

The Gospel News

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Family Worship

*By Dick Christman, President
Quorum of Seventy Evangelists*

After the creation of the world, God instituted a very important relationship which He intended to further His plan and to provide an atmosphere of love and sharing for His Children. This relationship or concept was the family. The family unit was originally conceived as a father and mother and their children. God ordained this relationship and took special care to endow it with not only love, but concern, responsibility and cohesiveness. Down through the ages the word of God has recorded the various duties and joys that are inherent in this family circle.

One of the functions of the family unit is teaching the younger members many skills that you and I take for granted. Some of the most basic lessons were learned in the family, with love and concern. Walking and talking are two of the vital skills we learned in the family setting.

God has also given the family members another duty that is not only necessary to the well-being of the younger members but to the family group as a whole and individually. The single most neglected duty that I am referring to is that of family worship. God intended that family worship and the gift of love He bestowed upon the parents and children be the strength and inspiration of the group.

The modern family is suffering many setbacks and defeats. Broken

homes, divorces, runaways, tragedies and heartbreak are common occurrences in today's families. Many children have no family unit they can call their own.

The major reason for this situation is the lack of love and devotion based upon God's word and inspiration. Many problems are insurmountable without God's help. In fact, God is willing, able and anxious to help in every family problem both individually and collectively.

One of the prime excuses family members give for their lack of family prayer, scripture reading or devotion, is their time schedule. Quite often both parents work, children are in school, some are working part time and others are engaged in recreational and social activities.

For something that is so very important to us then, we can surely find a way to start a practice of family worship or to renew it, or perhaps increase its time or frequency. Perhaps the family is together for breakfast or lunch, or as in most cases at supper. This is an ideal time to set aside just a few minutes to devote to scripture reading, discussion or comments. If this is being tried for the first time and the children have other time requirements, it can be very brief as a start so that they do not feel they are being crowded or pushed. The value and appreciation of this period of time will grow like a seed and soon will become a necessary and enjoyable part of their lives. Evening prayer can be done, particularly in younger families, just prior to bedtime. Certain holidays, when the family is all together, offer another

time for family devotion. This should be incorporated into the day in such a way as not to be offensive to any family members and yet be uplifting and worthwhile. Family worship does not depend on length of time for its value and God-giving strength, but rather the harmony, love and consideration of all the needs and interests of the family members.

A crisis or family troubles often brings families together in mutual concern. This is an ideal time for prayer, scripture reading or fasting.

Families that are starting family worship should not be overly ambitious in their worship plans. It will grow and expand on its own, and if it is done harmoniously it will reach into everyone's lives and improve their ability to cope with the problems of life and to help them find a good and proper relationship with God and His son, Jesus Christ, and our fellow man.

There are many novel and unique ways we can institute the word of God into our lives. Some examples would be that each week one member of the family would be responsible for finding, copying and placing an appropriate scripture on the family bulletin board, refrigerator, or wherever the family members will see it daily. Another method would be that alternate family members would be responsible for a scripture reading at the breakfast or supper table, nothing lengthy or boring, but something of inspiration and help to all the family members. Some other suggestions would be appropriate when the family travels together. This is an ideal time for singing, short talks or discussion

on scripture or spiritual topics or most important the application of God's word to our daily lives and the use of God's help in our problems and concerns.

All of us have good intentions, but not all of us follow through and continue to try to incorporate these things which are good into our lives. We must make an effort every day until it becomes a habit. It is important to the family, it is important to the parents, and it is vital to the well-being of the children.

The relationship with God that is intended for mankind, which God has worked so diligently to provide, even at the expense of His son, Jesus Christ, is our most valuable gift. It is stated so well in the scripture, St. John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." This life will be in the presence and family of God, and we must make preparation for it. The family unit is the first place the love of God should be exhibited and acquired.

Parents, do not shirk or ignore your responsibility. Continue to persevere until your family has some time for worship. "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump." Children, intreat your parents for this wonderful gift of God and you will be richly rewarded.

**"O, remember,
my son, and learn
wisdom in thy
youth."**

Alma 37:35

This is the plea of every God-fearing older person. Though Alma spoke these words to his son, it is the feeling of us all. Maybe it was the things that we older people have gone through, or the things that we realize are so necessary in life that we make this plea.

"Yea, learn in thy youth to keep the commandments of God. Yea, and cry unto God for all thy support; yea, let all thy doings be unto the Lord, and whithersoever thou goest let it be in the Lord; yea, let thy thoughts be

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"It Is Written"

By V. J. Lovalvo, Fresno, CA

TOPIC: Other Books

"... out of the books which shall be written, shall the world be judged." So it is written in the *Book of Mormon*, III Nephi 27:26.

In all ages of time, God has commanded men and nations to write their histories. The reason is very obvious; there is nothing stronger nor more valuable than the written word. Tales related by word of mouth from parents to children or from one generation to another lose their value, their significance, their truth, and easily become adulterated as time passes. Can you imagine what kind of world we would have if there had been no written word or language? A very good example of this is found in the *Book of Mormon*. Lehi and his family brought with them the written word as found in the book of I Nephi, relative to the Brass Plates of Laban. Later on, the Brass Ball (Liahona) was given to them of the Lord upon which writing would appear from time to time to tell them the will of God. (I Nephi 16:26, 27, 29) The written word enabled them to remember in fullness the word of God. King Mosiah taught his sons the language of his fathers and also that which was written upon the Brass Plates. He told them that it was "... not possible that our father, Lehi, could have remembered all these things (on the Plates of Brass), to have taught them to his children, except it were for the help of these plates; for he having been taught in the language of the Egyptians, therefore he could read these engravings, and teach them to his children. ..." (Mosiah 1:3-4)

The preservation of that which has been written is an invaluable asset to the individual as well as a nation. It is especially important to the people of God to keep a record of His dealings with them lest that in process of time, His word becomes adulterated, forgotten, and finally traditionalized by the frailty of the minds of men. This is clearly exemplified by the people of Zarahemla, descendants of Mulek, the son of King Zedekiah. They had brought no written language with them nor any records to remind them of a Supreme Creator. Therefore, their language became corrupted; and



they denied the existence of their Creator. (Omni 17, 18)

It is the will of God that records be kept of His dealings with Mankind. Books shall be written, as have been written in ages past and gone. The Lord allowed the *Bible* to be compiled, and the books therein to be written by inspired men that mankind would know of His purposes regarding Israel and mankind in general. He also caused the *Book of Mormon* to come forth in these latter days to reveal His purposes towards the American Indian (Seed of Joseph) and the world in general. Nations have been motivated to write their histories by the Lord, without question to preserve their identity. (The individual person has been moved, in many instances, to write his or her autobiography as a record for future intelligence.) The *Book of Mormon* speaks loud and clear on this matter. It is written: "For I command all men, both in the east and in the west, and in the north, and in the south, and in the isles of the sea, that they shall write the words which I speak unto them; for out of the books which shall be written I will judge the world, every man according to their works, according to that which is written. For behold, I shall speak unto the Jews and they shall write it; and I shall also speak unto the Nephites and they shall write it; and I shall also speak unto the other Tribes of the House of Israel, which I have led away, and they shall write it; and I shall also speak unto all nations of the earth and they shall write it." (II Nephi 29:11-12)

It is clearly seen, by these words, that God is the author of inspiring men to write histories and nations to write records for future use. It is also quite evident that the above records, which God has motivated men to write and keep, are for very special reasons, as indicated by the following

words: "And it shall come to pass that the Jews shall have the words of the Nephites, and the Nephites shall have the words of the Jews; and the Nephites and the Jews shall have the words of the Lost Tribes of Israel; and the Lost Tribes of Israel shall have the words of the Nephites and the Jews." (II Nephi 29:13) There is also another good reason that God has commanded (and inspired) men to write, and it is thusly: "... for out of the Books which shall be written I will judge the world, every man according to their works. . ." (II Nephi 29:11)

It is also stated in III Nephi 27:25-26 that: "... out of the books which have been written, and which shall be written, shall this people (indicating the Seed of Joseph) be judged, for by them (the books) shall their works be known unto men. And behold, all things are written by the Father; therefore, out of the BOOKS WHICH SHALL BE WRITTEN SHALL THE WORLD BE JUDGED."

The *Book of Mormon* is filled with evidences of the many books which shall be written and which have been written in days past and gone. Nephi, the son of Lehi, in his wonderful vision where the angel of God made many things clear to him, was told "... 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. . ." The above refers to the *Book of Mormon* in which was His Gospel, and His Rock, and His Salvation. (I Nephi 13:35-36)

In his experience, Nephi was also told by the angel, that others would write and bear record of the things which God would reveal unto them. The angel said, "Behold, one of the Twelve Apostles of the Lamb. Behold, he shall see and write the remainder of these things; yea, and also many things which have been. And he shall also write concerning the end of the world. . ." (I Nephi 14:20-22) The angel continued, "And also others who have been, to them hath He shown all things, and they have written them; and they are sealed up to come forth in their purity. . ." (I Nephi 14:26) The latter statement is no doubt referring to the writings of the brother of Jared.

The brother of Jared was commanded of the Lord to write the things

which he had seen and heard while he was on the Mount with God; and these things were not to come forth until Christ had been lifted on the cross. And after Jesus showed Himself unto the Seed of Joseph (after His ascension into heaven), He commanded that they should be made manifest. However, after they dwindled in unbelief, Moroni was commanded to hide the records in the earth. He therefore wrote upon the plates the very things which the brother of Jared had seen. Following are his own words: "Behold, I have written upon these plates the very things which the brother of Jared saw; and there never were greater things made manifest than those which were made manifest unto the brother of Jared. Wherefore, the Lord hath commanded me to write them; and I have written them. And He commanded me that I should seal them up; and He also hath commanded that I should seal up the interpretation thereof. Wherefore, I have sealed up the interpreters according to the commandment of the Lord. For the Lord said unto me: They shall not go forth unto the Gentiles until the day that they shall repent of their iniquity, and become clean before the Lord. And in that day that they (Gentiles) shall exercise faith in Me, saith the Lord, even as the brother of Jared did, that they may become sanctified in Me, then will I manifest unto them the things which the brother of Jared saw, even to the unfolding unto them all My revelations, saith Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of the heavens and of the earth, and all things that in them are." (Ether 4:4-7)

A remarkable thing that stands out very impressively is the fact that the Nephites, immediately after Christ appeared to them, were recipients of the things which the brother of Jared wrote. (Ether 4:1-3) However, when we seek the reason for this, it emerges in all its splendor. It was the fact that they were a sanctified people! Remember, that only the more righteous people were spared from the terrible destruction upon this land at the time of the crucifixion. And the *Book of Mormon* reveals that the Nephites enjoyed a Peaceful Reign on this land for approximately one hundred and seventy-five years, more or less. They were such a righteous people that the records of the brother of Jared could not be withheld from them; their faith was so great that they became worthy

to read and know the things which God had revealed to that wonderful prophet of long ago.

In these days of the Restoration of the Gospel, God has decreed, as it is written in the *Book of Mormon*, that the record of the brother of Jared which Moroni hid in the earth, should come forth in the latter days to the Gentiles, only when they exercise faith as did that great prophet. This means that The Church of Jesus Christ, which is composed of members of Gentile extraction, shall be blessed to see and know of those wonderful revelations which the Lord bestowed upon the brother of Jared. Just think, dear readers, what a marvelous blessing is in store for the Church in the latter days. All things, from the beginning of the world to the end thereof, shall be made known unto the Church; because they are written upon the plates which were made by Moroni, plus the original writings of the brother of Jared which Moroni hid in the earth. Moroni also sealed up the interpreters along with the plates.

The Lord commanded the brother of Jared thusly: "Behold, thou shalt not suffer these things which ye have seen and heard to go forth unto the world, until the time cometh that I shall glorify My name in the flesh; wherefore, ye shall treasure up the things which ye have seen and heard, and show it to no man. And behold, when ye shall come unto me, ye shall write them and seal them up, that no one can interpret them; for ye shall write them in a language that they cannot be read. And behold, these two stones will I give unto thee, and ye shall seal them up also with the things which ye shall write. For behold, the language which ye shall write I have confounded; wherefore, I will cause in My own due time that these stones shall magnify to the eyes of men these things which ye shall write." (Ether 3:21-24)

That which the brother of Jared wrote was interpreted by King Mosiah when the Plates of Gold were brought to him by the people of Limhi. He did this by means of the two stones (or interpreters) which had been given to the brother of Jared, and now were in possession of Mosiah. (Mosiah 28:11-14) Then, after Christ had been glorified in the flesh, (crucified and resurrected) the Nephites also were permitted to read and know the contents of the above

records. Now, in the latter days, the Gentiles will have this great privilege.

Many wonderful things are in store for the faithful Gentiles (Church) in these latter days relative to having records which have been kept by other people. First, the Small Plates of Nephi and the abridgment of the Large Plates of Nephi by Moroni came to the Gentiles through the instrumentality of Joseph Smith who, when he was through translating them, revealed a record of the Seed of Joseph on this land, and the subsequent appearance of Jesus Christ who established His Church among the Nephites. The record also told of the story of the Jaredites; those people who were brought to the land of America from the time when the Lord confounded the language at the building of the Tower of Babel. The translation of the Plates by Joseph Smith was and is called the *Book of Mormon*. Remember, this record came through the Gentiles, as recorded in the *Book of Mormon*, to be brought by them to the Seed of Joseph. (Read II Nephi 27)

It is written also, that the *Book of Mormon*, called Records in its pages (I Nephi 13:40) shall establish the truth of the record of the Jews (the *Bible*) and, they shall grow together "...unto the confounding of false doctrines and laying down of contentions, and establishing peace among the fruit of thy loins..." (II Nephi 3:12)

Next, shall come the sealed records of the brother of Jared, as spoken of in the book of Ether, 4th Chapter. Also the writings of the Lost Tribes shall come to light in the Latter Days and all the faithful shall exchange the knowledge written in the records kept by them. (II Nephi 29:13) The blessings, therefore, for the Church in these Latter Days are beyond description regarding the knowledge that shall be revealed at the coming forth of all the above records.

Joseph Smith was not permitted to read or translate the writings of the brother of Jared, nor that which Moroni copied from the same writings. The *Book of Mormon* is very clear on this matter: "Touch not the things which are sealed, for I will bring them forth in Mine own due time; for I will show unto the children of men that I am able to do Mine own work. Wherefore, when thou hast

read the words which I have commanded thee, and obtained the witnesses which I have promised unto thee, then shalt thou seal up the book again, and hide it up unto Me, that I may preserve the words which thou HAST NOT READ, until I see fit in Mine own wisdom to reveal all things unto the children of men." (II Nephi 27:21-22) Joseph Smith was permitted to translate ONLY the small Plates of Nephi and the abridgment of the large Plates.

Now we can see the wisdom of God in commanding people and men to write and keep records for future generations. Records are for knowledge, historical purposes, reminders of a Living God and His Word, and also for judgments. "...for out of the Books which shall be written shall THE WORLD BE JUDGED."

The Seed of Joseph shall be judged by their own record (*Book of Mormon*); the Jews shall be judged by their own writings (the *Bible*); the other Lost Tribes shall be judged by their own records; and the Gentiles by the *Bible* and the *Book of Mormon*. (II Nephi 29:11-12)

APPENDIX: The "Other Books" spoken of in I Nephi 13:39 are the various books contained in the *Book of Mormon* just as the *Bible* is a compilation of many books. In Helaman 3:13, 15, a description of the "Many Books" is given: "...there are many records kept of the proceedings of this people, by many of this people... Behold, there are many books and many records of every kind, and they have been kept chiefly by the Nephites."

Greetings to All Readers,

In the world, you shall have tribulations. But be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

We shall overcome by the grace of God and our perseverance. Though we are tested and tried, we shall overcome, when we strive to win friends rather than points.

Though we lose for a time, we build a better character. The blows, though severe and devastating, when the oppressors will say I have overwhelmed him—we shall rise to greater heights when our inner man holds fast to the noble deeds rather than retaliatory acts. We are bettered and improved by trials and refined out of broken hopes and shattered dreams.

Because God is our salvation, we will trust and not be afraid. For the Lord Jehovah is our strength and our song. He is our salvation.

Gentle and still shall be His voice; no threats from Him proceed. The smoking flax He shall not quench, nor break the bruised reed. The feeble spark to flames He raises, the weak will not despise. Judgment He shall bring forth to truth, and make the fallen rise.

Men and beasts from the distant lands, arise with sounds of praise. Tongues and people in one accord, Jehovah's glories raise.

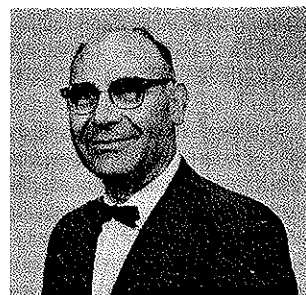
Thanks be to God, we were blessed with a second baptism at Portland, Oregon! Our new sister, Mabel Lassen, is Brother Eugene Lassen's wife. The door in Portland is ajar. Will it open wide? My heart says, "Yes, it will, by the grace of God."

If any of the readers know of anyone in beautiful Portland who might be interested, won't you let us know?

Who am I, O Lord God, and what is mine house, that you have brought me here, said David, and is it now likewise with all of us? Yes, indeed it is, because God is love. He brought us where we are.

Peace be with you in Christ,

Mark Randy



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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

The Voice of the People

On Election Day last November, in keeping with the free and democratic principle of electing public officials by the voter's ballot, many Americans went to the polls and exercised this right.

As a result, the American people look forward to a new Administration in Washington. Both President-elect Ronald Reagan and Vice President-elect George Bush will assume their offices on January 20, 1981. Additionally, a number of new U.S. Senators and Congressmen will also take office. Too, many state and local officials newly-elected will be installed.

Let us thank God for a system of government that provides for peaceful and orderly transitions from outgoing administrations to newly-elected incoming public servants. Regrettably, this is not the case with some of the countries throughout the world, where changes in government have been marked by violence, terror and bloodshed.

May we note that our system of government was also enjoyed comparably by the ancient inhabitants of America as recorded so plainly in the *Book of Mormon*. A representative form of government was first introduced and recommended to them by good King Mosiah II in the year 92 B.C.

In a written message to all of his people, King Mosiah II appealed to them ". . . And now let us be wise and look forward to these things, and do that which will make for the peace of this people. Therefore I will be your king the remainder of my days; nevertheless, let us appoint judges, to judge this people according to our law; and we will newly arrange the affairs of our people, for we will appoint wise men to be judges, that will judge this people according to the commandments of God.

"Therefore, choose you by the voice of this people, judges, that ye may be judged according to the laws which have been given you by our fathers, which are correct, and which were given them by the hand of the Lord. Now it is not common that the voice of the people desireth anything contrary to that which is right; but it is common for the lesser part of the people to desire that which is not right; therefore this shall ye observe and make it your law—to do your business by the voice of the people.

"And now if ye have judges, and they do not judge you according to the law which has been given, ye can cause that they may be judged of a higher judge. If your higher judges do not judge righteous judgments, ye shall cause that a small number of your lower judges should be gathered together, and they shall judge your higher judges, according to the voice of the people." (Mosiah 29:10, 11, 25, 29)

"After king Mosiah had sent these things forth among the people they were convinced of the truth of his words. Therefore, it came to pass that they assembled themselves together in bodies throughout the land, to cast in their voices concerning who should be their judges, to judge them according to the law which had been given them; and they were exceedingly rejoiced because of the liberty which had been granted them." (Mosiah 29:37, 39)

May God's blessings of liberty and freedom continue with us as a nation, with other free nations, and eventually with people and nations everywhere.

Change in Feature Writer for "The Children's Corner"

Beginning with this issue, Sister Jan Steinrock of Branch No. 2, Detroit, Michigan will be the feature writer for "The Children's Corner." She is continuing the wonderful effort begun by Sister Mabel Bickerton in 1959.

On behalf of the entire *Gospel News* staff, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to Sister Mabel, who has written an article for the children every month for the past 21 years. In addition to this monthly endeavor, she has been quite active as the General Ladies Uplift Circle President for many years and has spent countless hours in writing Vacation Bible School Lessons for students from pre-school to high school levels. She has also composed many beautiful hymns. Once again, thank you, Sister Mabel, for your untiring labors in behalf of *The Gospel News* and the Church. May God richly reward you!

Sister Jan Steinrock is very excited about her involvement in the column.

Following is a brief testimony and account of her Church involvement, written per our request.

"I was baptized at the first GMBA Campout in Kansas thirteen years ago and became a member of the St. John, Kansas Mission. My family has been from that Mission for five generations, since the earliest days of our Church when William Bickerton led them via boat and then ox-cart from Pennsylvania to settle there in Zion's Valley.

I moved to Detroit and transferred to Branch No. 2 in 1972. Supporting our MBA, I became the teacher of the Young People's Class and still hold that office. Currently, I am the President of our MBA; in the Area MBA, I serve as the Missionary Liaison; and for the GMBA, I have enjoyed running the Campout Craft Workshops for three years.

Missionary work has always drawn me. As a college junior, I spent a summer as a volunteer teacher

working with third grade Apache Indian children in Whiteriver, AZ. That summer was the first Side by Side Chinle Project, and I joined my brother and sisters there to work. The first week I was in Detroit, there was a special Labor Day Retreat in Muncey, Ontario. I went and was "hooked". For the next four and a half years, I returned there to act as Sunday School teacher. In fact, my husband and I were married in that wonderful little Mission a year later. For the past two years, I have been involved with teaching the children in the Inner-City Branch in Detroit. These are situations and opportunities which have enriched my life immeasurably."

We of *The Gospel News* welcome you to our staff, Sister Jan. We are confident that our young readers will continue to enjoy "The Children's Corner" through your scripture stories as they have over the past years.

The Editor

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock

The Boy Jesus

Dear Girls and Boys,

At Christmas we celebrate and study the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. Now let us look at Jesus as a young boy.

You will remember that the wicked King Herod learned from the Wisemen that a baby, the King of the Jews, was born. King Herod was so afraid that this baby would grow up and take over his small country that he ordered his soldiers to slay all the children in Bethlehem and the coasts around that were two years old or less. There was great weeping and



mourning from the families of those babies.

Jesus would have been one of those murdered babies, but after the Wisemen found Him and gave their gifts of frankincense, and myrrh, and gold, an angel of the Lord appeared unto Joseph in a dream. He told Joseph, "Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word, for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him." When Joseph arose, he took the young child and His mother and departed into Egypt by night.

Jesus grew up in Egypt, a foreign child of a different religion and

nationality. His family spoke a different language also. Joseph was not a rich man. Perhaps he sold the gifts of gold, or frankincense, a sticky resin from special trees that smelled good when burned, or the myrrh which was resin used in making perfume and medicine. Their family stayed in Egypt until Herod died, returning then to Nazareth, a city in Galilee.

The Bible, in Matthew 13:55 tells us that Jesus had sisters, and that His brothers were named Josés, James, Simon and Judas. Counting Jesus, there were at least seven children in His family. It's not always easy being the oldest. We can imagine there was a lot of responsibility on the shoulders of the oldest child, the boy Jesus.

We do know that at the age of twelve, Jesus was allowed to go with His parents to celebrate the feast of the Passover at the great temple. When it was time to leave, His parents traveled a day towards home thinking that Jesus was also walking somewhere nearby with their relatives or friends. When they found Him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem very upset. They were amazed to find Him sitting in the middle of the great men listening to

them and asking them questions about God. His mother asked him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have looked for you sorrowing." Jesus said unto them, "How is it that you sought me? Don't you know that I must be about my Father's (God's) business?"

The *Bible* tells us that His parents didn't understand what He said unto them. Perhaps they didn't understand, that from that day through all time, He was truly to be the Savior of the world who would teach us the right way to live in all things.

Jesus returned home with His parents obeying them as He grew. Luke 2:52 tells us that "he increased in wisdom and stature, and increased in favour with God and man."

Sincerely,

Sister Jan

Living Creature: WHO AM I?

(Growing up in Kansas, my mother took my five brothers and sisters and I twenty-five miles to church each week. Sometimes in our Sunday afternoon MBA meetings, my uncle would let us play "WHO AM I?" for memory practice. Let's see how well you do. If you get stuck, check the verse location at the bottom of the page, or go ask your Grandma. That's what we always did.)

1. We have the likeness of a man.
2. Each one of us had four faces and four wings.
3. A prophet of God saw us.

(Find the WHO AM I? answer in Ezekiel 1:5-24)

Young People Ask

By John Griffith, Monongahela, PA

Beginning in this month's issue of *The Gospel News* and continuing every month thereafter, space will be given to the questions and needs of our young people throughout the Church.

Any young individual who has a question on any area of interest can write asking comments or suggestions on the subject. Personal data such as names, etc. will not be printed in the article. All correspondences will be considered confidential. Just formulate your comments and questions clearly and mail them to:

Young People Ask
c/o John Griffith
The Church of Jesus Christ
Sixth & Lincoln Sts.
Monongahela, PA 15063

If for some reason your question cannot be handled properly in this column, you will receive a personal communication by mail, so make sure that your return address appears clearly on the letterhead.

This column is not intended to in any way discourage our young people from counseling with parents or the Church's Ministry in the area; rather it is hoped that it will encourage our youth to use the Priesthood along these lines of thought.

This column is also hoped to encourage our young not to be discouraged when problems arise or answers are sought. By reading about others' questions, you will soon realize that you are not alone.

Guest consulting Priesthood members will be used. We read in the *Holy Bible*: "But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost." Mark 13:11

And so this writer, through faith in God's word along with prayer, will rely on the spirit of the Holy Ghost to direct his mind and pen.

Without your participation, Young People, this column will not continue. Waiting to hear from you. . .

MBA HIGHLIGHTS

GMBA November Conference Headed Toward '81, We've Just Begun!

By Ryan Gene Ross, GMBA Editor

Representatives from all the major areas of the MBA were reunited at The Church of Jesus Christ General Church Auditorium on Saturday morning, November 8, 1980. After an opening hymn and a prayer, GMBA President, Donald Ross, welcomed those in attendance. In requesting our prayers, Brother Donnie hoped that not only would we complete all business matters smoothly, but also that we might have ample time to enjoy the spiritual side of meeting with one another. Thanks to God, we did both.

In a written report, Brother Tim Scolaro from Detroit, who was Camp Director at the 1980 GMBA at Massanetta Springs in Harrisonburg, VA, commended both his supporting staff, as well as all those who attended camp for a great week. Financially speaking, the GMBA Campout once again came out of the week "in the black", as all our expenses were more than met. Reports by Arline Whitton (Camp Development Committee) and Joseph Ross

(Camp Procurement Committee) brought us up to date on the status of each project. Sister Arline will submit a final report in the spring of 1981 that will summarize the work of their committee and will recommend further actions to be taken in the future.

Speaking of Campout, there is a special twist to the upcoming 1981 GMBA Campout to be held at Massanetta Springs—mainly a date. Yes, that's right! This campout is dedicated to all those who, year after year, cannot go to camp because their schools are still in session the week of camp. This year's campout will be held the week of July 4 to July 11! Camp Director will be chosen at the next GMBA Activities Committee Meeting, according to protocol.

Officers reports were presented and accepted. As usual, everyone enjoyed the parade of delegates representing the individual locals. We, as a GMBA, had a banner year for financial matters. Details will be included in the GMBA minutes which

(Continued on Page 8)

MBA Highlights Continued

should be read aloud in each local when they are received. However, a noteworthy figure of \$150,000 has been donated to the General Church over the past six years.

Under new business, all newly elected officers are as follows:

Corresponding Secretary, Sister Karen Milantoni; Assistant Secretary, Sister Iva Fedorka; Assistant Secretary, Sister Cindy Prentice; Treasurer, Brother Stacey Light; Assistant Editor, Brother Fred D'Antonio; Historian, Brother Ron Dziak.

Also, according to the policy that has been determined by the majority vote over the past two to three years, the May GMBA Conference will be rotated to another area of the Church besides Pennsylvania. This coming May, the Michigan-Ontario Area has graciously accepted the responsibility of hosting the event. Speaking in behalf of the GMBA, we are anxious to be able to visit the saints of the north and together enjoy a blessing of serving and worshipping the Lord Jesus Christ for a week end. Finally, a motion from the floor was accepted that a fund-raising goal of \$200.00 be set for the next six months period for each local, to be used to support the missionary work of the Church.

Saturday evening, a choir from the Pennsylvania Area MBA enthusiastically presented a program centered around the latter day glory of the Church that will come in due course of time, namely the Kingdom of Zion. Scripture was read aloud periodically throughout the chorus of songs that featured songs of Zion written through inspiration by Sister Arlene Buffington of Imperial, PA. Brother Brian Smith and Sister Karen Progar were in charge of the program.

On Sunday morning, a nice turnout gave audience to several speakers, including Apostle Brother Russell Cadman. Emphasis was placed on the state of our souls and the opportunity of salvation through Christ Jesus to those who have yet to render obedience to the Gospel. This capped off an enjoyable week end of business and socializing with the saints. Without a doubt, the GMBA, which recently adopted a new local in Clairton, PA, continues to grow in size and strength as an aid to both young people everywhere and the

General Church's missionary work. We must continue to remember that the most important letters of GMBA are MBA because without all the locals and their work, there would be no "G". So, continue to support your local MBA for the sake of the GMBA.

Experience and Testimony of Birdie M. Furnier

By Sister Birdie M. Furnier



I was raised by Bible reading, believing parents from the time I can remember. Anything that troubled me, I went to the Lord in prayer, and I realized that God answered my prayers. I lived to be twenty-six years old before I ever had a direct experience from the Lord. I was married and had two children and lived in a little country home with about four acres of land, located beside the Smock, PA reservoir on Highway 51 not far from Uniontown, PA. One day I was all alone in my little country home. My husband was at work. My two children were at my mother's home. I always had good health and loved to work. I am not a good singer, but I would sing all day while working. I loved to sing hymns as well as good songs. With all the good desire I had, I never had my name on a church book in any church. I respected all churches, never found fault with any, and thought they were all right, and to this day, I believe there are good people in every church. What I want to do now is give my testimony as to how I came to belong to The Church of Jesus Christ.

Being alone in my humble little farm home, I was very busy and

singing the hymn, *Is Thy Heart Right With God?*. I knew it was something from heaven, something I had never witnessed before; I knew it was the voice of the Lord. I fell on my knees, and I talked to God. I said, "Lord, I know this is You, what will You have me do?" As I prayed there alone, a blanket of love completely covered me. I left myself in His care. As I recovered from this blessed experience, I went back to my work. When my husband, Thurman, came home, I told him of the wonderful experience I had. We both rejoiced together. A portion of this wonderful experience stayed with me for weeks and months. I know I was in the hands of the Lord, and that He had spoken to me just as I would speak to anyone and ask them a question; only He questioned me with compassion like no man has ever done.

I loved my mother and always talked everything over with her when I was confronted with any problem. As I carried a blessing from this experience, I also carried a problem I could not solve myself. So I talked it over and over with my mother; she was a very devoted Bible reader and would console me. She told me of a woman she had talked to that was a Bible reader. This woman did not mention the name of a church or invite her to come to church, but she left the impression with my mother that I might want to talk to her. The next time I had a visit with my mother, she told me about her conversation with this woman. I asked, "Where does this woman live?" She told me. I went straight to her house; one of the daughters came to the door when I knocked. I asked if her mother was home; she told me, "No." I asked, "Is your father home?" She said, "Yes. He is upstairs sleeping." It came to my mind right away, I must talk to him. I had never met him, I had never heard a word about him, but I felt a great desire to talk to him. I asked the girl if I could talk to him a little while, and she said, "He will be glad to talk to you." She went upstairs and told him I wanted to talk to him. He got up right away and came downstairs. I introduced myself and told him I wanted to talk to him about the Bible. I, being a Bible reader myself, asked him many questions as to what he believed, not knowing he belonged to any church or professed any religion. I continued to ask questions. Here are some of the questions I asked him: Do you think people should take

sacrament? Do you think it is right to wash feet? Do you think it is right for women to preach?

I asked question after question as he answered me to what he believed. He allowed me to talk about the *Bible* quite a while, then he asked, "Would you like to have a prayer meeting in your home?" Oh, those were the sweetest words to me. I said, "I surely would." He then told me that he was an elder in The Church of Jesus Christ. That was the first time I had ever heard of The Church of Jesus Christ. This was the first time I had ever heard of him or had ever seen him. His name was Martin King; he was an elder and later became an apostle. He came to my house with his family. I called in a few of my farm neighbors. We had a nice cottage prayer meeting. Brother King held many meetings with us from that time on, not only prayer meetings, but Sunday meetings.

The rest of my family, including my husband, became very much interested. Brother King had asked some of the other brothers to come up from down the river from Monongahela, Roscoe, Little Redstone and Coal Valley, PA. The word soon got around of the new interest Brother King had found, and many of the brothers and sisters met with us. It was on Sunday, August 23, 1914, the meeting was held in my sister, Alverdia Gibson's home. A wonderful blessing was being poured out upon us. While Brother William Bailey was bearing his testimony, I was so filled with a portion of my early experience, when God's voice asked me if my heart was right with Him. The spirit of repentance fell upon me; I felt as if I was right in front of Jesus at His feet. I asked for my baptism, and seven of my family followed. We were buried in the water in the reservoir beside my home on Route 51. It was a most beautiful evening, just before sundown. My husband, Thurman, my sister, Alverdia, her husband, Henry Gibson, my sister, Gladys, her husband, Ray Hillen, and my youngest brother, Winfield Riggen, made our promise to God to serve Him. We were confirmed in my home. I thank God for that day. I am now past 75 years old, and I wouldn't trade the last 50 years of my life for all the gold in the world. Being baptized in August, I was privileged to go to conference in October at a small place called Hawk Eye, near Scottdale, PA. It was the most glorious conference I

was ever in.

As I have said, I was always well and healthy, never sick in my life since I can remember. I was only baptized two weeks when I took sick. I went to conference sick, and when I returned home, I fell in my bed and never got out for several months. My illness all started with typhoid fever, which left me a complete cripple, not even able to raise my hands. They fed me soup which was strained through a cloth. I was completely helpless and did not weigh 75 pounds. When the next January conference came, I wanted to go. Sick as I was, my mother and father argued over ever thinking of such a thing as taking me out in snow and ice in January. My mother said I was going to die anyway so she arranged with a farm neighbor to take me to the railroad station to McKeesport, PA to conference. I was rolled in blankets and carried like a baby to a horse and buggy and carried into the depot. When the train came the conductor got off the train and helped the farm man put me on the train. At the other end where I got off the train, Brother Nephi Federer's son was there with a horse and buggy; they carried me from the train just as they carried me when I got on the train. I was taken to conference, which was held on the second floor of a lodge hall. I was carried up eighteen steps and set on a chair with my feet on another chair. I sat all day on Saturday. On Saturday night they got me a room close to the hall. On Sunday, I was carried back upstairs for the Sunday meetings. There were about three hundred people there, outsiders as well as saints. I had been anointed by just about all the Twelve Apostles and our President, Brother Alexander Cherry, during these months of sickness, but was not healed or even benefited. I still lay sick, not even able to move myself. When they took me to Sunday meeting, they set me on a chair in the back of the hall. I enjoyed the morning service. When the afternoon meeting opened for testimony and sacrament, a voice spoke to me. I recognized it as the same voice that had spoken to me when I was alone in my little farm home; this is what it said, "Now is the time." I spoke right out and said, "Brothers, if you will anoint me, now is the time." Two elders came back to me and carried me to the front of the hall. They anointed me with oil, and made a very simple, plain prayer with their hands on my head. I was healed right there,

one hundred per cent back to perfect health. I got up from the chair I sat on, walked back to my seat, went home with the crowd in perfect health.

The next day was Monday. I went back home on the train, walked to my home in the country, two miles, and have been blessed with good health ever since. I praise God for this wonderful testimony. I feel that God has spoken to me twice, in a very special way, in the 50 years I have tried to serve Him. The first time when He spoke to me and asked me the question, "Is your heart right with God?"—that was in preparation for the saving of my soul, and the second time when it was for the healing of my body. I very seldom speak of the healing of my body, but I will never forget the experience of the way God visited me when He called me to serve Him. The healing of my soul means so much more than the healing of my body. I thank God with all my heart for His loving care. My desire is to serve Him as long as I live. I know for sure with a testimony as I have given it to you, it will either stand for me or against me. I ask an interest in all your prayers, that with God's help, I will be able for it to be for me. I am not seeking any honor or glory, only to give Him the praise that He ever saw me worth speaking to, and that I have been privileged to become one of His servants with the rest of all who are trying to serve Him. May God bless the Church in these trying times, is my prayer in His Holy name.

Sister Furnier is now 91 years of age.

"O remember, my son, continued... directed unto the Lord; yea, let the affections of thy heart be placed upon the Lord forever."

If every person would only listen to these words, how happy they would be! They would bypass so many sorrows in life. Their purpose in life would have so much more meaning.

"Counsel with the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for good; yea, when thou liest down at night lie down unto the Lord, that he may watch over you in your sleep; and when thou risest in the morning let thy heart be full of thanks unto God; and if ye do these things, ye shall be lifted up at the last day."

Who is wise son, or daughter that will listen to what we say? This person will never be confused or ashamed.

Branch and Mission News

Aliquippa, PA

By Dora Rossi, Branch Editor

November 16, 1980

The morning service was opened by singing, *Hallelujah, The Gospel Is Restored*. We had visitors from Monongahela and Erie. Brother Anthony Palmieri opened with prayer. Brothers Mark D'Antonio, Ryan Ross, and Pete Giannetti, Jr. sang, *If Heaven Never Was Promised*.

Brother John Griffith read from Revelations 14, concerning the gospel restored. He also referred to Hebrews 11 concerning faith which is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. He left us with many wonderful thoughts.

We sang, *Something Beautiful*, for the ordination of our deaconess, Sister Marty Jumper. Her feet were washed by Sister Sabina D'Antonio and Brother Joseph Ross read the duties of a deaconess. Then we sang, *If That Isn't Love*. Brother Joe ordained our new deaconess. She expressed herself how she met the gospel through her husband, Bruce. Brother Anthony Palmieri and Sister Mary Ross both related the dreams they had about our Sister Marty.

The morning meeting was brought to a close.

We met in the evening to bid our Brother Paul Palmieri farewell on his trip to Africa and Ghana. He will join Brothers Paul Carr, Dominic Thomas and Mike Hildenbrand. We pray that God will bless them as they journey to different parts of the Church in Africa. Members of the McKees Rocks and Imperial Branch were present. The service was opened by singing, *Go and Tell Others of Jesus*. Brother John Ross said the opening prayer. We sang, *Hark the Voice of Jesus Is Calling*. Brother Bob Buffington opened the meeting by reminding us that we can be like Paul and Peter holding the prophets hand, by supporting our brother. We heard from quite a few elders from McKees Rocks, Imperial and Monongahela. The Aliquippa trio then sang, *You Gave Me Love*.

Brother Paul had hands laid on

him for a safe and successful trip. Brother Joe Ross presented him with gifts from our local. Brother Paul made a few remarks. He said he was excited about this trip and trusts that God would be with them. We sang, *God Be With You*.

We met in the church basement for refreshments and socializing with our brothers and sisters. All present had an enjoyable time. May the Lord bless our brothers for their untiring efforts to preach this wonderful gospel to all those who seek to do His will.

Mexico

By Brother and Sister Perdue

Brother Zavala, who is a minister in Sinaloa, has a little boy around two and one half years of age who fell off a car and was run over. He had both legs broken near the hips and an arm broken. After the casts were taken off, he could not walk, so he had to be carried around. The Mission Board suggested we send him a telegram asking him if he could bring the child to Tijuana. We then sent a telegram to Brother Zavala asking him if he could bring the child to Tijuana. He answered back that his wife would have to come along as she would have to help with one of the children. Their baby was sick and this little boy had to be carried. The mission board sent for them. After they arrived in Tijuana, the child was prayed for. He then was taken to the 'casa de todos' (everyone's house) in Tijuana where American doctors give of their time free. They had the x-rays made and after the doctors looked at the x-rays, they told them that the child did not need surgery. This child was then taken to another doctor who was of the same opinion. Brother Vicente Arce, our minister from Tijuana, took off a day from work to take this little boy to a specialist who also told the parents the child did not need surgery. Our brothers in the states were still not satisfied, so the x-rays were taken to two specialists in San Diego by Brother Tom Liberto, and they also agreed that the child did not need surgery.

We thank God for this miracle because in a couple of days this child

was running around like any normal child without any pain and also walked a great distance from where they were staying to the church.

We have a large number of Oaxacan Indians who come to the Church. We have been working with them for many years. We felt a desire for a long time to visit Oaxaca as several of our Oaxacan people told us they would love to have us go there and that they knew many people they could introduce us to.

So far this year, we have had 27 baptisms, and among the last group that was baptized there were two young men, Oaxacan Indians, who are very interested in the Church; one especially is studying very hard both the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon*. The other one cannot read or write but is learning now to read.

On November 18, 1980, Brother Zavala had the following dream:

"I dreamed that I found myself where there were just Oaxacan Indians and a woman came close to me who seemed to be very happy. I then asked her if The Church of Jesus Christ was in Oaxaca and she told me 'yes' and I asked her where it was and she answered, 'In all the streets.' Then I started to walk on a road towards the west. I saw many Oaxacan Indians brightly dressed and where I walked I saw a sea like a wall and I saw the sky very blue and beautiful!"

When Brother Zavala came to Tijuana, he was planning on staying for a little while. He found a job. That night he dreamed that I, Sister Perdue (probably representing the Church), told him that he was to go back to Sinaloa. He gave up the idea of working and decided to go back to Sinaloa. We also had Brother Ramon Anaya (teacher) visit at the same time and he too planned on finding a job and staying for a while, but he also was given a dream to go back to Sinaloa.

Remember us in your prayers and for the progress of The Church of Jesus Christ in Mexico and also wherever the Seed of Joseph abounds. Pray also for the Seed of Judah and the protection of God upon them.

May God bless all of our brothers and sisters everywhere. We send you our love.

Muncey Mission

By Judy Dyer, Mission Editor

Part I

The Muncey Mission had the privilege to witness the ordination of Brother Rodney Dyer into the Ministry of God. There was a representation of elders, brothers and sisters and friends from the Detroit, Ohio, Pennsylvania and North Carolina areas. The little church building was filled to capacity, also including many friends from the Muncey Reserve.

After Sunday School, Brother Rodney Dyer had led the congregation in community singing. The singing was so beautiful, it was heard through the whole town of Muncey.

Brother Alex Gentile, the missionary in charge of Muncey, welcomed everyone in attendance. He introduced the elders who were seated on the rostrum; they were Brothers Dominic Moraco, Joseph Milantoni, Paul Whitton, Dominic Thomas, Nick Pietrangelo, Gorie Ciaravino, Tony Scolaro and Lou Vitto. Brother Alex then mentioned that Brother Mario Coppa, formerly the missionary in charge of Muncey, had expressed his desire to be there, but due to sickness, he was unable to attend.

The meeting was opened by singing, *Hallelujah, the Gospel Is Restored*. Brother Dominic Thomas, General Church President, briefly gave opening remarks, expressing that we should entertain a prayer in our hearts that the Lord would bless this meeting. Brother Gorie Ciaravino opened the meeting in prayer. Brother Clayton Leenham's mother had not been feeling well and came forth to be anointed. Sisters Karen Milantoni and Judy Dyer then sang a duet, *God's Wondrous Plan*, written and composed by Sister Esther Dyer.

Brother Joseph Milantoni was the first elder to speak. He spoke many beautiful thoughts, his main topic being "faith". He stated that God created man, and through faith, we can participate and receive from God. "In our lives we have experienced a graciousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ, and without faith, we

have nothing." He also spoke of Brother Rodney Dyer being ordained into the ministry, quoting from the *Bible* where Jesus speaks to the Disciple John, "You are commissioned to go and preach, teach and baptize."

Brother Dominic Moraco followed with the topic of "the love of God". He quoted several references from the *Bible*, in particular where Jesus is talking to his disciples. "By this love, all the world will know that you are my disciples."

Brother Nick Pietrangelo then spoke, reminiscing many beautiful memories of Muncey and of how when he was called to be an elder, he came as a young elder to preach the gospel in Muncey. He also expanded upon the many duties and responsibilities of a minister. He then read from the Minister's Manual the duties of an elder, reminding us that it is a commission that no man can assume himself. He then told of a personal experience which he had when Brother Rodney's name was brought to the Missionary Board meeting. He received such a wonderful feeling; he knew for many years that the Lord would open the doors of Muncey. In conclusion, he asked that we pray for Brother Rodney, that the Lord would bless him.

Sister Florence LaRosa (Brother Rodney's aunt), then sang a hymn which was composed by Sister Esther Dyer (Brother Rodney's mother) entitled, *It Was Through Him*. Sister Esther testified that when she heard that Brother Rodney was called into the Priesthood, she received such a wonderful feeling. She immediately sat down at the piano, and the Lord blessed her with these words and music.

Brother Rodney then came forth to be ordained. His feet were washed by Brother Dominic Thomas, and Brother Lou Vitto prayed for the spirit to come upon whoever felt to ordain Brother Rodney. Brother Joseph Milantoni then ordained Brother Rodney into the Priesthood of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Rodney then spoke, saying that he knew God had called him and that he felt that a weight and burden had been lifted. He then thanked God for calling him into this Gospel and for the many blessings that he has received from God.

The congregation then sang, *When Mothers In Salem*, as Sister Judy Dyer brought forth their infant daughter, Andria Dawn, to be blessed by Brother Alex Gentile.

Sacrament was then served, and a few anointings were performed. Brother Dominic Thomas then spoke of how he came into the Church. He also spoke of the mysteries of life, from the beginning of life until death.

Brother Alex Gentile made a few closing remarks, thanking God for the blessings that we received that day. He then asked Brother Lou Vitto to sing a verse of *Springs of Living Water*, and the congregation joined in on the chorus. The meeting was closed in prayer by Brother Paul Whitton.

Part II

The Muncey Mission enjoyed another wonderful day in the service of God on Sunday, June 29, 1980. The spirit of God was greatly manifested as two new converts, William and Lillian Dolson, husband and wife, went to the waters of regeneration together. Brother Bill was baptized by Brother Rodney Dyer, and Sister Lillian was baptized by Brother Alex Gentile.

With their permission, I would like to tell you how Sister Lillian and Brother Bill found this true Gospel. They are an elderly couple and had just moved back to Muncey from Detroit for retirement. They always knew of this Church, but never really investigated our faith and doctrine. Sister Faye Albert had gone to visit them often and encouraged them to attend our services. They came and surely felt the love of God, which brought them back several times until they came very regularly, never missing a meeting. We as a Mission prayed that the Lord would someday call them into the Gospel. We had grown to love them both very dearly and knew the Lord was touching their hearts, giving them great understanding of our Church.

Oh, how our hearts were filled with joy when Sister Lillian stood up and asked to be baptized. While we were preparing to go to the water, Brother Bill made it known that he also wanted to be born again. Showers of blessings flowed all day as we witnessed these two new converts being baptized.

The Lord has really blessed Brother Bill and Sister Lillian, and we are so thankful that He has called two more into our fold. Our "little" mission is growing spiritually, and someday, we pray that we will not be a "little" mission, but be filled with saints.

Part III

On September 7, 1980, God's richest blessings once again flowed upon the saints and friends of the Muncey Mission, as Brother Sam French had been called to be ordained into the office of a deacon.

There was a representation of elders, brothers and sisters from the Detroit area. The meeting was opened by Brother Alex Gentile, who welcomed our many visitors who had come to witness this ordination.

Brother Lou Pietrangelo opened the meeting in prayer. We continued by singing, *Oh, It Is Wonderful*. Brother Lou read from Ephesians 2, "For by the grace of God are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is a gift of God."

Brother Rodney Dyer then mentioned how wonderful he felt as Brother Sam was called as a deacon. Now they can go out and work together for the Seed of Joseph.

Brother Alex read from Acts 6. He also read the duties of a deacon. Brother Sam's feet were washed by Brother Anthony Scolaro, and he was then ordained by Brother Alex.

Sacrament was served, and the meeting was opened for testimony. Brother Sam expressed himself, thanking God for calling him as a deacon. Many other beautiful testimonies were then given. Before closing the meeting, Brother Alex thanked God for His blessings this day.

San Diego, CA

Sunday, May 11, proved to be another day of blessing and edification for the San Diego Branch. Also, the Saints, loved ones and friends experienced an extra blessing as they welcomed another member into the fold.

Greg Baer was baptized by Brother Philip Jackson and confirmed by Brother Paul Liberto.

We pray that God's blessings will follow Brother Greg, and may he in turn be a help and blessing to the branch and others around them.

Attention

The deadline for changes to the General Church Directory has been postponed until February 15. Any branch, mission, or individual requesting a change, deletion, or addition, please mail them to:

PRINT HOUSE
8423 Boettner Rd
Bridgewater, MI 48115

Anyone who desires a copy of the changes, please mail \$1.00 for expenses, to the same address.

Brother Alex Gentile

* WEDDINGS *

BAER—LINDSEY

Brother Greg Baer and Sister Shellie Lindsey were united in holy wedlock in The Church of Jesus Christ at San Diego on August 2, 1980.

Brother Paul Liberto officiated at the wedding ceremony.

The newlyweds are residing in San Diego, California.

New Arrivals

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

Megan Marie to Phil and Francine Jackson of Kinsman, Ohio;

Steven Joseph to Joseph and Sharon Smith of San Diego, California;

Matthew David to David and Debbie Ciccatti of San Diego, California;

Joianne Rose to Kevin and Donna Fraschilla of

Edison, New Jersey;

Pamela Marie to Michael and Debbie Gulick of Edison, New Jersey; and

Abby Rae to Paul and Arlene Holan of Niles, Ohio.

— OBITUARIES —

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

OTTO H. GEHLY

Brother Otto H. Gehly departed this life on November 3, 1980. He was a member of the Fredonia Branch. He was born on May 26, 1910 and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on November 2, 1958. He held the office of deacon.

He is survived by his wife, three sons, eight grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, a brother and two sisters.

The funeral services were conducted by Brothers Russell Cadman and Dan Casasanta.

Brother Gehly will be greatly missed by the Fredonia Branch and all who knew him.

The Gospel News

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

(USPS 223-480)

February, 1981

Volume 37, No. 2

A Message from the Seventy

*By Quorum News Coordinator
Paul Benyola
Quorum Writer
Ralph Frammolino*

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting Gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people . . ." Revelation 14:6

To any member of The Church of Jesus Christ, this verse reflects an important reference in the Restoration Story. And to Brother Cleveland Baldwin, an Evangelist in Florida, the verse also has a meaning as part of his personal testimony.

A few years before he even met The Church of Jesus Christ, Brother Cleveland had a dream. "I saw an angel flying in the midst of heaven. The angel had a scroll in his mouth and was descending on an angle towards the earth," he writes.

The dream puzzled him. He was a member of the Baptist Church in Freehold, New Jersey, and he sought an answer from many religious men. They, too, were puzzled.

However, God was planting a seed. Brother Cleveland heard of The Church and started to attend the services, although he also was in charge of the Adult Sunday School Class of the Baptist Church and later took charge of the Young Men's Class.

"I had heard the Restored Gospel

of Jesus Christ preached in The Church of Jesus Christ," he writes. "The more sincere I became before God, the more this 'True Gospel' as the saints referred to it, rang true to me. Gradually, I lost all interest in the Baptist Church and stopped attending services."

Brother Baldwin wasn't immediately baptized. God worked with him through a series of experiences. One such experience found Brother Cleveland unable to make ends meet or find suitable living quarters for his family. He promised that if God would provide shelter that he would join the Church.

"A very nice place was provided for me in North Stelton right in the midst of The Church of Jesus Christ and around some of the saints. Instead of returning to Church, I became more involved in the worldly organization that I belonged to at the time. I really began to spend most of my spare time socializing.

"It wasn't long, however, before God reminded me of that promise that I had made," he writes. "One day as I was walking down the street, the voice of God sternly spoke to me, 'You told me, if I would find you a place to live, you would join my Church.' Immediately, I remembered the prayer, the promise. I felt I was in serious trouble with God . . . God had answered my prayer but deep in

my heart I didn't want to become a part of The Church of Jesus Christ. It was too strict for me."

But Brother Cleveland began attending services and soon he became convinced of the Restoration story. He even tried to convince his wife about the authority of the Church. That's when Revelation 14:6 came to life for him.

"One day I opened the scripture with her to prove this was the only Church that could substantiate its origin from the day of Pentecost until now, proving through the scriptures a falling away and a restoration," he writes.

"I went into II Thessalonians, Second Chapter, third verse: Then I turned to Revelation, Fourteenth Chapter sixth and seventh verses. While reading about the angel flying in the midst of heaven, I was overcome by the power and blessing of God."

"Immediately the dream I had had a few years before about this angel came to my mind with such force until I exclaimed to my wife, 'Look! That angel I saw in my dream flying down to earth on an angle with a scroll in his mouth is confirmed in the same chapter where this Church based the restoration of the Gospel. This is no coincidence,' he writes.

"In trying to convince my wife, I was convinced more than ever. Not only now was I fully convinced of the restoration of the Gospel, but the power of God that accompanied it."

Sister Margaret Baldwin was bap-

tized on September 25, 1955, and Brother Cleveland joined the Church less than a month later, on October 16, 1955.

Brother Cleveland is currently preaching the Restored Gospel in Quincy, Florida. He was ordained an Evangelist (again, God worked with him in this matter by showing him a beautiful white coat in a dream) in 1970. Through guidance by the Spirit of God, Brother Baldwin moved back to his boyhood home in Florida in July, 1971.

On his first Sunday there, Brother Cleveland decided to visit an elderly couple he knew when he was a child.

"I was given direction to their home," he writes. "Later that evening I, along with my family, was getting dressed preparing to visit these people. While thinking upon this couple and tying my shoe, I heard a voice speaking to me, very plainly saying, 'When they ask you what brought you back here, you tell them, an angel of God brought you back'".

God has blessed the efforts put forth by Brother Cleveland, Sister Margaret and their family. On May 25, 1980, the Church building in Quincy, Florida was consecrated and dedicated to the service of God.

The Quorum of Seventy Evangelists felt to share these experiences of Brother Cleveland, one of its members, with the brothers, sisters and friends to show how God can work. We praise the Lord for the opportunity to preach the Restored Gospel in Quincy, as in other parts of the world.

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.

"I love the Lord, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications.

Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live." Psalm 116, Verses 1-2.

50th Anniversary

The members of Detroit, Michigan Branch No. 4 set aside some time on Sunday, October 5, 1980, to commemorate a very special event in the life of Sister Catherine Benedetto. It was exactly fifty years ago, October 5, 1930, that she was baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ.

She was presented with a corsage, and the saints recalled many pleasant memories of worshipping with this wonderful sister.

Sister Benedetto has served as a Deaconess for many years. Her faithful and dedicated life, her vivid and living testimony, and her many, many acts of charity have been an inspiration to all who know her. We pray that God will continue to bless and sustain her for many years to come.

Sister Benedetto is the mother of Sister Santina LaCivita and the grand-



mother of Brother Anthony LaCivita and Leonard. The following scripture from the *Book of Mormon* is most appropriate for our beloved sister:

"... I would desire that ye should consider on the blessed and happy state of those that keep the commandments of God. For behold, they are blessed in all things, both temporal and spiritual; and if they hold out faithful to the end they are received into heaven, that thereby they may dwell with God in a state of never-ending happiness. . ."

He Sits in the Circle of the Earth and the Inhabitants Are as Grasshoppers

Isaiah 40:22

Too often our picture of God is as far from the truth as the North is from the South. We visualize one who is only there when we pray; one who only is there when we want Him to be. We make Him according to the way we please.

Isaiah states, "To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto Him?" He says that He measured the waters in the hollow of His hand; also the nations are a drop in a bucket and are counted as the small dust of the balance. Further, all nations before Him are as nothing; and they are counted to Him less than nothing and vanity.

We today, worry about many things we can do nothing about, and the things we should take care of we leave undone. Our life can be a

shamble; the way we choose our priorities and lead our families. Yet we say, "Where is God when things go wrong."

I know what I am saying is hard to accept, but if we can put things in their proper perspective, we would be so much more sure of our lives. Life would have much more meaning.

In Isaiah's day, things must have been the same as today. People seem to think very much alike as far as their vision of their God. He, however, states, "There is NO searching of His understanding and they who wait upon the Lord shall be renewed in strength. They shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint."

Could it be that we need to read more of His word and pray more to help us find our way?

An Experience

The following is a beautiful experience had by Brother James Aquilino, who is staying with his daughter in San Diego, California, and in his correspondence with his home branch (Detroit, Branch No. 4) he related it to us. We had never heard it before, and we thought we would like to have all the saints hear it.

"As my testimony to the goodness and glory of God, I would like to relate an experience I had while I was living in the city of Detroit.

"I was living with my wife, Catherine, in a house not in the most favorable part of the city. Our next door neighbor had a large dog, and one night the dog began to bark, and he barked. The owner of the dog got up to see why the dog was barking. She looked out of her window and she saw a policeman walking up and down the driveway, up to the garage and back. When she saw this, she was satisfied and she went to bed. The dog began to bark again and this neighbor lady got up, looked out, and she again saw the policeman walking up and down the driveway. She quieted the dog down and went back to bed.

"The next morning, she spoke to us and said, 'Pretty good, having a policeman guarding your house all night.' We said that we didn't have a policeman hired for anything. The neighbor explained that she got up twice, hearing her dog barking; she looked out of the window and saw this policeman.

"We explained to her that we have God watching over us and He is not for hire. We thank our Heavenly Father for having a God who cares for us and watches over us. We truly serve a Living God."

The Gates

By The Glassport Branch

Throughout the scriptures, the entrance of a city was protected by gates. When Jerusalem was destroyed by the Chaldees, fulfilling the prophecy of Jeremiah, the walls were broken down and the gates were burned. Jerusalem was left in rubble, and the inhabitants were carried off

captive into Babylon. Jerusalem remained in this condition until the reign of Cyrus, King of Persia. Then the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus to proclaim that the Lord had charged him to build God a house at Jerusalem. The Books of Ezra and Nehemiah give the account of those who undertook this task of rebuilding the walls and gates. **It is worth reading.**

In the Psalms and Prophets the usage of gates is found throughout which gives a more spiritual meaning to gates; indicating the gates to be more than the mortal materials used to construct a gate entrance.

Today as we travel about so freely, very seldom do we travel through gates. Yet spiritually speaking when we traveled as a lost soul upon the sea of life, we were drawn to The Church of Jesus Christ by the appearance of this bright gate. As we traveled in darkness, it was the brilliance of this gate that attracted us and kindled the desire to enter in. We found this gate to be a place of rest for our souls and a joy for our hearts. We who have entered in have found a balm for the burden of life and a great hope for the life to come.

Now as we have entered in, it is our task to maintain the brilliance of this gate, The Church of Jesus Christ. This brilliance then that drew us was the righteousness, the holiness, the love, the kindness, the patience, the reflection of Jesus Christ we beheld in those who showed us the way. We must then emanate the same brilliance of righteousness, holiness, love, kindness, patience—reflections of Jesus Christ. Hence others who travel in this dark, dark world will see a shining light of hope and peace pierce through the darkness of their heart. Wherever The Church of Jesus Christ is established throughout this world, those brothers and sisters who carry the Gospel forth make up the gates, and the brilliance that shines forth is the light of Jesus Christ drawing all men unto Him. The love of Christ that we have for one another will determine the strength of the walls of love, for we are the gates and the walls built upon the foundation, Jesus Christ. Our love for one another is the mortar to hold the walls of this Holy City together. I pray that we

(Continued on Page 9)



Joe Maselli and Domenico Morle

85th Birthday

By Virginia Surprenant

On November 23, 1980, the brothers and sisters of the San Fernando Valley Branch celebrated Brother Domenico Morle's 85th birthday with a surprise pot luck dinner.

Brother Leonard Lovalvo from Modesto was our visiting brother.

Brother Morle was born November 27, 1895 in Ponza, Italy. He was the second of seven children. He came to the United States of America when he was twelve and lived in West Virginia where he was tutored by coal miners. He never attended school in America. At the age of 19 he went back to Italy to serve in the Italian Navy. He received the Gold Cross medal and the Honor of Cavalier. He married Villa Romano, and they had two children, Brother Frank Morle of Saline, Michigan, and Sister Virginia Surprenant from Los Angeles, California. He was baptized in 1933 by Brother DiBattiste. He has six grandchildren and is presently living with his daughter in California.

He and Brother Joseph Maselli are our oldest brothers in the Valley Branch, and we are thankful to have them in our midst. May God continue to bless them both.

50 Years

By Diane Everett, Branch Editor

On October 26, 1980, Sister Josephine Amormino of Detroit, Branch No. 1 celebrated her 50th Anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ.

She was baptized on October 26, 1930, by Brother Wade Rikken and confirmed by Brother Thurman S. Furnier.

She expressed herself of the many times God has helped her and seen her through her afflictions. Her desire is to stay faithful the rest of her days.

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would feel remiss if I did not take this opportunity to thank all of you for your prayers, cards, telephone calls, and all other signs of love and concern you showed toward me.

I remembered as I lay in bed that Friday evening of our October Conference of the anticipation of receiving more of God's blessings the next day. I awakened during the night with severe chest pains and discomfort in my left arm. I had experienced these pains prior but never thought much of it. Usually they would disappear by morning.

Surprisingly to me, the next morning brought much pain as during the night. Thinking it would eventually pass, I continued preparing for the Saturday's meetings.

The pain never ceased during the day. I casually mentioned my condition to Brothers Malcolm Paxon and Adam Costarella, who insisted that I should have it checked at the Westmoreland Hospital. Reluctantly, I agreed and did so.

Foolishness was the first feeling that I had as I was being examined. Apprehension set in as I was being connected to intravenous equipment. Deep concern fell over me as the attending cardiologist told me that I must be admitted to the Intensive Care Unit.

Of course, my first thoughts were of my family's needs and that I had not accomplished all that I desired to for God and His Church. Brother Peter Sclaro anointing me, along with the news that the brothers and sisters had remembered me in prayer, brought an instant calm to my anxieties. My faith was awakened and my condition was in the Lord's hands.

I remained in the I.C.U. for

forty-eight hours. After numerous tests and my insisting that I was O.K., I was discharged. All of the test results were negative.

Now, I wasn't positive in my mind whether God intervened in my behalf or not until later. I received a card from Brother and Sister Ansel D'Amico of Rochester, NY. In it Brother D'Amico related a dream where I approached him, smiled, and asked that he would remember me. Later yet, I heard of a sister from Anaheim, California, who dreamed that a death would occur during the October Conference.

How could we interpret these things. For me, the gift of life was given me to keep for a while longer. With that, I thank God for His mercy and graciousness. It is my desire to do more toward the upbuilding of His Kingdom.

This experience has caused me to recognize the importance and need for prayer and the concern of others. I thank each of you for the love that you displayed toward me. God bless each of you is my prayer.

Brother John Griffith

.. .. .

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We want to express our deepest gratitude to all our brothers and sisters for their prayers, phone calls, flowers, contributions, cards of sympathy, and love extended during the loss of our beloved husband and father.

We especially want to thank Brother Russell Cadman for his kind words of understanding and comfort, and Brother Dan Cassasanta for his beautiful prayer. May God bless each one.

Sister Elsie Gehly
Brother Paul and Sister
Carolyn Gehly and Family
Brother Alvin and Sister Nancy
Gehly and Family
Brother Arthur and Sister
Martha Gehly and Family

.. .. .

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to express my sincere

and heartfelt thanks to all for your prayers and lovely cards that were sent to me during my recent illness and operation.

I know the Good Lord heard each and every one who prayed, and I am now recuperating rapidly, thank God.

God bless all of you.

Sister Anne Lovalvo

When the Angel Moroni

By Alexander Cherry

The hymn written under the above title is a Restoration production. Although the hymn reveals that Brother Cherry was well versed in the historical facts of the Restoration and post-Restoration periods, little can be gleaned from the hymn which would serve to give further insight into his nature.

However, his reference to the Choice Seer, that "He will be strong in the spirit, and the hidden things of God" should give every Saint cause for serious thought. Are we ready, are we spiritually mature enough in this year of our Lord, 1968, to receive the hidden things of the Lord—the greater things of God's law?

Able to judge only from what we have learned about Brother Cherry from others, we see him, as from afar, as one of those rare individuals who was both introspective and active (both thinker and doer).

Administrators must, of necessity, be somewhat conservative. Besides administering the temporal affairs of the Church, Brother Cherry seems to have been something of a visionary, with strong leanings toward liberalism.

What a man! His practical feet were planted solidly on the earth, but his eyes were ever on the stars.

Hymn No. 368—*Saints Hymnal*

The above article was taken from the book, *Experiences Yesterday and Today*, put together by the Ladies' Uplift Circle. The hymn, *When the Angel Moroni*, was written by Brother Alexander Cherry, who was President of the Church from 1906 to 1922.

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Some Highlights of 1980

The turning of the year found Brother Nephi and Sister Lorraine DeMercurio and sons, Nephi and Jared, newly arrived in Nigeria for another tour of missionary activity.

In February, Brothers Eddy Perdue, Joe Lovalvo, George Heaps and Eugenio Mora were on a fruitful missionary tour of several locations in Mexico.

Before the month ended, Brothers Mike Hildenbrand, Paul Carr and Paul Palmieri completed a five-day trip to the Netherlands visiting with Mr. Jan Schut, his wife, Ine, and children.

As the year swiftly rolled on, reports continued to come from far and near of new converts being baptized. In May, N. Harry Okada, our first Japanese convert, was baptized at Modesto, California.

June 29 marked a long-awaited (seven years) breakthrough at Red Lake, Arizona. Loretta Brutz, wife of Brother Ronald Brutz, was baptized. Sister Loretta is the first full-blooded Navajo to be welcomed into the Church.

The GMBA Campout at Harrisonburg, Virginia in June, was well attended; registrations exceeded 500. It was another time for fellowship, prayer meetings, chapel services, seminars, arts and crafts, camp choir, and recreation. The highlight was the baptisms of 25 new converts, and the 26th convert to be baptized later in Lake Worth, Florida.

Another notable highlight was the General Church Spiritual Conference that met four days, Thursday, October 16, through Sunday, October 19, in Greensburg, PA.

The fasting and prayer in the mornings proved refreshing and soul searching. The administering of sacrament by the district presidents on Thursday afternoon was uplifting. Following this, a humble spirit prevailed during feet-washing, bringing edification to the priesthood and teachers.

Friday afternoon, the Twelve Apostles administered sacrament to a large congregation of saints. This edifying event marked the first time in the history of our Church that the Lord's Supper was administered by the Twelve to so many representing the Church in general.

Also uplifting, was the spoken word by various members of the priesthood. Remarkable visions and experiences were manifested throughout the Conference. Fellowship, testimony, and inspirational singing also highlighted the blessed gathering.

Finally, on November 18, Brothers Dominic Thomas, Paul Palmieri, Michael Hildenbrand, and Paul Carr left home for a missionary tour of Nigeria and Ghana. They were cordially and happily welcomed by the Nigerian Saints. Their presence and activity brought cheer and revival everywhere they visited. Regrettably, during their brief stopover in Ghana, they were unable to make contact with the Church there.

Praise God for another year of blessing and prosperity.

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



Jonah and the Great Fish

Dear Girls and Boys,

Many years ago, before Christ was born, there were huge, marvelous cities whose people did not know about God and His laws to love one another. Nineveh was one of those cities. It was so big that it took three days just to walk across it, and its great walls were made thick enough to drive four chariots on top of it side by side. Many guards protected the walls, but the people did many bad things to one another.

Finally, God told his prophet, Jonah, to go to Nineveh and tell them all the wrongs they were doing. But Jonah did not like these people, and he wanted God to punish them. He went down to the sea and boarded a ship going away from Nineveh. He was running away from God.

