed not to want to leave the room. Then I realized several others were asking for their baptism.

Brother Joe Catone, Sr. had a dream the night before — Brother Alvin Swanson came to him and asked him, "Do you want to sign this?" It was a purple-blue paper and Joe wrote, "Trust in God" and signed his name to the bottom of it.

While the baptisms were taking place, Sister Rose Rogolino spoke in tongues and had a vision of a group of people in white standing on the island watching the baptisms.

Camp broke ending a beautiful week-end.

Sister Eileen Katsaras
Florida Area MBA Editor

District Conferences . . .

ATLANTIC COAST DISTRICT CONFERENCE

The Priesthood of the Atlantic Coast held its annual conference at the District Headquarters, the Hopelawn Church building, February 26, 1977. All Branches and Established Missions from New Jersey, New York and Washington were well represented. With us at this Conference were the two Apostles, appointees of our District, Brother Gorie Ciaravino and Brother Paul D'Amico.

The business of conference was handled and the following Brothers elected as District officers for the coming year:

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| President: | Brother Matthew Rogolino | Recommended |
| First Counselor: | Brother James Benyola | Elected |
| Second Counselor: | Brother August D'Orazio, Jr. | Elected |
| Secretary: | Brother Dominick Rose | Elected |
| Assistant Secretaries: | Brother Sam Dell | Elected |
| | Brother Anthony Vadaz | Elected |
| Financial Secretary: | Brother Joseph Arcuri | Elected |
| Treasurer: | Brother James Link | Elected |
| Librarian: | Brother Anthony Vadaz | Elected |
| Assistant Librarian: | Brother Joseph Perri | Elected |
| Historian & Record Keeper: | Brother James Benyola | Elected |
| Assistant Historian: | Brother August D'Orazio, Jr. | Elected |

Editor: Brother Joseph Perri Elected

Auditors: Brother Jerry Valenti Elected
 Brother Michael Hildenbrand Elected

A vote of thanks was given to Brothers Frank Mazzeo and Nathan Peterkin who served as President and First Counselor respectively, for the past year.

The District was informed that Brother George Benyola and the members of the Dallas Mission who were under the Hopelawn Branch have requested their transfer to the Phoenix, Arizona Branch. May God bless each of them in their new Branch.

A report was given of the Mission in the State of Maine. They started with a membership of four and have a current membership of 14. They are blest and have a determination to serve God.

A vote of thanks was given to the Sisters of the Hopelawn Branch who prepared a delicious luncheon.

On Sunday, February 27th, the District held a gathering at the Hopelawn School building. We were surprised, but happy to see Sister Josephine Ciccati of the San Diego, California Branch. We've known our Sister for many years, having grown in the Gospel together. May God richly bless her in the passing of her husband, Brother Ben. We learned to love them very dearly.

After some congregational singing and a few selections from the choir, our morning meeting was opened in prayer by Brother Joseph Arcuri. Brother Jeff Taylor of the Edison Branch who was baptized earlier in the morning, was confirmed by Brother Gorie Ciaravino.

Brother Paul D'Amico of Lockport, took the leading part in our meeting. He told us of a beautiful experience that was had by him during the recent snow storm that occurred in his hometown.

Brother Paul read from the Book of Revelations, 20th Chapter, beginning at the 4th verse and also some verses from the 40th Chapter of Alma, in the *Book of Mormon*. His theme was the hope of the Saints for the future. He spoke extensively on the state of the soul and the resurrection and the only way one could obtain this happy state.

Brother Gorie followed, he expressed his greetings to the Saints and expanded on the same subject. He encouraged the Saints of our District to prove faithful to the Gospel. He spoke of the reunion of the first resurrection which has become our hope through Christ.

Brother Frank Mazzeo concluded by speaking of the Book of Life, of the Judgment day when the king and beggar, the rich and poor, will stand before the great white throne to receive their just reward. Through the blood of Christ and the obedience of the Gospel can we as the Saints of God dwell in that realm of Glory.

We extend our love to all the Saints throughout the Church.

Brother Joseph Perri
 District Editor

MICHIGAN-ONTARIO CONFERENCE

The business session of the Michigan-Ontario Conference was held on February 23 and 24 at Detroit Branch No. 1.

An Urban Indian Sub-Committee was established per recommendation of the General Church. Officers are listed below and were elected for the coming year:

President (recommended): Paul Vitto
 First Counselor: Dominic Moraco
 Second Counselor: Alex Gentile
 Recording Secretary: Leonard A. Lovalvo
 Assistant Recording Secretary: Peter H. Capone
 Auditors: Silverio Coppa, Daniel Parravano
 Financial Secretary: Gerald Benyola
 Treasurer: Norman Campitelle
 Board of Trustees: Attilio Trovarelli (Chairman), Anthony Lovalvo, Frank DiDonato, Louis Pietrangelo, Pete Buffa.
 Librarian: Joseph Furnari
 Assistant Librarian: Concetto Alessandro
 Board of Missions: Peter H. Capone (Chairman), Thomas Everett (Secretary), Nick Mangiapane (Treasurer), Spencer Everett, Leonard A. Lovalvo, Carl Frammolino, Allen Henderson.
 Urban Indian (Sub-Committee): Joseph Milantoni (Chairman), Anthony Gerace, Richard Lobzun, Roy DePerno, John Straccia.
 Historian: Frank Morle
 Gospel News Editor: Robert Stanek
 Appeals Committee: Querino Bologna (Chairman), Spencer Everett, Peter H. Capone, Frank Vitto, Anthony Lovalvo.

On Sunday, February 27, 1977 our service was held at South Lake High School, St. Clair Shores, Michigan. The Detroit area received snow, sleet and rain on Saturday evening and Sunday morning, but the Brothers and Sisters braved the elements to be present for the meeting.

Brother Paul Vitto, President of the District welcomed everyone to the Conference of 1977.

The meeting was opened in prayer by Brother Nephi DeMercurio.

Brother Leonard A. Lovalvo opened the meeting and used for his text Joshua 24:13, 15. The theme of his sermon was "...but as for me and my house we will serve the Lord." It was Joshua's last address to the people and he wanted them to recall their history, to realize what God had done for them and to enable them to say within their souls and minds that they would serve the God of Israel, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The words Joshua spoke were determined words.

Brother Leonard cited many characters from both *Bible* and *Book of Mormon* whose lives characterized this declaration of Joshua, "...but as for me and my house we will serve the Lord." Ruth, who showed by her declaration that she recognized the God of Israel, "...For whither thou goest, I will go..." Ruth 1:16. Enos, was convicted by the things his father taught him concerning eternal life and the joy of the Saints, Enos 1-3. Naaman, when he was commanded to wash in Jordan seven times recognized the power of God. He was willing to sacrifice unto no other God but to the God of Israel, II Kings 5:17.

(Continued on page7)

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

"HE IS RISEN"

April is the month and spring is the season when the thoughts of many people are directed more stirringly toward that grand and joyous story of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Additionally, the ushering in of the glorious season of spring as the cold season of winter recedes, marks a revival of our hopes and expectations. Our faith in God is strengthened a little more and we joyfully renew our trust in His promises.

It behooves us anew to open our *Holy Bible* and turn to the Gospel story of the resurrection. The Apostle Matthew's account is most eloquent and stirring, and it reads in part:

"In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake; for the Angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow. And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the Angel answered and said unto the women, 'Fear not ye, for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here; for HE IS RISEN, as he said, Come, see the place where the Lord lay.' *Matthew 28:1-6*

The account in Mark also is stirring, as he writes of the women, "And they said among themselves, who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away, for it was very great. And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long, white garment; and they were affrighted. Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: HE IS RISEN; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him." *Mark 16:3-6*

WHY SEEK YE THE LIVING AMONG THE DEAD?

Luke's account adds more beauty to the story: "And they (the women) found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: And as they were afraid and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is RISEN . . . *Luke 24:2-6*

Finally, as we turn to the Apostle John's account, we are cheered and revived anew as we read of Mary Magdalene's notable experience as she lingered near the empty sepulchre: "... she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? Whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni, which is to say, Master, Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father; but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father and your Father; and to my God, and your God." *John 20:14-17*

BECAUSE HE LIVES I can face tomorrow

BECAUSE HE LIVES all fear is gone;

Because I know He holds the future,

And life is worth the living, just BECAUSE HE LIVES!



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

Esther the Queen

Dear Girls and Boys,

The woman in our story this month is Esther the Queen. Esther was born of a race who for many generations found themselves without a country. Some of her people had returned to Palestine, others settled in parts of Persia, which was ruled by Ahasuerus. Among these people was a man named Mordecai, who was devoted to God. He loved his own people, the Jews. In his home lived an orphaned cousin named Esther. She was fair and beautiful. Mordecai loved her as if she were his own daughter.

King Ahasuerus became very displeased with his queen Vashti. She was banished from the kingdom and an order was sent out that all the beautiful girls of the kingdom come to the palace, for the king was going to choose a new queen. Esther, along with others, came to the palace. She obtained favor by all who knew her. There was a year of waiting and training before being taken before the king. Mordecai had told Esther to tell no one who she was. Every day he walked by the court of the women's house to see how Esther was. He was very anxious about her. How he hoped she would be chosen queen so maybe she could help her people.

At last the day came! Esther was taken to the king, into his royal house. King Ahasuerus loved Esther above all the women. He set the royal crown upon her head and made her queen. Her race of people was not yet known to the king. Mordecai was in the shadows watching. Esther could never forget his love and fatherly care he had given her. She knew he would know just the right time to reveal her nationality.

In the kingdom was a wicked man named Haman. He had a "seat above all the princes". All were expected to bow before him. This, Mordecai would not do. Soon this was noticed and Haman became angry. A Jew refuse to honor him! He wanted to kill Mordecai and destroy all Jews. He finally plotted and persuaded the king to declare a massacre of all Jews in the kingdom. Sadness came over them when they heard the decree. They were told the exact day it would occur.

Queen Esther was loved by her king. He still did not know she was a Jewess. Her maids told Esther the news of the decree. She sent a messenger to Mordecai and he brought back word for her to ask her king husband to save her people. This troubled Esther since she hadn't seen the king for many days. No one dared approach the king, except by his summons. Esther could lose her life. But she could not fail her people. She sent word to Mordecai to gather the Jews together and fast and pray for her. She decided to go before the king. She said, "If I perish, I perish."

On the third day, Esther put on her royal apparel and stood before the king. The king was on the throne. She was beautiful. He held out his scepter and asked, "What is your request? It shall be given to thee, to the half of the kingdom." Esther did not ask immediately but invited him and Haman to a dinner. This pleased Haman to have so great an honor.

The following day at the banquet, Esther revealed who she was and who was responsible for this terrible plot to destroy her people. Haman was destroyed on the same gallows he had built to destroy Mordecai. The king took off his ring and gave it to Mordecai. Esther had won. Her people were saved. Her name, Esther means, "A Star". Surely she was a Star among women.

The Jews still celebrate this great event. It is called Purim. It is held about March 19. I had the privilege of being in Jerusalem on a tour at this time. Purim is a festive time for the Jews. One sees the people hurrying through the streets with gifts of food and money. The poor are remembered this day. Children wear costumes to add to the fun. Little girls are reminded of the regal clothes Esther wore. They attend special parties for the occasion.

The story of Esther and Mordecai, called The Megil-lad, is read in the synagogues the night before Purim. It is said when the name, Haman is mentioned, the congregation stamps their feet. Everywhere is a spirit of fun and excitement. I hope some day you too can have a visit in the Holy Land.

Sincerely,

Sister Mabel

OUR WOMEN TODAY . . .

CONFERENCE AT VANDERBILT

The General Ladies' Uplift Circle Conference was held at Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania on March 5, 1977. The Circle Sisters present were from Canada, Ohio and the Pennsylvania area.

The Vanderbilt Circle celebrated their 25th anniversary this day. The history of the Circle was read and it was noted that four charter members were present. The program presented was titled "GOD". Portions of the scripture were read from St. John, songs were sung and poems were read referring to the theme.

Sister Mabel Bickerton welcomed the Sisters and thanked God that the weather was favorable. She reported that a new Circle was organized at Cleveland, Ohio. She said there is much work that has to be done and is thankful that the Circles are responding to the needs.

The roll call of officers started the business. The minutes of the last meeting held at Levittown, Pennsylvania were read, the delegates and treasurers reports were given.

Since the last conference layettes were sent to the Indian Reservations and the answers to the questions assigned were found. The questions and answers are: How long shall Jerusalem be trodden down by the Gen-

tiles? *St. Luke 21:24*. What is it that behold no power of earth or hell can take from you? *Book of Mormon, Alma 37:16*. What labor do we have to perform whilst in this tabernacle of clay? *Book of Mormon, Moroni 9:6*.

Contributions were made to the Memorial Fund in memory of: Ben Ciccatti, Rose Dreer, Carmela Parrone, Clara Tucker, Rose Scolaro, Rose Mulla, Villa Morle, Cora Fowler, Josephine Buccelatto, Niles Circle, and Maude and Edward Stevenson.

Sister Mary Criscuolo reported that 75 appropriate cards were sent to various individuals.

Money that was taken in this conference was \$2,200.00. Donations were made to the African work, Book of Mormon Concordance fund, Radio broadcast at San Carlos, Arizona, Six Nation and White River Reservations and to the Three Rivers Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The next General Conference will be hosted by the Washington, D. C. Circle.

A standing vote of thanks was given to the Vanderbilt Circle for their hospitality.

At the close of the Conference a few Sisters gave their testimony. Sister Lorraine DeMercurio who is preparing to go to Africa with her family asks that we remember them in prayer that they will truly represent the Church. Sister Roberta Hufnagle told us of the newly-organized Circle in Cleveland, Ohio and the work that is going on there among the Indians. Sister Grace Landrey told of a twenty-one page letter they received from Sister Sara Vancik of Arizona, about the work she is involved in there. Some of our women today are busy!!

Mary Tamburrino
General Circle Editor

DISTRICT CONFERENCES . . .

(Continued from page 4)

Cornelius, after an angel had told him of Peter he called together his kinsmen and friends to share the message that Peter was to give him. Upon receiving the message Cornelius was more than willing to go to the waters of baptism as Peter commanded, Acts 10:1-48. Paul and Silas were singing hymns of praise when an earthquake shook the prison. From this event the jailer and all of his house made a commitment to serve the Lord, Acts 16:25-34. He further cited Lehi and his family, except for Laman and Lamuel, they all served the Lord. Alma, Mosiah, Benjamin, Abish the Lamanitish woman and King Lamoni who were all convinced to serve and give allegiance to the Lord.

Brother Leonard then posed this question, "What makes a person say? "...but as for me and my house we will serve the Lord." He then cited the events in his life that led him to serve the Lord.

The congregation then appropriately sang, "Faith of Our Fathers".

Brother Carl Frammolino thanked God for the fellowship of the Saints. He pointed out that our objectives are different than any other group of people. Our objective is to pursue salvation. Is this objective our num-

ber one priority? Not only do we say "...but as for me and my house we will serve the Lord.", but we get other households to say the same thing.

Brother Ken Wright pointed out the revelation received by The Church that we are in the "Joshua Era". We all have the opportunity to serve God and have His Spirit within us and feel a burning desire to do the work of God.

Brother Joseph Milantoni pointed out that the Amorites were idol worshippers. The people placed their emphasis on material things. Is our intent as a people like that of the Amorites or of Nephi, when he said, "For the fulness of my intent is that I may persuade men to come unto the God of Abraham, Isaac and the God of Jacob, and be saved." I Nephi 6:4

Brother Dominic Thomas, President of the Church, was our final speaker. Brother Dominic urged us to serve with fullest intent, sincerity and every ounce of energy we possess. He stated that he had been struck with the question many times over, "Lord, when will we as a people be willing to sacrifice more for you?" He proclaimed, "Let all the Joshuas stand today that love this Church, this Gospel and this life. Now is the time to stand and be counted."

At the close of the service Brother Silverio Criscuolo was acknowledged for his fifty years in the Church. He stated that he was grateful to God for sustaining him and enriching his life beyond expectation.

In closing Brother Paul Vitto expressed that he prays God has opened our hearts to understand the depth of the message brought to our attention and that we might be more serious minded in serving the Lord.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Brother Anthony Scolaro and all felt very uplifted and desirous to give more of ourselves to the Lord.

Nephi DeMercurio
District Gospel News Editor

ARIZONA DISTRICT CONFERENCE

On February 26-27, 1977 the Arizona District of The Church of Jesus Christ met at the Salt River Day School Auditorium on the Salt River Reservation of the Pima Indians. This reservation is situated in the Northeast corner of the Phoenix, Arizona, area. We are very grateful to this Indian Tribe for having allowed us to meet in their facilities on several occasions.

On Saturday morning, the Ministry joined in a season of prayer on behalf of the need of this young district, the General Church, and the sick and afflicted throughout the land. We especially were mindful of Brother Richard Christman who was absent from this conference because of the terrible accident he had befall him. We give glory to God for his preservation, but we must continue in fervent prayer that his severe pain might be relieved during this critical period of recovery.

The District President, Brother Robert Watson, welcomed all the ministry assembled including the recent additions to the Arizona District—San Carlos and Pinetop. We are very pleased to have these missions represented in the Arizona District, and we feel the loss of the California District has been our gain.

The regular order of business was conducted as usual with the highlight of the discussions being culminated with the consideration of a revelation of God. The message of this revelation indicated the imminence of the coming of Zion and the need to be actively involved, today, as the *Book of Mormon* states: "And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost; and if they endure unto the end they shall be lifted up at the last day, and shall be saved in the everlasting kingdom of the Lamb; and whoso shall publish peace, yea, tidings of great joy, how beautiful upon the mountains shall they be." Even Jesus cited this scripture during His ministry in the New World.

This theme was captured and developed during the evening meeting as Brothers George Johnson and Joseph Bittinger spoke of the vision and conceptualization of our minds of that beautiful hope—ZION. The scope of Zion is great, but they encouraged us not to lose our dream or quest for that promise of God in the Last Days. We must live in the hope and Spirit of Zion just as those of old also lived in that hope of many glorious events beyond their time and into the future.

This theme was carried into the Sunday Worship service. The Spirit of God once again moved from vessel to vessel as the Word of God was preached with power and authority.

Brother Paul Liberto opened the service by directing our thoughts to our spiritual "roots." He read from the book, *A History of The Church of Jesus Christ*. The two revelations he read were powerful: "Thus saith the Lord I will purify my Church, and my Servants shall go and preach the Gospel to the Indians of America. Go saith the Lord and I will go with you, and they shall humble themselves before you, for the day and the hour of the Lord is come." (That was the interpretation of tongues spoken simultaneously by three Brothers!!); and, "I have told you to go and preach my word saith the Lord God of Hosts: Therefore you must go to the right and to the left, to the east and to the west, to the north and to the south, you must do your part and I will do my part, Go and the gifts and blessings shall go with you. When you go to the Indians tell them that Jesus Christ died to save them. Tell them they are the seed of Abraham. Tell them what I did for their forefathers when they were carried away captive into Babylon, how that I brought them again into their own land and, tell them that I will again gather them to their lands for I the Lord have spoken it." 1861!

From there, a portion of the Fifth Chapter of Jacob was read. Our Brother Paul related to us that we are at a particular time referred to in this allegory of the olive tree: The time when the servant pleads with the master to go down into the vineyard just one more time to nourish it. The servant went and called a few other servants to do the work with him. What was that work? The natural fruit must be brought back into the vineyard once more. In conclusion, he urged all to participate in this work in any and every way possible with the guidance of God.

Brother Charles Curry followed by relating an M.B.A. conference held at Modesto, California, in 1973. Brother Joe Lovalvo was relating a beautiful dream where he was partaking of the largest, most delicious fruit he had ever

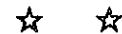
seen or tasted. At this point, Brother Isaac Smith rose and spoke in the Gift of Tongues. Many in the congregation had this one interpretation: "It is the Natural Fruit." The scripture in Jacob brought to mind the purpose and meaning of this dream. There is nothing more beautiful or delicious than the "natural fruit" or in other words, the personal partaking in the work with the House of Israel. If the natural fruit is most precious to God, then we, His people, should also desire to labor for the restoration of the House of Israel.

Several other visiting ministers also spoke along the theme of this wonderful meeting. The Spirit of God was felt strongly as the young people were called forward and sang, "We are one in the Spirit" and, "An Angel Came Down." The final remarks were a plea for unity through fasting and prayer.

The District President reluctantly brought the meeting to a close. He spoke that we have entered into that time that is spoken of by the Prophets and many things would be fulfilled in our lifetime as experienced by many in the Church.

We want to express our appreciation to the many visitors from the California and Pennsylvania Districts who were very encouraging and supportive of our young District. May we never grow tired of visiting and uplifting each other from time to time as the Lord would direct us. So, pray for our young District that the Lord may manifest His blessings here as in the other areas of His Church. We wish God's richest blessings for all of His Saints.

Brother Ronald A. Brutz
The Arizona District Editor



God's Still On His Throne

With blessings briefly laid aside,
And reasons never known;
One sweet thought consoles my mind,
God's still on His throne!

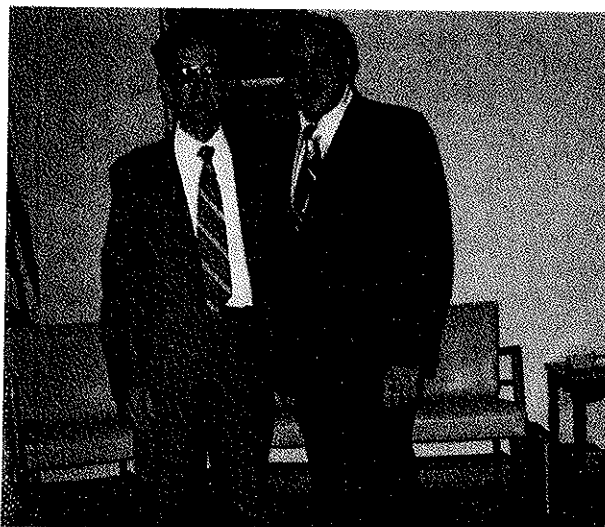
Many times caught unprepared,
Sights unreal are shown;
One thought brightens dark dismay,
God's still on His throne!

When the battle cries are heard,
And those shattered are His own;
Then I whisper to myself,
God's still on His throne!

When winter's chill comes way too soon,
And summers warmth has flown;
What a precious truth to know,
God's still on His throne!

Oh what vision lights the way,
With wonder, love divine is shown;
And a silent voice repeats,
God's still on His throne!

by Sister Arlene Buffington
written January 11, 1977

BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS:—**SPECIAL DAY AT
DETROIT BRANCH NO. 3**

Sunday, November 7, 1976 was a special day for us at Branch No. 3 Detroit. We witnessed the ordination of Brothers Frank Vitto and Nephi DeMercurio as Evangelists.

That Sunday morning the Deacons of the Branch met in fasting and prayer before Sunday School. The fast was to ask God's blessing upon our Brothers in their calling and also His blessing upon the Saints during the day's activities.

Many Brothers and Sisters from the District as well as Ohio and Pennsylvania were present for the morning service and an air of excitement and anticipation seemed to prevail from the beginning of the service. Prior to the opening of the meeting the congregation sang several hymns and the Girls' Ensemble of Branch No. 3 sang, "Have Faith in God" and, "Now That You Have Found This Love" which were very inspiring.

Brother Silverio Coppa, our Presiding Elder, welcomed all of our visiting Brothers and Sisters and the meeting was left open to the visiting Elders. Brother Gorie Ciaravino opened the meeting with prayer and Brother Bob Stanek from Windsor, Ontario spoke to us. He read from II Nephi 2:11. The lesson dealt with Lehi teaching his son Jacob of the need in this life for an opposition in all things. Brother Bob stressed that we experience the enticing of the Holy Spirit and of evil. He encouraged us to yield to the enticing of the Spirit of God. Brother Bob cited an experience that occurred in his life in which he was moved by the Spirit of God to do a little work for the Lord.

Brother Gorie Ciaravino followed on the same topic. He related how he and his family were converted from the atheistic viewpoint to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We were greatly encouraged by both of our Brothers to endeavor prayerfully to overcome the enemy of our soul.

The afternoon meeting began with a beautiful time of community singing. Brother Silverio Coppa then

turned the meeting over to Brother Spencer Everett, president of the Michigan-Ontario District quorum of Evangelists. Brother Anthony Gerace opened with prayer. Brother Everett then read from I Timothy, Chapter 3 concerning the qualifications of those called in the various offices of the Gospel. He related those qualifications to our Brothers in their calling to be Evangelists. Brother Everett also pointed out that these Brothers were called by God and revelations were related by Brother Anthony R. Lovalvo in behalf of Brother Frank Vitto and Brother Gorie Ciaravino in behalf of Brother Nephi DeMercurio.

During the course of the meeting Sister Ida Napolitano saw a vision which she related to us. She said she saw a man who represented a father and he was standing and embracing his son and comforting him.

Then Sister Jennie DeMercurio (Brother Nephi's Mother) related an experience she had when Brother Nephi was three months old. She was told in this experience that Brother Nephi would be used by God to do His work.

Also Sister Rose Impastato related that while Brother Spencer was speaking a light appeared over the ministry and remained over them for a period of time. She saw a personage giving a golden sword to each Brother and a mantle was placed upon the entire priesthood.

We then sang, "Ye Who Are Called to Labor" while our Brothers prepared to have their feet washed. Brother Paul Vitto washed Brother Frank Vitto's feet. Brother Dominic Moraco washed Brother Nephi DeMercurio's feet. Immediately following Brother Gorie Ciaravino ordained Brother Frank Vitto. Brother Spencer Everett ordained Brother Nephi DeMercurio.

Brother Frank and Brother Nephi were given an opportunity to express their feelings. Both of them expressed beautifully their love for God, the Church and the Brothers and Sisters. The blessings and Spirit of God were felt by all.

Brother Daniel Parravano
Sister Mary Criscuolo

Visitors And Baptism At Roscoe Branch

The Brothers and Sisters at Roscoe would like to acknowledge and thank the many visiting Brothers and Sisters who have attended our Branch the past several months.

On December 12, 1976, Brother Russell Cadman, Apostle, from Fredonia spoke from the Book of Enos in the *Book of Mormon*, enlightening us as to how one comes unto repentance and unto the Lord. He told of experiences from God in his life and encouraged us to live closer to one another and to the Lord. His message was very inspiring.

On December 18, Brother John Manes from McKees Rocks, spoke from IV Nephi, 15th Verse. He talked about our personal relationship with God and the change that comes about because of the blessing of God in our lives. He encouraged us to become strengthened in faith and to become unified in serving God.

On January 2, 1977, Brother Alma Nolfi, Glassport, spoke on dying to the world and living in Christ. He spoke on the raising of Lazarus from the dead, St. John,

Chapter 11, and upon the Love of God towards mankind. We were very uplifted by the beautiful words of life brought forth by our Brother.

On January 23, Brother Paul Palmieri, Aliquippa, spoke on the importance of one soul coming to the Lord and the secret of greatness, speaking from the 9th Chapter of Mark, beginning with Verse 33. He said if we want to enter the kingdom of heaven we must cut off from our lives those things that keep us from becoming a better person. He said as Saints of God we have the light to lighten the way for others, and the salt to give them good taste and flavor, that their lives might be enriched, encouraging us to share the love of God with others. Brother James King from Vanderbilt was with us in the afternoon meeting and spoke on his recent experiences in traveling to West Virginia to take the Gospel to others. He asked for the prayers of the Saints that God might bless this work.

We have enjoyed the fellowship of our visiting Brothers and Sisters and the Spirit of God which we felt with them in our midst. We trust God will bless them for their sincere endeavors to serve Him and for sharing God's blessings with others.

On February 13, 1977, there were several visitors at the Roscoe Branch. Brother Isaac Smith from Pinetop, Arizona opened the meeting speaking on the Ball and Director, or Liahona, which is found in the *Book of Mormon, 37th Chapter of Alma*. He spoke of the importance of looking to Christ that we may not lose our direction in life. Many beautiful words and illustrations were given by our Brother, who was followed by Brother Don Curry from Monongahela who spoke on Sister Trump's dream recorded in our Church history. Our Brothers spoke under the influence of God's Holy Spirit, which was felt in our midst.

In the afternoon meeting a young woman who had expressed for some time her desire to render obedience to the Lord rose to her feet and asked for her baptism. Sister Sheila Barnes and the Saints gathered at the river shore where Sister Sheila made her covenant with the Lord. Just before our new Sister was immersed by baptism in the water by Brother J. Fred Olexa, she looked upward with a beautiful, glowing smile, witnessed by all. We returned to the Church where Sister Sheila was confirmed by Brother Bud Martin. As we sang "A New Name Written Down in Glory," the Brothers and Sisters welcomed her into the fold of God.

May God bless Sister Sheila that she may be a light and blessing for the Lord throughout her life to others as she labors for the Master.

We couldn't help but think while we were sorrowing at the loss of our Sister Mary Ward, a member of our Branch who went on to her reward a few days before, how, "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away, Blessed be the Name of the Lord."

On February 27, the Brothers and Sisters at Roscoe Branch enjoyed the blessings of God as we welcomed our Sister Gladys Stanish back into the fold. Our Sister was renewed by the laying on of hands by the Elders with Brother Fred O'Lexa offering prayer. Our hearts rejoiced to have our Sister Gladys restored to fellowship with us again. She has been very faithful in attending the meetings with us for quite some time and we pray God will bless her as we unite together to serve the Lord.

Also during the meeting Sister Norma Kendall and

Sister Bertha Bilsky were ordained into the office of a Deaconess. Sister Norma's feet were washed by Sister Charlotte O'Lexa and the Elders laid hands upon her with Brother Bud Martin officiating. Sister Bertha's feet were washed by Sister Mary Todaro and Brother Gaspar Karelli officiated as the Elders laid hands upon our Sister. We then had our feet-washing service, after which were many testimonies of God's goodness and His Spirit was with us throughout the day. We thank God for His many blessings and to see His work progress in this part of the vineyard.

The Brothers and Sisters
Roscoe Branch

Bell Branch News

The past few months, in Bell Branch, we have had many good meetings and a few changes. Some of our meetings we were happy to spend with Brother Lou Ciccati who was appointed by the District to be our third Elder. He has made many trips up from his home in San Diego. He has brought many members of his family with him and, at various times, other Brothers and Sisters from the San Diego Branch. We have always enjoyed his messages to us because when he comes he always lifts our spirits.

The last Sunday in January Brother James Lovalvo and Sister Mary were with us at which time Brother Frank Vitto, who was visiting from Detroit, Mich., was also in our midst. Brother Jim sang "Remind Me Dear Lord" as our opening hymn; a beautiful hymn with a deep message. He spoke to us that day of the memories of blessings connected with the building of our Branch. His message to us concerned the peaceful reign when God's holy kingdom would be established by those who have been born again. He cautioned that only in righteousness could this kingdom be established. In essence, we were told that each Branch must reflect the kingdom of God on earth and we could have a portion of the peaceful reign in each meeting if we desired it deeply enough and were united by God's love.

Brother Frank followed and talked about Nephi, the son of Lehi who served God totally. God would have His Church serve Him totally and if we take care of this, that God has entrusted to us here we will be ready when greater things happen.

Brother Robert McDonald, a young brother in Bell Branch, was ordained a Deacon this day. Brother Jim Lovalvo washed his feet and he was anointed by Brother Jim Sealise, the Presiding Elder.

The following Sunday we welcomed Brother Tony Picciuto and Sister Lydia. His message concerned our personal communication with God. Reaching out is what should always be in our thoughts, reaching out to be fed in the meetings, reaching out to talk to God in prayer, reaching out to Jesus to show us how to walk in the Spirit. Brother Tony's words that day sparked a very spirited testimony that afternoon and we enjoyed the voices of many Brothers and Sisters of all ages.

We, of Bell Branch, were very happy this past year to be joined by Sister Flo Benyola, her husband Ray and their two boys who moved here from New Jersey. This year we have been joined by Brother Lloyd and Sister Karen Elzby who have moved here from Windsor.

Pell Branch Editor

Detroit Branch No. 3 News

November 28, 1976 marked 50 years that Brother Silverio Criscuolo was baptized into the Church. Brother Silver Coppo, Presiding Elder of Branch 3 declared it "Criscuolo Day". Brother Criscuolo was surprised by his family, four of his children, their spouses and children all came to Church that morning. The fifth child and her family was absent due to living in West Virginia at the time. There were 17 members of the family present.

Brother Silver said he came to America September 21, 1926 and was baptized November 28, 1926 by Brother Matthew Miller. In fact, he was the first one Brother Miller baptized. He was the 64th member to be baptized in Detroit. Of these, six are still living—Brothers Antonio Molisani, John Romano, and Mike Coppo of San Diego, California—Sisters Rose Pietrangelo and Mary Ganzante of Port Richey, Florida and Mary Sallucci (not in the Church today).

He told of many blessings he has received in these 50 years and that his desire is still as strong in wanting to serve the Lord with all his strength. He quoted Psalm 37:25, "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread."

It is a day to be remembered for the Criscuolo family.

The following Sunday, December 5, 1976 we were surprised by the "Conti Family". Keith and Patricia Frances brought their "Bundle of Joy," Todd Brendon Francis to be blessed in the Church. He is the grandson of Brother Mike and Theresa Piacentino, and great-grandson of Brother and Sister Conti of Branch 3. Most of the members of the Conti family were present and they filled several rows of pews. It was good to see them there. Brother Paul Vitto, uncle of Patricia, spoke that day and blessed the baby. Another nice day for all to remember.

Ordination At Glassport Branch

On Sunday, January 30, 1977, the Glassport Branch had visiting with them Brother Robert Nicklow and family from Monongahela, Pa. Brother Nicklow opened our service by reading the 22nd Chapter of St. Matthew, concerning the parable of the marriage of the king's son. He asked the question, "Where do we stand today? The invitation has been sent out, have we accepted it? He likened it to the marriage ceremony that is going to take place when Christ shall come to take His bride.

Brother John Ali continued, reading from the 25th Chapter of St. Matthew, concerning the parable of the ten virgins exhorting us to get our oil while we can. Many are called but few are chosen and that we should live to the best of our ability so we will be found watching and waiting, and not wanting.

Brother Alma Nolfi summed up by saying, "The invitation was offered and some came and were not prepared. The invitation is for all those that want to take part. Some were not properly dressed, referring to those not dressed properly as a condition or attitude of the inner man. Coming to the marriage properly dressed is like this altar, simple hearted and plain."

Two dreams were then read and interpreted as to the revelation that Sister Rose Ali be ordained a deaconess. Sister Mary Nolfi washed our Sister's feet and Brother Alma Nolfi ordained her.

We then continued with testimony and singing. It was an enjoyable day witnessing the ordination of our Sister and having Brother Nicklow and family visiting with us.

Our prayers are that God will continue to bless Sister Rose as she endeavors to fulfill her new office.

Sister Rosemarie Ali
Branch Editor

Dear Editor,

Enclosed you will find a check for \$4.00 for the renewal of *The Gospel News*, a publication I would not do without. I have received a lot of information about our Church and have them for references.

After reading January's issue, the article, "Blessings Manifest Themselves At The Muncey Mission, Ontario Canada," I felt to write about my young days going to Muncey and Grand River.

My first experience with Muncey was some years ago. My mother, Sister Frances Camarda; my sister, Rosalie, age 14; and myself, age 16, went to Muncey one Sunday with Brothers Thurman Furnier and Mark Randy. It was a cold, but lovely trip, singing just about all the way there.

Upon arriving our Ministers, as they usually do when they first arrive, take the time to visit the sick. I could not believe what I was seeing. When they said, "We will visit the sick," that's exactly what they meant. We had visited many of them and then came to a Sister Jane's house who had just given birth to a set of twins. We walked into the little lowly house where weeds were growing in the middle of the living room. We walked up a flight of narrow steps and in the cold attic we saw our Sister Jane lying on a board with a baby on each side of her, barely enough wrapping on her and the babies. I turned to my mother, shaken and ashamed, because I had gone to Muncey with my new fur-trimmed winter coat. As much as I loved my coat, I felt miserable with it on. Our Brothers prayed and we sang a hymn and proceeded on to the meeting.

Our next experience was our Grand River trip. Again we left Daddy home and journeyed on to Grand River with Brothers V. J. Lovalvo and A. Henderson. This meant sleeping over night. We arrived at Sister Longboat's home. She had been ill so we prayed, sang and left for Sister Beaver's house; they were two lovely ladies as I remember. Our time was spent visiting, praying and singing with the sick. One Sister lying on her bed was on her last breath and our Brothers started the hymn, "Nearer My God To Thee". I had never felt so close to God before. The spirit was sweet and wonderful. We did rejoice in the meetings and it did compensate for anything that came new and strange to me.

Your Sister in Christ,
Rose C. Randazzo
Caarmichael, California

— NEW ARRIVALS —

Congratulations are in order to the proud parents for the indicated new members of their families. New arrivals have been as follows:

Edward Montgomery to Even and Jane Daley of Erie, Pennsylvania,

Todd Brendon to Keith and Patricia Frances of Detroit, Michigan, Branch 3,

Kriste Lynn to Robert and Sue Amormino of Detroit, Michigan, Branch 3,

Michelle Lynn to Michael and Josephine McLennan of Detroit, Michigan, Branch 3,

Jennifer Michelle to Al and Sharon Rubio of New Brunswick, New Jersey,

January Dawn to Patty and John Cote of Lake Worth, Florida,

Joshua Peter to Patrick Joseph and Bernadette Areva King of Simi, Calif.

— WEDDINGS —

COPPA - MESSINA

Mr. Dean A. Coppa and Miss Janice M. Messina were joined in holy wedlock on November 27, 1976 in The Church of Jesus Church, Detroit, Michigan Branch 3.

Brother Silver Coppa, the groom's uncle, officiated at the wedding ceremony.

Musical selections were presented by Olivia Parra-vano and Vanessa Capone.

The newly wedded couple are living in Warren, Michigan.

MAJOROS - TOARMINO

Elder David John Majoros and Sister Grace Ann Toarmino were united in holy matrimony on January 1, 1977 in The Church of Jesus Christ, Detroit, Michigan Branch 3.

Brother Dominic Thomas, the brides uncle, officiated at the wedding ceremony.

Musical selections were presented by the groom and Brother Eugene Amormino.

The newlyweds are living in San Carlos, Arizona.

BURNS - NICKLOW

James Edward Burns and Sister Robin DiAnn Nicklow were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, December 4, 1976 at the Monongahela Branch.

Brothers John Griffith and James Grazan officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were offered by Brother Ken Staley and Sister Iva Fedorka. The couple will reside in West Mifflin, Pa.

It is our prayer that the Lord will bless this new couple in their new life together.

CICCATI - PANDONE

Brother Gary Alan Ciccati and Sister Karen Lee Pandone were united in the bonds of holy wedlock on February 5, 1977 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Youngstown, Ohio.

Brother Donald Pandone, the bride's father, and Brother John Manes officiated at the wedding ceremony.

Musical selections were presented by Brother Eugene Amormino and Sister Donna Amormino.

The newly wedded couple are residing in Pasadena, California.

● OBITUARIES ●

OTTIMIA DIPAOLO

Sister Ottimia DiPaolo of Detroit, Michigan, Branch 2 of The Church of Jesus Christ passed away from this life to be with her Savior on January 12, 1977. She was born on May 11, 1901 and was baptized on September 22, 1940.

She leaves to mourn her loss one son, one son-in-law, five grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren.

Brothers Querino Bologno and Dominic Thomas officiated at the funeral services.

Sister Ottimia was a very diligent and faithful servant until the end. She suffered many months and never wavered in her faith. Her humility and cheerful smile will never be forgotten.

MYRTLE M. SHERIDAN

Myrtle M. Sheridan of Cleveland, Ohio passed from this life on January 26, 1977. She was born on November 29, 1924.

Brother Vincent Gibson officiated at the funeral services at the Shorts Funeral Home in Streetsboro, Ohio.

She leaves to mourn her loss, her husband, three sons, one daughter, three grandchildren, two brothers and her father (Brother Oliver Lloyd Sr.)

ASSUNTA FEOLA

Sister Assunta Feola, a devoted and humble faithful member of the Bronx Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ, departed from this life to her heavenly rest on May 10, 1976. Born on February 11, 1892, she was baptized into The Church on November 2, 1947.

Brothers James Link, Dominick Rose and Salvatore Valenti conducted the funeral services.

Left to mourn are two brothers, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

The passing of our Sister leaves a large void in the lives of all who loved her. She always extended a helping hand to everyone with her love and compassion. A Deaconess of the Bronx Branch, she served in this capacity for many years. Her warmth and pleasant manner will be missed by all those who loved her in The Gospel.

The GOSPEL NEWS

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa.

May, 1977

Volume 33, No. 5

Offices: 6th & Lincoln Sts.

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

By NICK PIETRANGELO

Pastors are expected to give leadership in a variety of ways. They are expected to give Christian leadership to the congregation where they serve. In the familiar words of the Old Testament: *"Where there is no vision, the people perish."* They are expected to offer moral and spiritual leadership to the community where the Church lives.

Pastors are also expected to provide helpful leadership to their denomination and its worldwide mission. In addition, pastors encounter a host of other individual expectations about their life and work, their dress and speech, their family and friends. Many of these expectations held by individuals are diverse and contradictory, so that if a minister sought to satisfy them all, he would be pulled apart in the process. Thus, the minister, if he is wise, doesn't make it his aim to please everybody; *but to satisfy as fully as is possible the essential claim which he experiences in God's calling.* The minister does not have many masters, but he does acknowledge *One Lord.* He stands in relation to Christ as a man under orders. As the Apostle said: *"I make it my ambition to please Him."*

To give leadership implies some goals. Every minister has some key objectives in mind for himself and for his congregation. They are important because they help to establish direction and purpose which can measure progress and because measurable goals can develop the deepest kind of united motivation, which helps to build Christian community. Your Pastoral Staff has a number of objectives which are important to them as persons. They are developing *"team objectives"* because they want a *"team ministry"*. Increasingly, our objectives must become corporate objectives which are thought out and claimed by the Church in general so that our common labors can move us forward in response to God's Call to meet human needs as we serve the present age with Grace and Gospel.

Meanwhile, one fact should be clear. The pastors of a Church are not here *"to get their own way"*. They don't profess to have all of the right answers—as though God

had lodged all of His wisdom in them. One of their essential goals is to help build the congregation into a community of Love and Acceptance, so that there is *room for everyone* who brings into the Church his own unique and unrepeatable diversity. A Church which only sounds *one note* diminishes the range of Gospel and makes its sound dully repetitious. The *Body of Christ* — like the human body — has *many members* with differing gifts and functions. The Body has no redundant spare parts, so that each is needed. When some members are idle or cut off, the whole body suffers. Hence, *our first objective* is to build up the Body of Christ in love so that no one suffers a sense of rejection as though he could be spared. This means that the Body needs the animating Presence of the Spirit of Christ to provide life and vitality. The Body also needs the continuing work of *Christ's Cross* to overcome hostility, anger and division by God's Reconciling Action. Can this be our essential objective in Covenant: *to make a place for every one of God's children to be accepted in love, strengthened for service and sustained in fellowship and hope?* To make that come true, *you who read this, you are needed* — and, together we must make room for others to find a real place with us as Christ's Living Body *in the world today.*



See your
Local M.B.A. President
for a registration form
before it's too late!

Be wise!

GET YOUR G.M.B.A.
CAMPOUT RESERVATION
IN EARLY!

Come to
CAMP TOWANDA
Honesdale, Pennsylvania
(in the Pocono Mountains)

June 18th through the 25th
are the dates

A PROPHETIC LETTER

Cleveland, Ohio
August, 1944

Dear Brother Stroud and family,

You have decided to leave this part of the land for a better climate and a better place to live, the state of California.

I, as your Presiding Elder, feel deeply moved, and will feel your loss from our midst greatly, but my prayer is that the God of Love will go with you.

I know He will be with you and your family as long as you will remember that humble promise that you have made to Him on the shore of Lake Erie some four years ago.

You have been a Brother and a friend to all.

I sure would like to see you go further in The Church of Jesus Christ, for I know you have the ability.

But, dear Brother Ben, now we part, and myself as a humble servant of God, trust that you may do more work in the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ in the near future. This was shown to you in a dream that you were going from door to door, and this was in California; may it soon come true.

Therefore, Brother Stroud, you are going far away from the main body of the Church, but God is there also. It takes a great determination to make such a move. The pioneers were determined to go west, and look at it now; great cities have been built, and it was through their efforts. The Church in the near future will grow where you go. Branches and Missions will be established, and you Saints that go first will be the pioneers of The Church in that locality. Great will be the blessings that will be yours.

The poet says, "From East to West, from North to South, the Saviour's Kingdom shall extend, and every man in every place, shall meet a Brother and a Friend." (end of letter)

I remember well when Brother Charles Ashton and I went to the home of our departed Brother Stroud and his family to bring them the testimony of the Restored Gospel. Shortly they were baptized, and about the same time Brother and Sister Labauskas, who also joined them in California, were baptized. We shared many of God's wonderful blessings together while they all were here in Cleveland.

I also remember loving the climate of California very much, as it is very similar to that of my birthplace in Italy. My family and I lived in California near Santa Monica from September, 1930 to March, 1932. We had hoped that some others of the Church would come to California; but, as no one came, I felt the need of being close to the Church where I could fellowship with the Saints.

Today I believe it was God's will that I make my home here in Cleveland, while just a few years later, many of the Saints moved to California. We now have many Branches and Missions there, as well as in Arizona and Mexico.

Brother Rocco V. Biscotti

G.M.B.A. CAMPOUT

The G.M.B.A. Campout will be held June 18 to 25, 1977 at Camp Towanda, Honesdale, Pennsylvania.

The registration forms have been sent out. If you did not receive one, contact:

Brother John C. Huttenberger

P. O. Box #N

Edison, New Jersey 08817

Phone: (201) 287-4710

At the last Activities Committee meeting, we passed a motion to add \$.25 per person/per day at camp. This is to cover the cost of Campout.

Example: For a family of four staying all week, the cost would be (\$.25x4) x (7) = \$7.00.

We are recommending that you bring an extra blanket for your comfort in the bunkhouses.

Paul Palmieri

G.M.B.A. President

DO YOU WANT TO HELP

I am in receipt of a letter with some suggestions in helping some of *The Seed of Joseph* get to Campout June 18, 1977.

It is directed towards helping some of the people in Muncey and Six Nations get to Campout.

Some suggestions are:

1. Taking them in your cars.
2. Pay their expenses at Campout such as food, etc.
3. Pay for their registration cost.

If you are interested, please let me know and I will contact the Brothers in charge of the Missions.

Paul Palmieri

About Life

Life originates as a planted seed
Mixed together and tangled in weeds;
The obstacles are many
And the paths are few;
But seldom let them barricade the way and destroy you
As you begin to blossom and become uncoiled.
Don't become selfish or spoiled
Blossom fully until you reach your peak
And never wilt or become weak.
Once you are at your height
Stay as you are and do what is right;
Live and let live by helping the new seeds
Overcome the problems with the obstinate weeds.

Candace Ross

Aliquippa Branch

THE NIGERIAN ECHO

By BROTHER J. BITTINGER

We hear good news from The Church in Nigeria and Ghana. God is blessing His people in these lands. He is giving them Heavenly experiences and answering their prayers.

Brother E. U. A. Arthur reports that a husband brought his sick wife unto him. After he had anointed and prayed for her, God performed a miracle on the sick woman; after a few days a report was made of the great benefit received by both the wife and husband, and glory was given to God by them.

Brother Sunday Mkpaowo of Arochukwu reported of his vision when he was sick and admitted into the General Hospital, Arochukwu. He said that his sickness was so serious that the doctor expressed doubt of his recovery. While he was in the hospital he had a dream, a certain man standing in white robe and with him were Pastor E. U. A. Arthur, Ebong and other members of the Priesthood standing around him, calling and praying unto him. "Waking up from sleep I was made whole", Brother Mkpaowo declared. By this experience he said he realized that the prayers of the Saints were effective to restore him back to life.

We thank God for the avenue of prayer for it leads to His throne of grace and mercy. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16.

We notice according to the Minutes of the Conference held November 18-20, 1976, the number of persons baptized during the last six months were 287. Of this total 150 were baptized in the Aba District where Brother M. W. Okenugo is in charge of the work. We are very happy to see that God is blessing their efforts and giving them an increase; building up the Kingdom of Christ on the earth.

The Elders traveling for the Church report the Missions are progressing well. Brothers E. A. Ebong and George Arthur reported to have visited and met with as many Missions as they were able to this past six months.

Brother E. A. Ebong states, "The work of the Gospel is growing spiritually and temporally in this area by the efforts of Brothers preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Though I have not been able to make travels in the past months except in October and November, I have been able to visit Calabar twice, Uyo/Oron, Arochukwu, Ibam Edet, Aba and nearly all stations in Abak Division. The last trip I made to Calabar, I baptized 3 souls who obeyed the Gospel. On the 12th of this month, 71 souls from various stations were baptized into the Church."

CLOSING REMARKS OF CONFERENCE:

The President, Brother E. U. A. Arthur thanked God for the golden opportunity granted them to meet together and discuss things of God at the Conference. He, on behalf of the Priesthood at Conference thanked the Parent Church, individual Brothers and Sisters and societies of the Church for their charitable work they had done for the interest of the Nigeria Church, and Sister Bickerton for her sacrifice in translating the Hymn Book from Musical notes to Solfa notation for their use.

He thanked the Atai Otoro Branch for their hospitality shown to the Sisters and Brethern throughout the three days of Conference. He praised the Secretaries for their painstaking in both correspondence and organization for success of the Conference. He thanked the Counsellors and all other officers and the entire members in the Conference for their interest, devotedness and cooperation throughout the Conference. He wished God to bless every one, both men and women.

THE CHURCH IN GHANA:

The Church in Ghana is functioning well. Brother Ford Boadu writes to Brother John Ross quite frequently. He is administering to the Church all the ordinances of The Gospel and endeavoring to establish The Church in other areas. He has been meeting with some opposition. Some of the new members have met with violent persecution in certain areas. Brother Boadu is determined to continue and with the help of God he shall succeed. The Gospel of Jesus Christ will not fail. He reports membership 150, children blessed 200.

COMPREHENSIVE SECONDARY SCHOOL REPORT:

The Principal of the School Mr. S. E. Etim reported the progress of the institution to the Conference, though it was barely two months since he had taken up the work of the Comprehensive Secondary School. He said that the present standard of work was higher than when he came. The kitchen-dining hall was just roofed and that before the next term commences the building will be ready for use. A block of six classrooms and renovation of the staff room, etc. has just been completed and that the classroom block cost N 40,000.00. The number of students this academic year has risen from 468 to 658 with 190 students more than the preceding year. The total number of students holding both Mission and Government Scholarships in the school is 56. He commended the Parent Church for establishing and equipping the school with the necessary amenities...

Brother Nephi DeMercurio, his wife Sister Lorraine and their sons Nephi, Jr. and Jared, are in the process of preparing to go to Nigeria, where he will be employed as a School Teacher by the Government.

He will also represent the Parent Church as a Missionary and Adviser to The Church in Nigeria, and Ghana. His tour of duty will be for 21 months duration according to present plans, the Lord willing. They hope to leave for their new assignment the latter part of July, 1977. They expect to occupy the new mission house which is being constructed at Atai Otoro, Abak.

Brother DeMercurio accompanied Brother John Ross on a three month missionary trip to Nigeria and Ghana in 1976. Experience gained on this trip has resulted in their decision to answer the call to a foreign mission field. Brother Nephi is well qualified to fill this position both educationally and spiritually.

May the Holy Spirit accompany our Brother and Sister in their effort to help and be a blessing to the Church and people of Nigeria.

Greetings in Christ,

"Let us not put on the cloak of self-righteousness, but the Spirit of righteousness and of humility," said Brother Anthony Picciuto during his visit to Modesto. He used for his text St. Luke 18:9, the Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican. The Pharisee thanking God for his righteousness, but the Publican making confession — have mercy on me a sinner. He also read Moroni 7:44, "None is acceptable before God save the meek and lowly in heart and who confesses by the power of the Holy Ghost that Jesus is the Christ." Brother Tony gave us an inspiring sermon and at the end of his discourse, we all rededicated ourselves and our families to God. It was an uplifting meeting. January 4 will be a day of new rededication in Modesto.

Since that day a spirit of praise has prevailed and on January 23, Brother Leonard Lovalvo asked at the opening of the afternoon meeting if there was anyone who felt to pray to do so. It was a spirit-filled hour and a half of prayer and the spirit of praise continued for another hour and a half. It shall long be remembered.

February 5, Brother Frank Vitto of Detroit, Michigan attended our meeting. Brother Mark Randy was speaking of Enos's conversion to God. Brother Frank Vitto followed on the same subject, exhorting us to be like Enos. Once we are converted to the Lord we should be concerned about our fellowmen. If we do this, then we will grow both in spirit and in numbers.

On February 12 Brother Frank Vitto spoke to us again and he used for his text II Chronicle 7:14, "If my people which are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." He gave us an inspiring sermon, exhorting us to righteousness. We enjoyed his short stay with us. May God bless him and give him good health.

Within a short space of time Modesto Branch is walking a little closer to the Lord. We praise the Lord our God for His ever wonderful and watchful eyes over His children. We rejoice and yet praise Him ever. Who is like unto our God!

