

The Gospel News

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

(USPS 228-480)

January, 1983

Volume 39, No. 1

An Address of Welcome

Presented by the Christian People of the City of Calabar, Nigeria

To Brothers W. H. Cadman and Joseph Bittinger by the members of The Church of Jesus Christ on the occasion of their first Missionary visit to Calabar, Nigeria on the 15th September, 1954: Brothers, we feel very happy to receive you into our midst on this your first Missionary visit to Calabar. We thank God that He has made it possible for you to come among us in order that you may do the Great Commission of the Great Master Jesus Christ who said in St. Matthew's Gospel "All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and in earth, Go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them . . . teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I command you." And again in the Gospel according to St. Mark, Jesus also said "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation"—to every creature.

Pondering over these words, we wonder at their sublimity and spaciousness. There is no limitation and no marking of frontiers. All authority . . . All the world . . . The whole creation . . . All the nations. There is something cosmical about it, the spaciousness of this world is not to be measured in terms of geography and ethnology alone. All the world means more than the continents and the islands of the seas. All the world includes all the multiple of man's activities, his commerce, his sciences, his arts and literature, his social relations, his national and international politics. Nothing human is alien to it. Everything human is within the scope and sweep of the Christ's world.

This great Commission forms the objective of Missionary bodies all over the world. And is also the fundamental requirement of the Native African Community. Yours is to give us not your tradition but the Gospel of Christ.

The Church in Nigeria is to be rooted in Christian heritage while it should at the same time be rooted in the soil of the country.

Knowing your objective and the needs of the Nigerian Church we hope you will do all you can to bring to fruition the commission contained in the above words. Your objective includes training of our youths in many fields to prepare us for the better days to come. If this is so, you will surely succeed in your Missionary work here and we will surely give you wholehearted support.

While here with us, we wish you good health and happy stay and we commend your lives to the kind care of the Almighty God.

We are very sincerely yours, A. U. Enoch, for and on behalf of The Church of Jesus Christ, Calabar.

P. S. This article is signed by eleven other brothers of the Church in Calabar. It was read in the meeting which they held to welcome us two brethren into their midst. We feel that this article is a Masterpiece in composition on behalf of our Nigerian brethren towards us.

Sincerely,
W. H. Cadman and
Joseph Bittinger

The foregoing article is a reprint that appeared in the 1954 Gospel News, November Issue, Page 5.

COMMENTARY

In reference to this letter/article of welcome presented to us by the people of Calabar. We were very thankful and appreciative of the respect and hospitality shown to us.

Twenty-eight years have now passed since this article was written. I am happy that by the grace of God, the Restored Gospel has been preached and The Church of Jesus Christ has been firmly established in Nigeria, with Headquarters at Atai Otoro, Abak, with branches and missions from Lagos to Calabar.

Other activities in which the Parent Church has been engaged are the promotion and building of a Technical Secondary School at Atai Otoro. This institution is presently being operated by the Government as are most schools in Nigeria. The number of students enrolled is quite large and there has been a constant request to the Parent Church for teachers that are needed to teach in the school. Only Brother Nephi DeMercurio and family have come forth to offer their lives and service to teach in the school. God willing, they will finish their tour of duty in June, 1983, and they will have given nearly six years of faithful and dedicated missionary service to the work of God in the school, as well as being the Parent Church Representative

(Continued on Page 3)

MBA Highlights

GMBA Conference November, 1982

By Ryan G. Ross

GMBA Conference, held on November 13, 1982 at the General Church Auditorium in Greensburg, PA, proved to be one of transition, as many new officers were elected to fill vacancies in the ranks. Brother Don Ross, who has served as GMBA President for the past five years, stepped down to give an opportunity to others to take the responsibility of this office. Brother Don was given a standing vote of thanks by the congregation for a "job well done". Similarly, Brothers Frank Morle (Vice President for five years) and Richard Scaglione (Chaplain for six years) stepped down from their offices to give others a chance. But, before these brothers left office, a lot of business was taken care of!

The meeting opened with song and prayer. After minutes of the May GMBA Conference were read and accepted, several reports were given. The Lay Missionary Program (turned over to the General Church after a GMBA study was concluded) was reported by Brother Richard Scaglione to be in the process of being restarted. The American Indian Committee has been assigned to redevelop the application form for potential lay missionaries to work at the San Carlos Reservation in Arizona. The role of the MBA will be to encourage young people to participate in work, not only at San Carlos, but as programs similar to this one begin in other districts as well.

A status report on the *Book of Mormon Concordance* informed us that an estimated completion date is June, 1983. Another piece of literature, *The Jaredite Record*, by Sister Elaine Jordan, is complete. It is a lesson booklet for preschoolers and will soon be available for purchase. The paperback *Book of Mormon* purchase price has risen \$1.00 a copy to \$2.50 due to increased printing costs. They are well worth having in your personal library to hand out to friends interested in the Church!

A major topic discussed was the World Missionary Conference. The

General Church officers will organize this event, which will feature missionaries for the Church from all over the world. In lieu of this gathering, which is of a great expense of money, preparation and organization, the GMBA Conference voted to accept the Church's request to support this event and to cancel the annual GMBA Campout for 1983. Further details will be provided by the General Church.

On the financial side of our business meeting, total receipts from January 1 to June 30, 1982 were \$7,041.56 to bring a total balance in the treasury to \$34,118.84. Donations from this total were made by the conference body as follows:

\$10,000	to the General Church World Missionary Conference
\$ 1,000	per year for insurance for GMBA activities
\$ 2,000	to the <i>Book of Mormon Concordance</i> Fund
\$ 2,725	to purchase 1,000 storybooks and 1,000 activity books of <i>The Jaredite Record</i>

In addition, monies (to be approved by the GMBA officers) were set aside to purchase a new piano for the General Church Auditorium and a reel-to-reel tape recorder to be used in recording conference meetings.

There are many new officers elected to work for the GMBA. The officers are as follows:

President	-John Griffith*
Vice President	-Charles Jumper, Jr.*
Chaplain	-Mark Kovacic*
Secretary	-Karen Progar*
Ass't. Secretary	-Denise Fleming*
Fin. Secretary	-James Link
Treasurer	-Kenneth Staley*
Librarian	-Frank Morle*
Auditors	-David DeLuca
	-Jerry Valenti, Jr.
	-Ryan Ross
Editor	-Roseann Scolaro*
Ass't. Editor	-Ron Dziak
Historian	-Ron Dziak
Area Organizers-Arizona	Mark Landrey
	-Atlantic Coast
	Domenick Rose
	Anthony Vadasz
	-California
	Jim Huttenberger
	Jim Dulisse
	Nick Liberto
	-Florida
	Dennis Moraco
	-Michigan-Ontario
	Gary Carlini
	Larry Henderson

-Midwest
Alex Robinson
-Ohio
Ralph Cartino
Bill Prentice
Stacey Light
-Pennsylvania
Jonathan Olexa
Ryan Ross*

* Newly elected

May God bless the newly elected officers and those who have served previously for their efforts in supporting the GMBA!

The Sunday service was well attended. Brother Fred Olexa, Pennsylvania District President, greeted the congregation. The meeting was opened by newly elected GMBA Chaplain, Elder Mark Kovacic. Several speakers followed in between congregational hymns and soloists. The blessings of God were felt by all. We departed with good fellowship as brothers and sisters said "Farewell" for the next few months.

In summary, it was enjoyable to be in the service of the Lord and the GMBA during this conference weekend.

Florida Area MBA News

By Nancy DiFede, Area MBA Editor

The Florida Area MBA has been busy fulfilling its schedule of events for this year, and we are very thankful for the enthusiasm and support of the Area MBA in our District.

The first activity this year was a Seminar Day—Singspiration which was held on September 18, 1982. Our Seminar was entitled "Defending the Authenticity of the Book of Mormon". We were broken down into classes for different age groups and the Adult Group (13 to 90) received booklets prepared by the teachers, Brother John D'Orazio and Gene Perri, which documented the truth of the *Book of Mormon* using the *Bible*, *Book of Mormon*, *The Truth Shall Spring Out of the Earth*, *Questions and Answers*, *Book of Sermons*, writings of Brother Furnier and information provided by the teachers. The Seminar was informative and a blessing to those who participated. Many questions were answered, and thus will allow us to tell others more about the *Book of Mormon*.

