



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 Pietrorenzi, 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 Pietrorenzi'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 Pietrorenzi'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 Pietrorenzi 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 Roselie 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 AFTERNON, 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 Ciccati 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 Ciccati 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 Ciarravino (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 Ciarravino.

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 Wittensville, 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 Loyalvo, 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!"