But the Lord sent a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty and terrible storm. The sailors feared the ship would break. They threw overboard many things to lighten their load. Each person was calling on God to save them but for Jonah, who was sleeping. The shipmaster woke up Jonah and told him to also call upon God. Jonah told them that he was running away from God and it was his fault that the storm was upon them. They asked him what they should do to be saved, and he said that they should throw him overboard. The good sailors begged God to forgive them as they threw Jonah into the dark, churning waters.

Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. It was not a whale with their small throats that the Lord prepared, but a great fish. Jonah did not die as he was tossed about in the belly of the fish. The weeds were wrapped around his

head, and he cried out unto the Lord. After three days the Lord spake unto the fish and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.

This time when the Lord spoke unto Jonah and told him to go to Nineveh, Jonah went. He preached as the Lord directed him; in forty days, Nineveh would be destroyed! The people believed Jonah and began to fast and pray and cry unto the Lord. Their powerful King also heard and believed. He commanded everyone that they should dress in poor sackcloth, put ashes on their heads and neither eat or drink for three days while they all cried unto the Lord. Not even the animals were to eat or drink and all were to turn from their evil ways. This is what God wanted. He gladly forgave the people of that great city. There were six-score thousand people there that he spared in His kindness.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH: Find your answers hidden. By the left-over spaces, how many people is six-score?

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------|
| W | C | I | E | G | U | H | Nineveh |
| P | A | I | 2 | 0 | E | H | Huge |
| R | S | T | T | V | F | T | Fish |
| A | H | H | E | Y | A | O | Ship |
| Y | S | N | I | R | S | L | Water |
| K | I | N | G | P | T | C | Pray |
| N | F | W | E | E | D | S | Fast |
| | | | | | | | King |
| | | | | | | | Ash |
| | | | | | | | Cloth |
| | | | | | | | City |
| | | | | | | | Weeds |

Young People Ask

By John Griffith

Dear Brother John,

I am sixteen years old and am trying very hard to do what is right. I am baptized but still find it hard at times to tell right from wrong in all cases. What's wrong with me?

Nothing that I can tell. I'm 36 years old and am still learning right from wrong. The question here is, "What is sin or sinful?"

It is easier for us at times to tell what's right for us rather than what's wrong because of our natural desires or the encouragement that is always there to do something that we're not sure we should do.

I have found that learning more of God's word is the best way to solve our problem. As I learn more and more, I find it easier to distinguish between what's good or not for me.

I John 5:17 states, "All unrighteousness is sin." I John 3:4 states, "... for sin is the transgression of the law." So we can summarize these short verses by saying that anything you or I would do that is against the will of God is sinful.

Through God's teachings we are given more than what sometimes we really want to know. It makes it difficult to do things when we know we shouldn't. Romans 4:15 states, "... for where no law is, there is no transgression." If we cannot find, "Thou shall not. . ." then it is given to us to determine in our own minds whether we should or not. If you read though, it becomes easier to come to the right conclusion. Remember, we only hurt ourselves if we don't, and that is wrong in itself.

Should we keep ignorant of the *Holy Bible*? I think not. We, along with the world, have generally accepted the *Holy Bible* to be the word of God. Therefore, it would be a sin to remain ignorant of that word.

How do we keep from making mistakes? As soon as you find out, please let me know. Through God's mercy, we are forgiven of our honest mistakes. But we do learn by them, so we should not repeat them.

In the book of Genesis, we read of the first sin, that of Adam and Eve. As I read of the event, I am caused to feel that the sin committed was not in the eating of the fruit, but in the breaking of God's commandment, "... but of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou shall not eat. . ." Genesis 2:17

So, what does this mean? Don't do anything that we know is wrong for us. Because of the act of Adam and Eve, we do know of good and evil. God has given each the Holy Ghost to help the true follower determine both good and evil, even when evil looks good.

Be careful. If your friends say, "Let's try this or do that," and you're not sure, have enough respect for yourself to wait at least until you have time to investigate. Don't be afraid to talk to your parents, brothers and sisters, elders and teachers. They're there for the perfecting of the saints and none are above this problem.

In conclusion, I feel that more often we willfully sin and hope for forgiveness. For this we need more strength to fight against the weakness of the natural man/woman. Sin is cancerous to our souls. This strength can only come from God through Jesus Christ, to whom you have made your covenant. The harder we try to serve Him, to love Him, to please Him, to know Him, the easier it becomes to live. We become more alert to areas that can harm us.

Don't do what's good for someone else; do what is good for your soul's salvation, and in doing that you will do good for someone else.

If you have a question or comment, please write. Also, please discuss your thoughts with individuals you can trust. We share each other's burdens and learn from each other. God bless you.

Write: Young People Ask
John Griffith
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Sixth & Lincoln Sts.
Monongahela, PA 15063

MBA HIGHLIGHTS

Youngstown MBA Enjoys Rich Blessings While Visiting Nearby "Shut-ins"

By Sandra Cardillo

During the week of December 2-9, 1980, the Youngstown MBA, under the direction of Brother Nick Manes, and the Youngstown Quartet visited several area nursing homes where they uplifted many patients including Brother Larry Luxeul and Sister Sarah Manes. On December 2, the group travelled to The Little Forest Medical Center (where Brother Larry resides). Not only did they present our brother with a fruit basket, but also spent some time singing for some of the residents.

The Mahoning County Nursing Home was the next stop for our brothers and sisters on Sunday, December 7. There they also provided foodstuffs for and uplifted some of the eighty residents (which included Sister Sarah) by visiting, speaking and singing. Sister Sarah requested our prayers in her behalf.

Finally, the group met at the Diamond Head Nursing Center together with a group of nearly ninety adults and children. During the evening the Youngstown Quartet presented several hymns and prayers were offered by three of our brothers. The activities director of the center commended our group from Youngs-

town saying that they were "the only church group with male members that visits" the home.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS: *Ryan Ross*

Truly I enjoyed a blessing from God by reading this report in a letter from Sister Sandra. If I may say so, I feel thankful to be affiliated with an organization like the MBA when I read of such a display of love by a group of people which is part of our GMBA. Their exhibit of charity to our two members and to these of the community cannot be overly praised. Of course, none of these things are possible without the change in our lives that occurred when we allowed Jesus Christ to enter our hearts. And I am sure our brothers and sisters in our MBA feel thankful to God for being used in His service. Let activities such as this inspire all of us who comprise the GMBA to follow this good example. For charity, according to the scripture, is the most important virtue we can exhibit.

"And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, **and have not charity, I am nothing.**" I Corinthians 13:2

Accommodations for Ladies Uplift Circle Conference at Vanderbilt, PA

Those planning to attend the Ladies Circle Conference on March 28, 1981 at the Vanderbilt, PA Branch and desiring accommodations should contact Sister Thelma Petrosky **as soon as possible.** Those having information concerning the total number of sisters from a particular branch who will be going to the conference should

also contact Sister Thelma at the following address:

P. O. Box 228
Perryopolis, PA 15476
(412) 736-2979

Any Circles having extra cook books or ones that can be sold, please bring them to the General Circle Conference.

Branch and Mission News

Modesto, CA

By Sister Pam Cole

Yes, more good news from Modesto! I'd like to report that we've witnessed more baptisms and welcomed more visitors. Both of these have been a blessing.

Brother Eugenio Mora from Ahome, Sinaloa, our resident missionary in Mexico, along with his wife, Sister Angela, spent a few weeks here in Modesto. I know that we all enjoyed their stay here. This couple is truly dedicated to the work of the Lord.

On July 13, we had two baptisms, and five Spanish children blessed. Those baptized this day were husband and wife, Carlos and Catherine Rodriguez. Brother Carlos and Sister Catherine were both baptized by Brother Joe Lovalvo. Brother Carlos was confirmed by Brother Joe Ciarolla and Sister Catherine was confirmed by Brother Leonard Lovalvo.

Also on this day, visiting were Brother and Sister Mora, Brother Ron and Sister Mary Nichols and family from San Jose, CA, and Brother John and Sister Pauline Dulisse from San Diego.

Modesto was also privileged to host the California District Conference. Even though we were in the middle of a heat wave, there was representation from every branch of our District, which made the week end of July 26-27 a wonderful turnout.

The Saturday evening meeting began with prayer offered by Brother Rusty Heaps. *I Love To Tell the Story* was sung and Brother Leonard Lovalvo had some opening comments.

Brother Rusty opened the meeting by speaking of "uncertain future". He said that we all need the direction of God in order to know where we're going in life, and to obtain this direction we need to fast and pray. The congregation sang, *He Lives*, which was the topic for our next speaker, Brother Tom Liberto.

Brother Tom said he knows that Christ lives. He lives in The Church of

Jesus Christ, and He lives within you. WE felt both our speakers were inspired by the Lord.

We sang, *Safe Am I*, and the meeting was left open for testimony. Many used this time to praise God. Brother Leonard and Sister Rose Lovalvo sang, *When I Kneel Down To Pray*. Brother Frank Ciotti then offered prayer over a young brother with an affliction and Brother Rusty Heaps anointed him.

In closing, we sang, *Everybody Ought to Know*, and prayer by Brother Paul Liberto was offered.

Starting off our Sunday meeting were many hymns including, *Nearer My God to Thee*, *Power in the Blood*, sang by our Spanish group, and *I'm in this Church*, by the Anaheim Quartet.

Brother Leonard Lovalvo gave an itinerary of our meeting, and we knew that in this meeting we would be blessed. We began singing, *Our Church*, and Brother Tony Picciuto opened in prayer. Sister Rose Lovalvo sang, *If My People*. Three children were blessed and an afflicted sister was anointed.

Brother Frank Genero began our preaching service and brought up the topic of "wisdom". Brother Frank stated that, as the scriptures say, "The Fear of God is the beginning of Wisdom", and we should start to take upon ourselves this fear, which will lead to wisdom. Our brother concluded with these words, "May whatever we do, be done in the wisdom of God. Let this wisdom be stirred up in you". We sang, *His Name Is Wonderful*.

Brother Barry Mazzeo followed Brother Frank and continued speaking on wisdom. Brother Barry said, "We need the wisdom of God so desperately, that we might know His will in our lives, we come to many crossroads in life where we need the wisdom and direction of God".

The congregation sang, *Do You Know My Jesus?* Brother Tony Picciuto spoke of David and his wisdom through God. He asked the congregation, "How many of us will take on a Goliath?" We all felt that

our brothers were blessed very much in their words, and through their words, we were all blessed. We sang, *The Savior Is Waiting*, and Brother Louis Pachaco spoke a few words in Spanish. Brother Leonard Lovalvo had some closing comments, and in these comments he said, "We're going to camp in nine days (referring to the 1980 California Camp), and we're going to build Zion".

A brother requested to be anointed, and *There's Room at the Cross* was sung. Brother Rusty Heaps closed our California District Conference in prayer.

Two Sundays later (which was one week after California Campout) on August 17, we shared such a wonderful day with the Lord. We had much representation from the East. Sister Kim Alaberta and Brother Jim Huffnagle from Cleveland, Ohio and Sister Carolyn and Brother Brian Martorana from Niles, Ohio. Here from Red Lake, Arizona was Sister Nancy Watson, and from Lindsay, California was Sister Lucy DeCaro. There is no exaggeration when I say this day was fantastic. Three people gave their lives to God. Brother Sam Camarda was baptized by Brother Joe Ciarolla and confirmed by Brother Mark Randy; Brother Louis Ruiz was baptized by Brother Leonard Lovalvo and confirmed by Brother Joe Bologna; Sister Dawn Ruiz was baptized by Brother Leonard Lovalvo and confirmed by Brother Joe Lovalvo.

Besides having the spirit of repentance, this day was filled with the spirit of testimony. Brother Leonard made a challenge to "all those shy ones" to stand and give God the glory. They did, and what a blessing! I'm thankful for this excitement in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Two more contributors to the membership of The Church of Jesus Christ and to the Modesto Branch are Sister Cindy Dulisse and Brother Warren Deulus. Sister Cindy was one of those that made theirs at campout the week before. Our new sister was baptized by Brother Mark Randy and confirmed by Brother Joe Bologna. Brother Warren was baptized August 24, 1980, by his uncle and our visiting brother, Tony Picciuto from Lindsay,

California. Brother Tony's wife, Sister Lydia, and their son Bruce accompanied them in their visit to Modesto. Brother Mark Randy confirmed Brother Warren.

As Psalm 9:1 says, "I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvelous works." This is the reason, brothers and sisters, that we thank God with all of our hearts. The Lord truly is working throughout the Church, and I'm so glad I can be a part of it.

McKees Rocks, PA

By Martha Laird, Branch Editor

McKees Rocks Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ was favored with a visit from Brother David Nolfi, who brought to our minds the need to "Put on the whole armour of God that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of darkness, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and put on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. Take the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. Also take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray always with supplication in the Spirit and watch thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints: and for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel." Philippians 6:11-19

November 2, the rotation Sunday brought Brother James Moore, Jr. and Brother and Sister James Moore, Sr. from Imperial Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

They both had the same subject in mind, John 3, "There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: the same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man

can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." It was explained as the scriptures explain how this is done. Encouragement to the young and all who would was given, inviting all into the ark of safety which is The Church of Jesus Christ restored in these the latter days. This will keep us safe, as did the ark for Noah and his family and the animals when the earth was flooded. How great and wonderful is God. Thanks to God was given for the healings and heavenly experiences in our day, as in the days of old. God bless one and all, Jew and Gentile, is our prayer in Jesus' Name.

The three sang one of the songs of Zion. We then assembled for lunch. Then our visiting brothers and sister stayed for the fellowship meeting in the afternoon.

Thanks be to God for a glorious day in His service.



"The Love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell," is the best way to describe our visits with Brother Giuseppe (Joseph) LoRiccio from Italy. He came on July 10, staying through October 22 on an invitation from Brother Dan and Sister Fannie Casasanta. Although many of us could not communicate with him, nor he with us, his spirit truly was understood by all that looked on his radiant face. The many experiences he related were very uplifting to us all.

"Bene" was his key word, meaning "Good", which we can say "Molto Bene" (very good). He left a

very special place in our hearts, and as Brother Joe said the last Sunday he spent with us, "The Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ will link us together." May God be with him. Praise God.

By Carol Monaghan

The Gates continued.

would always be clothed with righteousness, thus our gates would be as carbuncles.

"But thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise. The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee; but, the Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory." Isaiah 60:18-19

Windsor, Ontario

Sunday, December 7, was a happy day for the saints of the Windsor Branch as we gathered to witness the ordination of Brother Rick Elzby into the office of a teacher. To share this occasion with us we were happy to welcome Brother Rick's father-in-law, Brother Mario Coppa, of Branch No. 3 in Detroit and his family. It is the first time that Brother Mario has visited Windsor since undergoing surgery. Surely the prayers of the saints have been answered in seeing his health and determination to serve the Lord!

Before the ordination; our Presiding Elder, Brother Bob Stanek, read to us from the Minister's Manual the characteristics which should be present in those called to be an elder and which he felt should also be present in one called to the office of a teacher.

Several experiences to confirm Brother Rick's calling were read including one given to a young man to whom Brother Rick has been telling the Gospel. This young man, Brad Juniper, in a vision saw the face of Brother Rick's father, Joe Elzby. He spoke to Brad and said, "Rick will be ordained a teacher".

Brother Rick's feet were washed by Brother Larry Henderson and he was ordained by Brother Don Collison. Many of those present received an experience confirming who would wash Brother Rick's feet and who

would ordain him. The most beautiful of all was the spirit and authority of a teacher which came upon Rick as he gave his testimony and closed our service in prayer!

We are truly grateful to the Lord for His many blessings this day, and for enabling us to share them with all our brothers and sisters in Christ!

Detroit, Branch 1

By Diane Everett, Branch Editor

On October 12, 1980, we had the privilege of having Brother Leonard Lovalvo, along with his wife and family, and Brother Mark Picciuto visiting from Modesto, California. Also, Brother Louis Vitto and his wife and family were visiting from the Sterling Heights Branch.

Brother Leonard Lovalvo opened the service by speaking from the First Epistle of Peter. He spoke of the Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification by the Spirit. He spoke of that hope we gain at Calvary. He spoke of how material things that we possess all change; for example, a house gets old, clothes wear out, a car rusts, etc. But our trust and confidence in Christ is the only thing that doesn't change. He asked the question, "What is our inheritance?" We build our inheritance here on earth through obedience and responsibility to God.

Brother Louis Vitto followed speaking along the same line, heritage that will be incorruptible. There is a map to give you the road. The Bible is to lead you in the ways you should live. There is only one way to follow and to receive the crown of everlasting life. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is our inheritance. We should give our all to God. Don't be satisfied; have a yearning to increase and grow.

Lorain, Ohio

By Iva Davis, Branch Editor

I would like to share with my brothers and sisters the blessings we had at the Lorain Branch on Sunday, November 23, 1980.

We were privileged to have visitors from the Cleveland, Niles, and

Imperial, Pennsylvania Branches.

Brother Rocco Biscotti opened our meeting reading from Isaiah 11. Brother Joe Calabrese continued on the same subject. He tells us to look out, for a cleansing must take place upon the Gentile nations, and the time is very near.

Brother Paul Ciotti arose then and spoke the word of the Lord: "Thus saith the Lord, the whirlwind cometh! The whirlwind cometh! Look and see my people, the whirlwind cometh! You see but a portion of my fury, of the sorrows of the land, but I tell you my people, when I come with my great fury, there shall be desolation. So therefore, I will give thee my word. My people, My Church, seek Me with a pure heart and you shall be found. Seek Me so that you will not be lost in the darkness. Walk before Me in humility. Seek My way, for the day of the Gentiles shall surely come to an end. I will bring Joseph home. I will bring Joseph home, and then look across the waters and I will bring all Israel home. My word shall be fulfilled. Prepare yourselves, My people, for these things. You must believe the things that are written. They are written for you that you might learn to understand My ways. You must seek My will and know these things. You must believe the things that I reveal unto you, that I will continue to speak unto you, My people. Prepare yourselves. Prepare yourselves," saith the Lord.

As the meeting continued, we were blessed by the testimonies of our brothers and sisters, especially to hear how the Lord works among our young ones. As we sang, *Jesus Never Fails*, Brother Frank Altomare arose, filled with the Spirit, stating he felt the presence of God with us. He pronounced a blessing upon the priesthood, the brothers and sisters, and the young ones, telling us to be humble and meek before God and He would raise us up on higher ground.

Sister Rose Palacios told us she had seen our meeting in a dream and that Brother Paul Ciotti, along with others, would be with us. Praise God for His wonderful experiences given to His people.

May the Lord bless and strengthen each and every one as we strive to do His will.

Sterling, MI

By Hazel Zoltek, Branch Editor

At the October Conference in Pennsylvania, Brother Thomas asked that we go back to our individual branch and do something good for our fellow man.

Brother Tony DiFalco did a lot of thinking on this subject and discussed it with his fellow officers in our MBA; they came up with the idea of the Christmas baskets. We then decided, that beginning in November, we each would bring an item each time we came to church. The response was tremendous. Enough food was collected to fill sixteen baskets to overflowing. Each basket contained a *Book of Mormon*, donated by one of our brothers. A box of candy accompanied each basket, along with apples and tangerines, donated by another brother.

Our Ladies Uplift Circle donated \$25.00, the MBA donated \$50.00 and our Sunday School donated \$50.00, and there were other cash contributions. This money was used to buy hams to go with each basket. Fifteen were sent to the Inner City for distribution, and one was sent to a needy family in our area. This one contained a turkey.

Several brothers, sisters and young people stayed after our meeting one night to put the baskets together. I personally received a great blessing, and I am sure that all the others who helped in this project were likewise blessed.

Lakeside, AZ

By Bonnie Smith, Branch Editor

Greetings from the Lakeside, AZ Branch. This year completes eleven years that the Church has been established in this area of the country, our main purpose being to introduce the Gospel to the Seed of Joseph.

Over the years we have had struggles and blessings. Many people have been made aware of the Church through the efforts of not only the families that reside here, but through the conviction of other members throughout the Church. The realization of knowing that the Gospel must

be restored to the House of Israel has been the source of our conviction. Many times we would like to speed up the Lord's work, until we are reminded that the Lord is never early or late, but always on time.

As the primary work of the Church is the restoration of Israel, we are confident that this work will progress. It is then our decision to be a part of that work, or have the Lord choose others. With us or without us, the work will be accomplished.

We ask a continued interest in your prayers and support on behalf of our work here with the White Mountain Apache Indian people. May God bless you all.

Red Lake, AZ

By Diane Surdock

We wish all a Happy New Year. We are thankful that all in our Branch are still found in the service of God. We would like to express our thanks to all the brothers and sisters for your constant support and prayers in behalf of the work here on the Navajo Indian Reservation.

This past two months we have had a few occasions to share with you. The community of Red Lake, Arizona and our family of God joined together in a Thanksgiving dinner held at the quonset hut where we have our meetings. We had visitors from the

community and also from the California District. This has been an annual potluck dinner, and we had a very nice time with all of our friends that we have grown very close to in the community through our vocational programs, sharing the Gospel, and working together on our jobs.

We were also invited by the Red Lake Community Chapter to join them at their Chapter House on a Sunday afternoon for their annual Christmas Potluck. We all participated after our Sunday service. We also had visitors from the Lakeside Branch, Brother Ike Smith and family. They also joined us in our dinner with the Red Lake Chapter. We enjoyed having Brother Ike and family with us and felt that common bond of dedication to the work with the Seed of Joseph. They live about 2 1/2 hours from us.

On New Years Eve, we held our watch meeting at the home of Brother Chuck and Sister Sylvia Curry, since we do not have a church to meet in as yet. Many attended from the community. There were special selections by the attending members and friends, and testimonies were offered also. There was enjoyment and happiness felt throughout the meeting, knowing that a new year is ahead and the possibility of God moving His hand even more to bring forth the House of Israel, and we as His chosen workers, could be an instrument in His hands. WE pray that our desires will be even stronger, and that the Lord will keep us safe, strong, determined and true to the work with

which we have set our hands to do.

We are also thankful for the many visitors that have come to visit us and help us throughout the year, both in labors and in financial assistance. Brother Joseph Calabrese started off the New Year with a very encouraging sermon, telling us not to be afraid, for the Lord is going to carry us through anything that we will have to confront in our lives.

Many commitments, goals and objectives were reemphasized in our service to God on the Navajo Reservation. Our main goal this year is to get a church to meet in. The Lord spoke to us and told us that there were three important things that we need to have:

1. A house that He can call His own.
2. An active singing ministry.
3. Unification.

So we have much to look forward to in our lives here, and we depend on your support, prayers and enthusiasm, for we cannot do it all alone. The Lord's work will go forth, and we desire to be used in whatever calling or talent we may have to work with.

We presently have 24 adult members and 17 children of the saints that have dedicated their lives to the work of the Church here on the Navajo Indian Reservation.

Thanking you for your support and prayers in advance, we all look forward to the future.

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Thank you,
The Editor

* **WEDDINGS** *

DiCENZO-AMICK

Mr. Panfilo DiCenzo and Miss Patricia Amick were united in holy wedlock on December 7, 1980. Brother Dick Lawson and Dr. Milton Johnstone officiated at the ceremony.

Musical selections were presented by Mr. Edward Melodini.

The newlyweds will make their home in Greentree, Pennsylvania.

New Arrivals

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

Samuel Vito to Samuel and Catherine Cain Altamore of Lorain, Ohio;

Daniel Paul to Daniel and Paulette Griesbaum of Detroit, Branch No. 1.

— OBITUARIES —

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

ANGELINA MAZZEO

Sister Angelina Mazzeo of the Phoenix, Arizona Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ passed away on

December 24, 1980. She was born in New York City on September 19, 1898 and was baptized on August 9, 1925.

Brothers Frank Mazzeo and Sam Sgro officiated at the funeral services held in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

HERMAN D. HOLTZ

Herman D. Holtz left this life on December 22, 1980. He was born on May 16, 1922 and had been attending services at the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch for the past two years.

He is survived by his wife, Olive Hannen Holtz, one brother, three sons, two grandsons and one granddaughter.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers J. Fred Olexa and B. J. Martin.

He will be greatly missed by the brothers and sisters, his family, and friends.

ELI DeMASSO

Brother Eli DeMasso of the McKees Rocks Branch passed on to his reward on December 27, 1980. Born on May 4, 1913, he was baptized on November 22, 1931.

Brother Dick Lawson officiated at the funeral service.

Brother Eli is survived by his wife, Angela Casasanta DeMasso, one son, two daughters, one brother and one sister, Sister Ann DiAntonio.

He will be sadly missed but fondly remembered by all who knew and loved him.

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The Gospel News

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March, 1981

Volume 37, No. 3

Visit to Nigeria and Ghana

By Paul Carr

On Tuesday, November 18, 1980, Brothers Dominic Thomas, Paul Palmieri, Mike Hildenbrand and Paul Carr left from JFK Airport in New York for Lagos, Nigeria. We were met by Brothers Joe Perri and Lenny Benyola at JFK; they wished us Bon Voyage.

We had a beautiful trip and were greeted by Elder Etim of the Lagos Mission. Along with him were some brothers and sisters of the Mission. They accompanied us to the Airport Hotel, where we held a meeting with them.

Brother Etim has been in the Church for 21 years and holds meetings weekly, along with Elders Eboa and William. The closeness of the Spirit of God was felt as we fellowshiped with our brothers and sisters. Our cups were filled; we had finally met our brothers and sisters in Nigeria, a desire we had planned for months.

The next morning, Thursday, we left Lagos and flew to Calabar, about 500 miles. When we arrived in Calabar, we met Nephi, Lorraine, Nephi, Jr. and Jared. They all looked well in health and spirit. We were also greeted by Brothers George Ekpo, Augustine Etukudo, Joseph Arthur, Sister E. U. A. Arthur and others. This meeting will long live in our memories.

We traveled by car for two and one

half hours to the Mission House in Abak. In the evening, we went to meet the President of the Nigerian Church, E. U. A. Arthur. Brother Arthur is a most gracious loving brother in Christ. On Friday and Saturday, we met with the elders in Conference and had a very enjoyable time with our brothers. We were glad to see the Church in Nigeria patterned after the General Church. On Sunday, we met in Conference at the Atai Otoro Center for services. The building was full with about 1200 people. Children from the school filled one entire section; it was a beautiful sight. We all enjoyed the meeting and the fellowship of the saints in Nigeria.

On Monday, we got an early start and picked up Brother Arthur for a complete tour of the Secondary School. We were greeted by the

Principal, staff and all the students. We were briefed on their needs and their long range plans to continually upgrade the school. We were surprised to see a well organized school of 1200 students.

Tuesday morning we began a series of visits to six different missions; at each mission, several other missions would gather with us. In all, we covered about 18 different stations. Our understanding grew in observing how sincere and dedicated our brothers and sisters are in Nigeria. We met brothers that were baptized by Brothers W. H. Cadman and Joseph Bittinger in 1954. Others recounted the various brothers who had been to Nigeria over the years and the work they had accomplished. It was wonderful to hear their appreciation to the brothers who

General Church Calendar

| | | |
|-------|---------|--|
| March | 6, 7, 8 | - Florida Area MBA Campout |
| | 14 | - General Church Trustees Meeting |
| | 21 | - General Church Mission Board, Lorain, Ohio |
| | 21 | - General Ladies Uplift Circle, Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania |
| | 28 | - Finance Committee Meeting |
| April | 8 | - Quorum of Twelve Meeting, Greensburg, PA |
| | 8 | - Quorum of Seventy Meeting, 7:00 PM, Greensburg, PA |
| | 9 | - Quorum of Seventy Meeting, 9:00 AM, Greensburg, PA |
| | 9 | - General Conference, 2:00 PM, Greensburg, PA |
| | 10 | - General Conference |
| | 11 | - General Conference |
| | 12 | - General Conference |
| May | 16, 17 | - GMBA Conference, Detroit, Michigan |
| June | 6 | - District Presidents' Meeting, Atlantic Coast |
| July | 4-11 | - GMBA Campout, Massanetta Springs, Harrisonburg, Virginia |

labored in Nigeria.

At the last station, we visited a group of children who started coming into the church building and sat up front during our short service. At the beginning, there were about twelve, then ten more, and before long, over 100 children and young people had filled the building. They all sat in front of us with such silence and discipline, you could hear a pin drop.

Brother Dominic Thomas, touched by the Spirit of the Lord, suggested that the four of us sing a hymn to these wonderful children. As we sang *When He Cometh*, the Spirit of God filled our hearts and everyone in the building. Brother Thomas then made reference to a similar situation in the *Book of Mormon*, where the Lord blessed the children. All the elders present then formed a circle around the children and God's blessing was prayed upon them. Our hearts were filled with joy as we embraced one another. We left the mission rejoicing with cups overflowing.

Our evenings in the mission home were spent in fellowship with the many brothers and sisters who visited from the Abak area. Time quickly eluded us, and soon it was time to leave for Calabar, then on to Lagos. Leaving Nephi, Lorraine, Nephi, Jr. and Jared was a sad moment in our trip, but we praise God for the DeMercurios who are dedicating their lives to serve God and their fellow man.

We left Lagos and flew to Ghana, hoping to meet Brother Ford Boadu, President of the Church in Ghana. Due to a mail problem in Ghana, Brother Ford did not receive word in time to meet us, even though the notice was mailed two months in advance. After waiting two days for Brother Boadu, we decided to leave for the United States. A change was required in our flight plans, so we stopped over in London and arrived in New York on Sunday afternoon, thankful for a safe flight.

In closing, we give God the glory for the beautiful trip we had.

Brothers and sisters, get involved with the missionary program of the Church; the rewards are great. We have a school in Nigeria in which you can participate by sponsoring a student; the cost is small. If you are interested, contact the Foreign

Missions Committee.

To our brothers and sisters in Nigeria, we bless God for your faithfulness and look forward to seeing you when we return.

"It Is Written"

By V. J. Lovalvo, Fresno, CA



"And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the Saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand." Revelations 8:4

"... and pray for one another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16

Words are not adequate enough to express my heart-felt thanks to all the saints for their fervent prayers for me during my recent affliction. I ask God Almighty to reward each one a thousand-fold for their concern.

Two days after a much planned vacation, I was struck down so much as to have to be taken to the hospital, where I stayed for eight days. Thanks to the Lord, my wife was with me; she was given a cot by the hospital and placed in my room where she could stay with me day and night. Also I am grateful to God for the company of Brother Chuck and Sister Gertie Alma, who came with us. They were lovingly concerned about my condition. At the early hours of the morning, he drove us to two hospitals so that I could be taken care of. However, the same day of my affliction, they both began to be ill, until they were forced to return home. I understand they were ill for an additional week.

I underwent many, many x-rays and tests to attempt to determine the cause of my affliction, but every test

proved negative. Even the doctors are perplexed as to why I was stricken. I have never known pain so intense. However, after the saints were notified of my condition, I began to feel much relieved. I know that it was the prayers of my wonderful brothers and sisters that reached the Throne of God, ascending up to Him like a sweet-smelling sacrifice.

My wife and I both say, "Thank you so very much, and may the Lord enrich you with His blessings from on high."

I still have to undergo many more tests to attempt to determine the reason why I was stricken down with this affliction. Keep praying for me as my desire is as strong as ever to serve the Lord who called me from this wicked world and has blessed me more than I am worthy.

I have received scores of telephone calls from all over the States wishing me well; I have also received dozens of get well cards from every place in America. God bless you, my wonderful brothers and sisters.

The Resurrection

By Mary Ward

Resurrection means to rise again or be restored to life. Do you see my beautiful tulip? Isn't it lovely? But it was not always lovely like this. Just a few months ago, it was just a little brown bulb.

I planted it in the ground, and it stayed there all winter long. Many times the rain fell, the frost came, and the heavy snow and ice covered the ground where it lay. I thought surely there won't be any beautiful tulip this spring, because the winter was so bad.

But I was wrong. Soon the spring rain came and the warm sun and thawed the ground. One morning I went out to see if there was any sign of life in my tulip. How happy I was when I saw little green sprouts. I watched it every day until it became a beautiful flower.

Just think how unhappy Mary Magdalene must have been and also Peter and the other disciple when they found the tomb empty where Jesus was buried. They thought

someone had taken Him away and would never see Him again. No wonder Mary Magdalene sat down to cry. But oh, the joy they must have felt when they saw Him and He spoke to them and said, "Peace be unto you."

Jesus had risen! The tomb could no longer hold Him. He had conquered death and brought forth new life into the world, and also hope. Just as the little brown bulb conquered the frost, snow and cold and became a beautiful tulip.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In going through some of my mother's programs and writings, I came across this writing, "The Resurrection." Being the time of year it is, when we look forward to the miracle of spring and the beauty it brings, I felt a blessing in reading it and wanted to share it with you.

We thank God for the hope we feel within our heart because of His Son, Jesus Christ, **because He lives**, and for the beauty of God's creation which illustrates His love.

Sister Bertha Jean Bilsky
Roscoe Branch Editor

Location Change

This is to inform you that effective January 31, 1981, the San Fernando Valley Branch will no longer be meeting at our present location due to the sale of our building. All future correspondence to the Branch should be directed to the attention of Brother Ed Buccellato, 6716 Faust Street, Canoga Park, CA 91307.

Beginning February 1, we have arranged to hold our Sunday School Classes and one service at the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Fellowship Hall, which is located at 17700 Plummer Street in Northridge. We will certainly notify you if there is a change of location for our services, but we do invite you to visit with us at this temporary location.

Wishing you God's Blessings,

Brother Ed Buccellato,
Presiding Elder

Greetings in Jesus Christ,

The greatest reward that human life gives us is the fellowship with God, and therewith the fellowship with one another.

I desired to visit an old friend who lives thousands of miles away, but very near to my memory, Christian Van Bree. Inasmuch as such a trip is very expensive, I thought of visiting more people along the way, so I went by way of New Jersey.



Brother Charles Van Bree came to pick me up. After spending two days there, we proceeded to go to Watford, Ontario, Canada. We left on Friday morning, and our first stop was Lockport, New York, where we were warmly received by Brother Paul D'Amico. We held a meeting there that night and proceeded on our journey the next morning. We stopped at Paris, Ontario, where Anna Cleaver resides. I would not have known her, neither would she have known me. Over 30 years had passed since our last meeting. Anna said, "I still live on the blessings of my childhood." Next we met Chris Van Bree and his wife in Strathroy and finally met old Christian Van Bree. It was a memorable visit.

The following day being Sunday, we went to Muncey, where we met Brother Alex Gentile, who presides at this time, and also Brother Rodney Dyer. I did not think that any would remember me since I had not been there in over 35 years; but to my surprise, two or three remembered. Sister Fay Nicholas Albert said that she has her father's Bible. On the first page was written, "Donated to Brother George Nicholas by Brother Marco Randazzo." I bought the Bible from Brother W. H. Cadman to give away to Brother Nicholas.

We had a wonderful day. We visited Sarnia where we have four members, namely Elvira Maness, Russell Bird, Nellie Bird and Sister Rogers. Also, we visited Aylemer Plain. Russell was truly moved with love and surprised and said, "I never thought that I would see your face again." They affirmed that the covenant they made to God in The Church of Jesus Christ is a living memorial in their hearts.

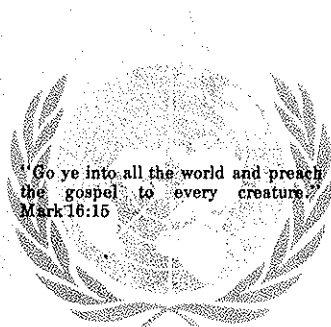
I stood at the edge of the St. Clair River which separates Port Huron, Michigan, from Sarnia, Ontario. An unexplainable feeling prevailed in my heart as I remembered my travels there, the radio program, the blessings and baptisms, and the many experiences which still remain a living memorial in my heart. I craved like a child to go across the river and set foot in Michigan, the land I still love so much, the meeting at Pine Grove Park and the outstanding miracles we received in our Church there.

Wednesday night we met again at Muncey. I related some of the miracles that were very much part of our life there. Sister Maness and her granddaughter came from Sarnia. We were blessed, indeed. They have a fine young brother there, Samuel French.

On Friday, we drove to Lockport, picked up Brother Paul D'Amico, and then proceeded to Rochester and held our evening services there. The following day we drove back to New Jersey where, along with Brother Paul, we held meetings every night in each branch until our departure to Conference in Greensburg, PA. Our meetings in New Jersey were well attended, and much participation was permitted by Brother Paul. I pray that they of New Jersey and New York got some good out of our visit. They are all a great people filled with the love of God. May God add to all we did there.

The eternal God is our refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms. The things most outstanding in life are goodness, beauty and truth. Hold them dear to your heart and you will never fail.

Brother Mark Randy



Foreign Missions Committee News

REQUEST FOR ELDERS AND TEACHERS

The Church of Jesus Christ General Mission Board is seeking an elder to replace Brother Nephi DeMercurio in 1981 as a missionary in Nigeria and other African countries.

The elder who is chosen to replace Brother Nephi will serve for a term of one to two years and will be expected to undergo a training period with Brother Nephi in Africa at least two months before the DeMercurio family departs for the United States.

To help ease the financial burden on the Church, the Mission Board is looking for an elder who also holds a teaching certificate recognized in the United States. This way, the Nigerian government will pay the elder to work in the Church's Comprehensive Secondary School.

The Mission Board would consider sending more than one elder.

The Church would also welcome individuals who wish to teach in its Secondary School. Although non-elders cannot be officially recognized as missionaries of the Church, anyone who desires to help further the Gospel in Nigeria is more than welcomed.

Fields of study at the school in need of instructors include English, science, math, art, music, economics, business administration, engineering, architecture, metal working, wood-working, and welding technology.

The elder or elders replacing Brother Nephi will also be furnished a

home, which consists of two bedrooms, a bathroom, a dining room, kitchen, lights, fans, freezer, refrigerator and air conditioning throughout the entire house. Two additional bedrooms are being added and when completed will allow the home to accommodate two families.

Non-elders who wish to become teachers at the Secondary School will be provided housing by the Nigerian Government. These volunteers are also expected to possess teaching certificates valid in the United States.

Those who volunteer to work in Africa, especially elders interested in replacing Brother Nephi, can look forward to working with Brothers E. U. A. Arthur and Edem Ebong, both evangelists. The Church is enjoying a growing spiritual prosperity in Nigeria, with a great interest growing in Ghana.

Please direct inquiries to Brother Joseph Ross, #2 Ross Drive, Aliquippa, PA, 15001. Brother Joe's phone number is (412) 375-1648.



The Church's Nigerian Secondary School. One of the Classroom Buildings.

NIGERIAN COMPREHENSIVE SECONDARY SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP TUITION FUND

The Foreign Missions Committee has established a Scholarship Tuition Fund for the Nigerian Comprehensive Secondary School of The Church of Jesus Christ in Nigeria, Africa.

The cost per student is \$75.25 for day students per year. These are students who only attend the classes and return to their homes daily.

The cost per year for boarding students is \$440.00 per year. These are students who stay on campus in dorms.

There may be members, organizations (MBA, Ladies Uplift Circle and Sunday School) or readers who will sponsor either day or boarding students. If interested, please contact: John Ross
100 Cleveland and Division Sts.
Aliquippa, PA 15001

This is a tax deductible item.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Foreign Missions Committee is seeking two (2) volunteers to go to Italy as missionaries in 1981 for one (1) year or six (6) months.

They should be Italian speaking elders, willing to pay their own way, if possible.

If interested, please contact the Foreign Missions Committee Secretary: Joseph Ross
#2 Ross Drive
Aliquippa, PA 15001
Phone (412) 375-1648

50th Wedding Anniversary

By Janet K. Leto



Brother Clarence and Sister Anna Kirkpatrick celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on December 23, 1980. Their daughter, Janet, and their son, Clarence, Jr., and his wife, Kay, gave them a surprise reception. Many of the brothers and sisters from Anaheim and Bell came to help them celebrate their anniversary.

Continued on Page 8.

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

The Glorious Resurrection

As the frigid, icy grip of the winter season begins to yield to spring, the season of the year that greets us with a promise of a warm and glorious summer to follow, we are reminded anew of Easter. The memory of our Lord's death and glorious resurrection renews in all of His true followers the blessed hope of eternal life.

How eloquently the prophet, Daniel, recorded his prophetic vision of the resurrection:

"And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever." Daniel 12:2,3.

The Son Reigneth

The Book of Mormon also contains wonderful prophecies pointing to our Lord's resurrection. The prophet, Abinadi declared, "But behold, the bands of death shall be broken, and the son reigneth, and hath power over the dead; therefore he bringeth to pass the resurrection of the dead." Mosiah 15:20

Alma appealed to the Zoramites to, ". . . begin to believe in the Son of God, that he will come to redeem his people, and that he shall suffer and die to atone for their sins; and that he shall rise again from the dead, which shall bring to pass the resurrection, that all men shall stand before him to be judged at the last and judgment day, according to their works." Alma 33:22

We rejoice anew as we read again the message of the angels to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, "Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen. . ."

We are also stirred as we note how the Apostle Paul attested to the certainty of Christ's resurrection:

"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures; and that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: after that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

"After that, he was seen of James, then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as one born out of due time.

"But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." I Corinthians 15

HALLELUJAH! CHRIST AROSE!

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Steinrock



Gideon Becomes a Leader For His People

Girls and Boys,

everyone who does great or God plans to. Gideon was threshing wheat by the winepress to hide from their enemies, the Midianites, when an angel of God appeared unto him. At first Gideon did not know he was talking to an angel. When the angel said, "The Lord is with you, you mighty man of Israel," Gideon replied doubtfully, "The Lord is with me, then why do I have all this trouble? Where are the miracles which our fathers told us of? Did not the Lord bring us out of Egypt? But now he has delivered us unto the hands of the Midianites."

Seven years the Midianites oppressed Israel with armies so huge they were like plagues of grasshoppers. The plagues of grasshoppers blotted out the sun and eat everything in sight, the Midianites with cattle and camels and tents destroyed everything so there was nothing left for Israel to eat. All of the Midianites who also killed them, the people of Israel hid themselves in caves and dens in the mountains to hide in. They began to be sorry that they had stopped trusting God and had been worshipping the statues and false gods of their neighbors. Finally they began to turn to the Lord.

Gideon was talking to the Lord and the Lord looked upon Gideon and said, "Go in this thy might, and I will save Israel from the Midianites. Have I not sent you?"

Gideon replied, "How can I save

Israel? My family is a poor branch of the people and I am the least important of all them."

The Lord said, "Surely I will be with you and you will smite the Midianites as though they were only one man."

Gideon must have wondered if he was truly talking to God, because he said, "If now I have found favor with you, show me a sign that you talk with me. Wait until I bring an offering unto you."

Gideon returned with a bowl of broth, meat from a goat and flat cakes of bread. The angel told him to pour the broth on the rock and place the bread and meat there. Gideon did so. The angel reached out with his walking staff and touched them. Immediately fire rose from the rock and burned them up! The angel disappeared from sight. Gideon was terrified. But the Lord said unto him, "Peace be unto thee; fear not, you will not die."

That night the Lord said unto Gideon, "Take your father's young bull and go throw down the altar of Baal and cut down the grove of trees that is by it. Then build an altar unto the Lord thy God upon the top of the rock in the same place, and sacrifice the bull as an offering to me. Use the wood from the grove for the fire."

The people in the city around them worshipped the god Baal. Gideon knew anyone who fought against them were out-numbered, and could be overpowered and killed. But Gideon did as God told him. He

waited until it was dark and took ten servants to help him. Working fast in the night, they did all that God had told him. When the men of the city arose, there was little left of their grove but ashes burning an offering to the one true God. They were angry.

They found out that Gideon had done this act, and they stormed to his house. When his father came to the door, they cried out, "Bring out your son Gideon, that he might die, because he has torn down the altar of Baal and has cut down the grove of trees that were by it."

But Gideon's father argued against them. He said unto all that were gathered there, "Will you stand up for Baal? If he truly is a god, let him stand up for himself."

How could the angry crowd argue with that thought? If their god, Baal, was worth worshipping, surely he was powerful enough to save himself. They left.

On that day, the people who served the true and living God must have been over-joyed. They began to call Gideon by the surname, Jerubbaal, which means, let Baal stand up against him. Finally, the Israelite people had someone willing to fight for their beliefs. Gideon's faith and boldness in trusting the voice of God led him to be a great leader for his people.

(Scriptural Passage found in Judges, Chapter Six.)

Sincerely,

Sister Jan

ANIMAL "WHO AM I?"

- 1 I saved my master from death.
- 2 I saw an angel standing with a sword in hand.
- 3 The Lord opened my mouth and I spoke with my master.

(Answer found in: Numbers 22:22)

God Be In My Head

*God be in my head
And in my understanding.
God be in mine eyes
And in my lookings.
God be in my mouth
And in my speaking.
God be in my heart
And in my thinking.*

Young People Ask

By John Griffith

Dear Brother John,

Why was I born to look like me? There is really nothing that I like about myself. My complexion isn't clear, my hair doesn't lay right; I'm not even sure if I'm liked. I'm a little discouraged about it.

Strange that you feel that way. Or should I really say that I thought I was the only one to feel that way at one time. I once thought I was the creator of acne, and talking about greasy and wet look, well I'm glad I came through that era. Without it I would have been a complete disaster. Now I'm discouraged too. No, not really.

Why did we have to go through all of this? But look around, there are others! Now let's be honest with ourselves. First, we aren't perfect, but who is? Second, we must admit that the human body does go through both physical and chemical changes from time to time. These problems can be related to that and therefore, temporary. We can help ourselves through these difficult times by proper diets, medical treatments and/or medications, trying different hair styles, proper makeup, etc.

Your physical appearance is important but just a part of others liking you or you liking yourself. One of the most important feelings that we have is wanting to be accepted. I've recognized two areas of acceptance. One is the acceptance or approval of others. The other and most important to me is that of self-acceptance or self-respect. It is first on the list.

The lack of self-respect is very dangerous. We can find ourselves doing really stupid things to ourselves: such as allowing others to use us in disrespectful ways, hanging around the wrong types of people, turning on to alcohol and drugs, etc., all of which hurt us. Why then? Because we don't like ourselves. It is an escape, a cop-out.

Everyone wants to feel good about themselves and be good looking. We want everyone to like us, and that's good to feel that way, but don't over do it. Look at yourself in the mirror again, but this time really look.

Now you could really plaster yourself with make-up to a point that you don't look the same, or in other words, hide the real you. Or you could take the steps I mentioned and take better care of your physical being and still be you.

We were created in the image and likeness of God, Whom we view as perfection. "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness . . . So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." Genesis 1:26-27 We were created to be beautiful and are beautiful if we are that image and likeness as God created us.

Years ago, I met a young person who had such a beautiful personality that I then realized that beauty comes from within. It is that beauty God gave to His creation. It is you, what you are, the way you act, what you say, how you think, what you do, all of which adds to or takes away the real beauty that makes you, you.

You can make yourself more beautiful and have more people like you if your attitude contains the qualities of God's personality and you respect yourself as one of God's creation. You are the tabernacle of God on Earth if you possess the Spirit of God in you. You then are really beautiful.

So what type of make-up is best? I suggest the kind that doesn't wear off, the kind that is everlasting. By the way, I think you're pretty neat.

If you have a question or comment, please write. Also, please discuss your thoughts with individuals you can trust. We share each others' burdens and learn from each other. God Bless You.

Write: Young People Ask
John Griffith
The Church of Jesus Christ
Sixth & Lincoln Sts.
Monongahela, PA 15063

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Matthew 5:6

MBA HIGHLIGHTS

GMBA Activities Committee Meets in Greensburg, PA

By Ryan Ross, GMBA Editor

Representatives from the Atlantic Coast, Michigan-Ontario, Ohio and Pennsylvania Areas gathered together on January 24, 1981, at the General Church Auditorium to discuss upcoming events and various points of business in preparation for the 1981 May GMBA Conference to be held in the Michigan-Ontario Area. GMBA President, Don Ross, opened with encouraging remarks concerning the MBA's role in educating the youth of our Church. One of the more notable in attendance was a "youthful MBA member", Apostle Rocco Biscotti of Cleveland, Ohio, who opened the meeting with prayer and whose smile and friendly spirit warmed all of those in the small congregation.

Some highlights of the discussion were as follows:

In response to a question from the Arizona Area concerning the closing-out of books, the committee referred to the minutes of the November GMBA Conference of 1978 in which March and September were specified to be the months during which Local MBA's should close out their six-month financial statements.

Updating the developments in finding a suitable camp for the GMBA Conference-approved California Campout, Brother Joseph Ross of Aliquippa read a report received from Brother Ronald Alms of Anaheim. Brother Ron and his committee are working diligently to find a camp having enough capacity for a GMBA Campout. Among the 43 camps contacted, not one capable of meeting our needs will be available in 1982, but the summer of 1983 is rated as "possible". The problem reflects the difficulty in obtaining a date at camps whose owners have "preferred customers".

This year's campout will be held at Massanetta Springs in Harrisonburg,

Virginia, (for the fourth consecutive year) from July 4 (Saturday) to July 11 (Saturday). Brother Ryan Ross was selected as this year's camp director. He will be assisted by Brother Ronald Dziak of Lorain.

Brother Timothy Scolaro, 1980's camp director, will (as has been in years past) serve in an advisory capacity. In lieu of the "good" time slot and the expected large turnout, the GMBA Activities Committee has authorized the registration and accommodations committee the right to enforce an absolute cut-off system for registration. This system is as follows:

REGISTRATIONS WILL BE RECEIVED AND PROCESSED UNTIL:

1. The number of beds available during the week of July 4-11 (which will be determined when camp officials are contacted) has been reached according to the number of persons registered. This number of available beds was estimated to be 700.

OR

2. The application-received date of June 1, 1981 has passed.

WHICHEVER COMES FIRST!!
(Please reread this.)

Those registration forms received after either of these "deadlines" will immediately be returned with check or money order to the registrant. Those who decide to come to campout without being registered properly are assumed to be responsible for finding their individual accommodations and meals. Furthermore, because of abuse of the somewhat liberal meal-ticket-refund-policy by people who use the camp's lodging quarters and then cash in their tickets to take advantage of normally low rooming fees, there will be a fixed daily cost to lodge on campgrounds. Each person will be charged in the normal way, according to the number of nights in camp sleeping quarters and the meal plan selected by that person. However, once that meal is paid for, the individual will be financially responsible for that portion of food that the camp staff prepares for that particular meal. Registration preference will be given (please reread this, also) to those who eat meals on camp.

The above policies were accepted

by a majority vote of the Activities Committee.

The Camp Procurement Research Committee, represented by Sisters Arlene Whitton, Harriet Francione and Nick Francione, presented an excellent final report to the Activities Committee. The report covered all facets of undertaking a project of developing campgrounds similar to the type needed to hold a typical GMBA Campout. The report will be submitted to the General Church for their information. A vote of thanks was offered by those in attendance for a job well done.

Other topics included the upcoming May Conference, the proposal of a GMBA fund earmarked to the General Church Fund for further development of the General Church Auditorium (to be brought to the floor at GMBA Conference), responsibility of the GMBA to the Local MBA, and the role of women in the MBA.

Thanks were voted to the Greensburg Branch for the use of their facilities and for the meals prepared for lunch and supper.

50th Wedding Anniversary Cont.

Brother Clarence and Sister Anna got quite a surprise when they walked into the kitchen at the Bell Branch and found many of their friends and brothers and sisters in Christ waiting to help them celebrate their special day.

Also their sons, Harry, from Chicago, and Joe, along with his wife, Mary, from Phoenix, and Sister Anna's sister, Violet, and Brother Clarence's nephew, Harry, and his wife, Jackie, were present. We would like to thank Brother Chuck and Sister Newanna King from Vanderbilt, PA, for the beautiful flower arrangement.

We thank all the brothers and sisters who attended the reception and helped share this special day with them, along with all those who remembered them with cards and letters.

THE FAITH AND DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

1st. We believe in God, the Eternal Father; and his Son Jesus Christ; and in the Holy Spirit; these three are the great matchless power that rules all things visible and invisible, for it is of him and through him that we receive all things both for this life and that which is to come.

2nd. We believe God, the Father, to be a personage of glory and that the Son is the express image of the Father, and that he was with the Father before the foundation of the World; and that in the fullness of time he came from the bosom of the Father and was born of the Virgin Mary according to the Scriptures, became man, suffered and died for the sins of the whole World, and on the third day he rose again and brought about the resurrection (according to the Scriptures), and ascended up on high to sit at the right hand of God. Principalities and powers being subject to him who is the image of the invisible God, the first born of every creature; for by him were all things created that are in Heaven and that are in Earth, visible and invisible, whether they be Thrones or Dominions, Principalities or Powers; all things are created by him and for him; and he is before all things; and Christ is the Head of the Body, the Church, the Beginning, the first born from the dead; that in all things he might have the pre-eminence; for it pleased the father that in him should all fullness dwell, See Colossians first Chapter. We believe also, that he will come again the second time to Judge both the living and the dead according to the Scriptures.

We believe the Holy Ghost to be:

- A. The mind of the Father and of the Son.
- B. The unseen power and glory which emanates from God and can, at his will, manifest itself in various forms.
- C. The Witness of God.
- D. The Gift of God.

It is pure and Holy, just and good, omnipresent, full of light and knowledge, and a discernor of thoughts and intents of mankind.

Ref: (a) Matt. 3:16; St. John 15:26; Acts 2nd chap.; Book of Mormon: I Nephi 11:11

(b) 1st John 5:6; Book of Mormon: III Nephi 28:11; III Nephi 11:35-36

(c) Acts 2:38; Acts 8:15-17; St. John 14:16-26; Book of Mormon: III Nephi 19:12-13

3rd. We believe in the Church or Kingdom as set up by the Saviour to be sufficient for life and salvation for all people.

Ref: I Cor. 12th chap.; Rom. 12th chap.; Col. 1-18

4th. We believe that the New Testament Scriptures contain a true description of that Church or Kingdom as established by our Saviour at Jerusalem, and that no principle or doctrine inconsistent therewith ought to be practiced or respected, or any principle or doctrine consistent therewith rejected.

5th. We believe The Church of Jesus Christ in this age (in order to be worthy of the name), must be molded substantially and minutely after the Pattern left us by Christ. The Scriptures bear witness that its officers consist of Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers, (all inspired), for the work of the Ministry, for the perfecting of the Saints, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come into the unity of the faith, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Ref: I Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:13; Titus 1:5; Book of Mormon: III Nephi 27:1-11

6th. We believe that mankind will be punished only for their own actual transgressions, and not for the sins of our first parents, as is clearly implied by the Saviour in representing little children to be heirs of the Kingdom. 'Suffer little Children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.'

Ref: Eph. 2:15-16; Col. 2:14; I Pet. 2:24; Isa. 53:5; Book of Mormon: Alma 40:21; Mormon 9:12-13

7th. We believe that Divine inspiration is an indispensable qualification for preaching the Gospel. General information about the world

is advantageous to man when properly used. Theological education is good only when spiritually correct; such instruction, however, is not absolutely requisite to teach the Word of God. Furthermore, formal schooling or practical training which fosters the belief that inspiration and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit are unnecessary in the Ministry of Christ's Gospel is erroneous and harmful. (See II Tim. 3rd chapter). Moreover, we believe in preaching the Gospel without purse or scrip according to the Saviour's instructions; 'Freely ye have received, freely give.' (Matt. 10:8). The language is of supreme importance as containing the full force of both Christ's authority and example.

Ref: Luke 10:21; Gal. 1:12; Eph. 3:3; I Cor. 2nd Chapter.

8th. We believe that all men must obey the Gospel before they can be saved.

Ref: Mark 16:16; St. John 3:5; Acts 2:38; Acts 10th Chapter; Book of Mormon: II Nephi 9:23-24

9th. We believe the first principle of action required in the Gospel is belief in the Lord Jesus Christ, the once crucified and now risen Redeemer. The second is repentance, which signifies nothing more or less than feeling a Godly sorrow for our sins with a fixed determination to sin no more. The third is Baptism by immersion in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, for the remission of sins. The fourth is the laying-on-of-hands in the name of Jesus Christ, for the Baptism of the Holy Ghost.

Ref: Acts 2:38; Acts 19:2-7; Acts 5:6; Acts 8:17; Rom. 4th chapter; Gal. 3:27; Heb. 4:1-2; Col. 2:12; I Pet. 3:21; Book of Mormon: Mosiah 18:8-17; III Nep. 18:36-38; Moroni 2nd chapter

10th. We believe in being buried with Christ by Baptism, and planted together in the likeness of his death, and raised in the likeness of his resurrection; and that we should walk in newness of life. Let not sin, therefore, reign in your mortal body; ye became the servants of righteousness; therefore, yield ye yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead.

Ref: St. John 3:5; Rom. 6:3-13; Col. 2:12; Book of Mormon: III Nephi 11:23-27

11th. We believe in the promises of the Saviour as they are written in Mark 16:15-18. 'These signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out Devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up Serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them. They shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.'

Ref: I Cor. 12th chapter; Book of Mormon: Moroni 10:8-25

12th. We believe in partaking of the Lord's Supper every first day of the week; the Bread as his Body, and the Wine as his Blood, in commemoration of his death and his suffering.

Ref: Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; I Cor. 10:16-17; Book of Mormon: III Nephi 18:1-9; Moroni 4th and 5th chapters

13th. We believe in the washing of feet as an ordinance instituted by our Lord and Saviour, to be observed in the Church. We further believe it to be our duty to attend to that ordinance at least once within each three months.

Ref: St. John 13th chapter; I Tim. 5-10

Branch and Mission News

Levittown, PA

By Renee Connor, Branch Editor

On Sunday, December 7, 1980 our branch was blessed with a new sister. Brother Jerry Valenti baptized Kathy Kowalsky, and Brother Samuel Dell confirmed her.

The testimony meeting was a real joy. Many of the brothers and sisters offered their praises to God for the blessings in their lives. The young people were called to the front to sing praises to the Lord. While standing, their individual testimonies were

given.

Blessed is the name of the Lord for the multitude of His blessings; it was a beautiful day.

Sunday, January 18, 1981 we were blessed by the presence of a visiting elder and his wife, Brother Jim and Sister Lydia Link, from the Bronx Branch.

Brother Jerry Valenti opened the service in prayer, and Brother Sam Dell explained the importance of the duties of a deaconess in a branch. Then the ordination began.

Sister Fay Valenti had her feet washed by Sister Lydia Link and was ordained by Brother Samuel Dell.

Then Brother Jim Link began a sermon which covered God's promise of salvation for those who choose to serve Him. He began with Mary and God's blessing upon her to give birth to His son, Jesus Christ, and ended with His crucifixion and resurrection.

Afterwards, Sister Fay's daughter, Sister Tammy Valenti, sang a song for her mother entitled, *Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow*, which summed up the entire theme of the meeting.

Then each brother and sister was given an opportunity to testify of God's goodness in their lives.

In conclusion, this meeting was a double blessing for our branch, because not only did we gain a new deaconess, but also another wonderful experience. May God bless each and every one of you in this new year.

Youngstown, OH

By Annette Corrado, Branch Editor

On Sunday, October 26, 1980 we enjoyed a portion of God's blessing as we witnessed the baptism of Brother Trinidad Rubalcava. Brother Rubalcava was baptized by Brother Ralph Berardino and confirmed by Brother A. A. Corrado. Years ago Brother Trinidad first learned of the Restored Gospel through Brother Dan Corrado of Niles, Ohio and recently became

reacquainted with the Church through Sister Clara Johnson.

The following Sunday, November 2, we had the privilege of having Apostle Frank Calabrese of Lorain, Ohio in our midst. Visiting with Brother Frank was his daughter, Sister Sherri Scott, and Brother Frank and Sister Rose Palacios also of Lorain. Brother Calabrese emphasized that we must show to the world that we are the people of God in every respect. The glory of the Latter Days shall come forth by the righteousness of the people of God. Our brother spoke many edifying words which were truly food for our souls.

On Sunday, November 9, we again rejoiced as another soul rendered obedience. Sister Ruth Mason, mother of Sister Connie Smith, was baptized by Brother Ralph Berardino and confirmed by Brother Richard Santilli. Truly this was an answer to prayers.

May God bless Brother Rubalcava and Sister Mason with His richest blessings as they strive to serve Him in spirit and in truth.

Dallas, TX

God's Spirit was present in the Dallas, Texas Mission as two young brothers were ordained October 26 into spiritual offices of The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Phil Benyola was ordained a deacon and Brother Ralph Frammolino was ordained a teacher.

Brother Tony Lombardo, Brother Ralph's grandfather, washed his grandson's feet and Brother Carl Frammolino, Brother Ralph's father, ordained his son into the office. Brother Doug McLellan washed Brother Phil's feet and Brother George Benyola, an evangelist and elder of the mission, ordained his brother.

Brother Carl, who with his wife Joanne was visiting from the Detroit Inner-City Branch, spoke about the growing work there. He exhorted the saints in Dallas to be ready to give their testimonies to anyone.

Brother George then followed, telling the congregation about the experience he had regarding the

ordinations. He said he intended to recommend both brothers, but doubts grew in his mind. He eventually recommended only one.

But before he sent that letter, God gave Brother George a dream. In the dream, he saw Brother Carl, dressed as a spiritual mailman, deliver the same letter to his house. Across the front of the envelope, stamped in big red letters, was "RETURN TO SENDER."

Brother George said this was confusing. Did God want him to forget both recommendations? The answer, he said, was no. The Lord was using Brother Carl to confirm the earlier callings of both brothers. Alerted to the dream, Brother Carl called Brother George and said God's Spirit had told him in Detroit that both should be ordained. Brother Carl--the mailman in the dream--delivered a message from more than 1,500 miles away, Brother George said.

We were thankful for our visitors: Brother Carl and Sister Joanne Frammolino from the Detroit Inner-City Branch and Brother Tony and Sister Nicoleta Lombardo from Sterling Heights. Sister Nicoletta, Brother Ralph's grandmother, testified how she has been in the Church for 49 years. She described it as a "pearl" in her heart.

Also visiting was Sister Theresa Gennaro from Youngstown, Ohio. Sister Theresa was on vacation to Texas to see her daughter and son-in-law, Sister Jane and Brother Hank Ardinger. This was Sister Theresa's first trip to Dallas since the mission acquired its own building.

Sister Theresa testified that her late husband, Brother William Gennaro, an apostle, always envisioned a church building in Dallas. She said she was thankful to finally see his hope become reality.

The saints in Dallas thank God for our visitors and for His blessings in the ordinations of our brothers.

Modesto, CA

By Pam Cole

Modesto Branch would like to

share with you a little of the blessings we have felt.

Visiting with us for a while has been Sister Rose Impastato from Detroit, Branch 3. Also spending some time here in Modesto were Brother Eugenio and Sister Angela Mora from Ahome, Mexico. On November 9, 1980, came Brother Ron and Sister Mary Nichols and their girls from the San Jose, California Mission.

We can surely say that the Lord has been very gracious to His people. We have been blessed with many wonderful meetings, but our service on December 14 was outstanding.

Visiting with us that day was Sister Marion Meo from Bell, California. You couldn't help but feel the thankfulness in the hearts of those in attendance. Most of the whole meeting was spent in praises to God. Brother Leonard Lovalvo sang *I Believe in Miracles*, and "Miracles" took over as the theme of the day.

Many stood and testified of the miracles that the Lord has placed in their lives.

In closing, brothers and sisters, The Church of Jesus Christ is a wonderful place to be. I do not know of another church in Modesto that can hold as much love as that small building on Briggsmore Avenue.

Red Lake, AZ

By Diane Surdock, Branch Editor

Ground breaking for our new church building in Tse Bonito, New Mexico (presently the Red Lake Branch) will be held in April, 1981. Paper work and approvals are in the process at present, and with all in order, we plan to begin the building of our first church in our mission with the Navajo Nation.

The church building will be built

on a portion of land that is considered non-reservation land and was donated by the members of The Church of Jesus Christ who reside on the land nearby (approximately 1/4 mile). This land is surrounded by the Navajo Reservation.

Brother Sam Randy from Modesto, California will be coming with others whom the Lord may call to head this construction project. Pray for our efforts in this area of the land.

Sterling, MI

The following children were blessed recently in the Sterling Heights Branch in Michigan:

Christopher Vivian, the son of Sister Gail and Walter Vivian.

John Michael, Jennifer Virginia and Michael David Harrison, the children of John and Marge Harrison.

In Memory of Brother Claude Plummer who passed away January 28, 1979.

*I would rather have one little rose
From the garden of a friend,
Than to have the choicest flowers
When my stay on earth must end.*

*I would rather have a pleasant word
In kindness said to me,
Than flattery when my heart is still,
And life has ceased to be.*

*I would rather have a loving smile
From friends I know are true
Than tears shed around my casket
When this world I've bid adieu.*

*Bring all your flowers today
Whether pink, or white, or red;
I'd rather have one blossom now,
Than a truck load when I'm dead.*

Brother Claude was a charter member of our mission and left us with an inspirational message from his testimony which he gave shortly before the Lord took him home.

His desire was to see our little mission grow. The saints of Yucaipa truly miss him.

* WEDDINGS *

SWANGER—ADAMS

Mr. Mark Adam Swanger and Miss Ann Marie Adams were united in marriage on December 6, 1980 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Herndon, Virginia. Brother Gerald B. Hildenbrand officiated at the ceremony.

May God bless the newlyweds in their new life together.

New Arrivals

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

Zachary Louis to Ronald and Carla Dziak of Lorain, Ohio;

Jennifer Nicole to Robert and Ruth Hall of Aliquippa, PA;

Robert John to Rick and Karen Seltz of Aliquippa, PA;

Michael Robert to Larry and Vanessa Watson of Red Lake, Arizona;

Jonah Baptiste to John and Christine Mancini of Red Lake, Arizona.

OBITUARIES

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

CARMEN TALARICO

Brother Carmen Talarico passed away from this life on December 8, 1980. Born on May 10, 1905, he was baptized into the Church in Brooklyn, New York on June 12, 1932 and had been a member of the Bell Branch since April, 1971.

Left to mourn his loss are his brother and sister-in-law and their family.

The funeral services were conducted by Brother Vincent Scalise.

DREWIE WHITAKER

Brother Drewie Whitaker, a member of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch of the Church, passed away on December 9, 1980. He was born on November 22, 1924 and baptized on January 26, 1958.

Brothers A. A. Corrado, Travis Perry and Ralph Berardino officiated at the funeral services.

Brother Whitaker is survived by his wife, two sons, one daughter, two brothers, two sisters and four grandchildren.

NICOLO ONORATI

Brother Nicolo Onorati of Detroit, Branch No. 1 passed away on December 20, 1980. He was born on July 28 1889 and was baptized on September 18, 1930. He had just celebrated 50 years in The Church of Jesus Christ on September 18, 1980.

He is survived by his wife, one son, three grandchildren, one great-grandchild, one stepdaughter, one stepson, six stepgrandchildren and fourteen step great-grandchildren.

Brothers Carl Frammolino and Norman Campitelle conducted the funeral services.

DIEGO CARRARA

Brother Diego Carrara of the Yucaipa, California Branch passed away on December 28, 1980. He was born on September 28, 1894 in Sicily. He met The Church of Jesus Christ and was baptized in 1926 in New Brunswick, New Jersey. He was an ordained deacon in the Church.

He is survived by his wife, Rosa, and a brother, Tony, of New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Services were held at The Church of Jesus Christ in Yucaipa by Brothers Frank Genaro and George Heaps.

ANTOINETTE SALERNO

Sister Antoinette Salerno of the Niles, Ohio Branch passed away from this life on January 3, 1981. She was born on September 23, 1901 and was a member of the Church for over 40 years.

Funeral services were officiated by Brothers Joe Genaro and Russ Martorana.

Sister Salerno is survived by one son, one brother, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Sister Antoinette was known for her love toward others and her overwhelming spirit of hospitality. In her passing, she bade us to "love one another".

SAMUEL JOHNSON

Samuel Johnson passed away on January 7, 1981. He was the son of the late Sister Mary Johnson.

He is survived by his wife, Sister Jean, four children, eight grandchildren, four sisters and one brother.

The funeral service was officiated by Brothers Louis Vitto and Louis Pietrangelo.