We concluded with a supper prepared by all sisters in each local MBA and fed 110 brothers and sisters and friends. The day was concluded with a Singspiration which was prepared by Brother Rocco and Sister Terri Benyola, and featuring selections from each local, Campout theme songs from past years, Lake Worth Men's Trio, and the Florida Area Choir. We returned to our branches and missions spiritually revived and satisfied.

We are preparing for a trip to the West Coast of Florida to Cape Coral on November 13 for the weekend to meet with our brothers and sisters there, enjoy another Singspiration to be prepared by Brother Joe and Sister Suzanne Catone, and a Sunday Spiritual Gathering. Also on our agenda are two trips to the local nursing homes to sing for them and visit with them. We will be singing Christmas Carols there on December 11 and will sing for them again on January 29.

Our Campout this year will be held at the Gold Coast Christian Camp, March 5 and 6, and our Camp Director, Brother Jerry DiFede, is enthusiastic about a good turnout and many blessings at our Florida Campout.

We will hold another Seminar Day—Singspiration on April 23, and finally, we have planned a picnic in Lake Worth with our friends from the Brighton Indian Reservation. We look forward to many good times spiritually in the next few months as we attempt to spread the good news of the Gospel.

Niles MBA Seminar

On September 18, 1982, the Niles Branch MBA local sponsored a seminar and social at our Branch. We invited Brother Russell Cadman of Fredonia, Pennsylvania to teach us about God's latter-day plans and promises. We also invited several Area branches to attend, and we were happy to welcome visitors from Fredonia, Erie, Imperial, Youngstown, and Lorain.

We began our meeting with a season of singing, glorifying God for His goodness to His people. Brother Wayne Martorana opened in prayer asking God to bless our teacher. Brother Russell began his discourse by encouraging that we ask questions about the topic or any other Church-related concern. He then read from the twenty-third article of the Church's Faith and Doctrine. It reads,

"We believe in the fulfillment and ultimate establishment of the Kingdom of God on the earth while men are still in the flesh. We refer to this period of time as 'The Peaceful Reign', which shall precede the 'Millennium', or 'Thousand Years' with Christ."

Our brother continued by describing the differences between these two periods of time. The Peaceful Reign (Zion) shall occur while man is yet in a fleshly or mortal state. Food and shelter will still be necessary for survival: "And they shall build houses and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards and eat the fruit of them." (Isaiah 65:21) We shall continue to marry and bear children. Our lives will be extended until our days are "as the days of a tree". (Isaiah 65:20)

In contrast, man shall exist in an immortal state during the Millennium. No longer will food and shelter be necessary for life and Satan shall no longer have power over the souls of men. Instead the saints of God shall reign with Christ a thousand years. And then shall come a new heaven and a new earth as seen by John in Revelations 21.

Our brother next turned his attention to some of the prophecies of Daniel. We turned to Daniel 2 and read several passages concerning the stone kingdom which shall cover the earth in the last days. This stone kingdom is The Church of Jesus Christ which shall grow by the power and glory of God to destroy all wickedness. God promises us that this kingdom shall not be destroyed and it shall consume other kingdoms established by man.

Finally, Brother Russell read from I Nephi where it is prophesied that God will do a marvelous work among the Gentiles. We know this work to be the Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Therefore, our brother told us that God has begun to fulfill the latter-day prophecies and shall continue to do so until the end of time. Our brother (and we as a Church) looks for God to begin to work more greatly among His people, for God has promised such. But first we must become a more righteous people before God, and we must follow and obey His voice in all matters. Then, and only then, will we see the fulfillment of the latter-day prophecies.

As he had spoken for a couple of hours, Brother Russell asked Brother Bob Buffington of Imperial, Pennsylvania to say a few words while Brother Russell rested for a few

minutes. Brother Bob spoke of the beautiful vision that God has provided this Church and how important it is to keep this vision alive. (Proverbs 29:18)

As Brother Bob finished speaking, Brother Russell concluded the seminar with a few additional comments. He said that Zion is the next great spiritual event that the Church looks forward to. The ancient inhabitants of this land led Christ-like lives hundreds of years before the Lord was born; so great was their faith. Likewise it should be the same in our case. We should live our lives with the spirit of Zion in our hearts and a prayer on our lips that God might allow us to one day view the Promised Land.

Brother Bob Buffington closed our seminar in prayer, and the saints then gathered in the kitchen for a light dinner. We all thanked Brother Russell for coming to feed us spiritually, for truly our souls were fed this day. Many of our visitors stayed for Sunday services, and again we feasted upon God's blessings. Surely we give thanks unto God for His goodness unto us in all things and for the love He places in our hearts for the brothers and sisters. May God continue to add His blessings to this Church.

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:"

Ecclesiastes 3

AN ADDRESS continued . . .

to the Nigerian Church, doing missionary work among the branches and missions as his limited time will permit.

There is still a very definite and vital need for qualified teachers. We as members of the Foreign Missions Committee, have felt very disappointed that more people have not volunteered and offered themselves for this missionary service that has the potential of being the most interesting, the most rewarding experience that anyone can obtain in their life.

You don't have to be in the ministry to teach in the school, and you can still be of much help to the Church and to the people, temporally and spiritually. For information contact Brother John Ross.

Brother Joseph Bittinger
Chairman, Foreign Missions
Committee

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We have received more letters and cards than we can possibly answer individually so I hope this letter can be read in the branches that all can hear.

We have been overwhelmed by the kindness and concern shown to us in the death of our beloved son, Mark. Words fail to express our appreciation to all our dear people. As the many cards and letters poured in, I could sense a worry, possibly a little fear for us of how we would come thru this and whether I would sing anymore. I wanted to say something to let everyone know that we're O.K., but I didn't know how to put it into words. Then on November 8, God gave me the most beautiful song, and I realized the next day that He had answered all the letters and cards in one song. People say, God is wise, but I say He's so smart; He knows how to do everything just right. This is the song He gave me:

THE FLOWERS STILL BLOOM

*The morning breaks upon the distant mountain,
The sunshine drives the shadows all away;
And hope springs up—unto my soul a fountain,
As I rejoice to see the rising day!*

*There's sunshine on my path and on the mountain,
The heavens open wide from time to time;
And joy's alive and well and stands beside me,
And songs of praise still fill this heart of mine!*

*For God is good, my Father, how He loves me,
And Jesus died to take my sins away;
The flowers still bloom and the birds still sing above me,
There's so much to be thankful for today!*

I was always anxious to get up in the morning to see what God was going to do that day. The song is saying to our people we **still** love to get up in the morning. The sun **still** shines and we **still** have joy. We may have an hour or a few minutes of sorrow during the day, but we never have a whole day of sorrow. There's always some joy! We **still** have much to be thankful for and we're **still** going to sing *The Songs of Zion* and

praise God! The song says, "for God is good, my Father how He loves me and Jesus died to take my sins away." Sometimes in the Church we get the idea that God "owes" us because we're serving Him. I never felt like that. I always felt that God gave His Son and after that He didn't owe us a thing. Any blessings or "extras" He feels to give are only by grace. I think in the song God expressed exactly how we feel and gave the words that I couldn't find myself. I told my children, "God's been good to us; we've had very little sorrow and so much joy in our lives, and I don't want to hear any complaints now that we have a little sorrow." We have three other children, and they felt like their world dropped out from under them when Mark was taken; but they never questioned God.

Before I close, I would like to enclose a copy of Mark's note to his father, as we have had so many requests for it. Mark worked the evening shift, and when he got home he wrote the note and left it on the kitchen table for Bob to find when he got up for work in the morning:

Dad,

There is a kid I work with, his name is Tom. He is the one that hit the pole in the front yard. Tonight we got on the subject of religion. We had a long talk as many times before. I "found words" and things about our Church that really meant something against the argument of religions. Tom really believes in God. He also finds that what our Church believes in has meaning, "unlike" the church he was raised in. He said he would pray (not just joking but seriously, on his part) to God. I told him if he prayed with a sincere heart God would show him something for direction, (toward our Church). Tom believes in what (more than a little) I had to say. He does have a sincere heart. The point I'm trying to get to is: pray for him before you go to work because God will hear you! I told Tom: "Even if you don't believe fully, pray that you would like to believe." Tom is really interested in God. He used to read. I told him the King James version is the true version. Please ask God to help him find the truth, and I will keep encouraging him to pray. I know God will listen to you. I will pray also.

