

The GOSPEL NEWS

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IT IS WRITTEN

Belief and Repentance

There are FOUR principles, or basic requirements for salvation; or which will open the Portals of heaven to Man, and they are . . . BELIEF (or Faith) in the Lord Jesus Christ; REPENTANCE of sins; BAPTISM for the remission of sins; and RECEPTION of the Holy Ghost. We shall deal with these four principles one by one. BELIEF in the Lord Jesus Christ . . . or FAITH in the Lord Jesus Christ . . .

In the English language, very frequently the words Belief and Faith are used with one or nearly the same meaning. Often they are used synonymously, or interchangeably. "Whosoever believeth on Him should not perish..." (John 3:16) "I live by the Faith of the Son of God" . . . (Gal. 2:20) And Jesus saith unto them, "Have FAITH in God. . . and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe . . . he shall have whatsoever he saith. . ." (Mark 11:22,23 in part)

While BELIEF and FAITH are used synonymously or regarded as such, nevertheless, it would be wise to also understand that each one has a specific meaning, depending on the occasion they are used. Belief is a conviction or persuasion of truth; hence, to believe in Jesus Christ, is to be fully persuaded or convicted that He is the Son of God; that he was born of a Virgin; that He is the Christ, the Redeemer of Mankind. Whereas Faith implies such a complete confidence and assurance in Him as to motivate one into action. It is impossible to have Faith without belief. In other words, Faith is the end result of a living Belief. On the other hand, it is possible to have BELIEF without FAITH. Consider what James says, "Thou believest that there is one God thou doest well; the devils also believe, and tremble." (James 2:19) Satan and his cohorts of imps believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and have knowledge also that He is the Christ, but can, in no wise escape the fate which is awaiting them of damnation, Eternally. However, in consequence of man's belief and Faith in God and Christ, it is a means of Eternal salvation.

Belief then, must come prior to baptism through either hearing the word or reading it. The thousands, at the day of Pentecost were moved (or to believe) upon by the preaching of Peter. whereupon they cried out,

"Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37) Likewise, the Ethiopian eunuch, READING the words of the prophet ISAIAH concerning Jesus, became a disciple easily, as Philip interpreted the scripture for him. (Acts 9:26-38)

Astronomers say that this earth is but one of a number of Planets in our Solar system, which in turn is but one star in countless billions of star systems in the Universe. Those of us who know very little, if anything at all of astronomy, have accepted these theories because of the confidence we have in the combined testimony of the many scientists who observed the stars through mighty telescopes and mathematical calculations. And in consequence have accepted their conclusions as proven facts. By the same token should not the combined testimony of the ancient prophets and Disciples of Jesus prove conclusively the existence of Almighty God, and of His Son Jesus? History has proved over and over again that the lives and testimonies of the Saints and Martyrs are not a myth, but a reality.

Therefore, belief in Jesus Christ must come through the willingness of the individual to "want to believe", as the father of the afflicted child said to Jesus, "Help thou mine unbelief." If a person does not want to believe, then all the proof in the world would avail nothing.

Once a person has this conviction, or persuasion of truth, (BELIEF), then he becomes motivated to do something about it. Faith takes over which impels him into action. This proceeds to the next step, Repentance; which is the second requirement for whosoever wishes to become a follower of Jesus Christ.

REPENTANCE . . .

Repentance ranks of necessity as the second Principle of the Gospel; it is closely associated, and follows the first Principle, Faith or Belief. It is an act of contrition, or Godly sorrow for one's sins, with an inward desire to amend one's life. It is an act which impels one to seek God's divine forgiveness. It is that which compels one to feel his nothingness in the presence of Divine Mercy. As the Publican said, "God be merciful to me, a sinner". (Luke 18:13)

It is also an ADMISSION of one's guilt, and a CONFESSION of one's sins; and while repentance is a Godly sorrow for one's sins, without admission and confession of one's guilt (to God, of course) there cannot be a true

repentance. "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we CONFESS our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:8,9) And again, "I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin." (Psalm 32:5).

Repentance also brings about a desire to forgive another's transgression, for the Saviour instructed the disciples to implore the Father to, "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors". (Matt. 6:12) There is no assurance of Divine forgiveness towards us, if we do not forgive those who have sinned against us. Jesus said to His Disciples, "And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any; that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in Heaven forgive your trespasses." (Mark 11:25,26) In conjunction with this, Paul, the Apostle admonishes the Colossians, "Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any; even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye." (Col. 3:13) As we desire the forgiveness of God for our sins, regardless of the many times we commit shortcomings, so must there be a continuing desire to forgive others, no matter how often they trespass against us. For the Lord Jesus commanded, "And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, 'I repent', thou shalt forgive him." (Luke 17:14)

Repentance is also essential to one's salvation, as taught not only by the Lord Jesus, but also by His disciples, both in Jerusalem, and upon this land. Christ said, "Nay, but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." In his epistle to the Corinthians Paul said, "Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a Godly manner. . . . For Godly sorrow worketh repentance to SALVATION . . . (2 Cor. 7:9,10)

Upon this land it was taught, "... Therefore, for this cause, that men might be saved, hath repentance been declared. Therefore, blessed are they who will repent and hearken unto the voice of the Lord their God, for these are they that shall be SAVED." (Helaman 12:22, 23)

When this Godly sorrow comes into the heart, man is compelled to cry out, as they did on the day of Pentecost, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" And that indomitable Fisher of men, Peter, cried with a loud voice, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of your sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (2:38) This then leads to the next step in the great plan of Salvation, Baptism.

Dear Readers,

If anyone has a question concerning the Scriptures of The Church and its Faith and Doctrine, please send them to

V. James Lovalvo
5769 N. Pleasant Avenue
Fresno, California 93711

Brother Lovalvo will answer your questions through *The Gospel News* in the article "IT IS WRITTEN."

The Editor

BRIEF REPORT OF OUR TRIP TO ITALY

August 23. In order to leave together, the Biscotti's drove to Detroit and met the Ciaravino's at Detroit's Metropolitan Airport. There to see us off were Brothers, Sisters and members of our families. Arriving at the J. F. Kennedy Airport in New York, we were again honored with the presence of a group of brothers, sisters and relatives to see us off on our overseas flight. We were happy to see Sister Valenti; although blind, she wished to join our well wishers. Before we entered the restricted area, a circle was formed and Brother Domenic Rose offered a beautiful prayer that accompanied us during our trip.

We arrived at the Leonardo Da Vinci Airport in Rome the next morning, and then on to Naples where we found Brother and Sister Pietorenzi, formerly of Detroit, waiting for us with a car. They took us to their home in Baselice.

On August 26, we left Baselice for Peschici, Foggia with a short stop-over in Orsara, Foggia. We spent a day and a half visiting with Ann's relatives. Orsara is the birthplace of her parents. We arrived in Peschici, Brother Rocco's birthplace, on the 28th of August. Our relatives there were wonderful to us. Six of them are members of our Church. The rooms they reserved for us were very comfortable and we had a breath-taking view of the Adriatic Sea.

We found Fernando, our nephew, to be a very attentive listener as we spoke of the Restoration. His wife, Nicoletta, is a member of our Church and their two sons are very active in the "Evangelistic" movement.

The day after we arrived in Peschici, Sister Ange slipped and fell, injuring her knee as we were walking downhill on a cobblestone street. We helped her to her feet and were relieved to discover no broken bones. She did have a large bleeding bruise just below her knee. Our concern was for blood clots, as it was the same leg that had hospitalized her last winter. She was anointed and, thank God, she was able to carry on with all the walking and climbing that was necessary.

On August 31, we had a beautiful Feet Washing and Communion Service with the six members. We anointed Brother Stephano (my brother) who has been incapacitated by a stroke for over a year. He is a helpless invalid, and it was heartbreaking to watch him try to communicate with us with his eyes, as he cannot speak. May the Lord watch over him and his wife, Sister Mattencella, who cares for him, feeds him and lifts him.

On September 2, we again were on our way to Baselice. There was a possibility of Sister Mary Pietorenzi's nephew in Naples being baptized, but at this time she could not reach him. While in Baselice we had a meeting with Brother Leonard and Sister Mary. We administered Communion and held the Ordinances of Feet Washing with them also. They are wonderful workers in the Gospel. Their efforts to make our travels easier were beyond measure. May the Lord bless them.

We proceeded on to Cannitello on September 5. The Pietorenzi's hired our good friend, Pasquale, again. We all got into his station wagon and proceeded to Naples to board the train to Calabria. We had a time getting on the train as it was quite late. We arrived in Cannitello



Group in Naples with two newly baptised members.

about 6:30 p.m. We had been traveling twelve hours. We were warmly received by Brother Guiseppe LoRicco and Sister Lina. We spent the night with them. We spent a week in Cannitello visiting all we could. We met our most recently baptized Brother Morgante, who is a big help to the Church in that area.

One day, we visited Sister Maria Fragomeni, formerly of Detroit Branch No. 3, now living in Roccella Ionica, Reggio Calabria.

We had a service with her, administering the Lord's Supper. After the service she insisted we stay for dinner, as she had an experience she would be receiving guests and to prepare for them. She is quite isolated from The Church. Brother and Sister LoRicco visits her as often as they can. At this point we want to note that no matter where you go in Italy, it takes most of the day to travel.

In Cannitello we have Sister Catherine who is the late Brother Domenic Todaro's sister. Her young nephew and his wife had beautiful experiences some time ago. We hope with the proper encouragement they too will commit their lives to serving the Lord.

On September 11 (Sunday) we had our service in Brother LoRicco's home. In attendance were six members, four visitors and us. We had a very wonderful service, with a request for baptism by one of our visitors. At this service was one elderly Brother who travels 99 kilometers by train and walks three kilometers to the train station. Quite an effort to come to the service. His name is Vincenzo Gambellone, a cousin to Brother Frank Nastasi of Niles, Ohio. He was baptized in Bovalino, Reggio Calabria in 1929 by Brother Dominic Nastasi, an uncle of theirs who was an Elder from Youngstown, Ohio. Brother Gambellone is 85 years old.

On September 12 we left Cannitello with Brother and Sister LoRicco about 7:30 A.M. for San Demetrio Corone. We arrived there about 3:30 P.M. and were warmly received by Brother and Sister Buonofilio. We visited with the members in their homes and enjoyed meeting them all.

Brothers Gorie, LoRicco, and I visited Brother Olivo who was recuperating from surgery in a hospital in Cosenza. He is one of the elders in San Demetrio. We

anointed him and he was shortly released from the hospital. He attended the service on September 15 in our little church building. This is the only church building we have in Italy and it is a very comfortable little church with running water and inside facilities in the basement.

In San Demetrio we have the late Brother Natale Sumaro's two nieces. They have a lovely little group, including a few young adults and children.

We left on September 16 about 6:30 a.m. and arrived in Buccino at 6:15 p.m. We spent the 17th and 18th there and had a service with them. Our Elder there is Brother Magaldo, who is quite elderly, as are all his small group. They meet regularly in a small rented room. The late Brother Nick Iorio's niece and her husband are members here. We visited the few that were at home. Most of them go to their fields during the day. At this point, we parted company with Brother and Sister LoRicco. We said our sad farewells to each other and left Buccino on the 19th.

We were again met by Brother Pietorenzi and Pasquale, our "Old Faithfuls", and taken to their nephew's home.

After dinner that evening we talked with Mario and his neighbor, Gioita Polverari. We had an interesting discussion on the Bible and Book of Mormon, after which they both asked to be baptized. They had been contemplating this step for some time and were ready.

The following day on September 21, they were baptized in the beautiful Mediterranean. It was a very moving experience, especially for them. We had a service that evening to confirm them as members of The Church of Jesus Christ. We administered the Lord's Supper and also heard some beautiful testimonies. That same evening the husband of Sister Gioita came to visit with us. He is a Doctor of Law, and we both spoke of the Gospel to him. As we parted, he said that our Church was his church.

After a day in Rome we had hoped to fly to Sardegna, but due to the strike by Alisardi Airlines, we went to Civitavecchia and boarded a boat. We traveled all night and arrived in Olbia, the port in Sardegna, at 6:00 a.m. After a two and one-half hour ride by bus, we arrived in Dorgali where we were met by Brother Stephano and Sister Imacolatta Romano along with their niece, Sister Marissa. They welcomed us warmly with the traditional kiss on both cheeks which we found to be a delightful custom in Italy.

At Cala Gonone, our church members were gathered in their living room waiting to welcome us. The next two days were spent visiting around in the homes and making plans to go to our other church mission in Santa Teresa Gallura, which is located at the northernmost tip of Sardegna. We went there on September 28. We had a very nice talk with Brother Giovannino Spigno, who is the elder there.

After several unnerving experiences, we finally arrived in Dorgali where we found Antonelli Romano waiting for us. We returned to Cala Gonone and the Romanos with great relief and thankfulness.

We held two services there, visited the members and tried to encourage them as much as possible. It gave us great joy to renew one member, and to answer as many questions as we could.

On October 7, we arose at 4:30 a.m. and said a reluctant and tearful good-bye to the loved ones we were leaving behind. Before leaving, prayer was offered for a safe return trip and surely God again heard the prayer which Brother Gorie uttered. Brother Stephano drove us to Olbia which was a two-hour drive. After saying our last good-bye to our dear brother we boarded Alisardi for a quick flight to Rome, where we boarded our TWA flight for New York. We were very thankful we were met by Brother Domenic Rose and Joseph Floreno. We arrived in Detroit about 9:00 p.m. and were so glad to see our families and our brothers and sisters.

I would like to say that I (Brother Rocco) have now had the privilege to perform baptisms in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, the Adriatic and Mediterranean Seas, as well as Lake Erie, for which I thank God. We thank all that remembered us in prayers, and we are sure there were many, for without the prayers of the Saints we could not have accomplished the trip as we did.

Notes of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Mother and I wish to thank you all who remembered us in your prayers and also the many cards and telephone calls we received during the operations we had a few months ago.

We both are recovering and doing very well. How many times a day we thank God for His many mercies and goodness toward us. We can never thank Him enough.

May God Bless You All is our Prayer.

Sister Margaret (Maggie) Ward
Sister Bertha Sommerville

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to thank all of you for the many gifts, cards, letters and prayers in my behalf. Over 2200 pounds of sheetwork fell on my leg in May of this year. The doctors feared I would lose my right leg. I am walking with a cane now and with your continued prayers I will be walking on my own soon.

May God Bless You All

John Nester,
Palmetto Georgia Mission

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I want to thank God as well as all my brothers and sisters for the many prayers on my behalf. The many phone calls, cards, letters, flowers, gifts and visits were a joy and a blessing to me.

The evening before my brain surgery, my surgeon came to see me giving me much comfort and hope. I told him that I had no fear for the Lord will guide his hand and hold mine. The surgeon replied, "You bet He will." I went to the Operating Room in a beautiful spirit. It was five days later before I was aware of what happened.

I suffered no pain after the operation; although there had been much pain 35 days before the diagnosis.

I am getting along fine now and becoming stronger each day.

Thank you again for your prayers, kind thoughts and gifts of love. May You All Enjoy God's Richest Blessings.

Sister Rosalie Kaiser
Greensburg Branch

The Way Is Too Narrow

The way is too narrow, I cannot go in,
The gate is too straight, my friend said for him.
That such a pure gospel He would not receive.
I cried when I heard it, I could not believe.

This pearl is so precious, so please come and see,
I pleaded and told him the gospel is free.
He thought the cost high through the eyes of sin.
The way is too narrow he would not go in.

I thought my heart broke when he laid it aside,
Then I saw the tree where Jesus had died.
And I saw His sorrow because of my friend.
The way is too narrow, he would not go in.

by Arlene Buffington

Who Am I?

Am I impervious to constant assaults?
Can I, no extreme evil claim?
Do I speak in a rush and disclaim my faults?
Do I scorn and judge others in disdain?
Forgetful am I, am forgetfulness too,
For I know and forget that I am just another you.

Brother Patrick King
San Fernando Valley Branch, Calif.

CONFERENCE NOTICE

The April General Church Conference will convene on THURSDAY AFTERNOON, April 13, 1978 at 2:00 p.m. in our General Church Auditorium in Greensburg, Pa.

The THURSDAY & FRIDAY sessions will be open to the PRIESTHOOD & TEACHERS ONLY:

The Saturday sessions and the Sunday Service will be open to all. Sunday service will start at 10:00 a.m.

NOTE:

1. Meals will be furnished on a pay-as-you-attend basis. The cost will be \$1.50 per meal per person. Children 6 to 12 years old will be \$.75; children under 6 years are free.
2. Those attending conference must make their own arrangements for lodging.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

A NEW YEAR, A NEW HOPE

How swiftly another year has rolled away and a new year is ushered in!

Ring out the old shapes of foul disease,
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand years of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.
Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land;
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

These closing lines from Alfred Tennyson's great New Year's poem are most suitable and soul-stirring as we "ring out the old" (1977) and "ring in the new" (1978). You will note the heartfelt wish of the poet Tennyson he so simply and eloquently expressed with pen, prophetic-like with anticipation for a better future.

SWIFT FLOW OF EVENTS

In reviewing the year 1977 that has circle away so quickly, we are amazed at the swift flow of events around us, as well as the happenings in our own everyday living.

We recall many ups and downs, failures and mistakes, while on the other hand, we also have more pleasant memories. There are memories of achievement and reward in varying degrees, whether large or small, for time and effort expended in the pursuit of various goals and activities. This is true, both in our temporal, as well as our spiritual affairs.

May these memories serve to alert us to continued vigilance, watchfulness, and prayerfulness. As we enter the New Year, may we look forward with cheerful hearts and hopeful anticipation. May God strengthen our resolution to strive to do better than we have done during the past year.

MAINTAIN OUR INTEREST

Too, we want to maintain our interest in the progress and advancement of the Church, both at home and abroad. It behooves us to increasingly support and sustain the missionary activities of the Church in all locations.

Also, let us be mindful of Brother and Sister DeMercurio and their children in far off Nigeria. We pray that God will strengthen and sustain them, spiritually and even physically, all through their tour of missionary duty.

On another note, let us be mindful of the upcoming Arab and Israeli peace negotiations in Cairo. We are encouraged by the recent dramatic visit by Egypt's President Anwar Sadat to Jerusalem.

For the first time in 30 years of war and unstable peace, an Arab nation has publicly and officially recognized Israel, Israel's right to exist and its need for security against her Arab neighbors.

May God intervene according to His good will. Surely, there is room for Arab and Israeli to dwell peacefully in their respective borders in the Middle East.

God of our life, through all the circling years, We trust Thee;
In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, Thy hand we see
With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,
We own Thy mercies, Lord, which never fail.



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

Rachel and Leah

Dear Girls and Boys,

Jacob had left home after having trouble with his brother Esau. His mother had persuaded his father, Isaac, to send Jacob to her old home in Haran to visit his uncle Laban.

After a long journey Jacob met a group of shepherds, watering their flocks at a well. He asked them if they knew Laban. They replied they knew him well and they said, "Rachel, his daughter, is over there with the sheep." Jacob ran to roll away the heavy stone from the well and help her water the sheep. He told her who he was. She hurried home to tell her father. When Laban heard this news, he remembered his sister, Rebekah, Jacob's mother. He invited Jacob to stay with them.

Laban had two daughters, Leah, the older and Rachel. Leah was "tender eyed" and Rachel was beautiful and "well favored". Jacob loved Rachel and said to Laban, "I will serve thee seven years for Rachel." This pleased Laban. Now seven years is a long time but it seemed but a few days because of the love he had for Rachel.

At the end of the seven years Laban gathered all the men together and made a great feast for the wedding. But instead of the bride being Rachel, it was Leah. In the East the custom was that the bride was completely covered during the ceremony so that the bridegroom could not see her face. Later Jacob found he had married Leah instead of Rachel. He was very angry and said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve thee seven years for Rachel?" Laban replied, "It must not be so done in our country to give the younger before the first born." So Jacob had to serve seven more years for Rachel. He loved her so much that he was willing to work fourteen years for her.

Jacob lived in Haran for a longer time. Altogether he had twelve sons. Of these only two were born to Rachel, Joseph and Benjamin. Joseph and Benjamin were Jacob's favorite sons. These twelve sons were later called the Twelve Tribes of Israel. Jacob had received the name Israel from God, "Thy name is Jacob, thy name shall not be called any more Jacob, but Israel shall be thy name."

Later Jacob returned to his homeland with his wives, children, servants and many cattle. He sent messengers ahead with presents for his brother Esau, to tell him how God had prospered him in Haran. When they met, all was forgiven. One of the first things Jacob did was to build an altar to worship God. God had been good to him. On the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem, Rachel died, and Jacob set up a pillar on her grave.

Sincerely,
Sister Mabel

OUR WOMEN TODAY

Dear Sisters and Friends,

I am taking this opportunity to write to you about our Ladies' Uplift Circle. I'm sure you are acquainted with the history and work this fine group of women has done in the past. But do you know what we are doing for The Church today?

Although it isn't mentioned too often, we supply a great deal of financial support to The Church for missionary work. We help in the American Indian, foreign and home missions. The fact that we can take some of the financial burden off our church budget, means that our Brothers are able to do more extensive work in avenues now open, and will possibly be at a greater liberty to break new ground.

Along with the financial support we offer the Church, we also supply spiritual support to those who are sick and downhearted.

We have classes in which we study the *Bible*, *Book of Mormon* or some of our other church literature, as we see fit. This gives us a chance to expand our knowledge and share our own experiences with others.

The part that I personally enjoy the most is the traveling we do. It is an opportunity to meet people of different backgrounds and cultures. We have, as a group traveled to other Branches in our area, to the various missions and to other states.

Now that I have touched lightly on a few of our many projects, let's cover just one of the benefits we receive from belonging to this group. Do you realize that the Circle is the only organization in our Church, that is completely comprised of and operated by our women?

God directed Sister Sadie Cadman, to organize this group for a very important reason. He knew that the ladies had more talent than just making beds, washing dishes, working or going to school. God has given the ladies a chance to show, that we are a very intricate part in the workings of The Church. That's right ladies, we are IMPORTANT!

Your talent whatever it may be is needed in our Circle. Now don't sit there and say, I haven't any talent. Everyone has at least one talent. If you're worried about not being able to find that talent, don't worry, because God and our Circle Sisters have an amazing ability for handling that particular problem.

In closing let me invite you to join a Circle Group in your area. If you don't have one, why not get the women together and form one?

Your Sister in Christ,
Diana Thompson

The California District Ladies Uplift Circle Meeting

The Ladies Uplift Circle District Meeting was held at the Bell, California Branch on October 22, 1977.

A short session of prayer was had. Among our guests we had Little Pigeon Nicholas from the Oneida Indian tribe. Her husband, Grey Owl, had been a member of

our Church in Canada and died a faithful Brother. She spoke at the Saturday evening meeting.

Then Sister Sharon Smith read the 139th Psalm. Testimonies were given on how rich we are in the things of God and how God provides for all our needs and even our wants. A desire to work for the Lord and for the American Indian was expressed.

Reports were given from the different circles. Sister Perdue related that the Sisters in Tijuana are active making bedspreads and crocheting shawls. She said that they still need sheets and baby clothes. Sister Norma Kennedy from San Diego said they send \$40 per month to Tijuana for beans and milk, bought hymn books, and had a baby shower.

Sister Joy Azzinaro from San Fernando said they raised money through a trip to the preview house and have had parking lot sales. They have been making layettes for the different missions, meeting in fast and prayer meetings in a secluded park in Simi Valley and donating to the Pine Top kitchen fund.

Sister Donna Ciccatti from Red Lake stated that they have 12 people attending there. They have had a rummage sale and bought supplies for their kitchen. They also received layettes and distributed them. During the summer they had cooking, crafts and sewing classes at the farm with good participation from the local women.

Sister Karen Elsby from Bell reported that they have 12-15 members. They have made layettes and with proceeds from selling Tupperware have made more layettes. They have a great concern to get the younger girls involved in their Circle.

A letter was read from Sister Grace Brutz from Tucson, Arizona relating of a bake sale they were having. The money was donated to Mexico for medical supplies.

In the afternoon, Sister Kay Daniells sang "No One Understands Like Jesus".

Sister Judy Calabrese and Donna Ciccatti from Red Lake showed slides and reported about the farm and the produce raised there. They also told of how the cow was prepared for the dedication ceremony. At this ceremony, the Navajos related how well The Church has been accepted there.

Brother Tom Liberto was our afternoon speaker as he told of when his mother, Sister Lena, brought him to Ladies Circle as a child. He feels the Sisters have the biggest impact on our children's growth in The Church. He told us of many women in the scriptures that were used to further the Gospel. He said Sisters have accomplished much in the past, and the future holds a challenge. Brother Tom exhorted us to strive to be true to the Gospel of Christ, to be good examples and help each other. Our testimonies are powerful and our perseverance is essential.

Sisters Donna and Judy sang "I Asked The Lord".

Brother Perdue thanked the Ladies Circle for everything and encouraged us to continue our good work.

Our next district Circle meeting will be in San Fernando.

Sister Pearl Nester
for Sister Joan McNabb

A Tribute to Sister Thomas



From left to right: Sister Orletta Liberto, Sister Marcia Liberto, Sister Betty Thomas, Sister Violet Thomas, and Sister Lena Liberto.

A lively tribute for Sister Bernadina Thomas who at age 90 still bears a *lively testimony* to the goodness of the Lord. She is an ordained Deaconess and has the distinction that in her family there are three generations of Deaconesses serving the Church at one time. Including a fourth generation great, grandson-in-law, Mike Jackson, who is a Deacon. Sister Bernadina's daughter, Sister Lena Liberto is a Deaconess as are Sister Liberto's two daughters-in-law, Sister Marcia Liberto and Sister Orletta Liberto who is the newest ordained Deaconess. She was ordained in May of this year. Sister Bernadina's daughter-in-law, Sister Violet Thomas is also an ordained Deaconess. Sister Bernadina's two grandsons are Elders, Brother Tom Liberto who is also President of the California District and Brother Paul Liberto who is Presiding Elder of the San Diego Branch.

Sister Betty, as we affectionately call her, will be 91 years old December 31. She resides at The Flames — 4538 35th Street, San Diego, Calif. 92116. She is still excited about the "Restored Gospel", our Church, God's love, the Saints and is still praising the Lord for His goodness.

I was shown in a dream sometime ago that I was writing a tribute to Sister Betty for her faithfulness and for the joy of a family united in working for the Lord.

I am reminded of the scripture found in 1 Peter, 2:5 where it says, "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."

Sister Betty indeed has been a "lively stone."

Sister Josephine Dominico

THE NIGERIAN ECHO

by Joseph Bittinger

"God moves in a mysterious way"

While going through the many articles and documents I have in my possession, I came upon the address I delivered at the Formal Opening of the Technical Secondary School, Atai Otoro, March 30, 1974. (the name since changed to, Comprehensive Secondary School).

"Honorable and Distinguished Guests... Brothers and Sisters in Christ and Students of the Technical School.

I wish to thank God, our Heavenly Father for His great love and mercy for bringing us safely to your country and to have this great opportunity to be assembled at the Dedication of The Church of Jesus Christ Technical Secondary School at Atai Otoro, Abak.

I also thank the Nigerian Government for their confidence and co-operation with The Church of Jesus Christ in allowing us to preach the Word of God and the establishment of the School.

I am highly honored to be with Brother John Ross (Chairman of the African Committee) and Brother Gorie Ciaravino (President of The General Church).

For me this is the climax of twenty years of involvement in the Nigerian work. It was by your invitation in August, 1954 that the late Brother William H. Cadman and I, came to Nigeria and preached the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We were impressed to find humble and sincere people, seeking truth, anxious to accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour. A people whose spiritual and natural needs were many. However, a people with determination to love and serve God and to improve themselves naturally if given the opportunity. This zeal for achievement and improvement was demonstrated by the young people in their inquiries concerning an education. At that time their enthusiasm and desire for schooling was a valuable asset in convincing us that in Nigeria is a people who possess the potential qualities to make them as great a people as any in the world.

We have seen this work grow since our first visit because of the dedication, love and efforts of our people who have labored here to bring you the knowledge of a more abundant way of life. People such as the late William H. Cadman, John Ross, Sister Mary Ross, Alvin Swanson, Alma Nolfi, Joseph Shazer, and Gorie Ciaravino.

Also we must not forget our many Brothers and Sisters in America who have supported this effort with their prayers and financial contributions.

We are grateful to God that your needs for a school have become a reality, and no longer just a dream. It is important to remember that which is learned from this school be put to use for the Honor and Glory of God. God cannot be eliminated when it comes to learning and acquiring knowledge.

Solomon, a very wise man recognized this and said, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge." If we allow the Lord to be the center of our lives then we, with the help of God are able to do what might appear to be the impossible. When Solomon sought guidance from God to rule the people of Israel, which appeared

to be an impossible task, he did not seek riches, wealth, long life nor the life of his enemies, but sought the wisdom and knowledge of God. Because he placed God first, God said to him, "wisdom and knowledge is granted unto thee; And I will give thee riches and wealth and honor, such as none of the Kings have had that have been before thee, neither shall there any after thee have the like."

We learn the nation of Israel prospered under Solomon. They were feared by their enemies and were treated with respect and honor by all nations.

To each of you who are students and those of you who desire to become a student at the school, I would like to tell you of a true story of a young man who sought an education. This young man petitioned the Lord and asked the Lord for His counsel and advice as to whether he should further his education.

The Lord revealed to him to go to school. After receiving this counsel from the Lord the young man desired to dedicate his schooling to God and use his Education in any way for the work of the Lord. However, as the young man acquired his Education he began to forget God and as he forgot God the Lord withdrew His Spirit. The young man began to falter in his life and do poorly in his studies. He then realized where he had gone wrong and rededicated his studies to the Lord. This time he did not forget God because upon finishing his schooling, he showed sincerity in his dedication to God. He desired that his family and friends not celebrate the accomplishment that he had achieved. Instead he went to the Lord rendering honor and glory to God for this achievement and desired once again to contribute whatever he could to God and the people of God. Today, the desire of this young man has come to pass. Today he is using his Education for the Lord and he remembers one very important thing, in his life it is the Lord who has made him what he is today."

We pray that this school will produce young men and women who will take their rightful place in the community and in the nation. Hopefully, they will place Christ first in their lives and be looked upon even as Solomon "A wise man", not seeking for himself but for the Honor and Glory of God.

May God bless you all is my sincere prayer. (This ends the address).

It is very true that God moves in mysterious ways; The young man referred to in the preceding address of 1974 was Brother Nephi DeMercurio, who with his wife and two sons, are presently living and working in Nigeria. He is teaching in the Comprehensive Secondary School that we were dedicating at the time. He and his family are also assisting with the Missionary work of The Church, and helping the people.

Today he is using his Education for the Lord and he remembers one very important thing, in his life it is the Lord who has made him what he is today". When we seek direction from the Lord, we must be prepared to yield to His direction, and it may be in the opposite direction as to what we had expected or had in our own mind. But God's way is the best way, *always*. His love, His mercy and rewards given are beyond our comprehension.

May God continue to bless Brother Nephi and Family; And the people with whom they are living and working together for the Lord.

BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS:—

Ordination, Visitors At Youngstown, Ohio

Sunday, September 11, 1977 was chosen as the date of the ordination of Brother Harry Timms. Brother Timms' feet were washed by Brother Ralph Berardino. Brother T. D. Bucci ordained him to the office of Deacon.

May God bless Brother Harry in his new office.

The following Sunday, September 18, Youngstown Branch welcomed a bus load of 48 from Glassport, Pa., including Sister Mabel Bickerton and Sister Ruth Ackerman. It was a special blessing to see our Brothers and Sisters from Glassport since it had been through that Branch that the Restored Gospel came to Youngstown many years ago.

After the Youngstown Quartet sang, Brother Alma Nolfi opened the morning service by using the marriage of Cana, as found in the Second Chapter of John, as his text. Brother John Ali followed on the same subject. Our third speaker was Brother David Nolfi, who was recently ordained into the ministry. When Brother David was speaking about having faith and believing what Christ said, Brother A. A. Corrado spoke in the Gift of Tongues. The interpretation was given to Sister Rose Ali as, "Heed the words that he's speaking, if you want to save your souls." Brother Bob Ciarrochi of Niles then arose and said that the following words came to him as a confirmation to the tongues—"If you are seeking, ye shall find. Search with all your heart."

At the end of our morning meeting, a light lunch was provided for our visiting Brothers and Sisters.

In the afternoon meeting Sister Iva Fedorka of Glassport sang a solo and Glassport, along with a few of the Saints of Erie sang together. The singing was enjoyed by all.

We can truly say that the Spirit of God was manifested throughout the day.

On Sunday, October 2 we had the privilege of having Brother Julius and Sister Helen Kovacs of Wintonsville, Kentucky. Brother Julius spoke on the life of Moses and his talk was well received. Then on Sunday, October 9, Brother Joe Calabrese, our District President was in our midst. He read from the 23rd Psalm, stressing that we shall not want in the Gospel Restored as long as we keep our hearts and minds tuned to the Spirit of God. To find comfort in this life, we must depend on the Good Shepherd, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Sister Annette Corrado
Youngstown Branch Editor

Lake Worth, Florida

Again, Lake Worth Branch is saying "Thank you, Jesus!" July 2 was a beautiful day for the Saints here. Seeing all those who returned safely and spiritually richer from the recent G.M.B.A. Campout was the day's beginning. We had Sunday school as usual and just after Sunday school, Philip Brown got sick. Before we began

our morning meeting he was anointed and those around the front felt such blessings as he went up and returned to his seat.

Our preaching was beautiful in its teaching and seemed to say much on repentance and baptism. The afternoon meeting convened and testimony began. Part way through, Sister Sandra and Brother Ken Hatch gave their testimonies. Sister Sandra had a dream the night before that she was hanging onto the hem of the Lord's garment, and she stated she did not want to let go. Brother Ken followed and both were renewed into the Church. As they were being anointed, Brother Everett Jasmin saw high in the heavens two hands in a cloud holding a crown. Just minutes before Brother Ken stood up to testify, Brother Bud Aldous told Brother Everett he had a dream during the night that he was embracing Brother Ken in happiness. Thank God He lets us know when He is pleased. We had a beautiful afternoon meeting but left feeling something was missing. We soon found out why. That night in M.B.A. we discussed the Campout. Philip Brown could sit still no longer. He wanted to become Brother Philip Brown. So, off we went to the water and our rejoicing was almost complete when Brother Eugene Perri immersed our new Brother.

We returned to Church and a prayer was offered before confirmation. During this prayer, Brother Mike Radd saw a vision of Brother Philip's name being written with sparkling gold letters in the Book of Life. Brother Mike then confirmed Brother Philip. While he was having hands laid on him, seven year old Kevin Jasmin saw a man dressed in white standing next to him. What more can we ask. God is so good. Thank you, Jesus, for the privilege to be in the Church and witness thy Glory!

Brother Philip's Experience:

On the Sunday I was baptized, in the morning I was anointed because I wasn't feeling well. When I returned to my seat completely well, I saw like a double light around the Elders on the rostrum.

Sister Janice's Experience (Bro. Phil's wife):

Monday morning at fifteen minutes to five, Phil got up for work. He got up early so he could read the Bible before he went to work. As he was at the kitchen table reading the Bible, I heard the front door open. Our bedroom is off the living room and I can see the front door as I lay in bed. I was awakened when the door opened, wondering why Phil was going out. When the front door opened, I saw a beautiful bright light come in and the door close behind it. As I lay there crying, I realized the light was the Lord coming into our home.

Erie Saints Establish Missionary Program

The Saints of Erie, Pa., after several months of planning, have embarked on a missionary journey in their own part of the Lord's vineyard. Cooperation between the Mission and the three auxiliaries have set in motion a concerted, unified, spirited effort to spread the Gospel and to make people in the Erie area aware of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Some months back a committee was selected to write a special flyer introducing the Church. After the flyer was approved by both the Mission and the District, it was printed for door-to-door distribution.

The Elders, along with the other brethren, will be opening the multi-purpose area of the church building every Monday evening for interested persons to drop by for a visit and to see what the Church is all about. (It is called "Open House".) It is also a chance for the members to stop in if they feel to pray, sing, or talk one with another.

On display are various charts, made by some of the brethren, depicting Church history and beliefs. Also set out are pamphlets printed by the Church; and of course there are *Bibles* and *Books of Mormon*.

The whole program is under the direction of the Mission, but each auxiliary is devoting much effort towards its success. The Sunday School, M.B.A., and Ladies Uplift Circle are supporting this endeavor in their own way, yet harmony with the Church is their most important contribution.

Also in the making is a one-time radio broadcast of Restoration hymns only. This along with the flyers, Open House and timely newspaper articles, are our effort in seeking to establish Zion in our own "backyard".

But, as the hymn says, "Except the Lord conduct the plan, the best concerted schemes are vain." We therefore beseech your prayers, that all may be done for the building up of the Kingdom of God in these Latter Days and to the Honor and Glory of the Mighty God of Israel, Amen.

Two New Names Written Down

On August 8, 1977 we at Branch No. 1 in Detroit, Michigan entered two names to the family of Christ.

Brother George F. Short asked to be baptized on Wednesday, August 3. We took him to Belle Isle Park that following Sunday, August 8. Brother George was baptized by Brother Jerry Benyola and confirmed by Brother Spencer Everett.

On the same day Sister Ruth M. Edel had traveled to the Six Nation Mission to meet with the Saints there. While she was there, the spirit fell upon her and she called for her baptism. Sister Ruth was baptized by Brother Tony Lovalvo, and confirmed by Brother Bob Stanek.

We welcome our new converts to the fold of Christ, and pray that they will walk with the tender hand of God leading and directing them all along life's way.

News From Detroit, Michigan

September 18, 1977, Branch No. 1 welcomed Brother John Griffith, of the Pennsylvania District, as our morning meeting was ready to begin.

Brother Nick Pietrangelo opened in prayer. Brother John then asked if anyone had a favorite hymn. Two of our members responded. Upon seeing this Brother John said he would leave the final decision up to the Presiding Elder. This drew a mild bit of laughter.

Brother Spencer Everett decided we would sing both hymns. At the end of the singing, Brother John made

the comment that he admired Brother Spencer's diplomacy.

Brother John began reading from Exodus 14:11. He asked us to do a little role playing. He said, "Let's become Israelites." He wanted us to more fully understand what these chosen people, who were in bondage, really felt and why they reacted as they did.

We were asked to picture in our minds, our men, women and children being beaten, abused and murdered. He then introduced us to Moses. We saw this stranger, by the power of God, lead us out of captivity. Only to find we were facing a sea, with nowhere else to go. We again saw the power of God, as Moses parted the sea, only then to find the Egyptians using the same path. Finally we watched the waters close and saw the Egyptians swallowed in the sea.

Brother John helped us to follow the Israelites as they traveled through the wilderness. We felt their weaknesses and understood their questions asked in fear. We also felt their lack of faith, and unwillingness to take the bad with the good.

We now were brought into the time of Joshua, and we watched this young man, by the power of God, conquer cities much larger and greater than we were.

Brother John brought these people and images to life, causing us to really think. As he ended our journey, he asked us to liken this story unto our own lives. We go through life thinking we're happy. Then we begin to doubt that happiness. We search, and one day find Jesus Christ. We go to Church and we just relax and love everyone. Then there comes a time something doesn't go our way. We ask, "Where is that guiding Spirit?" Then we begin to doubt just as the Israelites did.

Just because we accepted Jesus Christ doesn't mean things are always going to go our way. Brother John stated, "It's not God that is punishing us, it's the imperfect state we are in".

"It's not His fault if we didn't remember to pray."

Brother John then brought out another point, "Don't say, 'Brother John Griffith is a good guy—I'll follow in his footsteps.' Don't follow me, I'm just a man, as weak as everyone else."

He told us not to look for a Moses to lead us, we already have one. His name is Jesus Christ.

He intimated we had better get moving, by asking the question, "Are we sitting in the vineyard just partaking of the fruit?" He advised, "There is no time for that. The Moses era is dead, the Joshua era is here."

In conclusion, Brother John told a little story in making his final point. He said while in college, he had one class on the subject of birds. He had to study for a big test. So he spent an entire holiday looking at flash cards and identifying birds.

When he went to class he found various stuffed birds on the table. However, they were completely covered except for their feet. They were then told to identify the birds, by looking at those feet.

One young man was so dismayed he began to walk out of the classroom. The professor stopped him and asked, "What is your name?" The young man held up his foot and pointing to it, said, "You tell me!"

He remarked his point was simple. We must know every part of our Church from top to bottom. Not just the feet but the whole body.

Our afternoon meeting was equally as blessed. The entire membership of Branch No. 4 joined us. It was truly a lovely afternoon, as we first set forth a lunch for our visiting Brothers and Sisters, and then had the privilege to share with them the gentle ordinance of foot-washing. Our day was most certainly complete.

Sister Diana Thompson

Bell, California

Sunday, September 18 of this year, we were visited in Bell Branch by Brother Eugenio Mora from the Mexico City Mission, and several Mexican Brothers and Sisters. Brother Mora's wife was with us also and they sang many hymns of praise to God together. They also sang with a group of Brothers and Sisters in Spanish, and though many of us could not understand the words, we all understood the feeling of rejoicing in their voices.

Brother Mora spoke to us first through the interpretation of a young Sister. He praised God for showing them the road to salvation and allowing them to see and hear the truth of their ancestry. He told of being happy that through God's mercy it was revealed to them and through His mercy they are no longer under the curse. He reminded us to keep the light of God's love always in our hearts, to always be grateful for the mercies of God, and to tell everyone about this wonderful Lord because He died for all men.

Brother John Azzinaro was with us today also. He had heard that the Brothers and Sisters from Mexico were to be in our Branch and had a desire to be here too. He followed Brother Mora and as he had understood much of what was preached in Spanish he spoke in the same vein. He told us of the great joy the people of Mexico feel at finally finding a way to remove the curse God had put upon their people. He explained that Brother Mora had read from the Book of Mormon and talked about King Benjamin. Brother Azzinaro read from the book of Matthew where Jesus spoke to his disciples saying, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 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 whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Brother Azzinaro said that in his talk Brother Mora had mentioned many times to go and tell others of the message of God, and that this is something we can all do.

Brother Scalise opened the meeting for testimony and the Mexican Brothers and Sisters lost no time in praising God one after another. Sister Santina Mercuri visited Bell Branch too, this day, and she testified in Spanish for the benefit of our Spanish speaking Brothers and Sisters.

Brother Scalise spoke, in summation, of the language of God's love and that even though most of our meeting had been in Spanish and many of us could not understand the words of the tongue he felt that we had all understood the message of the heart delivered to us this day.

I was reminded today of the many meetings I had attended years ago in a little building on Arnt Street in Detroit as a visitor. I heard many beautiful talks and much joyous singing, all in Italian, none of which I understood but the message of truth and love I felt there remained with me and finally blossomed into fullness one day in Branch No. 4 in Detroit when God touched my heart and I became baptized.

Sister Betty Capone
Bell Branch Editor

Lockport-Rochester Gathering

On September 18, 1977 the semi-annual gathering of Rochester-Lockport was held. We also had Brother and Sister (Joe) Calabrese from Lorain, Ohio as per Evangelist's schedule.

We had community singing. We were led in prayer by Brother Joe Calabrese. We sang hymn, "What Would We Do Without Jesus?" Brother Joe chose for his text the 11th Chapter of Luke, "Lord teach us how to pray." We have a vision to see far for the Church. If you have a spiritual vision, you want to be on our Father's business. Our Church is patterned after the Church of old. The restoration is the whole loaf of bread.

Sang hymn, "Blessed Be The Name." Apostle Paul D'Amico was the next speaker. He spoke of his recent open heart surgery. He thanked God for the power of prayer that the Church has and related many wonderful experiences that were had during his illness.

Brother Perry Simone read a poem in Italian that he was inspired to write the day before. Brother Henry Berardi translated the poem into English and expressed himself to the goodness of the Gospel.

The Presiding Elder, Brother Ansel D'Amico gave the concluding remarks, that the words of our Brothers were like Manna. Also that in his vision, Brother Bickerton saw a beautiful table spread, with everything that was desirable of the rich bounties of Heaven and the Saints feasting themselves. The words well spoken are like Manna that fills our hearts with joy unspeakable. He wished them all God speed.

We were dismissed with hymn, "God Bless Everyone." Closing prayer was said by Brother Paul D'Amico.

Another day was well spent in the service of God.

Sister Carmella D'Amico

A New Name In Glory

Yes, there's a new name written down in Glory, and it's Sister Betty Davis. We at the Hopelawn Branch along with visiting Brothers and Sisters from our District witnessed a beautiful Sabbath morning on September 11, 1977 at the riverside in Perth Amboy. The sky was blue and there was not a cloud in the sky as Brother Joseph Perry took our candidate into the water to be baptized.

Sister Betty had a glow about her as she came out of the water that would be hard to describe. Brother Matthew Rogolino confirmed her at church. When you are sincere and looking for the true Church we know God will answer our prayers and will move in a mysterious way.

Our Sister Betty's testimony reads as follows:

I wanted to go to church, but didn't know which church to attend. So I asked the Lord to show me the church where I should go. I opened the telephone book to the yellow pages and started reading through the names of all the Churches. Each time I did this I seemed to linger on "The Church of Jesus Christ". After the third time through the listings I said, "OK, Lord, if that's it, I'll try it."

When I called the church there was no answer, but a number was listed for the minister, James Benyola. I called and we talked about the church and time of services. Three weeks later I came to this Church for the first time, and I'm so thankful that I did. On September 11, 1977 I was baptized and confirmed into the Hopelawn Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Sister Betty Davis

We of the Hopelawn Branch thank God for sending a beautiful Sister to our Branch who always has a smile on her face which radiates the love of God.

Sister Mary Perri
Branch Editor

"A Gift From God"

I was once in darkness but now I have light,
I was once blind and now I have sight.
I was once buried in my own hatred and greed,
But from all those things I have been freed.
For I have found life and of this I am glad,
For now there is no more reason for me to be sad.
What a treasure I have found in my Lord Jesus Christ,
On his love there can be no price.
I have found the fountain of youth which many have
searched for,
I have found the key to eternal life which unlocks that
door.
Now that I have found it, this gift I wish to share,
To show how much I love you all and how much I care.

By Renee Connor

— NEW ARRIVALS —

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

Tiffany Autumn to Michael and Patricia King of San Fernando Valley, California,

Anthony Frank to Tony and Arleen Calabrese of Lorain, Ohio,

Matthew Lee to Hershel and Carrie Murray of Lorain, Ohio,

Amy Beth to Roy and Carol Weamer of Youngstown, Ohio,

Regena Marie to Thomas and Peggy Stroke of Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania,

Wayne Alan to Brian and Valera Hormell of Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania,

Nicole Elizabeth to Don and Denise Ruyle of Detroit, Michigan, Branch No. 1.

— WEDDINGS —

DONAVAN - HARLESS

Mr. Charles Michael Donovan and Miss Lanora Rochella Harless were united in marriage in Clawson, Michigan at the home of the bride, on Saturday, September 24, 1977. Brother Carl J. Frammolino officiated at the ceremony. The couple now reside in Clawson, Mich.

MARRONE - FRAMMALINO

Mr. Stephen Charles Marrone and Miss Janet Lynn Frammalino were united in Holy wedlock at the Sterling Heights Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ, on Saturday, November 12, 1977. Brother Carl J. Frammolino officiated at the ceremony. Brother Ralph Frammolino furnished the musical arrangements. The couple will reside in Roseville, Michigan.

● OBITUARIES ●

VERNAL A. JONES

Mr. Vernal A. Jones passed away from this life on November 20, 1977. He lived in Columbus, Ohio.

He leaves to mourn his loss, three sons, one daughter, fifteen grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and one brother.

The funeral services were conducted by Brothers Joseph Calabrese and Joseph Shazer.

DONALD L. BARNHART

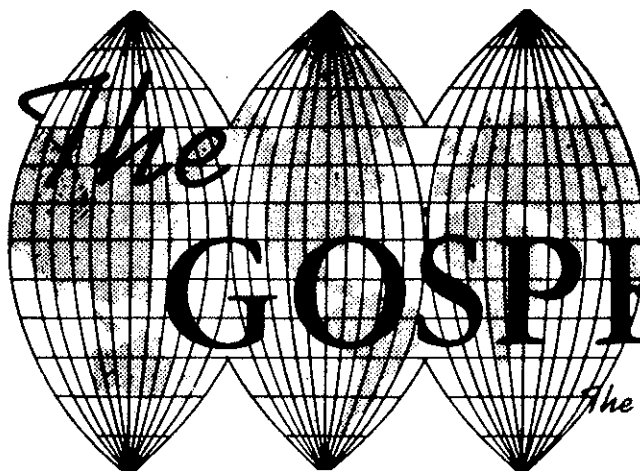
Brother Donald L. Barnhart, Sr. passed from this life November 11, 1977 as the result of a truck accident at his truck stop, West Richfield, Ohio.

He was born November 17, 1931 and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on May 21, 1950.

He leaves to mourn his loss, his wife, three daughters, five sons, nine grandchildren.

His mother Sister Edna Bittinger, one sister and no brothers.

The funeral services were conducted by Brother George Johnson assisted by Brother Joseph Shazer.



The GOSPEL NEWS

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa.

February, 1978

Volume 34, No. 2

Offices: 6th & Lincoln Sts.

AN EXPERIENCE

Moroni 10:19, "And I would exhort you my beloved brethren that He is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and all these gifts of which I have spoken...never will be done away... only according to the unbelief of the children of man."

My dear Brothers and Sisters, I write the following account of my healing as a living testimony of the validity of this scripture. If our God had not interceded in my behalf, I firmly believe I would not be here to write these words of praise and thanksgiving to Him.

When I awoke on July 2, 1977 I discovered my eyes had undergone a vertical displacement which caused me to have double vision. This condition seemed to come and go, but as the week progressed, it worsened, and my parents and I sought professional advice. After successive visits to my family doctor and a local ophthalmologist, I was advised to enter Pittsburgh's Allegheny General Hospital on July 13 to undergo tests which would determine the nature of this disorder. There a team of neurologists diagnosed my problem as a small tumor located in the inner capsule of my brain. The location of the tumor was such that an operation would result in partial or possibly total paralysis of my body.

I had no fear throughout the ordeal of the many rigorous tests because I had recently made myself right with God through repentance and baptism. With this feeling of security, I could accept whatever He had in store for me. I was anointed by various members of our priesthood, and the members of our Church sent many cards, made many trips to the hospital and frequently telephoned me. This overwhelming response served as a great uplift for me and furthermore, served as a testimony of the unity of the Church in times of sickness among the membership.

The Lord also gave dreams to several members of the Church. Sister Rose DeVincentis of the Aliquippa Branch testified that she dreamed she saw me standing alone in a field when a deep, powerful voice spoke to her, "The young shall live and walk." My grandfather, Brother Luigi DiLuca, also had a dream that indicated I would be healed. In his dream he saw a young man lying on the ground and a personage arrayed in white standing

over him. The personage seemed to work on the young man's head and finally, pulled out a small piece of flesh, which he showed to my grandfather. These are two of a number of dreams that members of the Church related to me. They proved to be a great source of strength for me.

The doctors decided not to operate on me, but instead, to use radiation therapy to treat the tumor. For the ensuing six weeks I was taken by family, friends, and members of my Branch on the forty-minute trip to receive my five treatments per week. During this waiting period, Satan tormented me with anxiety and nightmares which caused me to have sleepless nights. Again I called upon the Elders of the Church to anoint me, and afterwards, I received the strength to sustain me.

At the conclusion of the treatments I returned to Lehigh University where I resumed my studies and waited for September 26, when I was to have a C. T. scan of my brain. On Friday, September 16, I called on the Lord and told Him I had reached my limit of endurance for fighting anxiety. I asked Him for a "final decision" — to take my life or to heal me, rather than to make me wait any longer. That night I dreamed I was sitting alone in a doctor's waiting room. While I was reading a magazine, the doors opened and in walked my cousin, Brother Don Ross, who greeted me and sat next to me as if he was

CONFERENCE NOTICE

The April General Church Conference will convene on THURSDAY AFTERNOON, April 13, 1978 at 2:00 p.m. in our General Church Auditorium in Greensburg, Pa.

The THURSDAY & FRIDAY sessions will be open to the PRIESTHOOD & TEACHERS ONLY:

The Saturday sessions and the Sunday Service will be open to all. Sunday service will start at 10:00 a.m.

NOTE:

1. Meals will be furnished on a pay-as-you-attend basis. The cost will be \$1.50 per meal per person. Children 6 to 12 years old will be \$.75; children under 6 years are free.
2. Those attending conference must make their own arrangements for lodging.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

waiting with me. As I periodically glanced up from my magazine, I saw more people in the room. At first my mother, grandmother, and aunts; and then one by one the Brothers and Sisters of the Church also entered and filled the many seats lining the walls of the room. I awoke with a smile on my face which soon turned to tears of joy, for God had told me that I WAS NOT ALONE!

The next day, Brother Don Ross visited me at school and felt to anoint me. All that were present felt the presence of the Spirit of God. The next weekend my friend, Stacey Light, and I returned to my home for the test. On Monday, September 26, Dr. Norbert Weikers examined me and my C. T. scan and, with a puzzled look on his face, said, "Ryan, had I not known anything about your case, and looked at these pictures, I would say you were PERFECTLY NORMAL. It's all gone." It was truly a day of rejoicing and praising God "on the hill" in Aliquippa. The Lord showed the completeness of His healing power by NOT EVEN LEAVING A SCAR IN MY BRAIN TISSUE!

I thank God with all my heart and hope that I can sufficiently tell others of His goodness and power. Let us rejoice that our Lord is unchangeable and still responds to the fervent fasting and prayers of His people — The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Ryan Ross
Aliquippa, Pa.

BROTHER WILLIAM GENNARO, SR.

William D. Gennaro, Sr. was born September 18, 1899, in Leetsdale, Pa. a son of Brother Frank and Sister Mary Manna Gennaro. Brother Gennaro was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on July 13, 1924.

He married Sister Theresa Blank on September 21, 1925.

In 1925, Brother Bill was ordained a Teacher and two years later, in 1927, was ordained an Elder. In 1932, he was called into the Quorum of 70 and in April, 1956 was ordained an Apostle. Several years ago, Brother Bill retired from the Quorum of 12, due to his illness, and retained the title of Honorary Apostle when he became inactive.

In 1965, Brother Gennaro retired from active work as a foreman with the Copperweld Steel Co. of Warren, Ohio. For many years he had resided in Warren, where he had held the office of Presiding Elder at various times. In September, 1967 Brother Gennaro moved to Youngstown, Ohio.

Brother Bill passed on to his reward on Tuesday, November 8, 1977.

He is survived by his wife, Sister Theresa; he leaves one son, Brother William D. of Liberty Township, one daughter, Sister Jane Ardinger of Dallas, Texas; seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild; a brother, John, of Bradenton, Florida and a sister, Mrs. Ollie Lattanzi of Youngstown.

Brother Bill Gennaro was very faithful in his service to God. He was an inspiration and a good example to us all.

Funeral services were held on November 11, 1977 at The Church of Jesus Christ, Youngstown, Ohio. Apostle A. A. Corrado officiated, assisted by Apostles Rocco V. Biscotti, Russell Cadman and Paul D'Amico. Sister Phyllis Koon sang several selections accompanied by Sister Betty Gennaro.

Sister Annette Corrado
Youngstown Branch Editor

WEST AFRICAN ECHO

by Joseph Bittinger

It has proven to be very difficult to receive reports or current news items that happen in the Church in Africa as quickly as we would like to have them. It usually takes from one to six months to receive these items of news that we are so anxiously waiting for. And unless we do receive them on a somewhat steady basis, we just do not have news to write the "ECHO" column monthly as we would like to do.

Brother and Sister De Mercurio and sons are reported to be in good health at this time. They are living in the newly completed Mission House having only a minimum of furnishings at this time. But they say, they are enjoying it very much. They also are becoming adjusted to the climate, and the Nigerian way of life. Both Nephi and Lorraine are very busy endeavoring to help the Church and the Students in School as much as possible.

Congratulations are in order for Brother and Sister George U. Ekpo, the proud parents of their newborn son Moses Ekpo, Nov. 29, 1977. They recently returned home to Nigeria from the U.S.A. after completing their education here in the States. They are now residing at Ogoja, Cross River State, Nigeria. We wish them success in life, both materially and spiritually.

Brother and Sister Augustine I. Etukudo, have returned home also after completing their education here in the U.S.A. We have not heard from them since their return.

Brother and Sister Moses Akpan and family have also returned home after spending several years in this country. We understand their oldest son remained here to continue his education. They are living at Calabar, we understand. We are happy for all of our Brothers and Sisters who have been privileged to come to our country and further their education and enrich their lives.

Brother Edem A. Ebong, we appreciate your letter of November 15, 1977 and the backlog of information you have given to us for The Gospel News. I want to say thank you again. Now, if I can only make out all the names of people and places, I will do well:

"Learn that the work here is going on successfully. On May 15, 1977 we enjoyed a good day in Ordination and Blessing Services at Ikot Ekang, Abak, where Brothers Johnny Udo Udo and Robinson U. Idiong were ordained Elders; Sister Lucy Joshua was ordained a Deaconess. The blessing was asked on Mercy Robinson, Emern Johnny and Ekaette Akpan Sunday, all the same Station. Same day, my late wife gave birth to twin child-

ren, though her health did not favour me to enjoy it as it should for the new arrivals.

On June 19th, on a visit made with Nkor Otoro, I blessed a child named Unwana Peter, a survivor of one Peter Akpan of same Station.

On June 26th, 77 — The Mission Day — a nice enjoyable time was had in narrating a brief history of the Church and the establishment of the Secondary School in commemoration of this "Evergreen Day". The number of Students in attendance was 216 from the Comprehensive Secondary School, Atai Otoro, Abak. All were filled with delight in receiving such a message.

In visiting Ata Obio Akpa on July 3rd, a child — Daniel Asuquo was presented for blessing, which I did. I had also an ordination and blessing at Ata Obio Akpa, on July 31st, while visiting with the Branch. Eno-Obong Sunday, Inieke Sunday were blessed by me (Brother E. A. Ebong). While Mfon Sunday was blessed by Brother J. U. Usoroh. Same day Brother John Umo Ekpo was ordained a Deacon for the Branch by myself.

When Brothers De Mercurio and Coppa arrived, on a visit made to Ikot Ibit Ekpe and Atan Ntukuk on August 7th, 77, Brother De Mercurio blessed Akani-nyene Emmanuel J. Udo. Monica James Udo was blessed by myself in Atan Ntukuk Station.

On August 19th, we had a Baptism Service in which 70 souls were added to the Church from various Stations in Abak Division together."

(To be continued)

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters-in-Christ,

Thank God I am once more able to lift my voice in praise and thanksgiving to His Holy Name.

My sincere thanks and deep appreciation to all for the wonderful prayers, cards, letters and phone calls at the time of my husband's death, and also, at the time of my affliction and hospitalization so soon after. God does hear and answer prayer!

May God bless each and everyone of you who made an effort or took the time to say a small prayer for me. May the Lord help us to bear one another's burden that we may be counted worthy of His love.

Your Sister in Christ,
Sister Minnie De Piero
Youngstown Branch

The Lord Is My Shepherd

I announced at the November 1977 G.M.B.A. Conference that I would have my book, *The Lord is My Shepherd*, ready for sale and distribution. Unfortunately we have had delays in printing. Please be patient and they will be ready for sale in the near future.

Brother Paul D'Amico

IT IS WRITTEN

Question: Brother Loyalvo, will you please elaborate on the words of Jesus, "Follow me?"

Answer: It is Written: "Then Jesus said unto His Disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."

(Matt. 16:24)

To follow Christ, in terms of every-day living, means to emulate Him; or, in other words, endeavor to live as He did, an exemplary and holy life. What He did before He engaged in His mission around thirty years of age, we know very little, except He was a carpenter's son. We read of His discussion with the doctors in the Temple at Jerusalem, but, nothing else. From the start of His mission, we read that He lived above sin and reproach. He left Himself vulnerable to the attacks of His enemies. They reviled against Him, (hurling epithets of derogatory nature such as), "Beelzebub, eating with Publicans and sinners, a wine-bibber; accusing Him of letting a harlot touch Him at Simon's house, etc." With all this, He did not choose to shield Himself with human defense mechanisms against this raillery. The spirit within Him would not allow anything less than the truth to prevail against the onslaught of evil men. If He had chosen rather to close His eyes and His mouth at the evil around Him, He would have never accomplished that for which He came to the earth; and, He would have never been crucified, thereby frustrating the Plan of Redemption. But, He came that men might have life and that more abundantly. "I am the Way, the Truth, and the light," He said. "...he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." (John 8:11)

After His ascension, His disciples followed Him in the example set by their Lord and Master. They too, permitted themselves to become vulnerable to all manner of reviling and persecution, for His name's sake. They remembered His dedication to the will of His Father. Now, dedicated to the spreading of His Gospel, and endowed with His Holy Spirit, the Disciples confronted the world unafraid, willing to suffer persecution and death rather than conform to its ways. They could have been "easy-going", speaking "softly" so as to not offend any one, indulging in so-called "harmless" pleasures so as to not make enemies. But they remembered the words of their Master, "Ye are the light of the world" Also, "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me."

Jesus promised no man an easy life but rather one of probable austerity, and persecution. Never-the-less, He did promise surcease, through the Comforter, from pain, anxiety, loneliness, heart-aches, etc.; He promised joy of living in Him, peace of heart and mind, and best of all, eternal life through Him.

If we choose to "follow" Him, then we too have the option of leaving ourselves vulnerable to the attacks of wicked persons, physically and verbally. Or we can shield ourselves with our defense mechanisms against probable abuse and criticism; conforming to some of the ways of the world and the pattern it sets because we do not wish to be left out of the circle of our friends or their sometimes pleasing environment. Ought not the true Christian arm himself with the whole armour of God and set the

example to all the world so that they can see the vast difference between the "follower" of Christ and his (or her) opposite? Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 5:16) To allow oneself to be vulnerable to the darts of evil persons is not a sign of weakness as some may suppose, but rather one of great strength. It takes courage to face opposition unafraid of its consequences, knowing that Christ will lend His aid through His Holy Spirit.

Should the follower of Jesus comply with his friend's wishes to share an alcoholic social drink for fear of being criticized; or indulge in the vernacular of the day, and/or life-style environment lest he be judged or ostracized? The follower of the Lord must set the example of truth and modesty in all things, for he must be the Light of the world and the Salt of the earth.

It is written, "...and be ye not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." (Romans 12:2)

The follower of Christ must have the courage to deny himself of the things that stand between him and his service to the Lord. Of course, each person knows, to a great extent, his own weaknesses and/or strengths. One should try to overcome the weaknesses and develop, by the grace of God, the spiritual characteristics so wonderfully manifested by Our Lord and Master, which will ennoble one's life to the eventual saving of the soul.

In conclusion, it is also written, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." (John 10:27)

With love to all,

Brother V. James Lovalvo

GOSPEL NEWS

Again we glorify the Lord for those extra special blessings we witnessed Sunday, October 23rd. I must start with the day before when Brother Jerry Difede was in an automobile accident in which his car was totally wrecked. He had some stitches and was released from the hospital after X-rays on different areas of the body. On his knee there was a large lump and he could only walk with the support of crutches. Still in this condition, Brother Jerry's desire to be in Church was very evident as we entered the building to see him there. Such a feeling went through our body knowing the effort he made to attend Sunday's meeting.

Brother Jerry asked to be anointed after Sunday School. We all had a prayer in our hearts in behalf of our Brother as the Elders laid hands on him. It seemed the meeting was filled with the Spirit of God and before the afternoon meeting began I noticed our Brother walking without his crutches as though nothing had ever happened. You can imagine the joy of all who were present. We have much to be grateful for as we witnessed this miracle.

Lake Worth, Fla. Branch

Greetings In Christ:

Blessed is the man who soothes his brother's hurt, his words are like balm to the soul. He lifts the burden of the weary with his faithfulness, sustains the broken hearted with hope. He intercedes for the fallen and prays for the erring ones because he cares. He brings good news where is failure and defeat and with love covers a multitude of sins.

Are you such a man? Modesto rejoices and has good reason to praise God as two more baptisms have been added to our Church. One came all the way from Michocain, Mexico. After visiting with us for sometime, he decided that our Church was a good Church but that he was happy with his. Though he understood so little of what we said since he speaks only Spanish, he continued to come.

One night he dreamed that there was a fountain of water where our Sacrament Table sits. Everyone was drinking from it except him. He was so thirsty but could not have any. He was given to understand that he could not drink until he too must be born again as these who partook. Upon relating this to Brother Mora, (who was visiting here) he realized that he needed to be baptized. He was baptized by Elder Eugenio Mora who is also a native of Michocain and by a strange coincidence was visiting Modesto.

On Sunday, October 23rd, we were blessed with another baptism and several visitors. This past Friday, Saturday and Sunday we hosted Evangelists Thomas Liberto of San Diego and George Heaps of Anaheim, California. We enjoyed their prepared message titled Destination, Preparation and Arrival. Brothers Anthony Picciuto came and V. J. Lovalvo and his wife Mary. Brother Jim sang, "Have You Counted the Cost". Our two Brothers were inspired and concluded with the words of the hymn, "What Would it be to be There".

We had the blessing of our two California Apostles to administer the sacrament to us. Brother Leonard led the singing. Our Sisters provided us with a wholesome luncheon.

Modesto is beginning to capture the early glory of the Spirit of God which was very much the very foundation of our mission here.

To begin the day with hope and conclude it with thanksgiving is the end of a perfect day. "Try it — it works".

May the Lord smile upon you and give peace.

With love,

Brother Marco Randy

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

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Editorial Viewpoint

PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

The recent dramatic visit by Egypt's President Anwar Sadat to Jerusalem has opened up perhaps the best opportunity in the past 30 years for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

President Sadat surely displayed remarkable courage and determination to fulfill his decision to journey to Israel and appear before their Knesset (parliament). For Sadat personally, this involved serious risks, both physically and political. Clearly, he faced opposition, not only from radical Arab states, but at home as well.

THE FIRST VISIT

This marked the first visit by an Arab leader to Israel. Since the establishment of Israel by the United Nations in 1948, Arabs either have refused to recognize it as a legitimate government and nation or, have insisted that such recognition must be part of a peace settlement.

President Sadat's bold decision may well have transformed almost overnight, the long-range prospects for peace in the Middle East. His declaration to the Israeli government, "We accept to live with you in a lasting and just peace," marked a drastic turn-around from his action in launching the Yom Kippur War of 1973.

This declaration represented official acceptance of the Israeli State by the leader of the most powerful country in the Arab world. And for the first time, an Arab nation has publicly recognized Israel, Israel's right to exist and its need for security against its Arab neighbors.

There is no doubt that Egypt needs and desires peace. Israel also desires and needs peace. It is reported that Egyptian schools, hospitals and urban services are alarmingly run down. Businessmen complain that the vast wartime bureaucracy is retarding and stifling economic growth. New investments and development projects are stalled for months or years. When the government tried to cut food subsidies in half last year to save money for other needs, a violent outburst of rage swept major cities, leaving about 100 persons dead and extensive property damage.

For Israel, a stable peace would ease the burden of 30 years of on-again, off-again war that has consumed vast sums of money and still keeps more than 600,000 men and women in the regular or reserve military forces. Israeli economists and businessmen look forward to the day when military expenditures can be channeled into new industries and development projects. Hopefully, another prospect: economic co-operation with her Arab neighbors.

We pray that God will speed a peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

LORD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

We are reminded of the Apostle Paul's notable declaration to the Athenians on Mars' hill, "... him declare I unto you. God that made the world and all things therein, seeing he is Lord of heaven and earth, ... seeing he giveth to all life, and breath and all things; and hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation." (Acts 17:23-26)



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

A Little Maid

Dear Girls and Boys,

We do not know the name of the girl in this story. We only know her as Naaman's little maid. Naaman was a commander of the King of Damascus' army and was held in great honor. He had won many battles for Syria. On one of these raids, a little girl had been captured and given as a slave-girl to Naaman's wife.

The little maid was not in this new home very long until she felt a feeling of sadness. She learned that Naaman was suffering from leprosy. One day the little maid told her mistress she wished Naaman would go to the prophet Elisha in Samaria. She knew he would be healed. Soon the King learned of this and made plans to send a letter to the King of Israel, who sent the word to Elisha about Naaman's illness.

Naaman departed to visit Elisha. He took gifts of ten talents of silver and six thousand pieces of gold. Gehazi, Elisha's servant, came out of the house and spoke for Elisha. He said, "The prophet says you are to go and wash in the Jordan river seven times and your flesh will be restored to you and you shall be clean." This angered Naaman. Elisha hadn't come out to greet him! The waters of Jordan were dirty! The rivers in Damascus were better than all the waters here! But one of Naaman's servants said, "If the prophet had asked you to do some great thing, would you have done it? Why not do as he says?" Naaman was humiliated but realized his servant was right.

Naaman went down into the river Jordan and dipped himself seven times as Elisha had said. As he rose up the seventh time, his flesh was as a child, clean from leprosy. He and his servants went back to Elisha's house. Elisha refused the gifts Naaman had brought. Naaman took home a strange gift. It was two mules' burden of earth so he could build an altar of sacrifice to Israel's God in Syria.

The proud Naaman had to humble himself before this great miracle could take place. He may have asked the little maid many questions about her God, when he arrived home. This little maid through exercising faith, had carried the message to a strange land, a true missionary. Naaman knew Israel's God, the one the little maid served would be his God from now on. No longer would he sacrifice to idols.

Sincerely,

Sister Mabel

OUR WOMEN TODAY . . .

ALIQUIPPA LADIES CIRCLE

On December 13, 1977 the Ladies Circle of the Aliquippa, Pa. Branch held their annual Christmas Dinner Meeting.

Sister Ruth Jumper, our President, welcomed all those who attended and thanked God for the many blessings we as a Circle have enjoyed this year.

Sister Victoria D'Antonio asked the blessing on the food.

Martha Jumper read scripture in the Book of Isaiah concerning the child being born to a Virgin.

The Local officers were introduced and we held a gift exchange.

The remainder of the evening was spent in singing Christmas Carols.

Sister Janet Gibson and Sister Sharon Staley were thanked for having made all the arrangements for our dinner.

On Sunday, December 11, 1977 our Circle visited Brother Anthony Jackman and Mrs. Effie Foxall in the Beaver County Home, and Sister Betty Tornow in her home.

We presented each with a Christmas present and we sang a few Carols to them.

Our visits were most appreciated and all of us were touched and blessed in doing this small deed.

Our Circle also sent gifts to the patients at the Golfview Manor Nursing Home.

Ladies' Circle Cook Book

All corrections to the Cook Book must be in by February 28, 1978.

Send all corrections to this new address:

Mary Criscuolo
4286 W. Chappel Drive
Gladwin, MI 49624

Please Note

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

QUORUM OF TWELVE PHOTOGRAPHS

At the October 1977 General Conference, I sold photographs of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles. Presently I have not received the money for all the purchases. The money will be used for expenses of the Apostles. I would appreciate your attention in this matter.

Please send the money to:

Paul D'Amico
6413 O'Connor Drive
Lockport, New York 14094

M. B. A. Highlights

GMBA "77"

by James D. Gibson

The GMBA Semi-Annual Conference met at Greensburg, Pa. on November 12, 1977.

The morning meeting started with opening remarks by the President Paul Palmieri. We welcomed all in attendance and encouraged their participation in the days' activities.

It was suggested that the Missionary Fields could be used as a subject feature in the Gospel News. Pictures and articles pertinent to each field would be used. An entire issue of the Gospel News could be used. The GMBA Editor and his assistant would handle this project. The suggestion was accepted by the conference.

The following items were reviewed and acted upon:

1. The Book of Mormon Concordance — Sister Sadie Cadman started this project and it was carried on by Sister Sarah Vancik. The GMBA and Ladies' Circle both have a fund for this project. After bids from printing companies, it was decided to print the Concordance in paperback edition ourselves. The cost would be approximately \$5.00 per book.

2. Campout "78" — Massanetta Springs in Harrisonburg, Virginia was selected as the campsite for 1978. The camp date will be from June 10 to 17. The prices for camp are reasonable and more information will follow in future issues.

A report from the 1977 camp at Camp Towanda, Honesdale, Pa. was given. It was a very successful camp, well conducted and filled with a spirit of love.

3. The proposal by the Cleveland, Ohio Local to purchase a Mobile Kitchen was tabled until a future use could possibly arise.

4. The GMBA Historian, Brother Mark Landrey again suggested full cooperation of Area and Local Historians. He needs the histories to compile a complete record of past activities.

5. The Area Presidents gave reports on their respective Area's activities. The various Areas held seminars and choir practices. Locals within the Areas visited each other and supported various Missionary efforts.

6. The GMBA Officers present gave their reports and all reports were accepted by motion.

7. Election of Officers was as follows:

President: Donald Ross

Vice President: Frank Morle

Chaplain: Richard Scaglione

Corresponding Secretaries: Mary Ann Donkin,

Ruth Ackerman, Karen Milatoni

Financial Secretary: James Link

Treasurer: Wayne Mortorano

Librarian: Joseph Draskovich

Assistant Editor: Charles Jumper

Auditors: Randy Huttenberger, Tom Banyacski

Historian: Mark Landrey

8. The 1978 May GMBA will be held in Pennsylvania. The November Conference at the Auditorium in Greensburg, Pa.

9. The GMBA Officers will investigate the possibility of obtaining the same camp for 4 to 5 years consecutively, starting in 1980.

10. The GMBA Goal will be \$200.00 per Local for future Missionary work.

11. Institute project to sell "Tee Shirts" for GMBA with a standard emblem.

We hope to see all of you at the next GMBA Conference.

BIRTH OF THE RESTORATION VISITED

The Ohio Area MBA, on October 8, made a trip to Hill Cumorah and visited the surrounding historical sights. We then fellowshiped with the Saints of Rochester, New York on Saturday and Sunday evenings.

After arriving safely at the Hill in the early afternoon, a tour of the Visitors Center was taken, which was both informative and fascinating. The climb to the top of the Hill was made, where a few moments in reflective meditation were spent.

The caravan of members from Niles, Perry and Erie continued their sightseeing by stopping at the home of Joseph Smith. A visit to the home of Martin Harris completed the day of touring.

A supper had been prepared by the Saints of The Rochester Mission and it was most eagerly received by the travelers. The rest of the evening was devoted to singing and testifying. The Sunday service heard inspiring words from the brothers of Perry, Niles and Rochester.

After lunch, the saints from the Ohio Area took their leave, having spent a beautiful weekend in New York. A special thanks goes to the members of the Rochester, New York Mission who welcomed us warmly and took such good care of us.

Brother Mark Kovacic

REMINDER TO ALL BRANCHES AND MISSIONS:

Premium will be due January 1, 1977 for the supplement to regular insurance which you carry on your building. The premium due is \$100.00 and is for \$15,000.00 coverage under the Mutual Protection Building Fund of The Church of Jesus Christ. The period covered will be January 1, 1978 through December 31, 1978. Make checks payable to THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST - MPBF and mail to:

Anthony Ensana
1921 S. E. Erwin Rd.
Port St. Lucie, Fla. 33452

Anthony Ensana
Treasurer - MPBF

BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS:—**News From Tampa, Florida**

The Saints in Tampa were saddened to hear of the illness of Brother Lou Pandone, however our hearts were gladdened to know Brother Lou is getting along well. Many are the memories of the early days in the Mission when Brother Lou and Sister Libby helped us get started here. When the Brothers and Sisters would come to Tampa, gasoline was not available on Sundays, so we would get five gallon cans filled during the week, and fill the tanks for their return trip. Brother Lou carried a hose and funnel along to make the transfer of gas easier. You could always count on Brother Lou and Sister Libby to be along with Brother and Sister V. J. Lovalvo or Brother and Sister Chuck Smith. Even though our Brother and Sister would not be well, they were very faithful to us. The Tampa Saints will miss them and our best wishes go with them as they leave our sunny state. May the Lord Bless you Brother and Sister Pandone.

We are also excited about Brother Gene Perry, our District President, and his lovely wife coming to Tampa on Friday, November 11th and joining with us in a door-to-door campaign to interest people in the Church and to learn about our meetings. We were very happy with the response we received as we went from door to door. Opportunities have opened up for more follow-up visits to many who made us welcome. I know the Lord was pleased with this for He blessed us very much that next Sunday. On the Monday following, I woke up with these words ringing in my ears, "Tell others about Jesus."

Brother Duane Lowe and I intend to continue the program of visitations. I thank God daily for sending a wonderful Brother like Duane and his family to work for the Lord in this large city, and for Brother Gene to lead the way. We are also grateful for Brother Chuck Smith and Sister Aileen for their help so many times.

We are looking forward to Brothers and Sisters who are moving into the Tampa area. We received a wonderful letter and transfer from Sister Josephine Gordowski and we are looking forward to her meeting with us along with her daughter. We are also happy to have Brother Tony Micale and his lovely daughters Wendy and Linda, who will meet with us during the winter. We are hoping they get enough sand in their shoes to stay in our area the year round.

Tampa has been blessed with many of the Saints spending the winters in Florida. We miss Brother and Sister Paul Love, Brother and Sister Cline and daughter and of course, we miss Sister Johnson, the Mother of Sister Nancy Vaillancourt and Mary Jane Souane. We hear of others coming to this area so we have much to look forward to. We always talk about our wonderful Brother V. J. Lovalvo and Sister Mary who taught us in so many ways. Our prayers are, they will return to Florida some day soon. May the Lord bless you, Brother Jim and Sister Mary and keep the wonderful letters of encouragement coming.

Brother Duane and I have dedicated ourselves to building our Mission in righteousness and to be a beacon light to the people of Tampa. Pray for our Mission, for

we are in a large city with much work to be done and many Souls to save.

Brother Billy Tucker

Brother Duane Lowe

P.S. Brother Joseph Tucker will be 88 this Christmas and although he's not well, he rarely misses a meeting. He is our anchor, having many years of experience.

Rochester, N. Y. Branch News

On October 8, 1977, the Rochester, N. Y. Mission had the joy of having three carloads of Brothers and Sisters from the Ohio District M. B. A. Area. They went to Hill Cumorah and Saturday evening we had a singspiration and testimony meeting with Brothers Wayne and Brian Martorana as pianists. A wonderful spirit prevailed all during the meeting.

On Sunday morning we had community singing. Sang Hymn, "He Looked Beyond My Fault". Led in prayer by Brother Patsy Marinetti. The Ohio Choir sang, "The Spirit Of God Like A Fire Is Burning". Brother Gene Kline chose for his text, Luke, 10th Chapter, the good Samaritan. Who is our neighbor? The rich ruler wanted to trap Jesus, but Jesus pointed out if we keep all the commandments yet, if we do not love our neighbor, we cannot enter into the kingdom of Heaven. We should all get more involved in the spiritual work of the Church.

