

The Gospel News

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa., USA.

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IT IS WRITTEN

By V. J. LOVALVO

QUESTION: Will you please explain the PRIESTHOOD and its function?

ANSWER: The word Priesthood refers to those men who are ordained to specifically administer in the ordinances of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, viz., baptism, laying on of hands for reception of the Holy Ghost, laying on of hands for healing and strength, administering the Lord's Supper, preaching and exhorting, blessing of children, blessing of oil, and counselling, etc. The Priesthood is comprised of Apostles, Evangelists, and Elders. These offices have different administrations but the same Priesthood authority. (I am referring specifically to the order of the Priesthood in The Church of Jesus Christ, of which I am a member.)

Aaron, the brother of Moses was called as a High Priest to administer to the House of Israel. He was of the Tribe of Levi, and hence, from that tribe came all the High Priests and helpers. From that time on, this was referred to as the "Levitical Priesthood". This Levitical Priesthood came to an end with the advent of Our Lord Jesus Christ, because all their performances and ordinances were a type and shadow of the coming of Christ and His dispensation.

Please note that Christ did not call anyone by the name of Priest or High Priest, but rather He called only two offices, Apostles and Evangelists. He did not want to confuse His Church or dispensation by putting a name on His disciples (Priest) which had been disgraced by the leaders (High Priests) of the House of Israel. On this land of America, He called Twelve men who became known as the Twelve Disciples. They, in turn, called others as Priests and Teachers. They used the word Priest, in my opinion, because they did not have the same conditions existing among them as was in Jerusalem with the High Priests. Hence, the name Priest was not offensive to those on this land.

Paul, the Apostle, says that the Levitical Priesthood was not perfect, because they administered to the law of outward performances. Because of this, another, Christ, brought the High Priesthood that was and is from eternity to all eternity (Alma, Chapter 13). So, says Paul, "If therefore perfection were by the Levitical Priesthood, (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?" (Hebrews 7:11)

Paul describes very well that the Levitical Priesthood was not to be an everlasting one as it had its imperfections. Therefore, a change had to come. With the coming of Christ came also that change. It is written: "For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law. For He of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar. For it is evident that Our Lord sprang out of Judah; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood. And it is yet far more evident; for after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest, who is made, not after the law of carnal commandments, but after the power of an endless life. For He testifieth, 'Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchisedec.'" (Hebrews 7:12-16)

Why would God make such an oath concerning His Son, that He was "A priest forever after the order of Melchisedec? And not anyone else? Let us seek the scriptures for an answer. The Bible gives the impression that Melchisedec, the man, was without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life. (Hebrews 7:3) However, it has to be a typographical error, or an error of translation, for no man was or is without beginning of days or end of years. Now turn to the Book of Mormon whose translation came to us by the gift and power of God in these latter days, and read what it has to say concerning this wonderful man, Melchisedec.

"But Melchizedek (that's how it is spelled in the Book of Mormon) having exercised mighty faith, and received the office of the High Priesthood according to the holy order of God, did preach repentance unto his people. And behold, they did repent; and Melchizedek

did establish peace in the land in his days; therefore he was called the Prince of Peace, for he was the king of Salem; and he did reign UNDER HIS FATHER. Now, there were many before him, and also there were many afterwards, but none were greater; therefore, of him they have more particularly made mention." (Alma 13:18-19) Please note that Melchizedek reigned under his father; therefore, he had a father and a mother. But, what he had was the High Priesthood of the Son of God, so the book says:

"...and I would that ye should remember that the Lord God ordained priests, after His Holy Order, which was after the order of His Son, to teach these things unto the people." (Alma 13:1) Alma keeps referring to this high calling as a High Priesthood rather than just Priesthood. Throughout the 13th chapter, it is always referred to as High Priesthood and nothing else. Why is it called a High Priesthood? Simply because it originated with Jesus Christ, the One who is called a High Priest after the order of Melchisedec. The word High Priesthood should not be confused with the word Priesthood, as there is a difference. Priesthood is an order or a class in which men are ordained to perform the ordinances attendant upon it. High Priesthood, according to Alma, is that power and authority which comes from Jesus Christ. For example, as it is recorded in the 12th chapter of Revelation, God did not withdraw a body of men (priesthood), but the authority, the Rod of Iron with which He was to rule the nations; in other words, God caught up to Himself the High Priesthood which was after the Order of His Son. Consequently, men might be ordained into an order, or class (priesthood), but not have within them the High Priesthood, which is the power and authority which comes from the Lord.

Consider this for a moment: When the Gospel and its power were no longer on the earth, there were many men ordained as priests and Ministers, but without the power and authority of that High Priesthood spoken of by Alma. In other words, groups of men ordained to perform certain spiritual functions can be termed a Priesthood, but not necessarily have the authority and power attendant to that office. God took away the **woman** to a place prepared for her (Rev. 12th Chap.) in the wilderness for 1260 years. He did not take the physical church away, but the spirit of the church, and the church without the Spirit of God is a dead one. So, likewise, a Priesthood (a group of ordained men) without the High Priesthood (authority and power of God) is lifeless. Even as Peter once said that the letter per se killeth, it is the spirit that quickens it.

The Saints should be very grateful to the Lord that there is the Book of Mormon available to them which clarifies so much of the Word of God. It opens the mind to so many beautiful things not understood heretofore, especially in the understanding of the words Priesthood and/or High Priesthood.

Paul, the Apostle, in writing how much greater was the Priesthood of Jesus Christ than that of the Tribe of Levi says, "And verily, they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, though they come out

of the loins of Abraham; But He whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the promises. And without contradiction, the less is blessed of the better." (Hebrews 7:5-7) There is no doubt that Christ was the One and Only High Priest, who came to earth to save, to redeem, to heal, and to reconcile man to God. The Bible speaks eloquently of Him: "Seeing that we have a great High Priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an High Priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." (Heb. 4:14-16)

The excellency of the High Priesthood of Jesus Christ is told beautifully in the Scriptures: "Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an High Priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; a minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man." (Heb. 8:1-2) Then Paul goes on to describe the difference between the priests on earth and Jesus' priesthood: "For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices; wherefore, it is of necessity that this Man (meaning Jesus) have somewhat also to offer. For if He were on earth, He should **not** be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law...But now hath He obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also He is the Mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. For if the first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second." (Heb. 8:3-7)

The scriptures say that Christ, the Great High Priest, was not made after the "law of carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life." Also: "And inasmuch as **not without an oath** He was made priest: (For those priests were made without an oath; but This with an oath by Him that said unto Him, The Lord swear and will not repent, Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchisedec;) By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament. And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: but this Man, because He continueth ever, hath an **unchangeable** Priesthood." (Heb. 7:20-24)

The difference then, between the Levitical Priesthood and that of the Son of God was that men could not bring others to a reconciliation with God, while Christ was able to bring about Salvation for the human family. Also, men in their priesthood did not continue because of their mortality and death; while Jesus lives forever and ever; and the order of His High Priesthood given to His Apostles and Evangelists (and later to the Elders by The Church) in Jerusalem; and upon this land to the Nephites, and also in the latter days, is an everlasting one.

Again Paul speaking of the excellency of Christ says, "Wherefore He is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such an High Priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled,

separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's; for this He did once, when He offered up Himself. For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated forevermore." (Heb. 7:25-28)

The Order of the Son of God (High Priesthood) was from the beginning of the world, and shall be forever. Alma says: "This High Priesthood being after the order of His Son, which order was from the foundation of the world; or in other words, being without beginning of days or end of years, being prepared from eternity to all eternity..." (Alma 13:7)

According to Alma, righteous men did not take upon them just a Priesthood, but rather the High Priesthood of Jesus Christ. Alma says: "And this is the manner after which they were ordained; being prepared from the foundation of the world according to the foreknowledge of God, on account of their exceeding faith and good works; in the first place being left to choose good or evil; therefore they having chosen good, and exercising exceeding great faith, are called with a holy calling, yea, with that holy calling which was prepared with and according to, a preparatory redemption for such...Now they were ordained after this manner: being called with a holy calling, and ordained with a holy ordinance, and taking upon them the High Priesthood of the holy order, which calling, and ordinance, and High Priesthood, is without beginning or end. Thus they become High Priests forever, after the order of the Son, the Only Begotten of the Father, who is without beginning of days or end of years, who is full of grace, equity, and truth. And thus it is, Amen. Now, as I said concerning the holy order of this High Priesthood, there were many who were ordained and became high priests of God; and it was on account of their exceeding faith and repentance, and their righteousness before God, they choosing to repent and work righteousness rather than to perish; Therefore they were called after this holy order, and were sanctified, and their garments were washed white through the blood of the Lamb. Now they, after being sanctified by the Holy Ghost, having their garments made white, being pure and spotless before God, could not look upon sin save it were with abhorrence; and there were many, exceeding great many, who were made pure and entered into the rest of the Lord their God." (Alma 13:3-12)

It is a remarkable thing that, those who aspired to, and took upon them this High Priesthood of the Son of God had to meet certain requirements. They had to be righteous, have exceeding great faith, and have done good works. It is also amazing that He knew these men from the beginning of the world, or from the very foundation of it; not because of pre-existence, but by the FOREKNOWLEDGE of God.

Now, in these latter days, the same criteria is given for the men who desire to take upon themselves this High Priesthood of Jesus Christ. It is a goal that is not unattainable, but rather can be achieved. However, it is also an awesome responsibility that one takes upon himself, because the mark of his calling must be left

with those who come under the influence of his priesthood. He must be ready to do whatever is required under the burden of this criterion. Yet, if the weight of this High Priesthood is a burden, it must of necessity be as Jesus once said, "...My burden is light." He who takes upon him this **high** calling must realize that much is expected of him. He must be righteous, have great faith, be kind, compassionate, humble, a praying man, gentle, meek yet firm, desirous to preach, teach, exhort, counsel, and especially seek to reach out for that Fatherhood that is spoken by the Apostle Paul. He must always "show himself approved of God...rightly dividing the word of God."

It is a wonderful thing to be a member of the priesthood, but it is more than wonderful to know that one possesses the High Priesthood of the Son of God. In summary:

1. The High Priesthood emanates from the Son of God.
2. The High Priesthood has been from the foundation of the world.
3. It is without beginning of days or end of years.
4. It is an everlasting High Priesthood.
5. It is superior to the Levitical Priesthood.
6. It can only be taken up by righteous and faithful men, filled with good works.
7. Those who take upon themselves the High Priesthood are known of God from the beginning of the world through His foreknowledge; not because these men or their spirits pre-existed, but through the power of God's foreknowledge.

It is fitting that the hymn, "Ye Who Are Called To Labor" be written here as it exemplifies the duties of the man who has taken upon himself the High Priesthood of Jesus Christ.

YE WHO ARE CALLED TO LABOR

*Ye who are called to labor and minister for God,
Blest with the Royal Priesthood and called by His word,
To preach among the Nations the news of Gospel grace,
And published on the mountains, salvation, truth, and peace.*

*O let no vain ambition or worldly glory stain,
Your minds, so pure and holy, but 'quit yourselves like men;
While lifting up your voices, like trumpets long and loud,
Say to the trembling Nations, "Prepare to meet your God."*

Then cease from all light speeches, light-mindedness and pride;

*Pray always without ceasing, and in the truth abide:
The Comforter will teach you, His richest blessings send,
Your Saviour will be with you always until the end.*

*And while you roam as pilgrims, and strangers on the earth,
O, do not be discouraged, with songs of joy go forth,
Rejoice in tribulation, for your reward is sure,
Remember that your Savior like sorrows did endure.*

*Rich blessings do await you, and God will give you faith,
You shall be crowned with glory, and triumph over death;
And soon you'll come to Zion, bearing your many sheaves,
No more to taste of sorrow, but glorious crowns receive.*

The Ball or Director

The Ball or Director was given to Lehi when the time had come that they should go into the wilderness. It was of curious workmanship having two spindles in it. Its purpose was to show them the way to go. It was just a small thing; something they sometimes forgot about, something they could very easily ignore and put on the side. Nevertheless, when trouble came, they were in despair and began to complain. They looked into the ball and when they did, they trembled exceedingly for the spindles worked according to their faith. There was also written a new writing in the ball. We don't know what the first writing was, but the second let them know that according to their faith and diligence the pointers would work.

From the time of Lehi until now, nothing has changed as far as the Spirit of God is concerned and neither has man. We ignore, put on the side and would rather not have God around when we want to do our own thing. We must be reminded to return to God to show us the way to go in a dark and corrupt world. There is only one way that we can go to find happiness and peace.

James states, "But whosoever looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." The perfect law of liberty is the word of God. As Lehi was given the ball or director of curious workmanship that was prepared for them, we have been given the Bible and Book of Mormon of curious workmanship to lead us through a dark and dreary world.

May we find peace of mind and happiness in the perfect law of liberty. Has it ever dawned on you, the Bible is one of the oldest pieces of literature handed down to us in such accuracy? Or have you ever realized that the Book of Mormon was hid for thirteen hundred years to be given to you in its unadulterated form? This is not a phenomenon, this is a fact. These two books are a miracle. Therefore, if you come unto the Lord Jesus Christ with all your heart in repentance you can find eternal life.

How To Find Happiness Throughout The Year

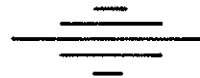
Everybody, everywhere seeks happiness, it's true, But finding it and keeping it seems difficult to do, Difficult because we think that happiness is found Only in the places where wealth and fame abound-- And so we go on searching in "palaces of pleasure" Seeking recognition and monetary treasure, Unaware 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

Crown or Calvary

by Mary Whitehawk

I stood alone at the bar of God,
In the hush of the twilight dim,
And faced the question that pierced my heart
What will you do with Him?
Crowned or crucified? What shall it be?
No other choice was offered to me.
I looked on the face so marred with tears
That were shed in His agony,
The look in His kind eyes broke my heart,
'Twas full of love for me.
The crown or the cross, it seemed to say,
For or against me -- choose thou today.
I knelt in tears at the feet of Christ,
In the hush of the twilight dim
And all that I was or hoped or sought,
Surrendered unto Him.
Crowned, not crucified -- my heart shall know
No King but Christ who loveth me so.



To Our Readers

This is to inform you that as of January 1, 1980, The Gospel News will be printed by Brother Alex Gentile at the General Church Print House in Detroit, Michigan. The mailing of our monthly publication will continue to be handled by our Circulation Staff located in Monongahela, Pennsylvania.

Our sincere thanks go to Brother Ken Lombardo of the Metuchen, New Jersey Branch who designed the new letterhead that appears on the front page of this issue.

The Gospel News Staff would also like to express their deep appreciation to Mr. Sandor Chomos of Bethlen Press, Inc. who has printed our paper for the past seven years.

Our prayer is that God might continue to bless our endeavors in the publishing of the Gospel News.

The Editor

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

*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.*

These soul-stirring lines of the poet are surely most edifying to our souls and praiseworthy to our Heavenly Father as we ring out the old(1979) and ring in the new(1980).

In reviewing the year 1979 that has circled away so quickly, we are moved with amazement at the swift flow of events all around us, as well as the happenings in our own everyday living.

The Church continued to pursue its missionary efforts at home and abroad. Brothers John Ross and Michael Hildenbrand left home in mid-January on a missionary journey to Nigeria and Ghana. After a forty-five day tour, bringing cheer and revival to the Branches and Missions, they returned home safely.

Happily, Brother Nephi and Sister Lorraine DeMercurio, along with their sons Nephi, Jr. and Jared, returned home safely on July 26 after a fruitful two-year tour of activity among our Saints in Nigeria and Ghana.

Following the April Conference, Brother Mario Milano departed for Italy. His six month stay was devoted to visiting and encouraging the Saints throughout the Italian peninsula. Thank God for his safe return also.

Brother Raymond and Sister Mary Cosetti also journeyed to Italy on their second tour of missionary duty. Their travels and labors brought joy and revival to the Saints of Italy. After some three months of activity, they returned home safely.

Brother Michael Hildenbrand and Joseph Perry left home for Nigeria following the October Conference. Their month and a half stay was busily occupied in visiting and ministering to the Saints in Nigeria and Ghana. On their flight home, they stopped briefly in The Netherlands for a visit with Mr. Jan Schutt. Thanks be to God for their safe arrival home.

Brother Nephi and Sister Lorraine DeMercurio and sons are scheduled to leave for Nigeria on December 27, 1979, for another extended tour of duty. God be with them!

In addition to an active missionary year, the Church has been busy welcoming many new converts in all locations. We rejoice also in the many reports of blessings, healings and experiences.

Also, the Church welcomed a new Apostle, Brother Robert A. Watson. He was ordained to the office on April Conference Sunday. We pray God's blessings upon Brother Watson in all the activities and responsibilities of an Apostle.

We praise God for the outgoing year, and we trust Him for the New Year.

The Children's Corner

by MABEL BICKERTON

The Liahona

Dear Girls and Boys,

The first story I want to tell you from the Book of Mormon is about the Liahona. It is a very fascinating one. You can read about it in I Nephi, Chapter sixteen.

In the city of Jerusalem there had been many prophets of God sent to warn the people of their wickedness. Some were stoned and killed. There was a good man sent among the people. His name was Lehi. He told the people to repent and serve God. The people did not want to hear this and continued in their wicked ways.

One day as Lehi was praying, asking the Lord to spare the people, a pillar of fire came down from the heavens and dwelt upon a rock before him. The Lord said the people and the city of Jerusalem would be destroyed. Lehi trembled with fear. He was overcome by the Spirit. He hurried home and lay down upon his bed. While there, he was shown a vision by the Lord.

After this beautiful experience, Lehi went again among the people. They made fun of him and tried to kill him. The Lord loved Lehi and told him to take his family and go into the wilderness. He would lead them to a Land of Promise, America. Lehi obeyed the Lord and left Jerusalem at once. They left behind all their property, gold, silver and precious things. They took tents and some provisions with them.

The Lord blessed this family, Lehi, Sariah, and four sons, along with some friends, on this long journey. One night the Lord spoke to Lehi and told them to leave the Valley of Lemuel. In the morning when he awoke, he went to the tent door and there to his surprise, he saw on the ground a round ball. It was made of fine brass and of curious workmanship. Inside were two spindles or pointers, one of which pointed in the direction they should travel. This ball was called the Liahona. It would be similar to a compass.

There were other things written upon the Liahona besides directions to travel. There was a new writing, plain to be read, which helped them understand the ways of the Lord. Sometimes it made them tremble with fear. It only worked according to their faith in God. If they forgot God, the spindle did not work.

Lehi gathered the people together and they began their long journey again. They took down their tents, gathered seeds and hunted game. The young men made bows and arrows. The pointers on the ball

showed Lehi's son, Nephi, where to go into the mountain to find wild beasts. The Lord made the meat sweet to their taste so they didn't need fire. After a long, long journey across many waters, they arrived in the Promised Land.

Sincerely,

Sister Mabel

MBA HIGHLIGHTS . . .

Fredonia Local News

Beside enjoying many activities as Members of the MBA such as GMBA and Area Campouts, Spiritual Meetings, Conferences and Seminars, the Fredonia Local would like to share several special times and blessings we have had in the last several months.

First of all, we are happy to welcome Sister Hilda Sgattone into our local. She and her husband Phillip, previously from Glassport are now residents of Fredonia, Pa.

On Sunday evening, October 14, 1979, the Fredonia MBA traveled to Erie to meet with them in a combined service. Although both groups are small in number a nice assemblage was gathered in unison at the Erie Building that evening. Brother Russell Cadman held a question and answer period. Many questions concerning the peaceful reign and today's conditions were asked and answered. A very good spirit was felt and all enjoyed this wonderful fellowship with the Saints. The words of the poet are truly correct; "It Is Good To Be A Saint Of Latter Days."

Saturday, August 11, sixteen from our Branch attended an all day Sunday School picnic at the Vanderbilt Branch. The rain did not dampen our spirits or the good time we all enjoyed. Because of the inclement weather two meals were eaten in the church basement, along with the supervised games for the young people. All stayed over night and were in Sunday School and Church the next day. We enjoyed the morning meeting that was opened by Brother Russell Cadman and the words that Brothers Nephi DeMercurio and Milford Eutsey spoke. It is always a joy to witness a baptism. We had the opportunity to do this when a young woman was baptized during the lunch hour. She was confirmed in the afternoon meeting which was opened by Brother Arthur Gehly.

Sunday evening, July 1, we were pleasantly surprised when five members from Erie attended our MBA Service. We studied and discussed the third chapter of Daniel which deals with Nebuchadnezzar's dream and the deliverance of the Hebrew Children from the fiery furnace.

Sister Eleanor Sproul
Fredonia MBA Editor

November GMBA Conference

"WE'VE DONE FINE IN '79!"

Ryan G. Ross, GMBA Editor

On Saturday morning, November 10, 1979, GMBA President, Bro. Don Ross, opened the conference and welcomed those representatives from each of the seven districts of the Church. After the roll call of officers was taken and Bro. James Hufnagle was elected Auditor pro-tem, we proceeded into the unfinished business. We have printed 2,000 copies of the updated MBA Constitution and By-Laws to be sold for \$1.25 each. Brother Gary Carlini reported on the 1979 version of GMBA Campout held at Massanetta Springs from June 9 through June 16. It was a complete success both spiritually and financially, and we certainly thank Brother Gary and his committee members for a job well done! Most of all we thank our Lord Jesus Christ for the dreams, visions, testimonies and SEVENTEEN baptisms. Another noteworthy effort by Brothers Gary Ciccati and Ken Lombardo produced a profit of \$465.00 from their sale of commemorative patches of past campouts.

Campout 1980 will also be held at Massanetta Springs (Harrisonburg, Virginia) June 7 through June 14. Not to think too far ahead, we must not forget about the great western migration in 1981 to sunny California. Plans are currently underway to locate and procure a suitable camp for a long-awaited gathering on the Pacific Coast.

Representing a hard-working group of Saints, Sister Arlene Whitton reported that the Campsite Development Committee continue to investigate the possibilities of someday owning and operating a campsite of our own. Bro. Alex Gentile reported that lesson plans for the books of *Enos*, *Jarom*, *Omni*, and *The Words of Mormon* are being typeset as well as *The Book of Mormon Concordance*. The Primary Lesson Plans will be printed pending the completion of various illustrations. Although this work done by our Brother, and those who assist him, is not as glamorous as other activities, let us be aware that many long and tedious hours of work must be done to complete this literature. May God continue to bless and strengthen Bro. Alex and his co-workers in their endeavors. Currently the lesson plans for the book of *III Nephi* have been completed and are ready to be proofread by Jerry Valenti, Jr. who also reported completion of his proofreading the lesson plan for the *Book of Mosiah*.

Officers' reports were either presented or submitted to the secretaries at hand and were all in order. Details of these reports will be presented in the forthcoming GMBA minutes. Be sure to listen carefully when these are read by your local MBA secretary.

On Saturday evening, the Michigan-Ontario Area Choir honored us by presenting a program of beautiful hymns, both traditional and contemporary. Their effort

was well received by the congregation as the radiance and joy written in their expressions that only results from the pure love of God. The choir's feelings of thanksgiving and praise to the Lord was projected to each of us in the audience. Likewise, the Sunday service, that featured a near-capacity throng, was also a blessing. The service included singing and preaching by Brothers Ike Smith, Sr., James Moore, Jr., and First Counsellor, Brother Nicholas Pietrangelo. The Lord's presence was truly felt by those in attendance.

In conclusion, it has been a good year and a good decade for the GMBA. Over the past ten years, the GMBA has contributed over **\$120,000** to the General Church, not to ignore a new generation of Saints who **met the Lord** at the campouts during the 70's. May we be thankful to the Lord for rewarding the hard work of our GMBA officers who have served during this past decade; and be prayerful that, as we approach the 1980's the Lord may continue to bless the Missionary Benevolent Association of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Branch and Mission News

A FEAST TO REMEMBER

The Brothers, Sisters and friends of the Michigan-Ontario Area enjoyed a weekend of fellowship and recreation this past September. We all gathered on Saturday for a corn roast at the homes of our Brothers and Sisters in Saline, Michigan. Carloads of families began arriving at 2 PM and continued in a steady flow throughout the day. There were plenty of activities to choose from. Despite the heat, many chose to play football and volleyball. Some preferred a pleasant walk along the country lanes, while others spent their time in relaxed conversation with Brothers and Sisters from throughout the District. The afternoon passed quickly and before we knew it, the corn was ready for eating. Everyone feasted on the fresh roasted ears of corn smothered in butter. Delicious! Afterwards, everyone settled down to an evening of socializing. Hayrides were given for all ages. It was amazing how upon returning, many resembled a scarecrow!

As evening approached, all found themselves gathered around the campfire to sing hymns and talk, until the time came to gather our things and return home. Everyone left looking forward to another day of blessings and fellowship in the Lord's house the next day.

Our Sunday morning meeting began with community singing as Brothers and Sisters met at Branch No. 2. Brother Dominic Thomas offered prayer. Brother Don Ross, visiting from the Edison, New Jersey Branch, then pronounced the blessing upon Brother Bill and Sister Janet Buffa's baby, Peter Andrew.

Our opening speaker, Brother Peter Scolaro, used II Nephi 28:19-25 and the 91st Psalm for his text. The Psalm reads "...He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in him will I trust." He brought out the fact that each of us needs to invest in a policy for insurance, when we may not (hopefully) even need to use it. But

with God, we have insurance and it is a sure thing. We have an opportunity and choice to take advantage of knowing God. If we make this covenant with God, we can say we stand in the "shadow of the Almighty".

Brother Don Ross spoke next. He was quite firm in his words that, "Once we commit ourselves to God, He cannot deny us. We find peace, joy, love, patience and long suffering in this Church. The Church is life and life more abundantly". After Brother Don read the 23rd Psalm, he asked, "Why do we attend The Church of Jesus Christ? We rely on God for everything, but what are we doing for the Lord?" He came as a sacrifice, as a lamb. What are we doing to repay that debt?

We then sang, *A Shelter in the Time of Storm*. Brother Leonard Lovalvo expressed his feelings about his own baptism. Because of the beautiful feeling he had, Brother Leonard asked Brother Frank Morle to offer prayer for those not yet baptized.

Following sacrament our meeting was brought to a close. It was truly a morning spent enjoying the Spirit of God as it came down and filled the House of the Lord.

The area gathered once again that evening at Branch No. 2 for an area spiritual meeting. It was standing room only as Brother Gary Carlini, Area MBA President, welcomed the large congregation and Brother Don Ross, GMBA President, our guest speaker. The young people sang, *He's Everything To Me* and the meeting was turned over to Brother Don.

Our Brother chose to read from the 23rd Psalm and related it to the hymn that the young people had sung. David wrote, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." The Lord satisfies our every need-natural as well as spiritual. We in the Church rely on God for everything. He is our shepherd and He has led us to the true Gospel. Brother Ross went on to relate the great comfort and peace the Lord has given him. Through His love, we can **fear no evil**. Through His love, we have a chance for eternal life. He died that we might have life. But what are we doing for the Lord and His Church? Brother Don stressed our responsibility to be actively involved in the work of The Church, whether it is in visiting the sick, fasting and praying, supporting our missions or simply giving support by attending the weekly meetings. We have to be willing to share what we have found in the Gospel. As long as we follow the lead of the shepherd, we can **fear no evil**. We have the assurance that the Lord will be with us, and with that assurance we can do anything.

Brother Gary followed by thanking everyone for their support and attendance. He especially was grateful to Brother Don for being our guest speaker. We truly enjoyed his words and welcome him to visit again soon. Everyone parted filled with the peace and joy always felt in fellowship with the Saints of The Lord.

Sister Roseanne Scolaro
Sister Leona Buffa

NILES IS BLESSED WITH VISITORS

On Sunday, September 16, 1979, we were privileged to have Brother Jim Moore and his family from Imperial, Pennsylvania with us. Brother Jim used Alma 34:1, for his text. He spoke concerning how hard-hearted the people were in that day and how we, the people of God, must be a humble people so the Lord might work with us.

On Sunday, October 14, we enjoyed having Brother Tony and Sister Elsie Ensana from Ft. Pierce, Florida with us. Brother Tony used for his text Matthew 25:31-40. He spoke many good words on obedience. He said if we are obedient we are pleasing before God.

On Tuesday evening, October 23, we had a special meeting because we were privileged to have Brother Mark Randy from California with us. Brother Mark spoke on Colossians 2:6. He gave us many enlightening words on how we must take Christ into our life and live Christ, and we must be rooted and grounded in the Gospel.

On Sunday, October 28, we had Brother Ron and Sister Cathy Genaro and their family from New Orleans, Louisiana with us. Brother Wayne Martorana was ordained into the priesthood on this day. Brother Ron used for his text Hebrews 5:1-4. He spoke concerning how we of the Church have been called of God and ordained into the office of the Church. Brother Jim Moore of Imperial, Pennsylvania spoke on the responsibility of the priesthood. He said the Lord loves a broken heart and contrite spirit and it's worth it all to carry the banner of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Many visitors were in attendance from Pennsylvania, Louisiana and nearby branches in Ohio. For the ordination service, Brother Wayne's feet were washed by his uncle, Brother Joseph Genaro, after which Brother Russell Martorana ordained his son to the office of Elder. It was a beautiful meeting.

On Sunday, November 4, we had Brother Mario and Sister Erma Milano and Brother Elmer and Sister Betty Santilli and family with us. Brother Mario told of his visit to Italy. Brother Elmer continued, speaking on how people will know that we are Christ's disciples by the love we show to one another. He also spoke of the many places in the Bible proclaiming the coming forth of The Book of Mormon.

Branch Editor
Sister Wanda Pandone

BAPTISMS AT ALIQUIPPA BRANCH

The blessings began Conference Sunday, October 21, 1979 when Pam Ross, daughter of Bro. John Ross, Jr. and Sis. Connie, asked for her baptism. Many were anointed and prayed on for strength. Pam was one of them. Before the conference dismissed, she expressed her desire to be baptized. What a wonderful blessing this was and what a wonderful spirit was felt in our midst. She was later baptized by Bro. John Ross, Sr. and confirmed by Bro. Anthony Ross.

On Tuesday, October 23, 1979 Carey Beth D'Antonio, daughter of Bro. Anthony D'Antonio and the late Deborah D'Antonio was baptized by Bro. John Ross, and confirmed by Bro. Joe Ross. We held a service at the church building that evening. Our new sister bore her testimony thanking God that she is numbered among the Saints. Bro. Anthony Palmieri spoke reminding us that the Lord works with his people in mysterious ways. The Lord blessed Joseph of old and we are the seed of His promise. We have much to be thankful for as we endeavor to do God's will. May the Lord continue to bless the young people everywhere, so that they may enjoy this wonderful Gospel restored.

NEWS FROM LORAIN, OHIO BRANCH

On Wednesday, October 24, 1979 we had Brother Joe and Sister Virginia Lovalvo visiting us from Modesto, California. Brother Joe Lovalvo was telling us of his experiences in seeing the New Jerusalem and Jesus praying for the blessing of the nations of the world that they might know He was the God of Israel.

As we were singing *What Was Witnessed in the Heavens*, Brother Frank Altomare arose and said: *My brethren, fear not! I heard the voice of Jesus say "I will take care of my ministry in the days that are before us. Those days of sorrow and grief, but remember, as God delivered the House of Israel, He will deliver us in these last days of trials and tribulations. Be not afraid!" Thus saith the Lord. "I will cease the storms from my brethren. My eyes are upon this Church and I tell you my Brothers and Sisters, I will speak as His spirit will take me. God is just! God is righteous! Whatever God will do, it shall be done according to His will and not our will this evening. Only trust and obey, thus saith the Lord, soon I will clean the sins away from this world, then my people shall come in, Oh House of Israel, who are the apple of my eye."*

Brother Lovalvo offered a prayer for the ministry as they knelt before the congregation, and Brother Frank Altomare said he remembered what the Lord had said, *The day is going to come when the priesthood will be persecuted so severely that they will kneel as they are now, only our face will be on the ground and we will cry unto God that He will give us the strength that we may do His wonderful work. That is very near. We will be persecuted even as His Twelve Apostles and the Seventies and the Elders. But fear not because God is greater than the devil and He shall deliver us from bondage as He did in the days of old. My Brothers and Sisters, I feel the Spirit of God so great upon me. Pray for our priesthood because we're only flesh and blood. We need all the prayers that we can get in these last days.*

Brother Altomare then put his arms around Brother Frank Calabrese and spoke words of encouragement. Brother Altomare then began to plead for those not baptized and the Word of the Lord came forth saying: *The time is far spent. Thus saith the Lord. The time is gone and God is going to destroy.*

As the meeting proceeded, Brother Joe Calabrese said that the Spirit of God has not stopped since Conference. As he said, "I think that this is only the beginning", Brother Paul Ciotti spoke the Word of the Lord as follows: *Thus saith the Lord, "My People! My People! Hear the voice of the Good Shepherd. This*

night the things that you have received is but a portion of the blessings that I have in store for my people. Mine Apostles I have called forth in these the last days to oversee My Church. I will tell thee this night, my people, I will give unto mine Apostles direction. They will hear my voice and I will lead my sheep unto victory. I will bless them with revelations from on high and I, the Good Shepherd, will visit them. I will tell them the things that I have for my people. But you, my people, must be obedient unto the words that they deliver unto you. I am! I am! I am! That I Am!" saith the Lord. "I will bless my people. The world will marvel. The world will marvel of the wonder of this people because I am God!"

At the end of our service, Brother Eugene Presutto's companion, Helen, felt to have hands laid upon her. Brother Frank Calabrese truly prayed for her under the Spirit of God. At the close of the prayer, Helen stated she wanted to be baptized. She was baptized the following Sunday, October 28, 1979, by Brother Joe Calabrese and was confirmed into the Church by Brother Frank Calabrese. Thank God from whom all blessings flow!

On Tuesday, October 23 and Wednesday, October 24, we had Brother Joe and Sister Virginia Lovalvo along with Brother Tony and Sister Ann Lovalvo visit with us.

Brother Joe said that God is going to choose the ones that will serve Him from among us, and that He would turn and overturn. Brother Frank Altomare then arose and brought forth the word of the Lord saying: *Amen! Thus saith the Lord. The Day is going to come when the Gentiles will reject my Gospel. I shall turn to the House of Israel and I shall bless them with great blessings. The sun will shine on them day and night. Awaken my people! Oh ye Gentiles! Ye Gentiles, now is the time! I am coming and I will destroy. Buildings shall go down. Thus saith the Lord. Soon shall it come to light. I am speaking unto you!*

As the congregation was singing *Never Alone*, Brother Frank Altomare spoke under the Spirit saying: "I see an angel of God at this moment and he's saying unto us, *Oh my people! My people! Continue to pray. Fast and pray. This nation, this nation you live in, there is going to be great sorrow before the Lamanites will come in. I'm sent from God and I'm telling you these words. Pray! Pray that you have patience and God may give you strength in these last days.*"

Sister Rose Palacios related a dream she had confirming our service and words of the Lord coming forth. It is as follows: On October 24, I dreamed that Brother Joe Lovalvo was in our home along with Brother Frank Calabrese. Brother Joe told Brother Frank, "Ask Sister Rose if she had anything about last night's meeting". As he said that, a man walked in the living room and said, *I was there*. Another man walked in and said, *I was there*. Two more men came in and they also said, *I was there*. When they were all in the room, all four of them said, *We were among you last night.*

Sister Iva Davis
Assistant Editor

MONONGAHELA BRANCH VISITS ERIE MISSION

On Sunday, October 28, we were richly blessed as 44 Brothers and Sisters from the Monongahela Branch and also a Brother and Sister from Youngstown visited with us.

The morning meeting was opened with singing, and a prayer was offered by Brother Del Lockwood for the safe arrival of our visitors. Brother George Johnson opened the service and spoke of God, Christ, and man. Brother Meredith Griffith followed and spoke about Unity Through Christ. After singing *Take the Name of Jesus With You*, Brother John Griffith told of many experiences and being prepared to receive the gifts of God.

Brother Dominic Bucci spoke of his early years in Monongahela and then sang a hymn with his family. Brother Bob Nicklow, Sr. noted that we are being ushered into a new era of time. Brother John Majoros sang a solo and shared his testimony.

The service was concluded with many humble testimonies and we then sang *God Be With You* and Brother Harold Burge closed in prayer. Lunch was served and fellowship was enjoyed by all. The spirit of God was truly felt throughout the day and we thank God for this.

On November 4, we had the joy of having Brother Richard Santilli and his wife, Sister Annabel, from Youngstown, visit with us. For his message, he used I Kings, Chapter 18. This scripture tells about Elijah and the prophets of Baal. Singing and testimonies were shared for a day filled with an abundance of blessings given to all by the Grace of God.

God bless you all is our prayer.

Sister Bernice Burge
Erie Mission Editor

DEACONESS ORDAINED AT STERLING HEIGHTS

Sister Rose Gerry was ordained a Deaconess on Sunday, October 28, 1979 by Brother Lou Vitto. Sister Rose's feet were washed by Sister Nicoletta Lombardo. Sister Gerry was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on September 29, 1940.

Some time ago, a dream was had in which Sister Gerry was seen setting the table. More recently, as Sister Rose was seen caring for Brother DiFalco while Sister DiFalco attended her grandson's funeral, the inspiration was given, "This is truly the work of a deaconess".

May God richly bless our Sister in her new office.

NEWS FROM WINDSOR

Sunday morning, November 18, dawned sunny and clear. Each member of the Windsor Branch gathered there, full of expectation, as we had been promised a visit from our Brother Apostle, Rocco Biscotti. We were pleasantly surprised to see on the

rostrum Apostles Gorie Ciaravino and Nick Pietrangelo as well.

Brother Rocco spoke on the 12th Chapter of Romans; that as Brothers and Sisters in Christ we have a duty, and we owe to our Saviour the best that each one of us can give. As each one of us is a different person, so the best that each one can give is different.

As God has called us, we must draw ourselves away from the world and all its distractions. Especially our hearts and minds must be opened to the Spirit of God that we might be able to spot and stay away from those things presented to us by the evil one that are all dressed up and look pleasant and proper for us to do.

Brother Biscotti related to us many experiences of the way the Lord has dealt with him since he met the Gospel. He also asked our forgiveness, for it had been so long since he had met with us and many of the Brothers and Sisters that he had known here have gone on to their reward.

As he finished speaking to us, he spoke of how disturbed he had been by the number of sick and afflicted among the Brothers and Sisters who had come forward at the General Conference to be anointed. He took this care for us to the Lord and received the answer to read the 12th Chapter of Helaman in which the Lord states that unless He chastens His people with many afflictions, unless He visits them with death and terror and all manner of pestilence, they will not remember Him.

Brother Gorie and Brother Nick each then spoke elaborating on the main theme chosen by Brother Rocco. Brother Nick related an experience which showed how unchangeable God is and how we are as a people. It was also a verification of Brother Rocco's experience. It occurred about twenty years ago when Brother Nick was Presiding Elder at Branch No. 1 in Detroit. He said that within a matter of two weeks, seven members of that Branch had passed away and he went to the Lord in prayer to ask why this was so. He was told then, just as Brother Biscotti had been told, to read the 12th Chapter of Helaman. How wonderful are the workings of the Lord.

There was so much more in the words of our Brother Apostles that I couldn't relate it all. I would like to leave you with the thought that they left with us. We are the Lord's people. Must it always be that we only remember and serve the Lord in spirit and truth when things are not going well in our natural lives or can there be prosperity and proper service to Him who blesses us with all things?

Sister Melissa Matthew
Windsor Branch Editor

ALIQUIPPA AND YOUNGSTOWN HOLD JOINT MEETING

On November 4, 1979 the Youngstown Branch met with Aliquippa.

The Youngstown quartet sang three beautiful

selections before the service began. Bro. Jim Lovalvo opened the meeting by using Alma, Chapter 5 for his text. He told of many wonderful experiences he had in the church some 46 years. God helps us through many valleys and helps us to climb the hills. He asked the question, "Have you had a change of heart?" "The question is, do you feel the change now?" We are tested daily on our jobs, at home, or wherever we are.

He mentioned what a wonderful blessing was felt at the General Conference. Bro. Jim concluded by saying that we learn to live in the Spirit of God, and our hearts will be filled with joy unspeakable. The morning meeting was dismissed by singing *O Jesus I Have Promised*. Bro. Tony Corrado said the closing prayer. We had lunch in the church basement.

The afternoon meeting was opened by Bro. Tony Corrado. He stated that he felt a blessing from the time he entered the church building. Each of us must finish the work God has given us to do. Bro. Travis Perry spoke of his life in the Gospel, and how God blessed him. Brothers Ralph Berardino and Anthony Palmieri also told us of how the Lord blessed them through the years they belonged in the Church. Bro. Lovalvo sang *Amazing Grace*.

We all enjoyed the fellowship with the Saints of the Youngstown Branch. May God continue to bless all those who love the Lord. He certainly deserves our best.

Sister Dora Rossi
Branch Editor

ELDER ORDAINED AT SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BRANCH

Brother Emmett Hood was ordained an Elder on Sunday, November 18, 1979. Our meeting began with Sister Rose and Brother Leonard Lovalvo singing a duet entitled *The Longer I Serve Him*.

Brother Joe Lovalvo read from the Epistle of Peter. He spoke of Brother Emmett Hood's calling into the Priesthood. He told us of what happened at District Conference in San Diego when the names of the Brothers that were submitted were brought up. The Spirit of God fell upon the Elders and, united, they voted to accept those Brothers into the Priesthood.

Brother Joe spoke of Christ's words, "Pray unto the Lord and He will call laborers into the vineyard." He also quoted Paul as saying, "Let no man take it upon himself to be an elder." You MUST be called.

He spoke on feet washing and why we have it. He related that when Aaron was called into the Priesthood, God spoke to Moses and told him to make sure Aaron's feet were washed. It was a cleansing to set him apart and to make his soul sanctified and purified by the power of God.

He spoke of the Ministry being the Royal Priesthood, because it belongs to the Son of God, who is King of Kings.

Brother Emmett was then called forward as we sang *Ye Who Are Called to Labor*. Brother Emmett's feet were washed by Brother Del Carnival as we sang *Ready to Go*.

Brother Leonard Lovalvo then gave an experience he received at April Conference while Brother Bob Watson was being ordained an Apostle. He said as they were singing *Ye Who Are Called to Labor*, he was looking out upon the congregation and saw Brother Emmett and felt the Spirit of God come upon him and heard a voice say, "Today I am calling him into the Priesthood." He pondered and the more he pondered, the stronger the feeling. He told this experience to Brother Edmond Buccellato later during a telephone conversation, and it was confirmed by Brother Buccellato that he had also had a similar experience during a meeting in the Valley Branch. This was a confirmation that Brother Emmett was being called.

Brother Chuck Curry related that during a meeting before he left our branch, Brother Edmond Buccellato leaned over and told Brother Chuck that he heard God calling Brother Emmett that day into the Priesthood. At this point, the entire Priesthood knelt around Brother Emmett as Brother Tom Liberto offered a prayer. Brother Rusty Heaps anointed Brother Emmett, and Brother Joe Lovalvo then called Sister Cindy Hood, Brother Emmett's wife, forward for anointing. She was anointed by Brother Edmond Buccellato. Sister Kay Daniels sang a solo entitled, *Have Thy Way, Dear Lord*.

Sister Mary Duncan then brought her baby forward as we sang *When Mothers in Salem*. Our newly ordained Brother Emmett, who is also the child's uncle, blessed the baby and expressed his desire to be called on at any hour, and he is looking forward to administering to our needs.

Truly, we at the Valley Branch praise God for this Brother. He has been an example to us all, and we thank God for calling him into His Priesthood. We are starting to go forward in growth and once again thank God for this.

A delicious potluck lunch was prepared for everyone by our Sisters, and we were all able to fellowship together.

Sister Virginia Surprenant
Sister Kay Daniels
Branch Editors

APOSTLE PREACHES IN KENTUCKY AND GEORGIA

Brother Russell Cadman and wife, Sister Ethel, Sister Becky Buffington, Brother James Moore, Sr. and I took a trip to Campton, Kentucky to preach the Gospel to friends and relatives in that area. As a result of traveling there for many years, we have had five baptisms in the past. Brother Julius and Sister Helen Kovacs visited among these people and held meetings for about a year. Brother Russell was well received as he also is well acquainted with these people, having

preached the funeral of Brother George Moore, a member of our branch. We had a beautiful blessing to see our granddaughter, Becky, bow down and wash the feet of her great-aunt, Maude Miller, who is 84 years old. Sister Becky had just been baptized five months ago. We left Kentucky after three days and journeyed on to our mission in Georgia. This was Brother Russell's first trip to Atlanta and our members were waiting for us. We had day long meetings with our friends and relatives. On Sunday our little chapel was well filled; Brother Russell instructed us on serving God in holiness. We also have a family of six, the Stranskys, originally from New Jersey, attending regularly. Also Brother James Moore, Sr. blessed Sister Becky Phillips' baby boy, Brandon G. Phillips. After ministering to our mission, we were well satisfied and decided to return home. Our trip consisted of eleven days, and we enjoyed every minute of it. The telephone number at the Atlanta Mission is 404-463-4633.

Sister Eva Moore
Imperial Branch

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

My husband, Joseph, and I would like to express our gratitude and sincere thanks for your prayers, cards, letters and telephone calls we received in the hospital and at home. We both had major surgery ten days apart during the month of August, and both doctors told us to expect cancer.

I was anointed at the GMBA Campout, and Joseph was anointed in Youngstown, Ohio. The Elders also called me up when they knew I too had to face surgery when we returned home in Florida. There was a great assurance.

Brothers Bill Tucker and Duane Lowe from Tampa came to the hospital in Cape Coral the night before my husband had surgery, August 6th. They anointed him, and when the doctor came out after surgery the next day, he was so elated to give us the good news that there was no malignancy. How can we ever sufficiently praise His High and Holy Name! We are both improving every day, thanks to our dear Lord who answers the prayers of the Saints and is so merciful towards His children.

May God bless you all as you hold on to that rod of iron. We also ask God to remember and bless our daughter, Sister Jacquelyn, and Brother Jimmy Hickman and children in Kinston, North Carolina. May He keep them in His care, as they are alone in that area. Pray for us all.

Brother Joseph and
Sister Bertha Constantine
Cape Coral, Florida

MCKEES ROCKS NEWS

November 25, 1979, Brother Frank Calabrese and Brother Frank Altamore came to worship with us from Ohio. It is wonderful to be numbered with the people of God. The hymn, *What Was Witnessed in the Heavens*, was sung. Our Brother spoke to us to retain our identity, for this is The Church of Jesus Christ, the Bride of the Saviour. The gift of tongues was spoken, with the interpretation being **Yea and Amen**. In preaching it was mentioned that The Church of Jesus Christ will be brought to stand before the world. The word of the Lord came forth, "... Hearken my people and obey for the work is great, thus saith the Lord. Amen."

December 9, 1979, Brother and Sister James Campbell came to McKees Rocks. We praise God for these visiting Brothers and Sisters. Our Brother explained how little things often stop people from attending meetings. We, being humans, continually must strive to be like Christ Jesus. Helaman, Chapter 12, from the Book of Mormon was read. When man thinks he is something, then God lets him know that he is nothing. Yet man was created to have knowledge and understanding unlike animals. The more humble man becomes before God, the more Godly he becomes. God gives every man an opportunity to save his soul. How thankful we are to have the understanding brought to us by the Holy Spirit of God. God bless you is our prayer.

Sis. Martha Laird
Branch Editor

• OBITUARIES •

ELAINE L. VOELKER

Sister Elaine L. Voelker of Detroit, Michigan, Branch No.1, passed away on October 28, 1979. She was born on November 26, 1922 and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on October 21, 1945.

She is survived by her mother, five sisters and four brothers. The funeral services were conducted by Brothers Paul Vitto and Nicholas Pietrangelo.

CARMELA CASTELLI

Sister Carmela Castelli passed away from this life on November 4, 1979. She was born on October 14, 1896 and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on October 21, 1923.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Bro. George Castelli. She is survived by four children, nine grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. Sister Castelli was the next to the last chartered member of Branch No.4, Detroit, Michigan. She will be greatly missed by all the Brothers and Sisters.

The Gospel News

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa., USA.

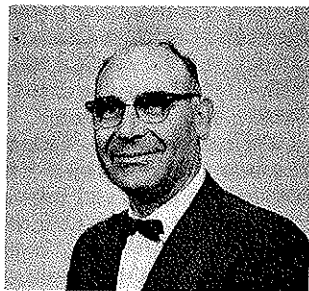
(USPS 223-480)

February, 1980

Volume 36, No. 2

Offices: 6th & Lincoln Sts.

Greetings To You In Christ,



The eyes are a better pupil and more willing than the ear. Fine counsel is compelling, but examples always clear, and the best of all teachers are the men who live their creeds. When you see the good in action, you see everybody's needs.

Missionary, Nephi DeMercurio, visited California and gave us a view of our Church endeavor in Nigeria and Ghana. He showed slides of the school and some of the members and their ministers and some of their structures. He also explained the purpose of the school and the needs for missionaries and teachers. He gave us thorough, detailed information of every aspect of the work there. He was well received, beginning in Modesto where Brother Mark Randy hosted him. Here he gave our first meeting, then the following day proceeded on the long journey to San Diego. He stopped to see Brother and Sister V. J. Lovalvo at Fresno for a short visit, then went on to San Diego, arriving tired, but happy. The following day, Brother and Sister Perdue and Sam and Sharnee Randy took us to Tijuana, where a large number of our people were already at Church. The Mexican Brothers and Sisters were touched when they saw the similarity of the needs in Africa relative to theirs.

San Diego, Lindsay, Anaheim and San Fernando held special meetings, with Bell joining Anaheim. In each place, there were questions and answers about every part of the missionary work. Brother Nephi brought us a clearer understanding of the work and needs, making us more akin to our Brothers and Sisters of Nigeria and Ghana. Nephi spoke very highly of the love and hospitality of our people in Africa.

Though we live many miles apart, we now feel closer, since our missionary Brother gave us such a love-filled report. California has a missionary spirit,

and because we do, we felt good to hear and see such heartfelt, unique work of God. Therefore, the Church in California salutes the Brothers and Sisters from Nigeria and Ghana. Thanks, Brother and Sister DeMercurio, for your love and unselfish service to God and the Brothers and Sisters of Africa. Thanks also to every other Brother and Sister who have labored there. We commend especially Brothers John Ross and Joseph Bittinger.

Every branch in California assured Brother Nephi of their support. Brothers E. U. A. Arthur and Edem Ebong, even though we have not met you, through our Brother Nephi we have learned of your love and dedication to God and all of our people in Africa. May the Lord by His abiding Holy Spirit yet bring us closer together, as we are truly one in Christ.

A salute of love to all of you in Christ Jesus the Lord. Brother Nephi was also able to see his brother, Vincent, who resides near the Anaheim Branch, whom he had not seen in six years. Vincent and his family came to Church to hear Brother Nephi.

May the abiding peace of God be with all of you.

Brother Mark Randy

Conference Notice

The April General Conference will convene on Thursday afternoon, April 17, 1980, at 2:00 p.m. in our General Church Auditorium in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. The Thursday and Friday sessions will be open to the **PRIESTHOOD AND TEACHERS ONLY**. The Saturday sessions and the Sunday Service will be open to all. The Sunday Service will start at 10:00 a.m.

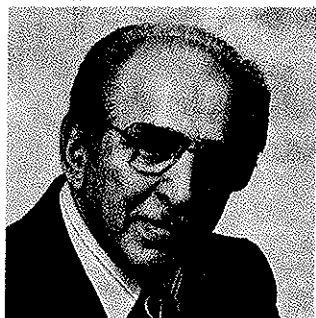
NOTE:

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 free.
2. Those attending conference must make their own arrangements for lodging.

ALL ARE WELCOME

IT IS WRITTEN

By V. J. LOVALVO



QUESTION: What is the role of the Gentiles (meaning the Church) in these latter days?

ANSWER: It is good to know that God has reserved a wonderful blessing for the Gentiles in the latter days. The Lord restored the Gospel to the Gentiles beginning with

Joseph Smith. Through him, the large (abridgment) and small plates which the Angel Moroni delivered to him in 1827 were translated by the Gift and Power of God. This translation has come to the Gentiles as the *Book of Mormon*.

In 1830, the Church was organized. From thence, through blessings, dissensions, martyrdom of Joseph Smith and others, splits, etc., we eventually come to the organization of The Church of Jesus Christ in Greenoak, Pa. in 1862.

God promised that He would do a marvelous work among the Gentiles. First in establishing His Son's church among them, and then in taking the Gospel to the Seed of Joseph (the American Indian). Thus it is written: "And after our seed is scattered the Lord God will proceed to do a marvelous work among the Gentiles, which shall be of great worth unto our seed; wherefore, it is likened unto their being nourished by the Gentiles and being carried in their arms and upon their shoulders. And it shall also be of worth unto the Gentiles; and not only unto the Gentiles but unto all the House of Israel, unto the making known of the covenants of the Father of heaven unto Abraham, saying: In thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed." (Book of Mormon, I Nephi 22:8-9)

Also, "Therefore, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people (meaning Gentiles; writer's notes) yea, a marvelous work and a wonder, for the wisdom of their wise and learned shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent shall be hid." (II Nephi, 27:26) And again, "But behold, there shall be many—at that day when I shall proceed to do a marvelous work among them, (Gentiles) that I may remember my covenants which I have made unto the children of men, that I may set my hand again the second time to recover my people, which are of the House of Israel;" (II Nephi 29:1)

The **marvelous work** that God shall proceed to do among the Gentiles is first, to restore the Gospel to them, so that it may come to pass "the last shall be first, and the first shall be last." The Gentiles were **last** to receive the Gospel in the Apostles' day, but in these, the latter days, they were first, as indicated above, in that Joseph Smith (a Gentile) was used of the Lord to bring about the Restoration of the Gospel and the Church.

It was predicted that the *Book of Mormon* should come in these latter days through the Gentiles. It is written very plainly, "Neither will the Lord God suffer that the Gentiles shall forever remain in that awful state of blindness, which thou beholdest they are in, because of the plain and most precious parts of the gospel of the Lamb which have been kept back by that abominable church, whose formation thou hast seen. Wherefore saith the Lamb of God: I will be merciful unto the Gentiles, unto the visiting of the remnant of the House of Israel in great judgment. And it came to pass that the angel of the Lord spake unto me saying: Behold, saith the Lamb of God, after I have visited the remnant of the House of Israel—and this remnant of whom I speak is the seed of my father—wherefore, after I have visited them in judgment, and had smitten them by the hand of the Gentiles, and after the Gentiles do stumble exceedingly, because of the most plain and precious parts of the gospel of the Lamb which have been kept back by that abominable church, which is the Mother of Harlots, saith the Lamb—I will be merciful unto the Gentiles in that day, insomuch that I will bring forth unto them, in mine own power, much of my gospel, which shall be plain and precious, saith the Lamb." (I Nephi, 13:32-34) He is speaking of the coming forth of the *Book of Mormon* in which is written the plain and precious parts of His Gospel. Let us continue: "For behold, saith the Lamb: I will manifest myself unto thy seed, that they shall write many things which I shall minister unto them, which shall be plain and precious; and after thy seed shall be destroyed, and dwindle in unbelief, and also the seed of thy brethren, behold, these things shall be hid up, to come forth unto the Gentiles, by the gift and power of the Lamb. And in them shall be written my gospel, saith the Lamb, and my rock and my salvation."

How clearly the scriptures speak of the coming forth of the *Book of Mormon* to the Gentiles. For, Nephi and others wrote upon large and small plates, laboriously inscribing their words so that the future generations of their people, as well as the Gentiles, would be able to read that which the Lord commanded. The Lord Jesus, when visiting the Nephites after His ascension, graphically described the blessings that would come to the Gentiles when they would receive His word: "And behold, this is the thing which I will give unto you for a sign—for verily I say unto you that when these things which I declare unto you, and which I shall declare unto you hereafter of myself, and by the power of the Holy Ghost which shall be given unto you of the Father, shall be made known unto the Gentiles that they may know concerning this people who are a remnant of the House of Jacob, and concerning this my people who shall be scattered by them; Verily, verily, I say unto you, when these things shall be made known unto them of the Father, and shall come forth of the Father, from them (Gentiles) unto you; For it is wisdom in the Father that they (Gentiles) should be established in this land, and set up as a free people by the power of the Father, that these things might come forth from them unto a remnant of your seed, that the covenant of the Father may be fulfilled which he hath covenanted with his people, O house of Israel; Therefore, when these works and the works which shall be wrought among you hereafter shall come forth from the Gentiles, unto your

seed which shall dwindle in unbelief because of iniquity; For thus it behooveth the Father that it should come forth **from the Gentiles**, that He may show forth His power unto the Gentiles, for this cause that the Gentiles, if they will not harden their hearts, that they may repent and come unto me and be baptized in my name and know of the true points of my doctrine, that they may be numbered among my people, O house of Israel." (III Nephi 21:2-6)

God gave the people on this land, through their holy prophets, knowledge that the Gospel would be restored to the Gentiles in the latter days; and the blessings that would come to them if they remained faithful, would be too numerous to write. True that the Gentile Nation on this land would be used as a scourge to scatter the Seed of Joseph, but, if they would believe on the Son of God, the Gospel would come to them and the Church would also be established among them, and they (Gentiles) would be used of the Lord to bring the Gospel to the Seed of Joseph, so that they too, might know of the covenants of the Father to their seed.

The primary responsibility of the Gentiles (the Church) is to carry the Restored Gospel to the Seed of Joseph which, when they have believed and know what is in store for them by the Lord, will cause them to rejoice exceedingly; for many are the blessings which shall be upon the head of Joseph in the latter days.

God will establish (and has done so) the Church of His Son among the Gentiles. So, the prophets foretold: "But if they (Gentiles) will repent and hearken unto my words, and harden not their hearts, I will establish my church among them, and they shall come in unto the covenant and be numbered among this the remnant of Jacob, unto whom I have given this land for their inheritance." (III Nephi, 21:22) Also, "And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld the power of the Lamb of God, that it descended upon the saints (Gentile Church) of the church of the Lamb, and upon the covenant people (Seed of Joseph and including all the House of Israel) of the Lord, who were scattered upon all the face of the earth; and they were armed with righteousness and with the power of God in great glory." (I Nephi, 14:14)

Although the scriptures refer to the people to whom the Gospel was restored as Gentiles, (that is the only way they could be differentiated from the Seed of Joseph) we have been numbered among the House of Israel, and as such do inherit the same blessings that have been pronounced upon the whole House of Israel.

The **marvelous work and a wonder** that shall be wrought among and by the Gentiles is, not only the restoring of the Gospel to them, but that they shall be used to bring the Gospel to the Seed of Joseph as their principal responsibility. It has been revealed to the Church that, by the preaching of the Gospel to the Seed of Joseph, "a home would be provided on the borders of the Lamanites". Also that through the **fulness** of the Gentiles, the Gospel would go to the **Red Man**. Thus it is written: "And now, the thing which our father meaneth concerning the grafting in of the natural branches through the fulness of the Gentiles, is, that in the latter days, when our seed shall have dwindled in

unbelief, yea, for the space of many years, and many generations after the Messiah shall be manifested in body unto the children of men, then shall the fulness of the Gospel of the Messiah come unto the Gentiles, and from the Gentiles unto the remnant of our seed." (I Nephi, 15:13)

Again the scriptures declare: "And I command you that ye shall write these sayings after I am gone, that if it so be that my people at Jerusalem, they who have seen me and been with me in my ministry, do not ask the Father in my name, that they may receive a knowledge of you by the Holy Ghost, and also of the other tribes whom they know not of, that these sayings which ye shall write shall be kept and shall be manifested unto the Gentiles, that through the fulness of the Gentiles, the remnant of their seed, who shall be scattered forth upon the face of the earth because of their unbelief, may be brought in, or may be brought to a knowledge of me, their Redeemer." (III Nephi, 16:4)

A question arises in the minds of some, and it has been asked of me, as to what is meant by the phrase, **the fulness of the Gentiles**? Let me briefly explain. It is written in the *Book of Mormon* that the Gentiles would receive the **fulness** of the Gospel in the latter days. (I Nephi 1:11, etc.) The **fulness** means that which is entire, whole, without blemish, filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, etc. There is no question in the minds of those who have searched and found the truth, that the Gospel has been restored to the Gentiles in power and in glory in these latter times. Now then, the **fulness** of the Gentiles is equal to the meaning of the **fulness of the gospel**. It means, in effect, that when the Gentile Church has reached its full height of glory, when it is spiritually whole, sanctified, without blemish, then shall God proceed to finish that **marvelous work** that He started among them by the Restoration of the Gospel. It also means that, when they (Gentiles) reach this **fulness**, the Lord shall bring about the bringing in of the remnants of the whole House of Israel who have been scattered upon the face of the earth. (III Nephi, 16:4)

The *Book of Mormon* goes on to state that the Gentiles will also be raised as a standard to the people. "Nevertheless, after they shall be nursed by the Gentiles, and the Lord has lifted up his hand upon the Gentiles, and set them up for a standard, and their children (Seed of Joseph) have been carried in their arms, and their daughters have been carried upon their shoulders, behold these things of which are spoken are temporal; for thus are the covenants of the Lord with our fathers; and it meaneth us in the days to come, and also all our brethren who are of the House of Israel." (I Nephi 22:6) And: "Thus saith the Lord God: Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people; and they shall bring thy sons in their arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders." (I Nephi 21:22)

If then the Church (Gentile Church) shall be set up as a standard, meaning an example of righteousness, what great responsibilities it has toward the Seed of Joseph as well as the Remnant of the House of Israel, and to the world. But, if the Gentiles do not continue in this **standard**, God will withdraw His Spirit from them

and cause the Seed of Joseph to go through them like a raging lion, and bring His Gospel away from them. (III Nephi 16:10, III Nephi 21:12)

It is my hope and prayer that the Gentile Church, who has been numbered among the House of Israel, shall always continue to be the **standard** to the people and shall always remember its responsibility to the Seed of Joseph, whom the Lord loves very dearly. So, as the poet has penned:

*Over the mountains and over the hills,
Go tell the Redman that God loves him still,
Over the mountains and over the hills,
Bring home the Redman, for God loves him still.*

IN SUMMARY:

1. God restored the Gospel to the Gentiles.
2. He restored the **fulness** of the Gospel.
3. Restoration of the Gospel is to be preached to all nations.
4. Gentiles responsibility is to bring the Gospel to the Seed of Joseph (American Indian).
5. Gentiles are set up as a **standard** to the people.
6. Gentiles (Church) to be numbered among the House of Israel.
7. Gentiles shall assist the Seed of Joseph in building the New Jerusalem.
"And they (Gentiles) shall assist my people, the remnant of Jacob, and also as many of the House of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem."
(III Nephi, 21:24)

May the Lord bless His Church that it will fulfill its responsibility toward all men, and especially toward God, who gave us the RESTORED GOSPEL.

DeMercurio's Arrive In Nigeria

Brother Nephi DeMercurio and his family left Detroit, Michigan, on December 27, 1979, to return to Nigeria. He and his family have arrived safely at Abak, Nigeria, and found all things well at the mission house and the compound.

Brother Nephi states that the children are doing fine, and that he feels good about being back in Nigeria. They send their love to all.

May God continue to bless Brother Nephi, Sister Lorraine and the children, is our prayer.

Brother John Ross

Change of Address

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THIRD MISSIONARY VISIT



I, Brother Raymond Cosetti, and my wife, Sister Mary, began our third missionary trip to Italy on June 15, 1979. Our son and family bid us farewell as we left the Greater Pittsburgh International Airport. After stopping at the J. F. Kennedy Airport in New York, we left for Milan, Italy where we arrived seven hours later.

Our first week was spent in visiting some relatives and telling them of the Restored Gospel. They were very interested. On June 28, we left for Cannetello, where we met Brother Mario Milano of the Cleveland, Ohio Branch, and went to Brother LoRicco's home. While there, we met Brother Morgante and stayed with him in Cannetello.

On July 1, we had church services in a storeroom that cost our people \$62.50 a month to rent. We also had a meeting in Villa St. Giovanni with ten present. The Spirit of God was felt in our meeting. They were very happy to see us and feed on the Word of God. The opportunity presented itself to visit Sister Catherine, Brother Todaro's sister. She is very strong in the Gospel.

Travelling in Italy is difficult. It takes all day to travel short distances and is very tiring. One day we changed seven different modes of transportation to visit our church people. We next went to Palti, Sicily and then took a boat to Messio. After a two hour train ride, we arrived at Brother LoRicco's sister's home.

Sad news came on July 7 that my sister's daughter passed away after being sick three days. This was a great shock to me, being so far away. All I could do was to pray for my sister that the Lord would comfort her and the grandchildren. We had services with eight of our people and had a very good meeting talking about the *Book of Mormon*.

The next stop in our visit was San Demetrio. Here we spent time with Brother Bonfiglio and visited all the Saints. Brother Olive Salvatore is the Presiding Elder here and is a very humble man and strong in the Gospel. We next left for Subari, where we met with Brother Rosario Scravagliere, whom we ordained into the Priesthood. After Brother Mario Milano read the duties of an Elder to Brother Rosario, he had his feet washed by Brother LoRicco, and Brother Raymond Cosetti ordained him. Brother Scravagliere is married, and he and his wife are devoted to the Church. They will be a good help to our people in Italy.

Our next stop was Naples, where we met with our people, had feet washing with them and enjoyed God's Spirit. From here we went to Ponza, where the Romano family (relatives of Brother John Romano of Detroit, Michigan) lives. We had services with them, and there were eleven in attendance.

Editorial Viewpoint . . . **A FOOD CRISIS**

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A food crisis more serious than the present energy crunch threatens world peace in the next twenty years unless the United States and other nations take bold action. That was the disappointing conclusion of a report issued on December 10, 1979, by President Carter's Commission on World Hunger.

The twenty-member commission sounded a warning that the problem of malnutrition is growing steadily worse. They urged the United States to triple the share of gross national product sent as nonmilitary foreign aid to poor countries. Currently, such aid averages about five billion dollars per year.

Many People Afflicted by Malnutrition

One-eighth of the world's population is afflicted by malnutrition, the commission reported, adding, "The most potentially explosive force in the world today is the frustrated desire of poor people to attain a decent standard of living. The anger, despair and often hatred that result represent a real and persistent threat to international order."

The major findings of the commission are as follows:

The world's undernourished people are concentrated on the Indian subcontinent, in Southeast Asia and in Africa below the Sahara Desert.

Although the United States is still the world's largest aid donor, eleven other nations now give a greater share of their gross national product to help poorer countries.

Since the United States is the world's largest producer, consumer and trader of food, "no significant progress" is likely without wholehearted United States participation.

President Carter, who created the commission in 1978, enthusiastically endorsed the report. He said, "This is an opportunity for our nation to embark upon a long-range, exciting, challenging, fruitful effort to alleviate the problem of world hunger over the next two decades."

United States Leadership in Helping Underprivileged

Additionally, Sol Linowitz, who presided over the eighteen months of hearings and research of the commission, hinted that our reputation for being the world's greatest food producer soon may be matched by our commitment to take the leadership in resolving the world hunger problem.

He did not suggest that the United States role should be just to produce more food, but to also help the world feed itself by strengthening the food production of poor countries.

Sol Linowitz also noted that the American people are also concerned about world hunger. Indeed, in a public opinion poll conducted early last year, Americans ranked ending world hunger close to that of national defense and foreign aid as a priority.

As a Church, we surely are moved with joy and gratitude to God, that His continuing blessings and bounties upon our beloved country are sufficient to share with many underprivileged people, wherever they are.

God bless President Carter, our government and people in this noble endeavor.

The Children's Corner



by MABEL BICKERTON

A Great Miracle

Dear Girls and Boys,

I want to tell you about a great miracle that happened long ago in America. There was a man named Aaron and his brethren who were led by the Spirit to the land of Nephi. The king here was an old man, the father of King Lamoni, who had been converted by the teachings of a man named Ammon.

Aaron, a servant of God, and two companions went to the old king's palace. Aaron bowed down before him and told him they were Ammon's brethren. The king had recently freed Ammon from prison. Aaron offered to be a servant to the king if he would spare his life. The king was happy to hear this and thought he could learn more of Ammon's teachings. The king would not permit Aaron and the two companions to be his slaves. He asked why Ammon hadn't come too. Aaron explained the Spirit had directed them to another land to teach the people of King Lamoni.

The king was puzzled and questioned the meaning of the Spirit of the Lord. Aaron asked him if he believed there is a God. He replied some of his people believed in God and he had given them permission to worship and build sanctuaries. Then he said, "If you say there is a God, behold I will believe." Aaron explained about the Great Spirit being God. He told the gospel to the king, beginning with the creation of Adam. The king believed and knelt down to pray. He was overcome with the Lord's Spirit and fell to the earth as if dead.