Love,
Mark

To all the children of the saints, may I say Mark's time ran out. He can't

serve God now but you can. He was only 18. At his funeral, Sister Bertha Bilsky sang, *Weighed in the Balance*:

*You'll think it's not real when it's over,
Oh, you'll think it was dreamt in the night;
For life ran away and you lost it somewhere,
All the vain things have vanished from sight.
We'll be weighed in the balance some morning.
And the scales of the Lord never lie;
For mercy can never rob justice you know,
When you're weighed in the balance on high.*

At the funeral home, I told all Mark's friends, "the party's over kids, there's nothing left to celebrate. It's time to serve God." Read the words to *The Standard of Liberty* all you young people. God wants good strong young soldiers. "Stand for your country and stand for your family but surely and foremost son stand for the Lord." If Mark could come back and say anything, I know it would be, "Don't wait, kids, serve God while there's time."

God bless you all,
Sister Arlene and Brother Bob
Buffington

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your prayers, cards and phone calls at a time of great need in my life.

Thank God, I am getting along well and hope to be going back to work soon. God is so good!

God bless you all,
Brother Anthony Brutz

New Year's Hymn

*Dear Lord, we thank Thee for all of your blessings,
That you have given to us this year;
We want to thank you for help in our trials,
For your assistance in conquering our fear.*

*But most of all, Lord, we thank Thee for giving
Your only Son, that we all can be free;
For our true gospel, brothers and sisters,
Who altogether make your family.*

Ann Smith

*Editorial Viewpoint . . .***Summing Up and Looking Forward**

*Ring out the old shapes of foul disease,
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.*

*Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land;
Ring in the Christ that is to be.*

These closing lines from Alfred Tennyson's great New Year's poem are most suitable and soul-stirring as we "ring out the old" (1982) and "ring in the new" (1983). You will note the heartfelt wish of the poet, Tennyson, he so simply and eloquently expressed with pen, prophetic-like with anticipation for a better future.

TIME HURRIES ON

The end of the year is a time for summing up and looking forward. It is also a time when we are forcibly reminded as the writer Blair wrote over two hundred years ago, "Think we, or think we not, time hurries on with resistless, unremitting stream." Charles Wesley, contemporary with Blair, wrote in one of his great hymns, "Our life is a dream, our time as a stream glides swiftly away, and the fugitive moment refuses to stay."

The Oxford English Dictionary defines the word time as a limited stretch or space of continued existence, as the interval between two successive events or acts, or the period through which an action, condition, or state continues; also as an indefinite continuous duration regarded as that in which the sequence of events takes place. Some have defined time to be the measure of the motion of heaven.

TIME AND ETERNITY

Alma, in unfolding the mysteries of God to his son Corianton, declared, ". . . all is as one day with God, and time only is measured unto men." (Book of Mormon, Alma 40:8) Then the words of the Apostle Peter, who wrote, "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." (II Peter 3:8) We may say then that time is a part or measure of eternity.

In her beautiful treatise entitled "INFINITE" in the June, 1973 issue of *The Gospel News*, Sister Terri Bravo offers the following allegory:

"Picture a mountain in your mind. Every one thousand years a bird comes and makes one peck on this mountain. When the mountain is completely flattened, this is one day in eternity!"

In summing up our successes and failures during the past year, may we renew our gratitude to God for His guidance, strength and support that enabled us to successfully achieve at least some of our goals and to fulfill in whatever degree our duty to God. On the other hand, may we seek His pardoning grace for our failures and shortcomings and ask Him for greater strength to enable us to do better in the future.

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The Gospel News is published monthly by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE. Subscription price is \$6.00 a year. Entered as second class mail at Bridgewater, Mich. under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock

The Jaredite Nation Grows

Dear Girls and Boys,

The Promised Land was a land of rich blessings, but God had clearly stated that only people who loved and served him could live there. If the people chose to do un-Godly things, God would wait until they had reached the peak of their evil, and then destroy them off the face of the Promised Land.

This was the case after the death of good King Shule. Shule's son, Omer, became the next king. King Omer had many sons and daughters. His son, Jared, grew up to be a very jealous and sneaky man. Jared wanted to be the ruling king.

He had a way with words and soon half of his father's kingdom were following him. But Jared was not happy until he had made war with the rest of his father's people and captured King Omer.

Jared kept his father, King Omer, captive for many years, and while Omer was captive, he had two other sons named Esrom and Coriantumr. These boys were furious with their older brother, King Jared, and they raised their own army to overthrow him. Jared was captured and was about to be killed when he used his famous way with words and persuaded them not to kill him, promising them he would return the kingdom to his father, King Omer.

Afterwards, Jared was full of regrets and sorrow; he had his heart set on being the one and only powerful ruler. Now, Jared had a daughter who was extremely beautiful to look at, but not beautiful inside. She saw how sad her father was and came up with a plan to murder her grandfather, King Omer, so her father could rule instead.

She told her father, "Call Akish, the



friend of Omer, to come see you. I am beautiful. I will dance before him so that he will want me and ask you to let him marry me. You will tell him it will be so, if only he brings you the head of King Omer."

Akish agreed to do the evil deed. He gathered his relatives to form a secret group whose intent was to gain power and harm others. They began to lay plans to murder King Omer. But, the Lord had other plans.

In a dream, God warned King Omer to depart from the land. With the rest of his family, King Omer traveled many, many days, far from the land he had ruled, to the land that was east of the Hill Cumorah. On the seashore east of there, they pitched their tents and lived in peace.

The wicked Jared, who had lied and murdered to gain his kingdom, was sitting on his throne when the followers of Akish murdered him. Akish was the new evil king, a king who was constantly afraid that someone would try and take his kingdom from him! When Akish became jealous of his own son, he put him in prison where he starved to death.

This so angered his son, Nimrah, that Nimrah gathered a number of men and fled the land to go tell Omer what was happening and to live with him, away from the land where Akish ruled in hate and fear.

Akish's remaining sons soon also turned against their father. They offered people money to fight with them, and a war began that was to last for years. Bloody battles covered the face of the land until nearly all of the people except thirty were dead. Gone were the evil dreamers and doers.

This was the first time since the

Tower of Babel that God had swept the Promised Land clean of those who did wrong. King Omer returned to rule in peace, and again, the righteous were living in the Land of Promise, as God had so declared.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

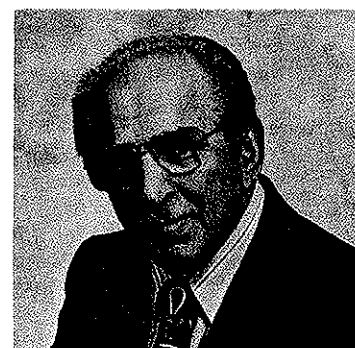
WORD SEARCH
(Taken from Ether 8 and 9)

Find the following words:

Jared	home	Omer
daughter	wicked	dream
she	Akish	murderer
kingdom	dead	sad
God	war	east
promised	army	shore

E M A E R D D R D
M U R D E R E R A
O H A K A T S A E
H S C W H A I O D
K I N G D O M Y E
W K U O B E O M R
K A G O R H R R A
D E R O H S P A J

"It Is Written"



By V. J. Lovalvo, Apostle

"Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing; for they shall see eye to eye, when the Lord shall bring again Zion." (Isaiah 52:8)

This is a piece of scripture that brings delight to the student of prophecy because it shows a future of bright

glory; a future when differences of opinions and definitions will no longer exist. For the prophet declares definitely that the watchmen shall "see eye to eye", meaning, of course, that there shall be a unique and wondrous understanding of not only the ways of the Lord but of the Holy Scriptures as well. At that time, there shall be a perfect understanding of the Word of God. There shall no longer be misunderstandings which have had in the past, and present, a very unsalutary effect upon the Church as a whole and upon individuals as well. Misunderstandings and misinterpretation of the Word of God most certainly brought about the Apostasy in the early Church. As long as the Holy Spirit was recognized as the guiding force of the Church, there were no problems. But when the leaders began to rely on their own intelligence and their own individual interpretation of the Scriptures, the Rock upon which the Church was built was substituted with sand, and "great was the fall thereof". Baptism was changed; from immersion in the open waters to "pool baptism" and soon afterwards to "sprinkling" and/or "pouring". The Lord's Supper was changed from the breaking of bread and drinking of wine to a "wafer" or other means but the original as Christ instituted it. All this because they did not "see eye to eye".

