

The Gospel News

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

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Dedication Service

By Diane Everett, Branch Editor

On September 27, 1981 we had the privilege to have many of the saints from various branches and districts attend the dedication of the new Branch No. 1 building.

The children opened the service by singing the following selections: *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*, and *Jesus Built His House Upon a Rock*.

The choir then followed with the following selections: *God's House* and *Let Us Sing*. Brother Paul Vitto offered prayer, and the choir continued with *To God Be the Glory*. Rebecca Ann Straccia was blessed by Brother Peter Scolaro.

We had the privilege to hear the former Branch 1 Trio which consisted of Sister Kathy Perkins, Sister Marilyn Scolaro, and Sister Carolyn Griffith. They sang, *There's A Sweet Sweet Spirit*.

Brother Jerry Benyola gave a brief history of Branch 1. He stated how Brother Ishmael D'Amico and Brother Joseph Dulisse came to Detroit from Glassport, Pennsylvania, and on April 24 baptized and confirmed five members: Brother Ralph and Sister Anna Frammolino, Sister Louise Frammolino, and Brother Joseph and Sister Mary Johnson. The building on Hall and Devine was erected in 1924; the first meeting was held there on December 28, 1924. The Detroit Mission was organized as a Branch on July 16, 1927 with Brother Ishmael

D'Amico as Presiding Elder. On January 13, 1934, Detroit's Westside Mission (Branch No. 2) became a 44 member branch with its membership coming from the original branch on Devine. There also were members of Rochester, New York, and a Colorado Mission under Branch 1. The Eastside Mission on Gratiot and McDougal became Branch 3 on July 13, 1935 and received 97 of its charter members from Branch 1. On July 19, 1938, 38 members transferred to Detroit, Branch 4, formerly the Northside Mission. In March of 1956 we sold Devine. We met in a hall while we worked on the building on Harper and 3 Mile Drive, which was dedicated on December 23, 1956. In June of 1972, 24 members transferred to the Warren Mission, which eventually became the Sterling Heights Branch. On July 16, 1981 we sold the old building and started meeting in our new building. The first meeting held in the new building was on July 19, 1981.

After much searching and many prayers, we thank God He provided this building for us. That gives you a little run down of the Mother Branch of Detroit.

Brother Alex Gentile represented the General Church Trustees and was the next speaker. Speaking on behalf of the Trustees he stated he was glad to be present at the dedication, and as he looked back, he recalled how the Church had a net worth of about \$50,000 in 1921 and today is worth about \$7,000,000. God has prospered and blessed us naturally over the past 60 years. He admonished those in attendance to consecrate their lives more fully to Christ just as we

dedicate this building today.

Brother Paul Palmieri offered the dedicatory prayer.

Brother Dominic Thomas, the General Church President, followed Brother Paul and spoke on the very outstanding dedication of Solomon's Temple (II Chron. 5:1-11). He reminded us of meetings we have all been in where the presence of the Spirit and the power of God were manifested upon the Priesthood and the congregation where the overwhelming power of God was present making speech almost impossible. He referred to some of the 6th chapter and three verses of the 7th chapter. He admonished us that we need to break our format of praising God and relax more and let the Spirit of God take hold of us so we are not ashamed or reluctant to bow down and reflect upon the mercy of God.

He spoke of Jesus building His Church and the day of Pentecost when Peter spoke to a multitude. Brother Thomas stated that the present day Church should have that kind of



courage and hope for the ingathering of the House of Israel and for the outpouring of God's Spirit upon all the nations of the earth, and that there will be a flood of souls coming into the Kingdom of God. We should not rest until Joseph has been brought in and the New Jerusalem is built and from all nations they shall come to the great dedication service that you and I can hardly imagine. It is written that Jesus Himself will be in their midst. We should pray for the outpouring of God's Spirit. His closing statement was a question, "Are our hearts committed to this end?"

Our sisters Rosanne Scolaro, Laura Mangipane and Denise Campitelle sang *Jesus Will be what Makes It Heaven to Me*.

Brother Nick Pietrangelo followed; he reminisced about being present when the first five converts were baptized from the little store on Cadillac and Forest. He stated the Lord is the Master Builder and knows how to build. He related an experience of Sister Ruzzi relating to the dedication of the building on Harper Ave. She saw in a vision the whole dedication service a month before she passed away prior to the actual dedication service. He also admonished those present to consecrate their lives more fully to serving God and to work together in unity and in love that we may grow spiritually and move the Church forward. He warned us not to get wrapped up in things that will detour us from receiving God's blessings.