Brother Mark Randy

Coloring Books For Sale

If you want to convey the message of The Restoration to your children, friends, neighbors, give them a coloring book, telling the story of The Gospel Restored and The Church of Jesus Christ.

Just write to the following for as many books as you want. The cost is \$.75 per book.

Joe Ross
Ross Drive
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

Alex Gentile
11294 Suffolk Drive
Southgate, MI 48195

John Ross, Jr.
119 W. Saguaro
Casa Grande, Ariz. 85222

Joe Draskovich
527 Fairfield Drive
Greensburg, Pa. 15601

A TESTIMONY

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I wish to relate my testimony of how my family and I came to really know the Lord and became members of The Church of Jesus Christ.

My mother and father, both deceased now, were looking for a Church. They visited many denominations but found none that were in accordance with the Bible; until that wonderful day when the Lord sent Brother Salvatore Valenti and his family to reside in the same apartment building where we lived.

The Lord sent Brother Valenti from New Brunswick, New Jersey to preach the Gospel in Brooklyn, New York.

We heard singing one Sunday morning, we went downstairs, walked in and sat down and enjoyed every word; not long after that we were baptized.

My mother used to say the Lord found us, He knew we wanted to serve Him. I was sixteen at the time.

The Lord has been in our company through these many years. We have enjoyed many blessings. We have enjoyed our Brother Valenti till the end, a wonderful person, Minister and Teacher. You are all familiar with his testimony, how the Lord was in his company till the end. We miss him very much. He has left many wonderful memories.

We are confronted by many trials in this life, but the Lord will see us through.

I feel very humble and thankful for the understanding that the Lord gives us and that we must be faithful to the end to receive that crown of eternal life, which He has promised, if we prove faithful.

God bless all my Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Amelia Saccardi
Brooklyn, N.Y. Branch

P.S. My mother and father were Brother and Sister Margiore who, thank God, were serving and faithful to the Lord to the end of their days on earth.

—o—

Baptism At Monongahela Branch

The blessings of God surely poured down on the Monongahela Branch on Sunday, April 3, 1977. Our morning meeting was opened by Brother James Grazan speaking upon the suffering of Jesus Christ before His crucifixion. Brother James spoke about the small number of Saints we are, compared to the world, and how God has never and will never leave us alone. He said we need only call on His name and He is there. The Spirit of God was truly felt. After we had closed the morning meeting Tamara Nicklow asked to be baptized. The spirit was once again felt by everyone. We recessed for a short lunch and convened at the river shore. Tamara was baptized by her father, Brother Robert Nicklow and was confirmed by Brother Richard Scaglione. The testimonies and experiences given in our sacrament service were all a blessing. Surely, the Spirit of God was felt throughout the day. We pray that God will watch over Tamara and over all in the Church, and that His ever-protecting Hands will always be with His people.

The Monongahela Branch

THE GOSPEL NEWS

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

MOTHER'S DAY

The observance of Mother's Day dates from May, 1907. It began under the inspiration of Miss Anna Jarvis, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, who thought that at least once a year sons and daughters should pay tribute to their mothers.

She arranged for a special mother's service in one of the churches and asked that white carnations be worn by those attending the service. However, the custom of wearing a white carnation was later modified so that a distinction might be made between those whose mothers were still alive and those whose mothers were dead. White flowers are worn by the motherless and red flowers by the others whose mothers are still living.

The plan appealed to the interest and imagination of others and services were held in more churches next year. The second Sunday in May was finally agreed upon as a suitable date for the annual celebration of this newly-conceived holiday to honor mothers.

OBSERVANCE WIDELY SPREAD

By the year 1911 the observance had spread so widely that there was not a state in the United States in which special services were not held. The day was also observed that year in Canada, Mexico, South America, Africa, China, Japan and some of the islands of the sea. Leaflets suggesting programs for the exercises were printed in ten different languages and distributed in the different countries. Following is a passage from one of the leaflets:

"The common possession of the living world is a mother. Everyone has — or has had — a mother. The marvelous growth of Mother's Day in a few years to a national and international day can be attributed to the heart and living interest it possesses for almost every home and every person of a mother-loving heart in this and other countries."

ROLE OF MOTHERS

The role of mothers in the early care and education of their children merits and is deserving of immeasurable love and honor, far more than sons and daughters can ever sufficiently return.

In this Mother's Day tribute to mothers I wish to make reference to *The Book of Ruth* in our *Holy Bible* in which is presented the story of a beautiful relationship between a mother-in-law and her daughter-in-law. Indeed, the mutual affection between Naomi and her daughter-in-law, Ruth, could well be that of a mother and daughter.

Note the language of widowed Naomi in bidding farewell to her widowed daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth, both of whom she loved dearly, "Go, return each to her mother's house: The Lord deal kindly with you as you have dealt with the dead, and with me." (*Ruth* 1:8) Also, "Turn again, *my daughters*, go your way. . ." (*Verse* 12)

Note the reaction of Ruth, "...but Ruth clave unto her." (*Verse* 14) Also (*Verses* 16, 17) And, Ruth said, "Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for wither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if aught but death part thee and me."

Behold, what a mother's love hath wrought!



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

A Mother and A Grandmother

Dear Girls and Boys,

Since May is the month we celebrate Mother's Day, I want to tell you about a mother and a grandmother. The word "Mother or Mothers" is found in the Bible three hundred times while the word "Grandmother" appears only once. This grandmother was Lois and the mother of our story was named Eunice. Timothy was the son of Eunice.

This little family was devoted friends of the Apostle Paul. In Paul's writings to Timothy, he says, "When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also." This verse tells us of the character of Timothy's mother and grandmother. Eunice and Lois prepared Timothy for the life he was to lead in the mission field. His association with Paul taught him how important it is to serve God. Paul referred to him as "my dearly beloved son." What a great compliment.

Timothy's father was a Greek. Very little is known about him, not even his name. Eunice was a Jewess. Their home was at Lystra, a Roman city in Galatia. If Eunice was a widow it is possible she earned the living. Therefore the grandmother played an important role in raising Timothy. We can be sure she was a believing woman, an example of true faith. The careful training of Timothy by Lois and Eunice, shows us how important it is to, "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6) One of the earliest laws of the Hebrews was "Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." (Exodus 20:12)

We give credit to Anna M. Jarvis, who conceived the idea of setting aside one day of the year in which to pay special honor to Mother. "Live this day as your mother would have you", she urged. Also that each person spend the day with his mother if possible, or at least write her a letter. Honoring mother means more than gifts of flowers or candy. Children honor their parents when they respect their wishes to follow their advice. To disobey is to dishonor them. Happy are the parents who teach their children to obey. The Bible states, "Forsake not the law of thy mother." Timothy was an example of this.

Sincerely,
Sister Mabel

OUR WOMEN TODAY . . .

The Atlantic Coast Area Ladies Circle held our yearly business meeting on December 13, 1976. Election of officers are as follows:

Chairman: Sister Betty D'Orazio
Co-Chairman: Sister Palma Coppa
Secretary: Sister Linda Coppa
Project Chairman: Sister Many Perry

In our last area meeting held on February 13, 1977, we had a beautiful discussion on the things a woman can do and should remain as the light of the Lord. Our theme for the next year is Spiritual Growth. We discussed the Beatitudes for women and we all felt a great joy in discussing them.

Sister Josephine Ciccatti from California was visiting with us and we felt a great joy in hearing her testimony of God's greatness to her.

Sister Rose Bonaduce

* * *

BEATITUDES FOR WOMEN

1. Blessed is she from whose eyes there glows tenderness and love, for her family shall find comfort in her.
2. Blessed is she in whose mouth there is found no guile, for her children shall know righteousness.
3. Blessed is she whose ears are stopped from gossip and evil, for in this her children shall know tolerance.
4. Blessed is she whose hands are never idle, for her children shall know cleanliness.
5. Blessed is she whose feet never run to evil, for her family shall know righteousness.
6. Blessed is she whose mind is pure, for her children shall learn good judgment.
7. Blessed is she whose heart does not devise wicked imaginations, for her children shall learn holiness.
8. Blessed is she whose hands are clean and touch not evil things, for her children shall learn Godliness.

SPECIAL

ARIZONA/CALIFORNIA DISTRICT TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES

A 1977 edition of the Arizona/California District Telephone Directory is available at \$2.00 per copy.

Interested parties should send orders to:

The Church of Jesus Christ
Directory Committee
3830 - 39th Street
San Diego, California 92105

A MEETING IN ANADARKO, OKLAHOMA

We believe in the literal gathering of Israel, including the Ten Lost Tribes, also The Seed of Joseph (American Indian) on this land of America; and that Christ will eventually come and reign on the earth one thousand years.

We are so happy to have Brother Joseph and Sister Edna Bittinger visit us in our home in Anadarko, Oklahoma. We had time to call a few of our friends and were able to have a meeting in our home on March 16, 1977.

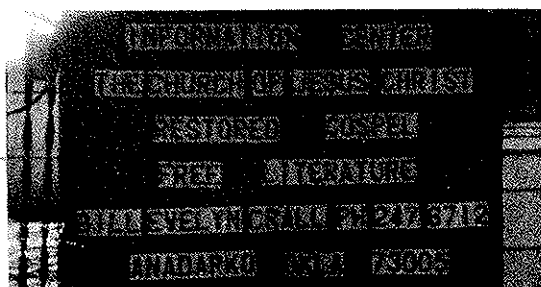
Brother Bittinger spoke on the 12th article of the Articles of Faith of The Church of Jesus Christ. Sixteen persons were present at our meeting, these sixteen represented five Indian tribes: Kiowa, Pawnee, Caddo, Oto and Wichita. Our service was opened by singing hymns we all knew. One of our Indian friends sang a hymn in Kiowa, but explained the meaning of the song they would sing. Interpretation "Oh, how we love you". After Brother Bittinger spoke he asked for questions. A few questions were asked and we were so pleased with the interest.

Many times the Indian will be separated by tribes. But we would like to point out that our friends are of many tribes. Our meeting representing the different tribes worshipping together.

Many times we have been in Indian church meetings. We have heard "Amazing Grace" sung in at least seven different Indian languages. It is such a pleasure to have the "Seed of Joseph" knock on our door. God has been so good to us and we pray that God will bless you all as He has been blessing us and supplying our needs. We are respected by the white people because they know of our love for the "Seed of Joseph." My heart is heavy for our people. That God will give more of you an experience to work among the "Seed of Joseph." There is a work to be done. We can only go so far in our witnessing to the American Indian. But, we have found out that to live a life for Christ is always respected. We are not ashamed of the *Word of God* and *The Book of Mormon*. Although the people know of the *Book of Mormon*, we are always happy to say we are "The Saints of Latter Days" and that we are The Church of Jesus Christ, Restored Gospel.

We have added another piece of furniture to be used in church. Brother Bill has built a pulpit with shelves to store all our church books and literature. We had been given a lovely Bible holder for the top of the pulpit. Many thanks to our Brothers and Sisters, we have some of the nicest Sacrament dishes, cloths and basket. To you all this may be small but to us we are happy to have these necessities of our Church. God bless you all.

Brother Bill, Sister Evelyn Crall
and Family.



District Conferences . . .

OHIO DISTRICT CONFERENCE

The Ohio District Conference met in Youngstown, Ohio on Saturday, March 12 and Sunday, March 13. Our Sunday service was preceded by a brief session of spirited community singing. Brother Mitchell Edwards, of Warren offered the opening prayer after which the Erie Saints sang a composition by Brother Mark Kovacic and Sister Esther Dyer, titled "These Are The Latter Days."

Brother Rocco Biscotti, of Cleveland was the opening speaker and he used Isaiah, 2:1-4, "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house..." His talk dwelt mainly on the Peaceful Reign as he tried to encourage us. He cited the wonderful condition that existed during the almost 200 years of peace that was enjoyed by the Nephites upon this land. He was followed by the three other Apostles in the Ohio District.

Brother Paul D'Amico related a personal experience he had this past winter when Buffalo and the surrounding area were so devastated by a snow storm that paralyzed the cities. He was trying to get home to his children but the roads were impassable. Unable to go any further, he stopped at a restaurant to get a bite to eat and rest. A man entered the restaurant and sat next to him and began to talk with him as though he had known him for a long time.

Brother Paul explained his plight to the man who then answered him and said, "I've come here to take you home". Brother Paul asked him how he could do this when the roads were impassable. The man told him, "I have a snowmobile." Although he was a little concerned about riding in such a vehicle, Brother Paul finally agreed to ride with him but he asked the man to wait until he went out and bought a hat, because he had none and it was very cold. The man then told him, "I've got a hat for you, whereupon he took a stocking type hat out from under his coat and gave it to Brother Paul. After a rather harrowing ride, he managed to get home to his children. Brother Paul returned to the restaurant a few days later and inquired about the man, but that was the first and last time anyone had seen him.

Brother Frank Calabrese and Brother Tony Corrado also spoke on the glories of The Peaceful Reign as well as personal experiences wherein many sick and afflicted were healed through the Power of God.

Brother Dom Bucci spoke briefly on his trip to Salamanca, N.Y. along with Brothers Mark and George Kovacic and James Grazan. They met with the President of the Council of the Seneca Indians and also with the 16 members of the Indian Council. They were treated very hospitably and had a wonderful time meeting and talking with them.

Throughout the meeting, there were solos sung by Sisters Carla Dziak and Iva Fedorka and also singing by groups from Erie, Pa. and Lorain, Ohio.

The meeting was closed in prayer by Brother Elmer Santilli.

Under election of officers on Saturday, I will list the major changes:

Ohio District President: Brother Joe Calabrese
1st. Counselor: Brother Elmer Santilli
2nd Counselor: Brother Vince Gibson
Secretary: Brother Russell Martorano
Assistant Secretary: Brother Mitchell Edwards
Treasurer: Brother Henry Cardillo

Editor: Brother Ron Genaro
Assistant Editor: Brother Eugene Perri, Jr.
Historian: Brother Eugene Perri, Jr.
Auditors: Brother Tony Arcuri,
Brother Duane Lowe

District Editor,
Ron Genaro
(New Address)
620 Taylorbrook Drive
Gretna, Louisiana 70053

FLORIDA DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Sunday, February 20, the Florida sun was shining brightly. Brothers and Sisters throughout the District and outlying Branches and Missions convoked together anticipating a day filled with God's blessings.

As a prelude to our morning service, Brother Chuck Smith called upon various Branches and Missions of the District to sing a hymn in praises to God. This was ensued by several anointings for sickness and affliction.

Brother Cleve Baldwin from the Chattahooche Mission introduced our service. He expounded upon the *third chapter of St. John's Gospel*, reliving the conversation between Nicodemus and Christ. He coincided that scripture with the man that built his house upon the solid foundation. He exhorted that each of us must build upon that same foundation in order to inherit perpetual bliss in the life to come.

Brother James Moore from the Atlanta Mission followed on the same theme. This was Brother Moore's first visit to the Florida District and it was uplifting to observe our Brother's zeal in preaching the Gospel.

Brother Frank Giovannone from Ohio closed out our morning service, also elaborating on the importance of making our commitment to Christ.

We dismissed for a delicious lunch prepared by our Sisters. It enabled everyone to make new acquaintances and renew old friendships.

Brother Ron Genaro opened the afternoon service in keeping with the theme of the day, stating that we build upon many foundations in our lifetime, but the greatest and most important foundation is Jesus Christ. Brother Ron also related various experiences of the New Orleans Mission.

Brother Rocco Ensana from New Jersey shared many experiences that he has had in his many years of service to God.

Various Brothers administered communion and Brother Sirangelo concluded our service. Truly it was a day well spent in the service of the King.

Florida District Officers are as follows:

President: Brother Eugene Perri, Jr.
First Counsellor: Brother Alvin Swanson
Second Counsellor: Brother Sam Costarella
Secretary: Brother Frank Rogolino
Assistant Secretary: Brother James Sheffler
Financial Secretary: Brother Tony Ensana
Treasurer: Brother Michael Radd
Librarian: Brother Tony Ensana



BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS:—

My God Thou Seest Me

On January 16, 1977, the Brothers and Sisters at Roscoe received a special blessing to have Sister Ruth Carr with us again. Not quite two weeks before on January 3, she had undergone a serious gall bladder operation, due to an asthmatic condition and the severe inflammation of the gall bladder. It contained five large stones and serious problems could have arisen. The gall bladder burst immediately after it was removed.

Instead, Sister Ruth was back with us in a remarkably short time praising God for His goodness. During the meeting Sister Catherine Roberts testified that when she heard of Sister Ruth's serious condition before the operation she had a dream. She dreamed Sister Ruth would be operated upon and saw her in the dream back in Church again and how surprised everyone was to see her so soon.

She said when she saw Sister Ruth come into Church that the dream came to her mind and how that it was fulfilled.

Brother Jesse Carr, Sister Ruth's companion testified to God's blessings and spoke on the joy of being able to call our Lord, MY God and OUR God and of the personal relationship we as Saints have with the Lord. He quoted the words contained in a Hymn written by the late Brother Charles Ashton, MY GOD THOU SEEST ME. He testified as to how he recently experienced an accident at work which could have resulted in the loss of his eye. He was remarkably spared serious injury and his employer told Brother Jesse that this was a time of thanksgiving for him, that God was surely with him.

We thank God for the wonderful spirit felt in hearing the testimonies of our Brothers and Sisters and wanted to share them with you. Surely our Heavenly Father cares for His children who put their trust in Him. "By day and by night, in error or right, MY GOD THOU SEEST ME."

The Brothers and Sisters
Roscoe Branch

Lake Worth, Florida Branch News

I'm sure there is a lot to be said about our recent campout but we at the Lake Worth Branch have much to thank God for. Seven of the nine baptized at the

Florida Campout were additions to our little group. They are so enthusiastic and have been a blessing to all of us.

We enjoyed fellowship services Wednesday after camp and Sunday was our footwashing service. What a day! We had visitors from Miami and Ft. Pierce. Many testimonies were given with experiences concerning the baptisms.

In the evening our M.B.A. enjoyed more visitors from Ft. Pierce and more experiences not heard before. God works in so many wonderful ways. "Prove me, now here-with, saith the Lord of Hosts, If I will not open the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it." (*Malachi 3:10*)

Lake Worth Branch has some sorrow, too, at this time. Sister Katherine Lupo is in the process of moving north. We have enjoyed her presence and especially her joyful testimonies and smiling face these many years. Our thoughts and prayers will go with her. She will be quite a distance from any of our Branches and asks to be remembered in our prayers.

Visitors to Florida who have been with us a few months this year were Brother Rocco and Sister Nancy Ensana, Tony and Sister Jean Pusateri and Sister Carmella Biro. It was good seeing all of them again.

Lake Worth, Florida News Special Interest Item

As Brother Doug Obradovich was being anointed during our New Year's Eve watch service, Brother Everett Jasmin saw a ladle descend from the church ceiling and shower gold over this young Brother.

Brother Doug was recently baptized and has been a ray of sunshine to our Branch. The love of Christ truly shines from his eyes.

Palmetto, Georgia Mission Welcomes Two New Members

Sunday, February 6, proved to be a joyful day for the Palmetto Mission. A young couple made known their wishes to enter the fold.

Ricky Ramon Phillips declared himself a sinner and wanted baptism to wash away his sins so that he could become a man of God. Present were his parents and grandmother. His wife, Rebecca Lynn, said she wanted Jesus to help her and together with her husband they would live a new life for God.

Brother James T. Moore baptized and confirmed both of them. Pray for these young ones. Brother Ricky is nineteen and Sister Rebecca is seventeen years of age. May God bless them.

Rejoicing In Maine Mission

There was great rejoicing in the Maine Mission, North Edgecomb, Maine, as two souls surrendered to God. The water was frozen and very hard to break, to the point we thought we would have to postpone the

baptism. But the Lord helped us as we found another body of water in the next town and were able to perform the baptisms.

Sister Dianna Stinson was baptized and confirmed on Sunday, February 6, 1977 by Elder Richard Onorato.

The next Sunday, February 13, 1977, Brother James Anthony Hammond called for his baptism. He was baptized and confirmed by Elder Richard Onorato.

Please continue to pray for us.

Sister Mary Onorato

Levittown Organized As Established Mission

At the February District Conference, the Atlantic Coast District approved the Levittown Mission to be organized as an Established Mission. Levittown has been a mission under the Edison Branch since the mission first started in Fairless Hills over 20 years ago so the District gave Edison the privilege of organizing the mission. Brother Augie D'Orazio of Edison took charge of the organization meeting which convened on Saturday evening, March 12, 1977. Several district officers were also present, including Brothers Nathan Peterkin, Matthew Rogolino, and Dominick Rose.

Brother Augie explained the responsibilities of an established mission to the members, many of whom will be having their first chance at facing these responsibilities. The District had designated Brother Samuel Dell to be the Presiding Elder and Brother Gerard Valenti to be First Counselor. To fill the remaining offices we had election of officers and the jobs were spread around so that many members will have work to do for the mission in the coming year. No longer will members have to assume several offices since the Lord has greatly blessed us in the past year and has increased our membership from 26 to 39 members.

After the business was taken care of, our three brothers from the district spoke some encouraging words to us. After the meeting we gathered in the basement for coffee and cake prepared by the Sisters. We enjoyed each other's fellowship and got to know each other a little better.

We had a wonderful evening and pray that the Lord will continue to bless us in our efforts to serve Him and do His blessed will.

Brother Jerry Valenti
Levittown Editor

Ordinations At Niles And Youngstown Branches

The Saints of the neighboring Branches of Niles and Youngstown experienced joy and edification in the ordinations of new Branch officers, one in each Branch on successive Sundays.

Sunday, March 20, is the date of Brother Jack Laverie's ordination. Brother Laverie's feet were washed by his nephew, Brother Donald Pandone. Brother T. D. Bucci ordained him to the office of Deacon.

The following Sunday, March 27, was chosen by the Niles Branch for the ordination of Brother Wayne Russel Martorana. Brother Wayne's feet were washed by Brother Robert Ciarrochi. Brother Russel Martorana ordained his son to the office of Teacher.

Before the ordination, Sister Phyllis Koon sang appropriately, "Ye Who Are Called To Labor". It was a glorious day for all in attendance.

We also pray for God's blessing upon Brother Wayne and may he humbly serve in his holy office of Teacher.

Baptism And Ordinations At Phoenix, Arizona Branch

The Arizona Saints enjoyed extra blessings on Sunday, March 20, in the course of three ordinations which are listed as follows:

DEACON — RICHARD E. ACKMAN

Brother Ackman's feet were washed by Brother Alfred Luna. Brother Richard Christman ordained him to the office of Deacon.

DEACONESS — YVONNE M. SAFFRON

Sister Saffron's feet were washed by Sister Sarah Watson. Brother Peter Capone ordained her to the office of Deaconess.

DEACONESS — ELLA FURNIER

Sister Furnier's feet were washed by Sister Ann Damore. Brother Ether M. Furnier ordained her to the office of Deaconess.

May the Lord bless and sustain these new Branch officers as they take up the duties of their holy offices.

Two weeks later, on Sunday, April 3, the Phoenix Branch experienced an additional blessing in welcoming Ramona Jean Hugel to membership in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Sister Hugel was baptized by Brother Robert Watson and confirmed by Brother Ether M. Furnier. May the Lord's blessing direct her new life in the Gospel and make her a blessing to others.

News From Tucson, Arizona

On January 10, 1977, as most of the Saints throughout the Church are aware, Brother Dick Christman, an Evangelist of the Church was involved in a very serious accident. He was on his way to work when he was hit head-on by a car and then hit by another car from the rear. He was rushed to the emergency room of the hospital with a broken right leg, possible broken left hip, broken right hand, some broken ribs, collapsed lung plus other injuries. His condition was very, very critical.

Within minutes the call began to go out to the various districts of the Church, to the members of the family, until, within a short time the whole Church was asked to pray for Brother Dick. Many prayers were offered immediately and later many meetings were devoted to fasting and prayer. Telephone calls came from everywhere telling us that everyone felt terribly bad to hear the news and that their main concern was that our

Brother's life would be spared. Mighty prayer to God was evident everywhere.

To see the Church respond in such a manner was something beautiful to behold. Such love is beyond the understanding of some, but what a comfort it was to the whole Christman family and to the Saints here in Tucson. They were almost all at the hospital day and night for weeks. With all the problems from his injuries, plus pain, infection and difficulty in breathing, for a long time it seemed almost impossible to believe that he might survive. While at first it appeared hopeless, yet the prayers of the faithful and the hand of God were performing a miracle right before our very eyes. For almost 3 weeks our Brother's condition was such that there was one crisis after another. Thank God for His goodness and for those who had experiences that gave the family and all hope that he would be well again.

During one of his operations, Doctors discovered many rib bone splinters which had pierced his lungs and one splinter close to his heart, however, after a number of operations and much pain our Brother began to respond and improve slightly each day. We don't want to forget all the doctors and nurses who labored many hours over our Brother. Surely, God was inspiring them and working through them.

Brother Dick returned home from the hospital on February 20. He has since had periods of great pain, but overall he has improved enough to sit outside in his wheelchair and try to regain some strength to do those things he desires. Throughout most of this time, many Brothers and Sisters came to visit him at the hospital and when time permitted some were able to visit our Mission. We want to thank everyone, everywhere for their prayers and their encouragement to us. We have also been happy to have Brother Joe and Sister Edna Bittinger from Pennsylvania with us for a season of time. They have been a great help to both the family and the Mission here.

Continue to pray for Brother Dick that he might soon be able to fulfill his many responsibilities at home, at work and at Church. Also remember our Mission that God might bless us with more of His Spirit and that others might hear the message of the Restoration.

God Bless you all.

Brother Paul Francione
Mission Editor

P.S. Brother Dick has been re-admitted due to possible gall bladder operation and correction of a bone in his right hand. Continue to pray for him.



See your
Local M.B.A. President
for a registration form
before it's too late!

Be wise!

GET YOUR G.M.B.A.
CAMPOUT RESERVATION
IN EARLY!

Come to
CAMP TOWANDA
Honesdale, Pennsylvania
(in the Pocono Mountains)

June 18th through the 25th
are the dates

Church Calendar

The following is a list of 1977 events of General Church and regional interest. (*Denotes the meeting will be held in the General Church Auditorium in Greensburg, Pa.)

MAY

G.M.B.A. Conference in Warren, Mich. May 21, 1977.

JUNE

*Pennsylvania District Gathering June 12, 1977.

G.M.B.A. Campout — Camp Towanda, Honesdale, Pa.
June 18-25, 1977.

JULY

General Ladies' Circle, Washington, D.C. Mission. July 9, 1977.

California Area Campout, Camp Radford, Calif. July 30-August 6, 1977.

AUGUST

Arizona — District Conference, White River, Arizona.
August 20, 21, 1977.

Atlantic Coast — District Conference, Metuchen, New Jersey. August 20, 21, 1977.

California — District Conference, San Diego, California.
August 27, 28, 1977.

Florida — District Conference, Ft. Pierce, Florida.
August 20, 21, 1977.

Michigan/Ontario — District Conference, Branch No. 2,
Michigan. August 24, 25, 26, 1977.

Ohio — District Conference, Cleveland, Ohio. August 27,
28, 1977.

Pennsylvania — District Conference, Fredonia, Pennsylvania. August 20, *21, 1977.

SEPTEMBER

Pennsylvania Area M.B.A. Campout. September 2, 3, 4,
5, 1977.

General Church Mission Board Meeting, Branch No. 1,
Detroit, Michigan. September 24, 1977.

OCTOBER

General Ladies' Circle, Detroit, Michigan. October 1, 1977.

Finance Committee Meeting, Aliquippa, Pa. October 8,
1977, 10:00 a.m.

General Church Conference, Greensburg, Pa. October 14,
15, 16, 1977.

NOVEMBER

G.M.B.A. Conference, Greensburg, Pa. November *12,
*13, 1977.

CORRECTED ADDRESSES

The Church of Jesus Christ
CAPE CORAL MISSION
1st Federal Savings and Loan Building
Community Room
4732 Del Prado Blvd.
Cape Coral, Florida 33904

SUNDAY SERVICES

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sunday School | 1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. |
| Preaching and Fellowship | 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. |

The Church of Jesus Christ CHATTAHOOCHEE MISSION

Elder Cleveland Baldwin
P.O. Box 615
Chattahoochee, Florida 32324
Phone 904-663-2722

SUNDAY SERVICES

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Sunday School | 9:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. |
| Preaching and Fellowship | 10:30 a.m. |
| Sunday Evening | 7:00 p.m. |
| Tuesday Evening | 7:00 p.m. |

The Church of Jesus Christ

MIAMI MISSION
American Legion Auditorium
303 Alhambra Circle
Coral Gables, Florida
Elder Alvin Swanson, Phone 305-271-6359

SUNDAY SERVICES

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Sunday School | 10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. |
| Preaching and Fellowship | 11:00 a.m. |

The Church of Jesus Christ

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA MISSION
Livaudais Trudeau Middle School
925 Lamar Avenue
Gretna, Louisiana 7053

SUNDAY SERVICES

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Sunday School | 9:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. |
| Preaching and Fellowship | 10:30 a.m. |

Phone 504-367-9012

The Church of Jesus Christ

TAMPA MISSION
Tampa Federal Savings and Loan Building
4005 South Dale Mabry (across from Britton Plaza)
Tampa, Florida 33611

SUNDAY SERVICES

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sunday School | 1:30 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. |
| Preaching and Fellowship | 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. |

Phone 813-839-8517

Guide For Church Attendance . . .

1. Go to Church early. Not only be there on time, but be there in your seat ahead of time.
2. As you sit in your seat before the service begins, turn your heart toward God that His spirit will be felt in our midst.
3. Enter The Church Building with respect, for it has been dedicated to God so that anyone who enters it may find peace and spiritual satisfaction in being there.
4. Be determined not to foster any thought, fix your

eyes on no object, utter no word, that will turn your mind and heart away from the holy purpose for which we attend services.

5. As the elder opens the meeting offer a silent prayer on his behalf. He needs to be inspired of God to be a blessing to you.

6. In all the services, take an active part, as listener, and worshipper.

7. At the close of the service, greet everyone with cheerfulness and good will, remembering that it is a part of the fellowship we have with each other.

E. Perri

— NEW ARRIVALS —

Congratulations are in order to the proud parents for the indicated new members of their families. New arrivals have been as follows:

Mandy Marie to Ron and Cathy Genaro of New Orleans, Louisiana;

Daniel to Domenick and Gelsa Risola of Levittown, Pennsylvania;

Cricket Luv to Kenneth and Sandra Murray of Youngstown, Ohio;

Joshua Peter to Bill and Cindy Prentice of Cleveland, Ohio.

— WEDDINGS —

METZLER - NICKLOW

Brother Allen Robert Metzler and Sister Bonnie Sue Nicklow were united in Holy matrimony on March 19, 1977, in the Glassport Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The couple was married by the bride's father, Elder Robert Nicklow.

Musical selections were presented by Sister Iva Fedorka.

The newlyweds are living in Fort Defiance, Arizona.

COLLISON - SCARSELLA

Mr. Larry Dale Collison and Miss Darlene Annette Scarsella were united in Holy wedlock on Saturday, April 2, 1977, in the Youngstown Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Donald Pandone officiated at the wedding ceremony, assisted by Brother T. D. Bucci.

Musical selections were presented by Mrs. Josephine Bryan and Sister Teresa Pandone.

The newlyweds will reside in Youngstown, Ohio.

CAPONE - SMITH

Mr. Timothy Brian Capone and Miss Brenda Gail Smith were joined in Holy matrimony on March 5, 1977, in Branch No. 3 of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The wedding ceremony was officiated by Brothers Peter Capone and Jack Pontillo.

Musical selections were presented by Brother Eugene Amormino.

The newlyweds will reside in Sterling Heights, Michigan.

● OBITUARIES ●

MARY LEONA WARD

Sister Mary Leona Ward of the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her reward with the Lord on February 9, 1977. She was born on December 17, 1915 and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on June 28, 1936.

The funeral services were conducted by Brothers J. Fred Olexa and John Kendall.

She is survived by her husband, one daughter, three grandchildren, four brothers and six sisters.

Sister Mary was an ordained Deaconess in The Church and she was a faithful and humble Sister in the Roscoe Branch and in The Church.

RICHARD MANCUSO

Brother Richard Mancuso of Branch No. 3, Detroit, Michigan, of The Church of Jesus Christ, passed on to his eternal reward on February 11, 1977. He was born March 26, 1927 and was baptized into the Church in 1942.

Left to mourn his loss are his wife, two sons, one daughter, two grandchildren, his mother, two brothers and two sisters.

The funeral services were officiated by Brothers Peter H. Capone and Mario Coppa.

Brother Richard was ordained a Teacher in 1952.

CHRISTINA TAORMINO

Sister Christina Taormino of Branch No. 3, Detroit, Michigan, of The Church of Jesus Christ, passed on to her heavenly reward on February 18, 1977. She was born on February 11, 1922.

Left to mourn her loss are two sons, three daughters, one brother and two sisters.

The funeral services were officiated by Brothers Peter H. Capone and Nephi DeMercurio.

Her family will miss her very much.

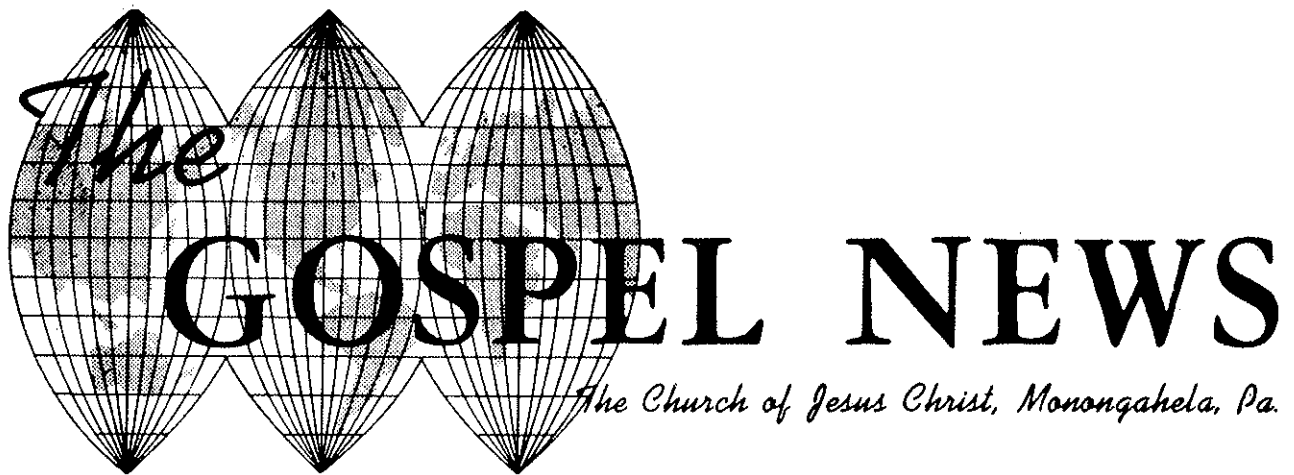
SALVATORE VALENTI

Elder Salvatore Valenti of Brooklyn, New York Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ, passed on to his eternal reward on January 20, 1977. He was born in Sicily in 1892 and was baptized into the Church on February 19, 1926.

He leaves to mourn his loss his wife, three sons, three daughters, 16 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and one sister.

Brothers Frank Zaher, Matthew Rogolino, and Sam Dell officiated at the funeral services.

Brother Valenti was ordained a Teacher in July, 1926, and an Elder January 10, 1927.



The GOSPEL NEWS

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa.

June, 1977

Volume 33, No. 6

Offices: 6th & Lincoln Sts.

OUR TRIP TO MEXICO

Last night I dreamed I was writing to the Gospel News about our trip to Mexico and the Saints there.

Brother Frank Calabrese, my husband, Brother Frank Palacios and myself experienced a wonderful time in Mexico City from April 6 - 11 of this year. Our blessings in Mexico among our Brothers and Sisters were something we will never forget. We got there on April 6, and right away we went around visiting our Brothers' and Sisters' little homes. The Brother Elders also anointed those who asked for prayer. (Truly we are blessed in America materially.) To them, their little homes are a mansion and what little they have is a fortune. Anything and everything they have, they'll share it with you. There are six or more in one family. They have a little bedroom for all of them, and one little square kitchen. YES, they have three meals a day, mostly the same thing for each meal, and that's every day. You don't see meat two or three times a week as we here in America are blessed with. There is no hot water; you go outside to another room to go to the bathroom. You wash clothes outside (by hand), and you also wash dishes outside, which I did. It reminded me of the way I was raised. But even in those conditions, you can see the Spirit among them, and they truly work for God. Their love for God, His Church, the Book of Mormon, and everything about the Restoration; surely as God spoke that all these things, He will write them on the tablets of their hearts. They don't worry about anything except pleasing God and doing anything that would displease Him. We can truly say that even though they might not have the material things of this life, they are rich spiritually.

We felt blessed visiting with Sister Mora (the first to be baptized in Mexico) who is 86 years young. Her mind is very opened in God's ways and trying to help others to walk in His ways and in telling them of His greatness toward her and His Church.

One night I awoke around 2:00 A.M. My husband woke up also and told me he had a dream in which he saw this little boy come to the door and say, "Is Sister Rose here?" My husband asked him, "What do you want with her?" The boy replied, "I came to tell her that the Lord said He was going to give her an experience." After

my husband said his dream, I then told him my dream which is as follows: "I saw Christ on the cross, and I saw His feet with the nails in them and blood was coming down. I was crying because of what I saw and because of what was said. I said, 'Lord, my people are suffering.' He looked down at me as I was looking up at Him and said, 'I'm suffering and suffered for them and for the whole world to give them salvation.'" I then awoke.

On Sunday during testimony meeting, Brother Mora's nine-year-old son told of a vision he had had. Also, there was a young married man in his early twenties who, by the way, was baptized this past April 16th. The Saints in that part of Mexico have to travel 75 miles to get to a place where there is water. They have to travel by bus because no one there has a car to travel with. May God provide for them someday. Getting back to this young man, he had been paralyzed for 1½ months on his one side. His wife had a dream where she prayed and told God "If you help my husband, I will get baptized." In her dream, she saw her husband on this hospital bed, and an angel was standing next to him. There was a glow of light around his head. The Brother Elders prayed and anointed him and within the next few days, the young man's body was completely healed. He is normal now, praise God! He gave his testimony. This young couple has had many dreams, experiences and visions. May we keep praying for them that those experiences will keep them holding fast and growing stronger in the faith.

You know, Brothers and Sisters, those Brothers and Sisters go to fast and prayer meetings seven days a week at 5:30 A.M. in the morning. Never does a day go by in which they forget to pray for their Mother Church in America or their American Brothers and Sisters. It's strange how many times God has to remind us here in America through dreams, visions and His Word to remember "Israel" or "The Seed of Joseph", but God does not have to tell them at all. They do always remember us in their prayers. We should all think about this.

Brother Frank Calabrese taught the Brothers things from the Minister's Manual. We had feet washing, testimonies, singing from the little ones, and preaching from the Brothers which was inspiring. May God bless each of them and the sixteen who are awaiting their baptism in another part of Mexico.

In five days we had ten meetings, besides ones we had in Brother Mora's home. It was a wonderful trip for us. They send their love to all in America and to the Brothers in the Ministry, those who they know and also those they don't know. I can sincerely say they respect the Ministry. They always remembered Brother Christman in their prayers. (I know they will be happy to hear that he was at our General Church Conference.) Surely the day will come when Jacob's face will shine and there won't be any more tears for bread, but joy divine for all they have gone through.

Thank you also for your prayers in my mother's behalf.

Your Sister In Christ,
Rose Palacios

P.S. The Monday morning before we went to our last fast and prayer meeting, I dreamed I was saying goodbye to our Brothers and Sisters in Church before we would leave. After saying goodbye, I turned back and saw a white dove on top of the sacrament table. I waved and said "Goodbye". The dove spoke back to me in Spanish saying, "Que Dios este contigo hasta que nos vemos de nuevo," which translated means "God be with you until we meet again."

CALIFORNIA DISTRICT CONFERENCE

The California District Conference was held on March 19th and 20th and was a very enjoyable weekend. The evening program, hosted by the Anaheim Branch, consisted of mini-skits, songs and testimonies relating to God's unseen hand. The entire program was built around original skits presented by the Anaheim and Bell young people and adults. The message was clear that the unseen hand of God touches us to protect us and to enable us to experience His love. Musical selections were presented by individuals from other Branches. The combined Anaheim/Bell choir then sang a selection about the touch of the Master's hand.

The Sunday meeting convened at 10:00 A.M. with congregational and specialty singing. Prayer was offered by Brother Leonard Lovalvo.

Visiting from the East coast, Brother Joseph Bittinger was the opening speaker. His subject was the parable of the talents. Everyone, members, and Elders have been given talents and if you give to others you receive a great blessing. God has not brought us into the Gospel just to save our own souls.

Brother Jim Lovalvo was the following speaker. Brother Jim related a dream he had the previous night, that he was getting into a car which had no driver. As he was wondering who would drive, the door on the driver's side opened and a man got in. It was Christ. As Brother Jim continued speaking, Brother Frank Genaro spoke in the spirit, "Tell the stones to be quiet. We should bless the Lord."

Brother Jim went on saying, Christ must be in the driver's seat. We must value Him above everything. We

must use the talent of the restoration, for if we don't, He will take it from us and give it to another. Brother Peter Genaro spoke in the spirit, "Thus saith the Lord."

Brother Tom Liberto offered concluding remarks. Is the work over just because the conference is over? We've a story to tell to the nations, is a real obligation for today. He then thanked Bell Branch for hosting the conference.

California District — Dates to Remember

- May 14, 1977: Calif. District Ladies Circle Conference, San Diego, CA
- May 21, 1977: GMBA Conference, Michigan/Ontario.
- June 18-25, 1977: GMBA Campout, Camp Towanda, PA.
- July 2, 1977: Calif. Area MBA Conference, Modesto, CA.
- July 30-August 6, 1977: Calif. Area MBA Campout, Camp Radford, CA.
- August 20, 1977: Arizona District Semi-Annual Conference, Lakeside, AZ.
- August 27-28, 1977: Calif. District Semi-Annual Conference, San Diego, CA.
- October 14-16, 1977: General Church Conference, Greensburg, PA.
- October 22, 1977: Calif. District Ladies Circle Conference, Bell CA. (Tentative).
- November 5-6, 1977: Calif. District Spiritual Conference, Anaheim, CA.
- November 12, 1977: GMBA Conference, Greensburg, PA.
- February 17-19, 1978: Calif. District Annual Conference, Bell, CA.
- February 25-26, 1978: Arizona District Annual Conference, Phoenix, AZ.
- April 13-16, 1978: General Church Conference, Greensburg, PA.

— Correction —

PLEASE NOTE, in the April Issue of *The Gospel News*, the article on Page 1,

The Lord's Birth, Crucifixion and Resurrection, Paragraph 3, should read . . . "on Nisan the 4th."

Editor

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to at this time thank all my Brothers and Sisters and friends for all the beautiful cards they have mailed to me during my period of illness. Also, I want to thank you for your prayers, phone calls, and interest you have shown to me.

I am back to work after surgery on both of my feet.

May God Bless You All,
Brother John Azzinaro

THE NIGERIAN ECHO

by JOSEPH BITTINGER

Greetings to all our beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

"To them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus Christ our Lord, According as His Divine Power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness" . . . 2 Peter 1:1-3.

QUOTING: from the Minutes of The Annual Conference of The Church of Jesus Christ held at Atai Otoro Center on Nov. 18-20, 1976.

Opening the Conference: Brother Dan A. U. Enang expounded the Scripture as read from *Phil.* 1:27-30, ". . . that cometh the Gospel of Christ". He stressed vividly that our conversation and behavior should be as becoming the Gospel of Jesus Christ whose name we bear. For God did not call us to uncleanness but to Holiness. That we were made members of the Church and Priesthood for one purpose, i.e., "to be light unto our people in all manner of living as good followers of Christ". . .

Brother R. Umoh spoke to confirm the Sermon, "urging the members of The Church to live in perfection, having one mind, and peace, for by so doing we shall inherit the peace and love of our God". Words of wisdom and love spoken to the Saints assembled in Conference.

OPENING SPEECH: Brother E. U. A. Arthur informed the house that he was appointed a paramount Ruler for Abak Local Government Area on September 21, 1976. This appointment followed after his return from hospital on August 14th, 1976. He testified that God had given him this office for the purpose of safe-guarding Christian movement and freedom. He advised the audience to be God-fearing and abiding in faith and the teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Church of Jesus Christ in Nigeria is greatly favored to have a man like Brother E. U. A. Arthur, as its President and leader, a very humble and dedicated servant of God; he is highly respected as a civic leader in the community and recognized in Government Circles for his honesty, dedication and compassion as a leader of the people. Jesus said, "But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant". *St. Matt.* 23:11

We wish to commend the efforts of all the Priesthood in Nigeria and Ghana. The Gospel is being preached and many souls are coming unto Christ, through Faith, Repentance, Baptism and the laying on of hands for the bestowal of the Holy Ghost, thus, finding Salvation, a new life, and adding to the Church, the Kingdom of Christ on the earth.

AN ARTICLE OF FAITH: "We believe in the fulfillment and ultimate establishment of the Kingdom of God on the earth while men are still in the flesh. We refer to this period of time as "The Peaceful Reign", which shall precede the "Millennium", or "Thousand Years with Christ". *Isa.* 2:1-5; 51:3; 65:18-25.

We believe that God will employ "This Church" for that purpose. "Hear the word of the Lord, O ye nations,

and declare it in the Isles afar off, and say, He that scattereth Israel will gather him and keep him as a shepherd doth his flock. Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith the Lord, and they shall fish them; and after I will send for many Hunters, and they shall hunt them out of every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the mountain". . . *Jer.* 16:16.

Jesus said, "The harvest is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest". *St. Luke* 10:2.

As believers and exponents of the Restored Gospel, and as Saints of the Most High God, our responsibilities become great indeed. There are billions more people living on the earth today than there were in the time of Christ. How great is the need for labourers in our day and dispensation, that this vast multitude of people may have the same opportunity to hear the Gospel of Christ as you and I have had. God is no respecter of persons.

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature". . . The Gospel of Salvation; the deliverance of the soul from sin and death.



How Can I?

How can I thank God
for His love,
The moon and the stars
He's hung above.

How can I thank Him
that I can see,
How can I thank Him
for all the things
I can be.

How can I thank Him
that I can hear,

How can I thank Him
for all these things
that I hold so dear.

Sister Kathy Pastorelli

Coloring Books For Sale

If you want to convey the message of The Restoration to your children, friends, neighbors, give them a coloring book, telling the story of The Gospel Restored and The Church of Jesus Christ.

Just write to the following for as many books as you want. The cost is \$.75 per book.

Joe Ross
Ross Drive
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

John Ross, Jr.
119 W. Saguaro
Casa Grande, Ariz. 85222

Alex Gentile
11294 Suffolk Drive
Southgate, MI 48195

Joe Draskovich
527 Fairfield Drive
Greensburg, Pa. 15601

DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

TEXT: Matthew 28:6, I Corinthians 15:55

My subject is upon the Death and Resurrection of Christ. It is noted that the entire Christian world celebrates this event and this celebration involves about two billion Christians in this world. The impact of this to many true followers of Christ would be sufficient to bring about the peace that the nations of this troubled world so much desire. However, the majority of Christians are not true to the requirements of their own various religious beliefs. Christian beliefs all come short of that which Christ requires. Therefore, they are unable to bring peace to this world with their great numbers.

These United States of America now have about two hundred eighty million people, with two hundred twenty nine million claiming the name of Christ as Christians. In the United States there are some two hundred different Christian religions with their own separate beliefs. Yet sin, crime, violence and all manner of evil, even atheism, satanism and the sin of Sodom increase in our land.

Has God failed? God has not failed. Christianity and man have failed in their responsibility before God. Thanks be to our Lord Jesus Christ, that the Kingdom is to be given to the Saints of the Most High God. The Christian world must repent and serve God in Spirit and Truth in order to benefit from the redeeming powers of Christ through His Death and Resurrection.

Jesus gave the example and showed us the steadfastness necessary to accomplish the Will of God in a sinful world. He was willing to die on the cross to give us the peace that every man and woman in this world desires, and eternal life in that peaceful condition.

The God of Heaven made the way easy, but like Israel, this present world prefers its own sinful way and the sting of Death, rather than looking up to Christ in Spirit and in the Truth. Jesus said that because of the weakness of the flesh all men have sinned and have come short of the Glory of God. Therefore, the sting of death by reason of sin, is in every man and woman that lives. They will surely die if they do not look to the atoning blood of Jesus, that they may live and have life eternal.

What if it were today that Christ came teaching and preaching to the world? Would they crucify him? Jesus would certainly point out the errors and the inconsistency of Christians. He would surely ask them why they preach the Gospel in His name with so many variations and divisions. Most of all, He would want to know why they preach the Gospel at all, without a commission and without the Power and the Authority being given to them from Heaven.

In all ages of time, when God had a great work to do among men, He empowered someone on earth with the Authority from Heaven to do that work, as it was done in Noah, in Abraham, in Moses and in Jesus Christ. Each time evil disrupted the work and each time there was a new commission given from Heaven to do His work. Everyone recognizes that it was the evil that caused Jesus to be crucified and the Church suffered eventual disruption.

And, in these the last days, the commission was given again from Heaven by the Angel Moroni. This was signified to the Apostle John by an angel flying through the heavens with the everlasting Gospel to be preached to the nations of the world. Therefore, God's work in these last days must be done through the Restoration of the Gospel.

The same spirit of evil resists the truth and the work of God today as it has in other ages of time, and as it did in Israel in the day of His Crucifixion. Two billion Christians would consider Him a threat to that which they consider their great accomplishments. Even today there would arise a feeling to eliminate Jesus.

Brother Travis Perry
Youngstown, Ohio

Showers Of Blessings

On March 13, 1977 we at the Hopelawn Branch experienced a beautiful day. It was not a favorable day as far as the weather was concerned, it rained all day, but inside the church building we witnessed Showers of Blessings. After a few opening remarks by our Presiding Elder Brother Joseph Perri he introduced our two visiting Brothers. Brother Don Ross from the Edison Branch and Brother Matthew Rogolino from the Freehold Branch. Brother Don Ross took his text from Moroni, 7:45 which reads: And charity suffereth long, and is kind, and envieth not, and is not puffed up, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, and rejoiceth not in iniquity but rejoiceth in the truth, heareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

He then asked the question, "What makes us a different people?" The answer was, "Having the Love of God." This is the one thing strangers seem to notice when attending our Church meetings, the Love that is shown towards one another. He also continued to say that Charity shall be with us until the very end and if we possess this it shall be well with us.

Brother Matthew continued on the same subject. He used the example of the Love between a mother and child in connection to God and the love He has for children, and the closer we get to God the more we will understand the Love of God.

After our lunch break we had a double blessing. We not only had the ordinance of washing feet, but we also witnessed Brother Jim Huttenberger and Brother Tom Banyascki being ordained to the office of Teachers. Brother Jim's feet were washed by his father, Brother Carl and Brother Tom's feet were washed by his father, Brother Frank, who are also Teachers. The joy and love that these fathers felt for their sons when they embraced was a beautiful sight to behold. Brother Joe Perri confirmed Brother Tom and Brother Nick Persico confirmed Brother Jim. A good feeling was experienced by all and we pray that God would bless our Brothers in their youth for we know that the work of the Church is great and the laborers are few.

Mary Perri
Branch Editor (Hopelawn)

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EDITORIAL VIEWPOINT

George A. Neill

Father's Day never has gained the momentum in our country that Mother's Day has. I feel, however, fathers are worthy of recognition. Good fathers no doubt feel, at times, that their job is bigger than they could ever realize.

The responsibility for the welfare of his family holds first place in a father's life. There are many things that can be said in regards to his responsibility to the home which would come under the title of husband. Our minds are thinking of him at present as a father. One of the first things he should discover, as a father, is fundamental, and this is that the child is somebody, or in other words a PERSON. The sooner this discovery is made the better it is for all concerned, for it will be proven sooner or later that every child has a mind of his own and his little mind registers opinions of his own. Thus he should be treated as a person regardless of age. One of the first principles in building a pleasant and harmonious home is that a child should be valued as a PERSON.

A wise father is one who will share his time with his children. He should let them discuss with him what has happened on the playground, in school or at home. When a father's work-day is done, and he is at home, he belongs to his family. It may not always be easy, after a hectic day at work, for father to listen to childish chatter, but he had better lay aside his newspaper and let his children talk things over with him. A father who takes an interest in the LITTLE PERSON, who spends time listening to his small talk, is doing much more than he may realize toward insuring his future happiness. There are times when boys and girls want and need Father more than the things that Father can buy.

I believe a wise father is one who lets his children be themselves and never forces them into a mold. He will study each child's intelligence, abilities and interest, and allow for the differences that may exist. One might excel the other in certain activities. Father, as I see it, should never compare one child unfavorably with another. This is very important at report-card time; he should encourage each child to compete with his own record.