In the early days of the Restoration of the Gospel (just a very few years), the blessings were manifold, but soon there arose differences of opinions between the leaders which caused some of the "Three Witnesses" to leave the Church. However, although they had their differences, none of the Witnesses ever denied their testimony of seeing the Angel and the Plates, etc.

The Prophet Isaiah, looking well into the future, saw the time when the men of God would no longer have differences of opinions nor misunderstandings concerning the Work of God or His laws. He pinpoints that time as being "when the Lord shall bring again Zion". In other words, when Zion (or the Peaceful Reign) is established the Watchmen (the Priesthood) shall have a perfect understanding of His ways and His laws. There shall be no one that will say, at that time, "My interpretation of the Scriptures is correct, and yours is wrong" because the Holy Spirit will reveal to one and all the very same things. And because they will see "eye to eye", they will lift up their voices and will sing (praise God) together (with mutual understanding) the praises of the Lord. I praise God that there is a

day coming when the Church will no longer be harrassed by the forces of evil; when Satan will have no power over the people of God because of the righteousness that will prevail in their hearts! And as the prophet declared, "Therefore My people shall know My name: therefore they shall know in that day that I am He that doth speak: behold it is I". (Isaiah 52:6) The prophet continues to say that, at that time the Lord will make bare (reveal Himself) His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations: and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

God has always used holy men to bring about His purposes and works. He shall use His Ministry to reveal His ways and will to the nations by the power of His Spirit. He shall show signs and wonders through the men He has called into the Priesthood; healings, miracles, raising of the dead, prophesying and many other innumerable ways, through the glorious power of His Holy Spirit. All this because the Watchmen see "eye to eye". And the nations will say of His Watchmen (priesthood), "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace: that bringeth good tidings of good (preaching the Gospel), that publisheth salvation: that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth". (Isaiah 52:7)

All the above the prophet saw as a future blessing to the Church. However, the Church can attain to similar blessings now; in our generation, if we will set our goals on the high standards of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We can reach the heights of "seeing eye to eye" now, by doing exactly what the Apostle Paul propounded: "to go on unto perfection". That is, to strive to reach the goal of "seeing eye to eye". It can be done. All things are possible to them that believe. And I believe that we can achieve this beautiful goal today, in our generation by praying constantly to God, in unison, for the unity of mind and spirit, to receive in "our day" the glory which the prophet Isaiah saw would happen in the future. I pray that the Lord will shower all of us with the glory that Isaiah saw. For truly he prophesied that: "... the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee". Jeremiah once prophesied: "And I will give you Pastors according to Mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding". (Jer. 3:15) So, as the Pastors feed the flock with understanding and knowledge which comes from God, the Church will get closer and closer to that era of

perfection which shall be enjoyed in the Peaceful Reign (or Zion); where we shall "see eye to eye". Thus IT IS WRITTEN . . .

Branch and Mission News Lake Worth, FL

By Marilyn Carradi

On Sunday, September 5, 1982, there was a wonderful spirit of God felt as we started our Sunday School class. Brother Gene Perri taught our lesson and there was much participation.

After Sunday School, we all enjoyed such a special blessing as we witnessed the blessing of the grandson of Danny and Rose Naples, Anthony Joseph. As Brother Mike Radd held this child and blessed him, I saw a beautiful white glow that encircled Brother Mike, one on one side of the father and one next to the mother.

After this blessing, Sister Lisa Naples sang *Because He Lives*, and while she was singing, her whole body was encased in that beautiful white glowing light and four rays of light, two gold and two white came down upon her from God, and I saw her in the Spirit, which means that I saw her whole body transformed in a spiritual form looking like an angel and simply radiant. While Brother Mike DiFede played the piano, all around him were spiritual beings and that beautiful white light was behind him. We all were truly blessed by this.

During our afternoon testimony service, Sister Betty Perri told us of her beautiful experience the week before. She said that last Sunday while Brother John D'Orazio was passing out sacrament to her, all of a sudden she saw his hands while holding the wine glass, turn to gold and this gold was so bright that her eyes felt like they were on fire. What a beautiful blessing for us to hear. We thank God that He is living with us every day and always moving His hand among us. We love Him so very, very much.

Tampa, FL

By Howard Noble

On Sunday, August 1, 1982, the

Lord's Day, a most beautiful day, you could feel the Spirit of God with us. The message from the Lord through our elders and teachers was so inspiring. The songs were beautiful, and after the message brought to us by our elders, we had testimony. Everyone testified, and it was so beautiful.

Four of our members asked to be anointed. Praise God for his healing hand. During the laying on of hands and prayer, I could hear someone stirring in their seat behind me. I wondered who it could be, because I had not seen or heard anyone come in after prayer had started. I was puzzled as to who it could be behind me. I continued to pray along with the elders and did not turn around to look at the time because I have always felt that the Lord comes first and that I should give him all my attention. When the elders had completed the laying on of hands, I turned around and looked behind me to see who it was, and I saw no one there in any of the seats, but I was wrong as a heavenly personage appeared to me, and I was caught up in the Spirit and could hardly talk.

I told the members of my experience and that God was with us when Sister Diane Manfredi said that she had heard the same thing. Praise God! God is so wonderful that we can have an abundance of joy and blessings. Brother Lyn Swanger was anointed because of chest pains and was healed immediately. We were all blessed of God and his presence was felt by all.

Muncey Mission Past and Present

By Brother Sam French

Fifty years ago in the fall of 1932, three brothers from Detroit and surrounding areas visited a small log cabin upon the Muncey Indian Reserve. It was here that the Restored Gospel was first heard and accepted by Chief George Nicholas and his wife, Julia, who were later to become members of The Church of Jesus Christ. They welcomed the brothers into their home; this love and hospitality will always be remembered by the saints of God here in Muncey. It was here that something good was to transpire and begin something that would change the lives of many wonderful men and women.

The Muncey Mission building was

built and dedicated on April 28, 1940, and from that time many wonderful events have taken place and God has called and added to the Church many brothers and sisters by the light of the Gospel.

Although God has called many of the older brothers and sisters to their reward, the Lord has filled the void with many younger brothers and sisters, and older ones alike, to continue to strive and serve the Lord in spirit and in truth. Many times God's Holy Spirit has been manifested in our midst, and many times the brothers and sisters who travel from Detroit and various parts of the United States have been blessed and most edified. These brothers and sisters who traveled many miles over the years, truly must have the love of Christ for the Seed of Joseph.

Over the years God has called various brothers and sisters by His Holy Spirit into offices of the Church. Sister Maness, who resides in Sarnia, has been a deaconess for many years, and Brother Maness was a deacon, but has now gone on to his reward. Sister Elizabeth Grosbeck serves as a deaconess, and brother Alfred Burch serves as a deacon.

The building in Muncey has had many improvements over the years. An apartment has been added on to the main church building and recently the roof and ceiling have been renovated to add to the comfort of the saints.

In 1975 we were most blessed to have Sister Judy and Brother Rodney Dyer move to Muncey. Brother Rodney is now an elder, being called and ordained on April 27, 1980 by the Spirit of God. Truly God has richly blessed us here many times over, and He has continued to call many wonderful people from the reserve and also many visitors who come from time to time.

On February 8, 1981, God called Sister Faye Albert into the office of a deaconess, Brother Clayton Lunham as a deacon, and Brother Sam French as a teacher. Remember us in much prayer that God would give us strength to fulfill our duties here.

I have just written a few events which took place over the years until the present time. My prayer is that we would give God all of the glory, and that the Muncey Mission would shine like a beacon light to the whole reserve and also the world, that we who are the saints of God would be planted firmly in the rock, Christ Jesus.

San Diego, CA

By Violet Thomas

The San Diego Branch has been blessed with two baptisms recently:

Sister Rhonda Ross was baptized at the California Area Campout on August 8, 1982 by Brother Thomas Liberto and was confirmed by Brother Paul Liberto.

Brother Darron Surdock was baptized by his father, Brother Ken Surdock, on September 19, 1982 and was confirmed by Brother Thomas Liberto.