Brother Jerry Benyola, the Presiding Elder, invited everyone to the evening service. The meeting was closed with singing *How Great Thou Art*, and Brother Bob Stanek related the following experience: "When the prayer of dedication was being offered with my eyes closed I saw all the windows opened the same as the door is opened. I saw flames of fire all around the edges of the frames rushing into the building."

Closing prayer was offered by Brother Spencer Everett.

The evening service was opened in prayer by Brother Leonard Loyalvo.

The Presiding Elder, Brother Jerry Benyola, asked the Ministry the following question: "What does this day mean to you?"

Brother John Griffith expressed how grateful he was to be present at the dedication of our building. He also was a member of Branch 1 for two years. He spoke of the financial obligation we all must have had and how we were all united. He spoke of God establishing His Church and He would be in their midst. We should not be ashamed to say we are the saints of latter days.

Brian Griffith presented us with a solo. He sang the following: *Faith, Hope and Charity* and *Blessed Assurance*. While Brian was singing, Sister Rose Impastato saw a light around the Ministry.

Brother Louis Vitto spoke of the precious memories of when he belonged to Branch 1. He dedicated his life at the waters edge which would strive with him the rest of his days. He said, "This is still the Church and we are His people. The Church will not fail, but we as a people may fail. We are the temples of God; let us keep our temples pure." His new life began at Branch 1, and he was ordained an elder in this branch. He said he would continue to do his part with the love of God. Let us continue to praise God; all that we have and own belong to Him.

Brother Sam DiFalco spoke of re-dedicating our lives also. We have to do our part so that the Church can go to the four corners of the earth. He spoke of the many blessings he had received and of the many prayers that were answered in his behalf and of the many times he felt God's presence. The trio, consisting of Sister Kathy, Sister Marilyn and Sister Carolyn, sang *O God Our Church*.

Brother Jack Pontillo spoke of the wonderful brothers and sisters. We have something the world doesn't have. He spoke of his childhood and how he used to tell his mother let's go home. Today he thanks God he had the privilege to see his mother reach 50 years in the Gospel.

Brother Dominic Moraca followed with some remarks of how he was also blessed to be a member of Branch 1. He left Branch 1 forty years ago, but he said it will always have a place in his heart. He prays we will see many blessings and continue to spread the Gospel.

The quartet, consisting of Brothers Bart DiPronio, Dave DiBattista,

Louis Vitto and Spencer Everett, sang *What A Day That Will Be*. Brother Bart DiPronio then sang *Blessed Assurance*.

Brother Anthony Loyalvo then spoke of how when there were no baptisms they would all go home feeling sad. They heard the sound doctrine. Pray to God and He will direct you to which is His Church. We are not a branch; we are a whole Church. He spoke of all the strong saints who labored for the Church and have now gone on to their reward.

The branch choir sang *Let Us Sing* and *The Church Triumphant*.

Brother Bob Stanek closed the meeting in prayer. The saints stayed and fellowshiped over refreshments.

Brother Jerry Benyola, the Presiding Elder of Branch 1, would like to acknowledge all of the Branches, Missions, the General Church Officers and the members and friends for all their efforts and support. May God bless you all.

Arizona District Campout

By Dick Ackman, District Editor

The first annual Arizona District Campout was held August 6-9 at Camp Wamatochick, A Camp Fire Girls' site located in the Prescott National Forest some thirteen miles from the city of Prescott, Arizona.

Wamatochick means "place of friends"; and it was truly a site that lived up to its motto.

Approximately 6,000 feet above sea level, Camp Wamatochick provided the Soldiers of the Cross an isolated but beautiful retreat to get closer to God and recuperate somewhat from the sweltering heat that has set all-time temperature records over the desert plains and valleys this summer.

But truly, as the motto inscribed on the official seal of this great nation's 48th state "Ditat Deus", which means "God enriches", the spectacular setting enriched the spiritual gathering to a point where few, if any, departed that place not having received an uplifting and renewed

faith and a hunger to return to the front lines of battle as called for in Sister Arlene Buffington's hymn, *The Standard of Liberty*.

The camp theme was "Zion". From the handicraft work through the various seminars held throughout the grounds, the hymns and the preaching, "Zion" became the ultimate goal.

Camp Director, Stephen Saffron, a Phoenix Branch Elder, was very pleased with the final results despite some housing problems for the approximate 125 in attendance including family members and friends.

Brother Steve searched long and hard, along with Brother Richard Christman, Arizona District President and assistant Camp Chairman, before finalizing an agreement with campground officials. Campsites in this area are reserved, in some cases, years in advance. The Camp Fire Girls' camp was held open an extra week to accommodate the District's initial summer retreat. Other area campgrounds were available for those persons with campers, mobile homes and other RV's. Late arrivals found motel accommodations in Prescott, although rooms were at a premium that weekend due to a week-long rodeo celebration in Prescott which draws people from all the nearby states, many of whom reserve their rooms a year in advance.