Sang Hymn, "Try A Little Kindness". Brother Patsy Marinetti was the next speaker, that we should lend a helping hand and show a little kindness to the people. The Priest and the Levite knew the law, yet passed up the wounded man, but the Samaritan who knew not God or the Law, showed love and kindness to the man.

Sang Hymn, "Gently He Leads Us". The Presiding Elder, Brother Ansel D'Amico was the last speaker. He said, "Who are the Samaritans to-day? All those who are filled with the love of God. If we love God we must keep His commandments. We know the good Samaritans by the fruits of the spirit. At the last day we want to hear those beautiful words, 'Well and faithfully done, enter into my joy'."

Hymn, "Make Me A Blessing" was sung. The meeting was turned over to Testimony. Sacrament was then administered. We were dismissed by singing, "God Be With You". Closing prayer said by Brother Mark Kovacic. We can all say, "Heaven came down and filled our Souls."

On October 23, 1977 the Rochester, N. Y. Mission was happy to have Brother and Sister Don Pandone from Youngstown, Ohio as per Evangelist schedule.

Had community singing, Sister Teresa Pandone as the pianist. We sang Hymn, "In The Valley Restoreth My Soul". Led in prayer by Brother Ansel D'Amico. Brother Don chose for his text the "Twenty Third Psalm". We should put more faith and confidence in God, not in our strength. We should counsel with the Lord in all things and He will direct our path. He will provide according to our need. The Shepherd knows His sheep and the good sheep hear His voice.

Sang Hymn, "Twenty Third Psalm". Brother Ansel D'Amico, the Presiding Elder, was the next speaker. He emphasized on the 23rd Psalm. Our constant prayer should be like David that he chose God to be his Shepherd and

we should choose Jesus for our Shepherd if we want to belong to His fold. Sang Hymn, "Dear To The Heart Of The Shepherd".

The meeting was turned over to Testimony and Sacrament was served.

We were dismissed by singing Hymn, "What A Friend". Closing prayer by Brother Melvin Mountain, Jr.

Gift Of Miracles

Sunday, September 25, 1977, the Detroit, Michigan Branch No. 1 was overwhelmed and honored to have with us 18 visiting elders. They represented the areas of California, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Branch No. 4 in Detroit. To say the least, the excitement mounted as we waited to see who God would inspire to speak to us that morning.

Brother Spencer Everett, our Presiding Elder, asked all the elders present to sing for us. They sang, "We Are Longing For The Gathering". It seemed to be a fitting song, as we watched them in one accord, gather together on the rostrum.

Following their hymn the trio was asked to sing. The group consists of Marilyn Scolaro, Kathy Perkins and Carolyn Griffith. They sang, "Haven of Rest".

Brother Anthony Corrado felt inspired to speak. He asked Brother Ralph Berardino to give the opening prayer. Brother Corrado's text was from Matthew 21:2. He spoke about the promises God has given to His Church, including the gift of miracles. He told many experiences of healings he had personally witnessed. He described an experience which took place in a hospital. Brother Corrado had gone to anoint Brother Clarence Gillman. The man in the next bed felt a blessing and asked Brother Corrado to anoint him. Brother Corrado said it was very hard to understand this man because he had suffered two strokes and his speech was badly impaired. Brother Corrado began by telling the man that God was a God of Miracles. He then asked him, did he believe? The man said yes. Brother Corrado then anointed him.

Later that day the man's wife came to see him and was amazed at how clearly he spoke, she understood every word.

Brother Joe Lovalvo then followed. His theme was along the same line, but he added the importance of not being lukewarm in The Gospel. He, just as Brother Corrado had done, told us many beautiful experiences.

Of the experiences he had told us there are two I would like to share with you. The first was of a young man who had a very serious fungus disease which covered his whole body. He asked to be anointed. He said he couldn't find a job because of his condition. The young man said, he didn't have any friends, and "nobody wanted to look at him". He was anointed. The following Sunday the young man came back to the meeting and was "clean like a baby".

The second experience was concerning a man 19 years of age who was mentally retarded and unable to control his speech. He walked hunched over and crippled. Each time Brother Perdue would see him, he'd give the boy a quarter and the boy would go on his way. One Sunday he would not go away after Brother Perdue had given

him the quarter, so Brother Perdue inquired what he wanted. Brother Perdue could see he was not able to respond, so he asked him if he wanted to be prayed upon. The young man said yes.

Brother Perdue anointed him. The following week a young man who stood tall and straight came up to Brother Perdue and said, you don't know me do you. He then said, "I'm the man who could not walk, talk and think".

Both healings took place at our Tijuana Mission.

Following Brother Joseph Lovalvo's sermon, the trio was again asked to sing. This time they sang, "The Gospel is Restored".

Our closing prayer was offered by Brother Meredith R. Griffith.

Throughout the morning service my mind returned always to the same thought. How thankful I am to be serving a living God.

Sister Diana Thompson

Guest Speaker At Erie, Pa.

On October 24, Brother T. D. Bucci was the guest speaker at the Erie Mission's weekly "Open House". He spoke on the history and destiny of the American Indians, as found in their own records and the records of the Jews.

His speaking engagement had been preceded by a news release (containing his picture and description of what he was to speak on) in the newspaper and an appearance on a daytime talk show as author of the book "American Indian Moses".

The evening began with an introduction by Brother Harold Burge, presiding elder of the Erie Mission and with prayer by Brother Delbert Lockwood. Brother Bucci then spoke on the history of the American Indians, showing their beginnings from the *Old Testament* of the Bible. He continued by presenting the *Book of Mormon* as a record which supports the Bible and follows the history of the ancient inhabitants of this land until the fifth century. The destiny of the Native Americans is also spelled out in the writings of the *Book of Mormon* and especially the coming of the Choice Seer or as Brother Bucci refers to him, the "American Indian Moses".

Faith Is The Victory

At the close of a beautiful Sabbath day, while today's happenings are fresh in my mind, I will try and put them into words that we may share them with our Brothers and Sisters through the Gospel News.

Tuesday, October 30, God blessed us immensely here at the Roscoe Branch. We were happy to have a young woman who has attended our meetings for the past few years back with us after an extended illness which kept her from meeting with us for the past several months.

After a small group sang a hymn, "Sheltered in the Arms of God", this young woman, Edith Snyder was anointed. After the anointing Brother Fred Olexa spoke to us using I Samuel, 17th Chapter as his text, beginning with the 32nd verse, reading several verses then speaking

on from the 51st verse. He spoke on how the Lord chose David to be king of Israel, also how when he came against the giant Goliath he refused the armour of King Saul, as he had not proven it, yet he used that which he had proven as a young shepherd boy defending his flock; his great faith and trust in God. He brought out how when he went out against the enemy, Goliath, he did so facing him headon, without doubt, not taking any glory upon himself, but going in the name of the Lord.

He also related upon the dream given at conference concerning the warfare of the Saints and the primitive weapons the Saints were using against the enemy in the dream. He said these weapons are not obsolete, but primitive, meaning from the beginning, and likened them to the ancient weapons of prayer, faith and trust in God, courage, and our determination to serve Him. He said that we must become used to using these primitive weapons as did David. David could not use the modern armour of that day offered him, but with faith in God chose five smooth stones out of the brook and with a sling in hand, defeated the Philistine giant with only one shot from his sling.

He asked us what giant we might be facing today and said he believed no matter how great or awesome this giant may appear to us, if we put our trust in the Lord, armed with those primitive weapons of the faithful, we can overcome like David.

Brother Fred also testified of the great giant he faced in his own life the past week, where he faced losing his father whom he loves very much. His father, Brother John Olexa, an Elder at the Monongahela Branch had been ill a few days before taking sick in the Sunday service at Monongahela the previous Sunday, October 23rd. He had the appearance of suffering a fatal heart attack and was taken to the hospital. Our Brother was also anointed and placed in God's hands. He was admitted to the coronary unit and the following day took another attack. The doctors were puzzled as to what was the cause of these attacks suspecting a blockage. Our Brother John was anointed the second time and his family and Brothers and Sisters of the Church were united in prayer. Many tests were given and they could find nothing wrong. While home one day his wife, Sister Sue, poured her heart out to the Lord in prayer that He would heal her husband. She heard a voice very audible, speaking to her saying, "Don't you believe I have healed him?" She answered, "Yes, Lord." While we were praying that the doctors might find the cause of the attacks, they could find nothing as our Brother was healed. We thank God for the miracle of healing extended to Brother John, that his days have been lengthened to yet testify of God's goodness. He has been discharged from the hospital and is now back home.

During the afternoon meeting many testimonies were given along with Edith Snyder who stood and asked for her baptism, requesting to be baptized the coming Sunday, that her family may attend. Brother and Sister Phil Brown from the Lake Worth, Florida Branch were with us who gave their testimonies along with many more.

Thank God for a day well spent in His service, the beautiful words of life spoken and for the joy of seeing another soul surrender their life to the Lord. We can testify that we feel stronger in spirit with a greater desire to make use of the weapons God has supplied us with to overcome sin and the tempter and the stumbling blocks

and giants that we face in life. We are reminded of the words of John the Apostle (I John, Chapter 5, 4th verse), "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world, and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

May God Bless you all,

Sister Bertha Jean Bilsky, Branch Editor
The Roscoe Branch

A Tribute To The Saints Of The Herndon, Va. Mission

It is certainly without question a work to be admired. The Brothers and Sisters of the Herndon, Va., Mission must be commended as to their efforts in securing a building to worship in. When the Mission started in 1948 the Sisters began to work for and hope for a day when they would have a building of their own. Today that has become a reality. The Herndon Mission has come a long way from when it first started. Homes were used and the Y.M.C.A. building until finally God has opened a way to have a building they can call their own.

The tremendous effort and the untiring dedication on renovating the building as it now stands, prove without question the sincerity of the Saints there in wanting to serve God. Many hours of work have been donated by Brothers from other Districts. Many of the items and material which are too numerous to mention have been donated, making the task that much easier for our people there. Their building was purchased for the sum of \$32,500, with the remaining mortgage of \$16,000, making the building worth today approximately \$52,000 because of the renovation.

The Mission has had several baptisms as of late and with the transferring in of Brothers and Sisters from other Districts their membership today is 28.

On behalf of the Atlantic Coast District and the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch being their mother Branch, may God bless and prosper the Saints of the Herndon Mission.

Sincerely,

Brother Joseph Perri
District Editor

Baptisms And Renewals At Lake Worth, Fla. Branch

July 2nd was a beautiful day for the Saints here at the Lake Worth, Fla. Branch. We had Sunday School as usual and just after Sunday School, Philip Brown got sick. Before we began our morning meeting, he was anointed and those around the front felt such blessings as he went up and returned to his seat. Our preaching meeting was beautiful in its teaching and seemed to say much on repentance and baptism. The afternoon meeting convened and testimony began. Part way through, Sister Sandra and Brother Ken Hatch gave their testimony. Sister Sandra had a dream the night before that she was hanging on to the hem of the Lord's garment and she stated she did not want to let go. Brother Ken followed

and both were renewed into the Church. As they were being reinstated, Brother Everett Jasmin saw high in the heavens two hands in a cloud holding a crown. Just minutes before Brother Ken stood up to testify, Brother Bud Aldous told Brother Everett he had a dream the night before, in which he was embracing Brother Ken in happiness. Thank God He lets us know when He is pleased.

We had a beautiful afternoon meeting but left feeling something was missing. We soon found out why. That night in MBA we discussed the campout. Philip Brown could sit still no longer; he wanted to become Brother Philip Brown. So off we went to the water and our rejoicing was almost complete when Brother Eugene Perri, Jr. immersed our new Brother. We returned to Church and a prayer was offered before confirmation. Brother Mike Radd saw a vision of Brother Philip's name being written with sparkling gold letters in the Book of Life. Brother Mike then confirmed Brother Philip.

While he was having hands laid on him, seven year old Kevin Jasmin saw a man dressed in white standing next to Phil. What more can we ask, God is so good. "Thank you Jesus" for the privilege to be in Thy Church and witness Thy Glory.

The following is a dream Brother Philip had the night before his baptism.

The night before I was baptized, I dreamed I was working on the reservation with the Indians and going to school at night. It seemed like my wife and I and our family were living near Miami. I know that the dream only confirms the dream my wife had about a month before that we were on a bus going to the reservation to work. As far as the part in the dream where I am going to school, I know I have a lot to learn before the Lord can use me in this great work.

Brother Phil's experience — On the Sunday I was baptized in the morning, I was anointed because I wasn't feeling well. When I returned to my seat completely well, I saw what looked like a double light around the Elders on the rostrum.

Sister Janice Brown's experience — The morning after Phil was baptized, at fifteen minutes to 5:00 A.M., Phil got up for work. He got up early so he could read the Bible before he went to work. As he was at the kitchen table reading the Bible, I heard the front door open. Our bedroom is off the living room and I can see the front door as I lay in bed. I was awakened when the door opened, wondering why Phil was going out. When the front door opened, I saw a beautiful bright light come in and the door close behind it. As I lay there crying I realized the light was the Lord coming into our home.

Baptism At Warren, Ohio

A New Year was started in a new life as Sister Cora Lee Love gave her life to Christ on New Year's Day January 1, 1978. She was baptized by Brother Mitchell Edwards and Brother Jerry Giovannone confirmed The Gift of the Holy Ghost upon her.

Florida Area News

NOTICE

Brother Alvin Swanson has lost a Timex wristwatch sometime during the last six months. It may be at someone's house.

A HAPPY EVENT

On July 10, 1977 the ordinance of blessing was bestowed upon baby Graham A. Marsteller. Officiating was Brother James Sheffler. He is the grandson of Evelyn Swihart. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Marsteller. They are not members of our Church, but I pray that the Lord would bless them and one day touch their hearts, and give them the desire to serve Him in spirit and in truth. I ask you all to pray for them and I will pray for all of you.

Sister Evelyn Swihart

AN EXPERIENCE

I would like to tell you of an experience I had when I was a patient in Miami at Jackson Memorial Hospital for a coronary catheterization. It was to determine how much damage was done to my heart. The last thing I remembered, they were shooting dye into my veins. I was being drawn into a void, very dark, peaceful and calm. I was not frightened, I liked being there and had no feeling at all. I then felt myself coming out of my body and saw myself suspended in the air on a cloud. There was a bright light, brighter than the noonday sun. I heard beautiful sweet melodious music, so sweet it cannot be described. I then heard voices and as I looked down, I saw the hospital bed with my body lying in it. I also saw a team of doctors surrounding my bed and saw my husband standing and bent over the foot of the bed. I realized then that they were trying to revive me and I thought to myself, "Oh my goodness, how foolish they are to want me to come back. Don't they know how peaceful I am and at rest?" After a short space of time, I felt myself return back to my body that was lying in the bed. When I awoke I found myself in Intensive Coronary Care Unit. I later was told of this same thing that I had viewed from above my husband, doctors and nurses. They did not know I had already known. I told my husband my experience.

The next day one of the doctors came in to see me and told me that I had given them a scare and they really thought they had lost me. At that time my blood pressure had dropped to 80 over 16 and my veins all collapsed.

I would like to thank the Brothers and Sisters for all their prayers, phone calls, cards and visits throughout the entire Church. Also for the many anointings by our Elders. Without your prayers, I could never have made it.

After the catheterization, I was told by my doctor that open heart surgery and a by-pass would be too risky and I never would make it. They felt it would be better for me to live this way day by day. I am still in need of prayer and ask, if you would, please continue to pray for me.

Sister Marie McGuire

Baptism At Cleveland, Ohio

It was a day of blessing at the Cleveland, Ohio Branch as Brother Rudolph Peterson rendered his life to the Lord on Sunday, December 25, 1977. He was baptized by Brother Vince Gibson and confirmed into The Church by the laying-on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost by Brother Mario Milano.

Brother Peterson, who is of the Seed of Joseph, was introduced to The Gospel by Brother Bill Hufnagle.

We praise God for another soul added to the Kingdom.

— NEW ARRIVALS —

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

Michael Ronald to Ronald and Carole Higgins of Lake Hiawatha, New Jersey, Bronx, New York Branch,

Donald to Donald and Linda Gomes of Somers, New York, Bronx, New York,

Danielle Ann to Larry and Mary Fedina of Youngstown, Ohio.

— WEDDINGS —

VARGO - MURRAY

Brother Joseph Vargo and Sister Joyce Murray were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, November 25, 1977 at The Church of Jesus Christ Branch 2 Detroit, Michigan.

The wedding was officiated by Brothers Alex Gentile and Leonard Lovalvo.

Musical selections were presented by Sister Inez Caldwell.

The newlyweds will reside in Lincoln Park, Michigan.

STRACCIA - CHAMBERS

Brother John Joseph Straccia and Sister Barbara Ann Chambers were united in holy wedlock on Saturday, September 17, 1977 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Detroit, Michigan Branch No. 1.

Brother Spencer Everett officiated at the wedding ceremony. Musical selections were presented by Brother Eugene Amormino and Sister Diane Hawkins.

The newlyweds will reside in Mt. Clemens, Michigan.

● OBITUARIES ●

ANTONETTA I. STRACCIA

Sister Antonetta Straccia passed on to her final reward, unexpectedly on September 26, 1977. She was a faithful member of The Church of Jesus Christ at Branch No. 2 Detroit, Michigan. She was born on September 24, 1915 and was baptized into The Church on March 6, 1938.

The funeral services were conducted by Brothers Frank Morle and Dominic Thomas.

She is survived by her husband, three children, her mother, one brother and eight grandchildren.

JENNIE TESI

Sister Jennie Tesi of Branch No. 2 of The Church of Jesus Christ, Detroit, Michigan passed on to her heavenly reward on October 5, 1977. She was born on October 11, 1883 and was baptized February 10, 1923 in Niles, Ohio.

The funeral services were conducted by Brothers Reno Bologna and Joseph Milantoni.

She is survived by one son, two daughters, 11 grandchildren, 42 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

She was a faithful Sister all during her 54 years of service.

CATHERINE AQUILINO

Sister Catherine Aquilino passed on to her heavenly reward on December 5, 1977. She was born in Partinici, Sicily, Italy on June 6, 1893. She was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on June 25, 1939. She attended Branch No. 4 Detroit, Michigan.

She leaves to mourn her loss, her husband, three sons, four daughters, one sister, 26 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

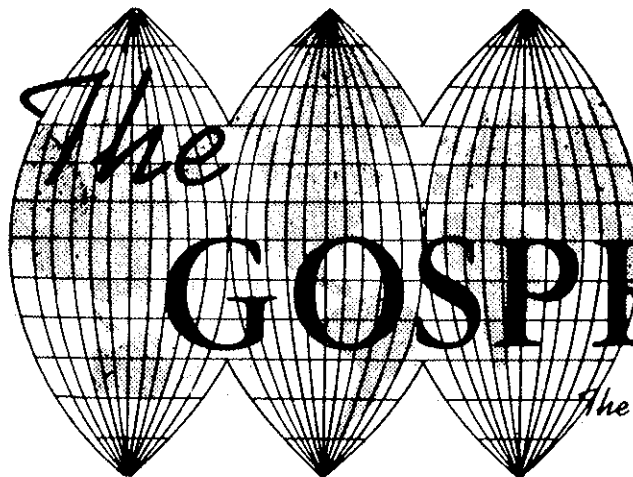
The funeral services were conducted by Brothers Anthony Lovalvo and Tullio LaCivita.

EDWARD JOHN LABLANC

Brother Edward John LaBlanc of the Cheyenne River Reservation in South Dakota passed on to his heavenly reward on October 14, 1977. He was born on January 25, 1903.

The funeral services were conducted by Clergyman Paul Casper on October 18, 1977.

He was a very humble and faithful Brother at Eagle Butte, South Dakota.



The GOSPEL NEWS

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa.

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WEST AFRICAN ECHO

by Joseph Bittinger

We continue with information from Brother E. A. Ebong's letter of Nov. 15, 1977. I will quote him very much as he has written:

"On Oct. 23, 1977 a wonderful trip was taken to Mbiabong Ikot Udofia for an Ordination Service. Here a Deaconess, Deacons and Elders were ordained for 3 Stations together. Though bad roads, our motor stuck in the mud two times while we were going, and two times while returning, yet our journey was a successful one. Since Brother E. U. A. Arthur had no chance of accompanying us on the trip due to his nephew Dr. Moses E. Akpan wanted to attend the first Service with them at home since he came back from U.S.A.; committed us with fervent prayer into The Great Protective Hands of God. Brother De Mercurio who was exhausted and unable to attend, added blessings. Anyway, God crowned our journey with success. Mr. Akpan Udo, the School Van Driver handled the driving of the School Van on this trip. He is to be highly commended. He drove nicely without damage and in good spirit despite the four times stuck in the round trip, we got home safe and sound same day at 6:00 p.m.

"The Ordinations as listed, I ordained Affiong Akpan a Deaconess after Sister Okonanwan Akpan washed her feet. Brother U. J. Udofia washed the feet of Bassey Akpan Udo, Sunday Udo Ekpo and Willie Udo and I ordained them Deacons for Mbiabong Ikot Udofia Station. Brothers David A. Udo and Edet Udoette were ordained Elders by myself, after Brother U. J. Udofia had washed their feet, for the same Station. Brother Solomon Akpan was ordained an Elder for Asanting Obot Obom station by Brother Jimmy Umanah. Brother Robinson Umoh ordained Brother Samuel Udo Udo an Elder for Asanting Ikot Nyah. Their feet were washed by Brother U. J. Udofia.

At the closing of the Services we had a "Come-and-Dine" party with the new ordinants. Elders on the trip were Brothers Jimmy Umanah, Asibong Umoh, J. U. Akpan, E. A. Ekanem, P. U. Ekpo, M. Ebong, R. Umoh, Johnny U. Udo, U. J. Udofia, John Okono and myself, the leader of the trip. We also paid a visit to Brother Efiong Udo Ette who was to be made an Elder along with the others, since he fell from a palmtree and broke his leg he missed the chance, because the wound has deprived him

of his mobilization in the office. On Oct. 29th I went there to administer unto the Lord's supper on the 30th, and to teach the new Elders how to serve it.

On Nov. 6th 77 we had an ordination Service at Abak Ikot and Brother Nephi De Mercurio spoke from 1 Tim. 3:1-7, 3 Nephi 12:1-2 and Moroni 3, on the quality, and the responsibility of an Elder and why ordination of an Elder is necessary. Brother E. U. A. Arthur supported him with a text from John 21, stressing vividly on the duty of leaders modelled by our Lord in verses 9-12-13. Brother Jonah A. Idiong was ordained an Elder by Brother E. U. A. Arthur for Abak Ikot after I had washed his feet. Furthermore, I left home at 4:45 p.m. for Mbiabong Ikot Udofia where I had the following day Services. Here 4 souls were baptized and confirmed members of the Church, and 3 children were blessed for the same Station, namely Ibovo Edet Akpan, Nnameke Bassey A. Udo and Christiena Bassey Udo Usoroh. After the Communion was served, I thanked God, for the dry season has made the road dry, though it is dusty.

Besides the reports I have given there are untold subsequent ones we have made since Brother Nephi De Mercurio and family came. The above are the major ones.

(Continued on page 3)

CONFERENCE NOTICE

The April General Church Conference will convene on THURSDAY AFTERNOON, April 13, 1978 at 2:00 p.m. in our General Church Auditorium in Greensburg, Pa.

The THURSDAY & FRIDAY sessions will be open to the PRIESTHOOD & TEACHERS ONLY:

The Saturday sessions and the Sunday Service will be open to all. Sunday service will start at 10:00 a.m.

NOTE:

1. Meals will be furnished on a pay-as-you-attend basis. The cost will be \$1.50 per meal per person. Children 6 to 12 years old will be \$.75; children under 6 years are free.
2. Those attending conference must make their own arrangements for lodging.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

MY HEALING

June 22, 1977 at Camp Towanda is a day I will never forget. I was ill with a nervous breakdown and God was good to me and I was healed. Praised be His Name!

It all began on November 22, 1976. I went to the Court House to pay my tax bill. I had not received it in the mail as usual so they came up with one which had a builders name on it. Since my name did not appear on it I would not pay it and told the man I was not going to leave until I'd find out what was wrong. Finally he presented me with a phony Warranty Deed. That I, on April 6, 1976 signed my home to said Builder. I then looked at the bottom of the Deed and saw my signature but it was not my hand writing. It was a tremendous shock which caused me to have a heart ailment and mental breakdown. I was hysterical, I don't know how I drove home. I called my son Gabriel and he instructed me what to do. Here I was, my home was swindled right from under me, no longer mine. My health was impaired and I was unable to work. With todays prices I found myself unable to cope with these problems.

Time went on, with many other problems coming my mind was steadily getting worse. I was tormented in many ways. The ones I loved seemed to be turning away from me. I found comfort nowhere. I was anointed several times but no improvement. I felt God forsook me also. Prayer was the farthest thing from my mind. I didn't want to be with anyone any more. I just wanted to be alone. I'd get in the car and drive for miles and miles. Sometimes I would go to the Ocean, there I would find solace in the handwork of God. The beautiful waves would roll in as if it would whisper some comfort and uplift my broken down spirit. I felt as tho I was living in another world. It seemed no one understood my condition and no one cared any way. If I never return home no one was concerned. God took my loved one so I must travel alone. I was distraught and couldn't think properly.

There were times I wanted to sleep continuously but couldn't. What a relief that would be!

At one time something took place which upset me very much. I came home. My sister called me to go to her home but I insisted I wanted to be alone and wanted to sleep. It was one p.m. and I started to take sleeping pills just to obliterate from my mind what had happened. I had taken one every hour and I was not able to fall asleep. I had no intention of taking my life only to get some peace of mind. After taking five capsules I gave up. About 9 p.m. I fell asleep. Next morning I felt no better and began to take the capsules again. It got to my daughter Palma what I was doing and she called me. I had to promise her I would stop taking anymore.

Months passed, many things were going on to upset me more. I took a trip expecting to get relief. It did not help. Now I realize how good God was to me even to take care of me as I traveled alone and being so sick. However one thing I remember is I often prayed that God would take care of me and my little dog and also bless the car as I traveled that it would work well. He did just that. He is a Wonderful Lord. I thank Him with all my heart! By this time my mind was in a terrible state of oblivion. What a horrible feeling! Finally I told my sister I had better enter a Mental Health Institution. I remember the expression on her face. How sad she was to think her

sister had lost her mind. I knew I needed help but couldn't function properly mentally or physically. I was so tired. For some reason I did not go.

Campout time was approaching, I had no desire to go. It was not like me. I kept putting it off. My granddaughter wanted to go so with no enthusiasm we left Florida and went to Camp. The anticipation and happiness I usually had to see my dear brothers and sisters at Camp did not exist in me. By Tuesday I wanted to leave for home. Thoughts came to me, "You are sick and no one appreciates sick people around." I felt no desire to take part in anything. To take my granddaughter away from Camp would not be right so I decided to remain. That evening it was announced there would be a prayer meeting at 6:30 a.m. next morning. In spite of the state of mind I was in I wanted to attend. I offered myself in fasting and prayer that God's Blessings would prevail in our Camp. It was a very cold night. Being a Floridian I can't seem to take the cold weather anymore. Never the less I awoke at 5:00 a.m. It was too early but neither did I want to fall asleep lest I would sleep through our prayer service. 6:00 a.m. I was up. It was so cold, twice I was tempted to crawl back in the warm bed. I fought off the idea and at 6:25 Sister Rose Nalevenko and I were in the meeting room. It was cold but we were content to be there with the nice group that came. It did our heart good to see so many young folks in that early service. After a few prayers were offered, Brother Rocco Biscotti asked if there were some one who wished to be anointed. I held back. He mentioned how troubled I was and called me up front and I was anointed. I thanked Brother Rocco for being so thoughtful and concerned. I returned to the cabin and dozed off for a few minutes. I felt so peaceful and was able to think somewhat clearer. But thought nothing about it. Returning from the baptisms Sister Rose noticed I was walking faster. She remarked, "That prayer must have done you some good, I can't keep up with you." Then it hit me and I realized the heavy load I had carried for so long was lifted, the depression and mental anguish was gone! I had returned once again to reality! How can I ever sufficiently Praise our Dear Maker! My mind was functioning beautifully! How wonderful!

I thank God for Brothers like Brother Rocco Biscotti because he understood my condition and most of all he cared. I pray God would grant him a long and happy life because he makes others happy. We need him.

Now that those dreadful seven months are behind me and I would know of some one in the same condition I pray I could be of some help. There was very little some one could do only to pray as I wanted to be alone. Perhaps I would have appreciated someone to drop in and pray with me. In some way, no matter how minute, to let them know they are loved and we care.

When Brother Paul Palmieri asked me to say a few words I became excited to know he read my mind that I wanted to testify of God's goodness towards me. All day I was praising the Lord and said within me, "If only I can bear my testimony before all my brothers and sisters how happy I would be"! For a moment I hesitated and thought, "noway" could I stand in front of so many people and speak. Suddenly I thought of how good God was to me and I felt I wanted to Praise the Lord from the mountain top (which we were). Nothing could hold me back.

Even if I had to tell the world of God's great power! I was healed without a psychiatrist and without shock treatments.

Little did I realize how many prayers were offered in my behalf. One person I knew was praying for me, Brother Tony Corrado. May God bless you and my sincere thanks.

I want to thank each one of you for your offerings. Combined the Lord answered your prayers and I am eternally grateful! Please forgive me if in some way my actions were strange. Surely they were unintentional.

To add to my happiness my grandson Danny Mazzeo was baptized. I Praise God for his conversion and for the other 12 at our Campout.

We spent Sunday in the Levittown Branch. Upon awakening that morning words came to me from the 121st Psalm, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help." Camp Towanda appeared before me as I thought of how the Lord had helped me on that hill and I longed to return for more Blessings. It is wonderful how Good the Lord is to us when we unite in one mind to Praise His Name.

During those awful months I would ask everyone to pray for me, now I wish everyone who reads of this Beautiful Miracle please to help me Praise the Lord and thank Him for truly "God is SO Good."

With Love to All.

Sister Carmela Mazzeo

PENNSYLVANIA AREA M.B.A. CAMPOUT

The Pennsylvania Area M.B.A. held a Labor Day weekend campout at Camp Carondowanna near Zelienople, Pa. We opened camp Friday evening, and had a full weekend right through till Monday afternoon. The blessings of God began the very first night and I am glad to say that they did not end with the camp, but that I along with others in attendance feel them even now.

Our first meeting Friday evening allowed those in attendance to become acquainted, as there were Saints from the Atlantic Coast and the Michigan-Ontario Area also. Good fellowship was felt all day Saturday as we began with Chapel and then entered into our seminars. The theme this year centered on determination and responsibility in The Church of Jesus Christ. We should all have that determination to serve God to the best of our ability and realize the responsibility of taking the Gospel to others. Our Saturday evening meeting was one of praise and thanks. Many bore their testimony to the honour and glory of God, and the Spirit of the Lord was felt by all who attended.

Our Sunday morning meeting was opened by Brother Joseph Milantoni. He took his scripture from I Nephi 6:4 expounding upon the faith and determination of Nephi, and how we today should have the same desire in our hearts that Nephi did. The Spirit of God was felt throughout the morning and continued into our Sunday evening

meeting. It was again a meeting of testimony and praise, as many rose to their feet and told how God had blessed them in their life. At one point in the meeting many young people were in the front of the hall bearing their testimonies one after another. At this time Chris Collins from Monongahela made it known that she wanted to be baptized. Later that evening as Saints gathered together singing, Paula McCartney from Fredonia also asked for her baptism. Both were baptized the following morning, Sister Chris Collins was baptized by Brother Joseph Milantoni and confirmed by Brother Robert Nicklow, Sr. Sister Paula McCartney was baptized by Brother Arthur Gehly and confirmed by Brother Richard Scaglione.

We thank God for all the blessings of that weekend and pray He will continue to bless our new Sisters in their service to the Lord.

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I wish to express my sincere thanks for the many cards, prayers, and phone calls I received since my many trials which I've been experiencing lately. (The loss of my beloved sister, my husband suffered a heart attack, and then we got word his sister is hospitalized with cancer.) If it weren't for the love and concern of my brothers and sisters, I never could have pulled through all of this. I know I still have a rough road to climb, but I shall overcome as long as I have God by my side.

I pray God to bless each and everyone of my brothers and sisters, for truly there are none in this world that can compare with them, and I thank God for being able to share my problems with them.

I especially wish to thank Sister Dorothy Gandle, who was so good to me when I called her. God bless her,

Sister Nell Kohler

WEST AFRICAN ECHO . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

Sad News— After I had missed my wife in this life, we have also lost Elder Edem Udo of Nkor Otoro Station on Oct. 18th 1977. That is a loss for us here in the Church. We are sorry to learn of the death of our Brother Elder Edem Udo. We trust the Church's loss will be his gain of Eternal Life. Whatever of his family survive, they have our sympathy and our prayers that God will sustain them by His Holy Spirit.

There is a proverbial saying, "It is better to be worn out, than to rust out." The logic being anything in constant use does not gather rust.

May God continue to bless the energetic Ministry of the Church in Africa, both Nigeria and Ghana."

Florida Area M.B.A. Seminar On Past, Present And Future Of Our Church

The Florida Area M.B.A. locals met together and started singing songs of Restoration, "Hallelujah, The Gospel Is Restored", and "The Greatest Story". We had three separate class groups with Brothers Ray Bays and Frank Rogolino teaching the ages 13 to 19. The children were taught by Sisters Angie DiNardo, Kelly and Kathy Warden. The adult class was taught by Brothers Bert Sheffler and Dennis Moraco.

Brother Dennis stated how our Church was organized in 1862, going over briefly the Gospel falling away and being restored through Joseph Smith in 1830. Then how he was put to death in Nauvoo, Illinois; the power struggle that took place; first counselor, Sidney Ridgon, should have assumed the leadership, but Brigham Young took a large group and started the Mormon Church. We are concerned with Sidney Ridgon and William Bickerton, and how the Lord showed him he was to preach the Gospel. The experience the Sister had of the crown of twelve stars being placed on the sacrament table, and Brother Dennis told of the organization in Green Oak, Pa. in 1862. Later they set up headquarters in St. John, Kansas with Brother Bickerton as president until 1880 when Brother William Cadman, Sr. was elected General Church President. His objective was to take the Gospel to the American Indian, this is what he encouraged the Church to do. Brother Alexander Cherry was our next president and it was under his term that the M.B.A. was organized. When Brother William H. Cadman was elected president, he shared his father's desire for missionary work and returned to St. John, Kansas where they prayed for the Lord to protect the land from tornadoes. We still have a Brother living there.

Brother Dennis spoke of the first Italians coming into the Church in October, 1914 beginning with the baptism of Brother Peter John Molinatto. We heard how the Church was started in Detroit and grew in the East. We heard about the organization of the Ladies Uplift Circle and the good job they do of raising money. In 1930 we dedicated our church building in Monongahela which became our headquarters there.

Brother Dennis spoke on Brother Alma Cadman's "Seventh Day of Rest" and dedication of our church building in Muncey, Canada on an Indian Reservation. He told us about Brother Cadman and Brother Bittinger going to Nigeria, Africa. He mentioned our 100 years celebration in 1962; that Brother Nick Ritz has a tape recording of the meeting. Under our president, Brother Gorie Ciaravino, many of our people moved among the American Indians where we have missions such as San Carlos, etc. He spoke of the work started in Italy; the dedication in 1971 of our General Church Auditorium in Greensburg, Pa.; the work started in Mexico; the side-by-side program with the seed of Joseph. Brother Dennis ended with a couple of questions which included naming the presidents of our Church in order: William Bickerton, William Cadman, Sr., Alexander Cherry, William H. Cadman, Thurman Furnier, Gorie Ciaravino, and Dominic Thomas. Another restoration song was sung.

Then Brother Bert Sheffler started on our future. He mentioned that we have to know the past to understand the future. The greatest subject in the Church is

our future, the greatest work is to take this Gospel back to the seed of Joseph, the American Indian. He referred to the covenant God made with Abraham, that his seed would become His chosen people and He gave them this land. Brother Sheffler read scripture quoting many verses in the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon*. As God created the earth and rested on the seventh day there are 7,000 years allotted to man. We are in the last thousand years. Brother Sheffler believes that in 1970 the Peaceful Reign did begin; he related going to sleep at midnight last night and not being aware of anything until this morning; that we are now sleeping 'in the beginning of the Peaceful Reign. He spoke of Christ setting up His Church on this land and the Peaceful Reign the people experienced then.

Brother Sheffler read parts of 4th Nephi when all the people were converted unto the Lord and all things were common among them. They were healed; there were miracles, no contention because of the love of God in the hearts of the people. Surely there could not have been a happier people. He read 65th Chapter of Isaiah where it says, "A child shall die 100 years old, one shall not build and another inhabit. My elect shall enjoy the work of their own hands." He quoted Micah, "Neither shall they learn war any more." All shall walk, everyone in the name of their God. We surely enjoyed the beautiful scripture Brother Sheffler read. He quoted many of Brother Alma Cadman's writings in the "Seventh Day of Rest" pamphlet. This is the hope of all latter-day Saints that the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. He asked questions, "Will we come down to two Churches?" — "Which are they?" — "Why won't Satan have power over us?"

He quoted 3rd Nephi, 21st Chapter where there is going to be a forerunner before the Choice Seer. One experience was given that he shall be a Gentile man. Brother Sheffler himself mentioned that he had an experience given him where the forerunner is the Gentile Priesthood. Our main duty is to take the Gospel to the Seed of Joseph, then they will do the greater work to convince the other 11 tribes. A New Jerusalem will be built with the converted American Indian as the ruling power. As Joseph of old gave grain to his brothers to naturally feed them, Joseph in this land will feed his people spiritually. Brother Sheffler read from the 3rd Chapter of 2nd Nephi where it tells of a Seer. He asked, "What is a Seer?" The answer was one that sees the past and future and has the Urim and Thummim. At the close of the adult class, one was asked from each class to tell us what they learned.

We surely enjoyed Brother Paul DiNardo's comments. Sister Nancy DiFede gave a good summary of the adults' class and Pam D'Orazio spoke for the children's class. This ended a wonderful afternoon meeting.

We all brought covered dishes and our dinner together was delicious. In the evening we had a Singspiration and you could feel the enthusiasm in the voices as we sang beautiful hymns.

Sister Eileen Katsaras
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Editorial Viewpoint

"I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

"And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." John 11:25, 26

I believe that no greater words were ever spoken by Jesus, for in these few words He explained the full purpose and greatness of His being.

When we think of the life of Jesus, we think of many things, but none of them strikes us more singularly than does the event of His resurrection. He taught that He was the Son of God; He was a great moral teacher; He performed miracles of healing; He offered people forgiveness of their sins and salvation; and He died a cruel, unjust death of the cross. These things made people take notice of Him in His day, but if He had not resurrected, He would have been all but forgotten a few short years after His death. His resurrection was the consummation of all that He did, for through it He lived on to offer men the same resurrection and the same life.

There is something very significant about the use of the words resurrection and life together. We all know that to resurrect is to live again after death. Thus we say that when a seed is planted, it dies and then sprouts to live again. What we sometimes forget is that there must first be life in the seed before any life can spring from it. If the germ of life is not contained in the seed, though you plant it, water it, give it sunshine, cultivate it, or do anything else to it, it will never, never sprout and grow. Life comes only from life. And it is not just any life that will be in the seed. The seed will contain the life of its parent plant and must grow in the likeness of its parent.

A resurrection, then, is a springing to life from life. When we are born into the kingdom of heaven, the seed of the Christ life is planted within us and thus, also, the power of the resurrection.

The gift of life is certainly the greatest gift that God has given to man, both natural and spiritual life, for without life there can be no being or existence.

Is it any wonder, then, that life, the all important element of creation, has the power to keep on living and does not easily yield to death. The individual life of a plant or animal may be short, but the continued life of any species is guaranteed through the process of reproduction. Thus a seed is the reproductive agent of the plant carrying the precious life in a dormant form ready to spring forth again when it encounters the right conditions. So powerful is this life that, finding sufficient protection within the seed, there seems to be no length of time that it cannot survive. Wheat and other seeds found in the ancient pyramid tombs of Egypt, which are thousands of years old, will still germinate and grow when planted.

When God created life, He created something eternal like Himself. Natural life is so powerful and tenacious that if the earth in its present form were to last forever, life on earth would be eternal. We know, however, that the earth will end and natural life with it. We believe; however, that God created man in His own image to be an eternal being and that He wants man to spend that eternity in His presence. There is only one hope for entering into the eternal presence of God. That hope was made possible through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, for all those who will accept Him and be born again as spiritual men and women that they might possess that seed of life capable of resurrecting after the death of this life.

*What purpose man, that he should live and die?
Is it to bear life's plight to no avail,
To fade, to mingle with the earth and sky,
That death's great triumph shall for 'er prevail?
Nay, death is not that which to us it seems —
'Tis but a rest beneath this earthly sod;
'Tis but a sleep to cradle mortal dreams
Of living on with our eternal God.*

(Reprint from 1968)



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

Mary Magdalene

Dear Girls and Boys,

There are many interesting events about the Easter story but the one I want to tell you about centers around Mary Magdalene. She was from the town of Magdala, a small fishing community along the shore of the Sea of Galilee. It is between Tiberias and Capernaum. On my second tour of the Holy Land, we stayed at the Golan Hotel on the shores of Galilee, three miles from Magdala. In the evening we sat on the large veranda overlooking the sea. It was moonlight and the sea was calm and beautiful. Across the sea we could see the dark hills of Gadara leading to Moab and Edom. Behind us was the Mount of Beatitudes. As we sat talking in all this beauty, we recalled our Bible stories, "THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT", "THE FEEDING OF THE FIVE THOUSAND", "CALLING OF THE DISCIPLES", "JESUS' HEALING MINISTRY", etc. It was said, here Jesus was the happiest of his whole life because in this area he was loved and appreciated.

We see this love in the life of Mary Magdalene for her Lord. In Luke's writings, he speaks of her as "Mary that was called Magdalene, from whom seven devils had gone out". She became one of Jesus' most faithful followers, going with Him all the way to the cross. John gives us a beautiful description of her devotion.

Jesus had been laid to rest in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, after dying on the cross. Early in the morning, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found it empty. The huge stone had been rolled away from the sepulcher. Hurrying to Peter and "the other disciple whom Jesus loved", (who is thought to be John) she said, "They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulcher and we know not where they have laid Him." Following her they ran to the sepulcher. John went in first and gazed at the empty grave. Peter followed and they saw the linen clothes that were about Jesus. They saw and believed Mary's report.

Mary Magdalene stood without the tomb weeping. She stooped down and looked in. This time she saw two angels in white, one at the head and the other at the feet where the body of Jesus had lain. They said, "Woman why weepest thou?" She replied, "Because they have taken my Lord away and I know not where they have laid Him." She turned and Jesus stood before her. Not until he spoke her name, "Mary", did she recognize that he was Jesus. She said, "Rabboni", which is to say Master. Jesus continued, "Touch me not, for I am not ascended unto my Father and your Father and to my God and your God." Mary hastened to tell the others that she had seen the Lord and that He had spoken these things to her.

What a wonderful commission was Mary Magdalene's to be a witness at Christ's resurrection and the first to tell others, "HE IS RISEN". No woman ever delivered a more glorious message. She was a woman of great faith and courage. Fourteen times her name is mentioned in the scriptures and eight times it heads the list of women. Read the four Gospels and see what each writer tells about her life.

Sincerely,

Sister Mabel

Our Women Today

MICHIGAN-ONTARIO LADIES CIRCLE

The Michigan-Ontario Area Ladies Circle met November 11, 1977 at the Sterling Heights Branch for our annual Business and Organization Meeting. Our meeting was opened by singing Hymn No. 46, "Heaven Came Down and Glory Filled My Soul." Prayer was offered by Sister Mary Gianzante. We continued with Hymn No. 35, "He Looked Beyond My Fault."

The Sterling Heights Sisters presented a program entitled, "Peace", which was very well put forth by reading and song. Sister Mary Criscuolo remarked on the peace that we have when we have Christ in our hearts. She also read 1st Thessalonians, Chapter 5, in conjunction with the program. Sister Catherine Benedetto then offered a prayer for the sick.

A letter from Sister Mabel Bickerton was read and it was suggested that the secretary make a copy and send each Circle a copy along with the minutes from this meeting. The letter was in answer to many questions Sister Bickerton has been asked concerning our local Circle meetings.

The five presidents of the Detroit Circles gave their reports on each local's meetings; time, place, number in attendance, and what is studied. It was interesting to hear of the extra activities such as working on layettes, making diapers, and working on the Sweet Charity Sale.

Sister Mary Criscuolo reported that the area Circles, along with some of our friends took the bus trip to Muncey Mission in October. There were 39 persons that traveled by bus and a few by car. They spent a very nice day at the Church and later visited the sick members.

A letter from Sister Lorraine DeMercurio was read. She received the household articles that the area Circles sent and everything arrived in good order. She stated that she was quite anxious to move into the home and put these items to use. She asked everyone to remember them in prayer.

Sister Antoinette Ciaravino reported on her trip to Italy and thanked all for their prayers.

The afternoon meeting commenced after a brief lunch, and the business of the District was conducted. To close, we sang, "His Name is Wonderful" and prayer was offered by Sister Antoinette Ciaravino.

* * *

The Michigan-Ontario District Circles have been busy making things to be sold at the Sweet Charity Sale. The afghans, needle work and crafts were started as far back as last year's sale. Many baked goods were brought in the day of the sale (bread, cookies, pies, cakes and even fresh-filled cannolies). Practically all of the Detroit and Windsor Sisters helped to make this a success in some way or another. It was fun working together and to see what united effort can accomplish, we netted \$1,718.77.

The morning of September 18th, two carloads of Circle Sisters left for Six Nation Reservation. We were greeted by Brother Anthony and Sister Ann Lovalvo and many Brothers and Sisters of that little mission. There were also three visiting Elders, Brothers Ken Wright and Sam Cuomo from Windsor and Brother Paul Vitto from Detroit.

Brother Lovalvo welcomed all that came out, and then we went into our Sunday School. Brother Wright helped with the adult class and Sister Mary Dichiera with the children's class.

Before the service we sang, "Happy Birthday" to Sisters Madeline Loughren, Catherine Benedetto and little Crystal from Six Nation who is one year old. Brother Lovalvo told us how the mission raised \$600.00 in their birthday fund, enough to purchase their own piano. They donate a dollar to the mission every time they have a birthday and the congregation sings, "Happy Birthday" to them.

Brother Cuomo introduced the service and said he had not been to this mission in 15 years, his last trip here was with Brother Burgess. He read from Luke 16:19, about a certain rich man and a beggar named Lazarus. He compared it to today's man who is not concerned with the life to come, but with today's pleasures. He also related a beautiful experience he had when he was 13 years old in his native Italy. His father was a fisherman and one day he took his son with him to sea. During that day a big storm arose and a huge wave swept Brother Cuomo into the ocean and another wave followed and brought him right back on ship. Now that he has met the Gospel he understands the purpose of this miracle.

Brother Paul followed, speaking of the rich man walking sumptuously while the poor man sat at the gate begging. Death is the equalizer, there is no consideration or preference made because of position or status here in this life, but the great reward is in the hereafter.

We sang, "Remind Me Dear Lord" after which many beautiful testimonies were enjoyed. Sister Criscuolo, our District President, said she joined the Circle a week before she was baptized, 40 years ago and has enjoyed many blessings meeting and doing things with the Sisters.

At the close of this meeting we sat down to a delicious luncheon which our Sisters had prepared for us. It was a perfect day.

On October 29th, the Sisters of the Michigan-Ontario District Circle chartered a 39 passenger bus to the Muncey Mission. We left the church building at Branch No. 1 at 7:30 a.m. We picked up the Sisters at Branch No. 2, and stopped once more to pick up the Windsor Sisters. It was a very foggy morning but the weather cleared up before we left the church building. Upon arrival, we sat down to a big pot-luck lunch; a real feast.

The meeting was opened with Hymn, "In the Service of the King." Prayer was offered by Brother Mario Coppa. Continued with the Hymn, "Singing along the Way."

The Muncey Sisters sang the Hymn, "Blessed Assurance;" and the Detroit group sang, "O God Give Strength." The free-will offering was taken up and left to the Muncey Mission.

Many inspired testimonies were heard. Sister Mary Criscuolo expressed her pleasure that the Detroit Sisters were able to fill the bus and make this trip.

Brother Joe and Sister Rose Milantoni sang a beautiful duet, "In the Valley He Restoreth My Soul". He then spoke to the Sisters saying that the Circle is a service and a servant to the Church. He directed the Circle to cultivate the exposure of the Gospel to the Seed of Joseph.

Brother Mario Coppa also spoke many inspiring words and thanked the Detroit Sisters for coming out to give encouragement to the Muncey Sisters. We came away feeling that we had been lifted and encouraged to bend a greater effort. We sang, "Precious Memories", and we were dismissed with singing, "They Will Know We Are God's Children". Sister Angeline Gioia led us in prayer.

On our way home we stopped at Sister Arletta Silver's home, who is very ill. She has suffered a stroke and has been laid up for sometime now. We sang a few hymns and had prayer with her.

We arrived home at 6:00 p.m. after a beautiful day. Many Sisters have expressed a desire to come along on next years trip.

Sister Mary Vitto

"No Time For Strangers"

This life is just a brief snort walk
Through streets of deep despair.
I'll only pass this way one time
Then climb the golden stairs.
And should I pass your way and stop and say hello,
And find we have something in common
As we all carry some kind of load.
Let's walk and talk not as strangers,
But as friends, not foes.
No, I have no time for strangers
As I've not yet met one of those.
We will speak of the love of Jesus
And how He cares for me,
For I know He loves you also
And that surely pleases me.
Oh, we may not be as pure as gold
But some day we will be,
So I have no time for strangers
He made you and He made me.

If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

James 2:15, 16

BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS:—

God Is So Good



Left to right: Karen Progar, Ryan Ross, Betty Gibson, Denise Gula, David DeLuca and Marty Jumper. Missing are Tim Gibson, Cindy Sciarretta and Janet DeVincents.

God is so good. What better theme could express our feelings here in the Aliquippa Branch as we look back on 1977 and reminisce of God's blessings on us. For some time we have been meeting in fasting and prayer as a Branch that the Lord might touch the hearts of those who regularly attend our services. As a result, with the ushering in of a New Year, 1977, also came the ushering in of that familiar spirit, the spirit of repentance.

On Sunday, January 16, 1977, during our testimony meeting, Karen Progar began to testify to God's goodness to her. At one point, Karen remembered Brother Tony Ross' statement earlier in the meeting when he remarked how testimony was for members and non-members alike. Brother Tony also said not to hesitate to testify, because no one was going to force anyone down to the river. Remembering his comments, Karen admitted, "I feel it's time I went to the river. I want to be baptized." Immediately we left for the baptismal site in Clinton where we had to cut through 14 inches of ice and plow a path through the snow to the lake where Karen was baptized by Brother Joseph Ross. She was later confirmed by Brother Bob Buffington of the Imperial Branch. Despite the sub-zero temperatures outside, we felt warm within as the Holy Spirit had touched our hearts.

As we continued to fast and pray, God continued to work in the hearts and minds of our young people. At the 1977 GMBA Campout in Honesdale, Pa., Ryan Ross testified of how the Lord had proven His power to him through various experiences. He also confessed how the evil power attempted to, confuse him by distorting the faults of others. Realizing the choice he had to make, he concluded his testimony by requesting baptism. Ryan was baptized the following morning by Brother Paul Palmieri and confirmed by Brother Tom Ross.

Also at the GMBA Campout, Tim and Betty Jean Gibson, a young married couple from our Branch, surrendered themselves to Christ. Throughout the day, both

of them had been struggling within themselves as to making the decision to serve God, never realizing the intentions of the other. Finally, after much inner strife and turmoil, Tim made his wishes known to be baptized. Immediately after being prayed for, Betty Jean expressed her desire to join her husband. Around midnight, we gathered at the waterfront where the candidates were immersed by Brother Paul Palmieri. A short service followed for the confirmations. Tim was confirmed by Brother Rocco Biscotti, and Betty Jean by Brother Domenic Moraco. Both Tim and Betty Jean later expressed how they each had felt a closeness throughout the week to the respective Brothers who confirmed them. That evening's events seemed to be the perfect ending to a wonderful day spent among the Saints.

The next Sunday, June 26, 1977, we gathered back at our Branch. Our hearts were filled with thankfulness for the mysterious way in which God was working with these young souls. During the lunch break between meetings, we were notified of yet another conversion as Denise Gula had asked to be baptized. Denise had requested baptism a month earlier, but chose to wait to be sure of her feelings. Now, confident of her desire, Denise was taken to the waters of regeneration by Brother Paul Palmieri and confirmed by Brother Tony Ross. Since her baptism, Denise has suffered an illness that she feels she could have never endured without Christ as her guide.

During the next week, the spirit of God moved again. Friday evening, as many of the members and friends had gathered at the church building to work on our addition, Janet DeVincents arrived and informed Brother Paul Palmieri of her decision to be baptized. Janet was born and raised in the Church, but testified later that never had she been affected before as she had been at the recent GMBA Campout. Feeling somewhat emotional at the campout, she thought she would wait until she returned home, where she felt sure this feeling would leave her.

On Sunday, July 3, 1977, as we concluded the morning service and were preparing to leave for the lake, Cindy Sciarretta was moved upon by the Spirit of God and asked for her baptism. Cindy said she felt as if the speakers that morning were talking directly to her. Janet was baptized by Brother Paul Palmieri and confirmed by Brother Tony Palmieri. Cindy was baptized by Brother Joe Ross and confirmed by Brother Tony Ross.

For the next several months, we continued to fast and pray, and again the hand of God directed another soul. During his Bible class at Geneva College, David DeLuca felt his conviction when the instructor of the class pointed out the hesitance of men and women today to commit themselves to God. Recognizing how fortunate he was in knowing the true Gospel of Jesus Christ, David then decided to make that commitment.

On December 4, 1977 our morning meeting was opened by Brother Donald Curry of Monongahela, Pa. Brother Curry read from The Church History Book of a dream had by Sister Susanna Trump. He stressed the need for the Saints to have the prayer of faith.

Brother Paul Palmieri followed by making a few closing remarks and welcoming anyone else wishing to be baptized with David to make their wishes known.

Our morning service was dismissed and we met at the baptismal site in Imperial, Pa.

Brother David DeLuca was baptized by Brother Paul Palmieri.

Our afternoon service was introduced by Brother Anthony Palmieri. Brother Palmieri told of a time, several years ago, when he asked his grandson David when he was going to get baptized. David answered him by saying when the Lord called him he would be baptized. Brother Palmieri never forgot David's answer and he thanked God for having called his grandson into The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother David was then confirmed by Brother Anthony Palmieri.

Many beautiful testimonies were given and the beautiful Spirit of God was felt by all those in attendance.

As we were nearing the end of a truly beautiful year and thanking the Lord for the countless prayers that had been answered, still one more soul was added to the fold. On Sunday, December 18, 1977, Marty Jumper was touched by God's Holy Spirit and expressed her desire to be baptized. Marty was introduced to The Church through her husband, Bruce and had been attending our meetings for about six years. Marty's decision was indeed a blessing to witness, as it represented the results of a gradual relationship with the Gospel.

On Christmas Eve the Young People and the children of our Branch presented their annual Christmas Program.

The Gospel of St. Luke was used as the text for the narration of the program.

Each learned a part and sang many of our traditional Christmas Carols.

The young children also sang a few songs including, "We Wish You A Merry Christmas."

We had a very large attendance of Brothers, Sisters, and friends and the effort put forth by our young people and children was enjoyed by all.

On December 31, 1977 we held our annual New Year's Eve Watch Service. We met at 10:30 p.m. and had a potluck dinner. Following, we had a short service. Our Presiding Elder Paul Palmieri told of the many blessings we as a Branch have received this past year. We had a groundbreaking service for our new addition in April, and in November of this year we held our dedication service. During the past year we have had nine baptisms beginning in January with the baptism of Sister Karen Progar and ending with our most recent baptism on December 18 of Sister Martha Jumper. We also experienced the wonderful healing of Brother Ryan Ross.

Our meeting was opened for testimony and several members expressed their thanks to God for the blessings in their lives this year.

At 11:55 p.m. we knelt in prayer and Brother Anthony Ross led us into the New Year 1978 in prayer.

We sang several hymns after which we formed a large circle and Brother John Ross asked God's blessing on our Branch during the coming year.

We cannot thank God enough for our recent nine converts. Our only desire is to see our many other friends and relatives obey the Gospel. May they realize the significance of the statement made by Brother William H.

Cadman when he said, "The only successful man in life is the man who saves his soul."

We ask a sincere interest in your prayers so that along with our prayers, we might once again move the hand of God and conclude this New Year of 1978 with that undisputed statement, "God Is So Good."

Brother Ken Staley
Aliquippa Branch

The Corner Stone

Sunday, November 19, 1977 visiting Elder, Brother Norman Campitelle, was present at Branch No. 1 in Detroit, Michigan.

Brother Norman opened in prayer and began his sermon by reading from Ephesians 4:11-13, and speaking of Christ as being the corner stone of His Church. He said that Christ — starts the building — apostles, evangelists, prophets, teachers, etc. Brother Norman said this was the way it was done in the early Church and this is the way WE do it today.

Brother Norman stated that Paul, was called after the death of Christ. Through revelation Jesus Christ called Paul, and ordained him as an Apostle in His Church.

Just as Christ replaced His 12 Apostles then, likewise we now do the same. When an Apostle passes on to his reward he is replaced by another so that Christ's Church IS, just as it was when He was upon this earth.

Brother Norman took a moment to reflect back to his childhood and his thankfulness to God for bringing his parents to this land of America. He was also thankful that he was raised in the Gospel. He said, "Nothing is as important as serving Jesus Christ."

Brother Norman then spoke upon the subject of baptism. He related several experiences to express the point he was trying to make. One experience in itself, communicated his entire point.

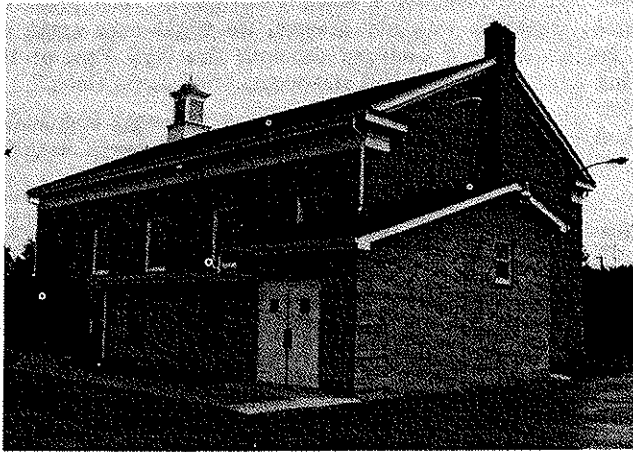
He said about a month ago, a man who was associated with the Mexican mission, asked why he had to be baptized. He said he was already baptized when he was a baby. They tried to explain how he must come to Christ, by faith, repentance and baptism. The man still could not understand. So God gave him a dream.

He saw a huge fountain with a river flowing from it. He was standing on one side of the river and the Brothers and Sisters were standing on the other side. Each Brother and Sister had a cup, and with this cup they were dipping into the water and drinking of it. The man then realized he didn't have a cup, and that he wanted one. A voice told him he had "to go through this water", in order to receive his cup.

In concluding his sermon Brother Norman said, "We can't stop at the waters edge. None of us have made it into the kingdom of heaven yet. We must fight all the way or we will fall to the wayside." He told us there were false doctrines then, and there are false doctrines now. He finalized it by saying, "Build on none other than Jesus Christ."

Sister Diana Thompson

20th Anniversary



The Youngstown, Ohio church building with its new addition.

On Thursday, October 27, 1977, Youngstown Branch observed the 20th Anniversary of dedicating its church building with a special evening service.

Our meeting was opened in prayer by Brother Ralph Berardino. After prayer, the Youngstown Quartet sang two selections. It was a time for reminiscing as Brother A. A. Corrado read the Gospel News account of the dedication. On that Sunday, 20 years ago, Brother Dominic Thomas had been the main speaker and we were indeed privileged to have had Brother William and Brother Alma Cadman in our midst. Brother Corrado also told of the wonderful Brothers from out of state, who came to help us with our building. Brothers Emil Carlini, John Romano and Joseph Straccia, all of Detroit, Michigan who plastered the church. Brother Tony Ensana, along with his crew who consisted of: Brothers Sam Dell, August and John D'Orazio and John Buffa, who were then of Edison, N. J., put in the electrical wiring. Joe Berardino of Youngstown assisted the Brothers with the wiring.

Brother Elmer Santilli, formerly of Youngstown, remembered how he, along with the Saints of Youngstown had worked together in raising money and in helping in the construction of the building.

Brother Russell Martorana of Niles and Brother Travis Perry of Youngstown made appropriate comments on building an edifice to the Lord.

Brother Howard Jackson of Kinsman, Ohio closed with prayer.

Refreshments were served after the service. We were provided with a cake that marked the special occasion. The Sisters prepared many delicious desserts, which were enjoyed by all. The love of God was truly evident as we shared the warm fellowship of the Saints and friends who attended.

At this point I would like to mention that on October 16, 1976, work was started on our new addition to the church building and it was finished in early 1977.

As the Lord has blessed us in the past, we hope and trust that the future may be far greater with God's richest blessings.

Youngstown Branch Editor
Sister Annette Corrado

Homecoming Day At The Monongahela Branch

"A perfect day" was the comment heard most often regarding our special Homecoming meeting on Sunday, November 27th. About two months ago, our Presiding Elder, Brother George Johnson, introduced the possibility of a special meeting with the expressed purpose of reaching out to former members and friends of the Branch we have not seen for a while. The idea caught on with a few of us and the initial plans were quickly made. In a matter of several weeks, invitations were made and sent to nearly 150 persons submitted to our committee. During the last week of preparation, much prayer and fasting took place. We wanted God to season this time of fellowship with His Holy Spirit and reward all effort made by the Branch, as well as those who would attend. The Lord did hear and answer our prayers, for His presence could be felt throughout the day.

There were over 160 in attendance at our morning service, including visitors from Arizona, Florida, and Virginia, as well as the Branches in our District. A brief welcome was extended to all by Brother Richard Scaglione, who explained the purpose of this special day. Special hymns were sung including a few selections by the Pennsylvania Area Choir. Then the meeting was turned over to Brother Johnson. He read Christ's words, "If I be lifted up, I'll draw all men unto me." He also spoke of the fellowship of the children of God. He compared this to the love and fellowship we find in The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Fred Olexa, now from the Roscoe Branch, but spending nearly all of his life in Monongahela, related the joy of "coming home." He spoke of family ties in our lives and likened them to our Spiritual family ties in The Church. Brother John Olexa bore his testimony of how the Lord recently raised him up from a death bed and allowed him to fully recover. The words of our Brothers were certainly inspiring and filled with God's Spirit and Love.

A lunch was served and our season of fellowship continued. We had the opportunity to renew old acquaintances and reminisce past blessings and experiences we shared in The Church in the past. One interesting highlight was a picture board which displayed photographs of many members, some taken years ago and beyond our remembrance. It was most amusing to watch the children's expressions as they saw their fathers and mothers in the old pictures.

We held our regular afternoon meeting and many visitors helped make this "the icing on the cake." Time flew as we enjoyed the testimonies of the Brothers and Sisters.

In all, there were 181 who signed our guest book for the day. Our prayer is that a spark may be rekindled among those who attended. We recommend that other Branches of The Church attempt this type of meeting, for God will surely extend His blessings in all efforts to reach out to others, especially to those who once shared the Gospel we love so much.

Baptism In Lorain

Madelyn M. Calabrese was baptized on November 20, 1977 in Lorain, Ohio. She was baptized by Brother Joseph Calabrese and confirmed by Brother Frank Calabrese.

Ordination At Youngstown, Ohio

Sunday, October 30, 1977 was a memorable day for Brother Henry Cardillo as he was ordained into the Ministry. We were privileged to have Apostles Rocco V. Biscotti and Frank Calabrese in our midst along with other visiting Brothers and Sisters.

Brother Biscotti opened our morning service by using I Kings, Chapter 18 as his text. Brother Rocco stated that our ministers should be dedicated in their service to God, just as Elijah was. They must be a righteous example to the world. Brother Calabrese followed, relating this experience—A Sister saw a personage, walking to and fro, in front of the church building in Lorain, Ohio. With his hand raised toward heaven, he declared that the God of Elijah was in The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Frank believes that the Spirit of Elijah is in the Church today.

During our afternoon meeting, Brother Frank Calabrese washed Brother Cardillo's feet. He was ordained an Elder by Brother Rocco Biscotti.

May God bless Brother Henry in his new office, that he may be able to fulfill his calling.

Sister Annette Corrado
Youngstown Branch Editor

Just recently we visited one of the nursing homes in the area and presented a program for the occupants. It was our prayer that God would accompany us and that all would feel the rush of His Holy Spirit. At the conclusion of the program, one gentleman came up to me with tears streaming down his face saying that he felt the Spirit of God. Truly God fulfilled our desire.

Last Sunday the theme of the sermon was "Since Jesus Passed By." It was stated how much our lives have been enriched both spiritually and physically since Jesus passed by our way. I was speaking concerning the numerous miracles Jesus performed and how He healed many. One of our children, Michael, swallowed a lifesaver and it lodged in his throat. Brother Joe was doing everything physically possible, trying to dislodge it. I went back and put a drop of blessed oil on his throat and the lifesaver shot out. We praise God from whom all blessings flow for truly Jesus was passing by our way.

Brothers and Sisters, this is only a small part of what God has done for us and how He has blessed us. We continue to solicit your prayers in our behalf and we will be sure to reciprocate those prayers.

Brother Ron Genaro

— NEW ARRIVALS —

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

Kristen Michelle to Michael and Grace Bashaw of Detroit, Michigan Branch 3;

Melody Anne to Dennis and Carmella Barczak of Sterling Heights, Michigan;

Robert Joseph Jr. to Robert and Eileen Suty of Monongahela, Pa.;

Richard Francis to Terry and Leon Nath of Monongahela, Pa.;

Alan Lee to Lee Alan and Ramona Bright of Monongahela, Pa. and,

Nichole Marie to John and Sharon Finnerty of Monongahela, Pa.

— WEDDINGS —

KUROWSKY - GRIFFITH

Mr. David J. Kurowsky and Miss Joy Eileen Griffith were joined in holy wedlock on Saturday, November 12, 1977 at The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa.

The ceremony was officiated by the brother of the bride, Brother John R. Griffith. Musicial selections were presented by Diane Boal, vocalist, and Helen Blatchford, organist.

The newlyweds are residing in North Charleroi, Pa.

LOFFREDO - GOLZE

Mr. Mark Loffredo and Miss Donna Marie Golze were united in holy matrimony on November 18, 1977 at The Church of Jesus Christ, Detroit, Michigan Branch 3.

The ceremony was officiated by Brother Peter H.

Reflections of 1977

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we usher out the old year and usher in the new, we of the New Orleans Mission would like you to reflect with us on the goodness and blessings that God has bestowed upon us in 1977.

Thanks be to God, another soul was added to the fold and family of God. Her name is Despina Karahlanis. She is of Greek descent and truly the Lord has worked miraculously in bringing her and her family all the way from Greece to find the light of the Gospel. The Lord has given her many beautiful dreams and revelations concerning her conversion and the veracity of God's word. We ask that you would remember our newly baptized Sister in prayer that God would give her the necessary sustenance to endure unto the end and that her husband would one day join her in the service of the King.

As one soul was added to our congregation by baptism, two were added by birth. Mandy Marie Genaro was born on March 24 and Joseph Elias Colomb was born on September 29; both were blessed by Brother Ron Genaro.

This past summer we held a Vacation Bible School for the toddlers which proved to be very successful. The theme was how the Book of Mormon and Bible are one in God's hand. The children participated in various games and crafts and made a beautiful chart which symbolized the theme, illustrating the oneness of God's word. We were also fortunate to have visiting children who are neighbors of the Saints.

We were very thankful to have various visitors throughout the year, namely; Brother Joe and Sister Carmel Genaro and Brother Dom and Sister Mary Bucci from Ohio; Brother Frank and Sister Juanita Rogolino from Florida; and Sister Joan McNabb and her husband from California. Each visit was a source of strength and upliftment to all.

Capone. Musical selections were presented by Kathleen Furnari.

The newlyweds are residing in Detroit, Michigan.

KLINE - ZANARDELLI

Mr. Douglas D. Kline and Miss Janice E. Zanardelli were united in marriage on Friday, November 18, 1977 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Roscoe, Pa.

The ceremony was officiated by the bride's uncle, Brother B. J. Martin. Musical selections were presented by Sister Bertha Jean Bilsky.

The newlyweds are residing in Bethel Park, Pa.

EVERETT - CHRISTMAN

Brother Thomas Richard Everett of Detroit, Michigan Branch 1 and Sister Cynthia Ann Christman of Tucson, Arizona were united in holy wedlock on Saturday, January 14, 1978 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Phoenix, Arizona.

The ceremony was officiated by Brother Spencer Everett, father of the groom and by Brother Richard Christman, father of the bride. Musical selections were presented by Brother David Majoros and Sister Diane Surdock accompanied by Sister Sara Vancik.

The newlyweds will reside in Mt. Clemens, Mich. May God Bless their lives together.

● OBITUARIES ●

CHARLES R. MCCRORY

Mr. Charles R. McCrory passed on to his eternal reward on November 19, 1977. He attended the Roscoe Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The funeral services were conducted by Brother J. Fred Olexa in Charleroi, Pennsylvania.

He is survived by his wife, one son, and one daughter.

JOHN W. MAREK

Mr. John W. Marek passed on to his eternal reward on November 7, 1977. He was born on June 2, 1922. He attended the Roscoe Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The funeral services were conducted by Brothers J. Fred Olexa and John Kendall in Charleroi, Pa.

He is survived by his mother and father, his wife, one brother, and one sister.

CEDO PADOVINI

Mr. Cedo Padovini passed on to his eternal reward on September 19, 1977. He was born on April 8, 1915. He attended the Detroit, Michigan Branch 3.

Funeral services were conducted by Brother Peter H. Capone.

He is survived by his wife, one son, two daughters and four grandchildren.

ILARIO (ANTHONY) GIANNASCOLI

Brother Anthony Giannascoli passed on to his heavenly reward on December 24, 1977. He was born on March 25, 1890 and was baptized in 1921 at Aliquippa, Pa.

The funeral services were conducted by Brothers Paul Palmieri and Anthony Ross.

He is survived by four sons, two daughters and many grandchildren.

TERRI LYNN MENCHIO

Terri Lynn Menchio, daughter of Sister Sandra Menchio, passed away from this life on December 14, 1977. She was born on August 26, 1966. Terri attended the Greensburg Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

She is survived by her mother and father, two brothers and one sister.

The funeral services were conducted by Brother Paul Gehly.

Terri Lynn had been afflicted with a brain tumor since April, 1977. During her illness, both she and her mother were examples to all of us, demonstrating patience, long suffering and complete Trust in God. Terri Lynn will be greatly missed by all of us of the Greensburg Branch.

LOUIS JAMES CHECCHI

Brother Louis James Checchi passed away from this life on December 26, 1977. He was born on September 27, 1936 and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on June 16, 1957.

He is survived by his wife, two sons, one daughter, his mother, two brothers and one sister.

The funeral services were conducted by Brother Paul Gehly.

Brother Lou has been an inspiration and a true friend to many. He will be greatly missed by his family, by his Brothers and Sisters and by his many friends.

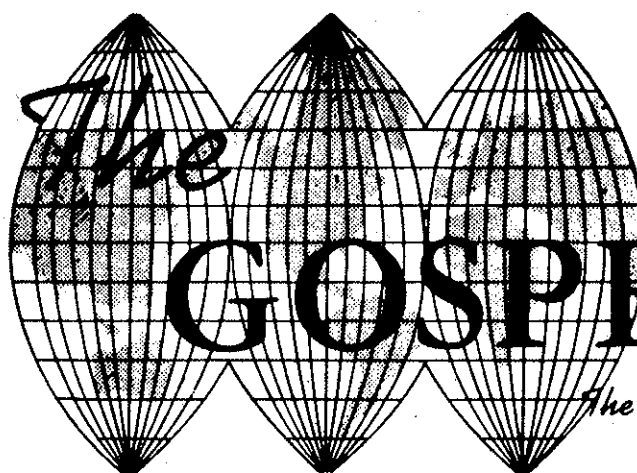
SOPHIE TERRILL

Sister Sophie Terrill passed away from this life December 1, 1977. She was a member of the Lake Worth, Florida Branch. She was born December 29, 1910 and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ in February of 1974 at Lake Worth, Florida.

Funeral services were conducted on December 3 and Brothers Eugene Perri, Jr. and Michael Radd officiated.

She is survived by her husband, Brother William Terrill, her daughters, Sister Letti Obradovich and Sister Darlene Large and six grandchildren and two sisters.

Our sister will be missed by all.



The GOSPEL NEWS

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa.

April, 1978

Volume 34, No. 4

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BAPTISMS AT STERLING HEIGHTS

Sunday, February 19, two souls proclaimed their desire to be baptized. The day was bright with sunshine but very cold. On Saturday, Brother Frank DiDonato had a premonition, or more properly, a revelation from God, that there would be baptisms today. Together with Brother Sam DiFalco, he went to the lake and made an opening through at least two feet of ice. Brother Frank's hands were badly blistered but he did not even notice it as the day was very cold and the cold kept him from feeling the pain. Brother Frank, in the face of adversity, undertook this work for the Lord. As Brother Frank often says in his testimony, the old mix master was at work in his stomach. To begin with, he had car trouble, the old man Satan, dealt severely with him, but he carried on. It is marvelous how God is using this man.

Sunday began with a visitation to our Branch, by Brother Spencer Everett. Our Sister Shirley Vitto set the Lord's Table for the first time since her ordination as a Deaconess. The very young children sang "Put Your Hand In The Hand" and "O How I Love Jesus". Brother Louis Vitto greeted the visitors. Brother Spencer opened the meeting in prayer and the Champine brothers sang for us. To you, in other parts of the vineyard, the Champine brothers consist of four brothers, whom, at one time, played and sang in a band out in the world. Last July, Brother Gary was baptized and the brothers came to witness and have been coming to The Church ever since. They have been a great blessing to us. They write some of their songs and have dedicated their time and talent to The Church. Their wives and children, and in one case, in-laws, are in attendance every Sunday. Their children have been blessed in our Branch.

Brother Spencer introduced the service by reading from *Romans* 8:1. His theme today, was "hope". This is the second Sunday in a row, that the word "hope" has been used extensively.

Brother Spencer said we must look forward to hope of eternal life. We must not become frustrated with ourselves by looking at ourselves with our own eyes, we must realize that Christ looks at us differently. We have many walls in our lives which have to be broken down as the walls of Jericho were broken down in the days of old. He told of many men in the *Bible* which had been used by God. Abraham was commanded by God to sacrifice

his son Isaac. Abraham had hope, and his hope was justified. Moses was used by God to lead the Israelites out of bondage and Job was used by God to show the devil His will was greater.

When we repent of our sins and are baptized, we are covered with the blood of Jesus. We are kept by His word, His word is truth. If we abide in the Word, we will not err. Brother Spencer talked of the word triumph, how, if a soldier won a battle, he was brought back to Rome to participate in a "Triumph". We must always look forward, not lean back if we want to triumph in Christ. We must vision ourselves as God sees us if we are to triumph. He then asked "God, what are we going to do today?" Paul said, "Repent and be baptized and your hope in Christ will be realized."

Brother Louis Vitto said that when we pass away, we have hope that Christ will receive us into His kingdom. He said that if we don't take that step, our soul is lost. The natural mind of man is an enemy of God. We all have the spirit of the devil, this will not bring us salvation. The wages of sin is death. He read *Romans*, Ch. 8, verse 6 — "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." He told of how Paul was stricken by God, and when he changed to labor for God, his sight was restored. Brother Louis said God's hand is always outstretched, all we have to do is reach out.

After singing a few hymns, the meeting was left open for testimony. Kathy Champine stood and asked for her baptism; then her husband, Steve, asked for his baptism. We were dismissed to meet at the lake at four o'clock for the baptisms. We returned to the Church in the evening. Brother Gerace opened in prayer and the Champine brothers again sang for us. Brother Paul Whitton read in the 8th chapter of Acts about the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost. The gift of the Holy Ghost cannot be bought with money. Brother Steve sang "Love", a song he had written himself.

Brother Steve was baptized by Brother Louis Vitto and confirmed by Brother Tony Gerace, Sister Kathy was baptized by Brother Paul Whitton and confirmed by Brother Spencer Everett.

Brother Louis Vitto sang "Had It Not Been For Mt. Calvary" and he then told Brother Steve and Sister Kathy that their life had just begun. They are now ready to

labor for the Lord. The most beautiful gift we can give God is our soul as Steve and Kathy did today. They took the Master's hand and He will lead them all the way. Brother Steve testified that today he was set free, he thanked God for finding this Church. He said he had given up many things to get where he is, but that he is not sorry. The song that he wrote, "Come Unto Me", was merely words until today when the full impact of the words came to life and he asked for his baptism. Sister Kathy thanked God for the people in The Church, for the sincere greetings. She felt the pounding in her heart in Sunday School as she read further in the *Bible* where it said "Repent and be baptized." She told of a dream she had where she was standing by the riverside and Brother Louis Vitto was standing in the waters with outstretched hands. She knew this was her calling and she had to accept. The parents and grandmother of the Champine brothers were at the evening meeting. After the service, we met in The Church basement for refreshments and socializing.

Sister Hazel Zoltek
Church Editor

IT IS WRITTEN

The following is a question from a distraught mother whose son, a policeman, was killed in the line of duty. "Do you think that my son will live in the hereafter? Is there really a resurrection? Will I see him again."