Our prayer is for God's continued guidance and direction for our new young brother and sister in Christ.

Erie, PA

The Erie Branch is happy to report that it has received five new brothers and sisters into the fold recently.

Baptized on July 11, 1982 were the following:

Clair Morey, baptized and confirmed by Brother Mark Kovacic;

Ethyl Morey, baptized and confirmed by Brother Del Lockwood;

Fred Dias, baptized and confirmed by Brother Del Lockwood; and

Mary Jo Jones, baptized and confirmed by Brother Mark Kovacic.

Sister Ruth C. Gehly was baptized on October 10, 1982 by Brother Mark Kovacic and confirmed by Apostle Russell Cadman.

May God bless all the new converts in our prayer.

Two young children were also blessed on October 10, 1982 by Brother Harold Burge: Christopher James Burge and Stephanie Lynn Burge, children of James M. and Sharon Hain Burge.

Clairton, PA

By Diane Robinson, Branch Editor

During the past several months the Lord has showered us with many blessings and His Spirit has brought us to a

closer unity with Him. We thank God for the visiting brothers and sisters who have shared fellowship with us and have supported our Presiding Elder, Brother Joseph Austin, during his recent illness. We are thankful that God has delivered him back in our midst so that he might persevere in the service of God.

This past summer, we were blessed with the fellowship of Brothers Willie Brown, James Howard, and Wilbert McNeil from New Jersey. They encouraged and admonished us on the topic of "Love".

On October 3, 1982, the Lord added to our fold with the baptism of Brother Moyland Turner.

November 20 and 21 were set aside for the Pennsylvania District Evangelist meetings. The Word of God was richly imparted to all by many of the area evangelists. Brother Russell Cadman spoke concerning the resurrection and glory of God and being born again. (John 23) Brother Joseph Calabrese from Lorain, Ohio, cited times when the Lord was pleased with Jesus Christ and compared this to both the Church of former days and of these latter days. "Will we hear that voice again," he asked? Many truths and experiences were spoken of, seasoned by the Spirit of God. Brother John Manes offered a summation. Brother Paul Palmieri offered the closing prayer.

Sunday resumed as Brother Idris Martin opened on the baptism of Jesus Christ. Brother Bob Buffington continued using Luke 7. He spoke of many things concerning baptism, being a builder and not a destroyer, and blessings promised when a church is founded on the doctrine of Jesus Christ. Brother John Manes encouraged all to surrender to the Lord and to become lights in our communities. Brother Joseph Calabrese spoke concerning the restoration of the Gospel.

Following the preaching service, we shared sacrament and testimonies. Truly we feasted at the banquet table. Praise God for the Spirit of God, our brothers and sisters and for the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Bell, CA

By Rosemary Scalise, Branch Editor

On September 5, 1982, Bell Branch had an all Spanish Sunday night

meeting. This meeting fulfilled the desire of Brother Harry Marshall. He has for many months been holding meetings in various homes of Bell Branch Spanish members. Brother Harry's desire is to spread the Gospel among the Spanish community and bring many to the knowledge of The Church of Jesus Christ.

One week previous to our Sunday night meeting, some of the Spanish sisters went throughout the neighborhood of our Branch and passed out leaflets advertising the meeting. Many neighbors gave favorable answers to attend the meeting.

Our meeting was well attended by all of our Spanish brothers and sisters from Bell Branch. Many came from our Santa Ana Mission to support us. Everyone was very eager and enthusiastic about this meeting. Surely, God would bless us tonight, because of our desire to praise His name.

Brother Tom Jones, our Presiding Elder, turned the meeting over to Brother Luis Pacheco, who had been invited to take charge of the meeting. Brother Luis quickly turned the meeting into congregational singing (all in Spanish). Our brothers and sisters sang with great joy and gusto and without music.

Our meeting was opened in prayer by Brother Luis. Various groups sang hymns after which the Santa Ana group also sang. It was very inspiring to hear our brothers and sisters. Brother Luis and his wife, Sister Julia, sang a hymn called *Mas Alla Del Sol* (Beyond the Sun), accompanied by the guitar. Sister Toribio and Sister Mora sang a duet.

Brother Luis then preached in the Spanish language taking his text from Isaiah 52.

Brother Ramon Zamora was invited to come to the rostrum. He bore his testimony giving God the honor and glory. Brother Ramon is a teacher of Bell Branch.

Sister Toribio, her daughter, Sister Maria from Santa Ana, Sister Mora of Tijuana and Sister Irene Hinjos of Bell sang a beautiful hymn. Then Sister Irene Hinjos sang a solo.

Brother Harry Marshall then spoke to us. He tried a few phrases in the Spanish language, but had to revert to the English language. He read from John 1.

Our meeting ended at this point, and Brother Luis turned the meeting back to our Presiding Elder, Brother Tom Jones. We thanked our brothers and sisters for supporting us, and we are looking forward to our next meeting in about a month.

We want to thank God for the great enthusiasm shown in support of this meeting. We know that Brother Harry Marshall is happy because a dream has come true.

Sterling, MI

Hazel Zoltek, Branch Editor

*One by one He is bringing them in,
As another soul is saved from sin.
We have known for a very, very long
time,
That she would surrender her heart
to Him.*

Sunday, October 3, our service began on a sad note as Brother Louis Vitto told us of a tragic death and of the illness of several dear persons. Brother Lou offered prayer as we all knelt and prayed for the special needs of these brothers and sisters.

Brother Sam DiFalco opened the service, reading from Acts 12:5-12. The power of prayer was his theme for the day. Jesus is the ultimate in our life, and prayer is one of the most important words. We need God as our Comforter in times of trouble, and we must trust Him and have faith, that whatever we ask of Him, if it is good, He will grant it to us. We know God can heal; we have seen it happen many times. Many of us can remember our parents praying for us, and He answered their prayers. Brother Sam told us of how his brother, Pat, was in a serious accident some time ago and was anointed by Brother Nick Pietrangelo and was healed through the power of prayer.

Brother Vitto stated that when we speak of the power of God, we must remember that He is the Almighty, the Creator. He endows His power on the Priesthood of this Church. We depend upon our Heavenly Father. Without Him, we can do nothing. Let us work for Him, and He will work through us.

As the Lord's Supper was being served, Sister Diane Hawkins played *I Asked the Lord*, and Rosemary Szufnar read the words to herself as Sister Diane played. As the beauty of the words came

through to her, she began to ask God if this was her day, and then called for her baptism. We received a call from Branch 3 that William Brown had also asked for his baptism. We were then dismissed by Brother Louis Vitto.

We met at the river at 6:00 p.m., and the two candidates were baptized, William by Brother Pete Capone, and Rosemary by Brother Louis Vitto. We returned to Branch 3 for the confirmations. We sang *I've Decided to Make Jesus My Choice*, which was what these two young people did that day. Brother Bill was confirmed by Brother Jack Pontillo and Sister Rosemary by Brother Spencer Everett.

Brother Pete told us that his son, Pete, had a dream that there would be two baptisms, and when only one was called, he was concerned but was pleasantly surprised when he heard about Sister Rosemary. His dream was confirmed as we united together at the river's edge.

Sister Rosemary was called forward to relate her dream. She had attended Branch 3 for many years before coming to Sterling. In her dream, Brother Pete Capone of Branch 3 indicated to her that she would be baptized.

This is the second time within a month that Sterling and Branch 3 have united together for baptisms and confirmations. We are eagerly looking forward to many more!

San Fernando Valley, CA

The brothers and sisters of the San Fernando Valley Branch enjoyed a special blessing today, as Brother Mike King was ordained as a deacon. Brother John V. Azzinaro washed the feet of Brother Mike, and he was ordained by Brother Emmett Hood.

Several years ago, at a conference, Brother Mike prayed that someone would request the song, *Jesus Use Me*. As the song was called a short time later, Brother Mike knew that the Lord was calling him, and he asked for his baptism. Today he is still strong in his desire for Jesus to use him. A beautiful song entitled *Living Sacrifice* was sung by Sister Alyse Genaro and dedicated to Brother Mike.

Please pray for us, as we are striving

Rochester, NY Celebrates 50th Anniversary

By Carmella D'Amico

On September 12, 1982, the Semi-Annual Gathering of the Rochester and Lockport Branches was held in Rochester. Also in attendance were Brother Bob Ciarrochi and his wife as per visitation schedule, two carloads from Erie and one from Lorain. Following community singing, the service began by singing, *Our Church*. Prayer was offered by Brother Henry Berardi. We then sang the hymn, *The Church's Jubilee*.