One item discussed in the open meeting held Saturday afternoon was that of future campouts. It was agreed that an appointed committee search out various sites that could be purchased or leased by the District. The survey group is especially interested in low-lease federal lands that could be developed by the Church or individual families who could use their homes for vacations or other outings.

Even in the high mountains the days were warm. But shade provided by the towering pine trees enabled seminars and other activities to be conducted both day and evenings in great comfort. However, during that Saturday afternoon session held under roof in the open-sided dining area, a heavy monsoon rainstorm struck the camp knocking out electricity for several hours, driving down temperatures at a rapid rate. Two large open fireplaces were immediately lit, and despite the tremendous

weather change, things progressed in fine fashion as the fellowship warmed to a degree that matched the hot coals crackling away in the fireplaces. Children, seen dragging logs larger than themselves to the fires, were drenched to the skin.

The loss of electrical power forced a change in supper meal plans, but cook, Betty Burke, and her teenage associates did a remarkable job and on Sunday morning prior to the final worship service, received the accolades of all those present for a job well done. Brother Steve asked her if she would consider returning as cook at future District Campouts.

Using flashlight beams for light, the Saturday night program went on. Partial lighting was restored about midway through the program as the coat and sweater throng gathered closer together for warmth to hear the many voices of the Phoenix Branch sing the "Songs of Zion" written by Sister Buffington of Imperial, PA. Brother Eugene Amormino of Branch 1, Detroit, MI, who was called by the Lord to place Sister Buffington's hymns to music, played the piano and directed the singing. Following were the brothers and sisters from the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation whose native songs closed out the spiritual portion of the program.

Brother Dick Christman added some hilarity as he became an auctioneer as camp officials sold off the remaining food items to help defray camp expenses.

Sunday morning was beautiful. As the sun came out of the east over the mountain tops, the dual fireplaces burned themselves out setting the stage for all of God's word that was to follow.

The gifted voices of the Red Lake choir lifted the spirits to an ultimate high after the congregation in unison sang, *O Beulah Land*, *Since Jesus Came into My Heart*, and *O Zion, When I Think On Thee*. In contrast, as the fourteen-member Red Lake choir commenced singing, rifle shots sent crackling sounds through the mountains. It was probably a hunter out there in the vastness. Here were ringing sounds of deadly bullets of destruction competing simultaneously with God's words filling the air. As the beautiful Red Lake voices echoed through the large pines, off the hills and into the valleys below, the gun

shots ceased and God's praises continued in triumph.

Included in the Red Lake program were the following songs, the soloist or lead voices in parenthesis: *Then You Can Enter In* (Sylvia Curry and Dennis Calabrese), *More Than You'll Ever Know* (Larry and Vanessa Watson), *Joy Comes In the Morning* (Elaine Jordan), *It Is Finished* (Donna Cicatti and Judy Calabrese), and *The Valleys Are Green, Sir*.

The elders retired from the dining hall for special meditation under a large group of trees nearby as the congregation under the direction of Brother Tim Scolaro of Branch 1, Detroit, MI, with Brother Amormino at the piano, sang *Longing for the Gathering* and *We're Marching to Zion*.

Brother George Johnson, the newest arrival in the southwest from back east, opened the preaching service. He said that Isaiah prophesied throughout his book about Zion, the City of God, a place we all strive to reach as our ultimate goal. He outlined in his talk how we are to reach this goal through the blueprint set before us in the scriptures—Isaiah and IV Nephi. He concluded saying, "Thanks be to God that in the end time—the time of Zion—Satan will have no power because of the righteousness of God's people."

Brother Steve Saffron followed, "It's time to move, to be like Nephi...God is working within us so that we can reach Zion."

Brother Christman recalled the Red Lake choir to sing, *It Is Finished*. "It is finished", he said. "Christ has won the victory but yet there are those who cannot claim that victory. You and I must decide in our own hearts to serve and stand up for Jesus. The individual battle must first be won."

Brother Paul Francione added that our desires are that the whole world will come and join in accepting Jesus.

Brother Ike Smith exhorted, "It is our duty to impress others so they can learn of The Church of Jesus Christ. We have hardly gotten into the restoration, but the time is ripe to take forward steps, one at a time."

Brother Larry Watson also encouraged us to take forward steps which will eventually lead to Zion as we

become more like Christ.

Brother Herbert Hemmings stressed the importance of meekness, a broken heart, and a contrite spirit.

The spiritual meeting came to a close with the singing of *The Standard of Liberty*. Apostle Robert Watson offered the benediction.