REBEKAH LOVE

Sister Rebekah Love, a member of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch, passed away on January 11, 1981. Born on February 6, 1901, she was baptized into the Church by Brother William H. Cadman in Monongahela, PA on June 19, 1932.

She is survived by three daughters, one son, ten grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and three step great-grandchildren.

Brothers A. A. Corrado, Ralph Berardino and Travis Perry officiated at the funeral services.

The Gospel News

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

(USPS 223-480)

April, 1981

Volume 37, No. 4

Young People Ask

By John Griffith, Monongahela, PA

Dear Brother John,

Marriage is on my mind. I've been dating the same girl for some time now. We get along great and have a lot in common. I am ready for this step. Please pray for me.

I have already been praying for you and many others who are at this point in their lives. It is a very big step to take, so please be sure that it is the right step for both of you at this time. Please accept a few of my personal thoughts on this matter.

Getting along great and having a lot in common is important. Allow this to broaden to where you have established an open and understanding relationship. Don't assume she feels the same way. Know that she does and make sure she knows how you feel about all things. Know and understand each other as much as possible. **Talk** together, **listen** what each is saying, **discuss** all things, and **know** how each would react and feel. When you start to talk of marriage, the word "you" no longer means a single individual, but it means both of you—two people.

If you wish God's blessing, you must be fixed in your mind of your commitment to Him and put Him first in your life. Make sure both of you agree on the type of spiritual life to live. Establish that life before you become married if possible. Then establish the kinds of natural activities that will be conducive to that spiritual life. Do this together and

together you will be putting God first. P.S. It is possible if God is really first in your life. If she is the right choice, God will help you.

Both of you should have the same concept of what marriage is and that this step being considered is of a very serious nature. Marriage is much more than a personal promise to one another. It is a **covenant** between the two of you and with God, Who instituted this relationship. It is a divine institution, designed to form a **permanent** union between man and woman for the remainder of their natural lives.

A covenant is a solemn agreement and pledge to act together in **harmony**. In Old Testament times, the breaking of a covenant was usually met with death.

Harmony can only be when there is more than one person. It is not what I want, it is what we want. It is unity, peace, consistency, orderly, amity, friendship, parallelism, the blending of two into one. Sure I believe as the Bible states, "Ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands. . ." I Peter 3:1-7, but I am also told, "Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. . ." Col. 3:18-21 Any man who thinks any less of his wife than an equal, is not a man in my eyes; he is guided by selfishness. And if a wife can only worry about what's best for her, she does not know the meaning of love.

Permanent is existing for an indefinite period without regard to unforeseeable conditions. In Matthew 19:3-8, we read how the Pharisees tempted Jesus by questioning if it is lawful to put away his wife for every

cause, and if not, why then did Moses command to give a writing of divorce, and Jesus answered, "Have ye not read that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder . . . He saith unto them, Moses because the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so."

Choose friends who will complement your life together and your belief. "Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" II Corinthians 6:14

Possibly by now you may feel or know someone who feels that all of this is just too complicated. Why go through all of this? The feeling of "I like her and she likes me, and that's all we need" is very immature and to a degree selfish. It lacks commitment and therefore is very weak. "Why don't we just live together for a while to see if we can get along?" That question is very popular in our society today. **DO NOT** be misguided by the evil that is corrupting the human race in this thought that it is OK to live together without being married. This idea is against the word and will of God. I recently met a lovely nineteen year old lady who was persuaded by her "loving" boyfriend that this was the thing to do. They lived together for over a year and a half. They did get to know each other; they even had

a child. That same young lady who believed those words "I love you" now lives on welfare, her mother disowned her, and her boyfriend left her. Now it is just her and her baby. This situation can also happen in marriage if you really don't know each other.

And now, if both of you get along great, have a lot in common, know each other as best as possible, agree and are committed in your natural and spiritual goals, and are willing to make this marriage work no matter what, if you have support of both sides of the families, then God bless you in your new life together. May you raise your children to appreciate and believe in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, that they may become the future generations of The Church of Jesus Christ. Seek first the kingdom of God and all things will be given you. Believe together with all of your heart and soul.

If you have a question or comment, please write. Also, share your thoughts with individuals you can trust. We share each other's burdens and learn from each other. God Bless You.

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"It Is Written"

By V. J. Lovalvo, Fresno, CA



QUESTION: Brother Jim, many times when I seek to prove some of our doctrine, I am told, "You are taking this out of context; it does not mean what you say." Would you please explain this "taking out of context" in your articles?

ANSWER: I realize that we are often accused of "taking out of context" when seeking to prove a passage of scripture that would identify with our Faith and Doctrine. However, those who would criticize us would have to also find fault with Jesus Christ and the Apostles as well, for they "took out of context" many scriptures to prove their faith also. Here is a very good example by our Lord Jesus Christ: When the Devil sought to tempt the Lord by saying, "If Thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread," Jesus replied, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." He was "taking out of context" by referring to Deuteronomy 8:3, thereby proving to Satan that the scripture in Deuteronomy was also fulfilled in Him at that time.

Example No. 2—Again, in the temptation of our Lord, Satan said to Him, "If Thou be the Son of God, cast Thyself down (from the pinnacle of the Temple): for it is written; He shall give His angels charge concerning Thee; and in their hands they shall bear Thee up, lest at any time Thou dash Thy foot against a stone." (Satan also "took out of context" from Psalms 91:11) But Jesus replied, "It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord Thy God." He quoted scripture in Deuteronomy 6:16. In that particular passage of scripture, the Lord was speaking to the House of Israel. Yet Jesus used that very same scripture to answer the wicked Tempter.

Example No. 3—When the Holy Ghost descended upon the Apostles at the Day of Pentecost, which amazed the multitudes of people, Peter quoted the prophet Joel, "taking out of context" the passage of scripture found in Joel 2:28 which reads: "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, and your young men shall see visions . . ." Peter "took out of context" from Joel to prove the fulfillment of that scripture at that particular time. I would think that the enemies of righteousness could certainly find fault with the Apostle Peter for taking advantage of the scripture and "taking out of context". I shall summarize later in this article.

Example No. 4—The same Apostle, Peter, seeking to prove the

resurrection of Jesus, quoted Psalms 16:8-10 wherein it reads, "I have set the Lord always before me, because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh, also shall rest in hope. For thou wilt not leave my soul in Hell: neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption." If one reads the 16th Psalm, one would think that David is speaking of himself. However, Peter, by the spirit of God, told the multitudes that the scripture quoted referred to Jesus Christ. He "took out of context" also.

Example No. 5—In Matthew 27:35 and John 19:24 the scriptures read of the soldiers parting the garments of Jesus Christ and casting lots for them. Both Apostles quote the scripture found in Psalms 22:18 which reads, "They part My garments among them, and cast lots upon My vesture." The Apostles use this scripture in fulfillment of that which took place at the crucifixion of Christ. Yet, the reading of the 22nd Psalm certainly would make one think that the Psalmist is speaking of himself, not of Jesus Christ. Is not this "taking out of context"?

Example No. 6—In John 19:28 it reads that Jesus said, "I thirst." The Apostle, however, says that in this the scripture was fulfilled. He quotes Psalms 69:21 which reads, "They gave Me also gall for My meat, and in My thirst, they gave Me vinegar to drink." Now, if John had not referred to this passage in Psalms, would we have known that it was in fulfillment of that which Christ said?

Example No. 7—When Jesus overthrew the tables of the money changers at the Temple and exclaimed, "Take these things hence; make not My Father's house an house of merchandise," (John 2:16) His disciples remembered what was written in the Psalms: viz. "For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up. . . ." (Psalms 69:9) Before the Apostle wrote the above, would anyone reading the 69th Psalm have interpreted it as referring to what Jesus said? The answer would be a flat NO. However, this passage, too, was taken out of context to fulfill a certain event.

Example No. 8—When old Simeon, a devout man, took the child, Jesus, in his arms and blessed Him, he said, among other things, ". . . A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the

glory of thy people Israel." (Luke 2:32) At this instance, he was quoting the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 49:6), who hundreds of years before His birth said, "... I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles. ..." Was the prophet speaking of himself? Was Luke a literary thief to "take out of context" and apply it to Jesus Christ? The answer is no to both questions.

Example No. 9—In Luke 1:15, it is written that the Angel, speaking to Zacharias, related how great Jesus Christ would be, and how He was filled with the Holy Ghost, even from His mother's womb. The angel quoted the Prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 49:1) wherein is read, "The Lord hath called Me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath He made mention of my name." The unbeliever might say that the angel "took out of context" by quoting Isaiah. But, the unbeliever is wrong indeed.

Example No. 10—After Judas betrayed the Lord for thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 27), the Apostle refers to the words spoken by the Prophet Zechariah: "... So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver." Matthew, by the spirit of God, "takes out of context" some words spoken by the prophet and applies them to that which took place in the betrayal of Jesus. He, too, could be accused of picking a verse here and a verse there to simply satisfy the event taking place. But not so.

One must understand that "taking words or scripture out of context" was done because the spirit of God inspired them to do so. Remember this: the prophets and Holy men of yore spoke and wrote as they were inspired by the Almighty. The Lord causes words to be put in their mouths and in their minds that would relate to future events. It is feasible that when they spoke or wrote, they either understood the prophetic thoughts given to them, or they may not have understood. Nonetheless, the Spirit of God guided them to do so. Now, the same spirit of the Lord which inspired the prophets and Holy men of God to speak and write, will also inspire Holy men in the years subsequent to the time these words were given to "take out of context" such words or verses of scripture which had been given by the Lord, and apply them to the circumstances and events at hand.

In these days of the Restoration of the Gospel, God has given men the same blessing to understand the words spoken or written by Holy men of long ago, and apply the same to conditions or events of today or the future. For example, when we refer to scripture relating to the Book of Mormon, the 37th Chapter of Ezekiel and the 29th Chapter of Isaiah are used because God inspired these prophets to speak and write words from which are those which relate to the Book of Mormon. Ezekiel writes of two Sticks, one for Joseph and one for Judah. These are indicative of the histories of these two Tribes. So, if it appears that one "takes out of context", it is only because the Lord has inspired the mind of the searcher to understand that which He gave to the prophets, much the same as all the above examples I have given.

When we speak of the Kingdom of God that shall be established **IN THE FLESH** (the Peaceful Reign), scriptures such as Daniel's prophecy, the writings of Job, Jeremiah, Isaiah, and many others have been given of the Lord, for He was the one who inspired the ancient writers; and now, the same Spirit of God has inspired men to understand the same.

Therefore, if some people have a tendency to criticize the believer in the Faith and Doctrine of the Restored Gospel, it is only because they do not understand the workings of God's Holy Spirit. But, let the critic and the unbeliever know this: It is written, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for DOCTRINE, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (II Timothy 3:16, 17)

Attention

The General Church Print House has reprinted *A History of The Church of Jesus Christ* by W. H. Cadman.

The soft covered book is available at the price of \$7.50. Send orders to:

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Arizona District Conference

By Kenneth Surdock, District Editor

The annual Conference for the Arizona District was held on February 21 and 22, 1981 in Phoenix, Arizona. The Sunday service began at 10:00 a.m. with congregational singing. Brother Chuck Curry of Red Lake, Arizona, gave the opening prayer, followed by four special music selections. At this point we confirmed a young Hopi Indian man who had been baptized earlier that morning. Robert Kaye became acquainted with Brother Steve Saffron, who is a counselor at a local college in the Phoenix area. After several encounters, Robert was convicted of his need for Christ and made his commitment. Brother Steve baptized him and Brother Ether Furnier confirmed him. A very special communion with the Holy Spirit was felt by all during this moment. After singing Hymn 405, *Redeemer of Israel*, tongues were spoken and the interpretation was "Thus saith the Lord, I have given you what I have promised, I have blessed this day".

Brother Robert Watson addressed conference on Alma 29:1-9. Alma desired to be something he wasn't. His desire was admirable but not really what God wanted. Often men and women try to do things in life they are not suited for. We must learn how to abide in the will of God. It is hard to let go of our control and give God the leadership of our lives. Alma desired to convert the world by himself. That, he realized, was not God's will. It is a job for all of God's people all over the world. Many times a one to one situation brings about the desired result as in the Biblical story of Philip and the Eunuch. We must be alert to the plan of God so that we do not confuse it with our own desires.

As we see the major events and disasters of our day, we can relate them to Biblical Prophecy of the latter days. Surely there is little time left for this Church to fulfill its destiny of bringing the Gospel message to the seed of Joseph on this land. Brother Watson exhorted everyone to realize their place in the work of the Church and assert themselves toward fulfilling their role.

After a congregational song, Brothers Emmett Hood from San Fer-

nando Valley, California, and Steve Saffron of Phoenix Branch expressed some thoughts relative to the subject of personal involvement and commitment to "bring some soul" to Christ this year.

Our new brother in Christ expressed himself for a few minutes and committed his life to bring others to a knowledge of Christ. We all pray for his success, for with this determination certainly "In Abraham's seed shall all the Nations of the earth be blessed."

Our conference was brought to a close with prayer by Brother Emmett Dale.

50th Anniversary

By Paulette Griffith

On January 3, 1981, the San Carlos Mission was the place of the 50th Wedding Anniversary celebration of Brother Emmett and Sister Evelyn Dale, the missionaries at San Carlos.



This special day was planned as a surprise by their daughters, Emma and Dorothy, from their homes in the east. They had made all the arrangements and sent invitations to their families in the west and also to the branches and missions of Arizona. They surprised their parents by flying to Arizona December 31, their actual anniversary date, and told our brother and sister of the surprise to come.

Saturday, January 3, many brothers and sisters from all over Arizona and the family of our Brother and Sister Dale from Arizona and California filled the Sunday School room to participate in this wonderful celebration.

Their daughters served a wonder-

ful buffet lunch and baked a beautiful wedding cake to honor their parents. Brother Emmett and Sister Evelyn received many beautiful remembrances of their special day.

After lunch and the cutting of the cake, Brother Emmett was prompted by all to give a speech. He very humbly thanked all for the gifts and for helping them celebrate this special event, but gave all his thanks to the Lord for 50 years of marriage and that their life really didn't begin until Christ entered their lives. This was a wonderful day enjoyed by all.

Remember our Brother and Sister Dale as they have devoted their "golden years" to work for the Lord among His chosen people.

This Lamb Was Slain

By LuAnn Scaglione

God sent to this world His Son the King,
A light to shine in the dark;
But the peace and light God's Son was to bring
Would be misunderstood from the start.
He came to His own, yet they would not receive Him;
Rejected, He accepted His plight.
If man would have only been able to believe Him,
They would have been blessed by this Light.
But instead, out of envy, they wrongly accused Him;
Unselfish, He answered to nothing.
As He hung from the cross the people abused Him,
And in mockery called Him King.
He accepted His trial as His Father's will;
Scorned and mocked by all was He.
He knew He was sent God's plan to fulfill,
So with patience He bore the agony;
And when Christ arose from the depths of His grave,
A victory over death to gain,
The souls of man He had power to save.
For the sins of the world THIS LAMB WAS SLAIN.

Ohio District Conference

The Saturday session of the Ohio District Conference was held in the Niles, Ohio Branch. There was a good representation of elders and teachers in attendance to conduct the business portion of the conference.

The new officers of the District are: President, Brother Elmer Santilli; First Counselor, Brother Russ Martorana; Second Counselor, Brother Vince Gibson. The conference also appointed several other District Meetings to be held throughout the year. On May 3, the evangelists of the District will hold a meeting in Kent, Ohio, and on May 31, Lorain will host a spiritual gathering as will the Perry, Ohio Branch on July 26. These meetings are scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. There will also be two District Fast and Prayer Meetings to be held in Cleveland on June 13, and in Niles on September 26 starting at 9:00 a.m.

Our next District Conference has been appointed for August 15 in Warren, Ohio and on August 16 in Youngstown. We hope to have the General Church Finance Committee meet with us at this time to go over the budget.

The Sunday service was held in the Youngstown Branch with a capacity crowd in attendance. There were musical selections by the Ohio Area MBA Choir and the Youngstown Quartet prior to the opening of our service.

Brother Paul D'Amico introduced the service using for his text Alma 5:50, "Yea, thus saith the spirit, repent all ye ends of the earth. . ." He spoke about the good shepherd watching over his flock to protect them from the wolves. He also spoke about the axe being laid at the root of the tree and every tree that would not bring forth good fruit would be hewn down.

Brother Vince Gibson followed next, and he reminded us that those who come forth in the first resurrection need not worry about the second death. He continued on by warning us that we must answer to God for those things that we do. Our works will be

Continued on Page 7

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Honoring Mothers

A mother's love begins to operate early and to an immeasurable degree when a mother's first ministration for her infant is to enter, as it were, the valley of the shadow of death, and win its life at the peril of her own.

As we pause during another annual observance of Mother's Day, we are compelled to acknowledge our inadequacy in properly paying tribute in recognition of many living mothers, as well as grateful memory of many mothers who have completed life's journey.

A mother's love, tenderness, warmth, trust and strength exceed our capacity to measure.

A mother's effort, labor, dedication and self-sacrifice are far beyond our ability to fully comprehend.

A mother's heartfelt desire for the well-being of her loved one is deeper by far than we can begin to fathom.

A mother's heartache and bitter pain over a wandering and wayward loved one are beyond our understanding.

A mother's deepest grief in the passing of a loved one far surpasses our comprehension.

A mother's affection is manifested in so many and varied ways as to be far above our keenest insight and discernment.

A Mother's Prayer

*Help me, Dear Lord, to be a good mother . . .
To guide those depending on me
Help me to show them a mother whose love
And purpose is centered on Thee.*

*Let them see kindness and wisdom enough
To teach them the worthier things . . .
Patience enough to encourage their hearts
To love life, whatever it brings.*

*Let me inspire them to look for---and find
The best in themselves . . . and each other---
How grateful I'd be if they lived well for Thee
In faith that they learned from their mother. .*

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



The Time a Donkey Talked

Dear Girls and Boys,

Balaam was a man who talked to God. Everyone knew that if they had a special problem, they could ask this man to pray to God for them and he would receive an answer. If he asked God to bless people, God blessed them. If he asked God to curse them, God cursed them.

The King of Moab had a problem. Some strangers out of Egypt were coming near his land. They were the Israelite people, once slaves, now wandering and looking for new homes. The King sent messengers with many presents to ask Balaam to come and curse them so his army could overcome them and drive them out.

But God did not want Balaam to curse them. He told Balaam that they were a blessed people and not to go. But the frightened King did not give up. When his messengers returned without Balaam, he sent more important men to ask Balaam to come and curse the Israelites. Finally, Balaam agreed to go with them.

Balaam left riding on his little donkey. God was angry with Balaam for going. God sent the angel of the Lord to stop Balaam. As Balaam traveled, the angel of the Lord stood in the way with his sword drawn in his hand. The donkey saw the angel and turned, and went into the field. Balaam hit her to turn her the way he wanted her to go.

But the angel of the Lord stood in the path again where there was a wall on both sides. When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, she pushed

herself against the wall and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall. He was furious and struck her again.

Finally the angel of the Lord went ahead further and stood in a narrow place where there was no way to turn either to the right or the left. And when the donkey saw the angel of the Lord standing there with a sword, she fell down under Balaam. He became so angry, he struck the little donkey with the wooden staff he carried.

Then the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said unto Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have hit me these three times?"

Angrily, Balaam replied, "Because you haven't obeyed me! I wish I had a sword right now so I could kill you."

And the donkey said unto Balaam, "Am not I your donkey that you've ridden on since the day you got me until today? Have I ever disobeyed you before?"

As Balaam answered, "No", the Lord opened his eyes and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the way with his sword drawn in his hand and Balaam bowed down his head and fell flat on his face.

Then the angel of the Lord said to Balaam, "Why have you hit your donkey three times? Listen, I went out to stop you because your way is against what you should do, and the donkey saw me and turned from me these three times. Unless she had turned from me, surely now I would have killed you and saved her alive."

And Balaam said unto the angel of the Lord, "I have sinned, for I did not know you stood in the way against me, now then, if it displeases you that I should go to the King, I will go back home."

This time the angel of the Lord said, "No, go with the messengers of the King. But when the time comes for you to speak, speak only the words that I will give you."

Balaam obeyed the angel and went his way with the messengers, but he warned the King that even if the King would give him his house full of silver and gold, Balaam would not go beyond the commandments of God. What the Lord said, he would speak. When the King took him to a high mountain looking over the camps of the Israelite people, Balaam spoke powerful words of great blessings. The King grew angry and told Balaam to stop! If he didn't want to curse them, at least don't bless them.

Three times Balaam spoke, and each time beautiful promises for the Children of Israel came forth. The third time Balaam spoke, God told him of all the good things he would do for the Israelite's children's children . . . even down to the last days. There were no good words of hope for the King, only words of doom. Those who served the one true God received the blessings of God. With his purpose accomplished, Balaam, the man whose donkey's mouth was opened, turned for his journey home.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

Find the following words from the story "The Time a Donkey Talked".

| | | | | | | | |
|--------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Balaam | K | L | A | T | H | Y | L |
| Crush | | | | | | | |
| Sword | I | L | E | S | E | Y | M |
| Drawn | | | | | | | |
| Thy | L | L | U | K | T | A | N |
| Donkey | | | | | | | |
| God | L | R | N | G | N | R | W |
| Mad | | | | | | | |
| Kill | C | O | O | L | E | P | A |
| Talk | | | | | | | |
| Tell | D | D | A | M | S | E | R |
| Pray | | | | | | | |
| | F | B | S | W | O | R | D |

What did the donkey do the third time he saw the angel? (The left-over letters spell the answer.)

OUR WOMEN TODAY

Ladies Uplift Circle Area Meeting in Michigan-Ontario

By Melissa Matthew, Area Editor

On Monday, February 23, the sisters of the Michigan-Ontario Ladies Uplift Circle met in the Sterling Heights Branch. The group was small due to much sickness and affliction in the Area, including the illness of our Area President, Sister Mary Criscuolo. The meeting was ably chaired by Sister Arlene Whitton who thanked all of us for our effort in attending. She declared that the Lord would surely bless us for our efforts toward Him and one another.

The Sterling Heights sisters presented a program entitled, "Our Goals for Eternity". First we were asked if we as a child of Christ had our proper wardrobe, the wardrobe of the heart, one that begins on the inside and works its way outside.

It is not an easy road we travel as a child of the Saviour, but it is one which we never travel alone; communications between us and our Saviour are always open. If we find a closed door, it is because "we" have closed it.

Our guides to having a good wardrobe are the Bible and Book of Mormon. If we feel our wardrobe is threadbare, it is because we are not using our guidebooks and our communication lines of fasting and prayer.

Someday, we never know when, we will have to board the "eternity train". To ride the train to heaven, we must have a properly packed suitcase, full of good deeds, faith, hope and charity (the pure love of God). To enter into the place of rest, we must have the proper credentials; a mind that confesses the greatness of God, the futility of man and a soul washed clean and pure in the blood of the Lamb.

All of us must look within ourselves and see where we stand before our God. Do each one of us have the

right goals for eternity? We truly enjoyed this program presented by our sisters, and we felt His wonderful presence as we listened to it unfold.

The remainder of our meeting was devoted to a wonderful season of prayer for the sick and afflicted throughout the whole Church. Surely He blesses us greatly when we make even a small effort in His name.

We closed our meeting in prayer and adjourned to the basement for a time of fellowship and food with all our Circle sisters.

Our prayer is that the Lord will continue to feed us both spiritually and naturally and that we might always be able to serve one another.

Ohio District Conference Continued.

weighed in the balance, not our desires. God's judgement will be according to the works of man alone. The world is filled with good desires, but unless they are converted into works, they are useless.

Brother Dom Bucci was our next

speaker, and he recalled that his parents were converted into the Church when he was 10 years old, and he was able to see the change take place in their home. Brother Dom mentioned that he drifted away from the Church until he was 29 years of age, and then the things that he had heard as a child came to his mind and he returned to the Church and was baptized on the same day as Brother Paul D'Amico. He noted that two great civilizations upon this land were destroyed because of iniquity. The Jaredite nation came to an end because of a civil war and the Nephites were destroyed by the Lamanites. Brother Bucci also mentioned to us about the church of Laodicea, one of the seven churches that God spoke to in the Book of Revelation. They were condemned because they were lukewarm and so the Lord said that he would spew them out of his mouth.

Brother Frank Calabrese noted in his talk that God, in all ages of time, has had a people. The Church of Jesus Christ represents the people of God in our day. It is our duty to stand up and be recognized as the people of God.

Brother Elmer Santilli made a few remarks before our meeting was dismissed in prayer by Brother Bob Cirrachi.

The Message of Easter

What is this mysterious, strange, joyous influence that seems to permeate everything at this time of the year . . . that lingers, like a sweet perfume, delicate and clean, to touch us all with its magic?

It is an intriguing thing . . . intangible, yet real.

We feel it . . .

sense it . . .

thrill to it.

There is more to it than bunny rabbits
and colored eggs

and gay, new clothes.

Easter is more than a celebration

because the sap is rising in the trees . . .

and the bare branches are slipping bright green rings

on bony fingers . . .

and blossoms are turning wood and garden into fairyland.

Easter is more than a spring festival.

So far as Christians are concerned, the message of Easter is contained in the declaration

"Christ is Risen!"

Peter Marshall

Branch and Mission News

Lorain, OH

The services at the Lorain Branch on Sunday, February 1, 1981 brought joy and edification to all in attendance. The highlight of the day was the ordinations of three brothers, two to the office of teacher and one to the office of deacon.

Brother Joel Calabrese's feet were washed by Brother Anthony Lovalvo, and Brother Joseph Calabrese then ordained his son to the office of teacher.

Brother Frank Calabrese washed the feet of Brother Frank Palacios, Jr., and Brother Lou Vitto ordained him to the office of teacher.

Brother Frank Altomare washed Brother Richard Portnick's feet, and Brother Frank Calabrese ordained him to the office of deacon.

Many visitors were present representing Michigan, Pennsylvania, Florida and other Ohio Branches. God's presence was felt throughout the day.

May the Lord bless and prosper Brothers Calabrese, Palacios and Portnick as they pursue the duties of their new offices.

Sterling, MI

By Hazel Zoltek, Branch Editor

We enjoyed a very beautiful and rewarding service on February 22. The meeting began with the blessing of two babies, Kenneth Frank LoFrano, Jr., son of Gayle and Kenneth, blessed by Brother Carl Frammolino, and Jill Jean Johnson, daughter of Terrie and Samuel Johnson, Jr., and blessed by Brother Louis Vitto. Brother Louis told us that little Jill was born with a hole in her heart and was facing an operation, but she was anointed and prayed upon and no operation was necessary. Let us thank God that He is still performing miracles today.

Brother Louis welcomed the visitors, of which we had many. He told of a boy in Italy who had been hit in

the eye with a stone and was in danger of losing the eye. At the October Conference, a handkerchief was anointed and sent to Italy. The boy is now healed, and his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Viviano, were with us today.

Many requests were made for prayer for the sick and afflicted. Sister Josephine D'Amico, who has been visiting in California, was to undergo emergency surgery today.

Brother Dominic Moraco offered prayer. He then read from Isaiah 55:1-3. He read these same verses again in Italian for the benefit of those who were here from Italy. He also read in Italian about the land of milk and honey. He spoke a few words in Italian to these people. Then back to the English language, he told of how the Italians came to this land and gave up their former religion and embraced a new one, The Church of Jesus Christ. They accepted the Church entirely on faith. They were the kind of people, who when they heard the Gospel, wanted to know more about it. The Church gave them a new meaning in life. Many went to their graves remaining faithful to the Church. Why did they give up everything for the Church? They were not educated people, yet they brought many souls to Christ. The Gospel of Jesus Christ was of great value, yet it had no price tag on it. Many of our elders today are sons of these parents.

Brother Moraco said that when his mother was dying, she said she had no worldly goods to leave him, but she left him a heritage of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Many of these sons who were in the war promised God that if they arrived home safely, they would serve Him. However, some waited twenty years and more before keeping this promise.

He told of how he enjoyed the sermons of the old brothers, who could barely speak English and how they brought forth the spirit of God. This land of America is supposedly a Christian nation, yet our children are not safe in the schools. This country should be serving Christ continuously; it should be filled with love.

Many have been members of the

Church for fifty years. It is rewarding or they would not have stayed all that time. What we have in this Church, we would not trade with a multimillionaire. They are not happy with all their wealth, and many kill themselves out of desperation because they are unable to find peace for their soul.

The Champine Brothers sang *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*. Brother Carl Frammolino then spoke, saying that to follow Brother Moraco's message was like playing baseball after the final out.

Brother Carl told of how, in the recent snowstorm, he locked himself out of his car, and the motor was running. He said that when he got inside his car, he prayed that God would see him safely home. He then got out to clean the windows and he was locked out. After about thirty minutes, with the help of someone who happened to have a hanger in his car, he was able to get inside. As he drove home, he compared this incident with those people who have their motor running and they aren't getting anywhere.

If we have a hope to reach heaven, we must become motivated. When we hear of a death and if that person is of this Church, we say they are in heaven. Christ said, "Come all those who thirst." This has a great meaning; someday there will be a judgment. It is very important that we know where we are going. Wherever we may be, our major thought is our soul's salvation. Everything else is worthless. As we look around us and see people striving and not getting anywhere, we wonder what they hope to achieve.

Brother Carl said that when he thinks of the Sterling Heights Branch, he thinks of singing; a lot of singing takes place here. He turned to Brother Louis and said he would like to sing a duet with him. They sang *God's Way*. It was very beautiful. Brother Rocco Paternoster's mother from Italy, even though she could not understand the words, was touched by the beauty of their voices, and she was wiping away tears. God must have given her an understanding.

Brother Louis then asked the

Italian couple, Mr. and Mrs. Viviano, to give their testimony. Mrs. Viviano, speaking in her native language, said they were very happy in this Church. Mr. Viviano said they wanted to belong. Brother Louis told them, in Italian, he would arrange for them to get in touch with the mission in Italy.

Brother Frank DiDonato told of how he had wanted to be a politician, a ball player, a fighter, but did not reach any of these goals. This writer feels that he did realize his ambition to become a fighter, not in the ring, but a fighter for Christ and for The Church of Jesus Christ. It took him many years, but he finally accomplished his purpose.

Mrs. Viviano rose to her feet for the second time and said that every time she attends this Church, she has a dream of belonging here, but they are returning to Italy soon.

Brother Louis said in this Church we cannot lose, but we stand to gain our soul's salvation. Without money, without price, this Gospel is free. Christ paid it all on the Cross of Calvary.

He invited the visitors to come back and meanwhile to investigate the Church. We sang *Sing Hallelujah*, and were dismissed by Brother Sam DiFalco.

At the Monday night Ladies Circle meeting, we were told by Sister Arlene Whitton that the operation of Sister D'Amico in California was unsuccessful. Let us pray for her.

Also, this writer was told by Sister Rafael DiFalco that when they were going home on Sunday, Mr. Viviano said of the meeting in English, "beautiful". He said it was much better than hearing a priest speak. Also, he mentioned that we did not even ask for money.

Golden Verse

Who could have thought
Of spring time
And painted its colors true?
Omnipotent Creator. . . .
In awe . . . I whisper, "You."

Corrine Sprowls

A Tribute to Sis. Charlotte Hill

*By Anthony R. Lovalvo, Pres. Officer
of the Six Nations Reservation Mission*



*To a Wonderful Sister of
the Six Nations Reservation
Mission.*

She was born on September 3, 1886 and was baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ on May 8, 1938 by Brother William H. Cadman, at the Tuscarora Reservation, Lewiston, New York. She is from the Turtle Clan and from the Mohawk Nation.

She has always worked very hard, especially in the craft of textiles: quilts, crib blankets, clothing, wool, cotton cloth, and cornhusk mats. She learned all of this from her mother.

She has for many years exhibited quilts, baked goods and canned goods and has received many prizes at the Six Nations Annual Fair, Simcoe Fair and the Caledonia Fair. Her crafts have been given recognition by the Courier News in Buffalo.

At the golden age of 95 years, she is still very active sewing quilts, baking her very popular doughnuts, pies, corn bread, and especially her

corn soup, helping the needy and supporting The Church of Jesus Christ. She has made quilts for five generations of the Hill Family, and in addition to many other people at the Six Nations Reservation. One way the needy were helped through the Church was by selling her quilts to raise funds or by giving them directly to those in need.

All of her quilts are hand stitched and often feature the Fan, Star, and Crazy Patterns. In her applique quilts, she also used the Clan Animals or other Indian designs. Many quilts are all wool or all cotton and are reversible. For the batting, she likes to use polyester blankets.

It was during the winter months as a young girl that she learned to make quilts from her mother. She learned to braid the wheat straw and the skill of making cornhusk mats. At the Six Nations Reservation, she is well known by many for her culinary talents.

Sister Charlotte Hill is the Matri-

arch of a very talented family. Her husband, the late Brother Fred Hill, Sr., was an accomplished wood carver. Her son, Stanley Hill, is well known as a bone carver. Her daughters make quilts, paintings, and many other things. Her granddaughters are also very talented.

Now, for her spiritual life, we could say so much in her behalf that it would take a very long time. She has been a good and faithful member of The Church of Jesus Christ for 43 years. She is head deaconess of the Mission and has served very well in her capacity. She is very hospitable, always helping the members and non-members both materially and financially. Her home has always been opened to all to feed the brothers, sisters, friends, and even the strangers. Like Sister Lillian

Beaver, the outside light of her house is always on until the brothers and sisters arrive from Detroit.

In the last 15 years the Lord has been good to her. She had a stroke, and the children wanted to take her to the hospital. She would not go, and she said to her family that her doctors were on their way and would soon be here. Brother Anthony R. Lovalvo and Brother Ralph Leet arrived very shortly after she had said this, and as soon as they walked in, she turned to her son and said, "Didn't I tell you that they would be here?" They anointed her and she was made whole. She got up and wanted to make supper for them.

Many times when she was afflicted and when the brothers prayed for her on Saturday night, we would

see her walk into the church building on Sunday for the meeting. Many times when she was visiting her children in Buffalo or Tuscarora, she would have her children drive her back to the reservation, which is approximately 65 to 80 miles, so she could attend the Church meeting and be with the saints at the Mission and then she would go back with them to their homes.

Now she wants to continue to live at her own home on the reservation because she is very ill and it is hard for her to travel. She wants to be near the Church.

The reason we are writing this tribute to Sister Hill is, like that beautiful hymn Brother Cliff Burgess would sing many times, "Give the flowers to the living, while they are still with us".

New Arrivals

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

Dennis James, Jr. to Dennis and Janet Pezzenti
Dota of Youngstown, Ohio;

Jill Jean to Samuel and Terrie Lynn Johnson, Jr. of
Sterling Heights, Michigan;

Kenneth Frank, Jr. to Kenneth and Gayle LoFrano,
Sr. of Sterling Heights, Michigan.

Annette Joyce to Larry and Rebecca A. Jackson
Wells of Kinsman, Ohio;

Christopher to Kevin and Lynn Millet of Imperial,
PA;

Rachel to Roger and Carla Buffington of Imperial,
PA;

Nathan to Daniel and Mary Lou Buffington of
Imperial, PA;

Eva Lee to Nicholas Timothy and Rebecca Ann
Tarbuk of Imperial, PA.

* WEDDINGS *

STANLEY-SANTILLI

Mr. John Stephen Stanley and Miss Terri Lynn Santilli were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, February 14, 1981 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Youngstown, Ohio.

Brother Elmer Santilli, the bride's uncle, officiated at the wedding ceremony, and he was assisted by Brother T. D. Bucci.

Mr. Bart Gensburg rendered musical selections, accompanied by Sister Betty Gennaro, organist.

May God bless the newlyweds as they begin their new life together. They will make their residence in Youngstown, Ohio.

OBITUARIES

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

JOSEPHINE TOMASELLO

Sister Josephine Tomasello left this life on January 20, 1981. A member of the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch, she was born in Italy on March 7, 1896 and was baptized on November 9, 1925.

Sister Tomasello is survived by two daughters, two sons, seven great-grandchildren, one sister and one brother.

Brothers John Ali and David Nolfi conducted the funeral service.

THELMA BUFFINGTON

Sister Thelma Buffington of the Imperial, PA Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ, passed away from this life on January 8, 1981. She was born on July 3, 1911 and was baptized on October 30, 1955.

Left to mourn Sister Buffington's loss are her husband, six children, twenty-two grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

Brother Russell Cadman officiated at the service.

G.M.B.A. CAMPOUT REGISTRATION FORM

The annual G.M.B.A. Campout at Massanetta Springs, Harrisonburg, VA. will be held from Saturday, July 4, 1981 at 1:00 P.M. to Saturday July 11, 1981 at 1:00 P.M.

Please complete this form and return it with the required payment by June 1, 1981 to Joyceann Jumper, 102 Oak Drive, Aliquippa, PA. 15001. Telephone (412) 375-3638.

Due to the limited capacity of lodging and dining at Massanetta Springs combined with the expected large turnout for this year's G.M.B.A. Camp, A LIMITED NUMBER OF REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED. The G.M.B.A. Activities Committee has empowered the registration and accommodation committees to enforce a time (June 1) or a bed number (approximately 700) limit for accepting camp registration forms, WHICHEVER LIMIT OCCURS FIRST. IN OTHER WORDS, IF THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE REQUESTING A BED ON CAMP EXCEEDS 700, OR ONCE JUNE 1, 1981 HAS PASSED, WE CANNOT ACCEPT OR PROCESS ANY MORE REGISTRATIONS! Furthermore, registration will be on a first-come, first-serve basis, GENERALLY SPEAKING. Preference will be given to those who will use the camp's dining facilities, pay their balance in full, and to those who have special needs. NO REFUNDS WILL BE MADE ONCE A SPECIFIC MEAL HAS BEEN ORDERED AND PAID FOR TO AVOID CONFUSION AND THE WASTE OF PREPARED SERVINGS.

Prices Below Include Lodging, Meals, *Insurance, & Sales Tax

| Ages | 7 Days | 6 Days | 5 Days | 4 Days | 3 Days | 2 Days | 1 Day |
|--------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 10 yrs. & up | \$84.00 | \$83.00 | \$82.00 | \$54.00 | \$44.00 | \$35.00 | \$21.00 |
| 2 to 9 Yrs. | \$42.00 | \$41.50 | \$41.00 | \$27.00 | \$22.00 | \$17.50 | \$10.50 |
| Under 2 yrs. | Free | Free | Free | Free | Free | Free | Free |

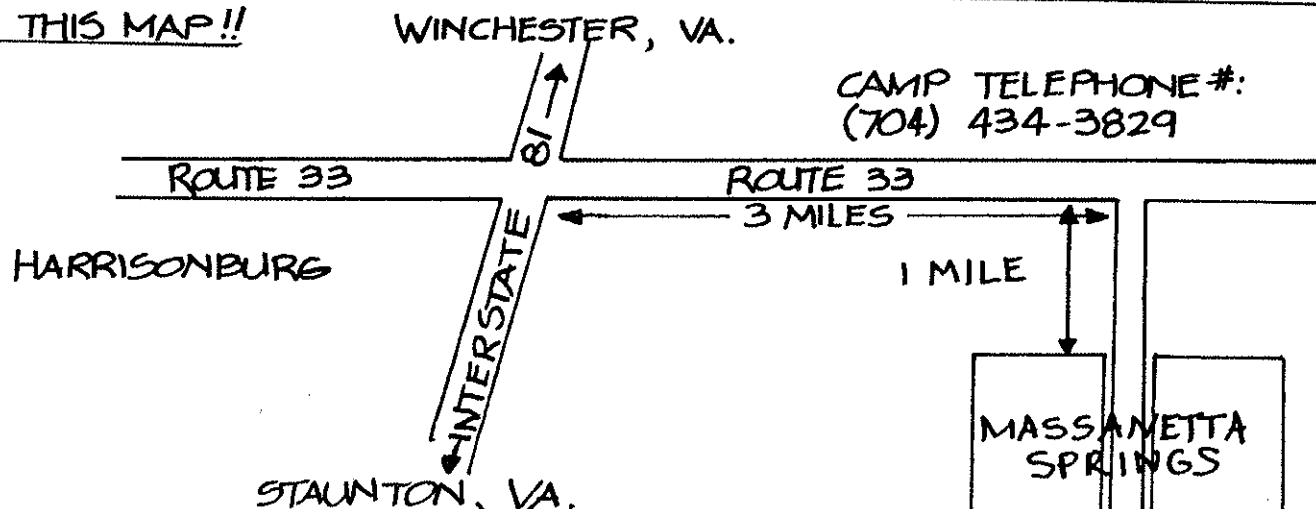
*Over 65 years and under 4 years of age not covered.

Finally, those who come to camp without having been properly registered (i.e. Walk Ons) are hereby forewarned that they should be prepared to provide their own accommodations for the week.

SONG BOOKS - \$2.00

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

SAVE THIS MAP!!



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 (Person's under 18 yrs. old) _____

List required information and Lodging Preference

| NAME | SEX | AGE | DORM | MOTEL | TENTS & TRAILER | 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 a piece equals \$_____.

Total Cost \$ _____

Total cost is payable with return of registration form. Make checks payable to "G.M.B.A. Campout '81".

REGISTRATION FORMS, ALONG WITH FULL PAYMENT, MUST BE RETURNED BY JUNE 1, 1981!

The Gospel News

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

(USPS 223-480)

May, 1981

Volume 37, No. 5

The Church Reaches India

By Mr. A. Devanandam, S. India

March, 1981

Thank God for the privilege to give my testimonies to my brothers and sisters in Christ of America.

I was born in a Christian family. My father was converted from a Hindu family and was converted from a rich, high cast Hindu family. They had many Gods and worshipped idols and spirits. My father did not like worshipping the idols. He believed that there is one God. He had a thirst to find out the true God. He began to read all the religious books, and at last he found the true God from the *Bible*. When he was reading the Gospel of John, the Lord has spoken through His words, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but by me." John 14:6

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son . . . have everlasting life." John 3:16

"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believeth on His name." John 1:12

He accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour and Lord. His heart was filled with great joy. He told about his new experience to his friends and relatives. They hated him and would not accept him in their houses. His brothers forced him to quit visiting from their houses. If he denied Christ they would give his portion of their father's property and money to him, otherwise they would not give it.

My father was in great confusion. At last after much prayer, came his decision. He has chosen the everlasting life of Jesus Christ. He lost all his wealth and his teaching position also. My father was a qualified teacher. He left his big house, and with his wife and eight children, of which I am the youngest, he moved into a small hut. It was a humble house but rich with the blessings of God.

After one year, my Hindu mother accepted Jesus as her personal Saviour. They had a strong faith in God. He prayed to God to open a way for him. One day he met a Salvation Army Missionary, and he told the man about his personal testimony and how he found Jesus and of his many persecutions. He took pity on him and took him to his home and told all about their activities among the poor peoples. They gave him an appointment in their mission field as a pastor and a teacher.

The Salvation Army gave all of the children an education. My father was very pleased. He gave thanks to God for His wonderful providence. He was dedicated to a life of working for the suffering humanity. He served as a pastor in the villages for thirty years. He won many souls for Christ. PRAISE GOD! The Salvation Army's main theme is, "Soap, Soup, Salvation". Make clean the poor souls, feed them, then lead them to the way of salvation.

When I was ten years old, my father took me to meet his brothers and his sisters in their houses. This

happened after he was converted for five years. He loved his brothers and his sisters very much. They did not like seeing us and did not want us in their houses because we were Christian. They came out to beat my father and to scold him with anger; then they shut their doors to him.

It was a hot day. I was very thirsty. My father asked them for a drink of water. They shouted and said, "It is a great sin to give water to the Christian people." And again they closed their doors to us. I cried loudly, and my father hugged me and comforted me and then we went home . . . tired, thirsty, sad and hungry.

My father never gave up. He prayed daily for the conversion of his brothers. Before he died, my father saw all of his brothers converted to Christianity. Praise God. He answered my father's prayers.

When my father became a Christian, he suffered much. There were eight of us children. He lost his family and all of his wealth. There was no where to turn for help except to God. It was hard to maintain a big family with his small income from the Salvation Army. My father always told us to be happy in the Lord always. He is the Sovereign and Almighty God. He will meet our needs. Within five years he lost four of his children. There are four of us left. I am the youngest. Three sisters and my oldest brother are gone. I have three sisters left.

One day my father and mother called me and said, "You are our only

son, and our only ambition is to make you a missionary for God's work. Therefore we dedicated you for God's work." I replied with a sad face and said, "Father we are not a rich people and we lost all our wealth for His sake. We are getting a poor salary for God's work. Now we are in a suffering stage. So, please forgive and excuse me, but I am not willing to do God's work."

My father told me and encouraged me by so many words from the *Bible* and also told me, "Our Father is rich in heaven. He never fails." Then they laid their hands on me and blessed me.

I joined the military services and served five years in the Army Medical Corps. My father died in October, 1960. After my father's death, I was released from the Army. Before his death, my father called me and gave me his *Bible* in my hand and said, "This is my treasure for you. Trust in the Lord of our Almighty and be faithful to the end." Then he blessed me. After a few hours he gave up his earthly life and was promoted to Glory. After six months, my mother died in March, 1961.

After their deaths, I had no peace of mind. I was full of confusion. In this time the Spirit of God began to work in my heart. I had a burning sensation within my heart. I began to read the *Bible* with fasting and prayer, and heard His definite call for His work. "Fear not, I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name, thou art mine. Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable and I have loved thee, therefore, will I give men for thee and people for thy life." Isaiah 43:1-4

I obeyed this call and dedicated my life for God's work. The Lord answered my parents' prayers and I followed the footsteps of my parents. From 1961-1964 I had my theological course in the Madras Bible Seminary and served as a pastor for five years. It was in the Oriental Missionary Society. In 1965 I was married, and I have three children, two boys and one girl.

In 1971, one of my friends, who is the president of the Reorganized Church in India, called upon me to serve in his church as a priest. I agreed, and I served as a priest for seven years. In March, 1971, I was waiting before the Lord with fasting

and with prayer in my heart. I saw a vision. One old man with hair and a beard appeared before me full of light. I was afraid, but He called me by name and with a smile said, "Fear not." He took me on a high mountain on the earth, and stretched forth his hand towards a valley. I saw thousands of old and young people lying on the ground, in a dying stage, as a skeleton, with hunger and with sickness and starvation. He told me with sympathy and said, "Do something for My dying children. Great is the responsibility that rests upon you." Then He disappeared. When I opened my eyes, nobody was there. I hope the Lord has revealed to me that He had another work for me to do. When I opened the *Bible* the Lord showed me Matthew 25. The Spirit of God inspired me and directed me to read verse 31 to the end of the chapter, and pointed to the 40th verse. "Verily I say unto you, in as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." I rejoiced in the Lord because I knew the Lord of God appeared before me and commanded me to do good for the suffering humanity. I didn't tell anyone about my vision, but I kept all these things and pondered them in my heart.

The next day one small boy came to my home with ragged clothes and shedding blood from his body. I came to know that he fell down from a cart and got the injuries. When I began to ask him what happened, he said that he fell down and he became unconscious. I cleansed all of his wounds and then applied medicine and bandages on all of the wounds. After he drank some hot drinks, he was alright. He began to tell me his sad story. With tears he told me that for the last three days they had had no food in their house. His father was dead, and his mother was in bed sick for three days. He had no father, and they had eight children. All of them were starving. I took pity on him and gave him some food and followed him to his home.

His mother was lying on the floor with her crying children sitting nearby. She was unconscious. My eyes filled with tears. One of the elder sons told me that they had no money to give treatment for their sick mother, and they are starving for the past three days. I immediately went home and brought them rice and gave them some money for their daily bread and gave medical treatment for their

mother. Within a few days she was alright. They were very happy and loved me so much. Glory to His name! Precious Lord and Saviour.

The Lord spoke to me through His word, James 1:27, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, **To visit the fatherless, and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.**"

I asked her to send the wounded boy with me. I assured her that I would love and keep him and protect him and feed him and that I would give him an education. She agreed. Now the boy is with me for the past ten years. His name is Pushpa Raj. He completed his Junior College and has undergone electrical courses of study and has his diploma as an electrician. He is working as an apprentice in a private factory. He is very helpful to me and sincere and honest. He accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour when he was 16 years old. He is my adopted son in Christ. Please pray for him to be used by God for His work. Thank you.

From that day onwards, I moved with the poor and the needy peoples in the villages and helped them in so many ways. I spent all of my income to the poor people. I was a great joy and happy in all my days. The Lord has spoken to me through His words. "Blessed is he that considereth the poor. The Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. The Lord will preserve him and keep him alive. And he shall be blessed upon the earth." Psalm 41:1-2

"He that hath pity upon the poor, lendeth unto the Lord and that which he hath given will he pay him again." Proverbs 19:17

In 1975, I was hungry and thirsty to find out which is the true church. Because we have many denominations in India and all over the world. I wanted to find out the truth and it was burning in my heart. I was waiting on the Lord with fasting and prayer for 21 days. I asked the Lord to reveal to me which is the true church. On the last day, I heard a voice from above which said, "The church must be one. Christ is the head of the church. It must be called in His name." My room was full of light. I talked to myself in my heart, the church must be one alright. Christ is the head of the church. It is true and

seen in the *Bible*. Ephesians 5:23. It must be called in His name. It raised a question in my heart. I was searching to find out the church called in His name.

The same week, on Sunday, after our service, one lady entered in our church with a small girl. We asked her from where she is coming and why is she in India. She smiled and said, "The Lord brought me here." And she also told us that she was going to adopt the little girl and take her to the USA. This same lady is Darlene Large. The small girl is Rajakumari.

I went with them in a rickshaw to the YWCA. Sister Darlene was staying there. We sat down on the porch and shared our personal experiences with the Lord. On the way to the YWCA in the rickshaw, I asked sister what is the name of her church. She told to me The Church of Jesus Christ. I asked if she had a photo of the church. She showed me one, and I rejoiced in the Lord and wept tears of joy. Praise God!!

At the YWCA house, we talked and rejoiced in the things of the Lord. She told me she saw a vision in 1971. I told her I too saw a vision in 1971. Praise God. He had made us to meet together with the same spirit and we knelt down and we prayed. Then she talked about The Church of Jesus Christ, which she belonged and she explained in details and she gave me a small book, the *Faith and Doctrine* of The Church of Jesus Christ.

I will never forget that when she mentioned the name of The Church of Jesus Christ in the rickshaw, I was rejoiced with great joy because the Lord has revealed to me the true church which is called in His name. Praise His Holy name. From that day onwards, I was so happy in the Lord and was keeping in touch with Sister Darlene Large. I wrote to her about my willingness to be a member of His true Church and to take baptism. She prayed with a burden for me.

In 1976, I resigned my pastoral work and did not like to participate with any other churches and decided for the moment to do His work independently. Then the Spirit of the Lord led me to Pakkom. It is one of the interior villages. I did the medical work there as well as the Gospel work. All the people are Hindus. They worship idols and spirits. The Gospel

did not reach that place every Sunday as we went to preach the Gospel in other villages also. The Hindus hated us and they stoned us and picked up our *Bibles* and tore them into pieces. In this way I lost seven *Bibles*. But we were not discouraged. If they rejected us then we preached in other villages. We sowed the seed of life over all our villages. They did not like to hear about the name of Jesus. They think He is another one of the many sons of God.

Through the medical aid, I was able to approach the high cast people and the leaders in the villages. There are no hospitals nearby, and I am a registered medical officer. The hand of God has been with my medical practice and blessed my medical practice in order to glorify His name. Everyone seems satisfied and pleased with their treatments. Glory to His Holy name.

From the beginning, they gave me a lot of trouble. They burned my *Bibles*, stoned me, and beat me. The Lord comforted me through His words. "Blessed are ye when men shall revile you and persecute you. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad for great is your reward in heaven." Matthew 5:11-12. I prayed with a burden for those who were giving me so much trouble.

The Lord brought me some of those young men for treatment. I treated them with love and kindness and good treatment. After a few days, they came to me with shame and begged me to forgive them their cruel action that they had done to me. I hugged them and told them, "Because of your ignorance, you did all those things. I still love you as my own brothers because our god is a loving and a living God. Jesus lives. Jesus loves." They were very happy and in such a way, we won so many souls for Christ.

Now we have established two churches in two villages called Thottikala and Ayalur. We named them The Church of Jesus Christ. We have regular Sunday services and conducted Sunday Schools in those two churches. Hundreds of children and many adults attended our meetings. They are all very poor but very rich in faith. On this last trip of Sister Darlene Large in September, October and November of 1980, she and her son, Brother Dirk Large, and Sister Dorothy Gandley attended one of the

churches. It was a large gathering. We built our two humble churches out of coconut leaves. The villages donated the funds and the work to have a building for sister and the others to meet in with us. It will not stand long days. God knows our hearts. Last Sunday in the Levittown church, on March 15, a sister and brother pledged the thousand dollars to build the more permanent church for us. Praise God. There are more than fifty ready for baptism.

God has blessed our HOINA work with the leprosy patients, the poor, the dying and the hungry. We watch them grow strong in mind and body and spirit and to love the Lord. They are Hindus learning the *Bible*, the word of God. Brother Paul, our Christian monk who cares for the lepers and abandoned children, loves the *Book of Mormon* also. He is a blessed man and chosen vessel for this work.

"Blessed is he that considereth the poor. The Lord will preserve him and he shall be blessed upon the earth." Psalm 41

Thank God for Sister Darlene Large. She too is a chosen vessel for this work of His in India to save the dying young souls from sickness and starvation. Please pray with a burden for her.

Glory to His wonderful name. He has blessed our work and has blessed us in our daily walk with Him.

Dear Brothers,

On this day, may you be as blessed in your fellowship with Brother Dev as I was when I met him in 1975. Each day I was given a list of things to pay. Many times I was taken advantage of, and I found my patience, strength and health and money disappearing. But then I met Brother Dev. What a blessing!

He never told me to run for the hills when I saw a leper as the others did. He never asked for any money. He only gave. He gave to the poor, the sick, the dying the hungry. He paid my way on the buses and bought my food because God had sent me, he said. I felt so safe when I met him. I thanked God. He wept when he heard that I was from The Church of Jesus Christ, the very one in the *Book of*

Mormon, the very one he had searched India for and could not find. The Sunday I met him he was fasting and praying to find this Church. He was on a five day fast and we met on the third day. Praise God! He is so happy to be here with our lovable Church. God bless you as you share together on this day.

Love in Jesus,
Sis. Darlene Large

Editor's Note:

Brother Dev is our first convert from India. During his first visit to America, he was received into the Church at the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Sam Dell and confirmed by Brother Spencer Everett on April 5, 1981.

Leaven

By The Glassport Branch

Leaven is a substance added to dough to bring about a fermentation which causes the dough to expand. When the last plague was pronounced upon Egypt, the slaying of the first born, Moses was commanded of God to institute the passover among the children of Israel. (Exodus 12) And the children of Israel went and did as the Lord had commanded Moses and Aaron. In observance of Passover, one item was that they were to use no leaven in their bread. Leaven added to dough causes it to rise when permitted to set for a period of time; but the final plague was so devastating to the Egyptians that they were urgent to have the children of Israel depart from Egypt. Thus they baked unleavened cakes of dough which they brought forth out of Egypt, for it was not leavened because they were thrust out of Egypt and could not tarry, neither had they prepared for themselves victuals.

In understanding God's word many times the natural performance of things is a type and shadow of a greater, deeper, more profound meaning of spiritual significance. The leaven used by the children of Israel was a type and shadow of the wicked ways of the Egyptians; hence the Lord when preparing the children of Israel for their departure from Egypt wanted the ways of the Egyptians removed from His people. And for a lesson to

us we see that Israel, while journeying in the wilderness, looked back and desired what they had at one time in Egypt. (Numbers 11)

Apostle Paul admonishes the Galatians (Galatians 5:9), "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump." We liken the lump unto our heart and the little leaven can be applied to either the spirit of God and its joy or the spirit of evil and its temporary pleasure.

The desire to commit sin is motivated by a lust for the pleasure sin gives to the carnal flesh. When a soul tastes the deceitful sweetness of sin-not regarding that the deed committed is the transgression of the law but is blinded because of sin's satisfying pleasure-the soul desires another taste. At the beginning the sinner finds pleasure, but after committing the sin repeatedly over a period of time, what once was the pleasure of a flaxen thread now has become a strong cord that the sinner cannot break himself. When a variety of sins are committed habitually the pleasure threads become a multitude of the chains of hell which bind a soul to the will of Satan only to be broken by the power of Jesus Christ. Thus the lump-the heart- has been leavened with a little leaven-the pleasure of sin-until the whole heart is leavened or sinful.

As the Israelites prepared unleavened bread for Passover, so also Apostle Paul's words admonish us today to "Purge out therefore the old leaven that ye may be a new lump as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us. Therefore, let us keep the feast, not with the old leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth." (I Cor. 5:7, 8)

Repentance is the only means to purge out the old leaven. The unleavened bread of sincerity and truth is that broken heart and contrite spirit that God will look to: When this is found in the heart of a sinner the power of Jesus Christ cleanses out the old leaven, the old sinful desires: By this miracle of the power of Jesus Christ to purge out the old leaven, the lump-the heart-is once again unleavened; which brings to pass the teachings of Jesus Christ saying "The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was

leavened." (St. Matt. 13:33) When we yield unto the enticings of the Holy Ghost the Spirit of God enters our heart; it as leaven begins to cause those swelling motions which are a joy within us. Now we yield ourselves to righteousness, unto holiness until this leaven of Jesus Christ has filled our soul with the everlasting joy of serving God.

Moreover, let us purge out the old leaven, not with lamb's blood but by the precious blood of Jesus Christ, whose blood is placed on the lintel posts of our heart; and let us eat the passover, not that of the lamb meat and unleavened bread and bitter herbs, but the body and blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ that when the day of the destroying angels visit the earth again we will celebrate the passover in its fulness through Jesus Christ.

Young People Ask

By John Griffith, Monongahela, PA

Dear Brother John,

I once gave a printed card of our Articles of Faith to a friend of mine. Everything was fine until I was asked where do we find references in the Bible to support our belief. I now realize how important it is to know why we believe the way we do. Can you help me with some references?

It takes time to learn all there is to know about God's Word. Don't be discouraged because you weren't completely prepared. Most individuals, if they are sincerely interested, will allow you time to get the information that is desired, so don't be hesitant to ask for that time. Here are a few references that support our Articles of Faith. Hope they help.

1. We believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost. Matt. 3:16, 17; 11:27; 17:5; 28:19; Mark 9:7; Luke 1:32; 9:35; 10:22; John 3:35; 5:22, 43; 8:16-18; 10:25, 30; 13:3; 14:26, 28; 15:26; 16:7, 28; 17:6-12, 20-22; Acts 2:36; 7:55-56; I John 5:7.

2. We believe that man will be punished for his own transgressions,

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Honoring Fathers

In last month's issue, this page was dedicated to the honor of mothers as we marked the annual observance of Mother's Day. It is a privilege to likewise dedicate this page to the honor of fathers in keeping with the time-honored annual observance of Father's Day.

Tributes to fathers, whether in song, verse or the spoken word, do not ordinarily evoke the high degree of feeling and love as those tributes offered to mothers. However, this need not diminish the degree of the honor and esteem of their children.

Surely fathers merit and deserve the love, respect and devotion of their sons and daughters to an immeasurable degree, perhaps far more than is normally accorded them.

A Father's Role

A father's responsibility for the welfare of his family holds a high place in his life. A father's special and important task as the breadwinner involves self-sacrifice, devotion and dedication. A father's desire is to display love and affection for his children at any age level. A father's most important and sacred duty is the proper and wholesome rearing of his children. A father's most awesome responsibility is to be God's representative in the home.

Father's Day serves as a time of reflections from many mirrors of the love, devotion, trust, happiness and experiences to be discovered in the unique feelings between fathers and children.

"TO MY CHILDREN"

*Almighty God grants you this wonderful life
To use in aid of His great purposes . . .
You shall not then devote your time and toil
Nor give your heart to selfish power and gain;
But, striving to attain a worthy goal,
So live, that with a retrospective gaze
Your eyes fall not upon a darkened course
Obscured by wrecks of others' joys and hopes,
But find a path made beautiful and bright
With blossoms of your love and generous aid.*

*So live, that when your final hour comes
Your anxious thought will search the bygone years
To justify your lives unto yourself.
Sad be your fate if then you learn--too late
That all of self alone must die with you;
For only what you have for others done
Will live, to mark the limits of your worth.*

John J. Burchenal

The Children's

Corner

By Jan Steinrock

Queen Esther

Dear Boys and Girls,

In these days we often fast and pray to ask God for special help in our lives. Servants of God have done this for centuries. Many years ago a faithful queen and her friends saved the lives of thousands of Jewish people by fasting and praying.

Esther was a beautiful Jewish girl who had no idea she would ever be a queen. Her parents were dead and she was raised by her older cousin, Mordecai. At that time, many Jewish people lived in the one hundred and twenty-seven countries called Persia. From India to Ethiopia, Persia was ruled by one king, King Ahasuerus.

This king decided to give a great feast lasting many weeks. One night he ordered his queen to come so the guests could see how beautiful she was. When she refused, he became so angry that he decided to replace her with a new queen. Messengers were sent throughout all of Persia to find girls that were beautiful and fair for the king to meet.

Esther was chosen to go meet the king. For one year she stayed at the palace learning all the things a queen might need to know. When it was her turn to go into the king, right away he fell in love with her above all the other young women. She was made the new queen.

Now, the king never knew Esther was a Jewish girl serving the one true God. In those days a queen and king each had their own separate parts of the palace. The king was the boss and no one could come into the inner court of his house unless they were called for. If they did, the law said that they would be put to death, unless the king



gave them permission by raising up his golden rod.

Mordecai had told Esther not to tell anyone that she was Jewish and his relative. When she wanted to talk with him, she had to send a message with one of her servants, to the place in the gates of the city where he sat and did business. One day her servants came and told her that Mordecai was outside the gates dressed in clothes that the Jews always wore when something terrible had happened. He had ashes on his head and sackcloth on. She sent her servant down to ask what the trouble was. Mordecai told her the terrible news; the king's favorite prince, Prince Haman, had talked the king into signing a law stating that in nine months all Jews throughout Persia were to be killed.

Haman did this because he hated one man who happened to be Jewish. This man was Esther's cousin, Mordecai. Prince Haman hated Mordecai because Mordecai would not bow to him every time Haman passed through the gates. Instead of just killing one man, Haman decided to kill everyone who was Mordecai's religion. That was the reason all the Jews in the city and Mordecai were dressed in clothes of sorrow.

Mordecai sent a copy of the law to Queen Esther to read. He told her she must go to the king and beg for the lives of their people. Esther told Mordecai that she had not even seen the king for thirty days and reminded him that if she broke the law and went to the king's house without being called for, she would be put to death unless the king raised his golden rod!

But Mordecai warned Esther not to think that she would escape just because she was in the king's palace, and told her that perhaps this was why the Lord had sent her to the king's palace, for just such a time as this.

Bravely, she replied, "Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in our city, and fast for me, and neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. I also and my maidens will fast too, and then will I go in unto the king, against the law. If I die, I die."

So Mordecai went his way and did what Esther had commanded him. On the third day, Esther put on her royal clothes and stood in the inner court of the king's house and the king sat upon his royal throne over against the gate of the house. When the king saw Esther standing in the court, he was pleased and held out the golden rod in his hand and said unto her, "What is your request Queen Esther? It shall be given to you, even to half of my kingdom."

Esther answered, "If the king be willing, I want the king and Haman to come today to a dinner that I made."

The king knew that Esther had invited him because she wanted to ask some favor of him. As they sat at the dinner he asked her again, and she answered, "My desire is that the king and Haman come to another dinner tomorrow, and if the king be willing, then I will tell you what it is that I would ask."

Haman went home and bragged to his wife and friends how great he was. He also saw Mordecai in the gates as he left the palace, and was so angry that Mordecai again refused to bow to him, that his wife and friends told him to just order a gallows to be built, and the next day ask the king to hang the Jew, Mordecai.

Before Haman had a chance to ask the king, it was time for him to go again to dinner. This time, when King Ahasuerus asked Queen Esther what it was that she wanted so badly that she had risked death, she spoke saying, "Oh king, if I have found favour in your sight, and if it pleases you, let my life and also the life of my people be given to me. If we were only to be sold for slaves, I wouldn't have said anything, but we are to be destroyed and slain."

Furiously, the king demanded, "Who is the man that dared to do these things?" Queen Esther answered, "Our enemy is the wicked Haman."

That day the king ordered Haman to be hung from the same gallows that Haman had planned to hang Mordecai from. Mordecai was called in before the king and Esther told the king how he had raised her and that he was her relative. The king took off his ring which he had before given to Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. Esther made Mordecai ruler over all that Haman had owned.

As Mordecai became very powerful and important in the land of Persia, many people helped the Jews. Queen Esther went in again unto the king and begged him to write a new law saying that on the day in nine months when the Jews were to be killed, instead they had permission to stand and fight for their lives against all who would harm them. The king sent the new law throughout all of Persia, and the people of God became strong and were helped by the rulers who saw how blessed they were. The Jews had joy and light and honor and gladness in those days, and to this day they still remember what happened when one brave queen and her people fasted and prayed.

MBA HIGHLIGHTS

Ohio Area Meets in New York

By Carolyn Martorana

The Ohio Area MBA is made up of Locals not only in the state of Ohio, but also in the states of Pennsylvania and New York. Many times, because of this distance involved, we do not gather with the outposts as often as we would like, but the saints of God never stop trying. And so, the Area Choir decided some time ago to visit our neighboring Locals in the North. On Saturday, March 14, a caravan of six carloads of saints and MBA members met in Erie to prepare to journey to Rochester for a week end of song and fellowship.

Saturday evening, we all met at the Rochester Branch and enjoyed

community singing, in which a good spirit prevailed. Brother Ansel D'Amico, Presiding Elder of that branch, and Brother John D'Amico, President of the local, welcomed us and turned the meeting over to the Area. The choir then sang several selections and medleys prepared for the occasion. Brother Wayne Martorana spoke next on the topic of Gideon and his army, which was repeatedly reduced to 300 men in order to show the power of God against the enemy, emphasizing that God has promised to use the Church in great works even though we are small in number.

The saints of Rochester then graced us with a few musical selections. Brother Mark Kovacic, Area President, added comments, including a dream had by a sister in Ohio some time ago in which she saw the brothers and sisters of the main body of the Area extending themselves to the saints in Rochester. It was edifying to know that the will of the Lord was enacted upon. Various testimonies and songs followed, exalting and glorifying God. After the service, we gathered for a light social to enjoy fellowship.

Sunday morning we met once again, and the spirit of singing prevailed. The day had previously been set aside as the Semi-Annual Lockport-Rochester Gathering, so we were honored with visiting saints from Lockport, including Apostle Paul D'Amico.

Following the choir, Brother Harold Burge opened the meeting on St. Matthew, Chapter 10, speaking of the commission Jesus gave the Twelve Apostles to preach to the House of Israel that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. Brother Wayne Martorana continued, adding that after Christ's resurrection, His commandment was to preach to ALL nations and baptize accordingly.

Brother Henry Berardi from Lockport then spoke on the miracles of God and the need for salvation among the souls of men, expressing a desire to continue to preach and teach. His words were very inspiring, considering that our brother is over 70 years old!

Brother Paul D'Amico then gave us a synopsis of the Restoration of the Church, using the Church History Book as his text. He noted the gift of tongues and interpretation given to

our brothers in the early Church in which the Lord commanded them to go forth to all ends of the land to preach; and since, noting the fruits of their labors, not only in the Western Hemisphere, but across the sea as well.

Brother Ansel D'Amico gave a few closing remarks, encouraging the saints and young people to be "in the world" but not "of the world", possessing above all the pure love of God.

Many good thoughts were brought forth, enabling us to ponder the Word of God while travelling home that day. We are grateful to God for a week end well spent in His service.

PA Area News

By Karen Progar

The Lord said, "For wherever two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them", yet we are still astonished by the blessings bestowed on our assemblies. On Saturday, April 4, the Pennsylvania Area MBA met for an evening of preaching, singing and testimony at the Monongahela Branch.