Brothers Ansel and Paul D'Amico each recounted some of the events that occurred since the Church began on November 15, 1931, when Brother Ishmael D'Amico came from Detroit to baptize the first four converts in Rochester. During the years we increased in number and in spirit.

Brother Ciarrochi chose for his text, I Nephi 13, concerning Nephi's vision of the Gentile nations. Brother Bob noted that in spite of pride among them, "Blessed are those who shall publish peace and tidings of great joy, how

beautiful upon the mountains shall they be." He encouraged us to dedicate our lives to Christ and the Church, enduring to the end.

Brother Harold Burge followed, referring to God's masterpiece, His beautiful Creation. He also noted the dedication and perseverance of the saints in serving the Church.

Brother Henry Berardi spoke in Italian and referred to his calling into the Church. Brother Paul D'Amico recalled the early years in the Church and the many blessings enjoyed.

In concluding, Brother Ansel D'Amico remarked, "What a wonderful day it will be, to be with Jesus for all eternity, to depart no more." We closed by singing, *God Bless You Everyone*.

After lunch, an appropriately decorated 50th anniversary cake was served. Appearing in the front row center of the picture are Sister Carmella D'Amico, baptized June 29, 1933; Sister Antoinette Gianzante, baptized July 9, 1933; and Brother Ansel D'Amico, baptized August 20, 1933.

All in all, we had a wonderful day in the Lord.



to build a new church to the honor and glory of God. Also please remember our little Michael Buccellato, as he and his family are in much need of our prayers.

"... old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

II Corinthians 5:17

Monongahela, PA

By LuAnn Scaglione

The Monongahela Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ is growing. On Sunday, September 19, two new converts, Kenneth Lee Martin, who had requested baptism on Saturday night, and Naomi Ruth Whittaker, were baptized.

Our preaching service was opened by Brother Bob Nicklow, who spoke on repentance and baptism. He told the congregation that we must step out on faith, although we are not perfect. But after baptism and reception of the Holy Ghost, changes in our life, cleansing and perfecting, would be made. Brother Bob then referred to his own past, stating that if he had waited until he was perfect, he would still not be a member of the Church.

At 1:00 we met at the shore of the Monongahela River for the baptism of Brother Ken. His grandfather, Brother Idris Martin, performed the ordinance, as God's Spirit was witnessed by the congregation.

We reconvened at the church at 1:30 for our afternoon meeting, which was opened by Brother Jim Campbell. Brother Jim chose as his topic, baptism and the Holy Ghost. Brother Ken was then confirmed by Brother Bob Nicklow, who asked God to bestow upon him, along with the Holy Ghost, the gift of discernment. As brothers and sisters and friends went forward to greet our new brother, the spirit of repentance fell upon Sister Naomi. Immediately after she requested baptism, we gathered at the river shore once again. Sister Naomi was baptized by Brother Bob Nicklow, as God's presence was felt by all.

Brother Idris Martin confirmed our new sister, requesting God to bless her with the gifts of love and patience. The meeting was then left open for testimony. God's Spirit was truly experienced on this day, and we pray that the Lord will always be with our two newest members.

Detroit, Branch 2

Sunday, August 1, 1982 was a very enjoyable day for all those present at Branch 2 in Detroit, Michigan. There were many visiting from our District and also from out of town, to witness

the ordination of Brother John Buffa to the office of deacon.

The meeting began with the blessing of tiny, two-week-old Stephen Christopher Buffa, son of Brother John and Sister Leona Buffa, by brother Alex Gentile. Everyone felt a special joy with the blessing of this child because many prayers had been offered in the last two years asking God to make it possible for Brother John and Sister Leona to adopt a baby. Our prayers were answered.

Brother Joe Calabrese, visiting from Lorain, Ohio, was our opening speaker. He read from John 14:12, emphasizing the words, "greater works". At this particular time in the scriptures, the disciples were worried about Christ leaving, but He reassured them there was greater work for them to do in the future. Brother Joe continued to explain that from the beginning there have been many, such as Moses, who have had a great work to do. Then Jesus was born and grew and did great work. He set up His Church so they (the disciples) could do a greater work. They did many great works, but before too long an apostasy took place and the Church was taken from the face of the land. Had the greater works taken place?

Through Joseph Smith, the Church was restored, and greater works were accomplished through him. Since the Church was restored, we have seen great works; but there are greater works to come according to Moroni in Ether 4:4. There are things which are to be brought forth, and greater works are to be done by the youth of the Church: Zion is to be established, Israel is to return, the Choice Seer is to come; there is no end to the greatness that is to come. Many records are to come forth, and we must tune into the latter day glory and have a deep understanding of the Restoration. The Church must go to the whole world, and the seed of Joseph be restored. We have not changed the Doctrine of the Lord Jesus Christ, and greater works shall come of it. We must continue to serve God and be fed and work for Him.

Brother Frank Morle followed commenting on the zeal and fervor with which Brother Joe spoke stating that the young should take upon them this zeal and fervor and be willing to accept the Church and do the greater things which Brother Joe spoke about. We must not be satisfied with things as they are today, but look forward to the greater things which are to come. We have seen many great changes in this

natural life because people were not satisfied with things as they were. So it is in the Church. Many great things are unfolding before us. Brother Frank encouraged especially the young to be ready to move forward and do the greater works.

Brother Dan read some scriptures relating to the calling of deacons. Brother John's feet were washed by Brother Joe Calabrese, and he was ordained by Brother Frank Morle.

After sacrament was passed, Brothers Pete Buffa and Frank Nardozzi gave their testimonies. Brother Dan then gave some closing remarks.

We can truly say that it was good to be in the House of the Lord this day.

Edison, NJ

By Sister Ruth Arcuri, Branch Editor

The following experience was had by Sister Ivy Fisher, of the Edison Branch:

On August 10, 1982, after finishing my supper and getting ready to go to church in Freehold, a voice spoke to me and asked me the following question, "What do you love the most in this world?" I was so surprised, but without hesitation I said, "I love God, I love Jesus, I love your Church and all my brothers and sisters."

I related this experience to some of the elders, and they all expressed that it was beautiful, and that I should be thankful to God and His Son, Jesus, for giving me this experience. They also felt that I should share this experience with all my brothers and sisters through *The Gospel News*.

NOTE: Sister Fisher has been a faithful member for many years and is loved by all who know her.

Detroit, Inner-City

A new brother was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ at the Detroit, Michigan, Inner-City Branch on Sunday, October 10, 1982.

Christopher Cecil Thomas was baptized at Belle Isle by Brother Dominic Moraco, and he was confirmed back at the Branch building by Brother An-

thony Gerace.

Brother Thomas, who hails from the Walpole Indian Reservation in Ontario, Canada, had been attending services for some time. He is indeed a welcomed addition to the downtown congregation.

Our Women Today Bronx Organizes Circle

By Linda Benyola

On September 18, 1982, the sisters of the Bronx Branch joined together to form a new body—an organized Ladies Circle. Under the guidance of Sisters Ruth Akerman, Mabel Bickerton, Fanny Casasanta, and Dorothy Shaffer, we obtained an excellent understanding of the basic goals and purposes of this vital organization. Hopefully, as we become more involved in the functions of the Circle, we will remember the teachings and advice provided through the many years of experience of our sisters.

Their knowledge of the Circle has been blessed by God's Holy Spirit, and it is our desire to rely on that Spirit for

direction in our meetings, during lessons, prayer, or spiritual discussions. If we are to absorb these sessions, and if we as sisters are to grow spiritually in the Church, then we will have achieved the most important purpose of the Ladies "Uplift" Circle.

We also recognize the necessity to unify in heart and mind if God is going to be able to work with us, and each of us has pledged our mutual love and support that our Circle might be a special time of sharing and learning.

Speaking for all of us who spent this weekend together, our visiting sisters have inspired us with enthusiasm and confidence, two important ingredients when starting something new. We will feel strength in your prayers, particularly on behalf of our first president, Sister Lydia Link, voted into office unanimously.