It is written, "...I am the Resurrection and the Life; he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die..." (John 11:24, 25). Also, "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)

Philosophers throughout the ages have advanced many theories concerning the hereafter. Some indicating the positive realms of possibility; some, saying that it is probably a myth expounded by ignorants, to alleviate the separation of loved ones by death; and some, saying that death and the grave are the final resting place of mankind. Even theologians disagree on "Life here-after". Some, denying that life exists outside of the physical body altogether. However, men of God who believed in a living Creator, expounded their faith in an eternal existence after the death of the mortal body. Following are some of the quotations of inspired men in the *Bible*:

"And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh I shall see God." (*Job* 19:26)

"As for me, I will behold Thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with Thy likeness." (*Psalms* 17:15)

"Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead." (*Isaiah* 26:19)

"And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt." (*Daniel* 12:2)

However great were the prophets of old, none can compare with Jesus Christ, the Only begotten of God, the Father, the Creator of this universe and all the worlds that exist. No matter how well and inspired the words of those wonderful prophets, the teachings of Jesus bring forth a great and marvelous hope to humanity; a hope of redemption, of salvation, of future existence with Him, of glory in the kingdom of God, of a resting place for the soul, and of the eventual re-uniting of both body and soul. "He that liveth and believeth in Me shall never die." These words reverberate with a joy unspeakable in the hearts of those that believe on Him. "I go to prepare a place for you... that where I am, there ye may be also."

Though some believed in a future resurrection, it was never brought to the attention of mankind with such emphasis and force as He did, "I am the Resurrection and the life." His purpose of coming into the world was to bring about the resurrection of the dead, to have the victory over the grave. Before He came to the earth, there was no resurrection of the dead; The body laid in the grave, and there it would have remained forever, not knowing the glory of divine immortality. And though the soul had a place of rest called "Paradise", there would not have been a re-uniting of body and soul if Christ had not come, if He had not died and resurrected. He said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live." (*John* 5:25)

The above scripture indicated the time when He would go down into the "Prison" to preach to those referred to by Peter, (*1st Peter* 3:19) Christ also spoke of His resurrection, (although the Disciples did not understand Him, nor did the masses of Jews) when He said, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will lift it up." However, when He did arise from the dead, the joy of His disciples and followers was unspeakable and full of faith and hope of eternal immortality. Therefore, they went out and preached the resurrected Christ throughout the known world, exhorting to all that the grave should not be able to hold back the mortal body but should relinquish it by the power of Christ's resurrection, and re-unite with the soul at the appointed time of the Lord; that all mankind would rise from the dead, as it is written, "And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust." (*Acts* 24:15) also, "But if the spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His spirit that dwelleth in you." (*Romans* 8:11) Again, it is written, "Behold, I show you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." (*1st Cor.* 15:51, 52)

It is also recorded in the *Bible* that the "graves were opened; and many bodies of the Saints which slept arose. And came out of the graves after His resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many." (*Matt.* 27:52, 53)

Also, as recorded in the *Book of Mormon*, many of

the notable prophets foretold of the Resurrection. It is written: "And if Christ had not risen from the dead, or have broken the bands of death that the grave should have no victory, and that death should have no sting, there could have been NO resurrection, therefore the grave hath no victory, and the sting of death is swallowed up in Christ." (*Mosiah* 16:7, 8) The above was declared by the prophet Abinadi.

Jacob, the son of Lehi, writing upon the small Plates of Nephi said, "For as death hath passed upon all men, to fulfill the merciful plan of the great Creator, there must be a power of resurrection; and the resurrection must needs come unto man by reason of the fall..." (*2nd Nephi* 9:6) Also, Amulek, a wonderful man of God declared, "...All shall rise from the dead and stand before God, and be judged according to their works. The spirit and the body shall be reunited again in its perfect form; both limb and joint shall be restored to its proper frame, even as we now are at this time... Now, this restoration shall come to ALL, both old and young, both bond and free, both male and female, both the wicked and the righteous; and even there shall not so much as a hair of their heads be lost; but everything shall be restored to its perfect frame, as it is now, or in the body, and shall be brought and be arraigned before the bar of Christ the Son, and God the Father, and the Holy spirit, which is one Eternal God, to be judged according to their works, whether they be good or whether they be evil." (*Alma* 11:41-44)

While Jesus tarried with the Nephites, he expounded the depths of the resurrection. He told them, "...all people, and all kindreds, and all nations and tongues shall stand before God, to be judged of their works, whether they be good or whether they be evil. If they be good, to the resurrection of everlasting life; and if they be evil, to the resurrection of damnation..." (*3 Nephi* 26:4, 5)

Both *Bible* and *Book of Mormon* are filled with references regarding the resurrection. However, let me remind the reader that the Kingdom of Heaven can only be reached by keeping the commandments of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. The gates of Heaven are only open to them that are truly "Born again" as He told Nicodemus, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." (*John* 3:3, 5)

The scriptures speak of more than one resurrection. Please note the words of Jesus in *John* 5:25: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, the hour is coming, and NOW IS, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live." He is referring to the time when after his death on the cross, He would go down into the "Prison" to preach to the spirits which were sometime disobedient, etc..." (*1st Peter* 3:19) However, please take notice that in *John* 5:28 He says, "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." In the 28th verse, Jesus is speaking, no doubt, of a future resurrection than the one in the 25th verse. In the one, He says, "NOW IS", referring to when He should resurrect; and in the other, He does not say "Now Is." as He is indicating a time in the future.

It is written that all men, from Adam down to Christ would resurrect at His resurrection. (*Book of Mormon, Alma* 40:18, 19) In the *Bible*, Matthew records that "...many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after His resurrection..." (*Matthew* 27:52, 53). The scriptures also inform us that there shall be a resurrection for all, from Christ to the end of the world; "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him... 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." (*1st Thess.* 4:14-17). This is called "The First resurrection", meaning, the first from Christ on to the end of the world. Regarding this wonderful and glorious occasion the Bible says, "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)

However, there is another resurrection which we refer to as the Second or last resurrection. It is written in the book of revelations of John. "But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished..." (*Rev.* 20:5) Again, "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God..." (*Rev.* 20:12) To be continued.

I shall write on this last resurrection following this above article. Be sure to read what wonders the Holy writ holds concerning this subject.

Brother V. James Lovalvo

HOW TO FIND HAPPINESS THROUGH THE YEAR

Everybody, everywhere
seeks happiness, it's true,
But finding it and keeping it
seems difficult to do,

Difficult because we think
that happiness is found
Only in the places where
wealth and fame abound.

And so we go on searching
in "palaces of pleasure"
Seeking recognition
and monetary treasure,

Unaware that happiness
is just a "state of mind"
Within the reach of everyone
who takes time to be kind.

For in making OTHERS HAPPY
we will be happy, too,
For the happiness you give away
returns to "shine on you."

Helen Steiner Rice

WEST AFRICAN ECHO

Dear Brother Bittinger,

I apologize for my long silence since arriving in Nigeria. Our intent, as I stated to you prior to our departure, was to inform you of events that take place. There are many things to report and I trust that the following information will give our Brothers and Sisters a greater knowledge of the work in Africa.

First of all, Lorraine and I would like to greet our Brothers and Sisters in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for all your prayers and many expressions of love and kindness. We trust that through the articles that will be written that you will share with us the beauty of God that we experience.

Upon approval by the October, 1976, General Church Conference we began making preparations for our departure on July 25, 1977. Although we had nine months to get ready we found it would not be sufficient time.

My previous trip to Nigeria in the spring of 1976 had given me some exposure as to what we would encounter but there were still things we didn't expect and for which we were not prepared. We had instructed our children what to expect. Lorraine read books written by missionary women that gave some insight of what was expected of her as a woman and mother. We spent much time in prayer and fasting because our faith and trust in God would prove to be our greatest preparation. Actually our preparation was not accomplished in nine months but it was a culmination of several years of preparation and direction of God.

When Lorraine and I were first married we shared many hopes and expectations that we would some day do missionary work. We had both discussed that perhaps we would go to Nigeria, but it seemed that it was just a dream or vision and it would never really come to pass. However, God saw our desires and began working with us. God was leading us step by step and we were making our best efforts to follow. We did not always follow the steps that the Lord placed before us. We were given many learning experiences, dreams and words spoken by the Lord. God was teaching us and we were endeavoring to learn. At times the learning was extremely difficult, but it was necessary preparation for our eventual move.

Not until I came to Nigeria with Brother John Ross in 1976 did I fully realize the extent of God's preparation for Lorraine and I. Upon my return we discussed going to Nigeria as a family. The education of our children, cultural differences, illness and our children's reaction to our move was to be viewed realistically. We realized that ultimately God would be with us in these matters.

We earnestly prayed about the matter. We sought diligently to know the will of God. In September, 1976 we made our desires known to the Foreign Missions Committee and they sent our request to the General Church Missionary Board. They interviewed Lorraine and I extensively and were satisfied with our motives, goals and desires. Even after the General Church Conference approved our going to Nigeria we remained prayerful. We kept asking, "God help us to do the right thing. Let it be Your will not mine." At times we encountered events that would seem to have destroyed our plans. Lorraine and I both developed physical problems that could cancel

our trip or make our stay in Nigeria very difficult. But God took care of us and removed the obstacles.

In December, 1976 Brother Gary Coppa of Detroit Branch No. 3 approached us and asked if we would mind if he, his wife, Sister Judy and his sister, Sister Susan Coppa could accompany us to Nigeria. They were concerned about us going alone and wanted to help us get settled in the mission house as well as see the Church in Nigeria. While Brother Gary was concerned about placing an imposition on us we were elated that they wanted to go with us.

However, there was a condition attached to this request. Brother Gary had just completed his degree requirements in education. He had no teaching appointment nor money to make the trip. He said that if God provided him with a job he could have the necessary funds by July to make the trip. This seemed like an impossible request. How was Brother Gary going to get a permanent teaching appointment in the middle of the school year? As difficult as this request appeared to be God would show us His will. Shortly thereafter Brother Gary was to be interviewed at several school districts. One night before Brother Gary was to be interviewed the Lord spoke to me and said "Fast and pray for Brother Gary because tomorrow he will have a job." The Lord was telling me what to do as well as telling me the outcome of Brother Gary's interview. (A Sister had a similar experience about Brother Gary's interview. Perhaps he may tell of the events that led to his securing a job as well as his trip to Nigeria.) Now that the Coppa's were accompanying us our move to a distant place seemed easier.

Our anxieties began to build as the departure date drew closer. I had not received my Letter of Appointment to teach from the Nigerian Government but finally it arrived on June 22, 1976. There was now one month and three days remaining to secure our visa. The processing of the visa was to take two months because I was applying for an employment visa and not a visitor's visa. To our surprise we received our visa in thirteen days from the date of mailing. We were happy and thankful to God that the receipt of the visa did not delay our departure date as the Coppa's would not have been able to accompany us if the date were changed. Now we were able to work at getting visas for the Coppa's which came to fruition in rapid time.

We were extremely relieved, many of the barriers had been overcome. Now we had to face the reality of leaving our families and friends. We felt badly leaving our families and we knew that they did not want to see us go but they had accepted our decision and saw the need to preach the Gospel of Jesus to the Nigerian people.

Even though our departure time from Detroit Metropolitan Airport was during the afternoon rush hour, many Brothers and Sisters including Brother Dominic Thomas and his wife Delores were there to see us off. The presence of our Brothers and Sisters gave us much strength and courage in bidding farewell. They all showed their love and concern for our safe journey and mission.

Nephi DeMercurio, Sr.

To be continued.

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Editorial Viewpoint

THE GOD OF NATURE

The recent severe winter with its accompanying heavy snowfalls and blizzard brought to mind the words of the above title as contained in a scriptural prophecy detailing some of the events that would occur at the time of our Lord's crucifixion. To quote in part:

THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, ISAAC, AND JACOB

And the God of our fathers, who were led out of Egypt, out of bondage, and also were preserved in the wilderness by him, yea, the God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, yieldeth himself, according to the words of the angel, as a man, into the hands of wicked men, to be lifted up, according to the words of Zenock, and to be crucified, according to the words of Neum, and to be buried in a sepulchre, according to the words of Zenos, which he spake concerning the three days of darkness, which should be a sign of his death unto those who should inhabit the isles of the sea, more especially given unto those who are of the house of Israel.

For thus spake the prophet: The Lord God surely shall visit all the house of Israel at that day, some with his voice, because of their righteousness, unto their great joy and salvation, and others with the thunderings and the lightnings of his power, by tempest, by fire, and by smoke, and vapor of darkness, and by the opening of the earth, and by mountains which shall be carried up.

And all these things must surely come, saith the prophet Zenos. And the rocks of the earth must rend; and because of the groanings of the earth, many of the kings of the isles of the sea shall be wrought upon by the Spirit of God, to exclaim: The GOD OF NATURE suffers.

(Book of Mormon, 1 Nephi 19:10, 11, 12)

From these prophecies which were eventually fulfilled, we learn how much we need God, and how even nature depends upon its Creator for normal, continuing function.

ADDED EVIDENCE

The recent winter that violently ravaged much of our nation is added evidence that man is quite weak and helpless without the favor of Divine Providence. Even nature, without the moderating influence and control of the God of nature, can wreak hardship and devastation.

During a week-long barrage of snowstorms and bitter cold that swept from Texas to New England, the death toll neared 100 people. Major airports in the East were shut down, many roads were blocked, and some of the nation's vital centers of commerce were paralyzed. Thousands of travelers were stranded in public shelters. A Chicago-to-Miami Amtrak train bogged down in an 18-foot snow drift near Muncie, Indiana and the 64 passengers and crew members anxiously waited one and one-half days before the crew of a railroad snowplow could carry them to shelter. Surely, we need God continually!

It behooves us as individuals and as a nation to direct our thoughts anew to our Lord, the God of nature. May we humbly renew our trust in Him and acknowledge with gratitude our continuing need of Divine Providence.



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

Jesus, The Carpenter's Son

Dear Girls and Boys,

Since this is the Easter season my thoughts are on the stories of Jesus and the land in which He lived. I thought of Nazareth and the scripture which asks, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" My answer and yours is, "Yes". After touring the Holy Land and visiting Nazareth, the boyhood home of Jesus, I recall many things.

We walked the cobblestone streets, gazed on the green Galilean hills, where Jesus went often to pray, looked up to the sky which is bluer than any place in Israel and thought, this is the place where Jesus played and grew. The writer in God's Word tells us, "He increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man". Today one goes the back alleyway to the old market place. It is a busy place. There are open stalls along a narrow street, little donkeys pulling carts filled with fruit and vegetables grown on the hillsides nearby. On the Street of Carpenters you will see carpenters, tailors and potters working with primitive tools, selling their wares.

There are many churches, convents and monasteries built in Nazareth. Many changes have taken place since Jesus was a boy. We know that He went to the synagogue every Sabbath to worship God. Matthew tells us Jesus taught in synagogues and his words astonished the people that they asked, "Whence hath this man this wisdom and these mighty works? Is not this the carpenter's son?" Jesus preached His first recorded sermon here. It is stated He could do no mighty works there "because of their unbelief".

The main water supply in Nazareth is "Mary's Well" or the "Well of the Virgin". It is now in an arched brick enclosure and the water comes out a faucet rather than being drawn by a rope or bucket. The water is still cool. Women in their native dress are seen coming to get water for their families. The government has done much in installing water works and electricity for the city of Nazareth. When I think of my visits to the Holy Land, I recall how real this song is, "Today I walked where Jesus walked and felt His presence There".

Jesus lived in Nazareth until He was thirty years old. Although He was born in Bethlehem, He came to be known as a Nazarene, Jesus of Nazareth, the Carpenter's Son.

Sincerely,

Sister Mabel

Our Women Today

Sister Davidson 106 Years Old

Sister Elizabeth Cadman Davidson celebrated her 106th birthday February 16, at an Open House held at the home of her niece Mabel Bickerton, West Elizabeth, Pa. She enjoyed visiting with friends and relatives. Brother John Majoros rendered several solos, among which was Sister Elizabeth's favorite hymn, "Guide Us Oh Thou Great Jehovah."

Sister Davidson is the daughter of the late Wm. and Elizabeth Cadman and sister of William H. and Alma Cadman. She was born February 16, 1872 in a log house near West Elizabeth. President U. Grant was president of the U. S. at that time. During the flu epidemic of World War I, she nursed at the Elizabeth Emergency Hospital. Later she traveled as a nurse companion to a friend, Anna Manown Scott. She has traveled extensively and has helped in sickness and distress wherever needed. She was baptized at the age of 15, October 1887 by Brother William Skillen. Her testimony is, "I never regretted the journey I started at the river's edge in my youth to work out my soul's salvation. With the help of God I will continue as long as life will last through obeying the Gospel. It has kept me from being entangled with the things of the world."

Sister Davidson has lived under the guidance of every president of The Church of Jesus Christ. She was the first president of the M.B.A., and has served as vice-president of the General Ladies' Uplift Circle. She was General Church Deaconess. Her life has been an example to many.

"Aunt Dee" as she is affectionately known, now resides at the Metcalf Care home for the elderly at Floreffe, Pa.

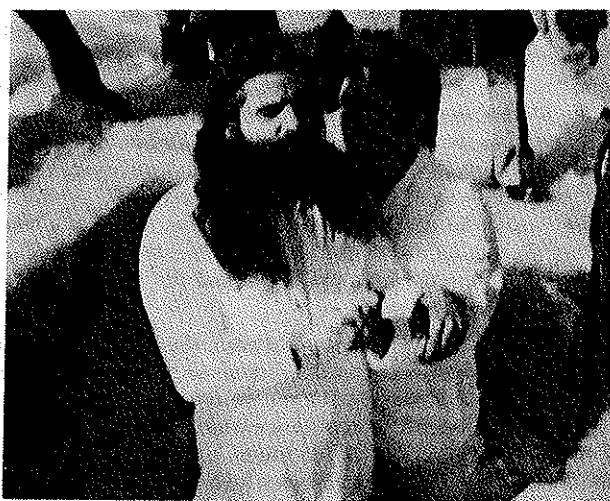
Lorain News

The Lorain Ladies Uplift Circle honored Sister Filomena Ceroni on her 80th birthday. In spite of the cold, bitter, night, The Circle conducted the service as planned in Sister Jennie Herstek's home. After the usual activities were completed the Sisters affectionately surprised Sister Filomena by singing, "Happy Birthday", and presenting her lovely cards and gifts. Our Sister's modest manner was very touching. She follows in the category of the adage, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Sister Filomena's membership in our Church dates back to 1930. Her testimony has always been filled with thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father for the many good things He has done for her and her family; namely, Sister Anne Lovalvo, Sister Vickie Calabrese and Brother Dominic R. Thomas, the President of our Church.

She is loved most for her thoughtfulness, kindness, ready smile, and the ready help she extends to all who need her. Never a bake sale, but our Sister's bread will be there, nor a social gathering or any other function, but the rolls, bread, and pizza will grace the tables, and is enjoyed by all who are present.

May God continue to richly bless her for the faithfulness, love, and help she extends to all who touch her life. To a dear Sister, many happy returns of the day.

Sister Marie Caldwell

BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS:—**Windsor, Canada News**

At the very beginning of November, Brother Bob Stanek felt a burning desire to give his testimony to a fellow worker. Given opportunity, he began to tell the Gospel to Armand Hotte. Brother Bob questioned this man as to his desire to hear the Gospel, because he felt he did not want God's word to be wasted. Armand and his wife, Marie, began to attend our services. Surely God moved upon this man and on January 15, 1978 he went into the frigid waters to be baptized. Two feet of ice was cut. God's spirit, warm and calm accompanied our Brothers as they entered the water. Brother Bob Stanek performed his first baptism, reaping the fruit of his labors.

Several were experiencing their first baptism where ice had to be cut. Among them was Brother Paul Holan and his mother, Sister Dorothy, from Niles. Jokingly it was brought to our attention how this was the first baptism our new Brother ever saw, and he had the opportunity to participate. In the afternoon service our Brother was confirmed by Brother Don Collison. Let us all remember our new Brother, his wife and God's tender mercies to the children of men.

The following Sunday, January 22, Sherry Finley from London, made a special effort to come to Windsor and have her two-year-old daughter, Brandy, blessed; her name to be written down and numbered with the children of God.

Sister Adrienne Collison
Branch Editor

Baptism And Visitors At Roscoe Branch

On Sunday, November 6, 1977, the Brothers and Sisters at the Roscoe Branch rejoiced to see another soul added to the fold. Sister Edith Snyder, who had been attending the meetings with us for the past few years, asked for her baptism the week before and entered the waters of baptism at Elco, Pa. Many Saints gathered along the Monongahela River shore to witness Brother Bud Martin baptize our Sister. We returned to The Church for our fellowship meeting and our Sister was confirmed by the Laying on of Hands by Brother Gasper Karelli. There was a large attendance to welcome our

new Sister into the fold. Several testimonies and hymns of joy gave praise to God for His goodness.

On Sunday, November 20 we were happy to have Brother Bob Buffington, his wife, Sister Arlene, along with Brother Dan Buffington and his wife, Sister Mary Lou with us for the day. Brother Bob opened the morning service speaking from *Matthew 11:1-7 verses*. The love and Spirit of God was felt among us as our Brother spoke concerning the necessity to serve God when trials come and that we should never be offended in God. He encouraged us to put both hands on the rod of iron; not one hand on the rod of iron and one upon the things of this world. He said we must serve God 100 per cent, putting Him first in our lives. Many beautiful words of life and testimony of God's goodness were delivered by Brother Bob. Our Brothers and Sisters from Imperial sang us a beautiful selection, "Amazing Grace". During the afternoon, we had our feet-washing service. A beautiful spirit was felt as we saw the love of God manifested among us. We truly enjoyed our visiting Brothers and Sisters and the sweet fellowship enjoyed together. May God bless them, along with our new Sister Edith as they endeavor to serve God, that they in turn may continue to be a blessing to others.

The Roscoe Branch

**REFLECTING ON THE YEAR 1977
TUCSON MISSION**

Since this is the beginning of the new year, we would like to look back for a moment and review some of the highlights of the past year. How often we forget the blessings that God has granted to us, so this seems like a good time to remember the many good things that have happened to us in the Tucson Mission.

We thank God for His wonderful love and care. Also that we have an opportunity to be part of His Church restored in these the last days. We look forward to the day when men and women everywhere will avail themselves of His goodness toward them.

We want to thank all the Brothers and Sisters who have visited us throughout the year. Also for all the many relatives and friends who have come because it has helped us and been a joy to us.

About a year ago, Brother Dick Christman was involved in a most serious car accident. We all know that, without a doubt, if it had not been for the prayers of the Saints and the help of God, our Brother would not be with us today. Truly a miracle. While this past year has been very difficult for Brother Dick and his family, we all hope and pray that the coming new year will bring good health and many blessings to our Brother and family.

We think of the many who have been anointed for so many different needs. We thank God for many times answering our prayers, and for keeping us from many dangers.

Sister Sara Neill related that while she was using an electric lawn mower, the machine stopped running. Not realizing that the power was on, she turned the machine over and began to clean out the bottom around the blade. A few moments after having turned the machine back over, the motor started up again. She realized then that

she could have had her hand cut off. She couldn't help but feel that God was with her and had spared her.

Some of our young people were privileged to go to the G.M.B.A. Campout in Pennsylvania and how we enjoyed all the good things we heard. We especially were excited when we received the news that Jimmy Brutz, Brother Tony and Sister Grace Brutz's son, was baptized at camp. Surely an answer to many prayers. He is a welcome addition to our mission and we pray that God will bless him all the days of his life.

Many of you know Brother George Neill and how he has suffered from a number of afflictions over the years. During one of our meetings Brother George related an experience that he said gave him to understand that life would not be easy for him. The experience did encourage him to go on. In his dream he found himself, along with a group of Saints, traveling by foot on a road leading to a very beautiful castle which was up ahead on a hill, because they knew that's where the blessings were. However, the road was in terrible shape. Big and small rocks, and holes, ditches, etc., making it very difficult to walk. Because of this, Brother George wanted to find an easier road for himself and the Saints. He then found a road which was paved and beautiful but after a while he seemed to be lost. After some meditation, he took a turn in the road and came upon the first road again, the one with all the holes, etc., and saw the Saints further up ahead struggling on this bad road, trying to get to the castle where the blessings were. Because of his detour, Brother George had fallen a little behind, but he was happy to be back on the bad road with the other Saints, striving to reach the castle where the blessings were.

We are happy to report, too, that in November, Brother Mark Landrey, M.B.A. organizer for this area, came to Tucson and we organized an M.B.A. local here. While we are not many, we did feel that it was necessary so that our young people could have more activities and gain from the experience of being part of the G.M.B.A. As it has in so many other locals, our prayer is that the M.B.A. might attract other young and old so that eventually they might become a part of the Church.

It's impossible to recall how many times that God has blessed us or helped us. We can only thank Him for His goodness toward us, both for the time we are aware of, and for the times we are not. We look forward to many more manifestations of His love and we pray that the new year may bring more souls into the Gospel restored. May God bless you all.

Brother Paul Francione
Tucson Editor

Greensburg Branch News

The Greensburg Branch received a blessing on Sunday, August 28, 1977 when Kathleen Rebosky was taken to the waters edge to be baptized. Brother Paul Gehly baptized and confirmed our new Sister. Sister Kathleen grew to be loved by all as she attended the Branch for several years. It brought great joy and thanksgiving to our hearts to watch our dear friend finally become our Sister in Christ. Our prayer is that God will Bless Sister Kathleen and keep her strong in the faith.

News From Rochester, New York

The Rochester, New York Mission started the New Year by having visitors, Apostle Nick Pietrangelo and his wife from Detroit, Michigan. The meeting was opened by singing Hymn, "Make Me A Blessing". Brother Nick chose for his text the 6th Chapter of Ephesians, 11-19 verses, "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil." We should all be strong in the Lord, by putting on the whole armour of God so we can stand all the power of evil. Jesus said, "I am the Life, the Truth and the Way. I will be with you until the end."

Brother Ansel D'Amico, the Presiding Elder, was the next speaker and commented, "Are we soldiers of the Cross? We should put on the whole Armour of God and be a good soldier, if we want to put up a good fight. The Word of God is the life of our souls. We should seek first the Kingdom of Heaven and everything else will be added unto us."

The meeting was then opened for testimony. Sacrament was administered and a wonderful spirit prevailed all during the meeting; God's blessings was felt by all.

On Wednesday evening, January 11, 1978 the members and friends of the Rochester Mission gathered at Brother and Sister Ansel D'Amico's home for a farewell party for Brother and Sister (Patsy) Marinetti and Sister Francione who are moving to Arizona. It was a beautiful evening as we all wished them well. In attendance were, Bob and Bonnie, Guido and Antoinette, Hope and Annie Marinetti and Miss Bachman our piano teacher who taught piano lessons to our pianists.

A beautiful cake was made with the inscription, "God Bless You Loved Ones, We will Miss You". They were presented with a digital clock to remind them of all the happy memories we spent together.

We then had a singspiration with Bob at the piano. A pleasant evening was had by all. We were dismissed by singing, "God Be With You Until We Meet Again". We want to wish them much success in their new venture and pray that God will send others to fill their places.

Sister Carmella D'Amico

Six Ordained

Sunday, October 2, 1977 at Detroit Branch No. 1, we opened our doors and welcomed four visiting elders to our house of worship. Brothers Dominic Thomas, Frank Morle, Joseph Shazer and Richard Santilli arrived for our morning meeting. We were also blessed with the presence of the visiting Ladies' Circle members. Needless to say, the House of God was full to capacity with souls longing to be fed.

Brother Nick Pietrangelo opened in prayer. Then visiting Brother Richard Santilli began a sermon which covered much Biblical History. He started with the importance of parents guiding their children in the ways of the Lord.

His second point was that of obedience to God as he illustrated that by the use of various scriptures, commencing with the time of Noah and ending with Joseph in Egypt.

Brother Joseph Shazer followed. He began by asking how many of us could be like those in the Bible, when God said go and they packed up and traveled.

He then turned his subject to Christ, His work and love. Brother Shazer said Christ, "brought the perfect way." In detail, he proceeded to describe what he meant by that phrase. He then bore his testimony of how he came into The Church. It was truly a stirring account. In closing he spoke of his expectations and desires in serving God.

Brother Dominic Thomas was the final speaker. He brought out some points made by our previous speakers and added some of his own thoughts. He talked about the day of judgement, and our responsibility to The Church and to our fellowman. He asked us to examine our lives to find where our values lie, are we putting God first? In closing, he asked, "Didn't Jesus do it all?"

Our meeting was concluded with prayer offered by Brother Frank Morle.

The afternoon meeting was equally as exciting. We had nine visiting elders. They had come to our Branch to witness the ordination of three teachers, two deacons and 1 deaconess.

The three Teachers called to serve were:

Brother Eugene Amormino — his feet were washed by Brother John Buffa and he was ordained by Brother Dominic Thomas;

Brother Richard Thomas — his feet were washed by Brother Frank Lombardi and he was ordained by Brother Louis Vitto;

Brother Thomas Everett — his feet were washed by Brother Peter Scolaro and he was ordained by Brother Spencer Everett.

The two Deacons called were:

Brother Dennis Everett — his feet were washed by Brother J. Veltman and he was ordained by Brother Norman Campitelle;

Brother Don Ruyle — his feet were washed by Brother Anthony Scolaro and he was ordained by Brother Paul Vitto.

Our new Deaconess is Sister Jennie Pietrangelo — her feet were washed by Sister Yolanda Pietrangelo and she was ordained by Brother Nick Pietrangelo.

Before closing Brother Nick Pietrangelo said a few words of encouragement and guidance to our newly ordained workers and their mates.

Our meeting was then closed in prayer by Brother Tullio LaCivita.

Sister Diana Thompson

News From The Omaha, Nebraska Area

The Sisters in Omaha are truly enjoying the blessings of God and the Lord has again laid it upon my heart to share some of our experiences with the Gospel News readers.

God continues to bless us as we gather each Sunday to pray, sing hymns, read scripture and/or give testimony as the Spirit directs us. As Sisters, striving alone for seven years to hold up the banner of Restoration in this

part of God's vineyard, we faced many trials and challenges, but now... Glory be to God... our faith in this work is becoming sight. We've had interested visitors attend our meetings on a regular basis; and what a blessing it has been to have people gather to hear our testimony of the Gospel restored in these the latter days.

During the past few months Brother Mitchell Edwards and Brother Jerry Giavonnone of Warren, Ohio Branch have made visits to Omaha to administer to us. We thank God for these Brothers' interest in the work here. We know that they have made sacrifices for the welfare of our souls and our prayer is that God will bless their efforts made on our behalf. They have encouraged us and challenged us in our faith.

Some might say... those poor Sisters out there all alone with no Elder or Brother; far from the main body of The Church... but we say don't weep for us, God is supplying ALL our needs. Just continue to pray for us. Scripture in the New Testament records the early Saints used the homes as their meeting places. Also Alma in *The Book of Mormon* preached to those desirous to hear the word of God in the thickets by the waters of Mormon where he re-established The Church. The Sisters here feel that even though we have no building, no Elder, not even a Brother, The Church of Jesus Christ does exist here and according to the plan that God has set forth here, we are thriving. We thank God that He has opened homes where we can meet in peace and harmony to worship and praise His holy name in spirit and in truth. We are careful to be prayerful in ALL that we do here because we know of assurance that "except the Lord conducts the plan, the best concerted schemes are vain and never can succeed."

At the end of the year we were inspired to gather for fast and prayer service. The Lord truly directed our service and He challenged us to extend ourselves more in 1978 for the sake of the Gospel. We have decided to attend the April Conference as a group. Some of the people who have been visiting our meetings have expressed a desire to attend Conference with us. We are planning to drive so that all who desire to come with us can. The drive to Conference for us is close to 2,000 miles roundtrip; but we are determined that with God ALL things are possible. God has softened the hearts of some of our husbands and they are assisting us in our plans to drive to Conference.

We expect to extend ourselves in other areas such as visiting the sick in hospitals and in their homes; and whenever possible doing what we can to make them more comfortable. Last week two of our Sisters visited the home of a woman who is almost totally paralyzed. They had liberty to read scripture with the woman and also give their testimonies. So where ever in this city that God opens the door, we intend to enter armed with our testimonies and the love of God; for we know that God is preserving that sincere few (spoken of in *The Book of Mormon*) in this city for our testimonies. We feel that by faithfully doing the work God instructs us to do, we can literally force God to move on our behalf and completely establish His work here. We know He is a God that keeps ALL His promises.

So you see our faith in the work here has grown stronger, our desire to do the will of God is firmer and our determination remains to be steadfast and unmovable at any cost in what we know God has given us. So

when you go into your secret closets to pray, remember the work in Omaha. Again we extend an open invitation to all to visit us in this part of God's vineyard.

Sister Dorothy Miller
111 Crestridge Drive
Bellevue, Nebraska 68005
(402) 29-6595

Cleveland, Ohio Branch No. 1 News

Christmas Day, December 25, 1977, will be a Sabbath Day long remembered in our Branch. During Sunday School the children gave us an inspiring program of poems, scripture reading, and Christmas carols.

In our morning service, Brothers Vince Gibson and Mario Milano both spoke of the love of God and the love we should have for our fellowman. If we have love, then peace will follow. We intended on having a short testimony meeting because the children were anxious to get home.

Mr. Rudy Peterson, a Seed of Joseph, asked for his baptism, and we all rejoiced because Brother Rudy has been attending our Branch for some time. Brother Vince Gibson and Brother Bill Hufnagle were instrumental in introducing Brother Rudy to the Gospel.

We went to the lake in Euclid, Ohio. It was very cold with waves about four feet high. As Brother Vince Gibson took Brother Rudy into the water, after trying several times to immerse our new Brother, a large wave came in and our Brother lost his footing. It was as if the wave were the arms of the Lord and enfolded our Brother, a most beautiful sight. We returned to the church building and our Brother was confirmed by Brother Mario Milano. Brother Rudy then told us how he had been thinking and praying for this and he knew this had to be the day.

We all went home with joy in our hearts as a Seed of Joseph had been reborn on the birthday of our Saviour. Our prayer is that this may be the start of the coming forth of the Seed of Joseph in this area.

Sister Margaret Abbott

Branch 1, Detroit, Michigan

On Sunday, January 22, 1978 we had in our presence a most welcome visitor, Brother Dominic Thomas, our Church President.

After Brother Dominic offered the opening prayer, he began his sermon. He stated, that people of the world are searching for a place of survival, they're looking for success and happiness. Then he divided people into two categories: the strong and the weak.

He said, the strong people of this world aren't looking for love. They use attention, affection and love, trying to gain recognition.

Although we do not look for the kind of strength the world hopes to attain, we do need spiritual strength. So in trying to encourage those of us who are weak he said, we can become stronger through self discipline. Brother Dominic spoke of times in his life when he had been spiritually weak, but added, that with God's help and hard work he has grown spiritually stronger.

In speaking to us of what we ought to be, and he

doing he said, as individuals we have our own talents and as a Church we have a responsibility. If this Church does what it is supposed to do we will be a strong Church. If we as individuals do what we are supposed to do, we will be a strong people.

Brother Dominic prepared us against the evil one by saying, the harder we work for The Church, the harder the enemy of our soul works.

He expressed to us the fact that, if we expect The Church to grow, we as individuals will have to be more committed to the Lord's work. Then our Branches will become more fruitful.

He advised us that, if we want to be better servants of the Lord, we will have to plan our spiritual lives. He said, "Keep your feet on the straight and narrow path."

Brother Dominic went further by stating that our strength is limited and should be used wisely. He reminded us also, that our strength is in the Lord.

Our morning meeting was then closed in prayer, offered by Brother Spencer Everett.

Sister Diane Everett

Meetings At The Rex Hotel, Detroit

The Urban Indian Committee, assisted by a number of Brothers, Sisters and friends has begun conducting meetings in the lobby of the Rex Hotel, downtown Detroit every Sunday morning. The meetings usually last from 10:30 A.M. until 12:15 P.M. After each service, we serve refreshments. This time allows us an opportunity to meet with the visitors that attend our services and, in some cases, make arrangements to visit them in their dwelling places.

Our first meeting at the Rex Hotel was held June 5, 1977. The Spirit of God was felt by all in that meeting and, praise God, He has been with us ever since. During our first meeting, we witnessed the blessing of two small Indian children, Tim and Tom Seneca. In the meetings, many of our visitors express themselves, some ask to be anointed and, praise God, some are healed. Many of our visitors just keep coming back because they feel God's love, His blessings and His Spirit. We were privileged to witness the baptism of Sister Marguerite Heath, who along with her husband, Brother Mervin Heath, have been attending our meetings.

Sacrament is administered by our Elder Brothers every Sunday to the attending Brothers and Sisters.

Brother Roy and Sister Jean DePerno's past interest and activities within the American Indian community in the Detroit area have proven invaluable to our committee's efforts thus far. We are grateful to God for their dedication to this work. Sister Jan Steinrock has volunteered to take care of the Sunday School and has done a masterful job in providing a growing number of children with good teaching material and excellent instruction.

With respect to the mission among the Seed of Joseph in downtown Detroit, only God knows what is yet to come and how He will further manifest Himself within this work. We are grateful to Him that another door has been opened where the Gospel may be preached and where others may have an opportunity to receive their soul's salvation.

Please pray for all those who are involved in what appears to be a fruitful and productive work. Please pray for Joseph's Seed, that their hearts might be opened and their minds might understand the precious value of *The Book of Mormon* and that they might accept its call to repentance and receive salvation.

God bless you.

Sister Leona Buffa

M. B. A. Highlights

GMBA Activity Committee Meets

by

James D. Gibson, GMBA Editor

The GMBA Activity Committee met at the Monongahela Church Building on February 11, 1978.

The main subject for discussion was the forthcoming GMBA Campout. The camp will be held at Massenetta Springs in Virginia. The Camp Director will be Brother Ken Staley assisted by Brother Jim Huttenburger. Camp will run from June 10 to 17. The rules for camp were discussed and will be clarified in the Camp Information Booklet. The feasibility of holding future campouts in one specific location is to be considered. This would allow our group to have preferences on camp dates.

A report was given concerning the future publication in the Gospel News of Mission Fields. This was passed on at the past GMBA Conference. The article will have pictures and a comprehensive report of all mission fields of the Church.

A report concerning the coloring books was given. There are still plenty of copies available for sale. Everyone is encouraged to use them in classes and for personal use.

A card was sent to Sister Elizabeth Davidson on her 106th birthday. She was the first President of the GMBA.

Begin now to prepare for the 1978 Campout.

Apostles Meet In Florida

The Brothers and Sisters of the Florida District were very happy to have the Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ meet in Florida. This was their regular meeting held prior to the April Conference to take care of the business of the Apostles, and was held in Lake Worth. According to what we have heard the Apostles had good meetings and accomplished what they set out to do. Their meetings were held on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, January 26 thru 28. Saturday evening was open to all and Apostle Brother Joseph Lovalvo of California showed slides and talked on his missionary work in Mexico among the Indians. On Sunday, January 29, a gathering of the Florida District was held in Lake Worth. Eight Apostles were in attendance and the meeting was turned over to them. Brother James Lovalvo sang a solo, "My Friend", which he composed. Brother Paul D'Amico of Lockport, New York opened the meeting and several of

the other apostles followed. Their theme was from *Psalm* 121 - "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help". Space does not allow us to elaborate upon their talks, they were beautiful and we enjoyed them and the spirit that accompanied them.

All in the Florida District appreciate that our Apostle Brothers chose Florida to hold their meetings this year and we are enjoying their fellowship and visit of those who are still here. Among other meetings held in this district and which some of the Apostles have attended, was the first meeting held in the Tampa Mission new building on Sunday, February 5. Our congratulations and best wishes are extended to the Saints in Tampa and our prayer is that the Lord will continue to bless them. A tentative date for the dedication of this building has been set for May 28.

Elsie M. Ensana
Editor - Florida District

Pennsylvania District Conference

The Semi-Annual Conference of the Pennsylvania District was held at the Vanderbilt Branch on Saturday, February 18, 1978.

Brother John Manes, District President, presided over the conference, assisted by his counsellors Brothers James Grazan and Russell Cadman.

Brother Grazan opened the meeting with a few comments and special prayer was had by Brother Russell Cadman for the sick.

Brother Manes instructed the elders to participate and strive to complete the business of the District.

Some of the Business that was discussed was the reading of Brother Ryan Ross's testimony concerning his experience and God's healing him of his affliction. It was accepted that this testimony be recorded in our District History.

Also all branches and organizations were instructed that all donations for Africa are to be made through Brother Richard Lawson.

A committee chaired by Brother Joseph Ross was elected to formulate activities of the district such as joint meetings, outings, seminars, etc.

All activities will be subject to approval by the District Officers.

Due to the fact that the snow had not been removed completely from the General Church Auditorium parking lot, the Sunday Service was not held there.

The Branches of Fredonia, McKees Rocks, and Imperial met at the Aliquippa Branch, while the Branches of Vanderbilt, Clairton, Greensburg and Roscoe met at the Monongahela Branch for the Sunday Services.

The elections of Officers were as follows.

President: Paul Palmieri (recommended)

1st Counselor: Richard Lawson

2nd Counselor: J. Fred Olexa

Secretary: Arthur Gehly

Assistant Secretary: Harry Robinson, James King.

Financial Secretary: Thomas Ross

Treasurer: Anthony Ross

Auditors: Dan Tadarro, Lawrence King.

Librarian: Richard Scaglione
 Assistant Librarian: Glen Collins
 Historian: Idris Martin
 Assistant Historian: Charles King
 Editor: Alvin Gehly

The Appeal Committee consists of Brothers James Campbell, John Olexa and Dan Casasanta.

The District Mission Board are as follows: Brothers James Campbell, Joseph Shazer, Joseph Ross, John Manes, Alma Nolfi, Paul Palmieri and Dan Casasanta.

We wish God's blessings upon these who have been elected to conduct the business of the District.

A standing vote of thanks was given to our previous officers who have completed their term.

Brother Bob Nicklow
 Pa. District Editor

— NEW ARRIVALS —

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

Charles Edward to Eric and Dana Anderson of Greensburg, Pennsylvania,

Benjamin Francis to Gary and Karen Ciccatti of Pasadena, California,

Jonathan Eric to Edward and Betty Eiler of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania.

— WEDDINGS —

HOLAN - COLLISON

Brother Paul Holan and Sister Arlene Collison were united in holy wedlock at The Church of Jesus Christ in Windsor, Ontario Canada on February 11, 1978.

The ceremony was officiated by Brothers Bob Ciarrochi and Don Collison, the bride's father. Musical selections were presented by the quartet of Brother John and Sister Barbara Straccia, Sister Lori Gosselin and Sister Patty Ignagni. Jeff Thomas accompanied at the piano.

The newlyweds are residing in Niles, Ohio.

LOMBARDO - RISOLA

Brother Kenneth Lombardo and Sister Florence Risola were united in marriage at the Hopelawn Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ on Saturday, December 31, 1977. Brother August D'Orazio officiated at the ceremony. Sister Elise Molisani sang the musical selections and she was accompanied by Brother Gary Ensana. The couple will reside in Bloomfield, New Jersey.

WOLFF - KUZIN

On Saturday, October 22, 1977, Miss Mary Lou Kuzin and Mr. Robert A. Wolff were united in holy matrimony at The Church of Jesus Christ in Greensburg, Pa.

Brother John Ali, uncle of the bride, officiated at the wedding ceremony assisted by Brother Paul Gehly.

Vocal musical selections were presented by John Narretto, cousin of the bride, and accompaniment was provided by Sister Erma Draskovich.

The newlyweds will reside in Clovis, New Mexico while the groom continues his service in the United States Air Force.

● OBITUARIES ●

GLORIA LEFTWICH

Sister Gloria Leftwich, a member of the Clairton Branch, passed on to her eternal reward February 12, 1978. She was born on June 28, 1941 and was baptized on December 8, 1973. She is survived by her husband and two daughters, brothers and sisters.

Brother English Webb, Jr. officiated at the funeral services and was assisted by Brothers Daniel Casasanta and Harry Robinson.

She was a faithful Sister striving even in her affliction to praise God.

JOHN GAMMICHIA

Brother John Gammichia passed from this life on February 3, 1978. He was born on September 18, 1897 and was baptized on June 4, 1933. He was ordained an Elder on June 20, 1940.

Brother John was a member of Detroit Branch No. 2 and tarried many years as a warrior for the Lord both in his home Branch and in the missionary field. His many talents both natural and spiritual were used for the Church.

He is survived by his wife, two daughters, one son, five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, four sisters and one brother.

Brothers Reno Bologna and Dominic Thomas conducted the funeral service.

MARY DECCOLA

Sister Mary Deccola of the Cleveland, Ohio Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ passed on to her heavenly reward on January 19, 1978. She was born on December 8, 1910 and was baptized on August 14, 1938.

The funeral services were conducted by Brothers Mario Milano and Rocco Biscotti.

She is survived by eight children, four grandchildren, two brothers and one sister.

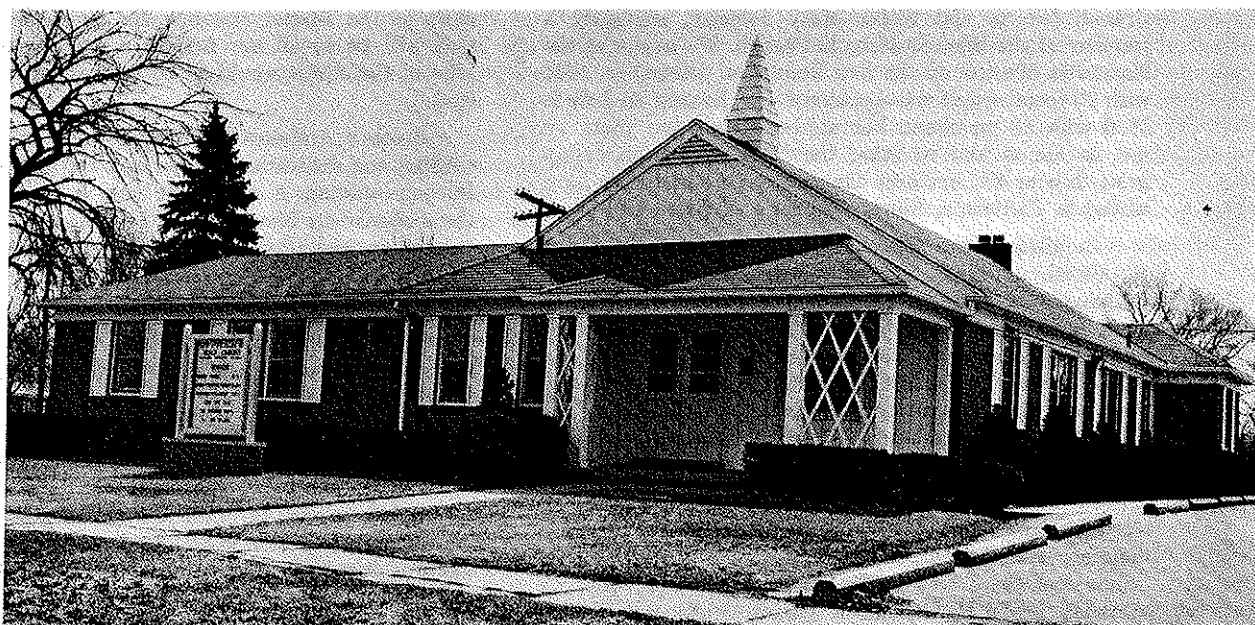
The GOSPEL NEWS

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DEDICATION SERVICES AT REDFORD TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN

The members and friends of Branch No. 4 met Saturday evening, March 11, 1978 for a pre-dedication service. Joining with us were Brother Dominic Thomas, Joseph and Vicki Calabrese along with their son, Joel, from Lorain, Ohio.

After a season of singing our meeting was opened by Brother Joseph Calabrese. He spoke on WISDOM in selecting a Church building, and looking towards the future to reach others with the Restored Gospel. He also spoke on the precious memories of those who have gone on to their reward who had contributed much effort to the Church. He commended all for the much work and improvement that had been done to make the building more comfortable and pleasant, befitting the House of the Lord.

Brother Joel Calabrese sang a solo entitled, "More Like the Master". Many testimonies were given thanking God for His wonderful and miraculous provision of a place of worship, and relating the numerous experiences that God had given in the selection of our building. Truly "The Lord works in mysterious ways His wonders to per-

form", in providing for His children. Especially when we put all our trust in Him, knowing what seems impossible for us is always possible for Him. Sister Julia Cottellesse sang "O God Our Church".

Brother Dominic Moraco spoke briefly commending our Presiding Elder, Anthony Lovalvo, and our members and friends who had worked tirelessly and unselfishly daily for three months in preparation for our dedication. We closed with prayer by Brother Gorie Ciaravino.

The remainder of the evening was spent socializing with each other and enjoying the delicious cake and ice cream served. Congratulations were given to Brother Gorie and Sister Ann Ciaravino in honor of their 40th Wedding Anniversary and birthday congratulations to Sister Rosalie Campitelle and Larry Moraco.

Sunday, March 12. The day dawned bright and brilliant with sunshine. The Lord gave us a beautiful day for the dedication of our Church Building. It was truly appreciated after one of the coldest and longest winters in our local history.

We were honored with an overflowing attendance of many Brothers, Sisters and friends from the Michigan

District and Ohio. We began our service with community singing led by Brother Frank Conti, with Sister Barbara Mangiapane at the piano and Sister Diane Hawkins at the organ. Brother Anthony Lovalvo, Presiding Elder of Branch No. 4, greeted and welcomed all present. He thanked all those who had contributed and helped in our endeavor to prepare our building. Acknowledgement was made for the many congratulatory messages received from far and near and the many beautiful floral tributes. He introduced the General Church Officers and District Officers present. The Champine brothers, Gary, Steve, Claude and Larry, of Sterling Heights sang one of their compositions, "Come Unto Me". A beautiful prayer was offered by Brother Paul Vitto. The Quartet sang "Jesus is the Cornerstone".

Brother Anthony Lovalvo read our early history and acknowledged the presence of our charter members, Brother Gorie Ciaravino and Sister Carmella Castelli of Branch No. 4, and Sister Mary Johnson, currently a member of the Sterling-Heights Branch. We began as the Northside Mission on the first Sunday of December, 1934 with 20 members. It was organized as a Branch on July 9, 1938 with 38 members. For approximately ten years we met in homes and in other buildings. Our membership grew to over 85, but over the years many members have moved to California, Florida, Arizona, Virginia and Ohio.

In 1948 a basement church was erected at 15041 W. Chicago, Detroit, Michigan and six years later the building was completed and dedicated to the glory of God. We worshipped there for 27 years, after which the building was sold on January 9, 1975. We met jointly with Branch No. 2 Allen Park, Michigan for almost two years and then began to hold meetings at Westland and Wonderland Centers. On September 1, 1977 we purchased our present building. Brother Lovalvo also read to us an inspiring poem entitled "A Dedication Poem of Prayer".

The meeting was then turned over to Brother Dominic Thomas, our General Church President. He then announced there was an infant to be blessed, Kenneth Anthony Bruno II. His father, Dennis Bruno, was blessed at the dedication of our old church building. Brother Tullio LaCivita asked the Lord's blessing upon the child. We were then honored with a beautiful solo, "The 23rd Psalm" by Alyse Molisani.

Brother Nick Pietrangelo addressed the congregation. He spoke on how God provides when our resources are exhausted. He brought out how when it seemed extremely difficult to re-establish a Branch; the Lord saw our desires and provided. He read *Psalms 27th chapter, verse 4*, and spoke on bringing in souls to hear the Gospel and to behold the beauty of the Lord, also how our church building is going to be used as a center of worship, prayer and comfort. A place to hear the word of the Lord together with our members and friends. He stressed how nowhere can you find peace except in the House of the Lord and extended an invitation to those who desire this peace. We sang Hymn No. 81, "Rejoice Ye Saints of Latter Days".

Brother Gorie Ciaravino then followed, bringing out how the members themselves are "Temples of God". He uses us to perform His work. We are serving an "unchangeable God" who will hear and answer our prayers and petitions. As mortal beings we should be preparing constantly for our life to come. Preparing our souls as diligently as we have labored to prepare the house in

which we worship God. We sang Hymn No. 93, "The Church's One Foundation".

Brother Dominic Thomas then addressed the congregation. He referred to the words of Jesus, "I will build my Church", but He was not speaking of earthly materials. He had a different kind of building in mind. He established the Church of that day and staffed it with many helps and adorned it with numerous spiritual gifts. He himself was the cornerstone of that Church. Brother Thomas spoke of the "falling away" so quickly after the death of the Apostles. It became necessary for God to re-establish the Church of these later times. Again in a short time Apostasy took place. The Saints were scattered. William Bickerton was left alone. He prayed and followed the direction of God and began to build anew. The Lord will use us to build His Church wherever He leads us. We were cautioned to let nothing disrupt what He has given to us, and to involve ourselves to spread the good news of the Gospel restored. He prays the presence of God will be in all our buildings and the workings and gifts of the Spirit would be so evident those seeking will find.

Brother Anthony Lovalvo thanked everyone for attending our dedication service and for the generous gifts for our building. A sacrament case to be used in visiting the shut-ins was blessed by Brother Alex Gentile. Brother Lovalvo invited all to remain after the service for a buffet luncheon.

The quartet from Sterling sang another of their compositions entitled "Seed of Joseph". Dismissed with prayer of thankfulness for a day well spent by Brother Joseph Calabrese.

The Lord has blessed us with a very beautiful building in a wonderful location. We are happy to mention there is no mortgage to burn in the future, as with the money we received from our old building and the pledges of our members and dear friends we were able to purchase it debt free. Our desire is to concentrate on sharing our wonderful Saviour with our many friends and introducing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our new area.

SING ME THE SONGS OF ZION

Sing me the songs of Zion saints, and point me to the way.
My blindness fades as faith sets in so I can see the day.
Tell me again how Zion's land shall not remember pain,
Then sing about my heart's desire, the blessed latter reign.

Sing me the songs I love to hear, tell me about the Seer.
Oh sing above the raging world, oh sing away the fear.
Repeat again the prophesy, and clarify to me;
Fair Zion blooms, you say it blooms and I will shortly see.

Sing once again the time has come the hour is at the door.
When peace will reign a thousand years and war will be no more.

Say it again, I love to hear, my Jesus will I see.
Will He be king upon the land as it was told to me?

Sing me the songs of Zion saints, and say again it's near.
As thunder roars across the sky, my heart is prone to fear.
Come then and make the message clear and tell again to me;

The peaceful reign is here, it's here, be patient and you'll see.

by Arlene Buffington

TO THE GOSPEL NEWS

The Lord worked upon me in reading "The November issue." I found much blessing in the different articles I read, in fact, all of this issue was an inspiration to the spirit that at wee hours of the morning I was inspired to write to you.

At 1:30 a.m. sleep left me and I was counting my blessings to the Lord. I'd sing within me the hymns of the Church, but still I couldn't get to sleep. Suddenly different faces appeared before me. So I asked the Lord, "Are they in need of prayer?" More faces came to me, especially young ones gone astray, so I turned my night into prayer. When I got through I picked up *The Gospel News* I had read upon going to bed. In reading the Editorial page of Brother Neill in thanking God, I find that our thanks could be put to wider and different ways.

He opens up ways where we see no way. This Gospel has shown me a wide range of God's ways and we learn every day, if we stay within the beam of light. Every article in this month's issue has been a blessing to me. Even Brother Jim Lovalvo answered a question in his article. I was searching and God answers. We are not worthy even to utter His name, still we love Him deeply and He loves us more. We praise God from time to time for all the family of God.

When Sister Heaps first came to visit me in Yucaipa, she opened my eyes to something I could not see. When someone retired they came to this beautiful valley. The Indians called it that name because it means Green Valley. But it has a perfect climate and in winter we see snow five miles away, while here in the valley we have vegetables all year. My husband and I came to help start a mission and my eyes were blind to notice that nothing but old people lived here. But God saw fit to plant a vineyard here and now the blessings are turned to where all the young find it the best place to raise their family. Let's pray that many more will come to this Green Valley.

God has blessed us after twelve years with a resident Elder, Brother Frank Genaro, a very patient Brother and just recently, in the Anaheim Conference, they ordained Brother Clarence Kirkpatrick an Elder. We now have two Elders. Let's pray that we will be able to reach many young folks who have the strength of their youth, for one by one, we old ones are going home.

Yucaipa was and still is a place where elderly people retire. Many live long and many die soon after. That is why we thank God that my life and all who may come here will find God's work started. Thank God for opening up ways where there were no ways. We are only a few Saints but faithful. Brother Frank has the patience that we needed here. We thank God who gave us foreknowledge and strength.

Sister Mary Spata

Editor's Note: Sister Spata is about 82 years of age. She is to be commended for her continuing interest and activity in the Church despite her advanced years. God bless you, Sister Spata, along with your husband; and may He sustain both of you in your service to others.

WEST AFRICAN ECHO

While we all felt a great deal of soberness in bidding farewell, Nephi, Jr. and Jared's excitement about their new venture was beginning to mount as the trip was now a reality. For the time being they were not fully aware that two years would be a long time before they would see family and friends again. All that mattered, at the moment, was that they were going to Africa. As we stood in line to board the plane it was no secret that our final destination would be Nigeria, West Africa. The boys seemed to have discussed our entire itinerary with everyone. They were excited about being missionary children. A whole new world was beginning to unfold before them. They were totally absorbed with everything that was happening. They continued their chatter on the plane. They were full of inquiries as they sat in the plane. Then as the plane was beginning to prepare for take-off, a mixture of joy and fear came over them. Jared's enthusiasm began to wane when he became airsick. Lorraine also experienced the same problem. We now began to relax from the excitement and tenseness of leaving everyone. The highlight of our flight came when the boys were invited to the cockpit of the plane to watch the pilot and his crew operate the craft. About midnight it was evident that their little bodies had run out of energy and they finally began to get some rest.

Our plane left Detroit at 6:15 P.M. and while enroute to Boston we encountered a rainstorm which caused a one hour delay in landing. After the boarding of passengers the plane flew directly to London arriving at 3:30 A.M., E.D.T. or 8:30 A.M. London time. For us it was still early morning and besides we had gotten very little sleep; we were all very tired. Our weariness was not aided when we went to our hotel and found that our rooms were not available. To our dismay we waited two hours for our rooms to become available. Now, the greatest problem we had was getting adjusted to the time change.

Our stay in London for three days and two nights proved to be a good preparation for our trip to Nigeria. There was no looking back. Constant mental and spiritual meditation and prayer were necessary. Being in London also helped our children in overcoming the loneliness of leaving home.

The children were very excited about our tour of London and seeing such historic sights as Big Ben, Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace, St. Paul's Cathedral, the Tower of London and a day at Windsor Castle. Our sightseeing proved, to some extent, to stabilize our emotions and keep our minds occupied.

However, at night I had many sober moments. At night, rather than sleep soundly because of being very tired, I found myself waking up at 2:20 P.M. both nights in London. I found myself praying and meditating much. A great burden of responsibility fell upon me. I thought of the safety and welfare of Lorraine, the boys and the Coppa's. I was faced squarely with the responsibility for their well being. My soul was greatly troubled even to the point of ideas entering my mind that I was a fool for what I was doing. Certainly the Coppa's presence was a source of encouragement and fellowship. It was a wonderful privilege to have them with us.

Many times the children refer to the Coppa's being with us in England and here in Nigeria. The Coppa's and the trip to England has caused the boys to reminisce quite

often. Many times the boys remind us of what they had seen and experienced. The Grenadier Guards' scarlet coats, black pants, highly polished black shoes and their total neatness gave the boys an unforgettable experience. They were awed at the changing of the guard and the refusal of the guards to be distracted by the crowds, by always being at absolute attention. The highlight of watching the guards came when one of the guards inconspicuously stuck his tongue out at Nephi, Jr. and Jared.

Unfortunately our stay in London was now over and we prepared to leave for Nigeria. We left London at 11:15 P.M. after a one hour and fifteen minute delay and arrived in Lagos, the capital of Nigeria, on Friday, July 29, 1977 at 6:30 A.M. We experienced a great change in temperature. In London it was rather cool; the temperature was between 50-60 degrees F for which we had not made adequate preparation. Now, we felt the intense heat of the tropics. The heat became overwhelming when we began to compete with the crowd to be processed through immigration, health cards and customs. There were no lines formed at each of these stations. People merely converged on these stations with shoving and pushing. The heat did not ease the intensity of everyone's emotions. There was no air-conditioning in the building, just ceiling fans circulating hot air. Even though we did not experience any time change, we again had not rested very well on our flight which did not ease the tension we began to feel. It was early morning and we were already exhausted. Later we would find ourselves totally exhausted from the day's activities.

After more than two grueling and exhausting hours through immigration and customs, our spirits were given new life when we met the Saints from Lagos anxiously awaiting our arrival since 5:00 A.M. We were immediately uplifted by their expression of love and kindness toward us. We were not afraid nor did we feel lonely anymore. The Saints had given us the necessary comfort we needed to get over some of the tense and anxious moments we had experienced. Brother Etim, the presiding officer of Lagos, had chartered a bus to take us to the Airport Hotel. Our transportation cost was greatly reduced by this arrangement. Certainly our arrival had been made better by the arrangements our Brother Etim and the Saints of Lagos had made for us. Upon arriving at the hotel we discovered one piece of our luggage missing. Lorraine, Susan and one of the Brothers who is a government officer returned to the airport and retrieved the luggage while the rest of us made arrangements for our accommodations.

After getting our accommodations, Brother Gary, Brother Etim and I left for Lagos at 11:30 A.M. to conduct some affairs. We had to arrive before 1:30 P.M. when most of the places of business would close. While going to Lagos we were in one gigantic traffic jam. The intense heat was not adding to our comfort. While the car was sitting in the hot tropical sun, waiting for the traffic to move, and the perspiration rolling down our bodies Brother Gary and I simultaneously fell asleep. It was done without any real effort, we just could no longer keep our eyes open.

When we returned from our affairs in Lagos, Brother Gary and I were totally exhausted. Physically and mentally drained, we met with the Saints, numbering about twenty, in our hotel room. The Saints hosted a meeting of

singing and prayer. Brother Etim spoke to us and acknowledged his gratefulness to God for our safe arrival. The Saints sang many beautiful hymns to lift our spirits.

We were very exhausted after our Brothers and Sisters departed. The thought of rising at 5:00 A.M. the next morning to catch our plane to Port Harcourt was not at all encouraging. The children were now feeling the strain of the trip; they had lost a bit of their vibrant and outgoing spirit. However, by the Grace of God they were able to withstand our constant movement with surprising endurance.

The next morning, Saturday, July 30, 1977, we were met at the airport by Brother Etim, his wife and daughter Esther, a student at the Secondary School. They never left our side and did many things to ensure our comfort and safety.

Our hopes, in the near future, are to visit Lagos on an extended visit. Many times the Saints in Lagos do not have the benefit of hosting the missionaries for more than one day as the missionaries continue on to Abak, the headquarters of the Church. The cost of lodging makes an extended stay difficult. A double room for my family cost \$77.50 a day and the Coppa's was \$51.15 for three. However, in our next visit we intend to make arrangements for accommodations and meals that would cut cost. Our meals at the hotel were rather disappointing for \$6.60 and the quality and quantity left much to be desired.

The total cost of our flight from Detroit to Lagos via London was \$2,320.00. The Nigerian Government paid for the cost of our flight as well as our food, lodging and transportation in Lagos. This is due to my teaching appointment.

We had a relatively smooth trip to Port Harcourt. It was the rainy season and usually the trip from Lagos to Port Harcourt is rather turbulent and the flights can be cancelled or delayed for extended periods of time. However, everything went according to schedule and we were hopeful that our Brothers and Sisters from Abak would be there to meet us. They did not disappoint us; there were approximately fifty Brothers, Sisters and friends including Brother E. A. U. Arthur, President of the Church in Nigeria; and Evangelist, his wife, Sister Rachel Arthur; Brother G. F. Arthur, secretary of the Church; Brother E. A. Ebong, Evangelist and our interpreter; and also Brother George Ekpo who recently returned from his studies in America. We were warmly greeted by everyone and were then taken to the Presidential Hotel for breakfast and refreshments.

Our trip from Port Harcourt to Atai Otoro, Abak our new home, took four hours for a distance of ninety miles. The roads were bad due to the heavy rains in July.

Upon arriving at our new home we were greatly disappointed that the mission house had not been completed. We were tired and exhausted from our long journey and the heat we experienced did nothing to relieve our disappointment.

Nephi DeMercurio, Sr.

(To be continued.)

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Editorial Viewpoint

LEST WE FORGET

A Tribute to all Mothers

By Mark Randy

The Ladies Uplift Circle has in the past and still is now playing a very important part in the building and sustaining our Church, both with uplifting by association with each other and helping financially to the worthy cause of the Missionary endeavor. Also their prayers are a strength to many invaluable causes.

My first experience with the Ladies Uplift Circle came as I took my mother and my sisters to a fasting and prayer meeting. They permitted me to stay. At the dismissal with prayer, a Sister spoke in unknown tongue. I understood the strange words, "Your prayers are before me, but the man for whom you pray is not worthy, therefore the blessing returns to you." I had no knowledge of the man for whom they were praying.

During World War II, the Ladies met every Thursday morning praying for peace and that our soldiers would return home. They continued in this manner until the War was over. Many of us fasted with them though at our place of work. One day an unusual experience happened. I heard them praying while at work. I also heard Jim and Joseph Lovalvo singing, "My Jesus I Love Thee". My voice blended with theirs and the Sisters though we were miles apart. That night as we met at Sister Marietta Ruzzi's home, we related our blessing, but Brothers Jim and Joseph Lovalvo had a greater blessing than I.

Though the three of us heard Sister Helen Campitelle speak in tongues, Brother Jim and Joe Lovalvo prayed for the interpretation and as they prayed Jim saw an altar with a human heart on it and the smoke ascended into heaven. Also a voice spoke saying, "Your prayers have come to me this day as an acceptable offering."

These were the Mothers that nurtured us in Christ. This experience will live in my heart and mind forever. Today you are still the Mothers of all of us who salute you in this special day. Your love, care and prayers are still a sustaining strength to all of us.

This poem I dedicate to all of you the living and in memory of those who have gone to their rest with God.

With love and admiration

THIS IS A MOTHER

A Virtuous mother that cares enough
Is like a jewel true, priceless.
Helps the mental and spiritual growth
By her Wisdom, Kindness, and Caress.

This Is A Mother

She has an added gift untold
Because in her trust children grow.
She's a special person above gold
By her children you will know.

This Is A Mother

Her Husband sings her a refrain
Her children will call her blessed.
Favour's deceitful, beauty is vain
But Mothers that fear God are praised.

This Is A Mother.





The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

Abigail

Dear Girls and Boys,

This is an interesting story about Abigail one of David's wives. When they first met, he was a shepherd hiding from King Saul in the wilderness of Paran. Along with about six hundred bodyguards, they were protecting flocks of sheep of many herdsman. There were prowling thieves in the area stealing the sheep.

Nabal, the husband of Abigail, was one of the richest men there. He had more than three thousand sheep and one thousand goats. It was sheep-shearing season and Nabal had many guests at their home. It must have been spacious to have entertained so many guests. Abigail, the scripture states, "was of a beautiful countenance as well as a woman of good understanding". Of Nabal we are told, he was "churlish and evil in his doings".

David sent ten of his men up to the hills to ask for a little food during feasting time. David's own provisions were running low. The ten men couldn't carry away much food. David's men should have been welcome at the feast; but Nabal who had been drinking too heavily, railed on them. This angered David. They had befriended Nabal and now were not given food.

One of the workers told Abigail and reminded her that David and his men had been like a wall of protection to Nabal's herdsman and now needed food. She knew how rashly Nabal acted when he drank too much. She hurriedly prepared food for David and his six hundred men. She took two hundred loaves of bread, two bottles of wine, five sheep already dressed, five measures of parched corn, one hundred clusters of raisins and two hundred cakes of figs and loaded them on asses. Then she mounted an ass herself and rode to the mountain where David and his men were. She begged forgiveness for Nabal's actions. She had not told her husband she was doing this.

When Abigail arrived home, she found her husband still feasting and drinking. Later when he heard about all she had done and how David could have slain him, Nabal became violently ill and died. When David heard of Nabal's death he desired to have Abigail for his wife. She accepted his invitation for marriage. She said, "Behold, let thine handmaid be a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord." Little is recorded about Abigail after her marriage to David but she is remembered as an understanding woman.

Sincerely,

Sister Mabel

This is an experience that I had today. I wish to share it with you. I've been so confused lately that I'm not thinking as I should. I went to the mail box to mail a letter, and I locked myself out of the house. I was so upset, but, again, thank God for my wonderful neighbors who came to my aid.

We had to break a window to get into the house. When I got inside, I had to sit down. As I sat down, I reached inside my purse and found a little book. It was opened to a poem titled "DON'T QUIT".

DON'T QUIT

When things go wrong as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill;
When the funds are low and the debts are high,
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh;
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest, if you must, but don't you quit!

Life is queer with its twists and turns,
As everyone of us sometimes learns;
And many a failure turns about,
When he might have won had he stuck it out;
Don't give up, though the pace seems slow,
You may succeed with another blow.

Success is failure turned inside out,
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt;
And you never can tell just how close you are,
It may be near when it seems so far;
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit —
It's when things seem worst that you must not quit!

Yes, Brothers and Sisters, we will have many trials in our lifetime, but with our beloved Saviour we will triumph. I never had any children of my own; but, God gave me many beautiful nieces and nephews who are praying for us and fasting. God bless each and everyone of you and may He never leave our side is my constant prayer.

Sincerely,

Your Sister-In-Christ,

Nell Kohler

Homecoming

When Sister Marie (Mary) Campitelle entered our Church building at Branch No. 1 in Detroit, Michigan our hearts filled with joy.

We deeply missed our dear sister in Christ. As Sister Mary rose to her feet, she gave a beautiful testimony. It began by giving praise to, and telling of her love for God. She then asked to be reinstated into The Church.

Many prayers had been offered in her behalf, an on January 8, 1978 the Lord heard our united voices. We now offer our prayers of thanks, for the return of our dear Sister, to the family and fold of Christ.

Our Women Today —**LADIES CIRCLE CONFERENCE**

The General Ladies Uplift Circle meeting was held at Glassport, Pennsylvania on March 4, 1978. Sisters were present from Canada, Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

The Sisters of the Glassport Circle sang "More Like the Master", read the Scripture from *Galatians* and then sang "Bringing in the Sheaves". The theme of their program was "Fruits of the Spirit". Sister Mabel Bickerton spoke of being used of God and she prays that the Circles will be guided by the Spirit of God.

The roll call of officers was taken and the minutes of the last meeting held at Detroit, Michigan were read and accepted. The delegates and treasurers reports were given. The answer to the question, "What man was expert in the devices of the devil?", was found in *The Book of Mormon Alma* 11:21. The Sisters sent layettes or money to San Carlos or White River, Arizona for their project. Contributions were made to the Memorial Fund with a balance of \$6,629.97. The Cook Book fund has a balance of \$4,195.49, and the Concordance fund \$3,904.04.

Communication was read from Sister Paulette Griffith of San Carlos, Arizona. She appreciates the layettes and money sent to her and she requests more. Brother John Ross sent his report on the African Relief Service and noted that there are people interested in the Church from Cameroon, Africa. Sister Mary Criscola reported sending 68 cards.

Money was donated to Africa, General Conference, General Church Budget, White River, General Church Indian Mission Fund and food for Mexico.

A motion was made that 2,000 cook books be printed. Another motion was made that a newsletter be printed titled TEMPO. Sisters Darlene Large and Lydia Link are in charge and news can be sent to Darlene Large, 41N, Hersery Ave., Lealo, Pennsylvania 17540. Sister Mabel requested that anyone having a testimony on the writing of a hymn to please send it to her and a book of hymns may be printed.

The remaining time of the conference was spent in listening to a tape from Sister Lorraine DeMercurio who is presently in Africa.

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

The next General Circle Conference will be held at Hopelawn, New Jersey on July 8, 1978.

Mary Tamburrino
General Circle Editor

Dear Readers:

In the spirit of sharing, members of the Side By Side, a non-profit corporation, dedicated towards American Indian self-sufficiency, collaborated with the Red Lake Community members for a Thanksgiving dinner Saturday, November 26, 1977. Being a pot luck dinner, meals were brought by all! Many were in attendance along with Brother Ike and Sister Bonnie Smith of the White River Mission.

Sunday, November 27, was a day filled with song and joy for those who attended the services at the Red Lake Branch. Blessed with many visiting Saints, each contributed to the service whether in song or word. With us were Brother Chuck and Sister Sylvia Curry of the San Fernando Valley Branch, Brother Enos Genaro of the same Branch, Brother Paul and Sister Orletta Liberto of San Diego, Sister Martha Lotgering of the Valley, and from Flagstaff, Brothers John Finnick and Virgil Link.

Contributing to our service, Sister Sylvia sang beautifully the hymn "Our Church" at the start of our service. Both Brothers Paul and Chuck spoke of their deep feelings and concern toward the work here. Much of their past-time has been spent in traveling to, and being with, the Saints in Red Lake.

Brother Paul, in speaking posed the question, "Is our life in proper perspective?" Continuing on he stated, "If so, we would see God's many blessings upon us and would be full of joy continually. Yet many times our happiness is gone for we fail to appreciate or realize what goodness we have in life. Truly, he stressed, we must know God's commandments to keep a proper spiritual perspective. Brother Chuck in following quoted scripture of Jesus relating, "You are my friends if you keep my commandments." "What greater joy is there than to be a friend of Jesus?" Brother Chuck exclaimed!

Brother Enos and his brother, Pete Genaro, sang beautifully the song "Surely Goodness and Mercy Will Follow Me", while earlier in the meeting Brother Pete felt inspired to sing "Take My Life and Let It Be." Also from our Branch we were treated with selections by Brother Ron Brutz and Brother Ken and Sister Diane Surdock. One can imagine the feelings present that day.

Dating back to last June, the Red Lake Branch has gained members from the Eastern and Western portions of the country. Sister Vanessa Watson, recently married to Brother Larry, and Brother Kerry Carlini have come from Detroit, Michigan; Brother Phil Jackson has come from Kinsman, Ohio. From the West, Brother Ken and Sister Diane Surdock and their family have come from San Diego, California; also from there are Sisters Francine Ciccati and Stacia Lindsey. Sister Gail Santilli has come here following her graduation from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff.

Our members, during our Sunday afternoons, spend their time with the inmates at the Window Rock Jail and the patients at the Fort Defiance Hospital with singing hymns and telling of the Church's beliefs of the great promises in store for the American Indians. Truly we can be thankful for all of the wonderful things that have happened here.

Brother Kerry Carlini
Red Lake Branch Editor

To The Readers:

The following article is basically the Faith of The Church of Jesus Christ. The Church does believe that there is a Resurrection of the Dead following the period of a Thousand Years with Christ (The First Resurrection). It is referred to as The Second Resurrection (Revelation 20th Chapter).

I have written that which God has revealed to me both in His Word and by His Holy Spirit, concerning the space of time between the unchaining of Satan from the bottomless pit and the last Great White Throne Judgment.

If the reader considers this to be my own personal observation, then let it stand that way. I have reiterated to a great degree the understanding and belief of many older Brothers whose interpretation of the scriptures was highly respected and honored.

I only ask that this article be read carefully and prayerfully.

Brother V. James Lovalvo

IT IS WRITTEN

March 28, 1978

In my last article, I wrote on events leading up to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and to the Scriptures averring that all people, from Adam to Christ, should arise from the Dead. (Alma 40:18,19) It is also written that there shall be a resurrection of the righteous at the end of the world, called, "The First resurrection", meaning the first resurrection of those from the resurrection and Ascension of Christ to the end of the world. (Rev. 20:6.)

We read however, that there is another resurrection, after the "First Resurrection". "But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished..." (Rev. 20:12) Here is irrefutable proof that only a portion of the peoples of the world arose at the First Resurrection, the righteous, the truly born-again Saints. The rest shall not arise until the thousand years are finished. Jesus distinctly speaks of this when He said, "Marvel not at this, for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall come forth..." (John 5:28). John, on the isle of Patmos, saw the "dead, small and great, stand before God: and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works." (Rev. 20:12,13.)

Here we have indisputable evidence of another resurrection or, a Second resurrection. Why another resurrection? The scriptures are plain in attesting that the First Resurrection (Rev. 20) is to be for the righteous, for those who had been beheaded for the witness of Jesus and for the Word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands;..." (Rev. 20:4) Also, the First resurrection is for those who have been truly Born-again Saints (John 3:3-5) and the truly righteous. (1st Cor. 15:22,23,51-57). It is also written that, after the sealing of the Twelve thousand from each Tribe of Israel, the righteous stood around the

Throne of God, clothed in white robes and palms in their hands, ... who have had their robes washed in the blood of the Lamb, etc. (Rev. 7th chapter)

Now, concerning the Second resurrection: "The rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished." also: What shall happen to these that shall arise after the Thousand years are finished? Some shall say that they stand before God and are judged according to their works. However, please note that, before this great white throne judgment, events will have taken place which are very germane to this subject. Following are some things that shall take place: The Saints shall spend a thousand years with Jesus Christ (Rev. 20th Chapter), We are made Priests and Kings unto the Lord, "And hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father; to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever, Amen." (Rev. 1:6) and, "And hast made us unto our God kings and priests; and we shall reign on earth." (Rev. 5:10) also, "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) Also, the Twelve Apostles shall sit on twelve thrones to judge the twelve Tribes of Israel; and, the Twelve Disciples on the land of America shall judge the Tribe of Joseph. It is written: "Then answered Peter and said unto Him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed Thee; what shall we have therefore? And Jesus said unto them, "Verily, I say unto you, That ye which have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of His glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the Twelve Tribes of Israel." (Matt: 19:27,28) and "That ye may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the Twelve Tribes of Israel." (Luke 22:30) In the Book of Mormon it is written, "And He said unto me, Thou rememberest the Twelve Apostles of the Lamb? Behold, they are they who shall judge the Twelve Tribes of Israel; wherefore, the Twelve ministers of thy seed shall be judged of them; for ye are of the House of Israel. And these Twelve ministers whom thou beholdest shall judge thy seed. and, behold, they are righteous forever; for because of their faith in the Lamb of God their garments are made white in His blood. (1st Nephi 12:9 and 10)

Also, it is written, "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold of the dragon, that old serpent, which is the devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years. and cast him into the bottomless pit and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled; and after that HE MUST BE LOOSED a little season. . . . and when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison. And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle; the number of whom is as the sand of the sea." (Rev. 20:1-3 and 7,8).

All of the above events shall take place PRIOR to the Second Resurrection. Let us consider, first of all, the words of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." and, "Except a man be born of water and the spirit, he cannot ENTER into the kingdom of God." (John 3:3,5). Please note that, except a man be

born again (of water and the spirit) he cannot SEE nor ENTER the kingdom of God. The words of Jesus Christ were not meant only for that generation, but for every generation until the end of the world; and, I must say, until the great white throne judgment. For, Jesus also said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away." (Matt: 24:35) Let the reader remember the above words of Jesus, for I shall refer to them from time to time in the rest of this subject.