Special thanks were given to Brother William Raach for transporting the Phoenix Branch piano to the campsite, also to visiting Brothers Eugene Amormino and Tim Scolaro of Detroit, MI and Brother Sam Randy of Modesto, CA. Also a special thanks to those in Phoenix who sponsored Brother Robert Kaye, a young Hopi Indian, his wife, Dolores, a Pima Indian, and their three children for the entire four-day retreat.

Special Lasting Memories

Restoration flags were made and displayed by various members. The project was spearheaded by June Tenjieth and Bonnie Smith.

Sister Birdie Furnier, a member of the Church for 67 years, gave her testimony which inspired all, and especially the newest member of the Phoenix Branch, Bill Raach, who gave thanks to God for saving his soul.

Brother George Neill was a voice of inspiration, informing all of his early childhood during the early part of the century when the saints gathered in the Church colony in Kansas.

Brent Smith and Faith Hemmings provided a special blessing by highlighting contributions found in the scriptures. Brother Steve said it was rewarding to see these young people serving the Lord.

And, finally, the seminar topics. Brother Steve said the participation of all was heartwarming and beneficial to the soul. The topics included: Spiritual Solutions to Today's Young People's Problems, Working Successfully with the Seed of Joseph, Bringing the Church to Others, Following the Spirit, Creating and Keeping Friendship Both In and Out of the Church, and Women in the Church—The Role of the Latter-Day Female.

"It Is Written"

By V. J. Lovalvo, Apostle



I am going to depart a little from my regular column, "It Is Written", and take this opportunity to write a note of thanks to all the wonderful saints who prayed for me during my surgery and afterwards, also.

It is absolutely true that "prayer changes things" as it is written in the Holy Writ. I am more than certain that only through the prayers of the saints I am still among the living. I cannot thank God enough for my beloved and wonderful wife who was with me in the hospital night and day watching and caring for me, as well as taking care of our business office. I thank the Lord for my children also who were constantly near me to encourage and comfort me. I thank the Almighty for my son who assisted in the surgery and watched over me so patiently and so kindly.

This is the second time that God has delivered me from the clutches of Satan who is my sworn enemy, and who has tried to destroy me before God is ready to take me home to that celestial residence where there will be no more pain or sorrow. However, until the day that He decides to deliver me from this tabernacle of clay, I will serve Him with all the strength of my mind, heart and soul. Though I could live to be as old as Methuselah, I could never repay the Lord for the things He has done for me and to me.

I cannot repay the saints for their tender and caring prayers, only that I wish them all Godspeed and the best of all blessings. May the good Lord bless you and your families with the richest bounties of heaven. Amen.

I shall continue my articles on Family Life as soon as possible.

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Words are very insufficient today to say thank you for your prayers and wonderful support in our time of need. We belong to the most wonderful family on the face of the earth—the family of God! Thank you, brothers and sisters, for the spirit we have felt and the comfort that we feel day by day.

One of our sisters had a dream in which our son, Richard, appeared to her. He asked her to do him a favor saying, "Tell my Mom and Dad that I love them and not to worry because I am all right."

God bless all of you brothers and sisters. Thank you once again.

Don and Adrienne Collison
and Family

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to thank all my brothers and sisters for the many lovely birthday cards recently sent to me on my 75th birthday. I was honored with a birthday dinner party at Smaldino's given by my daughter, Ruth Waterbeck.

Again, thank you for remembering me. May God bless you all is my prayer.

Sister Minnie DePiero

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I lived alone for ten years, and a week before I became seriously ill, I had a vision in which the Lord and two other personages appeared to me.

I did not know what it meant then, but now I feel it was the plan of God to care for me the rest of my life upon the earth.

I want to thank all the brothers, sisters and friends for their thoughtful prayers, phone calls, beautiful flowers and cards.

I am now living with Brother and Sister Bittinger at 2119 Sunrise Drive S.W. in Vero Beach, Florida 32960.

Sister Dorothy F. Knipple

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Some Highlights of 1981

In recounting some of the highlights of the past year, we are awed by eventful reports, from near and far.

The Church continued to pursue and expand its missionary efforts, both at home and abroad.

As the year rolled on, the Red Lake, Arizona Branch broke ground for the erection of their first church building in their mission with the Navajo nation at Tse Bonito, New Mexico.

Brother Stewart Shipman, the first North American Indian convert at the Detroit, Michigan Inner-City Branch was baptized by Brother Anthony Gerace on March 8.

Brother Devanandam, our first convert from India, was baptized by Brother Sam Dell at the Levittown, PA Branch on April 5. This was his first opportunity to visit America since being introduced to The Church of Jesus Christ by Sister Darlene Large during her visit to India in 1975.

Brother Eugene Lassen, the first convert in the great state of Oregon, was baptized by Brother Mark Randy on May 18.