We began our day with choir practice and felt rewarded in our efforts to establish a choir for the Pennsylvania Area. We still welcome anyone who desires to join our group as we plan to meet on a monthly basis and will rotate practices between the northern and southern sectors.

Later that evening, our meeting was an uplift to those who were able to attend. We were truly joyful as the Lord worked through our Brother George Johnson, who spoke to us regarding the importance of young people in the Church. Brother George cited instances when God had worked through young men in history. As he reminded us of David's role and his faith in God when he met Goliath in battle, we were all able to think of many times youths have shown great faith in God. The experience of Joseph Smith was another instance which Brother Johnson chose to exemplify the ability of God to work through a young man whose desire was to learn what path he should take toward God.

Brother Jim King pointed out that

just as David, we too face many giants in life which we must overcome using the weapons God has given us. Our spiritual weapons he stated are: faith in God, belief in the Restored Gospel, belief in the Priesthood Authority of The Church of Jesus Christ and belief in the power of the prayers of the saints.

As our brother discussed each of these weapons given us by God, our hearts were filled with joy as we realized that we are prepared by the Lord to meet the giants which we encounter in our lives in the Church. It was also pointed out that we must take our beliefs and make them actions by daily living them and utilizing the things which we were taught in Church as youths.

Our meeting was then opened for singing and testimony. Many brothers and sisters spoke regarding their youth in the Church and the giants which they had faced. It was indeed good that we have the opportunity to gather together with brothers and sisters from many branches and once again be blest by the knowledge that throughout the Church we are all unified in our understanding and desires. The Lord truly uplifted our gathering and we feel very fortunate in that the Lord saw fit to be with us and provide us with His great spiritual blessings.

Come Join Us. . .

By Jim Huttenberger

The Atlantic Coast Area MBA enjoyed a very active year during 1980, with a scheduled activity almost every month.

This year, we have also scheduled many activities for the spiritual enjoyment of young and old alike. The dates and events appear below. We invite you to visit with us on these week ends so we may enjoy one another's fellowship and love.

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| May 3 | - Singspiration, Hopelawn Branch, 7:00 PM |
| May 25 | - Memorial Day Picnic |
| June 6 | - Seminar Day |
| August 21-23 | - Area Campout, Camp Towanda, Honesdale, Pennsylvania |

OUR WOMEN TODAY

Vanderbilt Circle Hosts Conference

By Mary Tamburrino, Editor

The General Ladies Uplift Circle Conference was held at Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania on March 28, 1981. The brothers and sisters present were from Windsor, Canada; Detroit, MI; Florida; Erie, Pennsylvania; Levittown, Pennsylvania; Youngstown, Ohio; a bus load from Imperial and Aliquippa, Pennsylvania and Brother Devanandam from India.

Sister Mabel Bickerton, the president, was happy to see all that was in attendance. She said that we have anchored our souls in the haven of rest as the hymn states. The sisters of the Vanderbilt Circle gave a program on the "Pure Love of God". They sang songs and read the scriptures pertaining to the same.

The minutes of the last conference held at Youngstown, Ohio were read. The roll call of officers was taken; most of the officers were present.

Brother Dick Lawson and Brother Anthony Ensana, trustees of the

General Church, asked the General Circle if they would be willing to take the responsibility of feeding the people at the auditorium during the conferences. There was a vote and the sisters voted YES.

The question, "Who was called the saint of the Lord?", was found in the *Book of Mormon*, Mosiah 3:19 and "What is the woe pronounced upon the Liar?", was found in the *Book of Mormon*, II Nephi 9:34.

Contributions were made to *The Gospel News*, Printing Fund, Africa Relief, and to the General Church Indian Missionary Fund. The Circles are to continue to send layettes. The next General Conference will be held at Detroit, Michigan on October 2, 1981. The dates for the 1982 Conference will be set, and the election of officers will be held at this conference.

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

Brother Dev, of India, expressed himself on how the love of God brought him to The Church of Jesus Christ. A good day was spent in singing, praising God and greeting one another.

Young People Ask continued.

and not for Adam's. Ezek. 18; Matt. 12:36-37; 16:27; Rom. 2:6; II Cor. 5:10; Gal. 6:7; Rev. 20:12-15.

3. We believe that through the Atonement of Jesus Christ, all people may be saved, through obedience to the ordinances of the Gospel. Isa. 53:11; Mark 16:16; John 1:29, 36; 5:26, 29; Acts 2:38; Rom. 5:18; I Cor. 15:21-22; Heb. 5:9; I John 1:7-10.

4. We believe in the principles of the Gospel as taught by the Savior, Faith in Jesus Christ, Repentance, and then baptism by immersion for the remission of sins, and the Laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost. Faith-Mark 16:16-17; John 3:14-17; Rom. 1:16, 17; 10:14-15; Heb. 11; Jas. 2:14-26. Repentance-Isa. 55:6-7; Ezek. 18; Matt. 3:1-2; 4:17; Luke 13:3, 5; Acts 2:38; 17:30; Eph. 4:24-32. Baptism-Matt. 3:6, 13-17; 28:19-20; Mark 1:5, 9-10; 16:15-16; Luke 3:3; John 3:3, 5; Acts 2:38, 41;

8:39; 19:1-5; Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12. Bestowal of Holy Ghost by Laying on of Hands-Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; Acts 2:38; 8:14-17; 19:6; Heb. 6:2.

5. We believe in Feet Washing. John 13.

6. We believe the angel has flown. Revelations 14:6-7.

7. We believe that a man must be called by God, by His Holy Spirit and by the laying on of hands by those in authority to preach the Gospel and administer in the Holy Ordinances thereof. Exo. 3:2-10; 28:1; Num. 27:18-23; Matt. 10:1; Mark 3:14; Luke 6:13; John 15:16; 17:18; Acts 13:1-4; 14:23; 20:28; Rom. 10:14-15; Gal. 1:11-12; I Tim. 2:7; Heb. 5:4, 10; I Pet. 2:5-9.

8. We believe in the same organization as was instituted by Jesus Christ, namely apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelists, etc. Matt. 18:

17; Acts 6:1-6; 14:23; 20:17, 28; I Cor. 12:28-29; Eph. 4:4-16; Philip. 1:1; Titus 1:5, 7.

9. We believe in the various gifts of the Gospel such as the gift of tongues, prophecy, revelation, visions, healing, interpretation of tongues, etc. Mark 16:17-18; Luke 10:17; John 14:12; Acts 2:17; I Cor. 2:10-11; 12:4-31; 14:1-9; I Thess. 5:19-20; Jas. 5:14-15; II Pet. 1:21.

10. We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is correctly translated, and we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God. John 5:39, 46; Luke 4:18-20; 24:27; Isa. 29:4; Ezek. 37:15-20; John 10:16.

11. We believe what God has revealed, and what He may yet reveal. We believe that He will reveal much pertaining to the building up of His Kingdom upon the earth. Joel 2:28; Amos 3:7; Mal. 3:1-4; 4:5-6; Jas. 1:5-6; Rev. 14:6-7.

12. We believe in the literal gathering of Israel, including the Ten Lost Tribes, also the Seed of Joseph (American Indian) on this land of America; and that Christ will eventually come, and reign on earth one thousand years, between the First and Second Resurrections. Gathering of Israel-Deut. 30:1-3; Isa. 5:26; 11:11-12; 54:7; Jer. 16:14-16; 23:3-4; 31:10-12; 32:37-39; Ezek. 20:34-36; Matt. 24:31; Rev. 18:4; 20:1-6.

13. We believe in, and claim the privilege of worshipping God according to the dictates of our own conscience. We concede and allow all others the same right. Matt. 5:44-48; 7:12; Mark 9:38-40; Luke 9:54-56; John 8:32-36.

14. We believe in being subject to Kings, Queens, Presidents, Rulers and Magistrates; in obeying, honoring and sustaining the Laws. Exo. 22:28; Prov. 24:21; Eccles. 8:2; 10:20; Matt. 22:15-21; Rom. 13:1-7; I Tim. 2:1-3; Titus 3:1; I Pet. 2:13-14, 17; II Pet. 2:10.

15. In conclusion, we say "whatever things are true, and honest, and just, and pure, and lovely, and of good report," we seek to uphold and maintain; for the fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance; "against such there is no law." The Apostle Paul

says to "prove all things, and hold fast to that which is good." Amen.

There are many more references that uphold the Church's beliefs. Only a few are mentioned. Search the scriptures and learn why we are The Church of Jesus Christ.

If you have a question or comment, please write. Also, share your thoughts with individuals you can trust. We share each other's burdens and learn from each other. God Bless You.

Write: Young People Ask
John Griffith
The Church of Jesus Christ
Sixth & Lincoln Sts.
Monongahela, PA 15063

Branch and Mission News

Tucson, AZ

By Paul Francione

The Tucson Branch would like to express their gratitude to all those who have visited us from various places in the district as well as the many who have been winter visitors here. We thank God for the many blessings we have shared and for the joy of fellowshiping together.

We started out 1981 with some of us going to San Carlos, AZ to attend the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Brother Emmett and Sister Evelyn Dale on January 3. It was a very happy occasion with the saints, relatives and friends present. May God continue to bless them and may their hopes for the Seed of Joseph soon be fulfilled.

During January, we enjoyed a number of wonderful meetings. We had the Ross Family, Brother August Perlioni and his wife, and the blessing, too, of quite a few of the Marinetti family, Guido and Antoinette, who are here for a couple of months, Larry, Kathleen and Anne, who are here for a few weeks. The past year had been a very trying and difficult one for Guido, who had a heart operation, and for Kathleen,

who was seriously injured in a car accident. Many beautiful testimonies followed the preaching with all expressing their thanks to God for His help during the difficult times of their trials. Larry testified that during the early days after the accident, if it was not for the word of God that sustained him, he didn't know what he would have done. Thank God for the words that were spoken, the songs, the testimonies, etc. It was just wonderful.

We enjoyed the visits of Brother George and Sister Peg Johnson, Brother George and Sister Sara Neill, Brother Barry Mazzeo and his family, Sister Cindy Everett and son, Brad, Mary Mancini of Erie, PA, and also Brother David Majoros and his family who have been a great help and blessing to us.

While we may be a small number, having lost some members to transfer, we look to the future with hope that God will not leave us alone but that He will increase us in spirit and in number.

May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your prayers, cards, etc. in my behalf. Thank God for the great improvement on my right hand. Please continue to remember me in your prayers as I still have a number of operations coming up soon. May God bless you all.

Detroit Inner-City

A new brother, Stewart Shipman, was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ at the Detroit, Michigan Inner-City Branch on Sunday, March 8. He was taken into the icy Detroit River at Belle Isle by Brother Anthony Gerace, and he was confirmed back at the church building in midtown by Brother Carl Frammolino at the Branch's feet-washing service.

The activities combined to make another memorable and glorious day in the Lord and uplifted the entire new group which has been laboring diligently to bring more souls to the knowledge of the truth.

Brother Stewart, who is 27 years old and who resides in the inner-city, hails from the Indian Reservation at Walpole Island, Ontario, Canada, a short distance north of Detroit. He is the first North American Indian man

to be baptized at the inner-city location.

He had been attending services since they have been conducted in downtown Detroit for about the last four years. Many changes have been made in his life, and his desires have been altered to where salvation is paramount in his life.

Brother Shipman had asked for his baptism the previous Wednesday evening in the midst of one of many well-attended beautiful mid-week worship services. In his request, he detailed how God had changed his life and how his perspective now focused on Christ. His words and the spirit with which he spoke them electrified the entire congregation which found it almost impossible to restrain the joy that was felt. The testimonies by those present that followed reflected the thankfulness that God was in the matter.

N. Edgecomb, ME

By Cynthia Onorato

Sunday, January 17, 1981, the Lord blessed our small mission with a new teacher, Brother Richard John Onorato, Jr.

Brother Richard's feet were washed by his father, Brother Richard Onorato, Sr., and Brother Frank Zaher, visiting from Brooklyn, ordained our brother.

The spirit of the Lord was with us that day, and we pray that this spirit will work within our brother as he takes on his new duties.

Freehold, NJ

By Linda Crudup, Branch Editor

The saints and friends of the Freehold Branch enjoyed another good day in the service of the Lord on Sunday, March 8, 1981.

They also were privileged to enjoy an extra blessing in witnessing the ordination of a new deaconess. Brother James Howard officiated in the ordination of Sister Annie Cogman to the office of deaconess.

May God bless Sister Cogman in

her new calling of service to the Church.

Windsor, Ontario

Sunday, March 29, 1981 was a day of rejoicing at the Windsor Branch in Ontario, Canada. Sister Jennifer Lobzun was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ by her father, Brother Richard Lobzun and was confirmed by her uncle, Brother Bob Stanek.

May God richly bless our new sister.

Imperial, PA

By Eva Moore, Branch Editor

We can say 1980 was a good year full of blessings and thanksgiving to our Lord. We had many fast and prayer services which brought special blessings, spiritual and natural. Our new year of 1981 had a good beginning with Apostles Russel Cadman and Frank Calabrese and Elders Frank Altamore and Wayne Martorana in our midst.

Brother Russel brought forth the message of the latter-day glory. He read out of Daniel 2. Brother Frank Calabrese continued on this subject and told us how the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands which is the kingdom of God in these the latter days. Our afternoon service was highlighted by the ordination of Brother Paul Ciotti into the office of teacher. Brother Eugene Amormino washed Brother Paul's feet and Brother Frank Calabrese ordained him into the office.

Brother Paul was instructed by Brother Russel of the seriousness of this office and all the requirements of a teacher. Such a beautiful spirit of peace enveloped the congregation, and we can say, "Thank you Lord, for the beautiful Church of Jesus Christ," which will be the bride of Christ at His coming.

Warren, OH

By Eleanor Martin and Alma Brown

Sunday, March 22, the saints of the Warren, Ohio Branch enjoyed the

fellowship of the Kinsman Branch, who worshipped with us.

Brother Jerry Giovannone welcomed our visitors, and the service was opened with hymn, *Make Me a Blessing*. The Kinsman Branch sang two hymns, *Springs of Living Water* and *My God and I*. Brother Jack Ford offered prayer and Sister Alma Molinatto was anointed for affliction.

Brother Philip Jackson spoke from Romans 13 and I Corinthians 13, expressing the love we should have for one another. Brother Jack Ford and Brother Howard Jackson continued on the subject of love, telling how Jesus taught us to love one another. Brother Jerry related the story of the love the father showed to his Prodigal Son when he returned home. The theme of the sermons was for the saints to show love in our daily lives.

During our testimony service, Sister Michele Edwards related a vision she had. A personage dressed like an Indian with a feather head-dress and a halo was standing at the side of the Priesthood.

Sacrament was passed and *Yield Not to Temptation* was used for our closing hymn. At the close of the service all the saints gathered in the church dining room where we all had dinner together as the family of God. May the Lord bless and strengthen the saints.

On Sunday, March 29, we were blessed with visitors from the Youngstown Branch and Kent Mission. The Youngstown Quartet sang many beautiful selections. Brother Henry Cardillo spoke from the Book of Ruth, Chapter 1, which relates to Naomi and Ruth's love for God and the desire to trust God in all that happened in their lives. Brother Ralph Berardino and Brother Jerry continued on the same subject.

Sisters Alma Molinatto, Elaine Willforth and Amy Giovannone were anointed.

Testimonies of praise were heard for the blessing of Jesus in their lives.

After the service, we had dinner in the church dining room. We praise God for His blessings and fellowship with our brothers and sisters.

Metuchen, NJ

Sunday, April 5, 1981 ended up being a beautiful day for the saints in the Metuchen, NJ branch. The morning service was quietly conducted with only two of our elders present, as Brother Tony Vadasz was visiting and Brother Joe Arcuri was two hours away in Bridgeton, South Jersey, holding the weekly meeting with the Seed of Joseph. However, our afternoon service was visited by Brother Joe and Sister Virginia Lovalvo from California, as well as many friends.

We enjoyed our brothers expounding the Word of God for the duration of the meeting. After communion was passed and the service was about to end, Brother Joe asked if we could spend a few minutes praising God for His goodness, since he rarely has the chance to hear our testimonies. The saints gladly obliged.

Among the testimonies, Sister Cindy Mesko stood and expressed herself on the way God called her into the Church on Sunday, October 5, 1979. She related how she struggled with the Spirit of God as it touched her when she heard her father, George (not a member of the Church to this day) bear his testimony. She said that the Lord gave her a beautiful vision that afternoon in which she saw the place where she sat covered with a bright glow. When we knelt for communion that day she rubbed her eyes expecting the glow to be gone, but it remained. She knew God was calling her and asked to be baptized

and was baptized that day by Brother Walter Cihomsky and confirmed by Brother Tony Vadasz, Sr. She finished her testimony by praising God for His goodness and constant care, and then sat down.

Her words brought tears to the eyes of her cousin, Renee Vinci Shaloo, who was once baptized but has since been undutiful for the past few years. She rose to her feet, to the surprise of her mother, Mary Vinci, and others and related, in tears, a dream that God had recently given her. On a day when she said she felt angry with the world and with God, she dreamed she was walking on a city street behind a man leading a mule carrying bread, who was walking behind her mother and aunt. The man tried to sell his bread but could find no buyers. As they all walked out of the city into the country, they came to a hill. Renee saw her mom and aunt walk over the top rim and disappear behind it. Then the man and mule followed. She felt the ground soften beneath her feet and worried about making it over the hill, so she crawled on her belly. She felt she knew that once she got to the top, the others would be waiting to help her. With a struggle, she reached it, and then awoke full of peace and joy. She knew it was time to really start working again for God, and asked to be reinstated.

She was anointed by the ministry and prayed for by Brother Joe Lovalvo. Then, before closing the meeting, the communion table was

uncovered again to give the bread and the wine to Renee. All that were present felt a wonderful blessing, and we praise God that our joy is now complete having our only undutiful member back in the fold of Christ.

Spirit

*Alive!
Yes,
He is alive—
wonderfully, vibrantly alive!
I know, for
His Spirit testifies with my
spirit
that He is alive
in me!*

Viola M. Berg



New Subscription Rate

The April 1981 General Church Conference approved a rate increase in *The Gospel News* to \$6.00 per year.

Please send your subscription in at the new rate.

The Editor

* WEDDINGS *

CARSON—MANES

Brother Steven Donald Carson and Sister Donna Jean Manes were united in marriage on Saturday, March 7, 1981 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Youngstown, Ohio.

Brother Donald Pandone, the bride's uncle, officiated at the wedding ceremony.

Musical selections were presented by Mrs. Josephine Bryan, who was accompanied by Sister Teresa Pandone.

The Carsons will be residing in Austintown, Ohio.

BERTICELLI—PERRELLO

Mr. Ralph Berticelli and Miss Elizabeth Ann

Perrello were married on August 30, 1980 in North Edgecomb, Maine by Brother Richard Onorato.

The newlyweds are making their home in North Edgecomb, Maine.

VINCI—SHALOO

Renee Gail Vinci and Robert Shaloo, Jr. were united in holy wedlock at The Church of Jesus Christ, in Metuchen, New Jersey on October 11, 1980.

Brother Saverio Risola, the bride's uncle, officiated at the wedding ceremony.

Musical selections were presented by Mary Ann Van Bree, Florence and Ken Lombardo.

The newlyweds will reside at Clarksburg, New Jersey. May God guide and richly bless them always.

New Arrivals

Congratulations are in order to the proud parents for the following new members of their families.

Joseph Anthony to Edward and Maryanne Donkin of Glassport, Pennsylvania;

Tabitha Ann to Leonard and Tammy Nardozi of Lorain, Ohio;

Anthony John to Richard John and Cynthia Marie Onorato of North Edgecomb, Maine;

Julie Ann to Roger and Marietta Schroeder of St. John, Kansas.

OBITUARIES

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

ROMUALDO (EDDIE) AMATRUDA

Brother Romualdo (Eddie) Amatruda passed away from this life on January 5, 1981. Born on December 27, 1896 and baptized into the Church on May 31, 1936, he was a member of the Brooklyn, New York Branch.

Brother Eddie is survived by his wife, Sister Minnie, one son, four daughters, eleven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Brother Frank Zaher conducted the funeral services. He was assisted by Brothers Matthew Rogolino and Dominick Rose.

Brother Amatruda was a faithful servant of the Lord for 44 years and was always ready to give a testimony to anyone he met. He will be greatly missed.

ELIZABETH ONORATO

Sister Elizabeth Onorato, a member of the Brooklyn, New York Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ, passed away on January 14, 1981. She was born on August 27, 1910 and was baptized on February 22, 1931. She was an ordained Deaconess in the Church.

The funeral services were conducted by Brother Frank Zaher.

Sister Onorato is survived by her husband, Brother John, three sons, two daughters, twelve grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Sister Elizabeth was very faithful and fulfilled her office to the very end. She always welcomed everyone into her home with great love and will be missed greatly by her family and the saints.

LOUISE BISCOTTI

Sister Louise Biscotti passed away on January 20, 1981. A member of the Bell, California Branch of the Church, she was born on March 25, 1897 and baptized on November 12, 1922 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Brother V. J. Scalise officiated at the funeral services.

Sister Biscotti is survived by her husband, Brother Louis, and four sons.

MADELINE BISCOTTI

Sister Madeline Biscotti, a member of the Bell, California Branch of the Church, passed away on March 24, 1981. She was born on April 8, 1888 and baptized on May 7, 1950.

Brother Vincent Scalise officiated at the funeral services.

Our sister is survived by four sons, five daughters, twenty-five grandchildren and forty-five great-grandchildren.

MARGARET E. (KING) JOHNSON

Sister Margaret Johnson passed away on February 6, 1981. A member of the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch of the Church, she was born on September 13, 1902 and was baptized on March 29, 1931. She was ordained a deaconess on April 10, 1932.

Brothers Emerson Fuller and Milford Eutsey, Sr. officiated at the funeral service.

Sister Johnson is survived by five sons, three daughters, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

WILLIAM WOODROW DUCKWORTH

Brother William Duckworth passed away on February 10, 1981. Born on October 23, 1914 and baptized on August 26, 1962, he was a member of the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch.

Brothers James and Lawrence King officiated at the funeral service.

Brother Duckworth is survived by his wife, three daughters and four grandsons.

The Gospel News

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

(USPS 223-480)

June, 1981

Volume 37, No. 6

The Church in Oregon

By Mark Randy, Evangelist

The strength of a minister is in his humility, and the pay of a minister is God's answer to his prayers. The happiness of a minister is the salvation of his people, the repentance of sinners, the healing of the sick, a smile in a sad face, and the comfort of a broken heart.

The reward of a minister is the glory of His God. In talking of repentance, I have been corresponding with Eugene Lassen of Portland, Oregon for several years. He used to attend our services in San Jose, California. He is the brother of Sister Tisler of Lorain, Ohio.

Matthew Picciuto drove me over to Oregon. We stopped in Chico, California where we met with Sister Dorothy Verardo, formerly of Niles, Ohio, and her two daughters and son, and we also visited Paradise, California where Sister Lavan Becker lives with her husband and daughters.

Portland is fifty miles south of Mt. St. Helens, where the volcano erupted. Some of the ashes lightly fell on my car almost unnoticed. It seems tough to wash off without hard soap.

When we visited with Eugene Lassen in May of 1980, he asked to be baptized. I baptized him on May 18 in the Clackamas River. This being the first baptism in the great state of Oregon, may many others follow. Brother Eugene was a former Reorganized Church member. The night before I left, he said to me, "I do not



know how to repay you, but I pray that God will recompence you."

Let us pray that our new brother will prove a great witness for Christ. I will never forget this baptism because as I immersed him in the rapid water, my eye glasses fell in the waters, and the floor of the river being rocky and swift, I could not find them. So I have been saying, "I left my glasses in the Clackamas River."

Recently I also received this correspondence from Sister Mabel of Portland dated March of 1981:

Dear Brother Mark,

I want to thank you for all your prayers. God has been good to us. Our hearts are with God the Father, in heaven. He will guide us, keep us strong one to another, as I have now been learning. He'll teach us also what we should know, and help us in our ups and downs.

Each day I pray for the strength to carry on that our days here on earth will be easier. I am now back to work, thanks to the Lord. It is not all healed yet, but with God's help it shall be.

With the prayers of the saints I know things will happen. We both love our Savior with all our hearts.

We would also like to see The Church of Jesus Christ come to Portland, Oregon, then we could go to Church. Any time you feel like coming to Portland, we will love to have you. We miss all of you.

We feel so much stronger knowing that your prayers are with us. Thank you Brother Mark, Sister Mary for everything. God bless you.

Brother Gene and Sister Mabel

I am grateful that I am yet able to travel. I will continue as long as my strength remains.

May the Lord grant each of you peace, and the desire of your heart be fulfilled.

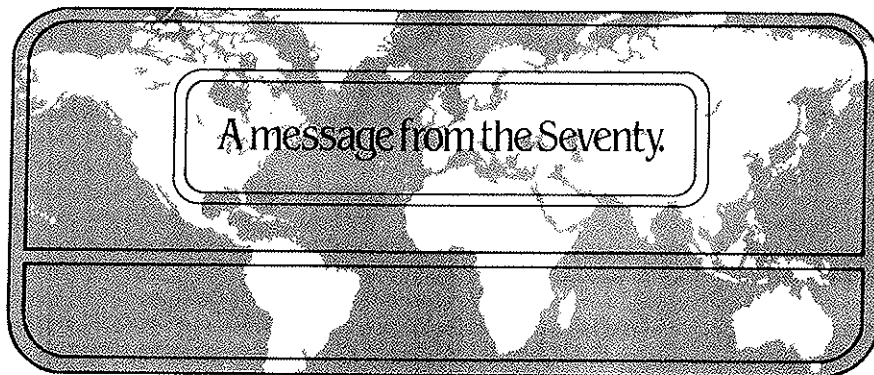
General Church Calendar

July 1981

- 3 Foreign Mission Committee Meeting
- 4-11 GMBA Campout, Massanetta Springs, Harrisonburg, VA
- 17-19 California District Conf., San Diego, CA

August 1981

- District Conferences
- 5-7 Michigan-Ontario
- 8-9 Pennsylvania
- 8-9 or
- 15-16 Arizona
- 15-16 Atlantic Coast
- 15-16 Florida



*By Quorum News Coordinator,
Paul Benyola
Quorum Writer,
Ralph Frammolino*

Brothers Joe Lovalvo, Apostle, and Rusty Heaps, Evangelist, made a "missionary evangelistic tour" of Mexico in November, 1980, baptizing six new members into the Church and ordaining six members into offices of service to God.

Writing about the trip, Brother Rusty Heaps recalled this experience:

"A few years back, a dream was given and accepted that a brother saw a man coming across an open field dressed in Mexican Indian clothing with a serape and sombrero and walking without shoes in a very grassy area heavy with dew. As the Mexican man got closer to the brother, he opened his arms and welcomed him. The open door in Mexico. And surely it has been opened and we were welcomed."

Brothers Lovalvo and Heaps started their trip in Mexicali, a "typical border town with lots of shops, bars, restaurants and a million people." There, they met Brothers Jose Maria and Eugenio Mora, Evangelist, and proceeded to the home of a man named Concha, who is related to Brother and Sister Estrada. This man opened his house, feeding the visitors and offering his beds for rest. That night, a Friday, the brothers conducted a meeting with 25 people. They continued meetings there during the next two days and then boarded a train for a 22-hour ride to Los Mochis.

In Los Mochis, Brother Joe and Brother Rusty held meetings with all the elders, teachers and deacons,

exhorting them to keep the law and order of the Church. The meeting was closed in prayer as the brothers formed a ring by holding hands.

"The power of God was made manifest and Brother Joe had an experience while he prayed that Brother Dominic Thomas (Apostle and President of the Church) was in our midst representing the Authority of the Presidency with the Apostles, Evangelists and Elders all present," Brother Rusty writes, "The glory of God was over all of us."

Thursday night, the brothers held an open-air meeting in San Ysidro, a Mexican hamlet formerly without members of the Church. The service was conducted under a palm tree branch roof, along with chickens and dogs and roosters. God's presence was felt, and the 70 people in attendance sang long into the night, and before it was over, six had called for their baptism.

Brother Joe and Brother Rusty spent Friday visiting the sick.

"In one home, we came upon a boy 18 years old who had never left the bed on which we found him. His body was all twisted and his mind was gone," wrote Brother Rusty. "We truly felt the weight of our calling in wanting the Lord to heal the boy and give the people in that area a miracle they would never forget. We poured our hearts out to God and as we did, Brother Joe and myself both had the experience that the Lord spoke to us and taught us that these things come out only after much fasting and prayer."

At the next stop, the brothers anointed six family members who had

infections of the mouth and eyes, along with other diseases. "We were total strangers to these people, but yet they put their trust in God and us and without question submitted to the hands of the ministry, being anointed with oil and not comprehending anything except they had a need," wrote Brother Rusty.

The brothers performed the six baptisms of San Ysidro the next day, Saturday. Baptized were a young married couple, a young man of 15, a young woman of 20, a woman of 86 years (Brother Chuy Saval's grandmother), and a young girl who had polio.

Brother Rusty reports that the older woman "told us that she was in very bad pain in her side and back but would still go through with the baptism. She testified that as soon as she came forth out of the water, every pain she had was all removed."

But that wasn't all.

"The young girl with polio, when hands were laid upon her for the gift of the Holy Spirit, had an open vision where she saw Christ before her," he wrote. "He spoke to her and said, 'I know it's hard for you to come to me, so I will come to you' and he came and embraced her. She testified that she felt an overpowering love."

During their visit, the brothers also visited saints in San Jose and Ahome. They ordained three deaconesses and two deacons from Ahome, and one teacher from San Jose the following Sunday. They enjoyed a wonderful spirit of preaching before a "very nice crowd."

"We can state that truly our trip to Mexico was a blessing to us and with the revelations of God that were made manifest both in dreams and visions of which I cannot at this time give all of them; that we were a blessing to Mexico and we give all the glory to God for all these wonderful blessings," wrote Brother Rusty.

The work of the Church in Mexico--which began years ago when Brother and Sister Perdue moved to Tijuana--is beginning to grow. There are two missions in Tijuana, one in Ahome, San Jose, San Ysidro, Pedranles and Mexico City. As a result of our brothers' trip, elders from the Church have been holding meetings

in Mexicali every other Sunday.

In addition, the California District has held services among the Mexican people in Santa Anna every Thursday night. Brother Rusty reports four baptisms resulting from the Santa Anna meetings.

May God continue to bless this work in Mexico and all Evangelistic efforts in the United States and foreign lands.

The Evangelists are available to present the Gospel to all who desire to hear. If you would like to know more of our belief, please contact the Quorum of Evangelists, c/o *The Gospel News*.

"It Is Written"

By V. J. Lovalvo, Apostle

Contemplating today upon the Lord Jesus Christ, I could not help but reflect upon the woman who gave birth to Him, Mary, the beloved of God. The scriptures speak so highly of her; a woman blessed indeed and favored of the Almighty. As long as the world shall exist, no one will ever forget her. The angel sent by the Lord said to her, "Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou amongst women." Mary was troubled at this angelic visit and salutation, but was comforted by him saying, "Fear not, Mary, for thou hast found favor with God." He continued, "And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shall call His name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of his father David. And He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end." While awed and humbled, she said to the Angel, "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" The Angel replied, "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee; therefore, also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God."

In the *Book of Mormon* it is written, "I saw a virgin, and she was exceedingly fair and white...a virgin, most beautiful and fair above all other virgins." Also, "Behold, the virgin

whom thou seest is the mother of the Son of God, after the manner of the flesh."

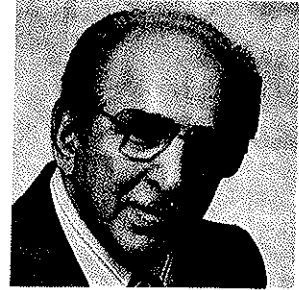
History recalls that Mary was of humble origin; an obscure peasant girl living in Nazareth twenty centuries ago. Nonetheless, her story has spread to all the ends of the earth. Poets and writers have exalted her through the ages; composers have written some of the most beautiful music in honor of her. Sadly enough though they have turned honor into worship, respect into adoration; in some respects even above the Son of God.

She was a unique and marvelous woman, perfect in the sight of God, chosen above all other women to bring forth His holy Son. The birth of Jesus is still the greatest miracle of the ages. She was the instrument to give the world a being that would bring salvation to mankind.

She must have been a very pious girl, probably more serious in her devotion to the Almighty than other girls in Nazareth. However, in her humility, no thought of being chosen of God above her peers entered her mind. Yet it was she whom the Lord looked upon with favor; the one who would give birth to His Son.

There is a strange, yet wonderful analogy in this miraculous birth of Jesus through the Virgin Mary. God created Adam from the virgin earth. Mary represents the virgin earth from which God created His Son whom the Apostle Paul calls the Second Adam, or rather the "last Adam". (I Cor. 15:45)

The story of Mary and the birth of Jesus is the most holy in the scriptures. First, the Angel appears to Mary and announces the forthcoming birth by his first words, "Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women." Secondly, the shepherds heard the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." The new star heralded His holy birth; three kings wended their way toward Bethlehem guided by the star and, reaching the manger, prostrated themselves before the new-born King of Kings, laying before Him precious gifts of Myrrh, Frankincense and Gold. What a wonderful feeling of joy must have filled the heart of Mary seeing the



homage paid to Jesus by these wise men of the East. She forgot the pain of her delivery, her ride from Nazareth to Bethlehem, the foreboding words of Simeon who after blessing God and the Child Jesus, also said, "Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also." She could only remember that in her arms she would hold the Son of God and rear Him tenderly and with a love surpassing any other love. Many times she was to recall her words of praise when she stood before her cousin Elisabeth, "My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For He hath regarded the low estate of His handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth, all generations shall call me blessed. For He that is mighty hath done to me great things; and Holy is His name. And His mercy is on them that fear Him from generation to generation. He hath shown strength with His arm; He hath scattered the proud in the imaginations of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich He hath sent empty away. He hath holpen His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy; as He spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed forever." What a beautiful song of praise.

One can only wonder at what strange yet wonderful emotions must have gone through Mary as she reared Jesus from a babe to manhood. She heard with amazement the words of Simeon when he blessed Jesus, "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against..." How many times she must have wondered at what lay in store for Jesus. Unfortunately, there is no account, except of mythical origin, of his childhood until He reached that golden age of thirty when He entered into His Ministry. The only record we

have is of His discourse with the Jewish Doctors of Law, who were amazed at His wisdom and understanding, though He was twelve years old. Mary and Joseph had gone to Jerusalem, as was their custom every year, to the feast of the Passover, and as they departed three days later, they noticed that Jesus was not with them. In their anxiety and concern, they quickly returned to Jerusalem seeking Him, when they found Him in the Temple, sitting with the Doctors, "both hearing them, and asking them questions." As a stricken mother, Mary reproached Him saying, "Son, why hast Thou thus dealt with us? Behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing." He replied, "How is it that ye sought Me? wist ye not that I must be about My Father's business?" Mary never forgot those words albeit she understood them not.

Mary's life after the birth of Jesus was not always filled with joy. Soon after the visit of the Wise Men, Joseph was warned in a dream to flee with Mary and the babe, Jesus, to Egypt; for Herod had decreed the death of every male child up to two years of age, because he had heard that a king was born in Bethlehem. Mary surely remembered their flight across steep paths to the lowlands; across the measureless desert stretched out before them until they reached the banks of the Nile in Egypt. All this time, Mary gently and carefully watched over Him whom the Lord had proclaimed would be the salvation of Israel and the world. After the death of Herod, they returned to Nazareth and from thence would go to Jerusalem yearly for the Feast of the Passover.

How really tragic it is that there is no record of Jesus' life after the episode in the Temple. Nor is there any record of Mary's life and her upbringing of Jesus until the Marriage at Cana, where seeing there was no more wine she entreated her son with the words, "They have no wine." What did she mean by these words? Were they merely an observation, or did she imply for Jesus to do something about it. Is it possible that she had seen her son perform acts of mercy and kindness of a miraculous nature from time to time? It would be wonderful to have this knowledge. Nonetheless, Jesus, feeling the hour of His missionary advent upon Him, though not quite the time for it, answered Mary, "Woman, what

Have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come." Mary, though presumably abashed, kept submissive, patient, and trustful. Her spirit must have exulted when she saw her son turn the water into wine, her son's first miracle (at least thus recorded in the Bible). From now on, it is Jesus who is in the foreground. As Mary watched the progress of her son's Mission, she began to realize that His love for the human family transcended even her very own. Her love for Him was greatly enlarged as she witnessed, or heard, His work of love among the poor, the lonely, the broken-hearted, the lame, the blind, the very sick. She knew also of those times when He was reviled and rejected, especially by the High Priests. She knew that she would have much to bear, but the promise of God was to sustain her in all of her sorrow. Even at the foot of the cross she bore the pain of seeing Him crucified with a nobility of spirit that is unsurpassed. Through the thick veil of tears streaming down her face, and with anguished eyes she heard the sweet voice of her son coming to her from the cross, from that body streaked with blood and pain; that body she had tenderly held and caressed so many times, "Woman, behold Thy son." And to the disciple, John, He said, "Behold thy Mother." In pain and anguish, He still remembered the sweet and loving woman who had borne Him and cared for Him for so many years. Were these the last words that Mary would hear from the lips of her Son? I think not. For though she was entrusted to the care of John, the beloved Apostle, she was to witness the resurrection of Jesus. Although she did not see the actual resurrection of Jesus, she heard from the Apostles and Mary Magdalene about it. There is no doubt in my mind that Mary knew of Jesus' resurrection from a divine source.

The last record of Mary is when she was with the Apostles in the Upper Room, praying with them until the Holy Ghost descended upon them. No doubt, her faith in the Almighty who had sent the angel to announce her conception was now strengthened so much more. She knew that the child she had borne was of heaven, and the divinity of Jesus was etched forever in her heart. Although the spear had pierced her heart at the crucifixion of her son with an indescribable intensity, the joy she now felt at the victory of Jesus' power over death in His glorious resurrection

superseded even the pain she had felt at the foot of the cross. And, when her earthly life was over, how tenderly He must have welcomed her at the gates of Paradise.

Wherever and whenever tragedy, anguish and suffering come to the women of every age, they will find comfort in the memory of one woman who suffered untold agony at the cruelty heaped upon her son and the final insult of crucifixion at Calvary, Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Many shall also find comfort that sufferings are only for a time on earth. In the acceptance of Jesus Christ and fulfilling His commandments, a promise is made by Him that, "In My Father's House there are many Mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."

There is no record of her death, but the record of her life, her faith, her courage, and indomitable spirit will be a criterion for all, men and women, who read of her, she whom the Lord chose to be the Mother of His Son. And, wherever the story of Jesus is told, it must needs be that the virtue, beauty, and the choice of the Almighty in the Virgin of Nazareth, Mary, will be proclaimed. For thus, it is written.

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all those who remembered me in prayer and for the many cards received during my recent illness and surgery. Without God's intervention, my illness would have become most serious. May God bless you is my prayer.

Sister Bonnie Smith

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you seems so cold to say for all the love, thoughtfulness, and kindness that has been shown me during the loss of my loved one. I am very thankful for the bond that lies

continued on page 8

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

205 Years of Freedom

Americans happily look forward to July 4, 1981 that marks the 205th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Surely, freedom-loving people the world over can appreciate our feelings of joy, as well as our gratitude to God. Many people who endured colonial rule for centuries now enjoy liberty under free and independent governments, patterned somewhat after our system.

We can rightly be proud of our heritage of independence that has endured now for over two hundred years. We are indebted to Almighty God for His divine inspiration of the Founding Fathers in their quest for liberty.

We are thrilled and moved when we read anew, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

We are stirred as we further read, "We, therefore, the REPRESENTATIVES of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the rectitude of our intentions, DO, in the Name, and by authority of the good people of these Colonies solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are and of Right ought to be FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES."

We rejoice as we read the concluding line of that eloquent and noble document, "AND for the support of the Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor."

We are amazed as we note the evident boldness and fearlessness demonstrated by John Hancock in affixing his signature in large, sprawling hand, along with the other brave signers of the Declaration of Independence.

We are moved with awe and sorrow when we think of those who bravely laid down their lives, and also many others who survived the desolation of war, fighting bravely and victoriously for the cause of freedom.

Surely, the Hand of Providence directed and supported the colonization of this land by the Pilgrim Fathers, along with others. Eventually, He inspired the Founding Fathers to declare their independence, and sustained them during the Revolutionary War.

We are moved anew with gratitude and reverence to God as we pause to observe another anniversary of our independence. We are reminded here of that noble and prayerful line from Samuel F. Smith's grand hymn, "My Country, 'Tis of Thee":

"Our Father's God! To Thee, Author of Liberty, To Thee We Sing;
Long May Our Land Be Bright With Freedom's Holy Light;
Protect Us By Thy Might, Great God, Our King."

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



The Wisdom of Solomon

Dear Girls and Boys,

For many years King David ruled the people of Israel wisely and well. Before he died, he called his son, Solomon, to him and in front of all his people prayed to God asking him to bless Solomon because as the new king, the tasks ahead of him were great. David had spent years collecting the finest treasures of gold, and bronze, silver and precious stones to be used in building a magnificent house of God to worship in. But God had told him that since he had been a man who made many wars he could not build God's holy temple. His son, a man of peace, would oversee the building of the temple.

Solomon had other troubles. His brother was trying to be put up as the new king and had gathered a group of important men on his side. But, King David told his son, Solomon, to trust in God, and that if he did, and if he walked in the ways of God, keeping His laws and commandments, God would bless him in the same ways that He had blessed King David. Then David called the high priest and the prophet, Nathan, to anoint Solomon as the new king.

When David died, King Solomon went to offer a special sacrifice to the Lord and to pray. He offered a thousand burnt offerings at the tabernacle. That night God appeared unto Solomon and said unto him, "Ask what I shall give you."

Solomon had the chance to ask God for anything he might ever want. He answered, "Oh Lord, you have showed great goodness to David, my father. You have chosen me to be the new king, but I feel like I am a little child who doesn't know how to lead your people. Who is able to judge such a huge number of people? Give

me an understanding heart to judge Thy people, that I may know what is good and what is bad."

Solomon's request pleased the Lord. He said to Solomon, "Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked for a long life for yourself, or for many riches and money, or for the lives of your enemies; but have simply asked for understanding, I will give you the wisdom you have asked for. I will give you such a wise and an understanding heart that there will never have been anyone like you before, or never will be anyone like you again. And I shall also give unto you what you have not asked for, riches, and much honor before men. If you will walk in My ways to keep My commandments, as your father, David did, then I will also give you a long life."

When Solomon awoke from his dream, he rejoiced, and offered up

Help Solomon find his way to the Temple.

even more prayers and sacrifices to the God whom he loved. Now he was ready to lead and judge the huge numbers of Israelite people. And all of Israel heard of the judgments which the king judged, and they feared and obeyed the king to whom God had given wisdom.

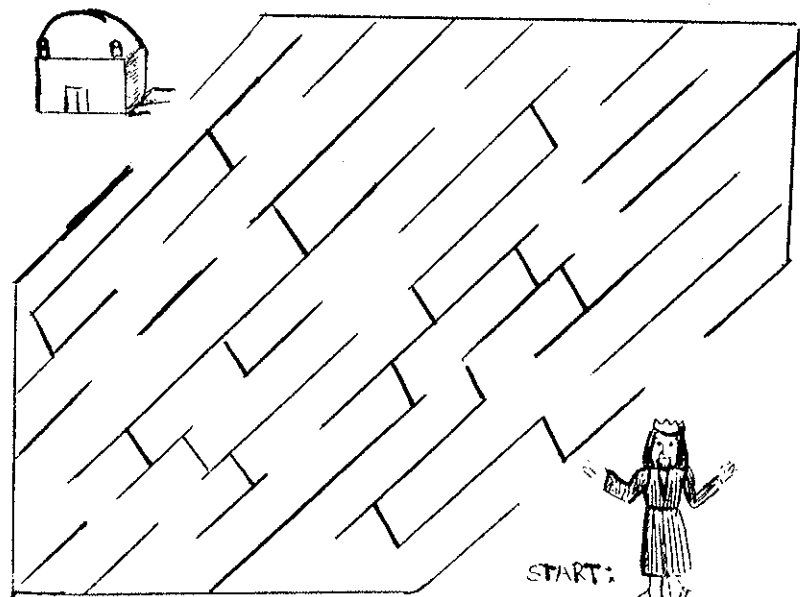
Sincerely,
Sister Jan

THINK ABOUT IT

1. What does it mean to walk in the ways of the Lord? How can you today walk in the ways of the Lord?
2. If God gave you any wish you wanted, what would you ask for?

Help Solomon find his way to the Temple.

START:



MBA HIGHLIGHTS

Detroit, Branch 2 Holds Social Ethnic Night

By Carmen Buffa, Editor

On Friday, April 3, 1981, Detroit Branch No. 2's MBA Local had an open house social ethnic night. It was a very enjoyable evening. We had visitors from the other Michigan-Ontario Locals, as well as friends and families of the brothers and sisters.

We began with community singing, followed by the young teenagers performing a skit. The young people portrayed characters in the *Book of Mormon*. To compliment our teenagers, I must say, "They did a fine job!"

After closing in prayer, we assembled in the addition of our building, where the sisters and friends made ethnic desserts of their different nationalities. There were

chocolate eclairs, Easter bread, hill-billy cake, Italian pizzelles, and many more tempting desserts. One of the desserts was Chinese fortune cookies in which the sister inserted slips of paper with phrases from the song, *Come and Dine*.

To end the evening, the brothers and sisters who had a fortune cookie sang, *Come and Dine*.

PA Area MBA Seminar Day

By Karen Progar, PA Area Editor

Brothers, sisters and friends from many branches gathered together on May 9 in Aliquippa for the annual Pennsylvania Area MBA Seminar Day. The day's topic was Communication with God.

Our brothers who taught brought out many examples of how prayers were answered, and the testimony of many of these answered prayers were

shared in our various classes. Brother Russel Cadman asked the adult class to pray for our new Brother Dev who has a great work to do in India. Brother Dev's testimony was discussed by several of the groups, since his dramatic conversion to the Gospel was a direct result of his prayers to the Lord.

In our morning classes we discussed how and why we pray. Many of the classes referred to the hymn, *Prayer Is the Soul's Sincere Desire*, and were schooled in how the Lord knows our hearts and our needs. After breaking for a potluck luncheon, we returned to our various groups and discussed how God communicates with us. We found that along with the direct means of dreams, visions or voices, often the words to a hymn or the message of a sermon can communicate God's will to His people.

The Area is grateful to those on the seminar committee, the seminar instructors, the sisters who helped in the kitchen and all those whose attendance made the day successful.

Young People Ask

By John Griffith

Dear Brother John,

Recently I saw a film entitled, "In Search of Historic Jesus." In it a statement was made that there are eighteen years of Jesus' life that are not recorded in the Bible. I've tried to find more information, but couldn't. Do we have any record that covers this period?

Thanks for your question. There are interesting bits of information that we can obtain from documentaries such as the one you described. One does have to be careful with the facts presented because it is a film, and at times facts are sometimes broadened or changed somewhat to get the right effect on the screen. It's good to check these "facts" out to be sure.

The question in point is correct in that there was a period in the life of Christ that is not covered in the Bible. In Luke 3, the baptism of Jesus is given. In Verse 23 the age of Christ is

stated at about thirty years. This gives us the understanding that Christ was baptized at this age.

If we go back to Chapter 2, we read how Jesus, at the age of twelve, sat in the midst of the doctors in the temple during the passover feast discussing philosophies with them, and they were astonished. See Verses 41-52.

The eighteen years mentioned in the film were the years between twelve and thirty.

In Verse 52 of the same chapter, it states that He increased in wisdom and stature. During this period of time Jesus remained with his family in Nazareth. He, therefore, was subject to his parents as any child would be. He probably worked along with his father at times, learning the skills of a carpenter. We could say that Jesus at this time set an example for children to follow; to be dutiful, obedient, and loving toward parents. Though he was full of wisdom and strong in the spirit, he still respected his parents.

Although his mother at times did not understand his sayings, I am sure she remembered them. She, along with his father, knew that Jesus was special.

During this time he grew in stature as any young person would do. His body and mind matured into manhood. His soul and spiritual mind grew in spiritual wisdom and understanding. No doubt His spiritual gifts were perfected within Him. As He increased in this wisdom, He also increased in favor with God. The image of God became more and more perfected in Him.

And don't forget the important work of John the Baptist that was to precede the baptism of Jesus.

The time period in history was during the reign of Augustus Caesar and the reign of Tiberius Caesar, the third of twelve Caesars, in or shortly before his fifteenth year as Roman emperor.

Your question was very good and important. I hope I've helped. Also

please recognize how important this growth period of Christ's life was to Him. It was and is just as important as this time of your life should be to you. The time of living is very important to each of us. Use it wisely and mature into the beautiful creation that God intended.

If you have a question or comment, please write. Also, share your thoughts with individuals you can trust. We share each other's burdens and learn from each other. God Bless You.

Write: Young People Ask
John Griffith
The Church of Jesus Christ
Sixth and Lincoln Sts.
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Note of Thanks continued

between the saints in this beautiful Church of Jesus Christ.

Our friendship is a priceless gift that cannot be bought or sold. Its value is far greater than a mountain made of gold. And although a time comes when we must say good-bye, faith, hope and trust can never never die. God bless you all for your love and concern.

Sister Josephine Campagna

60 Years

By Eileen Katsaras, Miami, Florida



May 1, 1981 Brother Nick Ritz celebrated his 60th year in The Church of Jesus Christ. He was baptized in Pennsylvania. He lived 45 years in Youngstown, Ohio and now resides in Miami, Florida. In his testimony he says the knowledge of the Restored Gospel gives him deep faith and trust in the Word of God. In

his past experiences and crises he has benefited, without disappointment, by depending on Christ and His law.

"The Gospel teaches me to love everybody. The hope and expectation of the good things, concerning the building of Zion, keeps me peaceful and happy. Praise the Lord!" says Brother Ritz.

Sister Pauline Ritz celebrates her 58th year in the Church the end of May.

On July 4, 1981 they will celebrate their 55th marriage anniversary, and we all hope to see them at camp in Massanetta Springs where we can congratulate them.

50th Anniversary



Brother Eugene and Sister Betty Perri of the Lake Worth, Florida Branch observed their 50th Wedding Anniversary on November 27, 1980.

Before moving to Florida, they were members of the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch. Brother Eugene and Sister Betty were united in marriage by Brother Joseph Corrado November 27, 1930.

Many of the Lake Worth brothers and sisters and young people came to the home of Brother Eugene Perri, Jr. to share and make this a very special day.

As an added memory for Brother Eugene and Sister Betty, it was the first time in a number of years that their children, Joseph, Eugene, Jr. and Lydia were together.

We want to thank all our brothers and sisters who shared this special day by sending cards. May God grant Brother Eugene and Sister Betty many more happy years together.

Branch and Mission

—News—

Sterling, MI

By Hazel Zoltek, Branch Editor

Sunday, March 8, 1981. A special prayer meeting was called at 8:00 AM this morning for God's blessing upon our service today. Many beautiful prayers were heard for the sick and for the unbaptized and for those who have drifted away from the Church, as well as for the visitors that would be with us today.

We were honored with many visitors from the Ohio District. Brother Lou Vitto stated that God's Spirit prevailed in this room today, and that we could truly feel that "Sweet, Sweet, Spirit."

The Champine Brothers sang, *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*.

Brother Frank Altomare opened our meeting. Brother Altomare said we come here to bring joy and peace for our soul. We came into the Gospel for healing of the soul. God will bring joy into our homes when we accept Him; without Him we can do nothing. We can trust and lean on His everlasting arms. Our friends might be true to us for a time, then leave us. When we become a friend of Jesus Christ, He will never leave us. God can do all things; let us thank God that we have that shelter in the time of storms. Who is it that comforts us when we need it? Only our Lord, Jesus Christ. How many times has He given us strength. He has mercy on us. How good it is to know that when a loved one passes away, that person is at rest with Christ.

Brother Frank said that yesterday he was meditating, and he heard a voice speak, "When Jesus heals". He read III Nephi 17 about healing and about faith. He said that wherever we go in this Church, we hear our brothers and sisters tell their experiences. Many reject God even when they are given signs. When the great destruction fell upon the earth at Christ's crucifixion, they cried out for help. Christ only spared those who were righteous on this land. God will

work with man when they become meek and humble before Him. We have to become sincere in The Church of Jesus Christ. We have to have faith. We have to have "works for the Lord". The world watches every step we take; some think we are foolish, but we are blessed by God. How great will be our punishment if we know to do good and do it not.

Brother Lou said that we must look to God, He who will heal our illnesses if we but have faith. Sin is our worst illness; it is a healing of our spiritual body, a cleansing of the temple that we need.

Brother Lou said, "Today, we are going to ordain Brother Claude Champine as a deacon." He read the duties of a deacon. He said that the elders of the Church prayed that God would reveal to them the person to be ordained.

Many beautiful dreams and experiences were related by the ministry, and several brothers and sisters pertaining to the calling of Brother Claude Champine into the office of a deacon.

Brother Frank Lombardi, a deacon from Branch 1, knelt before Brother Claude and washed his feet. He was seen in a dream performing this act by Sister Rose Palacios of Lorain, Ohio Branch, prior to the ordination; Sister Rose had never met Brother Frank Lombardi.

We sang, *Ye Who Are Called to Labor*, and the elders formed a circle about our Brother Claude while Brother John Buffa prayed that God would direct the hands that were to ordain him. Brother Sam DiFalco then ordained our brother.

Brother Claude gave his testimony saying, "If only he could serve the Lord with all his strength." He said that when Brother Lou asked him to assist Brother Frank DiDonato in a feet washing service prior to his calling, he then felt the calling as he wept on the shoulder of Brother Lou Vitto. He said, "Lord, if this is just my foolishness, my vanity, take it away." He also stated that when the elders came to his home, God's Spirit was present, and that he was filled with joy.

We then sang, *To the Work*, and were dismissed. Our prayers are that God will truly bless our brother and

his family in his calling.

Evening Service

We enjoyed some beautiful singing. Once again, many visitors were with us. Brother Lou said that the meeting tonight would be turned over to the congregation to praise God in song or in testimony.

Brother Lou read from I John 4 and elaborated on the portion, "greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world." He talked of the healing of the heart when Christ came to dwell therein; how at one time we all had heart trouble, until the Lord gave us a new one. Speaking for all the elders he said, "We love God with all our hearts."

Are you going to be able to bring a soul to Christ? The happiness that we find in the world is of a short duration, but the joy that we find in the Church, we will come back again and again to get more of it.

Many beautiful testimonies were heard, many experiences related, much praise was given to our Lord.

Brother Jerry Benyola then felt the Spirit of God upon him. He said God wants to operate tonight and there were people present who had blockages. The blockage is pride. These people won't consent to the operation. Brother Jerry then said, "You must open the door."

Our day was surely spent in the presence of the Lord, receiving of His glorious blessings. Brother Lou concluded our day, leaving us with the Lord's telephone number, which is Isaiah 65:24. The verse reads, "And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear."

Lorain, OH

By Renee Alessio

On March 20 and 21, 1981, the General Church Mission Board met in Lorain, Ohio to discuss the missionary progress of last year and future. Some of the visiting brothers remained and worshipped with us on Sunday.

Brother Dwayne Jordon was our first speaker, and he read excerpts from Alma 8. He alluded to the lives

of Alma, Amulek, and the four sons of Mosiah, and how his desire was the same as these men. Brother Dwayne also related some experiences that happened to him in his involvement with the Indian people. In one experience, God had provided over twenty thousand pounds of food and clothing to be distributed among His covenant people. A truck was donated and a man had volunteered to drive the goods to the reservation. A free will offering was collected during a church meeting to purchase gas for the truck. They collected three hundred dollars more than was needed, and this surplus was used to purchase a tractor for the Navajo people.

He also related about the time two Indian men tried to have him killed by enlisting the help of witch doctors. The two witch doctors who tried their magic realized that they themselves would be destroyed should they complete the death ceremony. One of the men approached Brother Dwayne and asked him what was the source of his great power which proved greater than theirs. This was evidence that God performs great miracles today even as he did during the *Book of Mormon* and *Bible* times.

Brother Rich Scaglione spoke next and related some recent experiences which happened among the Indian people in Pittsburgh. He told of how two Indian women tried to discontinue the church meetings that they were holding with the Indian people. Twice they were successful in causing the brothers to seek an alternate meeting place. After the second time, another Indian woman provided her home as a meeting place for the brothers and the other Indian people. Brother Rich also related how one Indian man claimed that he was divinely inspired of God as to the meaning of some of the scriptures in the *Bible*. His interpretations turned out to be in contradiction with Church doctrine. He challenged the brothers on their views of certain scriptures. The brothers defended our doctrine according to the written word of God in the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon*. The man later apologized for his actions.

Brother Jim Campbell expressed himself, explaining how he and his wife were of different religions and how they compromised by attending both churches. Sister Campbell, seeing the pride of the people in her husband's church, realized that she could not attend his church any

longer. Brother Campbell attended a few weeks longer and became dissatisfied during a Sunday School Service when the people began to discuss worldly subjects. They both attended The Church of Jesus Christ after that incident and were baptized three years later.

Brother Rocco Biscotti briefly expressed himself in testimony and was later used of God to speak in the Gift of Tongues while he was anointing a sister. Brother Chuck Naro was given the interpretation, "I am the Redeemer of Israel."

The Lord blessed our elders with liberty in speaking and in praying when they anointed the sick. We went home thanking God for the experiences we had heard, and for the blessings we felt that day.

Gastonia, NC

On Sunday, April 5, 1981, brothers, sisters and friends met at the home of Brother Bob and Sister Esther Dyer to hold the monthly meeting of the saints living in the Carolinas. Being quite some distance from the body of the Church, the members in this part of the country anxiously await the first Sunday of every month, as this has been designated as their meeting day.



Others visiting were Brother Jonathan and Sister Pam Molinatto of Herndon, Virginia and Brother Ken and Sister Sharon Staley of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania.

Brother Jonathan Molinatto, of Bryson City, North Carolina, opened the morning service. He spoke of how the Gospel was restored, about the pertinence of the House of Israel, and of how God's grace has allowed even us to be a part of this great plan.

Brother Bob Dyer, an ordained teacher in The Church of Jesus Christ, expressed himself concerning the impact of the Restoration in our lives. He also thanked God for the wondrous ways in which the Lord has recently moved in the lives of various members of his family. His and other testimonies were offered up as praise to God for the countless blessings received in His service. The Spirit of God was surely evident in our meeting, as even our visiting non-members were prompted to express their thanks to God for having sent the Gospel their way.

We enjoyed partaking of the Lord's Supper and thank our Heavenly Father for extending to us another portion of His Holy Spirit.

Continue to remember our small group in your prayers. We had seventeen people present for this particular service, indeed an increase from our original group. Brother and Sister Nathan Peterkin and family of Spartanburg, South Carolina were unable to meet with us, as Sister Peterkin was being released from the hospital after recovering from a recent fall.

We can say that we thoroughly enjoy the fellowship of the saints and, with great anticipation, are looking forward to seeing you all at the GMBA Campout in Harrisonburg, Virginia in July!

Lake Worth, FL

On December 13, brothers, sisters and friends from Miami, Broward and Lake Worth, gathered at the Mediana Home for the Aged to sing Christmas Carols. About 35 sang to those who were able to leave their rooms, in the main auditorium, and were allowed to visit with them and talk for a while.

The administrator of the home then permitted us to walk through the halls and sing to the bedridden.

Afterwards, we gathered at the Lake Worth Branch to feast on a variety of dishes prepared by the sisters.

It always makes us feel good to bring some joy to those who are lonely. Surely the night was a blessing to all who participated.

Tampa, FL

By Pearl Zinzi

On Sunday, February 22, 1981, we had the pleasure of Apostle Nick Pietrangelo and his wife, Yolanda, visiting with us.

Brother Nick opened the services this day by reading I Corinthians 13, which speaks about having charity. Brother Nick extolled the virtues of charity and that if we did not have it in our hearts, that even though we may speak as angels and have the faith to remove mountains, we are nothing before the eyes of God. He strongly expressed the view that if we have charity, which is the love of God, we have the blessings and gifts from God. His first commandment is that we must first love God above all others to find grace. Brother Nick's sermon was very inspiring and fulfilling, and we all were very much uplifted. Brother Duane Lowe, our Presiding Elder, then closed the meeting giving praise and glory to God for the wonderful words of Brother Nick, and then invited all to stay and fellowship together in our newly constructed room as a covered dish was brought by all.

Other visitors at our Branch were Brother Eddie and Sister Mary Pastore from New Brunswick, NJ, and Brother Sam and Sister Rose Risola from the Metuchen, NJ Branch. They were a great inspiration to us all and a vote of thanks was given to Brother Eddie and Brother Sam for their assistance on the addition to our Church.

We also do not want to forget the visit of Brother Michaelangelo and Sister Angelina Gioia from Detroit, Michigan, Branch 1, who uplifted us greatly with their testimonies and have brought great joy to us as their name implies.

On March 29, 1981, we had the pleasure of witnessing the baptism of Brother Howard Eugene Noble. Brother Duane Lowe officiated at the baptism, and the day was cloudy and sunless; but when they were walking into the water, the sun began to shine very brightly and continued to do so until the baptism was performed.

The confirmation was performed by Brother Billy Tucker, and while this was being done, we all formed a

circle around Brother Howard, who was very touched by this, as we all were feeling the Spirit of God there.

After the confirmation, Brother Domenick Risola gave a beautiful rendition of *He Touched Me*.

Brother Howard lives in Lakeland, Florida and was introduced to our Church by Sister Josephine Gordoski. Also visiting us this day was Sister Hazel Zoltek from Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch. Pray for us here at Tampa that God will bless us all with His great love, peace and unity.

San Carlos, AZ

By Sara Vancik

On Sunday, May 3, 1981, with many visitors in our midst from all the branches in Arizona, our service was opened with Brother Claude Kayson leading the congregation in singing. After the sacrament table was set by Sister Paulette Griffith, Brother Dennis Calabrese sang, *Take My Life and Let It Be*. Brother Herbert Hemmings offered prayer, and the hymn, *Hark the Voice of Jesus Calling*, was sung.

Brother Steve Saffron read from Isaiah 6 and spoke of Isaiah's calling from God and the willingness in his answer, "Here am I, Lord, send me". To be used as an instrument in the hands of God, we must do as He commissioned His disciples to "go and tell". He will bless us if we take His hand and work with Him. The Good Shepherd has His arms outstretched and is calling for laborers in His vineyard. His voice was heard throughout this part of the land. Today is the day of salvation. Can you hear the Shepherd calling?

The congregation sang, *Calling the Prodigal*. Brother Isaac Smith spoke likening the prodigal son to the House of Israel-the Church as the son who stayed home and did the bidding of the father. Israel has spent all they had. God has prepared the table and there is enough for all Israel. Now they must come to the feast of good things which has been prepared for those who will love and serve God. There is room for all in the vineyard of the Lord.

Following the congregation singing, *Blessed Assurance*, Brother Dennis Calabrese spoke of the bless-

ing of being called into the service of the Lord and the challenge he has felt in ministering among the Navajo Indians.

Ye Who Are Called to Labor was sung, and Brother Bob Watson spoke of his calling into the Ministry. He compared the natural calling into some work and responsibilities involved, to a spiritual calling, God showing the greatness of this calling for God wants a person with whom He can work, and filled with the Holy Spirit. God sees something in us that man can't see. One thing He sees is our dedication. When God speaks to men, their lives are transformed from fishermen to fishers of men. These men became witnesses and were sent out into the world to preach the Gospel. When a man goes out in the work of the Lord, he must be called of God to bring forth the fruit which God has promised to bless him with. He concluded his talk with the thought that a man called of God for work in His vineyard will answer to God for his ministry here on earth.

Sacrament was administered by Brothers Dick Christman and Bob Watson, after which Sister Pat Christman sang, *So Send I You*.

Two ordinations followed. Brother Joseph Griffith's feet were washed by Brother Ether Furnier, and he was then ordained into the Ministry by Brother Claude Kayson.

Sister Isadora Kayson's feet were washed by Sister Paulette Griffith, and she was then ordained as a deaconess by Brother Dick Christman.

We all felt the blessings of God in the service this morning and thank God for sending more laborers into the vineyard here at the Mission on the San Carlos Indian Reservation.

In conclusion, Brother Dick Christman spoke a few words of encouragement to the Sunday School teachers who have taken upon them the responsibility of teaching the children about Christ and His Gospel.

McKees Rocks, PA

By Martha Laird, Branch Editor

"The Lord shall reign forever, even thy God, O Zion, unto all generations. Praise Ye the Lord."

Brother George Johnson, Sr., wife, Sister Margaret and Sister Ruth Kirschner came to visit McKees Rocks Branch one Sunday. Our brother, having vision of latter-day glory, the Kingdom of God here on earth, did strengthen the saints in faith and hope. He explained the dream the king had years ago and Daniel's interpretation of the dream.

Brother Walter Cihomsky from NJ came to our branch on Wednesday evening before Conference. He brought to our minds of Jesus and His sufferings. The experiences which he related made us to know the great mercy and love our Saviour has. Brother Cihomsky was delivered from death and many dangers of temporal and spiritual natures. We were admonished to prove faithful to our calling into the Church.

Easter Sabbath was a lovely day in the service of God. Sunday School was open for song, testimony, or reading as the Spirit of God directed. Brother Nick Liberto from California with his Sister Carmella, our sister too, came to our branch along with children of the saints and their families. Panfilo Di Cenzo sang *Thou Mighty to Save*. The chorus reads, "And Oh, when my course is finished, And the victor's palm I wave, To Thee will I give the glory, O Thou who art mighty to save, To Thee will I give the glory, O thou who art mighty to save."

Brother Dick Lawson read and expounded Mark 15:37-39. We sang, *Christ Arose*.

Brother John Manes told us how the people chose a thief to be set free instead of Jesus. It was necessary for Jesus to be crucified. His resurrection brings a hope in this life and the life to come when we depart from this mortal body. What a terrible thing to be without hope.

Brother John explained how we mortals have opportunity now to make preparation to be with Jesus Christ for eternity. When Jesus went into heaven He sent the Comforter. It was dark for three days and nights at the time of the crucifixion here in the Americas. How much God loves was emphasized. In the afternoon meeting, Brother Dan Casasanta related how good it is to have this hope that goes beyond the grave. He mentioned that for sure Jesus' love is sweeter as the years go by. May God bless one and all.

* **WEDDINGS** *

OBRADOVICH—ROSS

Brother Douglas Scott Obradovich and Sister Candace Joy Ross were united in marriage on Saturday, April 25, 1981 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Aliquippa, PA.

Brother Paul Palmieri, the bride's uncle, officiated at the wedding ceremony, and he was assisted by Brother Thomas Ross, also the bride's uncle.

Musical selections were presented by a trio of Brothers Ryan Ross, John Mark D'Antonio and Pete Giannetti, Jr. Soloist, Brother Ken Staley, was accompanied by the organist, Sister Sharon Staley.

The newlyweds are residing in Palm Springs, Florida and attend the Lake Worth Branch of the Church. May God richly bless them in their new journey in life.

RODRIGUEZ—WILDER

Mr. Roman Rodriguez and Miss Belinda Wilder were united in holy matrimony on the evening of March 20, 1981 in Tampa, Florida.

Brother Billy Tucker officiated at the wedding ceremony. Musical selections were rendered by Miss Timms.

May God bless the newlyweds as they begin their new life together.

New Arrivals

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

Isaac Duane to Isaac and Sandy Lowe Smith of Tampa, Florida;

Tony Terrell to James E. and Barbara Williams of Quincy, Florida;

Roy Allen to Armand and Marie Hotte of Windsor, Ontario, Canada;

Candace Beth to Michael and Kathleen Cook of Sterling Heights, Michigan.