Things to consider:

No. 1.... "and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years." Why this special dispensation to those in the First resurrection? (1000 years). Does it not inspire some noble thoughts? Certainly, for something great and marvelous shall happen at the end of the thousand years. (First resurrection). Logic dictates that there is a very good reason why the born-again Saints of the Lord shall spend a thousand yearas with Christ. Please Note: While the remainder of my article may not necessarily be the written Faith of the Church of Jesus Christ, many of the older Brothers in the Ministry who have departed from this earth and many who are still living agree with much of that which I shall write hereafter. (Writer's note)

What shall the Saints who are in the First resurrection be doing for one thousand years with the Lord? While God has not revealed in detail this mystery, He has, to some degree, illumined the minds of some to what may occur in the great beyond, even after the thousand years are expired. The mind of man is too small to comprehend the wonderful mysteries of heaven. However, what little light He has seen fit to give is amazing beyond expression. Let us go on with the subject. In Revelations, 1:6, 5:10, and 20:6, it is recorded that we shall be made kings and priests unto God. There is a definite reason why this shall be so. First, kings are rulers. If we are made kings, where shall we rule? If we are made priests, to whom shall we minister? There is a remarkable plan laid out by the Lord that if we follow the equations we will be able to see, even if it be through a glass darkly. Satan too, has made plans beyond the First resurrection; to gather Gog and Magog as his cohorts, and to go out to "Deceive the nations". If Satan is planning to deceive the nations after he is loosed, isn't it reasonable that God, too, has plans to thwart the great deceiver of mankind; that vile serpent who deceived our first parents in the garden of Eden? Satan has set himself against God from the beginning, and is setting himself against the Lord again after the expiration of the thousand years. During the thousand years with Christ, Satan is bound, and there are none living for him to deceive. The righteous are with Christ and the "rest of the dead shall not rise until the thousand years are ended." So, it stands to reason that he will start his great deceiving plan after he is loosed, and the rest of the dead arise. Those who are with Christ in the First resurrection, and are made kings and priests unto God shall endeavor to convince the "rest of the dead" who Satan is attempting to deceive, by the preaching of the Word, giving the "Rest of the dead" an opportunity (Not another opportunity) to believe and accept Jesus Christ as the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. For Jesus said, "Marvel not at this, for the hour cometh when all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, etc." and, "Except a man be born of the water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." There shall be countless millions of people who shall die before the

end of the world, who have never heard of Christ and have died in their sins. These are the "rest of the dead" spoken of in the Book of Revelations. These are the ones that Satan shall try to deceive. These are they who shall "hear His voice". It is written, "... how shall they hear without a preacher?" and, "how shall they preach except they be sent?" The Lord called men into the Priesthood to minister to the people and to preach in the name of Jesus, thus, being in effect the "voice of Christ". For He said, "As Thou hast sent Me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on Me through their word." The Apostles, the Seventies and all the Elders afterwards were the "voice of Jesus" to the world. Then, isn't it logical that those who are made "kings and priests unto God" of the First resurrection shall be the "VOICE" of Christ to those who shall rise from the graves after the thousand years are expired? Christ must be the Victor, not Satan. If the countless numbers that shall stand before God at His throne to be judged shall all be cast into hell with Satan, it will, not be a great victory for the Lord. But, Christ shall triumph over Satan, because "all that are in the graves shall hear His voice."

How shall we be kings? Jesus said unto the Twelve Apostles, "I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father has appointed unto Me. That ye may eat and drink at my table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the Twelve Tribes of Israel." (Luke 22:29,30) If Jesus is going to appoint them a kingdom, then they are kings (or rulers). He also said that they would sit on Twelve Thrones to judge the Tribes of Israel. That would make them kings in the spiritual sense of the word. "To sit upon twelve thrones and Judge the Twelve Tribes of Israel" does not necessarily mean that the Apostles are going to pass the sentence of life or death upon them, for, Jesus Christ is the only Judge of the quick and the dead. Let us consider them to be rather as Supervisors, in charge of seeing that the word of God should be preached to the Twelve Tribes of Israel, (those who arose with the "rest of the dead", after the First resurrection). Please note: I am referring to those of the House of Israel who had not been partakers of the Thousand Years with Christ... Following this trend of thought, then the Twelve Disciples on this land (Seed of Joseph) would be supervising the preaching of the Word of God to the Tribe of Joseph. And the rest of the Tribes would have their Twelve Ministers in charge of preaching to them. For Christ told the Seed of Joseph on this land that He was going to visit the other Tribes as He had visited those in Jerusalem and them on this land. (Book of Mormon... 3 Nephi 15:16-24 and 3 Nephi 16:1-3) The Gentiles shall have the Apostles of their generations supervise the preaching of the Word of God to them, thus fulfilling the words of Jesus, "all that are in the graves shall hear His voice."

Thus, the plan of Satan shall be thwarted, and Christ shall emerge the Victor. Then shall they stand before the great white throne of God to be judged of Him.

However, the reader may say that those that are filthy shall be filthy still, and quote the scripture to substantiate their views. It is written, "... they who are filthy shall be filthy still..." (2 Nephi 9:16) and "... and he who is filthy shall remain in his filthiness..." (Alma 7:21) and, "And because of the redemption of man, which came by Jesus Christ, they are brought back into the

presence of the Lord; yea, this is wherein all men are redeemed, because the death of Christ bringeth to pass the resurrection, which bringeth to pass a redemption from an endless sleep, from which sleep all men shall be awakened by the power of God when the trump shall sound; and they shall come forth, both small and great, and all shall stand before His bar, being redeemed and loosed from this eternal band of death, which death is a temporal death. And then cometh the judgment of the Holy One upon them; and then cometh the time that he that is filthy shall be filthy still; and he that is righteous shall be righteous still; he that is happy shall be happy still; and he that is unhappy shall be unhappy still." (Mormon 9:13,14) Please notice that the above scripture says that "all men are redeemed" and "all men shall be awakened by the power of God, etc."

There is a time between the end of the Thousand Years with Christ (First resurrection) and the "standing before the great white Throne of God." There is a space of time when the devil shall be loosed and he shall endeavor to deceive the nations with the help of his cohorts, Gog and Magog. Between the time of his "Loosing" and the time of the great white throne judgment is when those who have been with Christ for a thousand years shall endeavor to win over to Christ the "rest of the dead that shall rise." Truly those that are filthy shall rise filthy still. However, the words of Jesus will stand forever, "Marvel not at this; for the hour is coming in the which all (please note the word, ALL) that are in the graves shall hear His voice." "But", the critic says, "The scriptures say that those that have done evil shall have a resurrection of damnation." and, "The hearing of His voice is merely to either justify or condemn." Well, let the reader digest the following: Did Christ go down into the Prison to preach condemnation? Or did He preach down there the way of salvation, giving them an opportunity to accept Him and arise with Him to everlasting glory? None can deny that He preached to save them who would accept Him.

Does it not seem logical then that between the loosing of Satan after the First resurrection and the White Throne judgment that the "rest of the dead" would hear His voice (through those that are made kings and priests) and be given an opportunity to accept Christ as the Saviour of the world. Thus, defeating the purposes of Satan as he seeks to deceive the nations.

Whether there shall be the ordinance of baptism performed in that future day or not, for the purpose of being "truly born again", in order to enter the kingdom of God, is a moot question with some. However, some of our noble Brothers who have gone to glory repeatedly advocated this belief. A great exponent of this philosophy was one of the Presidents of our Church, Brother Alexander Cherry, who, often was heard to say that he expected to baptize hundreds in the Second Resurrection. The writer, in all honesty, also agrees with this as the words of Jesus are very plain, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of the water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Also, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away."

In the History of The Church of Jesus Christ, there is an article written by Brother Alexander Cherry, and reinforced by Brother W. H. Cadman on his belief concerning the Second Resurrection. I urge every one to

read this. (Pages 113, 114) Also, there have been many experiences had (in dreams and visions) by people who knew nothing about the Second Resurrection and yet, were informed of the great work to be done at that time. A Sister Josephine Lofrano had a marvelous dream concerning this resurrection in question. I write only the high-lights, for I fear that in attempting to tell it in detail, I would err very much. Sister Lofrano's mother died in her arms while she was a young girl. (In Italy) Her mother's last words to her were that when she (Sister Lofrano) would meet the true Church of Jesus Christ, she (the Mother) would come to visit her. When Sister Lofrano came to Detroit, Michigan and met the Church, her mother came to her in a dream and reminded her of her promise to visit her. The mother told her that she had really met the true Church and, — her last words to her in the dream were —, "I am waiting for you in the Second Resurrection."

There is much more I could write upon this subject but, for the time being, let this suffice. However, remember, it is written.

With great love,

Brother V. James Lovalvo

AWAKE GREAT NATION

Awake, great nation — look around,
There are no strongholds to be found;
And every highway's broken up,
Awake and drink your bitter cup.
By morning light your ruins stand,
Awake — and view the land!

Awake, great nation — once so fair,
The feel of death is in the air;
Your greatest cities had to fall,
The wrath of God has come to call.
By morning light your ruins stand,
Awake — and view the land!

Awake, great nation — rise in haste,
See every playground laid to waste;
You've broken every great command,
No longer sin controls the land.
By morning light your ruins stand,
Awake — and view the land!

Awake, great nation — on your knees,
Perhaps your God will hear your pleas;
For He can give the victor's shout,
And drive the enemy without.
By morning light your ruins stand,
Awake — and view the land!

Awake great nation — see God's band,
Such few upon this once proud land;
Oh come and see the standard raise,
And hear the remnant sing His praise.
By morning light your ruins stand,
Awake — and view the land!

by Arlene Buffington

BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS:—**The Year 1977 — Lorain, Ohio**

Swiftly but not uneventfully the year 1977 has passed. As we reflect upon the many events which have transpired we cannot help to give honor and praise unto our Heavenly Father from whom all the bounties of heaven are graciously given.

Greater than any material gift we continue to enjoy is the grace of God that has enriched our lives as we journey heavenward. Just think for a moment! Out of the millions of men and women in this chosen land, a small band of people has been selected by God to be called by His name, and to be visited by the presence of heavenly messengers sent down to answer prayers.

One case, that of Brother Ishmael Velez, who in lifting his heart to God, bemoaning the fact that he had been rendered paralyzed, speechless, and useless. "What good, the breath of life if he were to remain so! It would be better if He would take his life." Our Heavenly Father instead chose to send a heavenly messenger to visit him in the hospital to comfort him and before leaving He touched the right side of Brother Ishmael's cheek and body and our Brother's speech was restored as well as other vital organs. Praise God!

The vision of Christ Our Lord appearing unto Sister Madeline Calabrese as she sat in the living room pondering over the many discouraging events that have occurred in a very short time. While she was thus musing, a bright light appeared before her and our Lord in the midst of it in all the glory of His presence. He spoke words of comfort to her and bid her to come to Him and fear not for He would take care of her. Our Sister obeyed the Gospel. May the memory of so great a light continue to comfort her in the future, and hold her ever close to the Lord. We praise God for the vision had by Sister Rose Palacios given to help relieve the concern that was being shared by Brother and Sister Tony Calabrese for a safe childbirth. We thank God for answered prayers.

We rejoiced also for the baptism of Brothers Mark and Kevin Naro; the marriages of Brother David Calabrese to Sister Madeline Webber and Diane Herstek to Kenny Arocho. We mourned the loss of Mary Calabrese Martin, Brother John Allan Caldwell and Guy Hefner, May God continue to comfort those who suffered the loss of their loved ones.

We were blessed by the sound of the word of God both to exhort and encourage us all. We also praise God for the dedication of the Brothers and Sisters who give unselfishly of themselves in order that the work of the Lord may be enhanced and progress, enjoyed by all who obey. Who dares to sit idly by in view of so great a cause!

May we all stand tall and by the grace of God so live that the world will take note of the blessings that we enjoy, and awaken to the reality that the gifts and miracles wrought by the power of God are once again on the face of the earth. All honor and praise be to God our father, the same yesterday, today and forever. How can we say thanks for the things He has done for us, things so undeserved yet given to prove His love for us. The voices of

a million angels could not express our gratitude. All that we are and ever hope to be, we owe it all to Him. To God be the Glory for the things He has done. May the peace of God be with us all this year.

Sister Marie Caldwell

Detroit Branch No. 2 News

The Sunday of October 2, 1977, was not just an ordinary day at Branch No. 2. Another soul came unto Christ, Brother Joe Vargo. He made his desire known to Brother Alex Gentile during our lunch break. When we came back for the afternoon meeting, Brother Alex asked Brother Joe if there was anything he wanted to say, and he then got up and thanked God for allowing him to find this Church and all the Brothers and Sisters he has met in The Church. We then closed our meeting to go and witness the baptism at Belle Isle Park, which was performed by Brother Alex Gentile. The weather may have been cold and windy, but our hearts were warm and satisfied for the blessing which God allowed us that day.

We assembled back at Branch No. 2 for the confirmation, which was by Brother Leonard Lovalvo.

That evening, the Saints gathered back at the Branch for coffee and cake, and to socialize with the family of God.

May the Lord use Brother Joe to work for Him in this Church and may he always put God first in his life.

God bless you all is our prayer.

When the Presiding Elder announces a feet-washing service will be held, we as members most naturally anticipate a blessing, as a Branch or on a personal level. We offer prayers during the preceding weeks that God will be with us in this most humbling ordinance.

We were doubly blessed during our feet-washing service of October 9, 1977. The peaceful spirit which prevailed during our lunch break. Usually there is a very busy sound at this time, but strangely, during this afternoon, a quiet air fell over the group even before prayer was offered for the food. It continued through lunch and into our service as sacrament was passed. As the Brothers and Sisters participated in the ordinance of feet-washing, many received that special blessing they had prayed for, but our cups were yet to overflow.

Brother Reno Bologna was prompted by the Spirit to open the meeting for testimony. One after another, the Brothers and Sisters thanked God for His goodness, for The Church, their health and His protection over them and their families. It is certain that if the meeting had been closed following these beautiful expressions, everyone would have left feeling their cups had been filled. But this was not to be. Toni Bologna, Richard Bologna's wife, stood and, after a few expressions about her feelings concerning God's goodness toward her, asked to be baptized. Many tears of joy were shed as we prepared to go to the waters.

The afternoon had turned gray, cold, and rain began to fall, but the Saints rejoiced as they gathered to see our new Sister reborn. Brother Leonard Lovalvo, Sister Toni's brother-in-law, baptized her in the chilly waters. Afterward, we returned to the Branch to witness her confirmation. A ring of Elders was led in prayer by

Brother Alex Gentile, after which our new Sister was confirmed by Brother Reno Bologna.

We are very grateful to God for the wonderful experience He allowed us to share, not only on this day, but for the previous Sunday meeting as well. A confirmation of these two baptisms was had in a dream by Brother Alex Gentile a short time before Brother Joe asked for his baptism. The following is an account of that dream:

"On September 3, 1977, I dreamed I was walking into a service that was almost over. In the dream, I knew I had been on some Church work. As I sat down in the back of the congregation, Brother Thomas was speaking. I knew that there were two baptisms to perform, one a man and one a woman. I knew the man was Brother Joe Vargo and that I was going to baptize him, but the name of the woman was taken from me.

Someone asked me who was going to baptize the woman and I replied, 'Brother Reno Bologna is in charge, he will take care of it.' When I awoke, I seemed a little confused about the time that elapsed between events.

On October 2, 1977, I had the privilege of baptizing Brother Joe Vargo. The following Sunday morning, I went to visit the Rex Hotel and opened the service, not knowing that Brother Thomas was opening the service at Branch No. 2. When I returned to the Branch that afternoon, Sister Toni asked for her baptism. As I went to greet her, she asked me who was going to baptize her. I replied, 'Brother Reno is in charge, he will take care of it.' I immediately recalled the dream and all was made clear."

May God be with our new Sister as she endeavors to serve Him.

Sister Jan Buffa
Branch No. 2 Editor

Ordination At Sterling Heights

Sunday, February 12, was a day for the Vitto family. Brother Frank Vitto opened our service in prayer and Brother Paul Vitto introduced the service, noting that many of us have many beautiful memories that give us more courage in our endeavor to serve the Lord. The greatest memory, the greatest story, greatest joy, is to remember what Christ has done for us. There are not enough words to describe the love of God. Had it not been for Calvary, we would be without hope, we would be desperate. If we had no hope of a hereafter, of life eternal, we would have no drive in life. Christ said, "My yoke is easy, my burden is light." We must serve God with faith. The burden only becomes heavy when we waver in faith. If we want to see the glory of God, we must serve Him and we must believe. The world looks upon us as foolish, but God has chosen those to serve Him who have wisdom to seek hope, these are the ones God will welcome into His kingdom. We have hope of seeing the place which God has prepared for the Saints, we have hope of being in the first resurrection when all the Saints shall arise and join in that great gathering before the throne of God. We must make reservations while there is yet time.

Brother John Buffa then read the duties of a Deaconess from the Elder's manual. He also read from 1st Corinthians, 12:1-11.

Sister Shirley Vitto then had her feet washed by Sister Mary Vitto. She then came to the front of the church and the Elders all joined hands and knelt around her and Brother Paul Vitto led in prayer. She was then ordained Deaconess by Brother Frank Vitto.

There was a revelation to make Sister Shirley a Deaconess. When Sister Elizabeth Gerace was approached by Brother John Buffa to ask her opinion on ordaining Sister Shirley, she told him a dream she had sometime ago. Sister Gerace is an ordained Deaconess. Her dream was that Sister Shirley came to visit her and she told Sister Shirley she had a gift from God to give her. She did not attach any special meaning to this dream until the question arose on making Sister Shirley a Deaconess. We were dismissed by Brother Louis Vitto.

Sister Hazel Zoltek
Branch Editor

News From McKees Rocks

Dear Readers,

We praise the Lord for restoring again to earth by an angel His true Gospel which is to be preached to every nation, kindred, tongue and people.

Scripture from *Alma*, Chapter 5 in *The Book of Mormon* was read to us in the McKees Rocks Branch on April 2, 1978. "And now behold I ask of you brethren of the church, have ye spiritually been born of God? Have ye received His image in your countenance? Have ye experienced this mighty change in your hearts? Do you exercise faith in the redemption of Him who created you?"

"Yes, we trust the day is breaking. Joyful times are near at hand; God the mighty God is speaking by His word in every land."

Pray for us.

Sister Martha Laird
Branch Editor,

Cleveland, Ohio Branch No. 1

At the Organization meeting it was decided, the members of the West Side of Cleveland would attend the East Side Branch except for the first Sunday of every month, when services will be at the home of Brother Tony Lombardo, 5751 Defiance Ave., Brookpark, Ohio 44142. Services to begin at 10:45 A.M. with no Sunday school. This will give the members of the West Side who are unable to attend the East Side because of ill health or transportation, an opportunity to fellowship with the brothers and sisters.

We wish to extend our thanks to Brother and Sister Lombardo, for their greatly appreciated hospitality.

Brother Rocco Biscotti will officiate, and when he is unable to, an elder of the East Side will attend.

Again, we ask all the Saints to remember the afflicted in our area, as they are greatly in need of the prayers of everyone.

May God bless you all, in our prayer in the name of Jesus Christ.

Sister Margaret Abbott
Branch Editor

Two Blessings

On February 26, 1978 the ordinance of blessing was bestowed on two children at the Imperial Branch. The blessing on Joseph Muzy III, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Muzy Jr., was officiated by Brother Robert Bufington. Brother James P. Moore offered the blessing on Victoria L. Waldenville, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry S. Waldenville.

The parents of these children are not members of the Church, but we pray that they will receive a portion of the blessing that was bestowed upon their children.

Sister Nancy Botwright
Branch Editor

Yucaipa Mission News

We would like to share with you some of God's blessings He has bestowed on our little mission.

We have been blessed to have Brother Clarence and Sister Ann Kirkpatrick as members in Yucaipa this past year.

At our Spiritual Conference in Anaheim, November 4th and 5th, Brother Kirkpatrick was ordained an Elder in the Church along with Brother Frank Ciotti of Anaheim. As Brother Jim Lovalvo washed Brother Kirkpatrick's feet, he asked the Lord to wash his body. Our Brother said he felt the perspiration come from his body so much, it ran down from his neck to his knees like water. Many years ago, Brother Kirkpatrick had a dream of seven lakes and was told his work was at the seventh lake. It was only a couple of months ago that Brother and Sister Kirkpatrick realized Yucaipa represented the seventh lake, or mission established in California.

On Sunday, November 27, 1977, our young Elder opened the service reading from Acts, 8th Chapter, where the Spirit spoke to Philip to draw near to the eunuch. He dwelt on the question, "Who shall declare his generation?" Upon this thought, Brother Kirkpatrick told the experience about Brother Gibson and others in Pennsylvania, and how the Spirit spoke to them to go to a certain home because help was needed. As they went in they found the whole family sick with Black Tongue Diphtheria. Two of the children had already died and the doctor said, "By morning the whole family would die." These Brothers anointed them and prayed to God in their behalf. The next day the man was in the barn milking the cows, his wife was in the kitchen preparing breakfast for the children so they could go to school. This family became members of the Church, they were Brother and Sister Cowan.

Our Sister Marie Wineland knew of this experience as she lived nearby at the time the above took place, and stood up in service saying, "It's true" and at the same time she saw Brother Cowan standing on the rostrum next to Brother Kirkpatrick. When she got up to tell this, she repeated, "I saw him, I saw him, just as I knew him years ago." Our Sister became afraid and shaken up because he was so real.

In the same meeting, Sally (Sadler) Brady, an ex-member, told us after, that she had fallen and hurt her back the day before. When the communion was to be

blessed she thought she would be unable to kneel down. At that moment, she felt someone come down the aisle, enter her pew and sit next to her. She looked and saw the pillow sink down, but, nobody was there. As we knelt, a hand was placed on her shoulder and she was given help to kneel.

Saturday evening I had mentioned to my wife, "I have a strong feeling we are going to have visitors tomorrow," and we did. Brother Cowan visited us and the Lord was there to help those who could not kneel down.

We praise God from whom all blessings flow. The Spirit we felt that day will long be remembered. In Mark 5:36 — Jesus said, "Be not afraid, only believe."

Yours, in Christ,

Brother Frank Genaro

News From California

The Spiritual Conference was held on November 5 and 6, 1977 in Anaheim, California and was well represented by Brothers and Sisters from various parts of the state. The Saturday morning meeting convened at 10:30 A.M. The majority of the time was spent discussing the Sabbath Day. The afternoon meeting consisted of various singing groups along with missionary reports given by our Brothers involved.

We were also happy to have with us Brother Barry Mazzeo and his wife, Sister Nancy from Phoenix, Arizona. Brother Barry spoke briefly on thinking positive in the things of God. During the meeting Brother Jim Lovalvo spoke under the Spirit of God saying, "THUS SAITH THE LORD, O MY PEOPLE FAINT AND FEW. HEAR ME THIS DAY SAITH THE LORD. YOU ARE MY PEOPLE, YOU ARE MY CHURCH, YOU ARE MY PRIESTHOOD AND UPON YOU I HAVE LAID THE PRIESTHOOD OF MY HOLY SON, JESUS CHRIST. WALK IN THIS LIGHT, WALK IN THIS SPIRIT, AND BE WORTHY OF THE CALLING IN WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN CALLED THIS DAY BECAUSE YOU ARE MY PEOPLE SAITH THE LORD." God's blessings were felt as we heard His word.

The evening meeting program was displayed by the Anaheim Branch with Little Pigeon as guest speaker, speaking about her people, the Seed of Joseph, along with a few choir selections.

Sunday morning opened at 10:00 a.m. with congregational singing. After a few opening remarks the remodeling of the Anaheim Branch was dedicated with prayer by Brother Tom Liberto. After a few remarks by Apostles Brother Jim Lovalvo and Brother Joe Lovalvo, the ordinations of Brother Frank Ciotti and Brother Clarence Kirkpatrick got underway. Brother Jim Lovalvo washed the feet of Brother Clarence and Brother Joe Ciarolla washed the feet of Brother Frank. Brother Kirkpatrick was ordained by Brother Joe Lovalvo and Brother Ciotti was ordained by Brother George Heaps. An outpouring of God's Spirit was felt throughout the day. May God bless our newly-ordained Brothers throughout their years in the Church.

Brother Ken Jones

Baptisms And Blessings At Ohio District Conference

Community singing from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. was followed with several selections by the Youngstown Quartet.

Brother Joseph Calabrese, District President, offered the opening remarks. He welcomed everyone and asked that we remember the sick, especially Brother Frank Elliott. He also reminded the congregation that photos of the Twelve Apostles were available through Brother Paul D'Amico.

The opening hymn, "Jesus Is Coming", was sung by the quartet. After Brother Henry Cardillo offered the prayer, Sister Carla Dziak sang, "How Sweet It Is To Know The Lord". The sweet peace of God was felt in our midst.

Brother Robert Ciarrochi introduced the service using *II Peter* 1:1-10. He exhorted on having obtained precious faith through our Savior, Jesus Christ. We, the baptized in Christ, are given all things, especially through His knowledge. He gave us glory, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience and charity. Brother Ciarrochi elaborated on the divine nature of the Lord. He also related concerning the missionary work being done in Tijuana, Mexico and how God was blessing Brother Perdue in his work with the "Seed of Joseph." A beautiful spirit prevailed, as he further stated that we must respect The Gospel of Christ, our most important asset.

Brother Jerry Giovannone was the next speaker and he expressed a dream that he had had of his father (82 years old) plowing the field behind the house. As he watched his father, a storm occurred and, "with fear and concern, I looked for my children, and when I found them, I looked for my father. He was still plowing through the storm. It was a large field and his work was not yet complete, but he continued to work through the storms of life."

Brother Jerry also told of his experience in the missionary work at Omaha. He spoke about his plane trip and how God spared his life in an awful storm. He told us to, "have courage, go on, and do God's will."

Brother Russell Martorana followed by continuing with the original scriptures. He elaborated on patience and how Job, a steadfast servant of the Lord, was tried. He stated that we must be dedicated in our service to Christ. He further spoke on charity, as found in *I Corinthians* 13:1-6, that charity is kind, envieth not and suffereth long; "Charity will never fail." He also reminded us that we must prepare the ways of the Lord, and that we represent the Gospel of Christ. A good feeling of "love" continued in our midst.

Brother Frank Calabrese followed, emphasizing our complete and total devotion in our cause for Christ. He preached that God expects us to labor for the Church. As a Church, we know that we labor for, and with Israel. God reminds us of the suffering of His people; He tells us that He loves His people. We must rise to the occasion of bringing the Gospel to them. He stated that we must be concerned with the work of the Church and be cleansed that we may bring the Gospel to Israel. As God's Spirit continued to be in our midst, the spirit of repentance fell upon Adam Costarella and he asked to be baptized.

During the time that Adam had requested his baptism, Sister Rose Palacios had a vision. She saw all of the Brothers and Sisters with cups in their hands and the Lord was filling these with His spirit and His love.

Then Brother Frank Altomare arose in the spirit, proclaiming, "Thus saith the Lord, 'The time is far spent, there is little remaining. Look unto Me, My people, My people, the time is far spent and thou shalt see things that thou has never seen. I will bless this priesthood with great power, that no one will be able to touch them in that day. I am your God, I will deliver you in the time of your sorrow. Repent, repent, the hour of time is drawing near,' thus saith the Lord who lives upon the throne."

Then as we sang, "Just As I Am", God's Spirit fell upon Michelle Edwards who humbly announced that she wanted to be baptized. Praise God! Brother Joseph Calabrese continued by encouraging the Saints to be active in the Lord. He encouraged others to come to Christ and told of the Love of God. He concluded in exhorting that, as a Church, we have a direct responsibility to evangelize to the Seed of Joseph. We then anointed Frank Hufnagle for his affliction. The converts were taken to Mosquito Lake for baptism and then to the Warren Church for laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost. We, of the Ohio District, thank God for these beautiful blessings. He has proved once again that He is the same, yesterday, today and forever.

Secretary,

Russell Martorana

Rochester, N. Y. Mission

Since January 1, 1978 the Rochester, New York Mission has been enjoying wonderful blessings. On Sunday, February 19, 1978 Brother Patsy Marinetti chose for his text in the *4th Chapter of James* 14th verse, "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, if the Lord will, we shall live and do this or that." We all make plans, many times they are not fulfilled, we should say, "If God willing, we will do this or that," and Brother Patsy then spoke of his plans of moving to Arizona.

Brother Ansel D'Amico followed him and emphasized on the same subject that many people make plans like the rich fool that built larger barns and the Lord said, "You fool, thy soul is required of thee this night." We should always be prepared when the Lord comes.

We sang the hymn, "If Jesus Goes With Me." The meeting was opened for testimony. Sister Antoinette Marinetti desired to be reinstated in the Church for she was away for some time. Sacrament was administered and a wonderful spirit prevailed all during the meeting.

After the meeting we all went over to Brother and Sister Andrew Locci's house. They wanted to ask a blessing on their new home. Brother Ansel read the poem "Bless This House." Brother Patsy offered a blessing on the house. A delicious meal was prepared by Sister Theresa.

We had a wonderful day both naturally and spiritually, and we know that it will long be remembered.

Sister Carmella D'Amico

Blessings At Niles, Ohio

Friday evening upon thinking about our Sunday feet-washing meeting, I felt inspired to set aside Saturday for fasting and prayer. The main purpose was to receive a blessing in our ordinance of feet washing.

About 1:00 P.M., Saturday afternoon, I felt to continue my fasting at our Church in Niles. A few minutes later, Sister Barbara Nuzzi called and asked for a ride in order to clean the Church. After the cleaning was finished Sister Barbara left for her home and I continued fasting. While I was praying, I felt a portion of God's Spirit come upon me. At this time I felt that the Lord had answered my prayer. About 6:00 P.M., I left and felt to continue my fasting until our Sunday Meeting was over.

During the ordinance of feet washing, Brother Wayne Martorana knelt down and started washing my feet. I felt a humble spirit in his prayer while Brother Lou Pandone was about to wash Brother Bob Ciarrochi's feet, he asked me if I would like to do it instead. Both Brothers were unaware of my fasting the previous day. As I was washing Brother Bob's feet, the Spirit of God came down upon me during my prayer. After I had finished, we arose and embraced each other in the love of God. At that time, under the influence of God's Spirit, Brother Bob spoke in the gift of tongues. He had the interpretation which was "Flesh and blood has not revealed this, but my God which is in heaven." Truly we can say that the Lord is quick to hear the cries of His people and answer their prayers.

Brother Brian Martorana
Niles, Ohio

Change Of Address

The Church of Jesus Christ
P.O. Box 723
Fort Pierce, Florida 33450

Dear Readers,

On March 11, 1978, the Whiteriver Mission was changed to the Lakeside Branch. Since the church building is located in Lakeside, Arizona, we decided to have the church's address changed to that particular post office. Our new address is as follows:

The Church of Jesus Christ
P.O. Box 871
Lakeside, Arizona 85929

Cheryl Smith,
Lakeside Branch

A Call For Help

On November 28, 1977 Ronald Kirkpatrick, son of Brother and Sister Clarence Kirkpatrick, was in a terrible motorcycle accident which left him lying helpless in the hospital with brain damage. Brother and Sister Kirkpatrick wish to thank all who have prayed for their son

and want everyone to continue to pray that God will move his hand in their behalf.

California Editor
Brother Ken Jones

— NEW ARRIVALS —

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

Jennifer Louise to Edward and Mary Anne Donkin of Glassport, Pennsylvania;

Chad West to John and Sauna Lea of Glassport, Pennsylvania;

Troy Daniel to David and Lesley Shaffer of Youngstown, Ohio;

Deanna Amora to Daniel and Debra Gauthier of Sterling Heights, Michigan;

Michael to Ron and Carole Higgins of Bronx, New York.

Kristin Marie to Dennis and Karen Everett of Detroit, Michigan Branch 1.

— WEDDINGS —

BRADSHAW - CATALANO

Mr. Joseph Bradshaw, Jr. and Sister Debbie Catalano were united in Holy Matrimony on Saturday, November 26, 1977 in Harrison, New York.

The ceremony was officiated by Brother James Link. Musical selections were presented by Sister Linda Gomes.

The newlyweds are residing in Wilton Manor, Fla.

CASTELLI - PATON

Brother Daniel Peter Castelli and Sister Penny Jean Paton were united in holy wedlock on Saturday, March 4, 1978 in Detroit, Michigan Branch 1.

The ceremony was officiated by Brothers Anthony Scolaro and Spencer Everett. Musical selections were presented by Brother Eugene and Sister Donna Amorino.

The newlyweds will reside in Royal Oak, Michigan.

● OBITUARIES ●

ANGELINE DePERNO

Sister Angeline DePerno departed from this life, to receive her heavenly reward on February 11, 1978. She was born in Italy on January 18, 1899, and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on January 27, 1925.

Sister Angeline is survived by one son, one daughter, five grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, two brothers and one sister.

Funeral services were conducted by Brother Mike LaSala, with Brother Reno Bologna assisting.

Sister Angeline was a gentle, loving sister, whose life reflected the true meaning of charity.

SISTER VIRGINIA PALUMBO NERO

Sister Virginia Palumbo Nero of the Glassport Branch passed on to her reward on February 22, 1978. She was born on February 4, 1894 and was baptized on January 24, 1932.

The funeral services were conducted by Brothers John Ali and David Nolfi.

She is survived by two daughters and five sons.

Sister Virginia was a faithful member of our branch for 46 years. She will be remembered by her living testimony and her love for the Gospel. Our prayer is that the Lord will comfort her family and friends.

SISTER GERTRUDE CURRY LITTLE

Sister Gertrude Curry Little of the Glassport Branch passed on to her reward December 19, 1977. She was born on December 14, 1898 and was baptized December 5, 1934.

The funeral services were conducted by Brother David Nolfi.

She is survived by her husband, Brother Harry W. Little, four daughters, four sons, 38 grandchildren and 40 great-grandchildren; a brother, James Curry of Elizabeth; and sisters, Esther Andrews and Della Day of Washington, D. C., and Lydia Allen of Miami, Fla.

Sister Gertrude was a faithful member of the Glassport Branch for 43 years. Our departed Sister left a wonderful example to all who knew and dearly loved her. The Saints of Glassport will truly miss her. Our prayer is that the Lord will comfort her family.

JOSEPH TUCKER

Evangelist Joseph Tucker, of Tampa, Florida, passed on to his heavenly reward on Saturday, February 25, 1978. He was born on December 25, 1889.

Left to mourn his loss are one son and one daughter.

Brother V. James Lovalvo of California officiated at the funeral service with Brother Duane Lowe assisting.

JOSEPH E. MUZY

Brother Joseph E. Muzy passed on to his final reward unexpectedly on February 17, 1978. He was born on April 11, 1932 and baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on March 13, 1973 at the Imperial, Pa. Branch.

The funeral services were conducted by Brothers Robert Buffington and James P. Moore at the church building in Imperial.

He is survived by his wife, two sons, one daughter, three grandchildren and three sisters.

Brother Joe will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

KATHERINE LUPO

Sister Katherine Lupo passed on to her eternal reward on December 28, 1977. She was born on January 21, 1897 and was baptized in Glassport, Pa., on June 20, 1930. She had been attending services in the Bronx, N. Y. branch after moving from the Florida area.

Left to mourn her loss are three children, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband, Brother Vincent Lupo in 1976.

Brother James R. Link officiated at the funeral services assisted by Brother Salvatore Feola.

Sister Lupo was a faithful member and will be missed by the brothers and sisters who knew her.

LUCIA APRIA MAZZELLA

Sister Lucia Apria Mazzella passed on to her eternal reward on February 4, 1978. She was born on January 18, 1886 and was baptized in Bronx, New York on January 16, 1949.

Brother Salvatore Feola officiated at the funeral services, assisted by Brother James R. Link.

Left to mourn her loss are her children and grandchildren and the members of her Branch.

GEORGE LAESSIG

Mr. George Laessig was called to his heavenly rest on February 22, 1978. Husband of Sister Rose Laessig, a member of the Bronx, New York Branch.

Left to mourn his loss are his wife, Rose, three sons, Brother Fred, Steve and Eric and a daughter, Sister Sally.

The funeral services were conducted by Brother James Link assisted by Brother Dominick Rose and Brother Jerry Valenti.

He has been an inspiration and true friend to many. He shall be missed by the brothers and sisters and all that knew him.

CALIFORNIA DISTRICT - DATES TO REMEMBER

May 20, 1978: GMBA Conference, Greensburg, PA

May 29, 1978: Calif. District Memorial Day Picnic, San Diego, CA

June 10-17, 1978: GMBA Campout, Harrisonburg, VA

June 2-3, 1978: Calif. Area MBA Couples Retreat, Sequoia Park, CA

July 29-30, 1978: Calif. District Semi-Annual Conference, Modesto, CA

August, 1978: Arizona District Semi-Annual Conference

August 8-13, 1978: Calif. Area MBA Campout, Oak Glen Camp, CA

August 12, 1978: Calif. Area MBA Conference, Oak Glen Camp, CA

September 4, 1978: Calif. District Labor Day Picnic, Anaheim, CA

October 7, 1978*: Calif. District Ladies Circle Conference (*Tentative Date)

November 4-5, 1978: Arizona/Calif. District Spiritual Conference Joint Conference at Arizona

November 11, 1978: GMBA Conference, Greensburg, PA

The GOSPEL NEWS

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahala, Pa

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YET HAVE YE NOT MANY FATHERS

A TRIBUTE TO APOSTLE SAMUEL KIRSCHNER

"For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers." *1 Corinthians: 4.* Truly, Brother Samuel fit the description of a spiritual father to many in the Gospel of Christ. All who knew him and would listen to the words of life coming from his heart knew that he was dedicated to the Lord. But with far more than words, Brother Samuel lived and worked for the Church. And even in the last few years when he was confined to his home, many would visit him to cheer him up and always leave his home refreshed in the Lord.

Brother Samuel was born on March 15, 1901 in Germany and was retired from the Farm Bureau Cooperative in Washington, Pa. He is survived by his widow, seven sons, two daughters, twenty-four grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, two brothers and two sisters.

Brother Samuel passed through this veil and into the Paradise of God on the seventh of April, 1978. He met with the Church when he became acquainted with Ruth Cowan, the daughter of the late Brother and Sister James C. Cowan. They were married on March 19, 1924 and attended church occasionally. His conversion to the Lord came through a remarkable vision he had of Christ. In an evening meeting the young people were presenting a program and Brother Samuel was requested to read some scripture. Although he was hesitant, he agreed to participate and while reading the scripture, Christ appeared to him in a vision. He could not resist the convincing power of the Gospel and together with his wife, was baptized on April 12, 1931. Brother Samuel testified many times that the old Sam passed away in the liquid grave and a new Sam arose, full of love for his Saviour, whom he adored all the remainder of his life.

In 1936 he was ordained as an Elder and was very active in preaching the Gospel and bearing his testimony everywhere he had the opportunity. Brother Samuel was ordained an Evangelist in 1939 and an Apostle in 1941. In his ministry he was a great help to the Church in actively supporting various Branches of the Church and helping to establish new ones. He will long be remembered as having a great love for Jesus and said that every



Brother Samuel Kirschner and his wife

sermon that is preached, regardless of the subject, the name of Jesus should be used. His love and concern for the Church and all the Saints was evident to all.

The Apostles have lost a very loving and concerned member of the Quorum whom we will miss very much. His memory and integrity in the Church will long be remembered by the Quorum and all who had the pleasure of his love and friendship in this life, truly, a father to many.

Brother Russell Cadman—For
The Quorum of Twelve Apostles

HELP !

Dear Readers:

At present the printing cost of *The Gospel News* is being increased. To avoid any subscription price increase, I am asking you for three things:

1. Please renew your subscription as soon as possible.
2. Try to increase the subscriptions of the paper by telling others about *The Gospel News*.
3. Any donations to help defray the cost of *The Gospel News* will be appreciated.

The Editor

OUR TRIP TO MEXICO

By Joseph Lovalvo

Brothers Joseph Lovalvo, Sam Randy and Edward Perdue visit Mexico.

We left our homes on Thursday, November 10th and flew to San Diego. We were met by Brother Eddy Perdue who took us directly to his home where we spent the night. Next morning, after breakfast we had a session of prayer. As we were closing, Brother Paul Liberto arrived to take us to the airport. We arrived at the San Diego airport on Friday morning, November 11th. When we got there, we were notified that the flight was cancelled to Mexico City. They flew us back to Los Angeles and two and one-half hours later, we boarded the Mexicana Airlines plane to Mexico City. We arrived there three hours late and those that were waiting for us missed us. We went for our luggage and it was not there. We were told that our luggage would not arrive until 11:00 o'clock at night. We went back to the airport at 11:00 o'clock and were told our luggage would not arrive until 11:00 o'clock the next morning. The next morning, at 11:00 o'clock, we were there at the airport and sure enough, our luggage was there, and were we glad to see it, because all our belongings were in those suitcases.

We took a cab to the church building and the Brothers and Sisters greeted us with great love and kindness. They told us they waited at the airport all day Friday up to 12:00 o'clock — waiting and praying. They were in the church building this morning, praying that the Lord would bring us there safely. Everybody gathered around as we knelt in prayer and praised God for bringing us there safely.

After a season of prayer, Brother Sam went to Brother Odalon's house and Brother Perdue and I went to Brother Eugenio's house. It wasn't long before we were visiting around, praying, singing and glorifying the name of God in every home that we entered. The weather in Mexico City was very cold and damp. The beds were on the floor, propped on cement posts. They were so beautiful, a people to give us the best they had. Brother Perdue and I knelt in prayer and thanked God. We were very cold during the night as they have no heaters in their homes. Brother Sam slept on a bed near an open door; it was all air-conditioned for him.

We met at the church building. Soon the people started coming in and the building was almost filled. Some came in specifically to see us, and others had been attending. The Brothers in Mexico City have done a good job and we are very proud of them. On Sunday morning, they asked me to preacheach. Brother Perdue was my interpreter. I spoke on I Nephi, 13th Chapter; regarding the value of the Book of Mormon to the latter day work and the restored Gospel. The blessing and power of God were upon us. We were asked to anoint a 20 year old woman that had been sick with a throat disease since she was a child. We knelt in prayer — all the ministry — and we called upon the Lord that God would answer our prayers. And God did! He poured out His power as we laid our hands upon her. The manifestation of the gift of healing took place and this young lady was healed of her throat disease.

Dear readers, I cannot express the love and affection that the Saints in Mexico bestowed upon us. They could

not do enough for us. In the afternoon service, there was a larger crowd. A woman that was the sister of Sister Celistina from Tijuana was very afflicted with some disease on her hip and leg. She came to hear the Gospel and to be anointed. That night she was anointed. In preaching, we felt the power and blessings of God in preaching the Gospel to this people. It was a beautiful evening.

Later I called all the leaders, Teachers, Deacon and Deaconess together for a meeting. I asked if they had any problems? They expressed the desires of their hearts and brought forth some of their problems. We counselled them and found they are interested in seeing the Gospel spread in that part of the vineyard. On Sunday evening the church was almost filled to capacity and we were delighted to see their attitude towards the preaching of the Gospel.

On Monday morning we met with the Saints for a prayer meeting. We visited others during the day. In the evening we met with the Elders and had another season of instruction and teaching. They appreciated it very much. On Tuesday morning we met with several of the Saints for a season of prayer, then started our trip to Michocan.

Brother Eugenio Mora came with us on the trip to Michocan. Michocan is a very beautiful country, picturesque and tropical with rolling hills. When Jacob referred to Joseph's land as the everlasting hills, he must have had his eyes on Mexico because it is all rolling hills. As we got near to Pedronales, the streets became narrow and rough. I could not imagine we could travel these roads to get to Pedronales, they were not made for automobiles. They were made for burros, mules and horses. But nevertheless, Brother Sam is a very efficient driver as we arrived in Pedronales at the home of Brother Eugenio's nephew and niece, where his sister also lives. Again we were greeted with hospitality and great affection. We were perfect strangers to them, but they accepted us and hurriedly prepared a meal. After supper we spent the evening singing hymns, praising God and speaking about the things pertaining to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

About four o'clock in the morning the cock started crowing, the chickens started cackling, the dogs started barking and that was the end of the night. We got up early in the morning and took a bucket of hot water to wash, brush our teeth and shave, outside in the cold. They were waiting for us to have breakfast by 7:00 o'clock in the morning. I want to say this to our wives—the women get up at 5:00 o'clock and work all day long, sweeping, washing, ironing and cleaning. This is a daily chore with them because they have none of the modern appliances that we have in our homes, everything is done manually. Life here is very primitive. They do not worry about modern convenience because it is not around them, or near them. No TV, no radios. What a peaceful feeling to look at the tropical trees of banana, papaya and mango. I found an outlet for my electric shaver and started to shave. The men, and little boys particularly, had never seen an electric razor before. Some of the men wanted to try it and soon, they were all using it. I was hoping and praying that it would last the time that we were there.

The people started to come to our house, including a man that had walked twenty-two miles. He was carrying the Bible and the Book of Mormon under his arm. He had heard Brother Eugenio was going to be there, so he came

to ask to be baptized. This man always carried a pistol and a knife. Then, after he heard Brother Eugenio's testimony, he wanted to sell his pistol and knife. He bought a Bible and Brother Eugenio gave him the Book of Mormon. It was a peculiar, yet a beautiful sight, to see the people come to visit us carrying the Book of Mormon and to hear how they love that Book. Brother Eugenio has done a wonderful job of indoctrinating these people in the Restored Gospel. He took us to visit some of his relatives and friends; we spent the day talking, preaching and praying. In the evening Brother Eugenio played the guitar and we sang hymns and prayed to God. The people gathered at our home and we enjoyed a beautiful evening.

The next day after breakfast, a young man named David Alcaarez came to the house. He was full of enthusiasm and he invited us to preach to his people in a place called Oreo de Rosales. We promised him that on Friday we would visit these people.

We again went out to visit in Pedronales. The scripture of Jeremiah was fulfilled to a degree when he said that God would send out fishers and hunters to bring people to God. We did that very thing as we went up mountains, and walked for miles where no car could go. We went to visit a home where the man and his family accepted us with open arms. He said the Bible was his book and he would not accept the Book of Mormon. He said, "You have to prove to me what you say by the Bible." The Spirit of God came upon me and I asked Brother Eugenio to get the Spanish Bible. I quoted from 37th chapter, Ezekiel, 85th Psalm, 29th chapter of Isaiah and the 10th chapter of St. John. The power of God came upon everybody; this man started to cry like a child. I told him he should pray to God to reveal the truth. He said, "I am going to pray right now." He got down on his knees and said, "You pray with me." We all knelt as he asked God to illuminate his mind, heart and soul. The manifestation and glory of God came upon all that were there. We all felt the glory and power of God. The following Sunday, the whole family came to church.

On Wednesday night, after we finished preaching the Gospel to a family, we were about to get into the car. A young man came running down the road, threw his arms around Brother Eugenio and hugged and kissed him. Then he embraced all of us. Brother Eugenio introduced him as Brother Joel. I saw the enthusiasm of this young man, the way he talked, his zeal and desire. I felt such a love for him. Brother Eugenio said to me, "This is the young man that I am recommending to the ministry." Joel is a fine young man, very hospitable and kind. His wife is a very loving young woman. Brother Perdue, Brother Eugenio and I asked him if he had any experience as to a calling from the Lord. He said, "Yes, I have." He related he was in a dream in a meeting where he was in charge, the building was filled with people and all of a sudden, the building and ground started to shake and the people became frightened. "I stood up among the people and lifted my arms and told them not to be afraid but trust in the Lord for He will deliver us, even from an earthquake." All of a sudden the scene disappeared and he was on a high mountain alone. An elderly man appeared and opened up his arms and said, "Come, come." When he told us of that experience I felt the glory and power of God come over us and we knew this man was called of God. I questioned him concerning the Book of Mormon, Bible and the Restoration. I was amazed to find out how knowledgeable he was concerning

the Restored Gospel. I watched him and visited with him. He was with us almost every day. On Saturday I travelled with the Brothers 30 miles to a telephone. I wanted to call the Board Members so I contacted Leonard, the Vice Chairman. I spoke to him relating my experience and I felt these people wanted a minister. They kept telling me, "We need a minister here — a minister who can help us." I felt the Spirit of God and I told Leonard that this man should be ordained. Brother Perdue and Brother Eugenio agreed. I told Leonard, "Talk with the rest of the Board Members." He said, "Well, if you feel the Spirit of God, then you do as God inspired you."

We spent our time visiting, preaching and inviting people to come to church. Poverty is great in this part of the country. People work for as little as \$2.00 a day; and the only work there, is in the sugar cane fields. On Thursday, we went to Oreo de Rosales to visit David. There we saw something very beautiful. We saw white Indians with blonde hair. The word Oreo de Rosales means white.

(To be continued)

An Experience

On March 22, 1978, the day of Brother Joseph Shazer's death, I felt to write several things that concern his life as well as his death.

About a month ago, I had a dream that Brother Joe was going to pass away. When he was taken to the hospital, I knew he would not be coming back to his earthly home. I could only pray for his comfort during his illness. On the Friday night following his going into the hospital on Thursday, I found myself praying a different type of prayer. I found myself saying, Dear God, let him rest in the Paradise of God; to come forth on the morning of the First Resurrection to reign with your Son for a thousand years.

Brother Joe has been a father to many of the people in his congregation. I can remember when I was only five years old my mother had a child to die at birth on a Christmas Day. Brother Joe came and got me and took me to his home. His house was always a home for those without a home. His crown will be filled with many bright stars.

I've heard him say many times at funerals, weep not for this body lying before you, but for yourselves. For the soul has returned from where it came.

Brother Joe always took the time to tell others of Jesus and The Church he represented. No one could number the sick he anointed, the children he blessed, the couples he united in marriage, the baptisms he performed over the period of his years in The Church.

A deep loss will be felt by the Brothers, Sisters, and friends in the Vanderbilt Branch as well as many others in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Sister Donna Fleming

THE GOLDEN BIBLE

Have you read the Golden Bible?
Book of Mormon, book divine
Tis a marvelous work a wonder,
Nothing equal in its line.

Tells you how an ancient people,
In response to God's Command,
Journeyed over lands and oceans
Till they reached the promised land.

Jared first and some few others,
Started out in days of old,
To possess the land of promise,
God was with them, we are told.

From the time of their departure,
From their mother land was when
To obstruct the tower of Babel
God confused the speech of men.

Having reached the land of promise,
Whither God had led the way,
For a time they greatly flourished,
Serving God from day to day.

But at last they grew rebellious
God forgetting, loving sin.
Then the wrath of God o'er took them
And they fell midst battles din.

Now the Lord of Hosts Jehovah,
Sends to earth a new command,
Leads a righteous few from Judah
To possess the promised land.

Lehi, Nephi, holy prophets,
Teach them heavens will and mind.
Some are righteous, pure and faithful,
Some to wickedness inclined.

These divide and two great nations,
Fill the land from shore to shore,
Cruel wars and bloodshed follow,
Till the righteous are no more.

Then Moroni, holy prophet,
Hides the Golden Book away,
To come forth in latter ages
From the vault wherein it lay.

Fourteen hundred years it slumbered,
God preserving it from rust,
Now the words of that sealed record
Whisper to us from the dust.

THE REUNION

by Ronald Mazzeo

In this great majestic plan in which our God created man,
Who because of sinful nature to his God became a
stranger.

He ate forbidden fruit, a thing God would not pardon.
So now a cherub's flaming sword kept mankind from the
garden.

Now betwixt God and man stands a cherub, sword in
hand,
Forming this dreadful separation twixt Creator and
creation.

Oh! Who could cause a restoration between Creator and
creation.

A very union twixt God and man could take the sword
from cherub's hand!!

And it was thus our Saviour came, not in a mighty
angel's name;

A little lower He came down to taste flesh and blood and
a thorny crown.

Christ bridged that gap between God and man
And took the sword from cherub's hand.

And now man's path to God is cleared,
The angel's sword no longer feared.

For justice's sword in cherub's hand no longer doth abide;
But for our sins and evil deeds was plunged in Jesus' side.
For He was God and He was man, and He fulfilled this
mighty plan!

A DREAM

The following dream was had by a Brother of the
Erie Mission and it was felt to refer it directly to the title
page of the *Book of Mormon* and is in conjunction with
the *Twenty-first Chapter of Third Nephi*:

I dreamed that I was looking into a large room, which
had a large table in the center of it. At both ends of the
table there were chairs, plus there was a chair in the
middle, just behind the table. At one end of the table by
the chair was a sign which read, "Seed of Joseph." At
the opposite end, by the other chair, was a sign which
read, "Seed of Judah." The middle chair had a sign in
front of it which read, "The Church of Jesus Christ."
There appeared to be many people around the chair for
the Seed of Joseph and there were many people around
the chair for The Church of Jesus Christ. But there ap-
peared to be no one around the chair for the Seed of
Judah. The vacancy of this chair seemed to leave the
others present in the room to feel sad and despondent
over the fact that there were no representatives from the
Seed of Judah.

We continually thank the Lord for revealing these
things to us, for we know that they are for our edifica-
tion and knowledge.

Sister Phylis Kovacic
Mission Editor

PAID IN FULL

One snowy day while I was busy with my housework,
I was thinking about Spring. In our Branch we always
have a Spring Bazaar in the nearby Mall. We raise
money for the General Church budget, Ladies Circle and
the M.B.A. We have a full circle of co-operation. The
Sisters get everything sorted and priced. The Brothers
haul it to the Mall and set up our tables. The older
Sisters bake for the three days and the youth help to sell
our merchandise to the public. It's work, but a fun work,
a rewarding feeling. What I'm getting to is this. Our bud-
get. We feel sad when we see our budget isn't met by all
Branches. We know the General Church cuts corners as
much as possible. A thought came to me. We as a people
do not like to have outstanding bills. When we owe some-
thing, we strive till the funds are raised for the commit-
ment. If we could only instill all our Branches to look
at our General Church Budget assessment as a bill we
owe. The same as our gas, electric, oil or anything new
we want for our buildings. God blesses us in abundance
when we take on a project to buy something to better
our Church buildings. If only we could school our people
to look at the bottom line. That at the end of each year
we could mark the General Budget "PAID IN FULL."

THE GOSPEL NEWS

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Editorial Viewpoint

A TRIBUTE TO ALL FATHERS

Last month it was a privilege to devote this column to honoring mothers. It is also a privilege in this month of June to occupy this column with a tribute in honor of living fathers, and in memory of fathers who have gone to their eternal rewards.

HONOR AND ESTEEM

The annual observance of Father's Day does not seem to evoke the widespread and high degree of feeling as that surrounding the observance of Mother's Day. Nevertheless, this does not necessarily deprive fathers of the honor and esteem of their children. Surely, fathers merit and deserve the honor and respect of their children in an immeasurable degree, perhaps far more than is accorded them.

The eloquence of the pen or the spoken word in extolling the love, labor and self-sacrifice of fathers for their children falls far short of pointing up the full measure of honor they so richly deserve.

The role of fathers in the family circle differs in various ways from the role of mothers, it is true, but it also involves a vital and important part in the proper rearing of children. The responsibility for the welfare of his family holds first place in a father's life.

IMPORTANT AND SACRED DUTY

Fathers endeavor to fulfill with devotion, self-sacrifice, and tenacity their special and important role as the breadwinner in the family circle.

Fathers display love and affection for their children at any age level and, in many ways too numerous and varied to single out or point up.

Fathers perform many tender acts of service, courtesy and encouragement.

Fathers entertain many thoughts and heartfelt desires for the welfare, safety and goodly counseling of their children.

Fathers devote an immeasurable degree of their time to their children, beginning early in their childhood on up to adulthood.

Fatherhood is a most important and sacred duty in the proper and wholesome rearing of children.

Father's Day serves as a time of reflections from many mirrors of the love, devotion, trust, happiness and experiences to be discovered in the unique feelings between fathers and children.

Finally, from the pen of a good and wise father:

*The little son looks in the father's face
With big, blue, wondering eyes, in which we trace
Fair, hazy visions — childhood's earliest dreams.
Ah, little one! to thee thy father seems
A world of mystery; thy great desire
To be a man — in all things like thy sire
Thou canst not comprehend him, yet thine arms
Steal softly round his neck; his whisper charms
Thy fears away . . .*

*. . . O God, we gaze at Thee;
Thou art to us how vast a mystery —
Yet Father! So we come and nestle near,
For there the mystery itself is dear;
And they shall grow, who ever there abide,
Into thy likeness, and be satisfied.*

—Arthur Vine Hall



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

David, the Shepherd Boy

"The Lord is my shepherd", Psalm 23:1.

Dear Boys and Girls,

How many have memorized the Twenty-third Psalm? The word Psalm means a song. This one is David's confidence in God's grace. I want to tell you about the person who wrote this beautiful Psalm.

David was a shepherd boy, the son of Jesse. He had seven brothers. They lived near Bethlehem. He was a good looking boy with ruddy complexion and a beautiful countenance. He played beautiful music on the harp. No doubt his songs were about the things he saw while tending the sheep, such as, the valley, the brook, birds, the wind and the little lambs. His music was so soothing that later he was asked to play for the troubled king Saul. He lived in the king's house for awhile and became his armor-bearer. David and Jonathan, the king's son, became very dear friends.

David was very brave. Once while he was tending his father's sheep a lion and a bear took a lamb out of the flock. He killed both the lion and the bear. He caught the lion by the beard and rescued the little lamb.

David had three brothers who were in the king's army. They were at war with the mighty Philistines. The Philistines were camped on one side of the mountains and the Israelites on the other. A valley was between them. Out from the camp of the Philistines came a champion, a big giant named Goliath. He was more than eleven feet tall and dressed in heavy armor. He had a brass helmet on his head, a breastplate, leggings and a heavy coat. He carried a mighty spear like a weaver's beam. He was tall and fierce. He called to the Israelites, "Why bring out your armies? Choose a man to fight me. If he wins, the Philistines will be your slaves. If we win you will be our servants." No wonder the Israelite armies were afraid. For forty days this giant stood between the two armies, but no one in all Israel stepped forth to meet him.

Now David's father, Jesse, said David must take parched corn and ten loaves of bread to his brothers who were in the army. Also ten cheeses for the captain. Jesse was anxious to hear from the brothers. The next morning David arose early. He left his sheep with a keeper. Then he set out for the camp. Soon he found his brothers and learned about this giant. David decided he would be the one to go out to meet Goliath. Saul, the king, said David was but a youth and could not fight this big giant. But David knew God had helped him kill the lion and the bear and if God had delivered him then, he could do it now. Saul said, "Go and the Lord be with you."

The king wanted to dress David in his armor. David could not wear these heavy things. Instead he took his staff in his hands and chose five smooth stones out of the brook and put them in a shepherd's bag. With his sling he went out to meet the giant. When the giant saw David, he was angry and called, "Am I a dog, that you come to fight me with staves?" David replied, "You come to me with a sword, spear and shield; but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defiled. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands and all the earth shall know that there is a God in Israel." David put his hand in his bag and took a stone and put it in his sling. Straight went the stone into the giant's forehead! The big giant fell to the earth! David ran and stood up on the giant and took the giant's sword and cut off his head. When the Philistines saw their champion was dead they fled.

As a child, David had been anointed by the prophet Samuel. One by one his brothers had passed before the prophet while he was out in the fields caring for the sheep. A servant had come out to bring him in. When the prophet saw David, he knew he was the one the Lord had chosen. Maybe at the time they didn't understand all these things. The time came in David's life when he became the king of Israel.

No wonder David could sing, "The Lord is my shepherd, He maketh me to lie down in green pastures, He leadeth me beside the still waters." All these things he had experienced out in the fields, tending his father's sheep.

* * *

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. What gifts did Jesse give David to take to the king? I Samuel 16:20.
2. What did Jesus say about the good shepherd? John 10:14.
3. When the chief Shepherd appears what will ye receive? I Peter 5:4.
4. How will you know if you are the sheep of the good shepherd? Book of Mormon—Alma 5:37 and 38. In verse 39, it tells about another shepherd. Who is he?

Sincerely,

Sister Mabel

Announcement

The book "American Indian Moses" by T. D. Bucci is now out of print. The contract has been terminated due to lack of sales. About 400 copies were printed. They that have copies, hold on to them. Brother Bucci is endeavoring to get paper back copies printed. If unsuccessful, you that have one, the book will be of great value in the future, spiritually. I wish to convey my thanks to all that have purchased one.

Brother T. D. Bucci

IT IS WRITTEN

BAPTISM....

Baptism is the third Principle of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ....

Water baptism is the result of Faith and Repentance by the candidate, who is now willing to exhibit, or evidence his desire to make a covenant with God, to whom he now promises to serve, and walk in the Commandments of His Holy Son Jesus, and as a result God promises to grant him a remission of his sins. What a wonderful means of admission to the fold of Christ has God given the repentant sinner water Baptism, to wash away, and cleanse his sins. For, having heard the word preached and the Gospel declared, believing and feeling a Godly sorrow for his guilt, he cries out, "What shall I do?" Of a necessity he feels that something further must be done, another step toward the fulfillment of the great plan of Salvation, when either by the scriptures or by the preaching of His Servants comes the answer, "Repent, and be Baptized." For the words of Jesus must be fulfilled that a man has to be born, First of the water, and then of the Holy Spirit. (John 3:5)

Contrary to the belief of some, that baptism is only a symbol, thereby removing from their Tenets the Ordinance of Baptism, it is definitely for the REMISSION of sins. "John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance, for the REMISSION of sins." (Mark 1:4) Peter said, "Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for REMISSION of sins...." (Acts 2:38)

The *Book of Mormon* is filled with references concerning baptism for the remission of sins, viz: "...therefore come and be baptized unto repentance, that ye may be washed from your sins..." (Alma 7:14) "for the gate by which ye should enter is repentance and baptism by Water; and then cometh a REMISSION of your sins...." (2 Nephi 31:17) "baptizing unto repentance, in the which there was a great REMISSION of sins...." (3 Nephi 1:23) "behold, baptism is unto repentance to the fulfilling the commandments unto the REMISSION of sins...." (Moroni 8:11)

BAPTISM is ESSENTIAL to SALVATION

In the preceding pages there has been sufficient evidence given that OBEDIENCE to the Gospel is absolutely necessary for SALVATION, and that Baptism is for the remission of sins. If remission of sins comes through Baptism, and that no soul could be saved in the Kingdom of heaven with unforgiven sins, it is therefore quite evident that Baptism IS essential to Salvation! It is a reasonable conclusion that Baptism must be considered one of the most important ORDINANCES of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And, since it was a commandment of Christ, it must be essential to the Salvation of the Soul.

Another conclusive evidence to the RIGHTNESS of this Doctrine is the fact that Jesus, who was without sin, was baptized to "fulfill all righteousness", to the astonishment of John the Baptist, who hesitated to administer baptism to Him whom he had just previously declared to be the "Lamb of God". Hundreds of years before this memorable event, Nephi foretold of the Baptism of Christ, and in his exhortation to righteousness declared, "And now, if the Lamb of God, he being Holy, should have

need to be baptized by water, to fulfill all righteousness, O, then, how much more need have we, being unholy, to be baptized? "yea, even by water! (see 2 Nephi 31:5-8). To a certain Ruler of the Jews, Nicodemus, whose very first words acknowledged Christ as a "Teacher come from God," the Saviour replied, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God." And, seeing the perplexity of Nicodemus, and his inability to understand Him, Christ continued, "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." (see John 3:3-8)

His last admonition and commandment to the eleven Apostles was, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, BAPTIZING them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Matthew 18:19,20) He also left no doubts as to the results of Baptism, nor to the consequences of its denial. He declared unequivocally that, "He that believeth and is BAPTIZED shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be DAMNED." (Mark 16:16) Certainly these words of Christ ought to dispel any doubts as to the doctrine of Salvation through Baptism; but should rather increase the faith of the reader in this fundamental principle of the Gospel, which proclaimed in ages past, still remains unchanged today as a vital doctrine of the RESTORED Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Jacob, the brother of Nephi, in declaring this great truth to the people of Nephi said, "And He commandeth all men that they must repent, and be baptized in His name, having perfect faith in the Holy One of Israel, or they CANNOT be saved in the kingdom of God." (2 Nephi 9:23) Upon this Western Hemisphere, Christ reiterated His doctrine of salvation through Baptism, "And whoso believeth in Me, and is baptized, the same shall be saved; and they are they who shall inherit the kingdom of God. And whoso believeth Not in Me, and is Not baptized, shall be damned." (3 Nephi 11:33,34)

And He commandeth all men that they must repent, and be baptized in His name, having perfect faith in the Holy One of Israel, or they cannot be saved in the kingdom of God. (2 Nephi 9:23)

MODE of BAPTISM....

The method of administering Baptism is as important as the administration of any of the ordinances of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Though many Christian Sects use water as a necessary symbol in their Rites, they have, without a doubt, departed from the true mode of Baptism, in that some have adopted Sprinkling or Pouring in lieu of IMMERSION, which in truth, the word Baptism means.

The VERB "Baptize", translated from the Greek language, is defined as "BAPTIZO" or "BAPTO", meaning literally to be "DIPPED" or "IMMERSED". While it is true that words undergo great changes in meaning as the time rolls onward, it is equally interesting to note that the Disciples of Christ, who had received His teachings and instructions, plainly understood the significance of Baptism by IMMERSION, and practiced the same until the first half of the 3rd Century. Sprinkling was initiated by Cyprian, the learned Bishop of Carthage, who re-instated the Heretic, Novatus, in the

Church, by re-baptizing him by Sprinkling water on his head, rather than by IMMERSION. (see Moshieim, 3rd Century, part 2, page 253)

If the reader would like to ponder upon a TYPE of immersion then, what greater example than the entire world which was IMMERSED in the Deluge of water, to cleanse and purify it from the stench of sin that had reached the throne of the Almighty? And after the waters receded, the earth arose, as pure as the day when God spoke the word, and the "dry land appeared."

The Bible records that, "There went out unto Him all the land of Judea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him IN THE RIVER of Jordan, confessing their sins." And again, "And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in JORDAN. And straightway coming UP out of the water, he saw the Heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him." (Mark 1:5,9,10) I believe that the scriptural evidence is conclusive in that, one can hardly come UP out of the water unless one goes first IN the waters, (IMMERSION).

Though modern definitions have been given to the word, "BAPTISM", and a modern application has been instituted, no one can gainsay the fact that IMMERSION was the original definition of BAPTISM, and that it was literally put into effect by His Disciples.

Many of the ancient writers used the word Baptized or baptism to denote a dipping or burial in the waters. A certain Polybius, in referring to the passage of the Roman soldiers through the river Trebia writes, "When the passage of the river Trebia came on, which had risen above its usual current, on account of the rain which had fallen, the infantry with difficulty crossed over, being 'Baptized up to the chest'." (Book 3, Ch. 72) He continued describing another catastrophe, "Some were upset, but the greater number, their prow being thrown down from a height, were 'Baptized' and became full of Sea." (Naval battle at Syracuse)

Strabo, another writer who lived during the time of Christ, used the word Baptized quite often. In describing an instrument used in fishing he writes, "And if it fall into the Sea it is not to be lost; for it is compacted of oak and pine wood; so that even if the oak is 'Baptized' by its weight, the remaining part floats and is easily recovered." (Talmage's Articles of Faith)

One can readily see by studying the Scriptures and perusing through the pages of history that the word Baptism had, and can only have but one definition, and that is IMMERSION.

One of the most important and greatest reference is the commandment of Jesus Christ on this very subject. It is recorded in the *Book of Mormon*. . . "And again the Lord called others, and said unto them likewise; and He gave unto them power to baptize. And He said unto them: On this wise shall ye baptize; and there shall be no disputations among you. Verily I say unto you, that whoso repenteth of his sins through your words and desireth to be baptized in My name, on this WISE shall ye baptize them; Behold, ye shall go down and stand in the water, and in My name shall ye baptize them. And behold, these are the words that ye shall say, calling them by name, saying: 'Having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of

the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.' And then, ye shall IMMERSE them in the water, and come forth again out of the water. And after this manner shall ye baptize in My name. . . And according as I have commanded you, thus shall ye baptize. And there shall be no disputations among you. . ." (3 Nephi 11:22-28)

Here is a commandment from the Lord Jesus Christ as to how to baptize, and yet Man always finds a way to circumvent the commandments of Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus, and attempt to change His laws to suit their own purposes. But all they have done is, supplant Sand for Rock; with the subsequent results of a great fall! Puny little Man, who thinks he can improve on the things that God has ordained, will always find that he is no match for the great wisdom of God; and that when the Lord's immutable decrees are tampered by Man, the consequences are dire and have a dangerous, far-reaching conclusion. One thing is certain; Man can improve on other men's inventions or discoveries, but, No One, can ever improve on whatsoever God has created or commanded! History has vilified Man for his vain presumptions, but always justified the Wisdom of God!

(To be Continued)

WEST AFRICAN ECHO

THIRD INSTALLMENT

In anticipation of our housing needs, Brother Arthur made two rooms available in his house. Brother John Ross and I occupied these same two rooms during our stay in 1976.

Our presence on Brother Arthur's compound added to the already overcrowded condition that existed. There were approximately 60 people on the compound, including many children, in which our children never lacked for playmates. Despite this slightly overcrowded condition, Brother Arthur made every effort to make our stay as comfortable as possible. However, it was extremely difficult to find a place to be alone. The compound has a stucco dwelling and in close proximity five mud houses with thatch roofs. The main dwelling in which Brother Arthur and his family live consists of eight bedrooms, kitchen, dining room and two verandas. Bathing, shower and toilet facilities are located in a separate building. Water for cooking, drinking, washing clothes and dishes is provided by a single water tap for all those on the compound.

The seven of us occupied two adjoining rooms which measured 7' x 11' and 6' x 9'. Despite these diminutive measurements, two single beds, a double bed and our luggage were snugly fit into the larger room. The smaller room was used as a combination dining room and bedroom containing a double bed, a table, three chairs and more luggage. Due to the limited amount of chairs, the bed was used for sitting, especially during mealtime. Our clothes were hung behind the doors and on mosquito net lines. At times it was a major project to locate various items. The refrigerator which was loaned to us by Brother Arthur, and our two-burner kerosene stove, were located on the small veranda next to our rooms. It was rather

difficult storing food in the refrigerator. Food could not be stored for longer than one day without spoiling. We joked that the refrigerator was five degrees cooler than the atmospheric temperature. After struggling with the refrigerator for about three weeks, Brother Gary suggested that the kerosene be filtered through cotton to remove large particles of impurities. This would allow for cleaner burning. When the kerosene was filtered the refrigerator began to work more efficiently, however we still encountered spoilage.

After only a few days in Nigeria we had already begun to miss and appreciate the conveniences of home. At home we never really have to worry about these conveniences because everything is readily provided with no effort on our part. Here, for health reasons, the water is purified for drinking and cooking by boiling and passing it through a filter. After the dishes are washed, they are sealed with boiling water to destroy any bacteria.

Unfortunately, during our stay at Brother Arthur's the electric generator was not working properly and most of the time we were not able to enjoy its benefits. Light was provided by two kerosene lanterns. At times we wondered whether the purpose of the lanterns were to generate light or heat. Due to the generation of heat from the lanterns, any letter writing or writing in our diaries was done by flashlight.

As the days are rather short, day-break begins at about 6:30 a.m. and darkness falls at about 6:30 p.m., we would retire early. We did this to avoid the generation of heat from the lanterns. The lanterns would also attract many insects. Since we were not really ready to sleep we would talk from our beds which was the most convenient place because we lacked adequate seating.

Initially our health was quite good and we had no serious problems. However, we were very much troubled by mosquitoes, sand fleas and other insects. We were often severely bitten at night despite our beds being covered with mosquito nets. We often wondered whether the nets were any protection at all. Once the insect sneaked through the net he would attack continually through the night. We had hoped that the insect would find its way out as easily as it found its way into the net, however, they apparently found a home. Occasionally we would search for these troublesome creatures during the night with a flashlight, but we were not successful in our search. There seemed to be no relief from these conditions even with the use of pesticides and repellants. The intruders continued to invade us despite our efforts. Also there was no relief from the itching caused by the insect bites. Various ointments and creams were used but had no effect. This condition grew increasingly serious when our children developed secondary infections on their arms and legs. It was necessary they undergo medical treatment. As a result many scars on their arms and legs still remain. Through it all the boys never murmured nor resented being in Nigeria.

The heat did not make our living condition pleasant. The heat was rather overwhelming and a passing breeze would be a great delight even though it gave us only temporary relief. Our number in the two small rooms only added to the intensity of the heat.

Despite the inconveniences we encountered the Lord blessed us immensely. From our experience a greater bond of love and respect was developed although the evil

power did everything possible to destroy our fellowship. We often remarked that the prayers of the Saints were a very powerful force in sustaining our love and determination to do God's will. We had to continually pray for guidance, protection and deliverance. The conditions we faced were at times rather overwhelming and only by the Grace of God were we able to overcome those conditions.

Clothes were washed by the women in a large basin. Since it was the rainy season, the constant rainfall prevented the clothes from drying quickly. It took two to three days for the clothes to dry, and at times the clothes had to be rewashed due to the sour smell and mildew. Because of this, clothes were worn even when they were not completely dry or worn for an extended period due to the lack of clean clothes.

Our diet at first was not good due to poor refrigeration and the availability of foodstuffs. During the rainy season, July through September, pineapple, oranges, and papaya are not in season and when available are very high priced. Canned vegetables and fruits are virtually non-existent due to a government ban on the import of such items. This ban is due to a government program called "Operation Feed The Nation". This program is aimed at encouraging people to raise their own foodstuffs rather than having them imported. The following is an example of the cost of imported items: Canned carrots, 24 oz., \$8.00; canned corn, 16 oz., \$2.48; honey, 16 oz., \$3.55; ketchup, 12 oz., \$1.79; Campbell Soup, 10½ oz., \$0.78; peanut butter, 12 oz., \$2.79; corned beef, 8 oz., \$1.49; pasteurized cheese, 12 oz., \$2.33. However, some of the above items are not always available and when we first came we had no knowledge where they could be purchased. Also fresh chickens 3 to 4 lbs. cost \$9.00 and average size eggs are \$2.33 a dozen.

While the Coppa's were here our diet was rather limited. It consisted mainly of canned soups, corn beef, spam, eggs, grilled cheese sandwiches, some chicken and eventually some fresh meat. We purchased the meat from the open market. At first we were reluctant to buy meat due to sanitary conditions, however, we boiled it extensively to make it tender and edible.

(To be Continued)

Notice

Notice to all Sunday School Superintendents — At our recent General Church Conference, The Board of Missions extended their appreciation to all Sunday Schools that contributed to the General Relief Fund and request that this be continued. This is the special collection made at your Sunday School business meetings (twice a year) to be donated to the General Relief Fund so that there will always be a fund from which missionaries and others can get help for relief. Checks should be made payable to: THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST - GENERAL RELIEF FUND and mail to the treasurer:

Anthony Ensana
1921 S. E. Erwin Rd.
Port St. Lucie, Fla. 33452

BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS:—**Baptism In Bronx, New York**

James F. Suska was baptized on December 11, 1977 in the Bronx, New York Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother James R. Link, Sr. performed the baptism and Brothers Salvatore Feola and Dominick Rose confirmed our new Brother. May God Bless him and make him useful to His Kingdom.

Baptism In Warren, Ohio

Sister Michelle Edwards asked that she might be baptized into the Church on Sunday, February 25, 1978 at the Ohio District Conference Services. It was a glorious day as many souls came out to witness the baptism.

Sister Michelle was baptized by Brother Mitchell Edwards and was confirmed by Brother Bob Ciarolla. We all thank God for this day.

Glassport Branch

The Glassport Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ held a week of meetings Sunday, November 13, 1977, thru Friday, November 18, 1977. We praise and thank God for His mercy and grace that during the week we felt the unction of the Holy Ghost in our midst. Many Brothers from the priesthood both near and far came. Some to exhort, some to preach, some to pray and some to listen. Many Brothers and Sisters also supported the Glassport Branch's efforts. We heard the testimony and praise of God from their lips. It was encouraging and strengthening to all that listened. Most precious of all, we witnessed the Spirit of God flowing from vessel to vessel with joy unspeakable!

We cannot pinpoint one specific event or speaker during the week that can be labeled as the highlight of the revival. In as much as we gathered each night to the honor and glory of God, the entire week was a spiritual elevation for all who thirsted.

The priesthood made reference to a variety of scripture expounding the word of God. Most valuable of all was the application of the scripture to our lives; exhorting us to beware of our adversary, the devil, and the many forms of temptation we are exposed to in this perilous time we live. We were encouraged by not just the words we heard, but more so by the spirit we felt being administered as the Brothers spoke. The fellowship of the Saints, one to another, was also brought to our remembrance. Though we suffer trials and tribulations, this opposition purifies our heart if we hold fast to the rod of iron during our test. Knowing that each of our Brothers and Sisters, who have made their covenant with God, likewise suffer as we suffer for we are a type and shadow of Jesus Christ, not just His suffering and death, but greatest of all, His resurrection. Therefore, those of us with these things in common, though few, are bound together with the greatest power, all the Love of God! We look forward each day to the goodness of God in our lives and TRY to love all with a fervent love, especially those of the household of faith.

The Glassport Branch extends its warmest thanks to all that attended our week of meetings. We are thankful for your active part in our singing, in our praying, in our testifying, in our preaching and in our fellowship one with another with the Spirit of Christ. We encourage any and all Branches to hold revival meetings. In this present day and time it should be clear and plain to all who observe us, as individuals or as a body, that first and foremost in our life we love and serve God; we own no other masters. We are eternally grateful for life and the abundance of life, for His Son Jesus, for His sacrifice and love for mankind, and for those that endure to the end, the greatest gift of all—Eternal Life!

The Glassport Branch extends an invitation to the Brothers and Sisters to visit our Branch and draw a refreshing drink of living water from that well.

Sister Eileen Nolfi
Branch Editor

Blessings From Lorain Branch

How can we sufficiently thank God for the many blessings He has given unto all, especially we at the Lorain Branch! He said He would never leave us, nor deceive us and I'm sure that's how these Sisters felt when the Lord saw fit to speak unto them in their time of need. Not only them, but for all of us as well.