The king's servants ran and told the queen what had happened. When she saw the king she was angry and commanded Aaron and his brethren to be killed. She blamed them for all this. Now the servants had seen what had happened and knew they were not at fault. The servants were frightened and the queen began to fear. She wanted the people of the city called in. Maybe they would slay Aaron and his brethren. Aaron didn't want the people called for fear there would be a disturbance among them. Aaron went to the king and touched him. He said, "Stand". The king received strength and stood. The king began to speak. His words were so wonderful that his whole household was converted to the Lord.

Soon a great multitude came when they heard of the miracle. But when they saw Aaron and the brethren, they began to murmur. The king explained what had happened and called Aaron to preach to the people. No one was permitted to harm them. Thousands were converted. So through the old king accepting the Lord, all these wonderful things came to pass. Today our God is still a God of miracles.

Sincerely,
Sister Mabel

THIRD MISSIONARY VISIT . . . (Continued from page 4)

August 15, we left for Cala Gonnone to spend some time tutoring Brother Scravagliere of the procedures used in the Church. We also took advantage of the time to visit all the Saints in this area. On August 19, we had services with twelve present. We had a good meeting, and the people are interested when they hear the preaching of the Word. The next Sunday service was devoted to preaching from the *Book of Mormon* and the faith of the Church. After the service, we held a special question and answer session that was really enjoyable to everyone present. Many questions were answered. This was especially rewarding for our new Elder, Brother Scravagliere.

September 1 was my wife's birthday, and we bought ice cream and cake and surprised her. The next day, we had church services with eleven members present and several visitors. It was a very nice meeting that was enjoyed by all present. We spent the afternoon in another question and answer session.

We left Cala Gonnone with Brother and Sister Romano driving us to Orserasa. Here we parted in tears as we took a bus to Oblia. We then left for S. Treas and visited with Jamma and her daughter. We were well received. Next we visited Sister Carmel Spigno, who is 92 years old. When we arrived in her home, she was so thankful that she exclaimed, "I now can have the Lord's Supper."

On September 9, we had our last meeting in Italy. We met with Brother and Sister Spigno and had a very good meeting that surely made them stronger in the faith.

We left Italy on September 25, and eight and one half hours later arrived in New York and were pleasantly surprised to be greeted by our granddaughter. We waited impatiently for our flight to Pittsburgh, and four hours later met our family after being away for three and one half months.

We thank God for our safe arrival home and were grateful for another opportunity to visit the Church in Italy. I am sure that our trip was beneficial to our people in the land of our forefathers. Also, our thanks go to all the Brothers and Sisters who prayed for our safety and good health. May God bless you.

CHARITY

THOUGHTS BASED UPON FIRST CORINTHIANS THIRTEENTH CHAPTER

by Brother Charles Ashton

Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, sets forth some of the grand virtues of charity, or the Love of God. The repentant souls, by entering into the service of God, will experience their first taste of Divine Love. Under this blessing, worldly desires fade, our esteem for both God and man reach new heights; in fact, all nature appears clothed with Divine coloring. We see God revealed in the waters, in the firmament, in the trees and all vegetation. All this and many more things take place through our first blessings of the Love of God. Only those who are penitent, who come to Christ with a broken heart and contrite spirit are eligible to receive this Heavenly change. The blessings of unknown tongues, knowledge, prophecy, etc. are called "spiritual gifts." These serve as a support to our spiritual welfare. But these gifts will eventually fail, while charity abideth forever. God's love is as eternal as God Himself. Through the manifestation of spiritual gifts, we know the Lord in part, but when perfection is reached, these gifts are rendered useless. The voice of the Lord to John concerning one of the seven churches was to take care of their first love. Such a planting may be as small as a grain of mustard seed, but it produces unspeakable joy. Should it happen after a time that our interest in spiritual gifts would exceed our interest in God's love, we may obstruct our spiritual advancement. Since God's love is to abide forever, while the gifts of the Spirit will fail, it may be fitting for us to examine some of its accomplishments.

1. Charity suffers long and is kind—patient, waiting, joined with a Godly affection, will distinguish those who possess this Heavenly blessing from those who are void of it.

2. It envies not, vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up—Persons who are envious are very unhappy. When we allow ourselves to be disturbed at another's advancement, we possess the wrong spirit. On the other hand, if we allow ourselves to be benefited by the spiritual uplifting of another, we possess the right spirit.

3. Vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up—When charity predominates, boasting is excluded. Exaltation gives way to humility, and we prefer others rather than ourselves.

4. Doth not behave itself unseemingly—Charity will automatically produce good manners, because a discernment will accompany the love of God in meeting different people in their homes and abroad or being assembled together.

5. Seeketh not her own—When the love of God possesses persons to such a degree that they are interested in others' welfare above their own, surely they are securely walking on the narrow path that leads to life everlasting.

6. Is not easily provoked—Bad temper vanishes because of the sweetness of God's love poured into the soul. In the 6th and 7th verses, it shows where our rejoicing lies. Every hint of a sinful nature is unappealing. Truth and truth alone will satisfy. It will bear all things, believe, hope and endure all things. It will think no evil. One of the ancients declared that "as the heart of man thinketh, so is he." When the great love of God has reached such high proportions in one's soul, there is no room for an evil thought to enter.

Regeneration takes place by the blessing of God's love. To be morally good is an improvement in our natural life. To be spiritually good is to possess the love of God. That love was manifested by Christ, and He set an example for all. Paul prayed for the Ephesians that they may know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge. It will be good for us all to know it more than we do. It will eliminate many things which do us no good.

Faith and Hope are associated with Love. When we have faith in something, we wait upon its accomplishment hopefully. When our hopes are realized, these two virtues have served their purpose perfectly. There is a "believing faith", accompanied by an "inferior hope", which is not directly associated with the love of God. Such possessions are good, being essential to a superior faith and hope. Paul connects these last two with Charity or the Love of God.

Persons who live worthy lives will find the love of God developing their souls, illuminating their minds and enlarging their hearts. As plant life is supported by the sun, moon and rain, so are the Saints of God encouraged by the Gifts of the Spirit. After the fruits of earth have ripened, the sun, moon and rain can do them no more good. They have reached their perfection. So with God's people. The Gifts of the Spirit will finally serve their purpose. Perfection will come to those who have not been estranged from the love of God to a foreign love.

We strongly endorse the words of Paul when he says, "Love worketh no ill to his neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law." Without the love of God, our realization of spiritual beauty is dim. More than forty years ago, the spirit revealed to Brother Lewis the following:

*Jesus' love will never leave
Because in Him I do believe.
He saved my life among His fold,
And that's the blessing I do hold."*

There is nothing on earth, however costly, can compare with the love of God in the soul; and inasmuch as the Lord is no respecter of persons, "whosoever will, may come and partake of the waters of life freely."

(Reprint, August Issue, 1945)

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Branch and Mission News

ELDER ORDAINED IN FREDONIA

"Let brotherly love continue." We certainly saw these words of the Apostle Paul manifested in our Branch Sunday, October 28, when Brothers and Sisters from six branches of the Pennsylvania District traveled many miles to wish Brother Alvin Gehly well and take part in his ordination into the Priesthood.

Brother Lawrence King opened the morning service with prayer. Brother Richard Lawson read and spoke on Ecclesiastes 3, wherein it says, "there is a time for everything", even that the Saints of God would experience bad times as well as good. But God would supply added strength for the bad times.

Brother Paul Palmieri followed saying, "A minister is a servant of the people" and Alvin would need the support, love, and prayers of the Brothers and Sisters and his family. Brother Paul Gehly also stressed the fact that all members have the responsibility to encourage and assist Brother Alvin in his many duties.

The meeting was closed with singing, *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*, and prayer was offered by Brother James Campbell.

Brother James King opened the afternoon meeting, speaking on the Spiritual Gifts that God would bestow on Brother Alvin, which would be a benefit to him and others. He mentioned salvation does not come from the gifts we receive from God such as speaking in tongues, the interpretation of tongues, prophesying, etc., but by the gifts we give to God. Brother Russell Cadman followed by reading and commenting on Alma 13. He emphasized "that men brought into the ministry are ordained after the order of the Son of God, being called and prepared from the foundation of the world according to the foreknowledge of God." A good chapter for all to read. He also quoted the words of the Apostle Paul to Titus, "to ordain elders in every city."

When Brother Russell Cadman washed the feet of Brother Alvin Gehly, we all felt a very humble spirit. The elders then formed a circle while Brother Paul Palmieri ordained Brother Alvin into the ministry with mighty prayer.

Various ones sang in the afternoon meeting, but we especially enjoyed the hymn, *The Trysting Place of Prayer*, rendered by Brother Otto Gehly and his three sons, Paul, Arthur and Alvin, who are in the ministry.

Brother James Campbell spoke beautiful words of encouragement to the new elder, advising him to forget Alvin Gehly and trust in God for strength and help in the ministry.

This fine meeting, which included sacrament and testimony, was closed by singing, *Near the Cross*, and prayer was offered by Brother Paul Gehly.

Sister Eleanor Sproul

HOPELAWN BRANCH NEWS

On August 5, the Lord again showered the Saints of Hopelawn, N. J. with His blessings.

While Brother Joseph Perri was preaching, Sister Anna Hertneky saw a white light around his head, lasting the entire length of his sermon. Then Sister Betty Davis rose to her feet stating that while Brother Joe was preaching she also had seen a white glow around his head; and from the shoulders down to his feet was a golden light. As she witnessed this, she prayed unto the Lord that if this was from Him that someone would confirm it.

Brother Joseph Faragasso read us the following experience had by Sister Josephine Benyola, whose husband, Brother Tony, has had many heart attacks and strokes. (He is completely dependent upon our Sister. She is blind in one eye and can see very little with the other. Yet she does not complain, always praising God.)

"On Friday I had an appointment with the eye doctor, not knowing what he was going to tell me. But I did know that I might have to have an operation on the eye. As I went there the doctor told me that I have a very badly damaged eye. He called it cornea damage. The doctor said I would have to have a transplant and I would have to wait a long time before I could have that done. When he tested my other eye, he said there was a cataract, but I had vision, so he said I could wait. Maybe in a year I might have to have the operation."

The day before I went to the doctor, Thursday, August 3, 1979, I lay on the bed to take a nap. I slept for about one hour or so. When I woke up, I saw a beautiful face looking right at me. What a beautiful face. I spoke and said, "Are you Jesus?", and when I said this, the face disappeared. Oh, it was so beautiful! I thank God for the beautiful experience. Jesus is letting me know that we are being taken care of. Thank God for The Church of Jesus Christ. Pray for us, for we know prayers have been answered. Many times I feel so discouraged, and knowing that someone cares makes us feel good. Let us all remember one another in prayer. We love you and God bless you."

Adding to the spirit already so abundantly present, Sister Josephine's and Brother Tony's children, Sister Carol Higgins visiting from Bronx, and Brother Philip Benyola from Texas sang, *Live Closer to Jesus*.

We were happy to have with us Brother Julius Kovacs and Sister Helen Kovacs from Vermont.

On the following Sunday, August 12, Brother Joseph Faragasso related an experience he had while serving communion the week before. Brother Joe said ever since he was ordained an elder, he had it on his mind, "How would I know if a Brother or Sister is worthy of receiving the Lord's Supper?" While passing communion he said he was filled with the Spirit and as he offered the communion he saw, as it were, each soul, so pure and white, with no defects in it. The Lord has surely blessed our Brother and answered his prayer.

On Wednesday, August 15, we were honored to have one of our Apostles, Brother A. A. Corrado, with us. He told us that the blessings of God yet to come to the faithful, while in this life, do not compare to what awaits us. The work of the Lord has value that cannot be appraised. Uphold the Church. Tell others what the Lord has done for us. Everything that we do that is good is acceptable to God.

Sunday, August 19, Conference was held at the Hopelawn school. It was good to see so many of our Brothers, Sisters, and visitors, and it looked as if every seat was filled. We were uplifted by the presence of our two Apostles, Brother A. A. Corrado and Brother Rocco Biscotti. Surely the Lord has blessed our Brothers much in their lives, and we are most thankful when He allows them to fellowship with us.

The following week, Sunday, August 26, Brother Steve Nagy testified that he was in much pain during the meeting, but while the Elders were praying for Sister Anna Hertneky, his pain was relieved. (Our Brother has been afflicted for many years with a painful condition of his spine at the back of his neck.)

We had a special meeting Friday night, September 14, to welcome Brother Nephi DeMercurio. He gave a brief summary of his life and work in Africa. Then he opened the meeting for questions. It was good to learn more about our African Brothers and Sisters, making us feel closer to them and understand more the work that is going on there. Our hearts and our prayers go out to Sister Lorraine and Brother Nephi and their children. Truly, God must have a special place in His heart for them.

After the meeting we went downstairs for cake and coffee in honor of our Brothers, Joseph Perri and Mike Hildenbrand, who were about to embark on the Lord's work as missionaries to Africa.

On Sunday, September 16, the Church was filled to overflowing with Saints, friends, and the Spirit of God. Brother Nephi DeMercurio expressed his thanks at being here. He spoke on the basis of our beginning, how an Angel flew in Heaven bringing forth the everlasting Gospel, how we must go through the fire, through the garden and then through the glory. For his text he used John 12:24, the parable of the seed which must die to have life. How Jesus taught the disciples, and how we only become beautiful when the light of God shines forth in our life. Our Brother spoke with much power, and the presence of the Lord was felt in our midst.

Brother Wally Cihomski sang the hymn, *Where No One Stands Alone*, and dedicated it to Brother Nephi, Brother Joseph Perri and Brother Mike Hildenbrand.

While Brother Nephi was speaking, Sister Lisa Rogolino saw a bright light around his head. She also saw a light around Brother Wally as he was singing.

Brother Mike then spoke of his journey to Africa, and as he spoke Sister Betty Davis saw the same light around him that she had seen around Brother Joseph Perri.

We had a prayer meeting instead of Sunday School on October 7 for our Brothers who were leaving for Africa, this being their last Sunday with us before going.

Sister Pat Hildenbrand was here with Brother Mike from Herndon, Virginia. We also had with us Brother Julius and Sister Helen Kovacs from Vermont. Brother Mike spoke on the trials and blessings of serving God. Brother Julius spoke on the love of God for us all. Brother Joseph Perri said, "We go to Africa because we have a love for all people, all the children of Christ."

Sister Betty Davis
Assistant Editor

MCKEES ROCKS NEWS

Greensburg Branch came to McKees Rocks Branch to visit Sunday, October 7, 1979. Needless to say, the blessings of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ were wonderful. Hymn 206, *I Hear My Blessed Saviour Say: Follow Me, Follow Me* was sung. Prayer was offered. Then Hymn 412, *His Wonderful Love*, was sung.

We did wish the whole world could have heard the sermon from John, 4th Chapter. It is the Spirit of God that brings us to obey this Gospel, to drink of this gift of God that is mentioned in the 10th verse, "living water". It satisfies always and forever. Only partaking of sin keeps it from springing forth love and truth. The 21st, 22nd, and 23rd verses were expounded. The question was asked, "How do we worship God in Spirit and Truth", only by faith? Jesus is the truth, the way, the resurrection. Tongues were spoken when Brother Paul Gehly was speaking on the faith of the Brother of Jared. "Praise Me" said God to us. It was mentioned that one day if we prove faithful we shall meet to part no more. By His grace we hope to prove faithful. *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow* was sung.

Being General Conference week, Brother Mark Randy visited our Branch the Wednesday evening before Conference. May the Lord ever be praised for extending his life and giving him the burning desire to labor in the vineyard.

The message was of how Jesus taught, rebuking the religious leaders of His day. Israel was divided in their faiths. Some were higher up than others. God is full of love, being all love. We are taught to love all, without partiality.

Our Brother mentioned how the truth was presented to him. A sincere humble man came with *Bible* and *Book of Mormon*, telling him of the true living God who hears and answers prayer. Experiences were related to us concerning the work among the poor. May God bless one and all, is our prayer, praying for souls to come and partake of the Gospel feast in these the latter days. "Come to the supper of the Great Bridegroom."

We do love you Brother Mark and trust to see you again in His loving service. May the grace of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ abide and abound.

We also rejoiced in having Brother and Sister Robert Buffington from Imperial Branch visit our Branch on November 4. It was pointed out to us that we are the seed, along with the prophets and all who obey God's commands. We are sons and daughters of the most High God, through faith and obedience to His Holy Word. Jesus Christ died for us. We are His seed. While testimony was given by the Brothers and Sisters, tongues were spoken. Also the words, "Thus saith the Lord, greater things will my people see. Exercise faith. I will bless My Church". Two Sisters were miraculously healed when anointed the Sabbath before. Therefore, we praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Sister Martha Laird
Branch Editor

HERNDON, VIRGINIA MISSION MADE A BRANCH

The members met together September 22, 1979, at the Church in Herndon, Virginia to organize as a Branch. Brother Matthew Rogolino of Freehold and Brother Salvatore Sgro were there to conduct the meeting.

For opening hymn we sang, *More Like the Master*. Then we sang, *O Jesus, I Have Promised*. Brother Sgro opened in prayer. Continuing, we sang, *My God Thou Seest Me*.

Brother Matthew spoke to us recalling the discussion he had with our elders here in Herndon on becoming a Branch. He elaborated on the difference of being a Mission as opposed to being a Branch, and how we will have more responsibilities. Brother Matthew went over the duties of Presiding Elder, First and Second Counselor, Secretary of Elders, Presiding Teacher and Teachers, Presiding Deacon and Deacons, Presiding Deaconess and Deaconesses and finally, all elected officers. We were made to be aware of how important it is to revere and honor these ordained offices and that they were to serve the members of our Branch.

Brother Matthew recalled our struggle of 27 years ago to keep the Church going, of how we met at the YMCA in a room. Then he recalled the meeting of the Brothers from New Jersey, meeting our Brothers from Herndon about three years ago. It was on that rainy day as they stood outside of a very run-down building and gave us permission to buy that same building.

Brother Matthew spoke of us being vessels of honor so that the Spirit of God may be in us, rather than be a vessel of dishonor. When we are vessels of honor, we will be a blessing to others.

Brother Sgro spoke on how our elders must be a spiritual leader to us. He spoke of responsibilities the elders would have to the world around us, and of how wonderful it would be if entire families would serve

God together. He impressed on us to seek spiritual blessings first and then all things would be added unto us.

Brother Mike Hildenbrand recalled how few members there were in 1965 when he first came to Washington D. C., and how the enthusiasm of so few brought about the Branch we now have in Herndon. Our Brother called for our support of the elders and impressed upon us the fact that all Saints are equal in the Branch.

Brother Matthew Rogolino concluded our meeting by asking that God would bless us in the coming years. For closing we sang, *To the Work*. Bro. Paul Carr closed in prayer.

Sister Esther Andrews
Branch Editor

NEW ARRIVALS

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

Matthew Jaison to David and Joy Kurowsky of Monongahela, Pennsylvania;

Richard Bradley to Richard and Marlene Rey of Sterling Heights, Michigan;

Canon to Gary and Karen Ciccati of Metuchen, New Jersey;

Brandon James to James and Vicki Morningstar of Glassport, Pennsylvania;

Joseph Edward, Jr. to Joseph and May Kirkpatrick of Phoenix, Arizona.

* WEDDINGS *

NICKLOW-COLLINS

Brother Robert D. Nicklow, Jr. and Sister Chris Ann Collins were united in holy matrimony on December 1, 1979, at The Church of Jesus Christ in Monongahela, Pennsylvania.

The ceremony was officiated by Brother Richard Scaglione, with the groom's father, Brother Robert D. Nicklow, Sr., assisting.

Musical selections were presented by Sister Iva Fedorka and Miss Barbara Fleming, and organist, grandmother of the bride, Sister Sarah Vancik.

The newlyweds are residing in Monongahela, Pennsylvania.

-OBITUARIES-

LUCIA DIPRONIO

Sister Lucia DiPronio of Detroit, Michigan, Branch No. 1 passed away on November 27, 1979. She was born on February 1, 1900, and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on February 2, 1930.

She is survived by her husband, three daughters and one son, nineteen grandchildren and nineteen great-grandchildren.

The funeral services were conducted by Brother Nicholas Pietrangelo.

ALICE BIANCHI

Sister Alice Bianchi of Detroit, Michigan, Branch No. 1 left this life on November 11, 1979. She was born on December 26, 1894, and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on January 19, 1936.

She is survived by three sons, two daughters, twenty-one grandchildren and nineteen great-grandchildren.

Brothers Carl Frammolino and Louis Vitto officiated at the funeral services.

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A Recent Visit to Africa

On Tuesday evening, October 9, 1979, Brother Mike Hildenbrand and I, after saying goodbye to our families, brothers and sisters at J. F. K. Airport, New York, boarded a Pan Am jet for Lagos, Nigeria. Having been acquainted with the work from its beginning when Brothers Cadman and Bittinger first made a trip in the early part of 1950, I would now see for myself the labors our brothers, who have traveled to Africa, have done. Indeed, it would be the beginning of a most beautiful trip. We arrived safely in Lagos, Nigeria, the following day, thank God, where we had hoped to meet the saints of that area. To our disappointment, we were not able to see anyone. In making inquiries we came to find out that a good part of the mail was not being delivered. Possibly because of the change in the Government at that time.

Friday, October 12, we boarded a plane for Calabar where we were met by Brother Ebong (Mr. and Mrs. John Garrison) and were soon on our way to the Mission house. Upon our arrival at Atai Otoro we paused long enough to place our luggage in the house and then proceed to the home of Brother E. U. A. Arthur. Brother Arthur is not only President of the Church in Nigeria, but also a Paramount ruler in this area. After exchanging greetings we returned to what would be the beginning of a busy schedule.

We visited every branch of the Church in Nigeria, meeting as many of the saints as we could. The first Sunday we addressed eight hundred and twenty-six people. Some of the secondary school pupils were present. That afternoon we had a feet washing service. Two hundred ninety-four of the saints were present. This was the largest group I had ever seen at this type of meeting. Brother Mike felt to wash the feet of Brother Arthur, I washed the feet of Brother Ebong, and Brother Arthur was inspired to wash my feet. It was just a beautiful feeling to be with our brothers and sisters. The meeting was very orderly. In visiting the saints at different stations, we felt the same warm spirit as we traveled from one station to another. They are beautiful people because of being the children of God, brothers and sisters of The Church of Jesus Christ.

We met some of the saints who were baptized when Brother Cadman first went to Nigeria. Brother Sandy Akpan, who is an elder of the Church and up in age, told us that a road was going through the middle of their humble church building, and that a group from another church asked them to deny our Church and go with them. If they did, they would erect them a large permanent building (worship hall). Brother Sandy refused because he said he made a promise to God and to Brother Cadman that he and his people would remain faithful until death in The Church of Jesus Christ. When Mike and I heard that, tears filled our eyes to see how true these brothers and sisters are to our Church. It is sad that some have left the Church in

General Church Calendar

MARCH	7,8,9	— Florida Area MBA Campout
	15	— American Indian Committee Meeting, Tampa, Florida
	22	— General Ladies Uplift Circle, Aliquippa, Pennsylvania
	22	— General Church Trustees Meeting
APRIL	15	— Quorum of Twelve Meeting, Greensburg, PA
	16	— General Church Mission Board Meeting, 9:30 AM
	16	— Domestic Mission Committee Meeting, 5:30 PM
	16	— Quorum of Seventy Meeting, 7:00 PM
	17	— Quorum of Seventy Meeting, 9:00 AM
	17	— General Conference, 2:00 PM
	18	— General Conference
	19	— General Conference
	20	— General Conference
MAY	17	— GMBA Conference, Euclid, Ohio
JUNE	7-14	— GMBA Campout, Massanetta Springs, Harrisonburg, VA

Nigeria, but isn't it also true that some have departed from the Church here in America?

While in Nigeria we had quite a bit of rain and the roads (jungle) were very bad for traveling. Now that we reflect on our traveling on these roads, some being just wide enough for a bicycle, we thank God that He delivered us safely.

One Sunday morning we had to travel a great distance to visit a branch of the Church. I asked Brother Mike if we should try to go, being so great a distance and bad roads. He said he would have felt bad if we didn't at least try. So we prayed before we started. We drove approximately twenty-five miles when our car went into a deep hole filled with water. The vehicle stopped and at first we thought the wires were wet, but when Brother Mike opened the hood he saw that the radiator core had been damaged by the fan blade. Of course, we could not proceed any further. We removed the radiator, sent it out with the driver, and after one and one half hours setting in the hot sun with black clouds in the sky, (threat of rain) he returned, but could not find anyone to fix it. We were all concerned. We had cause to be. I walked a short ways from the car, and I began to pray to God for deliverance. I'm sure my brothers did also, but when I returned back to the car within a few minutes a brother of the Church passed by and recognized the car and Brother Ebong. An answered prayer. This brother, along with the driver, took the radiator to have it fixed. When he returned about three hours later, we thought it was fixed but upon mounting and filling it with water we found out that it still was leaking, but not as bad. What were we going to do now? Brother Mike turned to me and said, "How about we put two eggs in the radiator?" That sounded unbelievable, because I never heard of it; but I said to him, "Go ahead, we have nothing to lose." Brother Ebong went to a home nearby to purchase two eggs at a cost of thirty Kobo or sixty cents American money and the eggs were put into the radiator. We closed the hood of the car and proceeded back toward the Mission house, but on the way we were to take this brother to his home. After driving three miles or so, we reached the area where he lived, and Brother Mike lifted the hood and called for me to take a look. I didn't know what to expect, but when I looked I saw that the water had stopped. I'm sure that many of you will read this experience and will say that I have never heard of putting eggs in a radiator to stop a leak. I wouldn't advise anyone to try it unless you add faith. The car radiator remained that way for one month until we left Nigeria. Brother Nephi still might have it that way.

While it was a little discouraging at this point, we soon passed it by as an experience from God letting us know He was with us each mile of the way.

As we would visit one branch to another we would be called upon to anoint those that were ill. In bearing their testimonies we were told by the saints that our visit was worth more than all of the gold and silver in this world, and that we must have love in our hearts for them.

We would hear the names of Brothers Cadman, Bittinger, Swanson, Ciaravino, DeMercurio, of course, Brother John Ross, who is known as Akpan Annang,

meaning "first son". Our Church and these brothers are highly respected.

Our visit to the school showed the students of our interest and also that of the Church. Once a week we (Mike and I) would conduct Bible study with them. These young people are pleased with our school and are eager to learn. There is just one problem, a shortage of teachers. If anyone is interested in helping the Nigerian students further their education, apply to Brother John Ross or Brother Nephi and tell them of your interest. We were told that there are one thousand students enrolled at the school.

The last few days of our stay, we were able to attend the Annual Conference. Many of the Priesthood were present. On Sunday we were able to see the faces of our people that we met in our travels and some we were not able to meet.

It was hard for Mike and I to say good-bye. Tears filled our eyes when we would hear their plea for prayer. They asked us not to forget them and to convey to the parent church in America their love.

Brother Arthur, who is Village Chief, a Paramount ruler of that area, bestowed a great honor upon Mike and I the evening before we left. He made us Indigenous Sons (adopted) of Atai Otoro, village where the Mission house and Church headquarters are. We were given a handwritten letter and a bag of sand which we were to bring to America and one day soon to return it. I was presented with a garment to wear which is part of the clothing worn by the men in Nigeria and of course I will always cherish that gift in a special way.

We left Nigeria on November 20 for a visit to Ghana. Because of the civil unrest, Mike and I were concerned about traveling in that country, but to our amazement we found everything rather peaceful and not in want of anything. I'm sure God heard the plea of His people in our behalf.

Upon our arrival in Ghana we were met by Brother Ford. He is the only elder of our Church in that country. We arrived safely at our hotel and the following day we met with the chief of the village by the name of Chief Joseph. We were welcomed by him and by some of his top aides. Brother Ford requested that Mike and I visit the different villages and acquaint the people about The Church of Jesus Christ. Most of this had to be done in the late afternoon or evening because many were out working. Reluctantly we stayed out in the evening after dark where we found ourselves preaching the Gospel to his people by kerosene lanterns. As it was in Nigeria, the brothers and sisters greeted us very warmly along with many villagers. One morning Chief Joseph came to our hotel room with a set of plans in his hands. He showed us on the map that a parcel of ground was reserved for our Church to erect a building. We spent many hours visiting in the different villages and with Brother Ford.

Our purpose in going to Africa was to encourage the brothers and sisters of the Church to serve God and to be faithful because there would be a crown of eternal life that would await us when God would call us from this life to our eternal home.

We told them, with what little time we had, about the many experiences in our own lives and that of our people here and they would perk up and would be eager to listen. These people didn't want us to leave because they are hungry to hear about the Restoration. When we departed from visiting the various places we told them to remember the Church in America and throughout the world that it might be strong and united in faith of Jesus Christ. Their answer would be, "We will pray for the Church, but please do not forget us and return again." We assured them we would harken to their plea.

We departed Ghana for the Netherlands on November 27, where we met and stayed at the home of Jan Schut. He has been corresponding with some of our brothers here in America about the Church. Brother Mike and I stayed up with him to the early hours of the morning answering his questions, going over the Faith and Doctrine, the resolutions and laws on marriage and divorce, and I must say he was very much interested in what we had to say. He is acquainted with the Restoration because of once being a member of the Mormon and Temple Lot Church. Because he was dissatisfied he began to search further until he came in contact with The Church of Jesus Christ which we represent. He has quite a library on the various Restoration groups, and is very knowledgeable of the same, and he also loves the *Book of Mormon*. He has a beautiful family consisting of his wife, Ina, and three young boys. It was pleasant for us to make our acquaintances, which we hope will be lasting. His parting remarks were that he was ninety-five per cent sure this Church is what he has been looking for. If at all possible, Jan will come to America this year to attend a General Conference because he wants to meet the saints of the Church and request baptism. If anyone wants to visit Holland, look Jan up. He is very pleasant to talk to and is a very good cook.

While in the Netherlands we met our wives and had the privilege to tour Europe to see many of the sights. After our lengthy stay overseas, we returned to America December 8, 1979. It's good to be home, but our minds and prayers are with the Church in Africa.

As I've stated earlier and in closing, the brothers and sisters of both Nigeria and Ghana request that we extend their love to the parent Church here in America and to remember them in our prayers. Therefore, I use the median of the Gospel News to convey that message to you. This is a trip or visit I will never forget.

A few of us from the Atlantic Coast met Brother Nephi and Sister Lorraine and children at J. F. K. Airport on their journey to Nigeria. Knowing of their desire to work for the Church in the missionary field and some of the things they must contend with, such as the climatic conditions, I would request that we remember them in prayer also, and possibly a note or card would be greatly appreciated. The address is:

Mr. and Mrs. Nephi DeMercurio
P. O. Box 81
Abak, Cross River State
Nigeria, West Africa

Brother Joseph Perri

Greetings To You In Christ,



I visited an afflicted brother today, hoping to cheer him a little. He has been paralyzed for many years in his right leg and arm, and his speech is also impaired. Brother Randazzo has had several strokes but has overcome them by the mercies of God.

The reason that prompted me to write about Anthony Randazzo is far more than the paralysis. We generally write about such things after death, but this is an unusual man of God. He and Sister Frances lost their son in action in the tragic war in Vietnam. Their hearts were broken, as any good parents. They often would bring flowers to the grave, but one day they dreamed their son. He said to them, "Why do you bring flowers there? I am not there. My body is dead, but I am alive, as you see me." This comforted them.

Anthony was our deacon until he was stricken, yet he continued coming to Church with a ready smile. At one time, his memory was incapacitated to the point of not remembering things, but he also overcame that. Then, another stroke practically beset him further.

This day as I visited him as usual, I found both he and his wife happy. Anthony said to me, "I lack nothing. God grants unto me all things." I looked at him with amazement. He tried to rise from his chair by the assistance of a walking cane. I helped him. He took me to the kitchen, sat down and asked me to do likewise. Then he proceeded to say, "I was sitting here and tried to make some Italian fruit pastries, but my mind was not helping me to remember. Then, suddenly a young man was sitting where you are sitting. He taught me how to make them." This happened the day before I visited them, yet the house seemed still filled with the glory of God.

Frances said, "I dreamed last night that I baked bread. It was so good and so very much and the fragrance filled the whole house. Many poor people and children came, and I was breaking that good bread and fed them all." They both said, "Our house is full of the glory of God, and we lack nothing."

Their only healthy son killed in Vietnam and Anthony afflicted, yet they have turned every misfortune into a victorious means of appreciation. What a beautiful attitude. My soul was lifted as I listened to them. I had gone there to comfort them, but they comforted me. How often we lose sight of the better part of our hope and far better day with Christ the Lord. Are you troubled, afflicted, beset or lonely? Strive to overcome with a child-like faith in God. You will come out VICTORIOUS.

Abiding love to you,
Mark Randy

A Challenging Plea To Youth

I shall make an earnest attempt to use *The Gospel News* as a medium to communicate my sincere thoughts relative to certain conditions of our youth: first to those who have embraced this Gospel and then to those who are in contact with this people but haven't as yet become completely aroused to that degree of being enthusiastic participants in this all-inclusive cause of salvation.

In visiting the various branches and missions of our Church, I have met many young people. A good number, I have personal acquaintance with, while others I anticipate in the future to know better. In my observations of a good majority of our youth, I am happy to say that many young people of our Church manifest definite signs of intelligence, of talent, and of knowledge. Naturally, they are good timber from which the Church has future possibilities of drawing durable and constructive material. Among these young men and women, there are those who have become outstanding students, and have left impressive scholastic records in their various schools and classes. They should be commended for developing such admirable and honorable characteristics. However, the one setback is that as these young people pursue the higher steps of learning, they tend to drift away somewhat from the much more vital and deeper field of religious activity. Because of their aspirations in fields outside of the borders of the Gospel, I have noticed that the Church, in many instances, is losing the services of many of these young men and women. The latter in turn are gradually losing sight of the profound and lasting riches found within the affective influence of the Gospel. I firmly believe that knowledge and wisdom should be the ambitious desire of all normal young people. One cannot find fault with the good intentions for improvement that animates ambitious youth to great achievements. Ambition to man is like a spur in his side which makes him wrestle with destiny. In many cases it is God's own incentive to make purpose great and achievement greater. Young people today can also become stimulated with ambition in this unique field. God has an arena of activity for people who can measure up to the responsibility and stature of great leaders who are divinely led. My deep concern in this matter of choice between two important objectives is whether the searcher for truth has chosen the good or the best.

When a young person investigates the reserved potential possibilities that are deeply contained in the Gospel, he/she shall not only accumulate a complete education and obtain wisdom in the fullest sense of the word; but, his/her mental horizon shall become broader in scope and vividly illuminated to harmonize with the deeper dimensions of life. His spiritual faculties shall also become quickened to that degree that he shall learn to react sensitively to those movements and pulsations that manifest the evidence of that higher life. A determined effort, when coupled with a good desire can cause the intent searcher of truth and knowledge to discover the life-giving substance found in Christ's gospel message to the world. Once that discovery becomes a reality, then the full force of Christ's unalterable implication-A man

must be reborn to comprehend the facts of His Kingdom-shall arouse in the new individual feelings and emotions that are beyond the description of the written or spoken word.

The seemingly highest pinnacles of successful attainments in this life are, at their highest and best, the same as the waterfalls that command beauty and attention at the lower levels of the mountainsides. But imagine the great and vast range of beauty that is possible, if we can endeavor to climb to the higher levels of the mountain and search for the original fountain from which these waterfalls find their source and creation. Once we have reached the summit of that mountain, we can drink in the full view of everything below us; while in the presence of the full sunbeams which emanate the full light and beauty of the gushing fountain. I would like to put this question before all young men and women within reach of this *Gospel News*: Are we going to be content and satisfied in walking the lower levels of the mountainside while there are yet higher levels to attain to, if we would only strive to direct our steps and efforts to that highest summit of the mountain?

The higher fields of learning and the so-called successful pursuits of endeavor are proper and fitting within a mortal sphere; but, when gauged in the light of the highest field to which the soul can aspire, the former fades in the background because of its limited range and brief duration in the sphere of temporal things.

In this day and time, we are living in the dawning of the world's most momentous hours. The combined forces of science, politics, education, and every phase and branch of learning are powerless in their effort to stay or control the rapid world-wide human upheaval that is gradually gaining momentum daily; and I might also add, hourly. Our former President, Mr. Truman, in one of his speeches declared, "I would that God would send forth an Isaiah or an Apostle Paul to reawaken this nation and world to its moral obligations." Mr. Truman's statement is nearer to the possibility of his words becoming a reality than mankind in general can fully realize.

Is it possible that men of the same caliber and stature of Paul or Isaiah can come forth from the masses of humanity? Will the Church one day produce such men? With unshakeable confidence I believe that our Church, one day in the not-too-distant future, not only can, but will produce such men. It also shall vividly manifest their characters before the display of the world. As individuals will voluntarily join themselves in partnership with God, they shall be molded to fit the proper designs of the Creator. I therefore ask all young people who may chance to read this earnest plea, marshal your talents and capabilities of whatever nature they may be, and yield yourselves to that greatest potter and vessel maker that you may give Him a reasonable chance to mold and shape you. Then you shall see what fitting vessels He can shape. Enroll yourselves in this mightiest cause of all; the ultimate purpose and end of which is the immortal welfare of the human family. Allow all the physical,

(continued on page seven)

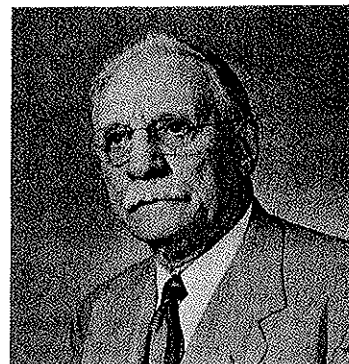
Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Thirty-Fifth Anniversary

This month of March, 1980 marks the thirty-fifth anniversary of the printing of the first issue of *The Gospel News*.

Indeed, a sample or trial edition was first printed in March, 1938. However, it was not until early 1945 that official action was taken by the Church to begin publication. To quote the Editorial of March, 1945 issue:

"The matter of printing a Church paper was brought forward in our recent (January 6,7) Conference at Youngstown, Ohio.



It was mentioned that Brother W. H. Cadman has a press. I promised that I would print an issue and endeavor to learn of what interest there would be in a small paper. My press is small as you will observe by this issue. Its capacity is 10 x 15 inches and when folded, makes a four page paper size 7 1/2 x 10. It can be made larger by simply printing another sheet 7 1/2 x 10 which would then make six pages, or another full size sheet 10 x 15 printed would make an eight page paper. I favor starting with six pages and then add to it later if necessary. I am sure that six or eight pages will accommodate a nice lot of reading matter if properly handled.

If our people and any others who would be interested, will subscribe for the paper in its present size and form, for \$1.50 per year, issued monthly, I will do all I can to help the project along.

There is one thing of course that must be understood, the right to reject any article or articles, that I would consider unwise to publish, must be reserved. If this issue should create interest to print a paper, do not send me any subscription money at present, but let me know how many subscriptions you can obtain.

Even though these eight little pages may look very insignificant, it can and will grow into a useful instrument in The Church, if properly supported.

Let us all remember, that from the little tiny ACORN, huge Oak Trees grow."

W. H. Cadman

Sister Mabel Bickerton also recalls:

Sister Hertha Jones helped address the papers for many years. The three of them: my father, mother and Hertha, did this by hand. We girls helped proofread the papers. Now I marvel that my father was able to do all this with little help.

After Brother George Funkhouser became Assistant Editor, he had several requests for a column for children. He asked if I would consider writing stories for the paper. He called it the "Children's Corner". The first story was published in the November issue, 1959.

When my father traveled, he would leave issues of The Gospel News in bus depots, train stations, airports, hotels, etc. He said they were little missionaries and could go many places where we could not go.

Surely, *The Gospel News* has grown into a useful instrument in the Church.

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The Children's Corner

by MABEL BICKERTON



Signs of Jesus' Death

Dear Girls and Boys,

Do you remember the story I told you of the signs in America of Jesus' birth? Samuel the Lamanite also told the people here of the signs of Jesus' death. The people did not believe them. It was the fourth day of the first month of the thirty-fourth year after Jesus was born that these signs appeared. The faithful ones of the Church had been looking forward to the prophecies being fulfilled. The wicked ones said they would never come to pass.

One of the first signs was the destruction of the great city Zarahemla. A great storm arose, such a one as never had been known. The thunder shook the earth, the lightning was so sharp that the city was destroyed by fire. Great earthquakes shook the earth. The sea flooded many places. The earth was carried up on cities until they were like great high mountains. The whole face of the land was changed by the tempests and whirlwinds. Highways were broken and smooth places became rough. The important cities sank and were buried and others burned. The people were carried away and were never heard of again.

This terrible destruction lasted three hours. It seemed much longer. Suddenly great darkness came upon the land. It was heavy, like thick vapor and the people could not see to make a light. The sun, moon and stars could not be seen. This darkness lasted three days. The people were frightened. There was great weeping and mourning among them. Some cried and said if they had only repented, their loved ones would not have been buried in Zarahemla.

In the silence that followed the terrible storm at Jesus' death, a voice was heard. Everyone heard it. It began, "Wo, wo unto this people, except they repent of their iniquity . . ." The voice continued describing the destruction of their cities. The voice said, "I am Jesus Christ, the Son of God." Three times they heard the voice appealing to them to repent.

At last the darkness disappeared. The words of Samuel the Lamanite had been fulfilled. As the people saw the great changes that had taken place, they

discussed the prophecies of Jesus' death and His resurrection. As we travel throughout this land of America, we can see many things that remind us of a terrible destruction. These prophecies were given many, many years ago. Do you know any latter-day prophecies? Remember, God's Word never fails.

Sincerely,
Sister Mabel

MBA HIGHLIGHTS . . .

GMBA Activities Committee Meets in Erie, PA

by Ryan Gene Ross
GMBA Editor

The GMBA Activities Committee, consisting of GMBA officers and those MBA members in attendance met together at the Erie Mission in Erie, PA at 10:30 a.m. on a chilly Saturday morning, January 19, 1980. After several hymns were sung, GMBA President, Donald Ross, brought the meeting to order by thanking those who made an effort to be in attendance as well as our host brothers and sisters of Erie for allowing us to meet in their building.

Business discussed on the floor included such topics as the recently reprinted *MBA By-Laws*, the *Book of Mormon Concordance*, a report from the Camp Procurement Committee, the Lay-Missionary Program Committee Report, May 1980 GMBA Conference, and GMBA Campouts, 1980 and 1981.

Of special interest is the May conference of the GMBA 1980 to be held at Euclid High School in Euclid, Ohio (near Cleveland) on May 17, 1980. Accommodations, both "in-house" and motel are readily available. Further information about lodging may be obtained by contacting: Brother Jim Hufnagle

125 E. 214th Street
Euclid, Ohio 44123
(216) 289-3197

Also of special interest is GMBA Campout 1980 to be held at Massanetta Springs in Harrisonburg, Virginia June 7 through June 14, 1980. We are looking forward to another week of "Fellowship with the Saints" and hope that you can be there. This year's campout director will be Detroit's Brother Timothy Scolaro, who will be assisted by Brother Gary Carlini (also of Detroit), last year's camp director.

The morning and afternoon was time well spent in that much was accomplished. We as GMBA officers encourage all our fellow members of the MBA to stay active in the **business** of the MBA. Goals can be reached only through teamwork, and the MBA offers everyone a chance to use their individual talents to encourage and uplift the youth of The Church of Jesus Christ.

District MBA Seminar

Saturday, November 3, was a beautiful day as brothers and sisters from the Florida District gathered together at the Lakeworth Branch for a day of seminars and fellowship.

The subject for the seminar was "Ordinances of The Church". Brothers Mike Radd and John D'Orazio taught the adult class, Brother Paul DiNardo taught the children, and Brother Alvin Swanson taught the young adults.

The subjects were well presented by the teachers, and the open discussion and the relaxed atmosphere made the classes very enjoyable for all who attended.

After a pot luck supper we all gathered together to enjoy a singspiration and a small discussion on what was learned in each class.

We all departed that evening saying that it was a day well spent in learning about our Church.

Sister Janice Brown
MBA Editor

Likewise today, the dormant possibilities of the ordinary person who is willing to dare all for the sake of a cause can lift the common man to uncommon heights when Christ sparks and fans those dormant possibilities into a glowing flame. Can one realize the glorious experiences that await him when that person goes all out for God?

In conclusion, are you as a young man or woman content to hunt for small game in a field of endeavor where it requires average skill and ordinary requirements to meet the standard of a successful hunter? Or, will you take up the challenge and put your yet dormant possibilities into a field where there is big game to be hunted. In this latter field of action the standard set forth to qualify calls for more-than-average requirements. To hunt in this field one must be ready to accept greater risks, must be keenly alert to act quickly to the unseen and hidden dangers involved, must be familiar with extremely accurate weapons and instruments in order to move rapidly and elastically, so that one can be fittingly prepared to counteract the continuous opposition of sinister and destructive forces. God has pressing need of fearless hunters. Will you accept His call and render yourself serviceable?

Brother Pat Marinetti, Evangelist
Tucson, Arizona

Ohio Area Gathering

On January 19, 1980, following the GMBA Activities Committee Meeting held in the Erie Mission, the Ohio Area MBA sponsored an evening spiritual meeting. The meeting was directed by the Chaplain of the Ohio Area MBA, Brother Delbert Lockwood. After a few opening remarks by the Area President, Brother Mark Kovacic, the meeting was opened in prayer and turned over to Brother Del. Sister Carla Dziak was then anointed by the members of the Priesthood. There were six members of the Priesthood present, representing three Districts of the Church.

The main theme stressed by the elders was the benefits that the saints receive from serving God. There were a few testimonies related by some of the saints present. All those in attendance felt that the day was well spent in tending to the business of the GMBA and fellowshiping with the saints.

Much Love in Christ,
Brother Stacey Light
Assistant GMBA Editor

Arizona District News

On a weekend in December, 1979, a seed of an idea germinated and became a reality for our district. Growth, development, planning, and fellowship emerged from the activities so well-attended by the Priesthood and membership of our district. The goals for this weekend encompassed the kernel of ministerial attributes and skills, patterns for spiritual growth, the basis of the Priesthood authority, and the functions of a minister and a teacher. That night the newly organized Area MBA convened in their first official meeting. On the Lord's Day, inspired and motivating preaching commanded the attention of the congregation. Many wonderful thoughts were presented by the three Apostles of the West Coast District—Brothers Joseph and James Lovalvo of California and Brother Robert Watson of Arizona.

As we glean from the agenda of Saturday's seminars, we can only provide a glimpse of the invaluable training presented by our Apostles whose diligent preparation was evident in the presentations. The ministers and teachers who participated listened intently and took many notes to study from later. Everyone could sense the importance of this spiritual landmark of training for our district.

Brother Robert Watson addressed the issue of spiritual growth of the ministry and the Church. The elements for growth include the ability to adjust to changing situations, ability to visualize desired goals, ability to be God-centered, and continuous prayer. He stated that growth evolves from obstacles and trials. In contrast, two major obstacles to growth are pride and anger. The scriptures declare that pride will cause the failure of both individuals and groups; however, pride

A Challenging Plea to Youth . . .

(continued from page four)

mental, and spiritual energies at your command to be instrumental in creating a spiritual rebirth for the cause of righteousness.

Christ's immediate disciples were a group of very ordinary human beings. Yet, the undeveloped soul-stuff that Christ found in those ordinary Galileans answered the requirements that He sought in men.

is combated through fasting and prayer which result in humility. Anger becomes harmful when manifested too quickly, is self-centered, and has grown to a point of seeking revenge. Brother Bob concluded by stating that the Church is the primary institution in our society for charity, and we cannot close the doors to anyone who reaches out for help. For further progress, the Church needs a unity of definition of its goals and objectives. We must strive for successes and relate to those successes, not to past failures.

Next, Brother Joseph Lovalvo led the subsequent session by defining the authority of the High Priesthood of the Son of God as spoken of in Alma 13. "The priesthood is a calling, not a profession," Brother Joe emphasized. Each man and prophet knew his calling was of God. Christ was called of God and came to set up an organization. Christ ordained apostles, gave ordinances, gave laws, and gave authority. The authority given was to bind and loose on earth and so doing, the same would be recognized in heaven. Baptism is a binding action. An important law was that of offense and forgiveness. The ability to ask for forgiveness must be valued as a great asset. The organization of the order of callings for ordained offices to lead the Church was to last for all time until people come to the "unity of the faith."

Brother Joe continued by explaining the removal of the authority during the Apostasy as well as the absence of the authority during the reformation. Subsequently, at the commencement of the Restoration, the Authority also was restored with the Holy Order of God. That Holy Order exists today in The Church of Jesus Christ, because it minutely and wholly emulates the Church Christ established during His ministry and restored in the last days.

Following the lunch break, Brother V. James Lovalvo defined and expanded on the functions of the ministry. He began by saying that "advice is the easiest thing to give but the hardest to receive." He pointed out the Lord's words to the disciples when He spoke that the great among them should be their minister, and the chief amongst them must be their servant. Some of the functions ministers attend to are preaching, administering of the Lord's Supper, laying on of hands for conferring of the Holy Ghost, anointing for the sick and spiritually weak, baptism, visiting the sick, visiting the saints, and counseling and consultation. Brother Jim encouraged each man to be sacred in his ministerial decorum and to be gentle. A knowledge of human relations, understanding, empathy, tolerance of others' failings, and confidentiality are vital and must be applied with the Word of God as the method of evaluation and measurement. He concluded that the ministers must apply themselves to these functions in order to develop ability in them. Above all, the gift of God (calling to the Priesthood) was received free of charge and the service to the people must also be free, not given grudgingly.

The evening meeting was led by Brother Peter Genaro, Area President, and the discussion centered around the need for a weekend campout for the Arizona Area in 1980. A committee was established and the search for a campsite began. The evening was then spent in inspirational singing and testimony.

The Sunday service was open for all. The building was filled to capacity with those "hungering and thirsting after righteousness" and anticipating a blessing. The meeting was led by the Apostles of the Church.

Brother Joe opened the service using the life of Jesus for his theme, since he was guided in this direction by a heavenly experience. He read from Isaiah, "For unto us a child is born. . ." and said that the "US" originally was indicative of the House of Israel. However, in the last days, the "US" now will mean those who desire to go to the mountain of the Lord's house.

Brother Jim followed by explaining that Jesus said, "Those who live by the sword shall die by the sword." The kings of the earth shall turn against the great and abominable church because it has forced religious servitude by use of the sword. The Church of Jesus Christ must be peaceful while keeping in mind that the Word of God is a "two-edged sword" which will penetrate to the hearts of men and women and bring the ultimate peace hoped for by mankind. The nation of Zion will be built where the people "will learn of war no more." Just as the Wisemen looked for Jesus at the time of His birth, today the people of this world will search for The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Bob added to this portrait of the Latter Days by declaring that each family has a task in the building of Zion similar to the type when Nehemiah marshalled the House of Israel to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem. In that day each family was assigned to build a certain section of the wall. We must follow the pattern of Christ when He said, "Not my will, but thine be done." Finally, he said that "God is working with the Church as never before" and that God's "signals are coming down from heaven."

Brother Dick Christman and his counselors thanked the Phoenix Branch, the Apostles, and all those who attended. He noted that the preaching of the Gospel would have a greater effect on the world than the wisdom of this world.

Brother Ronald A. Brutz
Arizona District Editor

Florida District News

On Saturday, December 15, 1979, the brothers and sisters of the Florida District gathered at the Hollywood Nursing Home for an evening of Christmas caroling and fellowship. There was a good representation from all the branches, and I know we enjoyed the singing as much as the patients enjoyed hearing us. In fact, most of them sang right along with us and even asked us to sing some songs from our hymn books.

Once again the Lord poured out His blessings upon us as we greeted each patient and He showed us how thankful we are to belong to Him and His Church.

Branch and Mission News

Greensburg Branch News

On December 9, 1979, we had Brother Alvin and Sister Nancy Gehly visit with us. He opened the meeting with scripture from Psalm 34. Many visitors were in our Branch. A wonderful spirit was felt during the morning meeting. After the meeting was dismissed Carol Emerick asked to be baptized, although she has only attended church a short while. Sister Carol has testified many times to the goodness of God in her life, and accepted the Church wholeheartedly.

We met at Roadman's Lake where Sister Carol was baptized by Brother Lirio Fallavollitti. It was a very cold day and the water was even colder, but that didn't matter as someone remarked, when you have the desire to serve God nothing will stop that person.

Returning to the church, our new sister in Christ was confirmed by Brother Paul Gehly. A wonderful spirit was felt by all, as we enjoyed the continued blessings of God's Spirit.

New Detroit-Michigan Inner-City Branch

The past year has been most edifying and spiritually rewarding for the members and visitors of the newly-formed Detroit, Michigan Inner-City Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. During these twelve months, the services were moved to a larger meeting place, the group was officially organized into a Branch of the Church, and more souls were added to the Gospel of Christ.

Services in the downtown so-called "Cass Corridor" originated with the Urban Indian Committee which was organized at the February, 1977, Michigan-Ontario District Conference. This committee was composed of Brothers Joseph Milantoni (Chairman), Anthony Gerace, John Straccia, Richard Lobzun, and Roy DePerno. The purpose was to bring the Gospel of Christ to the Indian community in the inner-city.

Contacts were made within the community, and the first meeting was held in mid-Detroit on June 5, 1977, in the lobby of a hotel owned by Sister Jennie Randazzo, a member of Detroit, Branch No. 1, and managed by her son, Tony. Sister Randazzo had desired from the time the hotel was purchased many years ago to hold services in the lobby. This wish became a reality and meetings were held there every Sunday for a little over one and a half years.

Brother Milantoni presided over the meetings, assisted by Brother Gerace. The blessings and joy experienced during these services, along with the revelations received, confirmed the necessity and

appropriateness of the work. Baptized and confirmed in the new mission while still meeting at the hotel were Sisters Marguerite Heath, Myrtle Kiser, Barbara Riley, Amelia Adams, and Nancy Wilson. Sister Heath was attending with her husband, Brother Mervyn from Detroit, Branch No. 1, while the other four sisters had been introduced to the Church through the downtown mission.

A large Sunday School for the children also added to the numbers attending. The group expanded steadily until it eventually became necessary to move to a larger location. A search for such a facility led to the present site at 2901 Brooklyn (corner of Temple), a short distance away from the hotel. Much hard work and the expending of funds were required to restore the building and repair the piping and plumbing to make the structure, which is 105 years old, ready to hold meetings.

The first official service was held at the new location on Sunday, February 4, 1979. The labors in preparing this building have been greatly rewarded, however, as six more souls have come into the Gospel. They are (in order) Sisters Bernice Hippolyte and Judith Appleton, Brother Donald Wilson, and Sisters Darlene Waldron, Pearl Harris, and Debbie Florian. Brother Wilson is the husband of Sister Nancy who had been baptized while meeting at the hotel. Sister Waldron is a Michigan State University student who was visiting and is now a member of Detroit, Branch No. 1.

Each baptism and confirmation have been tremendous encouragement to this new congregation, which has sought steadfastly to reach all the sincere in heart of this area. Many have come and heard the teachings of Christ, how the Restored Gospel can bring changes in the lives of all people, and how salvation is available to all who will follow the Master's example and obey His commandments. The last Sunday of 1979, the total attendance approached two hundred people, most of whom were visitors, in the three hundred twenty-five seat capacity building. It was also on that day that Sister Florian was baptized at beautifully historic Belle Isle, where all but one of the new converts were taken into the waters.

The composition of the group attending has changed somewhat. Besides members of the Indian community, many different nationalities and races are represented in the services. There is much joy in making the Gospel of Christ available to all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people regardless of background or station in life.

Branch Organized October 10

The inner-city group was organized into a Branch by the Michigan-Ontario District officers on Wednesday evening, October 10, 1979. Brother Milantoni was appointed the Presiding Elder, with Brothers Gerace and Carl Frammolino elected First and Second Counselors, respectively.

The following brothers and sisters transferred into the new Branch from other Detroit-area locations:

From Branch No. 1 were Brother Roy and Sister

Jean DePerno, Brother Mervyn and Sister Marguerite Heath, Sister Ruth Braendle and Sister Patricia Soetebeer.

From Branch No. 2 were Brother Joseph and Sister Rose Milantoni, Brother George and Sister Nancy Harvey, and Sister Julia Cotellesse.

From Branch No. 3 was Brother Ramon Bensen.

From Sterling Heights were Brother Anthony and Sister Elizabeth Gerace, and Brother Carl and Sister Joanne Frammolino.

These sixteen transferees, along with the seven who were baptized at that time from downtown, gave the new Branch a starting membership of twenty-three. The addition of Sisters Harris and Florian since then brought the number to twenty-five at the end of 1979.

Of tremendous help has been Brother Eugene Amormino of Branch No. 1, who has been one of the pioneers from the days of the hotel. He has been inspirational by his frequent attendance, his ability to relate to the many who come, and his musical renditions.

Extremely important to the Branch, as previously mentioned, are the many children who attend the Sunday School and services, which are held on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Active in caring for and working with the youngsters are Sister Janet Steinrock, who comes from Branch No. 2, Sister DePerno, Daniel Cotellesse, and Janice and Kathy Frammolino. Also, a very successful Vacation Bible School was held at the building the last week in June under the direction of Brother Gerace and Sister Steinrock.

There have been six marriages performed by the three Branch Ministers. United in holy wedlock have been Richard Summers and Marie Gould; John Henry and Terilyn Hetu; Robert Griffin Sickles and Sister Judith Appleton; Ronald Pierzynowski and Diane Seneca; Alan Dale Altman and Karen Ann Dashner; and Vaughn Wayne Shipman and Rosemary Storrs.

Highly noteworthy have also been the blessing of many children by the Elders. Since the start of the services and through 1979, there have been twenty-five children for whom prayers of blessings have been offered.

The desires of the downtown flock are that God will continue to bless the efforts being expended and that many more individuals might have their lives changed by the Gospel. The prayers of the Church in general are also requested on these matters.

Modesto, California

We in the Modesto Branch were very glad to welcome Brother Paul D'Amico from Lockport, New York. Brother Paul spent a few days in Modesto. I know that we all enjoyed having him here, and invite him to return again someday soon.

During Brother Paul's stay here, we held two night meetings. In these meetings, our Brother was inspired to speak.

The first meeting was on Tuesday night, September 11, 1979. A number of hymns, including *Living for Jesus*, were sung to get the meeting going. Brother Leonard Lovalvo offered the opening prayer. Brother Paul got up and spoke of his favorite Psalm, the 23rd. He related a few experiences of the goodness of the Lord upon his life. Our brother stated how he is looking forward to the day, if we prove faithful, when the Lord says, "Well done faithful servant, enter into my joy."

Brother Joe Lovalvo followed Brother Paul and spoke a few minutes. He spoke of his own baptism and his life with Jesus Christ.

To conclude the meeting, we sang, *Springs of Living Water*. Brother Joe Ciarolla closed in prayer.

The next evening, Wednesday September 12, we again gathered in worshipping the Lord. We sang, *His Name Is Wonderful and Burdens Are Lifted*. The young people were called up to sing a few hymns. We sang, *In the Garden* and *Make Me A Blessing*. In opening the meeting, Brother Lou Parravano prayed. It was requested that Sister Rose Lovalvo sing a solo. She sang, *The Savior Is Waiting*. Brother Paul D'Amico, still in our presence, spoke directing his words especially to the young people. He testified of how the Lord's hand has been upon him all the days of his life. He said, "The time to start serving God is when you are young."

Brother Joe Lovalvo thanked Brother Paul for coming and asked that we sing, *God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again* in dedication to him. Closing prayer was offered by Brother Mark Randy. Afterwards, we met in the kitchen for desserts. I feel that our meetings since California Campout have been having a sweet, special Spirit which I would like to thank God for. I would also like to thank God for all my dear brothers and sisters whom I love very much. The saints are precious to me.

Sister Pam Cole (Ciarolla)
Modesto Branch Editor

Miami members touring Israel and Italy

On October 1, 1979, Alex Marchando and Nick Ritz awoke in Jerusalem. Being Yom Kippur, the streets were deserted-not a vehicle, only an occasional pedestrian. All day Jerusalem looked like a ghost town, but after 7 p.m. the entire city came to life as the lights came on, and the streets soon filled with cars and the sidewalks with people.

As our Holy Land tour began the following day, it was like turning the pages in the Bible-the scene of the birth of Jesus in the nativity in Bethlehem, the location of Joseph's work shop, the place of Annunciation in Nazareth where Jesus spent His youth, the Sea of

Galilee, the Dead Sea, Massada, Jericho, the Jordan River, Mount of Beatitudes, Capernaum, the center of most of Jesus' activities, the Via Dolorosa, the traditional pathway Jesus followed carrying the cross, the Kidron Valley Jesus crossed many times on His way from the beautiful city of Jerusalem to the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus often went for His retreat and prayer, and to the Mount of Olives where Jesus ascended into Heaven and will someday return.

We flew to Rome, rented a car and visited several brothers and sisters of The Church of Jesus Christ. As we joined hands and said a prayer in parting, we could feel the Holy Spirit surrounding us. All eyes were moist and hoping that someday soon we may be privileged to return and stay awhile longer.

We then drove to visit Nick Ritz's relatives in Prignano Cilento, about 100 miles south of Naples. We then went to Pacentro, about 100 miles east of Rome, to spend a few days with Alex Marchando's cousins and relatives.

Eileen Katsaras
Editor

Blessings in Imperial

On November 4 we were honored with the fellowship of the Greensburg Branch. Our service was opened by Bro. Paul Gehly. He spoke on St. John 6th chapter-the bread of life, Jesus Christ. Jesus fed five thousand with five loaves and two fishes. Bro. Lirio Fallavollitti followed Bro. Paul and spoke on the Father's will, that everyone who would believe on Christ would have everlasting life. He also spoke of the woman at the well. Jesus offered her the living water. We surely ate of the living bread and drank of the living water that morning. We had a beautiful testimony meeting. Many expressed their love for the Lord and their desire to be faithful to God. We thank God for the fellowship we had with the Greensburg Branch on that Sabbath day.

On November 18, 1979, the Pennsylvania District Evangelists, two Apostles (Brother Frank Calabrese and Bro. Russel Cadman) and many elders and brothers and sisters met in Imperial Branch for Brother Bob Buffington's ordination into the Quorum of Seventy as an Evangelist. We also had Brothers Joe Calabrese, Frank Giovannone, Dom Bucci and Tony Santilli from the Ohio District.

Our service was opened with Sister Bertha Bilskey singing, *Send Hunters and Fishers*. The Imperial Ladies Circle sang, *There'll Be Singing on the Mountain*. Prayer was offered by Brother Russel Cadman. Brother Joe Calabrese read Alma 13, and he spoke on God's Holy Order and the authority given to the people of God from the beginning of time. Then he brought his exhortation down to the Holy Priesthood, as it was set up by Jesus Christ-apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers for the edifying of the body of Christ. Our next speaker was Brother Frank Giovannone. He told us he had read the very same scripture that morning. The Spirit of God was made manifest by the truth in the message bearing witness to God's Holy Order and authority. Our morning meeting

was closed in prayer by Brother Paul Palmieri. We went to the basement for lunch and a good spirit of fellowship was enjoyed by all. We started our afternoon service about 1:30 p.m. Sister Karen Progar sang, *Jesus Use Me*, and Barbara Fleming sang, *He Touched Me*. We then sang, *America the Beautiful*. Prayer was offered by Brother Fred Olexa. Brother Frank Calabrese opened the service with scripture relating to God's need for hunters and fishers in these the last days. God will send them to the north countries and to the isles of the sea. Brother Dom Bucci continued on this subject and also spoke of the gathering of Israel beginning with Joseph on this blessed land of America. Bro. John Manes, chairman of the District Evangelists, conducted the ordination of Brother Bob. Brother Paul Palmieri washed Brother Bob's feet. Then the evangelists and apostles knelt in prayer. Brother George Johnson prayed for unity in the ordination and for God to inspire Brother Bob in his new undertaking. Then the brothers formed a circle around Brother Bob, and Brother Fred Olexa poured the Holy Oil and laid hands on Brother Bob, ordaining him into the Holy Order of the Evangelist of The Church of Jesus Christ. Sacrament and testimony ended a wonderful Sabbath day. Closing prayer was offered by Brother Rich Scaglione.

Greetings from San Carlos

As we are coming down to the end of the year with our holidays and our natural activities, such as getting ready for the Christmas festivities, we must not forget to evaluate our Spiritual endeavors of the past year. Outside of a few health problems, the Church has been showing an uplifted spirit of unity and harmony. We have some good meetings, especially since we are moving our mid-week services to the homes of the members once each month. The attendance has been very good in the homes. Many people ask for prayer and anointings.

Another activity of our mission is a visitation program to the Sheltered Care (Old Folks Home) every other Sunday evening. We join in singing, prayer, testimony, and a sermonette by an elder or teacher. On a recent visit there, we noticed that an old Apache woman who regularly attends was missing. My wife, Sister Evelyn, went to her room to see why she was not present, and she was told that the woman's legs were in severe pain. She could not even leave her bed. Evelyn said, "Let me help you up and you can go out and get anointed." As they approached the door of the meeting room, the woman said, "I'm well!" She then gave a short testimony in Apache. We had never heard her speak to our group before. Praise God for this miracle in this woman's life which has also served to encourage us in our labors as well.

During our Thanksgiving season we had a pot luck dinner. About fifty people, including members and family members, attended with all of us contributing to the preparation, enjoyment, and cleanup after the meal.

The spiritual fire is still burning here as we hope for the Chosen Prophet of the Lord, the Choice Seer, to come some day soon. We will know by the saying,

"Come let us go up to the house of the Lord", where righteousness shall be established and the fullness of Zion shall come forth.

On November 14, we closed the mission to take a trip to the Lakeside Branch. With twelve of the members and several children, we held a combined meeting on this beautiful Sunday. We were able to visit amongst ourselves on this two and one-half hour trip, plus enjoy the blessing of God with the members in the White Mountains. The lesson in the Sunday School set the theme for the remainder of the day's services. Brother Isaac Smith taught from the *Book of Mormon* on the coming forth of the Choice Seer and the gathering of the House of Israel. There is nothing more important to the Church today than the incoming of the Seed of Joseph and the gathering of the House of Israel. We had a wonderful day in the preaching and testimony service, which we will always remember. The Lakeside members shared a nice meal with us, and we went on our return journey back to San Carlos.

Pray for us in the San Carlos Mission and visit us whenever the Lord would direct your path to this place of worship and fellowship.

Brother Emmett Dale
Missionary-in-Charge

* WEDDINGS *

KUNKEL-GRAYSON

Brother Samuel David Kunkel and Miss Nancy Jean Grayson were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, December 22, 1979 in the Gresham Chapel in College Park, Georgia.

Brother Robert Buffington of the Imperial, Pa. Branch, the groom's uncle, officiated at the wedding ceremony. Mrs. Jeanette Williford was the soloist.

The newlyweds will reside in Fairburn, Georgia.

ONORATO-ANDREWS

On October 6, 1979 at 1:00 p.m. Brother Richard Onorato, Jr. and Sister Cynthia Andrews of Herndon, Virginia Branch were united in holy wedlock at The Church of Jesus Christ at Herndon, Virginia. Brother Paul A. Carr, Sr. officiated at the ceremony.

The couple will make their home in Maine. May God bless and keep them in His care always.

NAPLES-D'EVA

Mr. Dan Naples and Miss Vicki D'Eva were united in marriage on Saturday, August 4, 1979 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Lakeworth, Florida.

Bro. Mike Radd officiated at the wedding ceremony and Bro. Mike DiFede presented musical selections.

Dan Naples is the son of Bro. Dan and Sis. Rose Naples of Lakeworth, Florida.

JOHNS-MISHAUD

Mr. Charles Douglas Johns and Miss JoAnn Mildred Mishaud of Vero Beach, Florida were united in holy matrimony on August 11, 1979 in the Glendale Baptist Church in Vero Beach, Florida.

The bridegroom's grandfather, Brother Dominic Giovannone, officiated at the ceremony, and he was assisted by Brother Frank Rogolino.

SMITH-LOWE

Brother Isaac Joseph Smith of Pinetop, Arizona and Sister Sandra Renee Lowe of Tampa, Florida were united in holy wedlock on Friday, November 9, 1979 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Greensburg, Pa.

The ceremony was officiated by Brother Isaac Donald Smith, father of the groom. Musical selections were presented by Sister Carla Dziak, cousin of the groom. She was accompanied by Brother Tommy Smith, brother of the groom.