It was inevitable that this Spirit would overflow into our Sunday service, where we continued to hear and enjoy the testimonies and experiences of our Sisters Ruth, Mabel, Fanny, and Dorothy, as well as the words given by Brother Dan Casasanta, who accompanied our sisters on their visit. Sisters and brothers alike have a wonderful memory of the origin of the Bronx Ladies Uplift Circle.

Today

*A young man lives in the future;
An old man lives in the past.
For youth, time is moving too slowly;
For age, it is moving too fast.*

*A young man dreams of the gladness
The years just before him will bring;
An old man dreams of his pleasures
When life held the wonder of spring.*

*But youth and age are in error!
The present alone can convey
The joy and cheer and contentment
We seek as we journey life's way.*

*Today is the time to be happy!
No matter how young or how old,
It's always today that must bring us
The blessings our fortunes unfold!*

Lawrence Hawthorne

* WEDDINGS *

NNADI—BROWN

Mr. Stanley Nnadi from Nigeria, Africa and Miss Cheryl Brown were united in marriage at The Church of Jesus Christ in Warren, Ohio on September 4, 1982 by Brothers Mitchell Edwards and Jerry Giovannone.

Sister Betty Genaro presented musical selections.

The newlyweds are making their home in Columbus, Ohio.

HEISE—KOVACIC

Mr. Thomas Heise and Miss Sharon Lee Kovacic were joined in wedlock at The Church of Jesus Christ in Erie, Pennsylvania on June 12, 1982. Evangelist T. D. Bucci, the bride's grandfather, officiated at the ceremony and was assisted by the bride's brother, Brother Mark Kovacic.

Sister Marlea Frentzos, the bride's aunt, was the soloist. She was accompanied by organist, Sheri Bukoski and pianist, Sister Esther Dyer.

Erie, Pennsylvania is the residence of the newlywed couple.

BENOVIC—NOBLE

Mr. Michael Alan Benovic and Sister Susan Noble were married on October 2, 1982 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Erie, PA.

Brother Harold Burge, assisted by Brother Mark Kovacic, officiated at the ceremony.

Musical selections were presented by Sara Price.

The Benovics will make their home in Jamestown, New York.

New Arrivals

Congratulations are in order to the proud parents for the following new arrivals to their families:

Ashlee Lynn to David and Jody Benbin of Clairton, Pennsylvania.

The Gospel News

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

(USPS 228-480)

February, 1983

Volume 39, No. 2

Ohio District Conference Highlights

By Joel T. Calabrese, District Editor

Saturday, August 2, 1982

We enjoyed a season of prayer with the spirit of peace and humility before the opening of our conference. We sang several selections from *The Songs of Zion*, then Brother Russ Martorana opened in prayer.

Brother Frank Calabrese addressed the conference concerning the welfare of the Church. He noted that the Church represents the kingdom of God upon the earth in these the latter days. Our direction and responsibility from God as a priesthood is to lead in righteousness. We know of the promises of God according to the scriptures and must work toward their fulfillment. We have a commission as a Church and as ministers to declare the message of the Restoration. We have the authority of God and need greater power and more of the spirit of God to convince mankind. Revelations, blessings, gifts and experiences are necessary, and we must seek them.

Brother Mitchell Edwards presented a seminar entitled, "Approachability—Minority Groups". He repeated the commission of the Church—the Gospel must go forward to every nation, kindred, tongue and people. We must be convinced that we want to work with all mankind, including minorities. God is not a respecter of persons, nor must we be. We must strive to treat everyone with love, respect and hospitality.

We sang *Come All Ye That Thirst*, and Brother Ron Genaro closed the

morning session in prayer.

The afternoon session was opened by singing *God's Still on His Throne*. The conference was now opened to all. Brother Mark Kovacic offered prayer. Brother Ron Genaro presented a seminar "Approachability—The Unbaptized". By definition sin is the transgression of God's law. A negative and positive approach to the unbaptized was discussed. The negative approach is one of criticism and self-righteousness. This puts people on the defensive and creates a feeling of inferiority and resentment. This approach will not bring the sinner closer to God. As for self-righteousness, Jesus sharply denounced the Pharisees in His day for such. The positive approach focuses upon the fruits of the spirit of God, namely: love, faith, peace, joy, humility and longsuffering. By our love we will be known to the world as the servants of God, the followers of Christ. In approaching others with the Gospel, our joy should be seen and heard in our fellowship. Because we have found the true Gospel, we should be in the depths of humility and our prayers and patience should be for others while the Lord works with them.

We then sang *Taste the Grass on the Summit*. Closing prayer by Brother Jerry Giovannone.

Sunday, August 22, 1982

There was congregational singing prior to the opening of the service. District President, Brother Elmer Santilli, announced the need for prayer for

the sick. Brother A. A. Corrado led us in prayer.

Brother Travis Perry opened the service exhorting us to strive for an eternal crown—not one of material value in this mortal life. He read Ether 2:18-12, noting that the Americas are the lands of promise and the lands of liberty. The Peaceful Reign, Zion, is still the brightest hope on the horizon for the people of God. This kingdom is also to be established upon the Americas.

Brother Joe Calabrese followed the topic declaring that the decrees of God upon this land are clear to us, the Church. The United States was pinpointed because of its liberty—that the Restoration of the Gospel would originate here. He cited the rise, prosperity and fall of the Jaredites whom God led to this land, also the Nephites who later settled in the Americas.

(Continued on Page 2)

Notice

The General Mission Board invites you to attend the First World Missionary Conference of The Church of Jesus Christ to be held at Camp Eagle Eyrie in Lynchburg, Virginia on Saturday, August 20, 1983 thru Friday, August 26, 1983.

Look for further details in coming issues.

CONFERENCE continued . . .

After we sang, *America the Beautiful*, Brother Joe Genaro continued the topic stating the Church represents the kingdom of God upon the earth. We need to have a greater portion of the spirit of God to see the fullness of the glory of God.

Brother Frank Calabrese followed stressing that we must live in the spirit of the Restoration, the spirit of Zion, if we desire to receive the promises of God. The Church must raise the standard of liberty and the ensign of truth.

Brother Richard Santilli then spoke, noting that The Church of Jesus Christ represents that stone which the prophet, Daniel, saw being cut from the mountain without hands. It rolled until it covered the earth.

Brother Ansel D'Amico furthered the topic by stating that the land of promise in the latter days will be even more blessed than the land of Canaan promised to the children of Israel. Truly God has taken us to higher ground in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Brother Russ Martorana gave a brief report of the missionary activity of the Quorum of Seventy throughout the district and other locations.

Brother Elmer Santilli gave some closing remarks. We sang *Restoration Is Our Theme*, and Brother Mitchell Edwards dismissed in prayer.

Ohio District Spiritual Meeting

By Joel T. Calabrese, District Editor

On this Sunday evening, October 24, 1982, the Lorain Branch was not only filled with many brothers and sisters and friends from around the District, but more importantly, with the spirit of God.

Brother Paul Gehly from Greensburg, PA was also there, and was asked to open the service. Our brother read John 3:16 and continued to tell us that God loved His creation and man was put here to watch over it. As man allowed sin to dominate his life, God became sorrowful and destroyed the world with a flood, sparing Noah and his family. God might have said, "See what you can do with it this time." Again God's plan was

disregarded, so He sent the prophets to warn the people. They also told of Christ's coming, and eventually, God "... gave His only begotten son ..." Christ started His ministry and taught the people in parables, so they could understand easily and think for themselves, but He was crucified for our sins, "... that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Brother Paul went on to say, "You couldn't love me, and I couldn't love you, if God hadn't loved us first." He also said, "It would have been nice to live in times of Christ, but would we serve Him any better? Because God loved the world, He restored His Gospel." Brother Gehly concluded by asking, "Do you repent of your sins? Do you promise to serve God to the best of your ability the remainder of your days?"

After a group from Perry Branch sang, Brother Russ Martorana followed. He said the spirit of God will not always abide with man, and anything less than our best to God isn't good enough. He told us then about the Apostasy and how Joseph Smith was used of God to restore The Church of Jesus Christ, to be removed no more! Brother Russ also said if we aren't willing to work for God, He will get someone else. In conclusion, he said, "Thank God that He has unveiled the truth to us today."

Brother Anthony Corrado followed, telling us how the Gospel was spread throughout many nationalities, and also of his personal calling into the Gospel. He finished by saying, "What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought, since Jesus came into my heart."