Child Blessed

Cal Evans Hartley, son of Claude C. and Francine H. Hartley, was blessed on December 9, 1980 by Brother Earl DeMarrias, Sr. in Wakpala, South Dakota.

OBITUARIES

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

JAMES CAMPAGNA

Brother James Campagna, a member of The Church of Jesus Christ in Fort Pierce, Florida, passed away on February 26, 1981. He was baptized into the Church in Detroit, Michigan on June 25, 1939 and was transferred to Fort Pierce from the Sterling Heights Branch in June of 1975.

Brother Charles Smith conducted the funeral services.

Brother Campagna is survived by his wife, Sister Josephine, one daughter, two sons, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

RUTH B. VIVIAN

Ruth B. Vivian passed away from this life on March 16, 1981. Born on April 2, 1911, she was the mother-in-law of Sister Gail Vivian of the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch of the Church.

Brother Louis Vitto officiated at the funeral services.

ELLIOTT BERARDINO

Mr. Elliott Berardino left this life on April 14, 1981. Born on May 12, 1922, he attended The Church of Jesus Christ in Youngstown, Ohio.

Brother Anthony Corrado conducted the funeral services, and he was assisted by Brother Henry Cardillo.

Mr. Berardino is survived by his wife, Rosalind, one stepson, one stepdaughter, three brothers, six sisters and two grandchildren.

ALMA MOLINATTO

Sister Alma Molinatto, a member of the Warren, Ohio Branch of the Church, passed away on April 20, 1981. She was baptized into the Church on September 10, 1967.

Left to mourn her loss are her husband, Brother Pete Molinatto, four children, seven stepchildren and many grandchildren.

Brother Jerry Giovannone conducted the funeral services.

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"It Is Written"

By V. J. Lovalvo, Apostle

SUBJECT: The Mysterious Prophet

He came out from among the Lamanites. Yet, no one knows from whence he came nor where he returned. It is written only that he came into the land of Zarahemla, a city abounding in wickedness and evil, to preach repentance and deliver the word of the Lord unto them. His only introduction of himself was, "I am Samuel, a Lamanite." And with that, he began to speak to them concerning their sin and wickedness. The question that certainly was uppermost in the minds of the masses was, "Who sent this brazen man among us, to upbraid us and predict our destruction?" He answered them by saying, "The Lord has sent me, and He has put it in my heart to tell you that the sword of justice hangs over this people and nothing can save them except repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ."

Here was indeed a man who was unknown among the Nephites yet was able to preach to them with an assurance that amazed them; with an eloquence that had not been heard except by the prophets of old. He opened his mouth, and from his lips there poured out knowledge and wisdom such as seldom was heard before. From whence came all this knowledge? He answered that by saying, "The Lord has given this to me. He has put it in my heart. Also an Angel of the Lord has declared it unto me." And like all men from the beginning of time who, when they



receive the word of the Lord in their hearts and souls cannot contain it within themselves but must tell others so, Samuel, the Lamanite prophet, came to the city of Zarahemla. One thing, and only one thing brought him to that city, the Word of the Lord that was put in his heart. "Go to the city of Zarahemla," was the commandment, "and preach repentance to that people. Tell them of the impending destruction that must befall them if they do not turn from their wicked ways." Thus, armed with the Word of God, Samuel made his way to Zarahemla.

They rejected him and would not allow him to enter the city. So, he climbed upon the wall and preached the Word of the Lord. They shot arrows at him, threw stones at him, but the Spirit of God surrounded him like a shield so that nothing could hit him. They attempted to kill this mysterious stranger who witnessed against their wickedness; who told them of the coming of Christ, of His death and resurrection. But, God delivered him from all attacks, from stones and arrows. And, when he was finished with his messages, he re-

turned from whence he had come, to be heard of no more. Let us see what this wonderful, mysterious man spoke to them; what wondrous things he brought to their knowledge and what terrible destruction he prophesied should come upon them because of their iniquity.

1. The sword of God's justice hung over them. That, "four hundred years pass not away save the sword of justice falleth upon this people"; that, "nothing could save them except repentance and faith on the Lord Jesus Christ." This was the word of the Lord to them, "Because of the hardness of the people of the Nephites, except they repent, I will take away My word from them, and I will withdraw My spirit from them, and I will suffer them no longer, and I will turn the hearts of their brethren against them." Samuel told them that those of the fourth generation who would be living would see the destruction of the Nephites at the hands of their brethren, the Lamanites. However, in the tender mercies of the Lord, a way was given for their escape from utter desolation and destruction. It was simply "repentance and Faith on the Lord Jesus Christ." History proved that the Nephites did not repent and their utter destruction on the Hill Cumorah did take place.

Samuel predicted the fall of all the Nephite cities because of their wickedness and pride. He told them that their lands and their treasures, their riches and their possessions were cursed because their hearts were set upon them instead of God and His word. He pronounced a woe upon them because they cast out the

prophets from among them, mocked them, and threw stones at them, and also killed them. At the same time, while they were doing all this evil to the prophets, they were telling themselves that if they had been in the days of their forefathers, they would not have slain the prophets as their fathers did. What hypocrisy. They were doing the same thing to their own prophets and, as Samuel told them, "Ye are worse than they."

So great was the iniquity among the Nephites that even the very land was cursed. Samuel told them that when they would lay down their tools, their swords, or even their riches, they would not find them anymore. And still, they would not repent. Mankind can indulge in sin and transgression so much that no place of repentance can be found in their hearts. Good is considered evil, unrighteousness is considered righteousness, pride is considered humility, and the word of God is considered fable. The hearts of the people of Zarahemla were so steeped in sin that the words of Samuel made no mark upon them, but rather they hardened themselves against them to the end that they tried to kill that wonderful man of God.

2. Samuel predicts the coming of Jesus Christ-The prophet told the people of Zarahemla that Jesus Christ, the Son of God would come into the world to redeem mankind from their fallen state. He gave them a sign of His birth. There would be great lights in heaven so that the night before His birth there would be no darkness. There would be one day and a night and a day as though it were one continuous day. Nonetheless, the sun would rise and set as usual, letting them know that two nights and a day had passed. He also told them that a new star would be seen, such as never had been seen before. He told them that other great signs and wonders would be seen in heaven that would overcome them.

This man of mystery, shouting from the top of the walls, told them that the Lord had sent him to preach repentance and faith on His Son. However, they reviled him because he was a Lamanite and he had spoken the words of the Lord against them. But, though they sought to kill him, they could not because the protection of God's Holy Spirit was upon him. Their arrows and their stones were deflected by the Spirit of the Lord.

And on the walls of the city this mighty man of God, who arrived mysteriously and left the same way, spoke to them of the coming of Jesus Christ upon whom they could rely for their salvation if they only repented and cast their faith upon the Son of God. But rather than repenting, they hardened their hearts against the man of God and against the Lord.

3. The sign of the death of Jesus Christ-After that the prophet had told them of the coming of the Lord, that it would be five years from then, he also told them of His death. He told them that the reason for His death was to bring about the resurrection of the dead. They had no understanding of the hereafter, nor what happened after death. Samuel told them that on the day Jesus would be crucified, the sun would be darkened and refuse to give its light. So also the moon and the stars would refuse to give their light. There would be three days of darkness upon the land until He arose from the dead. There would be earthquakes, lightnings, mountains would be leveled, valleys would become mountains, and many cities would become desolate.

4. The resurrection of Jesus Christ-Samuel told the people of Zarahemla that Christ would arise from the dead so that the bands of death would be broken; that mankind could rise from the grave and stand before God in an immortal state; that without the resurrection of Jesus Christ the grave would hold the bodies of mankind forever. He also told them that the graves of many of the righteous saints would be opened and they would be seen by others.

All this, and much more did this mysterious prophet reveal unto them. All they had to do to escape the imminent destruction was to repent, and to believe on the Son of God. But, as is common among mankind, when the heart is set upon the temporal things of this life and not upon the Lord, it becomes very difficult to forsake sin and transgression. Rather, the word of God merely hardens their hearts and makes them like stone. As water melts sugar and also hardens steel, so is the word of God. It can soften the heart or it can turn it into stone. It depends on the person who is listening to the word of the Lord. It is not God that either softens or hardens the heart, it is the person himself who does it. If the heart of man is set upon riches, pride, and the pleasures of the

flesh, then the word of God cannot reach him. But, if a person, though he is in sin, though he is indulging in the pleasures of the flesh, will just listen to the word of God with the least bit of sincerity, chances are very good that his heart will be touched and softened. Therein lies the secret of it all. Listen to the word of God and let it begin to grow in the breast like a good seed that is sown in the earth. It will bring results of a beneficent nature.

Samuel expounded to the people of Zarahemla of the Lamanites, who though they were in sin and transgression and ripe for destruction, were saved through the preaching of the Nephites. He told them how many of the Lamanites had buried their arms of war and had promised never to take them up again against their brethren; that they would rather be slain than lift up their swords to protect themselves. And all this because of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The prophet began to plead with them to do likewise, repent and have faith in Jesus Christ. But to no avail, did his words affect them. Although he predicted that in four hundred years they would be destroyed, that their children and families would be desolate, they steeled themselves against Samuel until he fled from among them.

Who was this man of mystery? We can only read and surmise by his own words. He said he was a Lamanite, one of the many who had been converted by the preaching of the Nephites. In all likelihood, he was a descendant of those who had been converted by the sons of Mosiah and Alma when they went to the land where the Lamanites dwelt. Nevertheless, he was a thoroughly dedicated man who obeyed the word of the Lord and traveled to the city of Zarahemla to give them the message of salvation. After several days of preaching, he was ready to return to his native land because of the rejection by the people; but the Lord commanded him to return to the city of Zarahemla and, there, standing on the walls of the city with arrows and stones assailing him, he delivered the word of the Lord until he was finished with the commandment that God had given him to do.

Are we not living in a similar condition today? Is not this world in the same position that was evident in Zarahemla? Is not sin and transgression rampant as was in that city in the

days of Samuel? The answer is an obvious YES. Then who shall declare the word of the Lord to this generation? It must be the men who have taken upon themselves the Holy Priesthood after the order of the Son of God. The commandment to preach repentance and faith on the Lord was again given in these latter days. The responsibility and commission to go to the Seed of Joseph is also given to the Ministry. The commandment to go to the Gentiles is given now as in the days of the Restoration of the Gospel. There can be no rest for the Ministry in the dispatching of their duties, nor of every single member of the Church. Now is the time for the latter-day Samuels to stand on the walls of Zarahemla (every city, every town and village) and declare the word of the Lord. Arrows will be shot at us and stones hurled at us but, as was with Samuel, the Spirit of God will be our shield and buckler. And His word shall be like a two-edged sword, cutting through the bone and marrow of sin and transgression. So it is written.

Religion in My Life

By Rita Ross

I see religion as the service and worship of God, a devotion of faith and observance. Religion is my life. It has made me a woman, a wife, a mother, a sister, and a friend. It is what my life is all about.

I was seven years old when I first felt the Spirit of the Lord and I made my own personal commitment to the Lord to serve Him and keep His commandments. I asked the Lord to direct my life and if it be His will to even provide a husband for me that would share the same love I had for Him. I did not come from a particularly religious family but for me it was already important to project to my future life as being centered around a shared spiritual life. I was impressed by the great Israelite leader, Joshua, when he exhorted the House of Israel, "to fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and truth and if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose ye this day whom ye will serve; ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15

Through my teen years whenever I dated, it always concerned me to

learn what religious convictions my date had for himself. Although I never forgot my commitment, my own Church attendance slacked off when I started to feel a frustration in trying to mature in my relationship with the Lord and find the answers to many questions regarding the doctrine of the church I was sent to from birth. It was not until I was 19 that I met a group of people who did not only attend services but actually lead a Godly life and put their religion and faith to work-a life following the word of God and living a life in His service. It was not just a different religion from what I was raised in, but a different life. It was a life that exhibited a love for one another that I had never experienced and taught a doctrine of Christ so plain and simple based on the *Bible* and the *Book of Mormon*. This is how I felt inspired life should be when I was just seven years old.

The Church changed my life insofar as it gave me an understanding as to why I was here and what was expected of me in this life and what I could look forward to in the hereafter. I embraced this Gospel 18 months later and my life is all the better for it. After 15 years I can say that I have grown spiritually in an understanding and knowledge of the Scriptures and have developed a wonderful personal relationship with the Lord. The people I have come to know throughout the country from my involvement with various Church related activities have become like a family to me. The bond of love we feel for one another and the emotional support we share has been a tremendous source of strength in time of need, sickness or sorrow. The Church is an enormous source of comfort spiritually through the Scriptures and emotionally through the sensitivity of the members one for another. Life does have its disappointments but we learn to look beyond and take it to the Lord. The Church does form a social cement in the community by teaching a loving way of life. When one is enveloped in a spirit of love you cannot do anything that will harm someone else. This spirit is nurtured through prayer and studying the Scriptures. It provides a certain atmosphere and role models in which relationships develop and establish behavior. Keeping oneself busy doing good, helping and caring for others leaves no place for hatred or evil. Auxiliary organizations such as ladies circle, youth and men's groups rein-

force the beliefs and values taught through Church service and Sunday School. The commemoration of the Last Supper through the sacrament of Bread and Wine gives the members a spiritual and yet very visual connection with the Lord. While personal testimony and fellowship gives individual identity. The various stages of life--birth, adulthood, marriage and death take on new meaning through the understanding of the Gospel. The Church clarifies a Divine Plan for mankind and gives purpose to our human existence and thus gives us a hope for a life to come. Death no longer is the end but rather a beginning.

As in many other instances, I find the authors of our text very misleading in the analysis of various religions. I will not attempt to define a right or wrong religion, but will clarify the fellowship of which I am a part. Membership is exclusive in as much as you are not born into our faith but are converted. We are not controlled but rather directed. Although our concerns are with religious values, there is no withdrawal from society. There is a genuine concern for our fellow being. We earnestly seek spiritual perfection because of the Lord's commandment, "be ye, therefore, perfect, even as your Father which is in Heaven is perfect." Matt. 5:48

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want..." Psalms 23

Be Thankful and Remember God's Goodness

By David Nolfi

Throughout the scriptures it is found that those who will love and serve God will benefit both naturally and spiritually in this life; this according to God's promises unto man. Because we answered the calling of God to be his children the Lord extends the blessings of his grace unto us more than parents can love their child.

The Lord has provided a monetary income for us that enables the saints to purchase any goods their heart desires. The medical profession offers

to us the greatest advancements in the healing arts since time began. We can be schooled in any profession by the best colleges and universities. We have the freedom of traveling about in the convenience of cars, buses and trains; the ability to travel great distances in very short amounts of time by planes for spiritual, business or recreational purposes. The best of any foods is available to us, either in markets or restaurants, in limitless quantities. The security and comforts of owning our own homes to relax in peace and quiet, never suffering from cold or heat, sleeping in the warmth and relaxation of a bed, having the convenience of electricity to assist us in a variety of ways which lifts the drudgery of life's labors to a level of ease, liberty to decorate our surroundings to satisfy our taste, running water to quench our thirst and provide our sanitary needs, wardrobes of clothes to beautify our appearance, cosmetics to enhance our beauty, gold, silver, and precious gems to ornament ourselves, pleasures, pastimes, hobbies and recreations to enjoy our spare time to the fullest.

Yes, we have been abundantly blest by God. We see fulfilled in our lives Matthew 6:31, 32: "Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek;) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things!" We the saints of God have received these natural blessings because of God's mercy and our obedience to the words recorded in Matthew 6:33: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these shall be added unto you." Yes, because we have received from the Lord an hundred fold: Notwithstanding we must be mindful that the blessings of such prosperity can be the very cause of us to fall from God's grace. Our desire to fulfill our natural wants to meet our own personal satisfaction, whether job or home or car or vacation or appearance or whatever, can be a great stumbling block. We must know and realize that this great nation we live in has, because of the evils of prosperity, forgotten God. We must strive to continue to seek the kingdom of God. Can we say today that our spiritual prosperity has equaled our natural wealth? Do we want this or that to add to our natural life or do we

plead for greater spiritual blessings? Are we willing to spend our goods to guide a lost soul to Christ?

The *Book of Mormon* plainly and clearly describes the condition that has taken this nation and even us at present. Read Helaman 12. Let us be filled with thanksgiving for all our natural substance and let us be willing to spend our goods in striving for the spiritual abundance that God wants to bless us with. All that we possess is God's.

**THE EYE HATH NEVER SEEN,
NEITHER HATH THE EAR HEARD,
BEFORE, SO GREAT AND MAR-
VELOUS THINGS AS WE SAW AND
HEARD JESUS SPEAK UNTO THE
FATHER. III Nephi 17:16**

This is morning as I read these words; the beauty and wonder of them left me with a great sense of awe that words can be uttered so great beyond our sense of understanding.

The next verse states, "And no tongue can speak, neither can there be written by any man, neither can the hearts of men conceive so great and marvelous things as we both saw and heard Jesus speak; and no one can conceive of the joy which filled our souls at the time we heard him pray for us unto the Father."

O the joy in knowing Jesus. How great it must have been to see the Son of God kneeling and hear Him praying for them. He who read those words only wishes that he could have been there to kiss His feet and bathe them with their tears. Whoever reads inwardly utters, "Why couldn't I have been there?"

But remember only the more righteous were there. Only those who repented before that terrible day when cities were buried or burned by that great destruction. Those who must have accepted the prophets and no one laughed at or rejected them.

There are many things about this scripture that I marvel over. The placing of the events from the storm and earthquake to the darkness that you could feel, to the crying, "O that we had repented before this great and terrible day and then would our brethren have been spared. A voice crying, "Wo, wo, wo unto this people,

wo unto the inhabitants of the whole earth except they shall repent; for the devil laugheth, and his angels rejoice because of the slain of the fair son and daughters of my people."

Finally the words, "O ye people of these great cities which have fallen-how oft have I gathered you as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings and have nourished you, but you would not."

When the elder speaks to us of His words, does he not gather us as a hen gathers her chickens? In a prayer meeting when we kneel, do we not gather under His wing? On a weekday meeting when His word is spoken, is He trying to gather us?

ATTENTION

The General Church Library has been moved from Monongahela, PA to the General Church Print House in Bridgewater, MI. Any requests for literature should be forwarded to the following address:

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The price of The Gospel News subscription has been increased to \$6.00. This increase was necessary to cover the added costs in printing materials and mailing.

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Prove All Things

By William H. Cadman

(Reprinted - August 1958)

"PROVE ALL THINGS" - I Thessalonians 5:21

It has always been my contention that the spiritual man should be found among the broad minded men of all time. Men who are broad enough to know that they cannot depart from the simplicity of the teachings of the Master and at the same time keep their feet on the narrow path that leads to Eternal life--men who are not only broad in their mind, but wise enough to know the necessity of proving before condemning and having courage enough to choose the good and shun or discard the evil, letting the consequences be what they may. To me the all-important thing is, not to confuse the good with evil.

Good and Evil

I read in the *Book of Mormon* (Omni 1:25) as follows: "There is nothing which is good save it comes from the Lord: and that which is evil cometh from the devil." Hence the word of God is the "Yardstick" for us to use. In I John 4:1, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." I heard Brother Cherry once say, that there was a bug for everything. It matters not what you may be interested in, in the way of vegetation, there is an insect to destroy it. Likewise, it makes no difference what your chief interest may be in your spiritual life, there is a spirit ready to deceive you if possible; and as I have sometimes expressed myself, that as long as I am in this tabernacle of clay, it is possible for me to be deceived and led astray into things that I might be much interested in, and find myself too narrow in the mind to keep my feet on the narrow way, unable in my prejudiced mind to separate the good from the bad. Jesus answered His tempter, "It is written."

Sign-Board to Heaven

In my younger life I used to hear commonly that the word of God was a sign-board from earth to heaven. The word of God points out the way from earth to heaven, that is one of the reasons the word of God has been preserved--that the commands or direction of the All Wise Creator might be preserved, that all creatures might be able to travel the road to eternal bliss. If the minds of men are so narrow or prejudiced that they cannot obey the admonition of the man Paul by proving all things, and holding fast to the good, separating the good from the bad, it would seem to me, to be one of the signs that does not direct us to heaven. The command of our Saviour is, to be wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



The Wisdom of Solomon

Dear Girls and Boys,

We learned last month how King Solomon was anointed by the prophet, Nathan, to be the next ruler and judge of the Israelite people. Solomon's father, King David, gave his son the best advice possible; he told Solomon to trust in God, and God would guide him through all the troubles he would ever have.

Solomon went to God, offered up one thousand burnt offerings and prayed to God. In a dream, God came to Solomon and asked him what he wanted from God. Solomon answered that he wanted God to give him a wise and understanding heart so he would be able to lead and judge his people. God was very pleased by this request. He told Solomon that He would also give him riches, and honor, and a long life if only Solomon continued to serve Him.

Now, in the land of Israel at that time, there were small courts to handle ruling the everyday needs of the people. Only the most difficult cases were ever brought before the King.

One day, two women who lived together in the same house came to King Solomon and stood before him. One of them spoke to the king saying, "O my Lord, this woman and I live in one house, and each of us had a new baby. This woman's baby died in the night, and she rose up at midnight, while I was asleep and took my son from me and hid him in her bed, then laid her dead child in my bed. When I woke in the morning to feed my child,

it was dead, but when I looked upon it, I saw it was not my child."

But the other woman argued and said, "No, but the living baby is my son, and the dead one is her son."

There was nobody else in the house to be a witness for either woman. How would you decide who the real mother was if you were King Solomon?

Solomon called out to his guards, "Bring me a sword!" And they brought a sword to the king. He ordered, "Cut the living child in half and give one half to one and the other half to the other."

Then the real mother of the child, because she loved the baby and wanted it to live no matter what, cried out and said, "O my lord, give her the living child and don't kill it for any reason!"

But the other, who pretended to be the little baby's mother, said, "Yes. Cut it in two!"

Then King Solomon answered and said, "Give the living child to the woman who would not have us kill him. She is the true mother of the child." With his wisdom, he understood that the real mother would want the baby to live whatever happened.

And all of the people of Israel heard of the judgment which the king had judged, and they feared the king; and they served him because they saw that God had given him wisdom to judge fairly.

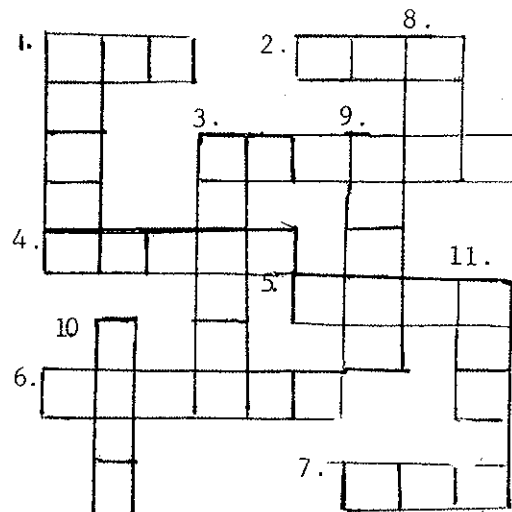
DOWN:

1. Solomon ordered a _____ to be brought to him.
3. Another word meaning riches.
8. How many women came for judgment?
9. Solomon's father was named _____.
10. The women were fighting over a _____.
11. The King told his _____ to bring a sword.

ACROSS:

1. Solomon was David's _____.
2. Solomon ordered the baby to be _____ in half.
3. Solomon prayed and asked for _____.
4. God answered Solomon in a _____.
5. Solomon was chosen as the next _____.
6. _____ was the prophet who anointed Solomon.
7. Solomon was picked by _____ to be king.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan



MBA Highlights

Miami MBA News

By Eileen Katsaras

The Miami, Florida MBA visited the Miami Museum of Science and Planetarium. First, we all went out to dinner together, then we took a tour of our museum.

We have a new section of the museum where exhibitions of real ancient artifacts are displayed on the life of the Lamanites and Nephites. They have an institute that studies about the Lamanites called the Mayan Institute.

We enjoyed our evening out together. We also were happy to have visiting us Brother George Arthur from Nigeria who attends college at Daytona Beach. He traveled by bus 350 miles to visit us.



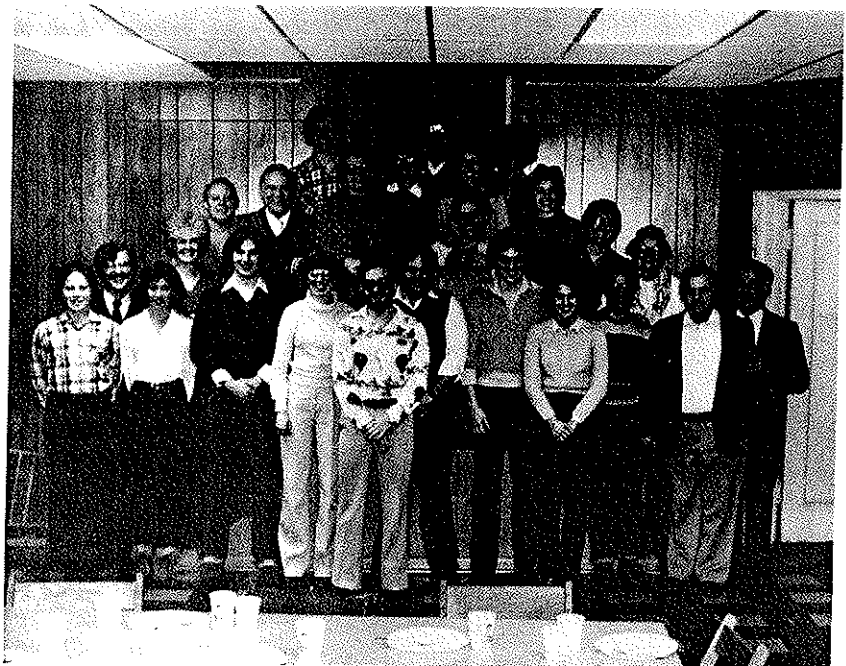
News from Detroit Branch 3 Local

Branch Editor, Joyce Trovarelli, informed me in an article that the members at the Branch 3 local have been enjoying a spirit of enthusiasm and active participation in MBA activities. Recently, several people met at the home of Brother Gary Coppa to make arts and crafts to be sold to raise funds for the local. Their efforts resulted in a collection of nearly \$300.00.

On another occasion, the local held a social honoring some of the newest branch members: Sister Tammy Aichinger and Brother Roy Verstrate; and welcoming home Michael Pastorelli, who had returned from Navy service in Hawaii (where he has been stationed for the last four years, poor guy). Sister Dorothy Pastorelli made a special cake in their honor.

Future plans include another crafts sale as well as other social activities in the coming summer.

Picture of group at the evening social. (Missing is photographer, Kathy Pastorelli.)



Young People Ask

By John Griffith

Dear Brother John,

I have heard it said by individuals not of our faith that our ministers are "lay ministers" because they have not graduated from seminary schools. Are they "lay ministers"?

The Priesthood of The Church of Jesus Christ are men called of God to carry the Gospel of Jesus Christ to whomever will accept it.

The education one can receive from various schools of higher education is very important to one's future. All are encouraged to secure professional training especially in their areas of interest. We are speaking naturally.

Spiritually, it is very important likewise to learn and understand as best as possible the Word of God. We are told in the scriptures to "study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." II Timothy 2:15

Receiving a diploma is an attainment of the natural world. Being a minister of the Church requires Divine authority; therefore, men must be called of God.

We, The Church of Jesus Christ, can only refer to the Word of God to substantiate our belief. Out of necessity, we recognize that to speak with Divine authority, one must be called of God, the giver of that authority.

During the Mosaic dispensation of time, God chose individuals by direct communication with them. Refer to the callings of Noah (Gen. 6:13), Abraham (Gen. 12:1 - 15:7 - 17:1-8), Isaac (Gen. 26:2-5), Jacob (Gen. 28:10-15), Moses (Exodus 3:6-16), Aaron (Exodus 28:1), Joshua (Num. 27:18-22, Deut. 34:9). We can go on and on to prove that God chose the individuals to whom authority would be given.

You may also wish to refer to scriptures that show instances of punishment applied to those who presumed this authority. See Numbers 16, I Chron. 13:10, I Samuel 18:5-14, and II Chron. 26.

Today we recognize that same authority is given of God through His Son and our Savior Jesus Christ, Who established the Gospel of Jesus Christ on earth.

Again, with Christ, men were called of God to serve as the ministry of His Church. **Apostles were called**, "and when it was day, he called unto him his disciples and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles." Luke 6:13 Refer also to Matthew 10:1, Mark 3:14.

Evangelists or the Seventy were called. "After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come." Luke 10:1 Also see verse 17.

Elders were called. "And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed." Acts

14:23 Scriptures prove that when Christ was not in their midst, the apostles still relied on the Spirit of God to show them who was chosen to be ordained of God.

The Church still relies on that same Spirit, that God would choose His ministry. The Word of God is the same today as it was in the days of old. "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you." John 15:16

And so, is our ministry a lay ministry? **NO**. The ministry of The Church of Jesus Christ is comprised of individuals, chosen of God to perform a duty for Him. They are a holy priesthood (I Peter 2:5) and a royal priesthood (I Peter 2:9).

Ask our ministers of their callings.

On this subject also refer to Matthew 16:19, 28:19; John 20:21-23; Acts 1:21-26, 6:5, 13:1; Romans 10:14; I Timothy 2:7.

If you have a question or comment, please write. Also, share your thoughts with individuals you can trust. We share each other's burdens and learn from each other. God Bless You.

Write: Young People Ask

John Griffith

The Church of Jesus Christ
Sixth and Lincoln Sts.

Monongahela, PA 15063

Branch and Mission News

Cleveland, OH

By Margaret Abbott

On Easter Sunday, April 19, 1981, we enjoyed the visit of Brother and Sister Perlioni from Arizona. We, of Cleveland, enjoyed many years of fellowship with them before their move to Arizona. We look forward to their visits every year. Our prayer is that the Lord keeps them in good health that they may continue to visit with us and many other branches.

On April 26, 1981, Brothers Bill

Hufnagle and Bill Prentice were ordained elders.

Our branch was honored by many visitors from Cleveland West Side Mission, Perry, Lorain, Kent, and Niles, Ohio, also Erie, Monongahela, PA and Detroit Michigan.

We received a letter from Brother Oliver Lloyd, our elderly Presiding Elder of the Kent, Ohio Mission, who is very ill and requests the prayers of all the saints.

The morning service was very

heart warming, and the presence of the Lord was felt by all.

Brother Norman Campetelli opened the service with the theme of prayer; how to pray, the meaning of prayer. Brother Elmer Santilli continued that we should be aggressive in our service to God.

Brother Ron Genaro spoke of a whispered prayer and the answer to our prayers. Brother Mario Milano continued on how the impossible is made possible through prayers.

Brother Burge of Erie, PA, closed the morning service in prayer, and we adjourned to the basement for a light lunch. A delightful time was had socializing with the brothers and sisters. At this time, the Sunday School presented Sister Kim Alaburda with a leather bound Bible. Sister Kim will go to Red Lake, Arizona to work among the Indians for some time. Our prayers for our young sister is that the Lord will protect and guide her in the work she will do. We will miss her, and the very young will miss their Sunday School teacher.

The afternoon service began with community singing led by Brother Ron Dziak of Lorain, Ohio, who also directed the wonderful voices of the young people in some very inspiring hymns.

Brother Bob Nicklow, of Monongahela, PA, opened the service in prayer and spoke on the power of prayer. Brother Rocco Biscotti spoke on the meaning of being an elder and the responsibilities placed upon him. The wives must help and inspire the young elder, and he must be an example to the flock. Brother Mario Milano washed the feet of Brother Bill Prentice. He was ordained by Brother Tony Corrado. Brother Vince Gibson washed the feet of Brother Bill Hufnagle, and he was ordained by Brother Rocco Biscotti. We, of Cleveland, feel very humble to the Lord for blessing us with two new elders. We have been praying constantly for a blessing such as this for many years, and the Lord surely answered our prayers.

Many testimonies were given, and the anointings were like showers of blessings to us who remained in our seats. We felt the hands of the Lord touch us. Our new elders expressed themselves in humbleness and the love they felt. They ask that everyone remember them in prayer that the Lord will guide them in the work He has for them to do.

It was a wonderful feeling to see so many elders, apostles, and evangelists all seated together in our small building. Brother Tony Corrado spoke of how our new elders will need the support, love and respect of all of us, especially in our prayers.

We joined hands as we sang, *'Til We Meet Again*. Brother Vince Gibson closed a wonderful day in prayer.

We sincerely ask our brothers, sisters and friends to please come back again. Remember the elderly and ill of our branch in prayer, and also pray for the young that they may be humble and aggressive in their service unto the Lord. The answer to all our needs is only in sincere prayer. God bless everyone.

Niles, OH

We of the Niles, Ohio Branch, welcomed a visit from our dear Brother Tony Ensana from Florida and Brother Richard Santilli from the Youngstown Branch.

Brother Richard opened speaking on the kingdoms which have passed away and failed. He spoke of our promise to God and His promise of a place in His eternal kingdom.

Brother Tony continued, speaking of our promise to God and advised us to take the things of God more seriously. He exhorted us to be more righteous. He said that if his life should be taken, he would rejoice in knowing that he had obtained and kept the hope and faith in the kingdom which is yet to come upon the face of the earth. He said that all other kingdoms have failed, but assured us that our God's would not. God has truly taken care of Brother Tony, and he is well. We thank God for our visitors and the encouragement they have given us.

The Niles Branch would also like to send out a plea for a dear sister who has been in the service of the Lord many years now. Sister Loretta Corrado has been very afflicted for many years. Her testimony is that as she suffered from an aneurysm, a pinched nerve, and arthritis, the doctor was re-examining her and could not believe what he found. It was gone! The threat of the aneurysm and the aneurysm itself was no longer there. How good God is. But we still ask for your fervent prayers in her behalf. Sister Loretta still suffers greatly from Rheumatoid Arthritis and very reluctantly must miss the meetings and fellowship she so much enjoys. She has seen many times what God can do, and she knows He will always take care of her. Her desire is to prove herself a faithful servant of God all Her days.

The Hopelawn Branch has enjoyed many wonderful blessings these past few months. God has certainly blessed our meetings and seasoned them with His Holy Spirit.

On November 1, we were privileged to witness the wedding of Dr. Jared Thomas and Miss Carol Smigelski. Brother Dominic Thomas, General Church President and father of the groom, performed the ceremony. He was assisted by Brother John Romano, grandfather of the groom. It was truly a touching ceremony, and we pray that God will bless this beautiful young couple. They will reside in the Albany, New York area where Dr. Thomas is employed.

On November 2, we enjoyed a visit from Brother Joe Calabrese from Ohio, and Brother Tony Lovalvo from Michigan, and their wives. What a beautiful day of fellowship we spent sharing in testimony what God has done for us; but God's blessings did not end there. After a stirring sermon by Brother Joseph Perri concerning repentance, Ann Creevy asked for her baptism. Sister Ann is the daughter of the late Brother Julius Sipos. She is the last of Brother Julius' children to become a member of the Church, fulfilling the lifelong prayer of our late brother.

On January 18, Kevin Perri was baptized into the Church by his father, Brother Joseph Perri, and confirmed by his uncle, Brother Paul Benyola. Brother Kevin made his wishes known a week earlier in our MBA service. This was truly a great blessing for us. It also has been an encouragement for the many other young people that have been attending regularly.

We are so thankful for what God has done for us these past few months and we hope and pray for continued blessings in the future.

Rochester, NY

The Rochester Mission on Saturday evening, March 14, 1981, had the joy of having six carloads of brothers and sisters from the Ohio Area MBA Choir. Brother John D'Amico, President of the MBA, gave the welcoming address, and the meeting was turned

over to Brother Mark Kovacic, President of the Ohio Area MBA.

The Choir sang some of their beautiful selections. Brother Wayne Mortorana spoke about how God worked with Gideon and 300 men to have a victory over their enemies. God has restored the Gospel so that we may win the world.

Brother Harold Burge and Sister Bernice sang a duet, *Since Jesus Came Into My Heart*. Many beautiful testimonies were given. At the opening of the service, I saw a vision. I saw Jesus Christ blessing us. Surely the Spirit and blessings of God were felt in our midst.

We sang, *How Happy Are They*, and were dismissed with prayer. Refreshments were served, and we were very happy to socialize together.

On Sunday, the Lockport Branch met with us. After some community singing, the choir sang some of their selections. Brother Harold Burge, the opening speaker, chose for his text Matthew 10, where the Twelve Apostles were sent out. We must go and spread the Gospel to the seed of Joseph, and we should all be a part of spreading it.

Brother Wayne Mortorana was the next speaker. He said that we must preach the Gospel to all nations. We are given this commission for we are the original church. Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled.

After singing *I Am Thine, O Lord* Brother Henry Berardi spoke on the same subject and how he came into the Church. He said that God will turn and turn until He finds a people that will serve Him.

Brother Mark Kovacic expressed in his testimony how happy he has been in serving the Lord. Brother Paul D'Amico spoke of born again Christians and that we should have the fruits of the spirit. There is work for the young and the old. We should give our best to the master and the strength of our youth. We should live one day at a time and be a saint of latter days.

Brother Ansel D'Amico gave the concluding remarks. The words of our brothers were wonderful words of life and our cup did run over with the blessings of God. We wish them all

God's blessings and Godspeed. We were dismissed with prayer, and lunch was then served. We want to thank the brothers and sisters for loving and caring. We had two wonderful days filled with the joy and blessings of God. It will long be remembered.

On April 5, 1981, we had Brother Joseph Calabrese, Sister Vickie and Brother Richard Portnick from Lorain. We also had Brother August and Sister Lena Perlione from Phoenix, Arizona.

Brother Joe chose for his text, Romans 1:16, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for it is the power of God unto Salvation." There is power in the blood, and there are many benefits and blessings for those who love and serve God.

Brother Perlione spoke on the First Psalm, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful." We were told to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth.

Brother Ansel D'Amico's concluding remarks were that we should be living for Jesus a life that is true, striving to please Him in all that we do all the days of our life.

A wonderful spirit prevailed all during the meeting. Closing prayer was offered, and another Sabbath was well spent.

Quincy, FL

Momentarily the rain ceased, the sun began to shine and the saints witnessed another baptism. Sunday, March 22, 1981, Sallie House was baptized by Brother Cleveland Baldwin.

Sister Sallie learned after being in a coma from Sunday to Thursday, that she didn't have a prayer on the book. This troubled her, and she began to pray.

One afternoon, while Sister Lillie Mae Davis was sitting at her desk, a voice told her to get up and go visit Sallie House, a woman she had not visited in over nineteen years. Obedient to the voice, she found this

woman sitting in a chair, struggling for breath. There was a tank of oxygen going to assist her.

She told Sister Lillie she was praying and a voice told her to find the little ones and follow them. Without hesitation this woman came to the Church and continued to come with great rejoicing over finding the little ones.

Sister Sallie requested baptism after she was assured by an experience that these were the little ones. She was confirmed into the Church by Brother Cleveland, and she is rejoicing daily in this glorious Gospel.

Detroit Inner-City

Two more new members were baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ at the Detroit, Michigan Inner-City Branch on Sunday, April 12. They were Diane Pierzynowski and John Langowski.

They were both baptized by Brother Joseph Milantoni in the Detroit River at Belle Isle. Sister Diane was confirmed by Brother Milantoni, while Brother John was confirmed by Brother Anthony Gerace immediately afterwards at the branch building.

Our new sister was born on the Muncey Indian Reservation in Ontario, Canada. After many years and now living in the downtown Detroit area, she began to attend services after a mission was started there about three years ago. Her thankfulness to God for His help throughout the intervening approximately two decades were expressed when she asked for her baptism.

Brother John, who met the Church downtown about two years ago, was the victim of a terrible hit-and-run accident late at night as he was walking across one of the city's main streets last year. His instant prayer that he be spared as he lay helpless with multiple injuries on the pavement in oncoming, heavy traffic was answered. A long period of convalescence in a leading Detroit hospital followed. God's hand was indeed present and everyone's fervent prayers were answered as, after seemingly endless days in traction and painful and laborious efforts to move

around again, he was made whole; and today he walks again without cane or crutch. And he was able to go into the waters of baptism without help, for which he has given much praise.

These two conversions have been very uplifting and edifying to the new branch which has been diligently involved in spreading the Gospel of Christ in midtown Detroit.

Six Nations

By Don Green, Mission Editor

On Sunday, May 3, 1981, the saints at the Six Nation Mission, gathered on the banks of the Grand River to witness the baptism of Patrick Richard Marissen. He was taken into the waters of regeneration by Brother Michael LaSala and was confirmed a member of The Church of Jesus Christ by Brother Frank Morle.

Brother Pat expressed the desire for baptism after attending the Church services for the past nine months. After praying earnestly for an answer from God, he had a wonderful experience that he would call for his baptism. After calling Brother Mike on Wednesday night, it was planned that he would be baptized the following Sunday.

On Saturday evening, Brothers Mike LaSala and Frank Morle visited at the home of Brother Pat, and he related the experience which was to change his life and once again told the brothers of his desire to be baptized. On Sunday morning, we had a surprise visit from Brother Norman Campitelle and Sister Rosalie, his wife. We were very happy to see them once again; although we don't see them that often, they are very much a part of the Six Nations due to seventeen years of missionary work here.

After singing *I Found the Answer*, which was dedicated to our new brother, we sang *Pass Me Not O Gentle Saviour*, which was dedicated to those who have not yet rendered obedience to the Gospel. Brother Norman opened the service in prayer. We then sang *Blessed Assurance*. Brother Norman chose for his text Matthew 6 and spoke on the subject of prayer. He stressed on how important prayer was in The Church of Jesus

Christ. Brother Frank Morle followed on the same topic while Brother Pat was being prepared for baptism.

After returning to the church building, the service continued with singing, *He Looked Beyond My Fault* and *Ring the Bells of Heaven*. Brother Pat then rose and related his experience to the brothers and sisters. Sacrament was administered as we sang *The Old Rugged Cross*. Brother Don Green closed the service in prayer.

During the past few months we have had quite a few young people attending the meetings, and our prayer is that they will continue to fellowship with us. Brothers and sisters, remember our Mission in your prayers that we will grow and prosper in the love of God. Remember our young Brother Pat in your prayers that the Lord will use him in the restoration movement.

Windsor, Ontario

By Melissa Matthew, Branch Editor

On Sunday, May 10, the Windsor Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ met together to witness the ordination of Brother Sam Cuomo, Jr. into the office of a teacher. Also gathered with us were brothers and sisters from Ohio, Pennsylvania and a group of young people from the Michigan-Ontario District.

To open our meeting we sang *Make Me A Blessing*. The young people sang *Count Your Blessings* to honour the many mothers present on the special day which has been set aside for them.

Our Presiding Elder, Brother Don Collison, read to us from Moroni 3, which describes the ordination procedure for teachers and elders. Several experiences were read to confirm the calling of Brother Sam.

Ye Who Are Called to Labour was sung. Brother Sam's feet were washed by his father, Brother Sam Cuomo, Sr., and he was ordained by Brother Don Collison.

Brother Sam then gave his testimony. He thanked God for giving him this opportunity to be of service to the Windsor Branch. He also said that his desire was to serve God and follow in

the footsteps of his father. He was baptized on June 16, 1968.

Brother Larry Henderson, our Presiding Teacher, thanked the Lord for answering his prayers in the need of our branch for another teacher. He asked the brothers and sisters to remember the teachers continually in prayer that they would be able to fulfill their duties to us and to God. He stated that the Lord told him that Brother Sam would be the teacher that God wanted him to be.

After sacrament was served, the meeting was then left open for testimony. Many brothers and sisters took this opportunity to thank God for His goodness and mercy to them.

To close our meeting we sang *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*. Closing prayer was offered by Brother Ken Wright.

Edison, NJ

By Ruth Arcuri, Branch Editor

Our small branch in Edison is prospering spiritually and is growing, and we thank God for these blessings. We have received another new member from our group of visitors. On February 1, 1981, Rosemary Pittman was baptized on an icy winter day in frigid waters, but she glowed with an inner warmth and her face radiated the love of Christ. Rosemary is the daughter of Sister Rose Pittman who was baptized not too many months ago. When she was younger, Rosemary was healed of leukemia, though then she was not aware of God's great love for her and His wonderful blessing. She has a beautiful testimony. Sister Rosemary was baptized by Brother Don Ross and confirmed by Brother Rocco Ensana. She is a humble and lovely young woman and is a blessing to our branch, and we pray that God will continue to be her constant companion.

More recently we have received even more blessings in the form of two new elders ordained Easter Sunday, April 19, 1981. Brother Don Ross and Brother Rocco Ensana have labored long alone in our branch since Brother Augie D'Orazio was taken to his reward. They now have the assistance of Brother Arthur Searcy and Brother Phil Arcuri who have done so much work in our branch with

our visitors and new members. Easter Sunday was a beautiful day, and our many elder brothers visiting from Maine to Alabama and many places in between spoke memorable words of encouragement and instruction to our new elders and to the membership.

That afternoon we had the ordination ceremony with our branch filled with visitors and families of Brother Art and Brother Phil. Brother Art's feet were washed by Brother Russell Cadman, and he was ordained by Brother Cleve Baldwin. Brother Phil's feet were washed by Brother Joe Arcuri, and he was ordained by Brother Julius Kovacs. I am sure no one was unmoved during this afternoon's proceedings. We were further blessed with the speaking of tongues, the interpretation, and with visions.

Sister Rose Rogalino spoke in

tongues and gave the interpretation as a command to take the Gospel to all and abide by the laws of the Church. Then Brother Dev, our new brother from India, gave his testimony and spoke of his country and saw a vision of bright lights during the prayers which were given for our new elders. When Brother Art and Brother Phil passed sacrament for the first time, Sister Anne Sgro had a vision of the wine being turned to blood in the cup. Brother Phil was passing and dripping on his hand. She also heard a voice say, "Now you are united."

We all were fed spiritually this day, and it seemed the building could not contain the blessings and the joy. Our prayers all go with our new elder brothers that they may serve with sincerity and with enthusiasm and with guidance from our Lord every day of their lives. We thank God for

his many blessings and gifts, and we pray for our brothers and sisters in all parts of the vineyard.

Herndon, VA

By Esther Andrews, Branch Editor

Brother Paul Arthur Carr, Jr. of The Church of Jesus Christ in Herndon, VA was baptized March 1, 1981. His father, Brother Paul Carr, Sr., baptized him and Brother Mike Hildenbrand confirmed him by the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost.

A wonderful blessing was felt throughout the day. Brother Paul is 15 years old.

* WEDDINGS *

GIANNETTI-CONNELLY

Brother Albert Giannetti and Miss Cindy Connelly were united in holy matrimony May 23, 1981 in Aliquippa by Brother Paul Palmieri. Brother Paul was assisted by Brother John Ross, Sr. Sister Sharon Staley was organist and Brother Ken Staley was soloist. Brothers Pete Giannetti, Jr., John Mark D'Antonio and Ryan Ross sang selections.

The newlyweds are residing in New Brighton, PA. May God bless them as they begin a new life.

on to her eternal reward on March 14, 1981. She was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on August 30, 1964 by Brother Allen Henderson and confirmed by Brother Anthony R. Lovalvo.

She leaves to mourn, her husband, Brother Percy Green, four daughters, Mrs. Marie Ayehart, Mrs. Virginia Carriere, Mrs. Ida Wright and Mrs. Loretta Laforme; one son, Hersal Green; 26 grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren, a host of brothers and sisters in Christ and friends.



GEORGE HARVEY

New Arrivals

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

Sara Ann to Harry and Grace Beck of Monongahela, PA;

Nathan Ansley to Richard and Michelle Massafra of Monongahela, PA.

OBITUARIES

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

MARY GREEN

Sister Mary Green, born August 13, 1900, passed

Brother George Harvey, a charter member of the Detroit, Michigan Inner-City Branch, passed on to his eternal reward on April 20. Born on December 8, 1919 in Youngstown, Ohio, he was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on January 30, 1960 at Detroit, Branch No. 2.

Left to mourn our brother's passing are his wife; one son, a grandson, four sisters, and a host of brothers, sisters and friends. He will be deeply missed by all who became accustomed to his courage, faith, and determination, particularly as they were manifested in the formation and stabilization of the new Inner-City Branch.

Services were held on April 23 at Detroit, Branch 2 where Brother Harvey had been a member until his transfer downtown. Brother Joseph Milantoni officiated, assisted by Brothers Reno Bologna and Carl Frammolino. Brother Harvey's favorite musical selections were offered by Brother Eugene Amormino, pianist, and Sister Karen Milantoni, organist. Sister Julia Cotellesse sang *The Lord's Prayer*.

The Gospel News

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

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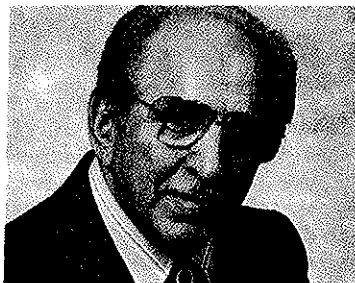
"It Is Written"

By V. J. Lovalvo, Apostle

QUESTION: In this age of permissiveness and ultra-liberalism, what can families do to avoid the evils that surround us on all sides, and thwart the purposes of the Wicked One whose sole aim is to destroy family life?

ANSWER: It would be very easy to just say, "Pray, and the Lord will do the rest." But, this is not the entire answer. It would be like telling a person who is out of a job to pray and the Lord will provide. A person should pray that God would lead him where to seek employment, and then go seek for it, not stay at home and wait for the Lord to bring a job to his doorstep. The words of Christ would be apropos in this case, "Seek and ye shall find". This reminds me of a humorous story of a totally lazy man who, one day, desired to have a fig from his father's garden. He went to the fig tree and lay down under it with his mouth open waiting for the fig to fall into it, too lazy to pick it himself.

Likewise, to develop a happy family life takes considerable effort by every parent and every child. Surely, one must pray to God for guidance; but sincere efforts must be exercised every day in order to achieve that happy goal that is sought. Firstly, husband and wife must show the example of love, compassion, and understanding by exhibiting these qualities one to another from which the children will learn. Paul, the Apostle, encouraged the husbands to love their wives as their own flesh,



and the wives to reverence their husbands, which is a mutual observance. Children will remember this and, in all likelihood, will eventually exercise these qualities in their lives also. But, where there are open quarrelings, bickerings, and a lack of love between parents, the children will also remember this and probably, as is the case of many children today, the results of an unhappy home has a devastating effect in their lives. True, some children who have come from a happy home have strayed into forbidden paths, but this is in the minority of cases. Outside environment and the choosing of "wrong" friends plays a definite role in their subsequent unhappy state of affairs. I believe that many offerings of television, movies, newspapers, and radio play a devastating part in alienating people from the "straight and narrow path" which leads to happiness and eventual salvation. The unrighteous and wicked elements are exploited, such as living together without the benefit of marriage. R-rated, X-rated stage plays and movies are extolled for the purpose of gaining financial rewards, regardless of what it does to the human family and family life. Is this not similar to what was going on in Sodom and Gomorrah? I wonder how many times the Lord has thought

to destroy this earth because of its wickedness? However, upon reflection, the prophecies have to be fulfilled; the Peaceful Reign has to be established, the Twelve Tribes of Israel must be restored, the Choice Seer must come, the New Jerusalem must be built on this land of America, etc.

So, family life must be desired, must be cherished, regardless of time, labor and effort that must be put into it in order to achieve that excellent goal of a truly happy family. In the *Book of Mormon*, it is written: "And ye will not suffer your children that they go hungry, or naked; neither will ye suffer that they transgress the laws of God, and fight and quarrel one with another, and serve the devil, who is the master of sin, ...but ye will teach them to walk in the ways of truth and soberness; ye will teach them to love one another, and to serve one another." Mosiah 4:14-15

The *Book of Mormon* also teaches to pray for your flocks, for your household, against the powers of evil, etc. There must be a continuous prayer in the heart morning, noon, and night for that happy, happy family life. But, remember, it is not only prayer that should arise heavenward daily, but the exercising of love, devotion, compassion, tolerance, study of the Word of God, and setting examples of same that is important above everything else.

[Continued next issue]

Brother Tony Corrado and Brother Ralph Berardino anointed my eyes for the cataracts. One cataract moved as far as the corner of my eye and broke up. I had two operations in six days. It was wonderful to be able to see my brothers and sisters in Christ. God and His loving Son had surely blessed me.

The Church of Jesus Christ has the true Restored Gospel. I love the *Book of Mormon*. I have had visions which confirm it to me. I have had dreams of one of the Three Nephites. He has appeared to me three different times.

I love God and want to serve Him the remainder of my days. I was 76 years old this past January. Our branches have so much love for one another.

May God bless all who read this.

A Pleasant Encounter

By Barbara Ackman, Phoenix, AZ

On Friday, May 2, 1981, Sister Rose and Brother Tony Palermo, Dick and I stopped on the Hopi Reservation, 1st Mesa. We drove up on the Mesa, through the first two villages, and parked our car to walk over a narrow rock runway to the village of Walpi. An Indian lady, who lived in a small pueblo style home right on the cliff edge before you started across to Walpi, came out saying what a beautiful morning it was and that perhaps we would like to see her pottery. We told her we'd very much like to.

We went into her house, a one room dwelling, very neat and clean. She had a few pieces of finished pottery and a few she was working on. I noticed her bed was neatly made with a white bedspread-stove, table, bed, etc., all in one room. I would imagine she was approximately 65 years old. There was something wrong with her right eye; half of it was very blood shot. Her pottery was not the best painted, probably because of her eye condition, I thought. Nevertheless, I was drawn to buy a shallow bowl. The name on the bottom was inscribed "Olive Toney". We talked to her about how she made

her pottery for a short period of time. I paid her and she wrapped it up in some paper toweling. We started to leave, and I asked her if I might leave the piece I had bought until we returned. I felt I might drop and break it. She said to put it on the table. I did so and we left.

We walked through Walpi and talked to two old men, both Indian, one weaving a white bridal kilt. He also showed us a white bridal belt, which we handled. Our conversation was very interesting. We must have been gone about an hour.

On returning to the house where I purchased the pottery, Rose, Tony and Dick went on to the car. I proceeded to the house, knocking at the door, and she called me in. I began to pick up my pottery asking her if I might take her picture. I like to have pictures with my pieces if possible. I told her I knew we were not permitted to take pictures in the villages, but maybe I could in her home. She told me she was sorry but she couldn't. I told her it was alright and I understood.

I made a move to leave, and she asked me if I could sit down for awhile. I told her I could. She began to tell me she had felt that I loved her and her people. I explained that I did very much and that I belonged to a Church that loved her people also. She did not ask me the name of our Church and I did not tell her. I did proceed to tell her about Grandpa, Brother William Cadman, and how he loved and worked among the Indians and how it had been impressed upon me as a child that they were God's chosen people. I could remember once Grandpa telling me the Indians had a sixth sense, that they could sense when people had a sincere love for them. She listened very intently as I spoke and agreed when I made the last statement.

I asked her then to tell me about her and her people. She said she would and told me many things her grandmother had told her, that they were a good, kind and peaceful people and that they had been forced on top of the Mesa when the Navajo and Piute had attacked them. They did not want to fight so they moved to the high ground. She told me it had been a very hard life. She left Walpi herself for a spell but returned because that was her home. They farmed in the

valleys but lived on the Mesas. "We still have enemies," she said, "and fear." She hoped there would be no more trouble. Her voice broke as she spoke and seemed very humble.

I cannot remember everything we talked about. Every so often I think of something else that was said. I felt very close to her and that she was talking to me as she would to a close friend. After what must have been a long time I told her I must go as the others were waiting, and we should continue on our trip. She asked me what my name was, and she said I could remember her as it was on the back of her pottery. As I stood to leave she embraced me and kissed me. I kissed her also and hugged her as I would someone very near and dear to me. I said, "God bless you" and kissed her on the cheek again.

Even as I write this I shed tears and feel that same compassion I felt then between us. I felt very humble and very happy. I left her home and cried almost uncontrollably. As I came into view of the car I saw they were talking to someone. I composed myself and went to the car. A young English couple from London was introduced to me, and we talked for awhile. I could not wait for them to leave since I had such a desire to tell the others what had happened. When I did tell them, I broke down with such humbleness and we all cried together over how God had blessed us on this trip.

I intend to write to Olive Toney as a friend, and hope in time the way might be opened to tell her of this Gospel.

I have written in detail as I want to remember it all. We spent two days on the Hopi Reservation in northern Arizona and visited every spot we could get to. We spoke to many wonderful people. We found them to be a very warm, happy, contented, and sincere group.

Dick and I have a great desire to do something for our Church, and pray that God will direct us in which way we should go. Remember us in your prayers that our desires might be good and we can humble ourselves enough that God might be able to work with us and use us in some way. God bless you all.

Garden of the Gospel

By Olive Elzby, Windsor, Ontario

I was inspired to write these few lines after coming into the house after working in my garden.

If I waited too long to go and cultivate my garden after the seed was sown, the weeds would become big and strong. Some weeds had deeper roots and were harder to pull out than others; some roots had spread out underground and reached a long way. If I didn't get them all, they would grow again.

Not watching carefully enough, I would step on a thistle, and it would hurt for awhile.

Many of the weeds were pleasing to the eye with their dainty flowers, but I knew that if I didn't pull them up, they would take the nourishment from my good plants.

Some of the seeds that I had sown grew much faster and produced larger plants than others, even though they were of the same species and had been planted at the same time. Other plants had grown too thick and had to be transplanted in another part of the garden where none had grown so that this empty spot would also produce fruit.

When I was finished, I looked at it and saw how nice everything looked.

God had done His part in sending the sunshine and the rain. So if I expected my garden to produce good fruit, I would have to do my part in keeping it clean and in good order. So it is with our lives in the beautiful "Garden of the Gospel."

BUT MARY STOOD WITHOUT THE SEPULCHRE WEEPING John 20:11

There are many accounts in the Bible, but none as more touching than Mary's love and devotion for Jesus. She came to the sepulchre while it was still dark, the depth of the love that she had for her Lord leaves us in wonderment. While thinking upon this passage I wondered, what if there had been no one with such devotion

on that day? No one who thought it would be so necessary to come to the tomb to take care of the body of our Lord. No one to bless Him with their gifts.

There is something special that Mary or a woman could do that no man would be able to do; a certain sensitivity and touch that men do not understand; a special kind of love that she could have.

"Woman, why weepst thou?" She saith unto them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him." Her sincerity could only be surpassed by her beauty.

I wonder if we need more Marys today, whose great concern and love is the Lord, Jesus Christ's church? Someone special who would think about things in the church that need to be done. Doing things because of a true love, even if it would mean the loss of dignity or personal gain. In a day when everyone seems to look out for their own interest; is there a Mary that will go to the place where no one is to bless the Lord? She is the one that will find him.

A Tribute to Sister Margaret Johnson

By Rose Czapp

The members of the Vanderbilt Branch recently suffered a great loss, both naturally and spiritually. Sister Margaret (King) Johnson passed on to her reward on February 10, 1981, three weeks short of her fiftieth spiritual anniversary in the Gospel.

Sister Peg, as she was referred to by many of the saints, is remembered as a good teacher; she also served as a deaconess for 48 years. She was a teacher in the Ladies Uplift Circle for many years and kept the Circle going when there were only two people other than herself attending.

She was baptized into the Church at the Little Redstone Branch, and then later attended Vanderbilt. She left behind seven children, all of whom obeyed the Gospel.

While alive, Sister Peg led a full life dedicated to the service of the

Lord and often said she found her richest blessings being with the people of God. The saints at Vanderbilt sadly miss her, but rejoice at her passing, for now she is in a place where there is no fear or pain, for now she is with Jesus.

We all thank the Lord for sending this sister to enrich our lives, and we pray that some day we will all meet once again.

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I wish to thank all the saints for their beautiful get well cards, phone calls, for loving, caring and being concerned during my recent illness, and especially for their prayers that God heard in my behalf.

On May 2, I was rushed to the hospital suffering a gall bladder attack. I placed myself in the hands of God. I was ready and willing to meet my Redeemer. During surgery, I had this experience. I was in a large room filled with flowers and brothers and sisters. The room was brighter than the noon day sun. Brother Joseph Calabrese was preaching my funeral service. He spoke about my life. He said, "God has heard and answered our prayers, as He restored Tabitha in the days of old, the Church needed her. So, God has returned her, the Church needs her, she's the Tabitha of today." I awoke.

That same day, I received a beautiful get well card from Brother Joe and Sister Vicky Calabrese. Brother Joe wrote the same words in the card that he spoke in my dream. Praise God! He hears and answers prayers! I am feeling better each day.

God Bless You,
Sister Carmella D'Amico

Dedication Date

The brothers and sisters of Detroit, Branch No. 1 invite you all to the dedication of their new building on September 27, 1981. The address is as follows: The Church of Jesus Christ
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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

The Truth Shall Make You Free

By George A. Neill

(Reprint - September 1965)

"To know the truth and have that same truth make us free, we must demonstrate more than just a casual interest in His words. There must be an 'abiding by' and a 'continuing in'."

"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on Him, if ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." A man may merely recognize Jesus as the Son of God, express his belief in Him, and even assert that he believes that Jesus was the one sent to save man; all this is not sufficient for discipleship. One must continue in His word to be a disciple, for Jesus said, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed."

This Man from Galilee has the words of eternal life. Peter made this awesome discovery after following Him for a short time. When many of the disciples turned back and Jesus asked, "Will ye also leave me?" Peter said, "To whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life, and we believe and are sure that Thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God." Peter also made a statement a little later in his life to the effect that there was no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved. King Benjamin told his people on one occasion, referring to Christ, that "under this head ye are made free, and there is no other head whereby ye can be made free," (I might add, whereby man can be saved from greed, lust, pride, hatred, and even the act of war).

I firmly believe the words of eternal life spoken by Jesus are to produce eternal life, just as a grain of corn is to produce an ear of corn. Thus if both are planted in productive soil and are properly nurtured, they will produce fruit of their own kind. However, let us remember this: to know the truth and have that same truth make us free, we must demonstrate more than just a casual interest in His words. There must be an "abiding by" and a "continuing in". It is only by heeding His words and applying them in our lives that we will receive the revelation of the truth about God, and even the truth about ourselves, thus making it possible to harmonize and live with the will of God.

Someone has said, "Truth delivers from bondage," and I believe there is great truth in that statement. For instance, the knowledge of the laws and rules of good health--what to eat and how to cook what we eat; knowing also that our bodies need a certain amount of exercise and adhering to these truths about our physical natures--these things will help to free us from sickly bodies. We also know that many diseases have killed man and many more are still bringing death to him. But, as the truth concerning them is discovered and applied, man is delivered from them. The farmer knows about the laws of agriculture and naturally he applies them. In so doing, he delivers himself from crop failure and thus provides food for all. Knowing the truth that fire will burn and living by that truth delivers us from being hurt by fire. Knowing the truth about the law of gravity, one would be foolish to mount a high building and step off in defiance of this truth. We could go on and on, but I am sure sufficient has been said to prove that truth, if applied, will make us free.

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock

The Good, Boy King Josiah

Dear Girls and Boys,

Solomon was a wise man, but not wise enough to stand up to his wives and friends. As he became older, he listened to the voice of one of his wives who worshipped other gods and built a high place in the hills for people to come and worship these strange gods. Solomon's heart was not perfect with the Lord, as his father, David's had been. Soon many of the Israelite people were worshipping these statues of false gods also. They began to believe in astrology, and go to fortune tellers, and turned their hearts away from serving God.

New kings lived and died. The people grew farther away from God. God sent prophets to warn the people of Israel that they must turn from their evil ways or he would allow their enemies to come and destroy them. Once or twice, a king was born to rule that would serve God himself, but none of these good men tore down the statues and temples for the false gods, and forced the people to turn from their evil ways.

Many years passed. A boy named Josiah was born to the ruling king, and when Josiah was eight years old, his father died. Josiah was the new king. A king has much power; no one can tell him how to live his life. Josiah chose to serve God. He wanted to serve God the way King David had done. When he was sixteen he began to seek after the God of David, and when he was twenty, he began to rid his country and Jerusalem of the high places, and groves of trees where false gods were worshipped. He broke down the altars to Baalim, and the statues, also, he burned. Finally, Josiah gave orders to his most



trustworthy servant, Shaphan, to take money and give it to the priests to repair the temple of God that King David had gathered treasures to build, and Solomon had built.

Shaphan returned with exciting news. In the temple, an ancient book of the laws had been found! Now the young king could learn all the prophecies and wonderful promises of God to the Israelite people from the years gone by.

When Shaphan read King Josiah the prophecies, he cried out! The prophets of old wrote that the Israelite people would be destroyed and scattered by their enemies if they forgot God. Josiah tore his clothes and began to cry to God. He knew that his people had done all the things God had told them not to. He sent Shaphan for the high priest and asked him to inquire of God what would happen to them because their fathers had broken the laws of God.

The high priest went to inquire of the prophetess, Huldah. She answered him saying, "Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Tell the man that sent you (King Josiah) that all the curses written in the book which he has read will come to pass because the people have left serving me. But because Josiah's heart was tender, and he did humble himself before me, and tore his clothes crying unto me, that none of this trouble will begin until after he has died. He shall live in peace."

Josiah was thankful to God. He called all the elders of the land, and all the people great and small to a meeting. He read to them all the laws and the words from the book that was found in the temple of God. In front of them all, he made a promise before the Lord, to walk after the Lord, and to keep his commandments with all his heart, with all his soul, and to do

all the right things taught by the book.

Then King Josiah caused all the people there to also promise to serve God. Immediately, he broke down all the altars to false gods, burned their temples, and cleaned the countryside from worshipping idols. For the thirty-one years that King Josiah ruled, peace came to Israel. There was never any man either before or after him that turned to the Lord with all his heart, soul and might according to the law of Moses like Josiah, the boy king who was not afraid to lead his people back to serving God.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

(Find the following words.)

| | |
|---------|-----------------|
| son | E E U T A T S W |
| evil | |
| statue | Y V R I D G O D |
| vile | |
| Josiah | E S I M O R P R |
| eight | |
| eye | I O G L S E P A |
| see | |
| rid | G N N H E A R T |
| altar | |
| king | H A I S O J A L |
| promise | |
| God | T P K L A W Y A |
| heart | |
| law | |
| worship | |
| pray | |

MBA Highlights

Michigan-Ontario Area Seminars

By Rosanne Scolaro, Area Editor

On Saturday, May 9, the Michigan-Ontario Area met at Branch 3 for the second seminar in a series sponsored by the Area MBA. All ages and branches were represented as we discussed "What It Takes To Be A Saint".

Brother Paul Whitton, Area MBA Chaplain, introduced the seminars

pointing out the importance of defining and possessing the qualities of a saint in The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Kerry Carlini, Seminar Committee Chairman, then assigned the various age groups to their discussion leaders and we broke into classes.

After the hour-long seminars, Brother Kerry asked the teachers to summarize what was brought out in their classes. Using the scriptures as their guide, the teachers stated that we should be, as Christ taught, "the light of the world", showing through our acts and conversation the light He has brought into OUR lives. As saints in The Gospel of Jesus Christ, we must maintain the standard He established.

In our classes, we discussed the importance of reading the scriptures, fasting and praying, participating in the work of the Church, and following the direction of the Holy Spirit in every aspect of our lives. The Holy Spirit will lead us in paths of righteousness if only we allow It.

Most important, we discussed the love of God and Christ's commandment to "love one another, as I have loved you" for "by this shall all men know that ye are my disciples". It is the love of God within us that makes us true saints and will set us apart as a light unto the world.

Everyone truly enjoyed the fellowship the seminars provided and the opportunity to grow in knowledge and understanding of the Lord and what He would have us to be.

GMBA May Conference, an Old-Fashioned GMBA

Brothers, sisters and friends from all areas of The Church of Jesus Christ were gathered together in Detroit, Michigan at Lincoln Park High School on May 16 and 17 for the GMBA Conference. Among those attending were buses from Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Conference convened on Saturday at 10:30 a.m. Due to the delay in arrival of our President, Brother Don Ross, our Vice President, Brother

Frank Morle welcomed everyone to the Conference. Brother Richard Scaglione, GMBA Chaplain, read I Peter 2. He spoke about our Church being alive and encouraged members to be active in their individual locals.