The newlyweds will live in Tampa, Florida until June of 1980. They will then reside in Pinetop, Arizona.

NEW ARRIVALS

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

Dana Marie Nardozi to Leonard and Tammy Nardozi of Lorain, Ohio;

Jennifer Michelle to Ron and Mary Nichols of San Jose, California Mission;

Chandra Kathleen Julianna to Hythia and Chatman Young of Herndon, Virginia;

Michael Wayne, Jr. to Tammy Jo and Michael Price, Sr. of Herndon, Virginia;

Edward Frances Whelan IV to Annette and Edward Whelan III of Herndon, Virginia;

Robert Lee Noel III to Robert and Kristine Noel of Greensburg, Pa.;

Rachel Marie to Joan and Mickey McGuire of Lakeworth, Florida;

Timothy Dione to Timothy George and Marilyn Adele DeMarrias of Wakpala, South Dakota.

The Gospel News

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa., USA.

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A Short Visit to the Netherlands

A five-day trip was made to the Netherlands by Brothers Mike Hildenbrand, Paul Carr and Paul Palmieri on February 21, 1980. The purpose was to visit with a family in Enschede, Netherlands who has shown interest in the Church.

Mr. Jan Schut has been communicating with the Church through Brother Joseph Calabrese since 1976 and later with Brother Paul Palmieri. In November, 1979 Brothers Mike Hildenbrand and Joe Perri stopped to visit with the Schut family on their return from Nigeria and Ghana. Brother Mike promised a return visit and decided to visit them in February, 1980.

We left New York on Thursday evening, February 21, 1980 and arrived in Amsterdam on Friday morning at 10:30 AM. Jan Schut met us at the airport and greeted us very warmly. We then traveled about 120 miles by car to Enschede, which is located about 20 miles west of Germany. We were met by his wife, Ine, and their three children, Alexander, Mark and Wesley. We felt very welcome in their home where we stayed for the next four days.

We spent many hours on Friday, Saturday and Sunday discussing with them the Church's beliefs and structure. They both have been affiliated with the Reorganized Church and have an excellent knowledge of the Restoration. A point of interest is Jan Schut's library on the Restoration. He has well over a hundred books on the Restoration and the main characters involved. He also has a complete set of literature from our Church, with the exception of the *History of The Church of Jesus Christ*.

On Sunday, we held services in their home, and the Spirit of God was felt in our gathering. As we concluded our service on Sunday, we formed a circle and had prayer. Tears fell from Jan's face as he and his wife embraced us in God's love.

Our trip soon ended, and on Monday we started

back to Amsterdam. Before we left Jan asked that we lay hands on him that God would use him. He stated that he would like to be baptized very soon. We said our farewells to the family that we learned to love so easily. As we left, the boys asked if their "uncles" were leaving! We left with Ine waving good-bye until we could no longer see her.

Jan stayed with us until we boarded our plane back for New York at 1:00 PM. We arrived in New York at 3:00 PM (it was an eight hour flight), and then departed for our homes.

The trip was short, but very successful, as we feel that the good Word of God has been planted and God will make the increase. We are thankful to God for the safe trip and pray that we will have the opportunity to see Jan and his wife enter into The Church of Jesus Christ and be used to establish God's Kingdom in the Netherlands.

Brother Mike Hildenbrand
Brother Paul Carr
Brother Paul Palmieri

Dedication of the Tijuana, Mexico Mission January 13, 1980

We wish to share with you what happened at the Tijuana dedication. What glory and what encouragement we received from the Father! I'll try to remember everything for you. Bear with me if I leave anything out. First, here are a couple of dreams we had before going to Tijuana. Sister Perdue called me and asked me if I would write the *Gospel News* article for her and also to tell of the experiences I had pertaining to the dedication, because I had the tapes of the entire service.

I dreamed I was in Tijuana with the brothers and sisters, and we were all looking up to heaven. At the same time, I was seeing myself in heaven, and I was knocking on these two doors. These doors opened, and

I saw the Lord standing there. I knew He was just waiting to bless His people. I then awoke.

I also dreamed that my son and I were on our way to Tijuana, and we had stopped in Dallas to change planes. As we were boarding the plane, I saw these two men in front of us, but as we entered the plane, they disappeared, yet I knew they were still there. When we landed in San Diego, as we were getting ready to leave the plane, these two men were walking in back of us. I looked out the plane door and saw this man. He started walking toward us, but when he got near us, he went to where these two other men were, and all three of them started walking away. I knew they were the three Nephites, and I also knew they were going in the direction of the mission in Tijuana.

It had been raining in San Diego. We were told it hadn't rained since April, 1979. Brother Joe Lovalvo told of an experience where he prayed to God if He was pleased with this building, to show a sign that it wouldn't rain on that Sunday. It had been raining since Tuesday and was still raining into early Sunday morning. Around the time when we were starting to leave for the mission, the sun came out and remained out all that Sunday until we left, which was about 5:30 PM. Then, it began to rain again. We praise God because of the experience of Brother Joe Lovalvo, that God heard his prayer and other prayers of the saints for the rain to stop on that Sunday.

The meeting was opened with remarks by Brother Joe Lovalvo. He welcomed one and all. The brothers and sisters from Tijuana sang hymns, along with the little children and the young ones. It was a blessing to hear them. Brother Joe called on Brother Louis to sing *Don't Let Anyone Take Your Crown*. As he finished singing, Brother Paul Ciotti spoke in tongues. Brother E. Mora gave the interpretation as follows, "Today God is blessing His people and this land."

Brother Eddie Perdue opened in prayer and dedicated the building at that time. After the prayer, Brother and Sister Perdue were given the opportunity to tell how the work first started there in Tijuana. A Bible and flowers were presented to the mission by the California District.

Brother Jim Lovalvo was the opening speaker. His theme was on Solomon's Temple. He spoke about when Solomon prayed to God and God promised him that His name would be upon this house, His eyes would be there, His heart would be there and also His Spirit and His blessings. At that time, Brother Peter Genaro spoke in tongues. The interpretation was given by Brother E. Mora as follows, "The Spirit of God saith, the ones that are going forward, stand firm and keep going forward, and the ones that are in the back, be careful. The devil is in the back. The Spirit also saith be careful today, because God is blessing His people today. Be strong in the blessings He gives His people. He will do just like the loaf of bread He gave Elijah to give him strength."

As Brother Jim continued, saying, "Praise God, brothers and sisters. God has given us the privilege to see this day what the prophets wished to see. I'm sure today that not only the Spirit of God, not only the eyes

of God, not only the heart of God are in this house . . ." Brother Paul Ciotti spoke the word of the Lord as follows, "Amen! Thus saith the Lord, I will abide My people, inasmuch as you will obey My commandments and serve Me and love one another. I will abide. Yeal And My word shall go forth from this place, and they will come. Yeal They will come by the tens, they will come by the hundreds, they will come by the thousands to the place where I abide. I am God. You are My people, saith the Lord."

After that, Brother E. Mora gave words of encouragement to the Mexican brothers and sisters. When he finished speaking, Brother Joe Ciarolla spoke of the kidney stone he had been suffering from and his determination to keep working on the building to finish it for the dedication. A Mexican sister had a vision where she saw Brother Joe dressed in white, and he said to her, "I am well, sister. The Lord has healed me." Also, another sister had a vision where she saw two white hands make an incision and remove the stone and then sew up the incision. Brother and Sister Perdue kept in touch with Brother Joe to find out how he was. He told his wife, "If I am not well by next week, I will go in for surgery." One morning, he called the Perdues and advised them that he had passed the stone, and on the end of the stone was a hook. All honor belongs to God. I believe that God knew the heart of Brother Ciarolla to want to finish the building. Also, Brother Sam Randy who had broken some of his ribs told of the times he would go to work on the building with pain, but as soon as he would step in the building, the pain would leave him. As soon as he would leave the building to go home, the pain would come back. May God bless them both, and all those who work for God's covenant people. I was able to see for myself truly dedicated servants of God. May God richly bless the families for their patience with them.

Brother Sam was telling of how they needed water to make cement for the floor and building. The water had been shut off for about fourteen weeks in Tijuana. He told of how they went before God in fasting and prayer for the Lord to open the way. The night before the cement work was to be done, Brother Sam Randy, Joe Randy and several others had been flown in to do the work. If there had not been any water, they would have come in vain. A brother in Tijuana went to a man who sells water by the tanks and offered him double or whatever price he would want to bring water to the church, but he refused. This was before the workers went to lay the cement floor. When the brothers got there, they found out that the water had been turned on since 4:00 AM, because Brother Sam attached a hose to a faucet and kept it open, praying for water. In the morning, the area they needed was flooded with water. He said they praised God, and in praising God, Sister Perdue saw a white dove in the center of the area to be cemented. She said she had never seen a white dove in all the years they had been in Tijuana. As Brother Sam pointed to where the dove was seen, Brother Paul Ciotti stood and spoke in tongues. Brother Louis Pacheco got up and said, "This is a miracle of God, my brethren. We are all witnesses to this. It is a miracle of God." Then Sister Rose Palacios got up and said that the Lord had spoken to her saying, "I have had My hand upon this land, and it will stay until all His words are fulfilled."

Brother Jim Lovalvo stood and said that when Brother Paul Ciotti spoke in tongues, he thought everybody had heard him, because he spoke in English. He heard him say, "I was here that day, and I am here today, and I will be with you as long as you keep My commandments."

After that, Brother Joe Lovalvo asked how many wanted to be baptized today. Five brothers and sisters from Mexico stood up and declared their desire. We all stood up to sing *To the Work*. Brother Mark Randy prayed in Spanish to close the meeting.

We thank God for the blessings He poured out upon us all that day and throughout our stay with the Perdues. On the following Thursday when my son and I were leaving San Diego, I was sitting next to the window. I was looking outside, and we had just gone over the clouds. All of a sudden, I saw this round rainbow in many colors, and in the center there was a white dove. As the plane was moving, so were the rainbow and dove. I tried to tell my son without taking my eyes away from it. Then it was gone. Such a blessing I felt as tears came down from my eyes. My thoughts went to the promise God gave Noah about when he would see the rainbow and the dove, His peace. So He promised us a blessing which we received, and He went with us and returned with us.

A few experiences which our Mexican brothers and sisters had at the dedication follow. One brother, prior to the dedication, saw the three Nephites there. A sister testified that she saw a rainbow over the Ministry on that Sunday. Another sister saw the Ministry dressed in white. Also, a dove was seen.

One thing, brothers and sisters, our saints there in Tijuana are very grateful to all the saints in the States for the building and all that you do for them. God bless one and all.

Sister Rose Palacios

News from Mexico

February 25, 1980

At the present time, Brother Eddy Perdue is in Sinaloa with Brothers Joe Lovalvo and George Heaps. They had fifty persons attending the meetings, and yesterday they had three baptisms. So far this year, Brother Eugenio (our missionary in Sinaloa) had seven baptisms, and we had three in Tijuana. Regarding the five baptisms at the Tijuana dedication, two were from Sinaloa. One previously had been a minister with a group of about twenty or twenty-two. We are hoping all of his congregation will come in.

Eddy will be there another day, then go to Mexico City and Michoacan. They sent for the elder in Michoacan, and he also is traveling with them. The Lord gave this young man a marvelous gift of preaching in power. God is surely moving in these the latter days.

We have a beautiful church in Tijuana after all

these years (twenty). We pray we might enjoy it for a little while yet. God is so good to us, unworthy creatures that we are. We know that the Gospel will go into South America where the Seed of Joseph abounds greatly.

Our Brother Estrada (the minister in Tijuana) was cured of cancer. He is about seventy years old, and this was truly a great miracle.

Your Sister-in-Christ,
Evelyn Perdue

A trial and a blessing

February 10, 1980

I would first like to express my humble and inadequate thanks to our Lord for sparing my life recently. Then, I thank my brothers and sisters in so many different branches who, after hearing of my afflictions, prayed and fasted for my recovery, called and visited, sent notes and cards, and especially, I thank those who cared for my family so lovingly while I was unable to. I feel the desire to tell of my experience.

My husband, Philip, and I are blessed with one beautiful, healthy three-year-old son, David. After his birth, I had two miscarriages, and this New Year's Eve, gave birth by Caesarean section to a four pound, premature boy. He lived only twenty-eight hours. Ten days after this, I hemorrhaged, and due to a massive infection, required extensive surgery. I was in intensive care for almost a week and returned home after fifteen days.

I was aware that I was near death even before the doctors knew how serious my condition was. After the surgery, I continued to feel near death, and I prayed every moment I was conscious that the Lord would forgive me and show me how I failed. I felt I had committed such a great sin that I was being punished and my life would be taken. I felt so alone, and no answer came until the day I was taken off the critical list. That night, I recalled a dream I had a few weeks earlier, while I was still pregnant, a dream I had completely forgotten.

In my dream, I was in a rowboat. The sun was shining so brightly that the light was dazzling. Jesus was in the boat with me, and my job was to row Him somewhere. Suddenly, my boat began to fill with water so fast that I panicked and was not able to even try to bail out the water. I couldn't even look at the face of our Lord, because I feared I had done something so terrible that He would be very angry with me and punish me for causing the boat to sink. I was so frightened and helpless that I could only sit and watch the boat fill up. Just before the boat sank completely, Jesus emptied the boat and set it back afloat. It happened in an instant, and I don't know how He saved us. I was still afraid, but when I dared to look at His face, expecting terrible anger and disappointment, I saw only love and compassion for me. I had never before seen anything as

beautiful as His face and the love that showed in His eyes. I saw that love was for me, and He did not judge me! I woke up then and told no one about the dream.

Soon I forgot this experience. But when my life was out of danger in the hospital, I recalled every detail. I knew I was not being punished by our loss or my pain. I may never know why my family and I endured this trial, but I do know our Lord had a good and perfect reason for allowing it. I pray He will use this experience in our lives to help us to serve Him better in some way.

So I can only thank our Lord and Saviour for sparing my life, for my husband and our child, for our brothers and sisters, for this beautiful Gospel and for His great love and mercy for me and anyone who loves Him and desires to do His will.

Before this month, I never really felt that I knew the Saviour as I do now, and I can even thank God for revealing Him to me through this tragic time in our lives and being our constant strength and support.

Sister Ruth Arcuri
Edison Branch

MBA HIGHLIGHTS

Ohio Area Spiritual Gathering

On Saturday, February 2, the Ohio Area MBA sponsored an all-day spiritual gathering in Cleveland, Ohio. Brother Mark Kovacic, Area President, welcomed the saints at 9:30 a.m. and made a few opening remarks. The morning meeting was devoted to fasting and prayer. Brother Frank Calabrese was appointed to act as Chaplain for the day in the absence of Brother Delbert Lockwood, Area Chaplain.

Brother Frank asked that we remember the many sick throughout the Church, and also the needs of the Church. *Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior* was sung, and the meeting was opened in prayer by Brother Frank. The other members of the Priesthood followed offering prayers unto the Lord. After following the lead of the Priesthood, the brothers and sisters offered many beautiful prayers.

Brother Russell Martorana related a near tragic mishap that he and Sister Lina had while returning home from the December 1 gathering in Lorain. Brother Russell thanked God for protecting them and allowing them to be found with the saints again.

Brother Wayne Martorana reminded us to remember to pray for those who have fallen away from the Church. He related a dream he had, where he saw many who had fallen away coming back to the Church.

After singing *Dear to the Heart of the Shepherd*,

Brother Brian Martorana closed the morning meeting in prayer.

The afternoon meeting was opened by Brother Mark, who made a few comments concerning the Area activities. He mentioned the May GMBA Conference, which is to be held in the Ohio Area, and possibly another gathering in the near future in Niles. The meeting was turned over to the direction of the Chaplain, and after a hymn, Brother Joe Calabrese opened the meeting in prayer. The afternoon was left open to singing and testimonies, with many of the saints taking the opportunity to praise God.

Brother Frank commented on how God is pleased with the many testimonies and prayers offered throughout the day. He reminded us to continue to fast and pray, and always be found in the service of God.

Brother Paul Ciotti then spoke in the Spirit and said that we should continue to gather together and seek God. Also, we should put the things of this world aside, and God will lead those on the outside to the Church and He will bless us. Brother Frank commented that He is speaking to not only us, but to the entire Church. Brother Paul again spoke and said, "Thus saith the Lord; These are My words, this is My will."

After a hymn, Brother Mark closed the afternoon meeting in prayer.

After dinner, an evening meeting was also enjoyed by all. Brother Vince Gibson opened the meeting in prayer. Sister Carla Dziak sang a solo, and the young people sang a selection. The meeting was turned over to Brother Mario Milano, who spoke concerning his recent six month trip to Italy. He related to us the life styles of the saints there and the concerns that they have. Brother Adam Costarella also told of his short visit to Italy while Brother Mario was there. Brother Elmer Santilli closed the meeting in prayer.

All those that had the opportunity to gather in Cleveland felt that the day was well spent. The Ohio Area is planning another all-day gathering in Niles for March. The Area sends its love to all the saints and loved ones throughout the Church. We thank God for His many blessings and His continual guidance.

The Ohio Area MBA

Sister Byers Celebrates Ninety-ninth Birthday

Sister Lillian Byers celebrated her ninety-ninth birthday recently. She is a patient at the John Kane Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA. Sister Lillian was baptized fifty years ago and is a member of the Clairton Branch. She is a niece of the late Brothers William H. and Alma Cadman.

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Our Lord's Resurrection

Again, with the arrival of spring and this month of April, we are stirred anew to mark the anniversary of our Lord's resurrection.

Surely, this is the season when our hopes and expectations are revived and strengthened. We rejoice as we reflect on this most notable of many notable events.

We are also reminded of the noble declaration so eloquently set forth by The Church of Jesus Christ in the Minister's Manual, Section VII, Page 5, Article 15, which reads in part:

"We believe in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ as recorded in the Scriptures, which was a victory over the power of death, and a reintroduction of the principle of continuous or eternal existence; that this principle of continuous existence was not only attained for Himself, but for all Adam's race; the wicked as well as the righteous, by which the former will be held accountable for their conduct during this life and receive due punishment. Also, that the latter may be duly rewarded for their righteousness or good conduct. We also believe that the righteous that lived previous to the days of Jesus Christ expected their resurrection through, and as a direct result of Christ's resurrection; also, that there was a general resurrection of the righteous that lived before the days of Christ (in the flesh) immediately following Christ's resurrection. The Scriptures inform us, "That many of the Saints which were dead arose and appeared unto many."

This Scripture is taken from Matthew 27:52-53, and a similar Scripture is found in the *Book of Mormon*, III Nephi 23:9-11, which records that a similar notable event also took place in the land of America. We read that "many Saints arose from the dead, and appeared unto many, and ministered unto them."

May we also note the beautiful language of Luke in his Acts of the Apostles wherein he eloquently magnifies the Resurrection of our Lord:

"The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandment unto the apostles whom he had chosen: to whom also he showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of things pertaining to the kingdom of God:"', Acts 1:1-3.

HALLELUJAH! CHRIST AROSE!

The Children's Corner

by MABEL BICKERTON



Jesus Appears in America

Dear Girls and Boys,

I want to tell you a story about our land of America. At the time of Jesus' crucifixion in Palestine there was great darkness here in America. The people here had been told of the great prophecies concerning Jesus' death and resurrection. The righteous ones were looking forward to these events, others scoffed at them.

When the darkness disappeared and light came, the people marvelled at the greatness of God. They were gathered at the temple in the city of Bountiful talking about their experiences. As they were speaking about Jesus and the sign of his death, they heard a voice. They did not understand nor could they see anyone. It was not a harsh voice, neither was it a loud voice. It was a small voice which seemed to pierce their souls.

The voice came a second time and then a third. Then they understood, "Behold my Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased, in whom I have glorified My name-hear Him." As the multitude lifted their eyes toward heaven, they saw a man descending. He was clothed in a white robe, so white it sparkled. He came down until his feet touched the ground. He stretched forth His hand and said, "I am Jesus Christ." Then the people remembered the words of the prophets, how Jesus would come to them after He had risen from the dead.

Jesus chose twelve disciples to carry on His work. During the second day of His visit, He administered the sacrament. Many were not there the day before when He had given the communion. Jesus commanded the multitude and disciples to cease praying and arise but continue to pray in their hearts. He took bread and blessed it as He broke it in pieces. The twelve disciples were to pass it to the people. After they had eaten the bread in remembrance of His body, He blessed the wine. He passed it to His disciples and they passed it to the people. Now no one had brought either bread or wine and no one knew where it came from. But Jesus who performed many miracles was able to provide the sacrament. This was a great miracle here in America with His other sheep.

Sincerely,
Sister Mabel

Branch and Mission News Vanderbilt News

The Vanderbilt Branch has been blessed with a number of visitors recently.

Our Sunday School enjoyed combining with Fredonia for our annual picnic on Saturday, August 11, 1979. We enjoyed the fellowship of our brothers and sisters who all stayed for the Sunday meeting. The morning meeting was introduced by Brother Art Gehly, and we also heard encouraging words from Brother Russell Cadman. During the afternoon meeting, we were blessed with the baptism of Wilma King. Many may remember it was Dale and Wilma's home that was destroyed by fire earlier this past year. Our new sister has testified how this fire surely caused her to realize God's goodness to her and how quickly one's life may be taken. She was baptized by Brother Milford Eutsey, Sr. and was confirmed by Brother Nephi DeMercurio.

Brother and Sister Nephi DeMercurio were most welcomed visitors, along with their sons. While visiting Lorraine's parents and family, we certainly enjoyed the advantage in having them with us again. We have enjoyed their testimonies and many interesting things they were able to tell us about their stay in Africa.

On November 4, 1979, we were blessed with a visit from Brother and Sister Rocco Biscotti and many brothers and sisters from the Pennsylvania District, including many members of the Priesthood. Brother Biscotti spoke of his concern of our recent past conference and the experience the Lord gave him which he presented to us. He was directed to read Helaman 12, which he read and expounded to us. At the close of the meeting, fellowship continued with refreshments being served.

We enjoyed yet another baptism on November 18. Charles Bailey, the son of the late Evangelist Brother William Bailey, Sr. of Lowbar, PA, was baptized on this day. He was baptized by Brother James King and confirmed by Brother Lawrence King.

On November 24, we had a farewell in honor of Brother and Sister Nephi DeMercurio and their sons before their return to Africa. Brother Nephi opened the meeting speaking of various things, including his experience in trying to raise a garden in Africa and how the Lord blessed him when he remembered to call upon Him and how small the harvest when he depended upon his own knowledge. We also heard from Brothers George Timms of Herndon, VA, and Brothers Paul Palmieri and John Ross of Aliquippa, PA. Brother Thomas Ross of Aliquippa closed in prayer. Other visiting members of the ministry included Brother George Johnson of Monongahela. The Vanderbilt Ladies Uplift Circle presented Brother and Sister Nephi DeMercurio with a going away gift at this meeting. The fellowship continued with refreshments being served.

On Sunday, November 25, along with Brother and

Sister DeMercurio and their sons, and Brother George Timms, we were blessed with a visit from the Clairton Branch. Brother Joseph Austin opened our meeting with the subject of prayer. He told us being concerned with the thought of opening the meeting that his thoughts were continually turned to prayer. Therefore, this is what he used for his subject. Before the closing of the meeting, we had the privilege of hearing the testimony of Brother Glenn Williard, whom we had not seen since he moved to Maryland. Being established now, he will no doubt be attending the Herndon, VA Branch, but we trust that he will visit us again in Vanderbilt when he has the opportunity.

After an enjoyable solo by Sister Madeline Robinson, Brother Webb opened our afternoon service continuing on the subject of prayer. We then engaged in a most humbly enjoyable feet washing service.

We have truly enjoyed all of our visiting brothers and sisters and extend the invitation for them to come back soon.

Sister Rose Czapp
Branch Editor

Atlanta Mission News

We here in the Atlanta Mission send you our love. On December 1, 1979, our mission was five years old. Brother James T. Moore and his wife, Sister Eva, were with us almost three years of this time. We have had many blessings in His service in this time. He has given us tender hearts and peace and joy.

At the present time, we have twenty attending regularly, including the children and at times, a few visitors. Brother Frank Rogolino and his wife, Sister Juanita, have been very faithful in visiting us. The Lord has always sent Brother Frank here when we had some special need.

In recent months, Brothers Russell Cadman, Dominick Rose and James Grazan have been here to uplift us and bring us communion. Pray for us here in this part of the vineyard, and when you come this way, stop and meet with us. Recently, Sister Stephanie Winkler and her husband, Heino, moved here. We feel God sent them to us.

News from Branch No. 3 Detroit, Michigan

Sunday, December 16, 1979 was a day we, here at Branch No. 3, will not easily forget. We had a day of rejoicing with Brother Nephi DeMercurio and his family. Brother Frank Vitto turned the meeting over to Brother Nephi, as his time was fast approaching to leave us again. He expressed a desire to say much, but so little time to say it in. He reminded us of how we take so much for granted, our homes, our family ties, our close friendships, etc. It's like anything in life; we

can't truly appreciate those things until they are taken away. That is why we should never feel "all is well". We cannot be satisfied with our service to God, for at our best, we are like filthy rags before His throne of mercy.

After these remarks, Brother Nephi read from Colossians 1:9. In recalling Paul's era, he remarked at how eager Paul was in promoting the Saviour. Even though Paul was a follower of Christ, his desire was that everyone should have that same determination. Paul's desire was that God would give His people understanding of the word, of God's will, and how His Spirit works. Through His Spirit, we would obtain wisdom, which is so important in our daily lives. Brother Nephi recalled the wisdom of Solomon. In the incident of the two women claiming to be the mother of the same baby, it was God's wisdom that enabled Solomon to resolve the matter.

Living in today's times, we need God's wisdom. We need to know what God wants us to do. Life is such a struggle in trying to find this out. Even Christ had a struggle when He asked, "let this cup pass". Yet previous to that point, Jesus taught His disciples how to pray—"let His will be done". Yet, we do have a choice, and that choice should be to let God put us on the right path, even though there is no guarantee that life is going to be simple. When we pray, do we ask, or do we tell God what we should do? When He answers, if it's not what we want to hear, do we accept it or ignore it?

Brother Nephi continued in this line by asking us how we control all those forces we are confronted with daily. First, we allow God to dwell in us, even though it is not easy to submit ourselves (not because we don't want to, but because good and evil powers are all around us). We are in a daily battle with those forces.

When we are confronted with fear, for no apparent reason, we have no control over it. Fear does not come from God, for "perfect love casteth out all fear". Only prayer can cast out that spirit. Many times the condition of our bodies can tear us down, not only physically, but mentally as well. There must be many times we live with pain. Those are the times the Lord could have other plans for us. It is a time to slow down and get organized. Take the time to have a little talk with God. There is nothing greater or more beautiful than the knowledge of communication with God. What could we possibly give in exchange for that experience! Are we aware of what kind of a position we are in today? Would we be willing to die for Christ? We can live for him but is that belief so deep in our hearts that we would die for Christ if we were confronted with that situation? Just how much of God's Spirit is in our lives today? Could someone, anyone, say to you, "I like the way you live." How much do we really know about what is inside a person? Brother Nephi exclaimed, "He may look good on the outside, but he could be trembling inside, fearful of not saying what the Lord wants him to say. Without the Lord, we can do nothing. He wants us to be totally dependent on Him."

Paul says, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Christ says (Ether 12:27), "If men

come unto me I will show unto them their weakness. I give unto men weakness that they may be humble: my grace is sufficient for all men that humble themselves before me, for if they humble themselves before me, and have faith in me, then will I make weak things become strong unto them." After reading the previous verses, Brother Nephi inquired if we fear that the Lord doesn't hear us anymore. If we depend on Him for everything, we shouldn't feel any uncertainty.

Brother Nephi expressed how happy he is to be associated with the people of God. He also told us how difficult it is to leave the people he loves so dearly. There is no glory in this type of work, but there is a need, and surely the Lord must have something planned for him and his family as long as they walk by faith.

He related how many times they felt, "how beautiful it would be to be home again". How we do take advantage of our being one with another! Oh, how we should love one another, NOW TODAY, not when we die. We should pray that the Lord will give us strength to help one another when we need help. We should realize that we are all important to one another. Through that love, the world will know we are His disciples.

The Lord's Supper was passed, and a spirit of love was present. The Lord saw fit to touch the hearts of all the elders at this time, and one by one they each embraced, and that true spirit of love was demonstrated. This is the true meaning of the Gospel. Loving one another and caring, if we do, how can we possibly hurt each other!

Brother Frank Vitto ended our meeting, expressing his feeling of being in school, as well as in Church. How much he appreciated the spirit of love and unity that prevailed. He pointed out how we must pray for that spirit to remain with us, so that others would be affected by it.

We pray that the Lord will continue to bless us in our meager efforts to serve Him. May the Lord's blessings be with all that strive to do His will.

Sister Kay Vitto
Branch Editor

Ordination and Baptism at the Muncey Mission

Sunday, September 9, 1979, was a memorable day for Brother Rodney Dyer, as he was ordained a teacher. Brother Rodney was baptized on July 20, 1971. We were also privileged to have Brother Spencer Everett and Brother Anthony Scolaro in our midst, along with other visiting brothers and sisters.

The meeting was opened by singing *Sweet, Sweet Spirit*. Brother Alex Gentile, the Presiding Elder, offered introductory words, welcoming everyone. Brother Spencer Everett then opened the meeting in prayer. We sang *Oh, What A Savior*. Brother Everett spoke about God who has a plan for what He created,

and then explained the duties of a teacher. He closed by saying how serious and rewarding and most fulfilling the duty of a teacher is.

Brother Rodney's feet were washed by Brother Scolaro and he was ordained by Brother Alex Gentile.

The congregation sang *Since Jesus Came Into My Heart*, and then Brother Anthony Scolaro spoke from Alma 1 in the *Book of Mormon*. The meeting was then opened for testimony. Sisters Judy Dyer and Karen Milantoni sang a duet entitled *In The Valley He Restoreth My Soul*. The congregation sang *Each Step I Take*, and sacrament was administered.

On October 28, 1979, the saints of the Muncey Mission were blessed by the baptism of a new brother, Frank Szucs.

Brother Frank was baptized by Brother Alex Gentile, the Presiding Elder, and confirmed a member of The Church of Jesus Christ by our visiting brother, Dominic Moraco.

We had a very wonderful day. It brought great joy and thanksgiving to our hearts to watch our dear friend become our brother in Christ. Our prayer is that the Lord will bless our new brother as he starts on his new journey serving the Lord.

Sister Judy Dyer

Ordination at Tampa

Sunday, September 2, 1979, was a beautiful day for the saints of Tampa. We had Brother Gene and Sister Flo Perri and Brothers Doug Obradovich and Jerry DiFede from Lake Worth and Brothers Paul DiNardo and Chuck Catone from the Broward Mission visiting this day. All had come to witness the ordination of Brother Sam Risola as a deacon in the Tampa Branch.

Brother Perri opened the service, preaching upon the importance of a deacon in the Church. He used as a comparison the story of Stephen. He spoke of the wonderful works performed by the late Brother Domenick Scala from Metuchen, New Jersey, a deacon for many years and grandfather of Brother Sam.

Brother Tucker then asked that whoever felt the desire to wash Brother Sam's feet to do so. Brother Doug Obradovich then proceeded to wash Brother Sam's feet. He later related that he had a very strong desire to do this. Brother Domenick Risola then sang a solo entitled, *Jesus Use Me*, and as he sang, he was very blessed so that his voice took on great power that he never experienced before. Brother Gene Perri then ordained Brother Sam.

During the testimony meeting, many beautiful experiences were given. Sister Betty Lowe related that a few months ago, she heard a voice saying, "Brother Sam, a deacon." Brother Tucker confirmed this experience, stating in the last feet washing service, he had a very strong feeling when he was washing Brother Sam's feet that he should be made a deacon. Our new

deacon then gave his testimony, stating that when he was being ordained, he felt a lightness in his body and a blessing that he had never felt before.

Other news to report is that on Sunday, September 9, Sister Angie Cristello asked to be reinstated into the Church. We have also received the transfers of Brother Nick and Sister Pearl Zinzi from the Bronx Branch and of Sister Diane Odem from the New Brunswick Branch.

Our love goes out to all of our brothers and sisters.

Sister Gelsa Risola

Brother DeMercurio Visits Broward Mission

On November 18, 1979, we were blessed with a glorious meeting. Brother Nephi DeMercurio, who was visiting our mission, opened our services. He spoke on our striving always to reach the "higher ground". He pointed out the true meaning of love for one another. God can overlook our faults and still love us, and we should be able to do the same thing with our brothers and sisters.

He pointed out to us in Ether 12:27 how God gives unto men weaknesses that they may be humble, and through our weaknesses, He makes us strong. He related many of his experiences in Nigeria and the many obstacles and ordeals he and his family encountered there, and how wonderfully God blessed them.

During the Sunday School class, Brother Nephi shared his slides of Africa with us. Our hearts were filled to see how the hand of God moves and the work that is being accomplished in Africa with the saints.

Our prayers are that God will bless Brother Nephi and his family when they return to Africa. After our meeting, we all enjoyed a luncheon that was served and had fellowship with one another.

Sister Fran DiNardo

Watch Night Fellowship

On December 31, 1979, Detroit Branch No. 1 was filled with members and friends not only of Branch No. 1, but also of Branch No. 3, the Sterling Heights Branch, and the newly formed Inner-City Branch, as we met together to bring in the New Year.

The meeting was opened by Brother Frank Vitto of Branch No. 3. He spoke on our duty to examine ourselves and endeavor, with the help of God, to correct our weaknesses and shortcomings. Brother Vitto was followed by Brother Tony Gerace of the Inner-City Branch who spoke of his anticipation toward

seeing the Church move forward in the coming year. His exuberance reflected the success of the rapidly growing branch in inner Detroit as he elaborated on the good things the Lord has in store for His Church.

After these very positive words, the meeting was left open for testimony. Among the many beautiful testimonies was that of a visitor to the Church, who told how delighted he was to have found a Church where so much love abounded between the members. We all truly felt a blessing in this!

After the service, everyone retired to the basement where refreshments had been furnished by members of all the branches represented. We were all afforded the opportunity to fellowship one with another.

What better way to bring in the New Year than in fellowship with the saints of God!

Anthony J. Scolaro

A tribute to Brother Dominic Giovannone

On February 5, 1980, Brother Dominic Giovannone completed his journey through life and went to his eternal reward. During his long ministry, Brother Dominic lived a full and active spiritual life. He seized every opportunity to evangelize the Gospel. His spiritual journey began on November 12, 1922, when he was baptized into the Church, and took him to such faraway places as Italy and West Virginia as well as into many homes of people in the Warren, Niles, Youngstown area. Many of the people whom he preached the Gospel to are members of the Church today. Brother Dominic had the ability to meet a perfect stranger and within a very short while, he would be telling him about the Church. He was an evangelist in the true sense of the word.

In addition to his work in the Church, Brother Dominic worked in the McDonald Steel Works of U. S. Steel and also managed to operate his farm. Upon his retirement from his job in the mill, Brother Dominic and his wife moved to Vero Beach, Florida, where he worshipped with the saints in the Fort Pierce Branch until his passing. Although he retired from his natural work, he never entertained the thought of retiring from his spiritual work, which he loved so much. His complete dedication to his ministry was made much easier by the support of his beloved wife, Sister Marietta.

A quartet comprised of Sisters Carla Dziak and Teresa Pandone and Brothers Don Pandone and Nick Manes sang three selections which were favorites of Brother Dominic. Brother Joe Calabrese, assisted by Brother Dom Bucci, conducted the service.

He will be greatly missed by his family and the many people whose lives he touched.

McKees Rocks Branch News

December 23, 1979, Brother and Sister Raymond Cossetti came to visit with us before leaving for Florida. We do praise God for keeping them and bringing them. It is beautiful that at their age they were engaged in the work of spreading the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ in Italy and strengthening the Church there.

We were reminded of how great the blessings of the Lord are here in America. We are living in the day that, no more will the Gospel of Jesus Christ fall away, but will spread until all the earth gives glory to God in the highest. All who love righteousness take courage and take up our crosses and follow our Lord and Saviour to the end, then receive the promised crown of eternal life.

Sister M. Laird
Branch Editor

Five Children Blessed at Sterling Heights

The following children of Richard and Lois Lorraine Fante were blessed in The Church of Jesus Christ on January 20, 1980, in Sterling Heights:

Chante Marie, blessed by Brother Paul Whitton,
Amy Lorraine, blessed by Brother Paul Whitton,
Rebecca Anne, blessed by Brother Louis Vitto,
Michelle Rae, blessed by Brother Sam DiFalco, and
Rhonda Renea, blessed by Brother John Buffa.

Sister Hazel E. Zoltek

* WEDDINGS *

BONNER-CHANNER

Mr. Gary Bonner and Miss Sharon Andrea Channer were united in holy matrimony at the Detroit, Michigan Inner-City Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ on Saturday, February 9, 1980.

The marriage was performed by Brother Carl Frammolino.

The newlyweds are presently residing in Detroit, Michigan.

MARTORANA-MOORE

On November 24, 1979, many brothers and sisters and friends witnessed the marriage of Brother Wayne Martorana and Sister Tina Moore.

Brother Eugene Amormino and his wife, Sister

Donna, from Detroit, Michigan, played and sang four selections for the wedding. Brother Russel Martorana, father of the groom, read from Genesis 2 and exhorted on the meaning of marriage, love and devotion to God and to each other. Brother Jimmy Moore, father of the bride, performed the wedding vows. It was a touching sacred ceremony, and the Spirit of God brought us all a blessing.

The couple left for Florida for a week. They will reside in Niles, Ohio.

NEW ARRIVALS

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

Anthony Joseph to Charles and Joann Michaud
Johns of Vero Beach, Florida;

Kelly Anne to Daniel and Jo Anne Kubik of Sterling Heights, Michigan;

Kevin Moroni to Gary and Judith Coppa of Branch No. 3, Detroit, Michigan;

Allison Ann to Thomas and Nancy Lombardo of Branch No. 3, Detroit, Michigan.

— OBITUARIES —

ANTONIO DIFALCO

Brother Antonio DiFalco of Detroit, Michigan, Branch No. 1, passed away from this life on February 2, 1980. He was born on June 7, 1900 and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on December 6, 1931. He was ordained a deacon on October 19, 1947 by Brother Anthony Pietrangelo.

He is survived by his wife, Sister Raffaella, seven sons, three daughters, thirty-four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Brothers Carl Frammolino and Louis Pietrangelo officiated at the funeral services.

DOMINIC GIOVANNONE

Brother Dominic Giovannone, a member of the Ft. Pierce, Florida Branch, passed away on February 5, 1980. He was born on May 17, 1896 and was baptized on November 12, 1922.

Left to mourn his loss are his wife, Sister Marietta, five sons and one daughter.

Funeral services were conducted at the Warren, Ohio Branch by Brothers Joseph Calabrese and T. D. Bucci.

NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

WILL ARRIVE _____ WILL DEPART _____ DAYS AT CAMP _____

Please list ordained office(s)

Please list any type of medical training

Parent or Guardian (For person's under 18 years only) _____

List required information and Lodging Preference

NAME	SEX	AGE	DORM	MOTEL	CAMPERS, TENTS TRAILERS, ETC.	OTHER
1.						
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						
6.						

List number of persons eating each meal

	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Breakfast	None							
Lunch	None							
Supper								None

Number of Songbooks wanted _____ at \$2.00 apiece equals \$ _____ (Include in total cost)

Total Cost \$ _____

Total cost is payable with return of registration form. Make checks payable to

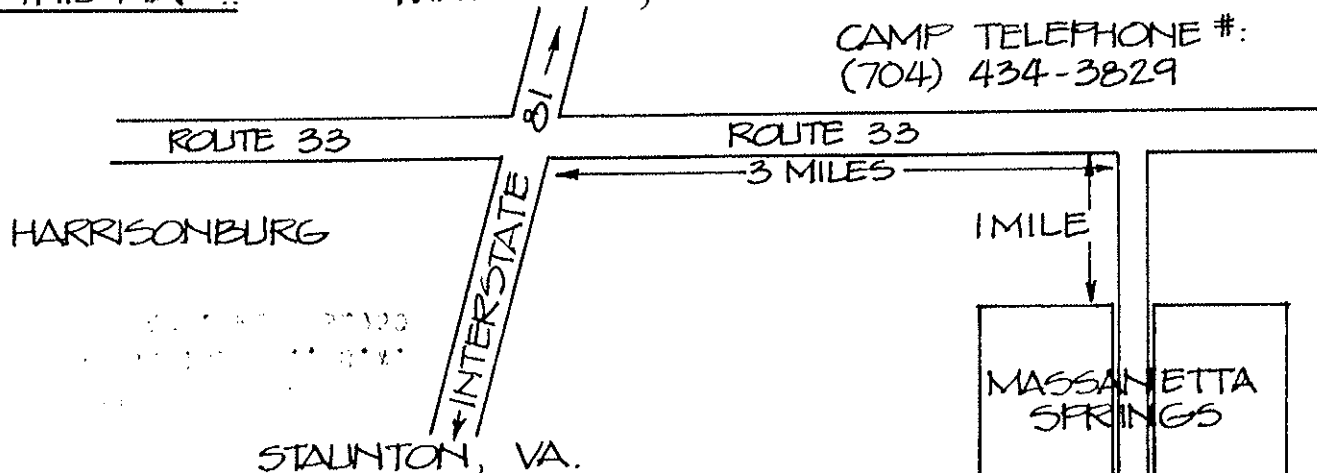
"G.M.B.A. Campout '80"

REGISTRATION FORMS, ALONG WITH FULL PAYMENT, MUST BE RETURNED BY MAY 23, 1980!

SAVE THIS MAP !!

WINCHESTER, VA.

CAMP TELEPHONE #:
(704) 434-3829



G.M.B.A. CAMPOUT REGISTRATION FORM

THE ANNUAL G.M.B.A. CAMPOUT AT MASSANETTA SPRING, HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA WILL BE HELD FROM SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 1980 AT 1:00 P.M. TO SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 1980 AT 1:00 P.M. REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ON A FIRST COME - FIRST SERVED BASIS.

Please complete this form and return it with the required payment by May 23, 1980 to Nick & Harriet Francione, 16020 Carlisle, Detroit, Michigan 48205. Telephone (313) 839-2693.

TENTS, TRAILERS, & CAMPER SITES

1. There are approximately 25 sites available. Each has its own water and electrical outlet.
2. There is a central bath house for those campers.
3. There is a washer and dryer available in the same building as the central bath house.
4. These 25 sites are located several hundred feet from the main auditorium.
5. There is a well-lit path leading to the main area.

It is advisable to bring a jacket to camp as the evenings may be cool.

SONG BOOKS - \$2.00 Each

Song Books must be pre-ordered and pre-paid. Please specify the number of books wanted. Include song book cost with registration fee.

MEAL POLICY

Even if you are planning on eating only one or two of the meals provided on any given day, you must pay for all the meals prepared on that day. Please specify exactly which meals you will be EATING.

CAMPSITE FEES INCLUDING SALES TAX & INSURANCE

Ages	Trailer Site	Tent Site	Food Cost Per Week
10 years and up	\$55.00 per week \$11.00 per day	\$48.00 per week \$ 9.50 per day	\$70.00
2 to 9 years	-	-	\$36.75
Under 2 years	-	-	Free

PRICES BELOW INCLUDE LODGING, MEALS, INSURANCE, * & SALES TAX

Ages	7 days	6 days	5 days	4 days	3 days	2 days	1 day
10 years & up	\$79.00	\$72.00	\$65.00	\$56.00	\$47.00	\$35.00	\$20.00
2 to 9 years	\$39.50	\$36.00	\$32.50	\$28.00	\$23.50	\$17.50	\$10.00
Under 2 years	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE

*Over 65 years and under 4 years of age not covered.

The Gospel News

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa., USA.

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Eight Baptisms Highlight Meeting at Aliquippa Branch

By Dora Rossi, Aliquippa, PA

On Sunday, March 23, 1980, those in attendance at our morning service witnessed an overwhelming spirit of repentance. Our service was opened by Brother Paul Palmieri reading from St. Luke, Chapter 14, concerning the parable of the feast. Brother Paul explained the invitation of the parable well and compared it with the excuses of every-day life today. We excuse ourselves to suit our way of thinking. It is very easy to keep putting off important things; however, we should be preparing ourselves for our soul's salvation.

Brother John Ross followed, stating that a young girl had asked him recently, "How do you know when you are ready to be baptized?" Brother John answered, "You'll know when the Lord is calling you. Just keep praying." When Brother Paul and Brother John were speaking, there was a very attentive audience. At the close of the service, Pete Giannetti, Jr. rose upon his feet and said, "Brothers and sisters, I'm tired of putting off the invitation any longer. I want to be baptized." Immediately, Pete's brother, Albert, and Pete's wife, Wendy, also asked to be baptized.

Brother Paul asked those who had requested baptism to come forward. He also asked if there were any others who wanted to join our new converts. At this time, another young, recently married couple, John Mark and JoAnn D'Antonio, walked hand in hand toward the front of the church. What a blessed sight to see these five repentant souls embrace each other and the elders in expression of their joy! Truly the Spirit of God was evident in our midst. Everyone shed tears of joy as we sang *There's A Feast of Good Things*.

During the chorus of this hymn, the words, *Come to the Supper*, touched the heart of yet another soul, and Eva Ondik requested baptism. Shortly after, Joel Ondik embraced his mother and also decided to make Jesus his choice.

After the service, as we were preparing to go to the waters, Lucille Humphrey made her wishes for baptism known. She was the young girl who has asked Brother

John Ross, "How do you know when you are ready to be baptized?"

We were met at the Imperial baptismal site by many brothers, sisters and friends from the Imperial Branch. The candidates were baptized and confirmed as follows:

Brother Pete Giannetti, Jr., baptized by Brother Paul Palmieri, confirmed by Brother Anthony Palmieri; Sister JoAnn D'Antonio, baptized by Brother Paul Palmieri, confirmed by Brother Thomas Ross; Sister Eva Ondik, baptized by Brother Paul Palmieri, confirmed by Brother Anthony Palmieri; Sister Wendy Giannetti, baptized by Brother John Ross, confirmed by Brother Anthony Ross; Brother Albert Giannetti, baptized by Brother John Ross, confirmed by Brother Paul Palmieri; Brother Joel Ondik, baptized by Brother Anthony Ross, confirmed by Brother John Ross; Sister Lucille Humphrey, baptized by Brother Anthony Ross, confirmed by Brother Thomas Ross; Brother John Mark D'Antonio, baptized by Brother John Ross, confirmed by Brother Anthony Ross.

Continued on Page 4



"It Is Written"

By V. J. Lovalvo, Fresno, CA

QUESTION: Please explain the following scripture: "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand) Then let them which be in Jerusalem flee to the mountains . . ." Matthew 24:15, 16

ANSWER: The above scripture has been a controversial one among students of the Bible; whether it is to be understood spiritually or literally. Let me say at the onset that there is nothing in these verses which



indicate a spiritual significance. This conclusion has been arrived at after much prayer but also in the light of other scripture which clearly explains the above.

It has been taught that when the abomination of desolation is seen, that the saints of old as well as those in the latter days should "stand in the holy place", meaning that the saints of God should "stand firm in the faith and firm in the church." The reader should know where this interpretation came from and by whom.

Joseph Smith, in his "interpretation" of the *Bible* gave the above explanation, to wit; that the saints of God should "stand in the holy place" when the abomination of desolation is at hand. Some non-Mormons have believed this interpretation and have accordingly taught it. But, the following scripture that shall be presented forthwith will expose the above interpretation as a fallacy. The words also, "the abomination of desolation" have not been explained to the satisfaction of many *Bible* students nor mine. I pray that the following will enlighten somewhat the minds of the readers.

In the Gospel according to Mark 13:14 it reads, "But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, 'STANDING' where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand), then let them that be in Judea flee to the mountains . . ." Please note that Mark uses the word **STANDING**, indicating that the "abomination of desolation" would be **STANDING** where it ought not. It does not give the slightest inference that the saints should be standing in the holy place, but rather that the abomination of desolation would be standing in the holy place where it ought not. The holy place or the "place where it ought not" was the holy city of Jerusalem; the abomination of desolation was the Roman army which besieged Jerusalem in 70 A. D., over-ran the walls and destroyed the city, killing thousands of Jews and desecrating the holy Temple.

However, let us proceed. In Luke 21:20-22 it is written: "And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed

with armies, then know that the "DESOLATION" thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto." How clearly Luke explains the abomination of desolation. It was the Roman armies which were the "abomination" which made Jerusalem "DESOLATE". The Disciples of Jesus were warned to **FLEE**, not to **STAND**.

There were many seditions in Jerusalem; many were the struggles for power and leadership among themselves. Men fought for military and political power, not caring how many thousands were killed; Jews against Jews, blood spilling on the streets of cities without regard for human rights, and the cries of bereaved women and children going unheard. All this because they transgressed the laws of God. Josephus, the historian who lived at that period, once cried out from the depth of his soul, "O most wretched city, what misery so great as this didst thou suffer from the Romans, when they came to purify thee from thy intestine hatred! For thou couldst be no longer a place fit for God, nor couldst thou long continue in being, after thou hadst been a sepulchre for the bodies of thy own people, and hadst made the Holy house itself a buying place in this civil war of thine. Yet mayest thou again grow better, if perchance thou wilt hereafter appease the anger of that God who is the author of thy destruction." Josephus ascribes the misfortune that befell the Jews to themselves. Before long, famine and extreme poverty came upon them because of their constant bickering and fighting among themselves. In the meantime, the armies of Titus, the Roman general, kept decimating the Jewish soldiers little by little.

While Josephus made his exhortations to the Jewish people, they in turn reviled against him, casting stones and darts at him from the walls. In the anguish of his heart he cried out unto them hoping that he could persuade them to desist from their follies of fighting one another and against the Roman armies. "Know ye not," he said, "that you are not only fighting against the Romans but against God Himself?" He reminded them of their past glories, when they kept the commandments of the Lord; also of their downfall when they transgressed, but to no avail. They had not only broken the laws of God but desecrated the holy Temple.

Many of the Jews sought to escape from the city of Jerusalem, from the seditious element only to be caught by robbers and stripped of all they had; many caught by the Roman soldiers were beaten and then crucified before the walls of the city. It is written that more than five hundred a day were killed by crucifixion. In order to keep the Jews within the walls of the city, Titus had an outer wall built which surrounded the city thus sealing any way of escape for the people. In the interim, famine grew to indescribable proportions, insomuch that many perished, dropping dead because of lack of food. The dead were left lying where they fell, for the living had not even the strength to bury them. In vain did Josephus plead with the Jews to put an end to this losing battle among themselves and against the Romans. Even Titus,

Continued on Page 4

Ohio District Conference

By Jim Alessio, Lorain, Ohio

The Ohio District Conference convened on February 23 and 24 at the Youngstown, Ohio church building. At the business portion on Saturday, Brother Joe Calabrese was elected to serve as president for the next year and Brothers Elmer Santilli and Russ Martorana were elected as first and second counselors respectively. Brother Wayne Martorana will serve as secretary.

The Sunday service was well attended by brothers and sisters from all branches and missions throughout the district and there were some in attendance from the Pennsylvania District as well. A group from the Imperial and McKees Rocks Branches sang a hymn to which Sister Buffington wrote the words. Brother Wayne Martorana was selected to open the service and he related how he had tried for two days to write the music for the hymn that was sung. Not being able to come up with any music, he prayed to the Lord to allow him to compose the melody, and the next morning as he sat down at the piano, he was able to come up with the notes for the song in about ten minutes.

For his text, Brother Wayne chose the scripture found in Amos 8:11, 12 "... I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord." Our brother then began to unfold the story of the establishment of the Church and ordinances, and the eventual falling away. He acknowledged the efforts of such stalwart men as Calvin, Zwingli, Wesley and others who played an important part in the establishment of the Reformation. Their efforts, however, did not restore the priesthood authority, which came about many years later.

The next speaker, Brother Paul D'Amico, briefly spoke on the goodness of God in his life.

Brother Bob Buffington, from the Imperial Branch, carried a wonderful spirit as he related many wonderful memories of his childhood days as he traveled to camp meetings with his grandfather prior to his coming into the Gospel. He reminisced about the many blessings he received as he sat under the sound of the preachings of Brother Jim Heaps and Brother Alma Cadman. Brother Bob commented further on the theme of the Restoration as he called to mind the writings found in the Book of Daniel wherein it speaks of the stone that was cut out of the mountain without hand and related it to the Restoration.

Our brother related an experience that happened to his wife while she was in the hospital and facing the possibility of undergoing some serious surgery. She was very frightened and not at all ready to face this surgery, and that night she petitioned the Lord to help her. In answer to her prayer, the words of the 91st Psalm came to her "... there shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy

dwelling . . ." These words comforted her that night and in the morning she was unafraid. A further blessing awaited her as she did not have to undergo as serious a surgery as was anticipated.

Happy the Souls That First Believed was sung and Brother Joe Calabrese recited the last verse, "Ye different sects who all declare, Lo Christ is here or Christ is there, Your stronger proofs divinely give, And show me where the Christians live." He gave particular emphasis to the words "divinely give" as he continued to exhort us on the theme of the Restoration using other appropriate scripture.

Brother Joe, in his discourse, also brought to our attention how Ephesians 6, wherein it speaks about putting on the full armor of God, has been spoken on in at least nine different branches within a two week period. It is felt that this is no mere coincidence, but a warning to us to prepare for the days that are before us.

As we prepared to close the service, Brother Oliver Lloyd, the elder of the Kent, Ohio Mission, asked to be anointed. The meeting was then adjourned as Brother Rocco Biscotti closed in prayer.

Florida District Conference

By Elsie Ensana

February 16 and 17, 1980

The Florida District Conference was held in the Lake Worth church building with Area President, Brother Eugene Perri, Jr., presiding. The Saturday meetings were well attended with open sessions in the afternoon and evenings. The main portion of business was the election of District Officers and Presiding Elders for the coming year. Most officers were re-elected with the exception of Librarian. Brother Joseph Catone is now District Librarian. Also, Brother Duane Lowe is now Presiding Elder of the Tampa Branch. We were pleased to hear that the Tampa Branch has requested permission to enlarge their building and this request will be sent to the General Church Conference in April for final approval.

The Sunday meeting was held in the church building. There was singing prior to the opening of the meeting and this included group singing from Ft. Pierce, a solo by Sister Irene Griffith of Tampa, a solo by Brother V. J. Lovalvo of California, a quartet from Lake Worth and several selections by the Quincy Branch.

We had many visiting brothers and sisters from various places including Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and also Brother V. James Lovalvo of California, one of the apostles assigned to the Florida District and also Brother Nick Pietrangelo, apostle.

Brother Lovalvo opened the meeting and he spoke about building the House of the Lord. He used verses from Psalm 127 and 128 for his texts. We enjoyed the words he spoke and he told how David wanted to build

a house but because of his life it was given instead to his son Solomon. He told us that each one of us has a part in building this house and when we make our covenant to take part in this building, the promises and blessings are great for those who take part and work diligently.

Brothers Paul Vitto of Michigan, Rocco Ensana of New Jersey, Nick Pietrangelo of Michigan and Smith and Perri of Florida followed on the same subject. Brother Rocco Ensana pointed out that one of the greatest gifts from God is forgiveness, and that we should cherish this gift and that true forgiveness includes forgetting the offence that was committed.

Brother Nick Pietrangelo spoke on being a part of the family of God and in building the house of God we must make sure we are sending up good materials. He spoke about how we need God's help, strength and prayers and we must look to God for these.

Sacrament was administered, and before dismissing, a spirit of singing prevailed and the brothers and sisters raised their voices in song and sang many praises to our Lord. How wonderful and good it is to raise our voices in praise and thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father and His Son. The meeting was dismissed with prayer by Brother Jesse Carr of Pennsylvania.

IT IS WRITTEN

(Continued from page 2)

seeing the horrible carnage wrought by the famine and its consequences, asked Josephus to exhort the seditious ones to surrender and save their city, especially their Temple whom even the Roman General respected. But the people jeered at this, thinking it was because Titus was afraid.

The famine continued in its ferocity; people chewed the leather of their shoes, girdles, the leather from their shields, and anything else, vulgar though it be. Robbers would break into homes to steal, killing the tenants, opening their stomachs in search of gold, or even undigested food; mothers were known to kill and eat their own children, so terrible was the famine.

Eventually the walls of the city were stormed and after some fierce fighting, the Roman soldiers burned the holy Temple and destroyed the city of Jerusalem for the second time in its history. History (by Josephus) records that nearly 1,500,000 people were slain of the Jews and almost 100,000 more were taken prisoners. At one time during the siege of the city, a man was seen walking on the wall crying out, "Ichabod, Ichabod, the glory of God has departed." Another man, four years before the siege of Jerusalem and three years after, walked through the city streets and upon its walls crying out, "Woe, Woe, to Jerusalem, Woe, Woe, to Jerusalem." But, no one paid any attention to him but rather despised him. Then shortly before the fall of the city, he walked upon the walls and repeated the same words, adding this time, "Woe, Woe, unto me." Immediately, someone threw a stone at him and killed him. Neither the voice of Josephus nor the implorations of the Roman General could stop the furor of the seditious; only their utter destruction

was able to stop this great calamity.

It is an obvious fact, after the above account, that the siege of Jerusalem by the Roman armies was the "abomination of desolation" spoken of by the prophet, Daniel. Although the Lord Jesus Christ reiterated the prophecy, they would not listen. The exceptions were the Disciples who at the outset of the siege fled to the mountains as their Lord had advised them to do. Never in the history of mankind had such a calamity befallen a people and a city; utter destruction. The lesson herein learned is that no nation can long exist who claims to believe in God Almighty but still transgresses His commandments. Profession alone is not sufficient; possession of good spiritual will, determination to abide by His commandments is the criterion by which a nation and a people must live in order to escape that which befell Jerusalem.

Book Available for Sale

Brother V. James Lovalvo's book entitled *It Is Written, Truth Shall Spring Out of the Earth* is available at a cost of \$7.50. Anyone wishing to purchase a copy, please send your request, along with a check or money order, to Brother Lovalvo. The price includes the cost of the book, plus mailing expense. Proceeds will be for General Church missionary work.

V. James Lovalvo
5769 N. Pleasant Ave.
Fresno, CA 93711

EIGHT BAPTISMS

(Continued from page 1)

We met at the church building after lunch for the confirmation of our newly baptized members. We sang *Make Me A Blessing*, and Brother Sela Palmieri then read a poem that he was inspired to write. Brother Anthony Palmieri made a few opening remarks, reminding us that God moves upon His people in a mysterious way. He recalled that in the fifty-seven years he has been a member of the Church, this was the first time he remembered eight people asking to be baptized on the same day in our branch.

This will be a day well remembered by the saints of our branch. Many wonderful testimonies were given by the new members and others as well. May the Lord continue to bless the Aliquippa Branch, and may He use us to further the Gospel as He did in days of old.

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Let Us Honor Mothers

A Mother's love is the nearest thing on earth to the love divine.

William Lyon Phelps

May is the month in which the second Sunday is officially recognized as the day for our annual observance of Mother's Day. Surely, it is a duty as well as a privilege to pause and pay tribute in honor of living mothers and in memory of mothers who have gone to their eternal rewards.

How Can We Ever Sufficiently Honor Mothers?

We would be found wanting in sufficiently honoring mothers, even though we might employ the written word and the spoken word with the utmost skill and eloquence. Can we measure a mother's love, tenderness, trust, strength, dedication, labor and self-sacrifice? Can we number the hours, or days, or nights of a mother's vigil and concern for the recovery of an ailing or injured loved one? Can we comprehend a mother's heartache and bitter pain over a wandering and wayward loved one? Can we understand a mother's deepest grief in the passing of a loved one? Can we discern a mother's heartfelt desire for the well-being of a loved one?

A mother's work is never ended. No mother has an easy time, and many mothers have very hard times. What true mother would barter her experience of joy and sorrow in exchange for a life of selfishness?

The most honorable and desirable task that can beset any woman is to be a good and wise mother in a home marked by self-respect, love, wisdom and firmness. Some children will go wrong in spite of the best of training; and some will go right even when their surroundings are most unfortunate; nevertheless, an immense amount depends upon the family training. A good mother will also teach her sons and daughters to face life, resolved to wrest success from labor and adversity, and to do their whole duty before God and man.

A Mother's Reward

A mother's task is not easy, but in doing it, there shall come to her one of the highest and holiest joys known to mankind; and having done it, she shall receive the reward prophesied in scripture:

For her children and her husband, yea, and all people who realize that her work lies at the foundation of much goodness, happiness and greatness, SHALL RISE UP AND CALL HER BLESSED.

The Children's Corner

By Mabel Bickerton
Monongahela, PA



A Mother's Day Story

Dear Girls and Boys,

Since we honor our Mothers in the month of May, I want to tell you an exciting story about many young men who honored their mothers. You can read this in the *Book of Mormon*.

There were two thousand young men, striplings, who were Nephites. Their fathers had made a promise that they would never go to war again. They buried their weapons in the ground. After having the gospel preached to them by Ammon and his brethren, they became devoted members of the Church.

A time came when the fathers saw the sufferings of their people by the enemy, so they decided to break their promise and help their people. Helaman, their leader, thought this was wrong. He told them to keep their promise never to fight again. Now the sons of these men had not taken this oath so they were free to defend their homes and families.

Two thousand young men armed themselves gladly and joined the army. They asked Helaman to be their leader. He gladly accepted and called them his sons. They were great soldiers. They were brave, not afraid to die. They put their trust in the Lord. Their mothers had taught them this great faith. They had told them if they did not doubt, God would protect them. They said to Helaman the words of their mothers, "We do not doubt our mothers knew it."

Helaman led the young men to war. He planned to join Antipas' army as his soldiers were weak and discouraged. They were a great help. When the enemy saw the army was reinforced with 2,000 young striplings, they fled and would not attack. The fathers of these two thousand sent provisions and this cheered them on.

Antipas ordered Helaman and the young soldiers to march to a nearby city and pretend they were taking supplies. The enemy went after them and Antipas brought his army up from behind. Now the enemy was surrounded. They subdued the enemy. The young soldiers thought more of liberty than they did their own lives. They remembered the teachings of their mothers. They had great faith. Never had Helaman seen such fighting and such strength as these.

After the great battle was over, Helaman counted his young men. Two thousand! Not one had been killed! Helaman knew this miraculous power of God had been shown because of the things that had been taught. So in these young striplings, the faith taught them by their mothers, proves that God will not forsake His people.

Sincerely,
Sister Mabel

The World Is Mine

Today, upon a bus, I saw a lovely girl with golden hair. I envied her, she seemed so gay, and wished that I were as fair.

When suddenly she rose to leave, I saw her hobble down the aisle.

She had one leg and wore a crutch, and as she passed, a smile.

Oh God, forgive me when I whine, I have two legs, the world is mine.

And then I stopped to buy some sweets, the lad who sold them had such charm.

I talked with him, he seemed so glad, if I were late 'twould do no harm.

And as I left he said to me, "I thank you, you've been so kind.

It's nice to talk to folks like you, you see," he said, "I'm blind."

Oh God, forgive me when I whine, I have two eyes! The world is mine.

Later walking down the street, I saw a child with eyes of blue.

He stood and watched the others play, it seemed he knew not what to do.

I stopped a moment then I said, "Why don't you join the others dear?"

He looked ahead without a word, and then I knew, he could not hear.

Oh God, forgive me when I whine, I have two ears, the world is mine.

With legs to take me where I'd go
With eyes to see the sunset's glow
With ears to hear what I would know

Oh God, forgive me when I whine, I'm blessed indeed,
THE WORLD IS MINE.

Atlantic Coast Area MBA Campout

The Atlantic Coast Area MBA Campout will be held on August 22-24, 1980 at Camp Towanda in Honesdale, Pennsylvania.

OUR WOMEN TODAY:

Aliquippa Hosts Conference

By Mary Tamburrino, Aliquippa, PA

The General Ladies Uplift Circle Conference was held March 22, 1980 at Aliquippa, Pennsylvania. There was a good attendance from Canada, Florida, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

The Aliquippa Circle had a program on "The Resurrection". The scripture was read from the *Bible*, St. Luke 24:1-12 and from the *Book of Mormon*, III Nephi 11:1-17. The songs, *I Believe in a Hill Called Mount Calvary*, *He Is Lord*, and *I Find No Fault in Him* were sung by the group. Sister Mabel Bickerton reported that a Circle was organized at Anaheim, California and one will be organized at Mexico. She has a hope that there will be a Circle in every branch and mission of the Church.

The roll call of officers and the reading of the minutes held at Imperial, Pennsylvania, started the business part of the Conference. The report of the Circles and Districts was given. The home Circles sent money for the printing of the Vacation Bible School lessons. Layettes were sent to the Indian Reservations, and the question, "What man became angry with his maid-servant and beat her, and where did she go and what did she tell the people?", was found in the *Book of Mormon*, Alma 50:30-31.

The report of the General Missionary, Cook Book, Concordance, By-law and Memorial Funds was given. Contributions were made to the Memorial Fund in memory of Sisters Elizabeth Davidson, Burgess, Elaine Voelker, Cora Fowler, and Brothers Nephi Santilli, George Funkhouser, Dominick Giovannone, and Ellis Cowan. Brother John Ross gave a report on the African Relief. He said the money given to him by the General Circle is being distributed as it is needed. Sister Mary Criscuolo reported that she sent 102 cards out.

Donations were made to the General Church Indian Missionary, Evangelist, Printing and Africa Relief Funds.

Sister Mabel Bickerton reported that the Book of Hymns and Experiences will be named "Yesterday". The proceeds will go towards missionary work.

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

The next General Circle Conference will be held at Monongahela, Pennsylvania, on July 19, 1980. The sixtieth anniversary of the Ladies Uplift Circle will be celebrated at that time. Sister Dorothy Gandley is in charge of arrangements.

The brothers that were present complimented the sisters for the work well done in helping the General Church financially . . . there is a work for everyone to do, even the women in The Church of Jesus Christ.

A Saint Remembered

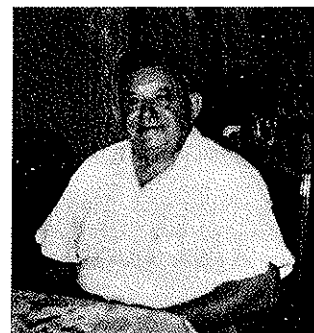
By Janet Buffa, Branch 2, Detroit, MI

Recently, Branch No. 2 lost one of its beloved members. Brother Emilio Carlini passed on to his reward February 24, 1980, after a year of failing health.

Our brother was born in San Benedetto del Tronto, Italy, some 85 years ago. Coming as an immigrant to this country, he was more fortunate than most in that he brought with him a trade-wet plastering. This trade was an important asset to our brother and his family and also to The Church of Jesus Christ. He was able to provide an ample living for his family even during the great depression. During this dark period in our nation's history, a mission had been established in the Detroit area. Brother Emil was one of the charter members of that mission, being baptized on February 2, 1930. It was through our brother that many other newly converted brothers received help in obtaining work. This in turn helped to stabilize the membership and contributed to its growth into a branch. Within ten years, the branch had almost ninety members, along with many visitors and children in attendance. The table in our brother's home was always full and he and his wife, Sister Annie, often opened their home to the saints visiting or passing through the area.

Although our brother had a limited education in Italy, his expert skill enabled him to rise to the position of supervisor at Ford Motor Company. He also had done work on a personal level for the Ford family. However, this skill proved a more valuable asset to The Church of Jesus Christ than many may realize. Our brother had contributed his work to over a dozen branch buildings throughout the Church from coast to coast. These projects included the original Branch No. 2 building on South Electric in Detroit, and the second building presently being used in Allen Park, Michigan. Brother Emil's charity also often extended to helping complete the homes of many of the saints in the area.

Our dear Brother Emil was one more evidence of the wonderful miracles that God had wrought in those days to give His Church a proper birth in many parts of this great country. Taking people like our brother, who were endowed with great energy, and granting them several wonderful personal experiences helped lead them to the Church. They in turn became instrumental in the conversion of others throughout this land, as well as lands abroad.



To the children of Branch No. 2, Brother Emil will be remembered for the candy he always carried in his pocket. The members of the branch will recall his jovial nature, pleasant disposition and always a ready, warm handshake for all. Our brother, along with the many others like him, will surely be remembered in the pages of history of this Church.

Branch and Mission News

News from Modesto, California

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I'd like to share with you a little of what's going on in the Modesto Branch.