The first Carolina (North and South) Mission was established in July with 10 members and is under the jurisdiction of the Ohio District.

Brother John and Sister Mary Ross, and Brother Dan and Sister Fannie Casasanta completed a one-month tour of missionary activity in Ghana and Nigeria, July 15 through August 18. Their visits to the various missions brought cheer and revival to our people who warmly welcomed them.

On leaving Nigeria they journeyed to Italy where they were joined by Brother Michael and Sister Marietta LaSala for a 10-day tour of a number of missions. Brother Giuseppe LoRicco was in charge of the first conference ever held in Italy. He was assisted by Brothers Ross, Casasanta, and LaSala. Thank God, all of them returned to America safely.

Brother Nephi and Sister Lorraine DeMercurio and sons returned home safely in June after completing an 18-month tour of missionary activity in Nigeria and Ghana.

The GMBA Campout at Massanetta Springs, Harrisonburg, VA in July was blessed with the largest turnout ever at this annual event. It was another opportunity to share a week-long round of fellowship, prayer meetings, chapel services, seminars, choral and community singing, arts and crafts and recreation. It was another time to experience extra blessings in witnessing the baptisms of eight new converts in the beautiful camp lake waters.

Brother Nephi and Sister Lorraine DeMercurio, and sons, Jared and Nephi, departed for Nigeria on September 9 for another extended tour of missionary activity continuing to June, 1983. God be with them.

Brother Joseph Calabrese and Alvin Swanson departed for India on November 17. This missionary visit fulfills the long-awaited wishes of several interested natives as well as Brother Dev who was baptized during his visit to America last spring.

God be with our brothers and direct them in all their missionary activities.

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The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



Servants of the Most High God

Dear Girls and Boys,

Shadrach, Meschach and Abednego were best friends of Daniel. When they were boys, they were captured and brought to the country of Babylon. The king there, Nebuchadnezzar, liked Daniel the best of everyone because Daniel helped him understand the strange dreams he had. King Nebuchadnezzar wanted Daniel to help run the country. Daniel picked his three friends to help him. He made them rulers over the business of the whole country.

Many people were angry and jealous of Shadrach, Meschach, and Abednego. They wanted to hurt them.

Nebuchadnezzar made a huge statue of gold. He called a special celebration for everyone to see it and invited all the important people of the kingdom to come.

As Shadrach, Meschach and Abednego stood there, they heard a messenger shouting in a loud voice, "To everyone, it is commanded! When you hear the music begin, you must fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king has set up. Anyone who does not will be thrown into the fiery furnace that hour and be burned alive."

But these three men had been raised to worship the one, true God, not a statue. Alone they stood while everyone around them fell down and worshipped.

Immediately their enemies ran to King Nebuchadnezzar and told him that these men had not worshipped his statue. Nebuchadnezzar was furious. He called for Shadrach, Meschach and Abednego, and warned them, "If you will not worship the

statue, you will be thrown into the burning furnace, and what God is there that could save you from me?"

Calmly they answered him, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer you about this. If it is meant to be, our God that we serve is able to save us from the fiery furnace. But if it is not meant to be, we will tell you that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden statue you have set up."

Furious, the king ordered the furnace to be heated seven times hotter than it was and commanded the mightiest men of his army to tie up the three servants of God and throw them into the fire. The heat was so intense that the king's men were burned to death as they threw Shadrach, Meschach and Abednego into the furnace.

Then Nebuchadnezzar was astonished, and standing up quickly said, "Didn't we throw three men, tied, into the fire? I see four men, loose and walking in the fire without hurt!"

Going near the mouth of the burning, fiery furnace, Nebuchadnezzar called, "Shadrach, Meschach, and Abednego, servants of the most high God, come here!" And all the rulers and the king saw that not even one strand of hair or any of their clothes were burned, and even the smell of the fire was not on them. The fire had no power on the bodies of these servants of God.

Nebuchadnezzar spoke and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meschach and Abednego, who has sent an angel and saved his servants that trusted him. Now I make a law that anyone who speaks against this God shall be put to death because there is no other God that can save his

people like this." And the king promoted the three who served God to positions of even greater importance in the kingdom.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

WHO AM I?

1. I held the tablets that contained the Ten Commandments.
2. When the Philistines captured me, God struck them with sores all over their bodies until they turned me loose.
3. I am still lost to mankind.

Answer: (See I Samuel 5 and 6)

Young People Ask Notice

Just a note to our young people: If you have a question or comment, please write. To add encouragement to others and for the success of this column, we ask that you share your thoughts with each other. We are our brother's keeper. God bless you.