Brother Ryan Ross, Camp Director reported on Campout 1981, that he and Brother David DeLuca visited Massanetta Springs on April 4 to determine the number of beds available to us the week of July 4-11. All of the normal facilities plus 103 extra sleeping facilities in privately-owned cottages would be available for our use.

Also Brother Richard Scaglione reported that the American Indian Committee, working under the General Church Board of Missions, is presently adopting a working program for restructuring of the Lay Missionary Program, and a committee is now working on a program. In the future, seminars will be held and details will be discussed for implementation.

The Officers' reports and Delegates' reports from the individual locals were presented and accepted.

Under New Business, a motion was passed that the November 1981 Conference be held at the General Church Auditorium in Greensburg, PA. Donations were disbursed to various Church funds. Several suggestions and proposals were made, and one of the outstanding suggestions was to have one Business Conference per year leaving the other one for spiritual uplifting. A motion was also passed that a goal of \$200.00 per local for the next 6 months be met for the support of missionary work of the Church.

The Michigan-Ontario Area presented us with a double feature. The young children put on a little program entitled "Kids Under Construction", which everyone enjoyed very much. The adults presented a program entitled "Praise the Lord", which was a blessing to all who attended.

On Sunday morning a very nice crowd of brothers, sisters and friends gathered together at the High School Auditorium for a morning of fellowship. Brother Dennis Moraco spoke on where our priorities are in the Gospel. Brother James Link and Brother Rodney Dyer also spoke on the Word of God. The beautiful

service was another added feature as everyone commented on what a beautiful week end it was. A special thanks to the Michigan-Ontario Area for opening up there homes to everyone and making it an Old-Fashioned GMBA.

Young People Ask

By John Griffith

Dear Brother John,

I have been thinking about baptism, but really haven't felt enough to ask for it. Isn't it possible for anyone to feel repentance at anytime and ask for their baptism? Am I missing something? I believe in God.

You have the basic or beginning elements of being baptized. You first recognize God as God. I will assume also that in believing in God, you also believe in Jesus Christ, His Son, and our Saviour, Who has laid down the plan of salvation for each of us. Gal. 3:27 states, "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

Therefore, if you believe in Christ as the Savior, your faith is sufficient for the present.

Now, are you missing something? By the way you stated your thoughts, I do feel you are missing something. That is, you have not fully received a repentant heart. Many of us want to do things, we do them, but our heart really isn't in it; something like a half-hearted effort. We aren't fully convinced or ready.

What you need is to put more effort in desiring baptism, put more effort in learning about salvation and God's love, and finally put more effort in searching out your own attitudes, desires, and spiritual goals in your life.

"Repentance" is having a Godly sorrow for sin. It is a result of feeling a conviction of guilt, desiring to escape from the hurtful effects of sin, and having an earnest determination to forsake sin and accomplish good. By exercising a strong natural craving for good in your life, your faith will begin to increase in God and you will turn more to Him and His saving grace.

By taking these steps, you bring the characteristics of genuine repentance before God. Matthew 3:8 states, "Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance." Is it possible for anyone to feel repentance at anytime and ask for their baptism? No, not unless you "bring forth fruits meet."

Repentance is a gift from God. "And the servant of the Lord must not strive, but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient. In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves, if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth." II Timothy 2:24-25

Therefore, all who work through faith and earnest desire, preparing for repentance, will be led by the humbling and softening influences of the Holy Spirit to repentance and baptism.

"Seek and ye shall find."

If you have any questions or comments, please write. Discuss your thoughts with people you can trust. We are all together as God's creation. Let us work together to better ourselves before God.

Write: Young People Ask
The Church of Jesus Christ
6th and Lincoln Streets
Monongahela, PA 15063

OUR WOMEN TODAY

Michigan-Ontario Area Circle Visits Muncey Mission

By Melissa Matthew, Area Editor

The Michigan-Ontario Ladies Uplift Circle and the brothers and sisters of the Muncey Mission gathered together on Sunday, June 7, 1981, to give honor and glory to God and to hear His Word preached by His chosen ministry.

Our meeting was opened in prayer by Brother Paul Vitto, and the congregation then sang, *Jesus Use Me*. Brother Paul Whitton preached from Genesis 37, retelling the story of Joseph and his brothers. He explained how Joseph rose to a position of power in Egypt, which enabled him to save the life of his family during seven years of famine. Joseph did not hold a grudge against his brothers, but forgave them freely, as a little child forgives. Brother Paul reminded us that we must also learn to forgive and become as a little child--meek, humble and submissive--if we hope to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. He concluded by saying that even as we grow in the Church and gain more knowledge, we must retain this state of being.

Brother Joseph Milantoni fol-

lowed, stating that we must also put aside vanity, as pride is not part of the clothing of a saint. As members of the Gospel, we should pass on to others those things we have learned in the Church. As a bee pollinates flowers so they spread and grow, we must pollinate the people of the world with the things of the Gospel.

Brothers Paul Vitto and Rodney Dyer then spoke, pointing out that humility should be one of our main goals as saints of Latter Days. We must always be aware of the needs and feelings of others, that our attitudes and behaviour would not be offensive to anyone.

The Circle sisters sang, *Let's Just Praise the Lord*, and the meeting was left open for testimony. Our hearts stirred within us as we listened to the many testimonies of the sisters, their families and members of the Muncey Mission.

The hymn, *Lovest Thou Me*, was played as the Lord's Supper was passed.

I know I speak for all the Circle sisters when I say it was good to meet with the saints in this part of the Vineyard. As we travel from place to place, we see the love of God visible in His branches and missions. It is this love that makes The Church of Jesus Christ!

Branch and Mission News

Detroit, Branch 3

By Dawn Francione and
Becky Whitton

Today our branch was greatly blessed. Visiting with us was Brother Frank Ciotti from the Anaheim Branch in California, Brother Paul Palmieri and his wife from the Aliquippa Branch in Pennsylvania, and Brother Dominic Thomas and his wife from Branch 2 in Detroit.

Brother Frank opened the service by talking about how he came into the Church and how the Lord has blessed him. He said, "The Church gets sweeter as the years go by."

He continued by reading from the

Book of Ether, concerning the Brother of Jared and his visions. He talked about when the Brother of Jared prayed to the Lord and the Lord answered. The Brother of Jared came out of confusion and became content in that which they had. Brother Frank said, "Our Church has become content, but we haven't fully inherited the promises God made to His people." He continued by saying, "We have to exercise faith like we never have before, cry like we never have before, and pray like we have never prayed before."

Brother Paul Palmieri followed Brother Frank by speaking about the love for the Lord and the Church and how he wants the Church to grow. He said, "We have to exercise faith like the Brother of Jared. We have to

apply ourselves to fasting and praying. Improvement has to start now, not tomorrow. Think about what you have to do for the Lord, not what other people have to do."

Brother Dominic Thomas then followed. He talked about how being president of the Church is tiring, but it gives him a lot of rewards. He said, "He sees the branches and missions trying to glow just like the 16 stones." He said, "We have to remain prayerful, humble, and obedient." He stated that he longs for the day when we'll all be together on all issues. He said, "There is more trouble in the world now than he has ever seen; it's not that close to the end--we are just entering in." There is not a moment that goes by that he doesn't think about what's happening

in the Church. He said, "We have to get more involved in the Church and get more excited about it."

After Brother Dominic was done we then sang our closing hymn, "Over the Sunset Mountain". Closing prayer was offered by Brother Mario Coppia.

I'm sure all who were at the meeting today were truly blessed and that we all long for the day when we'll be united as one.

Windsor, Ontario

On May 24, 1981, we opened our meeting with the use of Hymn No. 84, *I Know Who Holds Tomorrow*. Opening prayer was offered by Brother John Buffa, who with his wife, Sister Grace, was visiting us from the Sterling Heights Branch in Michigan. Also visiting us today were Brother Sam Sgro and his wife and family from New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Brother Sam opened our meeting by stating that he was thankful to be in our midst for the first time in over ten years. He read from the *Book of Mormon* in III Nephi 9:11-18 in which Jesus Christ describes himself to the Nephites when He visited their land after His crucifixion in Jerusalem. His main theme was our need for obedience to the commandments and statutes of God. How we must first make our covenant with God having a broken heart and a contrite spirit. Our job, however, is not over yet. We must continue to be obedient to all the words of Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son who was with His Father from the beginning. All things that have been written must be fulfilled. God is the same yesterday, today and forever. How He must love us; how great is His mercy. He asks us to love one another as He has loved us. One day long ago they nailed that love to a cross, but they could not destroy it. There is nothing more important than the welfare of the souls of men and women and only Jesus' blood can bring salvation to these souls.

Because one man, William Bickerton, kept the faith when others fell away, the Gospel flourished and grew on this land. As this man was more righteous, so must we be more righteous. Let us be obedient to the Lord; when He calls, do not put Him

aside thinking to answer tomorrow. Tomorrow may not come.

In days of old the blood sacrifice required was an animal without blemish. But now the atonement of Christ's blood has covered our sins and we can come just as we are called.

We thank God for the peace that came into our heart and soul the day we made our covenant to serve Him, and for the hope of eternal life if we remain faithful.

Brother John Buffa then spoke stating that the greatest thing anyone can hear about is the Restoration of the Gospel. He also enlarged on Christ's visit to the Nephites and the promises God made to many of the prophets in the *Book of Mormon*; how this land was set aside for those who would serve God in righteousness. As long as we serve God, the land and its people will be blessed. When we do not serve God, the land and its people will be cursed.

Brother John also read the little story of a man's journey through life with the Saviour entitled "Foot-prints".

We sang several hymns. Sacrament was passed and the meeting was left open for the testimonies of the brothers and sisters. Our meeting was closed in prayer by Brother Allen Henderson.

Oklahoma

By Evelyn Crall

Today, Sunday, we attended church at I. J. Methvin Church (Methodist). Most are Kiowa, some Pawnee, Wichita and others. We invited this group to our home on May 28 for a prayer service and supper, helping us to celebrate our 27th anniversary.

This afternoon we went to Carnegie, Oklahoma (20 miles away) to visit with an Indian friend of ours that is in the hospital. He has had one leg amputated because of sugar diabetes. As they dressed his good foot, we noticed it quite black, red and purple to the knee and sores on the toes. He needs the prayers of all.

We are kept quite busy here, plus

we have about one half acre garden planted.

May God bless you as He blesses us every day.

Sterling, MI

By Hazel Zoltek, Branch Editor

There was a new name written down in glory on June 14, as our day began with an early morning baptism at Belle Isle when Brother Jim Thomas was taken to the waters by Brother Sam DiFalco. He had called for his baptism the previous Sunday, but it was not possible to obtain a baptismal site. Brother Thomas was confirmed at our morning service by Brother Louis Vitto. Brother Lou then related the wonderful blessings received at the water's edge.

Brother Norman Campitelle was our principal speaker for the day, and his theme was "peace". He stated that in the worsening condition of the world, the only peace we can find is on the mountain top with Jesus; this is a peace that the devil cannot penetrate. Brother Norman read from Isaiah 11:6-9; the day will soon come when a little child shall lead the lion. There will be no destruction on the holy mountain. He read a poem saying there is a mountain of peace that we must all climb during our lifetime. Jesus Christ is the author of peace, and the only way we can find it is through the waters of regeneration. In order to reach the summit of the mountain, we need assistance, and that assistance comes from the *Bible* and the *Book of Mormon*, and the helping hands of the brothers and sisters. As children of God, it is our duty to help others to reach the top of the mountain; help them to find that peace that only God can give. That mountain belongs to all people, regardless of race or color, and no one can reach the top if they remain in the valley. Satan will do everything possible to keep us at the bottom. We question the Lord but He tells us to "keep on climbing". As a child, when we fall we run to our parents to help, but as an adult, we need to go to Christ.

Brother Norman referred to the many times we had prayed for Brother Thomas when he was so very afflicted. He had a mountain to climb in his search for peace, and today he

reached the top when he was baptized.

Brother Norman said the poem he read, "Happy Climbing", was written by his brother, Brother Dave Campitelle, who has gone on to his reward. How beautiful to find peace; how beautiful is the top of the mountain, and we all want to be there when the saints come marching in.

Brother Louis Vitto told of how parents relate to their children about what this word, peace, is all about. There are always decisions to be made, and if we think spiritually, we will find peace and joy.

Brother Lou told of a picture given to him by Brother John Buffa this morning of a lion lying down with a lamb; exactly what Brother Norman chose as his text today.

At the evening meeting, Brother Peter Scolaro spoke to us, stating that he was very pleased at the baptism of Brother Jim, and saying that just a few weeks ago, he was in the hospital seriously ill, and through a miracle of prayer, he was allowed to go to the waters today.

Brother Thomas testified saying he had so much to be thankful for. Doctors gave him up, but he was given a new life. He thanked us for our prayers, thanked God for his wonderful family, and praised this Church above all others.

After the service, we met in the basement for a period of fellowship, and Brother Thomas related some of his experiences during his six months in the hospital. He told of how he was revived by the doctor through ventricular fibrillation, and of how he said to the doctor, "you almost lost me, but there was a higher power who took over." When he was taken back to his room, he did not have a bed; they had given him up for dead, and his bed had been stripped and prepared for another patient.

Before Brother Thomas went to the hospital and during the time that he refused to see a doctor, although he was down to 120 pounds and staggered when he walked, he had a dream which we now believe was preparing him for his baptism. He dreamed he was riding on a train and it was filled with people. When he arrived at the end, he got off and the ground beneath him was spongy and

the wheat was growing waist high. He was met by two men who told him he could not walk here. In the distance he could see a beautiful crystal lake surrounded by green grass, and then he saw Jesus looking at him, but he began to fade away and drifted back into the crowd. This dream stayed with him, and then when he was in the hospital, many elders came to pray on him and to anoint him. He then began to believe and began to pray himself and to seek repentance, knowing within himself, that this was the only way he could get out of the hospital and find that peace at the top of the mountain that Brother Norman Campitelle told us about today.

Brother Thomas sincerely wants to endure to the end, and he wants to try and help others as he was helped. With God on his side, how can he lose? Let us all pray for him.

Lake Worth, FL

By Nedra Obradovich, Branch Editor

Sunday, April 26, 1981 was a day of natural sunshine and spiritual sunshine for the ordination of Brother John D'Orazio. The meeting was opened by Brother Joe Catone, Sr. on Ephesians 6:10-11. He admonished the saints to put on the whole armor of God so that we will be able to stand up against the evil one.

Brother Dennis Moraco followed reading II Peter 5 exhorting the elders to feed the flock of God willingly and with a ready mind. "Cast all your cares upon the Lord: for He careth for you."

The fellowship service was opened by Brother Gene Perri, Jr. reading John 13 concerning the act of feet washing. After Jesus washed His disciples' feet, He appeared a few days later and breathed on them saying, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost: Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained." John 20:22-23

It was a beautiful sight to see Brother August D'Orazio wash the feet of his son, Brother John. Brother Gene Perri, Jr. anointed and ordained Brother John as an elder of The Church of Jesus Christ.

After sacrament was administered, the saints shared another blessing in the ordinance of feet washing.

The Lake Worth saints rejoiced to have our friends and visitors from Miami, Broward and Tampa to participate and enjoy the showers of blessings and sunshine in our souls.

Praise God, 1981 has brought a shine in the hearts of the members and friends of the Lake Worth Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. God blessed us in the cool winter months with warm brothers and sisters from the North. Our prayers are that God will continue to direct visitors down South and some will make their home permanently with us.

One who did was Candace Ross Obradovich, originally from the Aliquippa Branch. She is a beautiful sister internally as well as externally, and we now know why Brother Doug Obradovich looked forward for so long to marrying her. We thank God they chose to reside in Lake Worth.

Our testimonies have been in one accord of how the good Lord has never left us alone. Even in time of deep depression the Lord is always there to pick us up and head us toward that straight and narrow path again. As the Lord tells us in Hebrews 13:15, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

We can boldly say and believe this for our dear Sister Marie McGuire has recently undergone open heart surgery and to the doctor's amazement, she recovered extremely well. We know it was only through the mercy of Jesus Christ that the operation was possible and successful, taking a scant two hours rather than the usual four to five hours. He was there holding our sister's hand through it all. Many times when her life was seemingly at its end God made it a beginning. All we can do is praise His high and holy name for never forsaking her.

Though much of our Sunday is spent in church (9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) it has no affect on our attendance for Sunday night MBA. We study the *Book of Mormon* every other week and have open meetings the remainder of the month. Sometimes we go into double time and God

pays us time and a half in blessings! He is so good!

Due to the request of many, Sister Nancy DiFede has organized a choir for the Florida area. The Songs of Zion will be included in their repertory.

We thank God for the desire He put in the hearts of Brother Gene and Sister Flo Perri to gather the young people in their home on Friday nights. We generally study the *Book of Mormon* but we allow the spirit to direct us to discussions on various topics such as the Peaceful Reign, the destruction, first and second resurrections, etc. Many questions we have Brother Gene is able to answer. We know God has given Brother Gene the knowledge so that we may learn. We have learned there is much work for this generation; we must prepare for the work. It will not be our work to be done but God's work.

For a few years now God has directed the Florida Area to help the Seminole American Indians in Brighthen, Florida. We in the Lake Worth Branch have spent many Saturdays amongst the native Americans. We know that this is the reason our branch is blessed with God's love. How great is the mercy of God to even bless us for the small share we do for His people.

We know that only with the prayers of the saints can we move the hand of God. We need your prayers for there is much work ahead of us if we remain faithful. We will remember all the saints wherever they are. We know God has a work for everyone and we all need each other. God bless everyone!

Detroit, Branch 1

On May 3, 1981, Detroit Branch No. 1 had the privilege to have many visitors, including Brother Sam DiFallo and his family from the Sterling Heights Branch.

Brother Sam opened the service, speaking from I Nephi 1, concerning Nephi having been born of goodly parents. Brother Sam spoke of his own goodly parents, of their many prayers for him, and the many times he has been healed and seen healings through the prayers of the saints. He also told of many experiences and

revelations he has seen come forth and how the power of God has been manifested. He asked the question, "Are we going to be fishers and hunters like those who hunted for Him?"

After the morning service, Deborah Castelli asked for her baptism. Truly the saints rejoiced as another soul came to the Lord. Sister Deborah was baptized at Belle Isle by Brother Peter Scolaro and confirmed by Brother Louis Pietrangelo.

Lorain, OH

By Iva Davis

Denise Jordan has been a visitor of the Lorain Branch for quite some time. She is a close friend of Brother Kevin Naro. In her heart, she had been praying for a sign to be given unto her to know that this was His Church. Denise injured her hand and arm and it was not healing. She had been anointed twice before and on April 5, 1981, she was anointed again. She stood to give thanks unto God. She thanked all who were present for their concern and prayers. She said we were all very special to her and that she loved all of us. She said she has never heard such beautiful preaching and prayers. Her arm and hand have been healed. We thank the Lord, and if it be His will, may she be a part of His Church someday.

At one of our Wednesday evening meetings, Sister Rose Palacios told of a dream she had that afternoon. She saw a man walk down the middle aisle telling the brothers and sisters, "No matter what afflictions you must go through, be determined! Be determined!"

We were very sorrowful to learn Sister Aileen Calabrese (companion of Brother Tony Calabrese) had cancer on the tongue. Immediately, the brothers and sisters went into prayer on her behalf. She was admitted to the hospital to undergo surgery. The doctor cut a portion of her tongue and also removed some lymph nodes from the neck area. She had no problem talking with that portion of her tongue cut and no more chemo-therapy was necessary. The Lord heard the prayers that were offered in her behalf, and our sister has experienced a speedy recovery and even was released from the hospital much quicker

than the doctors expected. She is home with her family now. Praise God! This certainly is the talk of the Elyria Memorial Hospital.

Aliquippa, PA

The Aliquippa and McKees Rocks branches held a joint farewell meeting Sunday, July 12, in the Aliquippa church for brothers John Ross and Dan Casasanta and their wives. Their missionary trip to Nigeria, Africa, Ghana and Italy began July 15.

The service was opened by singing *Make Me a Blessing*, and prayer was offered by Brother Nephi DeMercurio, Africa's missionary. We sang *The Gospel of Love*.

Visitors from Monongahela, Lake Worth, FL, Imperial, PA and McKees Rocks were well represented.

Brother John Manes introduced the service by commenting that God placed a love within our hearts and that's the reason the saints met to bid our brothers and sisters farewell. He remarked that our missionaries need our prayers to support them as they travel and speak to the people.

Brother Nephi followed by saying that he had a desire to be with us at the farewell meeting. He stated that it is important to have missionaries in Africa. The saints there want our brothers to visit them. There is much work and opportunity; however, it takes manpower and finances.

We also heard from Brother Paul Palmieri. He is thankful we have brothers and sisters that are willing to sacrifice the comforts of life to help others, and prays that God will bless their families and make the road smooth for them.

Brother Joseph Bittinger made a few remarks on his past visits to Africa. His first visit was 27 years ago when he and Brother William H. Cadman were there. The seed that was planted has grown considerably.

Brother Dan Casasanta, Brother John Ross, Sister Fannie Casasanta and Sister Mary Ross then each expressed themselves concerning their trip to Africa.

Sister Lorraine DeMercurio told us of her life as a missionary in Africa.

She stated that the love for those people has increased over the years, and that respect for Brother John and his wife is evident.

Brother Richard Lawson presented a gift to Brother Dan and Sister Fannie from the McKees Rocks Branch, and Brother Joe Ross presented a gift to Brother John and Sister Mary Ross from the Aliquippa local.

The meeting was brought to a close by Brother Joe Ross. We sang *God Be with You*, and Brother Anthony Palmieri said the closing prayer. Refreshments prepared by the McKees Rocks and Aliquippa saints were served in the church basement. The fellowship was enjoyed by all. May God richly bless our brothers and sisters as they travel on their missionary trip to Africa, Ghana and Italy.

Let Go! Let God!

To put God first in our lives, to love Him, trust Him, and obey Him, is to assure ourselves of joyous, fruitful living. It is to bring into our lives the fulfillment of this Bible promise: The Lord shall guide thee continually."

Author Unknown

* WEDDINGS *

BRUTZ—VOGEL

Brother James Brutz and Miss Arlette Vogel were united in marriage on May 2, 1981 in Tucson, Arizona.

Brother Anthony Brutz, the bridegroom's father, officiated at the wedding ceremony.

The newlyweds will reside in Tucson, Arizona. May God richly bless them in their new life together.

MACHNIK—IGNAGNI

Mr. Frank Machnik and Sister Patricia Ignagni were married on Saturday, May 23, 1981 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Detroit, Michigan, Branch No. 1.

Brother Paul Vitto officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were presented by the pianist, Brother Eugene Amormino and the soloist, Sister Iva Fedorka.

May God bless the Machniks in their new journey in 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:

Stacie Marie to Don and Denise Ruyle of Detroit, Michigan, Branch No. 1.

Twins Blessed

On June 14, 1981, Jaimee Lee and Justin John Neal were blessed by Brothers Sam DiFalco and John Buffa, respectively, at The Church of Jesus Christ in Sterling Heights, Michigan. The twins are the children of Daniel and Danine Neal.

OBITUARIES

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

CHARLES DULKIS

Brother Charles Dulkis passed away on November 10, 1980. He was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ, Greensburg Branch.

Brother Dulkis is survived by his wife, Sister Bambi Dulkis.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Paul Gehly and Lirio Fallavollitti.

Brother Charlie was a very gentle and humble brother. He was loved and will be greatly missed by all.

MIKE KUZAN

Mike Kuzan, of the Greensburg Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ, died on October 21, 1980.

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

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Jesse Carr and Paul Gehly.

Mike had been attending services at the Greensburg Branch and will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

ROCCO LOVERRO

Brother Rocco Loverro, a member of the Cape Coral, Florida Mission, passed away from this life on May 4, 1981. Born on October 11, 1917, he was an ordained teacher in the Church.

Brother Loverro is survived by his wife, Sister Ann, two daughters, five grandchildren and two sisters.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Anthony Ensana and Sam Costarella.

The Gospel News

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

Volume 37, No. 9

September, 1981

"Champions for Christ" Enjoy a Week-Long Reign of Peace at the 1981 GMBA Campout

By Ryan Gene Ross, GMBA Editor

Eight new members joined the ranks of the saints during the July 4-11 week at the Massanetta Springs campsite in Harrisonburg, Virginia. They are as follows:

1. Sister Raja Daggumalli
(Levittown, PA)
2. Brother Al Mayher
(Cleveland, OH)
3. Brother Stephen Cihomski
(Metuchen, NJ)
4. Brother Floyd Rossi
(Aliquippa, PA)
5. Sister Donna Miller
(Broward, FL)
6. Brother Doug Hufnagle
(Cleveland, OH)
7. Brother Charles Maddox
(Lake Worth, FL)
8. Sister Connie Bright
(Monongahela, PA)

We welcome our new converts to the fold and hope and pray for God's richest blessings to be upon them as they each begin their new life in Christ.

Nearly 550 people representing

California, Arizona, Kansas, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Georgia, North Carolina, Florida, Maine, Texas, Massachusetts, Ontario, Canada, New York, New Jersey, Virginia and Washington, D. C. attended the gathering. Representing the General Church were Apostles Rocco Biscotti, Paul D'Amico, Gorie Ciaravino, Dominic Thomas (General Church President) and Nicholas Pietrangelo (First Counselor). Brother Paul Palmieri, General Church Executive Secretary and GMBA Liaison, was also in attendance. This turnout was the largest ever to occur at this yearly event that began in the late 1960's.

Summer showers that flooded the baseball fields on Saturday and Sunday failed to dampen the spirits of those in attendance. Sunday's services were opened by newly-ordained Elder John D'Orazio. Evangelist Nephie DeMercurio (missionary to Nigeria for the past two years), whose family also spent the week with us, also addressed the congregation. Brother Dominic Thomas also addressed us briefly. All in attendance felt a true blessing in the preaching and later in the passing of communion.

The weekday's schedule followed the daily routine, starting with breakfast, morning chapel, seminars, lunch, camp choir, recreation, arts and crafts, supper and evening ser-

vices. This year's seminars featured a new format that permitted those 19 and older to select topics of their interest that were offered in the camp curriculum. Most courses were directed to the more practical, day-to-day application of the principles of the Gospel in our lives. Some of the course titles, such as *You, Spiritually and Naturally*, *The Community and You*, *Missionary Life*, *Understanding the Scriptures* and *Wives of Ordained Officers*, reflect the emphasis on enhancing our spiritual lives. An informal survey conducted at camp revealed that the majority were not only well pleased with the seminars, but also, in some cases, disappointed that some of the discussion ended TOO SOON. But as our late Brother Ashton said on occasion, leaving a meeting "a little hungry" leaves room for more desire to attend again!

Arts and crafts featured craft-making, cooking, photography and first aid/CPR classes. Camp choir was an exceptionally large and equally enthusiastic group. Recreation included softball, volleyball, horseshoes, "hot-shot" basketball, and the Summer Olympics, which always get EVERYONE involved one way or another!

All in all, the camp was enjoyable, and once more, we thank God for being our guest as the gift of tongues and interpretations were manifested several times. On a more serious note, young Becky Gavigan, who was anointed several times at camp, still is in need of prayer to heal her of a serious illness. The sick and afflicted of the Church were constantly men-

tioned throughout the week in our meetings.

Thanks are in order to the following committee chairpersons and many who helped behind the scenes to make this year's camp a success:

Assistant Camp Director, Ron Dziak

Registration Committee, Joyceann Jumper

Accommodations Committee, David DeLuca

Seminars, Elder John Griffith

Recreation, Douglas and Candace Obradovich, Paul DiNardo

Camp Songbook, Larry and Steve Champine

Camp Choir and Piano, Ken and Florence Lombardo

Arts and Crafts, Jan Steinrock and Darlene Large

Rules Committee, Robert Nicklow, Jr.

Promotions/Commemorative Patches, Gary Ciccati

Health and Safety, Malcolm Paxon

Coffee Pot, Elder Jesse Carr

EDITOR'S NOTE: As this year's Camp Director, I offer my thanks to the committees for their hard work and to all those who took any form of responsibility at camp. Foremost, thanks to the Lord, of course, for giving me His strength and support.





Greetings in Christ,

Happy is the family whose members play together, work together, and know one another's hearts. They think differently, but their thoughts meet with understanding. They follow different ways, but their actions have a common purpose. The unities of such a family are like silken threads--strong and true, and woven together harmoniously.



Brother Joseph Bologna and I left Modesto May 16 for Portland, Oregon, stopping at Chico, California. We visited Sister Dorothy Verardo and held a short service and administered Sacrament. Then we proceeded to Eureka, California, which is near the state's border of Oregon.

The following day, we proceeded to Portland, but at Eugene, Oregon as we were trying to get to a gas station, we were hit by a pickup. We miraculously escaped serious injury. We were able to continue our journey, safely arriving late Saturday afternoon, and visited Brother Eugene and Sister Mabel Lassen. There we held one meeting on Sunday, again administering Sacrament to them. This was a short visit, but a most joyous one. Todd Lassen, Brother Eugene's son, will be going into the military service soon. Todd is a fine young man, and we wish him the best of everything.

On Saturday, upon arrival, I called my wife in Modesto. The first thing she said was, "Are you all right? Did you have an accident?" I said, "Why are you asking if I had an accident?" She answered, "I had an experience. I saw you and Brother Bologna being taken to a hospital, injured from a car accident." We are grateful for being spared from harm and that God still reveals and cares for His own.

We continued our journey back to Chico, met Brother George Sadler, then went to see Sister Dorothy again and her daughter, Phyllis, and spoke to Grace also. We then proceeded to visit Don and Sister LaVon Baker of Paradise, where we spent the night. We were treated royally, as always. On Monday we left for home. Arriving safely, we were very thankful for the opportunity to yet travel, strengthening the faith of God's children.

Brother Joseph Bologna considers himself inactive. It would be nice if we had a few more like him! The giver always gathers, especially when we give of ourselves. I still look forward to seeing the Church in every city and country of the world until none can say of the children of men, "Nobody ever has told me before".

The greatest demonstration of friendship is when a friend endeavors to have his friend advanced in honor, in reputation, and in glory before himself. This is what Jesus meant when he said, "Love one another as I have loved you". He preferred His friends above Himself. Shall we follow this good example?

Ever in Christ,
Brother Mark Randy

REMINDER

Due to the increase in material and mailing costs, it has been necessary to increase the Gospel News subscription to \$6.00. New and renewal subscriptions are to be sent to:

The Gospel News
8423 Boettner Rd.
Bridgewater, MI 48115

Tears

By David Nolfi, Glassport, PA

"Drops of limpid fluid secreted by a special gland and appearing in the eyes or flowing from them, especially through excessive grief or joy."

A significant point in the above definition to the brothers and sisters of The Church of Jesus Christ is that the two causes of tears are total extremes.

When you are troubled in heart and mind, when the soul is weighed down with trials, when concern for one you love burdens you to find no relief, when affliction brings the countenance low into the valley of despair, when sorrow for a departed loved one robs peace from the soul, when seeking repentance and forgiveness, when grief seems more than human endurance can bear, let the tears of our eyes flow as a river; let these tears bear witness of our prayerful search for the God who is able to deliver our soul from all the sorrows and evils of life. While the raging billows roar and our little vessel flounders on the seas of life, let our tearful prayers be the call for the Lord Jesus Christ, the anchor of our soul.

And for the joys of this life: to receive a calling to salvation, to behold the beauty of creation, to witness man and woman joined in matrimony, to have a faithful and loving mate in life, to fold to your bosom a newborn babe, to watch a child grow through the years, to hold in your arms your children's children, to see souls come to Jesus, to be loved by others, to be reunited with a loved one, to live in peace and harmony, to have all our needs and wants in life, we likewise shed the tears of joy.

Our hope is to shed the tears of joyful thanksgiving more than the tears of grief and sorrow; nevertheless it is needful to mingle our tears with our prayers, hence we are drawn to closer communion with God. "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." Psalms 126:5,6

*Editorial Viewpoint . . .***Another Good GMBA Campout**

The 1981 General Missionary Benevolent Association Campout that was recently held at Massanetta Springs near Harrisonburg, Virginia proved to be another wonderful occasion for many saints, loved ones, children and friends.

The campsite is nestled in the broad, fertile and beautiful Shenandoah Valley, bordered on the west by the Shenandoah Mountains and on the east by the Blue Ridge Mountains.

A Comfortable Campsite

Massanetta Springs is owned and operated by the Virginia, West Virginia Synod of the Presbyterian Church and serves as a center for their official functions and conferences. It was founded shortly after the turn of the century, beginning with a modest hotel and some acreage. Over the years, it has been enlarged greatly, and today it comprises a sprawling complex, including modern dormitories, spacious dining hall, an assembly room, a spacious auditorium, book store and canteen.

On the outer perimeter of the complex there are numerous cabins, including a sizable pad to accommodate trailers and campers. Included in the more than two hundred acre tract of fields and rolling hills is a good-sized lake.

These comfortable facilities, including food service, have been made available to the GMBA at nominal fees. This year's campout marked the fourth consecutive time that the Massanetta Springs staff has graciously accommodated our annual GMBA Campout.

The well-attended campout proved to be another wonderful time and place to renew acquaintances and to make new ones. Where, but at a campout, could so many of the saints, their loved ones, children and friends share a week-long round of getting better acquainted, dining together, engaging in, as well as witnessing various recreational activities, participating in the arts and crafts, camp choir, and last, but by no means least, worshipping together.

A Time to Relax, A Time to Participate

It was a time to relax, as well as a time to participate in the various activities of the day. Chapel following breakfast offered a good start for the day's routine. The various seminars that followed chapel devotions were well attended, and the topics and themes proved to be stimulating, interesting and informative.

Following lunch, a goodly turnout enjoyed the arts and crafts and various recreational activities, either as participants or spectators, while others strolled around chatting and socializing. Supper time served as a stimulating and appetizing attraction to everyone, with more socializing.

The evening assembly provided a timely privilege for many to enjoy the spoken word, singing and testimony. What a wonderful way to round out a day of wholesome activity, relaxation, fellowship and devotion.

Extra blessings were experienced in witnessing the baptisms of eight new converts in the waters of the beautiful camp lake.

Thank God for another good campout! May we invite you to a future campout. "Come and enjoy it; come and help make it more enjoyable."

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The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



Samuel, the Boy God Spoke To

Dear Girls and Boys,

It's not always easy to correct people when you know they are doing something wrong. In the *Bible* there was a boy named Samuel who had to do this.

Samuel's mother had wanted a baby for many years. She cried and prayed asking God for a child. Finally she even told God that if He would give her a baby, she would raise this baby to serve God, and when he was a very little boy, she would give him to the High Priest, Eli, to raise in the temple of God.

God heard her cries and her promise; He gave her the baby Samuel. She must have been a very courageous woman to keep her promise, but keep it she did. After Samuel was old enough to eat food, the *Bible* tells us, she brought him to Eli. There, Eli was like a father to him. Every year Samuel's mother made the long trip to the temple to bring Samuel special clothes she made by hand for him. The Lord was pleased with her and gave her even more children. Samuel was the oldest of six children.

One night when Samuel was sleeping in his room, a voice calling his name woke him. He went to Eli's room to see what Eli wanted. Eli told him he had not called him, to go back to bed. Two more times Samuel heard the same voice and thought it was Eli. The third time he came to Eli's room, Eli realized that the Lord had called Samuel and he told Samuel, "Go, lie down; if He calls again, say, 'Speak Lord, for your servant hears you'." And the Lord came and stood and called as at the other times, "Samuel, Samuel." Then Samuel answered,

"Speak, for your servant hears you."

Now, the Lord had chosen Eli as the High Priest and expected high standards for him. Eli and his grown sons, who were also Priests, had to be good leaders for the people to follow. But, Eli's two sons did very much evil. Eli never stopped them, and God was angry and disappointed in them. God had sent another prophet a short time before to warn Eli that this evilness would be destroyed. Both of Eli's grown sons would die, and God would raise up another person, not of their family, to be His High Priest.

When God spoke to the boy, Samuel, he repeated this message. Samuel lay until the morning. He was afraid to tell the High Priest, Eli, what God had told him.

Eli called Samuel and said, "What is the thing that the Lord said to you? Don't hide the truth from me. I pray that God will do those things and more to you if you hide them from me."

And Samuel told Eli everything, and hid none of God's words from Eli. Eli accepted Samuel's words without hating the boy. He said, "It is the Lord. Let him do what he thinks is good."

And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him. All of the people knew Samuel was a prophet of God, a man who would speak the truth. When he became a man, Samuel often had to speak harsh words to his people to stop them from breaking God's laws. When they were doing wrong, the people feared him and God. But, Samuel prayed for the people and constantly reminded them to remember the great things God had done for

them. His was not an easy job, but God had chosen him to correct those who were wrong, and Samuel had the will to obey the words of God.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

THINK ABOUT IT

1. How do you feel when your friends are doing something wrong?
2. Have you ever had to correct someone who was doing something wrong?
3. Were you ever tempted to just ignore the problem and hope it would go away? Did the problem go away if no one had the courage to correct it?

WHO AM I? person, place, thing, or idea

1. I was very beautiful.
2. Someone gave me as a gift.
3. I was dipped in goat's blood
4. My owner was sold as a slave.

Paradise of Love

By Dominick Calabro

*Paradise of love reign in our hearts
joyfully,
When we meet the Saints on that
beautiful shore,
We'll praise God and give Him glory.*

*The Saviour will be there to lead us
in prayer,
And the Saints all around
Will sing hymns of beautiful sound.*

*We have all been baptized
To gain the kingdom of Paradise,
And the Father of Hosts
Delivered us the Holy Ghost.*

*Now, brothers and sisters, we'll
rejoice
Living together in the Gospel of love,
We want to follow the Lord
And hear His story, until He comes
back and raises us in glory.*

(Answer: Joseph's coat of many colors)

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all whose prayers and thoughts were a great comfort to us during our recent ordeal. God bless you.

Love in Christ,
Brother George and
Sister Jill Kovacic,
Erie, PA

My Dearest Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you very much for all your prayers and cards during my recent illness. I truly felt the love of God through them, and I indeed feel the good Lord sent a beautiful recovery because of them. I love all of you and pray our wonderful Father will continue to care for you as He has cared for me. I am doing very well now and will return to my work of teaching school this Fall. When you can, please remember me and my family in your prayers, and we will do the same.

Love through Christ Jesus,
Bro. Eugene Amormino,
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

My heartfelt thanks to all of you for your caring, your cards and gifts. I will never have the words to express what I feel. Most of all, I am thankful for the prayers and fastings of the saints. More than once, I was near death and know I would not have pulled through without the prayers and anointings. I will never forget what you all have done in my behalf.

Thank God! May God sincerely bless you all.

Love,
Sister Dorothy Chase
Niles, Ohio

Brothers John Ross and Dan Cassasanta and their wives arrived home safely from Africa and Italy on August 27.

Brother Nephi and his family will again be departing for Africa on Sept. 9, 1981.

Young People Ask

By John Griffith

Dear Brother John,

Is there a service that women can offer to the Church, and how can we find our place?

Thank you for a very important question. I believe that your question can be answered with more consideration through the eyes and mind of another woman. I, therefore, wish to refer you to a writing relating to your question as written by Sister Sarah Watson of the Arizona District.

LISTENING TO THE VOICE OF GOD

God has a special work for each of us to do regardless of whether we are men or women. But first, as women, we are daughters, wives, mothers, daughters-in-law, and grandmothers. Many of us are also in a variety of jobs outside of our homes, i.e. teachers, nurses, secretaries, bookkeepers, skilled technicians, etc. All of these roles have a place in our lives. When they are in proper order, as sisters, we can review some of the requirements necessary for the fulfillment of our lives as sisters in The Church of Jesus Christ. God has used any and all that He finds ready to do His will when they are open and ready to listen to His purpose in our lives. However, we are first women within our family roles. If we neglect these roles, we have neglected the greatest role of our lives.

In Judges 4:9, we read of the story of Deborah who was greatly used by God in behalf of her people.

In I Samuel 1 and 2, the story of Hannah and her son is presented. God granted the wish of her heart and Hannah followed through by giving her son back to God.

Do you recognize the voice of God in your life?

Step No. 1—Desire

You must identify the desire in your life to work for God in some way that is comfortable for you. Some women prefer to raise their children to love and serve God. If this is your desire, ask God to assist you in raising whole, healthy children in a positive environment who can listen to the

voice of God in their lives.

Or are you a woman who wants to work within the Church and support its organizations using your talents in a more active role? Martha, in the Bible, chose different roles and Jesus approved of them both. God has blessed some women with the desire to contribute to the Divine Commission of the Church, in the gathering of the House of Israel, yes missionary work.

Step No. 2—Prayer

Pray with a believing heart that He will use you in any way that He will. This means a consistent effort including small amounts of time on a regular basis for quiet meditation, scripture study and shutting out the daily confusions of your life. Ask the Ministry to lay hands on you for a prayer of more understanding.

Step No. 3—Believe that God will answer prayer.

Block out negative thinking and believe that He really is going to answer your prayer.

Step No. 4—Get your life in order.

Learn all you can about your desires, what you would like to do for the Church. If you desire missionary life, what are the necessary qualifications? Or if you desire another area, learn all you can in how to do the best possible job.

The Pharaoh's daughter was at the right place at the right time to raise Moses. Pray for God's timing in your life; being at the right place at the right time for her brought about the eventual freedom of Israel through God's working with Moses.

Step No. 5—Listen to His Voice.

Watch for definite signs—dreams, visions, scriptures and inspirations through the Ministry. God never gives guidance contrary to His written word. Pray for wisdom and verification from spiritual sources. Be willing to take the consequences of the guidance from God. You may not find favor from everyone.

Step No. 6—Do it with joy.

The joy of doing His will with all the suffering still brings fulfillment of knowing that you are doing God's

Will. It will satisfy a deep sense of our purpose here on earth. Read Philippians 2:14-18.

In conclusion, we will not all be used in the same way or in the same places, but be sure that you are being used and that you are in the will of God.

If you have a question or comment, please write. Also, discuss your thoughts with individuals you can trust. We are our brother's keeper.

Write: Young People Ask
The Church of Jesus Christ
Sixth and Lincoln Sts.
Monongahela, PA 15063

Branch and Mission News

News from Mexico

By Brother and Sister Perdue

June 17 thru the 21st were the dates for the second Mexican Conference held in Tijuana. The church was full, and it was good to see the brothers and sisters from Mexico City, Michoacan, Sinaloa, Mexicali, as well as some of the brothers and sisters from the states. There are two churches in Tijuana and three places in Sinaloa.

There were eight ordinations and a marvelous spirit of the Lord was manifested during the meetings. For

Tijuana there were two deaconesses, one deacon and two teachers. For Sinaloa there were two elders ordained, and for Michoacan there was one elder ordained.

The word of the Lord came forth from a young elder from Michoacan, concerning two of the elders just ordained, saying that one of the elders would have trouble in his town for a while but the Lord would be with him and the other one would be used of the Lord greatly in his town.

The brother that was ordained a deacon is an Oaxacan Indian named Jose. He is the first Oaxacan to hold an office in our Church. He is little in stature and very humble. After he was ordained, Brother Eugenio Mora, with God's spirit upon him declared, "This Oaxacan may be small in stature but he will be used mightily by the Lord in Oaxaca." When Brother Jose first came to the Church he had a dream. In this dream the Lord told him to prepare himself and practice. He and his wife said they are willing to go to Oaxaca if the Lord sends them. We thank God for every opening He provides.

Last March Brother Perdue went to Oaxaca with Brothers Sam Randy and Joe Ciarolla. Brother Jose and his wife and another Oaxacan sister were sent ahead to be there when they arrived. Our missionaries from Sinaloa also came along on this trip. Our Oaxacan brother interpreted for Brother Perdue in their dialect. Those that went to Oaxaca were surprised to see how many Oaxacan people knew Brother Perdue. They greeted him warmly and invited him and those with him to their homes. Over the period of eighteen years many Oaxacan people had come to the church in Tijuana, and after staying awhile went back to their homes in Oaxaca. They were unable to find work or any way to live.

We have a baptized sister in Oaxaca and the following is a dream that she had: She saw me and the Lord enter her home. She wanted me to stay but the Lord told her He could not leave me there and that I had to go with Him now. No doubt I (Sister Perdue) represent the Church. Our prayer is that someday there will be a church in Oaxaca. Our Brother Jose

Our Women Today

Michigan-Ontario Area Ladies Uplift Circle Meeting

Melissa Matthew, Area Circle Editor

The sisters of the Michigan-Ontario Area of the Ladies Uplift Circle met to praise the Lord and visit with one another on Monday, June 29, at Branch No. 1 in Detroit, Michigan. To open our meeting, we sang *Love Lifted Me*, and Sister Antoinette Ciaravino offered prayer.

We were all thankful to have in our presence our Area President, Sister Mary Criscuolo, who along with her companion, Brother Silver, had been seriously afflicted and unable to attend our meetings. Sister Mary thanked God for allowing her to meet with us and for being with her always during the time of her sickness. She was especially pleased to report to us the baptism the day before of a young man who has been meeting with them in their northern Michigan mission. She asked us to continue to remember them in prayer, as there are several others coming to their meetings who are almost ready to make their covenant to serve God.

Our meeting was then left open to the Branch No. 1 sisters who presented a program entitled "Love".

The dictionary definition of the word love was read, and then our sisters proceeded to reveal to us the spiritual definition of love using scriptures found in both the *Bible* and the *Book of Mormon*. Several beautiful hymns were sung, and a poem was read describing the different kinds of love to be found in the heart of a servant of Jesus Christ.

The meeting was then left open for the sisters to express themselves, and many requests for prayer were made, especially in behalf of the young people of the Church and the children of the saints.

The sisters then set our fast and prayer meetings for the next four months: July for the sick, August for the youth of the Church and the children of the saints, September for the missionaries, and October for the Priesthood and General Church Conference.

Our meeting was then closed in prayer by Sister Arlene Whitton, and we adjourned to the basement to enjoy the hospitality of the Branch No. 1 sisters in visiting and feasting on good things to eat.

I know that everyone enjoyed themselves as much as I did. We thank our sisters for showing us how much more there is to love than what the world will ever know.

has a house built like a church with an open beam ceiling and made of block. It is quite large and would make a good meeting place. These people live high up in the mountains and many travel by burros. Many of them do not know the Spanish language and only speak in their dialect. There have been some revelations about Oaxaca.

We thank God He is real and lives forever. We have seen many miracles. We have a very old sister whom the Lord healed of cataracts. She was so happy she went around showing everyone her eyes. Another old brother was healed of tuberculosis. Brother Jose, our Oaxacan brother, had his own brother healed of blindness. When our Sister Celestine Manjarres was praying at a feet washing service about the gathering of Israel, the Lord spoke to her and said, "Very soon." At the conference, Sister Celestine had a vision. While Brother Ortega (minister from Mexico City) was preaching she saw his chest expand and a great light surrounded him and burst out over all the ministry on the rostrum. Our brother minister in Tijuana was healed of a very bad case of cancer. Two of our people have seen the Three Nephites.

In the year of 1978 I, Sister Perdue, was sitting in our living room on a reclining chair, when all of a sudden I felt my spirit leaving my body. As my husband was sitting across the room, my first thought was that my husband is going to find me dead. I definitely knew that I was dead. At my right hand side there was a brilliant amber light. It was so bright that I could not look at it. This happened during the day. As I was going upward I looked down and could see trees, bushes, and I was most impressed by all the orange groves that there were. The next thought that came to me was that this was the way Sister Heaps had passed away. She, too, passed away sitting in a chair in her daughter's home. I then cried out, "Oh, Lord, reveal something to me!" At this time I came back to my body.

Around the holidays at the end of 1980, I told Sister Celestine that I believed I was going to die. The next day I became very ill and was very ill for some time. On January 2, when Brother Perdue was praying, he said, "Lord, you have our health in your hands." He then had a vision of the Lord from the neck down in white flowing robes. His hands were ex-

tended and in one hand He had a gob of something yellow. We did not know the meaning of this until Brother Mora, who has the gift of interpretation, told us the yellow meant death and that there was something in Revelations referring to yellow.

During these days our Sister Eloisa from Tijuana had a dream where a personage came to take me. As he was going upward with me she pleaded with him to leave me as they needed me. He started down and then again started to take me up and again she cried and prayed for him to leave me. He said, "I will leave her" and then put me down. Then when she looked she saw me as a little child of about three years of age. She tried to catch me but I started to run away.

So much for now. May God bless our brothers and sisters everywhere.

Warren, OH

By Alma Brown and Eleanor Martin

On Sunday, May 10, our service was well attended by many visitors from the Ohio and Pennsylvania Districts. Brother Jerry Giovannone welcomed our visitors and announced the ordinations that would take place during the day. After singing many beautiful hymns, the service was opened by Brother Joe Calabrese. His text was taken from St. Matthew 12:46. Brother English Webb followed on the same subject. They left us with the thought that the Church is our Spiritual Mother. Brother Raymond Cosetti closed our morning service in prayer, and we then had lunch in the church dining room.

The afternoon service was presided over by Brother Elmer Santilli of the Perry Branch. He spoke to Brother Mitchell about the duties of an evangelist and how the Gospel must go forth in purity. After our brother's feet were washed, the priesthood formed a circle about him as Brother Joe Calabrese ordained him by laying on of hands, and our brother was welcomed into the Quorum of 70.

Sister Cora Love was ordained a deaconess at this time also. Sister Georgiana Love washed our sister's feet and Brother Vince Gibson ordained her. Brother Russell Mar-

torana, in a vision, heard a voice saying she was received as hands were being laid on her.

Brother Pete Mollinatto was anointed because of an affliction. The day was truly a fellowship of love. Remember us in your prayers.

Phoenix, AZ

By Frances J. Capone, Editor

On Sunday, May 17, 1981, the Phoenix Branch received a special blessing in the presence of Brother Tony Picciuto from Lindsay, CA.

Brother Patsy Marinetti and his wife, Sister Connie, (Tucson, AZ) further enriched the happy occasion by visiting at the same time.

These are a few excerpts from Brother Tony's sermon:

"Are you happy where you live? Are you at peace? The kingdom of God does not come by observation nor does the theme of Christianity, peace on earth, good will to men.

"Satan's church, cults, etc., are filtering into the minds of our children and working on the heart strings of humanity. TV is a good example.

"The kingdom of God is in your heart and has nothing to do with your geographical habitation. To what degree do we allow the external to affect our lives?

"The power of prayer is no tool for some people's problems. They are not in that avenue of understanding although I have seen all kinds of sinners come to Christ-drunks, drug addicts, prostitutes. No psychologist or psychiatrist brought them.

"I have spoken with some of the children of the saints who are searching for an answer to their problems-looking all over but not to God.

"Why do some people have a direct line to God? You can feel it when they pray. I have done work with older folks, and it is shameful the way they are being treated. Our challenge is to bring all together so we can say we are the most sharing and caring people in the world.

"Through Christ, God gives each

one of us gifts severally. What makes you click?

"When it is necessary, it is important to apply the law of offenses."

Brother Picciuto ended his inspiring sermon by urging everyone to enjoy his place of abode NOW and some day we will be transported to glorious eternal life.

And so ended an excellent sermon.

Brother Patsy Marinetti was the next speaker and herewith follow selected highlights from his sermon.

"Christ, our Savior, was the greatest event that ever occurred. The Roman empire ruled with an iron fist at the time of the birth of Jesus. However, attempts to annihilate the kingdom of Christ failed.

"Our life here is unstable, so it is not where we live that counts. Events occur that change the course of our plans. Nations alter the lives of people. We take our current privileges for granted. We know not if suddenly we will be uprooted.

"There are convulsions taking place throughout the world. We are supplying weapons that could be used against us. This has happened in past times. Men have risen that have caused mankind to fear and tremble. There are no guarantees in this life. Man builds for retirement and now there may be changes in this segment of life. We make our plans but God will direct our footsteps if we work with Him. We can face any eventuality if we hold on to Christ."

Brother Patsy's inspiring sermon gave us substantial food for thought.

There were more bonus blessings in store for us on Sunday, May 24, 1981. Visiting us, we had Brothers Jonathan Molinatto (N.C.), Isaac Smith and Herbert Hemmings, both from Lakeside, AZ.

North Carolina (under the Ohio District) recently has organized a mission with ten members. We enjoyed Brother Jonathan as he expressed gratitude for the many teachers who taught him in his youth. He mentioned Brothers John Dulisse (now of San Diego), Gorie Ciaravino and others in an especially spirit-filled

church service held in 1941.

Brother Jonathan said, "Though some of the people of that meeting in 1941 are now scattered about and far removed from the seat of the Church, they continue to seek and serve God." Soft-spoken, smiling and gentle, he requested that we pray for their small group in North Carolina. For many of us who were meeting Brother Jon for the first time, we felt it a privilege to have had him in our midst.

Brother Herbert Hemmings followed. This being the Memorial Day week end, he recalled the times that the nation held special services in the cemeteries. Intense and sincere, he encouraged everyone to give Him the best of our service. He said, "Keep your eye single to the glory of Christ". All that he said after that served to further fortify and strengthen us. We all need encouragement and Brother Hemmings amply provided it.

EVANGELISTIC NOTES:

Brother Richard Christman spoke to a congregation of Indians at Anadarko, Oklahoma on Sunday, June 7, 1981. Brother Bill Crall and his wife, Sister Evelyn, are our only two baptized members in this area. They live in a predominantly Indian community and enjoy a good rapport with the seed of Joseph.

Brother Peter Capone and his wife, Sister Frances, went to Dallas, Texas on the week end of June 27, 1981. Services were held at the Dallas Mission (located in Allen, Texas) on Sunday. We enjoyed the blessings of the Spirit of God.

Brother Hank Ardinger and his wife, Sister Jane, have a daughter in El Paso, Texas who has been very ill. Please pray for her and also for her parents who have traveled back and forth to El Paso and have been under much strain during their daughter's illness.

Few in membership, the Dallas Mission and other faraway places need to be remembered in our prayers.

PERSONAL BRANCH NEWS:

Earlier this year Brother Mike Feher spent many critical weeks in the hospital. He is at home now and is soliciting our prayers along with his

wife, Sister Mary, who has some serious medical problems. They both want to extend their deep appreciation and thanks for the cards, calls, etc. that they have received.

Mariene Mazzeo, wife of Ronald Mazzeo, is now convalescing at home after being hospitalized for a severe siege of illness. Please pray for her.

Brother Tony Palermo is also on the recovery list after being rushed to the hospital recently. Please pray for him.

Death took our Sister Carmen Luna on June 13. Always ready with her beautiful testimony, we will miss her very much.

SUNSHINE NEWS:

Sunday, July 19, 1981, William Wayne Raach asked for his baptism, and he was promptly taken to the Verde River and baptized by Brother George Neill. He was later confirmed by Brother Melvin Mountain. Brother Bill is the son of Sister Jean Hugel who was baptized in the Phoenix Branch a few years ago.

As a parting note: Let us take advantage of the privilege of the power of prayer **while it is yet within our grasp!**

Bronx, NY

By Rose Laessig, Branch Editor

The Bronx Branch has two new members that made their pact with God at the river's edge. Our new brother, Stephen Laessig, and new sister, Gwen Brigham, were baptized by Brother Salvatore Feola and Brother James Link. They were confirmed with a beautiful spirit that filled the Church.

Though the road may be rough with many obstacles facing the two new converts, may God continually extend His hand to help them and shield them in His keeping.

Vanderbilt, PA

By Rose Czapp, Branch Editor

The Lord in His infinite mercy has granted the Vanderbilt Branch a

shower of blessings in the first half of our new year.

JANUARY provided us with Brother Alma Nolfi teaching us how to protect our membership in the Church, and Brother Fred Olexa posing forth to us some questions about where are we when the Lord needs us.

APRIL brought us on the 4th Brothers Paul Palmieri, Dick Lawson, George Timms from Herndon, VA, Joseph Bittinger from Fort Pierce, FL, and once again Brother Fred Olexa. The saints here at Vanderbilt surely rejoiced this day in having so many distinguished brothers among us teaching us the Lord's way!

MAY gave Vanderbilt a healing. It was on Feet Washing Sunday when Sister Hope Eutsey was experiencing pain in her back that was getting intense. Before the ordinance started, she shared with us her testimony and asked that she be anointed. During Feet Washing, Sister Hope later stated that the pain had left her back and she was feeling much, much better. The Lord shows us how the mightiest of miracles can happen when faith and prayers are applied. The month of May also sent us Brother George and Sister Peg Johnson bearing sad news. They were leaving for Arizona and didn't know when they would be back to visit us.

May also gave us Brother Clarence and Sister Anna Kirkpatrick from California's Yucaipa Branch.

After experiencing the first half of this year, the saints at Vanderbilt can hardly wait for the second part. The Lord has really been with us, blessing us with a portion of His Spirit. May God bless you all is our prayer.

Windsor, Ontario

By Melissa Matthew, Branch Editor

The Sunday before the GMBA Campout, the brothers and sisters of the Windsor Branch gathered in our little building to praise the Lord. We knew that the next week end several of our number would be missing, having journeyed to Massanetta Springs for the Campout.

Brother Allen Henderson chose

for his topic Matthew 7:24-27 and told how all of us should build our house on the foundation of the rock of Jesus Christ. Brother Sam Cuomo related a dream he had had based on the above scripture after he had been baptized. In his dream, he saw a steam shovel digging out the ground around his home. Being afraid that his house would fall, he went outside to tell the man driving the machine to stop. As he approached, he could see that his house was standing on solid rock, and he knew that he had nothing to fear, knowing that he had obeyed the Gospel. How beautiful it is when each one of us makes this same commitment in our lives. We have nothing to fear if we serve Him in spirit and in truth.

After the preaching, several people were anointed, including a young woman, who along with her little daughter, had been attending church with one of our sisters for several months. After she returned to her seat, she was still visibly moved by the Spirit of God, and before the meeting could be closed in prayer, Lorie Banks asked for her baptism.

On Wednesday, July 1, Lorie Ann Banks became Sister Lorie. That beautiful spirit present on Sunday was still with our new sister on this the first day of her new life. She was baptized in Lake Erie by Brother Dick Lobzun and confirmed by Brother Bob Stanek.

The sisters of the Windsor Branch joyfully prepared a feast of good things to be enjoyed by all as we celebrated this most special day in the life of our new sister in Christ.

Our prayer is that Sister Lorie would draw closer to Him each and every day as she serves Him in newness of life.

On Sunday morning, July 26, we opened our meeting by singing *Feeble Man, A Voice Is Calling*. Opening prayer was offered by Brother Don Collison.

Brother Dick Lobzun spoke on III Nephi 27, where Christ names His Church. Brother Dick also noted that Alma established the first Church on this land many years before the birth of Jesus Christ, having great faith in God and the plan of salvation.

There are many churches nowadays that bear the name of Christ, but only one is built on His Gospel, and only that one is claimed by Jesus to be His. In the sixteenth verse, the Saviour says, "And it shall come to pass that whoso repenteth and is baptized in my name shall be filled; and if he endureth to the end, behold, him will I hold guiltless before my Father at that day when I shall stand to judge the world."

It is, therefore, a great responsibility to take upon you the name of Jesus Christ, a life of faith, works and patience, and most especially a life filled with the love of God which is pure and does not offend or judge. Brother Dick finished by saying that all things are fulfilled in the commandments of Jesus that we should love God and our neighbors as ourselves.

Brother Allen Henderson stated that the greatest name in all creation is Jesus Christ, but more important than His name is the Gospel given Him by the Father. If a church bears this name and His Gospel, the gifts of the spirit will also be present—wisdom, the gift of healing, prophecy, and also the gift of tongues. We of The Church of Jesus Christ proudly carry His name and His Gospel, and the gifts are also found in our many branches from one end of this continent to the other, and in Mexico, Italy and Africa and all other places where the Gospel has reached. Though we have carried this Gospel far, there is still a lot of work to be done. Let us all pray that each one of us can fulfill the potential we exhibited when first we took upon us the name of Jesus Christ!

* WEDDINGS *

BENYOLA—KEPHART

Mr. Anthony G. Benyola and Miss Kristine Robin Kephart were united in marriage on Saturday, March 14, 1981 in Dallas, Texas.

Brother George Benyola, father of the groom, officiated at the ceremony.

Tony and Kristy are residing in the Dallas area. May God bless them with many happy years together as husband and wife.

BOGLE—PALMIERI

Mr. Joseph Bogle and Sister Donna Palmieri were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, June 27, 1981 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Aliquippa, PA.

Brother Paul Palmieri, the bride's uncle, performed the wedding ceremony, and he was assisted by Brother Joseph Milantoni of Detroit, Michigan. Soloists were Miss Elaine Ormay and Miss Melanie Menich. Mr. Don Gillespie presented musical selections on the piano and organ.

The Boggles are residing in Monaca, PA. May God richly bless them as they begin their new life.

GRUVER—SANTILLI

Mr. Dane Gruver and Sister Gail Ellen Santilli were united in marriage on Saturday, July 18, 1981 in Canfield, Ohio by Brothers Elmer Santilli, uncle of the bride, and Dwayne Jordan of Red Lake, Arizona.

Sister Teresa Pandone was the organist. Musical selections were presented by Brother Peter and Sister Candace Genaro, and Sister Elaine Jordan, soloist.

The Gruvers are residing in Cleveland, Ohio. May the newlyweds be greatly blessed as their new life begins.

New Arrivals

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

Robert Deane, Jr. to Robert Deane and Diane Elaine McDonnell of Bell, CA;

Christine Elizabeth to Joseph and Deborah Bradshaw of Bronx, NY;

Calico Cooper to Vincent and Cheryl Furnier of Phoenix, AZ;

Carl Edward to William and Lilian Palazzo Facer of Rochester, NY;

Amy Nicole to Randy and Sherry Finlay Freeman of Windsor, Ontario;

Roy Allen to Armand and Marie Hotte of Windsor, Ontario;

Jason Abraham to Joseph and Diane Salmon of Youngstown, Ohio;

Melissa Anne to Tony and Gail Gennaro Zucco of Youngstown, Ohio; and

Ashley Marie to Mark and Judy Landrey of Phoenix, Arizona.

OBITUARIES

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

DOMENICK LaPERUTA

Mr. Domenick LaPeruta, the husband of Sister Catherine LaPeruta, passed away on March 2, 1981. He was born on April 20, 1912.

Brother James Link, of the Bronx, NY Branch, officiated at the funeral services.

Mr. LaPeruta leaves to mourn his loss his wife, two children, six grandchildren, one great-grandchild and one brother.

CATHERINE CACCIAPALLE

Sister Catherine Cacciapalle, a member of The Church of Jesus Christ in Detroit, Michigan, Branch No. 1, passed away on June 8, 1981. Born on August 24, 1894, she was baptized on March 15, 1931.

Brother Mike LaSala officiated at the funeral services and was assisted by Brother Louis Vitto.

Sister Cacciapalle is survived by her husband, Brother Vincenzo, four daughters, two sons, fourteen grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren.

GENO DiBATTISTA

Mr. Geno DiBattista passed away from this life on June 30, 1981 at the age of 56. He was born on October 22, 1925.

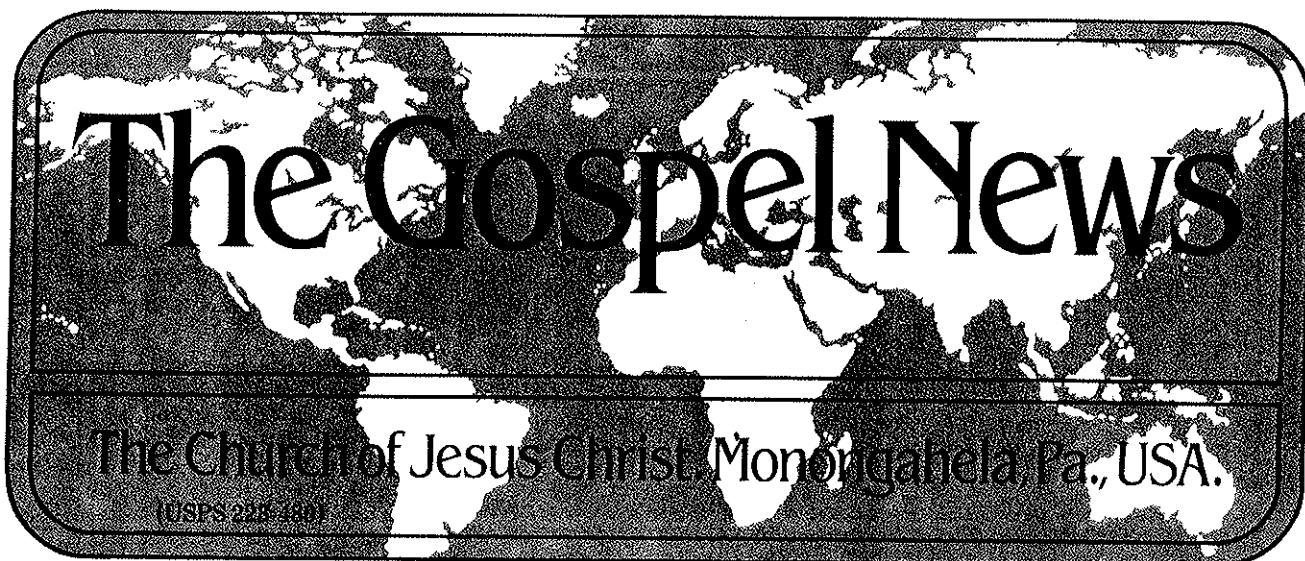
He is survived by his wife, Juanita, four children, his mother, one brother, three sisters and five grandchildren.

Brother Louis Vitto conducted the funeral services and was assisted by Brother Norman Campitelle.

RICHARD COLLISON

Mr. Richard Collison passed away from this life on July 10, 1981 at the age of 24. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, his parents, Brother Donald and Sister Adrienne Collison, six brothers and four sisters.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Ken Wright and Bob Stanek of the Windsor, Ontario Branch.



Volume 37, No. 10

October, 1981

A Message from the Seventy

*By Paul Benyola, Quorum News Coordinator
Ralph Frammolino, Quorum Writer*

Brother Joseph Calabrese, evangelist, retired his long-held position as Correspondent for The Church of Jesus Christ effective April, 1981. Brother Joe plans to dedicate more time to spreading the Gospel.

Brother Joe's enthusiasm for the Gospel is well known, and the Quorum of 70 wishes to publicly extend its warmest and grateful appreciation for all the effort he has put into this position.

Before the office of Correspondent began to evolve 15 years ago, the Church simply answered most inquiries by sending prepared literature. Initially, Brother Joe began writing personal answers to the questions as secretary of the then Home Mission Board, now the General Church Domestic Committee. He was soon chosen as the Correspondent for the Church and continued to tend to the challenge of writing to those people throughout the world interested in the Restored Gospel.

Two Church publications are a result of this work: "The Divine Continuity" and "Questions and Answers", which features his responses to the most frequently asked questions.

But no one can describe the breadth of this office as well as Brother Joe himself. In his letter of resignation, submitted to the Quorum

of 70, he writes:

"The many hundreds of letters received from all over the world have allowed me to expand my vision beyond the branch or mission. The letters have permitted me to examine the different culture of nations, kindreds, tongues, and people, which the apostles must have experienced when Jesus instructed them to go throughout the world and to preach His Gospel.

"I have noted that the same human feelings exist with most all people of the world that exist with the people of God. They have a desire to love and be loved, they know of hunger, pain, disaster and heartache; they know of lost loved ones and need comforting, too, as we all do. I have tried to make all feel that they could find it in The Church of Jesus Christ, without sacrificing the beliefs of the Church."

Brother Joe writes that he is now looking forward to visiting India with an apostle, especially after the recent baptism of Brother A. Devinandam from that part of the world. His desire is to help establish the Church there.

NOTE: Brother Dick Lawson has assumed the duties of General Church Correspondent. May God bless him in his new position. 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.