On Sunday, October 28, 1979, we were blessed with such a wonderful meeting. We all surely felt the presence of the Lord and continue to thank Him for His kindness. Visiting from Niles, Ohio, we were happy to have Brother Joe Manes. We were also able to witness a baptism. Sister Sharnee Randy was baptized by Brother Leonard Lovalvo and confirmed by Brother Joseph Lovalvo.

Sister Sharnee requested baptism the weekend before at the General Church Conference in Greensburg, PA. There, she not only repented of her sins, but was blessed with a vision. In her vision, she saw a cloud, and reaching out of the cloud were two hands. A voice spoke to her and said, "Sharnee, I'm waiting for you." After this, she made her promise to God.

On this day, due to the baptism, we had two meetings. In the morning, we had a preaching service. Brothers Joseph and Leonard Lovalvo gave us a brief summary of the General Church Conference which they had attended. They told us of the beautiful spirit felt there. Through their words, we felt a portion.

The afternoon service was visited by the Angel of the Lord. We know this, because we have lots of proof. Our meeting was spent in testimony, although most of the service the elders spent anointing the sick and laying hands on others for spiritual strength. Probably three-fourths of the congregation, from young to old, put their trust in God by having the ministry lay hands on them.

One of the brothers who was anointed was Brother Sam Randy. He had been having a pain in his side. After the elders anointed him, he stood up to shake hands with the elders. As he embraced each elder, he felt the pain leave little by little, and as he got to the last elder, the pain completely left him.

A young girl, Tina Picciuto, was anointed for the continuous headaches she began having. As soon as she was anointed, the Lord took the pain from her.

We've got even more proof. Brother Joseph Lovalvo and Brother Dan Picciuto both had visions. Brother Joe said, "We formed a ring at the introductory prayer. While Brother Mark Randy was praying, I saw an angel come in through the corner of the roof. His appearance was glorious and beautiful. He floated in the air throughout the building, and he came to the sacrament table. He stood in front of the sacrament and ran his hands over the front of the table. During the service, I saw him two more times. I was overshadowed by the

power of God throughout our glorious meeting."

Brother Dan Picciuto said, "As Brother Leonard Lovalvo was laying hands on Brother Joe Randy for spiritual strength, I saw a table spread in white linen. Upon it I saw a setting of silverware somewhat tarnished. I saw hands appear, taking the silverware from the table and replacing it with brilliant, shiny golden ware."

Brothers and sisters, that's sufficient proof for me. I thank God for this and all of the unseen miracles.

On Wednesday night, November 28, 1979, we were pleased to have Brother Nephi DeMercurio here. He gave us a full report on his remarkable two years spent in Africa with his wife and children. He also shared slides of Africa with us. I know I can speak for the whole Branch and say that we thoroughly enjoyed this night.

On Sunday, December 2, 1979, Brother Joe Lovalvo had a wonderful experience. We were going into our communion service, and as Brother Joe Ciarolla was offering prayer over the sacrament, Brother Joe Lovalvo had a vision. In his vision, he saw thousands of elders administering communion. Kneeling down were the congregation, which also were many. Then he heard a voice say, "Some day the whole world will bow down before Me, and they will eat of My flesh and drink of My blood."

Modesto has even more reason to smile, although our gain was another's loss. Brother Joe Manes, his wife, Sister Rose, and their son Joe have moved here from Niles, Ohio. Also, soon to be moving here will be Brother Richard Dulisse, his wife, Sister Rose, and their son Richard from Lindsay, California. We're all very happy about this and welcome more.

On Sunday, December 23, 1979, we were visited by Brother Jim Lovalvo and his wife, Sister Mary.

I'd also like to report that our young people have our own meetings every Monday night, taught by Brother Joe Lovalvo. Usually, we study the *Bible* and the *Book of Mormon* and their relation with each other. Sometimes we all kneel and devote our meeting to prayer. Either way, it's always nice.

May God be with you all.

All of my love,
Sister Pam Cole (Ciarolla)
Branch Editor

1979 ends and 1980 begins with unity

Many saints, visitors and friends gathered at the Lake Worth, Florida Branch to usher in the New Year. Brother Vince Gibson and his son, Danny, of Ohio,

Ryan and Candace Ross of Pennsylvania, and Diane Salinas of Miami were among our guests. Approximately sixty people enjoyed a delicious buffet of an assortment of food.

At 10:30 PM, an enthusiastic group joined in singing hymns of praise. Brother Jesse Carr from Pennsylvania read Psalm 23 and delivered a message that was enjoyed by all. Brother Gibson followed with the same theme of "The Lord Is My Shepherd." As midnight approached, we formed a circle in unity, while a prayer was offered.

What better way is there to insure a good year than with a prayer to God for His love and protection.

Bud Perri

Erie Mission Enjoys Visitors

By Stacey Light, Erie, PA

On Sunday, January 20, 1980, the Erie Mission was very pleased to have visitors from ten different branches and missions of the Church.

The meeting was opened with prayer and several hymns, and then turned over to a visiting elder, Brother Richard Scaglione. Brother Richard spoke about the 2000 young stripling warriors, relating to us their courage and faith. Brother Wayne Martorana followed, relating other examples of faith and courage by other men in the scriptures. The meeting was left open for testimony, with many saints taking the opportunity to praise God. Sacrament was passed and the meeting was closed in prayer.

Lunch was prepared by the Erie saints, and a few more minutes of fellowshiping was enjoyed by all before the saints departed for their respective homes. The Erie Mission thanks God for all His blessings, and we send our love to all the saints and loved ones throughout the Church.

Ordinations at Tucson, Arizona

By Paul Francione, Tucson, Arizona

On Sunday, January 20, 1980, the saints of the Tucson Branch, along with others who were visiting, witnessed the ordinations of Brothers Joel Christman and Jim Brutz into the office of Deacon. Brother Joel's feet were washed by his father, Brother Dick Christman, and he was ordained by Brother Paul Francione. Brother Jim's feet were washed by Brother Dick, and he was ordained by Brother Patsy Marinetti.

We all are very happy that our young brothers have been set apart to work for the Lord. Pray for them that the Spirit of God might always guide them and that they might be a blessing to the Church and to the saints.

Baptisms in Edison

By Ruth Arcuri, Edison, New Jersey

On August 18, 1979 our new brother and sister in Christ, Bob and Linda Pizzala, were baptized. Bob and Linda requested that they be baptized together on a Wednesday night as they were eager and unwilling to wait until Sunday. Their enthusiasm is a great blessing to our branch.

Brother August D'Orazio performed the baptism that evening and our brother and sister were confirmed later at our Wednesday night meeting, Bob by Brother Rocco Ensana and Linda by Brother Don Ross. There were many Visitors at the meeting to witness the confirmation and Brother Tony Vadasz of Metuchen opened in prayer. Words were spoken by our elder brothers from Edison. A beautiful spirit was present, and we all welcome our new brother and sister. Their enthusiasm and sincerity will be a blessing to our church as well as our branch.

Monongahela News

By Robin Burns, Monongahela, PA

On January 13, 1980, the Monongahela Branch received a day of blessings with two baptisms. Alexander Cherry and Jill Weygandt had asked for their baptisms. Brother Alexander was baptized by Brother Robert Nicklow and Sister Jill was baptized by Brother Richard Scaglione. We all convened back at the Church for the confirmation.

Brother Idris Martin opened the service speaking on baptism and how important it is. He spoke of how Nicodemus was told that he must be born again of the water and spirit or he could not enter into the Kingdom of God. He spoke of how we should uphold the banner of Christ and set an example in all we do.

Brother John Griffith then continued by speaking on Christ's baptism, and how he set the example. He spoke of the dove (Spirit of God) that descended from heaven upon Jesus and related it to the confirmation of the Holy Spirit today.

Our new converts then came forward for the confirmation. Brother Alexander was confirmed by Brother Idris Martin, and Sister Jill was confirmed by Brother James Grazan.

Many wonderful testimonies were given by the brothers and sisters on their own experiences and baptisms.

Sister Jill is the granddaughter of the late Brother Clyde Gibson, and Brother Alexander is the son of the late Brother Teaman Cherry and grandson to the late Brother Alexander Cherry.

Our prayers are that God will continue to bless our new converts as they strive to serve God.

Good News from Fort Pierce

By Juanita Rogolino, Ft. Pierce, FL

On Sunday, February 24, the Fort Pierce Branch was blessed with a baptism. Louis Calisi, nephew of Brother Carl Romano was baptized by Brother Samuel Costarella and confirmed by Brother Charles Smith.

On Sunday evening, the brothers and sisters gathered at Brother and Sister Carl Romano's home for a very enjoyable get-together. Our new brother lives in Boston, Massachusetts and will soon be returning there. Our prayer is that the Lord will bless him and his wife while they are apart from us.

The Fort Pierce Branch was additionally blessed with two baptisms on Sunday, March 2, 1980. Dora Calisi was baptized by Brother Anthony Ensana and confirmed by Brother Nicholas Pietrangelo. Sister Dora is the wife of Brother Louis Calisi, who was baptized on February 24. Sister Dora has had several beautiful dreams and experiences, one of which was a dream in which she saw Brother Anthony Ensana baptizing her.

Clifford Sproul was baptized by Brother Frank Rogolino and confirmed by Brother Joseph Bittinger. Brother Clifford is the son-in-law of the late Brother Alma Cadman. He has been around the Church for over thirty years, and we are thankful that he has at last given himself to the Lord.

We were blessed also in having Brother Nick and Sister Yolanda Pietrangelo, and Brother John and Sister Bess Impastato from Detroit, Branch No. 1 with us for the day. We had wonderful meetings, both morning and afternoon. There were many gifts of God manifested. Tongues were spoken, a sister sang in the Spirit, and it was beautiful. This was interpreted as a calling of the Lord to sinners to come and be baptized.

Our new Brother Louis and Sister Dora have left us to return to their home in Boston, Massachusetts. Our Brother Clifford and Sister Eleanor Sproul will soon leave us to return to their Branch in Fredonia, Pennsylvania. Our prayer is that the Lord will bless them and prosper them in their part of the vineyard. May He feed them and nourish them, and may they grow strong and firm in the Lord.

Editor's Note: Sister Belle Rose, Brooklyn Branch Secretary, reports concerning Brother Luigi and Sister Dora Calisi, "Our Brother and Sister reside in the Boston area, where Brother Dominick Rose has been holding meetings in Brother Gennaro D'Arco's home temporarily. Our brother related how God healed his leg which was filled with gangrene, and the doctor said it had to be amputated. Brother Paul Benyola, when he lived in that area, went to visit him and prayed for him. The next day, the doctor was amazed at the change and stated that there was no need to amputate the leg. After coming home, he was anointed in one of our meetings by Brother Rose, and he was able to rest comfortably without any pain."

Yea, blessed are the poor in spirit who come unto me, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. III Nephi 12:3

Three Baptisms at Detroit Inner-City Branch

Three new members were baptized into the Gospel at the Detroit, Michigan Inner-City Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ in March, as the blessings of God continued to be received in great abundance.

Taken into the waters of beautiful nearby Belle Isle by Brother Joseph Milantoni were Sisters Roxanna Jones and Barbara Alberts on Sunday, March 16, and Brother Daniel Cotellesse on Sunday, March 23. Brother Anthony Gerace confirmed Sister Jones and Brother Carl Frammolino confirmed Sister Alberts and Brother Cotellesse.

All three converts had been attending regularly. In standing during the services to ask for their baptisms, they stated that God had blessed them immensely and they wanted so deeply to become part of the Gospel. They repentantly proclaimed their desires in a touching and most deeply felt manner. Sister Jones had been attending for almost three years, Sister Alberts for over one year, while Brother Cotellesse was born and raised in The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Daniel, though unbaptized until now, had worked hard in the new mission (now a Branch) since its inception on June 5, 1977 by transporting visitors to and from the services, as well as in other natural labors.

The three new additions bring the Inner-City membership to twenty-eight. Eight have been baptized during the last fourteen months while the downtown group has been meeting in the building, over 100 years old, which was recently purchased.

That God not only provided for the building in the middle of this huge city but also presented the means with which to purchase it (located at 2901 Brooklyn) have added immensely to the many blessings received. Attendance has remained large at the 325 seat church and interest has continued intense among the many visitors who attend.

The prayers of all are that many more souls will be added to the flock, just as were the new members on the successive Sundays in March.

Conclusion of God's Work in Clairton, 1979

By English Webb, Clairton, PA

The Clairton Branch was blessed with five baptisms during 1979:

Sister Tirann Maletta Udosen was baptized on Sunday, August 12 in the Monongahela River by Brother English Webb and confirmed by Brother David Nolfi.

Sunday, September 23, was glorious with the fulfillment of a vision by Sister Iola Kershaw. Brother

William Pettyjohn and his daughter, Jacqueline, were baptized by Brother English Webb. Brother Joseph Austin confirmed Jacqueline, and Brother English Webb confirmed Brother Pettyjohn.

We thank the Lord for another baptism on Sunday, October 24. Amille Bekavac was drawn by repentance to God. Brother Joseph Austin performed the baptism, and our new brother was confirmed by Brother English Webb.

Miss Donna Murray became our sister in Christ when she was baptized on November 25. Thank God for another new name written down in glory.

— *Note of Thanks* —

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

I wish to thank each of you for remembering me during my recent surgery and recovery period. My thanks also for the many cards, phone calls, flowers, gifts and prayers. To the many who brought food, helped with my care and for each deed, whether great or small, I extend my gratitude. It was greatly appreciated and shall not be forgotten. I have just finished all my treatments and am doing quite well. I thank God daily for allowing me to see another day and for helping me through each day. Continue to pray for my complete recovery, and may God bless each of you for your concern.

Sister Rosamond Calabrese
Lorain, Ohio

Our heartfelt thanks to all of you who called, sent cards, telegrams, flowers and food and helped in any way during my husband, Brother Dominic Giovannone's, illness and passing. Also, thank you for the many prayers that were offered in his and our behalf. The love shown to each of us is greatly appreciated. May God reward you with bountiful blessings.

Sister Marietta Giovannone
and Family
Vero Beach, Florida

We would like to let the Gospel News readers know that the many prayers offered for Brother Chuck Naro of Lorain, Ohio when he had his heart attack were greatly appreciated. Brother Chuck has improved in health and has returned to work. Many thanks to all of you for your concern and thoughtfulness.

Brother Chuck and Sister
Vera Naro and Family
Lorain, Ohio

Many thanks to all my brothers and sisters throughout the vineyard. Your wonderful letters and especially your prayers have been a great comfort to me and my husband who is very afflicted. We know

that Jesus cares for us. On three occasions, the doctors gave no hope for my husband, but he is very much alive. Continue to pray that God will give me the strength to take care of him. May God bless you all. We love you all.

Sister Josephine and
Brother Tony Benyola
Hopelawn, New Jersey

* *WEDDINGS* *

MALETTA-STERLING

Mr. James Maletta II and Miss Michele Sterling were united in marriage on September 15, 1979 in the Clairton, Pennsylvania Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother David Nolfi officiated at the ceremony, and Sister Iva Fedorka presented musical selections.

The newlyweds will reside in West Mifflin, Pennsylvania.

CLARK-PETTYJOHN

Mr. William Clark and Sister Jacqueline Pettyjohn were married on October 16, 1979 at the Clairton, Pennsylvania Branch by Brother English Webb.

Sister Madeline Robinson, the soloist, was accompanied at the organ by Bernadine Campbell.

The newlyweds are making their home in Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania.

TARBUK-BUFFINGTON

Brother Timothy Tarbuk and Sister Becky Buffington were united in holy wedlock on December 15, 1979 at the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch.

The ceremony was officiated by the father of the bride, Brother Robert Buffington. Sister Bertha Bilsky rendered the musical selections.

The Tarbuds are residing in Clinton, Pennsylvania.

FAVORS-TURNER

Mr. Eli Favors and Miss Gwendolyn Turner were united in matrimony on February 29, 1980 in the Quincy, Florida Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ by Brother Cleveland Baldwin.

May God's richest blessings abide with the newlyweds always.

OBITUARIES

We wish to express our sympathy to those that mourn over the loss of loved ones. May God bless and comfort you.

ISHMAEL HUMPHREY

Brother Ishmael Humphrey of the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch passed away on February 19, 1980. He was born on February 3, 1909 and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on January 7, 1954.

Surviving are his widow, Sister Gertrude Dorothy (Little) Humphrey, one son, four daughters and eleven grandchildren.

The funeral services were conducted by Brothers Dan Casasanta and David Nolfi.

ELLIS B. COWAN

Ellis Cowan of Monongahela, Pennsylvania died suddenly February 20, 1980. He was the son of the late Brother James C. and Sister M. Belle Cowan. He is survived by his wife, one daughter and six sisters.

Brother Idris Martin, assisted by Brother George Johnson, officiated at the funeral services.

EMILIO CARLINI

Brother Emilio Carlini of Branch No. 2, Detroit, Michigan passed on to his heavenly reward on February 24, 1980. The funeral services were conducted by Brother Frank Morle.

He is survived by his wife, Sister Annie, three sons, one daughter, two sisters and thirteen grandchildren.

Brother Emil labored faithfully in the Gospel for fifty years. His passing has left a void among his family, friends and brothers and sisters, but his many charitable deeds will live on and be remembered.

VITIELLO MARIA CIVITA

Sister Vitiello Maria Civita in Aprea of Ponza-Latina, Roma, Italy left this life on February 2, 1980. She was born on March 1, 1887 and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on June 20, 1954.

She is survived by three sons, three daughters, fifteen grandchildren and eighteen great-grandchildren. A daughter, Sister Assunta Feola, is a member of the Bronx, New York Branch.

Our departed sister will be greatly missed by her loved ones. May God grant them the comfort they need at this time.

MICHAEL DINAPOLI

Brother Michael DiNapoli passed away on March 3, 1980. He was born on June 1, 1892 and was baptized in 1929. He was a member of the Ft. Pierce, Florida Branch of the Church.

He is survived by his wife, Sister Jennie, two daughters and grandchildren. Brother Charles Smith officiated at the funeral services.

Brother Mike was a faithful, devoted brother and will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

FRANK SALERNO

Brother Frank Salerno of the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch passed away on March 10, 1980. He was born in Italy on July 10, 1886 and was baptized into the Church on April 4, 1934.

He is survived by one daughter, three sons, nine grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and one brother.

The funeral services were conducted by Brothers Louis Vitto and Paul Whitton.

MARGARET T. GRIFFITH

Sister Margaret Tucker Griffith, who was born on August 15, 1902, passed on to her reward on Monday, March 10, 1980 in the Washington County Health Center after a lengthy illness. She was a faithful member of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch since April, 1930.

She is survived by three daughters, one son, three sisters, seventeen grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

The funeral services were conducted by Brothers Idris Martin and George Johnson.

Sister Margaret will be greatly missed by her family and all who knew her.

SALVATORE IMPASTATO

Salvatore Impastato of Branch No. 3, Detroit, Michigan passed away very peacefully from this life on March 15, 1980. He was born in Partinico, Sicily, Italy on October 15, 1893. He is survived by his wife, Rose, three sons, one daughter, twelve grandchildren and one brother.

He will be greatly missed by all and leaves a host of relatives and friends. The services were officiated by Brothers Anthony R. Lovalvo and Peter H. Capone.

The Gospel News

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa., USA.

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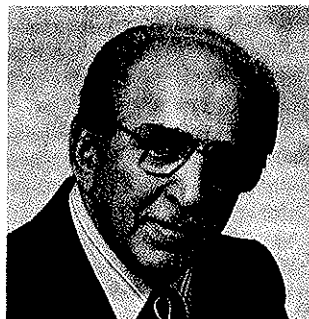
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"It Is Written"

By V. J. Lovalvo, Fresno, CA

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." II Timothy 2:15

The admonishment of Paul, the Apostle, to Timothy is as precious today as it was then. Reading and studying the Word of God brings joy and happiness to the heart; it brings satisfaction and refreshment to the soul. Use the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon* daily; let them become as necessary as daily food. Don't hide them under old newspapers or magazines; nor use them as book-ends; or record books alone. God, in His infinite goodness and wisdom, allowed the word (*Bible* and *Book of Mormon*) to live through the ages in spite of the evil machinations of the devil. The Word of God resisted time, oppression and persecutions, and lives in the hearts of true believers up to this day. So, if your *Bible* and *Book of Mormon* has gathered dust by neglecting to read them, dust them off and begin to enjoy the written words.



V. J. Lovalvo, Apostle

What Reading and Studying the Word of God Will Do

1. It will invigorate and refresh the spirit and the mind. It will bring delight and joy to the soul.

"But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law (Word) doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of waters, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." (Psalm 1:2,3)

2. It will develop inspiration, hope, and liberty. It will make one unashamed but rather make one bold and courageous. It will increase faith and works unto the performing of mighty deeds.

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." II Timothy 3:16

Prophets spoke by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. As it is written:

"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spoke as they were moved (inspired) by the Holy Ghost." (II Peter 1:21)

Reading and studying the Word of God will become a weapon in the hands of the student that will overcome the greatest of oppositions. It is written:

"For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)

Remember, that Christ Himself defeated Satan by quoting the written word. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would teach His Disciples "all things" and bring to "remembrance" whatsoever He had said unto them. Likewise today, His promise is to us also. The Holy Spirit will teach us too, and if we study the Word, He will, in time of need, bring back to our remembrance that which we have read.

3. If at all possible, seek to MEMORIZE the Word of God. There are indeed special verses in the *Bible* and the *Book of Mormon* which are filled with words of

wisdom, joy, happiness, hope, faith, etc. The putting to mind the Word of God will be also a means of sparkling conversation, and above all, will make for an interesting sermon (for the ministers).

If one cannot retain all the words of certain verses, one can at least have a good idea where to find the subject in question.

Nephi, the son of Lehi, exhorted his brethren to "feast" upon the Word of God. What a truly beautiful way of putting it. Does reading the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon* make you feel that you are feasting on His Word? Wouldn't it be wonderful to spend just one hour a day reading His Word? I know a minister of our Church (in Anaheim) who rises around 5:00 a.m. on Sunday morning just to read the Word of God and get his spirit in tune for the Sabbath Day. (Perhaps he gets up early each morning to read also, I do not know.) I would say that he is truly feasting on the scriptures.

There is power in the written word. There is an old cliché that says, "The pen is mightier than the sword." A pen is used for writing purposes. So, the Word of God is written for all to enjoy, to cherish and to study. Nephi declared that he delighted in the words of Isaiah because they were plain unto those that were filled with the spirit of prophecy. The written word delighted his soul, as it will yours and mine. I would like to write an experience that was had one Sunday morning relative to delighting ones soul because of the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon*:

This experience occurred at Branch No. 4 in Detroit, Michigan, many years ago. An old gentleman, about 80 years of age, had been recently baptized, and while he was sitting in church that particular Sunday morning, happened to look towards the pulpit where the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon* were placed. All of a sudden he saw them burst into flame. Very excitedly, he turned to the ones sitting next to him and called their attention to the burning books. But there was no fire. He arose, thinking to put out the flames, but the ones sitting beside him told him that there was no fire. "But there is," he cried, "I see the books burning." In another moment he saw the fire extinguish itself and the books remain unharmed. Suddenly, he realized that he had experienced something beautiful. All that were at that meeting rejoiced with the elderly brother. What a wonderful thing to behold. The Holy Spirit, like a burning flame, sat upon the two books. None of us who were present that day will ever forget that experience.

We could never read, study, enjoy, and delight in the scriptures if we did not have the written Word.

When Jesus Christ was speaking to the Nephites on this land relative to the words of Samuel, the prophet, concerning His resurrection and concerning how many saints should arise from their graves and show themselves to many others after His resurrection, He turned to them and asked, "Was it not so?" They replied, "Yea, Lord, Samuel did prophesy according to Thy words, and they were all fulfilled." Then Jesus said unto them, "How be it that ye have not written this thing . . . ? And it came to pass that Jesus commanded that it should be written; therefore it was written according as He commanded." (III Nephi

23:9-12)

The Plates of Brass were taken by Lehi and his family to preserve not only his genealogy, but to preserve the written Word of God, without which they would eventually come to naught, as did the Lamanites in years to come. Because the expedition of Mulek, the son of Zedekiah, did not take with them the written Word, they soon forgot their language; and when the people of Mosiah found them, it was necessary to speak in sign language. If Lehi and Nephi had not brought the written Word, we would not have had the record of the Seed of Joseph (*Book of Mormon*), for they would have, in the process of time, degenerated as far as their language was concerned. But, thanks be to the Almighty who put in the hearts of Lehi and Nephi to return to Jerusalem and retrieve the Plates of Brass upon which was inscribed the creation of the world and the words of the holy prophets.

Jesus commanded those in Jerusalem as well as those upon this land to "search" the scriptures. ". . . behold, they are written, ye have them before you, therefore search them." (III Nephi 20:11) Searching means studying them, memorize them. Look well into the Word of God; it brings intelligence to the seeker. Every day the scriptures will open up new vistas to the mind and heart.

The Word of God has stood the test of the ages. Some sought to destroy it; some sought to wrest its true meaning. But the Lord, in His infinite mercy and wisdom, kept it from the "wasters and destroyers". The Waldenses memorized the entire *Bible*; the Reformers insisted to found their faith on the written Word. The people on this land inscribed the Word on Plates with much work and faith, relying on God to bring from the earth the message of truth in the latter days. Now we have both the *Bible* and the *Book of Mormon*, the two sticks prophesied by Ezekiel, which shall lay down contention, confounding of false doctrine, and establishing peace among the Seed of Joseph, etc. The prophet also said that the two sticks shall be in our hands as "ONE" stick, or one book to be preached to the nations, especially the American Indian (Seed of Joseph). Then arise, O ye saints of God, and take this two-edged sword (the Word of God) and strike at the foe, cutting asunder sin and transgression until across the earth will be heard one vast hallelujah, and at the name of Jesus all nations will bow and crown Him King of Kings.

Book Available for Sale

Brother V. James Lovalvo's book entitled *It Is Written, Truth Shall Spring Out of the Earth* is available at a cost of \$7.50. Please send your request, along with a check or money order, to V. J. Lovalvo. The price includes the cost of the book, plus mailing expense. Proceeds will be for General Church missionary work. Each branch and mission is encouraged to order ten additional copies to keep in stock.

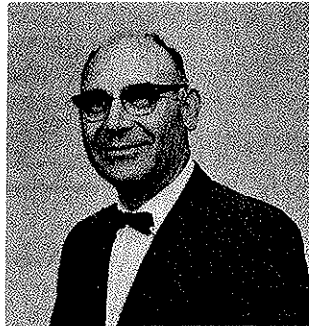
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Lest We Forget

By Mark Randy, Modesto, CA

"Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons." Deuteronomy 4:9

Some say, Brother Mark, you have a brilliant mind. I do not. I remember because I want to remember the things that are precious to me. I repeat such things that are true and soul-filling, a testimonial of the greatness of our living God.



Mark Randy, Evangelist

When by the grace of God we started a mission in Farwell, Michigan, there was a woman well over 80 years old. Her name was Elisabeth Collins, a former retired registered nurse from Clare, Michigan. She was affectionately called "Grandma Collins" by many, as she assisted in the delivery of over 1,000 babies and countless surgeries. She also lived a righteous life as a member of a latter day saints church, but attended our services. She strongly wanted to be part of our Church, but felt that baptism was unnecessary, since she had already been baptized into another church.

I do not remember ever meeting another more dedicated person in my life. She would ask, "Why do you pass me by and give me not sacrament? These people can tell you what kind of person I have been."

This was a hard test for me as a minister. One Sunday as she repeated the same plea to us, "Why deprive me, Marco?" I answered, "Why not tell the Lord? Ask of God, Sister Collins. Ask Him why you cannot have sacrament."

"I will do that," she said resolutely. The following Sunday, she asked to be baptized and explained, "I prayed. I dreamed of a voice of the angel of God saying to me 'Elisabeth, put on the whole armour of God'. But I have, I explained. 'You have, Elisabeth, but not the whole armour'. I did not realize that I yet lacked part of the armour intended for God's children," she said.

How gracious is our God to all of us who ask of Him. Are you truly sure that you possess the whole armour of God? If not, why not? Have you ever thought of asking of God? Lyndon Laird also prayed, though he had been pastor of a church for many years. "Now I am convinced," he said, "that while some are satisfied to keep some of the commandments and deem others unnecessary, God's children must keep all of the teachings of Jesus Christ."

"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Matthew 28:20 If God

is not with you completely, have you ever asked God why? Have you ever thought that some necessary part of the whole armour is lacking in you? Think on these things.

Some of the local people of Farwell and Clare, Michigan, attested that Elisabeth Collins had served them and still depended on her wise counsel even then, and as a Christian she was regarded as above and beyond duty. Yet, she needed yet an added part of that armour, and she put that on, because she wanted the WHOLE AND COMPLETE will of God in her soul, as she had in all her other duties throughout her life.

"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." Luke 9:23 Did you truly want to follow? Think on these things, NOW.

Have You Ever Felt to Sing the Song of Redeeming Love?

The song is a song of joy, sung from the soul---a song that causes the whole inner being to vibrate in eternal joy.

This song of joy cannot be created by mortal man, but by the Divine Hand of God, a hand that can reach down in the depths of hell and give man a hope of eternal life. This is what Alma preached after his soul was freed from hell. "And now behold, I say unto you, my brethren, If ye have experienced a change of heart, and if ye have felt to sing the song of redeeming love, I would ask, can ye feel so now?"

When we have repented of our sins and become as a little child, then we will find the avenue of escape from darkness to light in the Son of God.

But the concern of Alma was, could they STILL sing that song. After many years of troubles, discouragement and disappointment, could they still sing? Has the light that was kindled the day we were baptized become dim? Have the cares of life that take their toll on our inner being made us lose our place with the souls that sing when they meet together? When the saints meet together and bear their testimony of God's love, can you still join in with all your heart?

"And they sung a new song, saying, thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by the blood out of every kindred and tongue, and people, and nation." Revelations 5:9

May His love be our first thought in all we do to give His joy forever.

Anonymous

Jesus said unto him, *Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.* Matthew 23:37-38.

A Special Anniversary

By Janet Buffa, Branch 2, Detroit, MI

Sunday, March 16, 1980, was a very special day for all at Branch No. 2 and especially for Sister Palmina Straccia. It was on that March day, fifty years ago, that our sister made her decision to serve God in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Frank Morle, Presiding Elder, assisted by Sister Mary Morle, Presiding Deaconess, presented our sister with a corsage on behalf of Branch No. 2. Our sister then gave a brief testimony in which she expressed her thankfulness to God for His Church and for all that he has done for her. She also mentioned her sorrow that her beloved husband, Brother Frederico, was not able to be with her at this time. He had also served God for forty-nine faithful years before his passing a year ago. The Branch Quartet then sang, *Now I Belong to Jesus* for our sister.



Palmina Straccia

We at Branch No. 2 are very proud and grateful for our Sister Palmina and the fine example she has set. She has served the Church as a deaconess for the past 48 years and has also been a member of The Ladies Uplift Circle for as many years. May God be with our sister as she continues in His service.



Golden Anniversary

*By Judy Dyer
Muncey, Ontario*

Brother Alfred and Sister Carolyn (Carrie) Burch celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on December 12, 1979.

Saturday, December 15, a surprise dinner was given by the brothers, sisters and friends of the Muncey Mission, and also the family of Brother and Sister Burch. All who attended honored the couple with congratulations and gifts.

Brother and Sister Burch were both baptized in Muncey, Ontario, Canada. Brother Alfred was baptized in April, 1962, and is an ordained deacon. Sister Carrie was baptized on May 6, 1962.

The couple have five children, five grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Brother and Sister Burch wish to express their gratitude to all who helped make this a most happy and memorable anniversary.

May the Lord continue to bless their marriage and their lives in the Church the remainder of their days.

Change of address

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BRANCH
c/o Mr. and Mrs. John Azzinaro
8801 Eaton, #115
Canoga Park, CA 91304

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Randy
909 Sharnee Circle
Modesto, CA 95355
209-523-8315

Note of Thanks

I would sincerely like to thank all for their thoughtful prayers, cards and phone calls that I received while in the hospital and at home. They were all very uplifting and greatly appreciated. May God's richest blessing be with you all.

Brother Eli DeMasso
McKees Rocks, PA

MBA HIGHLIGHTS

Pennsylvania Area MBA Seminar Day

By Karen Progar, Area Editor

Seminar Days are intended to give us an opportunity to discuss Church doctrine and enjoy the fellowship of the saints. The Pennsylvania Area MBA Seminar Day held at the Aliquippa Branch on May 3 achieved both of these goals. The Lord truly blessed the nearly 100 people who well represented the area at the event.

The topic for the day was "GIFTS AND TALENTS", and many wonderful experiences were related, in addition to the good discussions on the topic. In visiting the various classes, I was amazed to hear that the discussions were very similar in context and that the teachers seemed to be of one mind in their presentations. The Hand of the Lord was evident.

The committee wishes to thank the many teachers who did such an excellent job presenting the material and also all those whose attendance and support made the event so successful.

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

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Let Us Honor Fathers

Last month was a time to honor mothers, and this month is the time to honor fathers. We are indebted to our Heavenly Father for wisely and properly including this obligation and privilege as one of the great Ten Commandments.

We are awed by the importance that God placed upon our duty to honor our parents. We note that it ranks as the Fifth Commandment, following the First, Second, Third and Fourth Commandments . . . all of which stress our obligation and duty to God, our Creator. The remaining five Commandments stress our obligation and behavior toward others. Thus, in honoring our fathers this month, as we honored our mothers last month, we also honor our God.

Father's Temporal Role

Fathers are often taken for granted by their children. Their chief role in the household seems to be the breadwinner, the provider. Many fathers work hard and many hours to support their families. Too, it should be noted that the occupations of other fathers involve physical risk and daily hazard. In spite of this, good fathers still pursue their daily routine in order to provide a steady income to supply the everyday needs of their loved ones.

Father's Spiritual Role

Another important role of a good father is to set a good example for his children. His responsibility and task are no less important than that of his wife as she endeavors to do likewise. He is a wise and good father, who displays his fatherly love not only in word but by example, by good deeds and actions, by everyday right living. Also, a goodly father will not neglect to "train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6)

Neither will he forget the admonition of the great Apostle Paul, "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4)

He will also teach his children to pray and to read the word of God. The Apostle Paul highly commended this in writing to Timothy, "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; and that from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." (II Timothy 3:14, 15)

Father's Awesome Task

The annual observance of Father's Day serves as an appropriate reminder of the love, devotion and appreciation that we owe our fathers who are living. It is also a time to hold in reverent memory those fathers who have gone to their rewards.

We can never fully repay or sufficiently honor fathers. The time, labor, love and devotion that they have expended in their awesome task of rearing their children are immeasurably beyond our capacity to properly value. It remains for us to endeavor to show our love and appreciation, of which they are so worthy and deserving. May we also strive to follow their good examples.

Let us ask God to sustain us in our efforts to fulfill the Fifth Commandment.

(REPRINT)

The Children's Corner

*By Mabel Bickerton
Monongahela, PA*



Korihor, the Anti-Christ

Dear Girls and Boys,

There was a man named Korihor who lived in the land of Zarahemla, America. One day Satan appeared to him like an angel of light. He deceived him. The Devil told Korihor to tell the people there is no God and they could live as they wished. As Korihor went among them he asked, "Why do you look for a Christ? For no man can know of things to come. The things you call prophecies are foolish traditions of your fathers." Of course his teachings were not true, but many foolish Nephites believed him. They thought when a man is dead that is the end and there is no God.

Korihor went to the land of Jershon and preached. The people cast him out. Then he went to Gideon, they too cast him out. They took him to their high priest. He was bound and brought before the governor, Alma. Alma listened to him as he continued to revile against God. Alma asked, "Why do you teach the people that there shall be no Christ?" Korihor answered, "Because I do not teach the foolish traditions of your fathers . . . you say these people are a free people and I say they are in bondage." He continued to accuse them of taxing the people and living in luxury upon the money they collected. Alma asked, "Believest thou there is no God?" Korihor answered, "Nay. If you will show me a sign, I will believe." Alma said he had seen signs enough. Alma tried to prove by the scriptures that there is a God, but Korihor still insisted he wanted a sign.

At last Alma said he would give Korihor a sign. He would be stricken dumb and speak no more. Korihor had not expected this kind of a sign, especially on him. When the governor heard about this, he wrote a letter to Korihor and asked him if now he was convinced of the power of God. Korihor wrote back, "I know that I am dumb for I cannot speak. Only the power of God could bring this upon me. Also I knew that there is a God." He asked Alma to remove the curse, but Alma refused. Alma knew Korihor would still lead away the hearts of the people.

The Lord did not remove the curse from Korihor. He was cast out of the city and went from house to house begging. One day he was run over and killed. Alma sent a proclamation to all the people telling of Korihor's death. Those who had believed his teachings now realized their mistake. They knew now that the

Devil will not support his children at the last day. The people repented and came back to the Church.

Sincerely,
Sister Mabel

Branch and Mission News

News from Red Lake, Arizona

By Ken Surdock, Red Lake, Arizona

We are a branch of thirty, living and working on the Navajo Reservation in northeast Arizona. We have been here for over seven years and hold meetings in a quonset hut. Over the years we have been involved in the community with summer work shops and annual Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. Also we regularly visit the area hospital and jail to sing hymns and bring some joy to the people there. We have made many friends in the community and they are interested in our Church. Our branch has regular fast and prayer services, and quarterly the men fast for a weekend in conjunction with our feet washing service.

We have striven to serve God, and He has blessed us much. In November, Brother Ken Surdock was ordained an elder. His feet were washed by Brother Larry Watson, and Brother Bob Watson laid hands on him. In February, Brother Pete Genaro and Brother John Mancini were ordained teachers. Brother Pete's feet were washed by Brother Chuck Curry and Brother Bob Watson ordained him. Brother John's feet were washed by Brother Ken Surdock and Brother Larry Watson laid hands on him. Brother Alan Metzler was ordained a deacon. Brother John Mancini washed his feet and Brother Dwayne Jordan ordained him.

Throughout the past few months and especially at the January annual fast, experiences were related that we should build a church. So we have begun the process for obtaining a new branch building. We are very excited about this as we believe God is directing us in this matter. We are looking forward to the day when we and our friends can meet in our new church. Please continue to pray for us as we endeavor to do God's work in this part of the vineyard.

Tampa Branch News

By Wendy Risola, Tampa, Florida

On the weekend of March 16, the Indian Missionary Board met for the first time in Tampa. Those visiting with us were Brother and Sister Christman, Brother Nick Pietrangelo, Brother Joe Lovalvo, Brother Bob Watson, Brother and Sister Bittinger, Brother and Sister Jordan, Brother John Griffith, Brother Rich Scaglione, Brother Fred Olexa, Brother and Sister Frank Rogolino, President of the District, Brother and Sister Eugene Perri, from the East Coast, along with Brother and Sister Nick Persico.

Brother Dick Christman opened the meeting with talking about adversity. He also read passages from the 1st and the 12th chapters of Jeremiah. Other brothers followed and the blessings that we shared were beautiful.

We also had our Easter Sunrise Service again this year. As always, we enjoyed ourselves in fellowship with all of the brothers, sisters, and friends. All of the men cooked breakfast, and a wonderful time was shared by all of us.

Miami Mission News

By Eileen Katsaras, Miami, Florida

The Miami Mission met for a Sunday afternoon seminar on March 2. We all enjoyed lunch together at Brother and Sister Sheffler's home, and then gathered in the living room while Brother Alvin Swanson led the seminar.

Three questions were asked, and we were to write our answers:

1. What is the Spirit of God?
2. Are you satisfied with the number of times you felt it?
3. How can we obtain it more?

As each volunteered to read their answers and we discussed each, it was surprising how we were all saying the same thing using different words. It was also observed how families used the same idea. Brother and Sister Swanson both wrote that we were to be led by the Spirit. Brother and Sister Sheffler both said that if we were more righteous, we would have the Spirit more. Brother and Sister Ritz both said we should fast and pray more. Brother and Sister Katsaras both wrote the word, SHIELD, describing the Spirit of God. We also enjoyed the comments of Sister Evelyn Swihart as she feels the Spirit of God in sermons and in singing hymns. Brother Alex Marchando also mentioned with fasting, prayer and meditation we would obtain the Spirit more.

The one idea that we all agreed on was that for the Miami Mission to grow, we must have the Spirit of God in us, and our cups must overflow.

We thoroughly enjoyed our little seminar, and it was requested that we not wait a whole year before having another.

Miami was privileged to have two apostles visit us-Brother Bob Watson and his wife, Sister Sarah, and Brother Joseph Lovalvo and his wife, Sister Virginia. We taped Brother Bob Watson's talk on the events happening with the Seed of Joseph on the Ft. Defiance, Arizona, reservation where he lives. He told us many interesting gatherings that the Indians are having-85% of the educated Indians are 25 years old or less, and they gather and chant that they are looking for a leader.

He related many experiences about his son-in-law, Brother Dwayne Jordan, who looks after the Indian affairs. A witch doctor tried to put a spell on him but could not touch him.

Brother Joseph Lovalvo and Sister Virginia stayed in Miami a few days longer, and each evening we met at different homes. We heard many wonderful experiences taking place among the different missions in Mexico. One evening at the home of Brother and Sister Nick Ritz, we had a young couple come over to meet Brother Joe, and we enjoyed listening to him. The young man asked questions and said all that he heard sounded good to him. We know that seeds were planted that evening as we ended in prayer. That same evening, Sister Ritz could not sleep. She had a vision of all of us sitting in that same room, and Brother Joe walked in with a tray of beautiful fruit.

Another evening, Brother and Sister Lovalvo spent at the Swanson home, and once again we enjoyed many blessings in hearing him speak of the Seed of Joseph. Another evening at the Katsaras home, we heard wonderful experiences and asked many questions.

On Sunday, the Broward Mission joined Miami, gathering together for our meeting. Brother Dominic Moraco, who was visiting the area, opened our service with a few remarks on our role in the Church. Brother Lovalvo continued and said that the destruction is near and that soon we will be living in homes that we ourselves will build because we will all be equal and will share everything. There will not be poor or rich. A confirmation of Brother Joe's sermon was given in the form of our children's Sunday School lesson. In another room, separate and unbeknown to Brother Joe, Brother George Katsaras was teaching the children the same subjects that were later fully explained by Brother Lovalvo. The children had many questions, and while Brother Joe was preaching, the children were very interested.

Many beautiful testimonies were given. A blessing was shared by all as Sister Diana Salinas was accompanied by her father, Mr. Carlos Salinas. This was his first visit to church on Sunday.

Brother Lovalvo also told us that this wonderful spirit which was very much present with us this weekend (while speaking of the Seed of Joseph) has gone from California Campout to Arizona, to Lorain, Ohio, to Tampa, Fort Pierce, Lake Worth, and finally, Miami.

We enjoyed a nice lunch together and later open house at the Katsaras' where a young man had a terrible headache and after the three elders anointed him, he was healed instantly.

We also had visiting us John Damore and his wife Babe, and Brother Lovalvo prayed a beautiful prayer for him, since he is recovering from heart surgery. As we all stood in prayer, Brother Joseph Catone, Sr. had a vision. He saw John Damore sitting in a chair ready to be anointed.

As the day ended, a parting prayer was offered by Brother Joseph Catone, Sr., asking God to continue to

bless Brother Lovalvo with longevity and health that he might continue to serve God. We parted with tears of joy.

A Farewell in Vero Beach

By Sam Costarella, Vero Beach, FL

A farewell service for Brother Domenico Giovannone, Evangelist, of Fort Pierce, Florida Branch was held on February 6, 1980 in Vero Beach at the Floyd-Strunk Funeral Home.

The service was attended by many of the saints from Ft. Pierce and Lake Worth Branches, and among those present were Brothers N. Pietrangelo and Q. Bologna of Michigan, and Brother J. Bittinger of Vero Beach. These brothers took part with Brother Eugene Perri, Jr., who was appointed to officiate. Brother Perri read the eulogy and then spoke a few words taken from the *Book of Mormon*, Alma 40:12, 13. Hymns 51, 269, 383 and 411 were sung by a selected group.

Brother Giovannone was born May 15, 1896 in Castelirri, Italy. He passed away after being in a coma for approximately two months following brain surgery. Brother Domenico died February 5, 1980. He will be missed by the saints of the Fort Pierce Branch where he spent the reclining years of his life. We pray the Lord will comfort his family.

Further services and interment were held in Warren, Ohio.

Ohio Area All-Day Meeting in Niles, Ohio

By Bob Quinn, Area Editor

On March 15, 1980 at 9:30 AM, Brother Joe Calabrese welcomed everyone. Seventy-five people were present from the following branches and missions: Aliquippa, Imperial, McKees Rocks, Erie, Cleveland, Lorain, Warren and Perry. The morning was spent in fasting and prayer. Before praying, the Word of the Lord came forth saying "that He would be here and He would bless us."

The Niles Branch served lunch to all who attended. The afternoon meeting was opened by a few selections by our visiting brothers and sisters from the Pennsylvania Area. The Ohio Area sang a few selections.

Brother Jim Moore opened the meeting. He spoke how if we come before the Lord in fasting and prayer, He will use us. He will never leave us alone if we have the desire to serve Him. Brother Harold Burge also gave a few words of how the Lord has worked with him and the Erie Mission.

Many testimonies were given by the saints, all praising God for His goodness. A few were anointed for illness, and a few were also prayed for. It was truly a day well spent in the fellowship of the Lord.

More New Converts at Lorain, Ohio Branch

Sunday, January 20, turned out to be a beautiful and uplifting day for the saints of the Lorain Branch, along with relatives and friends in attendance.

Two young people were added to the fold as they were immersed in the waters of Lake Erie. Both Tammy Sue Nardozi and Louis Todd Calabrese were baptized by Brother Joseph Calabrese. Tammy Sue was confirmed by Brother Frank Altomare, and Louis Todd was confirmed by Brother Frank Calabrese.

May God bless, guide and direct Sister Tammy Sue and Brother Louis Todd and make them a blessing in the Church and to others around them.

Sunday, March 23, the Lorain saints enjoyed another beautiful service. Tongues were spoken, and God's Holy Spirit was felt throughout the day. Joyfully, two more converts were received into the Church.

Danny Palacios was baptized by Brother Frank Calabrese and confirmed by Brother Frank Altomare. Elizabeth Aranyi was baptized and confirmed by Brother Frank Calabrese.

We pray God's blessings upon our new brother and sister, and may He use them as He sees fit.

Only a week later, on Sunday, March 30, the Lorain Branch happily welcomed two more converts to the fold. Renee Lynn Alessio was baptized by Brother Joseph Calabrese and confirmed by Brother Frank Calabrese. Sherry Marie Calabrese Scott was baptized by Brother Joseph Calabrese and confirmed by Brother Frank Altomare.

At the baptismal site, visions were seen, and the Word of the Lord came forth.

May the Lord's guiding Hand direct Sister Scott and Sister Alessio in their new life of service to God.

New Convert at Niles, Ohio, Branch

The Niles Branch enjoyed another wonderful day in the service of God on Sunday, March 16. They also experienced an extra blessing as they welcomed a new member to the fold.

Lorraine Florence Petrella was immersed in the waters of baptism by Brother Wayne Martorana. She was later confirmed by Brother Bob Ciarocchi.

We pray that the Holy Ghost will direct and protect our new sister in her new life of service to God.

Ordinations

By Diane Everett, Branch No. 1, Detroit, MI

On March 30, 1980 Detroit, Branch No. 1 had many visitors from all the branches.

The service was opened by the trio singing a selection entitled *Fill All My Vision*.

Brother Nick Pietrangelo opened the service by sharing many blessings and experiences that had occurred within the three months he and his wife were visiting around the Florida District.

He spoke to us from Psalms 127. Talking about building our house of substantial material. Each one of us was called to do work for the Lord. We have to take a stand and work to build our home, and with Christ as our guide, we will make it.

We, as God's people, will be tried and persecuted and this is why we must watch and pray and work according to God's will. We must keep ourselves clean and work for that promise. So we pray that God would bless us that we would be able to put more effort in building that spiritual house, that we would take more notice in what kind of materials we are sending up to build our mansion.

In closing, it is wonderful to serve the Lord! We want to extract from heaven all that the Lord has in store for us.

The afternoon service was opened by a selection from Sister Donna Amormino entitled *I Walk with His Hand in Mine*. Brother Carl Frammolino spoke to us regarding the love that the old brothers and sisters had and the changing guard. He spoke of the offices that had to be filled to take the place of those who have gone on before us. He talked about being used of God in the office of a deacon, the privilege to be able to bear our testimony, to tell others of the Church, visiting the sick, and also they must have much humility. That's the beauty in serving God. Brother Carl closed by saying that the Lord would truly bless Brother Nick and Brother Tim in their service to the Lord.

The Lord's Supper was administered.

Brother Nick Pietrangelo then read from I Timothy 3rd Chapter of the responsibilities of bishop and deacon.

Brother Tim Scolaro's feet were washed by Brother Anthony Scolaro. He was ordained by Brother Dominic Thomas.

Brother Nick Mangiapane's feet were washed by Brother Nick Pietrangelo. He was ordained by Brother Concetto Alessandro.

It was also an equal blessing to see Brother Norman Campitelle back among us. He expressed his great happiness to be among his brothers and sisters in Christ. Truly, we felt great joy in welcoming him back in our midst, and we will continue to pray that God will

grant him strength and health once again.

Our prayers are that God will continue to bless Brothers Tim and Nick as they strive to do the work the Lord has seen fit to call them to do.

Sterling Heights Member Has Vision

By Hazel Zoltek, Sterling Heights, MI

Sunday, January 6, 1980, our first meeting of the new year, Brother Louis Vitto said we should have a strong desire to serve the Lord in spirit and in truth. We pray His Spirit will be manifested and that we can all feel that Spirit within us.

Brother Norman Campitelle was visiting with us today. He offered prayer and continued with the service, stating that the beauty of the saints comes not from the outward appearance, it comes from within. The message he intends to bring to us is that the prophecies of old are now coming to pass.

He read from St. John 4:23-24. As Jesus talked to the woman at the well, things began to happen. Jesus told her that people must worship God in spirit and in truth. There is such confusion in the world today because of the many churches and their different beliefs. Noah tried to warn the people but they believed not. Noah had the truth and was saved with his family, but all others perished. Jesus Christ is the Way and the only Way by which we may enter into the gates of heaven. When God sent Jonah to Ninevah to warn the people, he did not want to go; his belief was not strong enough until he was swallowed by the big fish and was cast out on the shores of Ninevah. He then did what God had told him to do, and the city of Ninevah was spared because the people believed the truth. Samuel prophesied there would be three days of light when the Messiah was born and three days of darkness when He should be crucified. These things did come to pass because they were true.

God talks to us in many ways, one of which is the gift of tongues. Brother Norman said that he spoke the truth to us today and that if we did not believe, we should ask God. The truth lies in this Church. The New Jerusalem will be established on this land. People will say, "Let us go to the mountain of the Lord," but only the righteous will come. Sin is raging everywhere; the day will soon come when God will cleanse the world of sin and there will then be peace on the land. We have to stay together, worship together, believe the truth; this is the only way we can be saved. Pray for those who do not know the truth.

Brother Steve Champine sang, *My God Is Real*. Brother Steve always receives a great blessing when he sings this song, and this blessing is passed on to the saints.

Brother Louis Vitto said there was a tremendous message in the song Brother Steve sang. The message as brought forth by Brother Norman was a message of truth. Brother Lou read Romans 13:11-14, "Now is the

time." He said the flesh is weak, makes us do things that are not pleasing to God. The world is now in a state of chaos, a world filled with much sin. God is waiting for the time when every knee will bow, every tongue will confess.

Brother Louis said we cannot look back; we must look forward to 1980. We must serve God much better, read the scriptures more. This is what makes us spiritually strong. We must be pure to receive that robe of spotless white. We must exalt God's name and do much better in our life. God promised to prepare a mansion for us, and we will have eternal life if we but serve Him.

Blessed and holy is he who comes forth in the first resurrection. This is a crown that never can be taken away from us.

The meeting was left open for testimony. Brother Claude Champine told of a vision he had at the New Year's Watch Meeting held at Branch No. 1, where our branch, along with Branch No. 3, united for the service. As the elders formed a circle in the front of the church at midnight, and Brother Nick Pietrangelo was asked to pray, Brother Claude looked up and saw the shadow of a man on the wall behind the flag, with His head bowed in prayer. His body felt as if he had received a charge of electricity. He looked again and the shadow was gone. After the meeting, Brother Claude told Brother Louis Vitto what he had seen, and Brother Lou said for him to go home and pray about it. Brother Claude did as he was advised to do, and as he knelt and asked God to confirm what he had seen, he was filled with the Spirit and again had the same feeling in his body that he had received when he saw the form. Brother Claude had a great blessing and at this moment, he received the knowledge of the truth, and because of this vision, his faith is much stronger.

Brother Louis Vitto then said that when we see a display of all the countries' flags, the American flag always waves higher than the others, just as The Church of Jesus Christ stands higher than all other churches.

This writer, as Brother Claude testified, felt that since the shadow was behind the flag, that God stands behind the American nation.

We were dismissed by Brother Paul Whitton.

Vanderbilt Branch News

By Rosemary Czapp, Vanderbilt, PA

Brother Joseph Bittinger, from Florida, visited the Vanderbilt Branch on March 23, 1980. Although his visit was to mourn the passing of his stepson, Russell Duckworth, remembered by many in our vicinity as Uncle Russell, we certainly felt blessed by his presence.

Our meeting was opened by Brother Bittinger as we sang the hymn, *God's Way*. Speaking from Jeremiah 17, which says "Blessed is the man who trusteth in the

Lord . . ." Brother Joe exhorted us that God's way is always best, and the importance of putting Him first in our lives. The Spirit of God was felt in our brother's message as he told us that God plants a seed in our hearts, but we have to nourish it with water which flows from the river of God. The seed must sprout and truly root in our hearts to lead us to the heavenly kingdom.

We have prayed for our brother's safe return home, hoping his next visit will be under happier circumstances.

Imperial Branch News

On March 30, 1980 our meeting was opened by Brother Eugene Amormino singing three selections, *Sing Hallelujah*, *Zion's Border Land*, and *Waving the Death Angel Over*. Brother Bob Buffington spoke from Luke 15:11 about the father who had two sons, one who left home and became involved in all manner of sin, and one who stayed home serving his father. The prodigal son returned home to repent of his sinful ways. He said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son". The father had great compassion upon his son, he said, "Bring forth the best robe, and put it upon him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry". The scriptures say angels in heaven rejoice when one sinner repents and comes to the Lord. We had two prodigals ask for their baptisms that morning, Cheryl Kroscko and Patty Kroscko, daughters-in-law of Sister Margaret Roscart.

Later that day, Brother Jimmy Moore expounded on the need for fasting and prayer. He related a marvelous experience that Sister Margaret Roscart had Saturday morning. As she looked toward the Church, a person dressed in white walked into the vestibule. The Word of the Lord came forth, "As you continue to draw nigh to me, I will continue to bless you." There were about one hundred persons in attendance from eight different branches. A wonderful spirit of fellowship prevailed throughout our meetings.

Then on April 6, we received two more prodigals into the Church by baptism. They are Chuck Kroscko and Carla Buffington. Again we rejoiced to see sinners come home and their burdens were lifted at Calvary. We have seen God's Spirit moving among the Church, and as the poet wrote, "Arise, O God show forth thy power, thy people's hope sustain. And richly on thy vineyard shower the first and latter reign."

New Arrivals

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

Nicole Lynn to Stephen and Robin Hanak of Roscoe, Pennsylvania;

Tiffany Lynn to Samuel and Judith Impastato of Branch No. 3, Detroit, Michigan;

Jennifer Rae to Raymond and Sarah Pepper of Branch No. 4, Detroit, Michigan;

Alissa Marie to Steven and Kathryn Champine of Sterling Heights, Michigan;

Steven Michael to Clarence and Cathy Rossi of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania;

Valarie Marie to James and Cindy Sciarretta of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania;

Melissa Nicole to Mike and Patty King of San Fernando Valley, California;

Matthew Edmond to Edmond and Leanna Buccellato of San Fernando Valley, California;

Rachel Lynette to Joseph and Suzanne Catone of Broward, Florida.

* WEDDINGS *

MOLINATTO-ROSS

Brother Jonathon Molinatto and Sister Pamela R. Ross were united in holy wedlock at The Church of Jesus Christ in Aliquippa, PA on October 27, 1979.

The ceremony was performed by Brother John Ross, Sr., the bride's grandfather, who was assisted by the bridegroom's grandfather, Brother Pete Molinatto.

Musical selections were presented by Ken Staley, soloist, and Doris Ross, organist.

The newlyweds are presently residing in Virginia Beach, Virginia. May the Lord bless them in their new life is our prayer.

OESTREICHER-DeVINCENTIS

Mr. Peter Oestreicher and Sister Janet DeVincentis were united in holy matrimony on April 26, 1980 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Aliquippa, PA.

Brother Paul Palmieri performed the wedding ceremony, and he was assisted by Brother Joseph Ross. Organist was Sister Betty Eiler. Vocal Selections were presented by Brother Pete Giannetti, Jr. and Sister Patty Giannetti.

The Oestreichers will reside in Boise, Idaho. May God's richest blessings be with them as they begin a new life.

DANIELLS-MOHR

Mr. William Allen Daniells, Jr. and Miss Patricia Anne Mohr were united in marriage in San Fernando Valley, California, on April 12, 1980. They will reside in Thousand Oaks, California. May God bless them as they begin their life together.

KING-GINN

Brother Ralph King and Miss Terri Ginn were married in San Fernando Valley, California by Brother Edmond Buccellato on April 19, 1980. The Kings will reside in San Fernando Valley, California.

ZNOY-BEHR

Mr. Joseph Andrew Znoy and Sister Anita Louise Behr were united in matrimony on September 22, 1979 in Branch No. 2, Detroit, Michigan.

Brother Frank Morle officiated at the wedding ceremony. Musical selections were presented by Sister Inez Caldwell, soloist, and Sister Leona Buffa and Karen Milantoni, pianist and organist.

The Znoys are residing in Lincoln Park, Michigan.

LaCIVITA-BAKER

Brother Anthony LaCivita and Miss Deborah Baker were joined in holy wedlock on March 8, 1980 in The Church of Jesus Christ in Branch No. 4, Detroit, Michigan.

Brother Tullio LaCivita, the groom's father, officiated at the ceremony. The soloist, Mr. Jim Edston, was accompanied by Brother Frank Conti, pianist.

KENDALL-McJORDAN

Mr. Mark Blaine Kendall and Miss Rae Dawn McJordan were united in marriage on February 23, 1980 in the Roscoe Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ by Brother John Kendall, uncle of the groom.

Sister Bertha Jean Bilsky presented musical selections.

The Kendalls are making their home in Roscoe, Pennsylvania.

RACZ-LUNHAM

Mr. Tony Racz and Sister Barbara Lunham were united in holy matrimony on January 12, 1980 at The Church of Jesus Christ, Muncey Mission, Muncey, Ontario, Canada.

The ceremony was officiated by Brother Alex Gentile. Musical selections were presented by Sister Judy Dyer and pianist, Jerry Morle.

The newlyweds will reside in Melbourne, Ontario, Canada.

May the Lord bless their lives together.

OBITUARIES

We wish to express our sympathy to those that mourn over the loss of loved ones. May God bless and comfort you.

PERRY SIMONE

Brother Perry Simone of the Lockport, New York Branch, passed away on December 10, 1979 at the age of ninety-four. He was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ for forty-eight years and was an elder for a number of years. He was the last surviving charter member of the Rochester, New York Mission when it began in 1932.

Brother Simone is survived by three daughters, eleven grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Concetta.

Brothers Joseph Calabrese and Ansel D'Amico conducted the funeral services.

RUSSELL G. DUCKWORTH

Russell G. Duckworth of the Vanderbilt, PA Branch passed away on March 18, 1980. He was born on June 19, 1905 and was the stepson of Brother Joseph Bittinger.

The funeral services were conducted by Brothers Lawrence King and James King.

ROSE MORELLO

Sister Rose Morello of Detroit, Michigan, Branch No. 4, passed away on February 15, 1980 at the age of 87. She was born on November 21, 1892 in Sicily, Italy, and was baptized in Detroit on February 13, 1938.

She leaves to mourn her passing her son and two grandchildren.

The funeral services were conducted by Brothers Dominic Moraco and Tullio LaCivita.

She was a faithful and loving member for many years. She will be missed by all, especially by the sisters of our Ladies' Circle.

GASPER KARELLI

Brother Gasper Karelli passed on to his heavenly reward on March 15, 1980. A member of the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch, he was born on September 25, 1890 and baptized into the Church on July 27, 1925. He was ordained into the ministry on July 13, 1941.

The funeral services were conducted by Brothers Robert Buffington and James Moore. He is survived by one son, one daughter, three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Sister Mary, in 1970.

Brother Karelli was truly faithful to his calling and worked diligently for the Lord until the end of his life. We will miss his presence, but thank God for the example he left.

DAVID THOMPSON

Brother David Thompson left this life on March 14, 1980. A member of the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ, he was born on October 15, 1889.

Brothers English Webb and B. J. Martin conducted the funeral services.

He is survived by his wife, Sister Molly, four sons, one daughter, ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Brother David was always quick to stand and praise God. May God bless his family and all who mourn his loss.

THOMAS ROBERTS

Brother Thomas Roberts of the Roscoe, PA Branch passed away on March 8, 1980. He was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on May 23, 1956. He was very faithful and steadfast in his service to God and will always be remembered for his quiet, meek and humble manner.

Brother J. Fred Olexa officiated at the funeral services.

Brother Roberts is survived by his wife, Sister Catherine, one son, one daughter, ten brothers, two sisters and three grandchildren.

JOHN MAREK

Brother John Marek of the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch of the Church passed away on March 24, 1980. He was born on June 11, 1895 and baptized on January 19, 1947.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers George Ondrasik and James Moore.

He is survived by one son, one daughter, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

May God bless and comfort those who mourn Brother Marek's loss.

MARCHEL CHAMBERS

Brother Marchel (Jack) Chambers of Detroit, Michigan Branch No. 1, passed away from this life on April 14, 1980. He was born on August 10, 1923 and baptized on March 25, 1962.

He is survived by his wife, Sister Flossie, three daughters, two sons and nine grandchildren.

Brothers Mike LaSala and Sam DiFalco officiated at the funeral services.

The Gospel News

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa., USA.

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Americanism

By James Curry, Monongahela, PA

In a vision given to me many years ago, I saw a young brother of the Church carry aloft a gloriously beautiful American flag up to, and across, the borderland of Zion. The flag was circumscribed by a wide band of pure white light which seemed to pulsate and glow like living fire. It was beautiful beyond description. After he had crossed the borderland, the flags of other nations began to gather around the American Standard. They were not as large, nor were they as beautiful. The last flag to appear had a six pointed star in its center. It was the Star of David, the flag of the modern Jewish nation, Israel.

This experience taught me that when the ideals--the democratic principles--and all the wonderful things our flag symbolizes are being trampled underfoot, we members of The Church of Jesus Christ must hold them aloft and carry them, triumphantly, into Zion. It also taught me that the tribe of Judah, whose Standard is the six-pointed Star of David, will be the last of the tribes of Israel to return to God. While America as a whole is gravitating downward to the cesspool level of immorality, let the saints be aware of the alarming fact that The Church of Jesus Christ is destined to become the last outpost of true Americanism! Zion must be founded on democratic principles. If, like the world, we should abandon the things our flag stands for, any attempt to found Zion shall be attempted in vain.

Who is an American?

The following is an excerpt from issue number 30 of *An Open Book* (the *Book of Mormon*) which is edited by Jim Snell of Kansas City, Kansas:

"The Anglo-American relies upon personal interest to accomplish his ends and gives free scope to the unguided strength and common sense of the people.

God intended America to be vastly different from the following:

There are nations, for example, whose people like

to be directed and ordered about, who like to be led everywhere and told what to do, and where and when to do it . . .

But not so in America. God breathed upon this land a special spirit of freedom under which men reacted differently than those who labored under forms of slavery. The same spirit of freedom that demands independent action of men, which was bestowed on the ancient Nephites, as proclaimed by the *Book of Mormon*, was sprinkled afresh on the land to prepare it for the adventurous Gentiles, so that they might be prepared to receive the "FULLNESS" of the gospel of Christ when it should be revealed to them.

The American Spirit sets no store upon the sense of awe, nor has it any exaggerated respect for anything in particular, either alive or dead. Authority of any kind is lightly esteemed . . .

If you allow yourself to judge the worth of a man by anything except his character, if you discriminate against him for any reason that is outside of his control, YOU ARE NO TRUE AMERICAN. If you judge him by his parents, or his connection, or his external conditions, instead of by himself, YOU ARE NO TRUE AMERICAN. If you allow yourself to be hampered by any questions of precedents or traditions, YOU ARE NO TRUE AMERICAN. If you think that any kind of honest work can be degrading, . . . YOU ARE NO TRUE AMERICAN. If you would not rather be independent in plain surroundings, than dependent in luxury, YOU ARE NO AMERICAN. If you allow yourself to be dazzled by any exalted office, or intimidated or hypnotized by pretentious titles or gorgeous uniforms of any kind, YOU ARE NO AMERICAN.

The Spirit of America, the true and original spirit granted by God so that men might truly be free, and thus truly be free to worship Him as individuals, even had its effect upon the American Indians who had fallen so far from God's grace.

The North American red man could not be tamed. Facing extinction he made one of the grand gestures in the history of mankind. He would sooner perish than be a slave.

The afterglow of the spirit which burns in the hearts of free men, with which God imbued America in preparation for the deliverance of "my church, my gospel and my rock" remained with America for a long time (in spite of the people's rejection of the *Book of Mormon*) before it began to wane."

It has continued to wane until this year of our Lord, 1980. Those three most prominent deficiencies of the human family--greed, lust, and pride--have elbowed their way to the forefront in every state of the Union. America has forgotten the ideals the founding fathers and the Restoration of the Gospel placed before them. As a consequence, it is teetering on the brink of destruction. It is sliding back into misery and ruin. America is sowing to the wind. If the trend continues, she shall soon reap the whirlwind.

"It Is Written"

By V. J. Lovalvo, Fresno, CA

QUESTION: The members of The Church of Jesus Christ have asked for an explanation on II Nephi 2:11-25. It seemed good to me that this explanation would serve its purpose also to all the saints via *The Gospel News*.

ANSWER: Lehi is advancing the concept of "opposition to all things". Without opposition, there could be no comparisons made, nor could the righteousness of God be manifested. Man could choose for himself only if there were an opposing element. If there were no opposition, there could never be a choice. Therefore, God in His infinite wisdom and by His foreknowledge of all things, placed the tree of forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden, in opposition to the tree of life.



V. J. Lovalvo, Apostle

The Lord knew that Adam would fall; therefore, He made everything ready for that time. He created the heavens and the earth, the beasts of the field, the fowls of the air, and all things that in them are, visible or invisible. There is opposition in everything around the human family. There is white to black, sweet to bitter, love to hate, righteousness to sin, good to evil, even night to day, sleep to wakefulness, and, above all, God to Satan.

There would have been no purpose in God's creation of all things if Adam was to have remained in the Garden of Eden forever. Hence, because of the divine foreknowledge of God, it is obvious that the earth could not have become populated without the

falling from grace of Adam and Eve. Therefore, in order that Adam would have the choice of a free agent, the choice to remain with him whether to partake of the forbidden fruit and have the sentence of death upon him, or to live eternally in an ignorant bliss, not knowing good from evil, nor joy from sadness, etc.

The question, "Why did God create man if he would eventually fall?" may rise in the minds of some people. However, the answer is very obvious. Surely, any reasonable thinking person will come to the only answer there is, that Adam was not made to remain alone in a beautiful Garden eternally. What kind of God would create a man and let him stay alone forever? Or even after He made Eve as his mate, there would be no logical reason for the Lord to create such a vast world, and then leave two people in one tiny area, no matter how beautiful the Garden of Eden was.

Consequently, at the risk of repeating myself, in His infinite wisdom and foreknowledge, God gave our first parents, Adam and Eve, the choice of either eating of the forbidden fruit or not. The choice was theirs, not God's. Hence, the Devil, being in opposition to the Lord, tempted them with a subtle promise that, if they would eat of the forbidden fruit, they would not die. But, God had told them that they would die if they partook of that fruit. Please note, the death that God pronounced on Adam and Eve was not to come upon them immediately upon the eating of the fruit, but rather the sentence of "death" would take its toll upon their bodies in subsequent years. No longer would they remain eternally in the mortal flesh; but, as a consequence of their sin, the mortal body would waste away in time and die.