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To our readers who may have occasion to communicate with Brother Joseph Calabrese, please be advised to use his current address:

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*God, what a world if man in street and
mart,
Felt that same kinship of the human
heart
Which makes them, in the face of fire
and flood, Rise to the true meaning
of Brotherhood.*

Ella Wheller Wilcox

OUR WOMEN TODAY

Conference at Sterling Heights

By Mary Tamburrino, Editor

The General Ladies Uplift Circle Conference was held at Sterling Heights, Michigan on October 3, 1980. Those in attendance were from Canada, California, Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Michigan.

The Michigan-Ontario Area Circle read the Scripture and sang songs on the theme of "Love". Sister Mabel Bickerton introduced the conference by giving a brief summary on the organization of the Circle and the projects that were accomplished.

The business of the conference began with the roll call of officers. The minutes of the last Circle held at Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania were read and accepted. The delegates then gave their reports. Layettes were sent to the reservations and money was sent for the freezer that is needed in the mission house in Africa. The question, "Who was a strong, mighty man and of perfect understanding?" was found in the *Book of Mormon*, Alma 48:11; "What will he that will love life and see good days do?" was found in the *Bible*, 1 Peter 3:10.

The District reports from Michigan-Ontario and California were read. Sister Mary Criscuola reported she sent seventy-five appropriate cards. The treasurers' reports were given, and the money was distributed to *The Gospel News*, Evangelists, Memorial, African, General Church Budget and Indian Missionary Funds. All officers were re-elected with the exception of the Memorial Fund Treasurer. Dora Rossi was elected for this office.

Contributions were made to the Memorial Fund in memory of the following individuals: Brother Frank Sirangelo, Colecchi Family, Mrs. Clara Grimes, Sister Mary Carrota, Brother and Sister Paul Vancik, Sr., Sister Alma Molinatto, Sister Sara Molleca, Rick Collison.

The next General Conference will be held at Glassport, Pennsylvania on March 27, 1982.

A vote of thanks was given to the sisters of the Michigan-Ontario Area for their hospitality.

Sisters Mary Ross and Fannie Casasanta spoke about their recent trip to Africa and Italy with their husbands. They said our people don't have much in material things, but they do have a lot of love. The brothers that were in attendance encouraged the sisters to continue in this work... "be not weary in well doing."

Fredonia Circle Organized

The Ladies Uplift Circle was organized on Monday, November 16, 1981. Sisters Mabel Bickerton, Ruth Ackerman, Dorothy Gandley, Ruth Kirschner, Harriet Byers and Brother Tommie Smith drove from Monongahela to organize the circle in Fredonia.

The meeting opened at 1:00 p.m. Brother Russell Cadman spoke of how God made woman to be a helpmate for man, and it parallels the Ladies Circle and the Church.

The following officers were elected:

President, Sister Elsie Gehly; vice President, Sister Ethel Cadman; Teacher, Sister Eleanor Sproul; Treasurer of Indian Mission and General Fund, Sister Darlene Walker; Treasurer of Home Fund, Sister Martha Kelly; Secretary, Sister Hilda Sgatone.

The sisters at Fredonia will meet two Mondays per month during the winter months.

MBA Highlights

Pennsylvania Area MBA Campout

By Karen Progar, Area Editor

We are always happy to have the

chance to gather together, and we were fortunate to be afforded the opportunity for several days in a truly beautiful setting at Heritage Reservation in Farmington, Pennsylvania for the annual Pennsylvania Area Campout. It was pleasant respite on Labor Day Weekend in a campground which is indescribable in its natural beauty, as well as its facilities. The weather had been miserable all week, and rain was threatening as we approached the camp; however, again the Lord blessed us with lovely weather and poured out his spirit in our meetings.

Our younger brothers were given the liberty to express themselves throughout the weekend. Our first day began with an inspirational message presented by Brother Joel Calabrese, who expressed how wonderful is the religious freedom which we enjoy in this land and indicated how grateful we should be for The Church of Jesus Christ and the Restored Gospel which we have come to know.

We continued our day with seminars dealing with the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Experiences were told by our brothers and sisters as to how the Holy Ghost had influenced their decisions and had been a guide to them during their lives in the Church.

The overriding theme of the weekend seemed to be that the young people of the Church have a work to do and that we must be very careful not to become too comfortable in our pews, but to do whatever work the Lord has for us.