Father, and Mother as well, should consider their behavior in the presence of these LITTLE PERSONS. Children unconsciously form ideas as to what a father is like. Their minds are forming questions that may never be asked, but Father is interpreting the answers to these questions in terms of everyday living. This could easily be the nature of some of the questions: What does Father think about religion? Should God have a place in our life? How should we regard the Church? Is the Bible and holiness literature, worth reading? Is it right to obey the law? How should we treat our neighbors? Is it silly to be kind to the dog and the cat? Father should realize that the answers to these questions in terms of everyday living are often carried by the children in later years into their own married lives. The children will often repeat the pattern set by Father.

I read just recently the following words in speaking of Mother. However, I'm sure they are just as applicable to Father. "Fathers are formers of character, and one former is worth a dozen reformers. Had some fathers given more time to formation and information they might not need so much time for reformation. To teach a child to love truth and hate a lie, to love virtue and hate vice, is a greater achievement than building an airplane."

If Father would take on the responsibility of becoming God's representative in the home to train the children for Him what a bright picture the future would hold. I don't think God is so much concerned about fathers who are successful in life as He is with those who are faithful in life, faithful to pater-nity.



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

Jezebel

Dear Girls and Boys,

Jezebel was the daughter of King Ethbaal, the wife of King Ahab of Israel, the mother and grandmother of kings. She was neither a good wife, mother nor a just ruler. She was raised in Tyre and when she became Ahab's queen she brought many evil customs to Samaria. She worshipped the great god Baal. She fed at her table 450 priests of this idol.

Jezebel seemed to have great power over her husband. She was a very domineering person. One of the first things she tried to do was to order the death of the prophets of the Lord. But Elijah, God's prophet, defied Jezebel and fled to the wilderness. A famine came upon the land because of the people's belief in Jezebel's god, Baal. Elijah saw the increasing worship of this god so demanded a contest on Mount Carmel between the power of Israel's God and Jezebel's Baal. The test was to bring rain after a long drought. Baal failed and Israel's God was victorious. There was an abundance of rain. Jezebel became furious when her priests of Baal failed and she threatened Elijah's life. He fled from her wrath to the wilderness the second time.

Ahab and Jezebel lived in a beautiful ivory palace. From here Jezebel could see the vineyard of their neighbor Naboth. Ahab tried to purchase Naboth's land but he refused to sell it. This angered Jezebel so she decided she would get the land for her husband. She wrote letters to the officials and sealed them with Ahab's seal. She arranged to have Naboth falsely accused of treason against the king. The penalty for this crime was death. Naboth was found guilty and stoned to death. Jezebel then told Ahab to take possession of Naboth's land. Naboth's sons were stoned to death also, so there would be no heirs.

Elijah soon heard what Jezebel had done and he told King Ahab. Elijah predicted that dogs would lick Ahab's blood in the very fields he had acquired from Naboth and also Jezebel would be eaten by dogs. Also every member of their house would be dishonored in death. After hearing this, one would think Jezebel would repent but she was controlled by evil. Three years later Ahab was wounded in battle and brought back home. The dogs did lick up his blood from his chariot. Jezebel lived ten years longer. She now was queen and continued to worship Baal. Her two sons Ahaziah and Jehoram, also followed their mother. Their deaths were tragic too. Ahaziah fell from a window and was killed; Jehoram was killed by an army leader Jehu and his body thrown over in Naboth's vineyard.

One day, Jezebel was in the tower of the palace. She saw Jehu and she knew her death was certain. She

painted her face and tired her head and shouted to Jehu from her window, taunting him. Jehu looked up and seeing Jezebel he shouted, "Throw her down." Down went the painted evil queen. Her blood was sprinkled on the wall and on the horses standing below. Her thirty years of tyranny were over. Elijah's prophecy was fulfilled.

Sincerely,

Sister Mabel

OUR WOMEN TODAY . . .

TAMPA, FLORIDA LADIES CIRCLE ORGANIZED

The Tampa Ladies Uplift Circle was organized on April 30, 1977. Sister Mabel Bickerton, Ruth Akerman and Fannie Casasanta from Pennsylvania came to organize. Brother and Sister Eugene Perri, Jr. and son also came from Lake Worth, Florida.

The meeting was opened by singing, "To The Work" and Brother William Tucker offered prayer. We continued by singing, "Our Church". Brother Eugene Perri spoke on the helps of the Church, such as Ladies Circle, M.B.A. and Sunday School and the benefits of them to the Missions, Branches and General Church. He also spoke of when problems arise, take it to the Lord in prayer. Brother William Tucker spoke of how you only get out what you put into anything. The meeting was then turned over to Sister Mabel Bickerton and she spoke of the beginning of the General Circle, the aims and purposes of the organization, also the work it has accomplished. She read the aims of the Circle and duties of the officers.

The election of officers was as follows:

President: Ruby Weinheimer

Vice President: Betty Ann Lowe

Teacher: Ruby Weinheimer

Secretary: Sandra Lowe

Treasurer (General Fund): Barbara Cristello

Treasurer (Indian Mission): Ruth Tucker

Word Giver: Mae Dettori

We have fourteen members to start our Circle with, nine were present at our organization.

Brother Duane Lowe offered prayer in behalf of the officers of this new Circle. Brother William Tucker spoke of learning of the work this organization has done for the Church and, whatever is good, is of God. Brother Duane Lowe spoke of another milestone in Tampa Mission with the hope that there will be many more. The Circle provides another opportunity to learn the scriptures. Brother Perri spoke of the first pamphlet the General Ladies Circle had printed, "The Way of Salvation." It was a real inspiration to him as a new member of the Church.

A vote of thanks was given to the Sisters from Pennsylvania, who had come for the organization.

We sang, "Safe In The Arms Of Jesus" and Brother Perri closed the meeting in prayer. Then all retired to delicious cookies and coffee.

Please remember our small mission in your prayers as we continue to grow not only in numbers but also in the blessings of God.

Love to all,
The Tampa Mission

* * *

IN MEMORY OF SISTER MARY (SMITH) WARD

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I am writing this in memory of my Beloved Mother and Sister in Christ, Sister Mary Leona Ward. She was the daughter of the late Bertha Ashton and Isaac Smith.

Sister Mary was baptized 40 years ago into the Gospel of Jesus Christ and was faithful to the end of her days on earth. She passed away on February 9, 1977 and although my loss is great, as I will miss her, I know she has gone on to her eternal reward which she has worked for faithfully. She was an ordained Deaconess and taught Sunday School for 22 years to the children at the Roscoe Branch, where she was a member. She wrote 3 GMBA Programs which were put on by the Roscoe Branch over the years for the GMBA, entitled "The Ship of Zion", "The Trials of God's Children", and "Let There Be Light". She also wrote many poems and programs over the years which were used in the Branch.

About two weeks before her death, we had an activity night in our MBA and each member was asked to bring something, a poem, song, verse of scripture, testimony or whatever they felt to bring. My mother, Sister Mary brought a poem which she read that she had written 23 years earlier called "My Sunday Diary", which was also read at her funeral two weeks later. As several have asked me for a copy of it, I have enclosed it to be printed that perhaps someone may receive a blessing from it. (It will appear in a future issue—Editor)

Sister Mary will be greatly missed by the Brothers and Sisters of the Church and by all who knew her. She was known for her quiet, humble, spirit, and the beauty of Jesus that shone forth from her.

It is my prayer that I may prove faithful as she did and that the blessings of God may always abide within, that we may meet to part no more.

Her daughter,
Sister Bertha Jean Bilsky

CHRISTIANITY

The distinction between Christianity and all other systems of religion consists largely in this, that in these others men are found seeking after God, while Christianity is God seeking after men.

Thomas Arnold

PRAYER

"And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his Disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his Disciples.

And He said unto them, when ye pray, say Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. Give us day by day our daily bread and forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil."
—Luke 11:1-4

How many brothers and sisters, yes, and how many that are of this world of billions of souls know the implicit meaning of prayer? Do we pray properly and submissively; do we pray other than saying, "Lord, I want . . .". In essence, prayer can be the most simple way of reaching out to God, and yet, to some it is an impenetrable barrier. We are shocked when we hear that the vast majority of the world hasn't the remotest concept of how to pray. Prayer is not the parroting of the Lord's Prayer in unison. Each prayer is unique, offered for thanking and approaching God in our own way.

All prayer is predicated by the acknowledgement of an omniscient Deity—not a pantheon of Gods, as the Greeks and Romans knew—or felt they knew. The Apostle Paul, in the Book of Acts, at the Areopagus in Athens, speaks to the Stoics and the Epicureans with words of beauty and great directness:

"Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.

For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.

Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, Him declare I unto you." —Acts 17:22-23

Paul's presentation has a parallel, to those skeptical of one supreme creator, in the writings of Blaise Pascal. In Philosophy it is called Pascal's wager. You have the choice of either believing God or disbelieving completely. What is your choice? I address myself to those scoffers ridiculing articles in *Gospel News*, claiming its naiveté, what is your choice? Your own reason cannot say. The answer comes out in the day of Judgement. By believing there is a God you gain eternal beatitude and, in following the ordinances of God through the teachings of Jesus, the tenets of the 10 Commandments, all Prophets, The Book of Mormon, a submissive baptized soul has reaped an eternal reward. If, to the skeptic, this choice were made and, on his assumption he is wrong and there is no God, he has lost nothing. Ethics, morality have gained.

Yet, said Pascal, if skepticism remains, there is no option. You might risk the loss of truth if you are against the religious hypothesis; you are saying it is better to be in fear of being in error is a wiser choice than to yield to hope that the hypothesis is true. What a wasted life that would be!

About 2500 years ago, these words were written to the Pascalian doubters, to those that are still uncommitted to their repentance and baptism, to those who cannot perceive that immutable laws are evident to man,

laws not of chance, but laws eternal and irrefutable. Hear then:

"And my soul delighteth in proving unto my people that save Christ should come all men must perish. For if there be no Christ there be no God; And if there be no God we are not, for there could have been no creation. But there is a God, and He is Christ, and He cometh in the fullness of His own time." —II Nephi 11:6-7

Nothing comes from nothing. The first formed atom, in all its minute complexity, and in its own regulated patterns of neutrons and positrons and the many intricate particles of charges forming it, goes beyond the simplified Atomic Theory of the Greek, Democritus. The atom embodies itself through Divine will, Divine mergers and divisions of force and energy. Explain how the first dust particle came about! The answer is that it is, as we are, God created. The all knowing God, the great "I AM" of Moses, as evident from the Book of Genesis to the Book of Revelation, as worshipped and followed in The Book of Mormon, is Eternal. It is to Him, through the Holy Ghost, that we come in prayer, now that the verity that there is a God exists.

Prayer is not only worship; it, doubtless, is the most powerful force that one can generate. It gives evidence to its power in the deepened awareness and kinship with God. It has strengthened, at times, to superhuman efforts; it has increased the senses and intellect at other times. Prayer molds one into a being cohesive with God, firm and resolute in the assurance that with God all things are possible. Approach the Lord in prayer and a deep cleansing of mind, body and soul take place. The awareness comes before us, as we pray, in the realizations that we have been childish, we have been avaricious, malicious, blunderers, weak in faith. When, through prayer we have presented all those hidden sides of our complex personalities to God and proclaim, like the Publican, "God be merciful to me a sinner", we have developed morality and complete humility. We can now start our souls on the road to the Grace of God.

Too often, those, not given to prayer, look scornfully upon one who prays tearfully, fervently and at what seems to be great length. To them prayer is for weaklings, a childish belief. It is the individual, given to pray during stresses, during arduous tasks, during the times when all seems completely desolate and lost, when others throw up their hands in defeat, with quiet resoluteness and a spiritual maturity that stands unshakeable, who holds where the mockers give way and break down. During the stresses of combat the soldier, given to prayer, had endurance, faith and spiritual strength. Others have snapped under the strain. It was said, during World War II, that—"There are no atheists in foxholes." Having undergone 92 bombings in 10 days, I understand what was meant. However, having survived the ordeal, I, as many others, went back to forgetting God and prayer. Had I knelt more often in prayer during the lull of battle, I would have been more certain of further testings, aided by the Omnipotence of God. I prayed out of fear; I should have prayed out of faith. How does one approach death, so final sounding? Is it fear of dying or hope and faith undying?

Prayer has lifted up families, even nations, during concerted prayer; it has given the peace that passeth all understanding to those who prayed for loved ones ter-

minally ill or for those that died in the youth of life or the serenity of old age. The realization that God hears and answers these needs is that soothing balm of Gilead to those that have felt the pain of one near and dear passing to the Mansions of Glory. I have seen Saints pass on, praising the Lord to the last. Yet people still scoff at prayer. Consider this prayer, written by Violet Alleyne Storey:

"PRAYER FOR A VERY NEW ANGEL"

"God, God, be lenient her first night there.
The crib she slept in was so near my bed.
Her blue-and-white wool blanket was so soft
Her pillow hollowed so to fit her head.
Teach me that she'll not want small rooms or me
When she has you and Heaven's immensity!"

I always left a light out in the hall
I hoped to make her fearless in the dark;
And yet, she was so small—one little light,
Not in the room, it scarcely mattered. Hark!

No, no, she seldom cried: God, not too far
For her to see, this first night, light a star!
And in the morning, when she first woke up,
I always kissed her on the left cheek where
The dimple was. And oh, I wet the brush,
It made it easier to curl her hair.

Just, just tomorrow morning, God, I pray
When she wakes up, do things for her my way!"

I feel deeply reassured in faith that the Almighty did things on the morrow just her way.

Jesus knelt at the Mount of Olives and prayed:
"Father, if Thou be willing, remove this cup
from me: Nevertheless not my will, but thine
be done." Luke 22:42

He went, fortified by the Father, to the cross for our salvation.

Prayer transcends all earthly problems, all might and wealth, for unless we pray without guile and without asking for things to be our way, we have not prayed, we have demanded. Yet consider those that were prayed for and anointed when all seemed beyond medical help—a fact emerges; it is simple; it is wonderful; yet we cannot fully define it. God answers the prayers of the pure in heart and of those that turn to him with the faith of that mother for her lost child.

The flesh says, "Now": the Spirit says, "Wait on the Lord." Fasting adds to our purification and dedication, giving up the "Now", becoming vessels to our Father, attenuating us spiritually. The words of Thomas A. Kempis come to mind:

"The kingdom of God is within you", says the Lord. Focus yourself with your whole heart on the Lord and forsake this miserable world, and your soul shall find rest. Learn to despise outward things and to give yourself to those that are within, and you shall see the Kingdom of God come to you."

Paul, to the Hebrews, prays:

"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that Great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His

sight, through Jesus Christ, to Whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen." *Hebrews 13:20-21*

Let us kneel in prayer,

Your Brother in Christ,

Julius Kovacs
Wittensville, Kentucky

—o—

The Traveler

The traveler walked slowly and dressed very poorly,
And I thought him a beggar at least;
But his feet never faltered and he never sat down,
And the song that he sang never ceased.

What made him so happy as he went on his way?
Oh, I knew that I had to find out.
When I studied his face and saw such a glow,
Then I asked what his trip was about.

He said if I wished, I could go too,
For the way to arrive he was showing.
He told me a king had prepared him a home,
In this city to which he was going.

He told me with patience the pathway to take,
To this heavenly home so divine;
And told me the joy of the Saints I would know,
And the same song they sang would be mine.

I ran close behind him desiring to see,
This pathway more perfectly clear.
For he carried a book showing the way,
To the gates of that city so fair.

So I followed the way the book said to go,
And this same joy entered my heart.
I knew right away this journey was blessed,
And I saw many more make a start.

And they sang a new song as they traveled along,
And the joy of the Saints shone thru;
Now the road may be long, but the journey won't end,
Till this heavenly city's in view.

by Sister Arlene Buffington

God's love is
taller than the trees
and deeper than the seas,
His love reaches
out to you and me
wherever we might be.

It reaches through
the mountains
and wraps its arms around us.

It keeps us safe
through each passing day,
and leads us in the right way.

Sister Kathy Pastorelli

BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS:—

News From Rochester, New York

On April 24, 1977, Brother and Sister Russ Martorano came to Rochester, New York as per the Evangelist Schedule. The meeting was opened by singing "Blessed Assurance," and prayer was offered by Brother Patsy Marinetti. Brother Russ chose for his text *Luke 12*, concerning seeking first the kingdom of heaven and everything else will be added unto you. Jesus Christ is the truth, the life and the way. Children need no baptism. God gave Solomon great riches of silver and gold, but wisdom is greater than all the riches of the world.

"Constantly Abiding" was sung, and Brother Patsy Marinetti then spoke, emphasizing the same subject. He spoke concerning the man who found the pearl and wanted everyone to see the pearl. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is greater than all the treasures of the world.

"Is Your All on the Alter?" was then sung, followed by testimony and the administering of Sacrament.

The Presiding Elder, Brother Ansel D'Amico, gave the closing remarks, that Solomon had 40 years of peaceful reign. We should have more peace, love and charity. Christ is greater than Solomon. We should put all our all on the alter. He wished all God's blessings. We were dismissed with prayer by Brother Martorano. A wonderful spirit prevailed in our midst, and God's blessings were felt by all.

Sister Carmella D'Amico

Our Warming Trend

On February 13, 1977 at Branch No. 1 in Detroit, Michigan our Church family increased by one new member. She is Sister Penny Jean Paton. Sister Penny was baptized and confirmed by Brother Mike LaSala.

Our joy was full and our hearts filled with love for our new Sister. We all knew how reluctantly she had been forced to wait an extra week, while longing to give her life to Christ. Sister Penny had actually called for her baptism the Sunday before. For the first time in our Branch history, we were unable to chop a hole large enough to baptize our very petite Sister in. The ice was so thick that after two hours, our Brothers had to abandon their efforts. Our Sister, though extremely downhearted, said she knew God must have a reason for it.

The following week we had a very short warming trend, enough so that after much labor, our Brothers did get through the ice.

Our Presiding Elder, Brother Spencer Everett, asked how many of us had prayed for warm weather.

As he looked across the congregation, with our hands held high, he commented, "I thought so!"

May God bless our new convert with many wonderful years in the service of our Lord.

Sister Diana Thompson

Greetings In Christ

Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear.

But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear. When God does not answer prayer, is it not time to find out why?

We want to praise the Lord and exalt His holy name for His love towards us. His hand is not shortened, He does save and hear our prayers though unworthy.

Modesto has had two baptisms, one on March 13th at our feet-washing service and April 17th. Our new Sister, Diane Marlyn Edwards, Brother Mike's wife was baptized. She is from Santa Rosa, California. I have visited them two times and at our last visit along with my son Samuel, as we prayed she heard a voice within her saying, "Be you baptized." I suggested that they come to Modesto and make an open confession of her desire.

Upon coming to our home she said that two times she dreamed of the Angel of God saying to her, "Go and be baptized". A wonderful spirit was felt when she made it known to all present at Church. She is 75% Apache and is from White River.

The first one baptized is Louis Matzger, grandson of Brother Jim Heaps, Bertha's son. He wanted to go and be baptized in Anaheim, but during footwashing as he witnessed such love he said he could not wait any longer.

He lives in San Jose, so he attends our mission there. To top our joy, Brother Ronald Nichols was visiting here so he performed the baptism; this being his first, may God bless Brother Nichols to add many to his ministry.

Sister Diane was baptized by Brother Louis Parravano of Modesto, California.

Sister Teresa Parravano is very ill. Please join us in our prayers in her behalf.

We are in the process of going on Radio. Modesto must know that at 329 W. Briggsmore Ave. there is a hallowed place where the pure Restored Gospel is preached.

May 3, will be 19 years since I felt my first heart problem, and I was told then to slow down. Naturally, I have, but in the work of the Lord, I have not yet begun to fight the good fight.

No, God's hand is not shortened. I find joy in closing by saying, "PRAISE GOD!"

Ever humble in Christ,

Brother Mark Randy

God's Wonderful People

Sisters Mary and Annette Pagniozzi and I were privileged to visit many Brothers and Sisters in many of our Branches and Missions throughout our vast country. The beauty of our trip was the Love of God displayed and found among the Saints. Truly, we can say along with our 1976 Campout theme song, "They Are God's Wonderful People".

Campout was a great joy to attend, where the east met the west. We spent Sunday in St. John, Kansas. We felt the Love of God there. Then on we went to Modesto. How wonderful to be with the Saints there! No matter where we went we found Love and more Love. In Lindsay and San Fernando. In San Diego, Phoenix, Tucson, San Carlos and Red Lake Area. There was quite a gap there and we surely missed seeing someone we knew. Then we arrived in Anadarko, Oklahoma and were made welcome there by Brother and Sister Crall.

We enjoyed our visit in Richardson, Texas, New Orleans, La. and Chatahoochie, Fla. We then came down to Lake Worth, my hometown. We visited Hollywood and Miami Brothers and Sisters. We stopped in Fort Pitree and then on up to New Jersey. I will not venture to mention names lest I might leave someone out. Everyone was near and dear to us and treated us beautifully. What can we say, "May God bless you one and all who graciously took us in and showed us great kindness. May rich blessings be yours. We will never forget your loving kindness and kind hospitality. You Are God's Wonderful People!"

We also stopped at many points of interest and marvelled, admiring the handiwork of God. It's extremely beautiful. We toured Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, Grand Canyon, Arizona, Yosemite Park, California, Petrified Forest and Painted Desert. Each state displays its own significant loveliness which is God's lovely creation.

God was good to us. He really took care of us. Each morning we would hold hands and praise God for protecting us to that point. We also requested His watchful eye for the coming day. We truly thank Him for His protection. We had no fear because we know we were in good hands. He confirmed this in one of the experiences I had. As we travelled from San Diego to Tucson, Arizona, it was very windy and dusty, so we did not stop to eat lunch. Our Sisters in the back of the car prepared the lunch and, as Sister Mary was offering the prayer, I continued to drive. I looked up towards the sky and saw the haze or dust separate, then I saw the blue sky and Jesus was there. Radiant, with His gown flowing, He said, "I will take care of you". Blessed be the name of the Lord. We all rejoiced. As I mentioned, we had no fear at this time. I was fully confident that He would take care of us and He did as we covered 12,500 miles.

When we arrived in New Jersey, Sister Annette had her car checked and was told that a part in the motor was broken and two tires were bare to the metal which was quite dangerous. The Lord kept His promise and took us safely home. We can never praise Him enough for His love and protection.

With Love to all,

Sister Carmela Mazzeo

—

BROTHER VALENTI

In memory of my father, Brother Salvatore Valenti, I would like to take this opportunity to give thanks and glory to our Heavenly Father for leading my father to The Church Of Jesus Christ. Since 1926 when both

Brother and Sister Valenti were baptized, their only desire has been to serve the Lord in truth and faith. When he was commanded by God to move to Brooklyn, New York, he gave up his job and sold his home in New Brunswick, N. J., packed up his family and moved. Brother Joseph Difede and Brother Salvatore Valenti, both ordained Elders, did the work in Brooklyn under the guidance of Brother Joseph Corrado and the Elders of the Branch in New Brunswick. Many people surrendered to the Lord and did His will.

Brother and Sister Turano, who were the first baptized in Brooklyn, made many appointments for them to meet and talk with people, almost every evening of the week. Brother and Sister Margiore, who lived upstairs from where the meetings were held heard the singing and came down. Not long after they and their family were baptized because of their faith and belief in the testimonies and the words of the Lord. Brother Gorie Ciaravino and his mother and father and family also were baptized and later moved to Detroit. Brother and Sister Azzinaro were baptized and later were instrumental in doing missionary work in Bronx, New York and formed a Branch of the Church there. There were, to name a few, Brother and Sister Brunetti, Brother and Sister Interlicchia, Brother and Sister Mineo, Brother and Sister Candreva, Brother and Sister Basile, Brother and Sister Onorato and family, who now with Brother Richard Onorato, Elder, are doing Missionary work in Maine, Brother Briotta, Brother and Sister Ceparano, Brother Amatruda and many others totaling to 75 members. Through this beginning many had occasion to spread to other locations of the Church.

In later years when my father had a desire to spread the gospel to Ronkonkoma, Long Island, he once again sold his home and both Brother and Sister Valenti moved to Ronkonkoma, New York, never tiring to do the work of the Lord; always anxious to give a testimony and talk of the words of life of Jesus Christ. Brother Paul Grioli, Sister Amatruda, Brother Anthony Micalé and a few others were baptized during his stay there.

My father and mother came back to Brooklyn to live with Brother Dominick and myself when he was too ill to take care of his home and my mother, who is blind. Even in his illness his faith and desire to give a testimony or relate an experience never waned from his heart. His last request of the Lord while fatally ill in the hospital (he heard the doctors say he would not live till morning) was to have his soul with God and to have the opportunity to bless his wife, all his children and the family, and the Brothers and Sisters of the Church. The Lord granted him this, even to see Brother and Sister Donald Valenti renewed (now all his children are in fellowship in the Church) and Brother Gerard Valenti ordained an Elder in the Church. He also gave him six more months of life, for which we all thank God. Now he has gone to his reward in paradise and wait for the day when we who serve and worship God to the end will join with him and all those gone before him, and reign with Jesus Christ eternally.

Sister Belle Rose, Jan. 1977
Brooklyn Branch

Church Calendar

The following is a list of 1977 events of General Church and regional interest. (*Denotes the meeting will be held in the General Church Auditorium in Greensburg, Pa.)

JUNE

*Pennsylvania District Gathering June 12, 1977.

G.M.B.A. Campout — Camp Towanda, Honesdale, Pa.
June 18-25, 1977.

JULY

General Ladies' Circle, Washington, D.C. Mission. July 9, 1977.

California Area Campout, Camp Radford, Calif. July 30-August 6, 1977.

AUGUST

Arizona — District Conference, White River, Arizona.
August 20, 21, 1977.

Atlantic Coast — District Conference, Metuchen, New Jersey. August 20, 21, 1977.

California — District Conference, San Diego, California.
August 27, 28, 1977.

Florida — District Conference, Ft. Pierce, Florida.
August 20, 21, 1977.

Michigan/Ontario — District Conference, Branch No. 2,
Michigan. August 24, 25, 26, 1977.

Ohio — District Conference, Cleveland, Ohio. August 27, 28, 1977.

Pennsylvania — District Conference, Fredonia, Pennsylvania. August 20, *21, 1977.

SEPTEMBER

Pennsylvania Area M.B.A. Campout. September 2, 3, 4, 5, 1977.

General Church Mission Board Meeting, Branch No. 1,
Detroit, Michigan. September 24, 1977.

OCTOBER

General Ladies' Circle, Detroit, Michigan. October 1, 1977.

Finance Committee Meeting, Aliquippa, Pa. October 8, 1977, 10:00 a.m.

General Church Conference, Greensburg, Pa. October 14, 15, 16, 1977.

NOVEMBER

G.M.B.A. Conference, Greensburg, Pa. November *12, *13, 1977.

That there should be a Christ, and that I should be Christless; that there should be a cleansing, and that I should remain foul; that there should be a Father's love, and I should be an alien; that there should be a heaven, and I should be cast into hell, is grief embittered, sorrow aggravated.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

— NEW ARRIVALS —

Congratulations are in order to the proud parents for the indicated new members of their families. New arrivals have been as follows:

Julia Faye to Rodney and Judy Dyer of Muncey, Ontario, Canada.

— WEDDINGS —

BENYOLA - INMAN

Rocco Benyola and Terri Inman were joined in Holy Marriage at the Lake Worth, Florida Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ by Brother Eugene Perri, Jr., on Friday, March 25, 1977.

Sister Florence Perri presented the musical selections at the piano. The reception was held at the home of Sister Peggy Benyola, mother of the groom.

AROCHO - HERSTEK

Kenny Arocho and Diane Herstek were united in holy wedlock on Monday, April 11, 1977 at the Lorain, Ohio Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Joe Calabrese officiated at the wedding ceremony.

The newlyweds are living in Lorain, Ohio.

● OBITUARIES ●

ROSA SCOLARO

Our dear Sister, Rosa Scolaro, passed from this life into the next on February 2, 1977. She was born on March 12, 1893 and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on July 17, 1932.

Left to mourn her loss are her husband, Brother Peter Scolaro, one sister, two brothers, one son, two daughters, 12 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

The funeral service was officiated by Brother Nicholas Pietrangelo.

In memory of Sister Rosa, it would be most fitting to use a scripture taken from *St. Matthew* 5:9, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God".

Our Sister's life was one of a peacemaker, and most certainly, that of a child of God.

MARY MANCUSO

Sister Mary Mancuso passed onto her heavenly reward on March 12, 1977. Sister Mary was born on October 16, 1898. She was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on January 2, 1938.

Left to morn her loss are two brothers, one sister, four children, eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

The funeral service was conducted by Brother Conetto Alessandro.

Sister Mary delighted in knitting and crocheting layettes, for the new-born infants, of the seed of Joseph. One American Indian family we delivered just such a layette to, was very touched by the gift. The grandfather of the tiny new born, held up the little hand-made sweater and very tenderly said, "You can see this was made with love".

Sister Mary more than fulfilled her responsibilities as a Deaconess of The Church, she loved, and cared about. She gave of herself to everyone she met.

LOUIS SCAGLIONE

Brother Louis Scaglione of the Monongahela, Pa. Branch passed on to his eternal reward on Tuesday, March 29, 1977. He was born on November 25, 1904 and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on March 3, 1930 by Brother Teman Cherry.

Our Brother leaves to mourn his wife, Sister Rose Rullo Scaglione, three sons, and six grandchildren.

The funeral services were conducted by Brothers George Johnson and Idris Martin.

Brother Lou and Sister Rose were the first couple married when the Monongahela Church building was opened. Although our Brother will be missed, there is the blessed assurance that he is resting in the Paradise of God.

MARY (MARIA) MORRIALE

Sister Mary (Maria) Morriale passed on to her heavenly reward on April 28, 1977. She was born on November 10, 1889 in Brami Nova, Reggio Calabria, Italy. She was baptized on April 11, 1937.

She is survived by one sister.

Brother Ansel D'Amico and Brother Patsy Marinetti officiated at the funeral services.

She was a faithful Sister in the Gospel and will be missed by all.

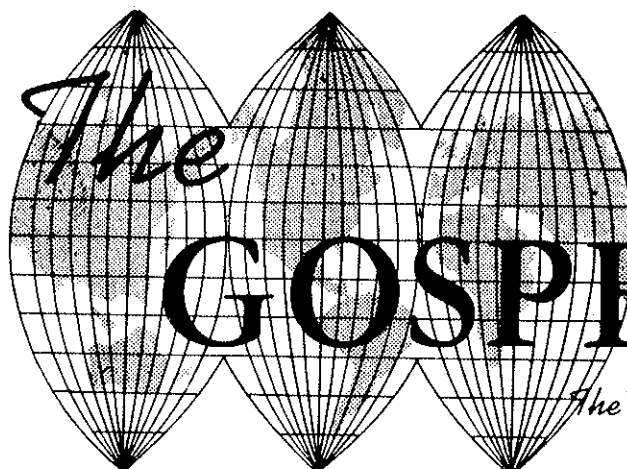
ANGELINA ABRUZZESE

Sister Angelina Abruzzese of the Bell, California Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ passed on to her eternal reward on April 19, 1977. She was born on May 10, 1883 and was baptized June 7, 1931.

She leaves to mourn her loss, one son, three daughters, fourteen grandchildren, and twenty-two great-grandchildren.

Brother Frank Genaro officiated at the funeral services.

Sister "Angie" was one of the first members to move to California and meetings were held in her home at first. She was baptized in Brooklyn, New York, and upon moving to California, she transferred to Bell. Brother Genaro came from the Yucaipa Branch to officiate at the funeral services.



The GOSPEL NEWS

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa.

July, 1977

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FIT YOUR LIFE INTO THE CHURCH

By JOSEPH BITTINGER

We are living in an age when planning one's life for the future is vitally important if he wishes to be prosperous and successful. Realizing this fact, our first goal is to prepare ourselves adequately for whatever vocation or profession we may choose. This is especially true of the young people of our present day in confronting a very complicated and hostile world of competition.

Should not our young people of the Church plan their lives to fit themselves into the work of the Church? They should strive to find where they can best serve its needs and the needs of mankind in the great latter-day work of God. The greatest work of God since the creation of man is yet in the future. The fulfilling of the Scriptural signs, as spoken by the Prophets and by Jesus Christ our Saviour, leaves no doubt that major events are about to occur which will involve the Church of Jesus Christ; it will be moved to preach the Gospel to the seed of Joseph, the American Indian, as well as to the Gentiles and to all nations of the earth that Zion may be established and the restoration of Israel take place. *We believe that God will employ this Church for that purpose.*

Many of us who came into the Church in the years past did not plan our lives around the work of the Church for numerous reasons; the result was that we have had to fit the Church into our lives as best we could. Many times this has placed us at a disadvantage causing the work of God and the Church to take second place in our lives. Any endeavor to be successful must be carefully planned from the very beginning. To omit this procedure is like groping in the dark trying to find one's way. By allowing ourselves to become so entangled in the material things of life most of our liberty and freedom is lost, and we cannot serve the needs of the Church or mankind in preaching the Gospel as we feel it should be done.

"For we are laborers together with God: Ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building . . . as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he

buildeth thereon." I Cor. 9-10. In order for anyone to labor together with God, he must have freedom of action to move at the opportune time. This is where early planning becomes essential to those obeying the Gospel (any age) to avoid becoming captivated by materialism. A certain amount of material things are desirable and essential in our daily living. Man is to replenish the earth and subdue it. But in many instances men have been subdued and brought down even to destruction by not using wisdom and being satisfied with what they could afford.

Is not wise planning necessary for the people of God that they may be able to find their place in His work? For there is a place and a work for everyone in His service. He has given everyone some talents to use in such a manner as would increase their value in the day of accounting before the Lord. Start planning now for the future if you wish to be free to take advantage of laboring together with God for the spiritual needs of mankind. Jesus said, "But whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant." Matt. 20:26-27.

Many souls are waiting and listening to hear about Jesus our Saviour and the way to inherit Eternal Life.

Coloring Books For Sale

If you want to convey the message of The Restoration to your children, friends, neighbors, give them a coloring book, telling the story of The Gospel Restored and The Church of Jesus Christ.

Just write to the following for as many books as you want. The cost is \$.75 per book.

Joe Ross
Ross Drive
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

Alex Gentile
11294 Suffolk Drive
Southgate, MI 48195

John Ross, Jr.
119 W. Saguaro
Casa Grande, Ariz. 85222

Joe Draskovich
527 Fairfield Drive
Greensburg, Pa. 15601

MY SUNDAY DIARY

by Sister Mary Leona Ward

(Passed away Feb. 9, 1977)

Every Sunday morning, seven thirty or a quarter of eight,
I rise up from my bed and dress; And hurry lest I'm late.
I do this very quietly, and quickly as I can,
For there is not much time to do, The things that I have
planned.

I tiptoe down the stairs to start, the dinner with a roast.
Prepare potatoes in a pan.
Then sit down to have some tea, and perhaps a slice of
toast.

I feed our bird and puppy, Then hurry back upstairs.
I call to Bertha, "Hurry! You haven't got much time."
A glance toward the clock, Tells me, It's approaching
the hour of nine.

By this time there's confusion, And of course John's now
awake.

With all my rush and hurry, I'm in a nervous state.
It's then I am reminded, Of a hymn we often sing.
And as I ponder over it, The melody will ring.

Ere you left your room this morning, Did you think to
pray?

In the name of Christ our Saviour, Did you sue for loving
favour, As a shield today?

The time goes swiftly by, The minutes that remain are
just a few,

Then I turn to John and say, "The rest is up to you."

At our gate I chance to meet
Two neighbors that live right up our street.
A smile, good morning, we friendly greet,
To me this has really become a treat.

Mrs. Jefferies and Mrs. Kerr
They are known by name.
To the Presbyterian Church they're going,
By this faith they're known the same.

Next I come unto the corner,
Here I meet another friend.
Her name is Mrs. Burna
And her service is at end.

She has risen long before me,
Passed my house along the way,
The Catholic faith is her profession,
Here she went to kneel and pray.

As I reach the intersection
Sweet music fills my ears.
The Methodist Church bells are ringing
The songs I love to hear.
Love Divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven to earth come down

or

O, Jesus, I have promised To serve thee to the end,
Be thou forever near me, My master and my friend.

While thinking over these precious words,
Another friend comes in view,
This time it's Mrs. Jones,
With her little granddaughter too.

As we pass we say, "Good morning",
and speak about the day,
Then quickly hurry on,
Each in a different way.

It's nearing ten o'clock now,
My footsteps I quickly tread.
The little red brick church I see
clearly just ahead.

I climb the steps, unlatch the door, and
gently step inside.
Oh, the blessing that I receive!
I hope t'will always with me abide.

As I perform my duties
My eyes they do explore.
The beauty of this Church I see,
But in my heart, I feel much more.

Now it's time for Sunday School.
The members have arrived.
After a friendly greeting and a hymn or two we sing
We go into our classes,
To learn about our King.

Perhaps you think I have forgotten
The name of the Church that I attend.
But if you listen I will tell you
About this precious name and friend.

Years ago, upon Mt. Calvary
Stood a cross upon a hill.
And on the same nailed they our Jesus
Who died fulfilling His Father's will.

Here Pilate wrote a title,
And inscribed it on the cross,
"Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews"
The King, which so many profoundly have refused.

Now if you step outside this building,
Cast your eyes high on the wall,
You will find the name of Jesus
Who sought salvation for us all.

So whether you're man or woman,
Or if you're Gentile or Jew,
Matterless of color, race or nation, ,
God will give you your just due.

The GREAT of all importance
If you wish His blessings to impart.
Then be sure HIS name is written
On each and every heart.

Note Of Thanks

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the
readers of *The Gospel News* for their cards, visits, phone
calls and prayers for my well being. I had back surger
and I still need your prayer so continue to pray for me.

May God richly bless and remember your goodness
to me.

Brother Chester Nolfi

VISITORS, FOUR BAPTISMS AT ROSCOE BRANCH

We have enjoyed many blessings this past month and would like to share them with our Brothers and Sisters. On April 18 and 19 we were happy to have Brother Joseph Lovalvo, Apostle, of Modesto, California with us at Roscoe. At both meetings Brother Lovalvo spoke under the influence of the Spirit of God. He preached to us concerning the plain and precious things taken from the *Holy Bible* and how they were restored through the coming forth of the *Book of Mormon*.

He told how when he questioned why the Ordinance of Feet Washing was not mentioned in the *Book of Mormon*, that God revealed unto him that it was necessary only to bring forth in plainness the precious things taken from the Bible. He spoke on the Mode of Baptism, the state of the soul after death, the name of the Church, administering of communion, the New Jerusalem, the Choice Seer and the Priesthood after the order of God, examples of the precious things which were taken from the *Holy Bible* and restored in plainness in the *Book of Mormon* and how the two Books become as one. He also spoke on the effect of Christ's life and how it was not His outward appearance but what was inside that attracted mankind to Him.

During the two meetings he also told many beautiful experiences and blessings he had had and witnessed in the lives of others illustrating the power of God is the same today, as yesterday, and forevermore. Several came forth to be anointed by the ministry and the Power of God was felt in our midst during our Brother's visit with us.

That coming Sunday, April 24, the Spirit of God continued to administer to us. Brother James Moore, Jr. of Imperial Branch opened the morning meeting. He and his wife, Sister Jean sang a beautiful song, "The Way Is Too Narrow," written by Sister Arlene Buffington. Brother Moore spoke on the coming forth of Lazarus from the tomb and also on the beauty of the coming of Christ into one's life. He told many experiences of the Lord's work in his life and others. At the close of the meeting John Ward stood and asked to have hands laid upon him. He had expressed his desire previously of his hope to soon become one of the fold. The Spirit of God was felt in our midst and immediately another man, Emerson Klingensmith, who had been attending our meetings for many years, came forth to have hands laid upon him. He too was unbaptized. Brother Fred Olexa said he felt the Lord's Spirit was calling to those unbaptized in our midst. Brother Elmer Devore stood on his feet and asked to be baptized. That afternoon we gathered at the river to witness Brother Elmer make a covenant to serve the Lord. He was baptized by Brother Fred Olexa and after returning to The Church was confirmed by Brother John Kendall. We all welcomed our new Brother into the fold and many testimonies of praise to God were given. On May 8, 1977, as soon as the morning service was opened Brother John Ward stood and expressed himself and his desire to be baptized. A wonderful spirit was among us and our hearts were full as we sang the beautiful hymn, "Ring the Bells of Heaven, there is Joy Today." Brother James King from Vanderbilt was with us and spoke of the joy in serving the Lord and Brother Fred continued,



Left to right: Delores Scott, Emerson Klingensmith, Fred O'lexa and John Ward.

speaking from the third Chapter of Mark beginning with the 31st verse and brought forth the words of Christ that, "Whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister and mother." Many beautiful words of life were brought forth by our Brothers. We then closed our morning service and it was at this time that Emerson Klingensmith made it be known that he too wanted to be baptized. After lunch many gathered at the river shore to witness three more souls give their lives to God. Brother Fred Olexa baptized our two new Brothers and Sister. After returning to the Church Sister Scott was confirmed by Brother Gasper Karelli, Brother Klingensmith was confirmed by Brother Fred Olexa and Brother Ward was confirmed by Brother B. J. Martin. Our Brothers and Sister remained seated as we sang, "A New Name Written Down In Glory" and we each welcomed them into God's fold. Many testimonies were given and we had a day of rejoicing. It was later revealed that the night before, a Sister had a dream she saw another Sister of the Branch planting three trees. We want to thank God for His many blessings, in calling four more laborers into the vineyard, also for our visiting Brothers and Sisters which have been a great blessing to us. We are looking forward to many more workers being added to this part of the vineyard, as many have expressed this desire who have been attending our meetings. May God Bless our new Brothers and Sister and may He help us each to live useful lives and, "Give of our Best to the Master."

The Brothers and Sisters
Roscoe Branch

Sister Bertha Jean Bilsky
Branch Editor

Twenty-Five Years

Brother Frank and Sister Helen Gianfermi of East Detroit, Michigan and the members of the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on Tuesday, May 10, 1977.

NEWS FROM THE OMAHA AREA

We wish the blessings of God upon the Gospel News readers. For quite some time I have had a desire to write a few lines concerning God's work in the Omaha, Nebraska area.

We now have eight Sisters living in this area. Each Sunday four of us; namely, Sister Mary Stone, Sister LaVerne Harris, Sister Gail Mallory and myself, meet together. We come together in an effort to obey the scripture which admonishes us to assemble ourselves together as often as we can. Since we have no Elder living here, we depend solely upon the Holy Spirit to lead, guide and direct us. At our meetings we sing hymns, read scripture, pray and/or testify as the Spirit directs us. Just four humble Sisters desiring to "Hold the Fort" until God sees fit to raise up or send us an Elder.

Glory be to God and praise His high and holy name . . . we know of assurance that God has honored our efforts. We can truly say that we know there is power in the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. We believe that God has started a special work here. The seed was planted nine years ago when He sent a Sister here. God heard the prayers of a few humble souls who were sincerely seeking to know Him and in much mercy He sent a Sister here to give testimony that truly an "Angel had flown from the midst of heaven restoring the everlasting Gospel back to the earth." After over two years of waiting patiently the Sister's testimony was received by another Sister, and the seed of the Restored Gospel began to spread in the Omaha area.

For the past seven years, the Sisters here have been meeting as a group. From time to time God has sent Elders here to administer to us. We thank God for Brothers like Brother Harry Robinson, Brother Frank Calabrese and Brother Nathan Peterkin and many others who have given of their time and substances to come here to preach the Gospel.

By dreams and revelations God has assured us that if we "remain in the house" He will give us contacts for our testimony . . . telling us exactly where to go and what to say. In one experience, He told us that by patience and long suffering, we would see the work in Omaha established. He also told us that we deserve to see the work, and that the miracles were coming and soon. In another experience He likened us to Trail Blazers clearing the path for a stopover where traveling Saints could rest and refresh themselves. He has sent ministering angels to comfort us in times of discouragement, bringing joy to our souls and encouraging us in our faith. As babes, He fed us with the sincere milk of the work, thereby enabling us to withstand the many trials and tribulations that have come our way. So we know as Paul knew that God is not unrighteous to forget our work and labor of love.

Our hope is that by our conversation in the Restored Gospel, God will call our husbands in. Remember them in your prayers because we believe that by our faithfulness God will add them to this work.

Our sincere desire is to be diligent in serving God . . . strong soldiers for His name's sake.

An open invitation is extended to all who have a desire to visit in this part of God's vineyard. So, if the

Lord lays it upon your heart, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

Your Sister in Christ,

Sister Dorothy Miller
111 Crestridge Drive
Bellevue, Nebraska 68005
Telephone: (402) 291-6595

Zion's City

Fair Zion's City — shining bright,
Thru her tears she saw the light.
With outstretched arms the woman came,
In dreams she'd often seen the same.

In great travail, she touched the wall,
Thru tear dimmed eyes she saw it all.
There she saw a pillar stand,
And a banner o'er the land.

There the lamb and lion played,
There the chosen humbly prayed.
Everything therein was white,
Visions burst upon her sight.

Twelve angels guard the city door,
All that enter there are pure.
And her Savior leads the band,
And they're triumphant o'er the land.

And the woman's pain subsides,
In this land she now resides.
Where blessings fall like driven rain,
Banishing all death and pain.

Fair Zion's City shining bright,
Gone forever sin and night.
Where the woman's dressed in white,
And Jesus only is the light.

by Sister Arlene Buffington

January 12, 1977

Four Greatest Needs

I feel somewhat like the mariner
Who has sailed the seven seas.
I've witnessed the storms that buffet,
And the calm of the gentle breeze.

I've talked with men of every race,
And men of many creeds.
From them I've learned, as you would too,
Of the world's four greatest needs.

One, the need of understanding;
One, the peace of quiet mind;
The need of human brotherhood,
And the art of being kind.

John H. Armbruster

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Editorial Viewpoint

ANOTHER CENTURY OF LIBERTY

This month marks the first year of America's entrance into its third century of freedom and independence.

Let us renew our trust in God that He will continue to preserve our nation and may we be mindful of our indebtedness to Him for this priceless gift of liberty.

On the other hand, we are saddened to note that there are also peoples and nations, whose population numbers in the hundreds of millions, and they are deprived of many privileges and the liberty that we take for granted.

PRESIDENT CARTER SUPPORTS HUMAN RIGHTS

The President of The United States, James E. Carter, has been speaking out boldly in defense of human rights. It is to be hoped that the influence and prestige of his office will give added support and persuasion to his noble efforts to stir those governments and their leaders who are remiss in their obligation to grant and sustain such human rights.

As lovers of freedom we are moved with joy and satisfaction in the fact that a goodly number of countries and peoples the world over likewise share the blessings of freedom and liberty.

It is noteworthy that the bulk of the African family of nations, with a few exceptions, also enjoy a goodly measure of freedom after many years of colonial rule.

As a Church, we are fully aware that the political freedom now enjoyed by these African nations also ensures religious freedom for their people, as well as other human rights. The Church of Jesus Christ, in answer to the call, has been at liberty to initiate missionary activity in Nigeria. Beginning in 1954, The Church has continued to pursue and expand its evangelistic efforts throughout this populous country.

Recently, The Church has been organized and established in the Republic of Ghana, another freedom-loving country. It was the expressed hope of our late Brother William H. Cadman that The Church of Jesus Christ would gradually spread from Nigeria throughout all of Africa.

We also rejoice that The Church is established in Italy, Argentina and, in neighboring Canada and Mexico.

HOPEFUL AND PRAYERFUL ANTICIPATION

We look forward with hopeful hearts and prayerful anticipation that The Gospel will go to many more foreign lands. In a remarkable dream, Brother Paul D'Amico saw a "base or main switchboard" here in America from which missionaries were sent abroad, two by two, to preach the Gospel.

The prophet Nephi foresaw that although, "...its numbers were few,..." the Church of the Lamb, who were the Saints of God, were also upon all the face of the earth..." (*1 Nephi 14:12*)

May the Lord grant our beloved country many more years of freedom and may The Church thus be at liberty to spread the Gospel to people everywhere.



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

Queen Athaliah

Dear Girls and Boys,

Last month I told you the story of the wicked Queen Jezebel. Now I will tell you about her daughter Athaliah. History states she was the only woman ever to sit on the throne of David and rule in extreme wickedness.

Athaliah grew up in Samaria, in the palace of Ahab and Jezebel. The palace was surrounded by groves and idols of Baal. Athaliah married Jehoram, the oldest son of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah. When he was 32 years old he became king and Athaliah ruled beside him. She promoted the worship of Baal just as her mother had done when she came to Samaria. Jehoram had his brothers killed because they did not follow Baal.

Jehoram reigned only eight years and died of an incurable disease. Athaliah's son, Ahaziah became king. Now as queen mother, Athaliah became more powerful than ever. The scripture states, "Ahaziah walked in the ways of the house of Ahab; for his mother was his counsellor to do wickedly. Within a year Ahaziah was wounded in his chariot by Jehu. Jehu had been commissioned by the prophet Elijah to overthrow Athaliah's reign. Ahaziah escaped to Meggido where he died. Athaliah was now the ruler and she resolved to destroy, "all the royal seed", her own children and grandchildren. She was determined to be the sole ruler and further promote Baal worship. She ruled for six years.

But Athaliah didn't know her step-daughter, Jehoshaba, had rescued Joash, one of the royal infants. Jehoshaba hid the child for six years and at the right time, her husband, the high priest, Jehoiada, brought forth the boy, who was now seven years old. Joash was proclaimed king in the temple. When Athaliah heard this she screamed, "Treason! Treason!" She rent her clothes. The high priest ordered her slain, but not in the House of the Lord. As Athaliah was entering the horses' gate by the palace, she was slain and the horses trampled her body.

Jehoiada made a covenant between him and all the people that they should be the Lord's people. They went to the house of Baal and broke it down along with the altars and images and slew the priests of Baal. All the people of the land rejoiced and the city was quiet.

Sincerely,

Sister Mabael



We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

OUR WOMEN TODAY . . .

THE LADIES UPLIFT CIRCLE DISTRICT MEETING

The Ladies Uplift Circle District Meeting was held at the San Diego Branch, on May 14, 1977.

Sisters in attendance from out of state included Shirley Hemming, Bonnie Smith, Grace Brutz and Mabel Bickerton. It was nice to have our Sister Mary Lovalvo with us who has recently moved here from Florida.

The theme of this Circle was the bread of life. The sacrament table was set with a small loaf of bread, a Bible, Book of Mormon and shocks of wheat.

The opening hymn was, "I asked the Lord." Sister Mabel opened in prayer, thanking God for her chance to visit all over the U.S. and she feels that blessed love of God wherever she goes in the Church. She thanked God that she was able to organize a Ladies Circle in Tampa, Florida and also was able to make the trip here. She thanked God for the Brothers that make it possible for the Sisters to attend.

The opening scripture, read with great spirit by Sister Bonnie Smith, was from the 49th Chapter of Isaiah, the 18th-26th verses.

After a welcome from our president, Sister Sylvia Curry, the meeting was left open for testimony. Sister Grace Brutz thanked God for all the help of the Brothers and Sisters and for the job that Brother Anthony now has. Sister Evelyn Perdue told of a baby two years old that couldn't walk that died in its mother's arms. The mother screamed for an anointed handkerchief. When she laid it on the baby, life was restored. At age six, this child contracted leukemia and after much prayer was healed. The father of this child, through much sickness and healings, asked for baptism and now will be ordained an Elder. The Church is growing by leaps and bounds in Mexico. Sister Mabel told of how the work of the urban Indian is growing. She found out that the book, "The Cry of The Ancients" was written by an Indian Brother taught by her father many years ago. The Indian Brother has died, but Sister Mabel has written his wife and hopes to meet with her soon. Sister Diane Surdock told of hers and Ken's decision to move to Red Lake to work among the seed of Joseph. They are both leaving good paying jobs and have no jobs to go to, but are trusting in God. After Sister Diane's testimony, Sister Marian Meo read a beautiful poem telling how we grow through having troubles. Sister Sylvia said Diane had grown spiritually since having made this decision. Sister Vio Thomas told of a time when she was really down. She prayed, "Lord, if only I could see your face." A voice spoke to her saying, "I could show you my face, but you would forget it. I want you to see my hands for they will remind you that I died for you."

Reports were received from each Circle.

We gave Tijuana \$200 for hymn books, \$100 to Red Lake for materials for classes for the Indians during the summer, and \$100 to Pine Top for items for a much needed kitchen.

Sisters from San Diego told of how they made \$600 at a rummage and bake sale. They said some were sick and others couldn't participate, but had the desire to raise funds. They prayed about it and help came from not only the Brothers and Sisters, but from outsiders.

Sister Mabel sang, "O Paradise," written by her mother who thought she would soon be in paradise, but outlived all her doctors!

Brother Ray Saczko told of an experience where the Lord told him, "Now is the time for my people to fast and pray." This was pertaining to the Indian work.

The evening program carried the theme "the bread of life." Scriptures pertaining to the bread of life were read from: Deuteronomy, Chapter 8, Luke, Chapter 4, Ruth, Chapter 1 and 2, St. John, Chapter 21, Matthew, Chapter 5, Genesis, Chapter 42, The Lord's Prayer, Exodus, Chapter 23 and Matthew, Chapter 15. The words were expressed we eat natural bread and die, but if we eat spiritual bread, we shall live eternally.