Death followed the human family, and will always follow it, until it becomes "dust to dust". Death (the grave) was a final consequence of our first parents' transgression. The bodies of the human family would remain in the grave, with no hope of seeing the Lord "in the flesh", despite the fact that the spirits of the righteous would go to Paradise and the wicked spirits to Hell. As the body (mortal) without the spirit is dead while on earth, so the spirit who has been placed in its area of consignment after death is not perfect without the body. Therefore, God has laid a plan of redemption for mankind, in that He sent His only begotten Son into the world to die for the sins of humanity and resurrect in order to break the bonds of death and the grave. Because of the coming of Jesus Christ, mankind can stand before the judgement bar of God clothed in both body and soul (spirit) at the time of their resurrection. One resurrection took place at the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ; the next one will occur at the end of the world. This is the one that John, the revelator, calls the "First Resurrection". (Rev. 20) There would have never been a resurrection if Christ had not come. Mankind would have remained in the graves forever. Thank God for Jesus Christ who gave Himself freely to redeem mankind.

Verse 11 of the chapter in question does not say that Adam did "good" to sin, but rather shows the necessity of an opposing element in all things. Otherwise, everything would have remained static; Adam and Eve would have remained the same throughout eternity, not knowing the difference

between good and evil, black or white, sweet or bitter, righteousness or unrighteousness, etc. This certainly was not the intention of the Creation. God created man after His own image and likeness; and the woman from the man's bones and flesh for the purpose of procreation and the populating of the earth.

If God would have created Adam and Eve with the knowledge of good and evil instilled in them, and they would have procreated with this "built-in" knowledge, they, as well as all mankind, could excuse themselves for all sins committed and demand salvation without repentance. They could say to the Lord, "We could not help what we did, for you made us like this; we had no choice in the matter." But God did not create man with a "built-in" knowledge of good and evil; He created them pure as babes, with no knowledge of any kind respecting good or evil, and then gave them a choice of partaking of the forbidden fruit or not. This way, man could not blame the Lord for his fall, but himself, because the choice was his, not God's. The Lord gave Adam the opportunity to act for himself, and he could not act for himself except that he would be enticed by good or evil. (The above also covers verses 15 and 16.)

In Verse 17, the word "SUPPOSE" that Lehi is using does not infer that he is not sure of his belief that an angel truly did fall from the grace of God and from the lofty glory of heaven. It is rather a manner of speech used by not only the Ancients, but in the modern vernacular as well. The word "SUPPOSE" means to "assume as true without proof; to accept or advance as a probable or possible fact; to accept, etc." To "assume as true without proof" is like saying that a person believes without any doubt, with absolute faith. Therefore, Lehi believed with total faith that an angel did fall from heaven. Also, Lehi "advanced" the supposition of the falling of the angel as a "possible FACT". He also "accepted" that "probability" as a "fact" by faith. Therefore, there is no contradiction in Lehi's "supposing" that an angel fell.

(To be continued in August issue)

A Message from the Seventy

By Paul Benyola and Ralph Frammolino

Walking towards Jerusalem, where He would be crucified, Jesus called 70 followers aside and gave them special instructions. He told them to go out two-by-two and visit every town along the way. Ordered to take no money and only a few provisions, these disciples were to rely on the hospitality of people they didn't know. Most of all, Jesus gave them power to heal the sick and preach the Gospel. These were the Evangelists.

On Jesus' last sweep along the countryside, the "Seventy" served as messengers, alerting those in the village up ahead that the Master would be passing through. We don't know all of their names or how long they were gone, but the Bible says they were so successful that they came back rejoicing, "Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name."

Today, the office of Evangelist exists in The Church of Jesus Christ. It emphasizes the calling of missionary work, of forsaking material security for the chance to spread the teachings of Christ. Such a position, the Church believes, fulfills the Lord's instructions in Luke 10: 1-20. The Apostle Paul mentioned this work in Ephesians 4:11-12 when he wrote that Jesus "gave some, Apostles; and some, prophets; and some evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

Collectively, Evangelists in the Church are called the "Quorum of Seventy," a number designated by Jesus Himself. The work of these brothers encompasses the total scope of the Church.

In Africa, Brothers E. U. A. Arthur, Edem A. Ebong, and Nephi DeMercurio are working to spread the Gospel. Brothers Giuseppe Buonofiglio and Giuseppe LoRico are Evangelists in Italy; in Mexico are Brothers Edward Perdue and Eugenio Mora. There are four Evangelists in Arizona, six in the Atlantic Coast District, ten in California, nine in Florida, eleven in both the Michigan-Ontario and Pennsylvania Districts and ten in Ohio. The officers of the Quorum are: Brothers Richard Christman, President (Tucson, Arizona) Dominick Moraco, Vice-President (Detroit, Michigan) August D'Orazio, Secretary (Edison, New Jersey).

It is the desire of the Quorum of Seventy to keep our brothers, sisters and friends fully informed of the work of the Evangelists. The Quorum voted last October to begin a special column in *The Gospel News* dealing with the experiences of the Evangelists. Through this means, the brothers wish to create a history of sorts and present the message that The Church of Jesus Christ is for every "nation, kindred, tongue and people."

"Each member of the Church should offer their testimony as God guides them. Remember to pray for the missionary work of the Church. The Evangelists will strive continually to hold the banner of the Gospel high and to be worthy of Jesus' words: "He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me."

The Evangelists are available to present the Gospel to all who desire to hear. If you know of someone who is interested or if you would like to know more of our beliefs, please contact the Quorum of Evangelists C/O *The Gospel News*.

August D'Orazio, a brother and friend, departed from this life to a higher calling, April 20, 1980. He served the Church and Quorum with diligence. His dedication and cheerful smile will be greatly missed. Our prayers are with Brother Augie's wife, Betty, and his daughters, Sherri and Mary. May God bless you.

O praise the Lord, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people. For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever. Praise ye the Lord. Psalm 117

A Tribute to Brother August D' Orazio Quorum of Seventy Secretary

By Dick Christman, President, Quorum of Seventy

On behalf of the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists, I would like to express our deep-felt love and gratitude for our late Brother August, our secretary. His unselfish devotion to the welfare of the souls of men through his work in the Evangelists has been an inspiration to all of us.

Brother August was serving as Secretary-Treasurer of the Evangelists, a member of the Domestic Mission Board and a member of the General Church Board of Missions. He was also serving as Presiding Elder of the Edison Branch, a District Trustee, Second Counselor of the Atlantic Coast District, member of the District American Indian Committee and a member of the District Seminar Committee. He was the teacher of the Adult Sabbath School class and local MBA Chaplain.

Brother August also served in various GMBA offices, including president, and on various committees in the past. He has held several District offices, including District President. His service to The Church of Jesus Christ has been untiring and consistent.

His life's work will stand as a testimony to his fellow workers and an inspiration for our youth. His presence and guidance at GMBA Campouts will be missed by all.

Brother August performed the duties as Secretary of the Evangelists in an exemplary manner. His attention to the business and spiritual outreach of the Quorum was noticeable to all he came in contact with. His presence will be greatly missed. I feel his loss as President of the Quorum of Seventy in a special way. He was the right arm of the Quorum, and his wisdom and ability was such that I thoroughly enjoyed his fellowship while working with him.

Our Quorum will be forever in his debt. The progress he has helped us make will serve as a foundation to build upon for the further spreading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We would like to express our love and sympathy to his wife and family for their loss, but we have that assurance that our brother will shine as a morning star in the presence of God and His Son, Jesus Christ. He has kept the faith and done the work of an Evangelist.

In Dedication to Brother August D' Orazio

By Joel Ondik, Aliquippa, PA

*When I was young I met a man,
This man grew in my heart.
I've never met a greater man,*

*So kind, so true, so smart.
He talked to me and preached to me,
The things of God that's right.
And as I grow within the Church,
I'll follow this man's flight.
I never got to say goodbye,
To this wonderful man I knew.
But I'm proud to have seen a part of this man,
Whose love just grew and grew.*

I'd like to dedicate this poem to Brother Augie, which I wrote on the night of his death. Brother Augie was a second father to a lot of us young people, and we will miss him dearly. My deepest sympathy goes toward his family and the Church for the loss of this wonderful man.

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends of The Church of Jesus Christ from the East Coast to the West Coast:

Words fail us! How can we possibly thank everyone for the outpouring of their love. It's just impossible.

We have received hundreds of cards, flowers and contributions. A scripture comes to mind, Ecc. 11:1, "Cast thy bread upon the waters, for thou shalt find it after many days." Truly Augie had the gift of charity. One of his favorite verses of scripture is found in Mosiah 2:17, "And behold I tell you these things that ye may learn wisdom, that ye learn that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God."

The love of God was shown unto us through His loving saints. We have always known Augie was loved, but to what extent has been overwhelming. This has been our comfort. Your prayers, concerns and calls allow us to survive. What would we do without this wonderful Gospel!

Brother Augie has obtained his desire. He has won his crown. The spiritual side of death is easily understood—but the natural end is not. Our loss cannot be put into words. We loved him so. But we know with God's loving comfort and your love we must somehow rise above this trial to also obtain the goodness of heaven.

Remember my daughters and me in your prayers as you have been doing. The road ahead is not easy, but God promised us "HE WOULD PROVIDE."

Our deepest love and affection,

Sister Betty D' Orazio and Daughters

Change of address

Due to the recent cancellation of the sale of the San Fernando Valley Branch, please be advised that the old address is still to be used.

The Church of Jesus Christ
15157 Roscoe Boulevard
Panorama City, CA 91402

Editorial Viewpoint . . . "He Leadeth Me Beside the Still Waters"

By Mark Randy, Evangelist

There are two rivers, King's Horse and the Yoho, in the Province of Alberta, Canada. They flow on through a series of canyons and valleys in a setting of scenic wonders.

The Yoho has a dull chalk color derived from a glacier's sediment of the same color. The King's Horse also rises from a melting glacier of similar color. The Yoho runs through two mountain lakes before meeting the former, then it flows into Lake O'Hera which checks its swift pace so that the glacier sediment, held in suspension by the current, may sink into the calm waters. It resumes its rapid flow and later enters Lake Wapta, a broader and deeper body of water. Here the rush is again quieted by the still waters and the remainder of silt deposited in this larger body of water.

Faith Calms All Our Fears

The two lakes are a natural filtering system which sends the rivers on their way; clear, sparkling mountain streams free from the chalky silt-laden waters. The same way, faith in God's ability to calm all our fears, cleanses our lives of doubt-laden minds. Minds being burdened by an accumulation of harmful thoughts, fears, suspicion, wrong attitudes, stresses, emotional disturbances and guilt, so much so that they become the basis of ill health and sometimes causing much misery and even death.

An old father seeing a river flowing rapidly into the Red Sea, turned to his son whose doubts burdened his soul with a negative attitude and had completely alienated him from all that was just and good, and said, "Laman, O that you might be like unto this river continually running into the fountain of all righteousness."

Perhaps this is what David meant when he wrote in the Twenty-Third Psalm, "He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul." We all could have good health full of happiness and hope, both steadfast and sure, if we would practice faith in God and invite the healing powers which are stored within us. When we practice faith, we are restored and cleansed beside the still waters of peace and trust. We will not fear any evil, because faith keeps our sight of Jesus Christ who overcame all things. Faith is that still water that calms and cleanses all silt gathered as we permit it or just as it falls on us in the process of living.

Abiding Faith and Trust

Some doctors attest that because of abiding faith and trust in Almighty God, some sick or injured heal faster and overcome depression. This medically seems impossible, yet true. Because of negative attitudes, some die when medically expected to live and some live when faith is applied though medically expected to die.

God has given us weapons against diseases and unhappiness, but left to us the responsibility to work out our own soul's salvation and the keeping of a healthy body and clear mind. "Come unto me and I will give you rest," said Jesus, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you shall find rest unto your souls, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Therefore, ours is the rightful responsibility to come to Him without doubt and without fear.

Let us flow like unto these rivers, unloading all unpleasantness and harmful things into the fountain of righteousness and there be cleansed of all impurities and receive calm (a peace which the world cannot give), finding rest and security forevermore.

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The Children's Corner

By Mabel Bickerton
Monongahela, PA



Ammon and the Sheep

Dear Girls and Boys,

This is a story about a servant of God named Ammon. It is a very exciting story about how he saved the king's sheep. You can read this in the *Book of Mormon*. Do you have your own *Book of Mormon*?

Ammon was one of the sons of King Mosiah. He had three brothers, Aaron, Omner and Himni. The young men had refused to be king, to give their life to preach the word of God to the Lamanites. One day they said goodbye to their father and left on a mission which would last fourteen years. They asked the Lord for guidance to help bring the Lamanites to the knowledge of the truth.

The young men took their swords, spears, slings, bows and arrows, so they could kill game for food while in the wilderness. They prayed and fasted much. The Lord spoke to them saying, "Go forth among the Lamanites and establish My Word. Be patient in long suffering and your afflictions, be a good example and I will make instruments of thee to bring salvation to many."

As the young men reached the borders of the land of the Lamanites, they separated. They bade each other goodbye and Ammon blessed them and gave them instructions. Ammon went to the land of Ishmael and was soon captured by the Lamanites. They bound him and carried him to King Lamoni. The king asked him why he had come and if he desired to live among them. Ammon replied he would probably live there until he died. This pleased the king. He ordered Ammon loosed and made him a servant to help with the sheep.

Three days later, Ammon and other servants were driving sheep to water. Other Lamanites were taking their sheep there also. They were angry and began to scatter the king's flocks. The servants with Ammon were afraid the king would kill them if his sheep were lost. This was an opportunity for Ammon to show the Lord's power. He gathered the sheep together and herded them back to the water hole. The wicked men began to throw stones at Ammon. They could not hit him. Ammon took his sling shot and killed them. Then they came at Ammon with clubs. Ammon was not afraid. As the men raised their arms to strike him, he cut off their arms. He killed their leader with his sword. The rest of the enemies ran away.

Ammon and the servants went back to the king. They carried with them the arms of their enemies and showed this to the king. Ammon stayed outside and fed the horses. As the servants told the story to the king, he was greatly impressed. None of his servants had been as faithful as Ammon. He thought Ammon surely must be the Great Spirit. But Ammon was a wise man. He knew the power he possessed came from God. Through this experience Ammon was able to tell the king about Jesus Christ.

Sincerely,
Sister Mabel

Pennsylvania Area MBA Campout

The Pennsylvania Area MBA is sponsoring a weekend Area Campout at the Laurelville Mennonite Church Camp in Mt. Pleasant, PA, from August 1 through 3, 1980. Anyone who needs registration forms or would like information, please call or write:

Miss Cindy DiAntonio
921 Vance Avenue
Coraopolis, PA 15108
1-412-264-2801

or

Mr. Walt Laird
1-412-264-8027

Hope to see you there!

Sixty- Fifth Anniversary



On March 10, 1980, Brother and Sister Maxwell J. Carr of Roscoe Branch celebrated their sixty-fifth anniversary. They would like to extend thanks to all the brothers and sisters who remembered them with cards, flowers, and telephone calls.

Ohio District News

By Jim Alessio, Lorain, Ohio

On Sunday evening of April 27, the Ohio District held the first of a series of three spiritual meetings to be held this year. The site for this particular meeting was the student center at Kent State University. There was an excellent turnout of brothers and sisters from the various branches of the district. Some of the members of the Kent Mission had gone out a few days prior to this gathering to pass out flyers announcing this event.

Brother Elmer Santilli opened the meeting and was followed by Brothers Frank Calabrese and Jim Moore. The Restoration story was the theme of the discourses by our brothers. The story of the Jaredite and Nephite migrations was told along with the rise and eventual fall of these once great civilizations and the reasons for their demise. God told both nations that in as much as they worshipped him they would prosper, but when they would deviate from His word and were ripened in iniquity, they would be swept off the face of the land and that is what eventually came to pass. The same warning has gone out to this Gentile nation of ours today as well.

Brother Frank Calabrese remarked that one more time God will send forth his servants with the power that brought forth the Restoration with the message to "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand". The hour when the stone was cut out of the mountain without hand has arrived in this dispensation of the Church. He stated that all other systems of mankind, governments, etc., will have to take a back seat. He encouraged us to heed the message that Brother Dominic Thomas issued to us at conference—that we go home and rededicate, purify and cleanse ourselves and God will be in our midst at our October Conference. He also related an experience that came forth at a meeting in Arizona; that it is time for us to go into the upper room.

Brother Moore's address was sprinkled with experiences that brought a blessing to all. He remarked that the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon* are dead letters unless we have the spirit of God within us. Our brother indicated that he is concerned about the gifts in the Church. We need them now more than ever if the Gospel is going to go to all corners of the world. He is looking forward to the day when the world will say, "Who are these people that when they speak, God answers". Our brother pointed out that you have to believe to receive. One of his closing remarks was that "Man's extremity is God's opportunity".

At this juncture, Brother Joe Calabrese asked seven young people who were recently baptized to give their testimonies. Each testimony touched the heart of all who were there, and the word of the Lord came forth to encourage these young ones in their efforts and desires to serve God.

Brother Joe Calabrese, our District President, made a few appropriate closing remarks before dismissing our service.

Branch and Mission News

News from the Dallas, Texas Mission

By Ralph Frammolino



God richly blessed the Dallas, Texas Mission this April with visitors from Detroit and the opportunity to hold services in Anadarko, Oklahoma in the home of Brother Bill and Sister Evelyn Crall.

Brother Carl, Sister Joanne, Janice and Kathy Frammolino, from the new Detroit Inner-City Branch, visited our mission for two Sundays. Brother Carl opened the Easter Sunday service, April 6, by reading from Matthew 28, reminding the congregation how Jesus Christ suffered insult and agony for humankind. He also related many stirring experiences regarding the work in downtown Detroit. Our new brothers and sisters there are eager to embrace the Gospel, and some of them must overcome tremendous problems to make themselves right with God, he said. Yet, none of this, he added, would be possible without Christ's supreme sacrifice.

Sister Joanne then testified how God watched and protected her some three and a half years ago when she was seriously afflicted.

On April 13, Brother Carl again spoke, this time about the pervasive love of the saints. He likened this love to that treasure in the field and the pearl of great price of which Jesus spoke (St. Matthew 13:44). This love often leads to perfect communication, he said.

Brother Carl then gave us one example of this communication. He said the night after his mother, Sister Anna Frammolino, died in March of 1976, he was so depressed that he just sat at the kitchen table, unable to get any rest. However, the phone rang, and Brother Joe Calabrese, who was traveling in California, called to comfort him. "Even though we can be far in distance, our spirits can be close in God," he concluded.

Brother George Benyola, the elder of the Dallas Mission, then followed, capitalizing further on the thoughts of perfect communication. He recounted how he and two other young men were severely injured in a car accident in October, 1950. The saints immediately began to pray for him and the others. "We made it," he said. "We are able to stand on our feet in meetings and praise God. And only because of prayer."

Everyone in the Dallas Mission enjoyed the visit by Brother Carl and Sister Joanne, Janice and Kathy Frammolino, and were sad to see them leave for Detroit.

On April 27, members of the Mission visited our Brother Bill and Sister Evelyn Crall at their home in Anadarko, Oklahoma. We held a meeting in their living room, and it was attended by people representing the Caddo, Pawnee, Wichita, Apache and Comanche tribes of the American Indian.

Brother George spoke from I Kings 18 about how the Prophet Elijah challenged 450 prophets of Baal. Some of the Indian visitors gave their testimonies and sang several songs in the Indian tongue.

Brother Bill and Sister Evelyn are members of the Dallas Mission, although they do not get to make frequent trips to Texas. They try to spread the Gospel in Anadarko, sometimes called "Indian City, U.S.A." It was very apparent to us that the Indian people there love our brother and sister with all their hearts. The Cralls have lived in Anadarko for six years, and it is the prayer of the Dallas Mission that their endeavors will meet with success.

This is a picture of some members from the Dallas, Texas Mission and Indian friends in front of the home of Brother Bill and Sister Evelyn Crall of Anadarko, Oklahoma. Brother Bill Crall is in the back of the group, and Sister Evelyn is standing second to the right. Seated is Mr. Tom Bird, who was born in Norman, Oklahoma in 1896, but moved to Anadarko in 1901. He was one of the first white settlers in the town. Brother George Benyola, the elder of the Dallas Mission, is standing third from the left.

Mckees Rocks Branch News

By Martha Laird

We do praise God from Whom all blessings flow. On Sunday, February 24, it was rehearsed concerning the angel flying in the midst of heaven bringing back to earth the everlasting Gospel of Jesus Christ to be preached unto all nations, kindreds, tongues and people.

Betty Vignone asked to be baptized. On March 2, she was baptized at 9:00 a.m. The sun shone bright; the temperature was near zero. She felt it was Jesus who lay down in the watery grave for the remission of her sins. Brother John Manes performed the holy ordinance.

Brother and Sister James Campbell were at our branch. We were strengthened to keep the faith, even though we would have to give our lives. Abinadi, Peter and Paul were mentioned as examples. It makes us rejoice to have the same Gospel preached to us in our day and time. During the testimony meeting, tongues were spoken. The Word of the Lord came forth, "I will perform My own work, thus saith the Lord," by Brother Paul Ciotti.

On Sunday, March 9, we were to rejoice by receiving several visitors from Aliquippa, Imperial and Monongahela coming to worship with us. When people come together, it is like conference. Brother George Johnson spoke to us of how great God is, and His work is great. It is from everlasting to everlasting. He is seeking a people who will do His will in all things. Isaiah 11, "The Ensign for all the nations," and Isaiah 29, "a set Standard," were all expounded.

While Brother John Manes was speaking concerning this Church being used in God's hands to bring peace to earth, tongues were spoken. In the afternoon fellowship meeting, we had our feet washing service.

We were favored once again with a visiting elder from the Monongahela Branch of the Church on Sunday, March 16-Brother Robert Nicklow, his wife, son, daughter and daughter-in-law. While Brother Bob was speaking to us, the gift of tongues were spoken, "It's the mind, mind, mind, mind," referring to Philippians 2:5, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ." We thank God and His Son, Jesus Christ.

On Wednesday, April 9, we were surprised and happy to have visiting Brother David Nolfi from the Glassport Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. The message brought forth was taken from Galatians 5. We were reminded that the goodness of God makes the wicked to repent like unto the Lamanites who were murderers. Then 2,000 striplings were very willing, without fear, to fight for freedom and liberty. None were lost. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow.

On Wednesday, April 16, Brother Frank Ciotti came to fellowship with us at the McKees Rocks Branch. In speaking to us, we were reminded to have courage, going on in God's service, which brings to our mind the words of Jesus Christ, the Son of God: "Fear not my little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Brother Joe and Sister Nancy, Brother Frank's father and mother, were present. After the meeting, we had further fellowship in the basement. If it were not for the Gospel of Jesus Christ, none of us would have known one another. May God bless one and all is our prayer in Christ Jesus.

Monongahela Branch News

By Melissa Bright

Sunday, April 27, was an extra special day for our branch. It began with "mercy drops" falling and ended with "showers of blessings". We enjoyed seeing Brother George and Sister Sarah Neill, longtime members of Monongahela, visiting "home" from

Scottsdale, Arizona. The good spirit which was prevalent in the morning preaching service was multiplied a hundred-fold in our afternoon fellowship meeting. The fold of God with Christ as the Good Shepherd was the theme of the preaching service, but when the afternoon was over, two "lambs" made their wishes known that they were ready to become a part of that fold.

Our brothers and sisters eagerly rose to their feet to bear their testimonies, and often there were two who stood up at the same time. Nobody showed the least bit of concern when the clock raced past the time to close. In fact, it seemed the momentum of God's Spirit was increasing. While Brother Merdy Griffith was bearing his testimony, Sister Irene Zukow saw a bright light in the rear of the building.

Requests for anointing and laying on of hands for strength were taken care of by the Priesthood. Sister Chris Nicklow was anointed. Brother Bob Nicklow got up and said he felt she should be anointed and that Brother Richard Scaglione should officiate. After this was done, many testified that God's Spirit had made it known to them that Brother Richard would anoint Chris. Brother Bob suddenly rose and spoke in the Spirit, "The Lord told me in the beginning that Brother Rich should anoint Chris and that she would be healed." Sister LuAnn Scaglione said the following words were given to her: "This day by her faith she has been made whole."

After a few more testimonies, the meeting was reluctantly brought to a close. We formed a large circle, joined hands, and sang *Blessed Be the Tie That Binds*, most vividly feeling the love of God flowing freely in our midst. The closing prayer was offered, but we still could not leave. Tears of joy were shed, especially by some of our young people not baptized. At this point, Brother Alexander Cherry stated he felt certain that someone would ask for baptism. This prompted Brother John Griffith to relate that while such a sweet spirit was being felt, we all should kneel as he offered a special prayer that God would touch our young people. We didn't have to wait long, because Jessie Bright said those most beautiful words: "I want to be baptized!" A few minutes later, Kathy Scaglione repeated the same words as she expressed her desires. Now, our joy was complete, even though others were touched by this spirit and are waiting for their calling. Finally, after three hours (the meeting normally is an hour and a half) we were ready to leave, just for a short time.

At 7:00 that evening, we assembled at the shore of the Monongahela River to baptize our two new sisters. Jessie was immersed into the liquid grave by Brother John Griffith, and Kathy was baptized by Brother Richard Scaglione, her father. We then went to the Church for the confirmation of our converts.

After a few opening remarks by Brother Bob Nicklow, our presiding elder, Brother Richard Scaglione spoke briefly on the purpose for baptism. This is the only way a person can enter into the fold of God. Christ laid down only one plan and He too had to be baptized as the example. Brother John Griffith then spoke on the Holy Ghost as that power from God which

leads and directs those who get baptized. He related several scriptures which show the need for this divine guidance in our lives. As our sisters sat waiting to be confirmed, Brother George Johnson offered a special prayer that God would consecrate what was being done. Again, the Spirit of God was felt as our brother humbly petitioned God. Sister Kathy was confirmed by Brother Bob Nicklow and Sister Jessie by Brother Richard Scaglione. It was sweet to hear our sisters bear their first testimonies and to see that "first love" radiating in their faces and in their hearts. All of the brothers and sisters individually greeted our newest "family members" and offered well-wishes for strength and God's blessings in their new lives.

We pray this is only the beginning of God's moving in the hearts of those who have not yet made their covenant with Him. Thanks be to God from whom all blessings flow.

On Sunday, March 9, 1980, we were richly bestowed with God's blessings. Many visitors were present from Glassport, Vanderbilt, and Roscoe. The young people sang *To God Be the Glory* and *My Jesus I Love Thee*. Brother James Campbell opened in prayer. Brother John Griffith continued upon the subject of telling others about the Gospel and letting our lights shine to all we come in contact with for the furthering of His Gospel.

Brother Robert Nicklow, Jr. was read the duties of a teacher by Brother Griffith, then his feet were washed by Brother Robert Nicklow, Sr. A very humble spirit was felt by all as Brother Robert was ordained by Brother Idris Martin. Several sisters were anointed at this time. After partaking of the Lord's Supper, Brother James Campbell then prepared us with scripture for feet washing.

We thank God for such a wonderful day, and pray for God's Church upon the earth.

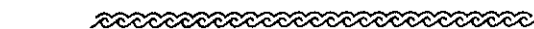
Elder Ordained at Windsor, Ontario Branch

The saints of the Windsor Branch experienced an additional blessing on Sunday, May 4. The joyful occasion was the ordination of Brother Richard Allen Andrew Lobzun to the Priesthood.

Brother Lobzun's feet were washed by Brother Don Collison, and Brother Gorie Ciaravino ordained him to the office of elder.

Brother Lobzun was previously ordained to the offices of deacon on November 8, 1970 and teacher on November 7, 1971.

Our prayers are that God will inspire and strengthen Brother Lobzun in his new duties as a minister and make him a blessing to many.



And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. Matthew 4:19

Detroit Inner-City Dedication June 1

The Detroit, Michigan Inner-City Branch building of The Church of Jesus Christ was officially dedicated to the service of God on Sunday, June 1. The 105 year old structure at 2901 Brooklyn, corner of Temple, was just about completely filled to its 325-seat capacity for this joyous but solemn occasion.

Visiting brothers, sisters, and friends from around the Church came to join the new congregation, organized into a branch last October 10, for the memorable event. Representatives were present from various states and Canada, including ministers Anthony Ersana from Florida, Vincent Gibson from Cleveland, and David Majoros from Arizona. Locally, Detroit Branch No. 4 and the Windsor, Ontario, Canada Branch dismissed their services to attend the dedication. Some elders, members, and friends from the other Detroit locations were also present.

History of Mission

At the beginning of the meeting, Brother Joseph Milantoni, Presiding Elder, gave a brief history of the new branch, which was started as a mission in 1977 under the American Urban Indian Committee. The subsequent growth to the current status of 29 members was detailed. He said that although the group has been organized and designated a branch, it intends to continue to function with the total "missionary" commitment under which it was founded.

Brother Dominic Thomas, General Church President, then spoke about how Jesus Christ had established His Church and how He had chosen His workers. He traced the identity of the Church by using several scriptural references. He also said that the Church today needs the same kinds of workers and emissaries to spread the Gospel to all mankind, as in the times of Christ.



In emphasizing the kinds of laborers required in the Church, Brother Thomas commended the new flock for returning to the inner part of this large city to expose the Gospel to as many of the inhabitants there as possible. He said the prayers of the entire Church were with this branch so that it might prosper spiritually along with all the other congregations throughout the world. He illustrated the faith, devotion, and intensity needed in all our endeavors and how God gives us the strength, as well as the will, to persevere in discharging our responsibilities to Christ.

Dedicatory Prayer

The dedicatory prayer was offered by Brother Spencer G. Everett, President of the Michigan-Ontario District. His supplication reverently and thankfully

reflected the gratitude of all present, particularly of the Inner-City Branch, for God's blessings and providence in this area. That a ready group of followers was found and that the church building was made available for its eventual purchase were acknowledged to Our Heavenly Father in the prayer.

Solos were sung by Elinora Thomas, Linda Cross, and Brother Majoros. Brother Majoros was accompanied by all the other ministers present in singing *An Angel Came Down*, the stirring and legendary Restoration Hymn No. 11 in the *Saints Hymnal*.

The entire Inner-City group (including all baptized members, friends, and children) sang the theme of the branch, *Rescue the Perishing*, Hymn No. 329 in the *Saints Hymnal*. The newest member of the flock was introduced just prior to this song. She is Sister Helen McComsey, who was baptized on Easter Sunday by Brother Milantoni and confirmed by Brother Anthony Gerace, First Counselor.

Touching Testimony

A touching testimony was given by Santos Adams, a fifteen year-old young man who has recently undergone most serious brain surgery and treatment. He testified of his faith in God and how grateful he was to his Creator for what He had done for him. He said that at times he may have felt that God had forsaken him, but he said that this was not true—that, in fact, He had always been with him. In statements profound for a person of his age, he said that he knew that the devil wanted people to do wrong, but how in the end God could help all of us to overcome these temptations. The son of Sister Amelia Adams, one of the members baptized downtown, Santos emphasized that, although he must face further surgery, he had his faith in God and that he revered Him, His Name, and His Creation. This young man has been a very inspiring and deeply loved person at the branch.

The sisters of the new congregation prepared and served complete meals for all who attended. Their most gracious and sincerely extended hospitality reflected the mission of the work in downtown Detroit. In effect, they exemplified the flock's determination to welcome one and all to hear the Gospel message and to present warmth and love to all who attend within the walls of the large, old, but folksy building.

News from Branch No. 3, Detroit, Michigan

By Kay Vitto

Today, December 23, 1979, is Brother Nephi DeMercurio's last Sunday with us. The children presented a Christmas program, and the choir sang carols and praises to God. Our building was filled to capacity. Many visitors were present, also many visiting elders from various branches.

Brother Frank Vitto, our Presiding Elder, mentioned to us about some gifts that were delivered to a

poor family. This was a very generous gesture from two couples. He reminded us how easy it is to forget how fortunate we are as we go along in our daily living. Now at this Christmas season when we are all so busy getting gifts for one another, we should not forget the greatest gift of all, "God's gift of His Son". Brother Frank pointed out that we cannot expect to have our lives completely under control before we accept Christ. There are too many adversaries to overcome. The things that seem to be impossible before we take that step to surrender our lives to God, will all fall in place with God's help. We have to ask God to help us each step of the way.

Brother Nephi followed expressing his feeling of sadness in having to leave. But he also has a feeling of gladness that he was able to be home with his loved ones for a short while. We can never truly appreciate joy without having experienced some sorrow. He was elated to see so many come out that love him. It is so very important to love one another. That is the true meaning of Christmas. History cannot prove the actual date of Christ's birth. But that is not important. The important thing is that Christ came for us. These are the things we should teach our children. Furthermore, we shouldn't forget to teach ourselves the same things. The philosophy of Christ's life is giving and loving.

Brother Nephi pointed out that we can only understand one another through God's spirit. The purpose of Christ was to share the burdens of mankind. How can any one of us understand the suffering or difficulties someone goes through unless we ourselves pass that way! Christ, who came to save us, felt and understands all things. He is long suffering, Counsellor, Prince of Peace; Christ is all these things and many more.

There is no time to quarrel over petty grievances. It is paramount that we understand Him. It is not good to dwell on things that tear you down. Talk positive! Do things that make you feel good in Christ. God should become a very important item in our life. It is time we counsel with Him. Find out what He wants you to do, now, today, not tomorrow. That might be too late.

Brother Nephi remembered last Christmas and how much they missed the family get together. He tried to generate a little Christmas spirit by playing tapes from home. This created a feeling of homesickness which brought tears and heavy hearts. He told us how much he loved us and how much he cares for each and every one of us. What a beautiful world if we could all say, "I care about you". That is what Christ died for. Wouldn't it be a special Christmas if we gave each other the gift of love! We should not disregard one another's feelings. We are all important individuals. Let us treat each other as important people. Brother Nephi encouraged us to continue to seek out the riches of God, for that is the riches of life. He knows our prayers will be with him and his family, and he is grateful for this knowledge. A beautiful spirit prevailed.

Brother Gorie Ciaravino was very happy to be with us this day, and he expressed these feelings. He reiterated how he felt about this land of America, which is the greatest country in the world.

Sister Lorraine DeMercurio expressed her feelings of joy at being here with her family once again. She is confident that the Lord will take care of them.

At this time, all the elders formed a circle around Brother Nephi and his family to petition the Lord to take care of this family while they journey to do the Lord's will. There was a feeling of unity and love for one another which was felt by all. This feeling was confirmed when one of our sisters related the following experience:

"When Brother Nephi was preaching, he expressed his desire to have the Lord bless the elders with the spirit of God. At that particular moment an angel appeared over Brother Nephi's head. When Brother Frank Vitto layed his hands on Brother Nephi, the same angel appeared over Brother Frank's head during the entire prayer."

This gave us an assurance that the Lord will send His angel to protect Brother Nephi and his family. What more could we ask for. Needless to say, this was a perfect ending to a perfect day. Our prayers are with Brother Nephi and family. We can't forget them, for they are part of us, and they will be missed. May God bless them and protect them 'til we meet again.

It was a pleasure to see Brother Louis Pietrangelo enter our building this Sunday, March 30, 1980. It is always a pleasant surprise to receive visits from elders of other branches.

Brother Frank Vitto openly reminisced his earlier days of association with Brother Pietrangelo. He recalled how he counted on him to repair his car, and in remembering, he noted that in those days Brother Louis was not in a position to repair souls. After those few remarks, Brother Vitto left the meeting open to Brother Pietrangelo.

Brother Louis chose Ephesians 2:1-10 for his text. He applied that to his own life as he told us how long it took him to surrender to Christ's calling. He went on to tell us about a beautiful experience he received years before his baptism. During World War II, he was stationed on a remote island in the Pacific. Shortly before preparing to leave on a mission, he decided to write a letter to his mother. While he was writing, he looked up into the sky and saw airplanes coming towards his area. At that moment he asked God to spare his life. In some miraculous way, he found himself in another spot. When he looked around to where he should have been, he saw dead soldiers and debris from the bombs that were dropped. That was surely a living experience for him. After he came home, he forgot to acknowledge how the Lord had spared his life. Many of us tend to forget after we receive help in our times of need. He always found an excuse for not going to church. One day, years later, on a Sunday morning, his wife asked him to accompany her to church. Little did he realize that it would be the day of his salvation. He was so overcome with joy, that he wanted to declare to the world about his desire to serve God. He wanted, in some way, to repay the Lord for sparing his life. Nothing can compare with the feeling of that first love.

He went on to tell us how the Gospel has sustained him through many trials. Since that memorable day, he has had to learn a whole new way of living. A beautiful way of living. Brother Pietrangelo related several experiences that have helped strengthen him.

He encouraged us all to love one another and visit with each other, and not to forget that spirit of hospitality. It is good to rekindle that first love. God is so merciful to us, but without His spirit to guide us, we cannot cope with life's problems.

In closing, Brother Pietrangelo asked us to remember him in our prayers. He expressed his desire to do God's work, with God's help. It was refreshing to hear a newly-ordained elder. We sincerely hope and pray that the Lord blesses him as he endeavors to fulfill his commitment.

Aliquippa Branch News

By Dora Rossi

On April 27, 1980, our Sunday morning service was opened by singing *Because He Lives*, followed with prayer. We paused for the blessing of Valarie Marie, daughter of Sister Cindy Sciarretta, by Brother Joseph Ross. Brother Joe opened the meeting by using Mark 10:47-52 for his text. He related how God uses mercy on His people when they plead with Him. Brother Joe quoted the blind man as saying, "Thou son of David have mercy on me". We sang *Jesus Is Passing By* and Brother John Ross made a few remarks. He stated that he believes in tenacity and consistency when we have a need or desire something from God. We should never "give up". The blind man never gave up, and he constantly petitioned God to have his sight restored, and we know he did receive his eyesight immediately. Brother John quoted another part of the scripture, "Knock and it shall be opened unto you, seek and ye shall find". He left us with many wonderful thoughts relative to being persistent in our prayers.

After the morning service, we went to the waters for the baptism of Sister Sue Breschayko, daughter of Brother Louis and Sister Philomena DeLuca. She was baptized by Brother Paul Palmieri. We returned to the church and Brother Joseph Ross confirmed our new sister. Sister Sue bore her testimony and related a beautiful dream she had concerning her baptism. We thank God for blessing her all these years and calling her into this wonderful Gospel. May God continue to work with our people, and may He bless all those that have taken the new way of life.

On Wednesday evening, May 14, 1980, the "Sonrise" group appeared in concert at the Aliquippa local. They come from the King's College, Briarcliff Manor, N.Y. The group is a selected group of students representing the college as they appear in churches, camps, and conferences throughout the Eastern states this spring and summer.

They offered us refreshing and inspiring songs of praise. Members include David McFarlane, Andrea

Montgomery, Lynne Peterson, Bruce Phillips, Laurie Ruckert, sister to Sister Marty Jumper, and Mark Wathne. They each bore their testimonies as to how they became involved in singing and traveling to different parts of the country.

The King's College is a four-year co-educational, fully accredited Christian liberal arts college located just 30 miles north of N.Y. City. We truly enjoyed them giving praises to God in song.

* WEDDINGS *

JOHNSON-KENNEY

Mr. Samuel Johnson, Jr. and Miss Terrie Kenney were united in holy marriage on May 3, 1980 in The Church of Jesus Christ in Sterling Heights, Michigan by Brother Louis Vitto.

Musical selections were presented by Sister Arline Whitton, organist.

The Johnsons are residing in Roseville, Michigan.

— NEW ARRIVALS —

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

Clayton Ronald to Ronald and Jeanette Buffa of Sterling Heights, Michigan;

Jamy Johnna to Keith L. and Johnna Lesperance of Sterling Heights, Michigan;

Kristiaan Kai to Heino and Stephanie Winkler of Atlanta, Georgia.

OBITUARIES

We wish to express our sympathy to those that mourn over the loss of loved ones. May God bless and comfort you.

SARAH STEARNS

Sister Sarah Stearns of the Monongahela Branch passed away on Sunday, May 18, 1980. She had been afflicted in recent years and hospitalized several years. Sister Sarah was a faithful servant of our Lord since her baptism by Brother W. H. Cadman in February, 1932.

She will be missed by her family and many brothers and sisters of the Gospel. Funeral services were conducted by Brother Robert Nicklow. Burial was at Monongahela Cemetery.

The Gospel News

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GMBA Campout 1980 The Spirit of God Descends on Massanetta Springs

By Ryan Ross, GMBA Editor

Peaceful, defined as "free from strife or commotion; tranquil, characteristic of a state of peace," is a fitting word to describe the week of June 7-14, 1980, spent at the camp in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Over five hundred people attended the campout, including General Church President, Brother Dominic Thomas, and Apostles Nicholas Pietrangelo, Paul D'Amico and Rocco Biscotti. Everyone who attended camp must admit that the greatest blessing came from the presence of the Lord's Spirit. From the first day of camp, both young and old (who had prepared themselves prior to campout) were enveloped by the love of God evidenced by the fact that two people (Fred D'Antonio, Jr. of Aliquippa, PA and Mel Obradovich of Lake Worth, FL) asked for their baptism on Sunday evening. But even greater blessings were still to come.

On Monday morning, Faith Hale of Clairton, PA and Colleen Warden of Broward, FL asked for baptism, followed early Monday evening by Basil and Jennie Sarver of Monongahela, PA. During the Monday evening service, fourteen more people made their wishes known to the throng at the meeting place that they wanted to become members of The Church of Jesus Christ. Still a few more in attendance asked to be baptized later on during the week. Many beautiful testimonies accompanied the total of 26 baptismal requests, and those in the audience were filled with joy as the words of repentance flowed from the mouths of the new converts. The converts are listed as follows: Sarah French, Muncey, Ontario; Vicki Draskovich, Greensburg, PA; Barbara Fleming, Vanderbilt, PA; Cornelia Albert, Muncey, Ontario; Mark Peltier, Windsor, Ontario; Michelle Sapko, Vanderbilt, PA; Terri Benyola, Lake Worth, FL; Sharon Jackson, Kinsman, OH; Sandy Bittinger, Vanderbilt, PA; Darlene Oaks, Aliquippa, PA; Danielle Noel, Greensburg, PA; Mary Lou Rinehart, Lake Worth, FL; Richard Lobzun, Windsor, Ontario; Rocco Benyola, Lake Worth, FL; Carol Lynn Jumper, Aliquippa, PA; Bruce Churchill, Detroit, MI (Branch No. 1); Melissa Christman, Tucson, AZ (not pictured on Page 1); Tammy Ann Aichinger, Detroit, MI (Branch No. 3); Roy Verstraete, Detroit, MI (Branch No. 3); Linda Brown, Lake Worth, FL (to be baptized in Lake Worth).



Brother Dominic and Sister Dolores Thomas

The parents and/or guardians of all candidates were contacted for their approval (when appropriate) prior to each of the baptisms.

Participation was high in all camp activities, including prayer meetings, chapel services, seminars, arts and crafts, camp choir, and recreation, which featured the "1980 Summer Olympics".

Truly, fasting and prayer played an important part in the success of this year's campout. Brother Timothy Scolaro did a fine job as Camp Director, both in his organizing of the various committees and in directing the activities during the week.

On behalf of the GMBA Officers, I thank all those who attended the camp for supporting the GMBA activity and invite those of you who could not attend to make plans for mid-June or early July of 1981 to attend next year's campout. The site has yet to be determined.





Greetings to You in Christ,

Man plans, but God dispenses!

Two trips I have taken to Guatemala in hopes of opening an effectual door of the Gospel there, but no success. Last year I went to Belize, a British Colony on the east side of Guatemala, again in hopes of obtaining favor of God to open a door of grace. There I became ill. Dr. Mundall thought I was severely stricken. I was forced to return home.

What now? Quit and take it easy? No, seems to say the spirit within me, and the Lord also agrees that I must go on into spiritual endeavor, this time at home.

A few weeks ago Brother Jose Lopes of Sinaloa, Mexico, came to visit our home. He said, "I spoke to a Puerto Rican woman. Her husband is Japanese. She may like to hear of our Church."

We went to visit them, and to my surprise they were very happy to hear of the doctrine of our Church. On Sunday, they came to church, and to everyone's surprise she asked to be baptized. Our brothers felt that she ought to wait because she knew very little of our Church. Her husband said he was a Mormon elder and must first sever his relationship with the Mormons, then he also would like to be baptized.

Though I had only met them on Friday, Sunday morning I dreamed that N. Harry Okada was calling me on the phone and was saying pray for me. His voice was very weak and appealing. I awoke and prayed for him. At that very time he was not feeling well, but suddenly he felt good enough to come to church. Sunday, May 18, both were baptized and also Maria L. Lopes, formerly from Mexico.

We have commenced a Spanish meeting in Modesto on Sunday evenings with fifteen to twenty Mexicans attending. Joseph Lovalvo and I participate in speaking Spanish.

Last Wednesday, May 21, Brother Dan Picciuto and I went to San Carlos. We stopped at Phoenix and

attended Wednesday night service. It was well attended. We stayed at Ether Furnier's house. They gave us their car to travel to San Carlos on Thursday morning. We arrived early enough to make two visits. To our glad surprise, that night we had Brother and Sister Christopher Philips at church. They had not come to church for years. It was good to see our brothers and sisters whom we had not seen for some years. Brother and Sister Claude Kaison work harmoniously with Brother and Sister Dale and everyone there. The Apache saints were happy to see us, especially Dan Picciuto. We held prayer meetings each morning and then went out to visit. Friday morning, Doris Hoffman came to see Brother Dan. Upon arriving, she cried with joy to see Brother Dan again.

Sunday, May 25, was a memorable day. Some came from Phoenix. Several Apache brothers and sisters came, some of whom had not come for years. Several hymns were sung. The children sang two songs. The Apache saints sang specials. Also, Barry, Denise and Ronald Mazzeo sang a selection. A translation of *An Angel Came Down* was sung by Anita Hopkins. It was very touching to hear them. Sister Doris Hoffman asked to be reinstated, and her two children were blessed.

For my subject I used Matthew 10:34-39, ". . . I came not to send peace, but a sword." A good spirit prevailed. There were some testimonies. Brother Dan gave his testimony. There were some Apache young people present, also Harry and Nellie Hopkins. We are truly happy to have been there. I am sure we left them satisfied and happy.

Several of our brothers and sisters met at Brother and Sister Neill's home in Phoenix Sunday night, and though I was tired, I related some experiences. We joined hands in prayer. Then Brother and Sister R. Ackman drove us to the airport for our return home.

Our God blessed this trip in many ways, for which we are thankful. Please pray for the Apache saints and the Dales, who labor there.

With love,
Mark Randy, Evangelist

Notice

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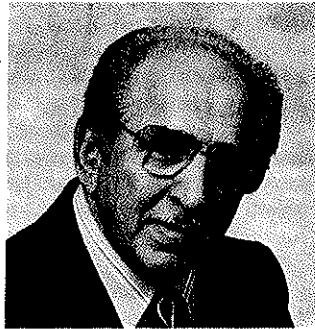
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"It Is Written"

By V. J. Loalvo, Fresno, CA

(Continued from July Issue)

The language of mankind, at best, is not always clear to the reader or listener. Words have a peculiar way of meaning more than one thing, depending on their use. Take, for example, the word "SUFFER" as used exclusively in the *Bible*. Ordinarily, to suffer would bring to the mind a hurt, something opposite of enjoyment. Nonetheless, here are a few instances where the *Bible* uses the word "SUFFER" to mean something other than hurt or pain, etc. viz; "The Lord will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish . . ." (Proverbs 10:3); "Jesus said, Suffer it to be so now . . ." (Matthew 3:15). In Proverbs 10:3, the word "suffer" means that God will not "allow, permit". In Matthew 3:15, "suffer" means almost the same as Proverbs, e.g., "Tolerate it to be so; allow it to be so, etc." In other words, "suffer" can mean many things, again depending on its use. Volumes can be written on the many definitions of words. I believe that the above comparisons and explanations should be enough for everyone.



V. James Loalvo, Apostle

In verses 22, 23, Lehi is stating a fact. It's as simple as ABC. If Adam had not transgressed, he would not have fallen. He would have remained in the Garden of Eden forever and ever. Everything else would have remained the same eternally. Everything that God created would have remained the same. Everything would have gone on forever without change of any kind. Adam and Eve would not have had any children, because they knew nothing else. They would have had no joy, because they knew no sorrow or misery; they could do no good, because they knew not the meaning of sin. Then, in order that the earth become populated, there could only be one answer, the fall of Adam. If Adam had not fallen, he could never have known the reason for his existence or why he was created. He could not even have joy in the Lord, because he did not know the meaning of joy or happiness. To know joy, he had to know sorrow or misery; to know God, he had to have the experience of knowing the enticings of Satan. This knowledge could not come about without eating of the forbidden fruit, that element of opposition in the Garden.

God knew that the earth could not be populated without a woman. Hence, He made Eve as Adam's companion, with the same qualities of innocence and purity. Think of this: If the Lord had not created Eve, the man, Adam, would have been all alone for eternity. And, if he alone would have eaten of the forbidden fruit, what would it have availed him? Nothing.

Because God had created the earth to be populated, He made Eve for Adam's mate. Now, the decision to eat of the forbidden fruit, or not to eat of it, was the choice of both of them. Without partaking of that forbidden fruit, they could not even realize that they were naked. But, as soon as they did, Adam hid from the face of the Lord. Now he realized the difference between being naked and being clothed. Now, they were able to discern the difference between good and evil, etc.

In Verse 25, it is understood that the human family could not have existed if Adam and Eve would not have fallen. Because they sinned by eating of the forbidden fruit, knowledge then of their being Man and Woman with the power of procreation was given them. Therefore, after being cast out of the Garden of Eden, Adam knew his wife, Eve, and from thence started the population of the earth. Thus, mankind had its beginning through the fall of Adam.

The "joy" that is referred to in this verse is knowing that there is a God, and believing that by obedience to His commandments, one can return to the presence of the Lord, knowing too, that the resurrection will bring about the perfect body of immortal glory, even as our first parents had in the Garden of Eden. The "joy" referred to also means knowing the love of a wife (or husband); the love of a family; appreciating the nature of God, the flowers, the trees, the birds; in fine, all that God created for mankind. The sorrows, the woes, the tears, the wars, the illnesses, the diseases, are the results of mankind's transgression of the laws of God and laws of nature. National or racial hatreds have fomented all the evils upon the face of the earth. From the beginning, it was intended that Mankind should enjoy the things that God had created for him. But, as it was in the Garden of Eden, Satan has distorted Mankind by deception, to the end that the human family are suffering the consequences thereof.

However, Jesus Christ brought His Gospel to the earth that Mankind might have a way to return to His Father in heaven, and have the "joy" of knowing that there is a Paradise awaiting the righteous, and eventually the "joy" of the Resurrection. The words that Jesus spoke when He was on the earth are as sweet and desirable today as they were long ago: "Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest . . ." (Matt. 11:28) 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)

The above are some of the "joys" that Mankind could have if they would remember that God and His Holy Son, Jesus Christ, are only a prayer away. Man could have joy in a million ways if only he would yield to the persuasions of the Holy Spirit rather than the enticings of the evil one, Satan.

It is also written in the *Book of Mormon* that Enos,

(Continued on Page 6)

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Measuring Ourselves

"Were I so tall to reach the pole, or grasp the ocean in my span, I must be measured by my soul; the mind's the standard of a man." Isaac Watts

In many spheres of life, measurement is very important. Whether it is erecting a bridge or a building or a ship or an airplane, or the making and shaping of metal or plastics, or whatever the product might be, accurate measuring is most essential.

Moral and Spiritual Function

Measuring is also a moral and spiritual function, as well as an industrial or commercial one, and therefore, is most important in our spiritual life, too. In daily life and work, there are people who seem to try to get away with false weights and measures. On this point, the law of the Lord as given to Moses was plain and strict. Leviticus 19:35-36 reads, "Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment, in meteyard, in weights, or in measure. Just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin shall ye have; I am the Lord your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt."

If the word of the Lord to His people in ancient times was plain and firm on such simple matters as fair and honest exchange for goods or services, surely His requirement is no less firm than that all of our relationships with others should be governed by proper measure and good judgments.

Our Lord's parable of the Pharisee and the publican illustrates how some people measure themselves. The Pharisee, praying in the Temple said, "God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are . . . unjust . . . , or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner." (Luke 18:10-13) In Verse 14, the Lord declares, "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."

The Pharisee and the Publican

Obviously, the Pharisee measured himself by other people, and with a self-righteous attitude at that. On the other hand, the publican measured himself to God's standard, and saw only how far short he fell of the ideal and asked for mercy.

Perhaps there is something worse than measuring ourselves by other people, and that is to measure ourselves by ourselves. The Apostle Paul comments on this in II Corinthians 10:12, "For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise."

Finally, the Apostle Paul also points to the Lord Jesus Christ as the one by whom we should endeavor to measure ourselves. In Ephesians 4:13 we read, "Till we all come in the unity of faith, and the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."

He is the standard, the pattern for all our living.

The Children's Corner

By Mabel Bickerton
Monongahela, PA



The Poisonous Serpents

Dear Girls and Boys,

Once there was a good king named Emer. He was king over the Jaredite people. Their descendants had come to America from the Tower of Babel. Emer was a faithful man, so faithful the Son of Righteousness appeared to him. Emer was a peace loving man. While he was king the people were blessed. They were very rich, had all kinds of fruit, grain, fine linen, gold, silver, cattle, oxen, sheep, swine, horses, elephants, cureloms, and cumoms. The Lord said those who possessed this Promised Land should possess it unto the Lord, or they would be destroyed.

When a good king ruled the people, they were persuaded to do good, but when a wicked king ruled, he brought evil. When Emer died, wicked rulers reigned. One was named Heth. He had killed his father so he could have the throne. He taught the people to be wicked. The Lord sent prophets among them to warn them to repent. If they didn't they would be destroyed and a famine would be sent. The people would not believe the prophets. King Heth commanded they be destroyed. The Lord sent a curse upon the land. No rain fell and their crops dried up and the people had no food. Still they would not repent. Next, the Lord sent poisonous serpents upon the land. Many people were bitten by the serpents, and so were their cattle. They became so frightened they ran towards the land southward. The Nephites called it Zarahemla. When the people tried to follow them, they found the way closed. The Lord caused the serpents to gather in large numbers so the people could not pass. It was like a thick hedge. If they tried to pass they were bitten by the snakes and died. The cattle died also, and the people were so hungry, they ate the cattle. It was a frightening time.

Now the people remembered the words of the prophets. They began to repent. They humbled themselves and prayed for rain. The Lord heard them and sent rain. Their crops began to grow and soon they had food. The Lord showed them His great power.

Many, many people died during this terrible time. Among them were the wicked King Heth and his family, except one son named Shez. Shez began to build up a broken people. He had learned the lesson the Lord had taught. Shez taught the people to walk in the ways of the Lord.

There is a good lesson in this story for us too. When we please the Lord, He will care and provide for us, but when we don't, He may be angry with us like He was with the people in the days of King Heth.