The evening meeting was opened by Brother Frank (Flip) Palacios, who along with Brother Joel was visiting us from Lorain, Ohio. Brother Flip admonished us to come to church prepared to take something home and to be an active participant in the meetings and auxiliaries of the Church. He also shared the experience that his family had while on a train trip from Texas to their new home in Lorain many years ago. As it happened, Brother Flip's father had only \$1.75 left after paying the train fare for his family, and this money would have to provide their meals for the three-day trip to Ohio. Of course this was an impossibility, and Brother Frank was very concerned for his family's welfare. When a porter came to take dinner orders from the

passengers. Brother Frank (whom I might point out was not a member of the Church at this time) asked the porter to give the family whatever he could for his remaining funds. The porter informed the family that they would be taken care of during the trip and that debt could be taken care of later. The family enjoyed a good trip, and at the end of the trip Brother Palacios tried to find the porter in order that he might arrange to repay his debt for the food which his family had received. Upon speaking with the conductor, Brother Frank found that the train did not employ a porter, and therefore whomever had seen to their needs was obviously sent by the Lord. We were impressed by the fact that the Lord had seen the need of the family and taken care of them before they even knew Him.

During this meeting, we also had the privilege of hearing the testimonies of many other brothers and sisters as well as vocal selections from Sisters Barbara Fleming, Carol Jumper and Karen Progar, along with Brother Joel Calabrese. The Spirit of God prevailed in the meeting, and when it was time to close, the congregation felt a great deal of disappointment. The balance of the evening was spent in fellowship. We were fortunate to have visitors with us from many other areas of the Church. Along with the Ohio saints, there were also visitors from Florida and Michigan-Ontario who came to receive the spiritual nourishment.

On Sunday morning, Brother Robert Nicklow, Sr. opened our meeting by advising us to be active and share our testimonies, not only with our brothers and sisters, but also with those people whom we come in contact with in the world. He suggested that we could promote the Church by our actions in the world. He also told us that God is alive and still manifests His Spirit among the people of the world. Brother John Ahlborn followed by telling us that this campout was a good opportunity to strengthen ourselves and gave us fuel to encourage others to take a more active part in the Church. The Lord blessed our brothers with many thoughts during the meeting, and we were permitted to hear from many of the teachers in attendance. Brother Joel continued along the same lines when he instructed us that if we have a desire to do something for God, He will help us to accomplish the task no matter how impossible the odds

seem. He said that if we do our part, the Lord will give the increase. Following Brother Joel was Brother Flip who said that we should try to repay our debt to God by being an example and furthering the Gospel.

Brother Bob Nicklow, Jr. told us that Jesus died to release us from the prison of eternal death, just as his physical death released Barabbas from the bands of prison. Brother Ed Donkin advised us to pray for that which is right and the Lord will not deny our prayers. In our everyday life, Brother Jonathan Olexa stated that we should take what we get from these campouts and draw on our reserve when we have the opportunity to speak about the things of God to the people in the world. He felt that many times we have chances which we let slip by. Brian Smith added that the Lord will strengthen us in spirit no matter what our needs. The preaching service was then recapped by District President, Brother Paul Palmieri, who expressed that if we have faith in God, we have the power to do all things which are expedient to God. He continued by reaffirming that we should give all our efforts to the Church and assured us that the Lord would bless us just as he blessed the faith and conviction of the brother of Jared. Musical selections were provided by the congregation and various individuals.

On Sunday evening, Brother Malcolm Paxon opened the service by advising us always to put God first and to do his will. *For Those Tears I Died* was sung by Tammy Nicklow and Steve Lobzun. Paula McCartney followed them by singing *There Is No Rainbow Can Shine Like Jesus*. Several quartets sang during the meeting, and Sister Mary Ann Donkin honored us with a solo. Brother Rich Scaglione encouraged us to prepare a place for the Lord in our hearts and in our lives, and He will enter and bless us. He suggested that we should not be a person who has no room for the Lord.

We were saddened to see the weekend draw to a conclusion, but we were glad to have had the chance to take part in the campout and trust that God will continue to give us the desire to gather together for the purpose of hearing His words and fellowshiping with His people. We shall continue to pray for this good desire to assemble and hope that in the future many brothers and sisters

will also be afforded this opportunity to strengthen their foundations in the Gospel. We are thankful to the committee who worked so hard to make the weekend enjoyable for us. Brothers Brian Smith, Bob Nicklow, Jonathan Olexa and Richard Scaglione deserve much credit for the success of the weekend. Also, our Sister Denise Fleming proved to be a very competent accommodations chairperson.

THOUGHT

"Too often we seem to have a quick tongue, a slow brain and a tender heart. We speak before we think and then regret what we have said immediately afterwards."

ANNIVERSARIES

SISTER ROSE RISOLA
SISTER STELLA ARCURI
SISTER MARGARET BENYOLA



On July 18, 1981, the members of the Metuchen Branch honored Sister Rose Risola and Sister Stella Arcuri by taking them to dinner to commemorate their fifty-plus years in the Gospel.