Brother Anthony Lovalvo, an evangelist from Detroit, has retired as the elder in charge of the Six Nations Mission in Canada after 20 years of faithful service.

The saints from Six Nations, as well as other parts of the Michigan-Ontario District, were present at the Mission for a special service on March 1 to reminisce about God's goodness and to express their gratitude to Brother Tony and his wife, Sister Ann.

Brother Paul Whitton, Chairman of the District Mission Board, presented the Lovalvos with a folder containing a summary of many wonderful experiences that took place at the Mission. He also presented them with a letter of thanks from the Mission Board, detailing the progress of the Six Nations' Sunday School, the remodeling of the church auditorium, the fellowship with the American Indian and the blessings. "Brothers and sisters came to church very ill and asked to be anointed and would leave the service healed," he wrote.

Over the years, Brother Tony and Sister Ann have had many helpers. Some of these brothers and sisters also related experiences at the meeting. Brother Jerry Benyola, now presiding elder of Detroit Branch 1, recorded that he learned many things working with Brother Tony and Sister Ann:

"Missionary work is a team effort.

"We must be patient with one another.

"If we want something done, we must initiate the effort first.

"It takes sacrifice.

"It takes dedication.

"It takes zeal.

"Learn to understand one another."

Brother Norman Campitelle relates one of the more moving experiences. He said that about 17 years ago, while Brother Tony and Brother Spencer Everett were visiting the home of Sister Charlotte Hill in Six Nations, a young man came in and threatened to expel Brother Tony from the reservation because of the *Book of Mormon*.

Several months later, the young man suffered a heart attack. Brother Tony and the other saints who serviced the Mission went to visit the man in the hospital and gave food and money to his family. They also prayed for the man.

The love of the saints impressed the young man. One Sunday, when Brother Tony drove up to the church building, the same young man who shortly before had threatened the work of the Church was now waiting patiently for the service to begin. The young man stood up during the service and testified that "Here were the people of God because they prayed for me and offered me of their substance," writes Brother Campitelle.



Brother Tony and Sister Ann Loyalvo

The Quorum of Seventy Evangelists also would like to salute Brother Tony and Sister Ann Loyalvo for their untiring work at the Six Nations Mission in Canada. The Quorum asks all members of The Church of Jesus Christ to remember the missionary work in their prayers.

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I want to thank God, as well as you, our many brothers and sisters, for your concern, prayers, cards, telephone calls, gifts and visits in behalf of my wife, Sister Edna Bittinger, during her recent illness.

She is much improved and gaining strength day by day. May God bless you for the love shown to us.

Brother Joseph Bittinger

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We would like to thank you for the prayers and cards sent in behalf of our son, Isaac Duane Smith. We felt the presence of the Lord during the surgery performed on our son for a cleft palate and his quick recovery from the surgical procedure. This type of surgery has never been performed on a child of seven months, and the healing process is about four weeks.

When God is in the matter, everything comes out perfect. Our son received a miracle from God as he healed in ten days. We want to thank God for this great miracle upon our son, as he is as normal as any other child.

With our love in Christ,
Brother Ike and
Sister Sandy Smith

GMBA Notice

The November Conference of the General Missionary Benevolent Association will convene promptly at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 14, 1981 at the General Church Auditorium in Greensburg, PA. The Sunday services will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will be under the auspices of the Pennsylvania District of the Church.

50th Anniversary

The McKees Rocks Branch is pleased to announce the fiftieth anniversary of the dedication of our branch. In commemoration of this special occasion, we are planning two special meetings. We will gather on Friday, October 23 at 7:30 p.m. and on Saturday, October 24 at 6:30 p.m. at our church building to recall and share with one another the glories and blessings of God toward our branch.

We invite and encourage all who are able to attend, especially those who had a part in the spiritual history of our branch. Refreshments and fellowship will follow both meetings.

General Church Calendar

October 1981

- 3 General Ladies Uplift Circle
- 3-9 California Spiritual Conference
- *14 Quorum of Twelve Meeting
- *15 Gen. Mission Board, 9:00 AM
- *15 Finance Committee, 1:00 PM
- *15 Quorum of Seventy, 6:00 PM
- *16 General Conference, 9:00 AM
- *17 General Conference, 9:00 AM
- *18 General Conference, 10:00 AM

* Denotes meetings of General Church Conference to be held in Greensburg, PA at the General Church Auditorium.

November 1981

- 14 GMBA Conference,
Greensburg, PA

Life's Garden

Mother is the blossom . . .
Radiant, complete.
The children are the tiny buds . . .
Delicate and sweet.
Father is the sturdy stem
That holds them straight and tall.
Love's the root that gives them life
And nourishes them all.

Author Unknown

"It Is Written"



By V. J. Loyalvo, Apostle

SUBJECT: Family Life (Continued from August Issue)

A united family is the rock and foundation upon which a household or a nation is built with stability, security and happiness. Without a good solid family structure, a household can fall apart, disintegrating into an atmosphere of distrust, doubt, and fear; distrust of one another develops daily until nothing is left. Jesus said that, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." No truer words have ever been spoken.

Unity in a family begins with the husband and father. He must know his rightful place in a home. He must be not only a good provider, but a pillar upon which the wife and children can depend; he must be the leader of responsibility, by which he can fulfill his God-given role as the head of his household. This is not a question of male chauvinism, but the right of the man as written in the Word of God. "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God." (I Corinthians 11:3) This does not mean that a man is the absolute ruler, the Lord and Master of his wife's destiny and fate, but rather that his responsibilities are much greater in the household in order to achieve the God-given order of human affairs. In Ephesians 5:23, it is written, "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the Church . . ." Nowhere in the Bible does Paul, the Apostle, give any indication that the wife is nothing but a slave, submitting as a chattel to her husband, for he exhorts the husbands "To love your wives . . ." (Col. 3:19) The Apostle Peter also teaches, "Likewise ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands . . ." (I Peter 3:1) I have heard some people say that

Paul did not like women, that is why he spoke as he did. How wrong this assumption is. Paul was a choice vessel of the Lord; he was taken into the third heaven; he spent fourteen years in the area of Arabia, returning once after three years to Jerusalem where he met Peter and James. Here was a man taught by the Lord Himself, given knowledge by Christ such as very few men have ever received, who rarely spoke of his own mind but by the Spirit of the Almighty. Think carefully; would God have chosen this wonderful man if there was any question of his likes or dislikes of men or women? Surely not. Peter the Apostle, in defense of Paul, wrote, ". . . even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction." (II Peter 3:15-16)

Let the man then recognize his headship in the home and his responsible leadership in the household; and let him exercise this God-given authority and privilege in a manner both productive to his family and pleasing to the Almighty. He does not stand alone as a tyrant, but together with his wife by his side as companion in arms, will be a bulwark of defense, a tower of strength for his children. He must love his wife as his own flesh, even as Christ loved His church so much that He gave His life for it. A husband does not necessarily have to make this kind of drastic sacrifice, but, if he loves his wife, he will involve her in decision-making. He will not be dictatorial nor demanding, but rather be sensitive and considerate to her wishes and desires. It is not much of a sacrifice to give up watching a football game on T.V. and go shopping with his wife; nor is it a sacrifice to help wash the dishes or wax the kitchen floor to lighten her burden a little. A husband who demands selfish responses from his wife is not a very loving husband, nor is he sensitive to her emotional needs. A man who is not willing to deny himself anything for the wife that God has given him to share his life with, has failed in his role as a husband. Besides being interested in her physical and emotional needs, he should also be aware of her spiritual needs; he should encourage her to use

her talents in the service of the Lord, and together teach their children the Word of God and to walk in truth and righteousness.

Now, a little about the WIVES:

It is written, "A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones." (Proverbs 12:4)

(Continued next issue)

Young People Ask

By John Griffith

Dear Brother John,

If my brother or sister has hurt my feelings, isn't it their responsibility to approach me to settle the matter?

Your question in my mind has touched upon an ill that has existed in human existence for a very long time. The ill that I refer to is **pride**. It is a weakness that each of us face as we endeavor to draw closer to the Lord Jesus Christ.

What does it take to overcome that obstacle when feelings are hurt? Possibly, greater love, both for our Father in heaven and also greater love for our fellow man/woman.

Jesus Christ set a clear example in His life as He was hanging from the cross and yet because of His love for God and mankind He exclaimed, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do . . ." Luke 23:34. At that time He was suffering greatly, yet He displayed a forgiving spirit.

We must completely forgive one another. At the end of the Lord's prayer, the Savior reminds us to "forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors . . ." as is stated in His holy word, "And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us." Luke 11:4

Again, we are reminded in the *Book of Mormon* to forgive, "and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors . . ." III Nephi 13:11

Why must we forgive? III Nephi 13:14-15 reads, "For, if ye forgive men their trespasses your heavenly

Father will also forgive you; But if ye forgive not men their trespasses neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

We must forgive even if our offender did not ask forgiveness. So frequently an offense is made but never intended. Something that was said or done was misunderstood. As individuals, you and I must be careful not to misinterpret another's words or actions. Don't walk around looking for an offense.

If my brother offends me, whose responsibility is it to make the first move toward reconciliation? Whoever first recognizes the offense. "But I say unto you, that whosoever is angry with his brother shall be in danger of his judgment. And whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council; and whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire. Therefore, if ye shall come unto me or shall desire to come unto me, and rememberest that thy brother hath aught against thee—

Go thy way unto thy brother, and first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come unto me with full purpose of heart, and I will receive you. Agree with thine adversary quickly while thou art in the way with him, lest at any time he shall get thee, and thou shalt be cast into prison." III Nephi 12:22-25 See also Matthew 5:23-24.

Do not wait for the weakness of pride to harden our hearts toward our brother or sister. React quickly that the spirit of God will direct you, rather than waiting and spiritually suffer. And when you forgive, then forget.

The Lord forgets as He forgives, and so we must also. The spirit of God caused Isaiah to say, "I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine sake, and will not remember thy sins." Isaiah 43:25

And so, let us encourage each other to follow the order as prescribed in the Law of Offense. Let's not become bitter while waiting for our offender to learn of it and expect him

to then come to kneel before us. Where is the love of God in that?

Grow spiritually by keeping His commandments, "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the Church: but if he neglect to hear the Church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican." Matthew 18:15-17

If you have a question or comment, please write. Share your thoughts with each other. We are our brother's keeper. God bless you.

Write: Young People Ask
The Church of Jesus Christ
Sixth and Lincoln Sts.
Monongahela, PA 15063

Greetings in Jesus Christ, _____

"Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving kindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

"Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

"Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

"Deliver me from blood guiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation; and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.

"O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise." Psalm 51:1,10,12-15

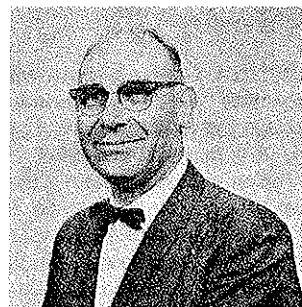
My mother was a dramatic reader. Every night during the winter months, she would read from the stories of the persecutions and deaths of the saints. Some of our neighbors would join to listen.

This one night, she was reading of the tragic accusations by two priests against Susanna of having committed evil. As the story goes, though she was innocent, the priests were believed. Even her husband did not stand by her side, though she pleaded with tears. The sentence was to burn her at the stake in public. Though some of her friends who knew her best cried bitterly, they did nothing to defend her.

Then came young Daniel, and being a prince, he was permitted to retry her case and found the priests liars, and Susanna was set free.

My sister, Virginia, and I held hands, and we were moved by the dramatic story. We stood up, yet holding hands, then spoke simultaneously as though with one voice, "Mother!" Mother stopped to look at us. Then we said, "When we grow up, we want to be saints." My mother felt the rapture of our ecstasy. Not knowing what she could say, she said, "You sure will, you sure will." She then embraced us with the warmth of a mother.

Whatever aroused us to this



unique attitude we shall know in the hereafter. Later when I was 10 and Virginia was 12 years old, my mother sent us daily to our farm where we had a few animals to care for. We would generally go after school. We would go to our farm a distance of approximately 4 or 5 kilometers one way; we weren't to salute anyone on the way or accept a ride.

One day as we walked, a young man with a long brown robe came suddenly to us and took hold of Virginia's hand and then mine. He was friendly, and we were overwhelmed by his smile and kind attitude. We walked together as he was telling us of the things of God, of flowers, and he also talked to us about our father who was in America. Upon arrival at our farm, he stopped and said, "This is your father's farm. Go

Continued on Page 6

Editorial Viewpoint . . . Thanksgiving

Sing unto the Lord with thanksgiving; Sing praise upon the harp unto our God: Who covereth the heaven with clouds, who prepareth rain for the earth, who maketh grass to grow upon the mountains. He giveth to the beast his food, and to the young ravens which cry.

Praise ye the Lord. Psalm 147:7,8,9,20

We are surely indebted to the psalmist for his stirring and eloquent reminder of God's continuing providence. We are moved by his exhortation that we sing unto the Lord with thanksgiving and praises. As the autumnal and harvest seasons are fast ushering in, it is most fitting and proper that we heed the call of the psalmist.

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION

Appropriately, President Ronald Reagan, in keeping with our time-honored American tradition, will shortly issue a proclamation designating the last Thursday of November as a national day of Thanksgiving.

May we happily note that many countries all over the world also observe a national thanksgiving and harvest festival, and rightly so.

May we pause from our daily strivings and give thoughts to our gifts, our homes, our work, our families, and much more.

May we look up to God with thankful hearts for another bountiful harvest and for manifold blessings thus far, as the year, 1981, rapidly draws to a close.

AMERICA MORE INDEBTED

As a nation, America is much more indebted to God for His blessings and providence than many nations the world over.

In a recent interview for the August 17, 1981 issue of U. S. News and World Report, John R. Block, U. S. Secretary of Agriculture, was asked, "How is 1981 shaping up down on the farm?" He answered, "Farmers are now harvesting the biggest wheat crop ever raised in the United States—2.8 billion bushels. We are predicting the third-largest corn crop. There are a few localized weather problems, but nation-wide we should have good crops this year." He was further asked, "Why is the Soviet Union so anxious to buy our grain after we punished them with an embargo?" He answered, "It looks like the Russians are going to have another poor crop, so they are looking toward the U. S. to make up any shortfall."

He also added that his deputy secretary, Dick Lyng, recently returned from China, reported that they might want to buy 15 million or more metric tons of grain above the limit of the existing grain agreement.

Additionally, the August, 1981 issue of the Farm Journal, reporting record grain production, noted that in addition to exports to the USSR and China, increased exports are indicated to Brazil, Chile, Venezuela, Egypt, Korea, Mexico, South Africa, Nigeria, West Asia and North Africa.

May we also note that the United States is a generous participant in the 35-nation World Food Council that is dedicated to sharing surplus food with the underprivileged nations of the world. Thus, God's blessings and bounties are so generous throughout our country, that the overflow reaches many other countries around the world. It behooves us to exclaim with the psalmist, "PRAISE YE THE LORD."

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The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



The Prayers of Enos

Dear Girls and Boys,

In the land of the Americas, many years before Christ was born, a young man named Enos went into the forest to hunt wild beasts. This young man was the grandson of the prophet, Lehi, who had led his people out of Jerusalem before the destruction in the days of King Zedekiah.

Enos's father, Jacob, was a young child when his family boarded the ship to travel to the promised land. Now Jacob grew up to be a good man. He believed all the words of God and followed the preaching and beliefs taught to him by his brother, Nephi, and his father, Lehi. They believed that one day a Savior, Jesus Christ, would come. Jacob taught his son, Enos, all about God and showed him how to keep the records written on plates of brass that were brought from Jerusalem.

Now as Enos was hunting, he began to think on the words his father had spoken about heaven, eternal life and the joys felt by those who serve God. These things sunk deep into his heart. His soul hungered.

Enos kneeled down before God and cried unto him. All the day long he cried unto God. When the night came, he still raised his voice high until, the *Book of Mormon* tells us, it reached the heavens.

There came a voice unto him saying, "Enos your sins are forgiven you, and you shall be blessed." And Enos, knowing that God could not lie, felt his guilt and sorrow swept away. Then he asked the Lord how this could be done. The Lord responded to him and said, "It is done because of your faith in Christ, that you have never before heard nor seen. And many

years will pass away before he shall live in the flesh. Now, go. Your faith has made you whole."

But it came to pass that after Enos heard these words, he began to think about his people, the Nephites, and again Enos poured out his whole soul unto God for them. While he was struggling in the spirit, the voice of the Lord came into his mind again saying, "I will be with your brothers as long as they keep my commandments. I have given them this land (of the Americas) and it will be a blessed land as long as they serve me. If they do wrong and become evil, they will be destroyed."

When Enos heard these words, his faith began to be unshaken in the Lord, and he prayed with long struggling for the Lamanites, who were the descendents of his father Jacob's brothers. Enos prayed that if, in the years to come his people, the Nephites, should stop serving God and be destroyed, that the Lord would save the records written by the men of old on plates of brass and gold. And he prayed that if the Lamanites were not destroyed, that they would someday believe in these records. Enos cried unto the Lord continually because the Lord had said, "Whatsoever thing ye shall ask in faith, believing that you shall receive in the name of Christ, you will receive it."

This promise made by God to Enos came true. Hundreds of years later the Nephite nation stopped serving God and fell deeply into sin. Eventually they were destroyed by their Lamanite cousins. Yet, the ancient records were not destroyed. Centuries later the boy, Joseph Smith, was given these plates to translate into English. They are the *Book of Mormon*. We can thank God for those faithful men of old like Enos who begged God to preserve these records. Today the descendents of those

great men, the American Indians, join with us of the Gentile nations to learn more about God's power and love as together we study the *Book of Mormon*.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

WHO AM I?—BOOK OF MORMON

1. When my older brothers were hitting me with a rod (large stick) an angel of God came and stopped them.
2. The Lord told me to build a ship to carry my family across the ocean and taught me how to build it even though I had never built such a thing before.
3. In a vision I saw Jesus Christ, his twelve apostles (in Jerusalem) and his twelve disciples in America.

Greetings in Jesus Christ continued

in and do as your mother ordered you to do, and then go home." He laid a hand on my head and one on Virginia's head; then he prayed for us. I looked into his eyes as he prayed. He said, in part, "Father, bless them." After he prayed, he turned to us and said, "When you grow up, you will go to America to meet your father; there you will receive a great blessing."

We proceeded to enter the farm when suddenly we stopped and both of us asked, "Who was that man? How did he know about our father?" We ran to look for him but found no one, though the area was clear on all sides. We rushed in, caring for the animals and then ran all the way home.

Upon telling our mother this strange happening, she embraced both of us and said, "Indeed, God has messengers. His blessings will come to pass." Though His blessings have come to pass literally, we are still curious to know, "Who was that kind man?" Also, "How did he know of us and our father, and more so, of our future?" But then, if the eyes of the Lord are upon the sparrow, will they not be upon us also?

Cheer up. God knows all about you, and He cares for you. Trust Him, and evil will be overcome by good for your sakes. The grace of our Lord be with you.

Brother Mark Randy

(Answer: The son of Lehi, the man Nephi)

MBA Highlights

Ohio Area MBA

The Ohio Area MBA held its 16th Annual Conference on June 13, 1981, in Cleveland, Ohio, with good representation from all locals.

The morning had begun with a District fast and prayer, with Brother Vince Gibson presiding and Brothers Phil Jackson and Bill Prentice assisting. Many beautiful prayers were uttered and an experience by a sister was related concerning our gathering and God stating, "My glory is manifested wherever my people are."

The afternoon was set for the MBA Conference, with Brother Mark Kovacic, President, conducting the meeting and Brothers Ron Dziak and Wayne Martorana taking their places as Vice President and Chaplain, respectively.

Brother Wayne brought out a portion of scripture from Hebrews and expressed how our efforts should be in missionary endeavors, as our name implies.

After a number of unfinished items were dispensed with, a new item of order was tried, wherein each Local represented had the opportunity to express what they were doing for activities and what they were studying.

Election of officers was then taken up, and the following were elected for a one year term:

| | |
|-------------|------------------------|
| President— | Brother Ron Dziak |
| Vice Pres.— | Brother Stacey Light |
| Chaplain— | Brother Bill Hufnagle |
| Secretary— | Sister Renee Alessio |
| Treasurer— | Brother Joel Calabrese |

The remainder of the offices were filled accordingly.

Because of our great and sincere interest in doing American Indian work, a special day was set for the Activities Committee to meet; both the Ohio District Mission Board and interested young people will be invited.

Also passed were various activities, including: a Walkathon (at Presque Isle State Park in Erie, PA), a

singspiration, a retreat and the preparation of a program for November GMBA Conference. The Area also committed itself to support a Vacation Bible School in South Bend, Indiana, and donated \$150.00 to the Ohio District Mission Board.

A special vote of thanks was extended to Brothers Mark Kovacic and Wayne Martorana for their service as President and Chaplain, as they felt to step down to allow others the opportunity to work in the Area MBA. A special thanks went to the Cleveland Local for their hospitality and the meals which they provided.

The evening service was opened by Brother Bill Prentice, who used the incident of the men who opened the roof to let the afflicted man down to Jesus. He spoke on their faith and the consequences of it. Brother Bill Hufnagle followed and continued on the same theme.

The Cleveland Local presented a number of Restoration hymns and the testimonies of the composers. Some testimonies followed and the meeting was brought to a close with all having felt the spirit of God throughout the whole day.

Faces

By Donald Ross

He admitted that he was a "visionary" man, perhaps something of a dreamer. But he was a doer and when disturbed, he could speak to others with such power that they trembled before him. So persuasive were his words that they confounded those who opposed him "that they durst not utter against him." His name—Lehi.

Lehi was a father of nations, a patriarch in every sense. He was faithful, he blessed, he led, he prophesied, he taught and he preached. Lehi lived in Jerusalem his entire life. He was a man of learning in the language of both the Jews and Egyptians.

A descendant of Jacob, through Joseph and Manasseh, Lehi was counseled by the Lord to depart from Jerusalem. Otherwise, he would be destroyed with the wicked. Lehi was familiar with the prophecies and knew that Jerusalem would be destroyed. Overcome with the spirit and message of the Lord, Lehi preached to the unworthy residents of Jerusalem. But they did not listen. Instead, they mocked him and sought to kill him.

Lehi was obedient in following the commandment to depart from Jerusalem with his family. He abandoned his home, his gold and silver, and other valuable property. The amazing journey of Lehi, his family and followers from Jerusalem to the Western Hemisphere is the subject of the beginning of the *Book of Mormon*. Their travels, trials, troubles and successes are written in detail by Nephi, one of Lehi's sons.

This servant of God lived close to the Lord and was a constant companion of the spirit. He received direction, guidance and glorious experiences, including a vision of the complete history of the world. Lehi was prayerful, pleading to the Lord for compassion and mercy upon his people. He was concerned about his wayward sons, Laman and Lemuel. He sorrowed because of the cruel conduct of his older sons toward the younger Nephi. However, Lehi rejoiced in his knowledge of God. He was grateful and offered sacrifices in remembrance of his blessings.

To Lehi we are indebted for several great teachings of the Gospel, i.e., the Fall of Adam, an explanation of free agency and the Atonement of Christ:

"Adam fell that men might be, and men are, that they might have joy."

"Wherefore, the Lord God gave unto man that he should act for himself."

Lehi identified the Western Hemisphere as "a land of promise, a land which is choice above all other lands . . . And if it so be that they serve him according to the commandments which he hath given, it shall be a land of liberty unto them . . ." What a visionary man!

Branch and Mission News

McKees Rocks, PA

By Martha Laird, Branch Editor

We have rejoiced very much to have many visitors come our way recently. Brother Richard Scaglione, his family and Brother Brian Smith spent a recent Sunday with us. Brother and Sister Joseph Ciotti and their daughter, Sister Rose, of the California District also worshipped with us, as well as Brother and Sister George Johnson, Sister Ruth Kirschner, Brother and Sister George Ondrasik and their daughter, Sister Norma. We do praise God for these faithful brothers and sisters.

On Sunday, June 7, a wonderful discourse from our elders was given: Do not run away from God. The story of Jonah was the example preached to us.

On Sunday, June 28, Brother Walter John Laird was ordained a deacon. His feet were washed by Brother Ralph Ciotti, who is also a deacon. Brother John Manes then ordained Brother Walter.

Before communion was administered, Brother Frank DiAntonio, also a deacon, asked for the laying on of hands, during which Sister Hilda DiVito in a vision saw Brothers DiAntonio, Ciotti and Laird holding hands in a circle around the elders. This brought a great blessing and served as a confirmation of Brother Laird's calling.

We praise God from Whom all blessings flow. May the Lord bless His Church and all who love Him. Jesus Christ is Lord; this is often told to us. We do believe and rejoice in His wondrous mercy and love.

On July 5, we enjoyed extra blessings with the visit of Brother and Sister Milford Eutsey and family and Brother and Sister Joseph Calabrese and their daughter, Sister Bonnie Smith. From the ministry, the invitation for the great supper was given. It is supper time; many give excuses, therefore the lame, the blind, and the poor will be compelled to come.

On July 12, Brother and Sister Daniel Casasanta fellowshipped with

us for the last time for about six weeks. They were preparing to leave for Italy and Africa with Brother and Sister John Ross from the Aliquippa Branch. Brother John McDonald from Massachusetts was also present with us that day.

On July 26, Brother and Sister Raymond Cosetti came to help encourage us. Our brother read Luke 7.

We all hope by the grace of God to prove faithful. May the Lord add His blessing is our prayer.

Imperial, PA

By Eva Moore, Branch Editor

The spirit of the Latter Day Glory filled our branch July 5, 1981, in our evening service. There were ten branches represented with about 100 in attendance. A new hope of a better day coming on was planted into our hearts as Evangelist Russ Martorana from Niles, Ohio opened our service with Isaiah 52, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace, that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! thy watchmen shall lift up the voice together, they shall sing."

Apostle Frank Calabrese followed by telling us how our faithful brothers who have passed on to their reward taught of Latter Day work of the Lord and the gathering of the House of Israel. Some call this Latter Day work as Zion, some call it the Peaceful Reign or the Stone Kingdom, or the land of Canaan. It is also referred to as the Church adorning itself for the coming of Christ to wed the Bride before the end-time.

Brother Frank Altamore added a few comments on how God has worked a wonderful work in his life and he expressed himself in gratitude to God. We sang a few selections out of the "Songs of Zion", and Brother Eugene Amormino, his wife, sister Donna, and Sister Inez Caldwell from Detroit sang a trio. Also Sister Bertha Bilskey sang *Is It Nothing to You?* We also had Sister Bonnie Smith from Arizona with us; she has a beautiful

testimony of God's goodness to her. Our meeting was closed with Sister Arlene Buffington's newest song, *The Valleys Are Green, Sir*, and a spirit of peace and joy enveloped the congregation.

Fredonia, PA

By Ethel Cadman

Twenty-four brothers, sisters and friends of the Fredonia, PA Branch held a retreat at Cook's Forest on July 31 thru August 2.

On Saturday morning a chapel service was held. The remainder of the day was spent hiking, sightseeing and whatever activity each wished to pursue. On Saturday evening a seminar on Zion was held. Brother Russell Cadman led the seminar and discussion following.

On Sunday morning, Gary and Darlene Martin were baptized in the Clarion River. The morning was cool and peaceful, making a beautiful setting for the baptisms. Sister Darlene is the daughter of Sister Norma Love Walker. Her great-grandmother was Sister Mary Cadman Love. This makes Darlene one of the fifth generation of the Cadman family in The Church of Jesus Christ. We all rejoiced in having this couple make their covenant with God.

The Sunday morning meeting continued with the confirmations and good messages from our elders. Many beautiful and encouraging testimonies were given. After a bounteous lunch, the group returned to their homes with hearts rejoicing after witnessing two more converts make their covenants with the Lord.

Tampa, FL

By Pearl Zinzi, Branch Editor

Greetings, salutations and the blessings of God be with all of my brothers and sisters in Christ.

I would like to take this opportunity to praise and glorify God for being with my husband and I at the time of

our automobile accident in which our car was totaled. I would also like to thank all who have written cards, telephoned, and visited me while in the hospital. God is so good.

On June 7, 1981 we were pleased to have visiting us Brother Joe Calabrese from Ohio along with his daughter, Sister Bonnie Smith and her son, Brent, from Arizona. We also were very happy to have Brother Merdy and Sister Irene Griffith back with us again. Brother Calabrese opened our meeting, and his text was on the Lord's Prayer and what it means and how we can apply it to our daily lives. His sermon was very inspiring as all felt the spirit of God in this meeting.

On the following Sunday, June 14, 1981 we again were blessed with the visit of Brother Joseph Bittinger, his wife Edna, Brother Ray and Sister Maryann Bays and their son all from the Fort Pierce, Florida Branch. Also visiting us this day were Brother John and Sister Carolyn Griffith and their two sons from Pennsylvania and Brother Lee Griffith and his son from Ohio. Brother John and Brother Lee are the sons of Brother Merdy and Sister Irene Griffith. Also visiting us this day were Brother Joe and Sister Bertha Constantine from Cape Coral, Florida and their granddaughter. It was a wonderful day—like a mini spiritual conference.

The meeting this day was opened with Brother Dom Risola singing *Because He Lives*, which set the pace for a beautiful and blessed meeting.

Brother John Griffith was the opening speaker and gave a very inspiring sermon about those who were arrayed in white robes found in the New Testament, Revelations 7, and also of the great tribulations about the enmity of man and Satan, which is found in the Old Testament, Genesis 3. He stressed that it is very important that we should conquer the enemy of our souls and to be strong enough to face all the dangers and evils of this life. Brother Bittinger also spoke along the same lines encouraging us all to be good saints and to forgive and forget any differences we have. Brothers Merdy Griffith and Billy Tucker gave the closing remarks about how the spirit of God was felt this day and also encouraged all to be faithful, sincere, honest and forgiving one to another.

Sister Hilda Field, who is afflicted with diabetes, was having trouble with her foot, and the doctor informed her that she would have to be operated upon. A few weeks before her operation, an American Indian appeared to her in a vision and told her that she would not lose the leg because of gangrene. She underwent a successful operation and is healing very well. She wishes to thank all the brothers and sisters who have prayed for her and sent cards, telephoned, and visited, but most of all she wants to thank God for His loving kindness in her hour of woe.

Lorain, OH

Sunday, July 12, 1981 was a day of rejoicing at the Lorain, Ohio Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. Sister Anita Calabrese was baptized into the Church by Brother Frank Calabrese. Brother Dominic Moraco confirmed our new sister.

May God richly bless Sister Anita as she begins her service for the Lord.

Monongahela, PA

By Robin Burns and Tammy Nicklow

On Sunday, June 14, 1981, the Monongahela Branch had a special, but sad meeting. This was the last meeting for Brother George and Sister Margaret (Peg) Johnson, who were moving to Arizona.

Brother Robert Nicklow, Sr. opened the service in prayer. Brother Johnson opened the service, stating that he had come to this branch ten years ago. He felt that it was time to move and that God was in the matter. He stated that we may have many friends, but true happiness is not in the world, but with the brothers and sisters in Christ. He also reminded us that "Time is short. Constantly strive to do good. The evil power is always at work trying to cheat us out of the treasures of heaven." He wished everyone Godspeed and reminded us to draw closer each day to God. Brother James Campbell closed the service in prayer.

Our afternoon service was spent in many beautiful testimonies, and a blessing was enjoyed by all. We were also happy to have visiting saints and friends from the Vanderbilt, PA and Niles, Ohio Branches. At the close of the meeting, we all joined hands in a circle of prayer. Our prayers go with Brother and Sister Johnson as they endeavor to serve the Lord. Their new address is:

George and Peg Johnson
528 S. Copper Lane
Apache Junction, AZ 85220

As we entered the church building on July 12, 1981, the saints and friends were singing, *There Shall Be Showers of Blessings*. We welcomed visitors from St. John, Kansas, Pine-top, Arizona, Detroit, Branch No. 1 and the Inner-City Branch, Michigan.

Our service was opened with the hymn, *For Those Tears* sung by all those who had attended the GMBA Campout. Brother Carl Frammolino opened the service in prayer. Brother Alex Robinson opened the service, telling us of his baptism at the age of 17. As he grew, God watched over him in his life in college and in the Army. He said there were times when he grew weak, but God was there. He recalled how God watched over him in the service, and he found out that Brother Paul D'Amico was stationed in the same area and they were able to worship together. He also stated that he was thankful for all his brothers and sisters and friends in the Church and for the bountiful blessings of God.

Sisters Carolyn Griffith and Marilyn Scolaro then sang a duet.

Brother Carl Frammolino then spoke of the blessings of the GMBA Campout, stating that he was thankful for the privilege of knowing younger saints and encouraging them to stay strong in the Church. He also told of the blessings he receives in being a part of the Inner-City Branch. He asked that we remember them all in their endeavors in the Church.

Brother Peter Scolaro then spoke to us concerning his experiences in the Church as a young man to the present. He said that we must be sincere in our desire to serve God.

The Monongahela Branch is blessed with a young group of boys and girls who sing praises to God. They are Brian and Scott Griffith, Daniel Nicklow, and Jeffrey, Justin and Jennifer Paxon. They sang a song of praise to God for us. Our prayers are that God keeps the desire within them to be a part of the Church.

Visiting with us on July 19, 1981, were Brother and Sister Joe Griffith and Brother and Sister Nephi DeMercurio. Brother Nephi opened the service using as his text Matthew 5:3, "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." He stated that we pray for God's blessings, but that we have to be ready. He also reminded us that the spirit of God is a very treasured thing.

Brother Joe Griffith then spoke of how God has been with him. He said he has always had a problem in public speaking, but God has been with him. He stated that we all have a work to do in the Church. If we truly desire it, God will be with us. Always give the best you can, as Jesus Christ gave His life for us. Brother Jim Grazan then closed the service in prayer.

Our afternoon service was a double blessing. Brother Nephi and Sister Lorraine answered questions

asked by the congregation on the ways of life in Africa and the daily life they face.

We then had the blessing of a child. Cindy Marie Suty, daughter of Robert and Eileen Suty, was blessed by Brother William Chepanoske. Our prayers are that God will watch over her all the days of her life.

Many wonderful testimonies were given, and a day of rejoicing was enjoyed by all.

On Sunday, July 26, 1981, we had visitors from different parts of the Church. Brother Joe Griffith from San Carlos, Arizona, opened our meeting using as his text Galatians 6, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. ... And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Brother Joe was followed in speaking by Brother William Chepanoske.

The afternoon meeting was opened by singing, *I Love Him*, and Brother Jim Grazan briefly spoke concerning God's love for us. We then sang, *I Would Be True*, and Brother John Griffith commented on being true to the callings we receive, especially to our calling into the

Gospel.

In preparation of ordaining Sister Mabel Bickerton into the office of a deaconess, Brother Griffith stated that we do not need an ordained office to serve God. We do not have to have a calling to be used of God, just the desire. Sister Mabel is that perfect example. She has been in the Church for fifty years and has been a helper, teacher, friend and sister to many. Sister Mabel has led the upright life of a deaconess. Brother John then read the duties of a deaconess. Sister Mabel's feet were washed by Sister Dorothy Gandley, and she was ordained by Brother Jim Grazan.

Sister Mabel then gave her testimony of how she had never been ordained, but God gave her many talents and strong desires that kept her busy in the Church. Many brothers and sisters testified, thanking God for Sister Mabel and for the life she has led and for the good examples she has set. John Bickerton, Sister Mabel's husband, also stood and was thankful for his wife who has taken care of him and who has always stood by him.

A few also related that they felt Brother Jim Grazan would ordain Sister Mabel. Truly we felt God's blessings. We closed by singing, *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*.

* WEDDINGS *

GEHLY—CURRY

Mr. Joel Cadman Gehly and Miss Ruth Marie Curry were united in holy matrimony on May 23, 1981 at the Harbison Chapel at Grove City College, Grove City, PA. The groom's grandfather, Apostle Russell Cadman, performed the ceremony.

Joel and Ruth are making their home in Erie, PA.

ICKES—BESSECK

Mr. Kenneth Ickes and Miss Susan Besseck were united in marriage on Saturday, July 18, 1981 in The Church of Jesus Christ in McKees Rocks, PA.

Brothers Richard Lawson and John Manes officiated. Musical selections were presented by Sister Nina DiCenzo.

The newlyweds are residing in McKees Rocks, PA.

May the Lord bless and prosper them as they begin a new journey of life together.

CALABRESE—CORRADO

Brother Joel Calabrese and Sister Edna Corrado were united in marriage on Saturday, July 25, 1981 in The Church of Jesus Christ in Imperial, PA.

Evangelists Joseph Calabrese and Robert Buffington officiated. Musical selections were presented by Brothers Dennis Calabrese, Eugene Amormino and Mark Naro, and Sisters Donna Amormino and Elisa Calabrese. Brother Joel wrote and sang a solo to his bride.

The newlyweds are making their home in Lorain, Ohio. May God bless them as they begin their new life together.

NOBLE—GORDOWSKI

Brother Howard Eugene Noble and Sister Jose-

phine Gordowski were united in marriage on July 25, 1981 in Lakeland, Florida.

Brother Duane Lowe officiated at the wedding ceremony.

The Nobles will reside in Lakeland, Florida. May God bless them as they start their new life together.

FLATTER--MORRIS

Thomas J. Flatter and Mari K. (Penny) Morris were joined in holy wedlock on June 27, 1981 in The Church of Jesus Christ in Fort Pierce, Florida.

Brother Frank Rogolino presided over the ceremony. Musical selections were presented by Sister Mary Ann Bays.

The newlyweds will reside in Fort Pierce, Florida. May God richly bless the Flatters on their new journey in 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:

Gregory Michael to Gregory and Candy Swanger of Tampa, Florida;

Cameron Thomas to Ken and Sharon Staley 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.

ANTHONY BENYOLA

On June 6, 1981, the Lord chose to call home Brother Anthony Benyola after a lengthy illness. He was born on October 16, 1909 and was baptized on October 11, 1931.

Besides his wife, Sister Josephine, he also leaves four sons, two daughters, eighteen grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Brother Joseph Perri conducted the funeral services, with Brother Paul Benyola assisting.

We shall miss Brother Tony here in this life, but our hope is to unite with him in the life which is to come.

ELVIRA BITONTI

Sister Elvira Bitonti, a member of The Church of Jesus Christ in Detroit, Michigan, Branch No. 2, passed away from this life on July 29, 1981. Born on January 23, 1915, she was baptized on July 12, 1959.

Brothers Querino Bologna and Alex Gentile officiated at the funeral services.

Sister Bitonti is survived by her husband, two sisters and many nieces and nephews. She will surely be missed by all her brothers and sisters in Christ.

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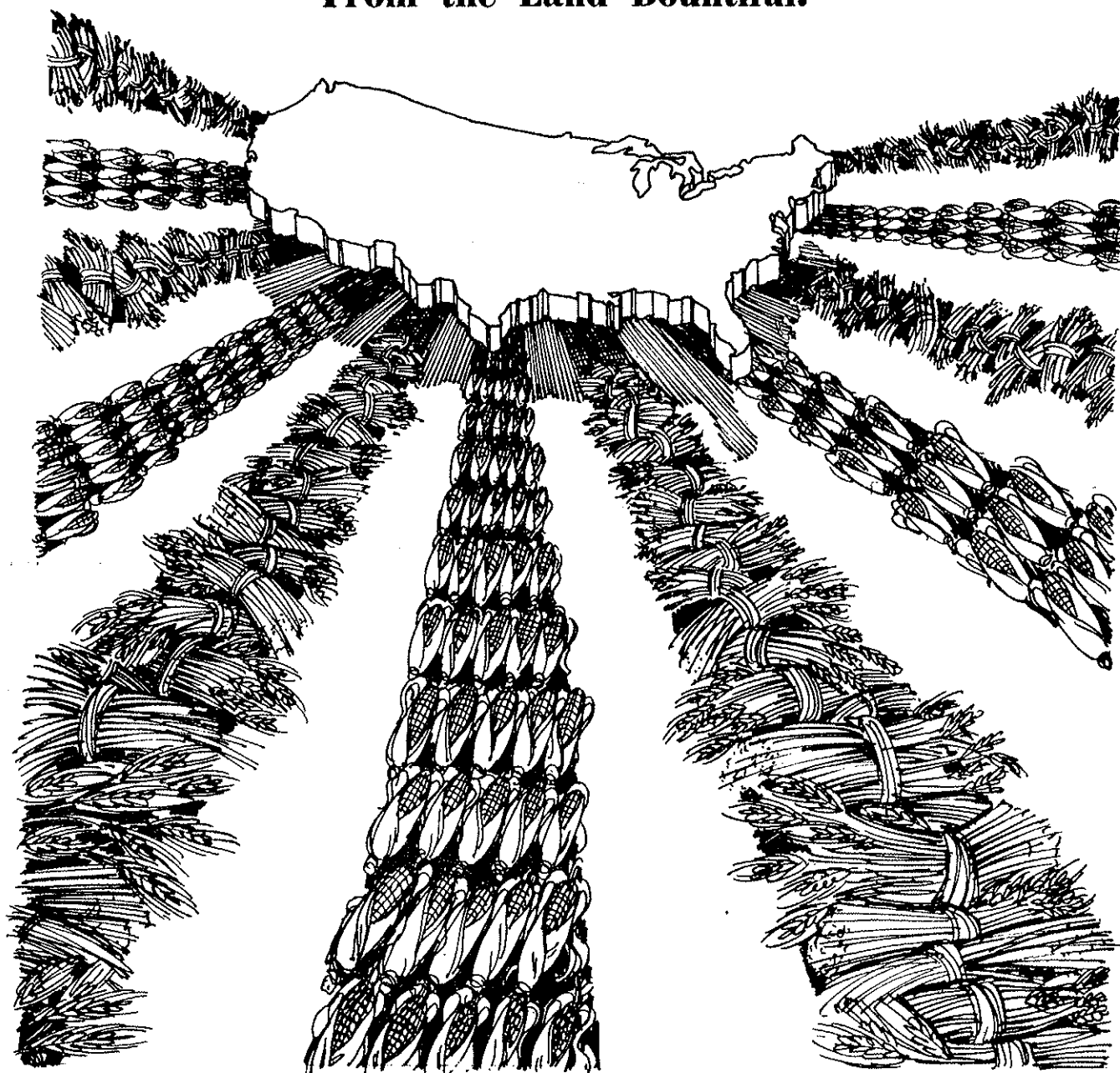
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From the Land Bountiful.



The Gospel News

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

(USPS 225-180)

November, 1981

Volume 37, No. 11

Missionary Trip

By Sister Fannie Casasanta

Many brothers and sisters, along with our families, gathered at the Greater Pittsburgh Airport on July 15 to wish us well on our trip to Ghana, Nigeria and Italy. Aliquippa and McKees Rocks were well represented as Brother John and Sister Mary Ross and Brother Dan Casasanta and I departed with prayer that afternoon.

When we arrived in New York, Brother Dominick and Sister Belle Rose were waiting for us. They helped us exchange our money and then waited until our plane left that evening for Lagos, Nigeria which was our first stop on the way to Ghana.

We landed early Thursday morning, but due to a schedule change we were unable to get a flight to Ghana until late Friday afternoon. All the hotels were filled so we were forced to wait in the airport.

Brother Etim from the Lagos Branch visited with us while we waited for our flight to Accra, where we landed Friday evening.

After some difficulty going through customs, we were met by Brother Ford Boadu. He took us to a nearby hotel which wanted \$900 (U.S. dollars) for one night's stay. We refused to pay that, so we then hired a mini-bus which drove all night to Kumasi where we finally got rooms and some rest on Saturday. This was our first chance to sleep since leaving Pittsburgh on Wednesday afternoon.

Brother Boadu returned the next morning, which was Sunday, to take us to their meeting place. Since their church building was destroyed by a wind and rain storm, they now meet in the open under some large trees.

After opening remarks by Brother Boadu, Brother Ross opened the service using III Nephi as his text, and Brother Casasanta followed. There were many testimonies, and two people were reinstated into fellowship. Sacrament was also administered in this meeting.

On Monday, Brother Boadu brought about fifteen young brothers and sisters to visit us at the hotel and to answer their many questions on the *Book of Mormon*. Tuesday we had another meeting outside with lights strung up and a loud speaker hooked up through a car. A group of 150-200 people, including children, attended this meeting.

The next day we traveled by mini-bus back to Accra and again had great difficulty obtaining hotel rooms. We left Ghana for Lagos on Friday, July 24. Brother Etim met us and took us to the Sudan Mission House where we spent the next two days.

On Sunday we attended services in Mushin, which is outside of Lagos. They meet on a veranda with an open sewer in front of the porch. A stream which overflows with raw sewage is about three feet in front of the sewer. The brothers and sisters, which include a nice group of young people, need a great deal of help in finding a meeting place.

We left Lagos very early Monday morning for Calabar, where we were met by many brothers. In addition, Mr. and Mrs. Garrison were there to drive us in the van. They are a Pentecostal missionary couple who live near our mission house.

The home is very comfortable and has two bedrooms, bath, a large living room with a dining area, kitchen and utility room. The addition, which consists of two large bedrooms, each with its own bath, will soon be completed. It also has a large carport. We spent three weeks at the mission home.

On our first Sunday, we visited five missions and received a warm welcome at each one. We visited three other missions on the next day. Some of our visits had to be cancelled due to the heavy rain which flooded the roads.

Our second Sunday was spent at the Center Church in Abak, which accommodates over 1,000 members. There were approximately 700 to 800 members and many children in our meeting that day.

We also attended the Center Church on our third and last Sunday. Again, we felt the love and warmth of our brothers and sisters. They presented each of us with a Nigerian outfit. After the meeting, we were invited to the home of Chief Arthur's son for refreshments. Most of the elders and their wives were there also.

Early Monday morning, August

17, we left for Calabar, which is a two-hour ride from the mission home. We then took a flight from there to Lagos and again had to spend the day and night at the airport. On Tuesday morning we departed Nigeria for Rome and arrived that evening on the last leg of our trip.

We traveled by cab from the Rome airport to the train terminal for the train to Villa San Giovanni in Southern Italy. We arrived there early the next morning, and Brother LoRicco and Brother Morgante came to the station where they greeted us warmly. All of us then proceeded by ship to Messina and another train from there to Patti in Sicily where Brother LoRicco lives and where we rested for a day.

The next day we returned to Villa San Giovanni for the conference that had been appointed prior to our departure from the United States. This was the first conference ever for Italy, and it was held in a rented storeroom.

Brother LoRicco was in charge of the conference assisted by Brothers Ross and Casasanta and Michael LaSala, who was visiting from Detroit. Two meetings were held on Friday with four elders and two teachers present, and on Saturday there were six elders and two teachers. Time was set aside for prayers and everyone participated. Saturday morning was set aside for fasting and prayer.

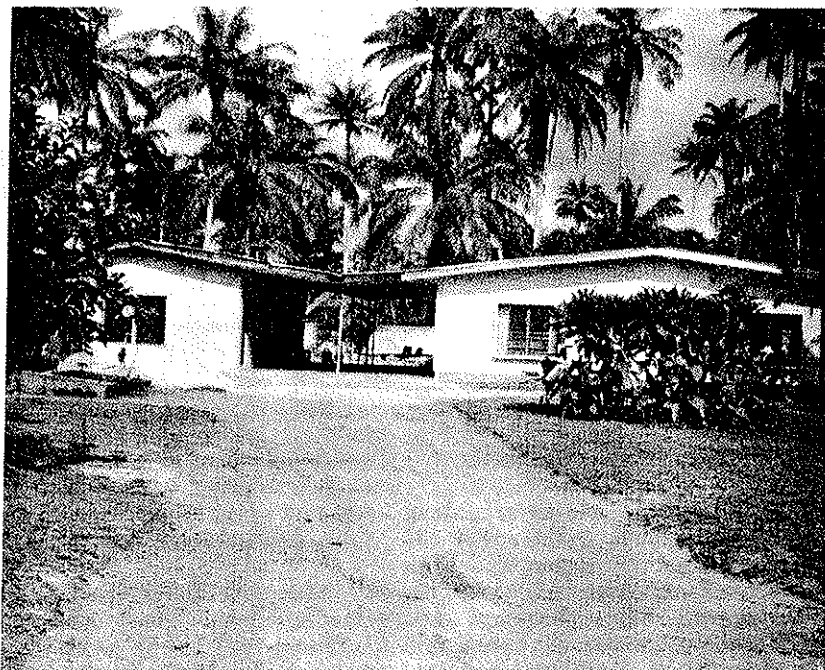
On Sunday morning Brothers Giovanni Morgante and Pietro Mazzelle were ordained as elders. Brother Morgante's wife was anointed for her infirmity, and a handkerchief was anointed for a sister. Sacrament was administered and many testified to God's goodness in their lives. There were about fifteen in attendance and a nice spirit prevailed.

After the service, we had lunch together and then bid each other good-by, which is always very difficult. Many of the brothers had long distances to travel back to their homes.

We resided with Brother LoRicco for two more days, and on August 26 we started our trip homeward. Brother Morgante and his wife were waiting for us at the train station at Villa San Giovanni. Brother LoRicco accompanied us there also and our

good-bys were sorrowful as we left by train for Rome. We arrived back in Pittsburgh on August 28 after some more delays.

We all thank God for a safe trip which we will long remember. We thank each of you for your prayers and support.



Mission House in Nigeria



Conference Group in Italy

Atlantic Coast Dist. Conference

By Joseph Perri, District Editor

The semi-annual conference of The Church of Jesus Christ Atlantic Coast District was held on August 15 and 16, 1981, at the Edison church building. Many elders, teachers and deacons from the branches were in attendance. Brother Paul D'Amico, the apostle assigned to our district, was present also. We all appreciate the interest Brother Paul has taken in our district by his attendance at our conferences as well as visits in between. May God continue to bless him in his efforts.

Our business was handled very nicely with the implementation of an elders' rotation among the branches and at least two district gatherings in between. We have many young people who have taken an interest in the Church. Our Sunday service proved to be a blessing to those of our brothers and sisters in attendance. We met at the Fords Middle School, N.J. Our meeting was opened by Brother Joseph Faragasso in prayer. Brother Don Ross of the Edison Branch took his text from Alma 5 from the *Book of Mormon*. Have you been spiritually born of God? Brother Don stressed unto us the need for observing the teachings of Christ. Do we portray the image of Jesus Christ? Have we experienced a change in our lives since coming into The Church of Jesus Christ? Is our determination stronger today to serve God than it was when we first obeyed the Gospel? He quoted the words of Alma to the Church, "I speak by way of invitation to those who are not members of the church to come and embrace the gospel."

Brother Rocco Ensana read to us from the Gospel of Saint Matthew to coincide with the scripture taken from the *Book of Mormon*. He stressed the Lord's prayer and our forgiveness towards one another. We should not become involved in earthly affairs. Take time to find out whether we feel the same love for God and each other as we did when we first entered the fold of Christ, and if we do not, see if we can regain that first love. He expressed to us with all the strength he had to serve God, for it is a very serious matter. Many thoughts were presented, but he concluded with the

words, "If we hold out faithfully unto the end, there awaits us a crown of everlasting life." Brother Rocco recalled the years he has obeyed the Gospel. They total in number 55. Brother Rocco has been ill for some time, but God gave him strength to speak to us this Sunday morning, and his preaching was enjoyed by all. He thanked all for the prayers offered and cards sent during his illness. Continue to pray for Brother Rocco as well as others who may be ill throughout the Church.

Brother Paul D'Amico followed with the same theme as presented. He exhorted us to be of one heart and one mind and in one spirit that we may be present on the morning of the first resurrection. Since time was limited, Brother Paul was in our MBA meeting later in the evening where he told us of many experiences he could remember in his young days in the Church. Brother Paul spent many week ends here in New Jersey and New York when on leave from the Army during World War II. We enjoyed a beautiful day in the service of God with the saints of The Church of Jesus Christ. We extend our love to all our brothers and sisters throughout the Church.

Ohio District Conference

The Ohio District Conference convened on Saturday, August 15 at the Warren, Ohio church building. Featured in the morning service was a seminar on "Communication". Brother Elmer Santilli, our District President, was the moderator. It was well received, and we will try to continue having these seminars in our District Conferences.

The Sunday worship service, which was held in Youngstown, was well attended. The Area Choir sang two selections prior to the opening of our service. After our opening hymn, Brother Jim Moore, Sr. from Imperial, PA offered prayer.

Brother Joseph Calabrese read Psalms 85, "Truth, shall spring out of the earth," for his text and wove his sermon on the Restoration around this Psalm. He noted the story of Jacob wrestling with the angel and the end result of his name being changed to Israel. Skipping through time, Bro-

ther Joe pointed out how the children of Israel constantly seemed to desire those things that were contrary to the will of God, and mankind today still seems to follow this same pattern.

Brother Joe reminded us of the necessity of God to send His Son and how He was mistreated in spite of the wonderful works He displayed. Christ sent us His Church with apostles, etc., but after a short time men began to drift away from the truth again, and changes were introduced which eventually resulted in a falling away. During the period known as the Dark Ages, which lasted for 1260 years, there were several men who were honest in heart who were trying to serve God. John Wesley was one of the more prominent of these. God finally chose to work with young Joseph Smith, and it was through him that truth (the plates of the Book of Mormon) did spring out of the ground. The forces of evil were at work then trying to destroy the work of God, and they continue to work today as well.

Brother Bill Prentice, a newly-ordained elder from Cleveland, Ohio addressed us next, and he reminded us that our righteousness should exceed that of the world. Many in the Christian world talk about being "saved" or "born again" and feel that they need no more. While they may have a little of the goodness of God, what a blessing they would receive if they had the fullness. Brother Bill likened the task of bringing the Gospel to the Redman to the task that confronted the brother of Jared when he was told to build a ship to cross the deep. He encouraged us to step out in faith as the brother of Jared did when he took stones up to the top of the mount and asked God to touch them so that they could have light.

Brother Ron Genaro followed, and his thoughts to us were that though there is despair and gloom all about us, we should be optimistic because we live in a day when the Gospel has been restored. We have something to rely on in the midst of all the problems that surround us. Brother Ron stated that God has given us freedom of choice—to choose good or bad. God offered the children of Israel His Son, but they received Him not and finally, when they hung Him upon the cross, He prayed to His Father, "Forgive them for they know not what they do." Brother Ron also

related the calling of the Gentiles through Cornelius, and he urged us to live lives that would be like a lighthouse, lighting the way for those walking in the mists of darkness.

Brother Russ Martorana spoke on the life of Joseph Smith and pointed out that in spite of the criticism he received, he would not despair. Joseph, he pointed out, was able to translate the plates only when he was aligned with the Spirit of God.

Brother Frank Calabrese spoke briefly about the times in which we are living and exhorted us to live closer to God.

Brother Vince Gibson, chairman of the Ohio Mission Board, informed us of the work that the District is involved in. He made mention of the role of the Ohio Area MBA in Kilvert, Ohio where there is a small community of Indians who have recently been discovered. The Area MBA will endeavor to hold workshops once a month to help those people develop skills that will enable them to be more self-sufficient. Brother Vince encouraged us to support this effort by contributing food, clothing, etc. to help these people, and the youth will provide the labor and transportation necessary. Our missionary efforts will also include a trip to Omaha, NB once a month and South Bend, Indiana will be serviced twice a month.

The conference was then brought to a conclusion, and we can say it was a day well spent.

MBA Highlights

Monongahela MBA Travels to Hill Cumorah

By Tammy Nicklow

Saturday, August 1, 1981 the Monongahela Branch MBA set out for a two-day trip to Rochester, New York to witness the pageant performed by the Latter Day Saints on the Hill Cumorah. Several other branches were also represented on the charter bus: Roscoe, Glassport and Clairton. The trip up was long, but it was wonderful to fellowship with the saints.

After checking into the motel, our bus went to the Martin Harris House and there heard a brief description of the events that occurred there. We then went to Joseph Smith's house and walked up through the Sacred Grove where he received the message from the personage that appeared to him. Our group then went and had dinner that a church nearby had prepared and went on to the pageant.

The pageant itself portrayed the different events from the *Bible* and the *Book of Mormon*. Certain scenes from the Old Testament when the Prophet Ezekiel foresaw the *Bible* and the *Book of Mormon* to the resurrection of Christ and many events in

between were portrayed.

On Sunday we went to the Rochester Branch, and it was a wonderful blessing, even more so because there were brothers and sisters from other branches throughout the Church. We spent the morning there, and the brothers and sisters prepared a lunch to eat before we left. Truly it was a day well spent and a weekend filled with the blessings of God.



60th Anniversary

Brother Joe and Sister Mary Castelli of Branch No. 1 in Roseville, Michigan celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on July 28, 1981.

A dinner was given in their honor by their children. May God continue to bless Brother Joe and Sister Mary with many more years together.

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to thank you all for your prayers, cards, phone calls and visits during my recent illness.

God bless you all!

Brother Anthony Lombardo

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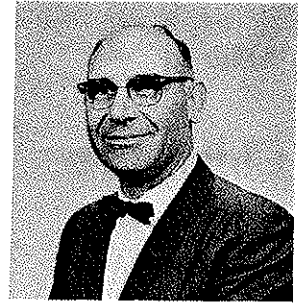
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The Matchless Manifestation of God's Love

By Mark Randy, Guest Editorialist



" . . . Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

In Christ we glory because we regard Him as a matchless manifestation of the love of God. We see God's compassion towards the children of men, providing a way by which He might save mankind, aided by His wisdom, so that a plan is perfected by the deed that can be done, without setting aside truth and justice.

In Christ we see the propitiation through faith in His blood, shed for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God. Herein is His love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be that propitiation for our sins.

We see how God is supremely just; as just as if He had no mercy, and yet infinitely merciful in the gift of His Son to us. Mercy and justice, in fact, become counsel upon the same side and irresistibly pleads through Christ to pardon the repentant sinner. We can never tell which of the attributes of God shines most glorious in the sacrifice of Christ as the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world, since it has become, as it were, the light which reflects the character and perfection of God.

It is meant that we should glory in Christ.

In Jesus Christ as we find mercy, as in the power offered us, in receiving Jesus the Christ as the only Son of the Father, that power is unlocked which makes us the sons and daughters of God.

The justice of God proved fateful in His truth that said, "Of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, you shall not eat of it neither shall you touch it, lest you die."

The rebellion of Satan against God was passed to our first parents to eat of that which was forbidden and therefrom came death upon them, and to all their heirs to our present day, bringing to life the truth of God which said, "You shall not eat, . . . lest you die." This broke the heart of God, therefore He prepared the tree of life. Jesus, in Hebrew, means salvation, Yeshua. Yeshua paid the price, satisfying the justice of God by the shedding of His blood. Jesus who bore all of our past sins upon Him met the demands of justice, setting man free.

This is a mystery, yet the most revealing sense of reason in life. Jesus (Yeshua) is the manifestation of the love of God toward mankind. When justice has satisfied its demands, then mercy begins its work of love for the victim, in that, justice does not rob mercy, as mercy does not rob justice, but in each case satisfaction of its demands is met. Jesus met that demand and fulfilled all righteousness of God, therefore our soul cries in praise to the Lamb of God. Hosanna to the Lamb of God. To Him be glory, honor, and praise forever!

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



A Wise Boy Named Daniel

Dear Girls and Boys,

Daniel was a young boy when he and his friends were captured by enemies and taken to Babylon. He and his friends, Hannaniah, Mishael, and Azariah were given new names that sounded more Babylonian. Daniel was called Belteshazzar, Hannaniah was called Shadrach, Meshael was Meschach, and Azariah was Abednego.

Now the king spoke to his chief servant to search through all the captive children and bring those who were the smartest and healthiest to his palace. These children were to be taught for three years the language and learning of Babylon.

The king also gave them special rich food like he ate, and the same kind of wine to drink that he drank at his royal meals. After three years passed, the king planned to test all the children and choose the wisest to serve him.

Daniel had been raised by Godly Jewish parents. He had not been raised to drink wine or eat such rich food. In his heart he decided he would not defile himself with wrong eating. Daniel asked the chief servant to let him and his three friends drink water and eat plain simple vegetables called pulse.

God had brought Daniel into favor with this chief servant. He wanted to please Daniel, but he was afraid. He told Daniel, "I fear the king, because if he should see your faces thinner and less healthy than the other Hebrew children, he might cut off my head."

So Daniel replied to the chief

servant, "Give us a test. For ten days let us eat vegetables and drink water. At that time, compare us to the other Hebrew children who are eating the king's food and drinking the king's wine. At that time, make your decision."

At the end of ten days, the chief servant saw that Daniel and his friends were healthier and in better physical shape than the other boys. He agreed to let Daniel and his friends continue to eat the way they had been taught.

God continued also to bless these four boys. At the end of the three years, they were brought before the king. There were none like these four. God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding also in all visions and dreams.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

HIDDEN WORDS

(Find the following words.)

| | | | | | | |
|--------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Daniel | R | P | O | K | L | D |
| pulse | | | | | | |
| king | S | U | T | I | A | E |
| meal | | | | | | |
| thin | K | L | N | N | E | V |
| served | | | | | | |
| God | I | S | I | G | M | R |
| skill | | | | | | |
| man | L | E | H | O | A | E |
| let | | | | | | |
| into | L | E | T | D | N | S |

Young People Ask

By John Griffith

Dear Brother John,

I really felt a blessing after receiving the August issue of *The Gospel News* and reading the Young People Ask section regarding being ready for baptism.

I'm fourteen and just got baptized at the GMBA camp at Massanetta. At the beginning of camp I was asking the same question, "I feel ready, but how am I sure?" I felt something was missing in my relationship with God. God was with me, answering my prayers, but something was still missing. I always knew I would be baptized someday.

So I prayed about it. I asked God to show me what was wrong. They always say Jesus is waiting at the door to your heart and all you have to do is ask him to come in. Well, I was asking, but no answers were coming. I wasn't sure what was wrong. So I kept praying.

Tuesday night at camp, I had a long talk with Sister Lynda Brown. She answered many questions I had. God also gave me other experiences to tell me it was time.

The main reason I wrote wasn't to tell you about my experience, but to tell whoever wrote that letter isn't alone. Many people have or are going through this period of questioning. You just have to keep praying. You don't have to pray for him to call you into the Church now (as I prayed for some time), but that he would lead you and teach you so that someday you may become a member of this wonderful Gospel.

It is really great to know I'm a part of this great Gospel with brothers and sisters everywhere. May God always bless you.

Sister Donna Miller

If you have a question or comment, please write. Share your thoughts with each other. We are our brother's keeper. God bless you.

Write: Young People Ask
The Church of Jesus Christ
Sixth & Lincoln Sts.
Monongahela, PA 15063

Branch and Mission News

Edison, NJ

By Ruth Arcuri, Branch Editor

The Edison Branch continues to be blessed with growth and new members. We would like to share our good news with everyone.

On July 14, 1981, we ordained a new teacher and a new deacon to work for the Lord in our branch. Brother Bob Pizzaia was ordained a teacher, and Brother Albert (Skip) Raio was ordained a deacon. Their families, both members and visitors, gathered with us that day to see Brother Phil Arcuri wash the feet of Brother Bob; then we saw Brother Dan Stefani wash the feet of Brother Skip Raio. Brother Paul D'Amico, who was visiting for the day, ordained Brother Bob as a teacher, and Brother Don Ross ordained Brother Skip as a deacon. With our growing numbers and our visitors, many of whom are unfamiliar with the ways of our unique Church of Jesus Christ, these two brothers are very much needed and appreciated, and they deserve our sincere prayers that God will guide them as they endeavor to serve Him through their new offices.

On August 31, 1981 we were thankful to receive more blessings in the form of two new young sisters in Christ. Donna Marie Valentino and Verna Valentino are natural cousins and have been visiting with their families for many months. Though young in years, Donna and Verna have an understanding of the meaning and commitment of baptism as a command of Jesus Christ. They are the first of their immediate families to make this step, and as they have been a blessing to us as visitors, we know they will be a blessing to our Church as saints. Brother Arthur Searcy baptized Sister Donna and Brother Phil Arcuri baptized Sister Verna. As these were the first baptisms these two young elders were privileged to perform, our blessings were multiplied. Back at the branch, Brother Art confirmed Sister Donna and Brother Don Ross confirmed Sister Verna by the laying on of hands.

Two weeks after Donna and Verna made this step, on September 13,

1981, we gladly made another trip to the river to see Carol Ann Longuillo baptized into our Church. Carol has been born and raised in the arms of the Church and is the daughter of Sister Joan Longuillo and the natural sister of Sister Donna Frascilla. Twice before at Church campouts Sister Carol was encouraged to wait for awhile before being baptized as she was then too young. But no one could question her decision or her understanding on this day, and we all left our lunches between meetings to travel to the river, for Carol made up her mind to be baptized this day and refused to wait. Even on such short notice, we had good attendance from the nearby branches; our saints will not miss the happy gathering to see the birth of a new sister if they can help it. Brother Don Ross baptized Sister Carol, and later at the branch, Brother Arthur Searcy confirmed our sister by the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Spirit.

May our three young sisters and our new teacher and deacon all be strengthened by the grace and blessings of God each day. Our prayers continue that they may all be an example to their friends and families not yet part of our greater family in Christ. Thank God for these blessings. May God bless our brothers and sisters everywhere.

Freehold, NJ

By Linda Crudup, Branch Editor

In our Freehold Branch, June 21, 1981, April May Gamble was blessed by Brother Willie Brown.

On July 14, Brother James Crudup baptized Florene Drummer. She was confirmed by Brother Matthew Rogolino. May the Lord bless and direct Sister Drummer as she begins a new life in the service of the Lord.

Hopelawn, NJ

By Mary Perri, Branch Editor

"O Happy Day" was our theme at the Hopelawn Branch. Bill Davis was

baptized on Sunday, August 30, 1981 by Brother Joe Perri and confirmed by Brother Jim Benyola.

It was a day we all looked forward to because Brother Bill began to attend our meetings regularly and was beginning to take an active part, and we felt our prayers would soon be answered. His wife, Sister Betty Davis, whom the Lord directed to find our Church through the Yellow Pages, was baptized four years ago on September 11, 1977, and has always desired to have her husband sitting beside her in church. The plea in her testimony was to remember Bill that one day he would be a part of this glorious Church.

I think the following verses are very appropriate for our sister because she lives the Gospel as God would want us to and has set a good example for her husband. God and the Church are always first in her life; we pray likewise for her husband.

*I and my house will serve the Lord;
But first, obedient to His word;
I must myself appear: By actions,
Words, and temper show;
That I my heavenly Master know;
And serve with heart sincere;
I must the fair example set,
For those that on my pleasure wait.*

*The stumbling block remove;
Their duty by my life explain;
And still in all my works maintain;
The dignity of love.*

*Easy to be entreated mild;
Quickly appeased and reconciled;
A follower of my God;
A saint indeed I long to be;
And lead my faithful family;
In the celestial road.*

Levittown, PA

By Dottie Benyola, Branch Editor

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following brothers and sisters to the Levittown Branch:

Sister Nancy Lynn Kowalsky was baptized by Brother Gerald Valenti and confirmed by Brother Samuel Dell.

Brother Walter Kowalsky was baptized and confirmed by Brother Samuel Dell.

Brother Arulanadam Davanendram, who lives in India, was baptized and confirmed by Brother Sam Dell. We would ask that you would especially remember our Brother Dev in prayer since he is alone in his country trying to spread the word of God.

Rajakumari Daggamalli (Sister Raja) was baptized by Brother Nephi DeMecurio at our GMBA Campout and confirmed by Brother Samuel Dell.

May the Lord bless each one of them with peace and a desire to serve God.

New Brunswick

By James Sgro, Branch Editor

Sunday, June 7, 1981 started out beautifully for the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch as we gathered at the water's edge for the baptism of Steven Mazzeo. Brother Steve had made his wishes known at the previous Wednesday night meeting and was baptized by his father, Brother Frank.