Sister Rose Palacios had not been feeling well and came forth to be anointed on our Sunday meeting of March 5, 1978. While being anointed, words of the Lord, through Brother Frank Altomare, were spoken as follows, "It's so wonderful this morning, thus saith the Lord, when my people will trust in me. I do hear their cries. I do hear their prayers, and as long as they are standing upon my rock, which is Christ, I will comfort them. I will never leave them alone. Thus saith the Lord, I will bless them alone. Thus saith the Lord, 'I will bless them. I will comfort them. I will be with them. Oh, Sister Rose, remember what God has done for you. Whatever you have to go through in this life, remember, remember, Jesus is the same. He will take care of you, and your life shall be extended, and you shall see great things, the sorrow and grief. Thus saith the Lord, because of your faith, thou shalt see great things. Great visions, thus saith the Lord, I will put upon you and thou shalt tell even the Brothers and Sisters and the world I am the Living God. Because of this, I will be with you and thou will prove faithful unto the end. Thou shalt have a place in one of those mansions, where I am at this time and thou shalt see me face to face and what joy and blessing will be, not only for you, but all those that serve me. They will see such glory in this Church that is back upon the face of the earth. The world is going to see something great that they never have seen. I shall show healings even to the world, when I shall send this priesthood out with such great power. Some will obey, some will reject it." (All words of the Lord were taken from tape recordings). Then on Sunday, March 12, 1978, Sister Marcie Aquilino was in our presence following an illness of some time. Brother Frank Altomare was speaking and said that Sister Marcie was to see God soon. He could see it in her face at that time, that God's going to bless her. Just then the words of the Lord came forth, "Sister, Sister, Sister. Hold fast. There's a place waiting for you Sister Aquilino.

The time is drawing near. You shall go to a place where there is rest for you. You shall see the Son of God." (Again the words of the Lord were taken from tape recording.)

The following Sunday of March 19, 1978, Sister Mary Nardozi rose in testimony, stating her care and concern for her daughter, Sister Leona Buffa's, health. Then Sister Mary Nardozi came forth to be anointed. As she was being anointed, Sister Rose Palacios heard a voice telling her to tell Sister Mary Nardozi to relate to her daughter Leona, "Have Faith in God and don't doubt. He will bring you through."

I'm sure looking forward to our next meeting. May God bless each and everyone. With love to all.

Sister Iva Davis

News from Sterling Heights

A Fast and Prayer service was held at the branch on Monday, March 20, in behalf of those who were seeking the Lord but had been unable to loosen the chains. There were seventeen present and many beautiful prayers were said and the presence of the Lord was felt by all. The unbaptized prayed along with the Saints. Brother Sam DiFalco had an experience as he knelt, a sound as of rattling chains.

Then on the following Saturday night, we met at the church at 9:00 P.M. and many prayers were offered up to the Lord and many beautiful testimonies were said. Among them, was one by Claude Champine in which he read an Easter greeting from his two young daughters, Lisa, age eleven and Yvonne, age eight. The greeting was as follows: "To Someone Dear: Mom and Dad, one of the best things we have done as a family is, we found love, people who love us and we love them. But best of all, we found Jesus." These two girls, along with the two daughters of Gary Champine, were blessed in The Church some months ago. Each little girl, after being blessed, put her arms around the Elders and they were crying. It was very beautiful and touching to the beholder. Much has been said about this Champine family in the History of Sterling Heights, and there will be much to follow. They truly have been a great blessing to us all.

Easter Sunday dawned, cold and wet, but inside The Church, the warm blessings flowed. Our service began with Brother Dave DiBattista leading in a medley of hymns, among them being "Christ Arose". Rosemary Szufner sang "Ten Thousand Angels" and the meeting continued on in an atmosphere of anticipation of great things to follow. Brother Carl Frammolino opened in prayer and Brother Paul Whitton introduced the service. He referred to the very bad weather we are having today, but said it is not what is on the outside, but what is on the inside that counts. He mentioned the birth of Christ as being very dramatic, but the crucifixion and resurrection as being doubly so. He read from Matthew 28:1-8, and told the complete story. He read Matthew 28:16-20, where Christ commissioned the disciples to go forth and preach the Gospel and to baptize all those who repented. Christ promised to be with them always, even unto the end of the world. Christ's death and resurrection was for all mankind. He read John 3:16. The Champine brothers sang a song which they had written. Before singing, Brother Gary spoke of hearing this voice saying "No greater

sacrifice has any man made, than I have made" as he contemplated giving up the things of life and accepting Christ. Brother Lou Vitto commented on the truth of the words of the song they sang, and how beautifully Brother Paul had brought forth the story of the resurrection. He said there had to be a shedding of blood that we might have eternal life, this was the reason for the crucifixion. The price was paid on the Cross of Calvary. The walk to the hill of Golgotha, was a long journey for Christ, this was the time for his appointed death. We do not know what time we will have to die, we must get ready while time remains. Brother Lou then asked if there was a soul here today who wanted to dedicate their lives to Him. Claude struggled to arise to his feet and was watched by Sister Shirley Vitto from behind. Then we all stood and sang "He Lives", and Sister Shirley asked God to keep Claude on his feet. As we all sat down, Claude remained standing. He then asked for his baptism. Then his wife, Angie, asked to be baptized. Larry Champine was next and then Angie's father, Tony Ruvolo. His wife, Connie, who had remained at home to prepare dinner for the family, was so overcome by the spirit when she heard about all this, said she wanted to be baptized also. There were dreams and experiences given to several people, a dream to Sister Denise Ruhle of Branch No. 1 and to Sister Isabel Bologna of Branch No. 2. Brother Frank DiDonato had the old mixmaster churning again and on Saturday, he checked the river to see if everything was in order for baptisms. Brother John Buffa dreamed that Brother Louis Vitto was wearing a white tie, and that he took it off and handed it to him and said, John, I need your help.

After the service on Saturday night, Angie Champine went home and prayed to God that if it was time for her to accept Him, to give her a dream. In the dream, she saw Brother Frank DiDonato standing on the corner and he waved them on to a certain road. As they drove along, they said this is not the right way, and they came to a very steep hill. They got out of their car and attempted to climb it. It seemed there were steps carved into the hill but it was very hard to get a good footing. Sister Kathy Champine, who was baptized three weeks ago, climbed the hill very easily and called to them to come on up, that it was beautiful up there. She and Larry kept on climbing until they reached the top and there they saw a beautiful mansion. To Angie, this was an answer to her prayer.

They went to the river at 5:00 P.M. Claude and Angie were baptized by Brother Louis Vitto, and Brother John Buffa baptized Larry and Tony and Connie. At the evening meeting, Brother Claude was confirmed by Brother Paul Whitton, Sister Angie by Brother John Buffa, Brother Larry by Brother Tony Gerace, Brother Tony by Brother Carl Frammolino and Sister Connie by Brother Jerry Benyola. The Champine brothers, Brothers Gary, Claude, Steve and Larry, sang the hymn they had sang at the morning service. Brother Louis Vitto then had all the new converts to sing "I'm Free". All the new converts testified and Sister Angie told how she and her husband, Brother Claude, had fasted and prayed all week, and she again told of the dream God had given her the previous night. Some time ago, Sister Connie had a dream that her dead brother-in-law, who was Catholic, told her to take her husband Tony, and go back to The Church of Jesus Christ. She and Brother Tony came to The Church for quite a while, then went back to the Catholic church.

They became very confused, and when she had this dream, she knew which way to go. She removed all the catholic figurines and pictures from her home and awaited her calling. Brother Dominic Moraco said a few words, stating that we should each find five people to bring into The Church. Brother Vitto Buffa was anointed. We sang "How Great Thou Art" and we were dismissed by Brother Spencer Everett. Afterwards, there were refreshments served in the basement and a great time was had by all.

Sister Hazel E. Zoltek
Sterling Heights Editor

80th Birthday Celebrated

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

We were very blessed to celebrate the 80th birthday of our dad, Brother Rocco Ensana, on March 13, 1978.

A surprise birthday open house was held at our home. It was such a delight to watch his face as so many Brothers, Sisters, and friends from throughout the district came to wish him well.

Not only do we thank God for the 80 years of his natural life, but we praise His name that Brother Rock has so far given 52 years of dedicated service to God and to his Brothers and Sisters.

Thank you dad for enriching our lives. We love you.

Betty D'Orazio
Edison Branch

Ordination At Clairton Branch

The Clairton Branch had the privilege to witness the ordination of Brother Joseph Austin into the Ministry of God on April 30, 1978.

There was a representation of Elders, Brothers and Sisters from Aliquippa, Fredonia, Glassport, McKees Rocks, Monongahela, Roscoe and Vanderbilt.

Brother Russell Cadman washed Brother Joseph Austin's feet and Brother Joseph Bittinger performed the laying-on-of-hands.

Brother Joseph Austin related a few experiences pertaining to his calling into the ministry.

A lunch and fellowship followed the ceremony and a nice spirit prevailed.

May God bless Brother Joseph Austin in his ministry.

Note of Thanks

I would like to give my sincere Thanks to all of my Brothers and Sisters for their calls, cards, gifts, and above all the prayers in my behalf during my recent convalescence.

Sister Margaret Donkin

///

The Robinson, Harris, Stone, Williams and Jones families wish to thank all the Branches for the consideration, condolences and prayers during the time of the bereavement of our Brother Harry E. Robinson.

— NEW ARRIVALS —

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

Anthony Michael to Anthony and Patricia Scarsella of Youngstown, Ohio.

— WEDDINGS —

SLAGLE - ELLIOTT

Mr. Kit Slagle and Miss Christine Elliott were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, January 14, 1978 at The Cleveland Clinic Chapel in Cleveland, Ohio.

The ceremony was officiated by Brother Gene Kline.

The newlyweds will reside in Perry, Ohio.

● OBITUARIES ●

FRANK ELLIOTT

Brother Frank Elliott, a member of the Perry, Ohio Branch passed on to his eternal reward on April 14, 1978 after a lingering illness. He was baptized on April 16, 1972. He is survived by his wife, one son, two daughters, three brothers and six sisters.

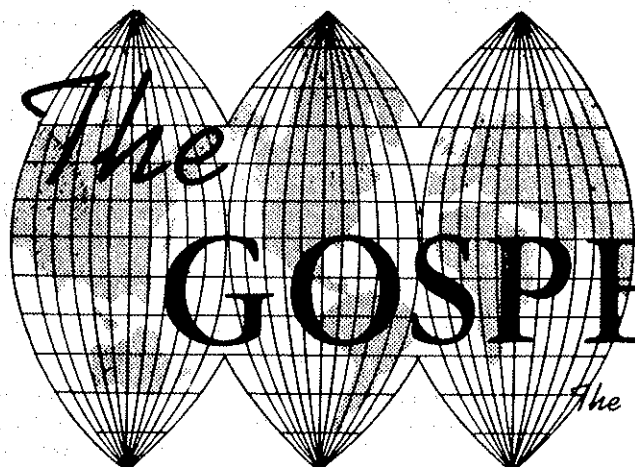
Brother Russ Martorano officiated at the funeral services at the Perry Branch.

He was an inspiration to all and he will be sorely missed.

HARRY E. ROBINSON

Brother E. Robinson, member and Presiding Elder of the Clairton Branch departed from this life April 12, 1978. He was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ for 25 years. He was ordained an Elder April, 1958. He is survived by his wife, daughter, son, stepson, his mother, Sister Pearl Robinson, and brothers and sisters both naturally and spiritually.

We must all conclude that God's Way is the best way.



The GOSPEL NEWS

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IT IS WRITTEN

"BAPTISM"

Brother V. J. Lovalvo

History furnishes us with abundant proof that in the first century after the death of Our Lord Jesus Christ, baptism was administered **ONLY** and **SOLELY** by **IMMERSION**.

Justin Martyr, in describing the ceremony as practiced by himself says, "After that they are led by us to where there is water, and are born again in that kind of new birth by which we ourselves were born again. For upon the name of God, the Father, and Lord of all and of Jesus Christ, our Saviour, and of the Holy Spirit, the **IMMERSION** in water is performed, because the Christ hath also said, 'Except a man be born again, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God'". (see Millennial Star, vol. 21, pp. 769, 779)

BAPTISM as a Symbol....

That Baptism is a symbol of something spiritual cannot be denied or refuted, as the Scriptures are very clear on this matter. The Symbolism of the Baptismal ordinance is one of **BIRTH**, **DEATH**, and the **RESURRECTION**. Christ said, "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 3:5) How can one be born of water except by Baptism? Hence the Symbolism of **BIRTH**. Even Nature itself envelopes the unborn creature in water before the Miracle of Birth takes place!

Paul, the Apostle, in his admonition to the Romans wrote, "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His **DEATH**?" And again, "Therefore, we are buried with Him by Baptism unto **DEATH**.... For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His **DEATH**, we shall be also **IN THE LIKENESS** of His **RESURRECTION**." (Romans 6:3, 4, 5) The Apostle continues to expound the same Symbolism to the Colossians. He writes, "Buried with Him in Baptism, wherein ye are also **RISEN** with Him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised Him from the Dead." (Col. 2:12)

BAPTISM ADMINISTERED ONLY TO THOSE OF AN ACCOUNTABLE AGE....

The scriptures emphatically state that, only those

who are capable of understanding that they are sinners, and that they are also capable of understanding what Repentance means, shall be eligible candidates for baptism. For, in all of His Ministry, He never spoke to little children of repentance, but in all of His sermons and exhortations, He always spoke of repentance to adults, to those who were able to understand what sin and repentance meant, and who were accountable for their own sins. Jesus blessed little children, and used them for an example to His Apostles. "He took a little child unto Him, and set him in the midst of them, and said, 'Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of Heaven; Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of Heaven'." (Matt: 18:3,4)

Mormon, in his epistle to his son, Moroni, decries the absurdity of baptizing little children, and reveals the danger of eternal damnation for those who believe that children should be baptized. "Listen to the words of Christ, your Redeemer, your Lord and God. "Behold, I came into the world not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance; the whole need no physician, but they that are sick; wherefore, little children are whole, for **THEY ARE NOT CAPABLE** of committing sin; wherefore, the curse of Adam is taken from them in Me, that it hath no power over them;...." Wherefore, my beloved son, I know that it is solemn mockery before God, that ye should baptize little children. Behold, I say unto you that this thing shall ye teach— Repentance and baptism unto those who are **ACCOUNTABLE** and **CAPABLE** of committing sin; yea, teach parents that they must repent and be baptized, and humble themselves as their little children, and they shall be saved with their little children.... Behold, I say unto you that he that supposeth that little children need baptism is in the gall of bitterness and in the bonds of iniquity, for he hath neither faith, hope, nor charity, wherefore, should he be cut off while in the thought, he must go down to hell." (Moroni 8:8-14)

Mormon states that, the above was not his own doctrine, nor his own teaching, but rather that the Holy Ghost manifested this Truth unto him. (Moroni 8:9) Now, if this is the commandment of God through the power of the Holy Spirit, the future is very bleak indeed for those who may believe otherwise. We pray rather that man will turn to God in repentance and embrace the Truth which has been restored in these last days, and

that the souls of all men might be saved by His wonderful Grace and Mercy.

OPEN-WATER BAPTISM....

The Church of Jesus Christ believes in OPEN-WATER Baptism, not in any man-made pool. In our Ministers' Manual, it is written, "Whether it be a river, lake, sea, ocean, creek, or running stream, as long as it is an open, outside body of water". (Ministers' Manual, Section 2, Page 1, Paragraph 4)

History is very vague as to when exactly Pool baptism was instituted in the Church. Bible scholars at least agree that it was around a hundred years after the death of the Apostles. Be that as it may, this segment of Baptism degenerated into a "Pool" baptism, similar to the other doctrines (Lord's Supper, etc.) which the Lord commanded His Church to keep without fail, (Matt. 28:18-20) but, from which the Church apostatized. Is it not strange that it was a hundred years or more, before the Church realized (and I say this critically) that it was erroneous to baptize in the open waters? Why didn't Jesus command to do so? There were many pools around Jerusalem! Why wasn't He baptized in the pool of Siloam? It was very convenient! But He chose to be baptized in the river Jordan; to set an example, like He did with everything else.

It is recorded in the *Book of Mormon*, "And when they had thus prayed, they went down unto the water's edge, and the multitude followed them." (3 Nephi 19:10) Now, it seems very unlikely, and positively impossible to gather at the "Water's edge" when people are gathered around a Pool. No doubt many have said, and will continue to say, "What is the difference? Water is water!" True! As a matter of fact, most often Pool water is cleaner and uncontaminated, because it has been purified with chemicals. But, in spite of this rationalization, are not those who believe and indulge in Pool baptism saying in effect that Jesus and His Apostles were wrong in baptizing in the open waters. And, if Jesus was not wrong, why do the adherents of Pool baptism keep indulging in same?

The rationalization of baptizing in a pool in lieu of the open waters is not a modern one. Tertullian, one of the historians once said, "There is no difference whether one is washed in the sea, or in a pool, in a river or in a fountain, in a lake or in a channel... we are immersed in the water." So men keep up this Rationale, and teach the same as doctrine.

It is quite evident that the reasons—or some of the greatest reasons—that open water baptism was abandoned in favor of Pool baptism were first, probably because it became quite a hardship to walk great distances to the river, lake, or some other open body of water; Hence a pool—or fountain, if you please—became more convenient. Secondly, to be baptized in the cold winter days, and have to probably break through the ice, was looked upon in horror; hence the eloquent speakers found a very favorable objection to outside baptism, and were able to convince the listeners that to be baptized in a nice warm, comfortable Pool would be just as acceptable to the Lord and to the Church. But, the thing that men forgot was, and is, "How does God feel about this?"

Let us search the scripture and see just how God has felt about the things He has ordained! The Lord commanded Moses one day to build Him an altar. Now, hear

what the Lord has spoken. "And if thou wilt make me an altar of stone, thou shalt not build it of hewn stone; for if thou lift up thy tool upon it, thou hast POLLUTED it." (Exodus 20:25)

"And there shalt thou build an altar unto the Lord thy God, an altar of stones; thou shalt not lift up ANY IRON Tool upon them." (Deuteronomy 27:5)

"As Moses the servant of the Lord commanded the children of Israel, as it is written in the book of the law of Moses, an altar of whole stones, over which no man hath lifted any Iron." (Joshua 8:32)

There is no doubt but that Moses would have preferred to build a beautiful altar unto the Lord; one that would be chiseled to perfection; but the Lord warned him that if any man laid any Iron tool upon it, the altar would be Polluted. Just think for a moment! An embellished altar would become an abomination to the Lord! Haven't men done the same to the commandments of our Lord Jesus Christ? Are not the open waters the altar of "whole stones" that the Lord wants us to raise? And if men lift an Iron tool to it (making a convenient pool or beautiful fountain) are they not polluting the same?

The Church of Jesus Christ has had proof beyond any question of a doubt, that, no one who has been baptized in the open waters has ever suffered any ill-effects; but rather, the Church has documentary proof, by the testimony of many of its members that, upon coming up out of the waters, they have been miraculously healed of serious afflictions, in some cases eyesight has been restored to the blind, and others have been healed of terminal diseases. Many of the above-mentioned members were baptized on cold winter days, when ice had to be broken up to make room for the one being baptized, without adverse effects! We praise God for this!

GENERAL CHURCH DIRECTORY

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS AND DISTRICT SECRETARIES:

If you have changes of address and/or telephone numbers, please send such change to: JOHN ROSS, JR., 119 W. SAGUARO, CASA GRANDE, ARIZONA 85222 before August 31, 1978. The corrected copy will then be sent to Brother Alex Gentile for printing.

John Ross, Jr.

HELP!

Dear Readers:

At present the printing cost of *The Gospel News* is being increased. To avoid any subscription price increase, I am asking you for three things:

1. Please renew your subscription as soon as possible.
2. Try to increase the subscriptions of the paper by telling others about *The Gospel News*.
3. Any donations to help defray the cost of *The Gospel News* will be appreciated.

The Editor

WEST AFRICAN ECHO

Third Installment

On August 3, 1977 just a few days after our arrival to Nigeria, the Coppas, Brother Arthur, and Brother George Ekpo accompanied me and my family to Calabar to finalize my teaching appointment and to obtain Lorraine's teaching appointment. Making this trip involved a great deal of effort. We arose at 5:00 a.m. and were on the road at 6:00 a.m. to catch a ferry at Oron. After a 1½ hour drive to Oron we boarded the ferry for a two hour trip to Calabar. Our mission in Calabar was rather in haste. We had several offices to call on which are spread out over the city and had only four hours time to accomplish our purpose. We arrived in Calabar at 11:00 a.m. and hired a taxi at \$4.50 an hour. Despite every effort to accomplish our business we had difficulty in securing Lorraine's appointment because she lacked a certain document. To add to our disappointment, my appointment had not been finalized as expected. We had no time to eat lunch and we scurried back to the dock to get the last ferry of the day to Oron by 3:00 p.m. Exhausted, hungry and disappointed we arrived at Brother Arthur's compound at 7:00 p.m. Our thoughts of having to return to Calabar to finalize my appointment and make another attempt to secure Lorraine's appointment were not encouraging. However, Brother Gary uttered words that were very thought provoking concerning Lorraine's appointment "Perhaps there is a very good reason for you not getting an appointment and the Lord will work things out." We were soon shown the truth of that statement.

We were ultimately faced with a matter that we had not anticipated; the quality of our children's education. Shortly after the boys began attending the International School we found it to be quite inadequate, despite the favorable comments I had received in 1976. The subject matter being taught in the school was not given in any logical sequence. Emotionally, the boys were very unsettled. They seemed to lack direction. Gaining their attention was a difficult task. At times there was total disregard for our authority. To compensate for their difficulties, Lorraine and I tried to supplement their education. However, there was a total rebellion to learning. Their teachers complained of their mischievous conduct. We had thought that this conduct would moderate and they would settle down but we did not see any moderation or adjustment. At times we questioned whether being in Nigeria would be detrimental to their welfare. We were very troubled and we prayed with the boys constantly. One day as Lorraine and I were discussing a possible course of action, a voice spoke to me saying, "Take the boys out of school." We had not been prepared for this course of action. We were then told by other missionaries of the Calvert Correspondence Course of Baltimore, Maryland. We immediately applied for it and Lorraine began teaching the boys in early December. Immediately after the decision to teach our children at home, a change in behavior took place. The crisis was over.

Through this ordeal we realized that Brother Gary's words showed us that God was totally aware of our needs. If Lorraine had received a teaching appointment, she would not be able to teach the boys.

SCHOOL TEACHERS WANTED

School Teachers wanted to teach the following subjects at the Comprehensive Secondary School at Atai Otoro, Abak, C. R. State, Nigeria, West Africa:

English, Science, Mathematics, Economics, Commerce & Business Administration, for the 1978-1979 or 1979-1980 School years, starting in September.

Single persons or childless couples preferred.

Those interested please specify your qualifications when writing to:

Brother John Ross
100 Cleveland & Division Sts.
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001.

(To be continued)

BROTHERS DEPARTED FOR AFRICA

Brothers Joseph Bittinger and Phillip VanAllsburg, Jr. departed for Africa on June 15, 1978 to visit Brother Nephi DeMercurio and family and our Church in Nigeria.

After their allotted time in Nigeria they will depart for Ghana and visit our Church there before returning home.

John Ross

DELIVERANCE BROKE THE DAWN

It's breakfast time the dawn has broke,
Call everyone to dine —
The mornings here so bright and clear,
Come feed on food divine.
Ye faithful ones, Ye children dear,
Come gather round the feast —
Arise, arise partake and eat,
Your labor long has ceased.
Come gather in ye weary ones,
Ye wanderers of the night —
The table's spread, it's breakfast time,
The morn has dawned so bright.
Go gather in the halt and maimed,
The cripple on the way —
Go lead the blind and bring them in,
Their eyes shall see this day.
Oh watchman look along the road,
What traveler do you see —
Is that fair Israel on the way,
Returning home to me.
Bring forth the calf begin the song,
Present the golden ring —
The celebration bells call out,
To every living thing.
Sing praises loud, sing praises long,
Deliverance broke the dawn.
As every beast and every child,
With joy breaks forth in song.

Sister Arlene Buffington 2/12/78

GOD SAVED MY LIFE

As editor of the Hopelawn Branch I invited Brother Paul Calabro over to my home to relate to me his experience of what could have been a catastrophe if God had not spared his life.

You can not help to exclaim "My God, How Great Thou Art" as you read his testimony!

His testimony is as follows— I, Brother Paul Calabro, work as a physical scientist for the Federal Environmental Protection Agency. I work an area which covers New Jersey, New York, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, etc. As I was preparing to leave for Puerto Rico I petitioned the Brothers and Sisters to pray for me because I knew the dangers that can develop from my job, I also gave my wife some instructions because I did have a little fear for some reason. Also my Presiding Elder Brother Joe Perri called me up to give me words of encouragement and to let me know if my family needed any assistance while I was away that he would be glad to help in any way. We talked for a good while not realizing that my life would soon be in danger.

Our assignment was to take water samples from the fresh water reservoirs in Puerto Rico. As we (myself, three other scientists and one pilot) were flying over the rugged mountains in Puerto Rico I heard a loud noise coming from the rear of the helicopter. Soon we began to go into a spin and within seconds we fell 2,000 feet, crashed into the side of a mountain and then tumbled another 1,500 feet into the valley.

My first thought was that my life was coming to an end. From the impact, all the exits on the chopper were sealed but God had a way for us to escape certain death. An instrument weighing approximately 250 pounds broke loose and made a hole through the body of the chopper enough for us to crawl through to safety. At the time of the crash we had 1500 gallons of jet fuel aboard and it was a miracle that it did not explode. I thought this was my time to leave this life, but God proved once more that He watches over me. When we were a good distance away from where the chopper finally stopped my co-workers and I knelt in prayer to thank God for saving our lives. As I looked around about me I saw the mountains on either side and that we were in a valley, the 23rd Psalm came to mind where David says "Yea though I walk through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, thou art with me". It would have been certain death if God had not saved us. I cannot relate all the facts of this experience because this would be a lengthy article but upon being examined it was determined that beside the bruises and the muscle spasms, I had a fractured vertebra which at this time is mending. I've experienced very little pain throughout this accident and again I want to thank God that he spared my life.

My family and I want to thank you our wonderful Brothers and Sisters of The Church for your prayers and also for your cards.

Sister Mary Perri
Editor of Hopelawn Branch

SEEK YE THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD!

We thank God for the privilege of worship and because He has told us that He will be with us when we meet in His name. Whether it be two or three, His presence will be there.

It would have been easier to remain at home this particular Sunday afternoon, dreary and raining as it was, rather than to drive the 60 odd miles to Campton. Brother Julius was sick and felt that he would be unable to do any speaking, due to his cold. We went, in obedience, knowing that whatever happens, the gospel must be heard in all areas of the globe so that all mankind in the world may know and serve a living God; And, so too, in our little corner of the world. We gathered as we often do, in the humble home of Sister Maude's sister-in-law. We are glad of their desire to have us come, and the appreciation they have for our visits.

This time we were in number, six adults and two children who listened to the message of salvation. Brother Julius was able to speak, in spite of illness. Weakness turned to strength, by the help of the Lord, and we understood that we were on holy ground. Holy because the Spirit of the Lord was present and we were blessed. I'm certain that the others also felt a genuine joy in their hearts for the words were the promises of God.

I'm thankful that the Lord leads us on and pray that someday many more may gather with us and seek to experience that closer walk with God, to live according to His purposes, that He may reign supreme in their hearts.

Traveling homeward we were able to "lift up our eyes unto the hills", the day having been made brighter in its dullness and grayness. The beauty of the white dogwood splashed mountains and wildflowers by the side of the road made us more aware of the wonders of God's creation all around. Simple, beautiful blessings are ours when we turn our hearts to Jesus. I was deeply thankful for the blessings of this day.

We send our greetings of love to all and we continue to ask for the prayers of all who will remember us, as we seek God's guidance to serve and love our fellowman, knowing that in this we are following the example of Jesus, our Savior.

Our prayer is that your desire to follow God may increase with each step by the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Helen Kovacs
Wittensville, Ky.

50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Wednesday, March 1, marked the fiftieth wedding anniversary of Brother Robert and Sister Mae Wilson of the Monongahela Branch. They were baptized into The Church on October 14, 1931. Sister Mae, a heart attack victim several years ago, is a living testimony of how the Lord hears and answers the prayers of the Saints. Her diligence in serving God is an inspiration to us all. Our prayer is that God's blessings will continue to be with the Wilson family.

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Editorial Viewpoint

by George A. Neill

It's probably because of the salty folks in America today that we, as a nation, are still enjoying some of the blessings of God. Nevertheless, let the salty folks beware lest the world rob them of the very substance that is to flavor and save the world.

The story is told that back in the first century of time a rich merchant of Sidon stored up a great quantity of salt in a house or houses. The salt, next to the earth which was the floor of these houses, lost its saltiness or its savor. It was then used to make a road bed. This reminds us of Jesus' words, "Good for nothing but to be cast out and to be trodden under foot of men." I'm wondering if Jesus knew of this incident of the merchant of Sidon when He told them, "Ye are the salt of the earth."

Salt is a precious and necessary element of the earth. When Jesus used this phrase salt was no doubt used far more extensively than it is today. I remember when I was a small boy it was rubbed into meat to preserve it; in fact, it is still used as a preservative today although not as it was in Christ's day since we have refrigeration as a means of preservation. When Jesus told His disciples that what He would give unto them, what He would teach them, above all it must be preserved. He was simply asking the disciples to be God's preservatives. Salt becomes a preservative only by its application to the thing to be preserved. Who but the Saints have preserved the standard that Jesus gave, and by which the world will be judged? Unless we project our lives into the affairs of this life, neither you nor I can be a vital force in helping to build a better civilization.

If salt was a sign of friendship and hospitality in ancient times, as some declare, then Jesus was pointing out to the disciples how they were to treat other people. He was describing the mood and spirit that they were to possess. Salt was also a symbol of purity in ancient days; thus Jesus was saying, "Be ye clean every wit, both inside and out." The disciples knew as well as you and I that salt adds zest to food. Jesus was, in a few words, telling them to add zest to life; have joy, demonstrate hope, show courage, be trustworthy, and help to flavor the world. We may feel that we are so small and the world so large; what can we do? But have you ever noticed how a pinch of salt can flavor a large lump?

Salt has its antiseptic factor also. A missionary tells of African natives who were broken out with ulcers because their bodies were lacking the purifying and health-giving salt. We are all aware that men who work the furnaces in the mills are furnished with salt tablets by the company for whom they work. Various mineral salts are vital to the body, and the common use of table salt supplies man's need for this material. As long as salt retains its vital ingredients it will prevent corruption. Jesus was just as much as saying, "Go ye out into the world and become an antiseptic force." It's probably because of the salty folks in America today that we, as a nation, are still enjoying some of the blessings of God. Nevertheless, let the salty folks beware lest the world rob them of the very substance that is to flavor and save the world." As members of The Church of Jesus Christ, let us lick our lips a bit to see just how salty we are as Saints.

There is a legend to the effect that a king asked his three daughters how much they loved him. The one declared she loved him better than silver. The second was certain she loved him more than gold. The youngest daughter said, "O, Father, I love you more than salt, because nothing is good without you." Thus it is, in a spiritual sense, with those of us who have come to know Christ and have experienced His meeting us at every turn of the road. When in sorrow He is there to comfort; if we rejoice He rejoices with us. If we stumble and fall He is there with a willing and helpful hand. Even though we sin, if we repent He is present to forgive; and so we have come to realize **NOTHING IS GOOD WITHOUT HIM.**

Reprint



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

The Mother of John the Baptist

Dear Girls and Boys,

Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist and the wife of Zacharias is the woman in our story this month.

Elizabeth lived in the hill country of Judea near Jerusalem. She was the wife of the priest Zacharias and the daughter of a family of priests. Her husband officiated at the great Temple in Jerusalem. We read in Luke's gospel, "they were righteous before God, walking in all the commandments of the Lord blameless."

One day it was Zacharias' turn to go to the Temple to burn incense and pray. A multitude of people were praying outside. There appeared to Zacharias an angel named Gabriel, who said, "Fear not Zacharias, your prayer is heard. Elizabeth your wife, will have a son and you shall call him John. Many shall rejoice at his birth for he shall be great in the sight of the Lord. He shall drink neither wine nor strong drink and be filled with the Holy Ghost." Zacharias was troubled and fear fell upon him. He asked, "How shall I know this? I am an old man and my wife Elizabeth is well stricken in years." The angel replied, "I am sent to show thee these glad tidings. You shall be dumb and not able to speak until these things come to pass because you have not believed my words."

The people were outside waiting for Zacharias. They marvelled that he stayed so long in the Temple. When he came out he could not speak to them. They thought he had seen a vision. He then went to his own house. Although Elizabeth was old in years she believed the miracle when she learned the good tidings.

Mary, Elizabeth's cousin came to visit her. An angel had told Mary, that Elizabeth would have a son in her old age. Mary too was to have a son, the Son of God. For three months Elizabeth entertained her cousin Mary. How happy they must have been.

Shortly after Mary returned home to Nazareth, Elizabeth gave birth to her son. On the eighth day, as is the custom of the Jews, the baby was circumcized and named. Some people at the gathering wanted to name the baby Zacharias, after his father, but Elizabeth remembered the words of the angel. She said, "Not so, but he shall be called John." Zacharias still could not speak so he wrote, "His name is John." Then Zacharias' tongue was loosed. A miracle had taken place. Zacharias glorified God.

John was known later as John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus Christ. He was just and holy and ministered unto the people as his father had done. We read no more of Elizabeth. We do not know if she rejoiced in

her son's ministry. But we do find these words in Matthew, the words of Jesus when He said, "Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women, there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist."

Sincerely,

Sister Mabel

Pennsylvania Area M. B. A. Campout

The Pennsylvania Area M. B. A. Campout will be held on Labor Day weekend, September 1-4, 1978. Anyone wanting registration forms please contact Brother Alvin Gehly, R. D. 1, Fredonia, Pa. 16124.

Monongahela Sister Gets Top SS Award

An Elizabeth woman who is employed as a data review technician at the McKeesport office of the Social Security Administration has been awarded one of that agency's top awards.

Sister Helen G. Smith who has worked at the local office for 12 years has been given the Principal Regional Officials' award for meritorious service.

The honor is conferred for "consistent dedication, highly productive and accurate work performance and exemplary concern for the public and for fellow employees."

ALL Correspondence destined for
The Brooklyn Branch of
The Church of Jesus Christ
must be addressed:
Post Office Box 56
Staten Island, N.Y. 10305

Golden Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. John C. Bickerton, 6 Ronald Street marked 50 years of marriage recently.

The family celebrated the couple's golden anniversary with a luncheon at Keck's Restaurant, Clairton, Pa.

The Bickertons were married in Monongahela June 4, 1928, by the late Elder W. H. Cadman, Sister Mabel's father.

Sister Mabel is a retired teacher from West Jefferson Hills School District. John Bickerton is retired from the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad.

The couple has three children: Carol Lovell of Hagerstown, Md., Irene Yonkee of Beaver Falls, Pa., and John of Pinetop, Arizona. They also have nine grandchildren.

May God Bless them with His goodness.

OUR TRIP TO MEXICO

By Joseph Lovalvo

(Continued from previous issue)

They had been there for centuries. Some shied away when we wanted to take their pictures. We met people there that promised us they would come to church. A Brother works in the hospital and he introduced us to the head doctors and nurses. This young man was not ashamed to let everybody know that we were the Ministers of The Church of Jesus Christ.

On Friday, we went to a place called Caulote, about 30 kilometers from Pedronales. We drove over roads where we had to stop the car and remove rocks from the road. When we reached the end of the road, we left the car and walked up the hill three miles where we were holding services. They accepted us royally and we preached the Gospel. They asked us to have lunch with them. It was a small house, very primitive, no floors, just dirt. When we left, they accompanied us down the three-mile road to the car. They bid us farewell and promised they would be in church on Sunday.

A new family came down to see us that was very, very poor; they did not have a home. They slept outside and the only clothes they had were upon their bodies. It was a touching thing to see these poor people come 15 to 20 miles to hear the Gospel. They came with tears streaming down their cheeks and the Book of Mormon under their arms. When we saw their plight, the Brothers of our group made sure they did not return home empty-handed. This is a place, Brothers, where you cannot go away without putting your hand in your pocket and extending your love to others; to share what you possess because your heart breaks when you see these people in such poverty.

The Saints in Pedronales did not have sacrament utensils. We brought some material that the Sisters sewed into sacrament cloths. We also bought glasses and a pitcher. On Sunday morning, we met in the church building or the home of David Alcaez. We had over 100 people packed in the two rooms of that house. When I got up to preach, Brother Perdue started to interpret. There was no need of any interpretation because of the power of God. Everyone was crying when I asked them if they were ready for baptism, the people said, "We are ready." Five asked to be baptized and the glory of God was around us as we expounded the Gospel. We have never felt for many, many years, the power that was displayed among this people. Everyone felt the glory and blessings of God. After the meeting, everybody got in a truck as we got in the car. We drove to the place of baptism. I cannot describe to you the beauty of this place. The water came down from the mountains and flowed into this pond - about 35 feet in diameter.

After we prayed, Brother Eugenio stood on the hillside and preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ with such power, authority and spirit that it overwhelmed all the people. A young pregnant woman of eight months wept and said, "I want to be baptized." That made it number six. I was asked to baptize, but I did not have an extra pair of shoes. They encouraged me to go into the water in my stocking feet. I had to jump off a little incline to get in the water. When I jumped, my toe hit a sharp rock and I fell over. Then I hit another sharp rock which

split my second toe as the nail was half off. I did not let it bother me as we went and baptized three people. Brother Eugenio baptized two and Brother Antonio Garcia baptized one. Brother Garcia and his wife, Sarah, had been with us since Wednesday, he was a help and blessing to us.

On Sunday after the baptisms, we went to another service, again the place was packed with over 100 people, from wall to wall. We talked about the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost and we confirmed those that were baptized. We decided to call a Deacon. This young man David was recommended to be a Deacon. We ordained him a Deacon and his wife a Deaconess. The wife of the Elder was ordained a Deaconess. Brother Eugenio recommended his oldest sister who is over 75 years old, yet she is a very faithful and a loving woman. We ordained her a Deaconess also. When I laid hands on Brother Joel to ordain him an Elder, I prayed in the English language. All of a sudden, I switched to Spanish as the power of God fell upon me, the young man, and the whole congregation. It was something glorious as I ordained him an Elder of The Church of Jesus Christ. Then the others were ordained. This young man got up to speak as he declared his intention to convert and bring this Gospel to his people. Then, the young Deacon got up and said, together with Brother Joel, they would do everything to spread the Gospel and bring it to every home. Brother Eugenio remained in Michocan to teach the young Elder and young officers of the Church. The next morning, after a season of prayer, Brother Perdue, Brother Sam and I started our journey to Sinaloa.

It was difficult to separate from the Saints in Michocan. Nevertheless, it was Monday morning, November 21, 1977 as we started this 1,200 mile trip by automobile to Sinaloa. Our goal was to travel 800 miles that day and Brother Sam Randy, our driver said we would make it. I want to say that after riding with Brother Sam, he can qualify for the Indianapolis Speedway any time. We had a very good trip as we sang, talked, praised God and we reached Mazatlan about 9:00 o'clock on Monday evening. We retired to a motel. The next morning we started out on the next leg of the trip, another 400 miles.

We arrived at Ahome, Sinaloa at about 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon. We pulled into the church lot where Brother Juan Rivas is staying with his family. When Brother Juan's children saw us, they started to cry and called their dad to say, "Brother Perdue and Brother Joe are here." Brother Juan and his wife, Sister Gloria, could not stop saying, "Oh, thank God that you arrived, thank God that you are here." The home that Brother Juan lived in is an unfinished house, two rooms, with no ceiling and only half the walls. He had blankets around the place to protect himself from the wind.

We started to talk about the future; building the church there on the lot. I asked Brother Juan why he was not living in Los Mochos, and if he had found any work. He said that he found little jobs, but had no transportation. He was willing to suffer and sacrifice by living there at the church lot. He wanted to be with the Brothers, Sisters and people to whom he preached the Gospel. He wanted us to sleep there, but there was no room for us so we drove back to Los Mochos to stay with friends of Brother Randy. They are relatives of Brother and Sister Barajas from San Diego and Tijuana. They are Ephram and Gloria Frias. They did not allow us to spend

one penny for food or anything. Brother and Sister Barajas were there visiting and they made room for us. Brother Randy, Brother Perdue and I shared one room. This home was a little more modern; it had a bathroom and a shower. They were also having visitors at the same time. There were 17 people staying in that home.

Ephram and Gloria are not members of the Church yet. They displayed so much hospitality and love that when they got home (they are both teachers) the first thing they said to us was, "This is your house." The next day we were concerned about getting out to find the hardware stores and cement companies. We had to line up all the materials for the church building. A young man who was studying to be an engineer was on Mr. Frias' payroll and he spent three days with us going around until we got all the equipment lined up for the church building. We found that we could get all the supplies we needed right in Los Mochos.

When I arrived in Los Mochos, the toe that I injured in Michocan had become black and blue; it looked like it was infected. When Mrs. Frias saw the condition of my foot, she said, "I am going to be your nurse." She made me bathe my foot and medicated it. She treated me as though I was her father. With my injured toe and a muscle that I pulled in my back when I fell into the waters before baptizing in Michocan, I was in a painful physical condition. I had Brother Perdue anoint me and put my trust in God. I felt that He would see me through the entire trip.

On Wednesday evening, we had our first meeting in Sinaloa. I expected about 20 or 25 people at the most. To our surprise, after we started to sing, people came from everywhere. We had over 125 people as they were standing up because we only had seven benches that could accommodate 25 or 30 people. The people stayed during the service for two hours. When the service was closed, nobody wanted to leave. It was a beautiful sight to see all those people there at the service.

Thursday, November 24, was Thanksgiving Day in America. Mr. and Mrs. Frias went and bought a turkey and gave us a Thanksgiving Dinner, American style. It was an act of love and kindness bestowed upon us. On Friday night we had our second service. Again we had a large crowd of 80 to 90 people, with many young people there. This night, the Gospel was preached with power and with the glory of God as we spoke of the Restoration in the 37th chapter of Ezekiel, the 29th chapter of Isaiah, the 8th Psalm, the Book of Mormon, 2nd Nephi, the 10th Chapter; and 2nd Nephi, the 3rd Chapter. The power of God was with us. Mr. and Mrs. Frias were deeply touched, they embraced us and said they felt the glory of God was upon us; that we represented the true Church of God.

During the service, an elderly woman fell to the ground with convulsions. We picked her up, anointed her and brought her into the house. We started again to sing, but I wasn't satisfied. I told Brother Perdue "I am going into the house to anoint her again." Brother Sam and I went into the house, got on our knees and Brother Sam prayed. I anointed her, she recovered from the convulsions and came back to the meeting. God showed mercy and restored her.

Sister Gloria Rivas had been afflicted for two and one-half months with an infection in both ears and her throat. This woman was filled with so much faith that she said when Brother Joe gets here, God will heal me.

She asked to be anointed, so we got down on our knees and prayed. I anointed her; God came to her rescue and completely healed her. It was a great and a mighty blessing.

Another young woman of 25 had a huge lump on her leg; she asked to be anointed. We anointed her and she was healed. The glory and power of God was displayed so much, that none wanted to leave our service.

We anointed many people in these services and the blessings of God were made manifest. A letter I received since our return states that many of them were healed — for which we give God and Jesus Christ the glory.

We thought that in Mexico City the blessings were great; we thought that the blessings were greater in Michocan; but the blessings of God exceeded everything that we hoped for in Sinaloa. Preaching the Gospel in this place was just like eating honey out of the rock. An elderly woman came requesting baptism. We questioned her as to her understanding. We were satisfied that she was truly repentant and understood the Gospel. We told her to wait to be baptized on Sunday. Several others asked to be baptized; but after we questioned them, we realized they were not fully convinced, nor did they fully understand. We told them to wait.

That evening, the pain in my toe and back was excruciating. I retired to the room and knelt in prayer. I called upon God that if He didn't desire to heal me, give me the strength that I might endure the rest of the trip. While praying, I had a vision. I saw Paul and Silas in jail singing hymns and praises to God. I saw their bodies wounded and bleeding. A voice spoke to me, "I allowed this to happen that they might see my glory!" I understood I was no better than Paul or Silas. I understood the suffering that goes with the preaching of the Gospel and I thanked God, because I now knew that His eyes were upon me.

On Sunday, we had a crowd of 60 people. Sunday is the day when everybody goes to the stores; everybody goes to town. Sunday is their big day in Mexico; we hope that some day the Gospel will change all that. We had a lesser crowd of about 60 people — and yet, the glory and blessings of God were there. Preaching of the Gospel was so great, it seemed we had angels all around us. Then we went down to the river and Brother Rivas baptized this elderly Sister. We returned for confirmation and administration to all the Saints there. The blessings of God were with us and nobody wanted to leave. A woman who is the sister of the Governor of Sinaloa was so impressed with the Gospel, she wouldn't leave. She stayed and visited with us and the Rivases. We wish to thank God for this visit in Sinaloa, Pedronales and Michocan.

We started home on November 29, drove to Mazatlan, 400 miles away, to catch our plane. Brother Juan accompanied us. We got a motel for the night. On Tuesday morning, we boarded the plane, bidding farewell to our Brother in Christ. We reached Los Angeles, where Brother Perdue boarded the plane to San Diego. Brother Sam and I were stranded because we had an open ticket. All the airlines were filled and we could not leave until 9:00 o'clock at night. Then we took another plane from San Francisco to Modesto. We didn't get home until after midnight.

We were able to fulfill the desires of the Mission

Board and the desires of our hearts. I want to say that Brother Perdue was a great blessing, not only as an interpreter, but as a man whose humility and love showed to the people he was truly an evangelist of Jesus Christ. I want to thank God for Brother Sam Randy. Without him, I think it would have been very difficult to do all the things we did. His courage, faith and understanding were a great blessing to us. He preached and exhorted the people and they loved him at all the places where we visited.

I want to close this report by saying that, even though I was afflicted, I came home happy.

After I returned, I received a letter from Mr. and Mrs. Frias from Los Mochos. A thirteen year old girl, their niece, was born with a disease on her body. Her hands are always wet, and water drips, actually drips, out of her hands. The day before we left, they asked us to anoint her. I received the news that she is completely healed. God has answered prayer again. Mr. and Mrs. Frias write that their home is completed. They have added two rooms and welcome anybody from the Church who goes there to stay. God bless them.

Brother Sam and Brother Joe Ciarolla are planning a trip in January to Sinaloa. They will start building the church building in Sinaloa.

Joseph Lovalvo

Thank You

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to thank all of you for your concern, prayers, and cards during the bereavement of my daughter, Terri Lynne. I hope that some day I can thank each of you individually. It makes me extremely thankful to have Brothers and Sisters like you.

May God Bless You,

Sister Sandy Menchio
Greensburg Branch

Note of Thanks

I wish to thank my Brothers and Sisters throughout The Church for their wonderful response to my need and the encouragement they gave my family during my recent heart attack and following surgery.

To thank you each individually is impossible. I thank you first and foremost for the fasting and prayers that were held in my behalf throughout The Church. I thank you for the many beautiful get-well cards with their wonderful words of encouragement and the many telephone calls received from throughout The Church.

James tells us in his writings that "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much". I thank God and give Him all credit for being alive and well today, and that He heard the fervent prayers of a righteous people, my Brothers and Sisters of The Church of Jesus Christ, that their prayers were effectual in moving God's hand to bless me in my darkest hour of need.

Your Brother in Christ,
Brother Fred Olexa

BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS:—

The Afterglow From A Beautiful Conference

Upon returning home from Conference Sunday, April 16, the Saints from South Bend, Indiana and Omaha, Nebraska stopped to rest and refresh themselves at our home in Masury, Ohio. Brother Jerry Giovannone and his wife Sister Rose, and her mother, Sister Rose Rogalino, came to visit. As the Saints from Indiana were preparing to leave, Brother Jerry felt to sing "God Be With You" but instead we sang "In The Land of Love", a hymn written by Brother Harry Robinson. After finishing, Sister Rogalino revealed a vision she experienced of Brother Harry entering the room. Sister Janet Backett revealed the words he spoke, "Weep Not For Me!" Several Sisters spoke of their experiences in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. A wonderful Spirit was felt by all present.

Brother Mitchell Edwards was led to offer a prayer for those leaving and as he was praying, Sister Michelle Edwards saw in a vision two people being baptized. Sister Rogalino spoke in the gift of tongue, "Come unto me, come unto me." Valarie Wells asked to be anointed for an ailment, after which the Spirit of repentance fell upon her and a request for baptism was made. Clifton Wells, Valarie's husband, also made his wishes known.

Being that these two were from Omaha, Nebraska, the Elders felt to travel to the water's edge at that time. We proceeded to Mosquito Lake in Warren, Ohio. The cars lined the shore with lights shining on the water. Both Valarie and Clifton were baptized by Brother Jerry Giovannone. Both came forth out of the water with the glow of the Spirit on their faces. We continued to the Warren Branch and there confirmed them into The Church of Jesus Christ. Pray for those Saints that continue to thrive alone in the nether parts of God's vineyard without Elders to minister unto them.

Ohio District Mission Board

Ordination At Levittown, Pa.

Greetings Brothers and Sisters. We are most pleased to announce at this time, that Sister Darlene Large, of our Levittown Mission, was ordained Deaconess.

On March 26, after listening to the nourishing words of our elders, along with Brother Don Ross, a visiting elder from the Edison Branch, we then proceeded with the ordination.

A word of prayer was offered by Brother Don Ross, asking the Lord to bless the sister and the brother who was to ordain her.

Sister Josephine Dell, presiding Deaconess of our mission, then proceeded to wash Sister Darlene's feet.

Afterwards Brother Samuel Dell, our presiding elder, ordained her, and you could feel that the Spirit of God was truly present. Although it was damp and cool outside, within The Church of Jesus Christ the love of God kept us warm. The Spirit of God like a fire was burning within each and every heart.

Brothers and Sisters, continue to pray for our mis-

sion so we may grow even stronger in our services to God, and we will surely remember each and every one of you in our prayers. May God Bless each and every one of you.

Sister Renee Connor
Editor Levittown Mission,

Windsor, Canada News

March was a beautiful, fruitful month for us. (Being exhorted to obtain grace and peace through the knowledge of God).

We held our semi-annual business meeting, discussing old projects, our accomplishments, and establishing new endeavors.

On March 11, we had occasion to celebrate, along with their children, Brother Sam and Sister Mary Cuomo's 50th wedding anniversary. Family and friends came from as far as California, Northern Ontario and as near as Michigan.

On March 12 two more young men were set aside to labor in the work of The Church. Brother Charles Matthew was ordained a deacon and Brother Larry Henderson was ordained a teacher.

Sister Villa Vitiello came from Sudbury, Ontario and was anointed for an ear infection, fearing deafness, and not being able to hear God's Word. She was likened to the women who reached to touch the hem of Christ's garment, seeking mercy.

It was instilled within our hearts the need to tell others of the gospel and how modern day religion seeks ways to be popular with men. The Church of Jesus Christ seeks to follow Christ, His Kingdom, His blessings and His salvation. Our need is to come to church to be spiritually fed; a holy people are a happy people. We live in a promised land, a choice land, free from bondage if we serve God. We need to be our neighbors' Bible.

We had many visitors throughout the month, and we felt their presence inspiring and refreshing.

Sister Adrienne Collison,
Windsor Branch Editor

Rochester, New York

The Rochester, New York Mission had the joy of the presence of the Apostle Brother Paul D'Amico. He opened the meeting with prayer and sang hymn Praise Ye The Lord! He chose for his text 4th Nephi; The Church of Christ flourishes, The Nephites and Lamanites converted, They have all things in common, Two centuries of righteousness followed by divisions and degeneracy. God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He spoke of the peaceful reign that is to come. How long has it been that we gave the testimony of the Church? If we do our part, God will do the rest. He related many experiences in regard to his heart surgery and the Lord was his Shepherd.

Sang Hymn, Our Church, and Blessed Be The Name. Brother Ansel D'Amico continued to emphasize the Peaceful Reign. We should make Christ the center of our attraction and take the name of Jesus with us wherever we go.

The meeting was opened for testimony. Sacrament was administered in remembrance of Him. A good spirit prevailed all during the meeting that God's blessing was felt by all.

We were dismissed by singing Lord Dismiss With Thy Blessings. Closing prayer was by Brother John D'Amico.

Niles Has Ordination

On Sunday, May 7, 1978, Niles Branch had a blessed day with the ordination of Brother Brian Martorana into the office of Deacon and the visitation of Brother Ron and Sister Cathy Genaro from New Orleans. Our morning meeting was opened by Brother Ron using as his topic: "What is a Soul?" He read in *Genesis* about the soul of man. He talked of how Satan will bargain with us and we must always be prepared. Christ was ready for His crucifixion and resurrection. We must lay up our treasures in heaven instead of the pleasures of this world.

Brother Russ Martorana continued by stating that we should choose not the sandy foundation, but be wise and choose the solid ground which is Jesus Christ. It is high time we stand up for Jesus and get out and proclaim the glad tidings of Christ. Jesus was flesh and blood and had the same temptations as you and I, but His first priority was doing the will of the Father.

In our afternoon meeting we heard many beautiful testimonies and then Brother Lou Pandone was moved by the Spirit of God to wash Brother Brian's feet. He was then ordained by his father Brother Russ Martorana. A beautiful spirit was felt by all in this ordination. As he was being ordained, Sister Elsa Colecchi saw a vision of David as he killed the giant with a sling shot. We all went home rejoicing in the Spirit of God.

We are privileged to have Brother Lou and Sister Libby Pandone back in Niles after they lived in Florida for six years.

Sister Wanda Pandone
Branch Editor

Arizona By Ways

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On Sunday, May 21, 1978, our little building was filled to capacity and bulging. The following visiting Elders were present: Paul Francione, Richard Christman, Herbert Hemmings, Isaac Smith, Tom Liberto, Patsy Marinetti and George Neill.

The previous evening the MBA had sponsored its fourth annual graduation banquet honoring all of the Church's Arizona graduates. Members and friends came from various parts of the state and from California to participate in this happy occasion. The graduate honorees were: Jimmy Brutz, son of Brother Anthony and Sister Grace Brutz, Tucson; Joel Christman, son of Brother Richard and Sister Patricia Christman, Tucson; Rhonda Ross, daughter of Brother John and Sister Connie Ross, Phoenix; Isaac Smith, son of Brother Isaac and Sister Bonnie Smith, Lakeside; Timothy Hemmings, son of Brother Herbert and Sister Shirley Hemmings, Lakeside.

All of us felt the Spirit of God as each Elder spoke.

Brother Isaac Smith was our first speaker and his remarks were focused on the young. He advised them to counsel with and take heed to the older Church members that they may receive for themselves and to the next generation a proper, firm Christian foundation.

Brother Smith told us about his own father who did his building without benefit of ruler, square or other tools. In one project his father was about to install a door when someone asked him, "Don't you think you should build the door frame first?" This was an amusing observation which made us all smile but it also stressed an important fact of life.

Brother Tom Liberto, from San Diego, California, followed. He was inspired to continue on the building theme — emphasizing the quality of the material used.

The last speaker was Brother Patsy Marinetti from Tucson, who recently moved from Rochester, New York.

Brother Marinetti spanned the building theme with a bridge — tying in all ages into one unified group with one glorious purpose. It was a befitting and enlightening finale to all that had been spoken.

We take this opportunity to extend our greetings and best wishes to all graduates throughout The Church.

Frances J. Capone
Editor, Phoenix, Arizona Branch

Ordination And Baptism At Warren, Ohio

It was a beautiful Sunday, on April 23, 1978 when we met to witness the ordination of Brother Belzonia Brown into the office of Deacon at the Warren, Ohio Branch. Brother Victor Ciarolla had a dream that he was to wash Brother Brown's feet and he fulfilled his dream. Brother Frank Giovannone ordained Brother Belzonia into the office of Deacon.

On Sunday, May 14, 1978 David Koeth asked to be baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ. He was baptized by Brother Mitchell Edwards and confirmed by Brother Frank Giovannone.

Pray for us that God would continue to bless us.

Baptisms At Metuchen, New Jersey

On Sunday, April 2, 1978, Sister Jo Ann Arcuri was baptized in the Raritan River in Perth Amboy, New Jersey. Brother Joseph Arcuri, Presiding Elder of the Metuchen Branch, and Sister Jo Ann's father performed the baptism. She was confirmed by her uncle, Brother Anthony Vadasz, in the afternoon service.

On Sunday, April 9, 1978, the Saints in New Jersey again met at the Raritan River in Perth Amboy, New Jersey to witness the baptism of Brother Anthony Vadasz, Jr. Brother Anthony was baptized by his father, Brother Anthony Vadasz, Sr. He was confirmed by Brother Sam Risola, Sr. in the morning service.

Sister Marie Cihomsky
Editor, Metuchen Branch

McKees Rocks Branch

McKees Rocks Branch of The Church sends greetings in Christ Jesus to all readers of The Gospel News.

Sunday, April 30, 1978, we witnessed another render obedience to the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. Joe Rogalla was immersed as was Jesus, "And the Spirit and the Bride say, Come."

We do praise The Lord. Pray for us. We do remember the whole world, for God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. Amen.

Sister Laird, Branch Editor

Baptism In Hopelawn

On April 9, 1978 a new name has been written down in glory and it is Cindy Perri.

Her father, Brother Joseph Perri had the honor of taking his daughter into the water to be baptized. Many Brothers and Sisters were gathered at the water's edge and it was a beautiful sight to behold.

Brother August D'Orazio confirmed Cindy at church. It will be a day long remembered and one we will cherish because as parents we always pray that our children will become members of this glorious gospel. I thank God for answering our prayer.

Mary Perri
Hopelawn Branch Editor

Note of Thanks

I want to extend my sincere thanks to all the Elders that prayed for me at Conference, and to all the Saints as well, but most of all, I thank God for His wonderful healing power, and I want to give Him all the glory.

I am a member of the Sterling Heights Branch in Warren, Michigan. I underwent surgery on April 13, to remove a growth from my body. My doctor told me that examination in the hospital laboratory, showed the growth to be cancerous. Meanwhile, the Conference was in session in Pennsylvania. Brother Louis Vitto carried a handkerchief for two days, and when he felt the Spirit of the Lord upon him, he consulted with Brother Thomas, and the handkerchief, the first in a series to be anointed, was for me.

When the final report was made, my doctor was astounded. The tumor was pronounced benign. He said he couldn't understand it, it had to be a miracle. I told him it was, and that I could understand what happened. It was because of the prayers that were said in my behalf, and because of the faith that I had in God.

Please continue to pray for me that I may regain my strength.

Sister Rose Gerry

— NEW ARRIVALS —

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

Anthony Paul to Denny and Rita Gehly of Indiana, Pennsylvania,

Samuel Jeremy to Ed and Robyn White of Greensburg, Pennsylvania,

Gina Marie to Michael and Linda Italino of Youngstown, Ohio,

Jessica Alberta to John and Chris Mancini of Red Lake, Arizona,

Jonathon Garrett to Roger and Elizabeth Kellams of Red Lake, Arizona,

Jeremy Todd to John and Darlene Irwin of Lorain, Ohio,

Aletta to Belzonia and Rosemary Brown of Warren, Ohio,

Violet Rose to Frank and Wanda Baldwin of Levittown, Pennsylvania,

Sabrina Leslie to Willie and Emma Brown of Freehold, New Jersey.

— WEDDINGS —

LOMBARDO - KIBAT

Mr. Thomas Chester Lombardo and Miss Nancy Ann Kibat were joined in holy wedlock on Saturday, April 22, 1978 at The Church of Jesus Christ, Branch 1 in Detroit, Michigan.

The ceremony was officiated by the uncle of the bride, Brother Nick Pietrangelo. Musical selections were presented by Brother Eugene Amormino and Sister Alyse Molisani.

The newlyweds will reside in Sterling Heights, Michigan.

CREIGHTON - SANTILLI

Mr. Ralph Michael Creighton and Miss Sherry Lee Santilli were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, May 20, 1978 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Youngstown, Ohio.

The ceremony was officiated by the uncles of the bride, Brothers Elmer Santilli and Richard Santilli.

Musical selections were presented by Joseph Costarella and Darlene Balog accompanied on the organ by Sister Betty Gennaro.

The newlyweds will reside in Youngstown, Ohio.

THOMAS - WHITTON

Mr. Robert James Thomas and Miss Pamela Joy Whitton were joined in holy wedlock on Saturday, May 13, 1978 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Sterling Heights, Michigan.

The ceremony was officiated by Brother Paul D'Amico.

Musical selections were presented by Rosemary Szufner and pianist, Ralph Frammolino.

The newlyweds will reside in Warren, Michigan.

● OBITUARIES ●

ROSE PIETRANGELO

Sister Rose Pietrangelo passed onto her heavenly reward on March 31, 1978. She was born on September 6, 1895. Sister Rose became a member of The Church of Jesus Christ, Branch 1 in Detroit, Michigan, on July 25, 1923. She was called as a Deaconess in The Church on July 20, 1947.

The funeral services were conducted by Brother Paul Vitto.

She is survived by four sons, two daughters, 16 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

In remembering Sister Rose Pietrangelo, I think of a good mother and an excellent Deaconess. But mostly I will remember her great love for The Church. In losing Sister Rose, we have surely lost a pillar which will be hard to replace.

WILLIAM C. LOVE

Elder William C. Love passed on to his heavenly reward on Thursday, June 1, 1978. He attended the Youngstown, Ohio Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. He was born on October 28, 1897 and was baptized into The Church in 1918. He was ordained an Elder in 1933.

The funeral services were conducted by Brothers A. A. Corrado and Ralph Berardino. He was buried in Fredonia, Pennsylvania.

He is survived by his wife, three daughters, three brothers, one sister, ten grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Brother Love will be missed by his family, the Saints and all those who were fortunate to have known him.

FRANCES ANGELO

Sister Frances Angelo passed away from this life on Friday, March 10, 1978. She was a member of Branch 3, Detroit, Michigan. She was born on July 28, 1886 and baptized on May 2, 1932.

The funeral services were conducted by Brothers Jack Pontillo and Mich LaSala.

She is survived by two daughters, seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Sister Frances had a great love for The Church and will be greatly missed.

JOSEPH M. SHAZER

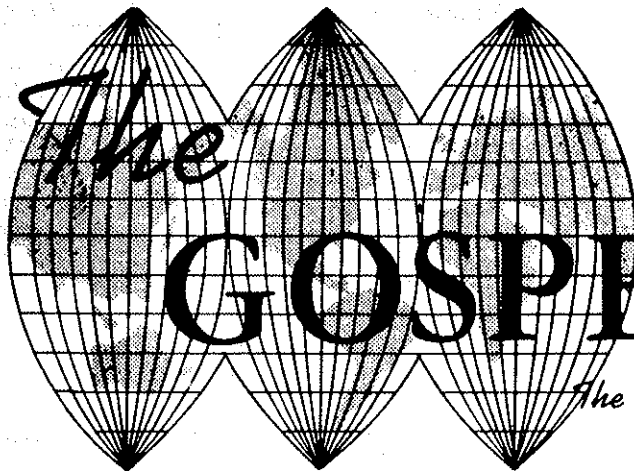
Evangelist Joseph M. Shazer passed on to his eternal reward on Wednesday, March 22, 1978. He was a member of the Vanderbilt Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. He was born April 19, 1900 and was baptized on March 8, 1935. In 1936 he became an Elder and in 1937 he was ordained an Evangelist.

He is survived by his wife, one son, three daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The funeral services were conducted by Brother Alvin Swanson of Florida.

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

We share the deep sorrow of our dear Sister Mary Dichiera, as we extend our sympathy at the loss of her granddaughter, Janine Marie Mazur, on May 6, 1978.



GOSPEL NEWS

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa.

August, 1978

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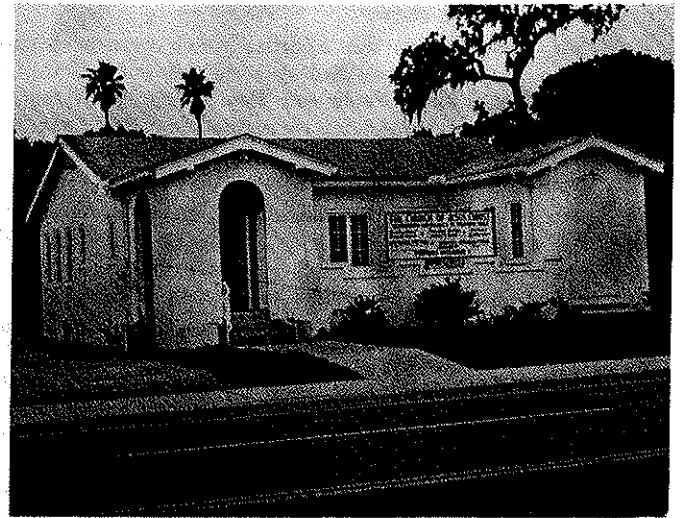
Offices: 6th & Lincoln Sts.

DEDICATION SERVICES AT TAMPA, FLORIDA MISSION

The Tampa Mission of the Ft. Pierce, Florida Branch held its dedication service for the building they recently purchased on Sunday, May 28, 1978. Visitors, Brothers and Sisters in attendance were from all parts of Florida, Ohio and New Jersey. It was a beautiful day and the Tampa Brothers and Sisters and friends had worked hard and the results of their labors were in great evidence. Little Tina Tucker (aged 5) sang several hymns accompanied on the piano by her music instructor. Needless to say these selections were beautiful and enjoyed by all. Brother Anthony Ensana offered the dedication prayer. Brothers William Tucker and Duane Lowe of Tampa, gave an account of the history of the Tampa Mission and acknowledged all those who had donated or labored so diligently to make this day a reality.

They told of the first service of the Tampa Mission which was held on October 16, 1973 in the Tampa Federal Savings and Loan Building with Brother V. J. Lovalvo in charge. Meetings were held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. During this time they enjoyed many blessings, baptisms, healings, etc. Finally, conditions permitted them to meet each week. Prior to January 1978, they had no thought, and the idea that they would have their own building seemed so far away. Then, within a month, on February 8, 1978, they held their first meeting in the recently purchased building. Everything worked to their benefit once they decided to go ahead and purchase the building.

After relating all this, the meeting was turned over to the Florida District President, Brother Eugene Perri. Brother Sam Costarella, Presiding Elder of the Fort Pierce Branch offered the opening prayer. Brother Russell Martorana of Niles, Ohio, then addressed the congregation. He referred to Alma, the 32nd Chapter which tells of a people who helped in building a synagogue but were not allowed to have the use of it after its completion, while those here who worked, now were enjoying the fruits of their labors. He also spoke of the dedication of the building and more important the dedication of our lives to the service of the Lord. Brother Charles Smith and Eugene Perri, Jr. followed, continuing to speak on dedication. Testimonies were given and the Lord's Supper was served. The meeting was closed with singing of



Hymn No. 264, "Rock of Ages" and Brother Alvin Swanson dismissed with prayer.

Immediately following the close of the meeting, all went to the previous meeting place at the bank building where the Tampa Saints served a delicious dinner.

We are thankful for a beautiful day, a wonderful service and for the nice building our Brothers and Sisters now have in which to worship. The Tampa Saints again wish to extend their grateful appreciation to all those who attended this glorious day and all those who have generously helped from the beginning until this time. May God bless them for all they did. We also pray that the Lord will continue to bless them and hopefully, may there be other places of worship in this great city in the near future.

Sister Ilene Smith
Sister Elsie Ensana
Editors

—:—

SISTERS ARRIVE HOME FROM AFRICA

Sisters Rose Mary and Kathleen Furitano arrived home in Detroit, Michigan on Wednesday, July 26, 1978 after a month stay in Nigeria. They left home on June 27, 1978 to visit Brother Nephi DeMercurio and family and our church.

Brother John Ross

IT IS WRITTEN

Brother V. J. Lovullo

BESTOWAL OF THE HOLY GHOST . . .

There are two things required of a person to gain him admission to the Kingdom of Heaven, viz: BIRTH of Water, and BIRTH of the SPIRIT! As it takes a man endowed with Priesthood Authority to Baptize someone, in order for that candidate to be truly "BORN of water", it, of necessity requires Priesthood Authority to Bestow the Holy Ghost! The Holy Ghost is the Abiding gift of God, effected or bestowed upon the candidate (After baptism) through the ordinance of a blessing invoked by him (or those) having Priesthood Authority, by the "Imposition of hands." (Laying on of hands) Let us search through the pages of the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon* for proof of the above.

"Now when the Apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost. . . Then laid they their hands on them, and they "received the Holy Ghost." (Acts 8:14, 15, 17)

"And when they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake in tongues and prophesied." (Acts 19:5, 6)

Even Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Master, touched with His hand whomever He wished to endow with Power or with a special blessing. So it is recorded in the *Book of Mormon*: "And it came to pass that when Jesus had made an end of these sayings, He touched with His hand the disciples whom he had chosen, one by one, even until He had touched them all, and spake unto them as He touched them. And the multitude heard not the words which He spake, therefore they did not bear record; but the disciples bare record that He gave them power to give the Holy Ghost. And I will show unto you hereafter that this record is true." (3 Nephi) 18:36, 37)

"The words of Christ, which He spake unto His disciples, the twelve whom He had chosen, as He laid His hands upon them." (Moroni 2:1)

The greatest proof that can be given as to the mode of bestowing the Holy Ghost is the explicit commandment of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour, who is the Author and Finisher of our Faith!

"And He called them by name, saying, "Ye shall call on the Father in My name, in mighty prayer; and after ye have done this ye shall have power that to him upon whom ye shall lay your hands, ye shall give the Holy Ghost; and in My name shall ye give it, for thus do mine Apostles." (Moroni 2:2)

"Now Christ spake these words unto them at the time of His first appearing; and the multitude heard it not, but the disciples heard it; and on as many as they laid their hands fell the Holy Ghost. (Moroni 2:3)

While there are instances recorded in the *Bible* and in the *Book of Mormon* where the Holy Ghost came upon an individual, or a group of people, we can only, and must conclude that God, who is the giver of all good things, can give as He pleases, and do as He wishes. Nor can we say to Him, "Thou hast not done things right." Nor, as Paul, the Apostle, says to the Romans, "Shall the thing formed say to Him that formed it, 'Why

hast thou made me thus?'" It is God's prerogative to act and do as He wills. It is also His to say, "Thou shalt", or, "Thou shalt not," to the human family, and, especially to His Church. It remains for us to simply say, "Thy will be done, and not ours;" for to deviate, even one iota, from His commandments or established principles, will unquestionably result in dire consequences. Therefore, if He has commanded His disciples to "Lay on hands" for the bestowal of the Holy Ghost, it is our right and duty to adhere to this principle.

GREETINGS IN CHRIST JESUS

To know God is to help others to know Him. Do you know Him?

For a few days, I am happy to come here to join my two sons, Samuel and Joseph, and also Brother Joseph Ciarolla who have been here several weeks to construct a church building for the mission of Ahome, Sinaloa in Mexico.

Here I also met Brother Pilar Cordova, formerly of Tijuana, but now a resident of San Diego. Brother Cordova has been an invaluable help, language-wise, for our Brothers whose Spanish is limited.

I found Brother Eugenio Mora here. My son Samuel, who was the first to come here, went to get him from Mexico City and brought him here, because Eugenio is very ill at this time. He is to continue his journey to San Diego to find what is the cause of this illness. In spite of his illness, Brother Mora has visited with me each day, and with all the local members, and has held services each day at 3:00 P.M. The number has increased each day. I also have been able to speak Spanish, God giving me utterance to His glory.

Our group here is most favored to have such a wonderful family in Las Mochis, 20 kilometers from Amore — Signor Frias Efran (which in Hebrew means plentiful) and his beloved wife Gloria and also their four children. Gloria is an English teacher, and Frias is a Spanish teacher. Did God ordain such a combination for our Brothers? They have both housed and fed our Brothers. Brother Pilar, Eugene Mora, wife and daughter, Signor Efran's brother and two others, a girl and a boy live here, plus Samuel and Joseph Randy, Joseph Ciarolla, and myself.

They have all the children sleep on the floor to give us their beds. They serve the best of foods. It is my understanding that one night, our Brother went to a restaurant to eat, and Gloria cried, because she wished our Brothers to eat in her home. Surely this is what must have happened in the days of Paul in Macedonia when Lydia invited them to her home. As Lydia was the blessing of our missionaries in that day, so is Gloria in this mission. Surely God will bless them with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Tomorrow, April 23, the first service will be held in the new church building. It is a very nice house of prayer, plus a parsonage for our resident pastor and the visiting missionaries who may wish to visit here. The pastor here is Juan Rivas, formerly from Tijuana.

The field is still plenteous, and the laborers are few. Pray for me, that I may yet labor.

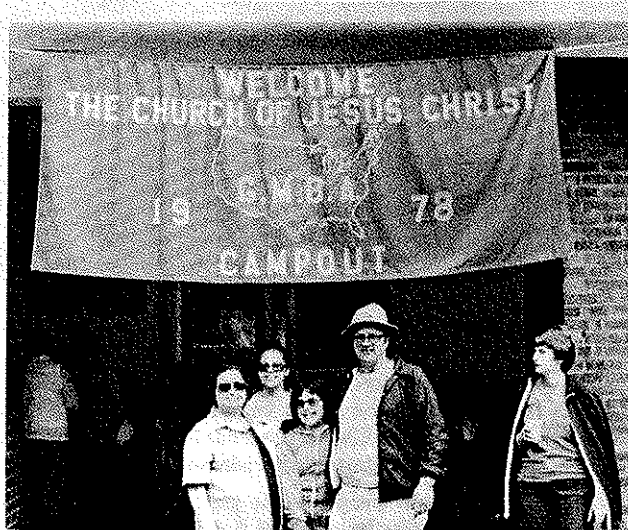
My abiding love to you all,

Mark Randy

M. B. A. Highlights

G.M.B.A. CAMPOUT "78"

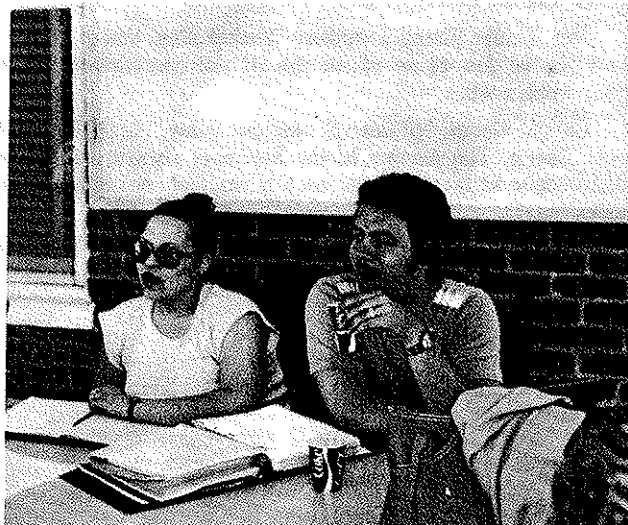
G.M.B.A. Editor, James D. Gibson



The annual G.M.B.A. Campout of 1978 began June 10 until June 17. The campout was held at Massanetta Springs, Virginia, which is situated in the Blue Ridge Mountain Range in the north central part of the historic state of Virginia.

The camp was very good, with excellent accommodations, food and recreation facilities. And the price was very reasonable. Having attended most of the G.M.B.A. Campouts, this camp by far was one of the best.

People began arriving at noon on Saturday and continued to arrive throughout the week. We had people from north, south, east and west of our great country registered



before mid-week. The registration chairperson, Sister Joyce Jumper, and Camp Director Brother Ken Staley,



did a superb job in making sure everyone and everything was properly cared for.

After an orientation on Saturday night we started camp with Sunday morning services as the Elders brought forth wonderful words of exhortation. After the services, we observed the partaking of the Lord's Supper.

On Monday the daily agenda of the day's events began. After breakfast, we attended Chapel and opened the day with our thoughts turned to the Lord. Brother James Link, the Seminar Chairman, then appointed each age group to their respective areas. There were eight different age groups and all reported good participation and interest in the classes. Some classes decided to take advantage of the beautiful scenery and weather and met outside.

The afternoon was spent in various sporting events and crafts. Brother Lou Ross, Chairman of Recreation, had everyone that wanted to be involved participate in some form of activity. The Arts and Crafts were capably handled by Brother Ken Lombardo and Sister Jan Steinrock. There were many interesting projects produced. I am only mentioning a few of the people that were involved but it takes people dedicated to preparing the necessary groundwork for all events to be successful.

The sporting events found many softball games played and proved once again to be the main sporting attraction of the camp. Unfortunately all cannot be winners but inappropriately enough the final winning team

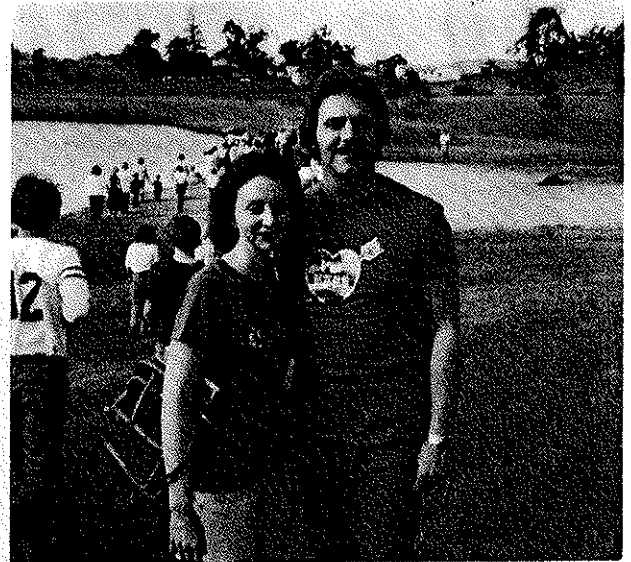




*Brother Don Ross baptizing
Sister Diane Salinas.*



*Brother Robert Nicklow
baptizing Sister Melissa
Bright.*



The Camp Director and his wife, Sister Sharon.

at the end of the playoff was the team called "The Cheaters". Evidently they must cheat fair!

Our evenings were spent meeting together to hear speaking, testimonies and singing words of praise to God. The main highlight of any and all G.M.B.A. Campouts are the baptisms. Beginning on Tuesday the Spirit of God began to move upon individuals both young and old. Before we broke camp seven people requested to be baptized.

Following is a list of names and home Branches of those baptized.

1. Mike Price, Herndon, Va., Tuesday
2. Melissa Bright, Monongahela, Pa., Wednesday
3. Todd Becker, Levittown, Pa., Friday
4. Tony Naterelli, New Brunswick, N. J., Friday
5. Jim Nerone, Youngstown, Ohio, Friday
6. Fenisia Vaccaro, Bronx, N. Y., Friday
7. Diane Salinas, Miami, Florida, Friday



*Brother Russ Mortarano
baptizing Brother Jim
Nerone.*



*Brother Paul D'Amico as-
sisted by Brother Gorie
Ciaravino baptizing Brother
Tony Naterelli*

It was indeed a joy to go to the small lake at the camp and see the seven beautiful people come into The Church of Jesus Christ. A wonderful and glorious journey they have now started and our prayers go with them.