Sister Rose was baptized on June 29, 1930, by Brother Bill Mazzeo. Sister Stella was baptized on October 23, 1928, by Brother Eugene Perri, Sr. Both sisters have held the office of deaconess for many years.

Also pictured is Sister Margaret Benyola from the Hopelawn Branch, who will be observing her fifty-second year in the Gospel soon.

The evening was enjoyed by all who attended. Our prayer is that the Lord will continue to bless our sisters for many more years to come.

SISTER MARGARET WARD



Since Mother has just celebrated her 75th Spiritual birthday in the Gospel, I thought it would be nice to share her testimony with *The Gospel News* readers.

Brother Charles and Sister Ilene Smith and Brother Ray and Sister Mary Ann Bays and son from Ft. Pierce Branch came to Orlando to fellowship with her at her home. They brought her a large sheet cake to help her celebrate the occasion.

As Mother is almost blind, I have written her testimony down while she told it to me which follows.

I thank God for all His many blessings to us and for keeping us in His care to the present day.

Sister Bertha Sommerville

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This is my testimony of how God brought me into The Church of Jesus Christ. The Lord had been working with me for some time, when my mother, Sister Isabelle Griffith, asked me to go with her to conference on October 6, 1906. There were two women baptized in the creek at Redstone, PA, and this touched me. I cried and cried at the water's shore when Brother Cherry came up to me and said, "Maggie, the Lord won't always strive with man."

That night I had a dream. I was sleeping with my mother in the dream when I heard footsteps coming up the stairs. The form of a man appeared at the door and said, "Repent before that great mist comes", in a commanding voice.

On Monday following conference, Brother Ashton and Brother Helms

came to Pricedale, PA to hold a week of meetings at Brother Jim Griffith's home. On Saturday night, my brother, Jim Griffith called me over to his house. He was going to attend a special meeting at Lucyville (Roscoe), PA, and he asked me if I had anything to tell Brother Cherry. I hesitated for awhile; then I said, "Have Brother Cherry come down tomorrow," as they were holding meetings at Pricedale. I was baptized on this day, October 13, 1906 there in Pricedale by Brother Cherry.

A month or two after I was baptized, I could hear others giving their testimonies, and I asked God to give me an experience to establish me in the Church. When I got up from bed that week on a Saturday morning, my jaws were locked, and they were locked all day on Saturday until Sunday when they anointed me. As I was being anointed, I could feel the virtue pass through my head and into my jaws from the hands of the brethren, and my jaws immediately flew open. This was my first experience.

I attended the January conference at Monongahela in a Lodge Hall, where Brother Charles Ashton introduced me to Brother John Ward. On May 26, 1907, we were married in McKeesport. We moved to Coal Valley where the Ashton family took me under their wing; they were my second family.

A meeting was held at Brother and Sister Gilbert's home. Sister Gilbert spoke in the gift of tongues over my head, and Sister Ashton had the interpretation. It was, "She shall work, she shall work and great will be her reward."

In 1909 we moved from Coal Valley to Belle Vernon, PA where my husband, Brother John Ward, presided over the mission of the Church for several years. I have been in the Church now for 75 years, and I want to hold fast to what the Lord has given me to the day I die. I am so glad that He has opened my eyes to see the great light of salvation. It is worth living and dying for.

I praise Him every day of my life. I spend most of my days and sometimes through the night in prayer to Him for the Church and my brothers and sisters throughout the entire Church. He surely has blessed me and all of my family all the days of our

lives. I have had many experiences, but they are too numerous to mention.

Dear brothers and sisters, there is an album full of leaves of snowy white where no name is ever tarnished but forever pure and bright. In this book of life, God's album, may our names be penned with care, and whosoever has written, write it forever there.

Sister Margaret Ward

P.S. If anyone would care to write to Sister Ward, she is going on 92 years old and is shut in. She would appreciate hearing from the saints. Her address is:

c/o Mrs. Bertha Sommerville
3515 Ridgemont Rd.
Orlando, Florida 32808

The New Year

Old things are passed away; Behold, all things are become new.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Branch and Mission

— News —

Detroit, Branch 3

Branch 1 and the Sterling Heights Branch united with Branch 3 on Sunday, September 13. Brother Spencer Everett introduced the meeting, stating that he was awakened at 4:00 a.m. and was directed to read Psalms 22:3 and Psalms 100:4 concerning the need to praise God. He asked Brother Louis Vitto to lead the congregation in singing songs of praise.

After the service, one of the sisters told Brother Spencer that she had a dream in which a man entered the church and proceeded to the rostrum where he was asked what he wanted and he said he wanted to be praised. This was Brother Spencer's confirmation that he had chosen the right scripture and that he had been directed by God.

Brother Paul D'Amico was with us, and he chose Moroni 10:4 as his subject in which the phrase, "I would