*

Sister Sylvia Curry read the following poem that she had written:

A long, long time God performed many miracles.
He divided the Red Sea in two and the Israelites passed through.
He multiplied the fish and bread and a great multitude was fed.
He rebuked the winds and the sea and the men marvelled at such as He.
He turned the water into wine and the marriage feast began on time.
He ordered the fig tree to grow no more fruit. It withered away and the disciples knew He spoke the truth.
He healed many who were sick and blind, this man called Jesus of olden time.
He even raised them from the dead; the maid who rose up from her bed.
He loosed one from a spirit of infirmity and she rose and said, "Oh God I glorify thee."
God sent His son to set us free and His son died for you and me.
Oh! I believe in miracles, I really, truly do. For I know what my God has done for me, He'll do the same for you.
For He is a God of miracles, To all I must proclaim.
Because our God never changes. He is today the same.

Sister Joan McNabb
Area Circle Editor

An Autumn Lane

I traveled a lane of painted trees colored by Autumn's hand

On a carpet of gold, of russet and brown which covered the forest land.

I gathered the leaves which fell at my feet and tossed them into the sun,

And watched them float in the gentle breeze, seemingly full of fun.

I stopped and gazed at the blue of the skies through pillars of golden hue,

And noted approaching ships of the air reflecting the gold in the blue.

It was peaceful and calm in this silent lane where the carol of Autumn played.

And my heart sang out with thanks to God for this land which His hand had made.

Everett Wentworth Hill

GMBA CONFERENCE

by JAMES D. GIBSON
GMBA Editor

On May 21, 1977 the semi-annual GMBA Conference was held at Warren Woods School, Warren, Michigan.

The morning meeting began with some comments by the GMBA Chaplain, Brother Richard Scaglione. He also read from the Book of Mormon about Moroni and his dedication to Church, family and God.

Brother Paul Palmieri, GMBA President, then encouraged all in attendance to participate in the days activities. To become involved in the business of the GMBA Organization.

In the absence of Brother Don Ross, GMBA Vice President, Brother Alex Gentile was elected to fulfill the office pro-tem.

After the roll call of officers and the reading of communications the following items of business was transacted.

1. Lesson Plans — The Book of Helaman has reached a finalized stage. Lessons of 1st and 2nd Nephi are available from Brother Joe Draskovich, GMBA Librarian.
2. Missionary Brochures — They are presently being distributed to the Districts of The Church.
3. Jaradite Lesson Plans — Progress is being made by the screening committee of The General Church.
4. Arizona MBA Area — They are still undecided if they desire to become an Area in the GMBA.
5. Coloring Books — There is still a large quantity left. A balance of \$2700.00 is outstanding on the original printing cost. We also discussed the feasibility of printing these books in foreign languages. No action was taken.
6. Lay Missionary Program — Members were encouraged to use their talents by helping in missionary projects.
7. Book of Mormon Concordance — A survey showed only 444 people are interested in buying one at a cost of \$15.00 each. We can print our own at a cost of approximately \$7.00. However, we would need a memory bank to do this and this "bank" could be used for all future printing literature and books. The "memory bank" cost is \$2,700.00. We voted to borrow this amount from the Concordance Fund to purchase the "memory bank".
8. G.M.B.A. Campout — Brother Jim Huttenberger Camp Director, explained the facilities, cost and other requirements of the campout to be held at Camp Towanda in Pennsylvania.
9. The sponsoring of a Nigerian Brother to the General Church Conference will be turned over to the Foreign Mission Committee.
10. Proposal — The Cleveland Local suggested that the GMBA purchase its own "Field Kitchen" to be used at campouts. This was turned over to the GMBA Activity Committee to investigate.

Financial Reports and disbursements will be detailed

in the GMBA minutes that are sent to each local. The minutes are to be read in each local after being received from the GMBA Secretary.

During the evening session the Michigan-Ontario Area presented a program. It was very inspiring and directed its message to the young. All those that participated are to be complimented.

It was a day well spent together and the blessings of God were felt by all in attendance.

MBA Highlights

The Florida Area MBA got together for a picnic on Memorial Day at John Prince Park in Lake Worth. The adults and children all had classes. Games were played. A children's watermelon contest was won by Michael Difede, and an adult's watermelon contest was won by George Katsaras. A baseball game was played which ended in a tie score.

As always, the Sisters brought a very fine selection of food. Little Nicky Katsaras attended his first picnic at two weeks of age. We always enjoy our picnics, visiting with the Brothers and Sisters. This is our joy in the Church — being together!

Sister Eileen Katsaras
Florida Area Editor

WHERE ARE THE LAMBS?

Is there a little lamb lost from the fold?

And could he be hurt or could he be cold?
And could there be danger a lurking near by?
Oh do I hear a whimper and is that a cry?

Is there a wolf that has noticed him there?

Does the lamb see it or doesn't he care?
Could he per chance make a run for the flock?
Motion him inward, straight for the rock.

Oh the little lamb's running I see him now,

But the wolf is determined I hear him howl;
Throw the gate wide and let the lamb in,
The sheep will protect him, they are his kin.

Oh the lamb is so little, please gather him up,

He must have milk now, please pass him the cup.
He is so thin and so worn from his flight,
For he ran from the wolf, and he ran from the night.

Close the gate quickly and make it secure,

The Shepherd is guarding, here safety is sure;
So caution the little lambs, stay with the fold,
Where the wolf will not harm them, neither the cold.

by Sister Arlene Buffington

BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS:—

Ordination In Phoenix

It was a beautiful, bright day in Phoenix, Arizona as Brother Barry L. Mazzeo was ordained in the Priesthood on Sunday, May 15, 1977.

The blessings of God were manifested as Brother Ether M. Furnier washed Brother Mazzeo's feet and he was ordained by Brother Joseph Lovalvo.

Ordination In San Diego, California

Sister Orletta Louise Liberto was ordained a Deaconess on Sunday, May 15, 1977 following the District Ladies Circle Meeting.

While Sister Mary Lovalvo was washing her feet, Brother V. James Lovalvo spoke in the Spirit and said, "Hear ye the word of the Lord, it is with my pleasure and my spirit that my servant shall be ordained in this office by my Holy Son, Jesus Christ."

This was a confirmation and an answer to prayer since Sister Orletta had been praying that the Lord would reveal to her His calling.

Sister Liberto was ordained by Brother Charles Curry.

Youngstown Has Baptism

On Sunday, June 5, 1977, we were privileged to have visitors from different parts of the vineyard, namely, Brother Elmer Santilli, 1st Counselor of the Ohio District and his family of Perry, Ohio, Brother Keith and Sister Jane Ardinger of Dallas, Texas, Sister Irene Williams of Martinsville, New Jersey and Sister Phyllis Kovacic of Erie, Pa.

The Youngstown Quartet sang two selections, "The Spirit of Jesus is in This Place" and, "Have You Had a Gethsemane?"

Brother Elmer read from *The Book of Mormon, III Nephi 27:3-10*, concerning how Jesus Christ wanted His Church to be named. Brother Santilli also made references to the 11th Chapter of *III Nephi* where Christ tells the people of this continent the mode of baptism, to end any confusion there might be. After Brother Elmer finished, his niece, Sandra D'Orazio arose and asked for her baptism.

Sister Sandra was baptized by her father, Brother Richard Santilli and confirmed by Brother A. A. Corrado.

Truly it was a wonderful day spent in the Lord.

Sister Annette Corrado
Youngstown Branch Editor

Windsor Canada, Has Baby Blessing On Mother's Day

Sunday, May 7, 1977, began with Brother Ken Wright our Presiding Elder, welcoming all the mothers on this

day set aside for mothers to be remembered. Among our people Mother's Day is everyday, because God has instilled within the hearts of His children, the need to love and respect our parents. It is the only commandment with a promise: Exodus, Chapter 20, verse 12, "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord giveth thee."

Joe Elzby was back in our midst, after having suffered a heart attack. Sister Linda Nantais, his daughter, brought her baby son Ryan Allen to be blessed. Brother Don Collison officiated, asking God to place His mark upon him, that as he would reach the age of accountability, he would have a heart that could be touched and moved. Our new mother surely gave meaning to this, our special day.

Sister Adrienne Collison
Branch Editor

Vanderbilt News

From March 20 thru March 26, the Vanderbilt Branch held a week of spiritual meetings. The first meeting was held on Sunday evening and all enjoyed an evening of singing praises to God. With visitors from Glassport and Monongahela we enjoyed solos, duets, trios, quartets and group singing.

The subject of Monday's meeting was the "Hidden Sin in Israel." Brother Joseph Shazer opened and Brother Milford Eutsey, Sr. followed.

Tuesday Brother Emerson Fuller opened by reading the 20th Chapter of Revelations. Brother Joseph Shazer, then Brother Milford Eutsey, Sr. followed. Before closing Brother Eutsey related an experience that he had that afternoon. "While at work that day I was thinking of the meeting and began to wonder what to use for a subject if I should be called upon to speak, when a voice spoke to me and said "Speak of the Resurrection." I continued my work and thought no more of the experience or of speaking since I had spoken the previous night. I was expecting visiting Elders to be there and I was prepared to listen to them. Only after I finished speaking and Brother George Fuller was closing did I remember the experience so vividly that I asked for time to relate it to those present.

Wednesday we were blessed with visitors from Greensburg, Glassport, McKees Rocks and Monongahela. As a request Sister Iva Fedorka sang a solo which was enjoyed by all. Brother Paul Gehly opened the meeting taking his text from the Book of Mormon concerning the sons of Mosiah and Alma, their disobedience and sinful ways and then their conversion. Brother Alma Nolfi followed with the same scripture and likened it to our time and children, even to himself.

Thursday we were blessed again with visitors from Fredonia and McKees Rocks. Brother Dan Casasanta opened the meeting. He took his text from Joshua, his theme being, "I and my house will serve the Lord." Brother John Manes followed with the same subject. We appreciated Brother and Sister Otto Gehly traveling from Fredonia to spend the evening in our meeting.

Brother Lawrence King opened the Friday evening meeting. "Jesus alone in the garden," was his subject, and he read a portion from the New Testament Scripture.

The meeting was then opened for testimony. This concluded the week of meetings.

Although there was no meeting on Saturday the Lord did not forget us on Sunday. We were blessed with an experience and baptism.

The Sunday School and morning meeting were enjoyable but some of us were a little sad because of a young lady, who was not there, but who we knew had a desire to be there. God did not forget her or any of us, as she was there in the afternoon.

Near the beginning of the meeting this same young lady, Valerie Dailey, related a dream that she had the previous night, in which she saw Brother Milford Eutsey, Sr., baptizing someone, but could not tell who it was. The dream, being interpreted, told that she, Valerie, was the one God was calling. Realizing immediately this was true, she asked for her baptism. The spirit came down and we rejoiced with the angels that one had repented and come to the Lord. During preparations for the baptism we continued singing and with testimonies, truly rejoicing, when our young Brother, John King, jumped up and shouted, "Brother Emerson, I see the Lord!" While still filled with the spirit he asked that we sing, "Reach Out to Jesus." Truly we rejoiced in the spirit.

We then brought this portion of our meeting to a close and went to a nearby lake where Brother Milford Eutsey baptized Valerie Dailey, and upon returning Brother George Fuller confirmed her into The Church. We then greeted our new Sister with a Holy Kiss and extended the hand of fellowship to her. We are grateful for this opportunity given us by our ministry to greet each new member before the meeting is closed. Though time to close our meeting, we did not desire to end our day so we went home for our evening meal then met at Brother and Sister Joseph Shazer's home for singing and continued fellowship. Here Brother John King was asked to describe what he had seen that day. He said, "I saw a man with His arms outstretched. I could not see His face, but He had on a white robe and I could see the nail holes in His hands and I knew it was the Lord!" I am sure our Brother, young in years and young in the Gospel, will hold this experience close to his heart. We do not want to forget our young Sister, in her early teens, and to date the only one of her immediate family in the Gospel, although her grandmother, Sister Mildred Thomas, is a faithful member of the Vanderbilt Branch.

On April 24, we were privileged to have Brother Harry Marshall of California visit our Branch. It is always a pleasure to have Brother Marshall visit us.

Just a note on the natural side, but a blessing no less. We held a bazaar in a local mall in which we rented a ten by ten square for ten dollars. There we sold new and used items and baked goods. This space is rented out each year for a three-day period, to non-profit organizations. We made just over \$800.00 from this bazaar for our portion of the General Church Budget. The Lord surely blessed our efforts.

Brother and Sister Frank Giovannone, Brother and Sister Pete Giannetti, and Brother and Sister Joseph Ross visited Vanderbilt on Mother's Day, May 8. Brother Joseph Ross opened the morning meeting with the second Chapter of Mark and read of the man sick of the palsy. He spoke of faith and determination as the men had

when they went to the roof to let down the one sick of the palsy and of the faith of the woman who touched the hem of Jesus' garment. Brother and Sister Giovannone had been visiting various Branches and we were privileged to have them as well as the rest of our visitors spend the day with us. We ask God to bless each one for their effort to be with us and for the good Spirit we felt during their presence with us, we are thankful to God.

Sister Shirley Eutsey
Vanderbilt Editor

Baptisms, Blessings, Ordination At Glassport Branch

During the months of April and May, we at the Glassport Branch have been greatly blessed with baptisms, children blessed, and an ordination into the priesthood, and we'd like to share with you these wonderful blessings of God's Spirit.

On April 3, we had Brother John Manes and family from McKees Rocks visiting with us. Brother John opened our meeting reading from the 15th Chapter of St. John, telling us of the mutual love between Christ and His members and exhorting on the parable of the vine. He urged us to set our hearts and our minds in order and to talk to the Lord, asking for understanding to see what we have to do to become part of the vine. He also went on to explain the meaning of baptism, that it is symbolic to Christ being buried in the tomb and of confirmation being baptized of the spirit.

Brother James Campbell and Brother Alma Nolfi continued with this same thought. It was then made known that two converts wanted to make their covenant to the Lord. Brother John Lea and his wife Sonja Lea were taken to the water and a great blessing was felt by all. Brother Alma Nolfi baptized our new Brother and Sister.

This wonderful spirit continued in our afternoon meeting as Brother John Ali spoke on the 15th Chapter of Corinthians. Brother James Campbell confirmed Brother John Lea and Brother John Manes confirmed Sister Sonja Lea. Our new Brother and Sister then made it known that they wished to have their young baby blessed.

What a wonderful blessing to see this family come unto the fold of God. We pray that He will continue to bless them till the end of their day.

On April 24, we all gathered together for the ordination of Brother David Nolfi to the priesthood. Our church building was filled to capacity with visitors from Fredonia, Imperial, Aliquippa, Monongahela, Clairton, Vanderbilt, Greensburg, Ohio and California.

Brother Bob Ciarrochi from Niles, Ohio opened our morning meeting exhorting us to be followers of God and to have a countenance of Christ upon our face. He also spoke of the three Nephites and how the glory of God was upon them no matter where they went. Brother Rocco Biscotti and Brother James Campbell then spoke.

Our afternoon meeting was opened and Brother George Ondrasik washed Brother David's feet. The Elders then formed a circle as Brother Joseph Lovalvo ordained Brother David with Apostles, Rocco Biscotti, Joseph Bittinger and Russel Cadman assisting him.

Brother John Ali then related an experience he had about Brother David.

Brother Biscotti, spoke a few parting remarks as he had to leave the meeting early, as he had left his wife, who was ill. We pray all is well with Sister Biscotti.

Brothers Joseph Lovalvo, Cadman, Bittinger and Ondrasik all spoke concerning the Priesthood of The Church and how the authority of God is with this Church.

It was a day enjoyed by all and our prayers are that God will bless Brother David in his ministry.

On May 8, we had visiting with us Brother Paul Gehly from Greensburg Branch. Brother Paul related some personal experiences and of how God watched over him even before he was baptized in The Church. God called him and his wife in The Gospel at the same time as this was their desire to be baptized together. Also visiting with us were Brother Paul and Sister Nancy Smith from Salsbury, Maryland.

God has been working with our Branch and blessing us abundantly with His Spirit. We are thankful as we have been having many visitors in our midst, who are children and grandchildren of the Saints witnessing these wonderful blessings. Remember our Branch that we may continue to grow in God's love.

Ordination At Hopelawn Branch

On May 1, the Hopelawn Branch was privileged to have in our midst, Brother Gorie Ciaravino, one of the Apostles appointed for the Atlantic Coast District, to witness the ordination of Brother Joseph Faragasso into the Priesthood. Our District officers were also present along with many Brothers and Sisters from the area Branches.

As our meeting got under way Brother Gorie read to us concerning Paul writing a letter to Timothy. He told of Paul doing a lot of missionary work — fulfilling God's work.

He continued to say our Priesthood is after the order of Christ. Jesus fasted and prayed to prepare Himself for His Ministry and He also prepared His Apostles for the future and that they would be filled with the Holy Ghost and would baptize many. He also gave words of encouragement to Brother Joe, stating that our assurance one day will be of peace, joy and eternal life.

Brother Matthew Rogolino continued by saying he was happy that Brother Joe was being called into the Ministry and one must remember the greatness of his calling, the responsibility, and must continue to have wisdom and knowledge. His concluding remarks were to hold fast to the Gospel.

Brother August D'Orazio followed by saying a man must be prepared for this great calling and must perform a work that God has called him to do. When God calls someone into the Ministry, He prepares the individual with strength. He quoted James 2:15 and continued to say that a man who desires to do these things, it is good. He also made mention that a man in the Ministry must be dedicated to this work. God also uses the unlearned man, and He sees his good works and magnifies him in his calling.

Brother Mike Hildenbrand of Virginia expressed himself in a few words concerning his experience of his calling into the Ministry and how prayers interceded in behalf of his recent illness. He told the congregation that we should be united in the Church and to pray for the Ministry.

After a lunch break, we continued with our afternoon meeting. Our building was filled with many Brothers and Sisters to witness the ordination of Brother Joe.

Brother Joseph Perri, our Presiding Elder, opened the afternoon meeting expressing his feelings of the days when Brothers August D'Orazio, Matthew Rogolino, Joe Faragasso and himself were young men growing up in the Church and how God has blessed each with the Priesthood Authority. Brother Joe related to the congregation an experience which was had in our Branch the previous Sunday by Sister Rose Rogolino, visiting from the Fort Pierce, Florida Branch. Sister Rose saw Brother Joe's father, Brother Nick Faragasso, Jr. (deceased) standing along side of Brother Joe who was sitting on the rostrum. His hand was on his son's shoulder and he smiled, as if to approve Brother Joe's calling as an Elder.

After a few remarks by Brother Gorie, he read a portion in Alma concerning the importance of Brother Joe's calling.

A group of young people sang a few inspiring selections after which our Brothers continued with the ordination. Our Presiding Elder, Brother Joe Perri washed Brother Joe's feet, Brother Sam Sgro, visiting from New Brunswick, offered a special prayer for Brother Joe after which Brother Gorie confirmed our Brother into the Priesthood.

Brother Joe Faragasso then expressed his desire that we remember him in prayer for the task will be great and that the laborers are few.

Sisters Ann Sgro and Theresa Berg related dreams regarding the calling of Brother Joe which we all enjoyed hearing.

To sum up the Sabbath Day, we can say that we experienced a beautiful day in the house of God. We are happy that God has called Brother Joe into the Ministry to help with the work of God and we know he will be a good asset to our Branch.

Receive our love in Christ from the Hopelawn Branch.

Sister Mary Perri
Branch Editor

Many Blessings At Lorain, Ohio Spiritual Meeting Sunday, May 29, 1977

We can truly rejoice with the poet, that The spirit of God like a fire is burning and the latter day glory has come forth. At our recent spiritual meeting the Lord was in our midst. He was felt by many. The meeting was opened by Brother Elmer Santilli, his text was *Moroni 7:27-28*, "Have miracles ceased?" He expounded that our God and our Church is very much alive with miracles and gifts. The Gospel of Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. He told us that we believe in miracles even as the saints of old. He related the recent miracle

Church Calendar

The following is a list of 1977 events of General Church and regional interest. (*Denotes the meeting will be held in the General Church Auditorium in Greensburg, Pa.)

JULY

General Ladies' Circle, Washington, D.C. Mission. July 9, 1977.

California Area Campout, Camp Radford, Calif. July 30-August 6, 1977.

AUGUST

Arizona — District Conference, White River, Arizona. August 20, 21, 1977.

Atlantic Coast — District Conference, Metuchen, New Jersey. August 20, 21, 1977.

California — District Conference, San Diego, California. August 27, 28, 1977.

Florida — District Conference, Ft. Pierce, Florida. August 20, 21, 1977.

Michigan/Ontario — District Conference, Branch No. 2, Michigan. August 24, 25, 26, 1977.

Ohio — District Conference, Cleveland, Ohio. August 27, 28, 1977.

Pennsylvania — District Conference, Fredonia, Pennsylvania. August 20, *21, 1977.

SEPTEMBER

Pennsylvania Area M.B.A. Campout. September 2, 3, 4, 5, 1977.

General Church Mission Board Meeting, Branch No. 1, Detroit, Michigan. September 24, 1977.

OCTOBER

General Ladies' Circle, Detroit, Michigan. October 1, 1977.

Finance Committee Meeting, Aliquippa, Pa. October 8, 1977, 10:00 a.m.

General Church Conference, Greensburg, Pa. October 14, 15, 16, 1977.

NOVEMBER

G.M.B.A. Conference, Greensburg, Pa. November *12, *13, 1977.

of Brother Frank Elliott who has leukemia and his life has been spared several times and is now on the road to recovery, praise God, and there are others who have been spared. Yes, we believe in miracles. A special prayer was offered for Sister Meredith Lockwood who is afflicted. God's Blessing were again felt. Then Brother Frank Nardozzi and daughter asked to be anointed. During the prayer, Brother Rocco Biscotti spoke in the gift of tongues. The interpretation was given, "It Shall Be Done."

The word of the Lord came forth with these words as Brother Biscotti was saying, "I want to see and am going to see with the help of the Lord the power of God upon his Apostles, Evangelists and the Elders."

The Spirit of God spoke, "It shall be done, saith the Lord. It shall come soon when this Church shall be above all other Churches, and the power of God shall

be so great that the earth shall be shaken by the Ministry of this Church in these the last days. Brethren, be faithful unto the end. Do not feel discouraged. We are tried in these the last days and we're going to be tried more. Our trials will be so heavy that we shall go on our faces and we shall cry unto the Lord for help and strength. Brother Joe Calabrese, called the "Hymn Jesus Never Fails," Sister Palacios related that she had a vision and inscribed on the wall, Jesus Never Fails." Then Brother Russell Martorana verified this experience because his hymnal was opened to the same hymn No. 341. Closed in prayer by Brother Joe Genaro.

Brother Russell Martorana
Ohio District Secretary

— NEW ARRIVALS —

Congratulations are in order to the proud parents for the indicated new members of their families. New arrivals have been as follows:

Andrea Nicole to Anthony and Lucy DeCaro of San Diego, California;

Nicholas George to Eileen and George Katsaras of Miami, Florida;

John Jason to John and Patricia Vukich of Donora, Pennsylvania;

Maria Antoinette to Fernando and Elaine Mor'e of Monongahela, Pennsylvania;

Janel Renee to John and Sonja Lea of Glassport, Pennsylvania;

David James to Daniel and Jody Louise Dausey of Glassport, Pennsylvania;

Paul Adam to Paul and Nancy Smith of Washington, D.C.;

Anthony Ross to Norma and Debbie Salero of Glassport, Pennsylvania.

— WEDDINGS —

D'ORAZIO - SANTILLI

Mr. Dennis Ralph D'Orazio and Miss Sandra Ann Santilli of Youngstown, Ohio were united in holy wedlock on Saturday, May 21, 1977 at The Church of Jesus Christ.

The ceremony was officiated by Brother Elmer Santilli, uncle of the bride, and Brother A. A. Corrado.

Musical selections were presented by Sister Phyllis Koon of Niles, Ohio, and accompanied by Sister Betty Gennaro of Youngstown, Ohio on the organ.

The newlyweds will reside in Austintown, Ohio.

AUTERITANO - D'AMICO

Michael Auteritano and Lydia Deborah D'Amico were united in holy marriage on Saturday, May 21, 1977 at the University of Rochester Interfaith Chapel.

Brother Ansel D'Amico, uncle of the bride, officiated at the wedding ceremony.

Musical selections were presented by Ronald D'Amico.

The newlyweds will reside in Rochester, New York.

MANCINI - WOMACK

Brother John Mancini and Sister Christine Womack were united in marriage on Saturday, April 9, 1977 at The Church of Jesus Christ in San Diego, California.

The wedding ceremony was officiated by Brother David Majoras.

Musical selections were presented by Brother David Majoras.

The newlyweds are residing in Windon Rock, Arizona.

BALDWIN - STOATS

Brother Frank Baldwin and Sister Wanda Stoats were united in marriage at the Six Nations Reservation on May 21, 1977.

The wedding ceremony was officiated by Brother English Webb of Clairton, Pennsylvania.

● OBITUARIES ●

ANNA PAGANO

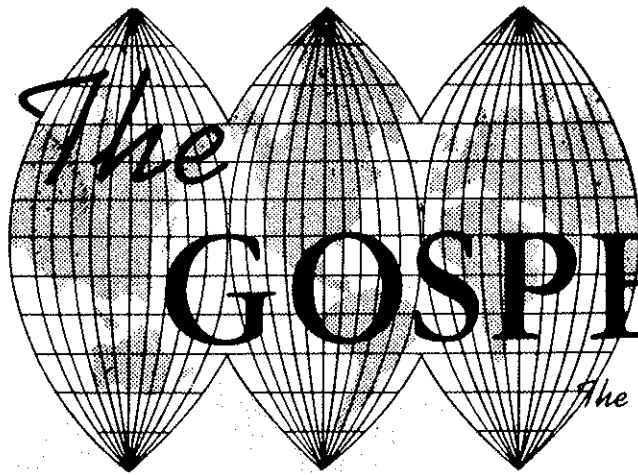
Sister Anna Pagano of the Bronx, New York passed on to her eternal reward on December 4, 1976. She was born October 10, 1899 and was baptized on August 21, 1965.

The funeral services were conducted by Brothers Salvatore Feola and James Link. She leaves to mourn her loss her children and friends. May God comfort them in their great loss. She was a faithful servant of God, and the Brothers and Sisters will all miss her.

MARY TUCKER CHERRY

Sister Mary Tucker Cherry of the Monongahela Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ passed away from this life to her heavenly reward on May 4, 1977. She was one of the old members of our Branch, and a very faithful one. She was born on October 5, 1895.

Her survivors include her husband, Brother Teman Cherry, two daughters, three sons, two brothers, four sisters, fourteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Brother George Johnson and Brother Idris Martin of Monongahela officiated at the funeral services. All who knew Sister Mary will truly miss her. Our prayers are that God will comfort her family.



GOSPEL NEWS

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa.

August, 1977

Volume 33, No. 8

Offices: 6th & Lincoln Sts.

1977 G.M.B.A. CAMPOUT "LOVE"

"LOVE" was the most predominate influence felt at the 1977 G.M.B.A. Campout in Camp Towanda, Homestead, Pennsylvania. Faced with the possible cancellation due to the severe winter and its effects on the school schedules, approximately 325 people gathered in the "cool" Pocono Mountains to enjoy one week of fellowship in the spirit of unity and love.

Early Friday Night the Camp Director, Brother James Huttengerger arrived at the camp along with his committee. This was done to insure the comfort of the people planned to arrive at noon on Saturday, June 18, 1977.

The usual state of "hussle and bussle" accompanied the entire afternoon of Saturday and before the supper meal most people were getting settled in their new home for a beautiful week. The first meal fed proved that we were in for a week of treats. No longer were the complaints of "eggs and hamburgers" from Lutheryn and Wheatstate heard but rather the big question of the day was, what's on the menu? Sam Nordan, the camp owner, kept his word when he said you will be more than satisfied.

Saturday night was spent with Brother Jim Huttenger reviewing the rules of the camp and of G.M.B.A. Welcome remarks were made by the President, Brother Paul Palmieri and Vice-President Brother Don Ross.

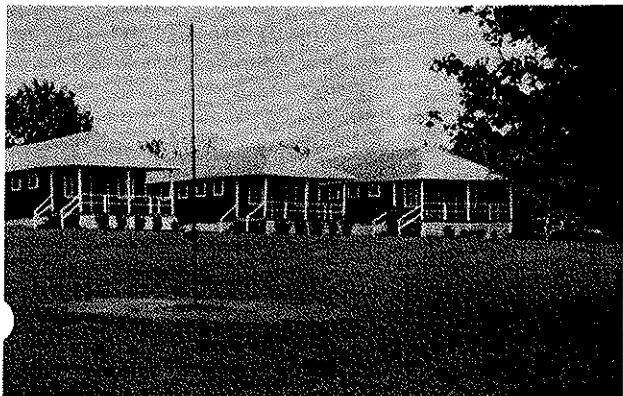
Our Sunday Service was held in the Auditorium and after some beautiful singing, Brother Augie D'Orazio opened the meeting speaking on "King Benjamin's address in the *Book of Mosiah* followed by Brothers Paul D'Amico and James Moore. After the preaching service, we passed the "Lord's Supper" and we could feel that this was going to be an enjoyable week.

Monday we started our first full day of activities as we met in Chapel at 9:30 A.M. Our Chaplain, Brother Richard Scaglione did not make it to camp since he was caught in the prolonged school schedule from the severe winter and gas shortage. Different Brothers were selected each day to fill the office of Chaplain and all did a splendid job.

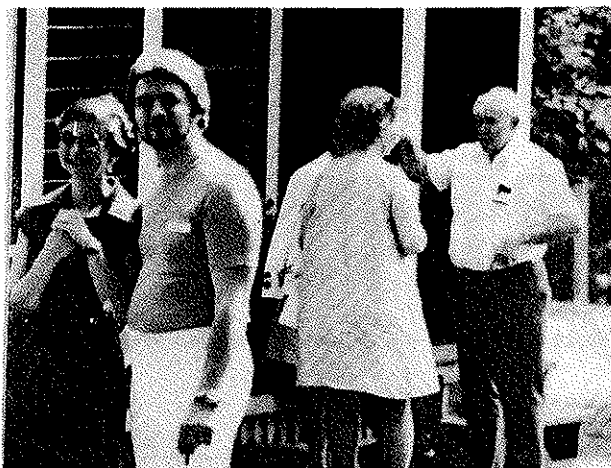
Brother Dominic Moraco reviewed the seminar schedule and Nick Francione and Aaron Dix informed the sports enthusiasts the schedule for the week. Darlene Large then introduced the arts and crafts and we were on our way.

Our evening meetings followed an unplanned procedure of one speaker and the balance of the evening was left to singing and testimony.

Not everything went without problems as Brother Ken Staley fell on Tuesday afternoon and was admitted in the Honesdale Hospital with a concussion. An experience was had that he would be discharged in time to teach his seminar the next day. God was merciful as Brother Ken was discharged and was on the camp grounds at 10:00 A.M. Wednesday.



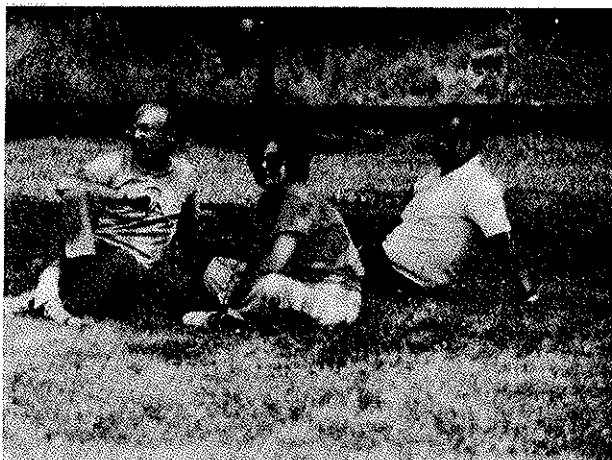
The camp had a beautiful setting as can be seen in the two photos of men's bunk house area and the women's area.



Campouts afford not only time to draw close to God and the Brothers and Sisters, but also allow time for people to socialize and relax.



Tom Everette and Cindy Christman



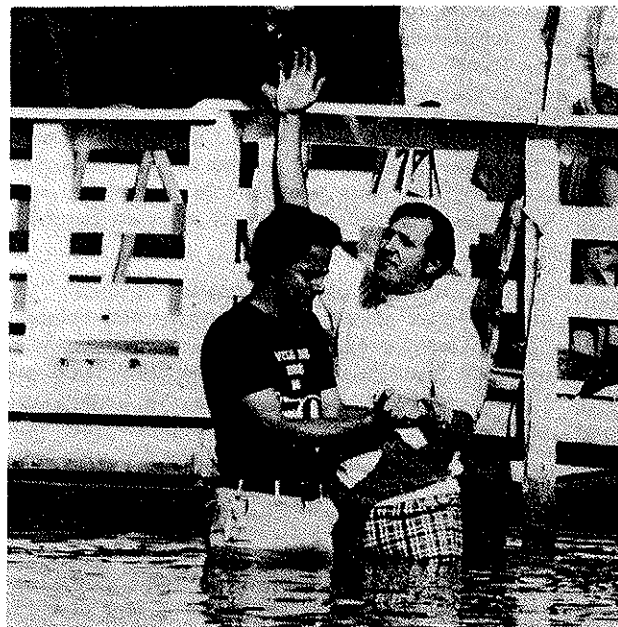
Newly married Larry Watson and wife Venessa and Brother Joe Ciarolla keeping an eye on things.



Ken Lombardo and Florence Risola

Tuesday evening started to see the Spirit of God call individuals into His Kingdom. Brother Ryan Ross of Aliquippa asked to express himself and came up to the

speaker's stand. He told the audience of his struggle and concluded with those five beautiful words "I want to be baptized".

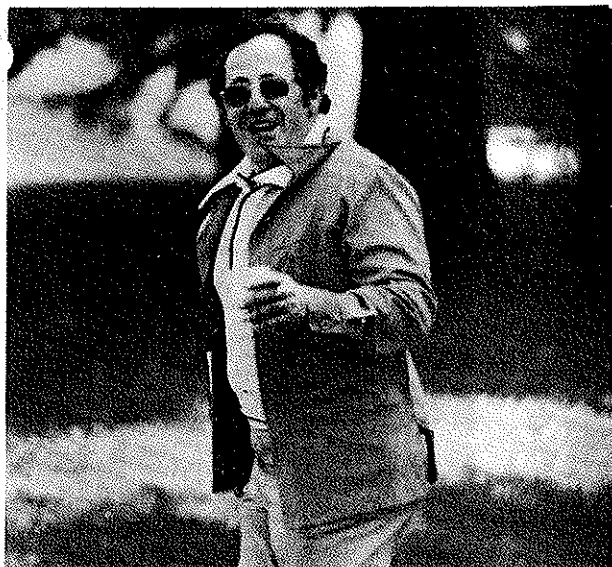


Ryan being baptized by Brother Paul Palmieri

After Ryan came James Brutz who also asked to be baptized. Sister Pam Cole then asked to be a member of The Church and was followed by Susan Speck. It was a beautiful evening and we decided that we would gather at the waters of baptism after Chapel on Wednesday morning.

Wednesday morning at 6:30 A.M. the camp met in fasting and prayer and after Chapel we went to the waters. After the evening meeting Sister Denise Fleming asked to be baptized and she was baptized the next day after lunch.

An important part of Campout is the seminars where different age groups are brought together to discuss the Word of God, The Church and how we can grow in His Love.



Dominic Moraco was the Seminar Chairman



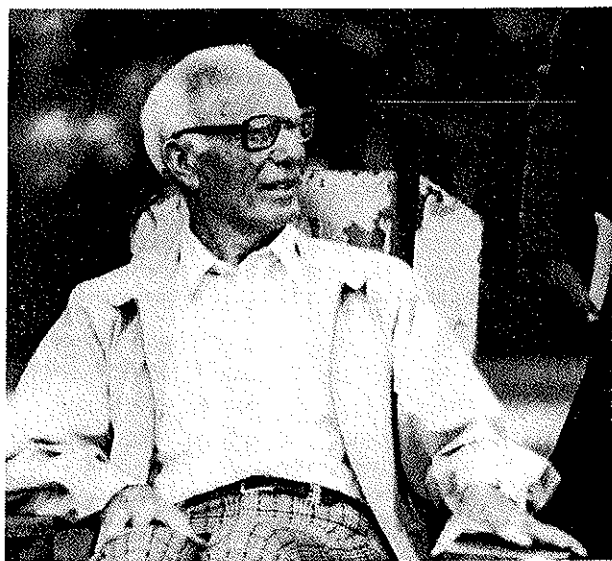
Brother Joe Calabrese taught the class from 36 to 45 years.



Brother Ken Staley and Brother Larry Watson had the class from 15 to 18.



Brother Russ Mortorano's class in the beautiful surroundings of camp.



Brother Rocco Biscotti gave everyone a treat as he rotated and taught a different class everyday and really was a blessing to the camp.

Already the week was half over and you could feel that break-up time was coming. For some it already had come as some had to leave and others were just coming.

Thursday night we had another weiner roast after the meeting and no one was in a hurry to go to bed. At 11:30 P.M. Brother Timothy Gibson and his wife Betty asked to be baptized and did not want to wait until morning. The word went out faster than any technical com-



Timothy and Betty Jean Gibson



Left to right: James Brutz, Denise Fleming, Susan Speck, Pam Cole, Betty Gibson, Tim Gibson, Ryan Ross.

munication and before midnight we were at the waters of baptism. It was a beautiful sight and for some their first night baptism.

Friday proved to be a very full and interesting day as Brother James Hufnagel asked to be baptized after seminars. Before we went to the waters others asked, Brothers Mark Naro asked after seminar, Roger Kirchenfad at the dining hall and Brother Kevin Naro decided to follow his brother in the waters of regeneration along with Brother Dan Mazzeo and Sister Vincenza Troina. Others asked but the officers of G.M.B.A. talked to them and felt it would be better if they went back to their own branches.

No campout would be the same without the rivalry in recreation; softball, volley ball, basketball, tennis, etc. proved to be enjoyed by those who participated.

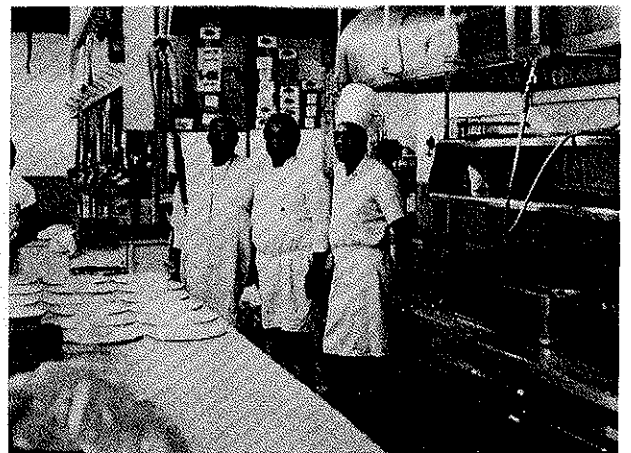
We wish to thank Mr. Sam Nordan and his wife Lynn who made us feel so very comfortable in their camp.



Left to right, top row: Don Ross, Paul Palmieri, John Ali, Joe Calabrese, Augie D'Orazio. Front row: Dan Mazzeo, Roger Kirchenfad, Jim Hufnagel, Mark Naro, Kevin Naro, Vincenza Traina.



The Camp Champs



I mentioned before that the food was great and here are the people responsible.

On Friday evening she presented Brother Rocco Biscotti a beautiful sign of Love and read the following poem:

"Everybody ought To Know is the name of a hymn I heard not too long ago
Listening to the voices sweet, strong and clear
With pride and love,
You can feel very special people are here.
Fellowship rings throughout the camp
It is like the symbol of that precious oil lamp
To arouse the spirit of freedom and trust
You have given to us something we'll never forget
The love you have in your hearts, you do not keep
You give away to others to strengthen and guide.
Now here is a token of what you share
Love and we love you because you care."

Sam and Lynn Nordan and the Towanda Family

* * *

The campout was a huge success only because the Saints and friends assembled there and God blessed us. Many in attendance were heard to remark how peaceful and how love seemed to radiate from all.

Our young people are to be complimented on their conduct and enthusiasm. They always had a smile on their faces and a ready "hello" for all they would meet.

(Continued on page 7)

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

G.M.B.A. CAMPOUT 1977

The General Missionary Benevolent Association Campout for 1977 was held at Camp Towanda, near Honesdale, Pennsylvania, beginning Saturday, June 18 and terminating June 25.

The campsite is nestled in the beautiful Pocono Mountains in the eastern part of the state. The weather throughout the week was mostly sunny and warm during the day and cool and refreshing at night.

This was your editorialist's first opportunity to be present for the entire normal week of campout. It proved to be a rewarding experience in so many ways.

A TIME TO PARTICIPATE

It was a time of renewing acquaintances and making new ones. It was a time to relax, as well as a time to participate in the various activities of the day.

Breakfast in the dining room with so many of the people of God was both appetizing and cheering, a wonderful way to begin the day's routine.

Following this, we gathered at the gymnasium for chapel, to offer devotions to God and to sing songs of praise.

Our next activity was taken up by seminars. These were divided into various age groups. The topics and themes proved to be stimulating, interesting, and informative to teacher and group.

Lunch followed the seminars, again this was a time of hearty eating amid so many of those whom we love in the Lord.

Recreation was the next feature of the daily schedule. Soft ball, volley ball and tennis were the most popular attractions to all who were inclined and able to participate.

REVIVAL, JOY, AND EDIFICATION

After this, the dining room again served as an appetizing and stimulating attraction to all. We were now ready for another gathering at the gymnasium. The spoken word, singing, and testimony brought revival, joy, and edification. Finally, the canteen and campfire served as an enjoyable conclusion to a day of wholesome activity, relaxation, fellowship, and devotion.

Added blessings were experienced in witnessing the baptisms of 13 new converts in the waters of the beautiful camp lake.

Another uplifting event was an early (6:30 a.m.) prayer service at the gymnasium. For such an early time, it was well attended, including many young people. It was a beautiful season of prayer.

Perhaps the biggest disappointment to all in attendance was that campout week passed away so swiftly.

However, it was a week well spent and leaves us with many memories and a desire to look forward with a thrilling anticipation to G.M.B.A. Campout '78.

We bid our readers to endeavor to avail themselves of the opportunity to enjoy a future campout.

May we invite you, "Come to campout and enjoy it, come and help make it more enjoyable."



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

Lydia, A Business Woman

Dear Girls and Boys,

It has been said Lydia was a business woman, and a very busy person. She was a seller of purple. Purple had come to be used by the kings and rich people. This meant that cloth dyed with this color must be rich and finely woven. One had to know how to dye the cloth and also go to the markets and bargain for cloth. Thyatira was famous for its dyeing works.

Lydia left her town of Thyatira and went to live in Philippi, which was a center of trade. She belonged to a Jewish family, so probably there weren't many Jews in Philippi and maybe no Jewish synagogues here. She was devoted to God, the God of Abraham. The Jews of the city worshipped in houses and down by the riverside.

Paul, the great missionary, heard of Philippi in Macedonia and the wickedness there. One night, in a dream, he heard these words, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." Through this experience he felt he was needed to preach there. He took Silas and they went to Philippi for a few days to look the city over. They heard of a group of Jewish women who meet each Sabbath by the river to worship. Paul said, "And on the Sabbath we went out of the city by a riverside, where prayer was wont to be made, and we sat down, and spake unto the women which had resorted thither." Here Paul and Silas told the story of Jesus. These women believed in God, but had not heard of Jesus. Lydia was there. Her heart was touched and she accepted the truth.

Lydia and her household were baptized. She offered her home to Paul and Silas. She said, "If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and abide there." Paul and Silas accepted this gracious invitation and made their home with Lydia while in Philippi.

Sincerely,

Sister Mabel

Note Of Thanks

Brother Dick and Sister Pat Christman would like to thank the Brothers and Sisters for the many cards and prayers in behalf of Brother Dick during his recent illness due to his accident. He is recovering steadily and would appreciate your prayers in the future as he still has one more operation to undergo.

RESTORATION

We all have heard of the restoration of The Church of Jesus Christ, and we understand its significance when compared to the churches of today, especially the power and authority of God. Yet, a question should arise in every Saint's mind: What was the main purpose of the restoration?

Alma told his son Corianton about the word restoration. "And now behold, is the meaning of the word restoration to take a thing of a natural state and place it in an unnatural state? But the meaning of the word restoration is to bring back AGAIN", something which was, or was done.

The Apostles in Jerusalem questioned Jesus, after His resurrection, concerning Israel, asking: "Lord, wilt thou at this time restore AGAIN the kingdom to Israel?" Jesus answered them, "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons which the Father has put in His own power."

The Apostles must have known what the ancient Prophets had spoken concerning the gathering of Jacob's children. Like Isaiah saying, "And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people..." Or Jeremiah's prophecies about Rachel's children, "... Rachel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not." "And there is hope in thine end," saith the Lord, "that thy children shall come AGAIN to their own border."

Even as Alma was to speak to his son of natural and unnatural states, Jacob, the brother of Nephi, wrote on the plates the words of Zenos the Prophet. And they were, "...the branches of the natural tree will I graft in AGAIN into the natural tree."

But what of Jesus' words to His Apostles in Jerusalem? He also spoke many words to His Disciples in this land. "For thus it behooves the Father that it (the Book of Mormon) should come forth from the Gentiles, that He may show forth His power unto the Gentiles. And when these things come to pass THAT THY SEED SHALL BEGIN TO KNOW THESE THINGS (restoration of the Church, Book of Mormon, and gathering of Israel) IT SHALL BE A SIGN UNTO THEM, THAT THEY MAY KNOW THAT THE WORK OF THE FATHER HAS ALREADY COMMENCED UNTO THE FULFILLING OF THE COVENANTS WHICH HE HAS MADE UNTO THE PEOPLE WHO ARE OF THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL."

Jesus then continued by telling them of what would eventually transpire. "And they shall assist my people, the remnant of Jacob, and also many of the House of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem. And they shall assist my people that they may be gathered in, who are scattered upon all the face of the land, in unto the New Jerusalem. And then shall the power of heaven come down among them; and I also will be in the midst."

1977 G.M.B.A. CAMPOUT "LOVE" . . .
(Continued from page 4)



Campout 1977 was a great place to be. Brother Tony Scolaro and his wife Angela and Brother Lou Ross and wife Jenny.

Saturday came and words fail to describe all the feelings as Brother Paul Palmieri and Brother Don Ross made their closing remarks. To mention all those who worked so hard would require space that is prohibited, but Thank God we have people who care about people.

Following is a list of those baptized at the camp:

1. Ryan Ross, Aliquippa, Pa.
2. James Brutz, Tucson, Arizona
3. Pam Cole, Modesto, California
4. Susan Speck, Levittstown, Pa.
5. Denise Fleming, Vanderbilt, Pa.
6. Betty Jean Gibson, Aliquippa, Pa.
7. Timothy E. Gibson, Aliquippa, Pa.
8. James Hufnagel, Cleveland, Ohio
9. Mark Naro, Lorain, Ohio
10. Roger Kirchenfad, Miami, Florida
11. Kevin Naro, Lorain, Ohio
12. Dan Mazzeo, New Brunswick, N. J.
13. Vincenza Antonena Traina, Hopelawn, N. J.

James D. Gibson
G.M.B.A. Editor

WHAT IS THE TRUE CHURCH?

"Five years ago faith came to me; I believed in the doctrine of Jesus, and all my life suddenly changed. I ceased to desire that which previously I desired, and, on the other hand, I took to desiring what I had never desired before. That which formerly used to appear good in my eyes appeared evil, that which used to appear evil appeared good."

I dare say each one of us of The Church of Jesus Christ can claim the above as a personal testimony. We are thankful for the blessing of following Jesus, who is the way, the truth and the life; the way we can go, the truth we can know, and the life we can live. Let us go on. TRUE CHURCH

"The Church composed of those that sought to unite men in unity by the solemn affirmation that it alone was the truth, has long since fallen to decay.

"But The Church composed of men united, not by promises or consecrations, but by deeds of truth and love, has always lived and will live forever. This Church, now as then, is made up not of those that say, "Lord, Lord," and work iniquity, but of those that hear the words of truth and reveal them in their lives.

"The members of this Church know that life is to them a blessing if they do not destroy the unity of the Son of Man; and that the blessing will be lost only to those that do not obey Christ's commands. And so the members of this Church cannot help practicing Christ's commands and teaching them to others.

"Whether this Church be in numbers little or great, it is, nevertheless, The Church that shall never perish, The Church in which all men will be united."

The above were taken from the writings of Leo Tolstoy, who near the age of 50 years had experienced a spiritual conversion, and were written around the year 1880. His famous novels WAR AND PEACE and ANNA KARENINA were written before his conversion. By choice he began to live a life of poverty and his later writings until his death in 1910, tell of the teachings of Jesus Christ, the necessity of prayer, our duty towards humanity. He was greatly devoted to Jesus; to greater and greater knowledge of divine truth.

As the true Church of Jesus Christ, as brother and sister, let us strive for that unity, so that The Church may not perish. As Paul says in *Ephesians* 4, 3 "endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace," and in verse 13, "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."

Sister Helen Kovacs
Wittensville, Kentucky

Coloring Books For Sale

If you want to convey the message of The Restoration to your children, friends, neighbors, give them a coloring book, telling the story of The Gospel Restored and The Church of Jesus Christ.

Just write to the following for as many books as you want. The cost is \$.75 per book.

Joe Ross
Ross Drive
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

Alex Gentile
11294 Suffolk Drive
Southgate, MI 48195

John Ross, Jr.
119 W. Saguaro
Casa Grande, Ariz. 85222

Joe Draskovich
527 Fairfield Drive
Greensburg, Pa. 15601

BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS:—

Tijuana Mission News

Anticipation was the key word for about two weeks as everyone at the Tijuana Mission excitedly waited for Sunday. The church filled up quickly as Brothers and Sisters from Mexico and California took their seats. While we waited for the Missionary Board Elders to come into the meeting the children sang and recited scriptures. After that, all the children were taken outside to make room for adults.

The Mexican Missions have three different hymn books they use; two they buy and a third is a home-made book mainly with hymns written by Brother Eugenio Mora and some by Brother Ramon Anaya of Sinaloa. Through much hard wear these books were falling apart and disappearing.

When Sister Santina Mercuri heard that we needed more hymn books, she volunteered to make us some. Since she wanted to go into the book binding business this was a good excuse to buy more equipment. She made 800 books, including the hymns we sing from the other two books and put a green flexible cover on them. For the Mexican ministers she made special hard bound books with brown covers and their names on them in gold. These books will be used in Tijuana, Mexico City, Ahome Sinaloa and also Michoagan.

The hymn books were dedicated to the glory of God by Brother John Azzinaro after a brief talk about taking care of them and not taking them home.

Music was provided by all kinds of choirs; the Tijuana Choir, the Men's Choir, the Tijuana Young People's Choir and the San Diego Young People's Choir. Everyone wanted to sing.

The first speaker of the day was Brother Tom Liberto of San Diego. He is the President of the California District. He spoke from *Isaiah* about the coal of fire touching the prophet and touching Brother Juan at this time, the missionary journeys of Alma, and the sons of Mosiah were discussed also.

Sister Gloria Rivas was called up front to have her feet washed before being ordained a Deaconess. She is a very humble Sister with a heart of gold and a firm dedication to God and The Church.

As Brother Joe Lovalvo spoke about Sister Gloria being a Deaconess a soft tenderness seemed to be in his words. It was a touching moment, nice to remember. Sister Gloria's feet were washed by Sister Maria Soto, a Tijuana Deaconess of many years. Brother Joe Lovalvo took time to explain why we wash feet to set someone apart for the ministry.

Brother Joe Ciarolla, filled with the Spirit of God, washed Brother Juan's feet, saying that he had loved this Brother with the love of God from the first time he met Brother Juan.

The congregation sang, "Nearer My God To Thee" in Spanish, and Sister Gloria was ordained by Brother Vincente Arce of Tijuana.

Somewhere along the way the Canadian wind blew some unexpected Saints into our meeting. They were

Brother Allan Henderson, his son and daughter-in-law, Doug and Ethel, all from Windsor, Canada; also his son, Brother Otto, and his daughter-in-law, Sister Dorothy, who live in Anaheim. Brother Henderson from Canada hadn't been to Tijuana in many years, and it was good to see him again. Brother Allan and Brother Otto are both Elders so they made room for them with the ministers.

When it was time to ordain Brother Juan, all the Elders made a circle around him. Brother Edward Perdue, who has been in charge of the Mexican work, felt to ask God in prayer to choose the right minister to ordain Brother Juan. The Holy Spirit worked on Brother Allan Henderson. He reached for the bottle and began to pray. These two men had never met before but God verified Brother Juan's calling through Brother Henderson. During his prayer Brother Henderson sang in the spirit. These are the words he sang, "Oh, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, how you love your people, how you have chosen this, our Brother, and sending him out into the fold of Thy great work." Brother Henderson hadn't sung in the spirit for many years.

Sister Gloria was asked to relate the dream she had the night before concerning the Church in Ahome, Sinaloa where they were going. They were going there because the Elder there passed away a while ago and the Mission was left without a minister.