Over 400 people were treated to hot dogs on two different nights by the G.M.B.A. "And they eat the whole thing."

It was a beautiful week where many of the Saints had time to renew acquaintances and make many new friends. We were thankful to have in attendance the President of The Church, Brother Dominic Thomas; First Counsellor, Brother Gorie Ciaravino; and Apostle Paul D'Amico.

We are indeed grateful to those who were in charge of the Campout, Brother Don Ross, President of the G.M.B.A., and Brother Richard Scaglione, Chaplain. Brother Richard had to go to work on Monday and Tuesday so he returned home on Sunday night and came back on Wednesday. Thank God for our Brothers who did an excellent job.

The Camp Director, Brother Ken Staley, did a very good job as he organized all the committees and everything went well.

Camp "broke-up" on Saturday, June 17, 1978 at noon. The parting of the Saints is always painful but we only hope and long for the time when we can assemble again.

If you have never attended a campout, try it, you'll like it. Start even now to make plans for next year's campout.



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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

1978 G.M.B.A. CAMPOUT

The General Missionary Benevolent Association Campout for 1978 was held at Massanetta Springs, near Harrisonburg, Virginia, beginning Saturday, June 10 and terminating the following Saturday, June 17.

The comfortable campsite is nestled in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley, bordered on the west by the Shenandoah Mountains and on the east by the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Thank God, the weather was mostly favorable, with plenty of sunshine and a sprinkling of rain.

Relaxation and Participation

Registration totalled a little over 400 people, ranging in ages from four or five months on up to 89 years. They came from Maine, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Washington, D.C. Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Ontario, Kansas, Arizona and California.

The campout proved to be a wonderful time and place to renew acquaintances and to make new ones. Where, but at a campout could so many of the Saints, their loved ones, and friends share a week-long round of getting better acquainted; dining together; engaging in, as well as witnessing, various recreational activities; participating in the arts and crafts; and last, but by no means least, worshipping together.

It was a time to relax, as well as a time to participate.

Morning chapel immediately following breakfast served as a stimulating and devotional activity to begin the day's routine. We were now ready for the seminars. These were divided into various age groups. The main topic or theme was "Talents," as exemplified in our Lord's parable of the talents. This proved encouraging to all to improve our talents, to seek and pray for God's gifts.

Lunch was a time of hearty eating, as well as additional socializing.

The next feature of the daily schedule was recreation and relaxation. Softball, volleyball, and tennis were easily the most popular activities. The arts and crafts also proved interesting and informative to many participants.

Supper time served again as a stimulating and appetizing attraction to everyone, with more socializing.

The evening gathering provided a timely opportunity to enjoy the spoken word, singing, and testimony. What a wonderful way to round out a day of wholesome activity, relaxation, fellowship, and devotion.

Extra blessings were experienced throughout the week as seven converts expressed their desires to be baptized. It was additionally thrilling and spiritually uplifting to gather at the shore of the beautiful camp lake. We rejoiced and gazed reverently when each candidate was led into the waters. We listened intently as the officiant pronounced the candidate's name, after which the familiar declaration rang out, "Having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen." All the immersions in the waters were full and complete. Surely, all the candidates were cheered and encouraged by the heavy turnout for each baptism.

Thank God for another glorious campout! We look forward with prayer and anticipation for the next one.



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

Bath-Sheba

Dear Girls and Boys,

Bath-Sheba was the wife of David. She was "very beautiful to look upon". A child born to David and Bath-Sheba was very sick. David fasted and prayed for his son. His servants saw how sad he was. The child died and the servants were afraid to tell him. David heard whispering and thought the child must be dead. He asked, "Is the child dead?" And they answered, "He is dead." To their surprise David washed and anointed himself, changed his clothes and went to the house of the Lord to worship. Then he went to his own home and ate. The servants couldn't understand this. They asked, "What is this you do? You did fast and weep for the child while he was alive and now he is dead and you arise and eat?" David told them, "While the child was alive I fasted and wept but now that he is dead, I cannot bring him back again. I shall go to him but he shall not return to me."

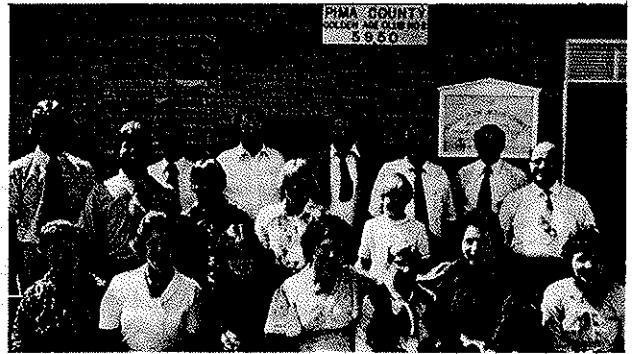
After the mourning was passed Bath-Sheba came to the palace. Their next son was Solomon, whose name means, "the peaceful". Later they had three more sons, Shimea, Shaboh and Nathan. But more is written about Solomon than the others. During Solomon's youth nothing is recorded about Bath-Sheba only that she was David's favorite wife.

When David was old Bath-Sheba wanted Solomon to succeed his father as king of Israel. She said, "My lord, O king, the eyes of all Israel are upon thee, that thou should tell them who shall sit on the throne of my lord, the king, after him." While she talked with David, Nathan the prophet came in. He bowed himself before the king with his face to the ground. He too, asked who should be king. David's answer was, "As the Lord liveth, that hath redeemed my soul out of all distress . . . assuredly Solomon my son shall reign after me and he shall sit upon my throne in my stead." Soon Solomon was on his way, riding on his father's own mule to Gihon below Jerusalem, to be anointed king over Israel by Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet.

When Solomon became king, he gave Bath-Sheba a place of honor as queen mother, a place of authority. She was the mother of Israel's wisest king. Matthew records her a special place in the genealogy of Jesus, chapter one, verse six.

Sincerely,

Sister Mabel



TUCSON ORGANIZED AS A BRANCH

With a sense of gratefulness and happiness, we wish to report that the Tucson Mission of the Arizona District was organized as a Branch on Saturday, March 18, 1978. For this occasion, Brother Bob Watson, President of the Arizona District came and was in charge of the meeting. Also in attendance, amongst the others, was Brother Reno Bologna, President of the Quorum of Seventy. The meeting was held in the home of Brother Dick Christman. The Branch will now have the following officers: Presiding Elder, Brother Dick Christman, First Counselor, Brother Jake Christman, and Second Counselor, Brother Anthony Brutz. All the other offices were filled as well. After all the business was completed, Brother Watson reminded us of the fact that this mission was started about five years ago and that he organized Tucson as an established mission about two years ago. He also noted that there have been many obstacles and disappointments but through the help of God many of these things have been overcome. Now he was very proud of those that have been here and the new ones that have come. Our most recent newcomers to Tucson are Brother Patsy Marinetti, an Evangelist of the Church, Sister Connie, his wife, and Sister Grace Francione, all previous members of Rochester, New York.

The next day, Sunday, we all met together at the Community Center. We had visiting in our midst Sister Sara Watson, Sister Isabella Bologna, Brother Ronald, Loretta and Ruth Brutz, Sister Diane, and Christopher Surdock, and Brother John, Sister Connie and Rhonda Ross. Brother Reno Bologna introduced the meeting, encouraging us all to not be afraid to tell others about the Gospel. He cited a number of experiences which made him realize that the little things which bother us, in the sight of God, are nothing. He read where the Apostle Paul says in Timothy, "now the end of the commandments is charity," etc., and that this love is what the world is looking for and we have to let them know. Brother Bob Watson continued on the same subject also stating that fear is one of our problems and that we have to use our minds and our talents to let others know of Christ. Brother Patsy Marinetti spoke on charity and that we are human. But we must rise above this even as David of old did in his life.

We enjoyed being with so many and hearing all that our Brothers brought to our attention. After the meeting we enjoyed some fellowship together and then had a pot luck dinner there at the building. We invite all to visit Tucson. We ask for your prayers that we might grow in spirit and in numbers. That we might be able to let others enjoy the blessings of God and understand what faith in the Lord Jesus Christ can give them. God Bless You All.

Brother Paul Francione

OUR WOMEN TODAY . . .

THE GENERAL LADIES UPLIFT
CIRCLE MEETING

The General Ladies Uplift meeting was held at Hopelawn, New Jersey on July 8, 1978. The Sisters in attendance were from California, Florida, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

The Circle Sisters of Hopelawn presented a program entitled, "One Day At A Time". They read the Scripture and sang songs well fitting the title. Sister Mabel Bickerton followed saying that we should serve God one day at a time. She reported that there are thirty-seven Circles in The Church—when we put our mites together we can do much for the missionary work of The Church which is the aim of the Circle along with searching of the Scriptures. There was a special prayer had for those that are sick.

The business part of the meeting began with the roll call of officers. The minutes of the last meeting held at Glassport, Pennsylvania, the Circle and treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

The questions and answers are: Why did Jacob say he couldn't be shaken? Book of Mormon—Jacob 4:18; What was the most wicked city in the world? Bible—Genesis 19:24; and What was Moses' Mother's name? Bible—Numbers 26:59.

Brother John Ross reported that the Brothers and Sisters that are visiting Africa are a help with the Missionary work there.

Contributions were made to the Memorial Fund in Memory of Brother Dominic DePiero, Sister F. Angelo and Sister Rose Pietrangelo. Donations were made to Africa, The General Church Budget, and to the General Indian Missionary Funds. The Circles are to continue to send layettes. Those that are attending the next General Circle meeting that will be held in Youngstown, Ohio on October 7, 1978 are requested to bring a baby item with them and a layette will be compiled and distributed. The dates and places for the meetings in 1979 are March 31—Florida, July 7 or 14—Greensburg, Pennsylvania, and October 6—Imperial, Pennsylvania.

The election of officers:

President: Mabel Bickerton

Vice-President: Ruth Akerman

Secretary: Lucetta Scaglione

Financial Secretary: Joyceann Jumper

Indian Mission Treasurer: Fannie Casasanta

General Fund Treasurer: Joan Gibson

Cook Book Fund Treasurer: Betty Eiler

Memorial Fund Treasurer: Mabel Bickerton

Librarian: Betty Ann Manes

Editor: Mary Tamburrino

Concordance Treasurer: Rose Corrado

A vote of thanks was given to the Brothers and Sisters of New Jersey Area for their hospitality.

The remainder of the meeting was spent in singing Praises to God.

Mary Tamburrino
General Circle Editor

FLORIDA AREA CAMPOUT

The weekend of March 3rd was set for the Florida Area Campout at the Youth Camp in the Everglades. After some very turbulent weather, including tornadoes and rain such as you never did see before, those who planned to attend, in spite of all, finally gathered at the site. The weather cleared but was quite a bit cooler than we are used to having for our campouts. It was good to meet with those who had come and in all there were approximately 150 people registered with the largest number registered for Sunday. On Friday, first there was the welcome meeting at 7 p.m. then a hotdog roast. The various locals took their turns serving meals and a good bit of the food was prepared by those attending and brought to the camp.

The theme of the campout was RESTORATION. Our seminar on Saturday was very enjoyable and those from other classes spoke the same of their lessons. There were various sports on Saturday afternoon, crafts, arts and a campfire Saturday evening after a meeting in which the young Brothers and Sisters took part. Before the evening meal we had the privilege to gather at the lake. Two from Ohio asked for their baptism. Joseph Gerald Tisler asked for his baptism and then his mother, Helen Tisler asked to be rebaptized. Sister Helen's uncle (aged 80) along with Tony Pusateri from Youngstown, Ohio had been baptized the previous week in the Lake Worth Branch.

The Sunday meeting was beautiful. Sister Joyce Moraco of the newly formed Broward County Mission was ordained a Deaconess. Brother Swanson from Miami opened the morning meeting and he spoke on Zion. It was in line with our theme, Restoration, and the beautiful hymns and words that were spoken were very uplifting to us. Brother Bittinger, Brother Frank Rogolino and Brother Eugene Perri, Jr., also spoke and some testimonies were given and sacrament served. The afternoon was spent in visiting with those who were at the camp and a program was presented by the Miami Mission in the evening on the three and eight witnesses of the Book of Mormon.

Approximately forty people stayed for Monday. The day was spent in serving lunch and breakfast, holding a chapel meeting and after general cleanup, we all went our separate ways. We thank God for the wonderful time we had and now we are looking forward to next year. Tentative plans have been made to hold next year's Florida Area Campout at Homestead which is just south of Miami.

All those who attended are very appreciative of the work of all those who were in charge and especially for the work of Area President, Brother John D'Orazio and Camp Director, Brother Dennis Moraco.

Elsie Ensana

FLORIDA DISTRICT NEWS

Sunday, June 25, 1978 the Saints rejoiced as we witnessed the calling of five young people. Tommy Davis, Jr., and his wife Oweida, James Davis, Sylvia McSwain, and Mary L. Green were all baptized and confirmed by Brother Cleveland Baldwin.

These young people have been attending the meet-

ings, most of them for about four years; Sunday School, Young People's meetings, and Sunday meetings faithfully. They had been testifying their hope one day God would call them into The Church of Jesus Christ. They have been tutored by Brother Cleveland and actively participating in the meetings, developing and acquiring knowledge of the Restored Gospel.

A NEW MISSION IN FLORIDA

At an organization meeting in March it was decided that the members of the Miami Mission that live in Broward County would form a new mission. Brother Alvin Swanson offered to travel to Broward County for six months to hold meetings for the new mission. The Broward County Mission holds their meetings in Hollywood, Florida at the Ukrainian Cultural Center on Taylor Street. Meetings are held every Sunday, Sunday School from 10:00 A.M. - 10:45, Church Service from 11:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. We ask that you Brothers and Sisters might pray for us here that our mission might flourish and grow and carry the Gospel to new souls.

WEST AFRICAN ECHO

By Brother Nephi DeMercurio

FOURTH INSTALLMENT

In addition to securing my teaching appointment, the purchase of a new car was also urgent. The cost of renting a car for 3 or 4 hours a day came to \$17.00. It was evident that something had to be done quickly about a car. Also our movements were restricted due to our dependence on the few who own automobiles.

We were greatly assisted in our efforts to purchase a car by Brother Jack Mboho, the contractor for the mission house, Brother George Ekpo and Brother Okon Udo. They know all the car dealers in the area. We went to several, but were given very little hope of obtaining a car. Cars were scarce and we would have to wait a month or longer for delivery.

We were caused to reflect on the ease in which a car can be purchased at home. However, we were not home and we had to face the reality; "This is not Detroit". Our effort seemed very futile. We had spent much time and traveled over 150 miles in our pursuit. On August 2, 1977 we spent most of our time in Aba, a major town about 40 miles from Abak. We were given no hope there even with all the dealerships that are located in that area. On our return from Aba, we stopped in Ikot Ekpena about 14 miles from our home. We stopped at a couple of places there. Still nothing! We were then told of another dealership and to our amazement and joy, a blue Peugeot Station Wagon was standing in the showroom with a sale price of \$9,770.00. We were tired and extremely hot, but now our joy had made us forget about the heat and fatigue. Our morning prayer to God was to provide. Our prayers were answered and later we would learn of other prayers. Sister Susan Coppa, Lorraine and I stood and looked at each other in disbelief. This was the type of car we were seeking. The car possesses all the necessary features to perform in this area. Originally the station wagon we wanted to

purchase and was unavailable sold for \$7,800.00. However, the car did not possess the same features of durability, seating arrangement, comfort and engine capacity as the higher priced car. We did not want to buy the higher priced car but had no alternative. At first we did not think we had sufficient funds, but with some effort we managed. In making our final decision to purchase the car we felt that this was what God wanted us to do. Despite the high cost of cars in Nigeria, they are still cheaper here than any other African country. We know at that price a Cadillac can be purchased back home, but "This is not home." The car was purchased with my own funds and money loaned to me by the Church.

In addition to the cost of the car we paid \$813.00 for comprehensive insurance which is required by law. Registration and license plates came to \$143.87.

After a time of joy over finding the much needed car, we were disappointed to learn that our checks would not be accepted, only cash was acceptable. The banks were closed and we could not return the next day, August 3, 1977, because we had made arrangements for my teaching appointment at Calabar. This could not be changed at the last moment. However, the car dealer assured us and promised to hold the car for us. He emphatically stated it would not be sold to anyone else.

At the time of this event we had not fully realized the extent of what God was doing for us. It was not until early September that we had a better understanding of the whole event. We received a letter from Sister Donna Fleming of the Vanderbilt, Pa. Branch and she states; "It was on a Tuesday of the second week after you left for Nigeria. I was in the kitchen doing my dishes. I had a strange feeling come over my whole body that I should pray for you. It seemed that I was to pray for something you needed, a natural thing. Of course I did this and in my prayer I found myself asking the Lord to supply your need." The Tuesday of the second week after we left for Nigeria was August 2, 1977, the day we were not able to purchase the car. On Thursday, August 4, 1977 we returned to the dealer and found that the car was there waiting for us and we were able to complete the transaction with no difficulty.

It was not until January of 1978 that we knew the complete story about the car. The dealer told us that after he had promised to reserve the car for us on August 2, 1977, many people wanted to purchase the car and offered to pay more money for it. He related that the temptation was very great to sell the car at the various offers made to him, however, through it all he was not able to forget the promise he made to us.

Despite the power of evil to deprive us of our needs and discourage us, God showed his greatness through the power of prayer. Also, many other instances have been told of where our people were prompted by the Spirit to pray in our behalf. While the Coppa's were here we often remarked that we could feel the effects of the prayers of our people. Prayer was our greatest source of comfort and strength while we were encountering a great deal of opposition in almost everything we did.

Even though the Coppa's felt disappointed in not being able to fulfill their desire to help us get settled in the mission house, they helped us make the necessary adjustments. Their being with us eased us into the eventual position of being alone. Lorraine and I regretted

the passing of days which would lead to the Coppa's departure. When they departed on August 23, 1977 it was very difficult for us. We knew that when we came to Nigeria we would be alone, however, it was difficult because we were quite unsettled. We had not yet moved into the mission house and physically and emotionally we had not yet put it all together.

To add to our frustrations the day before the Coppa's were to leave, August 22, 1978, Brother Gary and Sister Judy's passports were stolen. We were all very upset because the passports were needed to leave the country. A police report was filed and they were given a letter to present to the American Embassy in Lagos to verify that they had entered the country legally. The difficulty would come when they would have to fight the traffic tie up in Lagos on their way to the Embassy. We promised the Coppa's we would fast and pray for them to ensure God's help in securing new passports without any difficulty. Later we were very grateful to hear that the Lord truly provided them and they were able to leave the country without any delay.

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PENNSYLVANIA AREA SEMINAR

The Pennsylvania Area M.B.A. held a Seminar Day at Monongahela on Saturday, May 6, 1978.

The topic was Prayer and there were sixty-eight people in attendance. This was a very good attendance.

Seminar classes discussed what makes a prayer effectual? What conditions must our minds be in to have an effectual prayer? How do we pray? What do we pray for?

At the end of our discussion sessions, each class had a spokesperson tell the congregation what they discussed and received out of the class. All classes gave a very good report.

The seminar was very rewarding and all those that attended received a blessing.

Sister Janet Beeman
Pennsylvania Area M.B.A. Editor

HELP!

Dear Readers:

At present the printing cost of *The Gospel News* is being increased. To avoid any subscription price increase, I am asking you for three things:

1. Please renew your subscription as soon as possible.
2. Try to increase the subscriptions of the paper by telling others about *The Gospel News*.
3. Any donations to help defray the cost of *The Gospel News* will be appreciated.

The Editor

BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS:—

Ordination At Hopelawn

On March 5, 1978 Brother Leonard Benyola was ordained into the office of a teacher.

Brother Leonard, already being a faithful Deacon, who always looks after the needs of The Church has an added responsibility and he does realize the need for workers in The Church.

Brother Frank Banyanski washed Brother Leonard's feet and Brother Joseph Perri ordained him as teacher.

We pray that God will give Brother Lenny words of wisdom, that He would use him as He sees fit and in return it would be a blessing to him.

Mary Perri
Hopelawn Branch Editor

Michigan-Ontario Area Retreat

The weekend of March 3-5, 1978 was a very profitable one for the Michigan-Ontario MBA area. There was a weekend retreat held in Lapeer, Michigan for ages of 7th graders through 30 years of age.

There were many car loads of Brothers, Sisters and young people of the church who traveled up to Lapeer in caravans, and it was that time of year which warranted gloves, scarves, boots and of course toboggans.

As we pulled into the camping area between 9:30-10:30 Friday evening, we all met at the main building, where we were going to hold our meeting, seminars and the dining hall. As you walked into this building, which was the bottom level, there were ping-pong tables, etc. for recreation. As we walked up a flight of stairs we entered a room where we could put our coats and then into a huge room — which on one end was a fireplace and the walls lined with couches and chairs for our comfort and on the other end of the room there were tables and chairs set up for eating. It was a neat and clean place which helped all enjoy the fellowship of each others' company and the blessings which God had in store. After an orientation meeting led by our MBA District President, Brother Dan Paravano, we had hot chocolate and donuts and then off for (what we hoped would be) a good night's sleep.

Saturday morning came quite fast! We held seminars for the different age groups and after a few hours of that, we had lunch. A large group of us wanted to explore the toboggan run. After about a ten minute walk through pine trees and fresh fallen snow on a hilly path, we reached the run, and it looked like a long way down. A few had courage enough to be the first ones to try the hill out. Finally, we all broke into the idea and were having a real good time. There were times when — even though we started out by sitting on a toboggan — we did not have that same toboggan with us by the time we reached the end of the run — or sometimes even by the time we reached the half-way mark. (Believe me — I speak from personal experience).

That evening we had each seminar class present a skit or two telling what their particular seminar class

was about. After the meeting we spent the remainder of the time for socializing until curfew!

The Sunday meeting was one enjoyed by all — and each Elder Brother sitting up front, spoke to us. The unity, the messages brought forward, and most of all the love, all made for a beautiful weekend shared by the many who had the opportunity to be present.

God bless each of you!

Sister Leona Buffa
MBA Area Editor

Baptism For Miami Mission

On April 27, 1978 Brother Alex Marchando was baptized by Brother Alvin Swanson. The scene was the most beautiful setting off Miami Beach. We had to walk out a way on the sand, the ocean was calm and the feeling so peaceful. As the sun was setting it was glowing up the faces of our brothers in the water. We thank God for another baptism and another beautiful experience.

A Remarkable Day in New Orleans

Easter Sunday, March 26, 1978 will be a cherished memory for we of the New Orleans Mission. We were enthralled to have visitors from various parts of the country. Included were: Brother Frank and Sister Edith Genaro and family from Yucaipa, California, Brother Dom and Sister Mary Bucci from Youngstown, Ohio, Brother Joe Genaro from Niles, Ohio, and Brother Frank and Sister Juanita Rogolino from Ft. Pierce, Florida. I guess one could say that it was a mini-conference in the land of Dixie.

Our Sunday School was devoted to the children who reenacted in pantomime the impending events leading up to the resurrection of Jesus while their teacher, Sister Gail Wortman, read appropriate scriptures. We were brought back to the indelible relevance of that resurrection and its perpetual effect on our lives. The program was enjoyed by all.

Following two selections by our quartet, Brother Frank Genaro opened our service taking his text from the 24th chapter of Luke. He emphasized the glory and splendor of that moment when the stone was rolled away from the tomb and Jesus came forth a resurrected being. He paralleled the point that it was a glorious time in our lives when the stone of doubt, fear, indecision, and waywardness was rolled away from our vision and we were able to see clearly God's will for us in our lives. Our brother's talk was seasoned with experiences that God has blessed him with. Brother Joe Genaro followed on the same train of thought expressing his hope that the Gospel would flourish and expand in all parts of the vineyard.

Brother Dom Bucci composed a hymn which he sang with his daughter Marlea, expressing the appreciation we should have for the restoration of the Gospel. Brother Dom and Brother Rogolino further enhanced the theme of the day with God's spirit being prevalent throughout.

Our next blessing was the ordination of Brother Joe Scarna into the office of Deacon. Brother Frank Rogolino washed his feet and Brother Ron Genaro ordained him.

After the ordination, Brother Frank Genaro related an experience. He said that when he was praying at his bedside Saturday evening, he saw in a vision Brother Rogolino washing Brother Joe's feet and Brother Ron ordaining him. To further solidify the workings of God, Sister Gail arose and stated that on the way to church, she felt so strongly that Brother Frank Rogolino would wash Brother Joe's feet and Sister Gail did not know that Brother Frank was in town.

Sunday evening we gathered at Brother Joe Scarna's home and were discussing the Word of God. It was about 10 p.m. when Debbie Colomb expressed her desire to be baptized. We gathered at Lake Pontchartrain at about 11 p.m. and Brother Ron Genaro baptized her. We returned to Brother Joe's for the confirmation and Sister Debbie was confirmed by Brother Joe Genaro.

I think everyone would agree that we spent a full day in service to God. As we commemorated the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, it was indeed a resurrection of our spirit, devotion and determination to press ever onward to reach the zenith of His storehouse of blessings.

Brother Ron Genaro

Greetings From Anadarko, Oklahoma

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Sunday, April 16, 1978 Brother George Benyola and a few Saints from Dallas came to our home about 10:30 A.M. Brother George started the meeting at 11 A.M. In attendance were "The Seed of Joseph" from the Kiowa and Caddo Tribes. In all we numbered 21. Before opening the meeting we all sang "Amazing Grace" after which our Indian friends added two more verses in the Kiowa language.

Brother Benyola opened the meeting. We all sang "He Lives" and other hymns of the Church. Brother George's message was on Ezekiel 37:15-18. Having the Seed of Joseph with us and explaining the need that the Stick of Judah and the Stick of Ephraim will be one in our hands. Speaking also of the Apostasy and the Restoration. A very good Spirit was with us. Our fellowship meeting was inspiring as our Indian friends participated in the meeting with their testimonies on how God works in their lives. In between testimonies Kiowa Hymns were sung and interpreted to us in English. One testified that after hearing of our meeting the Devil tried making sickness come upon the four of them. But with the desire that they had they were able to be in attendance.

Today, we can say we felt the "Sweet, Sweet Spirit". After our Sacrament we all sang, "God Be With You Till We Meet Again". This song was sung in the Spirit that all present would be meeting again and we will be having many more meetings with that "Sweet, Sweet Spirit."

After our meeting Brother Bill and Sister Evelyn Crall invited all to share the meal with them. This gave our visitors a chance to ask questions. After eating, Larry Kotay, Kiowa, and one of the main Indian singers of Kiowa hymns, sang several as we taped them for Brother George. As all were getting ready to leave one of our Indian friends presented Sister Stella a beautiful Indian necklace.

Our Indian friends are so amazed that a white man's home is so open to them. As I have told you many times, a week never goes by that the Seed of Joseph is in our home.

Would all the Branches and Missions PLEASE check your Church Literature. If you have extra copies of any literature please send to us. We will reimburse all who send us literature. We are in need of the Articles of Faith Cards; The Jew and the American Indian. The next few months will be extra busy and our area has many visitors. We have given literature that we know has gone to Canada, Africa, Puerto Rico and many other areas. August 14, 1978 will be the American Indian Exposition all week. The Seed of Joseph comes from all over the United States. So, again I ask, PLEASE check your literature and if you have any extra, please send to us.

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

Spiritual Celebration

On April 30, 1978 many gathered at Branch 3 in Detroit to share the blessings to be had with the ordinations of Brother Daniel Parravano and Brother Gary Coppa into the Ministry of The Church. Brother Peter Capone, our Presiding Elder, remarked that we should leave our cares and worries outside to be open to the spirit of God. Following this the Girls Ensemble sang two selections. Brother Ralph Leet, visiting from Branch 4, opened the meeting in prayer. Two more selections were dedicated to our brothers by Sisters Alyse Molisani and Donna Amormino.

Brother Dominic Thomas opened the service by saying he felt exceptional to be a part of this "spiritual celebration." He spoke to Brother Gary and Brother Dan concerning their preparation towards the commitment and responsibilities of the Priesthood. Also, the happiness of doing for others. As Elders in the Restored Gospel, having the authority, they represent the Lord on earth. He quoted from Matthew, "Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Last Brother Dominic spoke to the brothers concerning the members of the Church. He related the conversation of Christ to Simon Peter saying "Lovest thou me more than these?" "Feed my sheep." He stressed to the brothers the need to know the flock; to be sensitive to their trials, and be servants who will feed their souls with light and inspiration.

The following is an experience had by Brother Nephi De Mercurio: (March 15, 1977) I dreamed that two brothers of our Branch Priesthood (Brother Peter H. Capone and Brother Mario Coppa) came to me and told me that Brother Daniel Parravano was going to be called as an Elder of the Church. I desired that the Lord would verify this calling (while still in my dream). While I desired this, I felt the power and spirit of God to such an extent that I began to praise and glorify the name of God. I was so full of the spirit that I could not contain myself. (This was still part of my dream.)

Brother Nick Pietrangelo related an experience he had at a district meeting some time ago. While Brother Gary Coppa was giving a report, Brother Nick heard a

voice saying "That Brother should be called into the ministry of the Church." He questioned if it was from God and he heard the voice again. After the meeting he told Brother Dominic Thomas the experience who said he too had heard it. When they told Brother Paul Vitto he related the same experience to them.

Brother Gorie Ciaravino said that as members we must always pray for wisdom, knowledge and understanding for our Elders.

Our brothers then had their feet washed. Brother Jack Pontillo washed Brother Dan's, and Brother Gary's feet were washed by Brother Mario Coppa. Brother Gary was ordained by Brother Alex Gentile. Brother Dan was ordained by Brother Peter H. Capone.

After the ordinations Sister Olivia Parravano and Sister Judy Coppa gave their testimony.

Brother Spencer Everett closed the meeting in prayer. The afternoon was spent in fellowship over a luncheon prepared by the sisters.

To God For Mother

On Sunday, May 14, 1978 we at Branch No. 1 in Detroit, Michigan held a most unique meeting. It began as any other meeting, with an opening prayer offered by Brother Mike LaSala. Brother Mike then spoke a few words on a subject which was taken from II Nephi, 11th chapter. His thoughts were directed to the words that God spoke, as His son descended upon this land. "Hear ye Him."

Mike stressed the importance of heeding the words of Christ.

Following Brother Mike's short but pointed sermon, Brother Paul began to speak. He extended best wishes to all the mothers of the branch, and read from Proverbs 21:10. He then left the better portion of the service open to the young people, asking and giving them an opportunity for thanking God for their mothers.

Not a moment was wasted. From all areas of the room young people arose to their feet. One after another, from the very young to the young married, they thanked God for blessing their lives with wonderful and loving mothers. The testimonies varied from the simple things their mothers do each day to the good examples their mothers have set in helping them to pattern their own lives.

We saw that it was not so much the words, as it was the sincerity in which the words were spoken, that touched us all so very much. The love expressed for our mothers had most assuredly reached the heart of God. For the room filled with God's blessings and a quiet peace rested among us.

The same spirit which had prevailed in the morning service, indeed extended into the afternoon.

After Brother Paul Vitto had spoken a few words, on giving all that we have in serving the Lord, we sang "Precious Memories".

He then left our meeting open to testimony. This time for all of us to express our love for our mothers. Just as in the morning service not a moment was wasted, and again God did bless us.

To the events of this day, I can only add the words

spoken by Brother Nick Pietrangelo, given as part of his own testimony. "Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

Sister Diana Thompson

— NEW ARRIVALS —

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

Danny Michael to James and Patricia Gregg of Roscoe, Pennsylvania,

Daniel Matthew to Robert and Sharon Syron of Hollywood, Florida,

Holly Marie to Richard and Toni Bologna of Branch 2, Detroit, Michigan,

Jennifer Lynn to Malcolm and Shirley Paxon of Monongahela, Pennsylvania,

Matthew Thomas to Thomas and Peggy Jough, of Monongahela, Pennsylvania

Heather Shawn to Thomas and Karen Milton, of Monongahela, Pennsylvania,

Jennifer Leigh to David and Charlotte Hemmings of Monongahela, Pennsylvania.

— WEDDINGS —

BEEMAN - MANCINI

Brother Randy Ray Beeman and Sister Janet Louise Mancini were united in holy wedlock on Saturday, April 1, 1978 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Monongahela, Pennsylvania.

The ceremony was officiated by Brother John Griffith. Sister Mable Bickerton accompanied at the piano and a musical Guitar selection was given by the bride's brother, Brother John Mancini.

The newlyweds will reside in Uniontown, Pennsylvania.

LAMBERT-SMITH

Brother Emil Lambert and Sister Yvonne Louise Smith were united in holy wedlock on Saturday, May 27, 1978 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Branch 2, Allen Park, Michigan.

The ceremony was officiated by Brothers Joseph Milantoni and Leonard Lovalvo. Musical selections were presented by Sister Iva Fedorka.

The newlyweds will reside in Detroit, Michigan.

FRAMMOLINO - CHIAVEROTTI

Brother Ralph Anthony Frammolino and Sister Jeanne Marie Chiaverotti were united in holy wedlock on Saturday, June 10, 1978 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Sterling Heights, Michigan.

The ceremony was officiated by the groom's father, Brother Carl Frammolino. Musical selections were presented by Sister Arlene Whitton, organist and Nancy Abele, vocalist. The newlyweds will reside in Chicago, Illinois.

McDONNELL - MEO

Robert Deane McDonnell and Diane Elaine Meo were united in holy matrimony at The Church of Jesus Christ in Bell, California. The ceremony was officiated by Brother Vincent Scalise.

Musical selections were presented by Brother Kenneth Jones, organist and Sister Rose Lovalvo was the soloist.

The newlyweds will reside in La Puente, California.

● OBITUARIES ●

FOSTER R. BYERS

Foster R. Byers, husband of Sister Harriet Byers of the Monongahela Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ, passed from this life on April 4, 1978. He was born in New Eagle, Pennsylvania on November 24, 1908.

Mr. Byers attended church regularly and at the time of his death, he and his wife were staying with their daughter in Scottsdale, Arizona.

He is survived by his wife, four sons, two daughters and twenty grandchildren. Mr. Foster will be greatly missed by his family and those who knew and loved him.

BENJAMIN TEMAN CHERRY


Elder Benjamin Teman Cherry passed on to his heavenly reward on Thursday, February 23, 1978. He was born on August 19, 1893 and was baptized into The Church on February 23, 1913.

Brother Teman was a faithful member of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania branch and is survived by three sons, two daughters, 14 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

The funeral services were conducted by Brother Idris Martin.

Brother Cherry is the son of Alewander Cherry, the third President of The Church.

He will be greatly missed by his family and those who knew him.



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WEST AFRICAN ECHO

By Brother Nephi DeMercurio

FIFTH INSTALLMENT

Despite the many disappointments and frustrations we faced God continually blessed us and uplifted us in many ways. One such way was the day Coppas were leaving us, August 23, 1977. We were en route to Port Harcourt and in Aba, about 40 miles from Abak (our home) Lorraine heard a strange sound. She exclaimed, "There is something wrong with the car." At her insistence the driver pulled the car to the side of the road. That was difficult because of the mud and holes in the road. We discovered that the radiator had lost most of its water. We were in a strange place and did not feel comfortable in this city. Brother Gary, the drive and myself looked at the car but could not determine the problem. We were perplexed because the car was only three weeks old.

At that moment a young man on a motorcycle came to assist us. We tried to ignore him, hoping that he would go away, however, he persisted in helping. We did not know his intentions and what he expected from us. We simply did not trust him. Even though the young man seemed to detect our apprehension, he continued to make every effort to help us. We did not want him to work on the car, but he did anyway. He assured us that he was competent because he was a mechanic. After tinkering with the car he told us the car was overheating but he could not account for the reason. If we were to continue directly to Port Harcourt (50 miles away) we would have to fill the radiator periodically with water. He offered us another alternative, he would direct us to a mechanic shop. We were not sure what to do, we seemingly had no alternative but to follow him because we could not continue to Port Harcourt with the car in this condition. Still uncertain, I asked God in a silent prayer if this young man was interested in helping us. A very relaxed and peaceful feeling came over me whereby I did not fear anymore and felt assured that God was in control.

We traveled another two or three miles which seemed a great distance because of the condition of the car. We proceeded very slowly in very congested traffic. To lessen the possibility of overheating we turned on the car heater

to draw out the heat from the engine. Even though the heat was unbearable it was necessary to avoid overheating engine. Finally we arrived at the mechanic's shop which located off the main road. We wondered whether we would be able to reach our destination, again because of the mud and the overall poor condition of the road leading to the mechanic's shop. Upon our arrival several men commenced working on the car. They had stopped everything else they were doing. They worked on the car for two hours. The timing of the valves was adjusted, as well as the points. This was done to alleviate the overheating of the engine. Ultimately it was found that the fan was not working properly to cool the radiator. There was a faulty electrical connection to the fan. An electrician was summoned and immediately spotted the problem and fixed it. These people had very little to work with but they were all very qualified. Brother Gary was observing their activities and was amazed at their ability to service the car. He observed that the men were excellent mechanics despite the lack of modern equipment. While the work was being done each of us began to wonder what the cost would be.

When the servicing was completed everyone became silent and all eyes focused on me because I was the owner of the car. Hesitantly, I asked, "What do I owe you?". An unbelievable response came to our ears, "Nothing." The response was unbelievable because we had been charged excessively for many goods and services. We rejoiced and praised God for his goodness and mercy. We simply were overwhelmed by this beautiful blessing.

I exchanged addresses with the young man who helped us and urged him to visit me. He has since visited me and we have developed a very beautiful relationship. We continue to praise God for this beautiful event.

This event served to lift our spirits and take our thoughts away from the Coppas departure. The separation was difficult for us all. Very few words were spoken upon parting. Brother Gary offered a word of prayer which was a blessing to all of us.

While Lorraine, the children and I travelled back to Abak, we felt very lonely and sad. We had suffered much with the Coppas but importantly we enjoyed many joys and blessings. The Coppas would understand our mission, our difficulties and project them to our people back home. Our companions will never be forgotten.

IT IS WRITTEN

Brother V. J. Lovalvo

Question: In Business, is it proper to keep two sets of books, one true one for ourselves, and one for the government?

My answer: . . .

The best policy in business or other-wise is to be very honest, first, with yourself and then, with everyone else. In spite of the fact that taxes are high and seem like a cancer in our system, one must be honest and aboveboard when dealing with government or private citizens.

One day, certain Pharisees and Herodians came to Jesus seeking to "catch" Him in His words, saying, "... Is it lawful to give tribute (tax) to Caesar or not?" "Shall we give or shall we not give?" But Jesus, knowing their hypocrisy said unto them, "Why tempt ye Me? bring Me a penny, that I may see it." And they brought it. And He saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? And they said unto Him, 'Caesar's.' And Jesus answering said unto them, 'Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.' And they marvelled at Him." (Mark 12:14-17)

Whether Christ thought that Caesar was a righteous man or not, He taught them that the duty of a citizen was to obey the laws of the land. This must be the criterion of everybody. (especially the members of The Church of Jesus Christ.) As long as we live in this land, we must obey the laws there-of.

Paul, the Apostle, in his letter to the Romans, taught that they must be subject to the "powers that be", meaning the existing government. He said, "For this cause pay ye tribute also (taxes); . . . render therefore to all their dues; tribute to whom tribute is due, custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor." (Romans 13:6,7)

When a business man (any person) keeps two sets of books, he is adding lie upon lie, and fraud upon fraud., For, when the government "catches up" with such a one, not only is there an embarrassment, but penalties involved.

To be honest and truthful are the most beautiful assets one can have. Too much dishonesty is rampant in the business world, where cheating one another and especially the government, is rationalized as a necessity. So-called "kick-backs" are part of the business "scene" today, with a rationale of "that's business". Don't be fooled by these rationales. Honesty is still the best policy.

Jesus taught everyone to be truthful. To the Jews who believed on Him He said, "If ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed. And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:31,32) In conclusion then, live as righteous followers of Jesus and obedient citizens and you will never have to fear any embarrassments or penalties.

God bless you.

THREAT TO AMERICAN INDIANS

All interested parties should write two letters, one to their Senator and one to their Representative. These letters should be a citizens' campaign to exercise their right of expression, and not done as a Church endeavor. Eleven (11) bills are before Congress that pose a threat to American Indians and are viewed by Indians as very dangerous. The content of the letters is as follows:

Dear

Being one interested in equality for all Americans, I am appalled at the subject matter contained in the following bills before Congress namely H.R. 9054, 9950, 9951, 9736, 9175, 4169, 9906, 10246; S.B. 1437; and H.J.R. 1 and 206. As an American citizen, I cannot endorse a candidate who would tolerate such injustice against my fellow Americans.

Respectfully yours,

SEMINARS FOR IMPROVEMENT

The Ohio Area M.B.A. held dual seminars on March 18 and April 1, with the theme being "How to be a better Saint." Under the direction of the Area President — Brother Wayne Martorana — Brothers Don Pandone and Russ Martorana brought out from the scriptures suggestions, ideas and reminders to the Saints who had gathered for the seminars. Many subjects were covered including: increasing our knowledge through study of the word of God, the use and benefit of fasting and prayer, exercising faith and doing good works, being fruitful in the Church and receiving a greater portion of the Spirit of God. By improving ourselves we become assets to God and the Church.

The first seminar was held in Perry, Ohio and the second was held in Youngstown, Ohio. After the Brothers had finished their presentations, time was allotted for questions and answers and comments.

Without a doubt the Lord expects us to be the best that we possible can and as a late Brother was known to say, "We do all that we can possibly do and leave the rest to God."

NOTICE:

If you are passing through the western part of South Carolina, don't forget Brother Nathan Peterkin lives in Spartanburg.

Nathan Peterkin
715 S. Converse Street
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29301
AC (803) 583-9146

OHIO DISTRICT SPIRITUAL MEETING

On Sunday, July 16, 1978, the Warren, Ohio church building was the scene of another in a series of spiritual meetings that has been going on for several years. The church building was filled to capacity as Brothers and Sisters from the various Branches and Missions gathered together. The meeting was opened with musical selections by the young people and a solo by Sister Roberta Hufnagle.

We were very privileged to have Brother Joe Lovalvo from Modesto, California, speak to us. Brother Joe is the president of the quorum of 12 Apostles. He opened his discourse by asking what may seem like a rather strange question to us as members of The Church of Jesus Christ: "How many of you believe in the Book of Mormon?" Of course most everyone raised their hand. Then he asked again, "How many of you REALLY believe in the Book of Mormon?" He then continued his discourse by relating a question he has been asked many times, and he had really been unable to give a satisfactory answer. That question was, "Why doesn't the Book of Mormon mention anything about the ordinance of feet washing?" After a considerable amount of fasting and praying on his part, he was given to understand that the Book of Mormon, as far as ordinances is concerned, contains only those plain and precious parts that were removed from the Bible as evidenced in the first book of Nephi, chapter 13. Brother Joe explained that the Bible was complete when it came out of the hands of the Apostles, but at the Council of Nice, in the year 414 A.D., the removal of the plain and precious parts was begun by the abominable church. The delegates at that council voted on what passages would be included or excluded in the Bible that would come forth.

Our Brother made mention of some of the parts that were removed from the Bible and pointed out their inclusion in the Book of Mormon. Following are a few of the subjects he expounded upon; The mode of baptism, reception of the Holy Ghost, laying on of hands, baptism of little children condemned by God, resurrection, state of the soul after death, naming of the church, the New Jerusalem, administering Communion, ordaining to the ministry, how to keep membership-church discipline, the Choice Seer, how to conduct meetings, and how the Bible and Book of Mormon become one in God's hand. Brother Joe further pointed out that the Book of Mormon is only an abridgement and there is much more to come.

Finally, he urged us all that if we believe in the Book of Mormon, let us read it and find out what is in it: "A heavenly treasure, a book full of merit..." Brother Lovalvo also related some of his experiences while on his missionary trips into Mexico. I think I echo the sentiments of all those present at our meeting when I say, "Thank you Brother Joe for delaying your trip home for a day so that we could be further enlightened on the Book of Mormon through your visit."

After the conclusion of our Brother's discourse, our District President, Brother Joe Calabrese, extended an opportunity to those who wished, to have hands laid on them for their particular needs, and many came forth. There was a good spirit felt in all the anointings.

Brother Russell Mortorano briefly addressed us as

he related that on Saturday night he was thinking about various scriptures and as several thoughts entered his mind he made note of them. As Brother Joe Lovalvo was speaking, Brother Russ noticed that many of the thoughts that came forth coincided with those he had written down the night before.

Sister Rose Palacios, of Lorain, Ohio, related that she had a dream during the week wherein she saw the Apostles in a meeting with the Brothers and Sisters in attendance. As the Apostles were sitting on the rostrum, they noticed that many of the Saints present were discouraged and downcast. Upon noticing this condition, the Apostles all arose and began to sing, "Pull For The Shore". Upon finishing this song they noticed that many of those who were discouraged began to take courage and felt much better.

During the course of the evening, Brother Lovalvo had asked Brother Joe Calabrese to read the scriptures from the Book of Mormon that pertained to the various ordinances. When Brother Calabrese concluded reading from III Nephi 11:21-28, wherein it speaks on the mode of baptism, Brother Lovalvo asked, "Didn't you feel the Spirit when the mode of baptism was being read?" Brother Bob Quinn from Perry, Ohio said the Spirit spoke to him twice. "It is True, It is True."

At this juncture Brother Joe Calabrese made a few closing comments and our meeting was then dismissed in prayer by Brother Mitchell Edwards.

Brother Jim Alessio
Ohio District Editor

"I CALLED UPON THE LORD IN DISTRESS"

It has been suggested to me that I should write my experiences during my recent sickness and surgery. I hesitated to do so, because in no way do I take any credit or honor unto myself. I give all honor and glory unto our God and believe that He did for me what He has promised unto any person who will exercise faith in the Word of God and the promises He made to His followers.

In James, the scripture tells us that "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much". I believe this was fulfilled in the fasting and prayers of the Saints for me. Alma tells us that we, "Should humble yourselves before the Lord, and call on His holy name, and watch and pray continually, that ye might not be tempted above that which ye can bear." Surely my faith was tried and I was tempted, but thank God, as He promised, He never left me alone. There are many scriptures that could be referred to concerning the promises of God to be with His people and help them in their time of need. I offer this as my humble testimony of my experiences of the past few weeks, of how God manifested Himself to me in my darkest hour and greatest need.

On Sunday evening, April 23, 1978, after spending a beautiful day in services at the Roscoe Branch, I became ill while at work. I was scheduled to work the 4-11 P.M. shift. I was taken to the emergency room and then admitted to Monongahela Memorial Hospital with what was then diagnosed as a mild heart attack with minimum

heart damage. Further tests showed that I might have some blockage in the area of the heart.

My cardiologist arranged for me to be taken by ambulance to Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh for a heart catheterization. The ambulance was scheduled to pick me up at the Monongahela Hospital May 10, 1978 at 9:30 A.M., which was a Wednesday. I awoke early that morning and proceeded to shower and shave to prepare myself for the trip to Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh. After showering and shaving, before leaving the small shower room, I knelt down and prayed for God's blessings for the catheterization and trip into Pittsburgh. While praying it was given to me very plainly to read the 118th Psalm. At this moment I had no idea what message was in that Psalm. Upon returning to my room and while waiting for the ambulance crew to arrive, I sat in a chair and read the 118th Psalm. Needless to say, upon reading the Psalm I was thrilled and amazed at the message that fit my needs so perfectly at that time.

Just to quote some of the verses that meant so much to me: "I called upon the Lord in distress: the Lord answered me, and set me in a large place. The Lord is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me? The Lord taketh my part with them that help me: It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man. The Lord is my strength and song, and is becoming my salvation. The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tabernacles of the righteous: (the Church and Saints) the right hand of the Lord doeth valiantly. I shall not die, but live and declare the works of the Lord. The Lord hath chastened me sore: but he hath not given me over unto death. Open to me the gates of righteousness: I will go into them and I will praise the Lord: I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation. Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the Lord: we have blessed you out of the house of the Lord."

Since that day, I have read this Psalm many, many times, it proved to be a source of strength and encouragement to me. The next day, Thursday, May 11, the results of the Catheterization were given to me and they showed that I had severe blockage in all three of my major arteries, 100% - 90% and 70%. The doctors told me they could not understand how I didn't already have a massive heart attack and that heart surgery was necessary as soon as possible. Later that evening the surgeon who was to perform the coronary artery bypass grafts visited me at the Monongahela Hospital and arrangements were made to transfer me to Mercy hospital in Pittsburgh the next day, Friday, May 12. He explained that the earliest date on his operating schedule was the following Thursday, May 18. After being admitted to Mercy Hospital and further consultations between the surgeon and the cardiologist, they moved the date of the operation up two days to Tuesday, May 16. They were very open and frank with me, my condition was very precarious.

Monday, May 15 was a day of orientation for me and my wife, Sister Charlotte. They explained all phases of what to expect during the next few days and we were even taken to the cardiac vascular care unit and were shown a man who had open heart surgery that day. During the early evening the surgeon wanted to meet with Charlotte and I together. During this visit he explained that further studies showed that a fourth artery also had some blockage and with my permission he would perform quadruple coronary artery bypass graft. During the conversation with the surgeon he questioned me, if

I was afraid of what I was facing. I answered him that I didn't know how he felt about God being in such matters and that I knew he was a busy man. I didn't intend to preach to him but I told him that the Lord gave me to read the 118th Psalm while in prayer. I told him of my complete faith in God. I ended by telling him that I wanted to read only one verse from the Psalm and I read to the verse that says "The Lord taketh my part with them that help me:" I said, "Dr. Pellegrini, when you stand beside the operating table in the morning and operate on my heart, I believe with all my heart that the Lord will be standing beside you, helping you to help me". I was very happy when he readily admitted to the power of God being a source of his success as a surgeon.

Later that evening they began pre-op, shots and medications to begin to prepare me for the surgery in the morning. I received a very large dose of antibiotic, an injection in my right hip and it proved to be very painful. The nurse explained that this was normal, but I found it difficult in bearing the pain. During this period of pain and discomfort I lay in my bed and I began to pray asking God to please give me the strength to bear what was before me. During Brother Kirschner's illness I once made a remark in my speaking that I didn't realize the valley of the shadow of death could be so difficult to pass through as I watched Brother Sam pass to his reward. During this prayer I asked the Lord to please lead me through this valley that I knew I would be passing through on the next day. While praying in this manner, I clearly found myself on the brim of a very steep and deep valley strewn with many large stones. A condition that one slip over the side of this valley would mean instant death. But about fifteen feet ahead of me stood Jesus, a beautiful man dressed in a pure white robe and he was looking directly at me and showing me with His right hand, here is the pathway. Immediately, I had the understanding that the Lord would be there and would lead me through that terrible valley that I must cross the next day.

I thank God that He gave me these experiences of reassurance and that I felt His presence with me throughout my illness. I continue to receive of His blessings as I feel my strength and stamina grow from day to day. All honor and glory to our wonderful God.

Your Brother in Christ
Brother Fred Olexa

"Note of Thanks"

I wish to thank all of the Elders who prayed for me at the General Church Conference and to all of my Brothers and Sisters throughout the entire Church for their wonderful prayers in my behalf during my illness. Your prayers were very effective and because of your prayers I am feeling much better now.

I want to thank all of you for the beautiful cards, words of encouragement and the telephone calls which I received.

I still need your prayers and may God bless all of you.

Your Brother-in-Christ,
Brother Richard Issac,
Six Nations Res. Mission

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

BACK TO SCHOOL

Summer is almost gone, and September is rapidly preparing to usher in our autumnal season.

The month of September also brings to a close the long summer vacation, while at the same time, it heralds a transition for many children and young people. It gently calls them, "Back to School."

Additionally, this month marks a very important and significant turning point in the lives of many young and tender children who are enrolled in school for the first time. They progress from their early, informal schooling and training in the home, to the formal schooling and instruction of the classroom.

A GOOD START IN SCHOOL

It well behooves parents to do their utmost in the tutoring of a growing child, employing politeness and firmness, both in word and example. Surely, this preparedness is advantageous and essential in getting a child off to a good start in school.

Hence, this points up the serious and solemn responsibility that rests upon parents in properly and patiently preparing their children for the classroom; in encouraging and stimulating the desire to learn.

It has been said, and rightly so, that the most valuable natural resource of any nation is its children.

Their education then should be a major and important consideration.

From the responsibility and role of the parent in properly preparing the child for school, we turn to the role of the teacher. The teacher likewise assumes a serious and important responsibility in the process of instructing the student. This holds true in all school levels. It behooves the teacher in addition to the formal instruction of the student to stress the importance and advantage of acquiring a good education. Additionally, the teacher is urged to employ the utmost skill and to muster up extra patience in the cultivation and development of the student.

LIFE'S CHALLENGES

The role of the student is also vitally important in the pursuit of an education. The student, at whatever age level, is urged to apply himself to self-discipline; to stick to the task at hand; to be aware of the importance of being properly equipped to face life's increasing challenges.

Also, students are to be encouraged that there are additional rewards in the pursuit of an education, besides income-providing skills, jobs, and professions.

A good and proper education also provides many opportunities to be helpful and serviceable in varying degrees, to other people, to The Church and to God.

Finally, to all students, God bless you. May your lives be enriched and your rewards many.



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

Michal

Dear Girls and Boys,

Saul was the king of Israel at the time of this story. Michal, his daughter became the first wife of David. Her older sister had been promised by her father to David after he returned victorious over the battle with the giant Goliath. She was to be David's reward. But King Saul did not keep his promise. He gave Merab to another.

Michal loved David. Probably she knew David, as he met often with her brother Jonathan. Saul was a very jealous man. He disliked David. He began to plan how his daughter Michal could be a stumbling block to David. David was a very promising young man and could be king. He sent flattering words to David that he wanted him for his son-in-law. But David felt it would not be easy to be a king's son-in-law and told the king this.

Saul schemed how he could get rid of David. He said he could have his daughter Michal for his wife if he would go out and kill one hundred Philistines and bring back proof. He was sure David would be killed. But David surprised the king. He went out and killed two hundred Philistines. And Michal became his wife.

Saul still plotted against David. One day David was playing music for him and he threw a spear at David. The javelin missed him and went over David's head into the wall. David fled and escaped.

Michal realized her father wanted to kill David so she planned how she could save him. Messengers had already come telling her they would slay David in the morning. Michael warned David and she let him down through a window and he escaped. When her father commanded David to come to him, she sent word that David was sick. Saul sent the messengers to bring David to him from his bed. But by this time David was far away.

Michal took a large image and put it in David's bed and put a pillow of goat's hair for a bolster and covered it with cloth. Michal must have been brave to defy her father the king. When King Saul discovered the trick Michal had played on him, he was furious. He said, "Why have you deceived me and sent away my enemy?" Michal replied, "He said unto me, 'Let me go, why should I kill thee?'" By this time David was in Ramah with the prophet Samuel.

After some time had passed, King Saul arranged for Michal to marry Phalti. When David became king in Saul's place, he demanded that Michal be returned to him. This was done. Phalti wept when Michal left him but as King, David could demand whomever he chose. Michal's life was one of sadness and many tragedies. She was never blessed with children. As a princess she saw many cruel events. The day of David's greatest triumph, when he brought the ark of Jehovah to Jerusalem, we are told that "she despised him in her heart."

Sincerely,
Sister Mabel

Our Women Today . . .

MOTHER-DAUGHTER BANQUET

On Monday, May 8, 1978, the Michigan-Ontario Area Ladies Uplift Circle held its Mother-Daughter Banquet at the Gourmet House in St. Clair Shores. A large group of Sisters and friends from the five Branches in Michigan and Windsor met together for an enjoyable evening.

Dinner was served. Sister Antoinette Ciaravino asked the blessing. A little time was left for socializing, Sister Mary Criscuolo, the Area Chairman, introduced the area officers.

The Area Assistant Chairman, Sister Mary Dichiera, could not be present due to the passing away of her granddaughter. She certainly was missed by all.

The six circle presidents of the Detroit and Windsor Branches are, Detroit:

Branch No. 1, Mary Vitto
Branch No. 2, Alice Romano
Branch No. 3, Mary Criscuolo
Branch No. 4, Catherine Benedetto
Branch No. 5, Pierina Di Falco
Windsor: Mary Cuomo

Sister Hazel Zoltek wrote a brief program on mothers in the Bible, beginning with Eve and ending with Mary the mother of Jesus. One Sister from each Branch read a portion, it was very interesting.

Sister Donna Amormino led the singing of some beautiful hymns after which the girls ensemble from Branch No. 3 sang, *God's Wonderful People*. Everyone joined in to sing the chorus.

Flowers were given to a charter member of each of the six circles represented, to the mother with the most daughters present, to the youngest mother, oldest mother, and to the grandmother with the most grandchildren.

There was great pleasure in visiting with Sisters across the city and renewing acquaintance with old friends. Truly there is a thrill to meet with "God's Wonderful People."

MICHIGAN-ONTARIO LADIES CIRCLE

The Michigan-Ontario Ladies Circle met at the Detroit Branch No. 3 building for the quarterly meeting.

Brother Silver Criscuolo was our guest speaker, using as his topic "Our Duties as Women in The Church of Jesus Christ."

He read from the *Book of Ephesians*, 5th chapter, verses 15-33, and spoke of our responsibilities and duties toward God, The Church, our husbands and children.

He said, "We are called into The Church to become the sons and daughters of God and, being His children, it is our duty to please Him. Let us set a good example and meet the standards of The Church, for there is no limit to the work that can be done for the Lord in The

Church of Jesus Christ. Be not weary of doing good because your reward is great. When you are in the service of your fellowman, you are in the service of God."

Brother Silver urged us all to endeavor to be filled with the spirit of God at all times, because the spirit will control our lives. He also reminded us that the older Sisters may be teachers to the younger Sisters by teaching them how to walk in the ways of the Lord and by not bringing reproach of any kind to The Church. He asked us to pray for those who do not have the love of God, and we will be amazed by the results of a sincere prayer offered in their behalf.

In his concluding remarks, Brother Silver cited the following attributes desirable in a woman's makeup. They are: Lips of Truth, Voice of Kindness, Eyes of Compassion, Hands of Charity, Figure of Uprighteousness, and a Heart of Love.

YOUNGSTOWN BRANCH HOSTS APOSTLES' MEETINGS

Youngstown was privileged to host the two-day sessions of the Quorum of 12 on July 14 and 15, 1978. The Quorum met to transact the spiritual affairs of the Church. Present for the meetings were Apostles: Dominic Thomas, President of the Church; V. James Lovalvo, Second Counselor; Joseph Lovalvo, Quorum President; Rocco Biscotti, Quorum Vice-President; Paul D'Amico, Secretary; Frank Calabrese, Ass't. Secretary; Anthony Corrado, Russell Cadman and Nicholas Pietrangelo, Exec. Secretary.

On Sunday, July 16th seven Apostles remained in Youngstown and our building was filled to capacity. There was a representation of most of the Ohio District. The meeting was opened in prayer by Brother Nick Pietrangelo. Brother Jim Lovalvo was requested to sing "The Red Man Sat Proudly", which we enjoyed to hear. The Youngstown Quartet also sang.

Our main speaker was Brother Jim Lovalvo, who used for his text *Matthew 4:3, 4*. If Christ had changed the stones into bread, He would have yielded to Satan and Christ would have been the loser. Our Lord did not have to show Satan anything. Brother Jim stressed that man does not live by bread alone. Man can not exist by merely the physical things in this life, no matter how much he may accumulate in riches. It's good to seek for good positions, wages that are liveable, good homes and to have businesses but *put GOD first in everything that you do*. As soon as Brother Jim was finished saying this, Brother Frank Altomare arose and said, "Amen." Thus saith the Lord, "Count upon Christ, thou shalt be blessed forever and ever." Thus saith the Lord, "The time is far spent and little time is remaining." Brother Lovalvo concluded his talk by saying that we are the richest people in the world, rich in the spiritual things of God.

Brother Dominic Thomas followed on the same subject. In the verse, "Man shall not live by bread alone", Brother Dominic stated that those who are living by bread are only half living. For those who haven't made their covenant with God, the message is "eat of the Word of God and live totally upon the face of the earth."

Brother Joseph Lovalvo stated that if we would believe in God and live by His Word, He would provide the rest. Man wanted to live by bread only and consequently bread led him into sin. Brother Lovalvo related several experiences which were quite edifying.

Brother Rocco Biscotti, who had been anointed earlier in the meeting, thanked God that he was able to be present at today's service. He believed that the Lord heard Brother Corrado's prayers last night when he became suddenly ill.

Brother Frank Calabrese closed in prayer.

Youngstown Branch felt a great blessing in having the Apostles meet in our Church building. May the Lord continue to bless our Brothers with wisdom and understanding to lead His Church in righteousness.

Sister Annette Corrado
Youngstown Branch Editor

A Note of Thanks

It would be very hard to contact all my Brothers and Sisters to thank them for their prayers, telephone calls, and the many very beautiful cards during my recent illness. I am slowly recuperating nicely and with the prayers of all of you, I hope to regain my strength back. Thank you from the depth of my heart.

Brother Rocco V. Biscotti

SEND HUNTERS AND FISHERS

There are a people, a lost hidden people,
Fallen in darkness and fallen in tears.
But God will reclaim them and He will re-own them,
Tho they've been scattered and driven for years.

These are God's people and He loves His people,
He will send hunters and fishers one day.
To climb every hilltop and hunt every valley,
Fish every river and search every bay.

God has a people, a forgotten people,
They have a country and they have a name.
But He will remember and send hunters for them,
Clothe them with blessings and cover their shame.

Call out the hunters and fishers to find them,
Fish with the sunlight and hunt with the moon.
And run thru the caves and the rocks that surround them,
Bring back my people, oh bring them home soon.

CHORUS

Oh send hunters to hunt them and fishers to fish them,
Gather my people where ever they be.
Yes send hunters to hunt them and fishers to fish them,
Hunt every mountain and fish every sea.

by Arlene Buffington 10/26/77

District Conferences . . .

Atlantic Coast District

We were privileged to have Brother Joseph Lovalvo, President of the Quorum of Twelve and his wife Virginia visit our district after the April General Church Conference. He held meetings in Freehold, Tuesday; Edison, Wednesday evening; Sunday morning at Hopelawn; and Metuchen Sunday afternoon.

Saturday evening Brother Joe held a special seminar with the Elders and Teachers of the district. Brother Joseph stressed the importance of our work in The Church. He gave much in the way of instruction as to the way we should perform, thus allowing our Brothers and Sisters to be encouraged and become involved in all functions that The Church has to offer.

Brother Joe met with the Atlantic Coast Urban Indian Committee on Sunday evening where a group of the seed of Joseph were invited to come and meet with us. Our Brother did a splendid work in conveying to those present, the interest The Church has in the seed of Joseph. Brother Joe knew some of the leaders of the western tribes that were friends of some present here at the meeting, thus making it easier for him to keep their attention.

It was glorious to hear his experience while working and preaching the Restored Gospel to the Indians of the United States and Mexico. We were sorry to see Brother Joe leave so quickly because on Monday evening the Urban Indian Committee of the Atlantic Coast met with another group of the Seed of Joseph in the Philadelphia, Pa. area. A greater blessing was felt by the committee in talking to that group because they were more receptive and asked us to return. What was more glorious was when we embraced and they said to us, "May our friendship be a lasting one."

Throughout his visit with us Brother Joe stressed the importance of being united one with another that the cause of The Church will be strengthened and we could go forth in the strength of Christ to establish His church throughout the world. It is impossible to write all that Brother Joe spoke to us as it would take the entire contents of this issue of the Gospel News.

We were disappointed that Brother Joe could not spend more time visiting the Saints here in the east because of his stay with some relatives in the Flemington area. His visit with them proved fruitful, because while he was at their home he had the privilege to preach the gospel, had a few experiences with them, and the end result was that they expressed a desire to have meetings in their home. They wanted Brother Joe and Sister Virginia to stay with them but our Brother had several commitments; therefore, this work will be carried on by Elders of our district.

We extend to Brother Joe and Sister Virginia our thanks for spending a little time with us and hope that they would return for a longer visit sometime in the near future.

We send our love to all the Saints throughout the church as well as to all those who read the Gospel News.

Brother Joseph Perri
District Editor

Two Atlantic Coast Branches Have A Joint Meeting

On Wednesday evening the Hopelawn Branch was host to the Edison Branch with Evangelist Rocco Ensana as guest speaker.

Our Presiding Elder Brother Joseph Perri welcomed all that were in attendance at our meeting and introduced Brother Ensana as the speaker for the night. Also present were the President of the District, Brother Matthew Rogolino, Second Counselor of the District, Brother August D'Orazio and Brother Don Ross, Presiding Elder of the Edison Branch.

Brother Rocco read his text from *First Epistle of Peter the 2nd chapter 9th verse*. "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood an holy nation, a peculiar people that ye should show forth the praise of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

Brother Rocco spoke of the conditions present in our nation today. He said that when Zion is completely established then we shall be that holy nation unto God. We must be a different kind of people in order to be a peculiar people.

If our activities are the same as that of the world then we are no different than they. He made reference to the Apostle Peter when he was at the trial of Jesus. One present at the trial knew that Peter was a follower of Jesus Christ because of his manner of speech. Brother Ensana related many experiences that he had when he was converted into The Church. He told us how The Church was first started in New Jersey. The labors of Brother Joseph Corrado, Brother Eugene Perri Sr., Brother Louis Mazzeo and others were to be admired. When the church building was being erected in New Brunswick the Brothers and Sisters didn't wait for its completion to hold meetings. The enthusiasm generated was one that our brother said he would like to see return. The power of God in preaching, anointing of the sick, etc. Very few Sundays passed without a baptism. The Church spread from New Brunswick to Edison, to Metuchen and then to Hopelawn in just a few short years.

Brother Rocco related to us how our branch of Hopelawn was first started. Brother Dominick Scala from Metuchen was instrumental in bringing the gospel to Brother Jim Mercurio and Brother Jim in turn talked to Brother Paul Benyola, father of the late Brother Joseph Benyola who in time received a revelation from God to erect a church building where it now stands. Brother Ensana truly had liberty in preaching to us that evening and it would be impossible to write all that he told us.

He encouraged the Brothers and Sisters present to be faithful and serve God for the glory that awaits us in the future work of the church and the final reward that we shall receive.

Brother Rocco is 80 years old and still filled with a desire to please God and to encourage the Brothers and Sisters to do the same. We might add that Brother Rocco is the only elder still residing in New Jersey that was involved in the early establishment of The Church in New Jersey. Brother Eugene Perri Sr. is also 80 years of age and resides in Florida!

Brother Rocco promised to return at a future date to give more of the history surrounding the growth of The Church in the Atlantic Coast.

Sister Mary Perri
Branch Editor

BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS:—**Blessings And Visitors At Aliquippa**

The Aliquippa Branch was visited by many young people from the Pennsylvania area, also Arizona, South Carolina and Florida.

The morning service was opened by having a selection "Jesus is Lord of All" sung by Sister Martha Jumper. We were led in prayer by Brother Paul Palmieri.

The Aliquippa quartet, Brothers Ken Staley, Ryan Ross, Sister Martha Jumper and Pete Giannetti, Jr. sang "To God Be The Glory".

Brother Paul Palmieri opened the service by using John 21 for the topic of his sermon. He quoted the Lord, "Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these?"

"Ask yourselves this morning, what would we say that we love more than the Lord?"

He emphasized that, by our lives we show the dedication we have for the Lord. The Lord should be number one in our lives.

The congregation then sang "Lovest Thou Me."

Brother Anthony Ross made a few closing remarks concerning what counts in the eyes of God. It is not always the outer appearance that counts. It is our inner being. We paused for lunch in the church basement.

The afternoon service was open for testimonies. Many young people gave wonderful testimonies thanking God for His goodness in their lives. The wonderful Spirit of God prevailed in our service. We all had a wonderful time and can truly say that our spirits were revived.

The service was closed in prayer by Brother John Ross, Sr.

Truly we can say that it was a day well spent in the service of God.

The young people posed for a picture in front of our church building before leaving for the various destinations.

Sister Dora Rossi
Branch Editor

McKees Rocks Branch News

May 7, 1978 brought to us a message by the visiting Elder on rotation program, ZEAL. Israel had zeal but not to the righteousness of God, but we must abide by the commandments of God and do the good He would have us to do.

May 14 brought three souls back to the fold of God, Paul and Ann Ciotti, along with Ralph Ciotti; Brothers and Sister in Christ Jesus. Oh, what an outpouring of the peace and love of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

May the blessings of the latter day glory be with each one. Pray for us.

Sister Martha Laird
Branch Editor

Imperial Branch News

The Imperial Pennsylvania Branch hosted a week of meetings which started on April 16th following our General Conference and ended on Friday, April 21st. We enjoyed the fellowship of our visiting Brothers and Sisters from the various Branches in the Pennsylvania District as well as from Georgia and Florida. We were especially pleased to have Sister Ruth Kirschner with us a couple of evenings, which was an encouragement to us all. We had 16 visiting Elders throughout the week. The theme that was brought out by our Elders was concerning humbleness, love and having the spirit of Zion in our hearts. We were encouraged to pray for strength to endure our crosses and that we should seek to spread the Gospel, hating sin, but not the sinner. We would like to thank all our visitors who put forth an effort to be with us.

On Sunday, April 30th a young couple, Tom and Jan Painter, were baptized. They have been attending our services for some time and Brother Tom stated that it was a miracle that they had found The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Robert Buffington baptized both husband and wife. Brother George Ondrasik confirmed Jan and Brother James Moore, Sr. confirmed Tom into The Church by the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost. Brother and Sister Painter then asked to have their little daughter Jessie blessed, which was officiated by Brother James Moore, Jr. We pray that God will continue to bless this little family as their addition to our Branch has been a blessing to all of us.

Sister Nancy Botwright
Branch Editor

News From Roscoe

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

In news from the Roscoe Branch we would like to report God is continuing to bless us and would like to share our joy with you.

On May 7th we rejoiced to have Sister June Shriner reinstated into fellowship by the laying on of hands of the ministry. Brother Gasper Karelli officiated. We were happy to hear our Sister's sincere and humble testimony stating her desire to be numbered within the fold again and felt a portion of God's great love for His children.

Also on June 4th our Brother Fred Olexa, an ordained Elder and Evangelist was in our midst again, attending our fellowship service. The great joy and love seen and felt as each one went to greet and welcome our Brother back among us can not sufficiently be expressed in words. Brother Fred had been in the hospital the past 39 days prior to this beautiful reuniting, being discharged from the hospital on June 1. We had met many times during that 39 days in fasting and prayer in behalf of our Brother who underwent open heart surgery on May 16th at the Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh.

During our fellowship meeting Brother Fred although very physically weak was determined with God's help to give his testimony. I have asked him if he might write of his experiences he expressed so that they might be shared with the readers of the Gospel News. As most of you know, Brother Fred has always been a zealous worker for the Lord, very active in General Church work and a member of the Penna. Urban Indian Committee. We would like to mention our Brother continues to show his enthusiasm to work for the Lord and among the seed of Joseph. On June 8th, only a week after being discharged from the hospital Brother Fred, along with Brother Rich Scaglione and Brother Wm. Chepanoske also members of the Indian Committee met with an advance party of Indians in Charleroi, Penna. who were involved in the "Longest Walk", Indians walking across country to Washington, D.C. to protest legislation they feel is against them. We thank God that we can see Brother Fred continually improving physically each time we meet and also the spiritual strength and determination he has within. We hope you will all enjoy the following article written by Brother Fred. (See page three)

May God Bless you all,
Sister Bertha Jean Bilsky
Roscoe Branch Editor

Rochester, N. Y. Branch News

On Thursday, May 25, 1978 the members and friends gathered at Brother and Sister Ansel D'Amico's home for a farewell party for Brother Mel Mountain, Jr. and family who are moving to Arizona. A cake was made with the inscription, "God Bless and Be With You". Brother Mel offered the blessing on the food and expressed himself to the goodness of the Gospel and no one knows of the love of God until they come, and taste, and see. He thanked everyone for the love and kindness that was shown to him and family during their illness.

A beautiful evening was spent in socializing with each other. Brother Ansel offered the closing prayer, wishing them well, adding, "God be with you until we meet again."

Sister Carmella D'Amico
Branch Editor

Cleveland, Ohio Branch No. 1

Saturday and Sunday, May 27, 28, 1978, were days of rejoicing in our Branch. On the 27th the Brothers made and served a dinner for the Sisters. We the Sisters surely appreciated the reversed role. Brother Rocco Biscotti, spoke of the role the women played in the Old and

New Testaments. He spoke of Ruth and we as mothers and wives should read Proverbs, 31st Chapter, verses 10 thru 31 to renew our strength. An enjoyable evening for all.

During Sunday school we had the pleasure of having Brother Bucci of Youngstown, explain the Book of Mormon. How the plates were found and what they looked like and the trials that were endured to bring forth the plates. We would like to welcome back Brother Bucci, to share his findings and knowledge with us.

In our morning service, Brother Bucci spoke on Third Nephi, 30th Chapter, Mormon appealed to the Gentiles to live a righteous life, to give up their wicked lives and serve the Lord. Brother Vince Gibson continued on how we must improve ourselves daily to do the Lord's will.

The testimonies were heart-warming and a great blessing was felt by all. Sister Madilana Ranieri, (who was gravely injured in a fall during the ice and snow this past winter,) was with us once again. We thank the Lord for her recovery and to have our Sister fellowship with us.

We continue to ask for prayer for the afflicted and elderly of our Branch.

Again we say, please come again Brother Bucci, being small in number we look forward to visitors. God bless all of you is our prayer.

Sister Margaret Abbott
Cleveland Branch Editor

News From Sterling Heights, Michigan

Heaven came down and glory filled our souls as that sweet, sweet Spirit descended in our midst today. That good feeling of wonderful things to come began as Brother Jerry Chambers stood and asked to be prayed upon so that he would have the right spirit for our feet washing service which was set for today, June 4. Brother Jerry said he could feel the presence of God with us. Brother Louis Vitto stated that we want the smile of Jesus with us that we may be filled with the spirit of humility as we perform the act of feet washing. He told us that Karen, his daughter, was going to have surgery on her leg on Thursday and asked that we pray for her.

Hands were laid on Brother Jerry and Sister Mary Jane Soave for spiritual strength, Sister Pierina was anointed for a lingering cough and Karen Vitto because of her impending surgery.

A hymn was called, but before the singing began, Sally Dubreuil, introduced to The Church by Angie Champine, broken-heartedly called for her baptism.

Brother John Buffa, who hadn't planned to take an active part in today's service, was so filled with the Spirit, after opening in prayer, that he opened the meeting. He chose Luke 7:36-39, how Mary washed Jesus' feet with her tears, dried them with her hair, and after kissing them repeatedly, anointed them with precious oil. Brother John stated that the theme today is humility. All the baptized members are Brothers and Sisters of Christ as the Apostles were of old. He asked what must we do to convince others that this is the pure, unadulterated Church. Brother John praised Brother Sam DiFalco for his work

in The Church, without him, Sally and the Champines would not be here today.

Brother John said to remember today, as we wash the feet of our Brother or Sister, it is as if we are washing the feet of Jesus Christ, we must do it with love. Brother Louis Vitto said that as he contemplated the scripture throughout the week, he had in mind choosing the exact scripture that Brother John chose today. Jesus said that unless we become as a little child, we can in no wise enter into the kingdom of Heaven. We must continue to be humble in the presence of God. Sacrament was served and we then went into the feet washing service. Sister Geanne Chiaverottie and Brother Ralph Frammolino, who are to be married next week, gave their testimony. We were dismissed by Brother Paul Whitton.

We met at Eastwood Beach at Stony Creek at 6:00 P.M. for Sally's baptism, and were delighted to hear that Branch 1 were uniting with us in the baptism of Salina Zaccagnini. She attended Branch 4 today and, under the influence of the preaching of Brother Norman Campitelle, was moved to ask for her baptism. However she did not do so at the church, but waited to get the permission of her father. Since this was the birthday of Brother Tony DiFalco Sr., Salina's grandfather, all the DiFalco families were gathered there. Salina's father gave his permission, and after talking it over with her uncles, Brother Richard Thomas called Brother Paul Vitto at Branch 1 and advised him of her desire to be baptized.

Sister Sally was baptized by Brother Carl Frammolino and Sister Salina was baptized by Brother Jerry Benyola. We then came back to the Sterling Heights Branch.

The evening meeting was opened with prayer by Brother Concetto Alessandro. Brother Louis Vitto then related the events of the morning. He said that our feet washing service was exceptional, like in the days of old, the Brothers praying openly.

The Champine brothers sang two of their selections, one of which was Corner-Stone. Sister Sally was then confirmed by Brother Paul Whitton and Sister Salina by Brother Paul Vitto. Sacrament was then served to the two new converts by Brother John Buffa.

Sister Sally testified, thanking God for a happy, happy day. She said she knew the second time she came here, this was the Church for her. She told how Sister Angie Champine had helped her. She told of a dream she had sometime ago. It seemed she was in an old warehouse, packing cases all around her. At first she was alone, then Brother Louis Vitto and Brother John Buffa entered and Brother Vitto handed her an A&P shopping bag. She had not heard this dream before. Sister Sally said she had prayed and fasted all week and God had blessed her every day.

Sister Salina then gave her testimony. Unlike Sister Sally, the devil had been testing her all week. She had prayed that God would give her a dream, one that she would know came from Him, so that she would have some direction in her life. Then she dreamed of walking down a long, winding path. She was holding the hand of one of her uncles. Then it became dark and she was afraid. Her uncle said for her to let go his hand and reach out and pretend she was holding the hand of God. She did this, and immediately she felt a hand clasp over hers. She looked but could not see the hand. She kissed it and

felt the warmth against her lips. Then she awoke, a beautiful answer to a sincere prayer.

Many beautiful testimonials were given. Brother Nick Pietrangelo then said a few words, a wonderful climax to a beautiful day. He recalled a day when they had ten baptisms at Branch 1, five of which were here tonight. Brother Nick said that being in the Gospel, makes one feel that they have known others in the Gospel, all their lives. He said it is not really hard to serve the Lord, it is easy, a pleasure to serve Him, and a great assurance that God is a friend we can always trust. We must always remember the Spirit of God never fails. God will bless The Church and the priesthood, if we lay aside the things that cause conflict in our lives.

Brother Louis Vitto summed up the day by stating that we should thirst and hunger after God, that we might be able to bring more souls into The Church. We were dismissed by Brother Spencer Everett. We then adjourned to the church basement where refreshments were served.