Sincerely,
Sister Mabel

~~~~~  
"IT IS WRITTEN" continued

the son of Jacob, while hunting beasts in the forests, suddenly remembered the words of his father, and a desire to know the "Joy of the Saints" began to burn in his breast. After praying all day long and into the night, the Lord answered him by saying, "Enos, thy sins are forgiven thee, and thou shalt be blessed." Knowing that God has forgiven our sins is another kind of "joy" for which we praise the Lord. Pages could be filled with beautiful illustrations concerning the "joy" that mankind might have. Therefore, the saying is absolutely true, "Men are that they might have joy."

To the saints in Italy and to all the saints throughout the world, I bid you God-speed; I wish you the best of blessings. I pray that the above explanation of the verses in question shall have satisfied your souls and minds. God bless and keep you.

## OUR WOMEN TODAY:

### Michigan-Ontario Ladies Circle Holds Mother and Daughter Banquet

By Judy Coppa, Area Editor

On Monday, May 12, 1980, the Michigan-Ontario Area Ladies Circle held a Mother and Daughter Banquet at the Gourmet House in St. Clair Shores, Michigan. Our attendance was a successful 178 moms and daughters. We enjoyed an evening of singing, poetry, fellowship and good food.

Sister Hazel Zoltek of the Sterling Heights Branch composed a lovely program of prose and poetry depicting a mother's love and her service to God and her children. Each branch of the Area was represented by a Circle sister who took part in the program. Our Area Ladies Circle President, Sister Mary Criscuolo, presided over the evening affair and helped to make everyone feel welcome and at ease.

The evening was one to be remembered, as some of those who were present were not Church members nor Circle members, but friends and relatives of our Circle sisters. The Lord said, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father, who is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16) Our sisters of the Ladies Uplift Circle had the opportunity to let their light shine, and shine forth it did, as many commented that a wonderful evening was had by all present.

## Michigan-Ontario District Ladies Circle Meeting

*By Janet Steinrock, Detroit, MI, Branch No. 2*

The Michigan-Ontario District Ladies Circle meeting was hostessed this year by the sisters of Branch No. 2. Wishing to involve all sisters in meaningful and worthwhile discussions, three topics were introduced for study and discussion. Each participating sister was invited to join the group whose theme interested her the most.

Within each of the groups, a sister and her assistant explained what the scriptures of the *Bible* and the *Book of Mormon* revealed about the topics. We discussed these scriptures and many related experiences.

Sisters Virginia Carlini and Eda DiMelis presented Proverbs 31, "Who Can Find a Virtuous Woman?" That group discovered how many ways all women, at home, at work, married, or unmarried, can apply and develop themselves along those lines. Sisters Rose Milantoni and Joyce Vargo introduced the topic of "Witnessing". Many sisters began to share with one another their results and attempts of witnessing and how the witness of others had influenced their lives. Sisters Janet Steinrock and Joann Cotellesse opened discussion on "Living One Day at a Time", quoting the scripture, "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof," and focusing on how necessary it is to give up worry and apply ourselves to a growing trust in the Lord.

At the close of each seminar, the whole body of sisters rejoined and a synopsis of each seminar group was presented, thus enabling each group to share with the others. The time flew and as usual with the saints of God, a deep feeling of love and sharing flourished. Sister Mary Criscuolo, Area Ladies Circle President, was present although she travels many miles to come to the Detroit area now, and many sisters, both old and young also grew from this sharing in kinship and understanding of one another.

## The Lord Did Call

*By Rose Laessig*

Today we pay tribute to a dear and beloved brother  
Who touched our hearts with love for one another.  
We're saddened that he did depart,  
But glad for his soul, we feel joy in our hearts.  
He heard the precious voice to join the Lord  
As he took the last journey to his heavenly reward.  
Truly our brother in Christ we did share,  
God's work he fulfilled with a courage so rare.  
A spiritual uplift he emitted to all,  
To enlighten the lost while strengthening the weak  
was his call.

His labors are over, no more will he roam;  
The Spirit did guide him to his eternal home.  
The Saints in heaven are joyful this day,  
With angels they're singing a welcome his way.  
Another page in the Book of Life is filled,

Today a soul by God was willed.  
We bow our heads in humble prayer today  
To meet him again on our chosen day.

Inspired in memory of Brother August D'Orazio

## A Tribute to Augie D'Orazio

*By Josephine Jasmin, Lakeworth, Florida*

Another like him cannot be.  
Unusually loving and humble was he.  
Goodness and kindness were his way,  
Interested in everyone and what they had to say.  
Earnest to reap his eternal reward.

Doing his best for family and friends,  
Obedient to God until the end,  
Ready to suffer grief and pain,  
A star in his crown he surely did gain,  
Zealous to meet the Saviour above,  
In deed and in faith he did do with love,  
Oh, what joy it is to know-another time, another place,  
we shall meet him face to face.

## A Tribute Written in Memory of Brother August D'Orazio

*By Joseph Perri*

When God called Brother Augie from this life He took a jewel, a precious jewel. Having been with Brother Augie since our childhood days, it has become a great loss to me.

Brother Augie was born on December 5, 1932, and was the first of two sons born to Brother August and Sister Santina D'Orazio. As he grew into manhood, he became very active in our local MBA. He served as President for some time.

I remember so very clearly, as if it were today, when on a rainy Sunday in July, 1950, as a large group of young people met in New Brunswick, I had asked Brother Augie to accompany me in becoming a member of The Church of Jesus Christ. He told me he wasn't ready yet, but that noon as that beautiful hymn, *I Surrender All*, was sung, and after I had asked the saints to allow me to become a part of them and accept me as a member through baptism, the very next soul to come to Christ was Brother August. What we thought was a joyous occasion, was even more glorious when thirteen other young people followed us requesting baptism and five others requested during the following week, making a total of twenty baptisms. We were all baptized on July 23, 1950. Among the twenty were two beautiful young women who later became Brother Augie's wife and my wife.

Brother Augie met Sister Betty Ensana in 1949, and after a few years was drafted into the army, like so many other young brothers. We spent some time



together in Korea and Japan. Shortly after his discharge from the army in 1955, he and Sister Betty were married, and God blessed them with two beautiful daughters, Sherry and Mary.

God saw the sincere desire of this wonderful person, and just one year later he was called and ordained into the Priesthood in October, 1956. The calling of an Evangelist came upon him, and he was ordained into the quorum in 1970.

Brother August served the Church very well and was very active. Some of the offices and positions he held in the Church were President, Vice-President and Chaplain of the New Jersey local MBA; President and Chaplain of the GMBA; President, First Counsellor, Second Counsellor and Trustee of the Atlantic Coast District. He was also Presiding Elder of the Edison, New Jersey Branch for many years and occupied that position at the time of his death. He also held the position of Vice-Chairman of the Atlantic Coast District American Indian Committee. Laboring with other brothers at the Philadelphia Center among the Native American Indians did not go unnoticed. He was made an associate member of that community. This Center in Philadelphia serves as a meeting place of the United American Indians of the Delaware Valley. He was loved by the Native American.

Several Native Americans who came to know Brother Augie well, paid their tribute to him by attending his funeral and bestowed honor upon him in their own special way.

Brother August's untiring efforts in working for the Church here in the Atlantic Coast District and also for the General Church have not gone unnoticed. He was a great inspiration to everyone who came to know him. He gave encouragement to all and had a kind word to say about everyone. He never cared to dwell on the faults and mistakes of others. He always made himself available when needed. He was an outgoing person, willing to help others and many times denied himself and his family. He had a special gift which was unique, knowing how to discern people and knew how to relate to them and their needs.

His great interest in young people was displayed when he started a youth group in his branch several years ago; they were called the THURSDAY NIGHTERS. All would agree that he was a beautiful person to know and to be with.

Seven years ago he became very ill, and God extended his life. While he was afflicted, God made him understand that he would not be left alone. One day the Lord gave him the following words: "If I live, I live for Christ. If I die, I die for Christ. So, whether living or dying, I am the Lord's."

At 47 years of age, Brother Augie became ill at the April, 1980, General Church Conference and passed on to his eternal reward on April 20, 1980.

Those who mourn his passing are his lovely wife, Betty, two daughters, Sherry and Mary of Edison, New Jersey. He will also be missed by Brother August and Sister Santana, his parents of Florida, his brother John,

also of Florida, and many brothers and sisters in The Church of Jesus Christ and friends and many relatives.

We shall all miss him in this life, but we know that he rests with many wonderful saints in the Paradise of God, and on that Glorious Morning we shall meet again.

Brothers Nick Pietrangelo, Gorie Ciaravino, Paul D'Amico, Dominic Moraco, Reno Bologna, and Don Ross assisted me in conducting the funeral service for Brother D'Orazio. Many experiences were given to encourage the family; space in *The Gospel News* will not permit us to include them in this article.

Continue to remember Brother August D'Orazio's family in prayer as they pass through this time of bereavement.

## MBA HIGHLIGHTS

### Florida Area Singspiration

On May 17, 1980, many saints and friends from the Florida District met at the Lakeworth Branch for an Area MBA Singspiration. It's so good to get together with our brothers and sisters, as we could feel the Spirit of God in our midst.

The meeting was opened with prayer and several hymns. We continued with special selections sung by each branch. Brother Eugene Perri then spoke a few inspirational words, exhorting us to stay close to the Gospel and strive to press forward.

After the closing prayer, we all gathered in the dining room for a delicious assortment of desserts and coffee. The Lord tells us it is good for His people to gather together often, and we've proved this over and over again.

### Ohio Area Retreat

The 1980 Ohio Area MBA Weekend Retreat will be held at the Dunkirk Conference Grounds in Dunkirk, New York from Friday, September 12 at 6:00 PM until Sunday, September 14 at 2:00 PM.

For registration form requests, write to:

Stacey Light  
1141 East 38th Street, Apt. 11  
Erie, PA 16504

### *Note of Thanks*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest appreciation and gratitude to all the saints for their prayers, cards and flowers, and also for the

words of sympathy offered at the passing of our dear brother and son, Augie.

May God bless each and every one of you with His richest of blessings.

Brother August and Sister Tina D'Orazio  
Brother John and Sister Linda D'Orazio  
and Family

## Branch and Mission News

### Quincy Mission Dedicated

By M. Martin

A freshness of the Holy Spirit along with numerous brothers, sisters and friends filled the church building in Quincy, Florida to respond with the heavenly host in praises and thanksgiving to God. The saints in Quincy prepared a program acknowledging the work of restoration of the Gospel. The saints of Fort Pierce Branch sang very appropriately, *We've a Story to Tell to the Nations*.

This brief history then was read by Brother Frank Rogolino as written:

Today, May 25, 1980, in Quincy, Gadsden County, Florida, a great event is being unfolded before you. This great event is the dedication of The Church of Jesus Christ. History related significant events which always reflects back to the original, or the first time such an event transpired. We therefore must glimpse back through generations of time to identify the first dedication of The Church of Jesus Christ. On the Day of Pentecost, the visible body of Christ's Church was manifested. This was the dedication of The Church of Jesus Christ. Yes, on that great Day of Pentecost, The Church of Jesus Christ was dedicated, fully clothed in the garments of righteousness, adorned a glorious Church, Church without spot or wrinkle, made pure by the power and manifestation of the Holy Ghost. Her glory, this day was revealed.

Yet, as it was prophesied by holy men of God, this the Church which Jesus Christ set up fell away. The Apostle Paul writes in II Thessalonians 2:3, "Let no man deceive you by any means; for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition." Thus, according to prophecy, this same Church which was dedicated on the Day of Pentecost, fell away. Wickedness had entered into this glorious Church.

For the space of 1260 years, spiritual darkness covered the earth and gross darkness the mind of man, even as the eagle-eyed prophet Isaiah proclaimed. As

there are scriptures that foretold of an apostasy, or falling away, so there are prophecies that foretold of the restoration of the true Church of Jesus Christ and the Lord's work in the latter days. Yes, a restoration of that same Church that was dedicated on the Day of Pentecost. So, you can see, this is why our hearts leap high as from the resurrection, as ancient splendors that were hid from the eyes of men, now gleam through the brightening skies of Restoration, therefore with exultant voices of joy we sing, *Hallelujah, the Gospel Is Restored*.

The Restoration of the Gospel took place in the year of 1820 when that mighty angel from the mansions of glory cracked the skies and swiftly flew in the midst of heaven having with him the everlasting Gospel which was to be preached unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. With a loud voice he cried, "Fear God and give glory to him for the hour of his judgment is come." That voice cried so loud, it is still being heard down through the ages of time and piercing the ears of men today.

History also reveals a foundation or a preparation for this Restored Gospel was being paved in Gadsden County. In the same year that the angel brought back the everlasting Gospel, migration took place in this county and rapidly this area became well established, ready for expansion and the seat of government was established. In the same year, 1820, the first courthouse was constructed. So we can see that the Restoration of the Gospel and the development of Gadsden County run a parallel line, with similarities in its struggle for progression.

Brother Cleveland Baldwin was instrumentally used in the hand of God in bringing the Restored Gospel to Gadsden County. By inspiration, faith and numerous revelations, he moved with fear to fulfill the revelation of God to him. He launched out prayerfully returning to his native home where the Gospel of Jesus Christ had not been named, and on July 18, 1971, conducted the first Sunday service in Gadsden County. After the meeting, experiencing a loneliness and longing for the saints whom he left behind, he decided to visit an old couple he knew when he was just a child. While preparing to leave in the process of tying his shoe and pondering, he thought, "Now if these people ask you what brought you back to Chattahoochee, what will you say?" A voice then spoke with great force, "Tell them an Angel of God brought you back."

As the Restored Gospel was preached in Gadsden County, there were those who sought God as instructed by the ministry. In receiving their own revelation from God, they were baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ. Sister Lillie Mae Davis was the first soul in Gadsden County that obeyed the Gospel, accepting the message of the Angel.

There are numerous special events we would like to share, but in trying to make this history brief, many delightful and joyful events must be eliminated; however, the Spirit of God continued to prepare hearts to receive this glorious and marvelous work, the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. Souls began to rejoice that the message of the Angel came to Gadsden County. Gradually, yet beautifully, the Gospel began



tearing down man-made religion, breaking up new ground and planting righteous seeds containing heavenly virtue in the hearts that rendered obedience to that heavenly calling.

It's difficult to evaluate the impact of the Gospel in a new area; however, the Gospel seeds are still being sown and we are unable to capture the fleeting moments of time, but can a kingdom grow unobserved?

A new array of glory is witnessed as God mysteriously prepared this building, which is being dedicated today. The trustees met August 5, 1978, to negotiate the purchase of the building. While awaiting the approval of the action of the trustees, a sister prayed to God about the purchase of the church and had the following experience:

Just before retiring to bed one night around 10:30 PM, being very concerned about the purchase of this church building in Quincy, I found myself carried away on prayer. I was asking God to make it possible for us to purchase this building for the gathering of the saints. The words of prayer flowed freely, "Lord, let us have this building that the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ could be preached from Thy Holy Ministry in Quincy, Florida. Just then, being wide awake, I saw before me the pulpit that Brother Cleveland had sitting on the porch of his trailer. I saw this pulpit sitting in the church building in Quincy. From within this pulpit, I saw an Angel. The Angel was small as it came out of the pulpit and stood right in front of the pulpit . . . and grew into a normal sized man. The Angel's wings began to spread. They expanded and grew larger and larger until they covered the entire front of the ministry from the ceiling to the floor and from one wall to the other. The Angel's feet were elevated so they did not touch the floor. Needless to say, the inward joy and satisfaction that overcame me caused me to know that the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ would be preached from the Holy Ministry in Quincy. All legalities were completed, and on October 15, 1978, the saints of God worshipped in the building God provided.

Today, The Church of Jesus Christ is being dedicated. Today the message of the Angel is ringing forth. As in the experience, the angel grew, and grew larger and larger until it covered the entire front of the Ministry. Likewise, the Gospel of Jesus Christ will grow until it fills not only Gadsden County, but the entire earth and all the people will sing along with us, *Hallelujah, the Gospel Is Restored*, and will thank God for the Angel that flew in the midst of heaven.

While the history was being read as quoted, "Today, May 25, 1980, in Quincy, Gadsden County, Florida, a great event is being unfolded before you. This great event is the dedication of The Church of Jesus Christ", a sister had a vision. She saw an angel come out of the front of the rostrum being displayed from his head down to his waist. In his right hand he was holding up a scroll. He raised his left hand up to the top of the scroll and pulled it down. He appeared to be making a proclamation. This ended the vision. The saints of the Quincy Mission then sang with joy in their hearts, *Hallelujah, the Gospel Is Restored, What A Marvelous Work and Wonder, In the Shade Under the*

*Dogwood Tree* (a song written by Brother Cleveland Baldwin), and the magnificent hymn, *An Angel Came Down from the Mansions of Glory*.

After the program, the meeting proceeded. Brother Horace Huggins was set apart for the office of a deacon. Brother Ray Bays washed his feet, and he received the laying on of hands and ordination by Brother Sam Costarella.

Brother Eugene Perri, President of the Florida District, spoke from Matthew 16:13-18, enlarging upon the revelation of God. Brother Sam Sgro from New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch, continued speaking on flesh and blood. All could feel the spirit and the great outpouring of the blessing of God as our brothers spoke to us. Brother Eugene Perri anointed a woman from the Pentecostal faith who requested prayer for her eye.

The meeting was closed, but the wonderful fellowship of the saints prevailed as we gathered for lunch in the church dining area. The saints will long remember this day and the blessing of God that causes us to praise God and shout hallelujah for joy that the Gospel has been restored and now has been established in Quincy, Gadsden County, Florida.

## Visitors and Baptism at Vanderbilt

*By Rose Czapp, Branch Editor*

April 13, 1980, was a very joyful day for the saints at Vanderbilt. We had the blessing of Brother Joseph Austin and Brother Joseph Bittinger with us. Also Sister Marge Mesida from Monongahela and Aldora Carson from Dawson were with us.

Brother Austin opened our meeting with St. John 9:5 as his scripture. He spoke to us concerning how Jesus changed his life and the weight of his calling into the priesthood. He also recalled how the Lord helped and blessed his family through perilous times before and after his calling.

Brother Milford Eutsey, Sr. continued by telling of a book entitled *Psalm 23*, a shepherd's testimony of the reality, truth, and power of the Lord. After his speaking, Aldora Carson called the hymn, *Why Not Now*. Brother Emerson Fuller closed in prayer.

During lunch and fellowship, Brother James King announced that Aldora Carson had asked for her baptism. She was led into the waters of baptism by Brother Milford Eutsey, Sr. One sister stated it was a beautiful baptism. Sister Aldora was confirmed by Brother Emerson Fuller.

Brother Emerson spoke telling that God is the only person who will give us anything we want if we ask for it in the right way. We should keep the door of our hearts open to God, but closed to Satan. Brother Elmer Larue gave his testimony, and we witnessed the Spirit of God come upon our brother as he felt for a special

prayer for Sister Mary Fleming. Sister Fleming has been ill for a very long time. All the saints at Vanderbilt miss seeing her and hearing her beautiful testimonies. We pray she will soon be well and able to return to the branch soon. Many testimonies followed, all praising God for our new sister. Our prayers at Vanderbilt are that God will always be with her and all our visitors.

## Warren Branch News

*By Eleanor Martin*

Sunday, April 6, 1980, was a beautiful day for the saints of the Warren, Ohio Branch. The saints from the Kent Mission, as well as some from Youngstown and Kinsman, and many friends fellowshipped with us.

This was our feet washing day, plus two were to be ordained into the office of deacon and a deaconess. The Spirit of God prevailed throughout the service.

Brother Lloyd from the Kent Mission opened the service. He spoke from the Book of Ruth. He spoke of the feeling of Naomi returning to her home empty, without husband or sons, but her blessings were greater with the love of Ruth, her daughter-in-law. Brother Pete Molinatto spoke on what is required of us as saints. Brother Mitchell Edwards followed with encouraging remarks from II Nephi 4.

Brother Jerry Giovannone read the duties to those who were to be ordained. *Ye Who Are Called to Labor* was sung. Brother Victor Ciarolla washed Brother David Koeth's feet, while Sister Vera Edwards washed Sister Rita Mae Koeth's feet. Brother Pete ordained his daughter, Sister Rita Mae, and Brother Jerry ordained Brother David.

Many inspiring testimonies were given to the praise and glory of the Lord.

After the service we had dinner in the church dining room together as the family of God.

## Three Converts Added to Windsor, Ontario Branch

The Windsor Branch continues to grow with the baptisms of Gary Peltier, Penny Zaliska and Gillian Marie Stanek.

On Sunday, June 22, Brother Gary Peltier was baptized by his grandfather, Brother Sam Cuomo, Sr. and confirmed by Brother Don Collison. Sister Penny Zaliska was baptized by Brother Dick Lobzun and confirmed by Brother Carl Frammolino. This was Brother Lobzun's first experience in baptizing a candidate since his ordination as an elder.

The following Sunday, June 29, Gillian Marie Stanek was baptized by her father, Brother Bob Stanek and confirmed by Brother Allen Henderson.

We pray God's protection and guidance in behalf of these three new members.

## News from Branch No. 3 Detroit, MI

*By Kay Vitto, Branch Editor*

We had a treat today, April 13, 1980; Brother Leonard Lovalvo and his wife, Sister Loretta, from Branch No. 2 came to worship with us.

Brother Frank Vitto welcomed our visitors warmly. In opening our meeting with a few remarks, Brother Frank expressed how degraded a person must be to encourage others not to believe in God. It seems all through history there were unbelievers that wanted to pursue this sort of vocation, and they needed others to agree with them.

The meeting was turned over to Brother Leonard, who began telling us about events that occurred during his teenage years. Blessings he received as a lad which made an indelible imprint on his young mind. He remembered when Brother Heaps was visiting Branch No. 3 and nine souls surrendered their lives to Christ. He felt the loving touch of Christ in his heart; it lit a spark and eventually grew into a desire to serve the Lord.

Brother Lovalvo read the 51st Psalm. What a tremendous honor to have the Lord say, "he was a man after His own heart". David must have had complete trust in God. Not only when he was going into battle, but when he was confronted with wild animals and most impressive, when he faced Goliath and slew him. David succeeded because he wore the full armor of the God of Israel.

Brother Leonard went on to say how freely we use the expression, "he should have known better". Recalling David's impulsive act of adultery—surely "he should have known better". Here was a man that communicated with God! Not only did he commit adultery; he committed murder. His guilt may not have erupted at that particular moment. However, when the Prophet Nathan approached him with the story regarding the rich man versus the poor man, etc., David was infuriated and demanded the death penalty for the guilty man. Nathan pointed out to him, "you are that man". At that point, David realized the gravity of his sin. A deep feeling of sorrow must have enveloped him. He knew no number of sacrifices or rituals would wipe away what he had done. He had to beg for forgiveness; he had reached that point of a truly broken heart and a contrite spirit.

Brother Leonard went on to tell us how grateful he is that the *Bible* portrays these great men just as they truly were, the good they did as well as the sins they committed. This was to show us they were fallible human beings.

Brother Leonard went on to say, when we do something wrong, "we should know better". However, when we go to God in prayer and ask forgiveness, it's a tremendous feeling to experience that forgiving spirit. Brother Leonard asked for our prayers, knowing we need one another's prayers for strength and guidance.

Brother Frank Vitto followed in the same trend. He remarked, the writer says, "confess your faults to one another and your sins to God". When we make mistakes, we really don't want anyone to know. Hence David's cry, "against thee and thee only have I sinned". We should never feel that we know enough or that we have learned enough, for that's the time we are apt to fall or sin. David, as King of Israel, sinned and murdered. Do we, as little people in comparison, commit little sins? That same power that tempted David is still here today.

What trouble and grief we bring into our lives when we allow sin to enter. Regardless of the size of sin . . . it's still sin! King David realized this when he acknowledged his sin before God. If we were punished instantly every time we committed any kind of sin, we would be dead. We do serve a merciful God. He is more merciful toward us than we are toward one another. Brother Frank went on to tell us how God loves us and wants us to serve Him without reservation.

## New Arrivals

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

John, Jr. to John and Patty Cote of Lakeworth, Florida;

Lisa Marie to Michael and Linda Italiano of Youngstown, Ohio;

Kristian Kai to Heino and Stephanie Winkler of Atlanta, Georgia.

## \* WEDDINGS \*

### EUTSEY-FRANKS

Brother Milford W. Eutsey, Jr. and Sister Hope M. Franks were united in marriage on October 6, 1979 by Brother Milford W. Eutsey, Sr. in the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Sister Newanna King, pianist, and Sister Barbara Fleming, soloist, presented musical selections.

The newlyweds are residing in Grindstone, PA.

### KING-PAES

Brother Mark Allen King and Miss Judy Ann Paes were married on May 31, 1980 in The Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ by Brother Lawrence King, Sr.

Musical selections were presented by the pianist, Sister Tammy Nicklow, and the soloist, Brother Randy Beeman.

The Kings are making their home in Columbus, Ohio.

## ◆ OBITUARIES ◆

*We wish to express our sympathy to those that mourn over the loss of loved ones. May God bless and comfort you.*

### AUGUST D'ORAZIO

Brother August D'Orazio of Edison, N. J. passed on to his reward on April 20, 1980. Brother Augie was born on December 5, 1932. He was baptized on July 23, 1950, was ordained an elder in 1956 and an evangelist of our Church in 1970.

Brother Don Ross of Edison and Brother Joe Perri of Hopelawn conducted the funeral services, along with the participation of visiting brothers from many branches.

Brother Augie is survived by his wife, Sister Betty, and two daughters, Sherry and Mary.

Brother Augie is and will be missed by his family, his friends and all who were privileged to know him. He will be remembered for his gifts of discernment and his gift of counsel to all. May God comfort the family in this sad time.

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### RICHARD LOWTHER

Mr. Richard Winfield Lowther of the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch passed away on April 9, 1980. He was born on April 9, 1918.

Brothers Vince Gibson and Emerson Fuller officiated at the funeral services.

Mr. Lowther is survived by his wife, Sister Loretta, four sons, and eight grandchildren.

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### FRANK VOLPE

Brother Frank Volpe passed away on May 23, 1980. A member of The Church of Jesus Christ in Cleveland, Ohio, Branch No. 1, he was born on February 25, 1906 and baptized on August 30, 1970.

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

Brother Volpe is survived by his wife, five daughters, seventeen grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

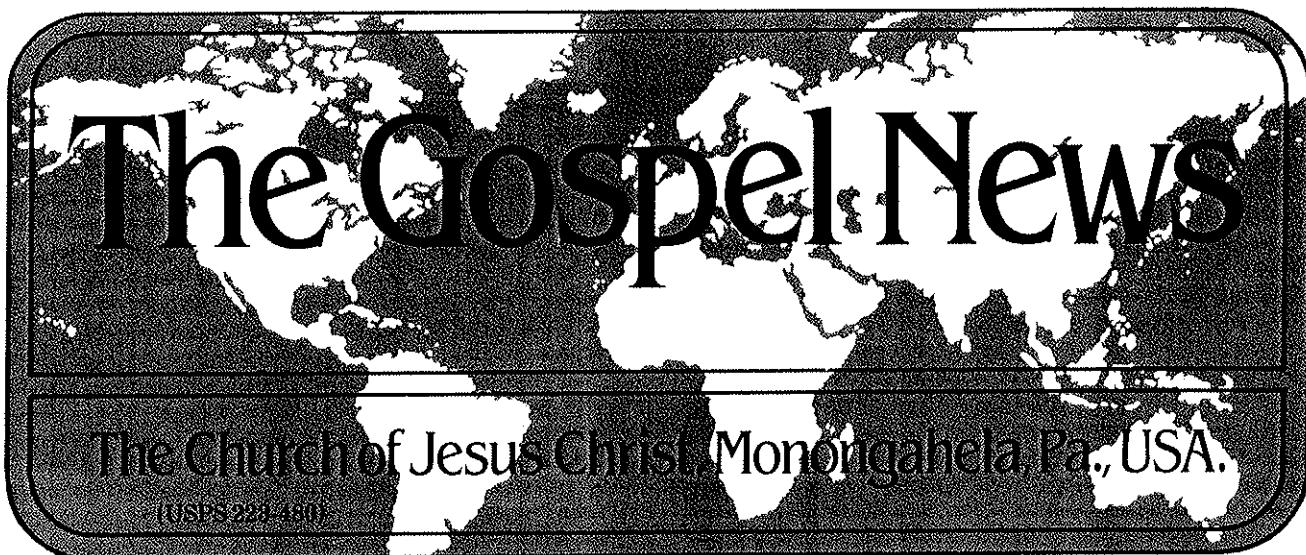
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### ERNEST ROSS

Mr. Ernest Ross of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch passed away from this life on July 4, 1980.

Brothers John Ross and Joseph Ross officiated at the funeral services.

He is survived by his wife, Jennie.



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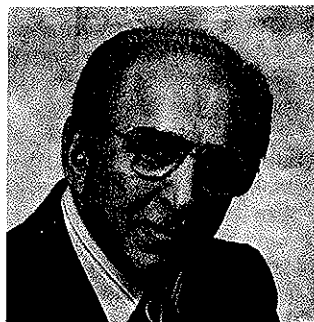
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## "It Is Written"

By V. J. Lovalvo, Fresno, CA

**QUESTION:** A young brother from Arizona sent me a letter recently wherein he posed a few questions relative to the year, 1970, and whether or not the kingdom of Christ, as spoken by the prophet Daniel and others was established at that time. Also, how are the assertions of the late Brother Alma Cadman and his father to be reconciled with the year, 1970, etc. Since these are very pertinent questions, I thought to answer them via the medium of the *Gospel News*.

**ANSWER:** First of all, let us define the word "establish" or "establishment". According to Webster's dictionary, the word "establish" is defined as: to fix firmly; settle; prove legally; strengthen; restore. The word "establishment" is defined as: ratification; settlement; a place of residence or business; household; etc. The big question that faces one is, which of the definitions will fit our purposes as a Church? I believe that the words, settle, strengthen and restore are apropos to the questions asked. The *Bible* uses the word, establish, in a variety of ways contrary to the opinion of some who think that establish means to "start something as an already developed thing or concern." For example: "... and thou shall call his name Isaac; and I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him." (Gen. 17:18) Now then, was the covenant of God fully developed at that time? No, of course, it was many, many years afterwards that His word was fulfilled. The word, establish, at that time merely meant to "start; to begin." Take the word, established, in the 2nd chapter of Isaiah, verse 2, "... the mountain of the Lord's House shall be established in the top of the mountains ..." In this case it means that the glory of the kingdom of God shall develop to



V. J. Lovalvo, Apostle

such a degree of power and righteousness that all the world will become cognizant of its existence; like a "city built on a hill". Hence, established in this chapter means that the Lord, eventually, from a "beginning" (establishment), will cause the Church to develop into the "Mountain of the Lord".

Now, we know that the Kingdom of Christ has not developed into that category as yet. However, the beginning of that kingdom was at the Restoration of the Gospel in these latter days. Therefore, the term, established, has various applications, and at different dispensations of time. Much more can be written on the word, establish; but, I will defer this to a little bit later.

The question that was sent me by this young brother deals with the writings of our late Brother Alma Cadman, who in his *Seventh Day of Rest* sets forth these words, "As Israel was not permitted to enter for forty years, taking time, times, and a half of that time, (the forty years of their wandering), we get one hundred and forty years, which added to 1830 brings us to 1970; at which time the Mountain of the Lord's House shall be established in the tops of the mountains, and Nations shall flow unto it; ..." The young brother asks, "Perhaps I am one who misunderstood Brother Alma Cadman, but what am I to surmise from his writings?" If there are others who have misunderstood Brother Cadman's writings, allow me to reiterate that the above brother NEVER conveyed the thought that at the morning of January 1, 1970, the Kingdom of God (Peaceful Reign) would be a fully developed and factual existence, but rather that 1970 would be the inception (or beginning) of this cycle. Let it be understood that a birth of a child does not make him an adult immediately. So, the birth of start of 1970 as the beginning of a new era does not mean that it is an adult condition, or kingdom; but, it will develop into that adulthood little by little, until all the world will know that on top of the mountains, spiritually speaking, the "Mountain of the Lord" is established. Please read my experience in the book, *Truth Shall Spring Out of the Earth*, relative to the

Peaceful Reign, and you will see that as each day of Creation began "in the evening", so the day of the Peaceful Reign (Kingdom of God) also has begun in the evening part of the day. Many things must transpire before the "Morning" breaks and the glory of His Kingdom shall be seen, and His Church's fame shall spread throughout the earth and nations shall flow unto the Mountain of the Lord's House which has reached its adult development since 1970.

The young brother from Arizona also quotes from the same pamphlet (*Seventh Day of Rest*): "Beginning at five hundred and thirty years B. C., six thousand years would be completed by the year 1970, or the six days of time . . . of the way. Then we begin the seventh thousandth year, termed by Daniel as the Ancient of Days (that some writers inaccurately call Christ). At this time, the Kingdom is to be given to the Saints, and all other Kingdoms will become as the chaff of the summer threshing floor." The question asked is: Did the little Horn terminate in 1970 and was the Kingdom given to the Saints, and did all other Kingdoms become as the chaff of the summer threshing floor? 1970 marks the beginning, birth, start, establishing, if you please, of the seventh thousandth year in which also the Peaceful Reign (or Kingdom of God) will have its place. One of the greatest fulfillments of prophecy will take place during this cycle of time, and that is that the stone that was cut out of the mountain without the aid of hands (according to Daniel's prophecy) and struck the image at the feet, completely destroying it, has not yet been fulfilled. Still, the cutting of that stone began at the restoration of the Gospel, and (if I may paraphrase) will in this cycle of time strike the image (which is a representation of many nations) and demolish them. For it is written that the Knowledge of God shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. The little stone is growing in size and power, and when it strikes the image, the sound will be heard throughout the world.

The Kingdom (in its spiritual sense, as yet) was given to the saints. Many, many times God has revealed Himself to the Church that "You are My people", and in the 1970's has He not caused the Three Nephites to appear more often than ever before? In the 1970's also, the work among the Seed of Joseph has abounded as never before in the history of the Church. Out of the Seed of Joseph shall come forth the Choice Seer, spoken of in the *Book of Mormon*. This shall take place in this cycle of time, or in the era of the Peaceful Reign, which has had its birth in 1970, according to Brother Alma Cadman. To those who may have misunderstood our late brother's writings, let me enlighten you, to some degree, that there is a tape recorded by one of our brothers of Brother Alma Cadman, and during a question and answer period (on this tape), he was asked point blank (excuse the colloquialism) whether he believed or taught that the Peaceful Reign (or Kingdom of God on earth) would be fully established in 1970. He answered, emphatically, NO. This is on tape, thank God.

Let us now look into the peculiarities of language and its, at times, ambiguous definitions. For example: Jesus commanded His Disciples to say, in their preaching, "The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." (Matt. 10:7) Christ also taught, "Repent, for the

Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." (Matt. 4:17) The Kingdom of Heaven was at hand spiritually, but in reality, it was not, because from the days of John the Baptist and afterwards, the Kingdom of Heaven suffered "Violence, and the violent took it by force." So, as Jesus once said, "The kingdom is within you." Nevertheless, we can say without equivocation, that the Kingdom of Heaven was established (started, founded, or organized) in the days of Christ. But, it never reached the point for which it was intended, that is, "the will of God was NOT done on earth as it was in heaven," except in a limited sense. The apostasy started in the days of the Apostles, so that in a few years, there was no resemblance to the Church that the Lord had established. So, let the reader understand that to establish something, especially in the realm of religion, does not necessarily mean that one can see the fully developed thing spoken of. In this case, the Kingdom of Heaven was also established in these latter days; but, the complete adulthood or development will take place in the future, slowly but surely.

Another example: The calendar of our times is reckoned from the birth of Christ; yet, it was thirty years after His birth that He started His mission. Christianity was not established from the start of His mission, but from His birth. So, likewise, the Kingdom through the Restoration of the Gospel was established in 1830 but will not be fully established or "firmly fixed" until sometime in the future.

So, think of the term establish or establishment as a beginning or start, and think of the "Day of Rest" in terms of "cycle" rather than years per se. Then 1970 is the beginning of that cycle, slowly developing into the "Mountain of the Lord's House" established (firmly fixed) on the tops of the mountains and exalted above the hills.

A word of caution; don't let doubts or fears enter your minds and hearts as concerning the faith of our Church or in the writings of our older brothers. As Jude once said, ". . . and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the Saints." Remember, when Samuel, in the *Book of Mormon*, predicted that Christ would be born five years from the day of his prophecy? Well, many believed at that time, but as the years went by, only one man truly believed, Nephi. The rest were filled with doubts, so much that they had decided to kill anyone who believed in the prophecy of Samuel if it did not come to pass. But, the prophecy did come to pass, and the word of God through His servant, Samuel, was fulfilled. Remember, too, that it is the devil's job to try and discourage the saints and put doubts in the mind and heart of God's people. Therefore, let us all say, "Satan, Get thee behind us, we will have none of your discouragements." Let us glorify God that He has given the Church such hopes and aspirations as have not been given to anyone else. Remember, He has given this priesthood the keys to His Kingdom in these latter days. And it is this Ministry that shall carry the Banner of the Restored Gospel to the Gentiles, the Seed of Joseph, and to all of Israel. God bless all of you.

*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Matthew 5:16*



## One Having Authority

From the beginning of the ministry of Jesus Christ and throughout His entire mission, there was one significant observation among many that His followers made that distinguished Jesus from the scribes and the Pharisees. It is said of Jesus Christ throughout the four gospels that He taught as one having authority, not as the scribes. We must realize that in the sermons Jesus Christ administered, the words He spoke and the mysteries He revealed were not the reasons He spoke as one having authority; but, it was the Spirit of God that seasoned His speaking, and by the Spirit the words were conveyed to the hearts of His listeners with convicting power. Remember the scripture states the Spirit was given unto Jesus Christ without measure. When the woman caught in the act of adultery was placed before Jesus Christ to be judged, He spoke saying, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." The words alone were not what turned the multitude away, but as we read a little further we realize there was a conviction felt in their consciences. To be convicted within ones conscience of sin is only possible through the Spirit of God. Thus we see that the convicting power of the Spirit of God will bear witness with power to those who have received this true authority.

Today The Church of Jesus Christ is the only organization brought forth out of the restoration of the gospel that has this true authority. Since the restoration, from time to time, the conviction of God's Spirit has borne witness of the authority this Church has been blessed with. We, the brothers and sisters, are the fruition of this Church, for by this divine authority we are called unto repentance and service unto Christ by the conviction of the Spirit of God upon our hearts.

Now in these the last days when times are so perilous, this Church must stand forth as never before to preach repentance and baptism to this sinful nation. This authority which we have claimed to be ours alone must be conveyed to the hearts of all by the conviction of the Holy Ghost; yet even now it seems that we have not received the fulness of this convicting power to witness of our true authority. Possibly because of a lack of faith or disbelief or being drawn to the vain things of life that we do not always witness the fulness of conviction of God's Spirit. Nevertheless, according to prophecy both past and present day, the time is near that judgment must first begin at the house of God (the Lord will once again set His hand to His vineyard), and then The Church of Jesus Christ will be raised up with the power of God, this power bearing witness to our true authority to preach Jesus Christ to every nation, kindred, tongue and people. We look forward to that day trusting in God, for our faith shall sorely be tested.

Shall we then wait for this day to come? Let us fast and pray today to prepare and humble our hearts; let us read and search God's written word today to be equipped to testify, according to the Spirit, to all that will hear; let us not rebel because of this condition or that condition, but wait patiently on the Lord; let us be obedient, resisting temptation above all that we may please our Heavenly Father. Yea, we are they who

speak as one having authority, and the time soon cometh that the world will no longer turn a deaf ear.

The Glassport Branch

## Ohio Spiritual Meeting

The Warren, Ohio church building was the site of the second Ohio District spiritual meeting this year, and there was a capacity crowd in attendance. In addition to the many saints from Ohio, there was also a representation of young people from the Aliquippa, PA Branch. It is quite evident that the young people are always eager to gather whenever the opportunity is presented. They have really taken root, and it will be a blessing to watch them grow. They are sometimes referred to as the Church of tomorrow, but they are a very viable part of the Church of today, and if given the opportunity, they will become very much involved, not just as spectators, but as active participants.

Brother Skip Smith from Pinetop, Arizona, was the opening speaker, and he spoke briefly bringing forth many beautiful thoughts taken from one of our opening hymns, *O Zion When I Think On Thee*. He spoke enthusiastically about the glories that will come forth when Israel returns. Our brother carried a wonderful, quiet spirit as he continued to talk about Zion, and this was the dominant theme that prevailed throughout the remainder of the service.

Brother Frank Calabrese spoke next on the freeing of Israel. He quoted the following words from Hymn No. 17 in our *Saints Favorites*: "His purposes will ripen fast, unfolding every hour . . .", and he tied these words in with events that took place on his recent trip to Mexico. He encouraged us to live in the spirit of restoration and said that if we are faithful, we will be a part of the latter-day work.

Brother Russel Martorana spoke on Zion and exclaimed that we are waiting at the threshold of God's wonderful work. He related many recent experiences that have taken place and spoke very positively on the hopes of the Church. If we are in the spirit of restoration, God will reveal many things to us, regardless of where we are.

Brother Joe Calabrese observed that the young people in the Church are calling out for help, and he indicated that those who are older should build bridges for them as others had done for us.

There were many experiences brought forth by several brothers and sisters throughout the meeting, and one of them reiterated the experience that came forth a few years ago that we are living in the Joshua era.

The Ohio Area MBA Choir under the direction of Brother Ron Dziak of Lorain, Ohio, sang a medley of hymns that brought a blessing to all present.

In his closing remarks, our District President, Brother Joe Calabrese, reminded us to prepare for the October Conference, and he also announced that the

next spiritual meeting will be held on September 28 at Youngstown, Ohio. Brother Jim Moore from the Imperial, PA Branch closed in prayer.

## Sister Birdie Celebrates 91st Birthday

*By Frances J. Capone, Phoenix, Arizona*

On Sunday, July 27, 1980, Sister Birdie Furnier turned 91 years young.

She lives in a senior citizens' building complex where she has her own apartment and enjoys the many friends she has acquired in the area.

Her son, Brother Ether Furnier, and his wife, Sister Ella, gave her a sewing machine for a birthday present. She has sewn all her dresses since she was ten years old and continues to sew herself some very nice outfits.

She attends church services faithfully, and it is always uplifting to hear her inspiring testimony. She was baptized on August 23, 1914, at a time when many of us were far removed from the earthly scene.

The occasion of her birthday was marked in the dining room of the complex. Brother Ether and Sister Ella decided to give her a surprise "social". The members of the Phoenix Branch attended. Cake, ice cream, punch and coffee were served.

Sister Birdie was completely surprised. Many of her neighbors joined the church people in the celebration. One lady remarked that she was happy to meet the church people whom Sister Birdie always praises in such glowing terms.

At Sister Birdie's request we all sang *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* and on this blessed note we started to bid our adieu to a very happy Sister Birdie.

## Note of Thanks

On behalf of *The Gospel News* staff, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts and dedication of the office staff in Monongahela. They are:

|                           |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Office Manager            | Lucetta Scaglione |
| Circulation Manager       | Chris Nicklow     |
| Assistant Managing Editor | Richard Scaglione |

including others who have served faithfully with them in fulfilling the many functions of the business and editorial office. May God richly reward them for their efforts.

As of July, 1980, these functions are now being handled by the General Church Print House in Detroit, Michigan.

Editor

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

I want to take this opportunity to thank all my beloved brothers and sisters in Christ and friends who prayed for the healing of my body when I couldn't pray for myself. The concern of the saints shown me by their phone calls, cards and above all their sincere prayers touched me deeply. How wonderful it is to belong to the family and fold of God. We can't find that deep love the saints display anywhere else; surely they moved the mighty arm of God. How marvelous it is to have Jesus Christ, our advocate, who is faithful to plead our cause to God.

With much love to all,  
Sister Mary Corrado  
Youngstown, Ohio Branch

## Why do the heathen rage and the people imagine a vain thing? Psalm 2:1

We live in a world that does not respect its Creator nor believe that there is one. We live in a world where we are taught to live according to the dictates of our own heart. A world the inwardly would just as well not wish to be plagued with the thought that God one day shall return. It seems foolish to them to believe that "every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess to God". It seems to them that we live by chance being the victims of our own fault if we fail and succeed through life by our own genius.

The *Bible* says "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision". We live in the world not for our own pleasure and gain but for the glory and honour of our God. We are here not by chance but because of the will of our Creator. We shall live because He has appointed it so and shall live until He sees fit that we live not more.

"I will declare a decree: The Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my son this day have I begotten thee."

Be wise now therefore, O ye Kings: be instructed, ye Judges of the earth."

Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way."

God has spoken to us by Psalm for our own benefit. If we heed His counsel we shall find eternal life.

Anonymous

## Giving

"Go, give to the needy, sweet charity's bread,  
For giving is living," the angel said.

"Must I keep giving again and again?"

My peevish, petulant answer ran.

"Oh, no!" said the angel, piercing me through.

"Just give till the Master stops giving to you."

## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

### September and School

It has been said that an education is something a person gets for himself, not that which someone else gives or does to him . . . Schools should be places where people go to find out the things they want to find out and develop the skill they want to develop.

The summer months are gone and September is here to usher in the return to school. Going to school is an important and necessary part of a person's life, beginning in early childhood, continuing through youth and on into adulthood.

Schools are and should be a resource from which children and young people can take what they need and want to carry on the business of their own education. A few of these needs are as follows: one, a greater understanding of the world around them; two, a greater development of themselves; three, a chance to find their work or way in which they may use their own tastes and talents to grapple with the real problems of the world around them and to serve the cause of humanity.

Our society seems to ask our schools mainly to do three things for our children and young people: one, pass on the traditions and higher values of our own culture; two, acquaint them with the world in which they live; three, prepare them for employment and, if possible, success. Children need and deserve an opportunity to be useful in society. There are many roads to education and each learner is and should be free to choose, to find, to make his own.

#### *Learning As Growth*

Schools are not only a resource from which the student or learner collects facts or ideas. Teachers will readily agree that the school also fosters learning as a kind of growing, a moving and expanding of the person into the world around him. This surely must also be obvious to parents, friends of children or anyone who cares about education.

The rewards of a good education are many. The educated person is better prepared to secure gainful employment in the particular field of endeavor he may choose to pursue. He is in a position to make wiser and more important decisions. With advanced training or specialized talents, he is ready to accept and experience new responsibilities and challenges.

#### *Additional Rewards*

Additional rewards also await those who are willing to apply their learning and talents, as well as time and labor, in whatever degree, to the service of God and of others.

The Missionary Benevolent Association, The Ladies Uplift Circle and Sunday School, as auxiliary units of the Church, are useful and wholesome organizations. They, too, welcome the participation of those who may be interested and provide opportunities for the application, in some degree, of the training and skills that have been acquired in school.

Parents have an obligation to stimulate the thinking of their children and encourage them as they go to school. Teachers are urged to pursue with diligence, tact and patience their task of tutoring the student. And for the students ; . . . To be learned is good if they hearken to the counsels of God— *Book of Mormon*, II Nephi 9:29

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# The Children's Corner

By Mabel Bickerton  
Monongahela, PA



## Zeniff and King Laman

Dear Girls and Boys,

This story is found in the Book of Mosiah, *Book of Mormon*. Once there was a man named Zeniff. He was a Nephite. He was sent as a spy among the Lamanites who occupied the land of the Nephites' first inheritance. Zeniff went to spy out their forces so that his army could destroy them. But when he came to their land, he found much good among the people. He did not want to destroy them. The ruler was a firm, bloodthirsty man and commanded that Zeniff be killed. War broke out. It was a terrible time, father fought against father, brother against brother until most of the army was destroyed. The Lord protected Zeniff. Zeniff and others returned back home.

Zeniff and four of his men went into the city to see the king. His name was Laman. Zeniff was desirous to know what kind of a man the king was. He also wanted to get some land. The king granted him part of some land. Zeniff and his people soon began to build buildings and walls of cities. They planted many kinds of seeds, corn, wheat, barley and sheum, also all kinds of fruit. They were happy and began to prosper and multiply.

King Laman was very cunning. He had given this land to Zeniff and his people to bring them under bondage. Twelve years had passed and Laman saw the people were strong and very prosperous. He thought maybe it wouldn't be easy to control them. The king's people were lazy and liked to feast upon the flocks from Zeniff's land. Laman was uneasy. He began to stir up his people against Zeniff and Zeniff's people. Soon they were at war.

When Zeniff's people were tending their flocks, a great host of Laman's people came upon them. They began to kill them and take their flocks and corn. Zeniff's men fled to the land of Nephi and called Zeniff to protect them. Zeniff gave them bows, arrows, swords, cimeters, clubs and slings. Out they went to battle. The Lord gave them much strength to conquer the enemy. They drove the Lamanites out of the land.

Zeniff and his people took possession of the land and lived in peace. They began to till the ground again and raise all kinds of grain and fruits. The women learned to spin. They made fine linen and every kind of cloth. As long as they served God they were a happy

people.

This story proves the scripture, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you". Matthew 6:33

Sincerely,  
Sister Mabel

## Branch and Mission News

### News from Branch No. 3, Detroit, Michigan

By Kay Vitto, Branch Editor

There have been many special days for us and today, Sunday, April 20, 1980, was numbered among them. We had the opportunity of having Brother Peter Capone, one of our evangelists, from Scottsdale, Arizona, and his wife, Sister Frances, here in Detroit. Branch No. 3 was their spiritual birthplace; therefore, it held many precious memories.

Brother Frank Vitto welcomed the many visitors from various branches. He also expressed how elated we all were to see Brother and Sister Capone, after an absence of more than five years. Brother Peter Capone was invited to take over the meeting.

Brother Peter went on to say, we may feel "it's not an easy road". Perhaps it's not, but it's a glorious road because we have Jesus by our side. Could we imagine the joy and peace that filled the hearts of those of old, when they thought of Christ walking with them! That very statement, "Did not our hearts burn within us", is unimaginable. If Jesus were to walk with us, we can walk anywhere without fear of anything.

Brother Capone pointed out how Paul glorified God and referred to "the way", not being an easy road. Paul said, the peace that comes our way supercedes any problems that come our way when we put Christ first. He went on to say how the world today is in deep despair. People are longing for peace and the gifts of Christ, but they are trying to get them in a way that is unacceptable to God. God made many promises to His people, and He kept every one. Christ came and was crucified. He told the people, "I AM THE WAY". There is no other way!

Brother Peter encouraged us all to hold fast to that rod of iron. He has been clinging to that rod for 43 years and has not regretted one day. His words were encouraging to all of us, and they did burn in our hearts.

In closing our meeting, Brother Frank Vitto recalled the times that he conferred with Brother Peter when they resided in Detroit. He remembered many evenings spent together learning about this man called Jesus. There is much strength that is derived from the wisdom and knowledge of the older brothers and

sisters.

Sister Frances Capone expressed how happy she was to be here. It was like having a gift wrapped in gold paper. Even though we are miles apart, it is still the love of Christ that keeps us close.

What a beautiful thought to be able to know that regardless of where we are, the love of the saints truly keeps us as one body. Without that love, we are no different than anyone else. "By the love that ye have, the world will know you."

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The saints of Branch No. 3 experienced an extra blessing on Sunday, June 15, 1980. Adam Michael Coppa was happily welcomed into The Church of Jesus Christ. He was baptized by Brother Gary Coppa and confirmed by Brother Silver Coppa.

We pray that God will bless and direct our new brother in his new life of service to God.

## Baptism at Sterling Heights

*By Hazel Zoltek, Branch Editor*

Sunday, May 25, was a beautiful day filled with the sunshine from above, a day in which we also received a portion of sunshine in our hearts, a day to rejoice in the Lord and praise His precious name for another soul being brought into the Gospel.

Brother Paul Whitton offered prayer and spoke to us. He told of the spiritual blessings that took place at the MBA Conference, and how a plea was made to each of us to take up the work of the Church. We must fast and pray more often if we are to overcome the obstacles that befall us.

Brother Paul read James 1:22-27, and he said that we are commissioned by God to be doers of the work, to meet often for a Church effort. Brother Louis Vitto continued saying that he is grateful to be with us, to enjoy the blessings and the spirit of God. Let us do the things that will bring us closer to God; do away with the things of the world and do what is pleasing to God.

Brother John Buffa admonished us to take account of our lives, as we do not know when God will call us home. When we feel the spirit of God upon us, when we hear His voice, let us say, "Here am I, Lord." We have no promise of tomorrow unless we have salvation, unless we have rendered our life to Him.

Rosemary Szufner was asked to sing a closing hymn, and she chose *My Heavenly Father Watches Over Me*. We were dismissed by Brother Louis Visconti, then Brother John called to us to remain a few moments; Karen Vitto asked for her baptism.

We met at the lake at 6:00 p.m., and Karen was baptized by her father, Brother Louis Vitto. Back at the church, we sang songs of praise. Brother Jerry Benyola

offered prayer, and Sister Karen was confirmed by Brother Carl Frammolino. She was served sacrament by Brother Paul Whitton. She is now our youngest member. She asked that Brother Steve Champine sing *My God Is Real*. Sister Karen then said a few words, saying that she is very happy and that she loved us all and that we were a very special people to her.

There were confirmations among the congregation that there would be a baptism here today. We sang *God Is So Good* and were dismissed by Brother Louis Pietrangelo. We then adjourned to the church basement where refreshments were served and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

This writer then had the opportunity to talk to Sister Karen. She told me that she had been troubled for several months because she wanted to be baptized but that her parents thought that she was too young. All last week she fasted and prayed for God to give her direction. On Saturday night, her mother, Sister Shirley, read to her from the *Book of Mormon*, II Nephi 31:14, about the danger of falling away after having repented and being baptized; however, Sister Karen felt that she was ready.

When she came to the church today and asked to be prayed upon, she felt in her heart that if Brother Sam DiFalco was the one to offer prayer, it would be her sign to ask for her baptism. Brother Sam did pray upon her, and Karen knew that she could wait no longer.

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Sunday, June 7, while many of our members and two of our elders were enjoying themselves at the campout, we witnessed another soul being brought into the Gospel. Brother John Buffa's son, Ronald, and wife, Jeannette, and children, were visiting from Long Mont, Colorado. Their infant son, Clayton Ronald, born March 4, was blessed by Brother Vitto Buffa.

Brother John Buffa called Brother Louis Visconti, a teacher, to the rostrum to give his testimony. Brother Louis said that he wanted to be flexible before God that he might be used to uplift the brothers and sisters.

He read Psalm 46:1-11. Man was given a choice as to whether they would serve God. It is wonderful how God uses us, how He uplifts us and allows us to edify one another. The power of prayer in our life strengthens us; God hears and answers when we pray with real intent. He told of how his son was healed from spinal meningitis when he was four, how the Ladies Circle prayed and Sister LaSalla was given a vision where she saw the child healed. God has everything to offer us, and through Him, Brother Louis said he wants to serve us as God directs.

We sang *I Asked the Lord* and were about to be dismissed, when Brother Sam DiFalco asked if there was someone who wanted to come to Christ, and Gail Vivian stood and said, "I surrender".

We met at the lake, and Sister Gail was baptized by Brother John Buffa. We returned to the church and Sister Gail was confirmed by Brother Louis Pietrangelo, and the sacrament was served to her by Brother

Sam DiFalco. A song, *A New Name in Glory*, was dedicated to our new sister.

Sister Diane Hawkins sang *All My Life*, and Sister Gail was then asked to express herself. She told of meeting Sister Angie Champine and Sister Sally Dubreuil and how they had influenced her. Her life was in a turmoil. She was seeing a psychiatrist and taking tranquilizers. When she started coming to this Church, her mind began to clear, and she was brought to the realization that God really does answer prayer.

Sister Donna Amormino sang a beautiful song entitled *Sing Hallelujah*, one line being, "I found a lifeboat, praise God I reached the shore", very appropriate for Sister Gail today. We were dismissed by Brother Eugene Amormino and adjourned to the basement for refreshments.

Sister Gail said that she had two dreams which showed her that this was the right Church. She was praying for God to direct her, and in her dream, she heard Brother Louis Vitto singing *The Saviour Is Waiting*. In the other dream which she had on Saturday night, her cousin, who resents her coming here, was pulling on one arm and Brother John Buffa was pulling on the other. (Thank God, Brother John won!) She said she had fasted and prayed throughout the week and she was touched today when we sang *I Asked the Lord*. She said that as she looked at the rostrum, the only person she saw was Brother Sam DiFalco and that a light was glowing all about him.

Thank God for the wonderful elders and teachers we have in this Gospel, and also for our beloved sisters and brothers. May God bless and use each and every one of us.

## Evangelist ordained at Youngstown, Ohio

By Annette Corrado, Branch Editor

Sunday, May 25, 1980, was truly a memorable day for Brother Richard Santilli as he was ordained into the Quorum of Seventy. There was a good representation of brothers and sisters from various branches of the Ohio District. Michigan and Florida were also represented.

Our morning service was opened by Brother Tullio LaCivita of Detroit, Branch No. 4. Brother LaCivita recalled the many experiences and blessings that he felt here in The Church of Jesus Christ prior to his baptism. He reminisced how strong the Spirit of God was in those days, that you literally held on to your seat.

Brother Joseph Calabrese, Ohio District President, was our next speaker. He stressed that we must hold fast to the Rod of Iron, which is the *Bible* and the *Book of Mormon*. Brother Joe emphasized that we must also hold fast to that which is good and to those things that will not allow us to sink.

The morning meeting was adjourned, and we

retired to the basement for a light luncheon.

After Brother T. D. Bucci, our Presiding Elder, made a few opening remarks, the afternoon service was turned over to Brother Elmer Santilli, Chairman of the Ohio District Quorum of Seventies. Brother Richard Santilli introduced his Lamanite friends who are from the Akron and Youngstown Indian Centers. He also introduced the newly baptized brother and sister from Kent Mission.

Our opening speaker was Brother Dominic Moraco of Detroit, Branch No. 4. Brother Moraco recalled the Indian work at Muncey Reservation in Canada. He related a vision his mother had concerning an Indian sister. This sister felt that she had been a bad woman and wondered if her name was written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Brother William Cadman asked that they pray for her (Sister Nicholas). Brother Dominic's mother had a vision in which she saw the Lord on the throne with a large book and a large pen with a plume. He told her to tell Sister Nicholas that her name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life. We were blessed by this experience.

Brother Elmer Santilli followed, using many edifying words to the saints. He read an experience concerning the calling of Brother Richard as an evangelist. Brother Ralph Berardino read the duties of an evangelist. Brother Richard's feet were washed by Brother Raymond Cosetti of Cape Coral, Florida, and he was ordained by Brother Vincent Gibson of Cleveland, Branch No. 1.

May God bless Brother Richard in his new office as he endeavors to fulfill his calling.

## Cleveland, Ohio News

By Margaret Abbott, Branch Editor

Sister Kim Alaburda will be leaving soon for Red Lake, Arizona, where she will teach for a couple of months. Sister Kim is very talented in many fields of education. On Wednesday, June 25, the Cleveland Branch had a small going away social for her. She has been holding classes in the basement of the church building on arts and crafts and photography. She has always been an asset to our branch and to the young children in her Sunday School class. We wish Sister Kim success in her teaching endeavors. She has a wonderful testimony that she willingly passes on to everyone. We are very fortunate to have her in our branch. She will be greatly missed while she is gone. This is her way of helping the Seed of Joseph and the Lord during her vacation from school. Our sister has earned many scholarships that has helped her finance her way through school. God bless our sister in all her efforts.

We wish to thank everyone for their prayers on behalf of our dear Brother Albert Ventura, who is 86 years old. A few weeks ago, he underwent major surgery. He is now at home convalescing and is able to be up and about. The Lord has greatly blessed our brother and his family. Brother Albert and his

companion, Sister Carmella, have been married 65 years, spending most of those years in the Gospel. Brother Albert wishes to thank everyone for their prayers and beautiful cards. Continue to pray for this dear couple.

Sunday, June 22, we were very pleased to have with us Brother William and Sister Rose DeFranco of San Diego, California. Brother Bill and Sister Rose are originally from Cleveland. It has been many years since we have had the pleasure to fellowship with them. Brother Bill talked of his memories of the Cleveland Branch, which he calls home. It was here that he found the Gospel. Sister Rose is the daughter of the late Brother and Sister Thomas.

We of the Cleveland Branch are small in number, but the Lord never forgets us. His blessings and presence are felt by everyone. Our prayers are with you all. May the Lord bless everyone as we have been blessed.

## Ordination at Dallas Mission

*By Frances J. Capone, Phoenix, Arizona*

His feet were washed by Brother Patsy Marinetti; his head was anointed with oil; Brother Peter Capone prayed, and Brother George Benyola was now an ordained evangelist.

There was complete silence in the neat little white church in Allen, Texas as we all felt the blessings of His Spirit. To attend this memorable function, Brothers Richard Christman, Patsy Marinetti, Peter Capone and Sister Frances Capone had all traveled from Arizona.

The Dallas members dedicated two beautiful songs to the visitors: *Sweet, Sweet Spirit* and *I Believe*. Phil and Christina, children of Brother Phil, and Sister Linda Benyola, sang a duet: *Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam* and *Heavenly Sunshine*. Is there anything sweeter than hearing the little ones sing the gospel hymns?

Brother George injected a light-hearted note into the service when he introduced the visiting evangelists.

Then Brother Pete spoke. He told about an experience which had occurred to him during World War II. He had to register for the draft. Facing the draft board, he expressed the desire to be placed in the capacity for which he was suited. He was questioned about his religious beliefs. To this day he treasures his draft registration card with a minister's classification on it.

Shortly after, Brother Pete had a dream: A large package was delivered to him. It contained a white military officer's suit with gold braids on the shoulders and cap. In the April Conference at Greensburg, PA, he was called to be an evangelist. Then he heard a voice say, "Don't you remember the suit in the dream?" Brother Pete further added that Brother George was now blessed with that special white

suit—the white symbolizing purity and the gold the unchanging, permanent status of God. He then shook hands with Brother George and wished him well.

Brother Dick Christman followed on "enduring hardness as a good soldier" from St. Paul. He continued: There is no secret weapon or easy way to spread the Gospel. Basically, we should all be evangelists; every member has that commission, but we tend to get away from that idea. Years ago members told family, friends and strangers. Today we look to the authority to get people to church. Members assume that others of the church organization will do it. Don't look to one man to do the job. It is a joint responsibility.

Brother Dick then spoke on the second chapter of Timothy, how Paul took Timothy under his wing and how blessed it is to have someone counsel you, etc. Several times Brother Dick emphasized "Endure hardness as a good soldier." He continued, assuring the congregation that God does take care of things, but that problems, discouragements and hurts come and will keep on coming. Satan wants to prevent us from doing the most important work. He ended his sermon by saying that the Spirit of God is needed to spread the Gospel. There will be trials, troubles and loneliness—even in a group of people. However, the Gospel of Christ will change the world.

Brother Patsy Marinetti followed in a hoarse whisper. He had lost his voice.

He spoke about the spontaneous and unanimous spirit that was prevalent in the selection of Brother George for the Quorum of Seventies. Brother Patsy reminded everyone that we are in the service of each other. New tasks and new trials will come, but sanctification will be the result. In his concluding remarks he was confident that Brother George would be an asset to the area and to the Quorum.

Brother George arose and requested the prayers of the saints. He remarked on the unity of love shown by the visiting evangelists. There was a season of testimony and it was beautiful. Everyone present gave his (or her) testimony, and the Spirit of God was alive and vibrant.

Brother Ralph Frammolino, whose wife, Sister Jean, had just gifted him with a new piano for their second wedding anniversary, played *Love's Thy Me* as a part of his testimony.

In her testimony Sister Linda Benyola spoke about Brother George's mother (Sister Josephine Benyola of New Jersey) and how she had desired to be present at the ordination. Sister Josephine has an invalid husband. Sister Linda requested prayers in her behalf . . . a very touching testimony.

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Brother Douglas McClellan arose weeping and embraced Brothers George, Dick, Peter and Patsy. Brother George gave all the honor and glory to God. He praised his wife and companion for her constant and abiding support.

Brother Bill Crall was anointed by Brother Patsy. He had hurt his shoulder in a recent accident. He and



his wife, Sister Evelyn, had traveled about 250 miles from their home in Anadarko, Oklahoma. They are members of the Dallas Mission.

Rejoicing in the spirit demonstrated in the group, Brother Pete was happy for the opportunity to be present. He conveyed the best wishes of the Phoenix members to the Dallas members.

In his closing remarks Brother George said that he was happy to be a part of the Phoenix Branch. He, in turn, sent the mission's love to the Arizona members.

As the visitors were homeward bound, they left Dallas with wonderful memories of an enjoyable Saturday evening spent at Brother Ralph and Sister Jean Frammolino's new home, singing hymns to the glory of God, and who will ever forget the beauty of Brother George Benyola's ordination on Sunday, June 8, 1980?

## News from Rochester, N. Y.

*By Carmella D'Amico, Branch Editor*

On April 27, 1980, the Rochester, N. Y. Mission had the joy of having Brother and Sister Burge from Erie, PA visit with us. Brother Burge opened the service and chose for his text Psalm 91, the happy state of the Godly. "I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust." Brother Burge indicated we should light our candle and not hide it under the bushel so that it may be seen of men, and that what we put into life is what we will reap. He encouraged us to nurture the Spirit of God in order to get gain and that we should cleanse ourselves from within and without. After singing *The Mercies of God*, the meeting was opened for testimony, after which sacrament was administered.

Brother Ansel D'Amico emphasized the same subject and said that the words of our brother were wonderful words of life. He likened him to Enos who wanted to taste and feel the joy of the saints. Our object should be to reach the goal of eternal perfection and to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth. A wonderful spirit and blessing prevailed all during the meeting.

On June 22, Brother Elmer Santilli visited us as part of the rotation schedule. Accompanying him was Brother Keith White, also of the Perry, Ohio Mission. Brother Elmer chose for his text Moroni 9. This is the second epistle of Mormon to his son Moroni and deals with the atrocities committed by the Lamanites and Nephites and also a father's last affectionate admonition to his son.

Brother Elmer gave many words of encouragement for us to labor while it is yet daylight, because soon the night will come when we will not be able to work.

Brother Ansel D'Amico gave some concluding remarks and the meeting was brought to a close with Brother Keith White offering the prayer.

## San Fernando Valley News

*By Virginia Surprenant, Branch Editor*

It is evident that the Spirit of God is spreading throughout the Church as we read and hear of the many baptisms in the various branches. We are happy to report that the San Fernando Valley Branch is not excluded.

On June 29, 1980, we were blessed to witness the baptism of Vicki McCarty. Sister Vicki has been a visitor for approximately six months. She has been reading, absorbing, and searching to find the truth, and we thank God that she has found it. She was baptized by Brother Emmett Hood and confirmed by Brother John Azzinaro. Brother Emmett noted on a piece of paper a month earlier that Sister Vicki would be baptized that Sunday, but she was not. (Brother Emmett usually writes notes to himself during the meeting and throws them away after the service.) This note was not thrown away, and the morning of Sister Vicki's baptism, Brother Emmett opened his brief case and lying on top of his books was the note that said that she would be baptized. Sister Vicki called for her baptism at the close of our feet washing service that day. It's such a blessing to see the glow of God's Spirit on her face and the enthusiasm that she has for the Church.

The following Sunday Aaron Verardo asked for his baptism. He was baptized on Sunday, July 13, 1980, by his father, Brother Frank Verardo, and confirmed by Brother Edmund Buccellato. Brother Frank also blessed his grandson, Joshua Joseph Verardo, the same day. Brother Aaron expressed his desire to never leave the Church and to work for the Lord.

Afterwards we all gathered at the new home of Brother Edmund and Sister Leanna Buccellato. Brother John Azzinaro offered a prayer of blessing on their new home, as it was a wonderful way to end a Holy Sabbath.

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On July 20, 1980, we were overwhelmed to have visitors from every branch in California, Louisiana, New Jersey, Michigan and Redlake, Arizona.

Sister Diane Surdock sang a solo, *I'll Never Out Love My Lord*. Brothers Peter Genaro and Steve DeCaro sang a duet, *The Touch of God's Hand*.

Apostle, Bob Watson, spoke on how we must never stop short of our goal in life. He related an example of a group of miners searching for gold and unknowingly stopping only three feet from the gold vein. He related many more experiences touching each of us. He stressed that we must never give up.

Brother Mark Randy followed and told of his experiences as a child in Italy, how he was saved from a drowning death, and this was the beginning of a relationship with God and his belief in the Lord. He also related about the recent baptism of Brother Ochala in Modesto.

God's blessings and presence were felt and were expressed in the many testimonies that followed.

A delicious and abundant pot luck dinner was prepared by our sisters, and again we thank God for a beautiful Sunday.

## Baptism at Redlake

Loretta Brutz was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on June 29, 1980, in Redlake, Arizona. Brothers Robert Watson and Dwayne Jordan performed the baptism; Brother Watson later confirmed the gift of the Holy Ghost upon her.

Sister Loretta became acquainted with the Church several years ago through her husband, Brother Ron Brutz. The events leading up to her baptism began last April when the Redlake sisters traveled to District Ladies Circle Conference in Bell, CA. The sisters shared many wonderful things and beautiful experiences. It was there that Sister Loretta felt a spirit of oneness with the Church, and for the first time felt that she could become a part of this Gospel.

On the Sunday of the baptism, there was a beautiful spirit of love, repentance and baptism. Sister Sarah Watson related a dream she had to the effect that the Gospel is very plain and simple and could be explained through the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon*; however, it cannot be proved, but had to be believed and accepted only through faith. Sister Loretta felt this experience was for her and rose to her feet.

At Redlake, the baptismal site was filled with love. As Sister Loretta's head was being covered by the cleansing water, the gift of tongues was spoken by Brother Peter Genaro. Brother Dwayne, still in the water, heard the interpretation as a loud voice saying, "I have called her and have already called many, many more".

The Church has been established for seven years in Redlake, and Sister Loretta is the first full-blooded Navajo to be baptized. We believe her calling signals the commencement of the work among the Navajo people. We give honor and glory to God and await with great anticipation His unfolding of the latter day events. We feel like the poet:

"As children of Zion, Good tidings for us,  
The tokens already appear;  
Fear not, and be just,  
For the Kingdom is ours;  
The hour of redemption is near."

## An Experience in Phoenix

By Frances J. Capone, Branch Editor

"... and if they drink any deadly thing . . ."

Please read Mark 16:18.

Now I have something to tell you about an incident that happened in our household on Friday evening,

June 27, 1980.

Our coffee pot was very discolored with the dark stain of constant coffee making, so I went to the store and bought a chemical that would remove the stains and restore the pot to its original gleaming white. After the dinner dishes were washed, I decided to initiate this special cleaning job.

Brother David, our adult son, was napping at the time. I went to his room, awakened him and told him that I was cleaning the coffee pot with a chemical poisonous solution. I warned him three times, as I did not want him to get up and pour himself some of his favorite brew as he customarily does. He answered me and then he must have fallen asleep again.

Brother Pete and I were watching TV when Dave went into the kitchen. After a couple of minutes, Pete joined him there, and then I heard Dave's voice above the TV: "This coffee has a terrible taste!"

With sudden horror gripping my heart, I flew into the kitchen. Brother Pete was calm and in control of himself, but I was hysterical. When I regained my composure, I questioned Dave, and he said that he had drunk more than half a cup of "coffee", and he had no recollection of my warning him about anything!

Brother Pete took the blessed oil and anointed Dave. You can believe me when I tell you that I did some intensive praying.

I called the Poison Control Center and followed their instructions. The Center called every hour to get a progress report on Dave's condition. For the most part, he suffered no serious ill effects.

Praise God! He really lives! He is the same yesterday, today and forever, and we thank Him from the bottom of our hearts for another wonderful miracle.

## \* WEDDINGS \*

### FUNKHOUSER-BURGE

Brother George Funkhouser, III and Miss Mary Lou Burge were united in marriage in a garden ceremony in Edinboro, Pennsylvania, on July 19, 1980.

The ceremony was officiated by the father of the bride, Brother Harold Burge, and was assisted by Brother Sam Sgro of New Brunswick, New Jersey. Musical selections were presented by Tina Lesik and Larry Kaiser and pianists, Jeff Owens and Robin Rhodes.

The Funkhouser's will make their home in New Hope, Pennsylvania. May the Lord bless their lives together.

### GULA-KOCUBA

Mr. Lance Gula and Sister Denise Kocuba were united in holy matrimony in The Church of Jesus

Christ, Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, on June 19, 1980.

Sister Marty Jumper and Brother Ken Staley sang musical selections. Sister Nancy Botwright was soloist, and Sister Sharon Staley was organist and pianist.

The newlyweds are residing in Aliquippa. May God richly bless them as they begin a new life.

## — NEW ARRIVALS —

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

Sebastiano Nicholas to Robert and Louise DeCarlo of San Fernando Valley, California;

Christina Marie to Patrick and Bernie King of San Fernando Valley, California;

Alyse Danielle to Daniel and Lori Prokup of Niles, Ohio;

Janna Alise to Ralph and Marge Zinzi of Bronx, New York;

Robin Lynn to Roy and Vicki Barlett of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania; and

Ryan Kenneth to Kenneth and Andrea Tamburrino of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania.

## ◆ OBITUARIES ◆

*We wish to express our sympathy to those that mourn over the loss of loved ones. May God bless and comfort you.*

### JOSEPH JOHN ELZBY

Mr. Joseph John Elzby passed on to his eternal reward on July 6, 1980. He was 60 years of age.

Left to mourn his passing are his wife, Sister Olive Elzby, two sons, a daughter and four grandchildren.

The funeral services were conducted by Brothers Robert A. Watson and Bob Stanek.

He was a dear friend to the Windsor saints. To the children of Windsor Branch he was known as the "Candy Man".

. . . . .

### ANTHONY GENTILE

Brother Anthony Gentile departed this life on June 9, 1980. He was born October 20, 1891 and was baptized on May 21, 1933.

He is survived by his wife, Clementina, one son, one daughter, five grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