"My name is Gloria Rivas. I want to tell the following to my dear Brothers and Sister in Christ. May the peace of the Lord be with all of you. After those short greetings which I send with all my heart I desire to tell you a vision I had the 1st of May. About 3:00 in the morning I was awake. I shut my eyes and I saw myself in the Church of Ahome, Sinaloa. It was full of people but afterward there was no one that went to the Church and all that were left were 3 people, my husband and myself, and we asked the question, 'Why?' Then I saw myself kneeling near my husband praying to the Lord and I understood at that moment that we were to pray constantly and then I saw my husband and myself walking to homes inviting people to come to the Church. And immediately again, I found myself in the Church but this time it was full of people and at the same time I heard a voice saying, 'The power is with these'. Then a group was raised of men and women and my husband was in the center of the men and I in the center of the women, and I understood that this group that was raised of men and women also would be in the service of the Lord, and I saw that it was a new Church. I thought that it was a church in Tijuana that was to be built, but then I felt myself flying and recognized the town of Ahome and the Church of Ahome that was built and that it was on the lot that was purchased for the Church. We were having a service and the Church was full of people and then I heard a voice saying, 'Where I put my Church no one has the power to take it away'. And again the voice said, 'This is my Church that I put in this town to recover my people'. It was a very sweet voice that when I heard it I felt that I could hardly contain myself and that I was going to faint, not with fear but with joy, a joy so great that I had never felt before.

This was my experience that the Lord gave me regarding His Holy Church. May the Lord bless you."

Gloria Rivas

The following are some experiences had at the Tijuana Mission the day Brother Juan Rivas was ordained an Elder and his wife, Sister Gloria, was ordained a Deaconess.

Sister Celestina, one of the Mission's Deaconesses was standing to one side with a towel in her hands ready to hand it to the Sister who was washing Sister Gloria's feet. As she stood there, a young man in the congregation, who did not belong to the Church saw her, Sister Celestina, all dressed in white and the towel in her hands shone like a bright light. Later, he asked her if the Deaconesses always dressed like that at ordinations.

During Brother Joe Lovalvo's preaching, this same young man heard his whole sermon in Spanish and could not understand why Brother Perdue was repeating everything he said. He was surprised to find out that Brother Joe was speaking in English and Brother Perdue was interpreting for him.

Right after Brother Juan was ordained a Teacher, he and his wife and family moved to Sinaloa. They began working with people and held meetings every night. Thanks to God the people responded with good attendance. Our Brother and Sister love it there and are very happy to be in the service of the Lord.

Brother Joe Lovalvo's preaching was on the authority of the ministry. His sermon contained many wonderful experiences and an exhortation to fast and pray for the seed of Joseph. He spoke about the General Church Conference back East and the feeling there concerning fasting and praying. Thursday was set aside for fasting. During the meeting the three Nephites made an appearance. One of them went up on the rostrum with Brother Dominic Thomas, our Church President. Continuing his sermon, Brother Joe talked about the Mexican work in Mexico City and in Sinaloa, saying that God would provide. He mentioned that one Brother had offered to provide a house for the Rivas family when he heard that they didn't have any home in Sinaloa.

Brother Juan spoke next and was filled with God's Holy Spirit as he praised the Lord by reading *Psalms* 113. He said that when he was ordained it felt as if Brother Henderson's hands had fire in them.

Since Brother Henderson was here from Canada we gladly took advantage of his presence and asked him to speak to us. He told of building the Windsor Church building in Canada and that they started with only \$50.00 and how God brought the money in. After Brother Henderson spoke, Brother Velardi from Florida spoke a few words to us.

After Brother Otto Henderson offered the closing prayer, lunch was served in the Sunday School room. Some of the Mexican Brothers and Sisters who like their food half and half (half American and half Spanish) joined our visitors for lunch. In the Church kitchen the rest of the Mexican people and children had Mexican food. At least 200 people were served. This time, the Mexican Sisters did everything themselves, as well as other times. They wouldn't even tell Brother and Sister Perdue what they were making for lunch so it would be a surprise.

Well, that ended another wonderful day for the Tijuana Mission.

As we look out over Mt. San Antonio near our Church and we see the tower of Channel 6 and Channel 12 and know its signal is reaching out over the city of San Diego and over Tijuana like hands reaching across the border to send out its programming to all who will listen, so we look to our Mission standing as a little tower sending forth the Gospel to all who will listen to receive its word, the Lord Jesus Christ and the Restored Gospel.

Tijuana Mission

Birthdays

It was brought to my mind recently, how that the birth of a new-born child was truly a blessed event. Likewise, the rebirth of a soul is equally, if not more blessed.

On Sunday, May 2, 1977 we at Branch No. 1 in Detroit, Michigan gave special love to Sister Mary Johnson and Brother Julius Cola. On March 21, 1977 Brother Julius Cola celebrated his 50th birthday in The Gospel, while on April 24, Sister Mary Johnson celebrated her 56th Birthday in our Church.

To heighten the day's events a cake was presented. Also, Sister Mary received a corsage of orchids and Brother Julius a carnation for his lapel.

Sister Mary is one of the five original members to be baptized in the Michigan-Ontario District. It is through people like Sister Mary and Brother Julius, that the Gospel takes on its true meaning. They have always been good examples of what Christ has asked us all to be.

They are surely, loving and gentle reminders of the words of Christ, "Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein".

My Brother and Sister are strong in the spirit, yet have been throughout the many years, submissive and obedient servants of the Lord.

From the entire Branch I send warm greetings of a very Happy Birthday and a prayer for many more.

Sister Diana Thompson

Near And Far

On Sunday, May 15, 1977 our wonderful morning service began by welcoming two unexpected speakers. We at Branch No. 1 in Detroit, Michigan asked Brother Carl Frammolino, of the Sterling Heights Branch and Brother John Griffith, from Bentleyville, Pennsylvania, to open our meeting as the spirit might direct them.

Brother Carl took the opportunity to call Brothers Dave DiBattista, Peter Scolaro, and Tom Everett up to the front. He and the other Brothers then sang the hymn, "Where can I go?".

Brother John Griffith opened our meeting in prayer, following which Brother Carl began to speak. Keeping with the thought, "Where can I go?", Brother Carl told us an experience. It happened to Brother Paul Whitton, after coming into The Church. Brother Paul had received his draft notice and was disturbed. He didn't know what to do, realizing that our Church did not believe in the bearing of arms. It concerned him especially when he found himself in the army, training on the rifle range.

He wrote to Brother Cadman, asking him what to do. Brother Cadman never told him directly what he should do, but rather wrote back using a section from the Faith and Doctrine of our Church. It states that, "We believe in being subject to Kings, Queens, Presidents, Rulers and Magistrates; in obeying, honoring and sustaining the Laws".

At that point Brother Paul Whitton understood that he must submit to the laws of the land. Brother Paul put himself in God's hands, and throughout his whole time in the service he never had to use his rifle.

Brother Carl then proceeded to tell us of several experiences he has had. He thanked us for our prayers and cards in his wife's behalf. Brother Carl said that he knew it was only by the grace of God and the prayers of the Saints that he and his wife, Joanne, have made it through very trying times.

Brother Carl's message was simple and quite clear, "When we go to Jesus all our cares are gone."

Brother John Griffith as our next speaker, gave us the opposite side of the coin. He said, "God has never failed us. His responsibility to man has always been fulfilled and we likewise have a responsibility to God."

He used one of his sons as an example of accepting responsibility. He said their dog, Clancy, is having a tough time of it lately because it is his son's job to feed him. Brother John said that at times Clancy doesn't get fed until late at night.

Brother John's point was sometimes we are ALL a little like his son, we would like to put off duties which the Lord has given us to do.

In one of his final thoughts, Brother John said, "We have a responsibility to both God and His Church. It is expected of each one of His children."

Brother Jerry Benyola then requested of Sisters Marilyn Scolaro, Cathy Perkins, and Carolyn Griffith that they come to the front and sing, "The Gospel is Restored".

As our morning service was closed, we were filled with renewed spirits of love and duty. We thank God for our two visiting Brothers, who came from distances, both near and far.

Sister Diana Thompson

Ordination In Branch No. 2

Brother R. James Cotellesse was called into the office of Teacher in The Church of Jesus Christ on Sunday, March 13, 1977. Brother Jim was baptized on November 13, 1956 and was ordained a Deacon in 1957.

Following the feet washing services, Brother Jim was "set-apart" as his feet were washed by Brother Alex Gentile. He was then ordained by Brother Frank Morie.

We pray that God will bless Brother Jim in this new responsibility and give him His Spirit.

News From Youngstown, Ohio

On Sunday, April 24, 1977 we were happy to have Brother Raymond and Sister Mary Cosetti of Cape Coral, Florida in our midst. Brother and Sister Cosetti are for-

mer members of Youngstown Branch and it is always good to see them.

The following Sunday, May 1, Brother Joseph Genaro and family of Niles, Ohio visited us per the Evangelist schedule. Brother Joe spoke on the mountain of the Lord to be established as found in *Isaiah 2:3*. This is the latter-day work in which we will be nursing mothers and fathers to Israel. Brother Genaro emphasized that when the Lord tells us to move in doing this work, we MUST move.

On Sunday, May 8, the Youngstown Quartet sang several selections, one of them was, "One Day At A Time", which was enjoyed by all. Our Presiding Elder, Brother A. A. Corrado used for his text *Matthew 7:24-27* and *Revelation 3:20-22*. Brother Corrado asked, "Are we built upon the solid rock or a sandy foundation?" We must build upon that Rock, which is our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, if we want the Lord to take care of us. If you want that hope of eternal life with Christ, you must make preparations in this life to obtain your reservation. Brother Richard Santilli followed on the same subject, saying that there is no better foundation than Christ. Christ came that we might have spiritual happiness and that we might have a place in His Father's house.

We at Youngstown Branch extend an invitation to all to come and worship with us.

May God bless you.

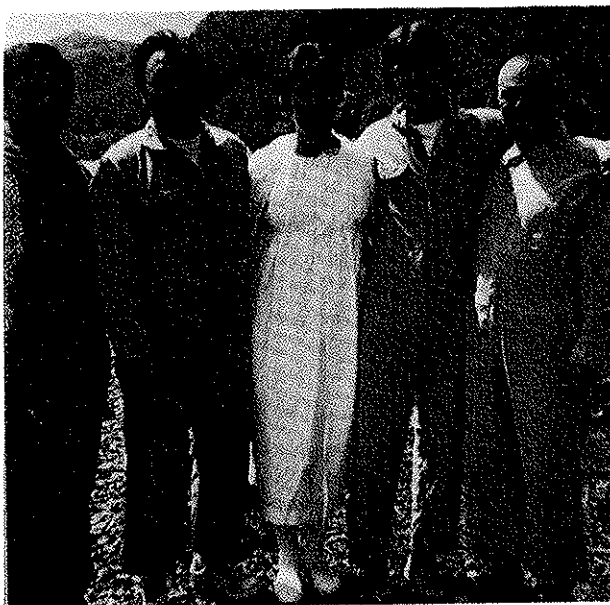
Sister Annette Corrado
Youngstown Branch Editor

3 Baptisms, Visitors At Roscoe Branch Abiding Love

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We rejoice to share the good news of three more souls being added to the fold of God. On Sunday, June 26, we had Brother Duane Lowe and his family with us from Tampa Mission in Tampa, Florida. At the beginning of the morning service, Brother Lowe and family along with several others who had attended the GMBA Campout in the Pocono Mountains, which ended the day before, sang us two selections with a few beautiful comments from Brother Lowe concerning the blessings felt at the Campout. These were used as our opening hymns and Brother Lowe opened the meeting by speaking from *I. John 1:15-17* encouraging us to love God and not the world and the things therein that keep us from serving God. He also spoke on *II. Timothy 3:1-7* concerning the last days and perilous times we are living in. He spoke under the inspiration of God's Spirit, which was enjoyed by all.

In our afternoon service Brother James Campbell, from Monongahela Branch spoke to us concerning the importance of the making of decisions in our life. He told of his own personal experience in coming into the Church of Jesus Christ, encouraging all to draw nearer to the Lord. Brother Fred O'Lexa followed, commenting on the words of our brethern. His message also was filled with words of life and the love and Spirit of God. Shortly after, a hymn was called, which was given from the Lord. After singing, "Why do you Wait Dear Brother?", Brother Jonathan O'Lexa arose to his feet with the spirit of repentance and expressed his desire to be baptized. A



Left to right: Fred O'lexa, John Bilsky, JoAnn Devore, Jonathan O'lexa, B. J. Martin.

Brother felt to have prayer and another hymn was sung, "Pass Me Not", after which Brother John Bilsky arose and stated his desire to go along with Jonathan to the waters of baptism. Immediately after he was seated, Sister Jo Ann Devore asked for her baptism. We soon gathered at the Monongahela River and witnessed three new converts make a covenant with the Lord and follow the example set by our Lord Jesus Christ and go into the waters of baptism. Several Brothers and Sisters from Monongahela and Greensburg Branches were present and returned with us to the Church to see our Brothers and Sister confirmed by the laying on of hands by the ministry. Brother Fred O'lexa baptized his son, Jonathan O'lexa and also baptized Brother John (Buck) Bilsky. Brother B. J. Martin baptized Sister Jo Ann Devore. Brother Jonathan was confirmed by his grandfather, Brother John O'lexa, Monongahela Branch. Sister Jo Ann was confirmed by Brother Duane Lowe, Tampa Mission, and Brother Bilsky was confirmed by Brother Gasper Karelli. Immediately following the confirmations they remained seated as we sang, "A New Name Written Down In Glory" and were welcomed into the family of God by all present. A wonderful spirit was felt.

Brother Bob Nicklow from Monongahela expressed himself and said although he couldn't make it to the rivershore in time to witness the baptisms, he was thankful he was able to see the fruits of the spirit working upon Brother Jonathan and Brother Bilsky while they attended the GMBA Campout a few days before. He also told of a dream he had had that morning; that he had a key in his hand and went to his father's house to open the door. He said since his natural father has passed away and is no longer living in the house, he felt it showed to him it was his spiritual Father's house. He also said he had a strong desire to come to Roscoe but was reluctant to come. He said that he felt that morning, after considering his dream and desires to come to Roscoe and, thinking over a scripture given to him that morning; one that he and Brother Bilsky had discussed at the camp a few days before, that the day would not pass without someone being baptized.

Also, Brother Lowe spoke how he had left the Campout heading for home in Tampa, Florida and had gotten as far as Hagerstown, Maryland, when he and his family had a strong desire to come to Roscoe, where Sister Lowe's grandfather, Brother Karelli lives. Although previously changing their minds about coming to Roscoe from the camp, they felt this strong desire to turn back. Brother Lowe said he went to God in prayer and asked the Lord if this desire was from Him to confirm it by there being baptisms when he got there.

All three of the new converts expressed themselves and the Spirit of God was with us throughout this beautiful day. We felt, as we sing in the hymn, "Heaven came down and glory filled our souls." May the Spirit of God always abide within our new Brothers and Sister and all those who have made a covenant with Him is our prayer. Brother Lowe read from his text in *I. John*, in the morning service, "And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof, but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever." God is so good! Praise His wonderful name!

Sister Bertha Jean Bilsky
Roscoe Branch Editor

P.S. We would like to mention the following evening, Monday, June 27, our Branch met together in fellowship at the home of Brother Sam Kirschner, Apostle. Due to illness he has been confined to his home for some time. We had a beautiful time in fellowship with several songs and testimonies given. It is wonderful to see the peace and love abiding in Brother Sam, which radiates from him, a God-given peace that remains within although he is much afflicted in body. We hope and pray that his health would be restored sufficient enough that he may be able to get about, and to the meetings at Church where all may enjoy his words of wisdom and love. We were all uplifted in our meeting with Brother Sam. Please continue to remember him in prayer.

Fort Pierce, Florida

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We would like to share with you the joy we have felt for two of our Brothers and a Sister here in our Branch.

Brother Dominic and Sister Mary Giovannone celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on May 26th. The Brothers and Sisters of the Branch surprised them on that evening with a visit bringing refreshments. A very enjoyable time was had by all as Brother and Sister Giavannone reminisced about their early years together in marriage as well as in the service of the Lord.

Then on June 4th Brother Michael Di Napoli was given a surprise birthday party at his daughter's home. Brother Mike is 85 years old and thanked God for His goodness toward him. This too was a joyous occasion.

Also over the Memorial Day weekend we had visitors from Warner Robbins, Georgia; Brother Robert and Sister Ruth Morris and family. They were once members here, having lived here, and are now desirous that a way will be opened that they may be able to move back to Ft. Pierce. This is also our desire for they have been missed very much.

God Bless you all is our prayer.

Your Sister In Christ,
Sister Mary Glover
Ft. Pierce Branch

— WEDDINGS —

RAV - JENIO

Delbert John Rau, Jr. and Gloria Jean Jenio were joined in Holy Matrimony at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ on Saturday, June 11, 1977.

Brother Louis Vitto officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were presented by Wayne Conti. Brother Ralph Frammolino accompanied him at the piano.

CALABRESE - WEBBER

Brother David Calabrese and Miss Madelyn Marlene Webber were united in Holy Wedlock on Saturday, May 14, 1977 in Lorain, Ohio at the home of the groom.

Brother Joseph Calabrese officiated at the wedding ceremony.

The newlyweds will reside in Lorain, Ohio.

EVERETT - GEROWSKI

Brother Dennis S. Everett and Miss Karen E. Gerowski were united in Holy Matrimony on Saturday, May 14, 1977 at The Church of Jesus Christ, Branch No. 1, in Detroit, Michigan.

Brother Spencer Everett, the groom's father joined the couple in marriage.

Musical selections were presented by Brother Eugene and Sister Donna Amormino.

The newlyweds will reside in Mt. Clemens, Michigan.

● OBITUARIES ●

SILVERIO MAZZELLA

Brother Silverio Mazzella of the Bronx, New York Branch passed on to his heavenly reward on December 31, 1976. Funeral services were conducted by Brothers James Link, Dominick Rose and Salvatore Feola.

He is survived by his wife and children. May the Lord comfort them. Brother Silverio was a faithful and devoted servant of God. The Brothers and Sisters will all miss his warmth and kindness.

THERESA (KARELLI) SABARESE

Sister Theresa Sabarese passed on to eternity on May 11, 1977. She was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ and attended the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch. She was born on May 7, 1919 and was baptized on August 7, 1938.

Left to mourn her loss are her husband, her father, one brother and one sister.

Brother J. Fred O'Lexa officiated at the funeral services.

Sister Theresa was faithful to the Lord until her death and always was quick to give her testimony of His goodness to her.

MARY CALABRESE MANTIN

Mary Calabrese Mantin of Lorain, Ohio passed on from this life on May 8, 1977.

She is survived by her husband, one daughter, grandchildren, and many brothers and sisters.

Funeral services were conducted by her Brothers Frank and Joseph Calabrese.

JOHN ALLAN CALDWELL

Brother John Allan Caldwell of Lorain, Ohio passed on to his reward on Saturday, July 2, 1977. He was born on March 8, 1899 and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ at Glassport, Pa., on December 14, 1941.

The funeral services were conducted by Brothers Frank and Joseph Calabrese.

Left to mourn his loss are his wife, one son, one daughter, four grandchildren and one brother.

Church Calendar

The following is a list of 1977 events of General Church and regional interest. (*Denotes the meeting will be held in the General Church Auditorium in Greensburg, Pa.)

AUGUST

Arizona — District Conference, White River, Arizona. August 20, 21, 1977.

Atlantic Coast — District Conference, Metuchen, New Jersey. August 20, 21, 1977.

California — District Conference, San Diego, California. August 27, 28, 1977.

Florida — District Conference, Ft. Pierce, Florida. August 20, 21, 1977.

Michigan/Ontario — District Conference, Branch No. 2, Michigan. August 24, 25, 26, 1977.

Ohio — District Conference, Cleveland, Ohio. August 27, 28, 1977.

Pennsylvania — District Conference, Fredonia, Pennsylvania. August 20, *21, 1977.

SEPTEMBER

Pennsylvania Area M.B.A. Campout. September 2, 3, 4, 5, 1977.

General Church Mission Board Meeting, Branch No. 1, Detroit, Michigan. September 24, 1977.

OCTOBER

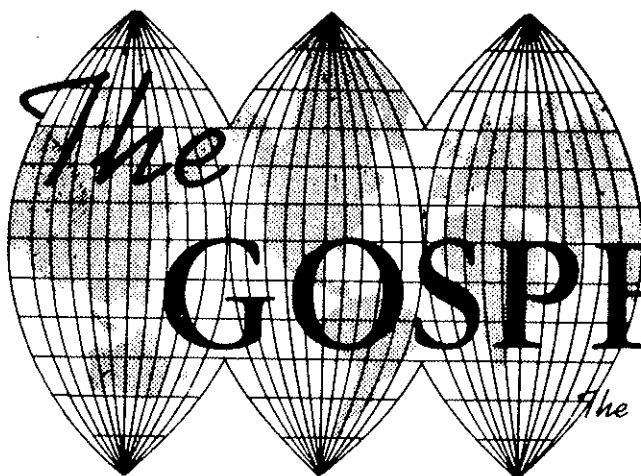
General Ladies' Circle, Detroit, Michigan. October 1, 1977.

Finance Committee Meeting, Aliquippa, Pa. October 8, 1977, 10:00 a.m.

General Church Conference, Greensburg, Pa. October 14, 15, 16, 1977.

NOVEMBER

G.M.B.A. Conference, Greensburg, Pa. November *12, *13, 1977.



NEWS

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa.

September, 1977

Volume 33, No. 9

Offices: 6th & Lincoln Sts.

ARE WE CHILDREN OF CHANCE, OR CHILDREN OF CHOICE?

Most of us have been told from childhood that we are children of chance. That is the teaching of evolution. Psychiatrists tell us all along that we are the victims of our childhood, but can that be true? Are our personalities locked into patterns that cannot be changed? Are we doomed to an abnormal life because of our parents that did not treat us right? Are the stars responsible for our behavior, as the astronomers and fortune tellers believe? Or is it a case of the blind leading the blind?

If we came to this life by chance, how was it that a poor fisherman as Simon Bar Jona became a Stone, or Peter and John, the Son of Thunder, to become a loving character to be known as the beloved disciple. What changed him? What happened to the followers of Jesus? Who gave them such fortitude, and rare courage to die willingly for their faith? Was their heredity different than other men, or their childhood? Or was it Jesus? They changed the destiny of the world and awakened civilization to a sense of justice, and brought about the dignity of men. Even our calendar starts at the birth of their leader, Jesus of Nazareth.

What made man so weak, so inconsistent, so fearful, so uncertain? Something happened in the Garden of Eden. Something happened to Adam and Eve, and when it happened to our first parents, it happened to us also—the whole human race. Something happened to all mankind even yet unborn. Before this tragedy, Adam's delight was to serve the Lord his God. His fellowship with his God did not restrict his life. It was not a hardship to wait on the Lord and obey Him.

This was all changed — why? By one man, sin entered into the world, and death by sin. And so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. *Romans 5:12.*

What kind of nature do we have today? We are carnal, sold under sin. That which I do I allow not, for what I would, that I do not, but what I hate, that I do. It is not I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. *Romans 7:14.* The natural man is a slave to sin, he is a slave to his heredity. No one can describe it better than the apostle Paul, who finishes his discourse by saying, "Oh,

wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin. *Romans 7:24-25.* What did Jesus do to our predicament? Forgiveness is only part of the answer.

What can God do about it? Again, Paul brings this happy revelation in *Romans 8:3* . . . God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit.

We were not created by chance, but are the children of choice. We make the choice by our own free will whom we will serve. Yes, the choice is solely ours. Jesus cried over Jerusalem. It did not have to happen, but they chose not to believe in Jesus. Man must be free to choose either life or death — to receive or to reject. God grieves over our ill choice, but will not force us to the contrary of our choice. We alone make the fateful decision, or a joyful one. God Himself waits for us with loving, open arms and knocks at the door of our heart, but we and we alone must open that door. He will not force Himself on us. God sent His only begotten Son that we may not perish, if we choose to believe in Him. A decision was made in our favor and for our eternal life, not on the cross, but in the Garden of Gethsemane. Once, in the Garden of Eden, a decision was made to rebel against God, but this time in another garden another decision was made. "Not as I will, but as thou wilt, thy will be done."

Jesus was obedient in all things even unto death. He completely surrendered to the will of the Father. In this He paid our debt for us there in the Garden. The decision was made in the Garden, but the price was paid on Calvary, and the victory came from the open tomb. Therefore, through Jesus Christ alone can we overcome our evil nature. We cannot overcome by joining a church, or by any baptism performed of men, but by a full surrender unconditionally before God, as Jesus did. Then, and then only, can we realize the pure gift of God to us. As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the Sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. Only after man truly realizes the plight of his hopeless estate, and sees the hope of life through Jesus

(Continued on page 2)

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCH IN GHANA, W. AFRICA

Brother Ross:

The Church of Jesus Christ is progressing. We are all the time accepted wherever we go. The ordinances of the church are beautiful.

One problem is this, when we go any place we get many souls but when the church is completely established many of them go out. These are some of the complaints they give:

1. The members do not drink alcoholic drinks.
2. We do not smoke.
3. We do not fornicate and again practice polygamy.

These are some of the things which has hindered them from the church.

But all the time I am comforted by the words of Nephi, "And it came to pass that I beheld the church of the lamb of God and its numbers were few, because of the wickedness and abominations of the whore who sat upon many waters, nevertheless, I beheld that the church of the Lamb, who were the Saints of God were also upon all the face of the earth, and their dominions were small, because of the wickedness of the great whore whom I saw."

Everything is moving smoothly in the church. The next missions board report to you will be very favourable.

It is the Lord who is doing the work. He knows I am too young to lead this popular and most beautiful church in the world, so He has given me wisdom, power and knowledge to lead the church. Everything is moving smoothly. Pray for me.

The Church of Jesus Christ in Ghana salutes all the brethren in America. God bless you.

I sign off with love from Ghana.

Elder Ford Kankam Boadu

ARE WE CHILDREN OF CHANCE . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

Christ, the only begotten of the Father; yes, only then can he come with a broken heart and a contrite spirit into baptism, fully immersed into the waters in the likeness of the death and burial of Jesus, and rise out of the water in the likeness of Jesus Christ, the Lord of Lords, King of Kings. Then, and only then, will our vile nature change, becoming His child, finding delight in serving, loving and being loved.

by Mark Randy

Lost:

A square white gold black onyx ring with a seven point diamond in center. Lost somewhere in Ohio. A valuable gift. If found please contact Sister Edna Bittinger, Box 204, West Leisenring, Pa. 15489.

CAN THERE ANY GOOD COME OUT OF NAZARETH?

"Philip findeth Nathanael, and said unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

And Nathanael said unto him, "Can there any good come out of Nazareth?" Philip saith unto him, "Come and see." John 1:45-46

The land, the land Israel as now known to modern man; what does it hold? The very air and ground breathe the pristine beliefs of man to the eschatological fulfillment of the promise of wars, rumors of wars, the finality of Armageddon. It is a land molded as clay by rulers rampaging through it, empires fighting for it—but always the land remains. Hurrians, Hittites, Egyptians, Assyrians, Babylonians, Grecians, Persians, Macedonians, Romans; all have plunged into the land, enslaving the people, slaughtering numbers that the very ground became saturated in blood, but always there remained the land.

How large is this land we speak of—small to be sure, but replete with conquerors and conquered. Let us look back to the time where, short though it was, peace reigned. At the northern extremity of this area, nestled in the cul de sac of the easternmost part of the Mediterranean, is the lofty and snow-capped Mount Hermon. At its feet lies the town of Dan. Looking in a rapid scan southward, the barrenness present is disrupted by a series of seven wells, called Beer-Sheba. The central elevations drop into a wilderness flat called the south country, the Negev. From Dan to Beer-Sheba is only 150 air miles. Over 3,000 years ago, it was traversed by camel caravans at a pace of 25 to 30 miles a day, but a herdsman like Abraham roamed slowly. After the Lord called him to this promised land, having left Ur of the Chaldees for Haran, the cross roads linking Orient, India, the Phoenicians, is shown to him. The land of promise is indicated to Abraham, and the Patriarch goes forth into Canaan with his flocks. The flocks and herdsman graze, and the pastoral life proceeds at a slow pace, taking at best a half month to cover the above distance. Let us consider the width of the land; from the Jordan valley to the Mediterranean, it is approximately thirty miles wide in the north. At its widest in the south, it was at best 80 miles wide, inclusive of the eastern region called the Trans-Jordan.

We have limited the size—roughly 11,000 square miles, approximately the size of Maryland. Now consider the Mediterranean, the roadway of the conquerors, Alexander, the Greeks, the Roman legions, the highway of the Sea People and Phoenicians. Its beaches have no promontories; in the land we speak of, then Palestine, it had only two ports—Jaffa, or Joppa, from which Jonah sailed to escape God's commandments, where Peter raised Tabitha from the dead. There was the port of Caesarea, named after the Caesars, the residence of the Roman procurators, built by Herod the Great. In Caesarea, Paul was imprisoned before being sent to Rome.

We have viewed the land from above, as if from a circling space satellite. Let us come lower and look closer; the color, the topography, the verdure, the bar-

renness, the peaks start to show forth—a land of enormous contrasts. Look to the western coastal plain, bordering the Mediterranean for its entire length, a land that in the north contained Sidon and Tyre. Ships from this Baal and Astarte worshippers have been determined recently to have reached the headwaters of the Amazon in Brazil, in search of iron, and Britain, in search of tin. Its ruler, Hiram, King of Tyre, gave workmen and cedars of Lebanon to Solomon to build the Temple. The land is Isaiah's land of milk and honey. In the north, below the area known as Mount Carmel, the coastal plain widens to the Plain of Sharon; Sharon of such beauty, abounding with scarlet anemones, known biblically as the "Lily of the Valley", and with the white narcissus, called the "Rose of Sharon". This peaceful stretch from Sidon and Tyre southward abounds with orchards, gardens and grazing sheep, forming the coastal highway traversed from Babylonia and Assyria to Egypt and the land of the Sabeans.

Below Sharon is the Plain of Philistia. In Old Testament times it was the grain belt of Gaza, Ashdod, Ekron, Gath and Ashkelon, in the midst of which were the original Cretans who made perpetual warfare against the Israelites. Move east of Philistia and we arrive at the Shefelah, the "Low Country" — chalky hills, over 500 feet high, separated by green and broad valleys, well watered and red-soiled, abounding in orchards, grain, olives, the land that Joshua and Caleb spied out, plenteous in its vineyards.

In the northern valley, Aijalon, Joshua fought five kings while the sun and moon stood still. The valley of Sorek, where Samson was born, lies south of it. Still further south is the vale of Elah; here David slew Goliath. The vale of Adullam was used by David for his concealment from the raging Saul. Further inland, south from present day Syria, is a mountain range, extending into the Sinai. In the north, it is known as a plateau, Galilee. Here Jesus, in the little town of Nazareth, lived as a child. The Kingdom of Heaven was first preached at Capernaum; the water was turned to wine at Cana. It is here in the north that the Plain of Jezreel, known also as Esdraelon, beheld Gideon overthrow the Midianites, and Saul and Jonathan were defeated and slain by the Philistines, their bodies affixed to the walls of Beth-Shan.

Below Jezreel lie the rugged hills of the central highlands, called Samaria. Ahab, Jezebel, Syrian and Assyrian hordes dominated it. Abraham watered his flocks near ancient Shechem; Jesus spoke to the woman at the well regarding salvation; Elijah and Hosea voiced the will of the Lord in this region. At the lower stretch of the highlands, lies the land known as Judea. It is a dry, stark, rugged region, over 3400 feet above the shore of the Dead Sea, approximately 15 miles eastward. The names of David, Solomon, Queen of Sheba, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Sargon, the Temple, Lazarus of Bethany, Hebron, Jericho, Pontius Pilate, the Macabees, Hasmonians, Peter, Paul and Titus, yes, and Jerusalem, the ancient Jebus, the Hebrew Yerushalayim, ring out.

Further east, God must have used an enormous plow to form a great rift—the Jordan Valley, the Dead Sea and the depression of Arabah, running toward Aqaba, the gulf adjacent to Solomon's copper mines. From Mount Hermon, the Jordan plunges to Lake Huleh in a few miles to 230 feet above sea level. A scant 12 miles drop

brings the Jordan to the Sea of Galilee, known also as Gennesaret, Chinnereth, and Tiberias, 696 feet below sea level. In this area, Jesus finds his disciples; here Jesus stilled the tempest, delivered the Sermon on the Mount. 65 miles further down, the Jordan leaves the fresh waters of Galilee and descends into the Dead Sea—1292 feet below sea level—the lowest spot on the earth's surface. In the Jordan, Naaman washed himself at Elisha's command to rid himself of leprosy; the faithful of Israel followed Joshua here into the Promised Land. At Bethabara beyond Jordan, Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist.

The eastern edge of the Jordan valley has high hill country, catching the clouds from the Mediterranean, watering the rich land. Farther south was the abundance of orchards, farms and the land that gave forth the "Balm of Gilead". Here, at Penuel, Jacob wrestled with the Angel of the Lord. Below and east of the Dead Sea, Moses, aged, before his departure from life, saw the Promised Land from Mount Nebo. Farther south was Moab, where the story of Naomi and Ruth starts, to end in Bethlehem. We might consider that in this region, buried by the Dead Sea, is Sodom and Gomorrah, the land that Lot fled with his family, and his wife, facing for a last look at the destruction after being warned not to, turned to a pillar of salt. Traversing the Red Sea borders, entering the region of the Persian Gulf, Lehi, Nephi and family depart across the waters to the New World.

In the area of Africa, beyond Egypt, the wars between Rome and Carthage raged, the Punic Wars, starting in 218 B.C. Hannibal nearly destroyed the Roman empire in 133 B.C. Yet the "Pax Romana," Roman Peace, was established by Caesar in 31 B.C. by his overcoming the army of Antony and Cleopatra. By 180 A.D., before the death of Marcus Aurelius, decay had eroded the empire through its length and breadth. Although Jerusalem was shattered, and by 70-71 A.D., the proud sacrifice of nearly a thousand lives at Masada, rather than yield to Titus and Vespasian, boded no *Pax Romana*. In 135 A.D., Simon Bar Kokhba revolted against Hadrian.

—To be continued.

Thank You

August 20, 1977

My Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Friends:

I wish to take this opportunity first to Thank God and to thank all of you for your prayers in my behalf. Your token of love to me in cards, letters, telephone calls, and visits have really lifted my spirits.

I was operated on Tuesday for open heart surgery and I was on my feet Thursday. If all goes well I could possibly be sent home next week.

Again, thank you and May God Bless you for your love toward me.

Yours in the Bonds of Love

Brother Paul D'Amico, Apostle

GOD'S RECENT MIRACLE IN MY LIFE

I want to share a glorious experience that happened to me just recently. This blessing will long be remembered by me along with my family.

Shortly before April conference I began to pass blood. I became alarmed and went to our family physician and he had diagnosed it as prostatitis. He gave me some pills and said that the problem would clear up in a few days. When I returned after the prescription was finished he gave me a blood test and said it was all cleared up. When I told him I couldn't see how it was because I was still passing blood he made arrangements for me to see a urologist.

In seeing this doctor I had lab work done and the tests taken proved that the acid phosphate in my blood was elevated 5.5, normal reading was 2.0. He gave me some medicine to take and after 10 more days I was to return for more blood test. The acid phosphate count was still high. The doctor then indicated that I would have to go into the hospital for a biopsy, and internal examination. But before this last resort he wanted to give me more medication. When I had finished taking the pills I was to return again for another blood test to see if my phosphate count had gone down or was the same.

In the meantime I asked the doctor what was the problem. When I insisted he tell me the news was not good and I became more alarmed. He said all indications were that I had a tumor, or more than one of the prostate gland and all that was to be done now was to take the biopsy to see whether it was malignant or benign.

When the infection first started we made it a matter of prayer, but when I was told what it was I became more convinced to fast and prayer and to ask the church to pray with me. Several prayer meetings were called and I was anointed many times. I knew of God's power. He had helped me many times over and was convinced that he would not leave me alone now nor would he forsake me. Several experiences were had before my going into the hospital which were told to me and I heard a few more when I was released, that all would be well.

When the blood test was taken and the biopsy along with the internal examination with instruments, the doctor told me that I was completely clean. No trace of a tumor and my acid phosphate count was below normal 1.0.

I was joyous at hearing the report and up until today I continue to praise my God for his mercy toward me in my life and bringing me through another what could have been a serious illness.

When I asked the doctor at the time he gave me the last report if he had any explanation; his answer to me was he had no explanation nor could he understand what happened.

We all know what took place don't we? Prayer and fasting along with faith is the key.

Approximately one week after I was released from the hospital it became necessary for my wife to see the same doctor because of an infection in her body and he asked her how I was doing because he was really worried about me. He told my wife he thought for sure that I

had cancer. My wife has since recovered and we say again along with the poet "My God How Great Thou Art".

I might inject at this time that another blessing took place in our branch shortly after God healed me. Sister Irene Williams was examined by 3 doctors, x-rays were taken and was told she had a massive tumor and was advised to see a cancer specialist at a clinic in New York. Upon the specialist's examination she was told there was no trace of either a tumor or cancer.

We had prayer meetings for our sister and she also was anointed several times.

Our branch has been really blessed as of late. Our lives have been enriched tremendously. Praise God from whom all blessings flow. I trust that as you read these experiences you'll share these blessings with us.

Sincerely your Brother in Christ,

Brother Joseph Perri

With Love to all the Saints

P.S. I thank everyone who prayed for me and sent cards. I trust too that Sister Irene won't mind me inserting her experience.

—o—

CHARITY

Just where does it begin? In the home? At work? By acts of Benevolence to be seen and praised of others? Or is it a work we often use to try to convince ourselves that we have it? Well perhaps we should begin by the definition of the word according to the Word of God.

Charity is the pure love of Christ and it must begin in the individual heart. And unless Christ is in possession of the heart, it is impossible to possess Charity. If Charity then is the love of Christ, then he who lays claim to possessing it must of a necessity have all the characteristics of our Lord. One must be patient, humble, long suffering, faithful, meek, pure in heart and in whose mouth is no guile.

Yet one must also be firm in the Gospel, strong to endure, when needful the right use of righteous anger, the willingness to joyfully relinquish all temporal goods and possessions. The discerning and controlling of all natural passions. Subduing the flesh in its desire of esteem, in order to be a vessel, fit for the every desire of God. A temple wherein His Spirit may dwell. Charity requireth much, but also rewardeth much.

Sister Mary Glover
Ft. Pierce, Florida

Often people quote the saying, "The Pure Love of God," but scripture says, "The Pure Love of Christ" Book of Mormon — Moroni 7 Chp. 47 Verse.

— Editor

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Editorial Viewpoint

BACK TO SCHOOL

The summer season is swiftly rolling away, and the month of September is upon us. This means "back to school" for many children and young people. Now that the long summer vacation is over, many students are prepared for this transition, some of them joyfully and with anticipation, while others perhaps reluctantly. Still, for many other children, this month marks the beginning of their formal schooling as they are enrolled in kindergarten or the first grade.

Education is a very important part of a person's life and begins in the home, long before a child goes to school. *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary* defines education: Act or process of educating; discipline of mind or character through study or instruction. Webster also defines educate: (Latin *educatus*, past participle of *educare* to bring up a child, educate, from Latin *educere* to lead forth); to develop or cultivate mentally or morally. Thus, the very word educate is derived or formed from the original Latin root or meaning — *to bring up a child and to lead forth*.

SERIOUS RESPONSIBILITY

This interesting and important fact points up the serious responsibility that rests upon parents as well as teachers in training and educating both child and student.

Parental tutoring of a growing child, both by word and example, is most essential in getting the child off to a good start in life; in stimulating the initiative or desire to learn, whether in spiritual things or in the field of secular education. The role of the teacher, at whatever school level, is likewise vitally important in the process of instructing the student; in stressing the seriousness and importance of acquiring an education; in encouraging self-discipline to stick to the task at hand; and in skillfully and patiently endeavoring to promote mental and moral cultivation and development.

ADVANTAGEOUS AND REWARDING

An education, both informal and formal, becomes increasingly advantageous as a child matures and eventually reaches adulthood. The educated person is better equipped to face life's challenges and to pursue various fields of endeavor, many of which not only provide an income, but are additionally rewarding when they prove serviceable to other people.

History abounds with the names of men and women whose knowledge, wisdom, and talents were skillfully employed in varying degrees and influenced people, governments, institutions, sciences and arts.

Scripture, too, names many wonderful men and women whose knowledge, learning, and wisdom served them well in their service to God.

Finally, to all students, God bless you, as you resume your schooling or whether you are just beginning. As the teacher endeavors *to lead forth*, may you strive to follow and adhere to the task at hand with tenacity.

Your life will be enriched and your rewards will be many.



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

King Jared's Daughter

Dear Girls and Boys,

This story is about a woman in the Book of Mormon. She was the daughter of Jared. Jared was the son of a good king named Omer, of the Jaredites. Jared was a jealous man. He spoke flattering words to the people and many followed him. He was able to gain half of the kingdom and then plotted to become king.

Jared set himself up as king and made his father serve in captivity. Sons were born to king Omer while a captive. Two of these sons were angry when they learned what their wicked brother Jared, had done. They gathered their friends together and one night they attacked Jared's army and killed them. Jared was afraid he too, would be killed. He pleaded to be spared and they let him live. But he still continued in his evil ways.

Jared had his heart set upon the kingdom and the glory of the world. He had a beautiful daughter who was as wicked as her father. She saw how sad her father was and had a plan to help him regain the kingdom. She told Jared about a powerful, wicked man named Akish. She suggested she would dance before Akish and then he would wish to marry her. When he would ask her father's consent, her father was to say, "I will give her to you, if you will bring me the head of my father, the king Omer."

Jared followed his daughter, the princess' plan. She danced before Akish and this pleased him. He asked, "Give her unto me to wife." The wicked Jared replied, "I will give her to you if you will bring me the head of my father, the king." Akish agreed but he needed help. He gathered his kinfolk and friends together and told them he wanted to form a secret order with their help. They all took an oath and joined. If anyone told what happened at their meetings they would be killed. Then Akish told them of his plan to kill Omer and give the kingdom to Jared. They all promised to help Akish.

The Lord warned King Omer in a dream that he should depart out of the land. He took all his family, except Jared and went to the wilderness. At last he came to the sea and made a new home there. When Jared learned his father and family had left, he took the throne and began to rule as king. He gave his daughter to Akish even though Akish had not killed the old king. Akish went to his secret group and asked them to kill Jared so he could be king.

While Jared sat on his throne the followers of Akish killed him. Akish now became king. He was greedy for power and it was not long until fighting began. Destruction had come, and it was so great that there were only thirty people left in the kingdom. The people left and

went to live with King Omer and once again he ruled as their good king.

Sincerely,

Sister Mabel

—o—

RENEWED LIFE

On Sunday, June 12, 1977 we were greeted by a face which hadn't graced our doorstep in many months. It was a most welcome visit from Brother Ralph Leet. Our brother opened the meeting in prayer, then read to us from *Matthew 7:21-27*.

He stressed the importance of building our spiritual life on a firm foundation. Brother Leet told us about the first home he built. He said, he made one serious mistake in building that house. He didn't lay enough cement for the foundation. In a while the house began to crumble. After his experience he built another house, this time he laid the foundation properly. The house is now 23 years old and doing just fine.

Brother Leet told us of another incident that happened many years ago. It was how he found The Church of Jesus Christ. He said, when he was a young man he went to Church to impress someone else and left that church after a year. He realized it wasn't what he wanted. It wasn't until 25 years later that he found The Church of Jesus Christ. He said, "I was 42 years old". Brother Leet said, what impressed him the most was the closeness of our people. He has now been in The Church for 29 years.

A very short time ago, Brother Leet had been critically ill. He began to tell us of an experience he had while in the hospital. He knew he was at the crossroads and was waiting for his last breath. He said he wasn't concerned about anything but noticed something was happening.

He lay in his bed and a little at a time, he and his bed were decreasing in size. As the bed began to shrink in size, the metal on the bed changed from a regular metal, to a type of metal he had never seen before. Brother Leet stated, "the metal sparkled".

The bed went down to about "four or five inches in circumference".

He said, I waited and waited for the end to come. Suddenly he noticed that the bed was changing back to its original size and kind of metal. Brother Leet then knew, he was going to live. He stated, "I was sent back".

The doctors and attendants were amazed, and called it a miracle. His doctor came in one day, took a chair and sat down. He said, "I want to ask you something. What was it, that you feel caused your recovery?"

Brother Leet responded, that it was only through our prayers, and stated, if he had never met The Church 29 years ago, "I wouldn't be alive today".

It was such a blessing just to see our brother again. Truly many prayers went before God in his behalf. We thank God that once again, we were privileged to see Brother Leet in our midst.

Sister Diana Thompson

"LATTER DAY GLORY" HIGHLIGHTS OHIO AREA CONFERENCE

The annual conference of the Ohio Area MBA was held on June 4, 1977, in Youngstown, Ohio. And though the business went smoothly and many things were accomplished, the highlight of the day was during the evening meeting, when the Spirit of God was strongly felt while many "Latter Day Hymns" were being sung.

Business was started in the afternoon with Brother Jon Genaro conducting the meeting. Along with the officers report, were the reports of various activities which were held throughout the previous year, such as: two successful canned good drives in Cleveland; a prosperous walk-a-thon held at Presque Isle State Park in Erie, Pa.; and a trip to Levittown, among numerous other activities.

The following are those who took office with their respective duties:

Wayne Martorana, President
Jon Genaro, Vice-President
Gene Kline, Chaplain
Brian Martorana, Secretary
Ralph Cartino, Treasurer
Patty Gibson, Financial Secretary (New Office)
Jim Alessio, Auditor
Joel Calabrese, Auditor
Keith White, Librarian (New Office)
Mark Kovacic, Historian-Editor (Newly Combined)

Discussed in the "New Business" were: Seminars with a team of Elders traveling throughout the Area; working for the Evangelistic meetings proposed by the Ohio Mission Board (the first being at Kent, Ohio); the future of the canned good drives — which was left up to the new District Urban American Indian Committee; and a trip to the Hill Cumorah.

Since the evening meeting was set aside as a "Sing-inspiration", it was only fitting that the selections used were the old time Restoration favorites. Songs like "Come All Ye Sons of Zion", "The Spirit of God like a Fire is Burning", "Go Ye Messengers of Glory", and "Rejoice Ye Saints of Latter Days" along with others like "Turn Us Again" and "Before Jehovah's Sacred Throne" brought a moving spirit in the meeting and the Power of God was felt by all. There were prepared numbers, also, presented by: The Youngstown Quartet and Local; Niles Local; Lorain Local; Erie Local; and a special quartet consisting of Brother Larry Henderson, Sister Cindy Henderson, Sister Arlene Collison, and Brother Paul Holen.

The evening was made complete by a few inspiring talks and exhortations from the brethren of the Priesthood who were present.

Interested?

We have a few openings in the vineyard.

Come labor with us, the hours are long, the pay is low.

All we promise is the opportunity to help others and a quiet pride in your work.

A few people will even thank you.

One will be eternally grateful, His name is God.

OUR WOMEN TODAY . . .

GENERAL CIRCLE MEETINGS HELD AT WASHINGTON, D.C. MISSION

The General Ladies Uplift Circle meeting met at the Washington, D.C. mission on July 9, 1977. The Circles were represented from Ohio, Pennsylvania, and the Atlantic Coast Districts.

The Washington, D.C. Circle presented a program titled, "Building our life on Christ." The Sisters read the Scriptures and sang several hymns. Sister Mabel Bickerton spoke about the firm foundation we have in The Church and in the Circle. She told of an experience that Sister Sadie Cadman had, where her feet were like iron and immovable. The words, "How firm a foundation ye Saints of the Lord," were given to her.

The roll was called and several officers were absent. The minutes of our previous meeting held at Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania was read and accepted. The delegates and treasurers reports were given.

The questions and answers are:

Who was the first judge and founder of The Church?
Book of Mormon, Mosiah 29:42-47

What is the heritage of the servants of the Lord?
Book of Mormon, 111 Nephi 22:17

What is the meaning of the parable of the lost coin?
Luke 15:8-10

Fill in the blanks: And may God grant in his great fullness, that men might be brought into repentance and good works. *Book of Mormon, Helaman 12:24*

The new questions are, Where did the people of Zarahemla come from and who discovered them? *Book of Mormon*

Who should be His seed and heir of the kingdom of God?

Circles were organized in Tampa, Florida and San Carlos, Arizona. The Greensburg Circle was reorganized.

Correspondence was read from Sister Perdue telling of the great work being done in Mexico and from Brother John Ross for the African work. Sister Thelma Petrosky offered to buy Brother and Sister DeMercurio a traveling alarm as a going-away gift from the Circle.

Donations were made to Africa, Six Nation and White River Reservations, and to the General Church Indian Missionary Funds.

The next General Circle meeting will be held at Detroit, Michigan, Branch No. 1. The other meetings are March 4, 1978 at Glassport, Pennsylvania; July 8, 1978 at Hopelawn, New Jersey; and October 7, 1978 at Youngstown, Ohio.

A vote of thanks was given to the Washington, D.C. Circle for their hospitality.

All the officers were re-elected for the next year.

President: Mabel Bickerton

Vice-President: Ruth Akerman

Secretary: Lucetta Scaglione

Financial Secretary: Ethel Crosier

Indian Mission Treasurer: Ethel Crosier

General Fund Treasurer: Irene Griffith
 Cook Book Fund Treasurer: Betty Eiler
 Memorial Fund Treasurer: Mabel Bickerton
 Historian: Mary Criscuolo
 Librarian: Betty Manes
 Editor: Mary Tamburrino
 Concordance Treasurer: Rose Corrado

Several Brothers in attendance were requested to speak to the Circle. They encouraged the Sisters to continue to be good Circle Mothers, doing the work of The Church. We were advised to let our enthusiasm for the Circle filter down to our children. Many testimonies were given by the Sisters. We sang, "Heaven Came Down and Glory Filled My Soul," and a day of blessings and fellowship came to an end.

Mary Tamburrino
 General Circle Editor

A TESTIMONY

By Samuel French

I will write a short history of my life. I was born on the Muncey Indian Reservation thirty years ago. Through the years I lived not really knowing anything about God or not knowing whether there was one or not. I lived a life of sin and drunkenness. At that time, I thought that alcohol was the answer where I thought I could find peace and comfort. A short time ago, I came in contact with The Church of Jesus Christ and I found that there was more to life than doing what comes natural. I have found that I had to be born again of the water and of the spirit, to repent of my evil ways, and to follow the way of Christ. I have re-dedicated my life to The Church and to Jesus Christ and I now know peace in my life which the world can never give. I have found that this world or alcohol or drugs cannot satisfy, only Jesus Christ can give you what is lacking in your life. He is able to put peace in your life and joy and happiness. Time will not permit me to write more. I would pray that all who would read this would put their trust in the Lord for there is no other way.

God Bless You.

Coloring Books For Sale

If you want to convey the message of The Restoration to your children, friends, neighbors, give them a coloring book, telling the story of The Gospel Restored and The Church of Jesus Christ.

Just write to the following for as many books as you want. The cost is \$.75 per book.

Joe Ross
 Ross Drive
 Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

Alex Gentile
 11294 Suffolk Drive
 Southgate, MI 48195

John Ross, Jr.
 119 W. Saguaro
 Casa Grande, Ariz. 85222

Joe Draskovich
 527 Fairfield Drive
 Greensburg, Pa. 15601

BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS:—

Four Ordained At San Diego Branch

The San Diego Branch has been blessed by the ordinations of Brother Joseph A. Smith and Brother David B. Ciccati to the office of Teacher and Brother Michael Jackson and Brother Randy Ciccati to the office of Deacon. These ordinations took place on February 18, 1977. These Brothers have had dreams or experiences pertaining to their offices.

The wives of those ordained all asked for prayer by the priesthood for added strength. They expressed a desire to be helps to their husbands as those ordained take up the duties of their offices.

During the whole day the Spirit of God was greatly felt in our presence, spreading joy, love and humility from person to person. At the close of our meeting we formed a circle while singing, "Because He Lives."

We thank the Lord our God for the love He has given us and for the many blessings He is bestowing upon us.

My prayer is that God will continue guiding and blessing His people, drawing us closer together by His love.

God bless you all, from the San Diego Branch.

Shelly Lindsay, Branch Editor

Blessings And Baptisms In Imperial Branch

We have had many blessings here in Imperial for which we thank the Lord. On Mother's Day we had a young woman, Mary Lou Buffington, ask for her baptism. She was baptized by Brother Bob Buffington and confirmed by Brother James Moore, Jr. It was a wonderful day. Then one week later her husband, Danny Buffington, asked to be baptized. He is Brother Bob's youngest natural brother. He was baptized by Brother Bob Buffington and confirmed by Brother Joseph Bittinger.

Our young Sister (Mary Lou) had been told about the Gospel from the beginning, when she married Danny. Then they had their two children blessed. She gradually became interested in knowing more about the Gospel and started attending regularly. Then about one month before her baptism the Lord gave her a poem, which gave her food for thought. The following is her poem:

THE WAITING WATERS

How many times have the waters been waiting?

How many times have you pushed them aside?

Have you thought of the price that you're paying

By not giving up your pride?

Some say it's fear, others not ready,

To serve the Lord, full-time and steady.

Life eternal is what you'll be getting,

The Lord will lead you, if you'll only let Him.