Our Wednesday night service was a continuation of our Sunday service, the same beautiful spirit prevailing. Some members prayed, others gave testimonies, and we sang songs of praise. Sister Sally testified, saying she still was on the mountain top, she was bubbling over with praise that she had been baptized. God is sincerely blessing this Branch.

Brother Carl Frammolino said that he had a great desire to baptize Sister Sally since it had become apparent that she wanted to be a member of this Church, and he felt a special blessing when he baptized her.

Sister Hazel Zoltek
Branch Editor

Ordination In Branch No. 2

Sunday, April 23, 1978, was a beautiful day for the Saints of Detroit, Branch No. 2, not only because of the six Brothers and Sisters who were ordained, but because of the sweet Spirit which was present throughout the day. We were very happy to have Brother Paul Francione from Tucson, Arizona with us that day. Even though he has moved away, he will remain a part of Branch No. 2 in our hearts. We were also happy to have Brother Spencer Everett, the President of the Michigan-Ontario District, with us for the day.

Brother Paul opened with a few personal remarks about how much God has blessed him and his family. He spoke about the beauty of God and the earth and how that man has defiled the earth. He stated that unless man is led by the Spirit of God, He can do nothing. Brother Paul then read St. John 14:6, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." In this passage, God is assuring us that there is a way that leads to Heaven. If we follow Him, we will find it. We should take no short cuts, but follow the righteous path which Jesus has set before us. He is offering to all of us that He will be our pilot if we but only seek and ask.

Brother Spencer read to us from II Nephi 31:12, "...wherefore, follow me, and do the things which ye have seen me do." Brother Spencer encouraged us to follow the Spirit of the Lord in whatever we do. We can-

not rely on our own feelings, but we must rely on Him to lead us. Brother Spencer compared our relationship with God to that of the mother eagle and her young eaglets. The mother eagle pushes her young out of the nest and encourages them to fly from great heights, but she is always there to catch them as they fall until they have learned to use their own wings. The Lord does much the same thing with us, encouraging us to work for Him, always being there to help us when we make a mistake, but helping us to find our way. Brother Spencer encouraged us to work as hard as we can for the Lord because God expects us to do something for Him, even though we may make errors along the way.

At the beginning of our afternoon service, Brother Leonard A. Lovalvo, our Presiding Elder, read several passages of Scripture and commented on the duties of a Deacon and Deaconess. An opportunity was then given to those who were being ordained to express themselves. As each one testified, we who were listening could certainly feel the humble spirit which prevailed among them as they talked about what the Lord had done for them, expressed their desire to work, and asked everyone for their support.

The Ordinations of our three Deacons took place as follows:

Brother Peter Buffa — his feet were washed by Brother Mel Petris and he was ordained by Brother John Buffa.

Brother Gary Carlini — his feet were washed by Brother Jim Cotellesse and he was ordained by Brother Leonard A. Lovalvo.

Brother Joe Vargo — his feet were washed by Brother Bill Buffa and he was ordained by Brother Joe Milantoni.

The Ordinations of our three Deaconesses took place as follows:

Sister Mary Morle — her feet were washed by Sister Alice Romano and she was ordained by Brother Frank Morle.

Sister Cathy Gentile — her feet were washed by Sister Filomena DiRado and she was ordained by Brother Reno Bologna.

Sister Joyce Vargo — her feet were washed by Sister Isabella Bologna and she was ordained by Brother Paul Francione.

We can surely say that a beautiful spirit was felt in all the prayers that were offered for our ordained Brothers and Sisters.

Brother Leonard commented on how good it is to belong to the family of Christ and told us that the work has just begun for all of us. We closed this beautiful day with singing "To the Work", and as we sang this hymn, we formed a circle. Brother Alex Gentile closed the meeting in prayer, and we can all say that it was good to be in the House of the Lord.

Sister Loretta Lovalvo

NOTICE:

The Food-A-Plenty Cook Books are ready to be distributed with the corrections and index. Anyone interested please contact Mary Criscuolo, 4286 W. Chappel Drive, Gladwin, Michigan 48624. The cost of each book is \$5.00 plus .50c postage. Send money to Betty Eiler, 400 Division Street Ext., Aliquippa, Pennsylvania 15001.

— NEW ARRIVALS —

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

Christina Teresa to Dave and Mary Jane Venrick of Branch 3 Detroit, Michigan,

Renee Marisa to Dennis and Janet Dota of Youngstown, Ohio,

Danielle Rae to Leslie and Darla Bokulich of Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania,

Christy Anne to Matthew and Linda Shushok of Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania,

Erwin William to Bill and Cindy Prentice of Branch 1 of Cleveland, Ohio.

— WEDDINGS —

REY - PARRY

Mr. Richard Rey and Miss Marlene Parry were united in holy Matrimony on Saturday, July 1, 1978 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Sterling Heights, Michigan.

The ceremony was officiated by Brother Louis Vitto.

● OBITUARIES ●

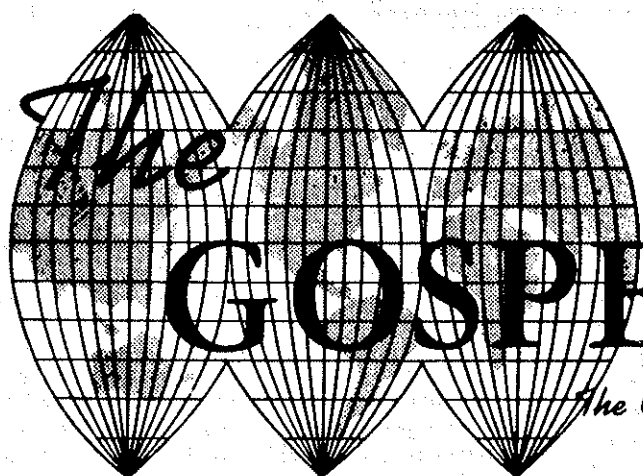
FRANK SCOLETTI

Brother Frank Scoletti passed on to his heavenly reward on Tuesday, July 11, 1978. He was born in Italy in 1882. He was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ in San Diego, California on November 29, 1952 and transferred to McKees Rocks from Lorain in 1958.

The funeral services were conducted by Brother Dan Casasanta.

He is survived by three sons, one daughter, eight grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren.

He leaves a wonderful testimony of our Saviour, Jesus Christ and The Restored Gospel.



GOSPEL NEWS

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa.

October, 1978

Volume 34, No. 10

Offices: 6th & Lincoln Sts.

IT IS WRITTEN

By V. J. Lovalvo

I have had many requests to write concerning the Apostasy (Falling Away of the gospel) and the eventual Restoration of the Gospel. However, I must preface these subjects by writing about the establishment of *The Church of Jesus Christ in Jerusalem*.

#1... It was to be a "Visible" church:

"And Jesus answered and said, unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona, for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock (Not Peter, but upon the principle of God's Revealed Will) I will build My church; and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it." (Matt. 16:17, 18)

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 6:16) Again, it is written, "Know ye not that ye are the Temple of God, and that the spirit of God dwelleth in you?" (1st Cor. 3:16) And, "This is My commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you." (John 15:12)

The above scriptures are but a few which definitely prove that everything about the church was to be "Visible", seen, and heard. "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." (Matt. 28:19)

According to Webster's Dictionary, the word, Church, is defined as, "The collective body of Christians." All the afore-mentioned scripture and definitions should disprove once and for always the teachings of some who say that the church of our Lord is made up of all the honest of hearts everywhere, as long as one believes in Christ.

The word of God teaches that there is "One body (Church), and one spirit, even as you are called in one hope of your calling: One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." (Ephesians 4:4-6) If the church was not to be a visible entity, why the callings into the Ministry to preach and promulgate the Gospel? If it was not a Visible church, how could it be either loved or persecuted, as both scripture and history testify?

Christ established His church by calling Apostles

and the Seventy Evangelists. Later on, the Apostles ordained Elders and Teachers; Deacons and Deaconesses were added along with "helps and governments." (1st Cor. 12:28)

Jesus started His mission at a time when religious systems were largely Pagan and Jewish along with a minor system, Samaritans, (a mixture of the other two). The Jews, like most other nations, were subjects of the Roman Empire. They were allowed a certain amount of religious liberty, but were far from a free and independent people.

Paganism was a religion of form and ceremony, based on Polytheism, a belief in the existence of a multiplicity of Gods. Jewish people were not a united people; they were divided into many contending sects and parties, to wit: Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes, Galileans, Herodians, etc. The Samaritans were a mixed people, inhabiting a distant province mostly between Judea and Galilee. They were largely made up of Assyrian colonists who had intermarried with the Jews. Although affirming their belief in the Jehovah of the Old Testament, they practiced many rites belonging to Paganism. Because of this, they were regarded by the Jews as unorthodox and reprobate.

(Continued on page 2)

GENERAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

The October 1978 General Church Conference will convene on Friday, October 20, 1978 at 9:30 A.M. in our Church Auditorium in Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

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

IT IS WRITTEN . . .

(Continued from page 1)

The teachings and doctrine of Christ differed from all others; His was one of love as distinguished from the law of Moses—an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. He taught the existence of One God as distinguished from the Pagan Polytheism.

Although the Jews believed in ONE God, they were divided in their concepts (resurrection) and their interpretations of the scriptures, each sect professing greater knowledge than the other. Hence, when Christ taught the truth about heaven, hell and the resurrection, they all turned against Him. It angered them when He taught that His teachings superceded the law of Moses. He taught true morality and virtue in which many were indeed lax. He said that in Him would the Law be fulfilled. (Matt. 5:17) Paul, the Apostle confirmed this in his words, "Wherefore, the law was our school-master to bring us unto Christ. (Gal. 3:24)

It is remarkably evident that the teachings of our Lord were to supercede the law of Moses, to wit: "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; And whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment. But I say unto you that whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause, shall be in danger of the judgment."

"Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery. But, I say unto you that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."

"Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor and hate thine enemy. But, I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you." (taken from the 5th chapter of Matthew's Gospel)

Thus then were these teachings of Christ to be the foundation of His church on earth and introduce it in its simplicity and virtue as the establishment of an earthly organization, to be seen and heard throughout the world.

He taught (and His Apostles followed suit) that entrance into the church and the kingdom of Heaven was "To be born again" by water and the spirit. Hence, the first pre-requisites of becoming a member of the Body (Church) was Faith, Repentance, and Baptism.

OFFICERS IN THE CHURCH AS AN ORGANIZATION

Apostles — Matt. 10:1-4

70 Evangelists — Luke 10:1

Elders — Acts 14:23, Titus 1:5

Teachers — Acts 13:1, Ephesians 4:11, 1st Cor. 12:28

Deacons — Acts 6:3-5

Deaconesses — Romans 16:1 (Italian and other translators call them deaconesses)

Divers offices — 1st Cor. 12:28

ORDINANCES OF THE GOSPEL

Baptism (by immersion) — Matt. 3:13-16, Romans 6:3-5
Acts 8:38, 39Laying on of hands for Reception
of the Holy Ghost — Acts 8:14-17The Lord's Supper — Mark 14:22-25, Matt. 26:26-30,
Luke 22:19,20, 1st Cor. 11:24,25

Feet-washing — John 13:4-17

Blessing little children — Matt. 19:13-15

Anointing the sick — James 5:14,15, Mark 6:13

RAPID GROWTH OF THE CHURCH:

Beginning on the day of Pentecost, and from thence, the church grew by the thousands, the word of God spreading like wildfire throughout the then known world.

Eusebius, who wrote in the early part of the fourth century, speaking of the first decade after the Saviour's Ascension, says, "Thus, then, under a celestial influence and co-operation, the doctrine of the Saviour, like the rays of the sun quickly irradiated the whole world. Presently, in accordance with divine prophecy, the sound of His inspired Evangelists and Apostles had gone throughout the whole earth, and their words to the ends of the world. Throughout every city and village, like a replenished barn floor, churches were rapidly abounding and filled with members from every people. Those who, in consequence of the delusions that had descended to them from their ancestors, had been fettered by the ancient disease of idolatrous superstition, were now liberated by the power of Christ, through the teachings and miracles of His Messengers." (Eusebius's Ecclesiastical History, Book 1, Chapter 3)

Moshiem, another great Historian, wrote, "Relying on this divine assistance, the disciples, in accordance with the Saviour's injunctions, first labored to convert the Jews to Christ. Nor was this labor without effect, for many thousands soon became Christians. . . . Lastly, after spending many years at Jerusalem, and regulating and confirming the churches of Christ in Palestine and the neighboring regions, they travelled abroad among many nations, their labours being everywhere attended with the greatest success."

"The Ambassadors of Christ, leaving Jerusalem, travelled over a great part of the world, and in a short time, numerous religious societies were established in various countries. . . . And if these Holy men had not been so furnished, no probable reason could be offered for this rapid propagation of Christianity by the little feeble band." (Moshiem, Century 1, Book 1, Part 1, Ch. 4:1-8)

Unto the Eleven Apostles who had remained faithful, the risen Lord gave His parting instructions, "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matt. 28:18-20) He sent them out with the power and authority as attested by His words: "Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained." (John 20:21-23)

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come unto you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

Continued on page 4)

WEST AFRICAN ECHO

By Brother Nephi DeMercurio

With the opening of the school term on September 12, 1977, it became clearly evident that I had to make some rapid adjustments to teaching. Continual analysis and revision of my approach was very necessary in order to reach the students. Time spent for preparation of lessons ranged from two to four hours each day. As a consequence, I had very little time for other responsibilities. The first term ended on December 19, 1977 and it was apparent that a term break was very necessary for me to rest both mentally and physically. Despite my intentions to rest, there was always something to do to keep us all busy.

Along with my normal teaching duties in Chemistry and Physics, I was given the additional responsibility of Head of the Science Department and Housemaster. As Housemaster, I was called upon many times to take sick students to the hospital or to their homes. Along with my Church duties, everything seemed rather burdensome.

I realized at once when I began teaching, that I was handicapped by not bringing my own texts in Chemistry and Physics as a source of reference material. I was under the impression that the textbooks available here would be more than adequate for my needs. However, I found that some very critical topics in Chemistry and Physics were inadequately presented. Many Nigerian educators have acknowledged that the texts used in the Secondary Schools are not well suited to the cultural background of the students. Furthermore, these texts were not basic nor detailed in their explanation of the subject matter.

The textbooks sent by the Michigan-Ontario Area MBA in 1974 have proven to be of great assistance to me. These books contained the simple illustrations and explanations of basic concepts which aided my teaching of certain topics. There is no Library whereby these books can be made available to the students which would assist them in their studies. As a consequence, the students suffer by not being exposed to these books.

In addition, the lack of a completed science building has further hampered the progress of the students. The student has to observe certain concepts through various laboratory experiments. With limited equipment in our possession, our best efforts were made to illustrate as many important concepts as possible. Toys, my children have, were even used as a teaching tool. Even with our best attempts through improvisation, our efforts were not always fruitful.

I discovered that by means of illustration and experimentation, I was able to get through to the student. I was not, at first, very knowledgeable of the culture. As I learned, I began to relate more effectively to the students by using various illustrations from their culture. It was extremely helpful to relate the subject matter in those terms.

In addition, my "American" English presented more problems. Even though the students know English, they could not understand my accent. In contrast to the English language, every syllable is pronounced in the Efik language (spoken by the tribe in our area). The people, when speaking English, use every syllable and place a

greater emphasis on various letters in a word. Also, the language of science itself presented additional problems. Most scientific terms seemed rather strange to them and unrelated to anything they knew.

One day as I was talking about ice melting, I discovered that the students had no idea of what I was saying. I then was made to realize that a great percentage of the students had never seen ice and as a result did not fully understand the idea of melting. A very small percentage of the people in the rural areas have refrigerators and freezers. Being in the tropics there is no common occurrence of ice.

As a result of this lecture and others, I began to realize more fully why the students did not understand at times my lectures. The overall lack of understanding is due mainly to the environment of the student. His exposure to television, games, or toys which serve as a learning experience are not readily available to him.

A great majority of the children come from poor families and their families are barely able to provide the necessities of life. In contrast our children learn concepts of Math, Geometry, Physics, Chemistry and Engineering because of their environment.

The Nigerian student has the ability for learning and is capable of high achievement. To enhance the learning of the student, the need for qualified English and Science teachers, eg. Math, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, is highly essential for the advancement of these students. The need for science equipment and a more complete library is absolutely essential for the betterment of the students.

YOU ARZ SOMZBODY

Zvzn though my typzwrtizr is an old modzl, it works quitz wzll xczxpt for onz of thz kzyz. I havz wishd many timz that it workzd prfctly. It is truz that all thz othrz kzyz function wzll, but just onz kzy not working makz all thz diffzrncz.

Sometimz it szzms Thz Church is somzwhat likz my typzwrtizr — not all of thz mzmzbzr arz working prpzrly. You may say to yourszlf, "Wzll, I am only onz przson, and what I do dzsn't havz an zffct on othrs in Thz Church." You arz vzry wrong! What you do affctz us all. What wz all do makz a grzat diffzrncz in how zffctivz wz arz in thz Lord's vinzyard.

Bzing zffctivz rzquirz thz compltz coopzration of zach and vzry mzmzbzr working togzthzr as onz. Hrz is thz rzmzdy: Bz activz and involvzd; attznd all thz mzmzings you arz ablz; rzad and study thz Scripturz; support thz auxiliariz of Thz Church; voluntzr for Branch officz to szrvz fllow mzmzbzr; bz a workzr instzad of an obszrvzr. You will thzn szz thz grzatzr zffort producing thz nzdzd unity wz arz all szzking in thz Gospzl.

So thz vzry nzxt timz you think you arz only onz przson, just onz quitz mzmzbzr, and that what you do dzs not havz an zffct on anyonz, rzmzmzbzr my old typzwrtizr and thzn say, "I am rzally a kzy mzmzbzr in Thz Church and what I do in my littlz nichz has somz zffct on vzzyonz hrz."

OHIO DISTRICT CONFERENCE AUGUST 26, 27, 1978

The Saturday portion of the Ohio District Conference was held in Lorain, Ohio. We were privileged to have Brother Dominic Thomas and Brother Nick Pietrangelo, of the Michigan-Ontario District attend this conference. Brother Rocco Biscotti and Brother A. A. Corrado, of the Ohio District, attended the conference of the Atlantic Coast District, which was held in Herndon, Virginia.

The Sunday services of our conference were held in Youngstown, Ohio with a good representation of Saints in attendance from all segments of the district.

The service was opened by singing hymn No. 204, "Am I A Soldier", after which prayer was offered by Brother Frank Calabrese. Hymn No. 286 "Ye Who Are Called to Labor", was then sung. Brother Mitchel Edwards, of the Warren, Ohio branch was the opening speaker. His sermon dealt with the words of Jesus as found in the 28th Ch., 18, 19 and 20th verses of St. Matthew. Christ declared to His disciples "... All power is given unto me..." When Jesus was in the upper room He declared to his Apostles, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost", and He breathed upon them, after Jesus left them, in spite of having received the Holy Ghost, the disciples didn't know what to do, so they each returned to their former occupations.

Brother Mitchell asked the questions, "What have we done with the Holy Ghost? What do we have to offer the world?" His answer to the last question was the "LOVE" that God has put in our hearts. He reminded us that regardless how long we have been in the Church, there is some work that each of us can do. His concluding exhortation was to put Christ first, increase our faith and share that which we have.

Brother Paul D'Amico of Lockport, N.Y. was the next speaker. His opening remarks were that the mission of this Church is to go forward and preach the Gospel. Brother Paul stated that he is now officially retired from his job at General Motors and is now free to travel about the church and elsewhere.

He related the words that came forward at the organizing of the Church at Green Oak, Pennsylvania, on July 8, 1863, "Go forth and preach my Gospel." He reminded us that there is nothing that we can't do if we are united.

Brother Paul recently wrote a book titled, "The Lord is my Shepherd." He told how he was given the title for this book, which deals primarily with the years he served in the armed forces during World War II. He also related some experiences he had before and after his open heart surgery. He expressed the concern he had for his sons prior to undergoing surgery and how everything worked out to his satisfaction.

Brother Travis Perry spoke next and he recalled once again the concern Brother Paul had for his sons. We all need the guidance of a father to care for us even though we are grown and our Heavenly Father fulfills this need. Brother Travis noted that we live in a changing world. When God created the world, he looked down and saw that everything was good. But it was not very long before God was forced to say that His Spirit would not always strive with man, who is continually changing. God is speaking today to all the world, in various ways, but

the world is forgetting His instructions to observe all the things He had commanded. Brother Perry concluded by reminding us that the devil is working in devious ways to rob us of the glory of God.

The word 'Motivation' was the dominant theme of our next speaker, Brother Vince Gibson, from Cleveland, Ohio. He stressed that we should be motivated by the Spirit of God, through the Holy Ghost. He warned that we can be good workers in Church but still fall short because we fail to tell others of the Gospel. Don't allow values we place on material things to rob us of the Glory of God.

Brother Mario Milano's brief words reminded us that we have a witness to bear and a Gospel to preach.

Sister Carmella D'Amico said that as Brother Frank Calabrese was offering the opening prayer, she saw showers coming down, also a large wheat field ready for harvest.

As Brother Joe Calabrese was giving the closing remarks talking of the Joshua era and stressing that we don't have to be a minister to be a missionary and that we should be about our Father's business — Brother Frank Altomare arose and spoke in the Spirit — warning of the things to come and that we should be faithful.

Sister Rose Palacios related a dream she had on Saturday night whereby she saw Brother T. S. Furnier and Brother Ismael D'Amico walking up and down the aisle of the Church singing the hymns "The Time is far Spent" and "Faith of our Fathers."

Sister Lucy Costarello arose and said that she had an experience whereby she was at a gathering and the brother in charge asked everyone to form a circle, hold hands and sing the hymn "Oh Church of God the Day of Jubilee."

It was a good weekend and we can say that it was good to be in the House of God enjoying His blessings.

IT IS WRITTEN . . .

(Continued from page 2)

After the Ascension of Jesus Christ, the Apostles returned to Jerusalem from the mount Olivet and, going into an upper room, continued in prayer and supplication with those assembled (about a 100 persons!) until the Holy Ghost descended upon them. "And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

"And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the spirit gave them utterance." (Acts 2:2-4)

He gave them power to preach: "And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following." (Mark 16:20) He gave them power to heal and cast out devils. "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; They shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." (Mark 16:17,19)

"Then He called His twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases." (Luke 9:1)

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .**GIVING OF YOURSELF**

Greetings in Jesus Christ,

Because God's loving kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise the Lord while I live.

The person who is wrapped in self, often will push and shove. He doesn't know his greatest need is love.

The giving a little of yourself for a righteous cause is of greater value than the giving of your silver or gold. It will enrich the kingdom of God and build stronger temples and more enduring homes than precious stones.

The giving of material things is of great value, but the giving of yourself to the service of others is a perfect gift, though often overlooked, unnoticed, or unspoken. The many little moments and the hours spent to visit, to comfort, to care and help, out of true intent of heart, build a lasting friendship. Giving to our children money and gifts will be wasted when we fail to give a little of our time to them, sharing our thoughts with them, our ideas and our affection.

No matter how busy we can be, we must find a few moments of quiet, whisper a few words of friendship. This will be of more value than all the gifts we give. "Where have I failed that my son should be as a stranger to me," said a father to a friend. "You are always too busy to spend a few moments with him. He does not know you," answered his friend.

Have you thought that could also be applied to us as ministers, if we do not find some time to share a little of our life with our people in the quietness of their home and speak softly to them, and listening to them with interest and care? Perhaps this is what Paul meant when he wrote to the Corinthians, "Though you have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have you not many fathers." Would we not rather be fathers that care enough, than of the ten thousand instructors?

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

My love to you all,

Mark Randy—Guest Editorialist

P.S.—Brother Eugenio Mora has been at our home, and perhaps will continue to be for a while. Last Tuesday, June 16, we took him to a doctor for an examination which found him with an irregular heart and high blood pressure. We will take him back tomorrow, June 23, hopefully to find him better. Pray for him. He is a true evangelist. God is our helper. He does care.



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

Samson's Mother

Dear Girls and Boys,

We do not know the name of Samson's mother. She is only referred to as the wife of Manoah. An angel of God appeared to her twice before Samson was born. She was told not to drink wine or strong drink or eat any unclean thing before her child was born as this child would be called a Nazarite. She told her husband these things and he said they would surely die because they had seen God.

When the child was born to Manoah and his wife, they named him Samson. The mother saw that no razor touched his head or he drank no strong drink. He kept the sacred vow to God.

As Samson grew to be a man, he desired a wife, a woman in Timnath, the daughter of the Philistines. This displeased Manoah and his wife. Samson had been set apart as a Nazarite and a Philistine marrying their son was not of the Lord. This later proved to be true.

Once when Samson was on his way to visit this girl, he met a young lion. The spirit of the Lord came upon him and he killed the lion with his hand, as easily as he would have killed a kid. Later he went down to Timnath again to a seven day feast that preceded the wedding. In the carcass of the lion he saw honey the honey bees had gathered there. Riddles were part of the entertainment at these marriage feasts so he made up one on this experience. "Out of the eater came forth meat and out of the strong came forth sweetness". (Judges 14:14) After three days the guests failed to answer the riddle. They threatened to burn Samson's bride and set her father's house on fire if she didn't tell them the answer. With tears she questioned Samson. He told her he hadn't even told his mother and father and why tell her. But after seven days he told her the answer and immediately she told the Philistines. This so angered Samson that he went out and killed thirty men, took their coats and gave them to his wife's friends who had answered the riddle. Then he went home to his father's house.

Samson's wife was given to his friend. Later Samson returned to the home of his father-in-law with a kid as a gift. He learned his father-in-law had given his wife to another. Her younger sister was offered to him. Samson was angry again and this time he caught three hundred foxes, tied their tails together, two by two, in pairs and put firebrands between two tails. Then he turned them loose in the Philistines' cornfields. This angered the Philistines so they went to the house of Samson's wife and burned her and her father.

Such a tragic end to a marriage. But Samson had chosen a wife from a godless people and would not heed the warning of his mother.

Sincerely,

Sister Mabel

AN EXPERIENCE

Monday, May 8, 1978

Between 10:00 and 11:30 a.m.

The topic of the sermon for the service was "Enos wrestles with God in prayer all the 'night long.'" The many wonderful words brought forth gave me much needed inspiration.

That same evening, May 7th a special meeting was scheduled in Kent, which I had the privilege to attend along with Brother Frank and Sister Romy Calabrese and Brother Frank and Sister Rose Palacios. The service was well represented as well as wonderfully blessed. Many present testified to the many answered prayers, healings, and etc. As we sat listening to the various testimonies, I thought and felt to testify of God's miracle He had performed on my body, by healing me of a fractured back. The doctors didn't think it was possible for my back to be corrected, except by an operation, which I did not wish to comply with. Praise God! His be the honor and glory for all He has done for me physically many times. However, I did not get up to give God the praise.

On the way back home to Elyria from Kent, Ohio and all through the night I felt the guilt of my negligence. All through the night I remembered the many times God had been my only hope of recovery, both spiritually and physically. A sorrowful feeling engulfed me driving me to my knees and ask God's forgiveness. This continued through the early hours of the morning. I could not stay off my knees. I would get up and go to another room only to fall on my knees in prayer for my family, my home, the homes of my Brothers and Sisters, their children, etc. At mid morning I was still on my knees pleading with God to forgive, bless and visit with me. It was windy outside and within my bosom I felt a great pressure building up, and a desire to reach out and touch God. I cried out, "Oh God! don't go over my house as this wind, stop a minute." Suddenly there was calm and I heard His voice say, "Here I Am!" I looked; and there The Lord stood before me surrounded by a mist like a shadow, His face very plain, and a veil draped over His shoulders and arms. What joy overwhelmed my soul! How can I ever sufficiently praise Him for this undescrivable, unforgettable moment. I had many requests to make, however, I could not open my lips. My heart cried out, "Did you bless my home this day?" He answered, "Partially." My companion? "Not Yet, in a little while." My children? My boys? Bud, Jimmy? "I will bless Jim with the greatest blessing." My Brothers and Sisters? "Them I will bless because they are of the seed of Joseph. And you I will bless *"But I Want You To Witness Of The Things I Do For You."* Then He disappeared. What a joy filled my heart, I wished the moment at hand would never end. However, in the hallowed treasures of my many memories it never shall. Blessed be the name of my God! The Holy One of Israel, for so great a blessing in my life.

Trembling, but strengthened in spirit, I arose from my knees determined never more to withhold testimony and service to so great a God, who has done so much for my soul. May God give me the grace to be loyal to Him until He calls me home.

Sister Ruby Kinser

Submitted and written as related.

Sister Marie Caldwell

Lorain, Ohio Branch Editor

District Conferences . . .

Arizona District News

Dear Readers,

The Arizona District has enjoyed the visit of Brother Domenic Thomas, General Church President, during the latter part of June, 1978. The District had been anticipating his arrival to most of the Branches and Missions during his one-week stay.

The locals of this District stretch in a North to South line from Red Lake in the Northeast corner to Tucson in the South-central area with Lakeside (Pinetop), San Carlos, and Phoenix in between. The only member Mission outside of the state is at the Dallas, Texas area, which was not able to be a part of the itinerary for this trip. The locals in Arizona are separated over a span of about four hundred miles. Dallas lies about 800 miles from the nearest Arizona Branch.

Brother Bob Watson, Arizona District President, was the official host during most of Brother Domenic's unique opportunity to spend some time at each locale and survey the programs of the Branches and Missions, visit in the homes of the Saints, and attend regularly scheduled and specially-called meetings.

Most every local meeting turned out to be a give and take on the part of Brother Domenic and the members. He spoke to each group on various topics of scripture and encouragement and asked the members to express themselves in testimony so that he would have an opportunity to listen to the needs and experiences of the District from the members' perspective. The report from each meeting was "showers of blessings."

A highlight of the week might have been the impromptu mini-conference at the Phoenix Branch. The Brothers and Sisters of Phoenix hosted members from each of the locals for Sunday's meeting.

Brother Domenic introduced the service with a survey of the congregation noting that our District is comprised of members from nearly every other District of the Church. He also was joyful to be in the company of old friends and co-workers in the Gospel from places like his home Branch throughout the Church.

His sermon commenced with a reflection on the Ten Commandments as moral teachings we should follow as a standard of conduct for the people of God. Next, he encouraged us to look to the virtues people have and not to dwell on one of humankind's favorite pastimes—judging others. This is a sin before God and man. He continued with the admonition to fill our lives with good works. In conclusion, he told of the need we have in the Church for the gifts of the Spirit. Naturally, all of the supporting remarks which give so much personal meaning to the sermon are not able to be included, but they were all seasoned with the Spirit of God.

Brother Joe Calabrese and Brother Bob Watson also added their thoughts to the subjects brought forth that day.

At this point I would like to mention two visitors at this meeting who are now residents in the Arizona District, Brother George and Sister Peg Johnson. They are the Church's missionaries in the work at the San Carlos Apache Mission. We welcome them and pray for their spiritual success and fulfillment of their goals.

As is the case so often, the Sisters of the local Branch, Phoenix in this case, served a wonderful lunch to all of us.

We are very grateful for all these blessings we have received and now have more beautiful memories to cherish. May God's blessings continue to rest upon Brother Domenic as he serves God and the Church, and we thank him for making the effort to come to our District.

Brother Ronald A. Bruts
District Editor

Lockport - Rochester Gathering

Saints from Lockport, Rochester, and Erie gathered Sunday, June 19, at the Lockport Branch. Several visitors also followshipped with us. Brother Lockwood from Erie opened the meeting taking his topic from the song, "Standing on the Promises", which he said was placed in his heart and on his lips as he traveled to the meeting from Erie. With the above song in mind, he read from Acts 2:39. Although he referred to the promises which were extended to the twelve tribes of Israel throughout the earth, he said his mind and concern were upon the Gentiles and the promises and judgments placed upon them. He read also pertaining to the Gentiles from *The Book of Mormon*.

The Brother reminded us of some of the promises that are written to the Gentiles now in America: 1) that this would be a nation of liberty to the Gentiles; 2) that this nation would be fortified from all other nations; 3) that the Gentiles would be blessed upon this land. He also pointed out that all of the above promises were not without conditions; that the Gentiles would serve Him, and not harden their hearts.

Brother Lockwood lamented the plight of the Gentiles today. He said he did not know what it would take to awaken this Gentile nation today, and that he is afraid what might happen to it, for few Gentiles want to hear about the true and living God today. He reminded us of the events which transpired when Israel turned their backs on the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He reminded us of how the seed of Nephi was completely wiped out in this land because of disobedience. He pointed out that Alma's prophecy concerning the Nephites came to pass and the Gentiles need not think that the prophecies concerning them would not also be fulfilled if they did not keep the commandments.

He exhorted the Gentiles to be thankful for all that God had done for them. He exhorted the Gentiles to stand upon the promises they had made to God. He asked the question: Why do afflictions come upon a people? He said that the Gentiles were not exempt. In closing he said he hoped that many Gentiles would be awakened, but if they can not be convinced now, he said, what shall it be like when God begins to work among Israel?

Brother Burge from Erie spoke of the promise of God to mankind of everlasting life using *John 3:16* as his text. He spoke of how the various religions in America have misconstrued the scripture and have as their doctrine that all one needs in order to come unto Christ is to believe. He gave many scriptures to point out that believing was not enough. Repentance, baptism, laying on of hands, feet washing, and continued obedience were also essential to eternal salvation.

Brother Burge said that God had promised Lehi that this would be a land blessed above all others and yet we live with sin all around us. He said we prefer the seed of Joseph because one of the roles of the Gentiles was to take the Gospel to them. Men must repent and come unto Christ. We are striving for the day of the peaceful reign.

Brother Ansel D'Amico reviewed the promises God made to Abraham that his name would be changed; he would become a father of many nations. He would multiply his seed, and through his seed would all the nations of the world be blessed. He again reminded us that we were standing on these promises because the word of God is sure. Our hope is the same as Paul's, John's and other faithful men of old.

Brother Simone gave his testimony about the work he had done in Rochester and Lockport. Although he is 93 years old, his testimony and voice came through loud and clear. He told a dream he had about three weeks prior to the meeting. In the dream he said he saw Abraham Lincoln in the pulpit of the Lockport Branch. Lincoln spoke and said there is going to be a great feast. Brother Simone said he was glad to hear this and he knew that Lincoln represented God. In the dream, Lincoln continued speaking and said: "I will save the Israelite people."

Brother Simone said he is waiting to see the Israelite people made free. He also reflected on his baptism and told us that Paul Pietrangelo was with him. We were glad to see our Brother Paul Pietrangelo in our midst again.

Brother Paul D'Amico gave us the highlights of the gathering in Virginia. He said our people have a desire to gather and for this reason we must continue to follow Christ no matter what will befall us, and we must continue to take the Gospel to the seed of Joseph. After Brother Paul spoke in Italian, Brother Henry Berardi closed in prayer after we sang "How Happy Are They".

The Lockport Editor

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CIRCULATION MANAGER RESIGNS

Sister Hertha Jones, the Circulation Manager of *The Gospel News*, resigned effective September 1, 1978. She writes as follows:

Dear Brother Paul,

This is to let you know I have to resign my office as the Circulation Manager of *The Gospel News*. Due to my health I can't do my share anymore.

I will miss this very much. I started helping on the paper in 1955, when we worked on the dining room table of Brother and Sister Cadman's home. It has been a great satisfaction to me to do my little share of the missionary work of the Church.

I have worked with many wonderful Brothers and Sisters during these years. All were cheerful workers.

Keep up the good work. At least I can enjoy reading *The Gospel News*.

Sister Jane Whittaker has taken my place in helping Sister Lucetta Scaglione.

Best Wishes,
Your Sister-in-Christ,
Hertha M. Jones

BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS:—

Bell, California Branch News

This first half of 1978 has been a time of many blessings in our little Branch. I have recorded a few as the months went by and would like to share them with my Brothers and Sisters in other parts of our spiritual union.

January started out with a baptism, which is the best possible start to a new year. The young daughter of our Sister, Janet Leto, who is also Janet, had started attending our meetings regularly and we could see she was seeking for the anchor of truth. On January 29th Brother Jim Scalise was given the spirit to preach on repentance and baptism from the words of Alma, "and behold he cometh to redeem those who will be baptized unto repentance through faith on His name." Very quietly and tearfully our new Sister stood and asked to be baptized. She was joyfully united to the "body in Christ" and has proved to be a healthy member.

In the next month we rejoiced with Sister Anna Fallavollita as she celebrated her 50th year in her service to God. What blessings she has received in such a long life as a child of God. He has carried her through many trials of life and she has a loving smile for us all every meeting.

Bell Branch had a time of anxiety this year when our Presiding Elder, Brother Jim Scalise, was taken to the hospital in grave danger from loss of blood. Our Branch was again united in mighty prayer on his behalf and God heard because he responded to treatment and was back in our midst ministering to us in a very short time.

The evening of May 13th, Brother Jim Lovalvo met with us to hold a meeting of questions and answers. We had presented him with many written questions which encompassed the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, all of which he answered with scripture. He then went into dates and events regarding restoration that would help us better understand the beliefs of our Church.

Brother Jim and his wife, Sister Mary, remained here to join us in our Sunday meeting. He opened the meeting and since it was Mother's Day he spoke on the beautiful story of the Virgin Mary. His inspiring talk led to many testimonies of gratitude to God for the mothers He had given them. Brother Jim's visit brought many members from surrounding Branches to visit us in these meetings.

Our Wednesday night meetings are still a great source of inspiration to us here. We were concerned about the attendance so we started holding our meeting in the kitchen building around a table informally. Soon we had to add a second table and now we are crowded around a third table. We usually have Bible or Book of Mormon study but sometimes the spirit leads us into open discussions because we have some young people attending who are not baptized and their questions make for some lively sessions.

Sister Betty Capone
Bell Branch Editor,

Blessings At Erie Mission

We would like to share with you some of God's blessings He has given our little Mission.

On April 2, 1978, Lori Linn Bukoski was presented to God to ask His blessings upon her. Officiating was Brother Del Lockwood. She is the daughter of Daniel and Sheryl Bukoski and was born February 3, 1978. The ordinance of blessing was also bestowed on Steven Raymond Gross on January 1, 1978, by Brother Harold Burge. He is the son of Russell and Nancy Gross and was born May 18, 1977.

Brother Bob and Sister Esther Dyer and Sister Flo LaRosa and family have moved to Gastonia, North Carolina. They will be greatly missed, but we know God has a work for them to do in that part of the vineyard. We wish them much success in their new endeavor and pray that God will send others to fill their places.

We thank God for the Saints that visit with us from time to time and may He continue to strengthen and guide the ministry and membership of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Sister Bernice Burge
Mission Editor

Wonderful Day Of Blessings In Monongahela

The Monongahela Branch was blessed with a visit from Brother Russell and Sister Lena Mortorano on June 25, 1978. Brother and Sister Mortorano were on their way home from the G.M.B.A. Campout.

Brother Russell opened the service saying that total involvement is necessary to be strong in The Church.

He said he has been very pleased in hearing about the work in Pennsylvania with the Native American along with the work throughout the Church. Brother Russell said that of late he has been thinking much about the subject of "How to Become a Better Saint." He said he feels that we must be prayerful, fast and pray more, abstain from all appearances of evil and above all we must put Jesus Christ and The Church first in our lives.

Brother Russell further stated that he has thought much of our older Brothers and Sisters in The Church who were not real knowledgeable of worldly matters, but were blessed immensely of God. He said that we must remember that no matter what the problem is we must remember Jesus Christ is the answer. He said we have the pearl of great price and it is our responsibility to spread the Gospel.

Brother Russell felt that the greatest miracle is when a sinner becomes a Saint. He continued by talking on the 7th Chapter of Moroni concerning Faith, Hope and Charity. He said we should have faith in the Lord that his word is the truth. That we have a hope that good things will come from our faith. And that Charity is the greatest. That we must tell others of Jesus Christ. We must be pliable to do the things that God has for us to do, and if we do the things of God that in the last days we will be with Him.

Brother Richard Scaglione spoke more concerning the subject of Charity. Saying that Jesus Christ was

pliable in God's hands and that He was willing to die for us to fulfill the word of God. He said that we must hold on to the rod of iron with both hands.

Our afternoon service consisted of many wonderful testimonies of the Brothers and Sisters. We also would like to mention that Brother Idris Martin has been able to attend several of our services after a long sickness and we pray that God will continue to bless and strengthen him both physically and spiritually.

Truly a day of blessings was felt by all.

Fredonia, Pa. Local M.B.A. Field Trip

The young people of the Fredonia M.B.A. chose for our field trip this year, Hill Cumorah and Rochester, N.Y. The following is the highlights of this two day trip.

As per schedule we met at the Church Saturday morning, July 22nd so the fourteen persons in three cars could travel together. Before leaving we joined hands and formed a circle in the parking lot and Brother Russell Cadman asked God's blessing and protection upon those making the trip.

After arriving at Cumorah Hill, our activities were somewhat curtailed because of the heat. The temperature was in the mid 90's, but we were all happy to be here once again, and enjoyed the film presentation in the Bureau of Information building.

Some walked and others rode to the top of the hill where the Golden Plates were concealed in the earth for 1400 years. Upon them was engraved a record of the ancient inhabitants of this continent, giving their history and God's dealing with them, and given to Joseph Smith by the Angel Moroni in 1827.

Also, our group visited the Joseph Smith farm and the Sacred Grove where, when just a boy, Joseph Smith went to pray and had his wonderful vision. From this time on the Angel of God visited him at different intervals, making him acquainted with a great work the Lord was about to perform among the children of men.

After reflecting on these things and firmly believing that the truth sprang out of the ground, I do not believe it would be inappropriate to apply the words of God to Moses, to this place, "Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground." Also, the words of the Lord of Hosts to Joshua, "Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy."

In the evening we viewed the colorful Hill Cumorah Pageant held outdoors with a hillside for a stage. A cast of more than 500 persons portrayed the rise and fall of a great civilization as recorded in the Book of Mormon. The performance was preceded by an hour of recorded music by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Among the many thousands in attendance, we were overjoyed to see a group of our people from the McKees Rocks Branch.

We had motel accommodations for the night.

Sunday morning we arrived at the Church in Rochester and were warmly greeted by the Brothers and Sisters.

After a period of community singing, Brother Arthur Gehly opened the meeting by reading portions of the 4th Ch. of St. John and brought forth the words of Jesus to the Samaritan woman at the well. He instructed us to

be very active in the Restored Gospel. He summed up his well chosen words by reading Ecclesiastes, Ch. 12, ver. 13, "Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."

We felt a wonderful spirit in singing Hymn I, "The Gospel is Restored" written by Clifford A. Burgess.

Brother Ansel D'Amico related how Brother Burgess and others from Windsor, Canada heard of the Restored Gospel and their obedience to it. Please read the remarkable testimony of Brothers Joseph Lovalvo, Frank Ford and Clifford Burgess beginning on page 289 in the Church History and the Inspiring Poem that follows. Brother D'Amico also commented on the wonderful text of the sermon and said, "In the Church, the words of God are life unto our souls, and we are preaching the same Gospel that Christ and the Apostles preached."

After testimony and partaking of the Lord's Supper the meeting was brought to an end, and we were served a delicious lunch in the basement.

We then turned our faces homeward, car trouble caused us some inconvenience, but we thank God all arrived home safely.

The only regret we have is that all from our Branch could not make the trip. Brother Russell has recovered from his illness, but felt it best not to go, so he and Sister Ethel went to Imperial for the weekend. The others all had obligations that prevented them from going.

Sister Eleanor Sproul
Fredonia M.B.A. Editor

Glassport Branch News

We are thankful unto God for His grace and mercy in our lives. Through the holy calling of God the Father, another Lamb has been added to the fold of Glassport. On Sunday, May 21, 1978 during the course of the morning G.M.B.A. preaching service, the Spirit of God prompted Vicki Morningstar to rise to her feet and ask to be baptized. Although Sister Vicki said she was considering baptism for some time, we feel that the liberty the Brothers had in preaching that day gave her the conviction and strength to rise upon her feet and make her commitment unto the Lord. At 3:00 p.m. that same afternoon a gathering of the Saints at the Glassport Branch witnessed the ordinance of Baptism at the river shore with Brother Alma Nolfi officiating. Later, the congregation gathered at the Glassport Branch to witness the laying on of hands for the Reception of the Holy Ghost. Brothers and Sisters from both near and far witnessed as Brother Russ Martorana of the Niles, Ohio Branch officiated the laying on of hands. Sacrament was administered and many wonderful testimonies were heard, praising and glorifying God for the calling of our new Sister. Brother John Ali, Brother Russ Martorana, and Brother Bob Nicklow through the grace of God received revelations to confirm the calling of our Sister. We are indeed thankful unto Jesus Christ for our Sister Vicki Morningstar and the confirmation that these Brothers received. Through our humble service unto God with much fasting and prayer, our hope is that the Lord will see fit according to His good will and pleasure to cause the Glassport Branch to bear much fruit. Please remember us in your prayers and also Sister Vicki Morningstar.

We are thankful unto God for our visiting Brothers and Sisters who come from the various parts of the vine yard of the Lord and bring with them the blessings of God.

May 28, 1978 the Glassport Branch was visited by Brother Tony and Sister Mary Corrado and Brother Raymond and Sister Mary Cosetti. The lot fell upon Brother Tony Corrado to open the preaching service. He expressed himself on how he came in contact with the Church through his father, who was boarding at the home of Jesse and Carmella Nolfi. Brother W. K. Penn was called to their home to anoint Carmella who was expected to die because of affliction. She was miraculously healed by the power of God. The following Sunday began the influx of the Italian people into the Church with Brother Jesse and Sister Carmella Nolfi. Over a period of time many were baptized and the Gospel began to spread nationwide. Brother Tony's text was the 4th Chapter of Matthew: 17 thru 21, making reference to leaving our natural interests to follow Christ. He related many experiences and miracles to honour and glory of God which filled our hearts with an overflowing of God's Spirit. Before the morning service was closed Brother Tony anointed a handkerchief for John Lopez who has a brain tumor and is losing his sight. We felt an outpouring of God's mercy at the anointing of the handkerchief.

Our afternoon fellowship service was opened by Brother Ray Cosetti. Brother Ray thanked God for His many blessings and exhorted us to hold fast and to prove faithful. He made reference to some of the prophets and their faithfulness in the face of opposition. Many wonderful testimonies were offered. Sister Mary Cosetti expressed her thanks to God and how through God's mercy she was healed of throat cancer earlier in her life. Sister Mary Corrado expressed her thanks unto God, how the Lord carried her through the affliction of her husband, Brother Tony. She further thanked God for His constant protection and for providing their needs throughout life. Brother Tony then related more of the miracles of God performed through him. He related an experience where he found himself in the New Jerusalem. He said it is exactly as it is described in the Book of Revelations. As he was going through the city he was awed at the indescribable beauty of it. He found himself going through a tunnel of gold, on the other side of the tunnel he came out on the top of the hill in Glassport. As he looked across, the valley was filled with water and he found himself walking across the water with the mantle of God in his hand. He walked to a group of people at the edge of the water who were the Saints.

During the entire day, in preaching, in prayer, in testimony, in the ordinances, and in singing, the Spirit of God was felt in our hearts and the many tears of joy bore witness to it. We in Glassport are thankful that though we live in perilous times surrounded by temptations, yet the Lord sets the table before us and they who hunger and thirst can come and dine. Pray for us. God Bless you.

Detroit Branch No. 3 News

We were filled spiritually at Branch No 3, June 11, 1978 through words and song. We were very pleased to have Brother Larry and Sister Vanessa Watson visiting from the Redlake Branch.

Brother Larry opened the meeting speaking on the word "righteousness," and how the Gospel is centered on it to teach us. To each it may have its own meaning; obedience to the commandments of God, desire to serve God, love of God, and being within the will of God. But with all this, it is something that happens over a period of time, and most importantly we must seek after it. Brother Larry stated that during his youth he didn't make a commitment to serve God because there were too many worldly things that he didn't want to give up. As God became more important in his life other things became less important. He ended his message by saying if we lend our life over to God and trust in Him, He can work with us and lead us to many beautiful things.

On June 25th we were blessed with many visitors. Brother Anthony Lovalvo, visiting from Branch No. 4, opened our service, reading from Enos. He stressed the prayer of Enos and his forefathers to preserve the records that it might bring salvation to the chosen. Brother Lovalvo said that fasting and prayer is very necessary for the missionary work and we should strive to be more like Enos, "prophesying of things to come, and testifying of the things heard and seen." During this message on the seed of Joseph, Sister Rose Impastato saw in a vision a young Indian man, she felt it was Enos.

Prayer was offered for Sisters Rosemary and Kathleen Furitano for their trip to Africa. Following this Brother Lovalvo blessed his great-niece Christine Teresa. Her parents are Mary Jane (Taormina) and Dave Venrick. The Girls Ensemble sang, "He's Everything to Me" joined by members who have moved away: Sisters Donna Amormino (Branch No. 1), Grace Ann Majores (San Carlos), and Vanessa Watson (Redlake). The remainder of the service was spent in testimony. Brother Gary Coppa felt prompted by the spirit to express himself saying that the young people of the Church have believed the report of their mothers and fathers; are becoming even as the 2,000 young warriors, and are beginning to go out to all parts of the earth. Sister Rose then saw a man golden from his head to his feet and knew that Brother Gary was speaking through the power of God.

We enjoyed the visits from our Brothers and Sisters and pray for them as they return to various parts of the Church.

Branch No. 3
Michigan-Ontario Editor

Vanderbilt, Pa. Branch News

On Sunday, April 23, 1978 we were blest with the presence of Brother Harry Marshall from the Bell, California Branch. Along with Brother Harry were Brother Santos Zamora, Sister Julia Garcia, and her daughter Yolanda. Brother Harry has visited us many times since Vanderbilt was his home Branch. Each time he visits us he brings along a blessing.

Brother Harry opened the meeting. He spoke about the Seed of Joseph. He referred to many scriptures as he spoke. He told of the Children of Israel coming out of Egypt and the many things that happened to them. Brother Harry went into great detail and we truly enjoyed our meeting.

Two Brothers, Randy Beeman and Milford Eutsey were ordained into the office of Teacher on May 28, 1978. After our meeting opened Brother Joseph Bittinger washed Brother Randy's feet while Brother Elmer Larew

washed Brother Milford's feet. Both Brothers were then ordained to the office of Teacher.

An experience was recalled in which Sister Birdie Furnier saw the young boys of the Church having their feet washed. At the time she wasn't sure of its meaning but, when the young men of our Branch started getting more involved in the Church and many were being baptized, she finally realized the meaning of this experience.

Our hope and prayer is that our Branch will continue growing and reaping the blessings of God.

Sister Connie King
Branch Editor

Youngstown, Ohio Has Baptism

On Sunday, July 9, 1978 we enjoyed a portion of God's blessing as we welcomed Brother Sam and Sister Josephine Dell of Fairless Hills, Pa. Brother Sam had been in a serious accident last December, but we thank God that the prayers of the Saints were answered in his behalf.

Brother Dell read from *1 Corinthians 12th Chapter*, concerning the spiritual gifts given to mankind. The gifts of God are very important and each member has his own gift or talent. Brother Sam emphasized that we must be of one mind because we are the Body of Christ.

At the end of our morning service, while Brother Ralph Berardino was speaking, Betsy Centofani arose and asked for her baptism. Sister Betsy was baptized by Brother Ralph Berardino and confirmed by Brother A. A. Corrado. May God bless our new Sister as she strives to serve Him.

Sister Annette Corrado
Youngstown Branch Editor

Vacation Bible School

During the week of June 19-23, 1978 Vacation Bible School was held at Youngstown Branch with this year's theme entitled, "The Long Old Story." Material was supplied by Sister Mabel Bickerton. Sister Mary Kay Surrena was the director. Many teachers were on hand to help the 40 children with their lessons and crafts. This year an adult class was also in session.

On Sunday, June 25th, the children presented a program based on what they had learned. Our Presiding Elder, Brother Ralph Berardino thanked all those who had participated in making Vacation Bible School so successful.

Visiting with us that day were Brother Raymond and Sister Mary Cosetti of Florida and Brother Bob Ciarrochi and family of Niles, Ohio. We enjoyed fellowshiping with them.

In the past six months two new members have been added to our number. Brother Anthony Pusateri was baptized on Sunday, February 26, 1978 by Brother Eugene Perri, Jr. and confirmed by Brother Eugene Perri, Sr. at Lake Worth, Florida. Brother James Nerone was baptized at the GMBA Campout in Virginia on Friday, June 16, 1978 by Brother Russell Martorana and confirmed by Brother Dominic Moraco. May God bless our new brothers with His richest blessings.

Sister Annette Corrado
Youngstown Branch Editor

Atlanta Mission Has A New Meeting Place

On July 2 we had the privilege of having Brother Paul and Sister Eleanor Palmieri, Brother Ken and Sister Sharen Staley from the Aliquippa Branch and Brother Frank Rogolino from Ft. Pierce Branch to be with us in our new place of worship. We had an attendance of 28 and a day of blessings.

Brother Phil and Sister Janice (Carr) Brown from Lake Worth, Florida Branch are the new supervisors of Suburban Motor Home Court in Union City just south of Atlanta. After meeting in the home of Brother Stewart and Kathy Byars for two and a half years, the good Lord gave us a larger place of worship in the midst of many motor homes.

One day while Jim and I were working in The Church a little boy came in and said "What are you all doing here"? I proceeded to tell him and invited him to Sunday School. Another day the women were gathered for Ladies Circle and a young man opened the door and asked "Are you all having a prayer meeting". We invited him to our church services. We trust God will search out this city and bring us souls who are willing to serve Him. We purchased a new piano and we feel Brother Phil and Sister Janice, their two children Linda and Stephan will be a help to our work here in Georgia.

Schedule of Services:

Sunday Morning, 10 A.M. to 12:30

Sunday Night, 7 P.M. to 8 P.M.

Wednesday Night, 7:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.

Phone numbers available are:

Brother Brown, AC 404-964-0434 Home

Brother Brown, AC 404-964-1137 Office

Brother Moore AC 404-963-4634

Pray for us, as we have struggled to set up The Church of Jesus Christ in righteousness in the state of Georgia. Our new meeting place:

Take I 85 S. to Union City exit, go only 1 mile west on 138. You will see a sign on the left, Suburban Motor Home Court. Then go 4 blocks on the left, is a large brown and white building.

Sister Eva Moore
Atlanta Mission

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— NEW ARRIVALS —

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

Daniel Louis to Daniel and Danine Neal of Sterling Heights, Michigan

Timothy Ray to Fred and Rosalie Mott of Kinsman, Ohio.

— WEDDINGS —

D'AMICO - THURSTON

William Paul D'Amico and Wendy Sue Thurston exchanged sacred vows of marriage on Saturday, August 12, 1978 at the Lockport, New York Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The ceremony was officiated by Brother Paul D'Amico, father of the groom, and assisted by Brother Paul Whitton of Mt. Clemens, Michigan.

Musical selections were presented by Sister Arlene Whitton of Mt. Clemens, Michigan.

William and Wendy will reside in Lockport, New York.

ELSE - JACKSON

Mr. James Else and Sister Mary Jackson were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, August 19, 1978 at the Christian Missionary Alliance Church in Kinsman, Ohio.

The ceremony was officiated by Brother Philip Jackson, the bride's brother and assisted by Brother John Ford.

Musical selections were presented by Bonnie Blair, soloist, and organist, Sister Theresa Pandone.

The couple will reside in Crown Point, Indiana.

● OBITUARIES ●

DANIEL S. PAXTON

Brother Daniel S. Paxton of the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ passed on to his heavenly reward on July 16, 1978. He was born on January 4, 1902. He was baptized into The Church by Brother Joseph Shazer on July 8, 1951.

He is survived by his wife, one brother and two sisters.

The funeral services were conducted by Brothers George E. Fuller and Milford Eutsey.

LAURA A. CALVARESE

Sister Laura A. Calvarese, of Cleveland, Ohio Branch No. 1 passed from this life to be with her Lord on July 8, 1978. She was born on November 22, 1923 and baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on August 16, 1964.

Our Sister is survived by her husband, her mother, nine children, five grandchildren, three brothers and three sisters.

The services were conducted by Brothers Vince Gibson and Elmer Santilli.

CESARE CEPARANO

Brother Cesare Ceparano passed on to his heavenly reward on June 24, 1978. He was a member of the Brooklyn, New York Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. He was born on May 26, 1901 and was baptized on March 18, 1934.

He is survived by his wife, two sons, seven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, three great-great-grandchildren and one brother.

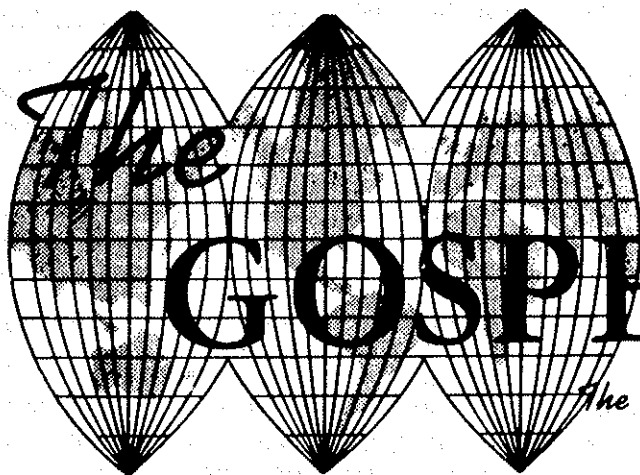
The services were officiated by Brother Frank Zaher.

MRS. MARTHA OBRADOVICH

Mrs. Martha Obradovich of Palm Beach Florida passed away July 6, 1978 at the Lake Worth Florida Doctors Hospital. Born April 11, 1905 at Wilmerding, Pa.

Mother of Mel Obradovich, mother-in-law to Sister Lettie Jo Obradovich.

Funeral Services were conducted at the A. J. Bekavac Funeral Home in Clairton, Pa. by Brother Alma Nolfi of the Glassport Branch.



The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa.

November, 1978

Volume 34, No. 11

Offices: 6th & Lincoln Sts.

IT IS WRITTEN

By V. J. Lovalvo

(Continued from October Issue)

The Apostle knew, by the Spirit of God within him, that some would soon depart from the simple teachings of Christ and seek to pervert the true ways of Christ-like living, because they would "give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils." He did not withhold his tongue from speaking out against those who would try to destroy the divine organization (church) of Christ, the Lord, by bringing into the Church changes of both doctrines and commandments. Writing to Timothy he said, "O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science so called, which some professing, have erred concerning the faith." (1st Tim. 6:20-21) And, "hold fast the form of sound words which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus." (2nd Tim. 1:13)

To the Hebrews he wrote, "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering..." (Hebrews 10:23) He reminded them that, "...by the space of three years I ceased not to warn everyone night and day with tears." (Acts 20:31) He called the ones who would attempt to bring about changes in the Church, "Wolves, in the guise of humble men, that would speak perverse things; and draw away disciples after them." Jesus Christ warned His people to "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." (Matt. 7:15)

The war between The Church of Jesus Christ and the forces of Satan raged on incessantly from the very day that Christ began His Mission on earth; for after Jesus had fasted forty days, Satan tempted Him unmercifully, but to no avail. Nevertheless, the Son of God predicted the pitfalls, the persecutions, and, also the departing from the faith.

"And from the days of John the Baptist until now, the Kingdom of Heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force." (Matt. 11:12)

"And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you; For many shall come in my name saying, I am the Christ; and shall deceive many." (Matt. 24:4,4)

"And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." (Matt. 24:11,12)

"Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore, if they shall say unto you, behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not." (Matt. 24:23-26)

Of persecutions, He said, "But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; and ye shall be brought before governors and kings for My sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles." (Matt. 10:17,18)

"And brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against the parents, and cause them to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for My name's sake..." (Matt. 10:21,22)

However, He also told them of the blessings in store for them:

"But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak; "For it is not ye that speak, but the spirit of your Father which speaketh in you." (Matt. 10:19,20) And again, "Whosoever therefore, shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 10:32)

Jesus knew, before any of His Disciples, that persecutions would come upon the Church and that the Kingdom of Heaven would suffer violence at the hands of violent men; that many would suffer imprisonments and death for His name's sake. Therefore, He attempted to get them ready for the fierce onslaught of Satan and his hordes of evil spirits. History is filled with the horrible trials and tribulations His followers suffered; It is also filled with the incredible feats of faith these noble ambassadors of Christ performed. Although some denied the faith because of physical and/or mental weaknesses, thousands went to their deaths with a song on their lips and a prayer in their hearts. They faced all the cruel inventions of persecution with a divine serenity that only could come to them from the Spirit of the Father, as

Jesus had told them. No one can tell it better than the Apostle Paul when he wrote to the Hebrews: Speaking of the Faithful followers he writes, "Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection.

"And others had trials of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonments: they were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheep-skins and goat-skins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented: (of whom the world was not worthy); they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth." (*Hebrews 11:33-38*) Though Paul was referring to some of the Saints prior to his day, he nevertheless predicted (knowingly or unknowingly) that which came upon the followers of Jesus Christ, including himself. For history reveals the incredible sufferings they endured. Some were slain in the arenas of the emperors to delight the masses in their unholy lusts to see the blood of the Christians shed before their eyes. They were torn asunder by wild beasts; burned alive as torches; cast into the sea in bags wherein were also put venomous snakes; imprisoned without food until they died of starvation; hunted like wild animals; pursued from pillar to post unceasingly. The hellish forces of Satan sought, without a let-up, to eradicate the followers of Jesus and, if possible, to erase from the memory of man the beautiful name of Christ; but to no avail. For as the historian, Tertullian once said, "The blood of the Saints was like seed. Where one fell, thousands took up the cause."

While the Apostle, Paul, as well as the others commended the Saints on their resolute faith, he nonetheless saw the downfall of the Church and the ebbing of the faith when, "Grievous wolves would enter among them, not sparing the flock." The apostasy from the faith came about because the Church forgot the simple and majestic teachings of the Lord and His Apostles. They forgot the commandment of the Lord, "If ye love Me, keep My commandments." They forgot the admonishing of Jesus, "Love ye one another as I have loved you." And, "Let your light so shine before men that they, seeing your good works will glorify the Father which is in heaven."

Shortly after the death of the noble Apostles, the insidious workings of Satan began to filter into the Church. Man arose among themselves, who, deceived of the devil, and by their own eloquence, were successful, to a great extent in changing the pure and simple doctrines initiated by Christ and propagated by His Apostles. Baptism by immersion was eventually changed to sprinkling and pouring; the Lord's Supper was changed from breaking of bread and drinking of wine in memory of the body and blood of Jesus to partaking of a "wafer"; Feet-washing soon became unheard of any longer; the sword (literally) became the means to convince unbelievers to accept Jesus; the gifts of the Spirit slowly but surely began to depart from the Church, until it no longer resembled that divine organization which was to exemplify the Kingdom of God on the face of the earth.

Christ had predicted that the "night" would come

when no man can work." (*John 9:4*) And Isaiah, the prophet, foretold of the night of darkness; "For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people..." (*Isaiah 60:2*)

The "night" in *John 9:4*, and the gross "darkness" in *Isaiah* are synonymous with each other as they indicate the time when men's minds should become cluttered with their own self-importance; their seeking to better the things that Christ initiated, and trying to improve upon the commandments of Jesus. In so doing, they dimmed the Light of the true word of God until it became extinguished. Jesus also warned them to "Walk in the light lest darkness come upon them." (*John 12:34*)

Paul, the Apostle, prompted by the Spirit of God, wrote to Timothy concerning the base characteristics that would rear themselves among men: "For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God; having a form of Godliness but denying the power thereof; from such turn away." (*Tim. 3:2-5*)

Historians, looking and searching into ecclesiastical data, were dismayed at the cancerous condition that was eating its way into the Church. One historian writes, "Thence, ingenuous persons are ready to persuade themselves that their philosophy and the gospel mean the same in substance. They compliment Christianity with some respectful attention, and yet studiously avoid the cross of Christ, and the precise peculiarities of the Gospel, in order to preserve their credit in the world.

"In carrying on these facts of seduction, the insidiousness of such middle characters consisted much in expiating on the truths which lie on common, as of the greatest importance; and in reducing, as far as in them lay, the peculiar truths of the Gospel into oblivion.

"We shall now perceive that the most precious truths of the Gospel begin to be less attended to, and less brought into view. Even Justin Martyr, before the period of eclectic corruption, by his fondness for Plato, adulterated the Gospel in some degree..."

The writer continues, "Tatian, the scholar of Justin Martyr, dealt largely in the merits of continence and chastity; and these virtues, pushed into extravagant excesses, under the notion of superior purity, became great engines of self-righteousness and superstition, and obscured men's views of the faith of Christ, and darkened the whole face of Christianity.... Under the fostering

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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

Lucetta Scaglione, Office Manager
The GOSPEL NEWS

hand of Ammonius and his followers, this fictitious holiness, disguised under the appearance of eminent sanctity, was formed into a system; and it soon began to generate the worst of evils. False humility, 'will-worship', curious and proud refinements, bodily austerities mixed with self-righteous pretensions, ignorance of Christ and of the true life of faith in Him, was miserably superseded by ceremonies and superstitions." (The historian that writes the above is Joseph Milner, in his *Church History, Century 2, Chapter 9*)

Surely, God must have inspired the holy Apostles to predict and foresee the appalling conditions of Apostasy prevailing in the Church. Bishops, Elders, and Deacons had become corrupt; as a matter of fact, a great number of the Clergy sank into the mire of sin and evil. Moshieim, another great Historian writes, "Of the vices of the whole Clerical order, their luxury, their arrogance, their avarice, their voluptuous lives, we have as many witnesses. . . ; the Bishops, especially such as were distinguished for their rank and honours, employed various administrators to manage their affairs, and formed around themselves a kind of sacred court. The dignity of a presbyter was supposed to be so great, that Martin of Tours did not hesitate to say, at a public entertainment, that the Emperor himself was inferior to one of that order. The Deacons were taxed with their pride and their vices, . . . , these stains on the character of the clergy would have been deemed insufferable, had not the most of the people been sunk in superstition and ignorance." (*Moshieim, Book 2, Part 2, Ch. 2 Verse 7*)

WEST AFRICAN ECHO

By Brother Nephi DeMercurio

The events that we faced during the Coppa's stay and in subsequent days caused us to experience many feelings and emotions. The movement of our feelings and emotions were like a leaf in autumn which is tossed to and fro by the whirling wind. Sadness, soberness, defeat, joy, happiness, and frustration are some of the feelings that can be described. Others go unexplained because of our inability to describe in words such feelings.

Soon after our arrival in Nigeria, Sister Edna Ebong, Evangelist E. A. Ebong's wife passed away on August 14, 1977. Since the birth of twin girls on May 15, 1977 she had not been well. At the time of her death she left eight children to mourn her death.

Her death was a great loss to everyone. Sister Edna was very active in Church affairs. She was a leader and a staunch supporter of the Ladies' Circle and a shepherd to many Sisters. I witnessed her qualities during my visit with Brother Ross in 1976. Many Sisters expressed their profound grief over the departing of our Sister.

On January 14, 1978 we were further saddened by the death of one of the twins. Her death was rather sudden and without any apparent warning of sickness which would be unto death. In addition, the surviving twin, Grace, was admitted to the hospital in April, 1978 in critical condition. However, the mercy of God had extended the child's life and after four weeks the child had made rapid recovery.

With the death of our Sister and the subsequent events which affected her children, we were caused to be extremely sober in assessing our assignment as mission-

aries. Seeing the extreme elements facing the people had given us an in depth understanding of the meaning of "survival". Although we had anticipated some difficulties we would face here, we did not realize that "survival" would be our foremost thought. That aspect of our life had been taken for granted in America. Our needs whether small or great were always provided. Now things were different.

We felt in many ways very inadequate to the task and everything seemed rather overwhelming. It was certainly the will of the evil power to make us feel in many ways that we did not belong here. However, each time this feeling arose in our minds, the Lord sustained us. Our faith was constantly being tested. Although our faith was feeble, the Lord always rewarded us with something that would pick us up and keep us moving.

One such reward was in one of the very first letters that we had received, dated July 29, 1977. Brother Philip Van Allsburg of Detroit Branch No. 1 related an experience he was given during the October, 1975 Conference when Brother John Ross and I were chosen to go to Nigeria and Ghana. I had never been told this experience and now it came at a time of great importance. At the time of the experience he was staying at Brother and Sister Duckworth's home, Lorraine's parents. He stated, "During the night I awoke and sat up in bed. The room was filled with light and I heard a voice say, 'Brother Nephi will go with Brother John to Africa and I will give him the same commission I gave Brother John.' The light left through the window. I lay down and went back to sleep."

Our being here was no longer a questionable matter. We could see now that the evil power was throwing everything at us to make us doubt, to question and to make us feel defeated. Now this experience had supported the direction that God had given us to come to Nigeria.

Satan's harassment was not detrimental. On the contrary, it served to draw us closer to God. The more we were tested the more we sought God's help and came to an understanding as Peter did in John 6:68 when he answered our Lord saying, "Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life."

Yes, where were we to go? The question of turning around was at times brought to mind. It was dangling before us as a luscious apple would hang from a tree waiting to be plucked. No, we could not leave Jesus, only He has the words of eternal life.

During our ordeal we had to learn to retain our sense of humor. We were shown this by the Nigerian. Despite the uncertainty of life we had often seen the Nigerian laugh and jest as though he had no care in the world. Yet his struggle was great. In many of our circumstances we too had to learn to laugh. One such instance was the celebration of our anniversary.

Besides being our anniversary August 17 is Lorraine's birthday. It was a special day for us but one we did not celebrate lavishly when we were home. We would spend a few hours together at a restaurant while someone cared for our children. Those few hours were spent looking at our lives, reflecting on our past and considering our future. Even though we were not able to celebrate that day in the usual way, Sisters Judy and Susan made it a special day. They would not allow Lorraine to help with the supper that day; it was to be cooked by them. Lorraine and I were the guests of honor. We were served

"Grandma Huey's Dumplings" and corned beef (Grandma Huey is Sister Susan's maternal grandmother.) I guess corned beef does not sound too bad, but since our arrival we had eaten it every day and at the time there was not much variety of meats we could select. Good ol' Grandma Huey, those dumplings sure did camouflage the taste of the corned beef. It was food and we had more of it than the people. Maybe it did not satisfy our appetite for quality, but we did not come for quality, we were missionaries. We were able to laugh and in laughing we were able to see the soberness of it all.

Also in early August at a time when we felt totally ineffective and helpless, the enemy of our soul was not allowed to triumph. We were learning and there were certain things we had to differentiate, when to be submissive and when to do battle. At times, we felt too weak to battle, but that was the time in which an opportunity presented itself.

Brother George Ekpo's oldest son became severely ill. He was suffering from malaria. It was a very serious matter because he was having convulsions with spasms and vomiting. Lorraine, Sister Susan and myself followed after to the hospital. The boy was taken to emergency. Thoughts flashed through my mind, this is the opportunity I need to promote the will of God. Now I was made to react as quickly as the thought of it entered into my mind. My response was, "Of course the boy will not die because God will not permit him to die" and immediately I proceeded to anoint the child during the course of all the confusion and arguing. Instantly the boy's body became calm, his breathing reduced to a whisper. We did not stop our prayers. We continued to pray and knew that if we persisted, the boy would recover. We did not slow our efforts but accelerated them by the intensity and frequency of our prayers. After a week the boy was sent home in good health. We had been lifted and elevated, God had shared His goodness with us.

However, just as we were made to feel happy trouble lay just ahead. We were always faced with some new situation. Now we began to learn that we were heading for trouble after a blessing. At times we became reluctant to face a new day for fear of having to face a new irony. Already we began to feel exhausted and our stay was only about three weeks old. How much could we take became the question.

Not moving into the mission house as we had anticipated did not ease our frustrations. We felt bound. We could not carry our anticipated plans for the Church and preparing adequately for the school term. Again we felt like we were on the down side of a see-saw awaiting to be pushed upward. Of course, the force necessary to move us upward would be God.

On Saturday, September 17, 1978, the force we needed began to move us upward. Even though the house was not completed, with paint still generating its odor due to its wetness, we moved into the house. In addition the cistern or septic tank for the kitchen was not completed. We would not be able to allow water to drain into the cistern. However, we were not willing to quarrel over the fact that we had to use the bathroom for drawing water and washing our dishes for a few days. Even though the protective bars had not been installed on the windows, would God leave us unprotected? Despite this we were ready to move with borrowed refrigerator, afflicted kerosene stove, (only one of three burners were working), beds, and borrowed utensils.

Our preparation to move was not without a slight interference. That morning I had a low grade fever which rendered me immobile. I was confined to bed, but was determined that before evening I would be ready to move. While I was confined to bed, I pleaded with the Lord for health and strength, "Lord, who can I call to anoint me?" The Lord answered, "Brother Ebong". Just at the instant the Lord replied, I heard Brother Ebong's voice on the compound. I was then anointed and felt a great relief in my body which later enabled me to move our belongings to the house.

At 5:00 p.m. the contractor loaned us his truck as requested and we completed the move by about 7:00 p.m., nightfall.

Immediately upon completion of our move we assembled as a family to give thanks to our God for our new home. We prayed for the blessing of God to abide in the house and dedicated it for its missionary use. We asked God to send His angel to protect those who dwell in the house now and for those who would occupy the house in the future.

The day we moved into the mission house Lorraine was suffering with a severe cough and sinus infection. The next day, Sunday, due to a leak from the toilet, water covered the floor. Lorraine slipped and came down squarely on the cement floor. At first we thought she was severely injured. For several moments she seemed paralyzed and afraid to move for fear she would aggravate any injury incurred. However, in a short time she was able to move. The bruise that she sustained from her fall had remained for some time. On the following Monday morning, September 19, 1977, Lorraine awoke with a severe muscle spasm in her back. The pain was great and her movements accentuated the pain. She was anointed and by God's goodness her afflictions were removed. Even though she was physically impaired, she was driven to a greater determination to fulfill her commitment.

Time now would show the necessity of our afflictions.

I remember the times
 when I heard myself say.
 "Why didn't I think of that?"
 when help was needed that day.
 We often let so many of
 God's blessings slip by.
 Instead we should say,
 "I'll give it a try."
 Then go out and do
 what you know you can.
 And earn the respect
 of your fellow man.
 For God knows the needs
 of each individual.
 And tries to direct us
 To do something spiritual.
 To let His light shine
 from the depths of our soul.
 So others can see how
 His love made us whole.
 In living our lives
 to the fullest extent.
 We may guide a lost soul
 to his rest so content.

Sister Grace Lobzun

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

LET US GIVE THANKS

Sing unto the Lord with thanksgiving; sing praise upon the harp unto our God. Who covereth the heaven with clouds, who prepareth rain for the earth, who maketh grass to grow on the mountains. He giveth to the beast his food, and to the young ravens which cry. . . . Praise ye the Lord.

—Psalm 147:7,8,9,20

The psalmist's beautiful and stirring exhortation to return thanks and praise to God for His blessings and providence are most fitting and timely during this autumnal and harvest season.

May we note the language of the psalmist—that God not only provides for man, but for the beasts of the field and the fowls of the air.

THE HAND OF PROVIDENCE

President Carter will shortly issue the traditional presidential proclamation designating the last Thursday of November as a national day of Thanksgiving. It is fitting and proper that our nation pause and give thanks to the Hand of Providence for another bountiful harvest and manifold blessings throughout the Year of our Lord 1978.

Let us respond with heartfelt gratitude to our Heavenly Father for His continuing providence; for fruitful fields, for comforts and conveniences, all of which contribute immeasurably to making our nation increasingly prosperous and great.

Happily, many other countries also observe a national thanksgiving and harvest festival, and rightly so. The season of harvest and ingathering serves as a timely reminder of how much we depend upon God for our everyday needs. We are also stirred to renew our gratitude to the God and Father of us all, who gives so freely and liberally to the human family.

FEAST OF INGATHERING

We are reminded of an earlier national thanksgiving celebration, the autumnal feast at the end of the Hebrew year, called the Feast of Ingathering. It was observed for seven days and it began on the night of the September full moon (the Harvest Moon). *Exodus 23:16 and 34:22.*

This was the Jewish harvest-home, when all the year's produce of every kind had been gathered. It also commemorated their deliverance from Egypt and their wanderings through the desert until they reached the Promised Land. The Feast of Ingathering was a time of great joy and thanksgiving for the harvest safely ingathered, and a time of petitioning God for His continued blessings.

As it was fitting and in order for the ancient Jewish nation to pause at the close of their harvest and joyfully return thanks to their God for all His bounties and blessings, so is it our national duty and privilege to likewise pause and reverently offer thanks to the same God, as we observe our annual festival of **THANKSGIVING.**

Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness; and for His wonderful works to the children of men. (*Psalm 107:21*)



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

Miriam

Dear Girls and Boys,

Miriam, the daughter of Jochebed and Amram, appears in the scriptures when a very young girl, thought by some to be about seven or eight years old. The Israelites had become numerous and this worried Pharaoh. He ordered that all Hebrew male children be destroyed at birth. Of course this little family of Amram, Jochebed, Miriam and her brother Aaron were very concerned when they heard this. Three months they had hidden their baby from the Pharaoh's soldiers. But now the baby was growing and it became harder to hide him. Jochebed had great faith in the God of Israel. She made a little ark from reeds and plastered it inside and out to make it water tight. With the help of Miriam she placed the baby in the basket-bed, hid it in the flags near the river's bank. Miriam was left to guard the baby. No doubt Jochebed was nearby to see that no harm came to the baby.

Soon Pharaoh's daughter, the princess, came to bathe in the river, right at the spot where the little ark was placed. The princess saw the ark and sent her maid to get it. Looking upon the baby she said, "This is one of the Hebrew's children." Miriam came forward and asked, "Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee?" The answer was, "Go." Jochebed came and was permitted to nurse her own child. The baby was adopted and named Moses by Pharaoh's daughter. He was educated in the King's palace but his real mother had taught him to trust in the God of Israel.

During the years Moses lived with the princess we do not read about Miriam. Moses along with his brother Aaron went before Pharaoh to get him to free the Israelites. We read of Miriam, the prophetess, at the time of Israel's deliverance from Pharaoh. As the Red Sea was divided and God's people went across on dry ground, Miriam led the Hebrew women. She played on a timbrel and danced joyfully as she led the song, "Sing ye to the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea."

The next time we read of Miriam is when she spoke against Moses. She murmured, "Hath the Lord indeed spoken only by Moses? Hath he not spoken also by us?" And the Lord heard it. Also she did not approve of Moses' marriage. Aaron too complained. For this Miriam became a leper, white as snow. Moses cried unto the Lord to heal his sister Miriam. She was healed but had to be shut out of camp for seven days, as was the law. The people did not travel until Miriam was with them again, which delayed reaching the Promised Land. Miriam did not reach the Promised Land but died in the wilderness, and was buried at Kadesh.