The funeral services were conducted by Brother Ansel D'Amico. His long fellowship with the Rochester saints will be missed.

. . . . .

### KATE COOPER

Sister Kate Cooper of the Lockport, New York Branch died on February 3, 1980 in Lockport. She was 90 years old.

She was born December 11, 1889 in Poland. She was baptized and confirmed by Brother Paul D'Amico on October 21, 1951.

She leaves to mourn her loss a daughter, Mrs. Diprofio, with whom she lived, several other children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and many brothers and sisters in Christ.

She was a wonderful sister and a great inspiration to all. May God comfort her loved ones and all who knew her.

Services were conducted by Brother Paul D'Amico in Lockport.

. . . . .

### EMMA EVELYN SMITH

Sister Emma Evelyn Smith died on June 6, 1980, at St. John, Kansas. She was born on November 6, 1878 and had been a lifelong resident of St. John, Kansas.

She is survived by eight daughters, eighteen grandchildren, forty-two great-grandchildren, and thirteen great-great-grandchildren. The Lord took her home to rest after blessing her with a long life of 101 years.

Brother Alexander Robinson assisted at the funeral service.

. . . . .

### BASILIO (BUZZY) DI MASSO

Brother Basilio "Buzzy" DiMasso of the McKees Rocks Branch passed away on April 13, 1980. He was born in Italy on June 18, 1888 and was baptized on November 9, 1930.

He is survived by a daughter, Sister Anna DiAntonio, and a son, Brother Eli DiMasso, both of the McKees Rocks Branch. He also has a son, Angelo DiMasso in Florida, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were officiated by Brothers Richard Lawson and Dan Casasanta.

Everyone will remember Brother Buzzy as we were all his sweethearts. He did much for the Church as a deacon and has left us with his testimony, for which we rejoice. We shall hold many wonderful memories near and dear to us until we meet again.

# The Gospel News

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa., USA.

(USPS 228 480)

October, 1980

Volume 36, No. 10

## Blessings in Tijuana

*By Brother and Sister Purdue*

*Tijuana Conference*

We had a very nice conference in Tijuana (west coast). We had the following brothers who visited the conference in our new building, which was our first west coast conference: Brothers Dominic Thomas, James Lovalvo, Joseph Lovalvo, Frank Calabrese, and Brother Palacios, as well as many elders and evangelists and brothers and sisters from the States.

Two young men were ordained ministers, one for Tijuana and one for Sinaloa, to help our missionaries there. Also, two young men were ordained deacons for Tijuana. A sister had a vision where she saw Brother Jim Lovalvo put a crown on the head of Brother Luis Pacheco when he was being ordained a minister. This brother will be a help to us in Tijuana.

Brother Jim Lovalvo was carried away in the spirit, and the Lord showed him the poverty of the people and then showed him a change that took place. It became a nice place. None were poor, neither were there any rich. We surely would like to see this in our lifetime.

Our new building is full to capacity. If all were to come at one time, the building could not hold them; therefore, we have another group on Wednesday mornings.

### *Baptisms and Experiences*

So far this year we have had 18 baptisms, and there are several now waiting to be baptized. We thank God for our lot in the Gospel and that He has used us as instruments in His hands (not that we are worthy or merit anything from Him). So far, we have worked 25 years trying to do what we can—five years in a place called Los Nietos near Los Angeles and 20 years in Tijuana. We thank God for the souls He has called in.

On August 7, a young sister who had recently been baptized went into a coma at 8:00 PM. We received a call from Tijuana at midnight from a sister and brother

who were staying with her in a clinic. Afterwards, she became delirious and did not recognize anyone. She foamed at the mouth and had convulsions. She was sent home, as the doctors said there wasn't anything more that they could do for her. We were very sad over

(Continued on Page 3)

## Conference Notice

The October "Non-Business" Conference will convene on Thursday morning, October 16, 1980, at 9:00 a.m. in the General Church Auditorium in Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

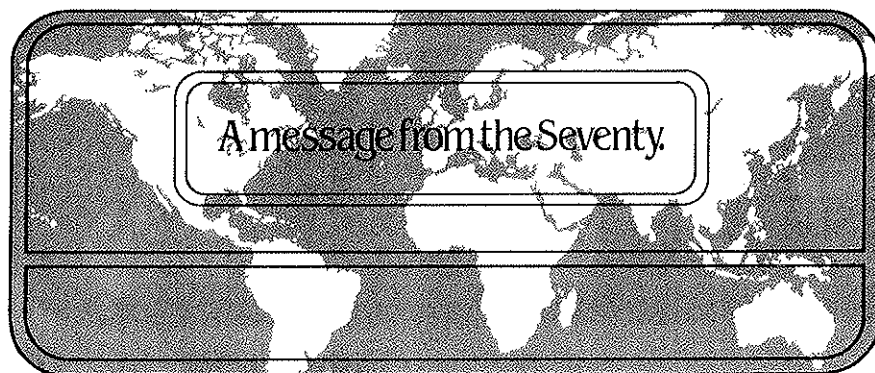
The Thursday, October 16, 1980, session will be closed to everyone except the priesthood and teachers. The morning session will begin in fasting and prayer.

Friday and Saturday sessions will be open to everyone and will begin at 9:00 a.m. in fasting and prayer. Sunday service will start at 10:00 a.m.

Note:

1. Light meal will be furnished on a pay-as-you-attend basis. The cost will be \$2.00 per meal per person, children 6 to 12 years old will be \$1.00, children under 6 years of age will be free.
2. Those attending the conference must make their own arrangements for lodging.
3. A large tent will be set up to feed the large number of people planning to attend the conference.
4. Those attending should bring their own Church hymnal, an umbrella in case of inclement weather, and a sweater.

ALL ARE WELCOME!



*By Quorum News Coordinator,  
Paul Benyola  
Quorum Writer,  
Ralph Frammolino*

Relying on God's Spirit for direction is a basic ingredient in the work of The Church of Jesus Christ—whether it be in bearing a testimony, singing a song, offering a prayer or preaching a sermon.

And never is this reliance more necessary or evident than when the Church asserts itself in missionary work.

Brother Nephi DeMercurio, an evangelist in the Church, is working in Nigeria, trying to spread the Gospel through preaching and teaching. His latest report to the Quorum of Seventy indicates how this reliance on God's Spirit reaped blessings for him and our brothers and sisters across the ocean.

Brother Nephi cites the working of the Spirit in two miraculous healings. The first happened one Sunday in February, when a brother named Thompson suddenly fell to the earth in front of the Church headquarters. "Every attempt was made to revive him," wrote Brother Nephi. "During this time, we began to anoint him, and within moments, he began to recognize people. Within minutes, he got up and attended church, even though he was advised by some to return home. His desire was to attend the church meeting in which he did.

His condition has been quite normal since that time."

The healing was a "turning point" in the work in Nigeria, wrote Brother Nephi. It was followed by another miracle the next Sunday morning when a woman collapsed while carrying a pail of water across the compound of Brother E. A. U. Arthur, another evangelist of the Church. The woman had no pulse, but Brother Arthur anointed her. She began to revive. She still did not stir or speak, however, and Brother Arthur continued to pray until 8:00 AM, when someone sent for Brother Nephi.

"After I prayed for the woman, the woman showed further improvement and began to move," he wrote. "Toward the end of the day, the woman fully recovered. This event had a great impact on the people who witnessed this dramatic healing."

But the Spirit of God can work in more subtle ways. Brother Nephi writes about how he felt a need to preach from I Corinthians 6:1-20 and 7:1-2. He said he struggled over this, "wrestling with Satan to such an extent that I questioned whether I could preach" to students at the Church-sponsored school. "However, despite all my turmoil, I knew that this text had to be preached, and perhaps this was the reason Satan was troubling me. I had the feeling and assuery that God would bless me, but I did not know to what extent."

That night, Brother Nephi preached to 300 students, relying again on God's Spirit. The response was overwhelming. He writes that the next day, a student, who was not a member of the Church, said that the sermon was packed with the power of God.

"He further stated that my face (became) a beautiful and glowing countenance and that students were paying attention to every word spoken. The student claims that the attention paid by the students and their response to the sermon have never been equalled."

In return for his efforts, Brother Nephi has earned the affection of the people in Nigeria. On March 13, a student came to him for financial help. When Brother Nephi joked and asked, "What would you do without me?" the student replied with a serious gaze. "In a very sober and serious tone of voice, he responded, 'You are like a father to us, and we can trust and depend on you'," Brother Nephi wrote. "He explained what he meant by father, that I was a spiritual father to them (students) by teaching and guiding them."

The Quorum of Seventy prays that God will continue to bless the work in Nigeria and the other mission fields of the Church, and that we may continue to rely on God's Spirit for direction.

May God bless Brother Nephi, his wife, Sister Lorraine, and his two sons. This is the third year they have spent on missionary work in Africa. Let us continue to remember them and all of the Brothers and Sisters and their families who have denied themselves the comforts of home in order to spread the Gospel throughout the world.

Two brothers have been called to the Quorum to serve as evangelists—Brother George Benyola of Texas and Brother Richard Santilli of Ohio. May God bless our brothers in their spiritual vocation. We will have more information on these brothers in our future messages.

The evangelists are available to present the Gospel to all who desire to hear. If you know of someone who is interested, or if you would like to know more of our beliefs, please contact the Quorum of Evangelists, C/O The Gospel News.

## (Blessings in Tijuana Continued)

this and could not rest. We called the place where our people were at a campout and asked for prayers.

The next day, Friday, August 8, we went to her home for Brother Perdue to pray for her. When I (Sister Perdue) talked to her, she barely opened her eyes. When I told her I was Sister Evelyn, she called to her mother and said, "Mama, who is this?" She did not recognize anyone.

We had several sisters with us. As Brother Perdue laid his hands on her, one of our sisters started to sob. She had a vision where the Lord came in dressed in white flowing robes and touched the young sister. Another sister saw the hands laid on her, and these hands were large and white. After the prayer, I took her in my arms and I asked her if she knew me. She said, "Sister Evelyn," and grabbed me. We both started to cry as she hung on to me. She recognized all that were in the room.

Brother Perdue told the mother to bring her some water. She got up when Brother Perdue told her to, and she was rejoicing because of what God did for her. We all shed tears for the joy we felt. Our sister didn't remember anything from the time she went into a coma. I told my companion that if God doesn't perform a miracle, this sister would surely die. We thank God for all the wonderful things that He has done through the years we have been in Tijuana.

Remember us in your prayers and also those who are in Sinaloa, Mexico City and Michoacan (three different states in Mexico).

## Ohio District Conference

*By Jim Alessio, District Editor*

The Saturday session of the Ohio District Conference was held in Perry, Ohio, and the Sunday meeting was hosted by the Youngstown Branch. Prior to the opening of our service, the Ohio Area Choir under the direction of Brother Ron Dziak, sang two selections, and Sister Carla Dziak sang a beautiful hymn entitled *Zion's Borderland*, which was written by Sister Arlene Buffington.

Brother Jerry Giovannone, the opening speaker, read from Revelation 21 and expounded on that scripture briefly before relating a dream he had about three weeks previously. In the dream he found himself standing on the earth, and suddenly it began to break up and began to melt as lava. He tried to escape but was unable to do so. Suddenly the Lord appeared before him and told him, "You are not going to escape." Finally, after he was unable to find any more solid ground on which to stand, there appeared a cloud about knee high in front of him. The Lord told our brother to step up on the cloud, but Brother Jerry was afraid to do so because he feared the cloud would not support him. The Lord then commanded him to do so

and as he obeyed, he was surprised to find that he did not fall. The Lord then told our brother to stand on his right, and as he did, the clouds began to disappear, and he found himself standing on a new earth, and he saw that it was clean and looked like a freshly mowed lawn. Brother Jerry wove this dream in with the scripture he had read and directed his remarks to those who had not yet rendered obedience to the Gospel, admonishing them to seek first the kingdom of heaven and its righteousness. Brother Bob Ciarrochi spoke next, and he assured us that God has prepared a new world for those who love Him. Brother Bob also read from Isaiah 55, "Ho, everyone that thirsteth . . ." and extended an invitation to those who had not yet made a commitment to serve God. Brother Bob also related his calling into the Gospel and said that the most difficult thing was to break down his pride and admit he was wrong. The Lord wants followers and those who live with the Lord will never die.

Brother Frank Calabrese spoke briefly and in his discourse he made reference to the woman at the well and extended an invitation to drink freely of the waters of life. Jesus told the woman that the water He would give her would be a well of water springing up within her to everlasting life. Brother Paul Ciotti arose at this time and spoke as follows: Thus saith the Lord, "Hear the word of the Lord My people. Let this message go throughout the Church. You that have made a covenant to serve Me, I speak by way of commandment to prepare yourselves. The message that you have heard is for preparation, My people, and I speak unto you because I love My people. So you that have obeyed Me, examine your lives and know that I will gather together the people of God. You that have not obeyed Me, I speak by way of invitation. Come, come and drink of the fountains of living water. I have revealed to My servant that which will come upon this nation, and My word is true. Therefore, I warn My people to be prepared lest they be caught with the world. Gather My people, gather My people, hearken to My words. There is life in Me; there is joy in Me. Let all people come unto Me and I will tell all this is My Church and this is My authority. Let no man deceive you; this is My Church I have purchased with My blood", saith Jesus Christ.

Brother Rocco Biscotti spoke a few words of encouragement to us and was telling about his asking the Lord, "How is Brother Ishmael D'Amico?" At this time, Brother Frank Altomare arose and said, "He is resting in Paradise," thus saith the Lord. "He is there, happy and full of joy. Blessed is the name of God." In his closing remarks, Brother Rocco urged us to give heed to the Lord.

Brother Paul D'Amico addressed the congregation in the Italian language, especially for the benefit of Brother LoRicco, the elder from Italy, who was in our midst. Brother LoRicco was given an opportunity to express himself, and he was followed by Brother A. A. Corrado who recapped in the English language what our brother from Italy had said.

Our meeting was brought to a close after a few remarks by our District President, Brother Joe Calabrese.

## A Testimony

*By Rose Palacios, Lorain, Ohio*

I would like to share with our brothers and sisters what God has done for my eye. All honor and glory belongs to Him, the One who has heard the prayers of my brothers and sisters. In Isaiah 65:24 it says, "And it shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer and while they are yet speaking, I will hear."

Brothers and sisters, that is just what happened to me. God has taken a heavy burden from my shoulders. I had gone to the doctor because I was having problems with my left eye. One night I was talking on the phone with Brother Frank Calabrese, and I put the phone down to reach for my *Bible* because we were going to read a verse of scripture over the phone. Just at that time, I closed my eyes for a moment and I saw the roof of my home open, and from heaven I saw a raindrop coming down and it went right into my left eye. I knew this raindrop was the blessed oil. Just then I opened my eye and realized that the Lord had just given me an experience. I told Brother Frank what happened. I felt such a blessing in telling it. I went to the doctor again, and my left eye was now 20/20. Praise God!

A few months later as I was going out to our car, which was parked in the street, another car went by and threw a small stone from the ground into my right eye. I put my finger on my eye to rub it out, and this made it even worse. I had made a little hole in the center of my eye that caused my vision to be blurry. I went before God over and over again to be anointed. The time came that I was to see Dr. Balinck. When he saw me he expressed concern that I would not be able to see with my right eye, and so he recommended that I go to the Cleveland Clinic because he couldn't do anything for me, if anything could be done. He also told me they would probably have to put a shot in the center of my eye to help it. A huge mountain was now before me. I became very scared at the thought of a needle going into my eye, but I didn't get discouraged because I had faith in what God could do. I said, "Lord, I have faith knowing that when I had bad kidneys you healed both of them. As I was anointed for my kidneys, the Word of the Lord came forth saying, 'JESUS NEVER FAILS'."

Then a few years ago, I had a tumor in my chest, which He healed. As I was anointed for my tumor, the Word of the Lord again came forth saying, "I AM THE SAME YESTERDAY, TODAY AND FOREVER". And even as I mentioned earlier, He healed my right eye. I said, "Lord, increase my faith that Your hand will move for me again." I went to the doctor on a Tuesday. When I got home, I fell asleep and I found myself back at the doctor's office. On his desk I saw a white card on which he would write the results of my examination. I picked up the card and it read "dead tissue" on it. The following Sunday I went to get anointed and the Word of the Lord came forth with these words to me: "I WILL TAKE CARE. THUS SAITH THE LORD. I AM THAT GREAT GOD. THE SAME GOD AND I WILL TOUCH YOUR EYE AND THOU SHALT BE MADE WHOLE IN THE NAME OF JESUS WHO SITS UPON

HIS THRONE. BLESS MY NAME FOREVER AND EVER AND I WILL BLESS YOU. FEAR NOT, THUS SAITH THE LORD. I AM THAT GOOD SHEPHERD. I HAVE DIED FOR YOU AND I WILL BE WITH YOU AND ALL MY PEOPLE." The next day at the Cleveland Clinic, four doctors examined me and each one declared that there was no hole in my eye and that I would never go blind (this was my main concern).

On Wednesday night I gave my testimony of what God had done for me, and I also told what the doctors had said. I told them how I had to wait four hours, and every time I would have to wait for a doctor, I would take out the paper of what was spoken to me the day before at Church of what God had promised me. I can truly say I didn't have fear at all. As I was testifying, the Word of the Lord came forth: "OH MY PEOPLE, I WILL SPEAK HERE AT THIS TIME. HAVE FAITH IN GOD AT THIS TIME AND I WILL SHOW MANY WONDERFUL MIRACLES EVEN IN THESE THE LAST DAYS. DRAW NEARER UNTO THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND YOUR SOUL AND YOUR MIGHT AND I SHALL SHOW GREATER, GREATER MIRACLES SHALL COME, THUS SAITH THE LORD, IN THIS CHURCH IN THESE THE LAST DAYS, MY BROTHERS." The report from the clinic results was sent 18 days later to me and to my doctor and it read: "I do not recommend any additional tests, and I expect that visual activity may remain at this level or improve in the future." The eye was 20/60 the first time I saw Dr. Balinck. After being at the clinic, it was 20/40. The examination showed it was now entirely normal.

One experience I would like to close with is one that occurred on March 5, 1978. I was being anointed for my tumor. The Word of the Lord came forth at that time: "AND YOUR LIFE SHALL BE EXTENDED, AND THOU SHALT SEE GREAT THINGS AND THOU SHALT TELL EVEN THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS AND THE WORLD I AM THE LIVING GOD." Brothers and sisters, the reason I have related to you of what God has done for my eye is because He told me I would tell all that He is a living God (and He is our living God).

## The Lord Permits

*By Mark Randy, Evangelist*

The Lord oft-times permits that we be ill,  
That we may learn to be quiet and still.  
While we lay subdued He comes to impart,  
Softly talking to us heart to heart.

The Lord oft-times permits sorrow and pain,  
That we may a little wisdom gain.  
Beneath the shadows, the valley of death,  
We gain a measure of love and faith.

The Lord permits adversities and woe,  
That we may a little of Him know.  
He talks to us while we're still and alone,  
Assuring us we're His very own.



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## *Editorial Viewpoint . . .*

### **A Time for Thanksgiving**

When we pause from daily strivings  
and give thoughts to our gifts. . .  
Our homes, our work, our families,  
quite soon our vision lifts  
To God, before whose harvest  
all man-made things decrease.  
Our humble hearts are grateful  
that still His gifts increase.  
We take stock of our blessings,  
viewing one more harvest's board,  
And we bow in thankful reverence  
at the table of our Lord.

We are awed by the swift passing of the summer season! The harvest-autumnal season is ushered in, and shortly President Carter, in keeping with our time-honored American tradition, will formally proclaim the last Thursday of November as a national day of Thanksgiving.

#### *God's Providence*

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 for the peoples of the world, as well as the people here in America, that we continually need God's providence.

It is a time for us to look up to the source from which our many bounties ceaselessly come. It is a time for us to respond with heartfelt gratitude to our Heavenly Father for another bounteous harvest and manifold blessings throughout the year of our Lord, 1980. It is a time for us to be moved as with one heart and one voice in gratitude to God. It is a time for us to count our blessings that have been showered upon us by the Hand of Providence during the year that is so swiftly drawing to a close. It is a time to pause and note the plight of many people in the underprivileged areas of the world.

#### *Improving Food Distribution*

It is reported that millions of people are still underfed and undernourished in these areas. The United States is endeavoring to work with other nations in a program to improve food distribution to isolated populations within poor countries. Additionally, the U.S., which holds 40 per cent of the world's grain supply, is pressing for a system of international food reserves.

The threat of famine and undernourishment may not be completely abolished, but at least the peoples and governments in the more affluent societies are beginning to show their concern by cooperating more closely to combat it.

May God bless and reward all who are concerned and for their efforts to reach out to the undernourished and underprivileged wherever they are. Surely, this is pleasing to God!

“. . . Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.” Matthew 25:40

# The Children's Corner

By Mabel Bickerton  
Monongahela, PA



## Alma and His Son

Dear Girls and Boys,

In the *Book of Mormon* we read about a great prophet, missionary and governor. His name was Alma. His father's name was also Alma.

Alma had three sons, Helaman, Shiblon and Corianton. He called his sons to him, one by one, to prepare them for the future. Helaman was the first. He began by telling Helaman of his own conversion. He was with the sons of King Mosiah seeking to destroy the Church, when they heard a voice as of thunder. The earth trembled. They fell to the ground as they were afraid. An angel appeared and a voice said, "Arise, seek no more to destroy the Church of God." For three days and nights Alma could not speak or walk. After the experience he laboured without ceasing to bring souls to repentance. He asked Helaman to also preach the Gospel as he had and to live close to the Lord.

Alma gave Helaman the sacred records and the ball or Liahona, which the Lord had given to Lehi. Alma said, "Take care of all these sacred things." Alma spoke many wonderful words to Helaman, among them were, "Remember my son, learn wisdom in thy youth and keep the commandments of the Lord." Alma then bade farewell to his son, Helaman.

Alma next called Shiblon to him. He told him to be faithful, for blessed is he who endures to the end. He related his conversion to Shiblon also to show him there was no other way that man could be saved, only through Christ. He said to be meek and not be lifted up in pride; to refrain from idleness and not give way to anger. Alma blessed Shiblon as he bade him farewell.

After speaking to Helaman and Shiblon, Alma called Corianton to him. Now Corianton had not followed his father's teachings. He had committed many evil deeds and was told he could not hide from the Lord. He was told to listen to his older brothers and not be led away by the vain and foolish things of the evil one. Alma then explained to him how Jesus Christ was to come and take away the sins of the world.

After saying farewell to his family, Alma left home. He disappeared and was never heard of again. It was not known whether he died or was taken into heaven. Alma was a righteous man. The saying went abroad in

the Church that he was taken up by the Spirit or buried by the hand of the Lord, even as Moses. In the *Bible* we read of another man who pleased God. Hebrews 11:5 states, "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him; for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God." Does this sound the same as Alma?

Sincerely,  
Sister Mabel

## MBA HIGHLIGHTS

### PA Area MBA Campout

By Karen Progar, Area Editor

The Lord directed us to gather together often in worship to Him, and this summer has been one of much fellowship with the saints. On August 1-3, brothers and sisters from many areas came to share a week end of learning and praising the Lord at our Pennsylvania Area MBA Campout. The rustic Laurel Highlands was the setting as the saints from Pennsylvania were nearly outnumbered by their guests representing the Michigan-Ontario, Ohio, Arizona and Florida Areas. Also visiting with us was Brother Dominic Thomas, General Church President, and his family from Detroit.

The presence of the Lord in preaching, singing and testimony touched our hearts and lifted our spirits. The Saturday evening meeting was especially seasoned with the Spirit of God as many of our brothers and sisters shared with us their musical talents. The theme of the week end was an obvious one, "Remember the Lord in your youth, serve Him with all your heart, mind, and strength, and He will aid and reward your efforts."

We wish to extend a thanks to Brother Walter Laird, Camp Director, and his committees, along with the area officers whose efforts allowed this annual event to again be a success.

### A Week End at Muncey

By Rosanne Scolaro, Area MBA Editor

On the week end of July 26 and 27, the Michigan-Ontario Area MBA gathered together at the Muncey Indian Mission to fellowship with our brothers and sisters in that part of the vineyard. Carloads from throughout the Area arrived on the reservation early Saturday afternoon at the school, which had been rented for our week end visit.

After a quick lunch, we were welcomed by the Area MBA Officers—Brother Gary Carlini, President; Brother John Buffa, Vice-President; Brother Paul Whitton, Chaplain; Sister Jan Steinrock and Brother Larry Henderson, who headed the week end activities.

(Continued on Page 9)

## OUR WOMEN TODAY:

### The Sixtieth Anniversary

*By Mary Tamburrino, Aliquippa, PA*

The General Ladies' Uplift Circle marked another milestone in celebrating its Sixtieth Anniversary at Monongahela, Pennsylvania on Saturday, July 19, 1980. Many brothers and sisters were in attendance. There were chartered buses from Michigan and Ohio. Others were from Arizona, California, Canada, Florida, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Brother LoRicco from Italy.

The scripture was read from the *Bible*, St. John 21:15-19. The sisters from the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Circle sang *Lovest Thou Me*. Sister Dorothy Gandley, chairwoman of the Sixtieth Anniversary meeting, welcomed everyone, and the sisters of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Circle sang *Welcome*, written by Sister Sara Vancik.

A short business session was had. Funds were disbursed to the General Indian Missionary Fund, to Africa, and to the General Church Printing Fund.

Correspondence was read from Brother John Ross, Sister Minnie DePiero, Sister Lorraine DeMercurio, and a card from the Quorum of Twelve Apostles. The book, *Yesterday and Today*, is ready to be sold at \$6.00 each. The proceeds will go towards the General Church Missionary Work.

Sister Mary Criscuolo, the General Circle Historian, read the highlights on the Circle for the past five years.

Sister Alma Finnick took care of the Memorial Services. As the deceased sisters' names were mentioned, something was said about their deeds, and a rose was given.

A delicious lunch was served, and the afternoon service continued in commemorating the anniversary. The next General Circle will be held on October 6, 1980, in Youngstown, Ohio.

The Circle is a Golden Chain  
The links are Sisters dear  
And like rare and precious jewels  
They're treasured more each year  
And God looks down and blesses  
Each Circle where friendship lives  
And happy are the ones who know  
The joy that Circle gives.

### Come All Ye That Thirst

*By Arlene Buffington*

My Father looks down on a dry, dying nation,  
Extending His hand to all who pass by;  
I hear Him call out, "Could there be any thirsty",  
This cup if ye drink ye never need die.

Come all ye that thirst there is no need to perish,  
My father has wells that never run dry;  
He has cool mountain streams-He has free running water,  
He has rivers of life, there's no need to die.

Cry not for the aged and no tears for the infant,  
Tho death cuts the heart sometimes like a knife;  
Save tears for the ones who die by the fountain,  
Refusing to taste the waters of life.

My Father controls the times and the seasons,  
And He knows the hour when mercy goes by;  
He has underground springs where rivers are flowing,  
He has fountains so pure, He has endless supply.

Come all ye that thirst, there is no need to perish,  
My Father has wells that never run dry;  
He has cool mountain streams-He has free running water,  
He has rivers of life, there's no need to die.

"Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, buy wine and milk without money and without price." Isaiah 55:1

## Branch and Mission News

### Greetings from the Carolinas

*By Florence LaRosa*

Those of you who have the privilege of meeting at church every Sunday, Wednesday and Friday may not understand the depth of our gratitude for a visit from Brother Joseph Calabrese and Brother Russ and Sister Lena Martorana. They brought with them a beautiful spirit of love and caring. As soon as we knew they were coming, we spread the word to Brother Nathan Peterkin and his family in Spartanburg, South Carolina, Brother Jonathon Molinatto and his family in Bryson City, North Carolina, and Brother Sam Tassone of Hickory, North Carolina. The joy that each one expressed was the same—they were looking forward to a special Sunday. Also, Brother Jonathan and Sister Pam Molinatto of Virginia Beach, Virginia, were visiting.

Each one had a testimony giving thanks for the day, but the highlight was when Brother Sam asked to be prayed on. When Brother Calabrese kissed him, he asked him if he wanted to return as an active member of the Church. Sam said, "Yes", and there was such a beautiful spirit, because in his earlier testimony, he told us how his heart was always with the Church and the people, and he always carried the love with him wherever his service career took him.

We (the Dyers and the LaRosas) really felt great joy in Brother Sam coming back into the fold, because we

were all from the Glassport, PA Branch originally. Brother Sam and I (Flo LaRosa) were two of four baptized together in January of 1946.

Since we (the Dyers and the LaRosas) have moved down South, we've been having Sunday School in our homes on Sundays, unless Brother Nathan Peterkin and Brother Jonathon Molinatto came over, or we had a visiting elder travelling North or South stop. (We sure do appreciate their visits, too!)

After our meeting, the elders met to set up a schedule for us to meet in each location one Sunday a month, which is a solid step in the right direction. So if anyone plans to visit the Carolinas, you may have the opportunity to meet in Spartanburg, South Carolina where Brother Peterkin is also doing a radio broadcast—or Bryson City, North Carolina where you'll be exposed to much of the Cherokee Indian lands where Brother Jonathan Molinatto is—or Hickory, North Carolina which is a new spot to spread the Gospel now that Brother Sam meets with us—or in Gastonia, North Carolina with us who would love to share with you all the blessings of being together.

In closing, I want to add that although we're far from the body of the Church, we know we're not alone; we've received letters and cards of encouragement when we felt down, we receive dreams and experiences to make us stronger, and we know that at all times, we are being remembered by someone, someplace in their prayers as long as you all care.

We'll strive towards the goals we've set to work for and trust that each of us and you will become "clay in the Potter's hand" to mold us as our Lord sees fit to use us.

## Rochester Mission News

*By Carmela D'Amico, Branch Editor*

The Rochester, N. Y. Mission had several visitors this summer. On July 20, Brother Vince Gibson and his wife from the Cleveland, Ohio Branch visited with us. Brother Vince addressed the congregation using for his text Matthew 11:28-31: "Come unto me all ye that labor and I will give you rest." Brother Vince stated that some people find it hard to serve God because they lean on the arm of flesh. Brother Vince encouraged us to seek first the kingdom of God and all other things will be added. He also said that God will not give us a cross heavier than we can bear.

Brother Ansel D'Amico followed and also spoke on the same subject.

On July 27, Brother Nick Pietrangelo and his wife were in our midst, and his sermon was based on Matthew 6: "Seek ye first the kingdom of heaven. . ." Brother Ansel D'Amico also spoke and he related an experience that happened in his early days in the Church.

Brother Frank Giovannone and his wife visited us on August 17, and he used Luke 12 for his

text: "Blessed are the servants whom the Lord finds watching." He noted that the saints are protected by the spirit of God, and cited Daniel in the lions' den as an example. Brother Frank said that it was 39 years ago, on this day, that he was baptized into the Church.

Brother Ansel D'Amico told of an experience he had in November, 1947, while he was on missionary work in Palatine Bridge, N. Y. The roads he was travelling were very slippery, and in order to avoid a head-on collision with a truck, he swerved his car and it turned over. The car was badly damaged, but no one was injured. Our brother reminded us that God watches over His children if they put their trust and faith in Him.

## McKees Rocks News

*By Martha Laird, Branch Editor*

June 22, 1980, our service was opened with Hymn No. 479, *All Hail the Glad Day*. Prayer was offered by Brother Casasanta. Hymn No. 11, *An Angel Came Down*, was sung by all. Our Brother Eutsey read from Ether concerning a New Jerusalem, a holy city to be built like unto the old. Brother Casasanta spoke of Zion. Brother Lawson related on the joy one receives to view lovely cities, but the New Jerusalem will be much greater. One must become a citizen through repentance, baptism, and righteousness.

We rejoiced in our meeting on June 29 to hear how persons by faith were baptized in the waters of Mormon before the birth of Jesus Christ. When a person is baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ, our sins are washed away never to be remembered, and a new life begins. Jesus Christ coming to prepare mansions for us was also taught during this wonderful service.

Brother Ellis L. Mixter was baptized on June 29, 1980, 61 years after his natural birth. Brother Dick Lawson performed the baptism, and Brother John Manes prayed for the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands.

May the Lord bless all readers along with The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Ralph Ciotti was ordained a deacon after the manner taught unto us by Jesus. We also partook of feet washing for a blessed Sunday service.

Brother Milford Eutsey's wife, son and daughter-in-law accompanied him during this visit.

Thank God from whom all blessings flow.

## Clairton, PA Branch News

*By Madeline Robinson, Branch Editor*

Brother Edward Hale was ordained a teacher in the Clairton Branch Sunday afternoon, March 17, 1980.

Brother Russell Cadman of Fredonia officiated in the ordination, and Brother English Webb washed Brother Hale's feet. We were blessed with quite a number of elders and visitors.

Greg Bekavac was baptized Sunday, June 20, by Brother Joseph Austin and confirmed by the laying on of hands for reception of the Holy Spirit by Brother English Webb. We thank God for this new birth and pray God will bless Brother Greg.

The following Sunday, June 27, Brother Monday Udosen was added to our numbers. He related an experience wherein the river separated him from his wife and infant daughter until Brother English prepared a way for him to cross safely. Brother Webb baptized him, and Brother Joseph Austin offered confirmation prayer. Prayers are requested for Brother Monday, as he has returned to his native Nigeria.

(A Week End at Muncey Continued)

Then Brother Rodney Dyer (the resident elder at Muncey) brought us (a group of about 80 people) to the Longwoods Road Conservation Area which featured Ska-Nah-Doht Village, a recreated village showing Iroquoian culture as it was 800-1000 years ago in that part of America. It demonstrated the dependence the Indians had on the nature around them in order to survive the hardships of everyday living. We also saw the structures the Indians would build together as a community, and that everything they did and how they lived was a shared experience. It was all very interesting.

The Saturday evening meeting consisted of much singing and skits (one presented by each of the three week end workgroups) with the theme of repentance and baptism. The brothers and sisters of Muncey graced us with a song, and we truly felt the Spirit of God in their words of testimony and praise. That spirit of love accompanied us throughout the evening as we greeted each other in fellowship and sang around the campfire.

A large group of brothers, sisters, and friends gathered in the school's gym on Sunday morning for our service. Brother Alex Gentile, the missionary in charge of Muncey, welcomed everyone in attendance. Brother Rodney Dyer then opened the meeting reading from Romans 8. He brought out the Apostle Paul's message that we should follow after the Spirit of God, and that we should allow it to take charge of our lives. Brother Rodney stressed that if we yield to the Spirit, we cannot only attain eternal life, but our life here on earth would be filled with the peace and love of God. "To be spiritually minded is life and peace."

Brother Peter Scolaro followed in speaking on the Spirit of God. He stated that the Spirit is not just a feeling we get once in a while but is something that is with us every moment of the day IF we allow it to be. He pointed out that we, as human beings, become weak at times but that if we just have the desire to live in accordance with God's will, then He will provide all the strength we need.

Brother Dominic Moraca also spoke on walking after the Spirit. He related many experiences of brothers and sisters in the Church who allowed the Spirit of God to guide their lives and the peace and joy that it brought them.

Brother Harold Batalucco then related how the Spirit of God affected him on the day he called for his baptism, and how it has continued to lead and direct him.

The Lord's Supper was observed, and Brother Alex brought the meeting to a close. Everyone shared a quick lunch before heading home. The week end had truly been enjoyed by all.

Our prayer is that the Lord will continue to bless the Muncey Mission that the work there might continue to grow.

## Branch 2 Commemorates a Golden Anniversary

*By Janet Buffa, Detroit, Branch 2 Editor*

Our branch has been very blessed in that the Lord has granted another of our members a golden anniversary in God's service. Brother Joseph Straccia was baptized fifty years ago this past April 20, 1980.

Brother Joe was presented with a boutonniere by Brother Frank Morle to commemorate the event. Our brother later testified of his thankfulness for The Church of Jesus Christ, the wealth of blessings and experiences that God has given him and his family throughout the years and for bringing him thus far in his life. His fondest wish is that others in his natural family could someday join him in this Gospel.



We at Branch 2 also feel blessed for having Joseph Straccia Brother Joe among us. He has not only remained a faithful member for these many years, but has served the Church as a deacon for over 35 years. Our brother has taken care of our church building and its grounds as if it were his own home. He has always offered his help to the brothers and sisters most willingly, often without their even asking. As members, perhaps we have become a little spoiled because we have come to depend so on our brother.

However, it should be noted that our brother has not confined his talents to his home branch. Brother Joe, along with Brother John Romano and the late Brother Emil Carlini, helped complete the interiors of several of the church buildings throughout this country. He has labored long and hard and has been a real craftsman for this Church. His love for God seems to know no bounds. May God continue to be with our brother, and may He grant him many more years in His service.

## Vanderbilt Branch News

By Rosemary Czapp, Branch Editor

It was a beautiful Sunday morning, July 6th, when Vanderbilt Branch was blessed with visitors from Cleveland, Brother Vincent Gibson and his family.

Brother Vince suggested the young people sing, and Brother Chuck King requested Hymn No. 346, *Blessed Assurance*. Sister Goldie Hixon then asked to be anointed.

Brother Vince spoke from Daniel 5 and referred to the hymn, *The Handwriting on the Wall*. Daniel and the Hebrew children chose to live in righteousness instead of serving the king. God is also sufficient in our day to meet our needs. We were exhorted to love and pray for our fellow human beings.

The Lord needs the vigor of youth in the Church, Brother Vince said. He encouraged young people to be sober minded, but not unhappy appearing, for the Lord loves his people smiling. There are many wonderful promises and blessings in store for the saints of God.

After wonderful fellowship and lunch, two more visitors joined us, Brother Lynn Swanger from Herndon, Virginia, and Lori Seighman from Monongahela, PA. Brother James King opened our meeting speaking about the blessed oil, its usage and power it contains. Miracles performed through God with the oil were related.

During testimony meeting Sister Aldora Carson, recently baptized in our branch, asked for her granddaughter to be anointed for diabetes. Brother Milford Eutsey, Sr. related an experience concerning the blessed oil; it has strong meaning in the lives of those with faith that God's power and blessings are contained therein. The spirit came down on us as our lips testified of healings and experiences using the blessed oil. All the saints felt the true love of God, and we pray our visitors will come back very soon.

## News from Niles, Ohio

By Tina Martorana, Branch Editor

On March 23, 1980, Brother Joseph Genaro and his family visited the Lorain Branch. Bob Batson, a close friend of Sister Ruth Genaro, also attended. During the meeting, Bob Batson arose and stated that he did not want the Lord to pass him by. Bob was taken to the waters near Lorain Branch and Brother Joseph Genaro baptized him. He was confirmed later by Brother Bob Buffington, who was also visiting. May God bless our young brother with many years and a heart full of peace and joy.

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On July 27, 1980, we of the Niles Branch received many wonderful blessings that we would like to share with our brothers and sisters. The morning meeting began with the joyous singing of the saints. Brother

Henry Cardillo from Youngstown Branch offered opening prayer. Sister Phyllis Koon sang *Because He Lives*. Brother Wayne Martorana read scripture concerning that of blessing little children. (III Nephi 17) Brother Bob Ciarrochi asked God for His blessing, protection and guidance upon his grandchild, Alyse Danielle Prokup. The congregation continued in singing *Because He Lives*. The gift of tongues was spoken and the interpretation followed.

Brother Frank Calabrese, an Apostle, ministered unto us speaking about Moses a servant of God. Brother Frank began saying, "Whom do we fear? We sing a hymn (*If Jesus Goes With Me I'll Go Anywhere*) and that the Lord gives us that comfort in His holy word, (*Fear Not Little Flock*). As long as we serve the true and living God we need not fear, we need not be afraid of the storms, of the tempests and of the conditions that are upon the face of the earth. He has called us, He has separated us as a peculiar people, a royal priesthood, who He has called and redeemed by His precious blood. He is able to supply the peace that passes all understanding to man. Moses was a truly humble man, one of the most humble men in the word of God. The Lord spoke unto Moses giving instruction, reminding him of the flight of his people. Moses could not understand how he, one man, could face the king of Egypt and bring about that which God had commanded him to do, and the Lord had to assure him He would deliver his people. (Exodus 4) This was a type and shadow of that which is to come forth in these the latter days, that we as the children of God, at times may feel as Moses felt. We become cautious, afraid and say, 'Lord, how can it be done?' What has God commanded us since we obeyed the Gospel of Jesus Christ, since we have become the sons and daughters of the most high God? What has He given us in these the latter days? Why should we be so frightened? What has He given us since the angel has flown in the midst of heaven declaring the everlasting Gospel? A Rod, that latter day power. Hasn't He given us the word of God, that is a lamp unto our feet and a guide unto our pathway? The word of God says He has given those that believe to become the sons and daughters of the most high God. When we went to the waters of baptism, we promised to serve Him all the days of our lives and returned to have hands laid upon us for the reception of the Holy Ghost. The Lord told us He would guide us unto all truth. That's the rod we have; that's the power; power to overcome the evil and to get down on our knees and to call upon the God of Heaven and He will answer. As Israel, He shall say, 'Only you have I known of all the families.' " Brother Frank continued with many wonderful words. We sang *There Is Power in the Blood*.

Brother Dan Parravano from Michigan spoke. Brother Paul Ciotti bore a word of testimony concerning direction he received from the Lord to come to Niles.

After break, prayer was offered and our meeting was turned over to testimonies; there was such a beautiful spirit in our midst. After Sister Carolyn Martorana had testified, the word of the Lord came forth. Many came forward to be anointed and for prayer. A young couple who had attended for the first

time and was blessed greatly, also came forth for guidance. Communion was served, after which those that could partook in the ordinance of feet washing. It was a truly blessed day, and we thank God for His sweet spirit. We ask an interest in your prayers that the Lord would see fit to shower us with many more days as such.

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Brothers and sisters, we would like to share 50 years of blessings with you. Our Brother Lou and Sister Libby Pandone of Niles Branch celebrated 50 years of marriage July 27, 1980. They have both been in the Gospel over fifty years.

On July 25, 1980, their children, Brother Dick and Sister Wanda Pandone, Brother Don and Sister Teresa Pandone, and Brother Jack and Sister Lee Laverie, who are their natural brother-in-law and sister, held a dinner to honor them at Stevens Park Hall in Niles. Almost 200 attended in their behalf. God has blessed them with the privilege to stay for several years in Ft. Pierce Florida Branch to help there. They plan a trip back to Florida later this year.

We would like to wish God's blessing in all they continue to do and many, many more years together in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

## News from Detroit, Branch 1

*By Diane Everett, Branch Editor*

On July 6, 1980, Branch 1, Detroit, Michigan had the pleasure of having Apostle Joseph Bittinger, along with his wife, in our midst.

He opened the service by speaking to us from Hebrews 11, speaking of faith. We have to have faith in God, in our Church and in each other. Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. We need faith to bring us to repentance, but it doesn't or shouldn't stop there. We need faith to carry us through every action of our life. Through our faith, God can lead, guide and direct us.

Brother Gerald Benyola followed with the same theme of faith, and pointed out that our actions should prove out our faith. And let us have faith in God and lean on Him that He would guide our every thought and action.

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On June 22, 1980, Brother Nick Pietrangelo opened the service by speaking from I Corinthians 13, speaking of the love we should have, and the love we have to have within us to receive the gifts.

After our morning service, Cathy Mulla asked for her baptism. She was taken down to Belle Isle, Detroit, Michigan and was baptized by Brother Louis Pietrangelo.

A service was held at night for confirmation. There was singing and testimony. Sister Cathy was confirmed

by Brother Norman Campitelle. The saints then all shared the fellowship with our sister during refreshments.

## Dedicated to My Sister Cathy

*By Karyn Vitto, Sterling Heights, Michigan*

You're a new creation,  
Saved from a life of sin.  
Exactly what you've prayed for. . .  
You **Have** received in Him!  
Created in His Image,  
A perfect being lives. . .  
Do nothing to mar this Happiness. . .  
This peace that Jesus gives.  
You have the armor to go about you. . .  
No evil can prevail,  
And the word of God before you. . .  
It is **No** fairy tale!  
You've the Holy Spirit to Guide you,  
It's now dwelling deep within,  
For **Now**, you **Are** my Sister. . .  
So glad you entered in!  
With each new day,  
You'll grow to love Him more. . .  
As you request His presence,  
And open up the door.  
We'll fellowship together,  
And with the Lamb and Lion. . .  
"US" . . . forever Sisters . . .  
. . . I'll see you soon in Zion.

## Two More Baptisms at Detroit Inner-City Branch

Many blessings were experienced at the Detroit, Michigan Inner-City Branch on Sunday, August 10, as two more souls came into the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Taken into the waters at beautiful Belle Isle were Lynn Murray Pietrzyk and Jorge Salas Saens.

Sister Pietrzyk, who had declared her intentions the week previous, had just been baptized and returned to the shore, when Brother Joseph Milantoni, Presiding Elder, asked if anyone else wanted to start a new life in Christ. Brother Salas Saens then stepped forward and said he was ready. Our new brother later explained that he had intended to be baptized and was preparing to do so even before the call was given.

Both of the new converts were baptized by Brother Carl Frammolino. Sister Pietrzyk was confirmed by Brother Milantoni, and Brother Salas Saens was confirmed by Brother Anthony Gerace.

Our new sister is a native of Nebraska, while Brother Salas Saens is a Central American Indian from Costa Rica. Both had been attending services quite regularly.

The working of the Spirit of God on this day, as it has in the past, was indeed very edifying to the Inner-City flock.



\*      **WEDDINGS**      \*

**GENARO—MOLISANI**

Brother Enos Genaro and Sister Alyse Molisani were married on July 19, 1980, in San Fernando Valley, California.

Brothers Frank Genaro and Robert Watson performed the wedding ceremony.

May God bless them in their new life together.

**BEKAVAC—MURRAY**

Brother Emil Bekavac and Sister Donna Murray were united in marriage at The Church of Jesus Christ in Clairton, PA on April 4, 1980.

Brother English Webb officiated at the ceremony.

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**OBITUARIES**

*We wish to express our sympathy to those that mourn over the loss of loved ones. May God bless and comfort you.*

**ROSE IMPELLIZZIERE**

Sister Rose Impellizziere of Detroit, Michigan, Branch No. 1 passed away from this life on July 2, 1980. She was born on November 26, 1885 and was baptized on April 12, 1942.

She is survived by three daughters, eight grandchildren and eighteen great-grandchildren.

Brothers Gerald Benyola and Concetto Alessandro officiated the funeral service.

**LILLIAN BYERS**

Sister Lillian Byers of Clairton, Pennsylvania was called to her reward on July 22, 1980, at the age of ninety-nine years. She was baptized at an October Conference fifty-one years ago. She was also a member of the West Elizabeth Ladies' Uplift Circle.

Sister Byers is survived by one son and many relatives.

Brothers James Campbell and English Webb officiated at the funeral service.

**DELLA DAY**

Sister Della Day passed on to her eternal reward on March 26, 1980. She was born on May 10, 1896, and was baptized on July 4, 1948.

Brothers George Timms, Paul Carr and Mike

Musical selections were presented by Sister Iva Fedorka, soloist, and Sister Mabel Bickerton, organist.

The newlyweds are residing in Pleasant Hills, PA.

**\*\*\*\* New Arrivals \*\*\*\***

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

Hope to Richard and Toni Bologna of Detroit, Michigan, Branch No. 2;

Paul Michael to Emil and Yvonne Lambert of Detroit, Michigan, Branch No. 2;

Robert James to Robert and Diane Stigleman of Detroit, Michigan, Branch No. 1; and

Matthew David to Timothy and Lisa Gehly of Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

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Hildenbrand officiated at the funeral services.

She is survived by three daughters, sixteen grandchildren and twenty-eight great-grandchildren, one sister and one brother.

Sister Della is greatly missed by the brothers and sisters of the Herndon, Virginia Branch. She was one of the first members of the mission in Washington, D.C.

**NAZARETH CIARROCHI**

Brother Nazareth Ciarrochi of Niles, Ohio passed on to his reward on April 11, 1980. Brother Naz was born on July 30, 1897, and was baptized on September 26, 1925.

Brother Joseph Genaro officiated at the funeral services.

Brother Naz is survived by his wife, Sister Jennie, two sons, one daughter, one brother, one sister and four grandchildren.

Brother Naz will always be remembered for his love, compassion and kindness.

**ELLS L. MIXTER**

Brother Ells L. Mixter passed away on August 18, 1980. He was born on June 29, 1919 and was baptized on June 29, 1980.

Brothers Dan Casasanta and John Manes officiated at the funeral services.

Brother Mixter is survived by his wife, his mother, three brothers, three sisters, eight children, twenty-one grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

May the Lord comfort those who mourn the passing of our brother.

# The Gospel News

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa., USA.

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November, 1980

Volume 36, No. 11

## "It Is Written"

By V. J. Lovalvo, Fresno, CA

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:16

The admonishment of Jesus Christ to His Disciples was plain and simple. Their new life in Christ was not merely to be in professing to be a follower of the Master, but to be in possession of those qualities that could be seen by others. Just to say, "Behold, I am a disciple of Jesus", would never have the convincing power to touch the hearts of anyone. Their "light" was to be the determining factor; their life the convincing element; their works, the convicting power which would cause others to believe and follow Jesus Christ.

The word, light, can have more than one connotation. Jesus, at one time had said, "I am the light of the world." Hence, the "light" in the Disciples was Jesus; this was what the followers of Christ had to show the world. They had to demonstrate to all people that Christ lived in them; this was a certainty; Jesus, the light of the world, would illuminate their lives to such a degree that everywhere they would go the darkness would flee as the dew before the rising sun. "Let your light so shine" paraphrased simply means, "Let My Spirit, My life, My nature, My love be your lamp to lighten, not only your lives, but to help others walk in the light of God."

Having the "light" within oneself generates works. Without the light of Christ within one, it is impossible to work the works of righteousness. If

the works of the true follower of Christ do not convey to others significant differences of life-style, of speech, of characteristics, of nobility of spirit, of compassion, of humility and of love towards all mankind, then there cannot be very much light manifested. Jesus once said that the righteousness of His followers must exceed that of the Scribes and the Pharisees, or else the kingdom of heaven could not be attained. In other words, the righteousness of the people of God must exceed the righteousness of all professing religionists. One can readily see then that having the "light" of Christ within oneself is the most important thing in one's life.

Secondly, the Lord implied that, because of the demonstration of the light within them (the Disciples) before men, they (mankind) would glorify the Father upon seeing their good works. These words translated simply mean that because of the example set before them by the followers of Jesus, men would be moved to accept the Lord, to repent and be baptized, and to have the Holy Spirit dwell within them like unto the Disciples. And, in so doing they too would become a "light" to the world; their works would also magnify the Lord, which would glorify the name of the Lord. It is like a chain reaction. The "light", shining before others, will produce magnificent results; men will absorb this light by believing and obeying His Gospel and, in turn, will let their light shine before others, etc. The Father then is glorified by mankind accepting Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world and by their



lives and good works. Hence, the saints of the Lord are become bearers of "light" to the world. Christ said, "Ye are the light of the world and the salt of the earth". (paraphrased) In other words, "You must now be the instruments of example of My life to all mankind. Your light must be like a city built on a hill that cannot be hid; it must be visible to everyone. It must be like a candle set on a candlestick, which lightens up the whole room." How strangely marvelous are these words of Jesus; so pure yet so simple. The lives of His followers must be extraordinarily bright as to attract the world and cause them to also come to Jesus. He also said once, that if the light in His followers was dark, it would be **great** darkness; if the salt in them would lose its savor, it would be good for nothing but to be trod under the feet of men. Then the saints must always fast and pray for the "light" of Jesus' life and the "salt" of His spirit to be forever in their lives to produce works of righteousness that God might be glorified and that His Son will be exalted and praised for time and eternity.

Recently, I saw the manifestation of the Spirit of God poured in great abundance upon the people of His

Son, Jesus Christ. I had been asked to baptize Alfred Coney, who a few weeks ago was miraculously healed. Since he desired to be baptized in Detroit, Michigan, where his mother and sister abide, my wife and I went there to perform this ordinance. Brother Al Coney had been overcome by a massive heart attack in San Diego, CA. When they brought him to the hospital, he (according to the doctor's report) died on the table, where he lay for eighteen minutes without life in his body. One of the doctors, seeing that he was dead, is supposed to have said, "We have nothing to lose, he is dead anyway," and proceeded to cut open his chest and began to massage his heart with his hand. In a few moments, brother Al Coney revived, to the astonishment of the doctors. From that time, in a few days, he was out of the hospital in the best of health, physically and mentally. At the recent California Camp Out, he asked for his baptism but desired to have this done in Detroit.

On the Sunday of the baptismal

day, we had one of the most wonderful outpourings of the Spirit of the Lord. While God was blessing all of us present, I heard a young woman shout, "Don't hold me back, don't hold me back." While saying these words, she practically flew out of the pew in which she was sitting and rushed into the aisle crying that she wanted to be baptized. That day, four others besides brother Al Coney requested baptism. O, what a beautiful day that was indeed. Years may pass, and time be recorded as history, but that day will live in the memory of everyone present as a most unforgettable one. I saw grown men weep unashamedly for joy engendered by the Holy Spirit; I saw them fall on their knees and praise God at the top of their voices. I saw adults and children crying for joy and sending their praises together upward to the Lord in heaven. All this because of Christ, the Son of God, who promised that He and the Father would be in our midst. All because of His great love for us; all because the "salt" of His Spirit seasoned us in an unbelievable measure, and the "light" of His life and love overshadowed us until

there was almost no more room to contain it.

Lest anyone should suppose that I have implied that **works** alone are motivated by the light of Christ within one's life, let it be understood that the light of Christ also generates **faith**. Therefore, **faith** and **works** must go hand in hand to accomplish that which the Lord has commanded. For, it is written: "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? . . ." Even so, faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone . . . For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." James 5

Jesus Christ, who is the light of the world, keeps sending power from heaven above so that we, as the lower lights on earth, can reflect that greater light in our lives, and men seeing our good works, will glorify the Father which is in heaven. Remember this also; the saints of the Lord must always keep replenishing their lamps with **oil** so that they are not found **wanting in light**.

## Ohio District Spiritual Meeting

By Jim Alessio, District Editor

The Youngstown, Ohio Branch hosted the Ohio District spiritual meeting that was held on Sunday evening, September 28. We were privileged to have in attendance also a group of young people from the Aliquippa and McKees Rocks Branches, as well as a few from Imperial, PA.

The Ohio Area Choir sang a few selections prior to the opening of our service.

Brother Frank Giovannone introduced the service, and his main theme was "Where would you like to spend eternity?" He read portions of scripture found in Alma 34, "Behold this is the time . . .", and also from Luke 12, "Blessed are those servants whom the Lord finds watching . . ." His discourse dealt primarily with preparing ourselves to meet God and contrasted the joys of paradise with the miseries of hell. He noted that where we go in the hereafter depends on what we go after here.

Brother Jim Moore was our next speaker, and he told about the calling of his parents into the Gospel and how God brought them together. Both his

father and mother had a desire while they were yet very young, to serve God. Brother Moore dwelled on the many good things the Gospel has to offer. It doesn't matter what we used to be, but what we are today that counts. "If you believe," he said, "you will receive the greater things, but if you disbelieve, you will receive the lesser things."

At this juncture of our service, Brother Joe Calabrese, the District President, asked all the young people between the ages of 15 and 25 to come forward and sing, *I Ought to Do Something for Jesus*. There were approximately 40 that came forth, and from this group, four were selected to give their testimony. Sister Lisa Calabrese, who was baptized that very day in Lorain, related how she came in contact with the Church and some of the events and experiences that eventually led to her baptism. A young man and woman that have been attending services in the Niles Branch gave very humble testimonies how God has worked in their lives. They both look forward to the day when they will be able to make that commitment to serve God and be baptized.

Brother Ryan Ross, from the Aliquippa, PA Branch, was also asked to give his testimony about how God helped him when he was so severely afflicted with a brain tumor. His testimony touched the heart of all and made us realize how good and great is our God that we serve.

Brother Russ Martorana offered a prayer in behalf of all the young and especially for those who have not yet made a commitment to serve God. Following the singing of *Pass Me Not*, Brother Frank Calabrese addressed the congregation. He noted that God will not pass anyone by who calls upon him. He felt that we should be concerned for those who have not yet come into the Gospel, and that we should tell others about the Church. He admonished us to be the light unto others and reminded us that when God speaks, we should hear.

The Spirit of God was felt in the three anointings that took place. Brother Joe Calabrese announced the next spiritual meeting will be held in Warren, Ohio, on November 23. Brother Joe also encouraged us to go to our October Conference with great expectations and great things will

take place. God will be there. He also related many wonderful experiences that have recently taken place.

The meeting was closed in prayer by Brother Paul Ciotti.

## Florida District Conference

The Florida District Conference held on August 16 and 17 in Fort Pierce, was well attended. Reports were given by the various officers, as well as the Florida Branches and Missions. Brother Eugene Perri, Jr., District President, presided over the meetings.

A District gathering was scheduled for early November. Also, a gathering for Quincy, Florida, including an invitation to those in the Carolinas and Atlanta, has been scheduled for November 29 and 30.

The Sunday service was opened by Brother John Griffith, who was visiting from Pennsylvania. He spoke of his early desires and life in the Church. He quoted from II Nephi 2:25, "Adam fell that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy." He further spoke about life as being a probationary state and of the completeness of the word of God.

Brother Meredith Griffith of Tampa also spoke, as well as Brother Eugene Perri, Jr. regarding the early days of the Church and the role that Joseph Smith, Sidney Rigdon and William Bickerton played in the early history of our Church.

There was a large crowd in attendance (approximately 185), and again, we are thankful and grateful to the Lord for the words we heard, the spirit we felt, and that we were able to meet together with one another.

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## General Church Directory

The General Church Directory is now available for sale. Please contact your district and branch librarians.

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## Michigan—Ontario District News

By Kay Vitto

The week of July 7, Detroit was honored by having all the Apostles assembled together. The purpose of this assembly was to discuss the spiritual welfare of the Church. During the middle of the week, six brothers met at the east side and five at the west side for meetings. This placement was reversed on Friday night. The apostles were kept busy every night visiting with various brothers and sisters. It was a week full of fellowship.

On Sunday, July 13, 1980, the Michigan-Ontario District met at South Lake High School. What a glorious sight to see the apostles all together. However, there was a sad note; Brother Gorie Ciaravino was unable to attend, due to recent surgery. In commencing our meeting, Brother Spencer Everett, District President, introduced each apostle to the congregation. Each apostle was then presented with a white carnation by Brother Frank Vitto, District Officer. White stands for purity; the Gospel restored is pure and the brothers and sisters look to our spiritual leaders to present all those teachings to the fullest extent.

The Area MBA Choir sang several songs, which set the pace for a good spirit. Brother Joseph Calabrese opened the meeting in prayer. Brother Joseph Lovalvo continued by reading from Isaiah. He expressed his joy at seeing so many brothers and sisters and friends this day. He went on to tell us about the sanctity of the Lord's House. He pointed out how David had a desire to build a house for the Lord, but he was refused because of the "blood on his hands". Not only was David a "man after God's own heart", he was a "man of war"; therefore, the Lord was unwilling to allow David this honor. However, the Lord did allow David's son to build His house. Brother Joe stressed the importance of keeping the Lord's commandments. In so doing we can inherit the house that the Lord has prepared for us. He went on to tell us how the Apostle Paul, claiming to be a servant of Christ, went to all ends to preach the Gospel. This one time enemy of Christ, had undergone such a tremendous change in his life, he preached to everyone he came in contact with. Brother Joe admonished

us all to strive to love one another and not to have animosity towards each other. At this juncture, Brother Joseph approached each apostle that was seated on the pulpit. He embraced them and told them how much he loved them. The love he portrayed touched everyone present. He encouraged us to pray for the true love of God.

At this time a sister arose and declared that while Brother Joe Lovalvo was preaching, she saw a personage all dressed in white. This personage was clothed as an Indian Chief with white feathers and white moccasins.

Brother Jim Lovalvo followed by quoting the writings of Paul, "know ye not that ye are the temple of God"; also, "God cannot dwell in an unholy temple". Brother Jim pointed out what lengths we go through to prepare our homes with the proper furnishings and various rooms for specific occasions, i.e. kitchen, bedrooms, sitting room, family room, etc. In contrast, how much more we should prepare our hearts for the Lord to dwell therein. He related an experience that a young girl from Branch No. 4 had some thirty years ago. She was a very afflicted girl, and one night she had a dream. In the dream, it was a stormy evening. There was a knock at the door and when she opened the door, there stood an old man dressed in rags. She invited him in and offered him some food. This old man asked her what was troubling her. She told him about her affliction and the prayers that had been offered in her behalf. He asked her what church she went to, and she told him The Church of Jesus Christ. She also told him there was a meeting that very night. He went to church with her and sat at the back seat. An elder was preaching about Christ's crucifixion, how they nailed Him to the tree, how they put the crown of thorns on His head and pierced His side with a spear. Suddenly, this old man arose and took off his coat. He was no longer dressed in rags, but white raiment. As He walked down the aisle, He said, "I am the Lord Jesus Christ. I am He that was crucified. I am He that was nailed to the cross. If you remember Me, I will bless you." When He finished speak-

ing. He embraced them all. The little girl took the Lord's hand as He was leaving and said, "Lord Jesus, come back to my house and You can have my room. You can have all the house." At this time she awoke.

The following Saturday morning the brothers were fasting and praying. The little girl walked into the church service and during the course of the meeting she fainted. The brothers anointed her, and she came to and was healed. The doctors said she would become a vegetable, but God said she would be healed. That little girl grew up, became a wife and a mother; her name is Sister Connie Moraco.

Brother Jim related another example of God's great healing power. He related the recent miracle that happened to Brother Alfred Coney from San Diego. Medical science says that if a man's heart stops for four minutes and he cannot be resuscitated, he is dead. But Brother Al is a living miracle that God says it can be done. Brother Coney lay on a hospital table eighteen full minutes. The doctor was moved to take the scalpel and make the incision, take out the heart and massage it. After four days, Brother Al was up and walking around without brain damage of any kind. Man cannot believe this miracle; but all things are possible with God.

Brother Jim pointed out that it takes a collective body of people to perform the will of God. No man can do it alone. As an example, Brother Jim removed the flower from his lapel and tore each petal from the stem. He described how the petals had no beauty strewn on the floor. As an analogy, working alone, individually, we are the same. He then took another flower and showed us the beauty of unity, each petal in its proper place. So it is with the beauty of the Church; everyone in their proper place, in unity with God's glory to shine upon us. That is the beauty of the Restored Gospel.

The service was continued by hearing Brother Frank Calabrese. He spoke on Restoration and in the same trend as the previous speakers. He told us about an experience that was had the night before. A group of brothers and sisters had gathered together at Brother Louis Vitto's

house, and at the end of the evening, they formed a circle and asked Brother Paul Ciotti to dismiss in prayer. During his prayer, he was moved upon to say the following words: "Brothers and sisters, I feel the Spirit of God, and it says 'Tell my people on the morrow that I will bless them, I have heard their prayers. Tell my people many glorious things are to come forth and to hold fast, though Satan may desire to sift them as wheat, I will bless them, for my power is greater than all the power of evil. I tell thee, my people, look and see the foundation of that great church and see what she will do, for her kingdom will shake and I will bless my Church, for I am Jesus Christ, the Son of God' ". Brother Frank encouraged us to stand firm, for we are promised many glorious and wonderful things.

There were many beautiful expressions made, but space does not permit us to relate everything that occurred. Hence, we have just covered a few highlights.

In closing Brother Dominic Thomas acknowledged the hospitality shown to the apostles by Branch No. 4 and others. He stressed the importance of meeting together. As Brother Thomas was speaking, Brother Jim Lovalvo fell to his knees, weeping. A few minutes of time elapsed, and Brother Thomas sensed something heavenly was happening; therefore, he asked us all to bow in prayer. In his prayer he asked the Lord to bless the ministry and to cause His Spirit to envelop them. At the close of his prayer, he asked Brother Jim to relate his experience. Brother Jim was overcome by the Spirit, and he was unable to speak. Brother Nick Pietrangelo (who was sitting next to Brother Jim) told us that "Brother Jim touched the garment of the Lord. He saw a personage and he knew it was the Lord. He knelt down and touched the garment of the Lord. As he was kneeling, he kept repeating, 'I am not worthy, I am not worthy' ". (Writer's comment, Who is worthy?)

The blessings of God are not reserved solely for the Church members. As proof of this, Kenneth Bruno, who has been attending meetings at Branch No. 4, had an experience which is related as follows: "As Brother Jim sank to his knees, he seemingly picked up something and brought it to his lips. I

couldn't hear what he was saying. Later someone told me he was saying, 'I'm too unworthy'. At this time Brother Dominic Thomas started to pray, and several of the brothers fell to their knees. As I watched the brothers pray, I didn't bow my head because I saw a bright red ball of fire envelop Brother Jim. I grabbed Roger Pepper's arm (he was not baptized at this time) and asked him to look up at the podium. I couldn't let go of his arm until he could tell me if he saw what I was seeing. But he didn't see anything except Brother Jim with his face almost to the floor, Brother Thomas standing there praying, and four other brothers on their knees. As I kept looking, this ball of fire traveled in midair and encircled each of the brothers that were kneeling in prayer. As Brother Thomas ended his prayer, I saw a white cloudy shield come down and gradually dissipate the fire. It seemed to consume all the fire. I kept nudging my friend, hoping he could see what I was seeing. I could not believe there was anybody in that building that didn't see that ball of fire hovering over the brothers that were kneeling and Brother Jim during the entire prayer. I have never in my life had a vision; in fact, I wasn't aware that I was having a vision. I will never forget that sight."

How can we deny this God that has been so good to us. As with everything else in life, we will always have skeptics, scoffers and doubters. Even with the Lord manifesting His Spirit this day, there were undoubtedly some that fell into that category. The writer felt this, and upon retiring Sunday night I prayed that the Lord would continue to give me a believing heart. I prayed that others would feel the same. That night I dreamed I was presented with a beautiful baby boy. As I held him to my bosom, I noticed many people coming towards me. Some I recognized and some were strangers. I knew they wanted to take the baby from me. I held the baby firmly and kept running, trying to get away; but they were constantly in pursuit, determined to take the child. I awoke, quite upset and related this to my husband, Brother Frank. He encouraged me to continue to pray for the priesthood and His Church.

We felt to share this glorious day with the brothers and sisters from all parts of the Church. God bless you all is our sincere prayer.

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## *Editorial Viewpoint . . .*

### **For God So Loved the World**

As the Christmas Season swiftly approaches, we are stirring reminded anew of the wonderful love of God for the human family.

Truly, the love of God was manifested richly and generously among His people down through the ages. However, the most outstanding example of the outpouring of God's love is His gift to the world of His only begotten Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

#### *Gracious and Loving Promise*

God's gracious and loving promise of a Redeemer and Saviour of the world was first made known to our first parents, Adam and Eve.

What is more, our Heavenly Father continued to reveal to many holy men and prophets the coming of His Beloved Son. Our Bible and Book of Mormon contain many beautiful and noteworthy prophecies heralding the advent of our Lord and Saviour.

One of the most notable of all these glorious prophecies is found in the Book of Mormon. It is included in good King Benjamin's farewell address to his people in the year 124 B.C. as follows, in part:

"... for behold, I have things to tell you concerning that which is to come. And the things which I shall tell you are made known unto me by an angel from God. And he said unto me: Awake; and I awoke, and behold he stood before me. And he said Awake, and hear the words which I shall tell thee; for behold, I am come to declare unto you glad tidings of great joy. For the Lord hath heard thy prayers, and hath judged of thy righteousness, and hath sent me to declare unto thee that thou mayest rejoice; and that thou mayest declare unto thy people, that they also may be filled with joy.

"For behold, the time cometh, and is not far distant, that with power, the Lord Omnipotent who reigneth, who was, and is from all eternity to all eternity, shall come down from heaven among the children of men, and shall dwell in a tabernacle of clay, . . . And he shall be called Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of heaven and earth, the Creator of all things from the beginning, and his mother shall be called Mary.

"And lo, he cometh unto his own, that salvation might come unto the children of men even through faith on his name; and even after all this they shall consider him a man, and say he hath a devil, and shall scourge him, and shall crucify him. And he shall rise the third day from the dead; and behold, he standeth to judge the world; and behold all these things are done that a righteous judgment might come upon the children of men.

"And the Lord God hath sent his holy prophets among all the children of men, to declare these things to every kindred, nation, and tongue, that thereby whosoever should believe that Christ should come, the same might receive remission of their sins, and rejoice with exceeding great joy, even as though he had already come among them.

"And moreover, I say unto you, that the time shall come when the knowledge of a Savior shall spread throughout every nation, kindred, tongue, and people." Mosiah 3

Let us praise our Heavenly Father for His wonderful love in giving His Beloved Son for the redemption of the world.

## The Children's Corner

By Mabel Bickerton  
Monongahela, PA



### The Other Sheep

Dear Girls and Boys,

During Jesus' ministry he spoke of "other sheep". He said, "I have other sheep which are not of this fold and they shall hear my voice and them also I must bring." These could not have been the Gentiles because Jesus said, "I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the House of Israel."

After Jesus' resurrection, He appeared in America. He told the

people here they were the "other sheep", descendants of Joseph, who was the son of Jacob. He said he still had other sheep, not of this land, neither of the land of Jerusalem, neither in any parts where he had ministered. The Father had commanded him to go among His sheep that these may be one fold and one shepherd. The Gentiles will be richly blessed because of their belief in this.

When Jesus visited the other sheep on this land, America, He taught them the things He taught in Palestine. They were told to repent

and be baptized for the remission of their sins. He said children were to be blessed and not baptized. He taught the people how to administer the sacrament and even what to name His church. If it is called in His name and built upon His gospel, it is His church. If it is called after the name of a man, it is the church of man. All the wonderful things Jesus taught could not be written. Mormon said even a hundredth part of the things which Jesus did could not be written in the book. In the Bible, John mentions the many things Jesus did and if all were written, the world itself could not contain the books that should be written.

The people who only believe the Bible are missing many beautiful scriptures such as this story of "The Other Sheep". Maybe you would like to read Chapters 15 and 16 of III Nephi to learn more about this. History proves that Columbus found a people in America, known to us as Indians. All this is part of the great Restoration Story.

Sincerely,  
Sister Mabel

## OUR WOMEN TODAY: Conference at Youngstown, Ohio

By Mary Tamburrino, Circle Editor

The General Ladies Uplift Circle Conference was held at Youngstown, Ohio on October 4, 1980. The Conference was attended by brothers and sisters from Florida, Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

The Niles, Ohio Circle Sisters presented a program on "WOMEN". Something was said on Sarah, Ruth, Abigail and Esther from the Bible. The scripture was read from the Bible, Proverbs 31. The songs, *Something Beautiful* and *One Day at a Time*, were beautifully sung by the sisters. During the program, Sister Rose Impastato of Detroit, Michigan, had a vision which went as follows:

While the sisters were singing, behind the second row a lot of women appeared with a halo. When Sister Libby Pandone was reading her part, a carriage all in gold appeared. Someone got in and it started slowly on a journey. (She was talking about Ruth telling her mother-in-law she would go whither she went and etc.)

Sister Mabel Bickerton thanked the Niles, Ohio Sisters for the program they presented and noted that there are women today that are doing good work also. She referred to the hymn, *O God on Thee We All Depend*, and elaborated on it.

The business part of the Conference began with the roll call of officers. The minutes of the Sixtieth Anniversary held at Monongahela, Pennsylvania on July 19, 1980, were read and the report of the Circles, Districts and Treasurers was given.

It was reported that eight sacrament cloths were made for the missions in Italy. The question, "To whom shall be given to eat of the Tree of Life and where is the Tree of Life?", was found in the Bible, Revelation 2:7.

The officers that were elected for another year are: 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; Historian and Card Sender, Mary Criscuolo; Concordance Treasurer, Rose Corrado.

The money was distributed by donating to the General Church Indian Missionary, Printing, and Africa Relief Funds. The project until the next conference is to send layettes and blankets to the reservations and money to the Printing Fund. There will be two conferences a year. A vote was taken by the home Circles. The next General Conference will be held at Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania on March 28, 1981 and at Detroit, Michigan on October 3, 1981.

A vote of thanks was given to the Youngstown, Ohio Circle for their hospitality.

Brother Corrado of Youngstown, Ohio spoke to the sisters about the work in Italy . . . much opposition there. The remainder of the conference was spent in singing and testimonies.



## MBA HIGHLIGHTS

### Spirit of Gathering Envelops Ohio Area Retreat

*By Carolyn Martorana, Area Editor*

The Ohio Area MBA sponsored a week end retreat, held at Dunkirk Conference Grounds in New York, on September 12-14. Approximately 80 people, representing 14 different branches throughout Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Florida and New York returned to the site of the 1973 GMBA Campout to enjoy the blessings and fellowship the Gospel affords.

Friday evening we were welcomed by Brother George Kovacic, Camp Director, who informed us as to the week end agenda. Brother Wayne Martorana, Area Chaplain, then admonished the congregation to use the week end as a literal "retreat" from things in the world left behind.