We have two more souls to thank God for. We know that they will be a blessing to our Branch. The Lord has bestowed the gift of songs and poems upon a few in our midst, which we would like to share with you from time to time. We have had many visiting Brothers and Sisters

recently which has been very enjoyable. May God's richest blessings be with His people.

Jean Moore
Branch Editor

Rochester Branch News

On May 23, 1977 the Rochester, N. Y. Branch received a special blessing by having Brother and Sister Nick Pietrangelo and Brother and Sister Norman Campitelle with their families. Also attending were two Mormon women missionaries from Utah, and they came to the Sunday School and the service.

Brother Campitelle led us in prayer and we sang "The Spirit Of God Like A Fire Is Burning". He chose his text from the *second chapter of Job*; how God talked to Job and many other men. He added that Lehi was told to move from Jerusalem, as it was going to be destroyed. He referred to Jonah who refused to obey God, that a great storm arose, that he was thrown overboard. But God prepared a whale to bring Jonah to preach to the people and the city was saved.

King Nebuchadnezzar didn't obey God and he became like an animal for seven years. King Belshazzar had a big celebration and the hand of God wrote on the wall. Daniel interpreted that he was found wanting and his kingdom was going to be divided. God spoke to Joseph Smith and told him what to do to restore His Church upon the earth. When God speaks we must obey.

After we sang "The Gospel Restored" Brother Pietrangelo spoke and emphasized the same subject. He stated that we must have direct communication with God and walk and talk with God. He related an experience he had on the *12th Chapter of Helaman*. He stressed human frailty and the goodness and power of God. Blessed are the penitent men to be judged according to their works. The world needs the Gospel of Love.

We sang "Love Lifted Me" and the meeting was turned to testimony and sacrament was administered.

The Presiding Elder, Brother Ansel D'Amico gave the concluding remarks that God communicated with Abraham, Moses, Joshua and Joseph Smith, stating that they had direct communication with God. We should all communicate by fasting and prayer, and God will hear our prayers. If we would all communicate with God, we would all love one another and be a witness for Christ.

We sang "God Be With You" and closing prayer was offered by Brother Patsy Marinetti. It was a day of blessing for us all.

On June 26, 1977 we had a beautiful day full of joy and blessing. We had Brother and Sister Elmer Santilli from Kent, Ohio as per Evangelist schedule and Brother and Sister Alex Robinson with a carload of Sisters from Kansas. They attended the campout and decided to visit Hill Cumorah and spend Sunday in fellowship with us.

Following community singing Brother Santilli led us in prayer. Brother Robinson gave his testimony how he came into the Gospel. He related many wonderful experiences which were food for our soul. Brother Santilli spoke upon the Restoration of the Gospel and that our Church is accepted as the Church of Philadelphia. We are not a large number, but God could bring 10,000 people, in a twinkling of an eye, into His fold.

He related how he got baptized, that he found the pearl of great price which is greater than any treasure of the world. We should brighten the corner where we are. The people have time for everything, but no time to serve the Lord. He further stated that the day is coming that the Church is going to be blessed with great power to heal the sick and raise the dead. The Church is waiting for the Choice Seer to do this great work and we Gentiles are going to assist him.

"Brighten The Corner Where You Are" was sung and the meeting was opened for testimony and then sacrament was administered.

Brother Ansel D'Amico gave the concluding remarks, that the words of our Brothers were wonderful words of life, like apples of gold in a basket of silver. Our hope is to meet in Heaven and to depart no more. He wished God's blessings upon us. We were dismissed with prayer by Brother Patsy Marinetti.

Sister Carmella D'Amico

Have You Counted The Cost?

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

This morning I opened the scriptures to read and turned to the words of Jesus in Mark 8:36, 37, "For what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul, or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Last evening as my little son, 5 years old, and I were sitting in our yard on the swing singing together, he said, "Mommy, let's sing No. 247, 'Have you counted the cost?'" For some reason he has fallen in love with this hymn and wants to sing it almost every time we get together to sing.

In sending the enclosed article written by my father, Brother John Ward, who was recently baptized, I felt to mention this, as I am so glad that my father, "Counted the Cost" and answered the Lord's call, realizing the value of his soul's salvation. May I mention that he will be 65 years old this coming October.

I am so thankful for the mercies of God and the words of our Saviour, "Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up His cross and follow me, For whosoever will save His life shall lose it, but Whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the Gospel's the same shall save it."

In closing we think of the scripture recorded in I Corinthians, 2:9, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him."

As we pass through this short life, may we take time to "Count the Cost," if our soul should be lost. May God help us to yield ourselves to Him that we may have the joy of serving Him and the wonderful hope of life eternal.

Sister Bertha Jean Bilsky,
Roscoe Branch Editor

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

My name is Brother John Ward, Sister Mary Ward's husband from the Roscoe Branch. I just want to say what a blessing it is to be baptized into the Church of Jesus

Christ. I was baptized May 8, 1977, three months after Mary passed away. I was blessed in this Church as a baby and can remember meetings being held in our home when I was just a child.

The doctor gave me up when I had double pneumonia as a young child and after my father, an Elder of the Church anointed and prayed for me, I was healed, much to the amazement of the doctor. God spared my life this time and I can testify that He saved me from near death several times through my life.

When I was going with Mary before we were married, she asked me to take her to Glassport for her to be baptized, which I did. This was in 1936. She was faithful in the Church until the Lord called her home.

It took me 41 years and that's a long time to be asleep. I realized after I was baptized what an awful mistake to make, to be sleeping that long, never be baptized, and let Mary do all the praying for me. She saved me many times by her praying and kept me in line. It took an awful tragedy, her death, for me to awaken and start to pray myself. Someone had to pray for me and I knew there was no one else. I would have to pray for myself, that I would be baptized and brought into this Church.

I am thankful that God answered my prayers and also the prayers of my Brothers and Sisters who prayed in my behalf. He gave me several dreams and experiences, and I felt the touch of His Spirit the day I stood and asked for my baptism. Now I can say how much it has helped me to be baptized. I realize now that there would have been a lot more blessings in our home if we would have both been in the Church together. We would have prospered a lot more if we would have worked together. Even when you have love in the house, it is better when both of you belong to the Church and can work together. Both of you feel better if you can do things together, but Mary is not here now to enjoy seeing me get up and testify how glad I am in this Church. I hope that in homes where either the husband, or wife doesn't belong to the Church, they will be able to get baptized and not wait like I did for something to happen. Someday, they may have to get down on their hands and knees and pray like I did.

So, I am not going to say much more. I hope this may help somebody and not offend anyone, for I am sincere, as this is what happened to me.

May God bless you all,

Brother John Ward,
Roscoe Branch

P.S. In writing this for my father, the words of Brother James Curry's beautiful hymn began to sing to me, "Awake My Soul". Praise God for the words of Nephi found in II Nephi, Chapt. 4, referring to the awakening of the soul, and of God's promises to those that put their trust in Him.

Sister Bertha Jean

Aliquippa News

On June 26, 1977 the Sunday following the G.M.B.A. Campout, the church building was filled with Brothers, Sisters, Friends and the Spirit of God. The young people

sang the camp theme song, "I've Decided To Make Jesus My Choice" and "Blessed Assurance". Brother Thomas Ross introduced our service using *Mosiah* 18 as his text. He told of how the lake at Camp Towanda, where the Saints gathered to witness the baptisms reminded him of the scripture of the Waters of Mormon and of Alma teaching and baptizing the people in that day. Brother Tom addressed our three new converts, Brother Ryan Ross, Brother Timothy Gibson, and Sister Betty Gibson and likened their baptisms to Alma baptizing the converts at the Waters of Mormon.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Bragg presented their son, Frank A. Bragg Jr. to be blessed by Brother Anthony Ross.

During the afternoon recess Sister Denise Gula made her wish to be baptized known. All the Saints gathered at the Imperial site and Sister Denise was baptized by Brother Paul Palmieri. We returned to the church and Sister Denise was confirmed by Brother Anthony Ross. The day was a fitting climax to a week at camp.

The next Sunday, July 3, 1977 was another beautiful day as we gathered early in the morning at our fast and prayer meeting before Sunday School. Earlier in the week Sister Janet DeVincentis made her decision to be baptized on Sunday.

Brother Paul Palmieri introduced the service using *Matthew* 19:16. He spoke on the problem the rich young man had with money and how the times have not changed and today people are still having trouble in deciding when to forsake all and follow Christ. The rich, young man had a "hang-up", today our "hang-ups" are jobs, friends, wives, husbands, home, recreation, etc. Anything that keeps us from Christ is a "hang-up".

Brother Joe Ross followed on the subject and brought out some good illustrations.

After the meeting, Sister Cindy Sciarretta asked to be baptized. We all went to the waters and Sister Janet DeVincentis was baptized by Brother Paul Palmieri and Sister Cindy Sciarretta was baptized by Brother Joe Ross.

After lunch we returned for confirmation. Sister Cindy was confirmed by Brother Anthony Ross and Sister Janet was confirmed by Brother Anthony Palmieri. We had a very busy and beautiful day for which we thank God.

We have many souls to harvest in our branch and ask for your prayers.

Joyce Jumper
Aliquippa Branch Editor

Sunday's News

On Sunday, July 24, 1977 Branch No. 1 in Detroit, Michigan, was given a gift of God's love. Our gift consisted of one new member to the family of Christ.

Sister Marguerite Heath has been attending our meetings for several years now. We have always felt she was a part of our family, but now God, His heavenly hosts and all of God's children here below, can rejoice in welcoming her as a true member of the fold.

Sister Marguerite was baptized by Brother Joseph Milantoni and confirmed by Brother Anthony Gerace.

We pray that our sister may continually be blessed with all of God's promises, which include happiness and fulfillment through His word.

Sister Diana Thompson

News From Washington, D.C. Mission

The Lord has rained down many great and wonderful blessings on our mission since our last writing. We held our first meeting in our new building on August 22, 1976. On that very special day, Brother Matthew Rogolino and his family worshipped with us.

Our day began by singing praises, honor and glory unto the Lord. MBA discussion was on *Mosiah* 15:20. Brother Matthew was our teacher. Brother Matthew spoke, then, on the theme, "Love One Another." He referred to *1 Peter* 5:6, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time."

Brother George Timms reiterated Brother Matthew's teachings. He reminded us that Christ had said, "A new commandment I give you, that you should love one another." A very humble and loving spirit prevailed during our testimonies. All the testimonies given this day told of feelings of coming home, of peace, of a sense of belonging. This wonderful, wonderful day to which we had all been looking forward for so very long had finally materialized. PRAISE GOD!

On March 6, 1977, we played host to visitors from Ohio, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Our visiting Elders that day were Brothers Joe Arcuri, Joe Perry, Howard Jackson and Tony Vadaz. Many inspirational words were spoken that day. We were reminded of our obligations as Saints of The Church of Jesus Christ... that we have a challenge to prove the Lord... to prove Him in our every day lives.

We were also blessed that day to have two of our Brothers ordained into the offices of Deacon and Teacher. Brother Paul Carr was ordained a Deacon in The Church. His feet were washed by his father, Brother Jesse Carr and hands laid upon him by Brother Joe Arcuri. Brother Greg Swanger was ordained into the office of Teacher. His feet were washed by his father, Brother Merle Swanger and hands laid upon him by Brother George Timms. The Lord has called these two Brothers from among His flock to do a special work. They will need our help as well as our prayers.

On July 9 of this year, we made history. This was the first time we as a mission had hosted the Ladies Circle Conference and it was the first meeting we had held upstairs in the new building. Heretofore, all our meetings have been held in the basement pending completion of our work on the building. But that Saturday morning, we all braved the hard rains and wind to receive a blessing, and a blessing we did receive.

The following Sunday, July 10, God continued to look down with much favor upon us. Brother Joe Perry of the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and noting that this Sunday was the first Sunday Service to be held upstairs.

Brother Joe Shazer, of Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania then spoke on the falling away of the Gospel. He read from *II Thessalonians* 2:1-3. Brother Joe explained that this

Church was set up by the power of the spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ in the 1820's. Brother Dan Casasanta of McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania noted that men today are interested in the growth of natural things instead of the spiritual things. Brother George then reminded us that those who followed Jesus while He yet walked this earth were humble, meek and submissive. They let go of all worldly things to cling to the Master.

Brother Mike Hildenbrand then said that we must restore our temples (bodies) into such a state that we can say, in the end, "Lord, take it," and the Lord finds us each acceptable in His sight. We as Saints must work, worship, and pray together to keep what we have because what we have is invaluable.

We then went into testimony and sacrament. Afterwards Brother Jesse Carr of Greensburg, Pennsylvania closed in prayer. Oh wonderful, wonderful day.

So you see, Brothers and Sisters, the Lord continues to bless us as long as we abide with Him. We here in the Washington, D.C./Herndon, Virginia Mission still have a desire to be ever faithful to serving God and in striving to keep His commandments. Pray for us as a mission and be ever prayerful for us as a Church.

Sister Hythia D. Young

Washington, D.C. (Herndon, Virginia) Mission
Address of the church building
The Church of Jesus Christ
800 Elden Street
Herndon, Virginia 22070

Contact Brothers George Timms or Gerald Hildenbrand, A.C. 301-559-1084, A.C. 703-494-4742 for directions to the church building.

AN EXPERIENCE

My grandmother, Sister Rapheala DiFalco, asked that I submit the following experience that had happened to her several years ago. She said that it has been in her heart to retell the incident and that she could not prolong this any longer. She also made it clear to me that we are not to hold back from telling our experiences from God, for if we do he might take them away from us.

Sister Denise Ruyle

I, Sister Rapheala DiFalco, had been very sick with gall stones, to the point that I was bedridden. I asked my son, Rudy, to call Brother Anthony Pietrangelo to come and anoint me. It just happened that Brother Joseph Lovalvo was visiting with Brother Pietrangelo, so instead Brother Joseph came. After he had anointed me the pains got worse. I then heard a voice say, "Ask Brother Joseph to anoint you again." I did not heed to the voice because it would be awkward and besides, I never had seen anyone be anointed two times in a row. I did not even mention to anyone what the Spirit had told me. No sooner than I had put the thought out of my mind, Brother Joseph Lovalvo was touched with the Spirit of God, and he was directed to pray on me again. He asked everyone in the room to kneel and he anointed me, I was healed. I fell immediately to sleep and when I awoke Sister Campitelle was there fanning me, and we both rejoiced

in my healing. The Lord truly had a lesson in this for me, I will never forget these blessings.

— NEW ARRIVALS —

Congratulations are in order to the proud parents for the indicated new members of their families. New arrivals have been as follows:

Michelle Yvette to Joseph and Deborah Castilli of Branch No. 1, Detroit, Michigan,

Chad Alexander to Daniel and Joann Kubik of Branch No. 1, Detroit, Michigan,

Jeanette Lorraine to Jim and Diane Link of Washington, D.C. Mission,

Troy Lane to Thomas and Karen Bourn of Ft. Pierce, Florida,

Jay Dominic to Brother and Sister Carl Romano of Ft. Pierce, Florida

Diane to Art and Carole Biagi of New Brunswick, New Jersey,

Amy Marie to Joseph and Rose Bonaduce of New Brunswick, New Jersey.

— WEDDINGS —

DUKES - BLAZER

On Saturday, March 5, 1977, Miss Donna Marie Blazer and Mr. Walter Herman Dukes were united in holy matrimony by Brother George Timms at The Church of Jesus Christ in Herndon, Virginia. Donna is the daughter of Sister Edie Blazer and Mr. Richard Blazer. This is the very first wedding to take place in the mission.

GIOVANNONE - PETIYA

On Saturday, August 6, 1977 David Allan Giovannone and Theresa Ann Petiya were united in marriage at The Church of Jesus Christ in Warren, Ohio by the groom's father, Brother Frank Giovannone.

Musical selections were presented by Bart Gensburg, soloist and Betty Gennaro, organist.

The newlyweds will reside in Warren, Ohio.

WATSON - CAPONE

Brother Larry R. Watson and Sister Vanessa J. Capone were united in holy wedlock on Saturday, June 11, 1977 at Branch No. 3, Detroit, Michigan.

Brother Robert A. Watson, the groom's father, officiated at the wedding ceremony assisted by Brother Dwayne Jordan.

Musical selections were presented by Brother Eugene and Sister Donna Amormino.

The newlyweds will reside in Fort Defiance, Arizona.

● OBITUARIES ●

FRANK PONTILLO

Frank Pontillo passed away from this life on June 1, 1977. He was born in Lentini, Italy on November 1, 1907. He attended Branch No. 1 of The Church of Jesus Christ in Detroit, Michigan.

Left to mourn his loss are his wife, Sister Fannie Pontillo, one son, one daughter, five grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and one brother.

The funeral service was officiated by Brother Paul Vittó.

TERESA PARRAVANO

Sister Teresa Parravano passed away into eternity on Tuesday, June 21, 1977. She was a member of the Modesto, California Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. She was born on July 8, 1921 and was baptized into The Church on May 30, 1938.

She leaves her husband, two sons, her father and mother and six grandchildren.

The funeral services were conducted by Brother Leonard Lovalvo and assisted by Brother Joe Bologna.

ADILINE ANDRUCCIOLI

Sister Adiline Andruccioli passed on to her heavenly reward on June 10, 1977. She was a very staunch Sister in Branch No. 2 of The Church of Jesus Christ in Allen Park, Michigan. She was born on December 14, 1892 and was baptized on June 25, 1931.

She leaves to mourn her loss her husband, two sons, four grandchildren and one sister.

The funeral services were conducted by Brother Reno Bologna.

Church Calendar

The following is a list of 1977 events of General Church and regional interest. (*Denotes the meeting will be held in the General Church Auditorium in Greensburg, Pa.)

SEPTEMBER

Pennsylvania Area M.B.A. Campout. September 2, 3, 4, 5, 1977.

General Church Mission Board Meeting, Branch No. 1, Detroit, Michigan. September 24, 1977.

OCTOBER

General Ladies' Circle, Detroit, Michigan. October 1, 1977.

Finance Committee Meeting, Aliquippa, Pa. October 8, 1977, 10:00 a.m.

General Church Conference, Greensburg, Pa. October 14, 15, 16, 1977.

NOVEMBER

G.M.B.A. Conference, Greensburg, Pa. November *12, *13, 1977.

The GOSPEL NEWS

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa.

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CONSISTENCY

The Sunday School of Cleveland No. 1 of The Church of Jesus Christ, held a potluck dinner and service recently, in honor of the Charter Members. Brother Oliver Lloyd opened in prayer then Ohio District President, Brother Joe Calabrese spoke a few words as he presented each Charter Member with a plaque thanking them for the many years spent in the service of the Lord.



Pictured are the members and listed are their years in the Gospel. Front row left to right: Brother Raymond Abbott 29 years, Sister Madalena Raniere 44 years, Sister Carmella Ventura 49 years, Brother Albert Ventura 52 years, Sister Rose Eiletz 56 years. Back row left to right: Sister Margaret Abbott 29 years, Brother August Perlioni 46 years, Sister Lena Perlioni 45 years, Sister Erma Milano 45 years, Brother Mario Milano 45 years, Sister Angeline Biscotti 56 years, Brother Oliver Lloyd 62 years, Brother Rocco Biscotti 55 years.

Those not present, who received plaques were, Sister Florence Picciuto, Sister Carmella Tripoti, and Sister Mary Dicola.

Our older Brothers and Sisters gave their testimonies and many tears of joy were shed by all present. Brother Rocco Biscotti continued by recounting the many wonderful experiences and fond memories. The early Church

met in the homes of the Saints, in storehouses and then in the old church on Holmes Avenue.

Brother Vince Gibson continued in speaking and told how he felt when he first came to the Cleveland Branch. He stated that he learned one very important rule and that is: CONSISTENCY. This is what we must all be in order to be able to persevere and work diligently for The Church.

The meeting was closed with Hymn No. 391 and everyone formed a large circle while Brother Biscotti closed in prayer. We retired to The Church basement where a buffet supper was served and enjoyed by all.

GENERAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

The October 1977 General Church Conference will convene on Friday, October 14, 1977 at 9:30 A.M. in our Church Auditorium in Greensburg, Penna.

The Friday sessions will be open for the PRIESTHOOD and TEACHERS only.

The Saturday sessions and the Sunday meeting will be open to ALL MEMBERS.

NOTE:

1. Meals will be furnished on a pay-as-you-attend basis. The cost will now be \$1.50 per meal per person. Children 6 to 12 years old will be 75c and children under 6 years, free.
2. Those attending conference must make their own arrangements for lodging.

The Sunday meeting will start at 10:00 A.M.

ALL ARE WELCOME

BON VIAGGIO — BROTHER AND SISTER CIARAVINO



On Tuesday evening, August 9, 1977 the members and friends of Detroit, Michigan, Branch No. 4 gave Brother Gorie and Sister Antoinette Ciaravino a surprise going away party.

It was a beautiful evening as many friends came to wish them well. Their daughter and grandchildren, Carol Piccolo, Kim and Kraig came in from California to be present for the event.

A beautiful cake was baked in the shape of Italy and frosted in the colors of the Italian Flag.

Also in attendance were Brothers Dominic Thomas, General Church President, Paul Vitto, District President and Apostle Nicholas Pietrangelo.

Everyone enjoyed a very pleasant evening as they wished our Brother and Sister much success and God-speed on their Missionary Trip to Italy along with Brother and Sister Biscotti.

It is our prayer that God will bless them while they are away from us.

The Members of Branch 4

CAN THERE ANY GOOD COME OUT OF NAZARETH?

Continued from last Issue . . .

Yet we have asked, "Can there any good come out of Nazareth?" We have perceived that the land of Canaan, covenanted by God to Abraham's seed, was by its very location the focal point between the regions of Europe, Asia Minor, Asia and Africa. This terrain, as we have described it, was the contemporary world of Jesus.

It is known that Jesus was raised in Galilee around the environs of Nazareth, a quiet little town of a few thousand, primarily shepherds and some tillers of the rugged hills. Men have assumed Galilee to be Jewish when, contrariwise, it was an area of Gentile majority. Capernaum, Cana, Tabgha, Magadan, the area of Tiberias and Nazareth were solely Jewish. The language spoken was a lingua franca, or the common tongue of Aramaic, spoken by Jesus and his disciples.

Some may dissent at the statement, but Jesus was a Pharisee by general definition, but an extremely unconventional one. He taught as one of authority, not as the scribes. This astonished His audiences. The late historian, Arnold Toynbee, considered the regular Pharisees as Methodists, those who would only interpret differently the Mosaic Laws if the entire group of Pharisees were in consensus. Jesus Christ ignored their rabbinical conventions and this was unpardonable in their eyes, undermining the basis of Pharisaic oral law. We know that Jesus and the Sadducees left no mark as yet on modern Jewry and *seemingly* the Pharisees have won. However, the Pharisees were unpopular with the Hasmoneans and Sadducees and the *unsophisticated mass of Palestinian Jewish common people*. Therefore, the Pharisees dissented with the former and separated from the latter, and indomitably observed uncontaminated Mosaic laws.

Jesus was seen in the Pharisaic eyes as one of those called Am Ha'aretz, meaning—"people of the land", and viewed with contempt. Jesus Christ was shocked by the pedantry that betrayed the Pharisees into running against the spirit of Mosaic law in their preoccupation with the observance of the letter of it.

The Pharisees helped the Hasmoneans in their resistance movement but, when they took over from Rome, the Pharisees went into opposition to them. They refused to pander to Jewish nationalism under Roman rule. This body of ardent adherents, so-called, to Mosaic law opposed Herod and his Hellenistic aspirations but also approved of Herod when he held the Zealots in check because of a possible crisis in Rome. The militancy and the recklessness of the Zealots were shunned by them otherwise. We see now that there is a mass of contradictions: upholders of Mosaic laws and yet pedantic opposition to it; admirers of the Hasmoneans against Rome but later opposed to them; pro-Herod in his check on Zealots but opposed to Herod and his simulations of the Hellenistic way of life; despisers of Zealots and the Am Ha'aretz, the group Jesus sought, the poor, the starving, the tired undiscerning masses, too abased for the Pharisees.

"And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up; and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised."

And he closed the book and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were on him.

And he began to say unto them, "This day is the scripture fulfilled in your ears." Luke 4:16-21

At the slope overlooking the blue waters of the lake of Galilee, Jesus spake:

Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers; for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake.

Rejoice, and be exceeding glad; for great is your reward in heaven; for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." Matthew 5:3-12

The warnings of Jesus are against the scribes and Pharisees, who wished to be exalted. While their words should be observed, said the Saviour, their works should not be followed. The onerous burdens that they had bound, the pride in their garments and their love to sit in the uppermost rooms at feasts and at the chief seats in the synagogue belied their display of righteousness.

"But be not ye called Rabbi; for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren.

And call no man your father upon the earth; for one is your Father, which is in heaven.

Neither be ye called master; for one is your Master, even Christ.

But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.

And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

Matthew 23:8-12

"This wisdom have I seen also under the sun, and it seemed great unto me;

There was a little city, and few men within it; and there came a great king against it, and besieged it, and built great bulwarks against it:

Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city; yet no man remembered the same poor man." Ecclesiastes 9:14-15.

The good that came from Nazareth was the outreach of God to the lost, the sinner and to those that were without hope. All the downtrodden that the Pharisees rejected, Jesus embraced; the lost, the sinner, the ones

exemplified in the Beatitudes. In the passage from the Ecclesiastes, we have an allegory that indicates the small humble flock of mankind in the area of Israel, encamped around by the might of Rome, finds release because the wisdom of the Son of God liberated those who anteceded Him; yet Jewry ignored him. The Mosaic Law that the Pharisees cleaved to was past—for old things were passed away and behold—all things were become new. Can there any good come out of Nazareth, Nathanael? The promise of unending hope, the freshness of a Gospel Restored, the salvation that comes to the meek and lowly, the mansions of glory for those that dedicated their lives to the Good Shepherd to enter by the narrow gate. Mankind has never tapped the full spiritual goodness that came from Nazareth for it is unlimited to all who strive, seek, and find.

What of the land? After the death of Jesus, Constantine in the 3rd century accepted the belief in Christ. Roman society decayed but the followers, the meek and lowly adherents of Jesus, overcame the Roman Empire by faith, hope and charity. They gained their strength in the organization. The Apostles, and those that sought Christ, developed strength and flexibility, enduring hardship and tortures. However, all races and all classes were included in the teachings of Him who came from Nazareth. There was the initial adhering simplistic faith, as evident in The Church of Jesus Christ—faith that was intransigent, unyielding to paganism. Moreover, matter and spirit was defined, and the Spirit came down to dwell among us. Salvation now meant the saving of our souls and, as in no other faith or belief, the promise of joyous immortality.

What good comes from Nazareth? — the miracles we experience, the promise of a Redeemer, unending, unchanging. Can there be as great a promise or as great a good formed by man?

We included the land for detail, the endeavor of the prophets of old, but more so its culmination is in the promise of Him who has prepared the pastures that surpass the land that He left, for the Son of God still has dominion over all. What good have we found from Nazareth? The story and promise has not ceased. The land, though the same, has not known the peace that passeth all understanding, but we said the story has not ceased: the Millenium of Peace has not arrived.

Your Brother in Christ,

Julius Kovacs
Wittensville, Kentucky



Thank-You

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Brothers and Sisters and friends for the many cards and prayers in my behalf during the two back operations I have had recently.

In addition, I want to thank all those who have contributed to my financial needs — individually, in the Branches, and at the Pennsylvania Area M.B.A. Camp-out.

May God bless you for your goodness to me and my family. Pray for me that I might be a testimony for the Lord.

Brother Chet Nolfi

MY CONVERSION

My first experience was at the age of about 15. I was sitting in Church and a wonderful feeling came over me. I thought that I was going to float into the air off the pew—I felt so good and very light like a feather.

Around this age of 15 I began to read the *Book of Mormon*. I had great difficulty in understanding. So I diligently and earnestly asked the Lord in prayer for wisdom and knowledge of all things both spiritual and natural. After this the words became very clear and beautiful. Then I read this book many times.

During this time, one night while lying in bed after reading and praying, the bed began to shake. Then, remembering the things that I read, I rebuked the Devil in the name of Jesus Christ and the shaking stopped immediately.

Nothing much happened after this of great importance. I joined the Marine Corps for four (4) years; and after my discharge I married my wife, Betty, and received a child named Jason—a great woman and a wonderful child.

During these 33 years the Lord blessed me greatly and at many times I knew that He spared my life. During this time I did not seek Him; I did much drinking and fighting and digging at the faults of the Church people. But still I had the desire to be baptized and work for the Lord.

During the G.M.B.A. campout of 1977 my wife and I were baptized. We attended this camp with our son. When we arrived there, I was in a bad state of mind. We stayed at a motel the whole week.

One evening during a meeting, Ryan Ross asked to be baptized. Shortly after, I left with my son to let him sleep in one of the bunk houses as he was very tired. During this time, unknown to me, my wife was greatly touched by the hand of the Lord by Ryan's testimony. But she resisted the call and did not go to the water. That night I advised her to be careful of her decision not to be baptized. The next day after a baptism, she, being very catty, told me, "See, I told you I would not get baptized".

There were great blessings being felt at the camp, and I was being greatly tormented. The word of the Lord came that we must repent each and every one of you. This bothered me very much. There were very few people talking to me, which I found out later that they were prompted by the Spirit not to—this bothered me also. There was one verse of a hymn that states, "I started out a long time ago—there's no doubt in my mind". This bothered me the most. Then I started to desire my baptism.

It started on the morning of the day that we were going to leave camp. There was to be one more baptism after breakfast; which, later, I found out that my wife felt that if she could attend this baptism then she would also be baptized. We began a terrible argument over who would call home to say that we were planning to stay at camp another day. We left the camp and started to drive home. We became very violent in words with each other. I turned the car mirror to her and said, "Look at the Devil!". She pushed the mirror back to me and said the same and the mirror became cracked. (Later she told me that looking at me was like looking at the face of the Devil.) I said that I would never attend Church again

for as long as I lived. All I could see ahead of us was darkness in what we were doing.

Then my wife said that she wanted to return to the camp, but I refused. She finally persuaded me to do so. We were able to get our motel room back and we returned to the camp.

That evening at the camp I became greatly troubled and began to realize that the Devil was inside of me. He was telling me in my mind that I would come out of the water feeling the same as when I went in and, "you can only be baptized once so don't do it."

When I realized this I began to fight him and was determined that he was not going to win. I decided that when I saw Brother Paul Palmieri I would ask him for my baptism. This really began to torture me. I felt like tearing apart anything I could get my hands on.

I was walking around in circles in a nearby field being greatly tormented. I saw my wife and child coming so I hid my feelings and started walking with her up to the camp fire. As we walked I was trying to think of some scripture being that I knew a great deal of scripture but I could not think of one single verse. My sight began to be very foggy and unreal, and as we neared the camp fire, Brother Paul Palmieri ended up walking beside me. I stopped him and asked for my baptism. (I must say now that I have always desired to fight the Devil and asked the Lord many times to let me do so.)

Immediately after asking Brother Paul, the Devil entered my six-year old son and my son began to fight me by kicking and hitting me and saying that he would run into the water after me and that I was doing wrong and hurting his mommy and that I was not getting baptized. My wife became touched by the Lord and an Elder began to pray over her, which I could hear and the prayer sounded beautiful. Then my wife asked for her baptism also. When my son heard this he became more violent and no one there could calm him down. Finally my wife's brother, Brother Pete Giannetti, dragged him from me and had a very hard time, which, the next day he was very sick over the struggle with him.

We arrived at the water and after my wife came up from under the water my son became calm. He then started up again when I went into the water and became calm when I arose from the water.

While I was standing at the water waiting to go in I felt something leave my chest which I knew was the Devil that was in me. After being immersed I felt that a weight like a burden of 50 pounds had come off my shoulders. My wife attests to the same feeling. One of the Sisters from Florida while knowing about me asking for my baptism only, was going to inform her father about it and the Lord told her that there would be two (2) baptisms. There were other beautiful signs at this time for us and I thank the Lord for all of the blessings He has given me since; and, the love and the joy that I have felt since then is beautiful and I cannot express it in words.

I desire that all mankind would follow me into the water so that brotherly love would cover this earth; and, that through this love all things that men desire that are good and righteous would be so that all glory will go to God, our Father, who is great and beautiful above all things in Heaven and earth.

Brother Tim Gibson
Aliquippa Branch

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Editorial Viewpoint

THE ALARMING INCREASE IN DIVORCE

Divorce is increasing in many countries throughout the world—in countries Capitalist and Communist, among Christians, Jews and Buddhists, among atheists and believers, in Europe as well as in North America.

It has been reported that in the past 10 years the divorce rate has tripled in Great Britain, and almost doubled in the United States.

The question is often asked, "Why?" The answers are numerous and varied. One answer often given is that there is a great social acceptance of divorce as a means of resolving marriages considered unworkable by husbands and wives. Many people seem to hold to the view that divorce has become socially acceptable, that it no longer connotes scandal, or a violation of the marriage covenant.

RELAXED AND LIBERAL ATTITUDE

Evidently, people are not as religious or as churchgoing as they formerly were. Additionally, the attitude toward divorce by a growing number of the clergy is relatively liberal and relaxed in certain religious denominations.

In fact, a recent Sunday edition of The Pittsburgh Press, headlined an article by George R. Plagenz, Scripps-Howard Religion Writer, "Increase Reported in Breakups of Marriage for Clergy." He reported, "Divorces among the clergy are on the upswing but the trend is still new enough that many parishioners find themselves thrown by it. Most denominations report an increase in the number of divorced clergymen. Fundamentalist denominations have the lowest incidence. There are no statistics available on whether it is the ministers or their wives who initiate the majority of clergy divorces."

BROKEN MARRIAGES — SAD SIGN

A recent Associated Press dispatch from Vatican City was headlined, "Broken Marriages Sad Sign — Pope." In addressing members of the Sacred Rota, the Roman Catholic tribunal that deals with marriage separations, Pope Paul VI lamented the growing number of separation cases among Roman Catholic married couples.

Urging the Rota judges to act with justice, the Pope said, "We are referring to matrimonial cases whose relevant increase constitutes a sad sign of the dangers existing in contemporary society against the stability, the vitality, the happiness of the family institution."

Divorce laws have been reformed and no-fault divorce has been adopted in 24 states. It may be only a short time before no-fault divorce is incorporated into the divorce laws of all 50 states.

Divorce is becoming increasingly common among the prestigious and prominent. Artists, musicians, scientists, athletes, scholars, professors, university presidents, governors, and others in office in the nation's capital—all number divorced men and frequently women among their ranks.

It ill behooves the people of our nation, whose motto is, "In God We Trust", along with other God-fearing nations, to long tolerate the alarming increase in divorce. Much rather, it behooves us to acknowledge and preserve the sanctity, wholesomeness, and beauty of marriage, as intended by its Author, Almighty God.



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

Abish, A Lamanite Servant

Dear Girls and Boys,

Our story this month is taken from the Book of Mormon. The woman in this story is Abish, a Lamanite.

The king of the land of Ishmael was named Lamoni. A young man named Ammon, a Nephite, had been captured and brought before King Lamoni. Ammon, being a stranger in the land was bound and questioned by the king. After learning he desired to live among the Lamanites, the king ordered the ropes cut which bound Ammon. He was given the task of herding sheep.

There had been trouble with other Lamanites over driving the sheep to water. This frightened the king's servants. Ammon being a follower of the Lord, saw an opportunity now to speak of the gospel. Ammon was not afraid of these troublemakers. When they raised their arms to strike him, he drew his sword and cut off their arms. Soon King Lamoni heard of this and was impressed with Ammon's great power. None of his servants had been as faithful to him as Ammon. He said, "Surely this is more than a man. Behold is he not the Great Spirit?" This custom of speaking of God as the Great Spirit is still among the Indians today.

The servants of the king said they did not know if he was the Great Spirit or just a man, but they realized he could not be killed and had proved to be the king's friend. King Lamoni felt Ammon surely must be the Great Spirit come down to them, the one their fathers had spoken of. Then King Lamoni became very frightened. He thought the Great Spirit was about to punish him. He must speak to Ammon.

The servants called Ammon. The king was so afraid that he could not speak for an hour. The Lord's spirit came upon Ammon and he knew the king's thoughts. Finally the king asked, "Who art thou? Art thou that Great Spirit who knows all things?" This was Ammon's opportunity to explain about God. Ammon was a very wise man. Ammon asked, "Believest thou that there is a Great Spirit?" The king said, "Yes." Then Ammon told how God lives in heaven and knows all their thoughts. The king believed. Ammon prayed and when he finished, the king fainted as if dead. The servants picked him up and put him upon a bed. Here he lay for two days and two nights. His wife and children mourned, thinking he had passed away. The people also thought their king was dead. They made plans to bury him.

Before the queen would permit her husband to be buried, she wanted to talk with Ammon. She asked him if he were a prophet of a holy God and if he had power to do great things in His name? She desired Ammon to see her husband. Now this was what Ammon wanted. He knew the king was not dead. The queen went in and sat

beside the king. He reached out his hand to her. Great joy came over the queen and she too fell down with her husband. Ammon prayed and he also was overcome by the Spirit. When the servants saw this, they were frightened. They too were overcome with the Spirit.

There was one woman named Abish, who waited on the queen. She understood this great miracle. She had been converted by a wonderful vision which had been given to her father many years before. She had never made known her conversion, but now people would believe. She ran from house to house making known this wonderful event. Soon a multitude gathered, some believing, others quarreling. She was worried when she saw all this contention. In tears Abish went into the room where the queen lay. She knelt down and took the queen's hand. The queen awoke, then Abish took King Lamoni by the hand and he too arose. They praised God. The king told the people what Ammon had taught him. Many were converted. Ammon baptized them and the church was established.

You may read this interesting story in Alma chapter 19.

Sincerely,

Sister Mabel

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COLORING BOOKS

This notice is to remind all concerned of the availability of the first Church sanctioned coloring book passed by the Conference of October, 1975. The Church accepted this as a religious learning activity for our children.

The G.M.B.A. accepted the printing, sale and distribution of this project. This coloring book supports the Faith and Doctrine of The Church of Jesus Christ. It contains pictures of the Gospel Restoration; Administering of the Holy Ordinances and others related to our Faith. Each picture is captioned with scriptural references. (see below)

This learning activity will ably assist in teaching our children the true basic principles of the Restored Gospel by a time proven method—the coloring book! These books are adapted for children from ages 5 to 11.

Each coloring book sells for \$.75 each plus mailing costs and is available to Branches, Missions, M.B.A. Locals, Sunday Schools, etc. In addition, they may be purchased and given as gifts for birthdays, home use, sick children and other uses.

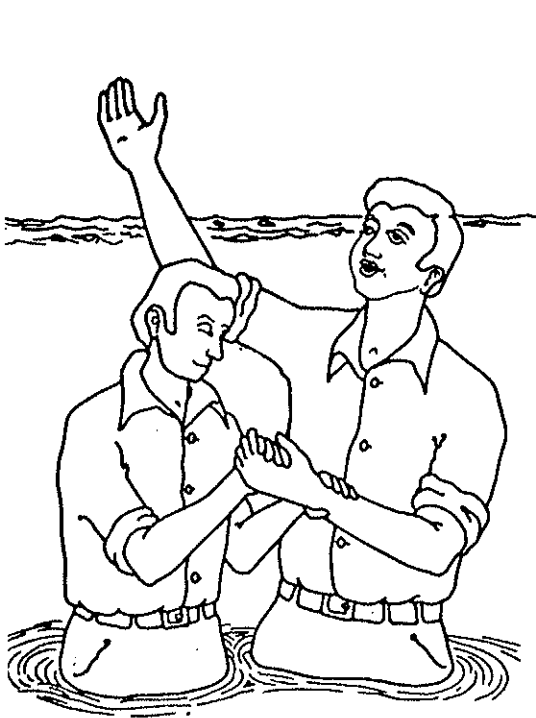
We suggest books be purchased for class use on a 5 to 1 ratio. i.e.—if you have 12 children in your class, order 60 books, do not forget the teacher! This will allow for the continual turnovers in your class, eliminating the reordering of additional books frequently.

Books may be purchased by ordering from the following:

Joseph Ross
No. 2 Ross Drive
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001
412-375-1648

Alex Gentile
11294 Suffolk Dr.
Southgate, Mich. 48195
313-287-4494

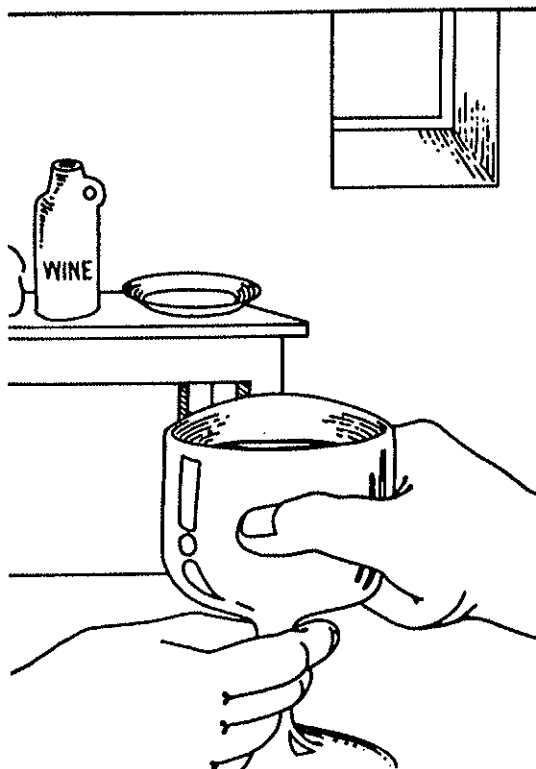
John Ross Jr.
119 West Saguaro St.
Casa Grande, Arizona 85222
602-836-2760



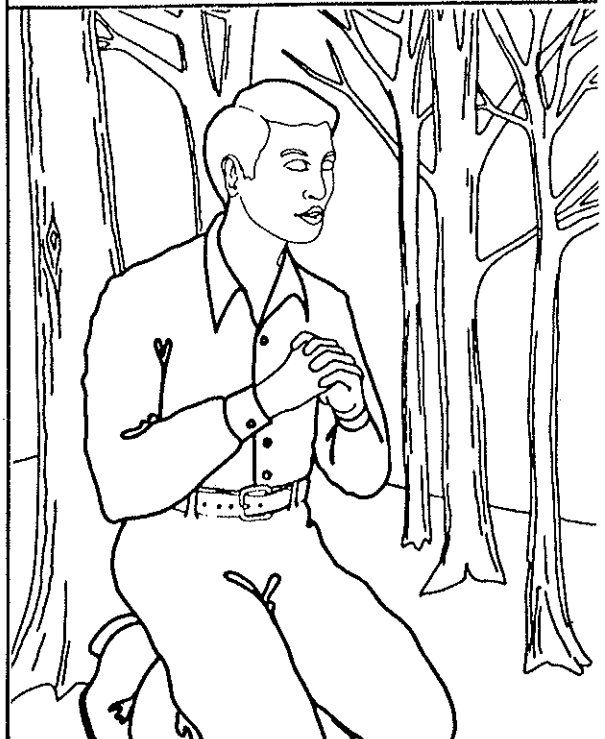
BAPTISM



FEET WASHING



SACRAMENT



JOSEPH SMITH ASKS GOD WHICH CHURCH
SHOULD I JOIN ?

OHIO DISTRICT CONFERENCE

The Ohio District held its Semi-annual conference in Cleveland on August 27 and 28. The Saturday meeting was held in the church building and the Sunday meeting at Euclid Central Jr. High School. Prior to the opening of our service, there were musical selections sung by groups from various Branches and Missions of the District. Our meeting was opened with a solo by Sister Carla Dziak, titled, "That's Worth Living For". Prayer was offered by Brother Bob Ciarrochi from Niles, Ohio. We then sang, "We've a Story To Tell to The Nations". There were two babies anointed for afflictions.

Brother Elmer Santilli from the Perry Branch, our first speaker, used for his text, a few verses from the Third chapter of Matthew, wherein it gives an account of John the Baptist. He mentioned about the message that John had for the people in his day; "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His path straight." Brother Elmer stressed that we also have a message to bring to the world, and *The Book of Mormon* has a message for the seed of Joseph. Christ also had a message that we should love one another, for, "by this the world will know that ye are my disciples."

Brother Travis Perry followed and spoke about Zion and the things that will precede the establishing of Zion; principally among these things is the increase of sin. He cautioned us to be aware of the temptations of Satan and urged us to remember the way of the Lord in all things, and all the things that he has promised will be ours.

The young people then sang, "We're Marching to Zion." Brother Mark Kovacic spoke a few words about the trip he and his brother George made to San Carlos, Arizona. They worked with Brother David Majoros for some time in the Lay Missionary Program of the Church.

Brother Tony Corrado spoke briefly about some of the experiences he has had. On one occasion he heard the voice of God say, "I am the same God, the God of miracles and you don't have to wait until tomorrow for miracles."

Brother Joe Calabrese, our District President made some appropriate closing remarks, after which he gave Brother Frank Sirangelo, from Lake Worth, Florida, an opportunity to say a few words. We sang, "How Happy Are They" as our closing hymn and Brother Sirangelo offered the closing prayer.

Brother Jim Alessio
Ohio District Editor

MBA HIGHLIGHTS

We would like to share with the readers of the Gospel News the enjoyable time 23 members, children and friends of the Fredonia MBA had Saturday, August 6, 1977, when we visited the Kirtland Temple in the Northern Ohio hills.

We viewed a brief film and had a guided tour of the Temple. We were told Joseph Smith Jr. had a revelation that the dimension of the building was to be 55 x 65 ft. and three stories high. Construction began in 1833 and the building was dedicated March 27, 1836 in a nine-

hour service. It is an amazing building considering under which these dedicated and devoted people worked. Native stone was cut from a quarry a mile away and hauled to the site and the native oak timbers were hewn by hand with an adz.

The cost of the construction of the Temple is recorded at \$60,000.00. The major part of this cost was for the window glass that was made in England. The main floor was used for their service of worship, the second floor as a school room for the ministry, the third floor for Sunday School and for meetings of the Church quorums. The Temple is owned and maintained by the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ and today is only used for special services and open for public viewing.

We are thankful the landmarks of the early Church and the historical sites of the Restoration have been preserved that we may visit and enjoy them in our day.

We had a bountiful picnic lunch in a nearby park.

As an MBA group we have enjoyed several such trips. A few years ago we went to Palmyra, New York and saw the pageant at the Hill Cumorah and attended Church in Rochester on Sunday. We have gone to the Six Nation Reserve in Canada twice and received the hospitality, love and fellowship with the Brothers and Sisters there.

We were pleasantly surprised and happy to have Brother and Sister Bittinger in a recent MBA meeting. They were on their way home from Lockport and stopped over. Brother Bittinger gave a very interesting account of his trips to Africa and missionary visits to the various reservations on this land. The joys of the Saints are many and we thank God for each blessing we receive.

Sister Eleanor Sproul
Fredonia MBA Editor

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OHIO AREA MBA

Monday, July 18, 1977, the Ohio Area of the MBA met in the Youngstown, Ohio church building to view the slides of Africa. Brother Nephi DeMercurio, his wife Sister Lorraine and their two young sons shared their future lives with us by way of the many excellent slides and commentary Brother Nephi brought forth. A most vivid and detailed account of the Church and our Brothers and Sisters in the land of Africa was brought forth. It was an evening that will long be remembered by those in attendance. Many realize now what a great work and a wonder is being performed on that continent by God. And we also realize our duty to remember the work there and our Brother Nephi and his family in prayer, as they answer God's call for workers.

Oh that all who call themselves Saints might fast and pray for their calling—God is waiting for laborers to reap the harvest.

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Do not follow
where the path may lead.

Go, instead, where there
is no path and leave a trail.

BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS:—**Baptism In Youngstown, Ohio**

Sunday, July 24, 1977, we were happy to have Brother Tony Picciuto and family visiting us from Lindsay, California. The Youngstown Quartet sang three selections which were enjoyed by all. Brother Tony opened our meeting by using the *First Chapter of Nehemiah* for his text. Nehemiah had fasted and prayed for the children of Israel. Brother Picciuto emphasized that we should do as Nehemiah, to fast and pray, that we might be able to overcome any problems that we have in this life. After our morning service had ended, Donald Carson asked for his baptism. Brother Carson was baptized by Brother Donald Pandone and confirmed by Brother A. A. Corrado. May the Lord continue to bless us with many more baptisms.

Besides visitors from California and Kent, Ohio, we had Brother Nick and Sister Pauline Ritz, former members of Youngstown, along with their daughter and son-in-law, Brother George and Sister Eileen Katsaras of Miami, Florida.

On August 7, we enjoyed a portion of God's blessing as we welcomed Brother Rocco and Sister Angeline Biscotti of Parma Heights, Ohio. Brother Biscotti read from *The Book of Mormon, Ether 2:9-12*, which tells how this land is choice above all other lands and if the nation does not serve God, it will be swept off. Our country today is becoming ripe in iniquity and we, as a people need to draw closer to God. Brother Rocco warned us not to become complacent. Brother Travis Perry followed on the same subject, stressing that if we want the divine protection of God, in these troubled times, we must draw closer to Him.

Brother and Sister Biscotti are scheduled to leave for Italy on August 23, along with Brother Gorie and Sister Antoinette Ciaravino.

May God bless them in their endeavor.

Sister Annette Corrado
Youngstown Branch Editor

Branch No. 1 Detroit, Michigan

On May 29, 1977 we had the opportunity to welcome the President of our Church, Brother Dominic Thomas, to our Sunday morning meeting.

To begin the service Brother Paul Vitto opened in prayer. Brother Dominic Thomas followed by reading from *Matthew 10:41-42*.

As Brother Thomas began to speak, he brought to our attention the importance of having a good relationship with God.

His talk then focused on the subject of what kind of people we ought to be. In his first thought on that subject he said, "The Church needs members who will tell others of The Church of Jesus Christ." He added to that, "We should never forget to speak to our family and friends who already know about us."

He continued on by stressing, that we should work as hard at our relationship with the Brothers and Sisters

in Christ, as we do in our relationship with God. We need to be one in the Spirit.

Brother Thomas then reminisced back to his childhood days, as he told us how the Brothers and Sisters guided his life. He said he remembers his Sunday School teacher who taught him to pray, and another Sister who would start the singing at each meeting.

He stated that we should be able to go to our Brothers and Sisters to have spiritual questions answered, and be able to confide in a Brother, if we are facing problems we are unable to handle. We should know that our Brother is willing to listen and that we can always return to him for his help and comfort. Brother Thomas said he looks forward to guiding others, just as he was guided by the Brothers and Sisters, when he was young in The Church.

In one of his final comments he stated that some of our people say that they were more spiritual in the old days. His reply to that was, "They did not have to face what we are facing today. As a people we are actually more dependent on The Church today, than in the days gone by."

Our Sunday afternoon meeting was also filled with many blessings and a surprise. We were visited by Brother Louis Vitto of the Sterling Heights Branch.

He asked us to take inventory of our lives. He said, "As they pass sacrament, I ask myself, 'Am I worthy?'" And before he partakes he asks himself again, "Am I worthy of the blood of Jesus?"

Brother Vitto stated that Christ could have passed from this life in many ways, perhaps a heart attack. But He didn't! Instead His blood was shed to save the souls of men.

He told us we are the body of Christ, and we must shine everyday of our lives. Brother Vitto questioned, "We expect God to bless us, but are we worthy of His blessings?"

He quoted from the *Book of Psalms*, "Be still and know that I am God." He added that the voice of God is in a quiet whisper, and we must be still to hear the voice.

As sacrament was passed, I know each one of us as soldiers for Christ, re-evaluated our lives.

We thank God for both of our Elder Brothers in Christ, and also for their words of guidance and strength.

Sisters Diane Everett
and Diana Thompson

Vero Beach, Florida

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Because of the great blessings received, we wish to share our journey with all those who read the *Gospel News*.

On June 11, 1977, my son, Frank, his companion, my wife, and myself left for a visit north. It seemed far off when we left Vero Beach, Florida, but we planned to stop at Brother and Sister Moore's home in Atlanta, Georgia, to break the monotony of riding. We arrived there about 6:00 p.m. on Saturday night. We enjoyed their fellowship. The Sabbath Day meeting was held in

the home of Brother Stuart Byars. Surely the Spirit of God was manifested in a great measure. After the meeting, we left for North Carolina, to visit the home of our grandson (Brother Frank Giovannone's son).

Our next stop was to be our daughter, Betty Allesio's, place in Lorain, Ohio. On Monday morning we left for Ohio and arrived there about 6:00 p.m. We were in time to attend two graduations: our granddaughter Rene's, and that of Brother Calabrese's son. Staying the week with our daughter, we were able to meet with the Brothers and Sisters at the Lorain Branch the following Sabbath Day. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves in the Lord, and the fellowship of God's people. We stayed another week, not leaving until the following Sunday.

Warren, Ohio was next on our list. We enjoyed their Sunday night service, and on the following Wednesday evening we were found in Niles, Ohio, at the home of our son, Jerry Giovannone. We had a beautiful meeting, finding many of our old friends, Brothers and Sisters, still holding on to the rod of iron.