As our Sunday meeting was opened, we enjoyed a building full of young people representing each branch in our district. Our meeting was opened in prayer by Brother Frank Mazzeo, after which he made a few opening remarks. At this time, Sister Rose Rogolino spoke in the Gift of Tongues. The interpretation was that Brother Steve had made the right choice, that if the young people that were there would obey the Gospel, He would gather them as a hen would gather her chicks. She also stated that from the beginning of the meeting a white dove was present in our meeting. Brother Sam Sgro confirmed our Brother Steve into the Church.

Brother Frank then used as his text Ecclesiastes 12:1, "Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them."

The message was very plain that morning, especially to all the young

people that we should remember God in our youth. If we have not made our covenant with Jesus, we are still dead in sin. Brother Sam Sgro followed on the same subject, adding the scripture in Matthew 11:28, "Come unto me all ye that are heavy laden and I will give you rest."

Our meeting was dismissed in prayer by Brother Wilbert McNeil. We are thankful that one more soul has given his life unto Christ, but our prayer is that all who come under the sound of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, young and old, would be baptized.

Just a note, also on November 16, 1980, Lynda Hansen was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ by Brother Sam Sgro and confirmed by Brother Frank Mazzeo. We pray that the Lord would bless our new sister in her endeavor to serve God.

Rochester, NY

On May 24, 1981 the Rochester, NY Mission had a surprise visit from Brother Bill Hufnagle and his family from Cleveland, Ohio. Brother Bill chose for his text, Galatians 6, "the fruit of the Spirit . . . Be not deceived, God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

Brother Ansel D'Amico followed on the same subject and urged us not to be weary in well doing.

On July 26, four carloads of young people from Hopelawn, NJ and a car from Detroit attended the pageant at the Hill Cumorah, and on Sunday they worshipped with us. Brother Ansel D'Amico read for his text, Revelations 14:6,7, "I saw another angel fly. . ." He also read from Moroni 10, "And when ye shall receive these things I would exhort you to ask God and he will reveal it to you by the power of the Holy Ghost." Brother Tom Banyacski testified how he enjoyed the pageant and was happy to belong to the family of God. After testimony, sacrament was administered, and we were then dismissed by singing *Our Church*. Brother Tom Banyacski closed in prayer.

On August 2 we had a chartered bus from Monongahela, PA, along with several saints from Aliquippa, PA, Erie, PA, and Brother and Sister

Patsy Marinetti and Sister Francione from Tucson, Arizona visit with us. The choir sang a few of their favorite selections for us.

Brother Meredith Griffith chose for his text Matthew 18, "Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

Brother Harold Burge followed on the same subject and said that we must do something for the Lord. Brother Bob Nicklow spoke about believing and not having good works; we are like sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal.

Brother Rich Scaglione spoke about loving one another and God will love us if we become as little children. After testimony, Brother Ansel D'Amico made some closing remarks about how we enjoyed the words of our brothers, and we look forward to eternity where there will be no ending to the joy of the saints. Lunch was served, and we were very happy to socialize together.

Detroit, Branch 2

By Leona Buffa, Branch Editor

Many times it is hard to express in words what we feel within; but the Sunday School of Branch 2 expressed love in such a beautiful way this past Father's Day, I would like to share it with you.

All of the children and young teenagers went to the front after Sunday School and sang *Precious Memories* for all the fathers. Afterwards, each father was given a red carnation and a loving kiss. You could see the love they had one for another, and we could all feel it through this presentation.

The tears of love we had were really showers of blessings. The children and young teenagers really touch our hearts when gestures such as this are made. God bless them all.

On Sunday evening, August 2, 1981, Branch 2 held a singspiration which was open to everyone.

We began with community sing-

ing led by Brother Leonard Lovalvo. He stated that this was our night to call and sing our favorite songs. Brother Alex Gentile welcomed all in attendance, and Brother Dan Parravano offered opening prayer.

We sang continually for over an hour. A very gentle, warm spirit was felt by all. In between the singing by the congregation, there were different groups which were called up to sing. Andre Francione, who was visiting from the Arizona District, was asked if he had a favorite song. Andre requested *Jesus Is Coming Soon*. They had all the teenagers go up front to sing this song.

Emily Kaczmarek of Branch 2 requested to sing *His Name Is Wonderful*. All the children her age went up to sing, along with everyone in their 20's.

Before we sang *Somebody Bigger than You and I*, Brother Leonard commented on the line in the song, "and who hangs the moon in the starry sky?" He said that we should look up into the sky at night and we will know that God created the things this song speaks of. Surely, you will see an awesome sight.

Brother Alex Gentile made a few closing comments. He was glad that we were able to attend and sing the songs many men and women have penned the words and music to and to share the love we have with our brothers, sisters and friends.

In closing, all the elders went forward and sang *Hallelujah, The Gospel Is Restored*. It was truly a beautiful sight to see and hear the ministry of our Church singing in such perfect harmony.

Brother Joe Milantoni led us in singing *God Is So Good* and *Alleluia*. A sweet peace came over all who were there.

After closing prayer we gathered together for refreshments, which were prepared and served by our sisters.

May God continue to bless our Church in all parts of the vineyard and all our brothers, sisters and friends in my prayer.

Detroit, Branch 3

By Becky Whitton & Dawn Francione

Today at Branch 3 we had a wonderful blessing; Brother Nephi DeMercurio had returned home from Africa. Everyone was overjoyed in seeing him. Visiting also with us was Brothers Spencer Everett and Dan Parravano.

Brother Nephi opened up the meeting by saying how happy he was to return home. He continued by saying that he could not express his thankfulness to the Lord. He also related many experiences that he had had in Africa.

He said that it burdens him to see all the wrong doing that is going on in the world; there is no need to be burdened by sin and Satan. He said that the fear of the Lord is just the beginning for us. We shouldn't fear Satan because Satan has no power.

Brother Nephi then read from I Corinthians 1:17 concerning the Apostle Paul being confronted with a problem. One person was baptized and the other man wasn't; they were trying to decide who was better.

We then had sacrament and testimonies. We closed the meeting by singing *Be Loyal to Jesus*. Brother Dan Parravano closed in prayer.

Modesto, CA

By Pam Cole

Psalms 150:6 reads, "Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord". I know that includes me. I want to give God all the honor and glory. So many nice things are happening with Modesto. We'd like to share briefly with everyone these past few months.

Lots of visitors have come our way. Spending New Year's Eve with us were Brother Tony and Sister Lydia Picciuto and family from Lindsay, California. On January 4, Sister Rose Anderson and Sister Darlene Hickman and her son, Shane, came up from Anaheim.

On the weekend of January 9, 10, and 11, Brother Rusty Heaps from Anaheim and Brother Tom Liberto

from San Diego came to Modesto for the Evangelistic meetings they were to head. The Lord worked through our brothers. The congregation was asked, "Are we able to look into the looking glass and say, 'I am a saint'?" Our brothers stated that we must be a 100 % saint.

All the way from the east coast, Brother Charles Van Bree of Metuchen, New Jersey spent February 18 in Modesto. Brother Charlie testified of God's grace in his life.

February 22, 1981, Brother John and Sister Bessy Impastato from Detroit, Michigan visited here. No matter what part of the map brothers and sisters come from, there's always that same love.

Modesto Branch hosted the California District Ladies Circle Conference March 14, 15, and 16. As conferences usually are, the branch was filled with brothers and sisters that love the Lord, complete with a Saturday evening program. Thank God for all those that helped out in their own way.

A few more of the Lord's blessings on April 5 were Sister Ruth Meo from Anaheim, Sister Vicki McCarty from San Fernando Valley, Brother Jim and Sister Mary Scalise and their daughter, Rosemary, from Bell, California. Thank God for that very special love that we feel that can only be felt by knowing Jesus Christ.

On April 12, 1981, Sister Jean Ciarolla was ordained in the office of deaconess. She was ordained by Brother Joseph Bologna. Since Sister Jean is my mother, I hope I don't sound biased when I say that she is truly a beautiful sister.

Easter Sunday, April 19, 1981, Brother Ron and Sister Mary Nichols and their girls and Brother Joe, Vicki and Gary Campagna, all from San Jose, spent the day with us. Also giving a surprise visit were some young men from Lindsay, Bruce and Kevin Picciuto and Brother John Vela. God bless them all.

We thank God for these past few months and look forward to the future in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Yucaipa, CA

By Josie Genaro

On a beautiful Sunday morning of July 12, 1981, the members of the Yucaipa Mission gathered at Jenks Lake, CA for a baptism. Brother Clarence Kirkpatrick performed his first baptism of Margaret Erwin, later confirmed by Brother Frank Genaro. The sight was beautiful, as if it were the first.

Through Sister Margaret, many years ago Brother Mark Randy held meetings on the reservation in Morongo, CA and later in Banning, CA, where the Yucaipa Mission was started. After these many years, the Lord never forgets His own. God called Sister Margaret Erwin into His service. We hope and pray that Sister Margaret will be blessed and inspired in many ways and together we may reach out to others and to those on the reservation once again.

More exciting news! We have a new baby! Nicholas Edward Auburn was born on July 27, 1981 to Bill and Kathy Auburn of Banning, CA. Bill and Kathy have been visiting with us in Yucaipa and have given us a new joyful sound. Our sincere prayers are for their family that someday God will touch their hearts and they may share the blessings that God has to offer and together give their joyful sound to the Lord.

When we are on God's side, we never know what the future holds! That's exciting!



Omaha, NB

By Joyce Matthews & Dorothy Miller

In October of 1970 (almost 11 years ago) God planted the seed of the Restored Gospel in Omaha, NB. At that time He made a promise that there would always be a remnant of His seed here. We praise God that He has kept that promise. The seed has taken root and the plant has come forth out of the soil and we can see the plant growing day by day. There are eleven members in our group, including the ones living in the Bedford, Iowa area which is about 90 miles southeast of Omaha. We meet each Sunday, alternating between Omaha and Bedford. We have formed a Sunday School with Brother Calvin Matthews as our Superintendent. At our meetings, we study the scriptures, sing hymns, give testimony and pray. This strengthens our spiritual growth and the spirit of unity while we wait for God to send us an elder. Brother Mitchell Edwards continues to service our area at least once every three months, and we thank God for the efforts this brother has made on our behalf.

God truly poured out His Spirit on the brothers and sisters meeting in Omaha on the weekend of June 27 and 28. The elders from the Ohio Mission Board had been planning the trip for some time as an encouragement to the members of the Church in Omaha and Bedford who have been diligently fasting and praying for the growth of the work in this area. The visiting elders were Brothers Mitchell Edwards, English Webb, Elmer Santilli, Vince Gibson, and Dominic Thomas. Other visitors included Brother John Genaro from Ohio and Sisters Janet Beckett, Verna Jackson, and Flora Willis from South Bend, Indiana.

Saturday meetings were held in the home of Brother Calvin and Sister Dorothy Matthews in Bedford, Iowa. The brothers and sisters shared their beautiful testimonies of what God had done for them; some even to having their lives spared from accident or illness. The theme of everyone's testimony, however, was that great love and mercy God has shown toward us and extreme thankfulness for the Gospel Restored, and that we have been chosen as fit vessels to serve God in The Church of Jesus Christ.

A recent Sunday School lesson from Romans 1 was reviewed. The brothers related many experiences in which the eternal power of God (Verse 20) was made manifest. The meeting was reluctantly closed by singing, *In the Land of Love*, a song that had been given to the late Brother Harry Robinson for the work in Omaha.

Sunday services were held at the group's meeting hall in Omaha. The Spirit of the Lord was again felt by those in attendance. The Sunday School discussion from Romans 3:1-12 was lead by Brother Calvin Matthews. This scripture tells us that Jew and Gentile alike have sinned. Forgiveness and salvation cannot come by the law and circumcision but only through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

Many wonderful words were spoken by our brothers in the preaching service that followed. Brother English Webb began by reading II Peter 1:1-9. He used this scripture to get us thinking about what our needs are. "For it is wisdom to know what you stand in need of," he said. He also exhorted us to thankfulness for God has supplied all our needs up to the present time. He has filled an emptiness within us that nothing else can fill. Using verses 5-8, Brother English told us how to grow spiritually. By exercising a part of faith you add virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; and to knowledge, temperance; and to temperance, patience; and to patience, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity, which is the pure love of God. Each of these qualities will continue to grow and increase as you continue to seek after them and use them.

Brother Elmer Santilli followed by expounding on how God meets our needs, but how often we confuse the things we want with the things we need.

Brother Vince Gibson and Brother Dominic Thomas also shared their thoughts on faith and trusting the Lord to supply all our needs. Brother Thomas quoted from Jeremiah 17:7, "Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord."

Brother Mitchell Edwards closed the preaching by quoting Hymn 89, *I Know Whom I Have Believed*. He felt that this summed up the words spoken by the other brothers.

All those assembled knew they had been in the house of the Lord as we sang Hymn 89 for closing, and Brother Thomas offered the closing prayer.

On Monday evening, June 29, we held a meeting with Brothers Elmer Santilli, English Webb and Mitchell Edwards in charge. In turn, the brothers spoke on God's love and the love we must have for one another in order to please God.

We had two visitors present at the meeting. A beautiful spirit prevailed, and the brothers challenged the visitors to go to God in prayer concerning what had been preached. Emma Grooms, one of the visitors present, accepted this challenge. The next day she had a vision where she saw a frame with a casket inside. She says that while she watched the casket with wonder, it changed into a cradle. A beautiful feeling of warmth came over her, and while she didn't completely understand the vision, she knew that God had answered her prayer. On Wednesday, July 1, 1981, Brother Concetto Alessandro of Detroit, Branch 1, visited us. We held a meeting and Emma was present telling us of her experience. She had questions concerning what she should do to become a member of the Church. Brother Alessandro instructed her on the faith of the Church. Emma said that she was pleased with all that she had heard.

We gathered again on Sunday, July 5, with Brother Alessandro in charge, and we truly enjoyed ourselves in the Spirit of the Lord. Brother Alessandro related some of his experiences leading up to and after his baptism almost 50 years ago. We enjoyed his testimony knowing that God's promises are sure. During testimony, Emma Grooms asked for her baptism. We thank God for we know that He does all things well. On July 10, obedient to the Spirit of God, we journeyed to South Bend to fellowship with the saints there.

On Sunday, July 12, Emma Grooms was baptized into the Church by Brother Mitchell Edwards in South Bend, Indiana. So, by the hand of God Himself, a new name was written down. God has revealed that as His love increases among us, so will our numbers. We thank God for our new sister, who is rejoicing daily in the blessings of this glorious Gospel.

The saints and visiting friends and family met for Sunday services in Bedford, Iowa. There were about 25 in attendance. Brother Jim Campbell opened the preaching. He related how Christ came to fulfill God's commandments. God is a jealous God and wants man to be obedient to His commandments. Man quickly forgets what God has done for him and begins to set himself above God. Then we get lazy and want someone to do our thinking for us. That way if things don't work out, there is someone else to blame. Through Christ, however, each person is free to think and be responsible for themselves. They can have direct communication with Him and are at liberty to choose to work in His service. Man can attain a righteous state by believing in Christ without having tangible evidence.

Brother George Johnson continued the service with praise and marvelling at the wondrous relationship we can have with God. He stressed that the Word was our primary link in that relationship.

God is working with man in a fallen state of sinful flesh. He sent Christ to be a perfect example for us. Our duty is to develop the relationship and serve God no matter what our circumstances. Our brother exhorted us to "keep our eyes upon Jesus".

Brother Jim closed the meeting by quoting the beautiful words from Hymn 484, "Know then that every soul is free, To choose his life and what he'll be; For this eternal truth is given, That God will force no man to heaven."

Many wonderful words of testimony were given by the brothers and sisters attending. A wondrous spirit of love prevailed over the sacrament meeting that followed.

On Tuesday, August 18, we were pleasantly surprised by a visit from Brothers Eugene Amormino and Tim Scolaro. We gathered to meet with our brothers that evening. Brother Tim opened the meeting with prayer, and we sang Hymn 303, *Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling*. Again we thank God for a visitor in our midst, Effie Lockett from E. St. Louis, Illinois, who was in Omaha visiting our Sister LaVerne. We gave testimony praising God for our calling into His Church. Brother Eugene taught us a few of the *Songs of Zion*. Truly

the Spirit of God was manifested as we sang, especially the hymn entitled *There's No Rainbow Can Shine Like Jesus*.

In closing, we would like to say that the saints in Omaha and Bedford are truly thankful for and encouraged by the many brothers and sisters who have taken time to visit us these past few months. We know that the entire Church is praying for the work here because we can feel your prayers. We surely know that God will soon send us an elder. We are determined to remain steadfast and unified in the Spirit of God's love. Our invitation to all is as the Lord lays it on your heart, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

Detroit, Branch 1

By Diane Everett, Branch Editor

On July 12, 1981, Detroit, Branch 1 held their last meeting in the old Branch 1 building. We had the privilege to have many saints from the various branches throughout the district.

Brother John Buffa opened the service. He spoke a little about Branch 1—how many of our branches and missions came out of this branch. He spoke from Exodus 3 concerning Moses and the burning bush and of the power of God and the power of evil. God's power overpowers the power of evil.

Brother Nick Pietrangelo gave some previous history of the branch. The first five years the branch had a total of 42 members. The building took six months to build, from June thru December 23, 1957. Brother Emil Carlini did some plaster work in the inside. Brother Matthew Miller wrote the dedication.

Brother Paul Vitto closed the service speaking of the many blessings felt and many memories that will remain. He hoped that the Church that bought our building would continue to feel the spirit that we carried. We closed our meeting by singing *Precious Memories*. The Priesthood formed a circle, and Brother Louis Vitto closed in prayer.

* **WEDDINGS** *

CIAROLLA—MARTIN

Brother Daniel Ciarolla and Miss Karla Martin were united in holy marriage on April 4, 1981 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Modesto, California by Brother Joe Ciarolla and Brother Frank Genaro.

Musical selections were presented by Sister Rose Lovalvo, soloist, and Sister Rose Deulus, pianist. May God bless the Ciarollas in their new lives shared together.

DeSANTIS—VUCINICH

Dr. Nicholas DeSantis and Dr. Michele Vucinich were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, September 5, 1981, at The Church of Jesus Christ, Aliquippa, Pennsylvania. Brother Tom Ross, uncle of the bride, performed the ceremony assisted by Brother Don Ross of Edison, New Jersey, the bride's cousin.

Musical selections were presented by Brother Ken Staley, soloist, accompanied by Sister Janet Gibson, organist.

The newlyweds are residing in Marion, Ohio. May God bless them as they enter this new chapter in their lives.

SIEFERING—MATTHEWS

Mr. Rodney Siefering and Sister Peggy Matthews were united in marriage in Bedford, Iowa on Saturday, August 1, 1981.

Brother Jim Campbell of Monongahela, Pennsylvania and Brother George Johnson of Apache Junction, Arizona officiated at the wedding ceremony.

The Sieferings are residing in Bedford, Iowa. May God's blessings rest upon them in their new lives together.

New Arrivals

Congratulations are in order to the proud parents for the following new members of their families:

Nicholas Edward to William and Katharine Auburn of Banning, CA;

Rachel Lynn to Brother Walter and Sister Kathy Kowalsky of Levittown, PA;

Anthony Joseph III to Anthony and Nancy Micale of Levittown, PA;

Melissa Lynne to Brother Darrel and Donna Rossi of Aliquippa, PA;

Toya Gennine to Ronald and Glenda Williams of Edison, NJ.

OBITUARIES

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

KATHERINE (KATIE) BOBKA VANCIK

Sister Katherine (Katie) Vancik passed on to her eternal reward January 1, 1981. She was born November 25, 1889 in Czechoslovakia and was baptized in 1907. Sister Katie was a long-time faithful member of the Monongahela Branch.

Brothers James Campbell and Idris Martin officiated at the service.

Surviving Sister Katie are 5 children, 7 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Certainly Sister Katie was a strong pillar in the Church and a great help in the spreading of the Gospel. She will be greatly missed by her family as well as the brothers and sisters.

BEULAH FAY NELLIS

Sister Beulah Nellis was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ. She was born August 2, 1904 and passed away October 27, 1980. She was baptized in 1946, and she was the last member of the Farwell Mission which was active in the 1940's.

Brother Silver Criscuolo conducted the funeral service.

Sister Nellis is survived by 4 sons, 2 daughters, 23 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, one aunt, one brother and two sisters.

MEREDITH O. LOCKWOOD

Sister Meredith O. Lockwood passed on to her eternal reward on August 31, 1981. Sister Meredith was baptized April 30, 1967 and was a member of the Erie Mission.

Brother Russ Martorana conducted the funeral service.

Surviving Sister Meredith is her husband, 2 daughters and 3 grandchildren.

She will be greatly missed by her family as well as the brothers and sisters.

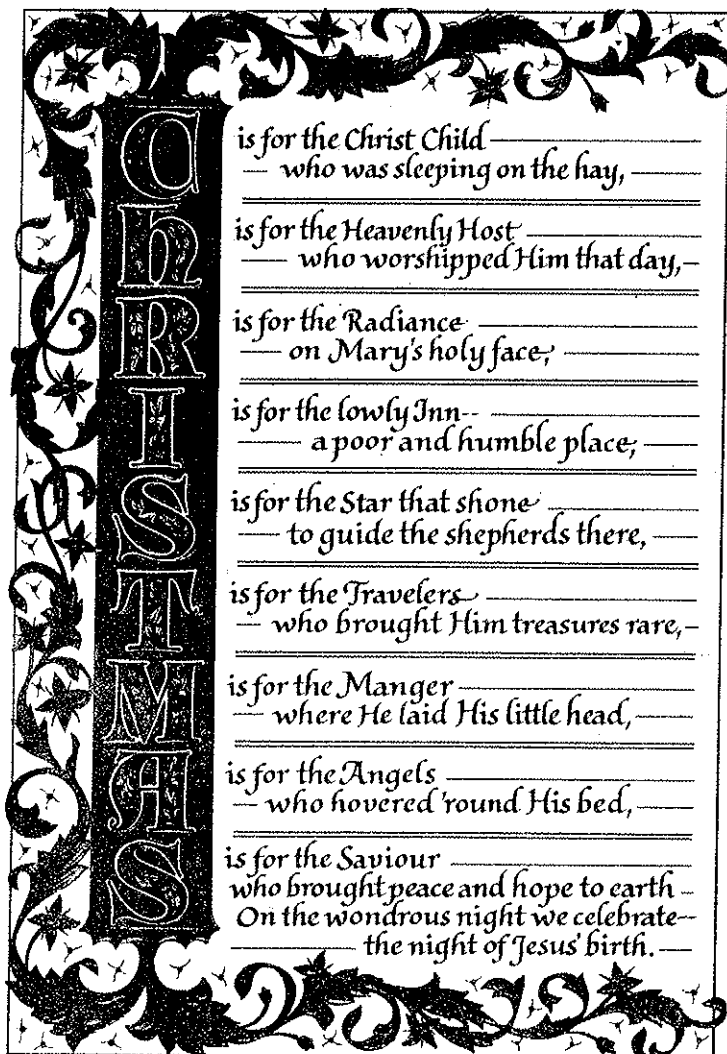
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"It Is Written"

By V. J. Lovalvo, Apostle

SUBJECT: Family Life (Continued from October Issue)

The Wife

Quite often, the thought is expressed, "What is the role of a wife?" Firstly, let us read what the scripture says: "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the Church." (Ephesians 5:22, 23) Also, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord." (Colossians 3:18) Peter, the Apostle, also wrote, "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word, be won by the conversation of the wives; while they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear." (1 Peter 3:1, 2) Even from the beginning of time, the Lord said to Eve, "... and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee." (Genesis 3:16)

Does the above imply that a wife is to be a slave to her husband or to abysmal subjection to his every wish and whim? Of course not. It conveys the complete role of the wife in her acceptance of her God-given place in the home. God made the woman as a companion for the man. For it is written, "And the Lord said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him." (Genesis 2:18) So, out of one of Adam's ribs, God made the woman. Please note: God created the woman to be a help to Adam. It was intended from the beginning that a wife should be a HELP—MATE to her husband. As Christ (in the flesh) was subject to the Father in all things, so the man, being made in the likeness of God, should be always subject to the Lord in all things. And as a consequence, Christ, because of His obedience to the Father, was raised in glory; and man, through his obedience to the Lord, is made a minister of His word, a leader in the home, a father to his children, a loving husband, an example of God's image on earth, and a recipient of God's blessings as a head of his home. So, likewise, the wife, who is a faithful servant unto the Lord, and accepts her role of help-mate to her husband, shall inherit the

blessings of the Lord, and the respect of others. Again, it is written, "Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life." (Proverbs 31:10-12)

The basic ingredient in all the above scriptures is that a wife will find joy in being a help to her husband; one who will walk by his side with an absolute assurance that her love and devotion to her husband is according to the will of God, and in the knowledge that it is returned in kind.

Being made from the rib of Adam, as a second creation, does not make her an inferior person, but rather his companion and help-mate. You must remember that Paul, the Apostle, exhorted husbands to "... love your wives, even as Christ also loved the Church, and gave Himself for it ... so ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife, loveth himself." What beautiful words. Does not this prove the holy union that exists between a husband and wife? Submission of a wife to her husband is not an act of inferiority, but rather substantiating the word of God in recognizing that the husband is the head of the home and "the head of the wife." It is not abasing for a loving wife to admit that "my husband is the head of our home." In these words, she acknowledges her submission to God and her acceptance of her role as his help-mate.

Despite the female versus male revolution in this generation, which has become quite a controversial subject, the God-fearing wife does not forget that she is a help-mate to her husband; to stand by his side at all times, in adversities or in pleasant times; to be a tower of strength when he needs her and a powerful source of love to sustain him.

Together then they set a remarkable example to the children, who seeing their parents totally devoted one to another, will grow in that atmosphere of love which will be their rod and staff as they, too, grow into adulthood and eventually marry. While I realize that there are times when misunderstandings arise between husbands and wives and sometimes arguments, remember this: if

you argue in front of your children, then make up and reconcile yourselves in front of your children that they may witness the love you have one for another.

Wives, do not become "naggers", nor seek to dominate your husbands, for this will only lead to further misunderstandings. Do you rebuke him because he didn't open the door for you? Why not patiently wait at the door until he catches on and opens it for you. Does he irritate you because he forgot your birthday? Why not subtly remind him a few days before with a gentle, "You know, honey, isn't it strange how birthdays seem to come more often as we grow older?" Don't wait until he has forgotten and then nag him about it. Or, if he forgets birthdays and other important dates involving you, with tenderness and kindness remind him. He will quickly respond, believe me. Remember, Jesus rebuked Peter by asking him, "Simon, son of Bar-jona, lovest thou me more than these?"

Remember this, love is the basic element of every successful marriage. There are no misunderstandings nor arguments that cannot be resolved where love is the ruling force. When love grows cold, then compassion, tolerance, and understanding will eventually be replaced with intolerance and a non-caring attitude, which develops into heart-breaking dissolutions. Where love reigns supreme, there is seldom any faults found, and if there are, they are soon laughed away. But, when love grows cold, all the small faults become big ones, like little mole hills becoming huge mountains, and when faults cannot be found, many are created. This always reminds me of the story of a man, who after fifteen years of marriage one day looked at his wife and said, "You're cross-eyed." She replied, "I have always been cross-eyed, even before you married me." The moral of the story is that while he loved her dearly, he never noticed that her eyes were crossed, but when love grew cold, he noticed her optical defect. So, love is a many-splendored thing. It makes the heart beat a little faster when you see your mate come home from work, when he smiles at you with that crooked little grin of his, when he looks at you with tenderness and a twinkle in his eyes that says, "I love you." And your heart beats for joy when his eyes tell you more than words, "Thank God for you, my darling." And you know within your

heart that little secret all your own, that by making him feel ten feet tall, that he is your hero, that he is a giant to your children, his love increases by leaps and bounds.

Because of your unselfishness and devotion and acceptance of your role as a wife, you are an embodiment of that which is written, "Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land . . . her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her." (Proverbs 31:23-28) Continued next month. . .

An Acquaintance

By Ether M. Furnier, Phoenix, AZ

During one of my recent Thursday night weekly visits to the Indian Hospital in Phoenix, Arizona, I came into contact with one Chester Armajo, an Arapajo Indian from Wyoming. The meeting was brought about as follows:

In the company of a young acquaintance of mine (Bill Rache) of Sunnyslope, Arizona, we were passing out leaflets to the Indian people who were in the hospital. The leaflet was headed with "Oh ye dry bones, hear the word of the Lord," and went on briefly to say that God was preparing a holy prophet to lead the Indians out of spiritual bondage, and they would build a holy city on this land of their inheritance, which God would use as a headquarters for gathering all their people into one. (I have circulated over 1000 of these leaflets in the past couple of years without any serious inquiries from the recipients.)

On this particular night, the last room we stopped in was that of Chester Armajo. Chester is 29 years old and is studying at Arizona State University to become a behavioral counsellor. He was a better than average running athlete until five years ago when he was in an auto accident. A broken neck has left his legs completely paralyzed and his arms 90% paralyzed. He is a traditionalist in his Arapajo religion and knows nothing of Christianity. His father is one of the four elders ("old men") of the tribe. Chester is a classic Indian with his hair parted in the middle and braided until it reaches his waist. After a few minutes

of conversation, we concluded our visit and went to our homes.

The next Thursday night I was alone in my visit to the hospital. I was walking down the hall and as I passed one of the rooms someone cried out, "Hey, stop in here." I went in and it was Chester who had been moved into another room. He said, "For a long time white men have been coming to their reservation and have been trying to shove Jesus down their throats; but I have read your leaflet and it sounds very similar to the things my grandfather taught me as a boy. I have never been approached in this manner before and I want to talk to you." After we discussed some of the things on the leaflet, he said he wanted to tell me of a couple of experiences he had had five years ago.

When he gained consciousness from his auto accident five years ago, he said an old Indian man was at his side. The old man said to him, "You have had this accident to teach you how to have patience, humility, compassion and endurance, because the Great Maker wants you to be instrumental in helping your people." The old man left and Chester fell asleep and had the following dream:

He saw many Indian men sitting on the ground in a huge circle. They were from different tribes and they were passing a peace pipe from one to another. As they were doing this, from up above there shone a great light that sent its rays down into the middle of the circle. He saw himself lying crippled without the circle. Some men picked him up and carried him into the middle of the circle. When the light shone on him, his legs and arms became normal. He walked out of the circle wanting to help his people with his new-found health. He saw a tee-pee with the door flap tied open and inside was a woman waiting for him.

As he entered the tee-pee, she placed a blanket over his shoulders. He then left knowing he was ready to help his people. (End of dream.)

I felt such a blessing that I told him that I wanted to pray. He struggled and sat up in his bed in reverence as I prayed. I prayed that the light of Christ would shine on him and make him whole. I prayed for a steadfast friendship between him and me. As I prayed, I heard him groaning deep inside. When I finished, he fell

back on his back and he was sobbing. He rubbed his tears with his crippled hands and then rubbed his tears onto my hands and said, "I have nothing to give you, only my tears, but they represent my love for you. You are truly my friend." I left the hospital feeling ten feet tall.

The next Thursday I went alone again. When I got there he was eating, so I told him I would pass out some leaflets while he finished. I walked into a room that had four Indian ladies. I spoke to one and gave her a leaflet. Then I heard a lady's voice cry out, "Brother Ether!" I turned around and recognized an ex-sister (Apache from San Carlos). She was blind, but she had recognized my voice. She said, "Please pray for me." I had no oil with me and so I laid hands on her and prayed. She seemed to relax. I bid her farewell and went down to see Chester. We talked for a while, and I was amazed again when he told me that when his father and the other old men of the tribe need advice on tribal matters that they are visited by an old white-haired man who wears only a white sheet who gives them words of wisdom in their decision-making. Then he disappears.

I went home with a prayer in my heart that God would teach me wisdom in dealing with this man.

The next Sunday after church I took my wife and mother to meet Chester since they had expressed a desire to meet him. We were met by the Apache lady that I had prayed for. She was ecstatic. She said that as she was prayed for, all her pain left and she fell asleep. When she awakened, she said it was like a picture she could see clearly. The doctor came in and told her she could go home. He couldn't explain her sudden vision return.

The last time I saw Chester, he was preparing to go home to Wyoming because his father had suffered a stroke. He felt that he could be of some help there.

His intentions are to return to Arizona State University in August, 1981.

"It must not be forgotten that the first Christmas song was sung in the night...that is a comforting fact. When the world is dark, the light shines, not from among men but from heaven."
Cleland B. McAfee

American Indian Committee Visits Atlantic Coast

By Joseph Perri, District Editor

Saturday, September 12, 1981, the General Church American Indian Committee met in the Atlantic Coast to attend their business and also to make our district aware of the work among the Seed of Joseph throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico and to encourage the saints of our district to become involved prayerfully in visiting the native Americans to tell them of the love of Jesus Christ, our interests among them, our beliefs concerning the covenants God has made with their forefathers, the Choice Seer, *Book of Mormon* and to be of assistance in this work financially.

Many experiences were related to us of how God is working with the Seed of Joseph, and with our brothers and sisters who are laboring to bring to them the message of the Restored Gospel.

The *Book of Mormon* relates to us that we are to be nursing mothers and fathers to the Seed of Joseph. The Church has received many revelations concerning the need for this Church to go to the native American. We have been commissioned by God many years ago to go among the Seed of Joseph.

The Church which we represent must become sanctified, holy, that God might use us for the great work of spreading the Gospel not only to the Seed of Joseph but to all the creation of God.

We, the Gentile Church, have received the blessings of God which III Nephi states that were once reserved for Israel.

We must present the Gospel to the Seed of Joseph. We, as a Church, are awaiting for the coming of the Choice Seer. What does the *Book of Mormon* state that his work shall be? In II Nephi 3:11 in part we read that the Lord will give unto him power to bring forth his word and not only the bringing forth of the word of the Lord, but to the convincing them (Seed of Joseph) of my (Lord) word which shall have already gone forth among them.

How shall they (Seed of Joseph) hear unless we tell them? How can they be convinced of the word unless they hear it?

If we cannot become involved in this work for one reason or another, then pray with sincerity that God will bless those that are willing and able, that not only will our missionaries be blessed and have success, but that God will also bless the Seed of Joseph to whom the Gospel message will be carried.

What our brothers of the American Indian Committee and brothers and sisters of the Church (reservation and urban) are doing must be commended. It has and will take sacrifice on the part of many; much time and effort is being made to carry the Gospel to the reservations and to the urban cities. In many instances, not only the Gospel is being brought to the Seed of Joseph, but by the reports given, temporal assistance, money, food, clothing, etc. is being given. What did we say we would be to these (Seed of Joseph) people? Nursing fathers and mothers.

"Thus saith the Lord: 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." II Nephi 6:6

May the reader continue in the same chapter in II Nephi, 7th thru 18th verses. Let the entire Church become involved in this work in one way or another that God will continue to bless us as His people.

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50th Anniversary



SISTER JULIE COTELLESSE

On August 9, the members and friends of the Detroit Inner-City Branch paid a special tribute to Sister Julie Cotellesse, who celebrated the 50th anniversary of her baptism into The Church of Jesus Christ. She was baptized in Brooklyn, New York on August 9, 1931 by Brother Salvatore Valenti and confirmed by Brother Joseph Corrado.

She and her family moved to Detroit, Michigan in 1934 where she met and married Brother Dominic Cotellesse. They had five children, all of whom are members of the Church. In 1946, they moved to Muncey, Ontario, Canada to help operate the Muncey Mission among the Indian people.

While at Muncey, Sister Julie was ordained a deaconess by Brother W. H. Cadman. They returned to Detroit in 1948 and were members of Branch 2. Brother Dominic went to his reward in 1962.

In August of 1979, Sister Julie transferred her membership to the Detroit Inner-City Branch where her labors and long standing experience in the Church is much needed.

Her children, along with her brother, Apostle Gorie Ciaravino, were all present for the memorable occasion. May God continue to bless our beloved sister.

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

The New Year

The turning back of the year is a most natural time for looking back and summing up. We are amazed at the swift flow of events around us as well as the happenings in our own everyday living.

Without doubt in reviewing the past year of 1981, we can recall many ups and downs. We have memories of failures and mistakes, while on the other hand, there are also memories of success and reward in some degree, large or small, for time and effort expended in the pursuit of various goals and activities.

This is true, both in our temporal as well as our spiritual affairs. In evaluating our spiritual pursuits and activities, we must concede that after all we might have done, it is still not enough. This is excellently illustrated by Nephi, ". . .; for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all that we can do." (Book of Mormon, II Nephi 25:23)

In his wonderful farewell address to his people, King Benjamin also taught the same great truth, "I say unto you that if ye should serve Him who has created you from the beginning, and is preserving you from day to day, by lending you breath, that ye may live and move and do according to your own will, and even supporting you from one moment to another—I say, if ye should serve Him with all your whole souls yet ye would be unprofitable servants." (Book of Mormon, Mosiah 2:21)

Our Lord Jesus Christ also pointed up this fact in a commentary on one of His parables, "So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: We have done that which was our duty to do." (Luke 17:10)

INSTRUCTION AND ADMONITION

We are indebted to these wonderful teachers and men of God, Nephi and King Benjamin, as well as our Lord Jesus Christ for instruction and admonition on such an essential and important truth.

In reviewing our failures and mistakes may they serve to alert us to continued vigilance and to watch and pray. May we also look up to God, humbly and repentantly, seeking His pardoning grace for our shortcomings.

As we enter the New Year, may we look forward with cheerful hearts and hopeful anticipation. May we resolve to do better during the year 1982 than we have done in the year 1981 that has so swiftly rolled away.

May God intensify our faith and grant us vision, courage and strength to make profitable use of the time allotted us in order to better serve Him and to do that which is our duty to do.

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



What Happened to Daniel in Captivity

Dear Boys and Girls,

Although captured like slaves, the Jewish boys Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were blessed by God and found favor with their enemies King Nebuchadnezzar. Like Joseph of old, Daniel possessed the gift of visions.

One night King Nebuchadnezzar woke up very disturbed about a dream he'd had; but he could not remember his dream. He called for all the astrologers, sorcerers, magicians and men who were known to be wise. He told them he wanted them to tell him what he'd dreamed and what it meant. He felt it was very important.

These men were shocked. They told the king to first tell them his dream and then they would tell him its meaning.

Angrily Nebuchadnezzar told them, "If you won't tell me my dream then you will be cut to pieces. From the beginning you have told me lies, but now tell me my dream and I'll know you can do it. Whoever tells me the dream will receive many gifts and great honor."

His wise men answered him saying, "There is not a man on earth that could do this."

Nebuchadnezzar was furious. He ordered his guards to gather all the wise men and put them to death.

The captain of the guard went to take Daniel. Daniel told him not to be rushed, but to allow Daniel to talk to King Nebuchadnezzar. He asked Nebuchadnezzar to give him time, and then he would show the King his dream. Nebuchadnezzar agreed.

Now Daniel did the same thing

then that we must do today when we are troubled with problems too big for us to see and understand. He prayed and asked God to help him. He also asked his three friends, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to pray with him about the secret dream so that they would not be put to death with all the other wise men.

In a night vision, the Lord showed Daniel the same dream Nebuchadnezzar dreamed and explained its meaning.

Nebuchadnezzar had seen a statue made of many different materials. Each part of the statue stood for great kingdoms which would flourish on the earth. The head, made of gold, meant Nebuchadnezzar's day. History tells us that this man ruled a kingdom far greater in many ways than the United States.

The rest of the statue continued with each part made of materials weaker than the kingdom God had given Nebuchadnezzar. In the dream they saw to the latter days (of today) the word of God would come with power, breaking all the kingdoms which came before it and growing until it spread throughout the whole earth, never to be destroyed.

When Daniel told King Nebuchadnezzar he fell upon his face and worshipped Daniel saying, "It is true. Your God is a God of gods, a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets."

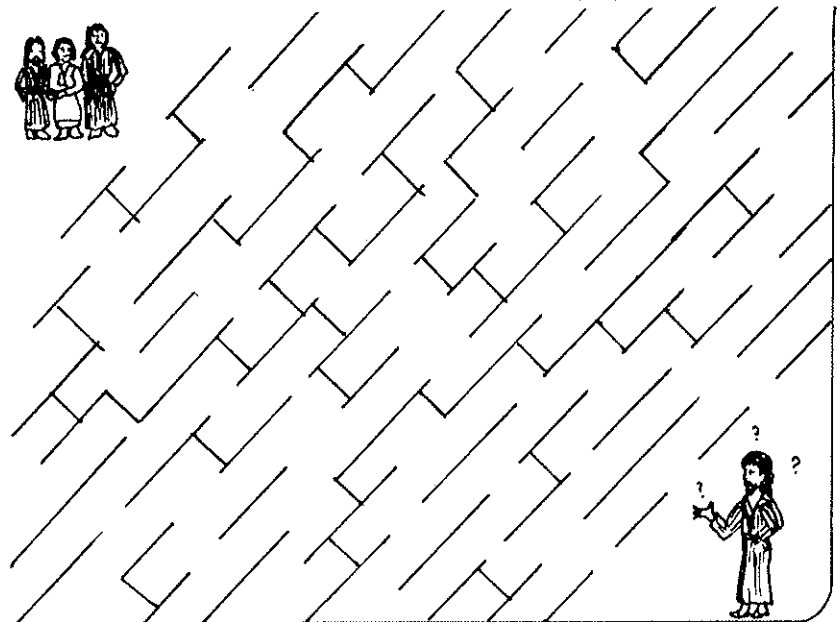
Then the King made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him a ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon. Then Daniel put his three friends, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego over all these affairs, and he stayed near the King.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

Questions to Ponder

1. Does Christ's promise that if we "put the kingdom of God and its righteousness first, all things will be added to you", come true in Daniel's life?

Lead Daniel to his three friends who will help him pray.



Young People Ask

By John Griffith

Dear Brother John,

It is my desire to do all that I can for God. My wife and I understand that it is important to contribute not only spiritually but also financially. It seems that everyone has a different opinion on how much an individual should give. We want to help the Church spread the Gospel because it means so much to us.

Your desire in wanting the Gospel of Jesus Christ to be spread about to others who are searching displays a spiritual maturity. As you are a young couple in the Church, the question in your mind is of utmost importance, both to you and also the Church.

It is important to you because God has promised us added blessings and a closer communion as we display a greater desire and love. At this time in your lives, you are setting priorities and forming habits. In asking the same question at one time in our lives, I was told by one individual that it is hard to convert the pocketbook. I assumed it meant that it is possible to look for that saving grace but not grow spiritually wherein we go out of our way to see that someone else gets it too. Proverbs 12:24-25 states, "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. The liberal soul shall be made fat; and he that watereth shall be watered also himself."

To the Church, it is you the individual, dedicated members that make the missionary endeavors happen. Your prayers and spiritual support move the hand of God. You become a missionary through your desire and God blesses you for it.

It is through your financial donations that the Church is given the means by which and through which the Gospel moves. How I wish that each member would sit in on a General Board of Missions meeting to hear the enthusiasm in which the Gospel is being received throughout the world. Church buildings are needed throughout Mexico, a new dormitory is needed at our Secondary School in Nigeria, a meeting place is needed in Ghana, West Africa, more

Church literature is needed printed in other languages, a whole new work is emerging in India, the Church is being requested in countries throughout the world. Of course the Gospel is free to all earnest at heart, but we cannot be naive to the financial needs in taking the Gospel. A major hurricane recently destroyed many homes in San Jose, San Ysidro, and Ahome, Mexico. Thousands of dollars are needed for relief aid. Where and how are these needs supplied? From dedicated and conscientious people.

How much should you give? Unlike many organizations, the Church does not require certain amounts. It holds to a free will offering system. Give what you can and desire to give. The only personal suggestion I can offer is the system of giving that is taught in the Holy Scriptures, tithing.

"Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine." Proverbs 3:9-10

What is a tithe? "A tenth part." Hebrews 7:2

To whom does the tithe belong? "And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's: it is holy unto the Lord." Leviticus 27:30

Why tithe? It was acceptable unto the Lord as stated in the scriptures. Jesus Christ brought it into new testament times. In Matthew 23:23 he recognized the tithe of the Pharisees and scribes by stating, "these ought ye to have done. . ."

In III Nephi, *Book of Mormon*, the Lord as he visited with the inhabitants of this land, stated "would ye rob God?", as he referred to their neglect to tithe.

To whom do you give the tithe? The Church. The Apostle Paul stated in I Corinthians 16:1-2, "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."

If you would rather give differently, do so. The wonderful saints of

the California District are encouraging their members to give one day's pay a month, and God is blessing them.

In conclusion, God bless you for your interest. Prove God's word. "But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver." II Corinthians 9:6-7

If you have a question or comment, please write. Share your thoughts with each other. We are our brother's keeper. God bless you.

Write: Young People Ask
The Church of Jesus Christ
Sixth & Lincoln Sts.
Monongahela, PA 15063

MBA Highlights

1981 California Area Campout and Conference

By Pam Cole, Area Editor

There were many comments about the California Campout and Conference. It was unanimous that this Campout's blessings will never be forgotten. The Lord said He would be there, and He was, all week long!

The 1981 California Area MBA Campout and Conference was held August 24 through 30 at the Oak Glen Christian Conference Center in Yucaipa, among the San Bernardino Mountains.

Registration began at 12:00 noon on Monday, August 24, and the attendance was added to daily as the week progressed. We had a total of 267 brothers, sisters and friends representing the branches and missions of California and even a few out-of-staters. Camp Director this year was Brother John Azzinaro, Jr., and his assistant was Brother Walt Jankowski. We thank God for these brothers and many others who gave of

their time and energy for the success of this year's campout. Most of all, we thank God for its spiritual success!

Each morning, beginning with Tuesday, started off with breakfast at 8:00, a prayer meeting and assembly. Following this were seminars. The topic of the seminars was based on the camp theme, "The Family Unit". In charge of organizing these seminars was Brother Paul Liberto. It was set up in such a way that you did not have the same seminar or the same seminar leader twice. It gave us a variety of opinions on "The Family Unit" and how each of us need to strive to make our families a closer unit—the natural and spiritual family.

Beginning our afternoons was lunch at 12:30 and then recreation and crafts led by Brother Joe and Sister Mary Nicosia. There were activities for everyone.

Next on the agenda was dinner at 5:00. At 6:30 our evening meetings began. God blessed us so much! No preaching was done in these meetings, but we still felt we were given a message. The services were left open to anyone who had a desire to praise the Lord. So many had this desire! There were many experiences that I could not begin to relate; but let me just say that God deserves every bit of honor and glory that we give Him, and more.

On the week end was the MBA Conference. Saturday morning, in just a few hours, the business was completed; lunch was served, and we all drove down to the mountain stream to witness the baptisms. Yes, we had baptisms! These new brothers and sisters requested baptism throughout the week in our evening meetings. Our sincere prayer is that they remain faithful and strong in The Church of Jesus Christ, that they would be that light of the Gospel to others. The following is a list of the new members:

Dianne McDonnell—Bell
Dan Picciuto, Jr. —Modesto
Lora Dulisse —San Diego
Tom Liberto, Jr. —San Diego
Bob Henderson —Anaheim
Ana Rosa Cardena—Tijuana
Maria Dominguez —Santa Ana
Luis Marroguin —Santa Ana
Jeff Meo —Anaheim

After we got back to the camp ground, we had some free time and

then dinner was served. Our night service was one blessing after another, including the confirmation of our new converts.

The next day was not only Sunday, but also the last day of our Campout/Conference. This was the first service that the elders took the podium and preached. The Lord used the elders as a tool in His hand; He worked with them.

Words fail to describe our feelings throughout this Campout. It is a good thing that the Lord knows our hearts and all the gratitude that's inside for all those who worked so hard on the Campout and for all of the love that was shared. We thank God!

Atlantic Coast Area MBA

By Joseph Perri, Area Editor

The Atlantic Coast Area MBA held its Business-Organization Meeting on July 25, 1981 at the Bronx, New York Branch building. Brother Ken Lombardo presided over the meeting in the absence of Brother James Huttenburger, who moved to California.

Under unfinished business it was stated that \$300.00 was collected from the sale of district directories.

New Business—The following area officers were elected:

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| President | — Ken Lombardo |
| Vice President | — Jim Sgro |
| Chaplain | — Tony Vadasz, Sr. |
| Secretary | — Lydia Link |
| Ass't Sec. | — Jerry Valenti |
| Treasurer | — Gary Ensana |
| Ass't Treasurer | — Jim Link, Sr. |
| Auditors | — Tammy Valenti Terry Bravo |
| Editor | — Joseph Perri |
| Historian | — Philip Arcuri |

Future Area Activities:

1. Area Campout next year, 1982
2. Singspiration October 14, Hope-lawn Branch
3. Bus for GMBA Conference
4. Ask GMBA to host May, 1982 Conference here in the Atlantic Coast

5. A visit to Hill Cumorah in 1982

We have a large group of young people in our area who have taken an interest in the Church. Many are not baptized. Our prayer is for God's blessing in their lives.

50th Anniversary



SISTER ANNA BADALUCCO

On Sunday, September 6, we at Detroit, Branch 2 celebrated with Sister Anna Badalucco her 50th anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ.

She, with her late husband, Bart, were among the first that became members of Branch 2 of The Church of Jesus Christ in Detroit, Michigan.

The remarkable thing about these two wonderful saints is that they rarely missed a Sunday meeting, even though they lived fifty miles from church. Added to the distance was the fact that they owned an apple orchard, and they went to Detroit's Eastern Market every Saturday to sell apples, often not getting home until midnight.

Sister Anna, along with her husband, really did reflect the depth of their conversion into the Church by their staunch acceptance of all the principles of the Church.

Now Sister Anna is in her 80's but still lives alone and maintains her house and yard with the help of her daughter, Jenny, and son-in-law, Joseph Mannino, who live nearby.

May God's richest blessings continue to be with Sister Anna.

Branch and Mission News

Detroit, Branch 2

By Leona Buffa, Branch Editor

On Sunday, August 16, 1981, two more names were written down in the Lamb's Book of Life. Brother Jerry Morle asked for his baptism on Monday, August 10, and Brother Andre Francione asked at a Wednesday night service at Branch 2 on August 12.

We had many visitors from throughout the district and from out of town. Our visiting elders were Brothers Paul Francione, John Griffith, Paul Whitton and Peter Scolaro.

After community singing and opening prayer, Brother Paul Francione opened speaking to us from Alma 37 where Alma was speaking to his sons. Brother Paul said we are a very unique people, and there is much to be done in this Church. We long for the day when righteousness will prevail. In pertaining to the scripture which was read, Brother Paul told us to "ask God". We have to make a decision, even as Joshua, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Brother John Griffith followed, stating that he had a great desire to fellowship with us when he heard of the baptisms to take place. He said that Brother Paul brought out a very important message that Christ came for the purpose to bring sinners to repentance. Before Brother John asked for his baptism, it seemed that the ministry was preaching constantly to him about the fact that you may never be called again. On the day he asked for his baptism, there were also ten others.

This Church is a special organization on the face of the earth. We need workers! The Church is not just for the old or the young; it is for everyone! Some of us are simply satisfied to have the Lord brush by us and we don't necessarily want to touch the hem of His garment. But we have to reach out to touch that hem. We have to make that stand, "I want to be used and I want to serve the Lord."

Brother Alex Gentile asked our

two candidates to express themselves. Brother Leonard Lovalvo closed in prayer. After lunch we gathered at the water's edge. Brother Jerry was baptized by his father, Brother Frank Morle; Brother Andre was baptized by his father, Brother Paul Francione.

Our afternoon meeting was opened in prayer. Brother Alex stated that baptism is the highlight of our life. Sister Harriet Francione expressed that while our two new brothers were testifying earlier, she had seen a beautiful glow surrounding them.

Brother Alex read from Moroni 2:1-3. The Holy Ghost is ours, and it does come upon us when hands are laid upon us. We should use it everyday and learn to rely upon it.

Brothers Jerry and Andre came forward as we sang, *Ready to Go*. Brother Dominic Thomas offered prayer as the ministry knelt and joined hands. Brother Reno Bologna confirmed Brother Andre, and Brother Leonard Lovalvo confirmed Brother Jerry.

Detroit, Inner-City

Three new sisters were baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ at the Detroit, Michigan Inner-City Branch recently. They were Amanda Agnes Garcia on July 26, Esther Ruth Hippolyte and Lorraine Garnet Lambert on August 16.

All three were taken into the waters and immersed at Detroit's beautiful Belle Isle by Brother Joseph Milantoni, Presiding Elder. They were confirmed on the day of their baptisms at the downtown church building as follows: Sister Garcia by Brother Carl Frammolino, Sister Hippolyte by Brother Anthony Gerace, and Sister Lambert by Brother Milantoni.

Sister Garcia hails from the Indian Reservation on Walpole Island in Ontario, Canada. Sister Hippolyte, a sister-in-law to Sister Bernice Hippolyte who is a charter member of the Inner-City Branch, recently came from St. Lucie, West Indies. Sister Lambert is originally from Lawrence County, Ohio.

The enthusiasm and zeal with which the new sisters came into the Gospel have been tremendously uplifting to the Inner-City group.

V.B.S. in South Bend Enhanced by Evangelist Meetings

By Carolyn Martorana, Area Editor

The Ohio Area MBA sponsored a Vacation Bible School at our South Bend, Indiana Mission the week of August 17 heightened by a weekend of District Evangelist meetings August 21-23. Coordinator for the VBS, Sister Kathy Furtano, along with brothers and sisters from Ohio, Pennsylvania and Indiana, gathered with approximately 45 children, ages 2-14, to study "The Fruits of the Spirit" referred to in Galatians 5. Lessons to illustrate these fruits included the three Hebrew children, the good samaritan, and Jacob and Esau.

Each day we met at a site at the housing project with the various age groups and taught lessons, had the children work out activities and skits concerning them. Arts and crafts, many of which had to do with Indian and Afro-American culture, were also enjoyed. Much practice also went into sketches and songs for the program Sunday morning. The instructors were for the most part very pleased with the attentiveness and ability to grasp that which was brought forth. The children were very responsive to our love and attention, to the point of asking some of the instructors to come home with them!

Friday afternoon, upon the final session of classes, a group of young people went from door to door through the project, a senior citizen development, and various spots throughout the city, passing out flyers inviting the public to the upcoming meetings. As we gathered Friday night, we began with a season of singing. An enthusiasm spread as the songs of Zion rang out along with many other favorites. As we organized for the service, we noted many visitors from the surrounding area. Brother Vince Gibson opened the service, using Ezekiel 37 for his text.

He spoke on the two sticks to be joined as one and reiterated the story of Joseph and Judah and their modern-day descendants. Brother Mitchell Edwards followed speaking on the Church which Christ set up founded on the revelation of the Holy Ghost.

Saturday night we met again, this time with more visitors, and the spirit of the restoration again prevailed. Brother Vince enhanced this by citing events of the Apostasy and Restoration, explaining that the precepts of Christ were changed after His death, until the Church was no longer recognizable. He spoke of men of the reformation searching for the truth which we have today. Brother Mitchell then extended the topic citing his own upbringing as a Methodist (product of the reformation) and how he, upon meeting the saints, was most impressed by the unfeigned and persistent love portrayed to him and to all, notwithstanding race, nationality or creed. He expounded on the high standard the Church must retain, noting the standard Moses raised up in the wilderness, even as a type of Christ. Our brother encouraged the visitors to ask God about the authenticity of the Gospel, a proposal which we make without fear. After the service, we gathered for refreshments, and as we fellowshiped, Apostle Rocco Biscotti and Evangelist Elmer Santilli and their wives arrived in our midst. We parted with anticipation of the upcoming Sabbath.

Sunday morning we met, and the VBS children performed their program. Many scriptures were read on the fruits of the spirit and how they apply to our lives. The children displayed posters also depicting these fruits which they had made. No one will deny the enthusiasm with which they sang their songs.

Many of the families of the children were also in our midst. One mother of a 4 year old told an instructor that her son had come home each day singing songs and telling stories that he learned that day! Brother Rocco opened the service, commenting on the love and humility of children, like unto which are received into the kingdom of heaven. He continued on the need for righteousness among the people of God, stressing to the young the need to keep Satan bound in order to attain spiritual maturity. Brother Elmer continued on the work of the latter

days. He cautioned us not to take lightly that which the Lord would have both young and old to do, emphasizing the work that has been going on since the coming forth of the *Book of Mormon*. We were reminded of the many promises in store for the Church, including the work with the choice seer in this the promised land. We were encouraged to keep the spirit of Zion alive in our hearts by speaking, studying and singing of that era to come so that others who enter our midst can feel it. Testimony service convened with many beautiful offerings to God. While Sister Angelina Biscotti was testifying, a vision was had by Sister Michelle Edwards in which she saw many beautiful flowers surrounding the ministry. As the flowers began to fade, she beheld a being dressed in white. In his hand was a standard which he was holding high. Beneath his feet were many tools of every kind. The brothers felt this a confirmation of that standard which was spoken of that the Church must maintain—the tools before us for those that desire to work in this capacity. As the spirit of God prevailed with us, we parted that day in His love.

We would like to thank the brothers and sisters of that area for their love and hospitality, and we request the prayers of the saints in behalf of our membership in the nethermost parts of the vineyard who strive to serve God without a resident elder. Our prayer is that God would bless and strengthen them in their desires.

Erie, PA

By Jill Kovacic

Erie Mission hosted an impromptu singspiration August 30 at 6:30 p.m. Branches in attendance were from Imperial, Niles, Fredonia and Lockport. Brother Wayne Martorana played several selections of the *Songs of Zion* to open the meeting. Brother Harold Burge, Presiding Elder of Erie Mission, officiated over the meeting asking Brother Paul D'Amico to open in prayer.

The Imperial Branch selected *The Valleys Are Green*, Sir to sing. Sister Arlene Buffington told of her experiences in writing the songs. She told of her concern for the young and that they might have songs, not of the

world, to sing. She related of other songs and also her need for a music arranger. Brother Eugene Amormino was sent to her.

Weighed in the Balance, There's No Rainbow Can Shine Like Jesus and *Zion's Borderland* were sung before Brother Bob Buffington had opening remarks. He related how when the little finger hurts, the whole body hurts, and when one member is suffering, the Church knows of the need. He spoke of a better day yet to come and the need to obey the Gospel. Brother Bob also read a poem to the honor of Sister Meredith Lockwood.

Brother Jim Moore spoke of a dream he had in 1970, and he too looked to a better day, a greater day and how the Lord has truly blessed him. We sang, *Too Small for Great Things But Satisfied*.

Brother Russ Martorana added that all that was done was for the glory and honor of God. He also spoke of his mother-in-law, Sister Sarah, going home to the Lord and how they were prepared and that turning to the Lord was the only way.

Brother Paul D'Amico also had closing remarks. He related his experiences during the war and how the Lord helped see him through these times. He told how the Lord has guided and watched over him throughout his maturing years.

Before closing we sang, *Waving the Death Angel Over*, *When the Flood Waters Rise*, *Crossing the Line* and *Passing Over the Perils*. Brother Art Gehly closed in prayer.

A light snack was served by the Erie Mission Ladies Circle during a season of fellowship after the meeting.

Everyone enjoyed the impromptu meeting and left spiritually enlightened. I personally felt a spiritual strength for things to come.

Roscoe, PA

By Bertha Jean Bilsky

On July 12, 1981 we were privileged to have Brother and Sister Bittinger with us from Florida. Brother Joe, an apostle in the Church,

opened the morning meeting speaking from Matthew 25:31-40. He spoke on the difference between the followers of Christ and the unrighteous. He likened the followers to sheep and the unrighteous to goats and the vast difference between them.

He spoke of the time when the separation would take place and how we would be there, placed either on the right or the left. He said that there is something for everyone to do and how every day of our lives we have to endeavor to let our light shine as a servant of God. He told of how many ways we can help others and that there are so many different needs in life, and we should be ready to help our neighbor, friend, and even our enemy.

He spoke on how Christ tried to impress upon His followers the need to help those who were unable to help themselves. He admonished us not to neglect to do anything we can, and we should do what we can gladly that we might let our light shine unto our fellow man. He testified how he himself had been encouraged by others many times. We enjoyed our brother's message very much and hope and pray we can each do our duty and also be found as a follower of Christ and one of His sheep.

On August 16, Brother Jim King from Vanderbilt and his companion, Sister Betty, were with us through the day. Brother Jim spoke from Joshua 1 and impressed upon us God's words to Joshua as he entered the promised land—that He would be with him as He was with Moses and that He would not forsake him. He told of Brother Ether Furnier's experience concerning our era of time and how it was time for the Joshuas of today to stand up and do their work. He said he believed we were on the edge of the promised land. He brought forth a beautiful message and was followed by Brother Fred Olexa.

Brother Fred spoke on how Israel were prisoners in the land in which they dwelt before God delivered them, and when we were in the world, it is a type and shadow of Egypt and that the world consumes us and we become slaves to the ways of the world which takes us away from God and the way we were taught as children. He brought out the mission of Moses, Joshua, Jesus Christ, and Joseph Smith and how their task was not easy. He spoke of the brothers of

our day that have gone to their graves still looking for that fulfillment in seeing the Gospel go forth, and how they have left it with us to carry on their work.

The blessings we felt in the morning were continued in the afternoon meeting as we saw two brothers ordained into the office of deacon. Brother Bud Martin opened the afternoon meeting speaking from Luke 22:13-23. He spoke on the ordinances to take place this afternoon: sacrament, feet washing and the ordination of deacons, using the word of God to bring it forth. Brother Jim Dutchko's feet were washed by Brother Jonathan Olexa, and he was ordained by Brother B. J. Martin. Brother Jim Abbott's feet were washed by Brother John Bilsky, and he was ordained by Brother Fred Olexa.

We had our feet washing service, followed by testimonies to God's goodness. We had a beautiful day and can say from the bottom of our hearts, God is so good! May God bless our visitors and may our brothers ordained into the office of deacon have their desires fulfilled in serving God to their fullest capacity.

Vanderbilt, PA

"... And Jesus said, 'Come to the water, stand by my side I know you are thirsty, you won't be denied'..."

This is exactly what we didn't deny at Vanderbilt as we witnessed two souls come unto Christ. The first was on August 2, 1981 as we gathered at the water to witness the baptism of Colleena Bowler (affectionately known as Coco). She was led into the water by Brother Milford Eutsey, Sr. The saints rejoiced with the angels in heaven to see Coco emerge from the water a new person.

Back at our branch, Brother George Timms from Herndon, VA confirmed our sister. The priesthood then felt to anoint our Sister Coco due to the fact that she had a dislocated knee. Brother James King, Sr. anointed her, and feeling the Spirit of God, pleaded with the Lord to heal her. The next day, which was Sister Coco's natural birthday, she awoke to witness the fact that her knee was

back in place letting her walk normally. Praise the Lord for His mercy to us!

Brother George Timms was visiting with us from Herndon to see his natural sister, Sister Irene Beeman. On July 26, 1981, Sister Irene's granddaughter, Sister Cindy Smith, heard Sister Irene fall about 1:00 a.m. and called an ambulance to take her to the hospital. At 3:00 a.m. Brother Randy Beeman called Brother James King, Sr. Brother Jim anointed Sister Irene about 6:00 a.m. The nurse told Brother Jim that Sister Irene wouldn't leave the hospital alive. At 8:30 a.m. she regained consciousness; within one week she was released from the hospital and in another week Sister Irene was sitting in the Pennsylvania District Conference.

The Lord gave us back Sister Irene for a time, and the saints are thankful for the act of God, because her illness brought home Brother Buddy and Sister Sylvia Smith and their family from Okinawa. Now, Brother Buddy has transferred from there to Quantico, Virginia where he will commute between there and Vanderbilt. God does move in beautiful, mysterious ways.

The second baptism was on August 30, 1981, and our visitor was once again Brother George Timms. This Sunday was also our feet washing Sunday. In our morning meeting Robert Frankenberg arose and asked for his baptism. Robbie, as we in Vanderbilt know him, was led into the water by his future father-in-law, Brother Lawrence King. There was a very beautiful spirit felt as our feet washing service progressed. Also, after this nine people asked to be anointed or to have hands laid on them for strength.

Surely the Lord multiplied the blessings to each one that was there. The saints here wish the Church all over the vineyard God's continuing blessings. God blesses us all in various ways.

Brother Robbie Frankenberg and Sister Connie King had announced their engagement on July 19. May God richly bless them.

Niles, OH

On Sunday, July 12, 1981 we

received visitors from Youngstown. Brother Don Pandone and Sister Teresa were very much welcomed, and we enjoyed their fellowship with us. Brother Don opened the meeting speaking of the parable of the talents and that we all have a gift or talent that can be used for the Lord. Brother Wayne Martorana opened the afternoon service by reading the duties and responsibilities of a deaconess. Our Sister Wanda Pandone was today to be ordained a deaconess to help in the needs of our branch and our Church. Sister Libby Pandone felt to wash our sister's feet. Sister Wanda was then ordained by Brother Bob Ciarrochi. We all received a great blessing in the ordinance of feet washing and a season of testimony afterwards.

The following week, we had the pleasure of a visit from our Brother Dwayne Jordan and his family. Bro-

ther Dwayne spoke a word of testimony and afterwards his wife, Sister Elaine, sang *He Did It All for Me*.

Our MBA held a special service August 8, 1981, and Brother Joe Calabrese was our guest speaker. We opened by singing several selections from the *Songs of Zion*. Brother Joe expounded on "What is the *Book of Mormon*?" He stated that many people discredit the *Book of Mormon* and reminded us to be rooted and prepared to defend it. He explained that it is a record of one of the twelve tribes of Israel and God's dealings with them. He said that we need the *Bible* to prove the *Book of Mormon*. He referred to the other ten tribes; we do not know their nationality or where they are until a Deliverer or Choice Seer comes forth to translate their history.

When the Apostasy took place, it was a departure from the truth. Jesus

had prayed for His disciples. He was concerned about the falling away of the Gospel He taught. Eventually there was an attempt for reformation, with even the reformers recognizing that the gifts of the Spirit of God were missing and many did not possess the love of Christ.

There was a need for a restoration of the authority of God upon the face of the earth. Brother Joe stated that the Restoration was the greatest event upon the face of the earth since the birth of Christ and His ministry. Along with the Restoration comes many promises to the Church and prophecies which are to be fulfilled, such as the gathering of Israel, the coming of the Choice Seer and the Peaceful Reign. We truly enjoyed our brother's visit and message. It was very informative and especially interesting to us who are young in the Gospel to learn and know of these things.

New Arrivals

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

Twins—Jonathan Ross and David Peter to Jonathan and Pam Molinatto of San Diego, California;

Sabrina Lynn to Richard and Debbie Christman Roach of Tucson, Arizona.

October 10, 1926.

He will be sorely missed by all. His devotion to God and the Church set an example for all who knew him.

JAMES J. GAROFLO

James J. Garoflo passed away on September 9, 1981. Born on May 30, 1928, he is survived by his mother, five sisters, three brothers, and several children and grandchildren. He is the son of the late Brother Peter Garoflo and Sister Sophie Garoflo of Anaheim, California.

Brother Vincent Gibson of Cleveland, Ohio officiated at the burial services.

May God comfort those who mourn the loss of this loved one.

SARA MOLLIKA

Sister Sara Mollica of the Niles, Ohio Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ passed away on August 26, 1981. She was born on April 4, 1894 and was baptized on January 28, 1923.

Brother Bob Ciarrochi officiated at the funeral service.

Sister Sara is survived by 2 sons, 2 daughters, 7 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. She will be greatly missed by all. She gave a beautiful testimony every Sunday in sickness and in health to the honor and glory of God. Many experiences came forth of our sister, one of which is so inspiring. She fought a good fight, she finished her course, she kept the faith. Praise God!

OBITUARIES

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

LOUIS BISCOTTI

Brother Louis Biscotti, a member of the Bell, California Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ, passed on to his eternal reward on September 25, 1981. He was born on May 8, 1894 and baptized on August 27, 1922.

He is survived by four sons and a brother, Apostle Rocco Biscotti. Funeral services were conducted by Brother Vincent Scalise.

Brother Louis was a long-time member of Bell Branch and also served as an elder, being ordained on