Sincerely,
Sister Mabel

Our Women Today:

GENERAL CIRCLE CONFERENCE AT YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The General Ladies Uplift Circle Conference was held at Youngstown, Ohio on October 7, 1978. The building was filled to capacity. There were two bus loads of Sisters — one from the Michigan Area and one from the Pennsylvania Area. Others were from Florida, North Carolina and the Ohio Area.

The Youngstown Circle sang songs and read the Scripture pertaining to "Jesus, The Christ, Upon The Foundation The Church Is Built." Sister Mabel Bickerton, in her opening remarks, reminded everyone to be teachers of good things. A special prayer was had for the sick.

The business was started with the roll call of officers, the reading of the minutes of the last meeting held at Hopelawn, New Jersey, the Circle and the treasurer's reports. Sister Mary Criscuolo reported that she sent out thirty-nine cards.

The questions and answers are: Who raised the first flag of liberty? Book of Mormon—Alma 46:12. What did Abinadi cry and prophesy as he was scorched by fire? Book of Mormon—Mosiah 17, 14:19. Who was the first vagabond? Bible—Genesis 4, 12:14. What was the greatest catastrophe of all history? Bible—Genesis 7, 11:24.

Contributions were made to the Memorial Fund in memory of Mr. Jacob Stikarofsky, Sister Rose Pietrangelo, Sister Angeline D'Perno, Sister Petrina Cipperoni, and Brother Frank Scoletti.

Donations were made to the Gospel News, the General Church Budget, the General Indian Missionary Fund and to Africa. From the selling of Cook Books, \$1,200.00 was given to the General Church Indian Missionary Fund.

The next General Circle Conference will be held at Lake Worth, Florida on March 24, 1979. A bus is being chartered. Anyone interested please contact Sister Joan Gibson.

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

Sisters Rosemary and Kathleen Furitano told of their trip they took to Africa. They felt that the prayers of the Saints helped them and thanked God that all worked out well for them.

Mary Tamburrino
General Circle Editor

50th ANNIVERSARY

We are happy to announce the 50th wedding anniversary of Brother Tony and Sister Josephine Benyola of the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch.

A dinner was given in their honor by their children. We pray that God will continue to bless them. At this time, Brother Tony is in need of prayers because of illness, and we pray also that God would continue to give Sister Josephine the necessary strength that she needs to take care of Brother Tony.

District Conferences . . .

History Made In The Atlantic Coast

History was made in the Atlantic Coast August 26th and 27th. Our District Conference was held in the Herndon, Virginia Mission. This is a first for the Mission and the state of Virginia. We had a good representation of Elders present even though we were about 235 miles from our District headquarters. Both of the Apostles that are appointed to our area were also in our meeting.

Brother Rocco Biscotti related to us the illness that put him in the hospital just previous to conference and how God preserved his life. Brother Rocco reminded us of the work as it was started in the Atlantic Coast. Brothers Joseph Corrado, Rocco Biscotti, Eugene Perri, Sr. and Bill Mazzeo started the work of preaching the Gospel in New Jersey and the efforts of their labors were seen in a very short time. Their untiring efforts along with other Brothers of our District who have labored, will long be remembered and today it has spread as far south as Virginia and north to Maine.

We praise God for Brothers like these who have paved the way for us who follow. Some Brothers have gone to their reward and few still remain. During our Saturday morning session Brother Rocco was speaking to us about the many laws the Church has had to make over the years to control our people and how it would not be necessary for us to have all the laws we have if we had the spirit and righteousness of God in our lives.

As he spoke to us of these conditions he spoke in the gift of tongues and the interpretation given is as follows, "Take up the laws of God".

DISTRICT EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

God spoke through the prophet Jeremiah of a new covenant in the 31st chapter 33rd verse, "The apostle Paul also used these same words. In those days saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts and write it in their hearts and will be their God and they shall be my people." My thought is this, shouldn't this apply to those of us who have obeyed the Gospel today? Let us remember, laws are written for the transgressor.

Brother Tony Corrado related to us many of the experiences he has had in the Church in visiting and anointing the sick. He confirmed Brother Rocco's illness and how he prayed for him.

Our business was handled as usual on Saturday. We had three sessions that day and the Sisters of the Herndon mission prepared two delicious meals for us.

A standing vote of thanks to our Sisters.

Some of us were able to spend some time at the homes of some of the Saints there. They made us feel welcomed.

Sunday morning we gathered again in the Herndon church building, where we met with those who were not at the Saturday meeting.

Note! Being that our conference was in Virginia and it would be difficult for all our members to meet together Sunday morning because of distance, our District headquarters (Hopelawn) was opened for a gathering on Sunday.

Brother Rocco opened the service on Sunday and read the account of Moroni and the title of liberty from the Book Of Mormon, Chapt. 46.

He spoke of what our lives should be in the Church, Priesthood and members alike. We are to walk in righteousness keeping away from the world, observing the commandments of God. He used the life of Moroni as an example. Brother Corrado followed and spoke at length on the title of liberty. He stated that the Gospel has changed and enriched our lives. The blessings of God are with this people, because we care no longer for the things of the world.

The Gospel has been restored with the gifts and blessings and are here for us to receive. As he did on Saturday, he related many experiences of recent days as well as many of days gone by. They were beautiful to listen to.

It was good to have these Brothers with us. They have spent many years in the Church together and our prayer is that they will be with us for some time to come.

Our conference was enjoyable and we are looking forward to our next gathering.

Brother Joseph Perri
New Jersey District Editor

Mini Conference July 9, 1978

As part of a summer agenda, Brother Spencer Everett, President of the Michigan-Ontario District, presided at a mini-conference at Branch No. 4 in Michigan. In attendance were the following Presiding Elders: Brother Anthony Lovalvo, Branch No. 4; Brother Ken Wright, Windsor; Brother Leonard Lovalvo, Branch No. 2; and the members from each Branch.

First Counsellor of the District, Brother Alex Gentile, led the singing. Apostles were also present — Brothers Gorie Ciaravino, Nick Pietrangelo, and Domenic Thomas, General Church President, who opened the meeting in prayer.

Brother Bob Stanek opened the meeting by using *II Nephi* 4:14-35 as his text. He told us of how Nephi, even as he was used of God, still had to look within himself and acknowledge his sins and the enemy of his soul. Our Brother told us of a few experiences how God had blessed him in laboring for the Lord. Even as Nephi said, "...not to droop in sin, but awake, my soul!" He added that we must be aware of our service to God. Brother Don Collison followed, then Brothers Leonard Lovalvo and Frank Vitto, Second Counsellor of the District. All of our Brothers spoke to us of the care of the Saints for one another and that we should all try to continually get away from the sins that so easily beset us. We must get closer to God in our labors, that we may inherit and possess more of God's Holy Spirit.

Everyone enjoyed the Spirit of God. This idea of a mini-conference was good, for it seemed to create a lot of enthusiasm among the Saints to fellowship together. After the preaching, Brother Spencer Everett summed up the nice day we had, and Brother Nick Pietrangelo closed in prayer, faithfully remembering Brother Nephi and Sister Lorraine in Africa.

To all the Saints throughout The Church — greetings, and God Bless You.

Editor,
Michigan-Ontario District

BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS:—**Glassport, Pa. Branch News**

The Glassport Branch had a Wednesday night Revival meeting on July 5, 1978. We had visiting Elders, Brothers, Sisters and friends, we all joined in singing Hymns of praise to the Lord. After opening the meeting in prayer, Evangelist Brother Ralph Berardino of Youngstown, Ohio opened our preaching service. Brother Ralph spoke on our obeying the Gospel and how great our Lord and Saviour is, giving praise unto the Lord for our calling into the Gospel. The Lord is the light that leads us on, through faith we look to abide in that beautiful city. The full truth of God's promises are right before our eyes. Brother Ralph quoted much of the Apostle Paul's writings and how his Epistles are an example unto us. We must put our attention on the things above and not here on earth. We are dead to the things of the world and alive in Jesus. The Lord calls us and forms us, we all function according to the Spirit. This Spirit God places within us leads, guides and directs us. God has given us a priceless gift, Jesus Christ. We give thanks to the Lord for manifesting His Spirit in Brother Ralph, that the Saints and visiting friends were fed.

We were also blessed to have Brother Russel Mortarano of Niles, Ohio who was directed by the Lord on the words he spoke. Brother Russel gave thanks to God for the Saints whom he dearly loves. Continuing by saying we must be part of this living Gospel with Jesus as the head, giving us His Spirit to be one of his chosen few. We have much to be thankful for, our Church and its Ordinances; strive for Charity, God's Spirit and be of one mind and accord. Work out our soul's salvation in fear and trembling, fear God and respect Him so that we don't lose our soul's salvation. Put Jesus first, fall on our knees and acknowledge Jesus Christ. What a beautiful gem we have, let's keep it shiny, spotless and blemish free. We must then leave the things of the World and cling to God's commandments. This is the Church for all, most of all we need the love of God. Brother Russel gave thanks to the Lord that he was able to be in Glassport once again with the Saints of God. We give thanks to the Lord for our Brother Russel and his beautiful words.

The Lord continued to pour out his blessings as Brother Thomas Ross of Aliquippa spoke on how thankful he is for what we have through the Lord. Our hope is that God's Church will bring in many souls for there are many in sin and trouble. The world needs God and the Gospel is for all people. Our prayer is that God would harvest the Church all over the world. We must keep precious what we have and cherish it, and share it with others. We are thankful for our Brother Thomas and his words of encouragement.

Also with us was Brother Paul Palmieri, speaking on how much he was uplifted this evening. We must be faithful especially to the Lord and one another showing the world the light of God that shines within us. Through the Church of Jesus Christ, good will prevail throughout this world. Show the love of God always by loving one another. Our desire is to love and serve God together, pray to the Lord for this desire continually. We give thanks to the Lord for Brother Paul.

Brother Alma Nolfi then spoke on the Gospel being

advocated by the righteousness of its people. Many Saints show the love of God to their friends and from time to time they attend The Church Of Jesus Christ. The Lord begins to work with them and through the Lord's calling another soul is added to the fold. This Church is the true Church, go to the Lord, in prayer, being of a contrite heart and the Lord will show Himself; the Lord will guide and aid us. He is only a prayer away.

Brother David Nolfi concluded by giving thanks to the Lord for our Brothers and their desires to be with us this evening for our betterment.

We give thanks to the Lord for His Ministry and His manifestation in their ministering unto the Saints and visiting friends.

ALL PRAISE AND HONOUR UNTO THE LORD.

The Glassport Branch

A Note of Thanksgiving

I would like at this time to take the opportunity and privilege to thank God that he still answers prayers. Especially the prayers of my dear brothers and sisters of "The Church of Jesus Christ," and also my good friends and relatives who encouraged me and my family during my recent operation and hospital stay.

To those who read this note of thanks let it be known that we still have a prayer-answering God, and "His promise is sure." "He supplies and knows our every need." "We cannot want while God provides." Thanks again for your calls and words of encouragement, your wonderful letters and sentiments on your lovely cards, your visits, and especially for your diligent prayers which I thank God and you for and hold in the highest esteem. Because of other complications along with my open heart surgery I would that you all would continue to pray for me for strength that I might overcome and endure along with you till the end. I would also like to thank the "Gospel News" and its wonderful staff for without this medium this note of thanks would not have been possible.

May God richly bless us all together in my sincere prayer. Your Brother in Christ.

Brother Alfred Nolfi
Glassport Branch
Pennsylvania District

Niles is Blessed with Visitors

During the past month Niles, Ohio has enjoyed many visitors from near and far. On July 23rd, we had the privilege of having Brother Henry Cardillo from Youngstown, Ohio with us. He spoke to us about the spiritual hunger we must have for the things of God and we must not become complacent. Brother Joe Genaro continued on with the same topic of the thirst and hunger we must have. We truly spent a beautiful day.

On July 30th, we had Brother Joe Calabrese with us on his evangelist rotation. He took for his text the 3rd Chapter of the 2nd Nephi. He spoke of the great work we are doing among the seed of Joseph and they will take the leading part one day and we will be there to guide them. He likened Joseph unto Moses because he will have that same spirit that Moses had for his brethren.

ren. He said we must not put our trust in man but rather put our trust in the arm of God. If we the people of God keep the Commandments we will prosper. We enjoyed all the words our Brother spoke unto us. We also enjoyed our visitors from Florida, Glassport, Pa., Windsor, Canada and Warren, Ohio.

On August 13th we had the privilege of having Brother Eugene and Sister Donna Amormino with us. We are so thankful for the talents of our Brothers and Sisters. We were truly blessed with their singing. We enjoyed Sister Donna singing "Jesus Loves Me," and also Brother Eugene and Sister Donna singing "How Great Thou Art", Among other beautiful hymns. We really look forward for another visit from them.

Sister Lucy Rossi who was baptized May 22, 1921 but was never permitted to attend church was reinstated in the church June 25, 1978 by the laying on of hands. She was away from the church for 57 years and can't praise God enough that he allowed her life thus far to once again be a part of this church. During those 57 years her husband did not permit her to go to church. He had threatened her life many times along with the lives of her children if she would attend. The week after he passed away she was in church. On the second Sunday she attended she asked to be reinstated.

We are grateful for all that the Lord does for us and for the love of all you brothers and sisters.

Sister Wanda Pandone
Branch Editor

Visitors at Rochester, New York

On Father's Day, Sunday, June 18th, the Rochester, New York Mission had the joy of having Brother and Sister Frank D. Giovannone visiting as per the Evangelist Schedule. We sang "To The Work," and Brother Frank led us in prayer. He chose *Luke 12:37* as his text, stressing that blessed are the servants, whom the Lord, when He cometh, shall find him watching. Brother Frank asked how many would like to go to Heaven. We have to prepare now if we want to go there. Prepare to meet your God. If you want to receive your check, you have to work now. In the Book of Life are written all of our deeds. If we build our house on solid foundation, it will stand all the storms of life; those who build on sandy foundation will find their house washed away with the storms. God does not force people to go to heaven. Jesus set the good example by being baptized at the age of 30 years. Children need no baptism. Brother Frank expressed his happiness in being in the service of the King.

We then sang, "Come and Dine," and Brother Ansel D'Amico followed, emphasizing the words of Brother Giovannone. He stressed that we should watch and pray until the Master comes. He related an experience that he had shortly after he was baptized. He saw the Brothers and Sisters on a high mountain. He saw a river at the bottom of the mountain, and across the river was a beautiful city, the New Jerusalem. We are looking forward to reaching this city through the grace of God. Where will we spend our eternity? We cannot buy salvation with gold and silver, but with the precious blood of Jesus. We must come and dine with the Lord. The Word of God is food for our souls.

We then sang, "Will Jesus Find Us Watching," after which, the meeting was opened for testimony. Sacrament was then administered. A wonderful spirit prevailed all during the meeting. We dismissed with the hymn "God Be With You," and Brother John D'Amico offered the closing prayer.

* * *

On July 23, 1978, we had the joy and blessing of having three carloads of Brothers, Sisters and children from the Fredonia Mission. After community singing, Brother Arthur Gehly led us in prayer. He chose for his text *St. John, Chapter 4*, where Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for a drink. She refused, and Jesus said unto her, "If thou knewest the gift of God and who it is that saith to thee, give me to drink, thou wouldest asked of him, and he would have given thee living water." We must be born of the water and the spirit in order to drink of the living water. The true worshipper must serve God in pure spirit and truth. The conclusion of all matters is to fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

After singing "The Gospel Restored," Brother Ansel D'Amico spoke, emphasizing the subject brought forth by Brother Gehly. The Word of God is a fountain of living water. They are beautiful words, wonderful words of life. As long as we grow in the love of God, we shall grow in number. We have a goal to reach. Jesus has promised us that in His Father's house are many mansions. He has prepared one for us, that at the end we may hear Him say, "Well done! Receive the crown of eternal life."

We sang "How Sweet To Reflect," followed by testimonies and the administering of the Lord's Supper. A wonderful spirit prevailed all during the meeting.

We were dismissed with the hymn "The Spirit of God Like a Fire Is Burning," and Brother Emanuel Palazzo offered the closing prayer.

* * *

On July 30, 1978, our Mission had the joy of having two chartered buses, one from Aliquippa and one from Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania, and carloads from New Jersey, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

After community singing, Brother Paul Palmieri opened the meeting in prayer. Brother Joe Perri spoke, using *Joshua 7:10* as his text. The Lord said to Joshua, "Get thee up, wherefore liest thou upon thy face? Israel has sinned and they have also transgressed my covenant which I have commanded them." Achan and all his family were destroyed. If we partake of the things of the world, we have sin in the camp. We have a story to tell to the world; let us bring it in purity.

Following the hymn "O Beulah Land," Brother Paul Palmieri spoke, emphasizing the same subject. We should be proud to be in this country of freedom and liberty. God has restored the Gospel in these last days and requires us to do more for the Gospel. We should live above the world by preaching the Gospel without spot or blemish. We should be like Joshua, full of good reports and say with him, "I and my house will serve the Lord." We should be happy to be the children of the King.

We sang "Make Me A Blessing," after which, Brother Milford Eutsey expressed how happy he was in the Gospel. He referred to the Lord's expression of love for his people, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, how oft would I

have gathered you, as a hen gathereth her chicks, but you would not." Where do we want to spend our eternity?

Brother Larry King continued speaking on the same subject, that we should set a quota in winning souls to Christ. We should be the good spies in seeking to bring souls to Christ. We should all work in bringing the Kingdom of Christ upon the earth.

Brother John Ali spoke, reminding us that we should have statutes to live by. We should be living stones in The Church.

Brother Ansel D'Amico was the closing speaker. He told us that our Brothers' words were words of eternal life. Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the throne of God. We should stand on the promises of God. On Christ the solid rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand. We should always be ready to do God's will. He wished all God's blessings and God speed.

We were dismissed by singing "God Be With You Till We Meet Again," and closing prayer by Brother Charles Jumper, Jr.

Lunch was served, and we were happy to socialize with each other. What a wonderful day spent in the service of God!

Sister Carmella D'Amico
Branch Editor

Vanderbilt, Pa. Branch Welcomes Two Converts

Sunday, September 10, 1978 proved to be another happy and blessed day for the Vanderbilt Saints.

They experienced extra blessings in the baptisms of two souls and happily welcomed them into The Church.

Glen Russell Willard was baptized by Brother James King and confirmed by the laying on of hands by Brother Lawrence King.

Rosemary Czapp was baptized and also confirmed by Brother Milford Eutsey, Sr.

May God bless and direct these new members and make them a blessing to their Branch and to others.

News From Modesto, California

Brothers and Sisters, we have many things to thank our dear Lord for. I feel to take this time to thank Him for three Brothers from the Modesto Branch: Brother Sam Randy, Brother Joe Randy, and Brother Joe Ciarolla, whom I have the honor of being the daughter of.

On April 5, 1978, these Brothers flew from Modesto to Tijuana, Mexico, then to Los Moches (which is in the state of Sinaloa), Mexico. Brother Juan, who is in charge of Sinaloa, is doing a fine job.

The reason for their trip was to build a church for the Brothers and Sisters there.

Each day, our three Brothers traveled 18 miles from where they stayed, which is the home of Gloria Frias, to Anome, Mexico, where the church was built. They also built, on the same piece of land, a home for the missionaries, and restrooms and showers for the Brothers and Sisters.

Although material was hard to obtain, the Lord supplied their needs. Many Brothers and Sisters, including those from Tijuana, came to help in the constructing of the new church.

Spiritually, the Lord was also very gracious.

The Lord blessed many meetings with His Spirit and called a 40 year old Sister and an 80 year old Brother into the Gospel.

In another meeting, a small boy, with an infection in his eyes was anointed. The next morning when he came to help the Brothers with the church, his eyes were completely healed.

The Brothers and Sisters of Mexico greeted our three Brothers with open-arms and were most hospitable.

The completion of the church took approximately three weeks and our Brothers returned safely home. We owe all our thanks to our glorious Father above.

Another blessing added to the Modesto Branch is the baptisms of three new Brothers, all from, or around Anome, Mexico.

Brother Mike Martinez was baptized on June 18, 1978 by Eugenio Mora and confirmed by Brother Leonard Lovalvo. Brother Martinez is a laborer for Brother Joe Ciarolla and became interested in hearing the Gospel. After hearing the word of God, he decided on laboring for the Lord.

Our Sunday meeting in Modesto, June 25, 1978, also proved to be a wonderful day with the baptisms of the other two Brothers: Ventura Armenla and Jesus Perea.

The meeting began in prayer by Brother Louis Paravano. Brother Eugenio read and spoke from the scripture in Matthew 11:10-12 on John The Baptist.

Hymn "There's Power In The Blood" was sung.

The next speaker was Brother Joe Lovalvo. He followed Brother Eugenio and spoke of the life of John the Baptist and the baptism of Jesus Christ.

We could feel the Lord truly blessed our two Brothers in their sermons.

The Brothers that were to be baptized that day had asked for their baptisms during the week before. They then expressed themselves and the Spirit of God was surely felt.

The Spanish group sang, "In the vineyard of the Lord".

The congregation continued in singing praises to God with, "My Savior's love"

Brother Leonard Lovalvo closed in prayer and we all departed to gather at the waters of baptism.

Both new Brothers were baptized by Brother Joe Ciarolla.

We returned to church and included in the hymns that were sung was "A New Name in Glory".

Brother Eugenio Mora confirmed the Brothers.

"Ring the Bells of Heaven" was sung.

The meeting was left open for testimony, many praised the Lord's name for His goodness and mercy.

Sacrament was passed and we sang, "Alleluia".

In dismissing the meeting, we felt to join hands and

form a circle, while Brother Eugenio Mora closed in prayer.

Brothers and Sisters, my prayer is that we continue to praise the Lord for His overflowing goodness and always have the desire to serve Him.

May God Bless you always,

Sister Pam Cole
Modesto Branch Editor

Baptism At Youngstown, Ohio

It was a beautiful day on Sunday, September 10, 1978 as Sister Clara Johnson, 73 years young, was taken into the waters of baptism by Brother Henry Cardillo. (This was Brother Henry's first baptism.) A humble spirit was felt by everyone present. She was confirmed for the Gift of the Holy Ghost by Brother A. A. Corrado.

We enjoyed the day with two visiting Apostles, Brothers Gorie Ciaravino and Joseph Bittinger and Brother Mike LaSala of Detroit. Many edifying words were expounded to us by our Brothers, which were food to our souls.

Sister Annette Corrado,
Youngstown Branch Editor

News From The Omaha Area

God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform. Truly God is performing a marvelous work and wonder in His vineyard in Omaha. Since last April five from this area have been baptized. We would like to share with the Gospel News readers some of the experiences surrounding their conversions into the family and fold of God.

Brother Clifton and Sister Valarie Wells were baptized at Warren, Ohio on Sunday night, April 16, 1978 when they stopped over at the home of Brother Mitchell and Sister Vera Edwards. They had been attending the meetings here with the Sisters for about four months and had journeyed to Conference with us when the Lord moved upon their hearts to obey the Gospel. (The story concerning their baptism appeared in the July issue of the Gospel News).

The last week in July, Saints from Indiana, Michigan and Ohio gathered with the Saints here for what might be called a mini-conference. Among the visitors were three Elders: Brother Concetto Alessandro from Detroit, Michigan, Brother Mitchell Edwards from Warren, Ohio and Brother Jerry Giavannone from Warren, Ohio. Also visiting were Sister Rose Alessandro from Detroit, Michigan; Sister Janet Beckett from South Bend, Indiana; Brother John Love and Brother Leroy Love also from South Bend, Indiana. Brother Clifton Wells, who finished his basic training in the U.S. Marines, returned to the Omaha area to join his wife, Sister Valarie. His leave was cut short and he thought at first he could only spend two days with us which meant he would miss the weekend services. After praying he felt to journey to Lincoln, Nebraska (60 miles from Omaha) to request an extension of his leave for three days. God moved upon the heart of his recruiters and they secured a seven-day leave extension for him instead of the three days he had asked for.

Meetings started early in the week. Beginning on Wednesday we gathered each evening to hear the Word of the Lord and we can truly say that we were well fed. Sherri Wright, who had been meeting with the Sisters here for over a year, asked for her baptism on Wednesday evening. Then on Friday evening Debbie Jones requested baptism. The Elders decided to perform the baptisms on Sunday morning. Saturday morning we met for Fast and Prayer Service. The theme of the service seemed to be to thank God for the gathering and many thanked God for preserving them through trying times.

On Sunday morning as we gathered at the edge of the Missouri River two pennies were spotted laying on the ground. Just a few inches away one more penny was spotted. We felt the spirit of God when we found these pennies and we knew that the two pennies together represented the two candidates which were about to be baptized and that another person in our group would ask for baptism before the day was over. Sister Sherri Wright was baptized by Brother Mitchell Edwards and Sister Debbie Jones was baptized by Brother Jerry Giavannone. Both came up out of the water with the Spirit of God shining on their faces. After the baptism we all met at Woodson Center where we held our morning service and confirmation of the new converts. There were over twenty adults and eight children attending our service. The Word of God was preached with much power. Many wonderful testimonies of the goodness of God were expressed by the Saints and the Spirit of God was like a warm blanket protecting us from the world outside. It was a glorious feeling and we marvel at what God has done for us in this part of His vineyard. Many visitors were present at this service and we thank God for each one of them. When the Elders passed communion, (for the first time here) they had to check to make sure they had missed no members.

Children were blessed and anointed. Sister Lorene Williams brought her three granddaughters to be blessed in The Church. Sister Sallye Jones requested that her two children be anointed for an illness. Just before the meeting was closed, Caladia Harris, with tears running down her face, stood and requested her baptism. We all knew then that she represented the penny just a few inches from the two that were found together. We thank God for the spirit of revelation.

After a fellowship dinner prepared and served by the Sisters here, we all returned to the Missouri River where Sister Caladia was baptized by Brother Mitchell Edwards. We then returned to the home of our Deaconess, Sister Mary Stone, where Sister Caladia was confirmed into The Church by Brother Jerry Giavannone.

It was a day well spent in the service of our God. We all returned to our homes satisfied that God has heard our prayers, and strengthened our determination to hold fast to the Rod of Iron and to tell all who will hear that the angel has flown in the midst of heaven declaring to the world that the pure Gospel has been restored in these the latter days.

So you see by the steadfastness and faith of the Saints here God has blessed us by increasing our numbers with four new Sisters and one Brother; Brother Clifton being the first male child baptized from this area.

Brother Clifton and Sister Valarie Wells are now living near the Marine Base in Twenty-Nine Palms, Cali-

fornia. Their address is 70805 - 29 Palms Hwy. No. 54, Twenty-Nine Palms, California 92277. They would appreciate hearing from any of the Saints who feel moved by the Spirit of God to write them.

May God bless you all is the prayer of the Saints in Omaha.

Sister Dorothy Miller
111 Crestridge Drive
Bellevue, Nebraska 68005
Telephone: 402-291-6595

A Bus Trip To The Herndon, Virginia Mission

Our Branch (Hopelawn) had wanted for sometime to take a bus trip and so we finally chartered one Sunday, June 4, 1978.

We had the bus filled in a short time. The young people were very excited and so were we.

We had a very special bus driver, Brother Nick Davella and we felt safe knowing that a Brother of the Church was at the wheel and that God was with him.

We enjoyed meeting with the Saints of Herndon Sunday morning. Brother August D'Orazio was our guest speaker and his talk was enjoyed by all. A lunch was served by the Herndon members and was enjoyed by all. Sister Mary Faragasso and Jerry Hildenbrand were observing their birthdays and a special cake was made for them. It was beautiful to meet together.

Brother Nick was presented with a Bible as a token of our appreciation in driving us to Herndon. We did a lot of singing on the bus and we all felt a blessing. At Hopelawn Branch we thanked God for a safe trip, the bus trip was thoroughly enjoyed by all, and already we heard plans for another bus trip!

Sister Mary Perri
Editor, Hopelawn Branch

— NEW ARRIVALS —

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

Anthony David to David and Deborah Ciccati of San Diego, California;

Amy Lynn to Gormon and Belinda Longnecker of Roscoe, Pennsylvania;

Jeremy Edward to Boyd and Jonalyn Fink of Roscoe, Pennsylvania;

Christopher Michael to T. Michael and Deborah Molinatto Claxton of Glen Burnie, Maryland;

Kimberly Rose to Joe and Diane Zuzelski of Sterling Heights, Michigan;

Crystal Jade to Vitto and Rita Cappazoli of Sterling Heights, Michigan;

Chalimar Shree' to Patricia Ramey of Freehold, New Jersey.

● OBITUARIES ●

LYDIA M. ROBINSON

Sister Lydia M. Robinson passed on to her heavenly reward on June 10, 1978, after a five-month illness. She was born Lydia May Beitler, daughter of Jacob and Catherine Beitler, early settlers of the St. John, Kansas area, and lived here all her life.

She was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ at the age of eighteen, and remained a faithful member all her life, also serving as Head Deaconess for many years. She was united in marriage to Oscar Robinson, and to this union were born three sons and four daughters. In addition, there are twenty-nine grandchildren and nineteen great-grandchildren.

Although her spirit has been taken home to her Creator, she has not left us. She lives on in the memory of her kindnesses and unswerving loyalty to those principles of righteousness which are eternal. The richness of her life was not in that which she acquired, but in that which she gave.

She was a loyal wife, a faithful mother and grandmother, and a helper to many. It was her constant prayer that that in which she found satisfaction and joy might be passed on to those she loved. To this end, she lived and died. Funeral services were conducted by Brother George Johnson.

DAVID MARK JAMES

David Mark James passed on from this life on August 12, 1978 in an auto accident. He was born on October 31, 1957 at San Manuel, Arizona, and was twenty years old.

David attended high school in Globe and spent two years in the U. S. Army. He had been employed by the Consolidated Copper Company at the time of his passing.

He is survived by his parents, Norman and Sally (Sally is a Sister of The Church in San Carlos); three brothers, Vernon, Norman, and Jerry, and one sister, Rose Marie.

The funeral service was conducted by Brothers George Johnson, Emmett Dale, Claude Cayson, and David Majoros. He was laid to rest in the San Carlos Veterans' Cemetery with Military Honors.

He will be sadly missed by his family and friends.

VINCENZO MERCURI

Brother Vincenzo Mercury passed away from this life on September 3, 1978. He was a member of the Bell, California Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. He was born on March 28, 1896 and baptized on October 3, 1931 in Detroit, Michigan.

He is survived by two daughters, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Brother Vincent Scalise.

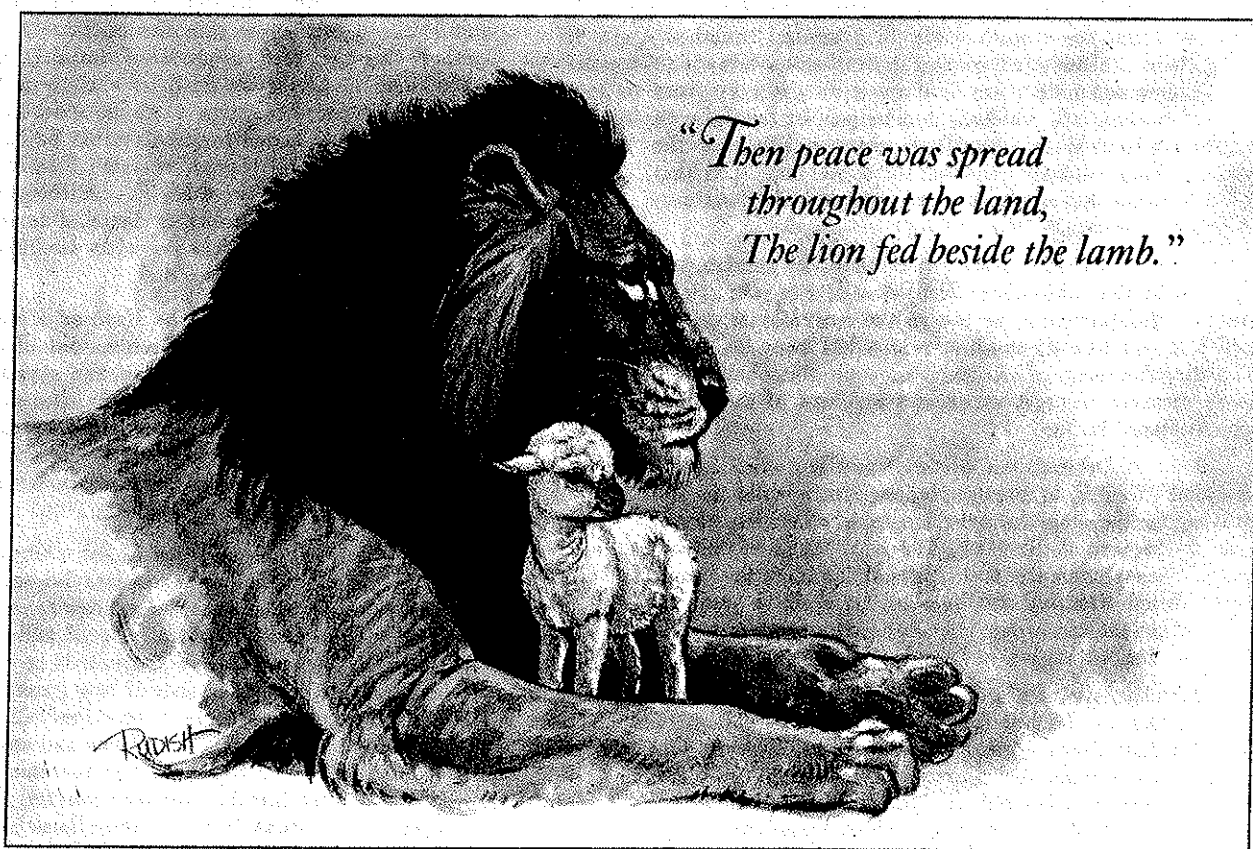
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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from THE GOSPEL NEWS Staff.

IT IS WRITTEN

(Continued from previous issue)

At the last General Church Conference, in Greensburg, I was approached by a brother who asked me to write an article on a question that was posed to him. The question was, "Why the *Book of Mormon*?" I promised to write on the matter.

Why the *Book of Mormon*? I got the impression that the question involved something else. For instance, "Is it necessary to have, or believe in the *Book of Mormon*?"

First of all, let this be known to everyone. Without the *Book of Mormon*, we would not be the Restored Gospel Church. Prophets of old predicted that, in the latter days, there would be two records come forth to the human family in the Restoration Era; also, that other records would be forthcoming to confirm this.

The Woman (Church) in the twelfth chapter of Revelations was to be in the wilderness for the space of 1260 years. (Time, times, and a half of time). After that period of time, the Church was to be Restored again, for John, the Apostle, saw, in a vision, "Another Angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting Gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." (Rev. 14:6,7)

In 1823, after the 1260 years that the woman was in the wilderness, God revealed Himself to a young man, Joseph Smith, by the visitation of the Angel Moroni, who told him of certain records hid in a hill near his home. The Angel rehearsed to young Joseph the contents of those records, amongst which was a record of the American Indian.

Prior to the visitation of the Angel Moroni, God had revealed Himself to young Joseph Smith while he was praying in the woods nearby, as to whether His church was on the face of the earth. The Lord told him that His church was not on the earth, but, if he (Joseph) would keep himself faithful and humble, he would be used as an instrument to bring about the Restoration of His Church. This revelation to Joseph Smith occurred in 1820.

After the Angel Moroni appeared to this young man, he met him on the hill in question, which is called, the Hill Cumorah, once a year for four years, showing him, each time, the contents of the box in which the sacred records were hid. In 1827, the Angel delivered to Joseph Smith the plates upon which were engraved the record of the American Indians, who were the descendants of the Tribe of Joseph, the son of Jacob. The record told of three Migrations to the lands of North and South America; the Jaredites, (those who came from the Tower of Babel), the company who came with Lehi and his family, and of Mulek, the son of Zedekiah.

I will not go into detail about these three migrations at this time, but will confine myself to the question, "Why the *Book of Mormon*?" It is important however, to state that the reason the book is entitled, "The *Book of Mormon*" originated in the book itself. One of the writers in the book was a wonderful man of God called Mormon, a prophet in his own right. He wrote upon the Plates

part of its history, and, he made this statement, "And now, I Mormon, make a record of the things which I have both seen and heard, and call it the *Book of Mormon*." (Mormon, 1:1) Hence the title of the Book.

The greatest reason for the existence of the *Book of Mormon* is that God has a plan to recover and gather the Twelve Tribes of Israel again in these latter days, and, that the Seed of Joseph (the American Indian) will be used mightily in His hand to accomplish this project. As Joseph of Egypt was used to save the Tribes of his father, Jacob (or Israel), so shall the Seed of Joseph, on this land of America, be used to be the means of helping to gather the Twelve Tribes of Israel again.

The Bible is replete with evidences heralding the recovery and gathering of the House of Israel in the Latter days. It is written, "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, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea." (Isaiah 11:11) Also, "And He shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. . . And there shall be a highway for the remnant of His people, which shall be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt." (Isaiah 1:12-16) There are countless prophecies recorded in the Bible referring to the latter-day gathering of the House of Israel. One only has to look in the sacred pages to see that God shall bring this great event to fruition.

The greater portion of the *Book of Mormon* is dedicated to the history of the Seed of Joseph, and of the blessings in store for it. Zechariah, the prophet, says this concerning Joseph, "...and I will save the House of Joseph, and I will bring them again to place them; for I have mercy upon them; and they shall be as though I had not cast them off; For I am the Lord their God, and I will hear them..." (Zechariah 10:6)

The *Book of Mormon* tells of Jesus Christ who came to this land after His Ascension into heaven and set up His Church among those who had been spared from the great destruction at His crucifixion. It tells of His promises to the Seed of Joseph and how they shall be used to build a New Jerusalem on this land; that a great prophet shall arise from among them called the "Choice Seer" who shall do a mighty work among them and among the House of Israel, etc. (one has to read the Book to enjoy the mighty blessing written there-in) for the Seed of Joseph (American Indian), the House of Israel, and the Gentiles also).

The *Book of Mormon* is important in the Restored Gospel Era in that it is the only means whereby the American Indian can know of their descendants and of the blessings in store for them if they obey and serve the Lord Jesus Christ. It tells also of the glory of heaven that shall come down upon those who keep His commandments; how Jesus shall appear in person from time to time at that day when the New Jerusalem shall be built; of the blessings upon the Gentiles who shall carry the glad tidings of great joy to the Seed of Joseph; how they (the Gentiles) shall help in the building of the New Jerusalem, and the gathering of the House of Israel.

The Gospel was restored to the Gentiles through Joseph Smith. However, the great commission given to the Gentiles is to carry the Gospel to the Seed of Joseph (American Indian), although not forgetting the preaching of the Gospel also to the Gentiles. While Joseph Smith was used of God to Restore His Church on the face of the earth, and to translate the *Book of Mormon* from the plates given to him by the Angel Moroni, certain events transpired which brought about the calling of William Bickerton to establish again the church in its purity in Greenock, Pa. in 1862. (see History of The Church of Jesus Christ, with Headquarters in Monongahela, Pennsylvania)

The *Bible* tells of the coming forth of the *Book of Mormon* and of the events surrounding it. It is written in Ezekial, "Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, for Judah, and for the children of Israel, his companions; then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the House of Israel his companions: And join them one to another into one stick: and they shall become one in thine hand. And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not show us what thou meanest by these? Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in Mine hand. And the sticks wherein thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes." (Ezekial 37:16-20)

Please note, that the two sticks, in Prophetic language are two scrolls (or books). In this particular prophecy, it speaks of two distinct books, one for Joseph, and one for Judah; one record for the Tribe of Joseph, and another record for the Tribe of Judah. The *Bible* is the record of the dealing of God with Judah (the Jews), and the stick of Joseph is the record of the dealings of God with the Tribe of Joseph on this land of America. Read the blessings of Jacob upon Joseph in the 49th chapter of *Genesis*, and the blessings pronounced upon Joseph by Moses in the 33rd chapter of *Deuteronomy*. Both of these blessings, spoken prophetically, show how the posterity of Joseph should go beyond the great waters: "Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well, whose branches run over the wall, etc." (Read the Church's pamphlet entitled EPHRAIM).

Again the *Bible* speaks loud and clear concerning the *Book of Mormon*, if one cares to delve into prophetic utterances. Isaiah speaks by the power of the Holy Spirit, "And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a BOOK that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee; and he saith I cannot, for it is sealed: And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith I am not learned."

The Plates which the Angel Moroni delivered to Joseph Smith, in the year 1828, were sealed records; meaning, they were written in a language that could only be interpreted by the power of God. Joseph Smith interpreted the Plates by the use of the Urim and Thumim which the Lord allowed him to use. That part of the plates which God commanded Joseph Smith to translate is the *Book of Mormon*. The *Bible* and the *Book of Mormon* are the two sticks spoken of in the 37th chapter of Ezekial. The *Book of Mormon* is the Book spoken of in the 29th chapter of Isaiah also. It is written that these

two records "shall grow together, unto the confounding of false doctrines and laying down of contentions, and establishing peace among the fruit of thy loins, and bringing them to a knowledge of their fathers in the latter days, and also to the knowledge of My covenants, saith the Lord." (Book of Mormon, 2nd Nephi, 3:12)

It is quite evident that, in the plan of God, (in the Restoration of the Gospel), as He restored the Church, the Gospel must be preached to all nations, kindred, tongues, and people, but, a special commission is given to the Church, which is to go to the Seed of Joseph (the American Indian) with the two records, the *Bible* and the *Book of Mormon*, to tell them from whence they came, and the promises of the Lord to them in the future. There must be no deviation from this as the Lord said, "... join them one to another into one stick..." These two, *Bible* and *Book of Mormon* must be inseparable in the Restored Gospel dispensation; for, in the *Book of Mormon* is also the Gospel of Jesus Christ. When He came to this land, He established the Church like unto the Church in Jerusalem. So, both records agree in everything concerning His Gospel.

Perhaps the reader can now understand "Why the *Book of Mormon*?" Without it, we could not fulfill the decrees of God, nor fulfill the Prophecies; without it, we could not be "The Church of Jesus Christ" which has divine goals to achieve, and divine commissions to fulfill. Volunteers are needed to embrace the "Cause" which has been restored in these latter days; men and women who will dedicate themselves to the service of the Lord, and help bring about His divine plan. As the poet has penned, "We seek no cowards in our band, who will our colors fly, but valiant-hearted men, who are not afraid to die."

If the reader of this article would seek further knowledge, let him first ask of God as to the truth of the matter, and then go to the nearest branch of our Church, and ask our Ministers for more enlightenment. You will then know "WHY THE BOOK OF MORMON?"

With much love,

Brother V. James Lovalvo

BRIEF NEWS OF INTEREST

This is to inform our readers that yet another part of the country has been occupied by members of our Church. The following are new addresses of those members:

Sister Florence LaRosa
104 Hedgestone Drive
Gastonia, North Carolina 28052
(704) 824-9358

Brother Bob and Sister Esther Dyer
2200 Riding Trail
Gastonia, North Carolina 28052
(704) 865-1025

Our prayers are that before too long, we may hear the good news of a new mission established in Gastonia.

I Wonder

I wonder how it would have been
if I had lived upon the earth,
in the little town of Bethlehem
at the time of Jesus birth.

And watched as shepherds stood in awe
and heard the angels sing in praise,
and seen the star which shone so bright
to guide the Wise men on their way.

Would I have believed His noble birth
if I'd been there that day,
and seen this child, in a stable,
in a manger filled with hay?

Or would I have mocked in disbelief,
and turned— and walked away—
not knowing that my only hope
was born upon this very day.

And as we celebrate His birth,
exchange our gifts— and carols sing,
I like to think I would have known
He was my Saviour, Lord and King.

Sister Betty Davis
(written for Ladies Circle)

THE TRUE MEANING OF "FRIEND"

The dictionary defines the word "friend" as "a person whom one knows, likes, and trusts." That doesn't begin to describe the friend I have found.

My friend is always by my side and continually helps me. Nothing in this world is more precious to me than him. He is someone that I can always depend on, and know he listens when I speak. This too, only partially describes my friend. All the dictionaries in the world can't define "friend" correctly. I now know the true meaning and will never give it up or forget.

I met the Lord on June 22, 1977 at the G.M.B.A. Camp Towanda. He is a friend like none other. The love he shows is overflowing and unlimited. I've always thought I knew what a friend was, but I didn't until I was baptised.

Throughout my life the Lord has blessed me with everything I ever needed or wanted. Then I realized I wanted something else. I prayed that the Lord would call me into this gospel for about a year. June 22, 1977 was the day I received the answer. It was glorious and I couldn't begin to describe it.

My answer to God was "I want to be baptised".

The Lord has blessed me so much in so many ways. This, to me, is the true meaning of "friend".

I'd like everyone else to experience this friendship.

Love,
Sister Pam Cole
Modesto Branch Editor

MBA LOCAL ORGANIZED AT LEVITTOWN MISSION

The evening of July 19, 1978, Brothers Anthony Vadasz and Phil Arcuri, Organizer and President of the Atlantic Coast Area MBA, respectively, came to the Levittown Mission to organize an MBA Local. Brother Vadasz related the purposes, goals, and responsibilities of a MBA Local. In addition, he commented on the many blessings he personally has received since affiliating with the MBA in 1946.

Prior to organizing the Local, eight new members were admitted to the MBA. Brother Tony then read the duties of each MBA Officer. Thereafter, the election of officers took place. Those elected were:

President, Brother Jim Speck, Sr.
Vice-President, Brother David Connor
Chaplain, Brother Jerry Valenti, Jr.
Secretary, Sister Tammy Valenti
Assistant Secretary, Sister Renee Connor
Financial Secretary, Sister Susan Speck
Treasurer, Brother Jim Speck, Jr.
Librarian, Sister Josephine Dell
Auditors, Brother Sam Dell, Brother Mike King
Floral Committee, Sister Adelaide Connor, Sister Nancy Speck
Editor, Brother Jerry Valenti, Sr.
Area Representative, Sister Fay Valenti

Brother Tony Vadasz then offered many encouraging remarks. He also elucidated on the relationship of an MBA Local to the GMBA. Brother Phil Arcuri followed with some cogent remarks. After this, the newly elected officers were called up front and installed into their elected office. Brother Phil prayed unto the Lord asking Him to bless the new Local, its officers and members.

We then sang, "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" and Brother Sam Dell closed the meeting in prayer. It is our sincere prayer that God will bless this effort and cause many to be introduced to The Church of Jesus Christ through this MBA Local.

Brother Jerry Valenti, Editor

READERS PLEASE NOTE

We have a large inventory of "Book of Sermons", compiled by William H. Cadman for sale. If you are interested please contact:

Mr. Malcolm Paxon
5304 Adobe Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15236

NEW ADDRESS

Brother Buddy Smith of the Herdon, Virginia Mission has been transferred. Any correspondence would be appreciated.

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

THE NATIVITY

It is the season again to commemorate our Lord's holy birth.

It is the season to renew our joyful devotions to our Heavenly Father for His greatest of gifts to the human family, even our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is the season when we are reminded of the greatness of God's love:

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

(John 3:16)

A SAVIOUR, CHRIST THE LORD

It is the season when we are stirred to review Saint Luke's eloquent account of the nativity of our Lord, "And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks 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. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying:

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." (Luke 2:6-14)

GOLD, FRANKINCENSE, AND MYRRH

It is the season when we are also reminded of Saint Matthew's moving account of our Lord's birth and the notable visit of the wise men. On arriving in Jerusalem, they inquired, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."

On being sent to Bethlehem, "...they departed; and lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him; and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh." (Matthew 2:1-11)

It is the season for us to praise God as did the shepherds, the wise men, and the heavenly hosts; to praise Him for, "A Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

It is the season to sing Isaac Watts' stirring hymn to the resounding music of George F. Handel:

Joy to the world! The Lord is come; let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare Him room, . . . and heaven and nature sing!



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

The Visit Of The Wise Men

Dear Girls and Boys,

At the time of Jesus birth, certain wise men from the East came to Jerusalem. "Where is the new-born King of the Jews?", they asked, "We have seen his star in the East and are come to worship him." When Herod, the king, heard this, he was troubled as were others in Jerusalem. He gathered his chief priests and scribes about him and demanded of them where Christ was to be born.

Herod privately called the wisemen and asked them what time the star had appeared. They said, "In Bethlehem of Judea and it was written by the prophets of old." Herod said, "Go and search diligently for the young child. And when you have found him, bring me word, that I may come and worship him also."

The wisemen departed to Bethlehem. The star, which they had seen, went before them, till it came to the place where the young child was. They rejoiced. They went into the house and seeing the young child with Mary, his mother, they fell down and worshipped him. They opened their treasures and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

The wisemen had been warned by God, in a dream, that they should not return to King Herod. So they went back to their own country by another way.

When the wisemen had departed, an angel of the Lord came to Joseph in a dream. He said, "Arise, and take the young child and his mother and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I bring you word. Herod, the king, will seek to destroy the young child." Joseph arose in the night and took the child and Mary, his mother and went to Egypt.

When Herod found out they had left he was angry. He felt the wisemen had tricked him. He made a decree that all the boy babies, two years old and younger, should be killed. His soldiers were sent to Bethlehem and all the land around. This fulfilled the words of the prophet Jeremiah.

But when Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared again to Joseph in a dream saying, "Rise up, take the young child and his mother and go into the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." But when Joseph heard that Herod's son reigned in the room of his father, he was afraid. He turned aside into parts of Galilee and settled in a city called Nazareth. The young child prospered and grew and was known as the Nazarene which also fulfilled the words of another prophet.

Have a nice holiday and don't forget the real meaning of it.

Sincerely,

Sister Mabel

VISION ON THE MOUNTAIN

Like the rays of sun in winter
Like a robin in the spring
Like the flowers line the valley
There is hope in everything —
Like the resurrection morning
Like the easing after pain
Like a dream survives the sorrow
Like a lily thru the rain —
Like the moon breaks up the darkness
Like a promise close at hand
Like a vision on the mountain
Far the prettiest in the land —
For the mother's cries diminish
When the labor brings the child
Where the roaring of the lion
Is no longer fierce and wild —
And the beauty of that city
Is portrayed to all the earth
Till the tribes receive the message
Of the mother giving birth.

Sister Arlene Buffington

—o—

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I want to thank the Lord and share with you my joy in remembering my 59th year in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I was baptized on December 14, 1919 in Youngstown, Ohio by Brother Pete Garafolo. I was 13 years old when a friend of my father's, Brother Frank Nastasi of Niles, Ohio, told us of the Church and the love that was shared in Christ.

I remember the home meetings, the street cars, and the endless walking we would do to get to the meeting place of the Saints. And I remember the wonderful meetings we would have as we gathered together to praise His Name. He has been my rod and staff and He has comforted me these many years. I have seen changes in the Church of Jesus Christ; the Sunday School established, the M.B.A., and the Ladies Circle, more missionary work, and the spreading of the Gospel, the campouts and the zeal of our Brothers and Sisters in working with the "seed of Joseph."

I praise the Lord and thank Him with all my heart that I am still holding on to that "rod of iron", I want to meet our loved ones that have gone before, and I want to share in that promise of eternal life for all those who will love and serve Him.

Sister Minnie DePiero
Youngstown, Ohio



**Peace
On Earth**

BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS:—**Baptism And Visit In Edison, N. J.**

After the long and severe winter we experienced this past year, we were all refreshed and blessed by the welcome warmth and newness of life that came with the spring. In the Edison Branch in New Jersey, we especially felt this newness of life in our spirits also when we witnessed the baptism of our new Brother, Stacy Light. On April 2, Brother Stacy was led to the water by Brother Don Ross and was afterward blessed by the laying on of hands by Brother August D'Orazio. Brother Stacy is a young man who has been attending school at Lehigh University with another young Brother, Ryan Ross, and was introduced by him to the Gospel and to our Branch. We all felt a wonderful blessing when this enthusiastic young man expressed his desire to become our new Brother in Jesus Christ. Brother Stacy has returned to his home in Pennsylvania since school has recessed for the summer, but we feel a blessing when we see him travel the long distance almost each Sunday to be with us. We know his determination and strength will be rewarded and we thank our Lord for blessing us with his presence.

Shortly after this baptism, Brother Joe Lovalvo visited the various Branches in our area to bring us all a most important and timely message. During his visit to our Branch in April, he repeatedly stressed the necessity of unity between all Branches and all Brothers and Sisters. Without this oneness of spirit, mind and purpose uniting us all, each member truly suffers. As we have so often heard repeated by our Elder Brothers, when one link in the chain of Brothers and Sisters is weak, the whole chain loses its strength. And this is the message that was so strongly repeated by Brother Joe and we all felt the power of the Holy Spirit behind his forceful words.

Brother Joe also spoke of his many experiences while in the Church of Jesus Christ, of healings, of speaking in tongues and interpretations, of revelations wherever he went. This Brother has surely been blessed in his ministry and it was inspiring to hear of his many experiences. We thank God for allowing him to visit with us, speak with us, and instruct us.

As we are now in the midst of a hot and humid summer, we are thankful for having had this baptism of Brother Stacy and this visit from Brother Joe to refresh us and renew and strengthen our spirits. And we look forward to more of such blessed and inspiring times in the future. As always our prayers are with the Saints wherever they may be and whatever their needs may be.

Sister Ruth Arcuri
Edison Branch Editor

News From Roscoe Branch

On July 9, 1978, we had the joy of witnessing two little ones being presented to the Lord. Brother Bud Martin officiated in asking the blessing upon both little ones who are cousins. Their mothers are sisters and also the nieces of Brother Martin. Jeremy was brought forward by his mother, Jonalyn, and Amy was brought forward by her mother and father, Belinda and Garmon

Longnecker. Little Amy was seriously ill from the time of her birth and was transferred to another hospital for intensive care. Since that time we thank God she has been completely made whole and we rejoiced to see her in perfect health and brought to the Church as the Lord instructed to be done, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God."

On August 6 we were able to rejoice along with the angels in heaven to see another return to God's fold. Brother Paul Shriner was reinstated into the Church by laying on of hands of the ministry; Brother John Kendall officiated in prayer. Brother Paul has been very ill with a heart condition and other ailments upon his body for quite some time. We are thankful God has blessed him with sufficient health and strength to come out to the meetings. We ask that you might pray along with us that he may be blessed with better health that he may be able to fulfill his desire to better serve the Lord.

On August 27th many visitors from various Branches joined with us in our fellowship service that afternoon. Truly a sweet and beautiful spirit was present and bore evidence of the calling of our Brothers into the office of Deacon. Brother Jonathan Olexa had his feet washed by his father, Brother Fred Olexa, and was confirmed into the office by laying on of hands by his grandfather, Brother John Olexa of Monongahela Branch.

Brother John Bilsky had his feet washed by Brother Bud Martin and was confirmed into the office by laying on of hands by Brother Gasper Karelli. It was requested the song, "Jesus Use Me" be sung, which was done by Sister Jean Bilsky. The congregation joined in with the chorus. Several testimonies were given and a dream told by Brother Gasper Karelli verifying the calling of our Brothers into the office of Deacon. Both Brother Jonathan and Brother John were baptized together last June 26, after returning home from the GMBA Campout. It was a great joy to see them called again together in the work of the Lord. Their desire is, as we sang in the hymn, that God may use them, and we pray that God will bless them along with each and every one that has been called into the Gospel of Jesus Christ that we may each be used of God and fulfill that which He may have for us to do.

We thank God for His many blessings, and for our visiting Brothers and Sisters who helped share them with us.

The Brothers and Sisters
Sister Bertha Jean Bilsky
Roscoe Branch Editor

Blessings At New Brunswick

On Sunday, September 17, 1978, we were blessed with joy to see three souls come unto Christ. Sister Debbie Wahl, a friend of Jimmy Sgro, made her covenant to serve the Lord. Her testimony was one of not knowing who Jesus Christ was until she was brought to The Church. God revealed Himself unto her, and she accepted. It brings to mind the song, "God Said, I Believe It, and That's Good Enough for Me". Edith and Robert Bateman also made it their decision to come unto Christ. (Edith is our dear departed Sister Ida Lupo's grand-daughter.)

It gives us renewed faith when we see the coming

forth of many years of prayer in behalf of the children of the Saints, whether they be with us or gone before. We know that all sincere prayers are answered in the Lord's due time. We are all thankful and joyful to add to our congregation three souls.

Visit To The Dallas, Texas Mission

On the weekend of June 24, 1978, my husband (Brother Pete Capone) and I flew to Dallas to visit the mission which is a part of the Arizona District. I had never met any of the Texas Saints, so I was very excited at the prospect of meeting everyone. Pete and I will never forget the warmth and hospitality with which we were showered. It was truly a most beautiful weekend.

Brother George Benyola, Presiding Elder of the Dallas Mission, met us at the airport, and we were soon on our way to his home. The very HOT weather did not diminish the beauty of the miles of Texas plains as we enjoyed the view. Sister Stella, a charming young woman, greeted us when we arrived at the Benyola home and made us most comfortable.

Before too long, Brother Bill Crall and his wife, Sister Evelyn, arrived from Oklahoma. They had travelled 215 miles. This husband and wife team are a tremendous asset to the Gospel work and have established an excellent rapport with the Indian people of the city of Anadarko, which is 75 percent Indian. We had some interesting discussions, and then Sister Evelyn played some of our long-time favorite hymns on the piano.

That evening, a sparkling couple, Brother Hank and Sister Jane Ardinger, arrived. Following them was Brother Doug McLellan, along with his pretty little granddaughter. Another lovely member we met was Sister Virginia Freberg.

Comfortably seated in the living room, Brother George asked Brother Pete to take charge of the service. We sang Hymn No. 401, "Ready". Leading us in prayer, Brother George invoked God's blessings upon our small assembly. Brother Pete expressed his anticipation and great joy at meeting with the Saints in Texas. After a few pertinent remarks, he suggested that we have a period of questions and answers, or possibly, prayer and testimony.

The group was particularly interested in hearing about our experiences that led us to accept the Gospel. We all felt so blessed in listening to the various accounts. For Sister Stella, it was a special day, for it was the 22nd anniversary of her baptism into The Church. It was good sharing the day with her. For a fitting finale, we sang Hymn No. 139, "Ring The Bells of Heaven". We then went to the dining room for refreshments.

The Sunday Service was held in a building that the Power & Light Company allows our people to use free of charge. The building is complete with kitchen and rest room facilities, plus heating and air conditioning.

Sunday School was opened with Hymn No. 324, "I Am Thine, O Lord", and Brother McLellan offered prayer. Brother George asked Brother Pete to teach the Sunday School. Janice Benyola read the Articles of Faith, and discussion followed on the Priesthood of Melchizedec, prophecy and the prophets. With almost total participa-

tion, it was an interesting session. Hymn No. 157, "Just As I Am" was used to dismiss.

The morning service began with the singing of "He Touched Me", and Brother Pete opened the service with prayer. We then sang Hymn No. 190, "How Firm A Foundation".

Brother Pete's sermon was based on *Jeremiah 10:23* (O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps), and *Proverbs 3:6* (In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths).

Brother Pete stated how man cannot direct his own steps into proper channels, and thus invariably chooses evil. He also explained that from the creation, God set standards of righteousness for man to live by. (I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end). In and around Christ are the steps that man must walk by. Brother Pete compared man in the Garden of Eden, covering himself with fig leaves, to man justifying his wrong-doings today. God covered the sins of mankind by sending His Son (This is my Beloved Son; hear ye Him). Brother Pete continued, saying how in this day, everything is "new and improved", but the Plan of Redemption cannot be improved. In concluding, he assured us that the old steps designed by God are as true today as they were centuries ago. We then sang Hymn No. 266, "God's Way".

After remarking favorably on Brother Pete's sermon, Brother George left the meeting open for testimony. We felt blessed in hearing our Brothers and Sisters give God the honor and glory. While The Lord's Supper was being administered, we sang Hymn No. 267, "At The Cross". A most memorable service came to a close as we sang Hymn No. 268, "Higher Ground", and Brother Hank Ardinger led us in closing prayer.

A delicious buffet luncheon was served, and we spent the remainder of the afternoon socializing.

Brother Doug drove Pete and me to the airport, and as we boarded the Arizona-bound plane, we felt that we were leaving Texas with a considerably greater blessing than we brought.

Love and best wishes to all our Brothers and Sisters in The Church.

Sister Frances J. Capone,
Phoenix, Arizona Editor

Baptisms In South Bend, Indiana And Omaha, Nebraska

During a recent trip to South Bend, Ind., we had the privilege to baptize Flora Dean Willis, whom God has seen fit to call into His gospel. After spending three days laboring in the word with the Saints, we left for Omaha, Nebraska and there were joined by Brother Concetto Alessandro of Detroit, Mich., for the week, and Brother Jerry Giovannone for the weekend.

God was good to us and we baptized three more into the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Sherri Lynn Wright asked for her place in the kingdom in the Wednesday meeting, and Deborah Jones made her wishes known in our Saturday session.

Early Sunday morning, we met at the home of Sister Mary Stone, and proceeded to the waters edge. As we approached, Brother Alessandro found two pennies, a third was found a few steps away, a fourth penny was found a short time later and the fifth as we were leaving. We held the morning meeting and confirmed the two candidates, after which Caladia Harris rose to her feet and asked to become a part of the family of God. Once again, we found ourselves at the waters edge.

Sister Caladia was baptized by Brother Mitchell Edwards as was Sister Sherri. Brother Jerry immersed Sister Deborah.

We thank God for His infinite mercy. This gives us eight new brothers and sisters in the past seven months.

The Mission Board wishes to thank Brother Concetto for the support he gave the Brothers in Omaha; it was God sent. And to all the many Saints that have given us their support in this work, the sacrifices we made have been repaid to us one hundred fold. Pray for us that this work, and all the missionary endeavors may flourish.

Brother Mitchell Edwards
Ohio District Mission Board

Rochester, N. Y.

The period of August 20 thru the 23, the Rochester, N.Y. mission had the joy and blessing to have Brother and Sister Russel Martorano from Niles, Ohio meet with us. After community singing, we were led in prayer by Brother Ansel D'Amico. Brother Russell chose for his text, the *26th chapter of Alma*, wherein Ammon glories in the Lord and recounts the blessings to him and his brethren. Brother Russ asked a series of questions. What does it mean to be a Saint? Is God satisfied with me? Do we love God with all our hearts and our neighbors as ourselves? We should glory in the Lord and be more like Jesus. We have to labor in order to reap our reward.

Brother Ansel was the next speaker, and he emphasized about Charity. If we have Faith and Hope and not have Charity we are as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. Faith and Charity will open wide the doors. He related that Sunday was 45 years he was baptized into the Church. What a wonderful and precious memory that he will never forget.

It was then opened for testimony, after which Sacrament was administered. A wonderful spirit prevailed during the meeting and God's blessings were felt by all. We were dismissed by singing "God Be With You 'til We Meet Again."

On Wednesday evening we met again, Brother Russ gave a wonderful teaching about talents and gifts and how we should multiply them. His words were like apples of gold in baskets of silver. Their visit proved to be a joy and blessing to us all.

On September 10, 1978, we had the semi-annual gathering with the Lockport Branch and also some Saints from Washington, D.C. We had Brother Mike Hildenbrand for our first speaker and he chose the *Ninth chapter of Acts*. It tells of the conversion of the Apostle Paul. Brother Paul Carr gave his testimony. He mentioned what a joy he finds in the Church and that we should all be missionaries in the Church. Brother Paul D'Amico was the next speaker and he cautioned that we must be united

to stand but divided we shall fall. We should be grateful for the restoration. This is the last call for the Gentiles. God will call other nations. We are looking forward to the peaceful reign and then for the millennial reign. Brother Simone expressed himself on how the Church was started in Rochester.

Brother Henry Berardi read a poem that was written by Brother Simone and translated it in Italian. Brother Ansel D'Amico was the last speaker and he emphasized on the love of God. There's no greater thing in this life than to serve God in pure spirit and truth, and we should all prepare ourselves to meet God. We hope that when our days are ended we shall all meet in Heaven.

Brother Welander gave his testimony. All in all we had a very enjoyable day both naturally and spiritually and the love and joy of God was felt by all.

Sister Carmella D'Amico

To All My Brothers And Sisters

I just want to write a few lines to express what a wonderful time I had with all of you Sunday. As I was driving I would look in the mirror at all of you and thinking to myself, "This is the charter EXPRESS TO HEAVEN, with all my Brothers and Sisters." I had such a good time that I was sorry to see the day end. This was my charter with my people and most of all, GOD'S PEOPLE. It was like I was having a dream having you all with me, and I said, "O LORD, IF IT'S A DREAM, DON'T WAKE ME FOR AWHILE." I was also very happy to have my family with me. Also I could see in everyone's eyes what a wonderful time they were having. I also enjoyed the meeting very much, and I want to thank you all for the Bible. I was very happy to receive it. Please pray that I will be able to be with you more often on Sundays.

God Bless You,

Brother Nick Davella

Lorain, Ohio Branch

It's a great blessing to be able to write this article telling of the many experiences the Lorain branch had on Sunday, September 17, 1978.

We had Brother Anthony Lovalvo and his companion, Sister Ann, visiting with us that day. He spoke many wonderful words on Enos in the *Book of Mormon*, and how Enos's soul hungered for the things of God, and the joy of the Saints and his great concern for the welfare of his brethren. (Nephites and Lamanites).

As the service progressed and the Brothers and Sisters were singing, "Kneel at the Cross", Brother Frank Altomare arose under the Spirit of God and spoke these words, "Brothers and Sisters, at this time, I see a man and he's floating in the air and in his hand, I see a beautiful golden book. In the book, I see many names are written and he is saying unto us at this time, 'Blessed are those that their names are written in this wonderful book. They shall be redeemed in the kingdom of God. But woe unto them if their name is not written. They shall be damned at the last day'. Thus saith the Lord, 'Prepare yourselves, oh my people, my people. Great sorrow's going to come.

It is so near that you almost can touch it. Oh my Brothers in the priesthood, what great sorrow is going to come upon this nation. It shall come to nothing. That when the day is going to come, those of the House of Israel will occupy this land. Blessed are the Gentiles if their names will be written." (all words of the Lord taken from recordings).

The congregation continued to sing "Kneel at the Cross." Sister Rose Palacios arose and said she had a vision. She saw this man come in the door and he was dressed all in white, even his face was white. He walked up the aisle and was saying, "Come home young ones, come home. Make your covenant with God before it's too late."

As the Brothers and Sisters began testifying on the goodness of God, Brother Joe Calabrese began to arise. Brother Lovalvo told him that someone wanted to stand up over there, and he was pointing in the direction of Dora Palacios and the young ones. Brother Joe waited but no one stood. So he began to tell us his dream he had had. He dreamed he was in a boat fishing, and he cast his line out and caught a fish. Brother Joe had this same dream two nights in a row. He felt it was either a confirmation of the one baptism. (Sister Jenny Herstek's daughter, Diane Arocho, had asked for her baptism earlier), or it meant another one yet to ask.

Towards the end of the service, Dora Palacios made her request for baptism. Then Brother Joe knew that his dream meant the calling of two souls.

We gathered back at the church that evening to confirm our two new sisters. Sister Dora Palacios told us a dream she had four years ago. She saw her mother (Sister Rose Palacios) dressed in white, sitting upon a white horse. Her mother was on the opposite side of two golden gates. Dora desired to go where her mother was but she knew she couldn't. She can now testify she's able to make it to that opposite side.

Sister Rose Palacios also related a dream she had the Friday night before Sunday. She saw where it was Sunday's meeting and Sister Diane had already requested baptism. Three chairs were in the front with three people sitting in them; one was Dora Palacios. The ministry was opposite the three, ready to lay hands upon them that they might be able to make their decision. Before the ministry started, Brother Frank Altomare spoke in the gift of tongues and pointed a finger at Dora. Very powerful and not even in his own voice, the words came forth—"Dora, I'm calling you! This is the last time!" Dora stood up and made her request for baptism.

I know of a surety this dream to be true. Sister Rose had told it to me the night before Sunday. I had gone to bed that night anxious for the next day that I might receive what God had in store for us.

There were many experiences among the Brothers and Sisters confirming our baptisms that Sunday, but I'm afraid space hinders me from telling all.

May God continue to bless our two new Sisters, as well as each and everyone of you.

Sister Iva Davis
Lorain, Ohio

News From Imperial, Pennsylvania

On September 9, 1978 the American Indian Committee met in the Imperial Pa. branch. Those attending the meeting were Brothers Joseph Lovalvo, Chairman; Robert Watson, Secretary; Fred Olexa, Co-Chairman; James Crazan, Richard Christman, Frank Calabrese, Anthony Scolaro, Nicholas Pietrangelo, Dominic Thomas, President of the General Church; Meredith Griffith and Richard Scaglione. It was felt that the meeting had been a very good and productive one.

Many of our visiting elders stayed over for our Sunday morning service and our building was filled with Brothers and Sisters and friends from the various branches. Brother Joe Lovalvo opened the service using the 11th chapter of *St. Mark*, verse 17, where Christ asks "Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer?". Brother Joe explained to us that God has never had a house that was honored by all nations even though many were built by men throughout the years. God's house would be built through Christ, His only begotten son, when all nations shall flow unto it. He reminded us that it was our duty to put forth more effort to bring about the work of the church in the building up of Zion. Brothers English Webb, Richard Christman, Robert Watson, Dominic Thomas, and Frank Calabrese followed on the same subject. Our Brothers brought out that we were not called into the Church as spectators but we each have our part to do. Great things await the Church of Jesus Christ and that we must not be shackled by those who are not willing to give their all to the Lord to do his work. Our older Brothers like Brother Furnier, Brother Al Cadman and Brother Will Cadman and others who have now gone on to their reward, instilled in us this vision of the restored Gospel being preached throughout the world and of helping to set up Zion with God's chosen people, the seed of Joseph. As Moses led the people of Israel out of bondage with the vision of a promised land, so our older Brothers likewise have done their job well by instilling this vision in us. Therefore, we like Joshua must work to bring about the resolve. It will not be an easy task as much destruction shall take place before Zion can be set up but those of us who remain faithful need not fear. It is impossible to write all the wonderful words our Brothers spoke to us but no one could deny the Spirit of God was in our midst. The gift of tongues was spoken twice during Brother Joe Lovalvo's talk. Sister Rose Palacios related that when Brother Joe held up the *Book of Mormon* she saw a glow all around it and that the tongues spoken then verified that it was true. She also said that before the meeting started she saw a man come in from the back of the church and he said there would be a blessing here today. Surely everyone there would bear witness to the fact that we did indeed receive a great blessing. Brother Dominic Thomas said that we must realize that we had not attended an ordinary meeting but that it had been something very special. We left the meeting with a greater determination to re-evaluate our own lives and bring ourselves closer to God so that He could use each of us in this great work that is in store.

This wonderful spirit remained with us even in our Sunday evening service. Brother Joe Lovalvo spoke on how the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon* were one in the sight of God. He stated that many of the plain and precious parts were taken out of the *Bible* by men to cause many

to stumble, but God had restored these through the *Book of Mormon*. We must adhere to the words of Christ and not to man as God commanded them in days of old, "This is my beloved son, hear ye Him". Brother Joe also related many experiences and healings he has seen. The gift of tongues was spoken several times during his sermon. After the service a three year old boy was anointed who has cancer in his bone marrow and two tumors on his spine. We felt the Spirit of God during our Brother's prayer on behalf of this little boy.

We wish there was some way we could express to all of you or give you a portion of the blessing we received at these meetings. Our prayer is that God will extend his blessings to all the Branches of the Church as was extended to us on this day.

Sister Nancy Botwright
Branch Editor

Ordinations In North Edgecomb, Maine Mission

Brother Dominick Rose and I enjoyed a glorious Memorial Day weekend in North Edgecomb, Maine. We were very happy to meet with our Brothers and Sisters in the love of God. Joining us in the Sunday meeting were Brother Paul and Sister Dorothy Benyola and their family; Brother Don and Sister Mary Valenti, all from Massachusetts, and Brother George and Sister Mamie Funkhouser and their son Brother George III from Levittown, Pennsylvania. The meeting place was filled to capacity and the blessings abounded. This Sunday, May 29, 1978 was very memorable also to Sister Marie Perrello, ordained a Deaconess and Brother Richard John Onorato who was ordained a Deacon.

Sister Marie Perrello later remarked she felt like a bride, when she puts on her veil, when the Brothers laid their hands upon her head to ordain her.

After the service we visited with Sister Marie in her home for dinner and everyone met together at Brother Richard Onorato's home and enjoyed singing and fellowship together until the Brothers and Sisters had to leave to go home.

Brother Dominick and I returned to Brother John Onorato's house and we stayed another day visiting with them. Both Sister Elizabeth and Brother John were recuperating from heart attacks. Thank God they were looking very good. Our prayer is that God will watch over them all and bless them with His love; that the Mission will have much success in spreading the Gospel. We wish much love and blessing to the two ordained members and much success in helping the Elder, Teacher and Deaconess in Maine to the great goal of bringing souls to God in the name of Jesus Christ.

Belle Rose
Brooklyn, N. Y. Branch



Peace

As Christmas settles
over the land, be at
peace with yourself,
... discover true joy.

Note of Thanks

May I take this opportunity to thank all of my brothers and sisters for their wonderful cards, letters visits, phone calls, etc. That I have received during my illness. Many times those inspired thoughts have been a source of strength and comfort to me in my moments of need. I thank God for all of you and also for being with me thus far and my hope and faith is that He is able to do all things. While I am still very afflicted, I request you all to continue to pray for me because I know the prayer of the faithful availeth much. Once again my thanks to all of you and may God's richest blessings repay you for your kindness.

Your brother in Christ,
Jacob Christman
Tucson Branch

— NEW ARRIVALS —

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

Jeremy Dean to Roger and Marietta Schroeder of St. John, Kansas;

James Edward, Jr. to James and Robin Burns of Monongahela, Pennsylvania;

Renee' Marie to Thomas and Karen Dague of Monongahela, Pennsylvania;

Timothy Joseph to Timothy and Betty Jean Gibson of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania;

Nicholas Paul to Ronald and Connie Berardino of Youngstown, Ohio;

Jessica Ann to Larry and Rebecca Jackson Wells of Kinsman, Ohio;

Joseph Abraham to Joseph and Diane Salmon of Youngstown, Ohio;

Joshua Joseph to Joseph and Linder Conger,

Ryan Keith to Keith and Johnna Lesperance,

Gary Wayne to Gary and Lora Wiley, all of Sterling Heights, Michigan.

— WEDDINGS —

RROKUP - CIARROCHI

Mr. Daniel J. Rrokup and Sister Laureen Ciarrochi exchanged marriage vows on Saturday, September 2, 1978 at the Youngstown, Ohio Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The ceremony was officiated by Brother Robert Ciarrochi, father of the bride, and he was assisted by Brother Ralph Berardino.

Musical selections were presented by Sister Alyse Molisani.

The newlyweds will reside in Warren, Ohio.

GIANNETTI - SMITH

Mr. Pete Giannetti, Jr. and Miss Wendy Smith were united in holy wedlock on Saturday, September 23, 1978 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania.

The ceremony was officiated by Brother John Ross, Sr., assisted by Brother Paul Palmieri.

Musical selections were presented by Brother Ken Staley, who was accompanied at the organ by Sister Sharon Staley. The groom also sang a selection to his bride.

The couple will reside in New Brighton, Pennsylvania. May God's richest blessings be upon them as they begin their new life together.

CHURCHILL - IGNAGNI

Mr. Bruce Churchill and Sister Cynthia Ignagni entered into the bonds of holy matrimony on Saturday, June 24, 1978. The couple exchanged their vows at The Church of Jesus Christ, Branch 1, in Detroit, Michigan.

The ceremony was officiated by Brother Anthony Sclaro.

Musical selections were presented by Brother Steve Champine and Miss Sandy Swantek, and accompanied by Brother Eugene Amormino.

One lasting prayer remains, that their life will be filled with God's richest blessings.

BECK - AHLBORN

Miss Grace Ahlborn and Mr. Harry Beck were united in holy matrimony on Friday, July 28, 1978 at the Monongahela Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The ceremony was officiated by Brother John Griffith.

Musical selections were presented by Brother John Majoros.

The couple is now residing in Belle Vernon, Pa.

KOGLER - GRIFFITH

Miss Joyce Griffith and Mr. Charles Kogler, Jr., were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, September 30, 1978 at the Monongahela Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. The ceremony was officiated by the bride's brother, Brother John Griffith and prayer was offered by Brother James Grazan.

Musical selections were presented by the bride's cousin, Carol Blasko.

The couple is now residing in Bentleyville, Pa.

STAATS - SEARS

Mr. Albert Sears and Miss Norma Staats were married on Monday, November 6, 1978. The ceremony took place at The Church of Jesus Christ, Oshwekeni, Six Nations Reservation, Ontario, Canada.

Brother Bob Stanek officiated and Brother Tony Lovalvo assisted him.

Musical selections were presented by Sister Sadie Jamieson.

SUSKA - LINK

Brother James Suska and Sister Alice Link were united in holy matrimony on September 23, 1978. The wedding ceremony took place at an outdoor setting at the Woodcliff Manor, Woodcliff Lakes, New Jersey.

Brother James Link, father of the bride, officiated at the ceremony, and he was assisted by Brother Dominick Rose, uncle of the bride.

Vocal selections were presented by Sister Linda Gomes.

The newlyweds will reside in New Milford, New Jersey.

● OBITUARIES ●

GIUSTINO D'ANGELO

Brother Giustino D'Angelo departed from this life into the next on Sunday, June 18, 1978. He was born on August 30, 1898. Our dear Brother was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on September 30, 1956.

Funeral services were conducted by Brother Nick Pietrangelo.

He is survived by his wife, two sons, one daughter, two step-daughters, one step-son and many grandchildren.

Our Brother Giustino will always be remembered as a gentle, soft-spoken man, who loved the Lord.

DEANNA AMARA GOUTHIER

Deanna Amara Gouthier, infant daughter of Daniel and Debra Gouthier, great-granddaughter of Brother and Sister Joseph Castelli, passed away on October 14, 1978. Deanna was born January 29, 1978.

Brothers John Buffa and Louis Vitto officiated at the services.

ANTHONY JACKMAN

Brother Anthony Jackman passed on to his heavenly reward on August 15, 1978. He was a member of the Aliquippa, Pa. Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. He was born on January 13, 1890 and was baptized on November 20, 1921.

He is survived by three sons and a daughter, ten grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and a brother.

The funeral services were conducted by Brothers John Ross and his son Anthony Ross.

In his younger and more active years, Brother Jackman served as a Teacher and Elder. He will be greatly missed.