On July 3rd, the members of the Niles Branch and Warren Branch met together at Warren. Surely the glory of God was felt by all. It was almost like a conference meeting. Every soul enjoyed the great blessings of God. The following week we were back at Warren. I was asked to open that meeting, and I felt inspired to speak on the Love of God. Brother Jerry followed, and the day was topped by the washing of feet ordinance. Wednesday evening we spoke on *Hebrews, 2nd chapter*, where Jesus, though He was the Son of God, was not ashamed to call his followers "Brother."

The following Sunday, which was the 19th of July, we again were at the Warren Branch. Brother Bob Ciarrochi opened the meeting and an enjoyable time was had by all. The following Wednesday, my son, Frank, and I went to Youngstown, Ohio. It was at this Branch 55 years ago (November 12, 1922) that my wife and I were taken into the waters of baptism. Because of this being the place of our Spiritual birth we try to attend at least once, while in the north. The Brothers and Sisters were very happy to see us again, and we were happy to see them still in the service of the Lord. We had a beautiful meeting, as the Lord met with us and poured out His blessings upon us all.

On Sunday, July 24th, Frank and I went to Aliquippa, Pa., and it surely was very well worth our efforts as the Lord was with us there. It had been quite a while since I had been to that Branch. What a beautiful and humble group of Brothers and Sisters. Surely our trip north was invigorating spiritually as well as temporally. Seeing old friends and Brothers and Sisters. Sharing experiences and seeing the growth of our posterity. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Your Brother in Christ,
Domenick Giovannone

Happy Times In Detroit Branch No. 3

Our Branch has been blessed many times during the past few weeks. On June 12, 1977, Brother Dwayne and Sister Elaine Jordan, and Brother Dennis Calabrese visited from Redlake, Arizona. Also in our meeting were

Brothers Joseph Calabrese from Lorain, Ohio, and Paul Vitto, our District President.

The service was opened by Brother Dennis Calabrese who read from *Hebrews 2:6*, "What is man that thou art mindful of him?" He encouraged all to seek our work in The Church and to work together with one another. He likened our lives unto an orchestra, which through unity and work, is able to produce beautiful music. Brother Dwayne Jordan gave his testimony and read from the *8th Psalm*, "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained. What is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the Son of Man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the Angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour." Brother Joseph Calabrese closed in expressing how wonderful it is to be valued just lower than the angels, and for the Brothers and Sisters to get excited about the Gospel and the work involved.

We were thankful for the words of our Brothers and pray that God will continue to bless them and their families.

On June 26, 1977 we added a new member to The Church. Sister Lynne Francione asked for her baptism after returning from camp-out. She was baptized following the service by Brother Larry Watson. An evening meeting was scheduled where Sister Lynne was confirmed by her uncle, Brother Paul Whitton.

On July 3, 1977 we again, with much joy, met at the river's shore for the baptism of Brenda Capone. She has had experiences relating that this is the true Church, and related a dream she had the previous night. In the dream she was at a shopping center and a man approached her and wanted to talk. All she wanted to talk about was getting baptized, but wondered why she was telling this to a man she didn't know. When her husband came a voice spoke saying that it was time for her to be baptized. When she returned to the car she saw two bags she had left there but didn't know what they contained. In one bag was *The Bible*, and the other had *The Book of Mormon*.

After the service Sister Brenda was baptized by her father-in-law, Brother Peter H. Capone. She was confirmed by Brother Jack Pontillo in an evening meeting.

Brothers and Sisters
Detroit Branch No. 3

Baptisms At Sterling Heights, Michigan

We, here at Sterling Heights, have fervently been praying for a revival to take place, we have petitioned God to give us an awakening, to give us showers of blessings. Today, July 24, God gave us raindrops from Heaven along with His blessings.

Brother Carl Frammolino opened the meeting, dwelling on the love we must have for God and for one another. He stated that the fear of the Lord is the very basis of salvation, we should always strive to fear God and to love Him, it is He that gives us the breath of life, it is He who provides for us. None of us are perfect, as God forgave David his many transgressions, He will forgive us.

Brother Lou Vitto read verse three from the *Third Chapter of Colossians*, "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." He stated that our earthly possessions are only borrowed. Man cannot serve two masters, we must choose today whom we will serve. When the Lord says our soul is required today, we cannot say, "Not today, Lord, I'm not ready to go." We must be prepared at all times, He may come like a thief in the night. We are here today because we love God, we can praise Him in song and thank Him in prayer. God gave us commandments to follow, a path to walk upon, if we fulfill the word of God, we will be happy. We must accept Him all the way, there is no half-way measure, there is no one greater than God and He will place blessings upon us if we serve Him. God saw fit throughout the ages, to give His son for the sins of the world. Brother Lou said if the Lord was to come today, and we knew He was coming, what would we do about it? He used as an illustration in his sermon, his own life and his concern about his worldly friends, if he should turn to God, what would they think of him, but he could not forget the prayers of his parents. Brother Carl Frammolino then announced that Margaret Heath had asked for her baptism at Cass Corridor, and we were dismissed by Brother Paul Whitton.

Brother John Buffa then called us back as Gary Champine, a very close friend of Brother Sam DiFalco, had asked for his baptism. Beverly Bingham also proclaimed her desire to go to the waters.

Many went to Stony Creek to witness as the two new converts begin their walk with Jesus Christ. Brother Gary was baptized by Brother Carl Frammolino and Sister Beverly was baptized by Brother Louis Vitto. We then met back at the church and Brother Gary was confirmed by Brother Leonard Lovalvo, of California and Sister Beverly was confirmed by Brother Paul Vitto. Brother John Buffa then administered the Sacrament to them. Brother Paul Vitto said he was elated that more souls had been called into the Gospel today, and he told the new converts this was the beginning of a joyous life. Brother Leonard Lovalvo sang "Sheltered In The Arms of God, and dedicated it to Brother Gary and Sister Beverly.

Brother John Buffa asked the new converts to give their testimonies. Brother Gary related his experience as to how God had opened the way for him. He began by thanking God and the members of The Church who had been praying for him. He said he first came to The Church five years ago, and that he left in tears. God knew he wasn't ready, he needed more strength, more experience. He said, and I quote, "Last week, I felt the Spirit of God come over me, I was overwhelmed, and I had to seek counsel with a Brother. I played music out in the world and I didn't want to give it up. A passage from the *Bible* came to my mind where the Pharisees asked the blind man about his dealings with Jesus Christ, and he said, "I was blind but now I see." God worked a miracle for me, He took care of everything. I met with my family during the week and told my brothers that after Saturday night, I could no longer play in the band with them. I used to see Brother Sam DiFalco come to work, always with a smile upon his face, and I wondered what has this man got. When I came to this Church, I knew what he had."

Four of Brother Gary's brothers came to Church

with him this morning and his parents attended the confirmation service tonight.

Sister Beverly said that the last time she came to Church, she realized that if she came again, she would have to ask for her baptism. She stated how happy she was that she had made the step.

Sister Margaret Heath, who asked for her baptism at Cass Corridor, and was confirmed at Branch No. 1 today, also gave her testimony. She told of her many dreams and her revelations from reading the scriptures, that this was the right Church.

After the service, refreshments were served in the basement. The end of a beautiful day, and one long to be remembered.

Sister Hazel Zoltek, Editor

Two Baptisms In Greensburg

On Sunday, May 15, 1977, the Spirit of God prevailed in our midst as two souls rendered obedience to The Gospel of Jesus Christ. Charles Thomas Dulkis, age 61, and Lana Louise Fallavollitti, age 12, were baptized by Brother Paul Gehly. Brother Charles was confirmed by Brother Idris Martin and Sister Lana by Brother Paul Gehly. It was beautiful and uplifting to witness God calling Sister Lana at such an early age in life and Brother Charles at a later age. God calls His laborers into His vineyard at all hours. Our prayers are that God will richly bless our two new members and keep them strong in the Gospel.

Editor
Greensburg Branch

Monongahela Has Baptism

Sunday, July 17, 1977 proved to be a beautiful day for Angeline Cannoni, who had made her wishes known earlier in the week that she wanted to be baptized.

After lunch we all gathered at the banks of the beautiful Monongahela River to witness Angeline's baptism. Brother John Griffith then baptized her and after we had returned to the church, Brother Meredith Griffith confirmed her.

It is our constant prayer that the Lord will bless and keep her strong till the end of her days.

Note of Thanks

My dear Brothers, Sisters and friends of The Church of Jesus Christ. As you well know, I am a recent follower of Christ, being baptized at the G.M.B.A. Campout in June. I never realized how wonderful the "Family of God" could be until I experienced my recent illness.

I would like to take advantage of this media to thank all of you for the cards, gifts, visits and above all your prayers in my behalf. You have showered me with love that can only be described as the "Love of God."

I look forward to the day when I can thank you each personally.

God bless you,
Brother Ryan Ross

AN OPPORTUNITY

Sunday morning, August 21, 1977 at 10:30 Evangelist and District President Brother Joseph Calabrese recently had an opportunity to appear on Channel 43 a UHF T.V. Station.

The program is called Lorain Conversation. It is seen in the Cleveland, Akron area as well as Lorain.

The host, Alice Weston, was very interested in what Brother Joe had to say. She was surprised to hear that other people believe in the Restored Gospel since she had some knowledge of the *Book of Mormon* from the Latter Day Saint Church.

Before Brother Joe left he presented her with our *Book of Mormon*. She said that Brother Joe may return in the future and speak about the book by Brother Bucci, *The American Indian Moses*.

We're very thankful that we had the opportunity to present the Restored Gospel. We hope Brother Joe's words may fall upon fertile ground.



— NEW ARRIVALS —

Congratulations are in order to the proud parents for the indicated new members of their families. New arrivals have been as follows:

Bobbi Jo to Bart and Judi Gensburg of Warren, Ohio,

Jason Anthony to Guy Anthony and Joelle Karelli of Roscoe, Pennsylvania,

Amy Lyn to Edmond and Leana Buccelato of Van Nuys, California,

Bradley John to Kenneth and Connie Barnes of Windsor, Ontario,

Michelle Lee to Mark James and Marcia Ann Rogolino of Ft. Pierce, Florida.

— WEDDINGS —

ANDERSON - NOEL

Mr. Eric J. Anderson and Miss Dana Aileen Noel of Greensburg, Pennsylvania were united in holy wedlock on Thursday, June 23 at The Church of Jesus Christ.

The ceremony was officiated by Brother Paul Gehly. Musical selections were presented by Brother Joseph Saeli.

GOSSELIN - WRIGHT

Mr. Dennis Joseph Gosselin and Sister Lori Anne Wright were joined in holy wedlock on Friday, August 19, 1977 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Windsor, Ontario.

Brother Don Collison officiated at the wedding ceremony. Musical selections were presented by Melissa Matthew and assisted by Arlene Collison and J. Wright. The newlyweds will reside in Windsor, Ontario.

● OBITUARIES ●

MOLLY KATHERINE LINT

Mrs. Molly Katherine Lint passed away from this life on July 26, 1977. She was born in 1922. She attended the Ft. Pierce, Florida Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

She leaves to mourn her loss, her husband, two daughters, four grandchildren and two sisters.

The funeral services were conducted by Brothers Frank Rogolino and Joe Shazer.

RUTH (PIERCE) LYTLE

Sister Ruth Lytle passed on to her final reward on Tuesday, August 9, 1977. She was a member of the Roscoe, Pennsylvania branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. She was born on January 24, 1920 and baptized into The Church on October 13, 1935.

The funeral services were conducted by Brothers George Johnson and John Kendall.

She leaves to mourn her loss, her husband, one son, three brothers and four sisters.

Our sister was faithful to the end and will be missed by the Brothers and Sisters of The Church.

WILLIAM M. CAMPITELLE

William M. Campitelle, born on February 4, 1917 passed away August 25, 1977. Brother Carl Frammolino presided at the funeral services at the J. A. DeSantis Funeral Home.

Left to mourn his passing are two brothers, five sisters, several nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews, and friends.

Church Calendar

The following is a list of 1977 events of General Church and regional interest. (*Denotes the meeting will be held in the General Church Auditorium in Greensburg, Pa.)

OCTOBER

General Ladies' Circle, Detroit, Michigan. October 1, 1977.

Finance Committee Meeting, Aliquippa, Pa. October 8, 1977, 10:00 a.m.

General Church Conference, Greensburg, Pa. October 14, 15, 16, 1977.

NOVEMBER

G.M.B.A. Conference, Greensburg, Pa. November *12, *13, 1977.

The GOSPEL NEWS

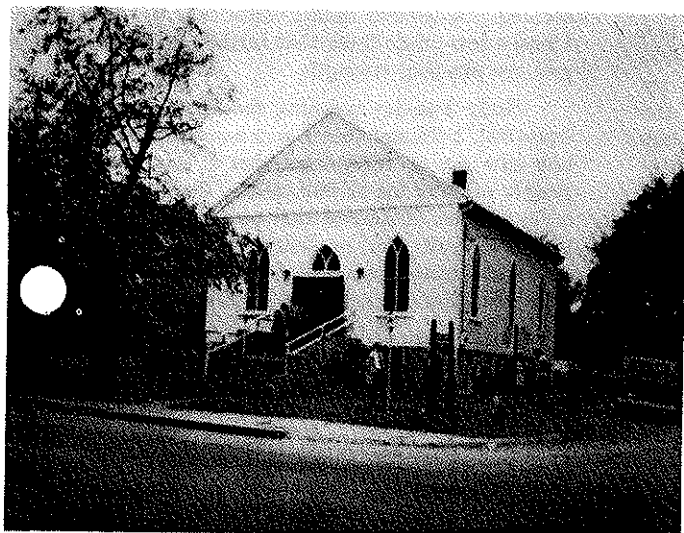
The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa.

November, 1977

Volume 33, No. 11

Offices: 6th & Lincoln Sts.

DEDICATION AT HERNDON, VIRGINIA



On August 14, 1977, many Saints of The Church of Jesus Christ gathered together at 800 Elden Street in Herndon, Virginia. The purpose was to bestow upon the edifice that stands at that location the name, "The Church of Jesus Christ." They gathered together to dedicate that building to the glory and honor of our Lord and Savior and to honor Him with the work that we, as the Saints that worship therein, perform in the building of a new and glorious Zion.

Our services began at 10 a.m. with the singing of hymns. Brother Joe Perry presided at the meeting. Just before church began the Saints from the Washington, D. C. Mission sang two hymns—"There Is A River" and "How Great Thou Art."

Brother George Timms, Presiding Elder of the D.C./Herndon, Virginia Mission offered introductory words, welcoming everyone into our midst.

Brother Joe then called for volunteers to sing, "Bless This House" before our meeting formally opened. The voices of those Brothers and Sisters rang out and touched the hearts of everyone there. (I'm so very sure that during this time all the Brothers and Sisters from this Mission

were reflecting back upon the time and effort that had gone into making this building what it was that Sunday; and, upon the fasting and prayers that kept us united and most of all believing that God would not fail us if we but kept the faith.

Brother Dominic Thomas offered a few opening remarks and then opened our services with prayer.

A summerization of the history of the Washington, D. C. Mission was then related to us. The Mission was started in 1948 with Brother Alvin Swanson as Presiding Elder and three members — Sister Lydia Swanson, Sister Della Day and Sister Ann Stevens. (The Washington, D. C. Mission also had the privilege of being the largest single contributor to the building fund for the General Church building in Greensburg.)

Our present building in Herndon, Va. was built in 1872 to be used for a Methodist Church. It was purchased by The Church of Jesus Christ in July 1976 with the help of God and the 28 Saints that comprise this Mission.

Brother Alvin Swanson then spoke on THE MAKING OF A MISSION. He read from *Psalms* 117 and 118. He reminded us that it takes a lot of patience, time and love in order to achieve that goal. He reflected back upon his own experiences, beginning Easter Sunday, 1948, with the first meeting of the Washington, D. C. mission; of receiving the first contribution to the building fund (for a building to meet in) from Sister Gertrude Little. The making of a Mission, he stressed, takes the help of all working together for one common end. God must always be in the plan; except He conduct the plan, the most concerted things are vain. This building (Herndon, Va.) is only to keep out the rain, the heat or the cold of the day. The real building is the spiritual building; unselfish devotion to anything that would cause the furthering of this Gospel.

Brother Alvin traveled back and forth to Washington for twelve years prior to his going to Africa. After his return home he attended one of his last meetings in Washington, D. C. Mission in 1961. He ended his talk with very inspirational words, "There will be the building of a New Jerusalem . . . a New Zion. One day this Church will go out all over the world. . . We have come this far and I have every confidence we will go all the way. But, in everything we do we must have fervor . . . our hearts must pant after the things of God."

After our singing Hymn No. 306, Count Your Blessings, Brother Domenic Thomas then spoke. He asked for special prayer of all the Saints for Brother Paul D'Amico who was to be undergoing open heart surgery soon. Prayer was also asked for Brother Larry Zampella who was also seriously ill. Brother August D'Orazio led us all in prayer. Brother Thomas reiterated Brother Alvin's message. He reflected upon the structure of the Church... the Branch vs. the Mission, the different committees comprising the Church. We as Saints of The Church of Jesus Christ, he reasoned, have a task similar to/same as Jesus' disciples... We too must accept the responsibility for going into ALL the world. All things in the Church must be dedicated to keeping in motion those things that are helping to establish His kingdom upon the face of the earth. He reminded us that we have a great need to give close attention to the development of Missions such as this one; that we are all a part of the total Church effort. In order to succeed in establishing other Missions, we need the help of each and everyone in the Church. The making of a single Mission is very much like our efforts as a Church in establishing the Kingdom of God on this Earth. Brother Thomas further reminded us that there is a kind of reawakening today—a reawakening in the world to the things of God. We as Saints of God have the responsibility to be a light—an example—to spread the truth. The plan of salvation calls for a deep and thorough search of one's self to be sure that we are not worshippers of ourselves but worshippers of God. We need to make the sound of the Gospel of Jesus Christ ring out throughout the world so that those who are now lost will hear and find their way back to Christ.

The challenge that we face, he said, is to keep the same intense desires and enthusiasm that we shared in trying to get this building in order. We should never be discouraged about serving God. He will always see us through. The devil is so subtle he can wipe out a Mission/Branch before we even realize it is being wiped out. He can wreak havoc where we should be reaping harvest. Every member of this Church should be a member in fact; in truth; our zeal and enthusiasm should be lasting; not temporary. We cannot be reticent about the work of the Church; about the things of God or even about our own being. None of us have been through what Christ went through. Until we do we can only say, "THY WILL BE DONE."

We then sang Hymn No. 154, Blessed Be The Name, after which Brother Joe read the testimony of Brother Paul Carr concerning the experiences he and the other Washington, D. C. Saints had surrounding the securing of this building. We were reminded that no matter where we meet, as long as the Spirit of God is there, the building doesn't matter.

Oil and a handkerchief were then blessed by some of the Elders. Brother George Timms offered final remarks. We sang Hymn No. 268, I'm Pressing On, and closing prayer was offered by Brother Tony Ensana.

That brought to an end a wonderful, glorious day. I might add that all during services there were thunder-showers outside, but inside the glowing hearts of the Brothers and Sisters provided sunshine. May God bless you all in other parts of the vineyard as He has blessed us here and may He always hold you secure in His love.

Sister Hythia D. Young, Editor
Washington, D. C. Mission

September 30, 1977
7:50 A.M.

Dear Brother Dominic and Brothers of the Priesthood,

We praise God for His tender kindness toward us and our children. Words cannot express the many ways God has shown His goodness. Many times Satan has tried to discourage us by placing many obstacles in our path. It seems that after we overcome one difficulty and feel everything is going to run smoothly, Satan attacks again. His pursuit has been unrelenting.

However, the Lord has shown that He is consistent, merciful, and almighty, by delivering us from the ugliness of Satan.

This past week on September 27, 1977, I had a very beautiful experience to illustrate what God has done for us. When I retired Monday evening, I was very tired mentally and physically. We had encountered several difficulties over the weekend on many fronts. My mind was further troubled by my inability to coordinate my lectures for school as I had hoped. The burden of it all seemed just greater than I could bear. In addition to that, I had a low grade fever that further inhibited my thinking and my physical strength.

Early Tuesday morning the Lord gave me something beautiful. I dreamt that I was home in the U.S.A., but no one saw me or recognized that I was home. I saw our people praying for us and talking about us. It seemed like a conference. It showed that no one had forgotten us, but that we were ever present in everyone's mind. I then heard the congregation of Saints sing in our behalf in a very beautiful spirit "Jesus Is Always There."

I was particularly uplifted by the words of the hymn, because it suited my needs very greatly. Let me share with you the words of the first verse and the chorus I heard.

Sometimes our skies are cloudy and dreary,
Sometimes our hearts are burdened with care;
But we know, whate'er may befall us,
Jesus is always there.

Chorus

Never a burden that He doth not carry,
Never a sorrow that He doth not share;
Whether the days may be sunny or dreary,
Jesus is always there.

I must truly say that I feel very unworthy to represent "The Church of Jesus Christ" and His Priesthood, and also that you as a Priesthood have agreed to send me here. I know there is no greater honor for any man than to be in God's service and be His servant.

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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

Lucetta Scaglione, Office Manager
The GOSPEL NEWS

We are not asking you to pray because we know that you are doing that. We are not asking for anything special, because we know many are concerned about our needs and have initiated action. There is nothing I want to ask but to say "Thank You, Lord, for the love of Jesus and for His love that You have bestowed upon my people, who are Your people because they have love."

Please do not fail to remember my Brothers who are in other parts of the mission field. Their work is important in bringing salvation to the dying souls of men.

I shall think of you very much while Conference is in session. I will miss the fellowship that I have enjoyed through the years. My prayer is that God will bless you as He has blessed me and grant to you all a memorable Conference that will enrich your life as well as mine.

My wife and children are in relatively good health. We are grateful to God that our children are adapting to every situation very well. In fact, I am learning from them. Perhaps, the real missionaries are the children, because everywhere they go, they make friends, as well as being ambassadors of goodwill. They do not fear anything, and they are loved and respected by adults and children.

We have moved into our house. However, there remain a few things to be completed. The house affords us a great deal of comfort, even though we do not have electricity and the comforts of home. I think of Jesus, and I feel ashamed because He had no place to rest His head.

In closing, I pray that the Lord will bless you in all that is done at Conference, and remember what you do will enable mankind to have hope in the great gift of salvation.

Your Fellow Worker in Christ
Brother Nephi DeMercurio, Sr.

I'll Stand On That

I have not seen the hand of God,
I never walked heights many trod.
On mountain tops I never sat,
But God loves me, I'll stand on that.
The wealth of life was not my aim,
I never had — amazing fame.
I never saw my Savior's face,
But I can stand, for I've seen grace.
I've never seen a heavenly sight,
But Jesus washed my garment white.
And visions never came to me,
But I will stand, by faith I see.
I never met — Apostle Paul,
But I've met some who gave their all.
I never knew the dead to raise,
But I can stand, and sing God's praise.

CHORUS

On thrones of gold I never sat,
But God loves me, I'll stand on that.

by Arlene Buffington
May 20, 1977 (1 a.m.)

IT IS WRITTEN

STATE OF THE SOUL AFTER DEATH

Jesus, in answer to Satan's temptations, (*Matthew* 4:1-11) answered him with these words: "It is written." He was referring to the written Word of God. For the Word is like a two-edged sword, cleaving asunder criticism, judgment, and unbelief. In the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon*, the defense of all the faithful was in the Word of God.

Some, in giving their opinion on that which is written, are doing exactly what the Apostle Peter said, "...which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures unto their own destruction." 2 Peter 3:16. Peter, I believe, was not referring to formal school learning but rather to "Word of God" learning. No one can say that he knows and understands all the scriptures. However, in some cases, the mind is open by the revelation of God to that which is written. It is not in the prophecies that the greatest differences of opinion are had, but in the plain and simple words of Jesus Christ and His Apostles.

I would like to write on something that is "written", which is: the state of the soul (or spirit, which is one and the same) after death. Also, concerning the Resurrection.

Alma, in the *Book of Mormon*, (*Alma* 40: 11-13) says, "Now, concerning the state of the soul between death and the resurrection—"Behold, it has been made known unto me by an angel, that the spirits of all men, as soon as they are departed from this mortal body, yea, the spirits of all men, whether they be good or evil, are taken home to that God who gave them life. And then shall it come to pass, that the spirits of those who are righteous are received into a state of happiness, which is called Paradise, a state of rest, a state of peace, where they shall rest from all their troubles and from all care, and sorrow. And then shall it come to pass, that the spirits of the wicked, yea, who are evil—for behold, they have no part nor portion of the Spirit of the Lord; for behold, they chose evil works rather than good; therefore the spirit of the devil did enter into them, and take possession of their house—and these shall be cast into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and wailing, and gnashing of teeth, and this because of their own iniquity, being led captive by the will of the devil." Alma calls Paradise, into which the spirits of the righteous are received, a "state of happiness" and a 'state' of rest." "State of rest" does not mean that the righteous are asleep and so enjoy happiness, but rather a rest from the toils and cares of the mortal body. The soul does not need any sleep, because there is no flesh to cause weariness. Sleep is only given to the body in order to renew itself physically. King Benjamin, in his farewell address to the people said, "...And my immortal spirit may join the choirs above in singing the praises of a just God." (*Mosiah* 2:28) Now, that doesn't sound like sleeping, does it?

God has revealed to me that the spirit (or soul) is alive, with all the faculties of sight, hearing, etc. I write in part, my experience: "Then I interrupted him (Brother James Heaps) and asked, If this is your spirit, (I understood it to be the same as the soul) how is it I see you as you were on earth?" He smiled and said, 'If I appeared as I am in the spirit, your mortal eyes could not

behold me; therefore, you see me as I was, not as I am; I see, I hear, I walk and talk, Yet, I am spirit."

Paradise has many titles. It is called heaven, mansions of glory, state of rest, state of happiness, and many others. It was prepared from the foundation of the world to be the place where the spirits of the righteous go after the death of the mortal body. Paul, the Apostle, in writing concerning Paradise, said, "I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell; God knoweth,) such an one caught up to the third heaven. And, I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell; God knoweth;) How that he was caught up into Paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is unlawful for a man to utter." 2 Cor. 12:1-4. Please note that he calls the third heaven also Paradise.

One of the greatest examples that there is no sleeping in Paradise, but life and joy, are the words of Jesus to the thief on the cross, "Verily, I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in Paradise." (Luke 23:43) Can anyone say that the spirit of Christ would sleep in Paradise, after reading the above words? On the other hand, Alma says that the spirits of the wicked shall be cast into "outer darkness" (Alma 40:13) What is "Outer Darkness?" It is, without a doubt, another name for Hell. Hell is also called by many names; (do not be misled). It is called a state of awful darkness, furnace of fire, a Prison, a bottomless Pit, etc. No matter the Alias, the place is the same, Hell. Again, it is written, (speaking of Jesus) "Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thy Holy One to see corruption." (Acts 2:24-27) Therefore, when Christ went down into the Prison to preach, where else was it but in Hell, which is the place reserved for the wicked? (1 Peter 3:18-20) Also *Alma 40th chapter* and *2 Nephi 9th chapter*. Jesus also said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, the hour is coming and now is, when the dead (those in prison) shall hear the voice of the Son of God, and they that hear shall live. (John 5:25) The above is the state of the souls of both the righteous and the wicked between death and the resurrection.

Many persons have given divers versions of Heaven (Paradise) and Hell, because questions keep arising, "If Paradise is for the righteous and hell is for the wicked, what happens to those persons who are not baptized or who have never heard of the Gospel of Jesus? Or those who have not committed gross and evil deeds? Shall the unbaptized all go to hell?"

Who are considered "Righteous" and who are considered "Wicked?" Or, who shall go to Paradise and who shall go to hell? Let the Word of God answer this.

Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God." To Nicodemus' subsequent question, He replied, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God." (John 3:1-8) Please note that, "No one can ENTER nor even SEE the Kingdom of God except one is born again of the water and of the spirit. It is also written, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Luke 16:16) In order then to become a candidate for the Kingdom of God, one only becomes "Righteous" through being born again, and keeping His command-

ments thereafter. Wickedness is described by some as the state of being evil and doing evil things, such as breaking the Ten Commandments, etc. However, in opposition to this theory, King Benjamin (in the Book of Mormon) told his people, "And finally, I cannot tell you all the things whereby ye may commit sin; for there are divers ways and means, even so many that I cannot number them." (Mosiah 4:29) Also, "...the Lord cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance." (Alma 45:16)

Although man seeks to interpret righteousness and/or wickedness by making many excuses and rationalizations according to his own thinking; and though many are the differences of opinion that will exist, in the final analysis, God alone is the ultimate judge of Good or Evil. However, because of the different opinions of the above, many erroneous explanations have been forwarded, which has only led to much confusion.

Now, in answer to the question, "What happens to those persons who are not baptized but lead a good and decent life; or to those who have never heard of Jesus?" Must they all go to hell? First of all, one cannot be born again unless one is baptized by a man who is called of God and has priesthood authority. (I will treat on this at some other time) The *Bible* and *Book of Mormon* are very clear on this. To the question above: Thanks to God, He only allowed Holy men to write of two places, Heaven (Paradise) and hell. In process of time, men, thinking they could elaborate on the Word of God, introduced other places, such as Purgatory, Limbo, and others, in latter times, introduced the theory of degrees of glory in Heaven and degrees of punishment in hell. There is nothing in either the *Bible* or *Book of Mormon* to substantiate these philosophies. These theories are nothing but the thoughts of men to either lessen the punishment or to enhance the reward of glory by degrees. No one has the right to create places of bliss (other than heaven or Paradise) or lesser places of punishment (other than what is written in the Holy Writ). If the Lord wants to receive the spirits (or souls) of those who have not been born of the water and of the spirit into Paradise, that is His prerogative, not ours. I am sure that there are many people in this world who have and are living decent and moral lives, who also have not been born again (Baptized). If the Lord has other places in heaven for such as these, I praise this loving God. He alone knows. He did not cause any of the ancient prophets or Saints to write about "other places". If God has divided hell into separate places of punishment, according to the individual sins committed, He has not revealed to anyone. As Ministers, our duty and commission is very clear; "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." (Matthew 28:19, 20) Also, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16:15, 16) We must preach to one and all, the whole truth and nothing but the truth as "It is written". Repentance and Baptism must be preached to everyone, no matter what anyone may say to the contrary. We cannot be selective in our preaching or thinking. Think of the dangerous ground we tread if we should advance theories of other places than what is written in the Holy Scrip-

(Continued on Page 7!)

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Editorial Viewpoint

GEORGE A. NEILL

Let us give thanks to our God for every taste of life's experiences, for every lesson, for every trial with a feeling they have all added to our spiritual development.

When I look back over my past life I become stirred by the thought of the number of people to whom I owe thanks for what they gave me or what they were to me. It is impossible for me to recall all these people and the things they did for me. I'm satisfied the list is long and the deeds have been many for people have been good to me, even from the days of my childhood. It isn't my intention to name these people or refer to the kindnesses they have done for me. I am only haunted by a consciousness of the little gratitude I have shown them, and realizing many of them have said farewell and passed over to the other side, I become impressed with the thought that we should become more appreciative and should show our thankfulness at the right time.

Did you ever stand beside the open grave of a departed friend or loved one and wonder if you had thanked him enough for his kindness, or allowed your gratitude to be felt by him? I have, and with a feeling of shame. In the face of all this, however, I believe I can truly say I am not ungrateful. Nevertheless, I should become more sensitive to my duty in the matter and express the gratitude that is in my heart. Let us not value too little the feeling that is felt when someone does us a kind act or a good deed. We dare not say only one of the ten lepers whom Christ healed was thankful and appreciative. Christ was amazed that only one returned to say, "Thank you, Lord." This one person had a disposition that made him act immediately; in other words, he did not put off giving thanks which afterwards may have been too late. The other nine may have stood at the grave of Jesus with a feeling of shame and regret. I believe most people's consciences are stirred to be thankful but too few obey the admonition. It would seem to me we can refresh our souls with the assurance of gratitude.

At this Thanksgiving season let us be reminded of the words of the poet, "Count your many blessings, name them one by one; and it will surprise you what the Lord has done." These words can certainly be helpful if applied in our everyday thinking.

I remember reading different experiences of individuals who were thankful and expressed their feelings. During the last war a soldier in the Third Army was sent to a rest camp after a period of active service. When this soldier returned to his outfit he wrote a letter to George Patton who was the General in command, thanking him for this rest period. The General is supposed to have stated, "Thirty-five years I have tried to give comfort and convenience to my soldiers but this is the first letter of thanks I have ever received."

A famous scholar by the name of Matthew Henry was once accosted by thieves and robbed of his money. In his diary he wrote these words, "Let me be thankful first because I was never robbed before; second because, although they took my purse, they did not take my life; third because although they took my all, it was not much; and fourth because it was I who was robbed, not I who robbed." That surely makes you think, doesn't it?

The parents of a young man who was killed in the war gave a check for \$200.00 to their church as a memorial to their loved one. When the presentation was made another war mother whispered to her husband, "Let us give the same for our boy." The husband replied, "What are you talking about? Our boy didn't lose his life." "That's just the point," she said. "Let us give because he didn't." And that makes you think too, doesn't it?

—Continued on Page 6



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

Mothers of Two Thousand

Dear Girls and Boys,

This Book of Mormon story taken from the Book of Alma, tells of the teachings of good mothers. This event took place in the days of Ammon. Many people were converted through his preaching. They promised that they would never again go to war. They buried their weapons in the ground. Many of their men had been taken prisoners by the enemy and this weakened their army but they kept the promise they had made.

As years went by many sons were born to these Lamanites who had joined the Nephites. Now these sons had not taken the oath against going to war. They were free to defend their families and homes. They took upon them the name of Nephites because they had been converted to Christ by the Nephites. They made a solemn promise that they would never give up their liberty but would fight to protect the Nephites and themselves from bondage among the Lamanites. There were two thousand of them.

These young men armed themselves with weapons of war and joined the army. They asked Helaman to be their leader. Helaman gladly accepted and called them his sons. They were very courageous young men, not afraid to fight or die for the right. They trusted in the Lord . . . "for they had been taught by their mothers, that if they did not doubt God would deliver them". This showed great faith.

Helaman marched at the head of his two thousand stripling soldiers. They were young men of truth and soberness and had been taught to walk uprightly before God. At times the fighting was very heavy. These young men attacked the Lamanites with fury. Never had Helaman seen such fighting. This continued for days. The enemy followed them but could not catch them. Finally the Lamanites were caught between two Nephite armies and soon surrendered.

At the close of the great battle, Helaman counted his young men to see if any had been killed. Not one had died! These words are recorded that Helaman wrote, "And now it came to pass that when they (the enemy) had surrendered themselves up unto us, behold I numbered those young men who had fought with me, fearing lest there were many of them slain. But behold to my great joy, there was not one soul of them fallen to the earth; yea they had fought with such miraculous strength and with such mighty power did they fall upon the Lamanites that they did frighten them; and for this cause did the Lamanites deliver themselves up as prisoners of war."

The lives and characters of these two thousand young men are the results of the teachings and examples of their mothers. What a good role a good mother plays.

Sincerely,

Sister Mabel

EDITORIAL VIEWPOINT . . .

(Continued from Page 5)

The late Dr. Albert Schweitzer, referred to as the Great White Doctor, recently died at the age of ninety and was buried near the hospital which he founded half a century ago on the muddy banks of the Ogoone River at Tambarene Gabon, Africa. In the following quotations he expressed his feelings concerning gratitude.

"Not until my twentieth year and even later did I begin to exert myself sufficiently to express the gratitude which was really in my heart for other people."

"We ought all to make an effort to act on our thoughts and let our unspoken gratitude find expression; and then there would be more sunshine in the world and more power to work for what is good."

"A great deal of water is flowing underground which never comes up as a spring. We must become a spring at which men can quench their thirst for gratitude."

Many people have expressed their thanks and have rejoiced as they drank of the brook of life's experiences. Let us, as we drink of the brook of life, take a lesson from the little birds which, as they drink, repeatedly lift the head as though giving thanks to God. Let us give thanks to our God for every taste of life's experiences, for every lesson, for every trial with a feeling they have all added to our spiritual development.

"CORRECTION"

Please note the following corrections for the September Issue of the *Gospel News*.

Under News from Washington, D.C.

Brother Paul Carr was ordained a Teacher

Brother Greg Swanger was ordained a Deacon.

Under Weddings

DUKES - BLAZER

United in holy matrimony by Brother Tony Vadasz.

IT IS WRITTEN . . .

(Continued from Page 4)

tures. Each person could probably have a place of his own either in heaven or hell. The judgment of whether God wants to save anyone who is not baptized; or if He has "other places", must be left to Him who is all-merciful and Just. Our duty is plain; adhere to the Word that is written, and we'll never go astray.

Over and again, the question is raised, "Did not Jesus save the thief on the cross without baptism?" If one searches the scripture, the answer will become obvious. Paul, writing to the Hebrews, said, "For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of a Testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead; otherwise it is of no strength at all while the Testator liveth." Paul was referring to Christ as the mediator of a new Testament. Jesus was the Testator who sealed His testament with the shedding of His blood. His testament (gospel) went into effect after He died. Before He died, He forgave sins to whom He willed, but as soon as He expired on the cross, His Gospel (Testament) became effective. While He lived, He had the power to forgive sins without baptism if He wished to do so. He was still alive on the cross when He told the thief that he would be in Paradise with Him "Today". Be not confused; after Jesus died on the cross, all men have to obey the gospel if they would be saved.

I repeat, the commission of the Church of Jesus Christ is spelled out very clearly; "Preach the gospel to all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them all that He has commanded." Let Our Heavenly Father be the judge of those who are not baptized, and of those "without the Law", whoever they are. No one likes to think that a loved one who has not been baptized and has lived a "good" life is not in Paradise." It's good to have merciful and very compassionate thoughts regarding humanity, but do not let us forget the word of God either. I wish that all men would be saved. That is my prayer. I know that God has prepared more than one resurrection. I shall, God willing, treat on the subject of the resurrection at a later date.

I know that our knowledge of what transpires beyond this vale of tears and sorrows is very limited except when God sees fit, in His wisdom to reveal certain things. Although in restoring the gospel in these latter days, God gave The Church blessings beyond degree, there are many things He has not revealed until His own appointed time. It is also written, "The secret things belong unto the Lord our God; but those things which are revealed, belong to us and to our children, forever." *Deuteronomy 29:29*.

A poet, writing of the Restored Gospel, and of the limited knowledge concerning those things I have written says;

What was witnessed in the Heavens?
Why, an angel, earthly bound.
Had he something with him bringing?
Yes, the Gospel, joyful sound.
It was to be preached in Power,
on the earth, the angel said,
To all men, all tongues and nations,
That upon its face are spread.

Had we not before the gospel?

Yes, had several, taught by men,

Then, what is this latter gospel?

'Tis the first one, come again.

This was preached by Paul and Peter,

And by Jesus Christ, the Head.

This, we latter saints are preaching,

We, their footsteps wish to tread.

Where, so long has been the gospel?

Did it never fall away?

What became of those neglected? (Please note this line)

God is just, That's all we say.

Seeks no crop where 'twas not planted,

Nor a day where reigns the night,

Now, the sunshine bright is gleaming,

Let all creatures see aright.

If there has been any confusion to the above subject, I pray that The Almighty God will bless the reader, and that what I have written has in some small measure answered some questions in your mind. God bless you.

Brother V. James Loyalvo

THE NIGERIAN ECHO

by Joseph Bittinger

We were very much saddened to learn of the sudden passing from this life of Sister Edna E. Ebong, the beloved wife of Evangelist Edem A. Ebong, of Atai Otoro, Abak.

In a letter written August 25, 1977, to Brother John Ross, Brother Ebong states, "It is a sore pity to acknowledge the receipt of your Greeting Card with the enclosure of 20 Naira to my wife... My dear wife Edna died before it arrived leaving her children behind.

Sunday, August 14, 1977 was the day which every Station of The Church of Jesus Christ and their members were shocked when learning of the passing away of our dear beloved faithful hardworking Sister Edna E. Ebong. Brother Ross her death struck me like lightning. I, indeed had no thought of her death because her health was improving beyond doubt, but of a sudden she slept for her rest in the Lord that Sunday morning at Atai Otoro, my Station. Her corpse was taken to Nna Enin my home.

I thank Brothers Arthur, Nephi, Coppa etc. who assisted to convey her to my home for burial. They also attended the burial on Monday along with a group of people, Elders and wellwishers, while Brother E.U.A. Arthur was the officiating Officer.

Leaving to mourn were, two brothers, one sister, three sons, five daughters and her husband. Among them are the newly born twins three months old.

"May her soul rest in peace". The most touching burden to me is the young twins. I am praying and sure that God will make a way for their maintenance. Kindly remember the survivors in your daily prayers."

Brother Edem A. Ebong

Brother Ebong, we feel certain that you have the prayers and deepest sympathy of all the brothers and sisters of the entire Church, in this most sorrowful and tragic occurrence in your family life. May God bless you and your family is our most sincere and humble prayer in Jesus name.

OUR WOMEN TODAY . . .**CONFERENCE AT
DETROIT, MICHIGAN**

The General Ladies Uplift Circle Conference met at Detroit, Michigan Branch No. 1 on October 1, 1977. The Sisters present were from Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Michigan-Canadian District.

The Sisters from the District presented a program, "Abide in Christ". The Scripture was read and the Sisters sang, "Abide With Me", and, "The Longer I Serve Him The Sweeter He Grows".

Sister Mabel Bickerton, in her opening remarks, referred to the later Hymn the Sisters sang and said the longer she serves Him the sweeter He grows in her life also. She is thankful that the Church has an organization like the Circle where together we can help the General Church in the Missionary field. A special prayer was had for Sister Denise Gula of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania.

The roll of officers was called and two were absent. The minutes of the last meeting held at Washington, D. C. mission were read. The delegates, Districts, and treasurers reports were given. The Circles reported that layettes and sheets for diapers were sent as was requested.

The questions and answers are: Where did the people of Zarahemla come from, and who discovered them? Book of Mormon Omni, 15 vs. and Who should be His seed and heirs of the kingdom of God? Mosiah 15:11.

Contributions were made to the Memorial Fund in Memory of: Sister Mancuso, Mary Ward, Lillian Stank, Frank Zampaglione, William Campitelle, Leroy Sutherland.

The new Cook Book has been printed and distributed. Anyone wanting books are to contact local Circles or Sister Mary Criscuolo, 46771 Patnick, Mt. Clemens, Michigan, 48043. Money to be sent to Sister Betty Eiler, 400 Division St. Ext., Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, 15001. The Circle is hoping to profit \$5000.00 from this project. A vote of thanks was given to the Cook Book Committee.

Communications were read from Sister Paulette Griffith about the layettes sent to her, and Sister Lorraine De Mercurio who is presently in Africa with her family. Sister Susan Coppa told of her recent trip to Africa and she says that we can be proud of our people there. The Circle is very important to them.

Money was donated to the African work, the General Church Budget, the radio program, to the White River Reservation, General Church Indian Missions, Domestic Missions, Evangelists' work, Detroit Urban Work and to Ghana.

A vote of thanks was given to the Detroit Circles for their hospitality.

The next General Conference will be held at Glassport, Pennsylvania on March 4, 1978.

Brother Domenic Thomas, President of the Church, attended the conference and he helped with some of the issues that came forth.

We hope there will be more enthusiasm in serving the Church . . . remember, the ones that do not take part are the losers.

Mary Tamburrino
General Circle Editor

BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS:—**Baptism In Youngstown, Ohio**

It was a beautiful Sunday afternoon in Youngstown, Ohio as Brother John Finnicks, Jr. asked for his baptism on August 14, 1977. While Brother A. A. Corrado was relating a dream at the end of the meeting, Brother Finnicks came in and asked to be baptized.

Truly we felt God's love being poured out on each one of us as we experienced a joy of being together. Many tears of joy were shed in evidence of God's love.

Brother John's baptism was a surprise to all of us, especially to his mother, Sister Alma, who didn't even know he was there.

Brother Finnicks was baptized by Brother James Moore of Imperial, Pennsylvania and was confirmed by Brother A. A. Corrado. Also visiting with us were Sister Jean Moore and Sister Birdie Furnier.

We pray that God will continue to bless Brother Finnicks as he continues his studies at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona.

Sister Annette Corrado,
Editor

**Michigan-Ontario District
Conference Meeting**

"How we love the Apostles of The Church and what an inspiration they are in our District!" said Brother Paul Vitto, President of Michigan-Ontario district as we began our Sunday meeting.

Among the many beautiful remarks we were told that Apostle Paul D'Amico was making a good recovery from surgery.

We honored the following Brothers and Sisters for 50 years or more in The Church of Jesus Christ: John Romano, Lily Furnier, Josephine Dulisse, Julius Cola, Jim Aquilino and Rose Pietrangelo.

Brother Dominic Moraco opened in prayer.

"What Must I Do?," asked Brother Paul Whitton as he began the preaching. The question touched all of our lives as to what we can do for God in His Church.

Following were Brothers Spencer Everett, Dominic Moraco, Frank Morle, and our President, Apostle Dominic Thomas. Brother Thomas spoke to us with a church-wide view bringing the importance of what we can do for God to each of us. It was beautiful to hear and to feel Brother Thomas's deep care for God's Church and for God's people. He encouraged each one of us to continue with the attitude of doing something for God in order that the Church may have greater success in bringing in souls.

Brother Nephi, Sister Lorraine and children were prayed for in the closing prayer offered by Apostle Nick Pietrangelo.

The end of another District Conference and now looking forward to another General Church Conference.

See you there.

Brother Bob Stanek
District Editor

News From Anadarko, Oklahoma

Recently, my husband, Brother Bill Crall, had been sick with an infected kidney. He was in the hospital for ten days. After being released from the hospital, he was quite weak and had to use a cane to walk around. The doctor informed him that he would be off work for three months.

Brother Bill was discharged from the hospital on a Friday, and he prayed that an Elder would visit him. The following Friday, Brothers Jerry Giovannone and Mitchell Edwards of Warren, Ohio were going to Omaha, Nebraska and decided to stop in Oklahoma to visit the Cralls (as if God told them to fly to Oklahoma, there is a brother in need.) We were certainly surprised to see our Elders. They could only stay a few hours with us; but as Brother Bill stated, "It doesn't take too much time to be anointed." The Brothers anointed him and he felt an instant healing. We praise God for his healing kindness. My husband was able to return to work in weeks instead of months as the doctor first told him. "God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform."

On June 12, 1977 we went to St. John, Kansas where Brother Bill was ordained a Teacher in our wonderful church. Visiting the Mission were Apostles, Brothers Joseph Bittinger and Nicholas Pietrangelo to take part in the ordinations. It was good to see our Brothers and Sisters.

We have had many visitors stop in to see us. In the month of July we had twenty visitors, including my own brother and family from Lancaster, Ohio. Some even pitched a tent in our backyard. Visiting with us was Brother Larry and Sister Vannessa Watson of Arizona. We had a meeting and Brother Larry served Sacrament. Unfortunately, we had little time to make phone calls of the meeting. However, three of the "Seed of Joseph" were present for the meeting. We are so very glad to be here and have the "Seed of Joseph" knocking on our door every week.

Sunday, August 28, 1977, we were able to be in Dallas, Texas with the Saints and we had a wonderful meeting. It is so good to be with the Saints of The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother George Benyola spoke on Ether, Chapter 3, where the Brother of Jared took stones and prayed that the Lord would touch them to shine in the darkness.

The week of August 15, 1977 is the "Indian Exposition" in Anadarko, Oklahoma. The town of Anadarko increases three to four thousand during this week. This year's Outstanding Indian is originally from the Six Nations Reservation. A Seneca Indian by the name of Harry Smith (known as Jay Silverheels, or better known as "Tonto.") About three years ago, Tonto had a stroke and it has affected his speech. I, Sister Evelyn, have been able to talk to him and tell him about Brother William Cadman being permitted to stand with the Indians at the dedication of the Peace Bridge between Canada and the United States. Tonto has a wife and four children. I was able to take Tonto's picture and present to him Brother Bucci's book, *"The American Indian Moses."*

During the Exposition, I met Sammy White, better known among the Indians as Tonekei. He has two broadcasts over stations in Oklahoma City. He also writes a column for the Oklahoma newspaper concerning Indians.

Tonekei and I had a good talk together, pictures were taken, and I gave him the book of *"The American Indian Moses."*

We thank the Saints of Erie, Pennsylvania for sending us the copies of *"The American Indian Moses."*

May God bless you all.

Yours in Jesus Christ,

Sister Evelyn Crall

Visit To Cass Corridor

To you out of state, Cass Corridor is a part of the inner city of Detroit. It is a high crime area, but is the home of thousands of Indians, Negroes and whites, all poor and many of whom have never attended church. As you drive down the streets, you see broken lives, old men bent over, walking with canes, men with many days growth of beards, young men who seem to have great difficulty in walking, old buildings with broken windows, apartment houses with no screens on the windows, and dirty shredded curtains hanging out the opened windows, parking lots strewn with empty beer cans along with other debris, a black man walks with a white woman, he is carrying a cat of nine tails, possibly for security.

In the midst of all this, is the Rex Hotel, owned and operated by Tony Randazzo and his mother, Sister Jennie. On June 5 of this year, Brother Tony Gerace and Brother Joe Milantoni held their first meeting in the lobby of this hotel, which was donated free of charge. They are making a great effort to reach the Urban Indians who abound in this area.

On a Saturday visitation, they came upon a group of Indians sitting under a tree, consuming beer and becoming quite boisterous. They stopped and asked them to attend the services on Sunday and one man said he would but he didn't have any shoes. They promised him they would return on Monday with a pair of shoes. Upon returning, they were told the man was in a bar. Not knowing which bar, our Brothers began searching, going in and out of bars, of which there were many. They never did locate their man but left a message that they had his shoes and left a telephone number where they could be reached. He called and the shoes were taken to him, but they were size twelve and he wore an eight and a half. The exchange was made, but this particular Indian hasn't shown up yet for a meeting. Brother Tony Gerace said it was certainly a weird feeling as he entered these bars.

Today, Sunday, August 7, Brother Joe used as his text, Acts 2:37-47. The foundation of his message was "Men and Brethren, what shall we do?" In our private lives, we work out a solution when this question arises, many times going to the Lord in prayer for an answer. In our quest for salvation, what must we do first? We must be born again. We cannot be self-righteous, and claim we are without sin. We all have sin of some kind, and we must repent of this sin. Once we do this, we are ready to go into the waters of baptism for a cleansing of the soul. We receive a feeling of elation when we become a part of the family of God. We must fasten our eyes upon the eyes of Christ and remain steadfast.

There were several testimonies, one of which stated he had been an alcoholic for twenty years, but two years ago, he sought a better life and gave up the drinking,

but he knew there was something missing, and since he has been attending these meetings, he realized it was baptism. He asked for his baptism today. Brother Joe and Brother Tony talked to the man after the service and explained the Church more thoroughly. Brother Joe thought it would be wiser if he prayed about it during the week, and if the same spirit prevailed next week, they will take him to the waters.

Brother Joe and Brother Tony are doing a marvelous work in this undertaking and need the prayers of all the Saints. Many Brothers and Sisters are attending each Sunday to lend a background.

One young Indian couple are being married in the Rex Hotel Lobby on September 10, and have asked the Brothers to officiate at the ceremony. Two young Indian children have been blessed, and there has been one baptism, our Sister Margaret Heath.

After each service, coffee and cake are served. This affords the Brothers and Sisters an opportunity to socialize and become acquainted with the prospective converts.

Sister Hazel Zoltek
Sterling Heights Editor

Niles, Ohio News

On Sunday, July 10, 1977 the Niles Branch truly enjoyed the love and spirit of God. The morning service was opened by Brother Tony Picciuto of Lindsay, California. His text was taken from Isaiah 53:1; "Who hath believed our report . . ." He expounded the word saying, "We must work diligently as Brothers and Sisters to bring forth the kingdom of God. We must also be thirsting for the things of God." Brother Vince Gibson, of the Cleveland Branch was also with us on evangelistic duty and he continued with the same theme.

Brother Gene Kline from Perry, Ohio introduced the afternoon service, speaking briefly on the same scripture. Our testimony meeting was truly blessed because we had the privilege of having Brother Frank Elliot from Perry with us. He has been ill for several months with leukemia. It was truly a miracle of God that he was with us. He expressed how precious every second is to him and how differently he views God's creation. There were many more beautiful testimonies and everyone went home feeling the love and spirit of God. We enjoyed all our visitors from Youngstown, Perry, Cleveland, Kent, Ohio and California. We can say we truly love all our Brothers and Sisters and enjoy when they visit with us.

Sister Wanda Pandone
Branch Editor

A Gathering To Remember

On July 3, a gathering was called for the Niles and Warren Branches to meet at Warren, Ohio. This meeting was very unique because it gathered the fathers and sons of the two Branches.

In attendance were Brother Victor Ciarolla of Warren, Brother Jonathan Molinatto from North Carolina with his father, Brother Peter Molinatto of Niles, Brother Dominic Giovannone of Ft. Pierce, Florida with his two sons, Brothers Frank and Jerry Giovannone of Warren,

Brother Robert Ciarrochi with his father, Brother Nazz Ciarrochi, both of Niles.

The Elders presided over the meeting and many beautiful discourses were given. Brother Dominic Giovannone opened the service using I John 3:1-3 for his text. He expounded, "By obeying the Father's will, we are the Sons of God." Brother Joe Ciarolla continued saying, "With the love of God, we shall fulfill our duty or service undefiled before God and shall reap the reward of eternal life."