Early Saturday morning, the saints gathered in a prayer service. A humble spirit prevailed, and during the meeting, Brother Russell Martorana felt the touch of the hand of God upon him, accompanied by the evidence that God was truly in our midst. Chapel was introduced by Brother Harold Burge, using the scripture, "... Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world ...", as a basis for expressing the need to be examples to others. As he spoke, Brother Bob Quinn heard the voice of the Spirit express: "I SAY UNTO YOU, SERVE ME." The seminar material presented was a foundation on which much of the remainder of the week end was based. Mormon's words, "... Be wise in the days of your probation; strip yourselves of all uncleanness ...", prompted many thoughts on the preparation and sanctification that the Church is striving for to fulfill its "Divine Commission". Activities of daily living were discussed in thoughts brought forward to keep ourselves righteous, desiring the "fruits of the Spirit".

Following midday activities, Saturday evening service was opened

with remarks concerning the task that lies before us in working with the House of Israel. Brother Richard Scaglione continued, stressing the ability of each of us to get involved and enjoy the fruits of the Spirit, likening God unto a natural father, willing to give to His children if they would persevere. Brother T. D. Bucci then offered a special prayer in behalf of brothers of the Urban Indian Committee who were at that time attending an American Indian Pow-Wow, at which the Church was given the opportunity to present the Gospel and display literature. The remainder of the service was spent in prayer for many of the saints who desired added strength and in testimony. Among the testimonies was that of Sister Cindy Prentice, who told of circumstances in which she gave her testimony to a classmate in high school. This classmate, now Sister Kim Alaburda, met the Church seven years ago at that very place. Sister Kim then expressed her thankfulness to God as the Spirit of the Lord prevailed. The day ended in prayerful anticipation of the upcoming Sabbath.

Sunday morning the saints again gathered in prayer prior to the worship service, which was introduced with a revelation had by Brother Russ Martorana during the week prior to the retreat. Our brother saw, in a dream, a beautiful table set

in perfect order and exquisitely prepared with all manner of food. The meal was complete in itself and representative of all nationalities and types, corresponding to that spiritual food which the Lord has prepared and set for His people. Sacrament utensils used later in the ordinance were then blessed and the table set. Brother Bucci opened the service, speaking on the era in which we live; encouraging young (and old) to take an active part in the future work, for the signs of the times are about us and the prophecies are being fulfilled. He also expressed the importance of bringing the Seed of Joseph the pure Doctrine. Brother Scaglione continued, adding that the unique love for mankind and for each other is the means by which the world will know we are the saints of God. Apostle Paul D'Amico then stressed the importance of the Gospel in our lives.

Closing comments were made encouraging the saints to gather often and to try and prove the Lord and see if He will not pour out blessings that cannot be contained. It was with thankful hearts that we closed the week end in prayer, for we had met to hear the word and to approach the Throne of God for His blessings, and were not denied.

Our constant prayer is that God will bless His people.

### Florida Area Organization Meeting

The Florida Area MBA held its business and organization meeting in Fort Pierce on July 19. The election of officers took place, and President, Brother Dennis Moraco; Vice President, Brother John D'Orazio; and Secretary, Sister Diana Salinas, were re-elected.

Reports and business of the Area were taken care of, and various activities were discussed and suggested for the Activities Committee to

work on.

A delightful dinner was served by the Fort Pierce sisters. In the evening, Apostle Joseph Bittinger handled the installation of the Area Officers for the coming year. Then, a beautiful program entitled "The Ship of Zion" was presented by the Fort Pierce MBA Local.

We are thankful for a beautiful day well spent.

## Branch and Mission News

### Quincy, Florida

*By M. Martin, Editor*

Tuesday evening, August 12, Beatrice Hopkins requested baptism during the meeting. Being under the influence of the Church for several years and having attended the meetings, she became sincere and attended faithfully since the Quincy dedication service on May 29.

On Saturday afternoon at the Florida District Conference in Fort Pierce, surrounded by the saints of God, a humble spirit took possession, and she was immersed in the liquid grave by Brother Michael Radd. She came forth to immediately witness a newness of life. There at the water's edge, this love that comes into ones heart was displayed as she embraced the saints.

During the evening meeting, she was confirmed into The Church of Jesus Christ by the laying on of hands by Brother Eugene Perri, Jr.

On Tuesday evening, back in the Quincy Mission, two more souls came forth as the calling Spirit of God pleaded for the souls of those who had not made their covenant. The children of the saints, exposed to wisdom and the blessings of God, now had to make a decision. Mary Magdalene Francis, who attended the District Conference, referred to the love and fellowship she witnessed at the conference and how impressed she was with the young people of the Church. Mary and Shirley Mae Green that night asked to be baptized into the Church.

On Sunday, August 24, we were again blessed to gather at the water's edge to witness these two souls make their covenant with God. Both were baptized and confirmed into the Church by Brother Cleveland Baldwin. Sister Salinas from the Miami Mission was visiting and was a great blessing and inspiration to the young saints in our mission.

### Herndon, Virginia

*By Esther Andrews, Editor*

The Herndon, Virginia Branch

was blessed with the ordination of Sister Hythia Young to the office of Deaconess on February 3, 1980. Her feet were washed by Sister Patricia Hildenbrand, and she was ordained by Brother Paul Carr.

Brother Chatman Young was ordained to the office of Deacon on February 3, 1980. His feet were washed by Brother Merle Swanger, and he was ordained by Brother Michael Hildenbrand.

A brother had two experiences of Sister Young's calling, and another brother had one of Brother Chatman's calling. May the Lord bless them in their duties of their offices.

### Redlake, Arizona

After seven years of ministering in this locale, the Lord blessed our mission with three baptisms.

Loretta Brutz—Refer to September Issue, Page 11, for corresponding article.

Dina Surdock—Most of our branch attended the California MBA Camp-out at Oak Glen. During a beautiful prayer meeting Thursday evening, Dina had asked for prayer with many others. Dina had a vision while being prayed for by Brother Larry Watson. She saw an all white church building, and the doors opened up, and inside she saw there was all water, and in the water was Brother Paul Liberto dressed in his baptismal clothes outreaching to her. She asked for her baptism that evening along with others. She went to sleep that night and had the same dream again. On Saturday afternoon, August 9, 1980, her father, Brother Ken Surdock, performed his first baptism with his daughter. Brother V. James Lovalvo confirmed her that evening into the Church. During the confirmations, Brother V. James Lovalvo saw a white dove going from head to head of the five being confirmed.

Randy Nez—Randy is a young Navajo man from the Reservation who was introduced to the Church by a fellow employee, Brother John Mancini, and has been attending the Church for nearly a year. Saturday evening, after the meeting was dis-

missed, those who wanted prayer were asked to stay. The majority of the people left the meeting, and a few stayed, about thirty people. By the end of the meeting, 1:00 a.m., about 160 people had returned to the meeting because the power of God was so great. Many were prayed for, and the power of God directed Randy to go up and ask for prayer and strength to ask for his baptism. After the prayer, he turned and looked at the ministry, and the Lord called him at that time. He embraced many brothers from the Redlake Branch, and asked for his baptism. Randy requested to be baptized back home in Redlake so his family could witness the baptism. On Sunday, August 17, 1980, witnessed by many of his family and friends whom he had invited, Randy was baptized by Brother Larry Watson and assisted by Brother Dennis Calabrese. Brother Bob Watson confirmed him into the Church. The power of God was so great when Randy came out of the waters, that Randy went from person to person and embraced them. During the embracing of Brother Pete Genaro, Brother Pete spoke in tongues. Brother Chuck Curry had asked the Lord if He would give a confirmation of his calling, and the tongues was his answer.

Remember these new members in your prayers, and continue to remember all of us who reside here on the Navajo Indian Reservation, as God has told us that there are many others, that we may be ready and willing to do God's will.

### San Carlos, AZ

*By Paulette Griffith*

Greetings from San Carlos! We would like to share with you one of our recent meetings.

We were invited to hold our service on Wednesday, August 20, at the new home of Jerry and Alvina James. After singing a few hymns and having prayer, Brother Emmett Dale opened the meeting for testimony. Most all took part, and we felt the blessings of God in our midst.

Alvina spoke thanking God for answering her prayers in giving her a

good husband; she also thanked God for her home and stated that she had promised God she would have it dedicated to Him. She wanted God to be first in their lives.

As a child she had attended church at the mission with her grandmother, Sister Chase, and had been healed of an affliction in her legs. Her husband, Jerry, is the youngest son of our Sister Sally James.

At the close of the service, we sang *Lovest Thou Me*. We all joined hands as Brother Claude Kayson asked the Lord to watch over their home and keep them close to Him. Alvina then invited us all to stay for refreshments which were enjoyed by all.

Remember this young couple in your prayers that they may decide to give their lives to the Lord. Remember as well all the children of our saints here at San Carlos.

## Edison, NJ

*By Ruth Arcuri, Editor*

For about a year, our little branch in Edison has been blessed with numerous visitors, many of whom came on a regular basis. Where before we used to have only a few benches filled, now it was unusual to see very many empty, and we were also blessed with the sounds of many small children.

Finally our prayers were answered; for as a branch, we prayed constantly that our visitors would be blessed and their minds would be opened to the truth of the words they heard each Sunday. On June 1, Brother Sam Sgro baptized our first new sister from among these visitors. Darlene Raio was taken to the waters on a beautiful, clear day, and we all felt the Spirit moving among us. Brother Joseph Perri confirmed her that afternoon, and we all eagerly waited for the Spirit to move again.

But, though our visitors continued to come and we continued to pray, our next new sister didn't call for her baptism until a month later, on July 6, and then she felt her calling while visiting the New Brunswick Branch. Sister Rose Pittman, the mother of

Sister Linda Pizzala of our branch, was taken to the waters by Brother Sam Sgro of New Brunswick. Brother Wilbert McNeil, also of New Brunswick, confirmed her and we were so thankful to our Lord for bringing us another new sister.

Then on August 31, while visiting Brother Don Ross and his family, Albert (Skip) Raio, husband of Sister Darlene, made his decision to follow our Lord's commandment and be baptized. He was baptized on September 6 by Brother Don Ross and was confirmed by Brother Rocco Ensana. Our day was filled with gladness and happiness for our new brother who faced and overcame many doubts before making his decision.

We thank God with all our hearts for our new sisters and brother in Christ. They are a great blessing to our branch, especially at this time while we still are recovering from our recent losses. The Lord is merciful! Please pray with us for the rest of our visitors.

That same day, September 6, we felt another great loss as our Brother John Huttenberger and his wife, Sister Janice, spent their last Sunday with us for a few years. They are moving to California and, with their young daughter, Jennifer, will be attending the Anaheim Branch. We know they will be a great blessing to that branch though we feel very sad at our loss. We had a delicious lunch that day in our branch, prepared by the sisters of Edison, to say "good-bye for a while and God bless you". We know the Lord will bless them in their new home, and we are certain that they will not be lonely or upset at their moving for long for they are only moving to another part of the vineyard and will have new brothers and sisters to welcome them.

Please continue to remember us and pray for us as we always remember our brothers and sisters everywhere.

## Greensburg, PA

*By Lana Fallavoletti*

On June 15, 1980, Bill Emerick asked to be baptized. He was baptized by Brother Lirio Fallavoletti and confirmed by Brother Paul Gehly.

Brother Bill related an unusual experience regarding his calling into the Church. He said he would be baptized during lightning and thunder. During the meeting a terrible storm took place; but Brother Bill had forgotten his promise. The lights flickered off and on, causing him to remember his words, so he asked to be baptized.

When we arrived at the site, the storm continued until time for the baptism, and then the sun shone brightly. It was truly a beautiful day. Remember our new brother in prayer that God will bless him.

## Lorain, Ohio

*By Katherine Cocco*

While I was playing with my little eleven month old nephew, John F. Tamish, his fingernail accidentally scratched my eye across the cornea and iris. The eye was very painful. I tried to call one of our elders to go to his home to be anointed, but couldn't make a connection. About four hours later, in extreme pain, I agreed to go to the emergency room with members of my family persuading me to do so. The physician who examined my eye told me there was a scratch on the epidermal layer of the cornea and iris about one-half centimeter long. He treated the eye, put a patch on it, and said if it still hurt the next afternoon to contact an eye specialist. This was Friday night; I knew Saturday morning was our prayer service, and my desire was to be anointed at that time.

The next morning I took off the patch and had my husband drive me to church because the eye was still very painful, and I couldn't see out of the eye. At the end of the prayer service, I asked to be anointed. In my prayer, I pleaded with the Lord to show His power. It had been related of the experience when the cap flew off the bottle of blessed oil, and I knew that God was able to do all things, and He could heal my eye. I also wanted my family to know how great God is and wanted this experience for another testimony to them.

I was anointed by our Brother Harry Smith who was visiting from Arizona. As he began praying, I felt Brother Frank Calabrese put some oil on my eye, which I had not verbally requested but had desired in my heart. Such a wonderful blessing was

received, and I felt God's presence. Sister Rose Palacios was also anointed for her eyes. God's blessing was there and felt by all present. We all formed a circle for our closing prayer. After prayer was over I was able to open my eye for the first time since the injury and see the faces of all my brothers and sisters. What a blessing and how wonderful I felt. The pain had subsided, and I was greatly blessed.

But Satan never rests. I had asked Sister Betty Alessio if she would take me home, and she agreed. While walking out into the bright sunlight, I blinked my eyes and the pain began again. By one o'clock that same afternoon, I was back at the hospital to see Dr. Costin, the eye specialist. He said he had to remove the layer that covers the eye and that I needed to completely rest both eyes for twenty-four hours. I couldn't move, talk, or do anything but lie still. I had to have drops put into my eye every four hours and have the bandages changed. If the eye did not heal properly at this time, the doctor said I could have trouble with it for the rest of my days.

Now we were expecting a lot of brothers and sisters to come to our service on Sunday, and we were to have a lunch at church. It was a meeting I had looked forward to, and I knew that God would pour out His blessings and send messages and messengers. I felt very down and discouraged, yet the Lord knew my heart. I had been kept very busy up to this point with some company that was visiting me from California, my sister, Sharon, and my three nephews. My family all helped me to be able to receive this rest, and Sister Betty Alessio was a great help to me at this time.

Sunday morning as I lay in the front room of my house, my heart and soul and mind were on the service in church. I prayed that God would visit me and let me feel a portion of His Spirit and to know what the brothers and sisters were receiving at church. My first experience happened as my eyes were closed, not asleep yet not awake. I was able to see the heavens pour out great sunbeams from every direction—not light airy beams, but solid and thick with the center beams so bright and white, directed straight onto our church on Broadway. In between all these beams were a lot of pure white doves. I saw the church open from the roof, and I could see

inside a personage all dressed in white walk up to our pulpit and sit with the elders on the right hand side. From this experience I could feel the blessings and the same Spirit that our brothers and sisters were enjoying in the service.

The next experience came a short time after the first one, about ten or fifteen minutes later. In this one, I saw the heavens, and from the white clouds came two hands, and the long arms came down and gathered up about five or six little Indian children

from out of a great wilderness and scooped them into a lush, green beautiful garden place, after which I heard a voice say, "This is only the beginning." From this experience I knew that the gathering of Israel and the establishing of Zion was being brought forth. Only days later did Brother Joe Calabrese tell me that the first Navajo had been baptized on that same Sunday.

Praise God for His love and care. My eye has healed fine in God's time and pleasure.



## A Day Remembered at Branch No. 4

On Sunday, August 17, 1980, the members of Branch No. 4 in Redford Township, Michigan and all visiting brothers and sisters experienced a day of great rejoicing as five souls claiming the Lord as their Saviour requested baptism: Brother Anthony Cappatocio, Sister Deborah Bruno, Sister Josephine Pepper, Brother Roger Pepper, and Brother Alfred Coney.

The story really begins in California where Brother Alfred Coney (whose family is all associated with Branch No. 4) underwent open heart surgery requiring five and one-half by-passes. The doctors had given him up and pronounced him dead. After eighteen minutes, one doctor decided to operate without even bothering to administer anesthesia. While the operation was being performed, Alfred felt his life returning. The doctors were amazed at his revival and even more amazed later when they found no brain damage.

Brother Alfred is surely convinced that only the hand of the Almighty God restored his life in answer to the

many prayers offered up in his behalf. After the operation, he was anointed by the priesthood, and his recovery was indeed a miracle. Within a very short time he was sent home. Five weeks after his operation, he attended the California Campout, where he had an experience of seeing Jesus Christ in a vision. He knew that he had to be baptized. He requested his baptism, but asked to be baptized in Detroit at Branch No. 4 so that his whole family could share the blessing with him. He also requested Brother V. James Lovalvo to baptize him. Brother Alfred, when he was a little boy, knew Brother Jim when he was the first Presiding Elder of Branch No. 4. Therefore, Brother Jim and Sister Mary Lovalvo both accompanied Alfred to Detroit.

As we received the news of Brother Alfred's homecoming, the saints from Branch No. 4 began fasting and praying that God might call others into the Church, and we were not disappointed.

Brother V. James Lovalvo opened the Sunday service using the Parable

of the Prodigal Son as his text. This was indeed appropriate, since Brother Alfred had been raised in the Church in a God-fearing atmosphere and was now coming home in the spirit of the Prodigal Son. Brother Jim was inspired to issue a very strong invitation to all, saying, "Come to the Lord, God is good, God has called and anointed me to preach repentance". We all felt the presence of the Lord as the other four people requested their baptisms. Brothers and sisters, how our souls had hungered for this moment! With many tears, we turned our thankful hearts to Him who had called them to repentance.

So now, what a joy it was to meet at our lake site and watch with grateful hearts, as each one was taken into the waters. Surely there was joy and festivity in Heaven as there was with each and every one of us. Praise God! We returned to our church building for a lovely dinner and our confirmation service. The Lord continued to be with us, and we were blessed during the prayers for the bestowal of the Holy Ghost. It was also good to hear Brother Loyalvo relive the blessings of his days as a young minister and Presiding Elder of Branch No. 4.

In closing, Brother Alfred Coney wishes to express his sincere thanks to all who prayed for him during his illness.

**IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR  
SUBSCRIPTION TO THE GOSPEL  
NEWS?**

## McKees Rocks, PA

It was a joyous evening in the service of the King. There were twelve men, ministers of God, on the rostrum. Several spoke to us and preached about water. How very important it is to us in our daily lives; how needful the water, living water, that Jesus gives. The Jews and Samaritans had no dealings one with another, yet Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman and bade her ask for the living water when she came to draw water at the well. So now being that His true Gospel is restored, He is still giving to us this living water that

*By Martha Laird, Editor*

flows up within us unto everlasting life.

On Sunday, August 31, Brother Dominick Rose from Brooklyn, New York, spoke and preached to us about Jesus, when He walked on the water telling His disciples to have no fear. Hymn No. 9 comes to mind as we write this article, "Fear not brethren, lo tis Jesus; Holds the helm and guides the ship."

May the peace which surpasseth all understanding abide.

## The Thief

*By The Glassport Branch*

There lives within my home a thief who sometimes robs me of an item more precious than all the treasures of this earth. He is easy to be found; he sets in the open all the time; he helps me to relax; he holds my attention for hours; he keeps me up late at night; he makes me laugh; he arouses my curiosity; he fills my mind with many facts both bad and good; he tells stories that are not true; he shows me many wonders of the earth; he shows me the strength and ability of man; he frightens me with bad news from near and far; he helps my mind to fantasize and wish for things that I do not need; he tries to arouse the sensual desires in my heart; he tells me where to spend my money; he influences every person in my home; his voice tries to distract me from other responsibilities I have; he shows me many wonders that I have never seen; he exalts human beings to a point of fame and fortune; he glamorizes the sins of immorality; he has shown everything from the beauty and wonder of birth to the terror of violent death; he occupies me and keeps me company when I don't go to church, and he is probably in your home. His name is television, and he has a brother named radio and two sisters named newspaper and magazine. They together steal our precious time.

Dear Lord in heaven, give us the strength to shut off television, radio, newspapers and magazines when they rob us of the valuable time You have given us to work out our soul's salvation; and please Lord, give us the discernment to know when the evil spirit is using the tools man has invented for his evil purposes.

## Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

With all my heart I want to thank all the saints throughout the Church for the many prayers, visits, cards and phone calls in behalf of my husband, Marchel Chambers, during his illness and passing away. I miss him so much; there is a vacancy in my heart that no one can fill but God.

Please pray for me that I will serve God to the very best. I have so much love in my heart for all of my brothers and sisters in Christ. I pray that God will give me the strength, but most of all, the faith I need to serve Him.

Remember me in your prayers, and I will do the same for you.

Sister Flossie Chambers

## Change of address

The Church of Jesus Christ  
Quincy, Florida Mission  
23 North Shelfer Street  
Quincy, Florida 32351

Brothers and Sisters,

Please note the change of address for Bill and Evelyn Crall of Anadarko. Although we are living on a rural route, U.P.S. has already found us. So any brothers and sisters wanting to send packages, baby layetts, etc., feel free to send them U.P.S.

Bill and Evelyn Crall  
P. O. Box 1028  
Anadarko, OK 73005

\* **WEDDINGS** \*

**BERTOLO—RANDAZZO**

Mr. Daniel Bertolo and Miss Mary Frances Randazzo were united in holy marriage on August 29, 1980 in The Church of Jesus Christ in Sterling Heights, Michigan by Brothers Nicholas Pietrangelo and Spencer Everett.

Musical selections were presented by Brother Eugene Amormino, organist, and Nicki Puroff, soloist.

**FACER—PALAZZO**

Mr. William Charles Facer and Miss Lilian Palazzo were united in holy wedlock on August 16, 1980 by Brother Ansel D'Amico in The Church of Jesus Christ, Rochester, New York.

Mr. Ronald D'Amico presented musical selections.

The Facers are making their home in Rochester, New York.

**New Arrivals**

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

Paul John to John and Dorothy Fortunato Graban of Youngstown, Ohio;

Joseph Michael Martin to Joseph and Carol Damore of Youngstown, Ohio;

Gina Maria to Joe and Debbie Scoza of Detroit, Branch No. 1;

Christina Marie to Joe and Debbie Castelli of Detroit, Branch No. 1;

Sanchez Mario to James and Sylvia Davis of Quincy, Florida; and

Andria Dawn to Rodney and Judy Dyer of Muncey Mission, Ontario, Canada.

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— **OBITUARIES** —

*We wish to express our sympathy to those that mourn over the loss of loved ones. May God bless and comfort you.*

**BETTY JUNE FUNARI**

Betty June Funari passed away from this life on July 30, 1980. Born on June 6, 1922, she attended the Roscoe Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. Although she was very afflicted for many years, she put forth a great effort to attend church.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers B. J. Martin and J. Fred Olexa.

Betty is survived by her mother, four daughters, one son, six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, one sister and two brothers.

**ROSS BARTUCCIO**

Brother Ross Bartuccio of Cape Coral, Florida passed away on August 31, 1980. He was born on January 4, 1903 and was baptized on May 16, 1937, serving as a deacon and a teacher in the Church.

He is survived by his wife, five sons, five daughters, twenty-nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Brother Duane Lowe, William Tucker, Sam Costarella and Alvin Swanson conducted the funeral services.

**CLARA R. LOGUE**

Sister Clara R. Logue, a member of the Fort Pierce,

Florida Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ, passed on to her reward on June 25, 1980 after a long illness.

Brother Frank Rogolino officiated at the funeral service.

Sister Clara is survived by her husband, one daughter, one brother, one sister and two grandchildren.

**FRANK SIRANGELO**

Brother Frank Sirangelo of the Lake Worth, Florida Branch passed away on July 14, 1980 at the age of 92.

Brother Michael Radd conducted the funeral service.

Brother Sirangelo is survived by his daughter, Sister Carmella Mazzeo, other children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**LILLIAN COPPA**

Sister Lillian Coppa of the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch, passed away on June 26, 1980. She was born on July 13, 1908 and was baptized into the Church on August 30, 1925.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Frank Mazzeo and John Buffa.

Sister Coppa is survived by four sons and six grandchildren.

# The Gospel News

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa., USA.

(USPS 223-480)

December, 1980

Volume 36, No. 12

## A Blessed Gathering: General Church Conference October, 1980, Greensburg, Pennsylvania

The long awaited General Church Spiritual Conference convened in a spirit of fasting and prayer Thursday morning, October 16. A large turnout of elders and teachers was present for a season of singing that preceded the invocation by Brother Joseph Lovalvo. Our General Church President, Brother Dominic Thomas, cheerfully welcomed everyone and then briefly outlined some of the scheduled activities for the Conference. He also admonished and encouraged us to draw closer to God. A beautiful season of prayer then occupied the balance of the morning service. Brother A. A. Corrado offered the benediction.

### *Thursday Afternoon*

The afternoon service was introduced with prayer by Brother Rocco V. Biscotti. Brother Joseph Lovalvo addressed us briefly, reading from the Prophet Joel, "Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the Lord your God, and cry unto the Lord." His message was a stirring encouragement and admonition to all.

Following this, the Lord's Supper was administered to all in attendance by the District Presidents amidst an atmosphere of sacredness and solemnity. Next, several brothers were anointed and prayed over for God's healing grace and touch.

The ordinance of feet-washing was then observed. A humble and peace-

ful spirit prevailed as row after row the brothers went forward to wash and be washed.

We were then led in prayer by Brother Joseph Milantoni in behalf of all the sick and ailing saints throughout the Church. The brothers formed a ring and the benediction was offered by Brother Paul D'Amico.

### *Thursday Evening*

Brother V. J. Lovalvo offered the invocation. Brother Robert Watson was our first speaker for our evening service. He eloquently stressed the responsibility of the Church in the preaching of the Restored Gospel to all the world, but particularly to the Seed of Joseph and Israel.

Brother Nick Pietrangelo followed Brother Watson, exhorting us on the serious discharge of our ministerial duties and obligations. He also encouraged the teachers to be active in the duties of their office.

This concluded the activities of the first day of our Conference. Brother Robert Watson offered the benediction.

### *Friday Morning*

On Friday morning, we again gathered in a spirit of fasting and prayer. We happily welcomed a large attendance of brothers and sisters to join us for the second day of our Conference which was now open to all. Brother Frank Calabrese offered

the invocation. Brother Thomas recapped briefly the activities of the day before.

Brother Eugenio Mora, of Mexico, recounted an experience he had Thursday morning during the meeting, and Brother Frank Palacios interpreted. He said that a brother approached him and gave him a glass of water. He drank the water, and it was refreshing. However, he was puzzled why the brother gave water to him only. Later, when he related the incident to a few brothers, it was discovered that he had been visited by a heavenly messenger.

Brother V. J. Lovalvo voiced his feeling that since Brother Mora is of the Seed of Joseph, this experience indicates that God will use this Church to increasingly administer the water of life to them.

The balance of the service was devoted to prayer. Brother Dominic Thomas offered the benediction.

### *Friday Afternoon*

With the added voices of many more people in attendance, we enjoyed a stirring spirit of congregational singing which served as a fitting introduction to our afternoon service. Brother Robert Buffington offered the invocation.

Brother Russell Cadman addressed us, reading the account in III Nephi of the Lord Jesus administering His Supper, the bread and wine to His



Twelve Disciples on this land, and they in turn to the multitude.

Brothers V. James and Joseph Lovalvo also addressed us briefly. Our attention was drawn to the fact that this marked the first time in the history of our Church that the Twelve Apostles had occasion to administer the Lord's Supper to a congregation of saints representing the General Church. The scripture and spoken word by our brothers were a most appropriate and fitting theme for the holy ordinance which was to follow.

The Twelve Apostles then administered the Lord's Supper to a large congregation of brothers and sisters. It was a most impressive sight and moving experience as our Brother Apostles moved from row to row, administering the sacramental bread and wine in remembrance of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Brother V. James Lovalvo told us of his vision of three (3) personages standing near the sacrament table. A sister also testified she had a vision of the three (3) Nephites walking down the aisle toward the sacrament table. Following a short distance behind them was a fourth personage, and behind him there appeared a star.

Following this, the Twelve Apostles held one another's hands, and the congregation likewise held hands during which Brother Thomas offered a tender and moving invocation for God's continuing blessings upon all.

We next enjoyed a couple of selections sung by Brother and Sister Mora. They were joined in a third selection by several of our American brothers who are fluent in Spanish. Several Italian hymns were then sung by a large cross section of the congregation fluent in Italian.

A wonderful spirit prevailed throughout the meeting. Brother Louis Vitto offered the benediction.

#### *Friday Evening*

Another season of singing was enjoyed preceding the introduction to the evening service. Brother Eugene Perri offered the invocation. Brother Richard Christman, President of the Quorum of Seventy, was in charge of this meeting.

Brother Leonard Joseph Lovalvo sang a beautiful solo, "Lighthouse".

Brother Isaac Smith was our first speaker. His message was both cheering and encouraging. Brother George Heaps, our next speaker, also addressed us briefly. His message, too, was well received.

The congregation sang a couple of selections. This was followed by a group singing several selections composed by Sister Arlene Buffington with musical arrangements by Brother Eugene Amormino. Brother Leonard Joseph Lovalvo sang another solo.

Brother Giuseppe LoRicco, an evangelist visiting from Italy, was then introduced. He related that he was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ 25 years ago. He also recounted several experiences he encountered in his evangelistic labors and travels. Brother Domenick Rose interpreted.

Brother Eugenio Mora, our evangelist from Mexico, also addressed us, and Brother Joseph Lovalvo interpreted. Brother Mora expressed his happiness to be at this conference, adding that he enjoys preaching the Gospel. The gift of tongues was manifested and the interpretation followed: "I say unto you, this Church shall march on and on." The meeting was concluded with the benediction by Brother Nathan Peterkin.

#### *Saturday Morning*

Prior to the introduction of our morning service, we were sadly informed that Brother and Sister Biscotti had been in an auto accident a little earlier this morning and were now in the Westmoreland County Hospital for treatment. Brother A. A. Corrado led us in prayer in their behalf.

Brother Thomas welcomed the large turnout and recapped the activities of Thursday and Friday, encouraging us to continue in unity. Brother Matthew Rogolino offered the invocation.

Brother Frank Calabrese was our first speaker. He delivered a stirring address, exhorting us to greater spiritual labor and testimony to the world.

Brother Jerry Benyola told us of his vision of a man in ordinary attire, holding a glass of water, ready to give

it to someone, during our fasting and prayer service. This experience dramatically corroborated Brother Mora's remarkable experience.

Following this, Brother Benyola offered the opening prayer of our prayer service portion of our meeting. This proved to be a beautiful and moving devotion. We were happily informed that Brother and Sister Biscotti had been released from the hospital and were now back with us. Brother Jerry Valenti offered the benediction which concluded our morning service.

#### *Saturday Afternoon*

Brother Biscotti briefly expressed himself, thanking God for protecting him and his wife from serious injury, and he also thanked everyone for their prayers. He then offered the invocation. Quorum of Twelve President, Brother Joseph Lovalvo, introduced the Apostles, one by one. The congregation gave them a standing vote of appreciation for their labor and service.

Brother V. James Lovalvo addressed us, referring to III Nephi, Chapter 27, wherein the Lord commanded His people to do the things according to His Gospel and Church. He encouraged us to become "actioneers" after returning home from Conference, seeking opportunities to testify to the world and people all around us.

Brother Joseph Lovalvo later turned the meeting over to testimony for ministers and members alike. An inspiring season of testimony and speaking followed.

Brother Al Coney of San Diego was then introduced, and Brother Joseph Lovalvo read Brother Coney's testimony. In it he recounts his miraculous recovery from open heart surgery that followed a massive heart attack. After an 18 minute stoppage, his heart resumed beating. Later the doctors found no brain damage. His case made medical history. Brother Coney was eventually baptized. Following the reading of his testimony, Brother Coney expressed praise and gratitude to God and also thanks to everyone for their prayers.

We were led in prayer by Brother Moraco in behalf of Sister Anne Wilson who was taken ill in her hotel room. Several ailing saints were anointed and prayed over for God's

healing grace. Next, we were led in prayer by Brother Christman in behalf of Brother John Griffith who was taken to the hospital experiencing chest pains.

In a moving address, Brother Thomas appealed to all who love the Church to exert greater effort to support the Church.

The meeting was joyfully concluded by singing, *We're Marching to Zion*, and benediction by Brother Frank Ciotti.

### *Saturday Evening*

The invocation was offered by Brother Michael LaSala. Our service was taken up as a singspiration. The Pennsylvania Area MBA Choir sang several selections. We next enjoyed songs by the following: The Champagne brothers, the Ohio Area MBA Choir, solo by Sister Iva Fedorka, the Detroit quartet, Brother and Sister Mora, and a duet by Brothers V. James and Leonard Joseph Lovalvo.

The entire priesthood then sang, *On That Bright and Glorious Morning* as our concluding song and the benediction was offered by Brother Mitchell Edwards.

### *Sunday Morning*

Our Sunday service was blessed with an overflow attendance of saints, children, young people, loved ones, and friends from many locations, near and far. Additionally, the Lord blessed us with a beautiful, sunshiny day. We enjoyed another season of singing under the able direction of Brother Louis Vitto, with melodious accompaniment at the piano by Brother Eugene Amormino.

The Omaha-South Bend group sang a selection followed by the Michigan-Ontario Choir. The invocation was offered by Brother Willie Brown. The Michigan-Ontario Choir sang a medley and was joined by the congregation in a vigorous, *Blessed Be the Name of the Lord*.

Brother Thomas cheerfully greeted everyone and happily noted the large turnout, thanking God for their presence. He briefly recapped the activities of our previous services of Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Brother Joseph Calabrese was our first speaker. He referred to the

prophetic utterance of Joel, the prophet, "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions." (Joel 2:28) Brother Calabrese also referred to our Lord's remarkable encounter with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. (John 4) His message was edifying and well received, and he urged us to go forward in the strength of the Lord.

Brother V. James Lovalvo then sang a beautiful hymn, *A Red Man Sat Proudly*.

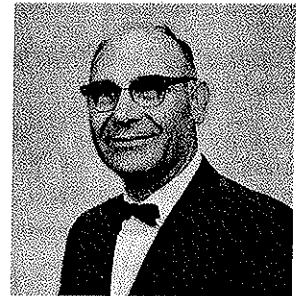
Brother Joseph Milantoni was our next speaker, and he further enlarged upon Brother Calabrese's message, encouraging us to continue our efforts to bring the waters of life to thirsty souls.

We sang one of our favorite latter-day hymns, *Longing for the Gathering*.

## *Greetings in Jesus Christ,*

The beautiful is mysteriously lovely. It comes in many shapes and sizes and colors, but bears the same testimonial to the Creator and to all men of good will.

The birth of Christ is often disputed as to time and season, but what is undisputed is that HE WAS BORN. And more importantly, He is born in the life of each believer. Those who allow Him to abide within their life live a meaningful, fulfilling and fruitful life. All that we possess, whether material or spiritual, is granted to us by God. When we share such as we have, the Spirit of Christ in us rejoices. When by the grace of God we enter into Paradise, we shall hear the King Jesus say, "Verily I say unto you inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me".



In a little town in Italy, there is a tradition of expressing thanksgiving for the first fruits of spring. It is celebrated by inviting a poor family in town to eat of the most painfully prepared dinner. Every effort is made to give them the royal treatment. I do not know when or how this tradition started, but it makes sense to treat someone who could in no way repay. I thought it was beautiful. We who feel the Spirit of Christ in us could celebrate the birth of Christ by a personal soul cleansing and renewal of the mind, being kind one to another, tenderhearted and forgiving one another, even as God so forgives us. This would make the Christ who is born in us glad. For this is the will of God in us as His children, begotten through Jesus Christ the Lord.

Inasmuch as we are followers of God, as dear children, we therefore walk in love. The Spirit of Christ in us delights in righteousness and truth, by which we are sanctified and cleansed, not of ourselves, but through the washing of water and by the Word of God. Thus, Jesus might present us a glorious Church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but it should be holy and without blemish.

So ought we to love Christ whose spirit lives in us, by loving, caring and leading others in the good paths, seeking not our welfare, but the welfare of others.

Finally, where the Spirit of Christ dwells, there is faith; and where there is faith, there is love; and where there is love, there is peace. Where there is peace, there is God; and where there is God, we stand complete; and when we are complete, we are ready to fill another's needs.

Strive to retain that good spirit which is within you; but if you have slipped and nigh lost it, fight to regain it!

May God bless each of you.

Brother Mark Randy

Brother Richard Christman delivered a brief, but stirring message, referring to the theme of "action" as advanced by Brother V. James Lovalvo the day before and sustained by the brothers in their addresses today.

The congregation stood and sang with joy and intensity, *Glory Hallelujah*.

Brother Russell Cadman then addressed us, and his message also centered on the theme of "Living Waters". He encouraged us to live righteously so that the Church would progress toward the glories of Zion.

Brother Nathan Peterkin further enlarged upon the messages brought forth by the brothers, and he concluded by bidding us to do like the Samaritan woman, to go and tell others about the Gospel.

Brother Thomas requested prayer for Sister Lorraine DeMercurio who is reported ill in Nigeria. Brother Joseph Bittinger led us in prayer in her behalf.

Brother Thomas introduced our visiting evangelists to the congregation: Brother Mora from Mexico and Brother Giuseppe LoRicco from Italy. He asked us to remember them in prayer as they prepare to return to their native countries.

Brother Nick Pietrangelo requested prayer for the brothers who will be leaving shortly for a missionary journey to Nigeria. Brother V. James Lovalvo then led us in prayer in behalf of Brothers Dominic Thomas, Paul Palmieri, Michael Hildenbrand and Paul Carr.

Brother Thomas made a con-

cluding appeal for involvement, support, and fasting and prayer. He also expressed thanks to all those who in any way served our needs throughout the Conference.

Our blessed gathering came to a close as we sang with joy and vigor that favorite hymn, *We're Marching to Zion*. Brother Joseph Lovalvo offered the benediction.

We praise God for His many blessings throughout this memorable Conference. We have been strengthened, enlightened, and encouraged by many wonderful messages and admonitions. We have been edified by remarkable visions and experiences. We have been drawn closer to one another by the tender fellowship that we experienced.

THANK YOU, LORD!

## Won't You Come Back Home?

By Bertha Jean Bilsky, Roscoe, PA

Recently at one of our Sunday services, Brother Bud Martin told of an experience he had several years ago concerning those away from the shelter of God's fold. As it is truly a beautiful experience to be enjoyed by all, I asked him this past week to write it that it might be sent to *The Gospel News*.

Also this week, I was blessed in receiving some of Sister Arlene Buffington's latest hymns. I have been singing and playing them every opportunity I get to set down at the piano. I was especially blessed in singing the hymn, *Come All Ye that Thirst*. As I sang these beautiful words, I could feel the loving invitation that the Lord extends to all mankind, yet I felt a great sorrow for those that refuse to taste of the waters of life. I was inspired to pray more for those away from the fold of God. A voice spoke within me and told me to read in the scripture. I was always taught when that voice speaks, take time and be obedient, or a great blessing might be lost. I picked the *Bible* up and opened it at random to Isaiah 55. My eyes immediately fell upon the words, "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters." I continued to read this beautiful chapter and was richly blessed, convinced even more of the love of

God.

I hope that all who read the experience God gave to Brother Martin will feel more concerned for those away from the shelter of God's fold and feel the love that God has for His children.

### Brother Martin's Experience

After a wonderful Sunday meeting in our church building, I came home rejoicing in God's goodness. At bedtime my mind was still upon the goodness of God, and after saying my prayers, I got into bed. As I lay there in meditation over the wonders of God, a beautiful vision appeared before me.

A large room opened up before me like into our church building, but there was only one doorway to the building. As I viewed the room, it was filled with children, from infant age up to the age of accountability. In the center of the room among the children was a man who apparently was the father of these children. As he walked among them he touched them each, and I could see the great love he had for them.

As he walked among them, I saw some of the older ones begin to leave

his home. As they went through the doorway, I saw they were walking out into total darkness, although the father did not try to stop them I could see his countenance become very sad. After this group left, a second group left, going out the open doorway into this total darkness. Finally a third group left also, and as they went out into this darkness, I was able to see even in the darkness. Each group went in different degrees: some very far off, some a shorter distance, and the last close to home.

Then my eyes beheld the father walking among the other children, and as he touched them, I could see the great love he had for them. As he looked up, he looked towards the open doorway, and I could see the sadness and longing he had for those that left him. He walked to the doorway and began to call to them, and he used the words of one of our hymns as he called, "Won't you come back home, your Father dearly loves you, Won't you come back home."

I could see all three groups in this terrible darkness hear his voice, and they started towards his voice for they couldn't see in this darkness and their only way back home was to follow his voice.

(continued on page nine)

*Editorial Viewpoint . . .***Summing Up and Looking Forward**

*Ring out the old shapes of foul disease,  
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;  
Ring out the thousand wars 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 grand New Year's poem serve as a timely and moving accompaniment to our annual tradition of "ringing out the old" (1980) and "ringing in the new" (1981). We rejoice as we note the heartfelt hope that the poet, Tennyson, so eloquently expressed with pen.

Prayer-like, he longed for an end to "the thousand wars of old" and "the darkness of the land." Prophetic-like, he looked forward with anticipation for a "thousand years of peace" and "the Christ that is to be."

*Turning of the Year*

The turning of the year is a time for summing up and looking forward. It is a time to note our successes and accomplishments, and our failures and mistakes during the year that has so swiftly rolled away. It is a time to acknowledge our indebtedness to our Heavenly Father for His guidance, strength and support without which we surely would have fallen far short in achieving some of our goals and in fulfilling our duty to Him. It is also a time for us to seek His pardoning grace for our failures and shortcomings. It is a time for us to ask Him for greater strength to enable us to maintain our resolve to serve Him better than before.

*The Christ That Is To Be*

It is a time to implore our Heavenly Father to speed the day when "the thousand wars of old," evil, violence, desolation and sorrow will flee away and be supplanted by "the thousand years of peace," and by "the Christ that is to be."

Yea, "... He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." (Isaiah 2:4)

Yea, "... righteousness shall be the girdle of His loins, and faithfulness the girdle of His reins. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." (Isaiah 11:5-9)

In looking forward to the New Year, may we take fresh courage, trusting in God, and in the verse of Charles Wesley:

*Come, let us anew, our journey pursue.  
Roll around with the year, roll around with the year,  
And never stand still, and never stand still  
Till the Master appear.*

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## The Children's Corner

By Mabel Bickerton  
Monongahela, PA



### The Story of Jesus' Birth

Dear Girls and Boys,

I want to tell you about a prophet called Samuel the Lamanite, who told the people in Zarahemla about Jesus' birth. This was five years before he was born.

At this time the Lamanites were more righteous than the Nephite people. When Samuel started to tell the prophecy, the Nephites were angry. They drove Samuel out of their city. He was discouraged and started to go to his home, but the Lord told him to return to Zarahemla. But when he returned the people would not let him in the city gate. He climbed up on the city wall and preached from there. He told them to repent; also that in five years Jesus would be born. He gave them a sign so they would know when he was to be born in Bethlehem. There were some who believed, but others were angry. They threw stones

and shot arrows at Samuel. The Lord protected him; no one could hit him.

Soon the time came for the prophecy to be fulfilled. Five years had almost passed. The wicked people began to say the five years had passed and the prophecy had not been fulfilled. They began to persecute the members of the church. Nephi, a good man among them, was sad. He went alone to pray to God in behalf of his people. After praying all day, the voice of the Lord said, "Lift up your heart and be of good cheer, for behold the time is at hand, and on this night shall the sign be given. On the morrow come I into the world, to show the world that I will fulfill all that I have caused to be spoken by the mouth of my prophets."

That night as the sun went down, no darkness came. Those who had not believed the prophets were afraid and

fell to the earth. All night it was bright as midday. The next morning the sun came up as usual and the people knew this was the day the Saviour was to be born in Bethlehem. Then a new star appeared in the sky just as Samuel had told the people. It shone brightly. All this proved the truth of the prophecies.

It proves Jesus' words, Matthew 5:18, "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." The words of the prophets will all come to pass no matter how many years it takes.

Merry Christmas,  
Sister Mabel

My Little Readers,

This is the last story I am writing for **The Children's Corner**. Next month you will have a new storyteller. I have been writing for *The Gospel News* since the November issue, 1959. The late Brother George Funkhouser, assistant editor at that time, asked if I would write for the paper. During these years this has been an education in God's Word for me. I hope you too have learned more about the *Bible* and the *Book of Mormon* through the stories. I thank all my readers for their prayers and well wishes.

Love,  
Sister Mabel

## District Officers Meet in Dallas, Texas

By Ralph Frammolino

District officers from throughout The Church of Jesus Christ gathered at the Dallas, Texas Mission Saturday and Sunday, September 13 and 14 for a series of business meetings and worship services.

God poured out a generous portion of His Spirit as the theme for the week end revolved around His love and the love between the saints.

Attending the meetings were officers and visitors from districts around the Church: Matthew Rogolino (evangelist) from the Atlantic Coast; Rocco V. Biscotti (apostle), his wife, Sister Angeline, and Joe Calabrese (evangelist) from Ohio; Dominic Thomas (apostle and Church President), Nick Pietrangelo (apostle), Dominic Moraco (evangelist) and

Spencer G. Everett (evangelist) from Michigan-Ontario; Eugene Perri, Jr. (evangelist) from Florida; Paul Palmieri (evangelist and Church Secretary) from Pennsylvania; Richard Christman (evangelist and President of the Quorum of Seventy) and Isaac Smith (evangelist) from Arizona; V. James Lovalvo (apostle), Joe Lovalvo (apostle and President of the Quorum of Twelve), and Leonard Lovalvo (evangelist) from California.

After the officers met alone Saturday to discuss various items of business, the brothers convened a worship service for everyone Saturday night. Brother Rogolino opened the service by reading from II Nephi 33:7-9. The scripture tells of Nephi's "charity" for both Jew and Gentile. Brother Rogolino said the same

charity in the Church today will be a "burning light in a strange and dark world."

Brothers Palmieri and Smith followed by reflecting on God's guidance and the memories in the Church. They encouraged us to become "involved" in the Gospel and to share the love of God with others.

Brother Everett then delivered a stirring talk on the love of God. "God loves you and that's not a trite statement," he said. Brother Everett said he grew up in a family where love was not openly displayed. He said he had to learn to love, first through meeting his wife and then in the Church through knowing the brothers and sisters. Eventually, this love among the saints will win over the

world. "Love isn't something you get," he said. "It is something you are. We are love. We can demonstrate love."

The theme of God's love carried over to the Sunday morning service. Brother Perri opened the meeting by reading from St. Matthew 7:15-27, pointing to the authority of the Church. He said the word of God was like a sharp sword, and that many times the ministry is directed to preach sermons that touch people with unknown problems. He also told us about missionary work among the Seminole Indians in Florida. In one experience, Brother Perri said God multiplied 40 loaves of bread the brothers were trying to distribute on the reservation.

Brother Pietrangelo then told the congregation that God displays His love to the saints. He related an experience from Detroit, Branch No. 1 when doctors pronounced dead the unborn child of a woman there. But four months later, when the woman expected an operation to remove the child and called for prayer from the priesthood, the doctors suddenly detected a heartbeat. The Lord brought the child back to life, Brother Pietrangelo said. The "miracle baby" was born in August.

At this point, the Spirit of God filled the little building in Dallas. It seemed to swell in every heart.

Brother Thomas asked to be anointed. He hurt his back earlier in the morning and couldn't get out of his chair. The brothers knelt around him as Brother Joe Lovalvo offered a special prayer. Then, Brother V. James Lovalvo anointed Brother Thomas and asked God not only to give him strength in his back, but to help him in his duties as President of the Church.

The priesthood displayed great unity and concern for each other. Shortly after the prayer for Brother Thomas, Brother V. James Lovalvo stood in the Spirit and spoke: "It is love that will allow you to cross the deserts. It is love that will allow you to cross the ocean. It is love that will bring you to the Seed of Joseph. It is love that will bring you to the Gentiles. It is love that will allow you to cross the mountains and the valleys. It is love that will destroy sin and transgression. It is love that will cause this Church to be on the top of

the mountain."

Brother Biscotti then stood and told the congregation he was overjoyed by the display of closeness. "My cup runneth over just to see the love we have for one another," he said. "Where are you going to find a people like the people of God who care for one another?"

Three more anointings followed: Brother Moraco, because he was not feeling well; Brother V. James Lovalvo, for an affliction on his scalp; and Sister Yolanda Gonzales, who was just getting over a bad case of pneumonia.

The Lord worked on the heart of Sister Gonzales, who for several months has not attended church. Brother Leonard Lovalvo passed bread for sacrament. As he passed the dish among the ministry, the brothers broke off more pieces of bread to make sure there was enough to go around. When Brother Leonard was finished, there was one piece of bread left. The remaining piece of bread was meant for our sister. Touched by the Spirit, she stood up and asked to be restored to fellowship. Brother Joe Calabrese prayed

on her for this purpose. During the prayer, Sister Gonzales spoke in tongues, a gift she demonstrated on her day of baptism a little more than a year ago. Brother Leonard then served her the remaining piece of bread, along with the wine.

Brother Christman closed the remarkable Sunday service by declaring, "Oh how I love Jesus."

In closing, I must say that the Spirit of Love among the priesthood and congregation during the week end was unlike anything I've seen in 24 years of attending services. The members witnessed a singleness of mind among the district officers and better understood the heavy responsibility Brother Thomas and our brothers have in trying to further the Gospel. The Spirit of God filled every soul and surely the saints of the Dallas, Texas Mission will not soon forget the visit by our brothers.

*And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:10,*

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## Christmas Peace

*By Ed Landefeld*

*A wonderful thought crossed my mind today  
That prompted me to write this verse.  
Wouldn't it be wonderful at Christmas time  
If for once we could have real Peace on Earth?*

*No longer the sound of murderous bombs,  
Or the bone chilling sound of whistling shells,  
But instead the calm of a winter scene  
Of Peace on Earth and Christmas bells.*

*A wreath of holly on every door  
Instead of one for the brave deceased.  
No mourning for a missing son,  
But the calm tranquility of a Christmas Peace.*

*If every nation would lay down its arms,  
An act of brotherhood we all would cheer,  
Then the entire world could be sincere in its wish  
For a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

## Branch and Mission News

### Visitors, Blessings and Baptisms in Ohio

*Saturday, October 11, 1980*

A District fasting and prayer service was held in Lorain Branch. This was a beautiful introduction to our General Church Spiritual Conference. Brother and Sister Eugenio Mora from Mexico, Brother Joe Ciarolla and Brother Sam Randy from California were visiting with us. There was also representation from Cleveland, Erie, Lorain, Niles and Warren Branches.

Brother Joseph Calabrese opened the service by reading Joel 2:1-2, "Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand; a day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness . . ." The Spirit of God was manifested in prayer as well as a feeling of humility and the expectation that God was going to bless us.

As Brother Frank Altomare was in prayer, he was carried away in the spirit and spoke as follows: "Thus saith the Lord, open your heart, I am standing at the door and I will bless my few who have entered into this room. I am your God and I will bless all nations at this time. I shall bless even the city of Mexico. They shall multiply even as the sands of the sea. I will bless the humble. I will bless the meek. Woe unto the Gentiles if they will not come down and humble themselves. Thus saith the Lord, I am speaking unto you. Great sorrows are going to come upon all nations and they shall cry, oh, with a broken heart."

Between prayers, Brother Russ Martorana related that while Brother Altomare was praying, he heard the words, "the heavens would open and the angels would administer to the brothers and sisters." A few moments after that, Brother Altomare spoke the same words in his prayer. Brother Russ related this experience in confirmation that the Spirit of God was present and the gifts were being manifested.

Toward the end of the prayer

service, Sister Sherry Scott related a dream she was given during the week. She saw her father, Brother Frank Calabrese, walking down the center aisle of the church in Lorain. She felt that he was a representation of her spiritual father also. She saw that he was busy, burdened with care and buffeted. (Brother Frank was in Texas at this time due to the death of one of the brothers of a Lorain sister.) She was given to know that this would be a trying time for the apostles because the opposition is working hard against them, especially prior to conference. They need our prayers.

After a hymn, the word of the Lord came forth calling the unbaptized to repentance. "God is standing at the door waiting and calling all the day long for those that would come unto him . . ."

At the beginning of the afternoon service, Brother Eugenio Mora preached in Spanish while Brother Frank Palacios interpreted. He carried a beautiful spirit and related many experiences of how God is working in Mexico, calling many into the Gospel and performing many miracles. Brother and Sister Mora then sang several hymns in Spanish, many of which he was inspired to compose.

Brother Ciarolla and Brother Randy also expressed many experiences, testimonies and blessings of their efforts among the Seed of Joseph. There is a great work being done in Mexico and many being called to repentance. They have a great desire to help in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and God has richly blessed them for their efforts.

Many were anointed and prayed on for strength. The remainder of the afternoon was spent in praise to the Lord, testimonies by the ministry and membership as well.

*Sunday, October 12, 1980*

The majority of the saints gathered Saturday remained for the Sunday service, and in addition many visiting brothers and sisters came from Pennsylvania to rejoice with us.



Brother Eugenio Mora

Betsy Velez had asked for her baptism prior to the Sunday service, and all expected a great blessing to welcome another soul to the Gospel. Brother Joe Ciarolla led us in prayer. While we were singing, *Fill My Cup Lord*, Brother Frank Altomare arose under the Spirit of God proclaiming, "An angel of God is standing at the door and he is going to bless us today. He has a message and he's telling his people at this time to draw nearer unto me because great sorrow will soon hit this nation. Great bloodshed will soon come, thus saith the Lord, my God, my God."

Brother Mora opened the service from Romans 13, exhorting us to "awake from our sleep for the day of salvation is near. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. It is time for us to perform labor for the Lord. We must have on the armor of righteousness." Brother and Sister Mora then sang, *One Day at a Time*. The Spirit of God truly wiped away all language barriers this week end. Brother Joe Ciarolla, Brother Wayne Martorana and Brother Frank Calabrese followed on the same theme to work for the night is coming, and we must continue to be children of the light.

After singing, *Why Not Accept Him Now*, Brother Paul Ciotti was given the word of the Lord as follows: "Jesus Christ, the Son of God is calling all that will come. I will take you in my arms and I will embrace you and you shall be called the children of the Most High. Blow the trumpet! Sound the alarm! (These words were a part of the scripture that



Brother Joe Calabrese spoke on during our fasting and prayer service Saturday, although Brother Paul Ciotti was not present. Also, Brother Joe Lovalvo used this same scripture during our October Spiritual Conference one week later. God moves in a mysterious way.) Gather my people! Darkness shall cover the land. Sorrow shall cover the land. Let the watchmen warn my people for the dark days are ahead! The light and the glory that shall cover this Church shall protect you from the darkness and the sorrow. I am Jesus Christ and my voice calls all the day long. Come now, come now, and be blessed, saith the Lamb of God. Let the watchmen warn. Tell my people, now is the time, now is the time, saith Jesus Christ."

Several came forward, many unbaptized seeking strength or wanting to make a decision for the Lord. One young lady had been blessed throughout the meeting and wept for the Spirit of God was upon her throughout the entire meeting. After prayer, Kathy Brooks, from Niles, arose and asked for her baptism. Another young man who was prayed for asked God silently that He would give him a sign or evidence that he was being called. He promised God that if one experience or revelation would be made manifest before him, he would ask for his baptism. Shortly afterward, Brother Altomare spoke under the power of God as he embraced Brother Mora. The gift of tongues was given. The interpretation was, "God is calling. He is calling. He's calling."

Shortly afterward, Frank Natoli, from Niles, the same young man that was praying, stood and asked for his baptism, and the flock of God was increased by three that day.

Betsy Velez was baptized by Brother Joe Calabrese and confirmed by Brother Eugenio Mora. Kathy Brooks was baptized and confirmed by Brother Frank Calabrese. Frank Natoli was baptized by Brother Frank Calabrese and confirmed by Brother Joe Ciarolla.

Sacrament was passed, and there was a season of testimony. Also during the afternoon service, a sister was given a vision of two hands above the ministry and new converts during confirmation.

It was truly a blessed day, and we give all honor and glory to God.

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There have been two more baptisms in recent months in the Ohio District besides the ones mentioned above.

Sister Elisa Marie Calabrese was baptized on September 28, 1980 in Lorain, Ohio by Brother Frank Calabrese and was confirmed by Brother Joseph Calabrese.

Sister Antoinette Lorifice was baptized by Brother Henry Cardillo and confirmed by Brother A. A. Corrado on October 12, 1980 in Youngstown, Ohio. Our new sister is 74 years old and learned about our Church through Sister Clara Johnson, who is zealous in telling others about the Church.

Our prayer is that God will continually bless these new converts in their new life in the Gospel.

## Imperial, PA

*By Eva Moore, Branch Editor*

We rejoiced to see two more young and tender-hearted persons who have been nurtured by the good Word of God all the days of their lives surrender unto the Lord. They truly love the Lord and desire to serve God letting their good lights shine forth to other young people. Many have shown the joy and blessings of serving the Lord to a ripe old age, even praising and glorifying God until the day they have passed on to their eternal reward.

Sister Diane Ciotti was baptized by Brother Bob Buffington on Sunday evening, July 6, and confirmed by laying on of hands (Acts 8:17) by Brother Wayne Martorana.

Sister Kim Botwright was baptized August 17 by Brother Bob Buffington and confirmed by Brother James T. Moore. Sister Kim said she had been asking God what she should do with her life, and that night knew she had to be baptized.

It would be wonderful if more young people would ask God, but perhaps some are afraid because they don't want to do what God really

wants. God wants people to repent of their sins and live for the Lord. Jesus died for us and He asks us to live for Him. He said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest, take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart and ye shall find rest unto your souls, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

We can testify that our thirty-nine years in the Church have been beautiful, and we thank God that His promises are true. The Lord said, "Prove me and I will open the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing, that there will not be room enough to receive it."

### Won't You Come Back Home? . . .

(continued from page four)

Each time he called I saw the first group come closer until they finally reached home, and they fell down at his feet and said in unison, "Father forgive us." And he answered with the words of this hymn, "All shall be forgiven since you've come back home."

I saw him go back to the doorway again and begin to call, "Won't you come back home, your Father dearly loves you, Won't you come back home." As he called this last time, I saw this last group out in the darkness move towards his voice, but another voice said, "Wait", and they stopped. Each time the father's voice called, another voice said, "Wait", and they would stop. Finally after calling often, the father turned with a sad countenance and went back into his home.

As I looked out into the darkness, I saw this last group become frantic and were trying to find their way back home; but since the father's voice stopped calling, it was too late. At this time the vision ended, as I saw them wandering around in darkness.

The Lord gave me the interpretation as follows:

The father was our heavenly Father. The little children were alive in Christ until they reached the age of accountability; but each of us when we reach that age leave our Father's house. The time does come when He calls us back home. Some will heed that call, and some will not; and as Satan called out to wait, they procrastinate until it is too late.

## Cleveland, Ohio

*By Margaret Abbott, Branch Editor*

The week end of September 6-7 was an inspiring one for the Cleveland, Ohio Branch. Saturday afternoon the Foreign Missionary Board had a meeting, and there was also an evening service. Many good works were accomplished, and the presence of the Lord was felt by all proving once again that He approves.

Sunday was a beautiful day in the service of the Lord as we enjoyed our visiting brothers and sisters. As Brother Mario Milano so nicely put it, "It was like a mini-conference as the church building rang with beautiful hymns and the love of God showed on the faces of those present. In addition to visitors from Lorain, Perry, Youngstown, California, Michigan and Arizona, there was a charter bus of saints from Glassport and Aliquippa. Our little building hasn't been that full for years, and we rejoiced in all the activity.

The services were opened with community singing led by Brother Frank Vitto. Brother Jim Lovalvo, the opening speaker, spoke about love and unity. It seemed as though that was the theme in everyone's heart. We enjoyed many beautiful solos by Brother Jim Lovalvo and our visiting sisters from Lorain, Glassport, and Aliquippa.

Lunch was served by the sisters of the Cleveland Branch both Saturday and Sunday. We wish to thank them for their thoughtfulness.

There were testimonies by the newly baptized on Sunday afternoon. Space will not allow to go into detail about the experiences they related.

Brother Dominic Thomas spoke on his feelings about the Church and his love for all.

Brother Rocco Biscotti gave an inspiring talk to the newly baptized, and his feelings about the love and unity throughout the Church. Brother Joe Calabrese talked on humility, love and unity and invited all those who have not yet accepted the Gospel to give it serious thought.

A handkerchief was anointed to send to Sister Minnie DePiero, who is

very ill and needs the prayers of all the saints.

Brother Bob Quinn related a vision he saw during our service. There was complete darkness, and in the center of this darkness, a flame glowed, showing the light of the Gospel in this dark world.

Sacrament was administered by four of our visiting brothers from Glassport. Brother Milano thanked everyone for their visit because it meant so much for our branch to fellowship with so many of our brothers and sisters. Brother Dominic Thomas thanked the branch for their hospitality and stated that the Church should have more meetings of this type.

Brother Jim Lovalvo sang a solo for our closing hymn, and prayer was offered by Brother Nolfi. We then gathered outside to bid our visitors goodbye as they departed.

Thank the Lord for all our brothers and sisters. They have made this a week end we of the Cleveland Branch will never forget. God bless you all and please come again.

## Lake Worth, FL

*By Betty Perri*

While recuperating in the hospital after major surgery, I had the following experience:

On Friday evening, July 25, 1980 several young people from the Lake Worth Branch came to visit me, which was an encouragement and uplift. When they left, the doctor came in the room to remove the stitches. While he was removing the last one, he said, "Oh no, don't tell me I have to operate again." He put the bandage on and left the room.

I was alone as the nurse entered the room and told me to drink a bottle of Citrus Magnesia, and when I finished that one I would have to drink a second bottle. As I thought about what the doctor told me, I became very upset and depressed and thought the world was crumbling upon me. I raised my voice to heaven and said, "Dear God, please help me. Just let me touch the hem of your garment." I heard a voice that said, "I helped you in 1951 and I will help you now."

Then I felt my bed shake. A personage appeared at my bedside, but I only saw a white robe and felt the warmth of His hands touch my afflicted part. I struggled to get out of the bed and put my robe on to reach the door of my room. The nurse came and said, "Mrs. Perri, how did you get out of bed?" I looked up at her and she saw I was upset and she put her arms around me to comfort me. She said, "I have good news for you. The doctor called and changed his mind about sending you for more x-rays, and you don't need another operation."

I was so happy and relieved to hear the good news, and I thank God that He was with me through my trial, because without Him we could not bear it alone.

I also want to thank all the brothers and sisters and friends for remembering me in their prayers for I know it was the prayers of the saints that brought me through. I also want to thank you all for the many cards and telephone calls in my behalf. May God bless you all.

## Detroit Inner-City

Two baptisms and the ordination of a new deacon have taken place at the Detroit, Michigan Inner-City Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ recently. The new converts are Sister Karen Altman and Brother Mark Mancinelli. The new deacon is Brother Daniel Cotellesse.

Both new members were baptized by Brother Joseph Milantoni at Belle Isle. Sister Karen, taken into the waters on September 7, was confirmed by Brother Carl Frammolino. Brother Mark, who was baptized on October 26, was confirmed by Brother Anthony Gerace.

Brother Cotellesse was ordained a deacon by Brother Gorie Ciaravino on October 10. His feet were washed by Brother Roy DePerno, Presiding Deacon of the branch.

The baptisms and the calling of Brother Cotellesse into the office of deacon have been part of the many blessings still being experienced in the Inner-City Branch. Interest and attendance remain high at the downtown Detroit location.

## Roscoe, PA

*By Bertha Jean Bilsky, Branch Editor*

On August 28, a special meeting was held at the Roscoe Branch. We had congregational singing and special selections before the meeting was turned over to Brother Russell Cadman, apostle from the Fredonia Branch. Brother Jonathan Olexa sang very beautifully, "I Ought to Do Something for Jesus". Brother Cadman opened by speaking from the *Book of Mormon*, Jacob 5, starting at verse 70. He then opened the meeting for questions and conducted a seminar for all to participate. An enjoyable discussion followed. Refreshments were served after the meeting, and a time of fellowship was enjoyed by all.

On September 7, Brother James Moore and Brother Robert Buffington and their companions were with us. Brother James Moore opened the meeting speaking from Luke 19 concerning Zaccheus, whose life was changed when Jesus passed his way and came to dwell with him. Brother Buffington also spoke bringing forth God's word and told many wonderful experiences. Brother Moore, his wife, and Brother Buffington and his wife sang two beautiful selections composed by Sister Buffington during our afternoon service. Sister Angeline Bloom asked to be reinstated in the Church. Many testimonies were given and several sick came forth to be anointed. God's Spirit was present with us throughout the day, and we rejoiced to see our Sister Angie return to the shelter of the fold, desiring to labor for the Master.

We at Roscoe appreciated having our brothers and sisters visit with us and ask God to bless them for their zeal in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We hope they will return again soon.

## Lockport-Rochester, NY

*By Carmella D'Amico*

The semi-annual meeting of the Lockport and Rochester branches was held at the Rochester Church building on September 28, 1980. We had the joy of having Brother Bob and Sister Millie Ciarrochi and Brother Joe and Sister Carmel Genaro from Niles, Ohio; Sister Martha Laird from Mc-

Kees Rocks and Brother Nick and Sister Yolanda Pietrangelo from Detroit, Michigan. Brother Ciarrochi opened the service and chose for his text, Ephesians 5, "Be ye therefore followers of God as dear children: and walk in Love, as Christ also hath loved us. . . ." "The church will stand on the precepts of Christ," our brother stated. We must fast and pray in order to be blessed. We are not healers of men, but of souls. He reminded us that God will turn and turn until He will find someone that will do His work.

Brother Joe Genaro was the next speaker and he emphasized on the same subject. We have to labor for everything we get and we have to work in the vineyard of righteousness.

Brother Nick Pietrangelo followed and stated that we should evaluate our lives in serving righteousness. He related several experiences, how God performed miracles in raising people from the dead. We should exercise more faith that the world would know that we belong to The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Paul D'Amico remarked that we should not be ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, for it is the power of God unto Salvation and that we should live one day at a time.

Brother Ansel D'Amico gave a few concluding remarks. He said that God is working with His people and inasmuch as we grow in the love of God, we shall grow in number. We had a wonderful day both spiritually and naturally.

On Friday, October 3, 1980, Brothers Marco Randy and Charles VanBree from California, along with Brother Paul D'Amico spent the day with us. Brother Randy spoke on the 11th Chapter of Hebrews: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Without faith it is impossible to please God. He related many wonderful experiences about his early days in the church and doing missionary work on the Muncey Indian Reservation. Brother Paul D'Amico spoke briefly about how God has spared his life many times.

On October 12, Brother Patsy Marinetti and his wife, and Nick and Sister Harriet Francione and family visited with us. Brother Patsy chose

for his text, James 4:13: "Go to now, ye that say, today or tomorrow we will go into such a city. . . ." He urged us to be like Abraham in our faith and live one day at a time. Man's extremity is God's opportunity.

Brother Ansel D'Amico concluded our service speaking on the same subject. He noted that whenever we desire to do something, we should say, "If it is God's will." We should always be ready because we don't know when the Lord will come. We must grow in grace, not disgrace.

## Vanderbilt, PA

*By Rose Czapp*

The annual Vanderbilt Branch Sunday School picnic was held at the grove near the church on Saturday, August 9. Everyone enjoyed recreation and fellowship on this annual occasion among children, young, and old who were in attendance.

Again, on August 24, the Saints were called together for fast and prayer for our conference's spiritual welfare. Only a small portion was there, but the spirit was felt. The blessings from that followed us into our Sunday School when Sister Mary Fleming came into the meeting after being away in hospitals for a very long time. The Saints rejoiced at her return. Going into our morning meeting we had many visitors from Monongahela with a purpose in mind. To list some of our visitors, Brother Bob Nicklow and his family, Sister Debbie Lenhart, Brother and Sister Griffith and Brother Alexander Cherry. Brother Jim told how he went to visit a person earlier in the week who asked if he could be baptized. Brother Jim asked this person to make his wishes known to us. Just then, Ray Nicklow, Brother Bob Nicklow's brother, stood up and asked if he could be baptized.

Sisters Barbara Fleming and Tami Nicklow sang "My God and I". Brother Bob shared an experience with us he had many years ago. He went on to exhort us on how the love of God casts out all fear, and knowing we have God's protection, we need not be afraid. Brother Emerson Fuller followed and enlarged on the love of

God.

After we closed our meeting the Saings fellowshipped downstairs for lunch before the baptism. Then we all gathered at the waters edge. Brother Jim baptized Ray with Brother Lawrence assisting. The spirit was felt, for it was a beautiful baptism.

Back at the branch, Brother Milford opened the meeting speaking on not being ashamed of Jesus Christ. He told us about an experience that happened recently concerning a girl whom he went to anoint in a hospital. Brother Bob then confirmed our new Brother. Sister Elva Keller then asked to be anointed, saying she was very sick and that she had faith that if she would get anointed she would be healed. She said we must believe in the power of God and we would be made whole.

After Sacrament was served a sister who has been away from the Church for a long time asked for laying on of hands for strength as she wants to make herself right. There was a very beautiful spirit with her that was shared among her family who rejoiced with her and with us. We closed by having prayer in a circle where we all joined hands and the spirit touched all of our hearts. Our prayers in Vanderbilt are that God will continue to bless and keep the Saints in our Branch and in all others, and also that God will continue to bring all our lost and wandering sheep back home.

## Monongahela, PA

*By Melissa Bright, Branch Editor*

Our day of blessings, Sunday, October 12, 1980, was started by singing *Pearly White City*. Brother Chuck Smith from Florida spoke on how we enter that city, go before God, and receive our crown. Brother Bob Buffington said when called into the vineyard, we should be ready, willing, and able to do the work God gives us. According to the Gospel, we should do our share in order to enter the kingdom of God.

Brother John Griffith opened our afternoon meeting with a message titled, "The Way of Life", meaning The Church of Jesus Christ, and how we share such close communion and fellowship with one another. We are instructed to serve God to the best of our abilities. When dedication to the Lord stops, we hurt only ourselves.

Brother Bob Nicklow, Sr. read a portion of scripture on ordinations and the calling of God. Due to the necessity of offices in the Church, we are called and instructed never to enter into any office lightly. The duties of deacons were read to Brothers Mike Milton and Brian Smith. Brother Bob also commented on the beauty of being used by the Lord.

Brother Brian's feet were washed by Brother Idris Martin, and Brother Mike's feet were washed by Brother John Olexa. Brother George Johnson ordained Brother Mike, and Brother

Jim Campbell ordained Brother Brian.

The duties of teacher were read to Brother Malcom Paxon, and the responsibilities of that office were stressed. Brother Malcom's feet were washed by Brother John Griffith, and he was ordained by Brother Idris Martin.

### *Fiftieth Anniversary*

Three special meetings were held in observance of our fiftieth anniversary at Monongahela. Throughout these meetings, the natural and spiritual temples were expounded upon several times. Brother Fred Olexa gave us food for thought when he spoke about Paul being the masterbuilder taught by Jesus. Our spiritual temples should be built of gold, silver and precious stones. Are we built of these, or hay, wood, and stubble? Do we have the gifts of the Lord planted in our lives? Jesus had no wood, hay, or stubble in His life; His life should be exemplified in ours. Our foundations must be firm in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Our week end meetings were spent in remembering our elder brothers and sisters, the construction of our branch building, and the actual laying of the corner stone. Placed inside the corner stone were the *Bible*, *Book of Mormon*, and other Church literature.

Many hymns and special selections were sung. It was truly a week end to be remembered for many years to come.

## OBITUARIES

*We wish to express our sympathy to those that mourn over the loss of loved ones. May God bless and comfort you.*

### MARIA GIANZANTE

Sister Maria Ginzante, better known to the brothers and sisters as Sister Maria Johnson, passed away on October 12, 1980 in Port Richey, Florida. She was born in Italy on August 16, 1897 and was baptized in April, 1923.

She is survived by 7 children, 23 grandchildren, 44 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers William Tucker and Duane Lowe.

Sister Johnson was the last of the original five

members baptized in Detroit, Michigan. Everyone loved her dearly, and we will always have wonderful memories of her.

## \* WEDDINGS \*

### NAPLES—WEGENEH

Brother Joseph Naples and Sister Lisa Wegeneh were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, August 11, 1980 in Lakeworth, Florida.

The ceremony was officiated by Brother Mike Radd. Musical selections were presented by Brother Mike DiFede.

The newlyweds are residing in Lakeworth, Florida. May the Lord bless their lives together.