Brother Jonathan Molinatto spoke a few words on how God's love consumes all misunderstandings and on the great Family Reunion when God shall raise His family. This gathering today represented the work of the Gospel as far back as the 1920's.

God truly blessed us and it was good to be under the sounds of the fathers' and sons' voices. This is a day that will be remembered for a long time to come. The children, grandchildren and all the young people sang, "God is so Good." Truly God is so good to His children.

Warren Editors

Cleveland, Ohio Branch No. 1

We of the Cleveland, Ohio Branch send greetings to all our Brothers and Sisters. Being a small Branch, we don't have much news to report, but the Lord has been good to us. There has been a lot of illness and the Lord has seen fit to restore the health of many of our people, for which we are eternally grateful.

Brother and Sister August Perlioni are now residing in Phoenix, Arizona and Brother and Sister Frank Volpe are now in Little Rock, Arkansas. We miss our Brothers and Sisters very much.

This last year, we have only one new member, Brother Jim Hufnagle. We are very proud of our young Brother. Our prayers are that the Lord will continue to guide him. Being young, this world has many temptations and with the prayers of the Saints in behalf of this young Brother, we know that the Lord will bless him.

The elderly in our Branch need the prayers of the Saints, they are the pillars of this part of the Lord's vineyard. Brother and Sister Albert Ventura, Sister Madalena Ranieri, Sister Rose Eiletz, Brother Oliver Lloyd and many more.

Our love and prayers go out to Brothers and Sisters everywhere. May God bless you all.

Sister Margaret Abbott
Branch Editor

How Great the Lord!
No matter where we go, or what we see, His greatness
shines on you and me,
He protects us from all evil, in this world of vast upheaval,
We can count on Him for all we need, He is our greatest
friend indeed,
He covers the whole world, misses not one part, yet He
can live in each heart,
How great is He? Words cannot express, He is near in
times of stress,
He is only a prayer away, what more is there to say.

Sister Margaret Abbott

MY TESTIMONY

I write these words only because they must be written. God is the author of all good and is deserving of all the praise we can give Him.

My son, Ryan, was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on June 22, 1977 at Camp Towanda in Honesdale, Pennsylvania. On July 13, 1977, he was admitted to the Allegheny General Hospital due to a malfunction of his eye movement. He had no loss of vision, but he could not move his eyes downward. On July 15, 1977, my wife, Jennie, and I were informed by a team of four neurologists that Ryan had a tumor on the brain. It was the size of a walnut, relatively small, and was located very deep in the brain. A prominent neurosurgeon decided that it was too dangerous to even obtain a tissue sample, let alone operate for removal.

In this time of dark despair, God, in all His goodness, gave me a dream. To understand my dream, I must first mention that we had just recently remodelled our bathroom in our home. When I installed the new insulated tank commode, I left some greasy and dirty fingerprint marks on the white insulating material inside the water tank. The dream occurred on Monday, July 18, 1977. The dream was so clear and vivid, that I did not realize I even had it until later in the day. I thought that it really happened.

In the dream, I was standing in front of the new lavatory, washing my hands and face. My wife was standing in front of the new commode. She lifted the cover off the water tank. (She never does this!) Then, she wet her fingers in the water and lightly began to rub her fingers back and forth against the marks. I leaned over to my right and looked into the tank. I said to my wife, "It's all gone!" The clarity of this dream gave me a source of strength that I sorely needed and gave me a reserve that I drew from each day up until September 26, 1977.

Ryan's treatment consisted of 30 radiation treatments. The final one was on September 6, 1977. On September 7, 1977, he returned to college and resumed his studies. Needless to say, the dream was ever present in my mind while he was away.

Ryan returned home to keep an appointment with the neurologists on September 26, 1977. At 10:30 A.M., he was given a brain scan. With the x-ray photographs in a large envelope, my wife, daughter, Ryan and I walked to Dr. Wickers' office. I gave the envelope to the receptionist, and we were told to wait in the waiting room. We complied and waited for what seemed eternity—one hour. The doctor greeted us at the receptionist's desk when we were summoned and led us to his office. He gave us no immediate indication of any kind as to the results of the brain scan. He methodically examined Ryan very thoroughly. He questioned Ryan about various pain sources and appeared very surprised at the answers of "no pain" that Ryan gave him.

Finally, the doctor sat down at his desk and said, "Ryan, if I was not aware of your situation, I would say that these photos of your brain are perfectly normal. It's all gone!"

The last three words were exactly the same as my words in my dream. I said, "Thank you, Doctor, for those words." He replied, "They are not my words."

Can anything be any clearer? Can there be any doubt as to what happened? If any man should doubt the goodness of God and the power of prayer, let him read what I have written. If he doubts the authenticity of The Church of Jesus Christ, let him know of the love that poured out from every section of the land of America. Let him know of the spontaneous nationwide fasting and praying that moved the hand of God and healed my son. Not a shadow; not a speck; not a trace; simply, "It's all gone!"

My love to all of you wonderful Brothers, Sisters and friends who were so kind and loving at a very dark time. Your love led us through the darkest hours and brought us to a bright and shining morning.

God Bless You and Keep You!

Brother Lou Ross
Aliquippa Branch

REMEMBERING

Sister Rose Laessig

On February 19, 1926, mom and dad were baptized. The river was frozen over that day. When they arrived at the river's edge, Brother Eugene Perry noticed that one area of the water was completely clear. He told them to look and see how the Lord had prepared the water for them. A sign from God that He was pleased that another soul was repenting and accepting Christ. On February 20, 1926, they were confirmed into The Church of Jesus Christ, New Brunswick, N.J. Branch. That evening after dad had finished eating dinner he felt very cold. He began to shiver so badly that mom brought him before the fire and sat him down. He suddenly lost all movement in his body—he became paralyzed. He was unable to move except to see, hear and speak. Mom became worried not knowing what had happened, so she started to pray. Dad didn't quite know what had happened to him so he began to pray to the Lord. He asked that if this was his time to die, he was ready to be taken and the Lord's will be done. But, he also asked the Lord that if this was not the time, he wanted the Elders to come and anoint him so that whatever had attacked his body, he would be healed. At that moment, mom heard him speak out, "They are on their way." Shortly after that there was a knocking on the door. Brothers Joe Corrado, Eugene Perry and Bill Mazzeo had come. They immediately noticed that something had happened to dad. While they were trying to console mom, dad weakly asked the Brothers to anoint him. After the prayer, dad became normal again, his affliction was completely gone. He had been blessed with the gift of healing. When dad asked how the Brothers knew he needed them, they told him that they had been on their way home when suddenly their thoughts were on my dad and at that moment they decided to visit him before going home.

On July 7, 1976, dad was again struck with paralysis where he could not move any part of his body. Below is a living testimony of God's mercy. God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform. Many have heard dad tell this experience—but dad wanted to put it in The Gospel News so that many more could hear this wonderful and blessed experience as a wonderful testimony of God's love.

Pictures Of Life

I've seen the desperation of a thousand on the way,
 And I have seen some prodigals return;
 And I've had many mysteries made plain before my eyes,
 And I was shown the things I've yet to learn.
 I've seen such desolation in the faces passing by,
 And I have seen the sorrow that sin brings;
 And I was shown if I would walk the straight and narrow
 way,
 These feet must walk away from many things.
 Now I have walked a road that at the time seemed very
 hard,
 And I have seen great miracles and more.
 My hands have held this plain and precious gospel very
 close,
 And I was shown the things I must endure.
 Now I've been shown how God has loved His people very
 clear,
 And I have known for years they are my own;
 And I have seen great blessings showered upon them
 everyday,
 And I have seen the burdens they have known.
 I've seen the many pictures on the avenues of life,
 And I have seen the broken and the whole;
 But of the sights and wonders that my eyes have ever
 seen,
 The greatest is the saving of a soul.

by Arlene Buffington
 2/2/77

— NEW ARRIVALS —

Congratulations are in order to the proud parents for the indicated new members of their families. New arrivals have been as follows:

Clayton Charles to George and Lynda Lilly of Detroit, Michigan, Branch 3,

Dennis to Clark and Lynda Bailey of Sterling Heights, Michigan,

Amy Elizabeth to Mark and Judy Landrey of Phoenix, Arizona,

Mindy Jaye to Michael and Kathleen Cook of Sterling Heights, Michigan,

Lynnette Ann to William and Janet Buffa of Allen Park, Michigan, Branch 2,

Fremayne Eugene to Harry and Carolyn Lester of Fort Pierce, Florida.

● OBITUARIES ●

PASQUALE CONTI

Brother Pasquale Conti passed away from this life on May 19, 1977. He was born on March 28, 1891 and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on August 20, 1933. He attended Branch 3 in Detroit, Michigan.

He leaves to mourn his loss, his wife, one son, two daughters, and eight grandchildren.

The services were conducted by Brothers Frank Vitto and Pete Capone.

Brother Conti was a Deacon and faithful servant of God.

LILLIAN STANK

Sister Lillian Stank passed on to her final reward on July 19, 1977. She was born on December 1, 1928 and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on July 12, 1955. She attended Branch 3 in Detroit, Michigan.

She leaves to mourn her loss, her husband, one daughter, her mother, two brothers and one sister.

The funeral services were conducted by Brother Peter Capone.

FRANK S. ZAMPAGLIONE

Frank S. Zampaglione passed away from this life on August 4, 1977. He was born on August 19, 1921. He attended The Church of Jesus Christ Branch 3 Detroit, Michigan.

He is survived by his wife, six children, fourteen grandchildren, his mother, four brothers and one sister.

The funeral services were conducted by Brother Silver Criscuolo and assisted by Brother Mario Coppa.

CATHERINE AMORMINO

Sister Catherine Amormino passed on to her heavenly reward on June 1, 1977. She was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on March 31, 1929.

She leaves to mourn her loss, four sons, two daughters, and eighteen grandchildren.

The funeral services were conducted by Brother Nephi DeMercurio.

BERT STEFANI

Brother Bert Stefani passed on to his heavenly reward on September 5, 1977. He was a member of the Levittown, Pennsylvania Mission of the Church of Jesus Christ. He was born on December 27, 1899 and was baptized on May 10, 1931.

He leaves one son, two daughters, seven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and three sisters.

The funeral services were conducted by Brother Sam Dell and assisted by Brother August D'Orazio.

The GOSPEL NEWS

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa.

December, 1977

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Best Wishes
For A Happy
And Joyous
Holiday Season
From The Entire
Gospel News Staff

IT IS WRITTEN

Saved By Grace

I have been asked, many times, the following questions, "Are we saved by grace alone?" "Are we to do nothing but depend on Grace alone?"

I shall endeavor to answer these and other questions by that which is written.

The proponents of the above have always expounded the verse in the BIBLE to prove their point, to wit; "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God. Not of works, lest any man should boast, etc." (Ephesians 2:8, 9)

Grace, as defined theologically by Webster's dictionary, is "The unmerited love and favor of God toward man. The divine influence acting in man to make him pure and morally strong. "While I appreciate the definition given by Mr. Webster, I must add that everything God gives to man is unmerited. In my humble definition of the word, Grace, I can understand, though, very limitedly, and feel it in my heart to be His Omnipotent power by which all things were and are created from the beginning to all eternity. Paul, the Apostle said that the gospel was "the power of God unto salvation." (Romans 1:16) I believe that Power and Grace are synonymous with the Lord. Grace can also be defined as His everlasting Mercy and kindness by which we are also saved. Grace is His holy Spirit through which He controls the Universe and everything in them. For, by His spirit are men influenced to do good. Grace is then the evidence of His Spirit in man which can cause him (man) to reach great heights with God and do remarkable things by His spirit (Grace) which would otherwise be impossible. Finally, I believe Grace is exemplified in the person of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is only through Christ that we are saved; that signs follow the believers; that gifts are given and manifested. It could be said that Christ is the Grace of God also because through Him alone are all things attainable. He said, "Without me, ye can do nothing." Grace is also the measure of the gift of Christ given to those who believe. (Ephesians 4:7)

Now to the question, "Are we to do nothing but depend on Grace alone?" If we are to believe the philosophy of some that grace alone will save us, then we must submit to the theory of "Once saved, always saved." The grace of God will not save a person who thinks that, after baptism, there is nothing else to do. Believing on Christ and being baptized is merely the beginning of works we have to do.

The grace of God is that power which motivates man to perform many good works. There are works of Law, works of Pride, and, best of all, works of Faith. Jesus said, "I must work the works of Him that sent Me; the night cometh when no man can work."

By the works of Law, no man is justified. (Galatians 2:16) Works of the Law, without faith, are useless, for they are simply done because of traditions, of fear, and of pride. The works of the Law were in washings, sacrifices, sprinkling of blood, outward performances and ordinances, etc. These were works without faith, for, if there had been faith, the law would not have been necessary. As Paul said, "The Law was a schoolmaster to bring

us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith." Those who lived by faith, looking forward to the coming of the Messiah, did not really need the Law. Nevertheless, they kept it, with an eye to the advent of Jesus Christ.

The works of Pride are manifested by those who wish their names to be remembered and extolled by men, such as donating of their abundance rather than their substance, who have towers, buildings, monuments, streets, avenues, bridges, and material structures built to commemorate their names, forgetting that only the name of God and His Son should be commemorated through the ages and for all eternity.

The works of faith are those which are motivated by the Grace of God. Without works of Faith, the Apostle James says that they are dead works. "Show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works." (James 2:18) He continues, "Was not our father, Abraham justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seeest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?" (James 2:21, 22)

Grace then, is the motivating power which enables and inspires men to "Work" by faith, sacrificing time, health, riches, family and, at times, life itself as manifested by the thousands of Martyrs throughout the ages. Yes, we are saved by the Grace of God but, if the believers did not perform works of Faith, the mistaken theory that grace alone would save them is a fallacy for God would withdraw His Grace from those who refuse to work for their salvation. It is written, "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but how much more in my absence, WORK out your own salvation with fear and trembling." (Phil. 2:12) Works that are not motivated by faith have no Grace in them, they are of no worth because God does not recognize nor accept them. Again, it is written, "To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the Lord: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he-goats. . . . Bring no more vain oblations, incense is an abomination unto Me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with, it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting. . . . And when ye spread forth your hands I will hide my eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear, etc." (Read Isaiah 1st chapter)

Grace inspires a man to become a DOER in the great plan of redemption. Jesus said, "Whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock. . . ." To be a DOER means to Work in God's vineyard. Whoever received the Grace of God that did not do the Works of righteousness? How can anyone think that grace alone, without works of faith can bring about the salvation of the soul?

The word "Grace" has been misunderstood by many, even as much as the words "Saved" and "Believe". One cannot separate Grace from works by faith. It is impossible to have grace and not do Works of faith. In the final analysis, everything good, and every good work that is done is only achieved by the grace of God, to whom is all the glory and honor and majesty, forever and ever. IT IS WRITTEN, "My grace is sufficient for thee." Thus spoke the Spirit of God to Paul, when he asked the Lord

to heal him of his affliction. But, notice how the grace of God ennobled the apostles life and inspired him to do mighty works in Jesus' name. The more one works by faith, the more Grace God will bestow upon him.

The poet has penned the following words:

Shall I empty-handed be, when beyond the crystal sea
I shall stand before the Everlasting throne?

Shall I have a heart of shame as I answer to my name,
With no WORKS that my Redeemer there can own?

Thus, IT IS WRITTEN.

Brother V. James Loyalvo

—o—

IS THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IMMINENT?

by Brother JOSEPH BITTINGER

Are all the Prophetic events spoken of by the Prophets, by Christ and His Apostles fulfilled?

Many people would have us believe that all the Prophetic Events that were to precede the Second Coming of Christ have been fulfilled.

We hear it proclaimed on Radio and Television Religious programs, or if we happen to attend one of their religious services, as we did recently. The speakers whole theme was that all is done; Christ has "finished His work on the earth", and that He will do no further work before He returns in His Glory to "Rapture" His Church, removing it from the earth. . .

As a young man more than sixty years ago, a member of a Protestant Denomination, we were exposed to a considerable amount of this teaching. All the Prophecies are fulfilled; we are to wait for the Second Coming of Christ. If the blind lead the blind they both fall into the ditch, so said the Saviour. Apostle Paul speaking of the children of Israel said, "But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away. . ." Their vail should have been taken away in Christ.

We thank God for the Restoration of the Gospel; and The Church of Jesus Christ. It has broadened and enlarged our understanding of the Scriptures through the inspiration of God's Holy Spirit. It is given to lead us in these latter days; by taking that vail of unbelief and spiritual darkness away.

There are many Prophecies that have not been fulfilled relating to Latter Day events or era of time.

We are firm believers in the second coming of Christ. We believe just as firmly that He will not come until all the Prophetic events that are to precede His appearing will be consummated. All must be fulfilled in their proper order as God has designed, none will be forgotten, by-passed or nullified.

Events that are occurring in our nation and the world, evidently are signs that we are living in the "Latter Days", and approaching the hour of God's judgement upon the nations of the world. No person should be so foolish as

to believe that the people (nations) of this world are going to escape the wrath of God, when they have disobeyed His Commandments, broken His Laws, changed His Holy Ordances, and submerged themselves in the sins of immorality, greed and all manner of devious corruptions.

"For, behold, the Lord cometh out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity. . ." *Isaiah 26:21*. This is not the end of time or of the world. It is a day of recompense.

But, behold, in the last days, or in the days of the Gentiles, yea, behold all the nations of the Gentiles and also the Jews, both those who shall come upon this land and those who shall be upon other lands, yea, even upon all the lands of the earth, behold, they will be drunken with iniquity and all manner of abominations.

And when that day shall come they shall be visited of the Lord of hosts, with thunder and with earthquakes, and with a great noise, and with storm, and with tempest, and with the flame of devouring fire.

And all nations that fight against Zion, and distress her, shall be as a dream of a night vision; yea, it shall be unto them. . . or like unto a thirsty man which dreameth, and behold he drinketh but he awaketh and behold he is faint, and his soul hath appetite; yea, even so shall the multitude of all the nations be that fight against Mount Zion. 2 *Nephi*. 27:1-3.

Jesus said, After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. *St. Matt.* 6:9-10. This Kingdom has yet to be established, and it will function both as a national and spiritual Kingdom while men are still in the flesh. We refer to this period of time as "The Peaceful Reign", which shall precede the "Millennium" or "Thousand Years" with Christ.

"We believe in the restoration of Israel as it is spoken of by the Prophets; and that God will use man as His instrument for its accomplishment in this age, as He did in ages past." Willing ignorance and unbelief by the gentiles in this age will not prevent God from reclaiming and Restoring His Ancient Covenant People, The House of Israel.

Apostle Paul in speaking to the Romans, "I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. . . God hath not cast away his people which He foreknew.

For I would not, brethern, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye be wise in your own conceit; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in; and so all Israel shall be saved; as it is written, "There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob". *Rom.* 11:25-26.

The Lord speaking through Isaiah the Prophet. Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet I will not forget thee, (Israel).

They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Micah, Chapter 4, But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall

be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come, and say, come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us His ways, and we will walk in His paths: for the Law shall go forth of Zion, and the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

And He shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks; nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the Lord of hosts hath spoken it.

For all people will walk every one in the name of His Good, and we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.

Jesus speaking to the multitude said, "Think not that I am come to destroy the Law, or the Prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the Law, till all be fulfilled". *Matt.* 5:17-18.

So shall the Second Coming of Christ be to fulfill, in completeness, all that has been promised to man in the mortal state, both by the Prophets and He Himself. He comes in power and in Great Glory to wed His Bride: The Church; that has made her self ready. She is to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of the Saints.

He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet (the first resurrection), and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

The Apostle Paul, writing to the *Thessalonians*, first *epistle Ch.* 5:15-17. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep (dead). For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years... *Rev.* 20:6-7. Preceding the last and general resurrection.

Note of Thanks

Many thanks to the Pennsylvania Campout for their aerogramme. It was wonderful to be remembered with thoughts and prayers. And also to the Detroit and New York Area Saints, who came to the airports to see us off.

These things were deeply appreciated by all four of us.

Many thanks to all who prayed for us as we could not have made the trip without the prayers.

Gorie & Ann Ciaravino
Rocco & Ange Biscotti

WE'RE NOT OF THE WORLD

Every day there are thousands of people born into the world and during their lifetime they will probably experience all that can happen to a human being. But a question could be asked: While they're in this world are they of the world? Of course!

Today there are a few thousand people who have laid aside all that they have and have devoted their lives to be disciples of Jesus Christ. Together, united and faithful, they form His body and are His Saints. And the question could be asked: Are we of the world? Of course not! God forbid!

"If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world (for I have chosen you out of it) the world hateth you."

As Jesus, on that fateful night in the garden, prayed to the Father, he said, "I have given them your word and the world hateth them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." And although Jesus' Apostles were not of the world they were subjected to the things of this world, like all other men. That is why Jesus prayed, "... that thou should not take them out of the world, but that you should keep them from evil."

Since, as we can see, they were not of the world, for what purpose were the Apostles kept in it?

"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me *through their words*." "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations . . . teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you . . ." "... and greater works than these shall you do" among the children of men.

Now, the Apostles (who were not of the world) were given a work to do, a special work. How about us of the latterdays who are not of the world?

"For after the book of which I have spoken shall come forth and be written unto the Gentiles (the Book of Mormon), and sealed up again unto the Lord, there shall be many which shall believe the words which are written; AND THEY SHALL CARRY THEM FORTH UNTO THE REMNANT OF OUR SEED (the American Indians). And the Gospel of Jesus Christ shall be *declared among them*; wherefore, they shall be restored unto the knowledge of their fathers and also to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, which was among them."

And the Lord shall even bless us in doing His work: "And blessed are they who SHALL SEEK TO BRING FORTH MY ZION at that day, for they SHALL HAVE THE GIFT AND POWER OF THE HOLY GHOST."

Not only do we have a work to do among the seed of Joseph, but among Judah and the Gentiles also. The Title page of the *Book of Mormon* says, "Written to the Lamanites, who are a remnant of the House of Israel; and also to the Jew and Gentile. And also to the convincing of the Jew and Gentile that Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God, manifesting himself unto all nations."

We're not of the world, but we are here for a divine purpose, each of us. There is no part of the Body of Christ which is not needed. "Let's all be up and doing, every moment we should haste, to further His great kingdom here on earth." Remember: "You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you."

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Editorial Viewpoint

THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD

As another Christmas Season approaches, we are stirring reminded of the wonderful birth of our Lord, THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD.

The coming and birth of the Lord Jesus Christ had long been foretold, beginning with our first parents, Adam and Eve, and continued by holy men and prophets down through the ages.

PRINCE OF PEACE

We are moved with joy and awe as we read anew some of the more outstanding prophecies of the advent of our Lord and Savior, in our Holy Bible and Book of Mormon.

The prophet Isaiah was most eloquent in recording his glorious visions of this notable event:

"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel. Butter and honey shall He eat, that He may know to refuse evil and choose the good." (*Isaiah* 7:14, 15)

"...beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations. The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." (*Isaiah* 9:1, 6, 7)

Nephi's brother Jacob also prophetically highlighted the importance and necessity of Christ's coming:

HOPE OF HIS GLORY

"For, for this intent have we written these things, that they may know that we knew of Christ, and we had a hope of His glory many hundred years before His coming; and not only we ourselves had a hope of His glory, but also all the holy prophets which were before us. Behold, they believed in Christ and worshipped the Father in His name. And for this intent we keep the law of Moses, it pointing our souls to Him; and for this cause it is sanctified unto us for righteousness. . . ." (*Jacob* 4:4, 5)

Abinadi, too, confirmed the prophecies relating to the coming of a Messiah:

"For behold, did not Moses prophesy unto them concerning the coming of the Messiah, and that God should redeem his people? Yea, and even all the prophets who have prophesied ever since the world began—have they not spoken more or less concerning these things? Have they not said that God Himself should come down among the children of men, and take upon Him the form of man, and go forth in mighty power upon the face of the earth?" (*Mosiah* 13:33, 34)

Finally, we rejoice anew as we turn to Luke's Gospel:

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." (*Luke* 2:8-11)



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

Mary, the Mother of Our Lord

Dear Girls and Boys,

At this season of the year our thoughts are on a story that never grows old. It is an event that has brought hope and great happiness to the world. It has been written in many, many languages.

In a little town of Nazareth, in Galilee lived a young maiden, a virgin, named Mary. No doubt Mary had heard the prophecy that someday a Messiah would come to deliver God's people from their enemies and set up His throne to rule over all the nations of the world. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace". Little did Mary think she would be the mother of this Great One.

An angel came to Mary and said, "Hail, thou art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women". When Mary saw the angel she was troubled and asked the meaning of this. The angel said, "Fear not Mary, for thou hast found favour with God." He explained that she had been chosen to be the mother of the Son of God and his name was to be Jesus. Mary asked, "How can this be? I know not a man?" The angel continued, "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee therefore also that holy child which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." Mary said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word."

Mary's cousin, Elizabeth and her husband Zacharias, a priest, lived in the hill country of Judaea. Mary went to visit them and tell them the good news. Elizabeth and Zacharias were soon to be the parents of John the Baptist, a forerunner of Jesus Christ. Elizabeth felt a great blessing in Mary's visit. She said, "What good thing have I done that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" Mary spoke these beautiful words which has been set to music:

"My soul doth magnify the Lord and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden; for, behold, from henceforth all nations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation. He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seats and exalted them of low degree. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance

of his mercy; As he spake to our fathers to Abraham, and to his seed forever."

Mary visited with her cousins for about three months and returned to her own house. To this humble Jewish girl, nearly 2000 years ago was given the honor of being the Mother of Our Lord.

Sincerely,

Sister Mabel



OUR WOMEN TODAY:—

A GET TOGETHER

The Monongahela and West Elizabeth, Pennsylvania Circles had a get together at the home of Sister Mabel Bickerton on October 18, 1977. They honored Sister Grace Landrey who is moving to Arizona. Eleven Sisters were present from the two Circles. Sister Elizabeth Davidson, who will celebrate her 106th birthday, asked the blessing on the covered dish dinner and the Circles. The Scripture was studied and Sister Madeline Robinson sang "I Am Not Worthy".

Sister Grace will be a loss to the Monongahela Circle but a gain to Arizona. May God bless her with health and with the same desire to do all she can for all the organizations of our Great Church.

This poem suits Grace and all the Sisters of The Ladies Uplift Circle.

Field of Labor:

Go and toil in my vineyard,
Do not fear to do or dare;
If you want a field of labor,
You can find it anywhere.

Sister Dorothy Gandley



God Hears and Answers Prayers

There were times as a child
That I would approach the Lord
In deep and mighty prayer.
Months would pass,
and no answers would be there.
Impatient as I was
I wondered if the Lord really cared.
Well, years have come and gone
and the Lord has showed me I was wrong.
For those prayers I sent up as a child,
Are being answered today.
God knew best, so he had it that way
Maybe to teach me I always must pray.
In truth, I must say
I lost faith right away.
But Jesus never cast aside
The prayers in him, I did confide.
Oh, what a wonderful Savior we serve,
He answers every whisper, every word.

Sister Denise Ruyle

A SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE

received by

Brother Salvatore Valenti

On July 2, 1976, I was brought to Emergency at Victory Hospital in Brooklyn, New York. I have a weak heart and have had much trouble because of this. I had had a heart attack and my lungs were filled with fluid.

I had been in the hospital for five days, when on July 7 at about 9:15 p.m. my whole body became paralyzed. All I was able to do was hear, talk and see. I tried to call for the nurse but I could not move my arms. I asked the man in the other bed to call someone to help me. He tried to buzz for the nurse but no one came. When the nurse didn't answer his call, he started hollering "help, help, help." Three nurses who were passing by came in the room and asked what was happening and why was the man yelling for help. He pointed to me and said I needed help right away. The nurses saw my condition and quickly went for help.

In a few minutes a doctor came to my room. Three other doctors came in the next few minutes. They worked on my body for about half an hour. They then went away. They came back four times in four and a half hours to work on me. Finally they gave up. I heard one doctor ask the doctor that had done the most work what he thought was going to be. He answered that before the light of morning comes I would already be dead. When I heard what the doctor said, I asked them to please do me a favor and call my son-in-law, Dominick Rose. They went away and in a few minutes the nurse came and told me she called my son-in-law and he would be here in about half an hour.

As soon as she finished telling me, I called upon the Lord Jesus to come and take my soul and bring it to the place that He has prepared for the faithful. Jesus came right away beside my bed and put my hand in His — my whole body started to move — it became normal again.

The Lord asked me, "Why did you call Me?" He spoke to me as man to man. When he asked me why I called him, I answered Him, "Please take my soul and bring it with You to the place that You have prepared for the faithful." He asked me, "What do you want Me to do for you or say to you before I take your soul with Me?" I said, "Please — if you would grant me the opportunity, I want to bless my wife, I want to bless my children and their families and I want to bless my Brothers and Sisters of the Church." Jesus then said, "I grant this to you — but to take your soul now, I cannot, because the Father did not give me orders to take your soul now. The One that has the power to separate the soul from the body is only the Lord God. When He tells me to take your soul, I will come and take it with me and I will place it in the place prepared for the faithful."

Jesus then opened a discussion with me. He spoke for about twenty minutes. He told me about time past of what happened beginning from Noah's time and went through every generation to the present time. For the present time, He gave me a message to give to all the priesthood in His Church. Then Jesus talked to me about

the future. He said, "I am ready to come to take My Kingdom upon the earth, but I cannot come because My Gospel must first be preached to all the world." He then said, "The witness of the Grace of God I offer through Me." "The vineyard of the Lord is all the world. As soon as my Gospel is preached throughout the whole world, suddenly I will come. As soon as I come, the end of the world will speedily come." Then Jesus said, "If they do not believe My message — tell them to personally pray to Me and I will answer them." He then left my hand and went away.

About ten minutes later, my son-in-law came to my room. He found me normal and not paralyzed as I had been a half hour before. He saw that I was very weak. He asked me to tell him what happened. I told him that I had been paralyzed and the doctors could not do anything to help me. I heard them say that I was going to die. They did not know that I was able to hear what they were saying. I also told him that I called upon the Lord Jesus and a little about the discussion I had with Him.

My son-in-law told me that when the nurse heard me call upon Jesus — she went back to the nurses' station and told the other nurses she heard me call Jesus and this was a sign that I was surely going to die soon.

I asked Brother Dominick to anoint me for the Kingdom of God. He told me I was not going to die and he would come back to see me that night. I told him, if I was still in my room, he would see me. Then he went home. As soon as he left me, I fell asleep.

I awoke when the doctor touched my leg. I opened my eyes and saw the doctor run out of my room yelling, "He lives, he lives." He was the doctor that said I would not see the light of morning. It was 7:00 a.m. when I woke up. The man in the other bed told me he was so happy that I did not die. He said he could not sleep all night and was praying for me. He said that when the doctor first came in the room, he called me three times, when I did not answer, he touched my knee because he thought I was dead. This is why he was frightened when I opened my eyes.

About 10:00 a.m. my heart specialist came to see me. He always said, "Good morning, Mr. Valenti", when he came each day. This time he looked at me and said, "A holy man of God never dies, never dies." He then said to the man in the other bed, "He cannot die." I asked him who told him I was a man of God because I never told him. He said the whole floor was filled with what had happened. I told him that a man of God never dies eternally.

(Dad passed on to his place of rest early Thursday morning, January 20, 1977. This was six months after the doctors had given up hope for his recovery. He died very peacefully in his sleep.)

This year was the 51st anniversary of mom and dad's membership in The Church and their 60th wedding anniversary.

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Unless You Can Write It
and Sign It,
Don't Say It.

District Conferences . . .

Atlantic Coast District Conference

Our Conference was held in the Metuchen church building. A good number of the priesthood was present. We were without the benefit of our two Apostles. It was reported that Brother Gorie had gone to Italy and that Brother Paul D'Amico was recuperating from his most recent heart surgery. The business of the day was taken care of with the most interesting part being the missionary reports.

The work in Maine has progressed very nicely. Their membership now stands at 14. They have doubled since starting the work. Brother Onorato has given a part of his building which has been converted into a meeting place. It was reported that we have 6 members in the state of Massachusetts, also prospects are good for a work in West Virginia. For the first time in our District there were reports of missionary work among the Seed of Joseph. The Conference dates for 1978 are as follows: February 25-26, Hopelawn; August 26-27, Herndon, Virginia. Our District held a gathering on Sunday at the V.F.W. hall in Metuchen. Brother Rogolino, our District President welcomed all the Saints and visitors to our meeting. It was mentioned again about Brother Paul D'Amico's progress after surgery and we were asked to remember him in prayer. Brother Jerry Benyola visiting from the Michigan-Canadian District opened our morning meeting taking his text from the *Book of Helamen* in the *Book of Mormon*, 13th Chapter, 37th verse and several verses from the 14th chapter. He spoke of the seriousness of serving God and what it means to save our souls in the kingdom of God.

The present day evil that surrounds us is far greater than sometimes we consider. He spoke of Samuel the prophet and the work he was called to perform, declaring repentance to the people of his day, because of Christ who was coming and who would give up His life to redeem man from the fall.

Brother Jerry stated that repentance is not a one-time commitment, but we should ask God every day to forgive us. Several Brothers of our District followed with their thoughts on the subject that was introduced.

Young Jared Ross was anointed prior to his entry into the hospital for surgery. We understand Jared is home and on his way to recovery. Hymns 56 and 53, "How Glorious will be the Morning" and "How Sweet to Reflect" were sung in conclusion of a beautiful Sabbath Day.

Brother Joseph Perri
District Editor

P.S. A big thank-you to the Metuchen Branch for their meal on Saturday, and Brother D'Amico, please get well soon, we miss you.

A New Work Begins In The Atlantic Coast District

For the first time a Committee known as the Urban Indian Committee has been elected to work among the Seed of Joseph along the Atlantic seaboard.

Members of the committee are: Brother Mike Hildenbrand, Chairman; Brother August D'Orazio, Co-Chairman; Brother Joseph Perri, Secretary-Treasurer; Brother Sam Dell, Brother Joseph Arcuri, Brother Walter Cihomsky, Brother Paul Carr. Alternates: Brother Dominick Rose, Brother James Benyola, Brother Don Ross.

Our first experience was had when 6 members of this committee traveled to West Point, Virginia to the Mataponi Indian Reservation where we met with Chief Curtis L. Custalow—a descendant of Powhatan, father of Pocahontas. We spent 3½ hours with him and we were all blest in seeing and conversing with him. The saying is first impressions are lasting and it is true in this case. His knowledge of scripture, his people and the government was amazing. His untiring efforts for the good of his people were certainly appreciated by us all. It was also impressing to us to learn that Chief Custalow helped form the C.E.N.A. Program. Our prayer is that God will open up new avenues in this work that we might in some way assist in bringing the Gospel to the Seed of Joseph.

Sincerely,

Joseph Perri, Secretary

Ohio District News

Saturday morning, September 24 was the beginning of a wonderful weekend in Kent. At approximately 10:00 a.m., fifteen young people of Ohio MBA gathered at the Kent Labor Temple, under the leadership of Brothers Vince Gibson and Wayne Martorano. Our goal was to pass out as many fliers as possible in the Kent area where meetings are being held. Nearly 1800 fliers were passed out in four hours. The fliers proclaimed the Gospel Restored and its relationship to the American Indian and extended an invitation to attend the Sunday evening service to be held the following night. A most enjoyable time was had by the young people participating and Brother and Sister Finley graciously provided everyone with a wonderful lunch. The following evening Saints gathered from throughout the Ohio District and were led in community singing by Brother Vince Gibson. Everyone was welcomed by Brother Elmer Santilli and we sang, "An Angel Came Down" and were led in prayer by Brother Raymond Cosetti. Brother Oliver Lloyd was then anointed for his afflictions.

Brother Joseph Calabrese opened the meeting and spoke upon the Restored Gospel, as pertaining to the covenants God has made with the seed of Joseph. He read from Genesis, the 28th Chapter and gave us an enlightening account concerning the promises made to the seed of Joseph and their journeys to this land. Not only is there evidence in the scripture to support the fact that they did journey across the ocean, but there is historical evidence as well. He continued that the Mormon Church is the one who split away and that The Church of Jesus Christ has maintained the power and authority since the Angel came down and laid hands on Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery. Brother Calabrese then gave a wonderful account, paralleling Joseph and the Pharaoh, to the Tribe of Joseph being released from the yoke of the Gentile.

Brother Raymond Cosetti spoke upon the abundance we enjoy in the land of America, but that God will only bless this land so long as we serve Him.

Brother Joseph Genaro encouraged us to do the work of the Lord and to wait upon the guidance of God. He expressed his joy that the seed had been planted in the Kent area and his desire to see the Gospel ring out throughout the land. He stated that we have scripture to prove this Gospel and one day the sound of this Gospel will take hold in this nation.

Brother Vince Gibson continued that we should be thankful to be upon this land and that it is through Israel we are granted this privilege. He expressed his gratitude to God for the simplicity of faith and that God is the same yesterday, today and forever.

The young people in the gathering, joined together and sang, "Everybody Ought to Know" and such a wonderful spirit was felt.

Brother Elmer Santilli then brought the meeting to a close and stated that our primary goal is "to carry the message, then God will bring forth the harvest". We then sang, "Amazing Grace" and were closed in prayer by Brother Wayne Martorano.

Sister Mary Margaret Cain

Pennsylvania District Meet In A Seminar

The Evangelists of the Pennsylvania District met at Greensburg on Saturday, September 17, 1977 at 7:00 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a seminar on the various requirements that are expected from us who are The Saints of God.

There were two classes held. The older group was instructed by Brother Joseph Shazer. We can say that a good evening of learning and fellowship was enjoyed. We want to express our thanks to Brother John Ross and the District Evangelists for their interest and time. The following is a report submitted by Sister Denise Fleming of the Vanderbilt Branch, from the young people's class which was taught by Brother George Johnson:

Brother George began by asking us, "How often do we read the scripture?" We know that we should read the scripture every day and if we don't have time, we should make time.

We read the scripture because it is the word of God, it is an example to us and it gives us hope for the future. God's words, the truth, is full of promises for us.

Another subject we went over was, "Why do we pray?" Whenever you feel you need the help of God you pray, there is no set time or place. You have no certain thing to pray for, but don't have a selfish prayer.

If you pray for God to give you something, and you expect God to give it to you, you must have a desire to work for it.

I really enjoyed the seminar and I encourage all to attend the next one.

Pennsylvania District Conference

The Pennsylvania District assembled together in Fredonia, Pa. on Saturday, August 20, 1977 at 10:00 a.m. for their Semi-Annual Conference.

Brothers Domenic Thomas and Nicholas Pietrangelo, were present among the Elders and Teachers that assembled.

A good day of fellowship was enjoyed as the District acted upon its business, conducted by the District President, Brother John Manes, and his counsellors.

The Sunday service was held at The General Church Auditorium with a good Spirit felt by all.

We were reminded that we should not hesitate to continue to call upon God, so that we may be blessed.

Brother Robert Nicklow
District Editor

THE LOST SOULS

Sometimes at night before I go to bed, I ponder about the many lost souls of this world. I've watched them fighting just to survive, with anger and fear continually building inside of them. I can feel the weight of their sins, because I remember not so long ago, I too bore the weight of many of those very same sins. My eyes fill with tears as I feel the unacknowledged pain within their hearts.

I've watched hatred bring about violent reactions, distrust and sorrow. I've seen mankind building mental walls, as barriers of protection, to guard himself from pain. Little does he realize, when he builds a wall for protection, that same wall must also block out all other emotions, such as love and true caring.

As I cry for the whole of mankind, in my deepest thoughts, I can only imagine what an intensely painful experience it must be for God the Father, and His Son, to see man bringing destruction upon himself and the entire creation that exists upon this earth.

The scripture states, "The harvest is plenteous, but the laborers are few." Those words were spoken by Christ. The nature of man, that was in the time of Christ, has not changed throughout these many years.

Though few in number, we in The Church as God's workers, have a job to do. We have the pure, true Gospel to give to the lost and dying souls of men.

Am I more concerned about my daily bread and my own luxuries, than to worry about the death of another man's soul? Have I forgotten how much Christ gave up for me?

Christ gave the most precious thing He had to give, His life. What have I done for Him lately?

I complain about my infirmities, my aging aches and pains, not enough money to pay my bills, and even my air-conditioner not working properly. I have such a short time to work. The life span of man upon this earth is indeed limited. I want to give my best while there is yet breath in me.

I want to work in this life for my heavenly reward, for The Father who so deeply loves me, and has given all for His creation. I want to work whether the task seems too great or even if I feel it is beneath my abilities. I want to work with love and tenderness in my heart. I want to work until I have nothing else to give, then pray to God to be refilled, and begin my work again.

"Work for the night is coming, when man works no more."

Sister Diana Thompson

BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS:—**Monongahela Branch News**

When one member of a family asks for baptism, there is great joy within that immediate family and joy among the spiritual family of Brothers and Sisters of the Branch. However, when two in the same family are baptized on the same day, the joy is immeasurable. Such was the case on Sunday, August 14 in Monongahela. We were pleased to have Calvin and Dorothy Matthews and their three daughters, Joyce, Marsha, and Peggy, visiting with us. They formerly attended our Branch, but for the past two years have been living in Bedford, Iowa. Last summer when they were back, Marsha was baptized. This summer, Peggy expressed her desire to be baptized. With a large group of relatives and Church members gathered at the shore of the Monongahela River, Peggy was immersed by Brother Richard Scaglione. We returned to the Church building and she was confirmed by Brother Idris Martin.

The afternoon meeting continued with many beautiful testimonies, including those of our new Sister and her family. Soon after this, Calvin arose to his feet and said those wonderful words, "I want to be baptized." We immediately returned to the river shore and Brother William Chepanoske led Calvin into the water and performed the baptism. Brother George Johnson officiated in confirming our Brother into The Church.

Needless to say, it was a day of rejoicing as the Matthews are a united family in the Gospel. May they be the light in Iowa that will reflect the Gospel of The Church of Jesus Christ to all they come in contact with, is our sincere prayer.

**News From The Six Nations
Reservation Mission**

On Sunday, August 7, 1977, the Six Nations Reservation Mission once again enjoyed God's richest blessings as we gathered on the banks of the Grand River and witnessed the baptism of Sister Ruth Edel from Detroit, Branch No. 1.

Brother Robert Stanek, visiting from the Windsor Branch, opened the service by reading from St. Luke 18:9-14. He exhorted the Saints on humility and gave his own personal testimony before coming into the Church. Brother Anthony Lovalvo followed on the same subject, how that man can justify himself and exalt himself and at the end he will be abased, but the one that humbles himself before the Almighty God will be exalted by Him. The service was very inspiring and the words that were spoken by our two Brothers were truly of the Lord, as we all were filled with the blessings of God.

When the meeting was opened for testimonies, Sister Ruth Edel rose to her feet and expressed her desire to be baptized. She testified how she had been attending services at Branch No. 1 for approximately two years and how she had felt that the love of God was within The Church of Jesus Christ.

She was taken into the waters of baptism by Brother Anthony Lovalvo and was confirmed a member of the Church by Brother Robert Stanek.

We had a very wonderful day with the Saints of God and our prayer is that the Lord will bless our new Sister as she starts on her new journey through this life in serving the Lord our God.

Brother Donald Green,
Six Nations Res. Editor

News From The California District

The California District Conference convened at The Church of Jesus Christ, San Diego, California on August 27, 1977 at 9 A.M. Brother Tom Liberto, District President, welcomed the priesthood to the conference. A feeling of unity was felt throughout the day. The Sunday Service was held at the Crawford High School Auditorium in San Diego. Brother Joe Lovalvo offered prayer. Brother Jim Lovalvo then sang. The DeCare Trio was next to sing.

Brother Phil Jackson of Red Lake, Arizona, was the opening speaker. His text was the 2000 stripling warriors in the Book of Alma. Brother Tony Picciuto was the following speaker, urging all of us to use the spiritual tools of fasting and prayer in all our battles.

Anita Picciuto was prayed for as she had a desire for baptism but wanted direction from God. She then later along with Diane Saczko requested baptism. A short confirmation service was held at the San Diego Branch. We thank God for all His blessings during this conference.

GOOD NEWS

The California District is happy to have with us again Brother Jim and Sister Mary Lovalvo. We fellowshipped with them for many years, when Brother Jim felt the call of the Church to help in a different part of God's Vineyard. While they were in Florida, there was an emptiness felt in our hearts. Now that they are back in California, we know how the Brothers and Sisters on the East Coast must feel. Brother Jim and Sister Mary will be making their home in the Fresno area. Let us pray that Brother Jim could be used by God to start another work in that area.

Brother Ken Jones
District Editor

Rochester Branch Welcomes Visitors

On Sunday, July 31, 1977 the Rochester, N. Y. Branch was privileged to have visitors from different parts of the vineyard. We had two vans of Indian Brothers and Sisters from Muncy Reservation, Canada. Brother and Sister (Nick) Pietrangelo from Detroit, Mich., Brother Richard Benyola and friends from Hopelawn, N. J. They attended the Pageant at Hill Cpmorah and on Sunday they had fellowship with us.

We had community singing. Brother Benyola was the pianist. The Muncy Choir sang, "Blessed Assurance."

Hymn, "His Name is Wonderful" was sung, and prayer by Brother Patsy Marinetti. Sang Hymn, "I Will Serve Thee Because I Love Thee."

Brother Nick chose for his text the 5th Chapter of Mosiah; Effect of King Benjamin's address. The people repent and enter into covenant with Christ, they are

called Sons and Daughters of Christ. To be carnal-minded is enmity to God. There's only one name that can satisfy men, and that name is Jesus. At this point a Sister saw a vision, that a shadow of a personage was behind him.

Sang Hymn, "The Only Name." Brother Patsy Marinetti was the next speaker. He spoke about Jesus, that He had other Sheep that are not of this fold, referring to the American Indians. If we had more kings like King Benjamin, what a wonderful world it would be. The world needs a Friend like Jesus.

The Presiding Elder, Brother Ansel D'Amico was the last speaker. He emphasized the strength and courage that King Benjamin had. He spoke of an old Indian Chief that said, "I would rather see a Sermon than hear a Sermon. King Benjamin practiced the sermons. If we have the love of God in our hearts we will be the light of the world. Let us follow the Lord all the way, that at the end we may hear those beautiful words, "Well done! Receive the crown of Eternal Life prepared for you."

Sang hymn, "Do You Know My Jesus." The meeting was then opened for Testimony. Some of the Brothers and Sisters were anointed for their afflictions.

Sacrament was then administered. Sang "God Be With You Until We Meet Again."

Closing prayer by Brother Rodney Dyer.

Sister Carmella D'Amico

Aliquippa Branch News

On September 11, 1977 the Aliquippa, Pa. Branch was visited by many visitors from various parts of Pennsylvania. Brother Robert Buffington of Imperial, Pa. introduced our service by using St. Luke the 14th Chapter as his text. He spoke of the cost of discipleship. He stressed that we can not serve two Gods, but we must put all our mind, soul and hearts into serving our Heavenly Father.

Brother Malcolm Bright sang a solo for us entitled, "I Will Serve Thee."

Brother Joe Ross made a few concluding remarks and our service was dismissed by singing, "Have You Counted The Cost?"

On Sunday, September 25, 1977 we were pleased to have with us Brother Joseph Bittinger. Brother Joe introduced our service using *III Nephi*, 11:38-41 and *I Corinthians*, Chapter 3 as his text. Brother Joe pointed out how Christ taught the same things in this land as in the land of Palestine. Brother Joe encouraged all to build their house upon the rock of Jesus Christ. He stated how wonderful and great some men had been before Christ but none could provide Salvation. Only Jesus Christ in His coming could provide Salvation.

Our Presiding Elder, Paul Palmieri followed with a few concluding remarks. He stated how people, once they are born into this world do not have the capability to live a righteous life. Jesus Christ had to come upon the earth to set up the standards in order for an individual to learn to respect his Brother with dignity and to treat his neighbor as himself. He added that we can not deviate from the plan of God and should not "water down" the commandments of God.

It was once again a day well spent in the service of God.

On Sunday, October 9, 1977 the Branch was visited by Brother James and Sister Lydia Link of Bronx, New York. Brother Jim introduced our service by using the 9th Chapter of St. John. He compared his life to that of the blind man. Brother Jim told of several experiences he had. He told of his experience in the Navy when he promised God he would serve Him if he ever got back to land. When Brother Jim returned home he forgot the promise he had made to God but remembered it when he met The Church of Jesus Christ. He counselled us not to take God for granted but be concerned about God every day of our lives, not just when the elements change and we experience sickness or death.

Our service was closed with, "I Asked The Lord", and Brother Anthony Ross offered the closing prayer.

Sister Joyce Jumper
Aliquippa Branch Editor

Ordination At Detroit Branch No. 3

September 11, 1977 was a day filled with blessings as Sister Lydia Lombardo was ordained a Deaconess at Branch No. 3. Many visitors were present to share this day. Brother Dominic Moraco from Branch No. 4 spoke on the Restoration of The Church, and the gifts and manifestations of the spirit.

During our afternoon feet washing service, Sister Ida Napolitano received a vision of two men placing a white runner down the aisle. Sister Lydia walked down the runner before being ordained. Her feet were washed by Sister Rose Impastato, and she was ordained by Brother Silver Criscuolo.

Lake Worth News

Lake Worth, Florida Branch has just finished its week of Bible School. The subject this year was Peter the Fisherman and much knowledge was gained by these little ones. The enthusiastic children completed many crafts which they enjoyed doing.

We graciously thank Josephine Jasmin who headed Bible School. All her efforts showed at our completion program Friday night when the children rehearsed their lessons and songs learned throughout the week. Crafts were displayed and the children excitedly guided their parents to see the work they had done. There were refreshments for all.

We thank all the teachers and helpers who made Vacation Bible School a success.

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends:

My heart is filled with joy, giving thanks to God for being so merciful to me during my recent illness. I would also like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, visits and calls.

May God bless you for your love shown to me and my family.

Sincerely and with Love,
Sister Meredith Lockwood
Erie, Mission

Labor Day Picnic

On September 5, 1977 the Michigan-Ontario Area MBA sponsored a Labor Day picnic at Windor's Memorial Park. Brothers and Sisters from all of the Branches in the area were in attendance. After our meal, there was a baseball game for the adults while the children participated in a donut eating contest, a sack race and a tug-of-war. Brother Gary and Sisters Judy and Sue Coppa who recently returned from their trip to Nigeria with Brother Nephi DeMercurio and his family told of many of their experiences while overseas. The picnic was enjoyed by all who attended.

Brother Tim Scolaro

Ice Cream Social Held

All the planning and arranging was well worth the effort for the Area MBA Ice Cream Social held in the Michigan-Ontario District on August 12, 1977. Jeff Thomas volunteered to take charge and make the necessary plans, and when he asked for assistance, everyone was willing to do their part.

There was a good representation from each local and also a few from each who helped in the kitchen and prepared the sundaes. The social was held in the addition of Branch No. 2 and you gave your donation at the door upon entering.

Everything that evening went so well. Brothers, Sisters and friends found time to socialize with one another and over all it was good to be in the presence of the Lord's people.

May the Lord continue to be with you all.

Sister Leona Buffa

— NEW ARRIVALS —

Congratulations are in order to the proud parents for the indicated new members of their families. New arrivals have been as follows:

Kristy Lynn to Joseph and Ruth Rogalla of McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania.

Trenor Louis to Ron and Frances Rebold of Lorain, Ohio.

Bianca to Kenneth and Diane Orocho of Lorain, Ohio.

Samuel David, Jr. to Samuel and Alberta Rucker of Warren, Ohio.

Robert Joseph, Jr. to Robert Joseph and Eileen Suty of Monongahela, Pennsylvania.

● OBITUARIES ●

DOMINIC DePIERO

Brother Dominic DePiero of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ passed on to be with the Lord on Tuesday, October 11, 1977. He was born on April 12, 1893 and was baptized in Glassport, Pennsylvania on March 28, 1919.

The funeral services were conducted by his brother-in-law, Brother T. D. Bucci, and Brother Joseph Genaro.

He is survived by his wife, Sister Minnie, one son, one daughter, two brothers, two grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Brother Dominic was a pioneer of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch and will be greatly missed by his family and the Brothers and Sisters of our Branch.

VELDA BARCLAY

Sister Velda Barclay, passed on to her heavenly reward on October 13, 1977. She was a member of the Muncey Mission. She lived in Mount Brydges, Ontario. She was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on December 16, 1945. She was 71 years of age at her last birthday on September 16.

The funeral services were conducted by Brothers Tony Gerace and Mario Coppa.

She is survived by one son, one daughter, and five grandchildren.

Sister Velda was a faithful member of the Muncey Mission.

FIORE VIVOLA

Brother Fiore Vivola passed on to his eternal reward on October 3, 1977. He was a member of the Bell, California Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. He was 87 years old.

The funeral services were conducted in the Dickey Mortuary Chapel by Brother Vincent Scalise.

ANGELINO SCALISE

Mr. Angelino Scalise of Bell, California passed away on September 5, 1977. He was born on March 6, 1890.

The funeral services were conducted by Brother Harry Marshall.

He is survived by his wife, one son, one daughter and grandchildren.