Our last speaker was Brother Frank Calabrese, and he told us how God is the same today as in days of old.

Several anointings took place, and a wonderful spirit was felt in them all.

District President, Brother Elmer Santilli, gave closing comments, and the young people sang our closing hymn. Brother Tony Santilli closed this beautiful meeting with prayer.

God, the Same Yesterday, Today and Forever

By Frank Calabrese, Lorain, Ohio

Praise God for His unchanging power and promises. Thank God for the Faith of our Fathers and the simplicity of the Gospel.

I want to share with my brothers and sisters two wonderful experiences that took place here in the Lorain Branch.

The first took place one Sunday in September. Sister JoAnn Palacios was anointed for some spots that appeared on her face and other parts of her body. The doctors were concerned of what it might be. She was scheduled to go for tests the following week. She was anointed and when the prayer was finished and the brother said "Amen", the Lord spoke and said, "Have faith, Sister. I healed cancer, I healed leprosy and I can heal this affliction on your body". She went to the doctor five times to have skin cultures taken and each time the results came back negative. The doctor could not believe it because he said, "There has to be something there". Today JoAnn is healed and back to normal. All the honor and glory goes to God.

The other wonderful experience took place when we had an Ohio District Spiritual Meeting on October 24, 1982. A beautiful spirit prevailed. A week before the meeting, I had taken a blood test for my blood sugar count and triglyceride count. When the doctor received the report from the hospital, he was very concerned because my blood sugar count was 312 and my triglyceride count was over 1000. He called me and said it was very serious and to follow his instructions. I had been on medication before I took the blood test and it didn't have any effect. I hadn't taken it for two days before our spiritual meeting on October 24. While Brother Tony Corrado was speaking of many wonderful experiences of when his father, Brother Joseph, came into the Church and how the Lord had mercy on his wife during her recent affliction, the Lord spoke and said it was because of God that her life was spared and she is alive today. At this moment a beautiful spirit came in for anointings. I asked to be anointed because I knew of my condition. As Brother Tony Corrado anointed me, I felt such a comfort and peace. I was scheduled to go to the doctor on Thursday, but on Wednesday morning, I was inspired to go to the hospital and take another blood test because my trust was in God and I wanted to know the results before I went to the doctor. When I went to the doctor, he had called the hospital and they gave him the report. He immediately called me into his office and

asked, "What happened?". I asked, "Why?" He said the report was very good. My blood sugar count went from 312 to 148 and my triglyceride count had gone from over 1000 to 342, which is normal. Praise God for His wonder-working power!

Anniversaries



Front from left: Sisters Jennie Ciarrochi, Marietta Giovannone, Annie Ciarolla

Back from left: Brothers Peter Molinatto and Victor Ciarolla

The brothers and sisters of the Warren, Ohio Branch assembled together to celebrate those who have been in the Church 50 years and more. Those present were: Sister Jennie Ciarrochi from Niles, 57 years; Sister Marietta Giovannone of Vero Beach, Florida, 60 years; Brother Victor and Sister Annie Ciarolla, 50 years; Brother Peter Molinatto, 63 years; and Sister Ida Verducci, who is 90 years old, was baptized 32 years ago. These are from the Warren Branch.

Brother Joe Genaro from the North Carolina Mission opened the service. Brother Joe reminisced about the past 50 years on how the Lord blessed our brothers and sisters. He remembered each one as a young boy. He told of some wonderful experiences that came to his remembrance. Brother Jerry Giovannone followed on the same theme. He read from II Timothy 4:7, 8: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." Brother Peter Molinatto followed with some of the things he has experienced in his 63 years in The Church of Jesus Christ.

We are thankful for our older

brothers and sisters; they have been an inspiration to us. They have let their lives be one of continuous service of love. After listening to their testimonies and experiences, we find that many times they have denied themselves in order to seek after the things which are righteous. They have been examples to us all. We thank the Lord for His keeping power.

Dinner was prepared by the sisters of the Branch.

50th Anniversary

By Alice Suska, Historian

The Bronx/Brooklyn MBA recently celebrated the joyous occasion of our Brother Dominick Rose's fiftieth year in the Gospel. September 11, 1982 marked a memorable day for Brother Dominick, as he approached his fiftieth anniversary in the Church. Our local MBA surprised him with a cake and social after our regular meeting.

After gathering in the back room, we all joined hands as Brother James Link offered a beautiful prayer on behalf of Brother Dominick.

Brother Dominick related his testimony of being baptized and confirmed by Brother Salvatore Valenti on September 11, 1932, at the young age of thirteen. On October 17, 1954, Brother Dominick was ordained an elder at the Brooklyn, New York Branch and later an evangelist in April, 1959.

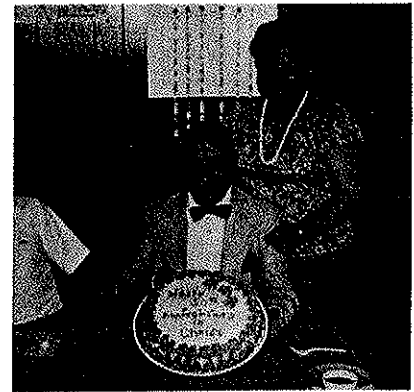
Throughout his fifty years in the Gospel, Brother Dominick has remained very active in the General Church, the Atlantic Coast District, the Brooklyn Branch, the GMBA, the Atlantic Coast Area MBA and the Bronx/Brooklyn local MBA.

At present, he is serving as Secretary of the Quorum of Seventies, is a member of the General Church Mission Board, is Secretary of the Atlantic Coast District and Chairman of the Mission Board, is First Counselor, Historian and Secretary of the Trustees of the Brooklyn Branch, is a GMBA Organizer and Vice President of our local MBA.

For the past few years, Brother Dominick has also been doing missionary work in Devon, Massachusetts, near Boston, where a few members and

their families gather.

Our prayers are that the Lord will continue to bless Brother Dominick Rose with many more active and healthy years in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



Brother Dominick and Sister Belle Rose

Note of Thanks

Dearest Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

Words can never express the emotion of a heart full of thanksgiving, not unto the Lord Almighty or unto the saints and friends. By means of *The Gospel News*, I hope to reach most of you and thank you so earnestly for your cards, phone calls, visits and always and ever, your abiding prayers on behalf of my husband, Eddie, and myself. He is coming along slowly, with hope surely. I can only add, "The Lord is my Saviour and my God, and in Him do I trust. Amen."

May God bless you and yours a thousand fold each day. Please continue to remember us.

Sister Norma and Eddie Wirbicki

Notice

Anyone caring to write to Brother Randy Beeman, who is in the military service, and his wife, Janet, may do so at the following address:

Randy R. and Janet Beeman
PSC #4, Box 16509
K.A.F.B., MS 39534

MBA Highlights

Lake Worth MBA

By Dianne Maddox, MBA Editor

The members of the Lake Worth MBA spent an enjoyable and full Sunday together on November 21, 1982. The event was a covered dish supper at the church and a Thanksgiving Day program to follow. The covered dish supper promoted the idea that we might be more of a family in the church as we truly are the family of God. The natural food was good, but the spiritual food that we had in store was even better.

The program was presented by Sister Florence Perri, as she made use of the talents and the assistance of many of the young people. It was very interesting and enjoyable to all, as we learned of the many things that we should be thankful for. God has been very good to us in our MBA by giving us a good attendance of both young and old, but above all, by giving us His many blessings. For this, we are very thankful.

An Experience

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I have been hospitalized a half dozen or more times since I met with the saints. About a month ago, I was hospitalized for a bleeding ulcer. As I lay in the intensive care unit, weak and discouraged, I felt someone's hand laid gently on mine. Looking down at my hand, I was at first puzzled that I could not see it, but, oh, how soothing, how comforting, how reassuring it was.

It was pure spirit; it was my mother's hand.

I was given to understand then, that she was my spiritual mother, the Church, and that the reassuring hand represented the prayers of the saints.

It was a beautiful experience, which gave a nice season of relief and joy.

And so, my dear brothers and sisters, I thank you for your prayers, the many beautiful cards, the gifts of flowers and fruit.

It is my daily prayer that you will each live your lives successfully and be worthy, at journey's end, to receive the everlasting crown of life.

Your brother in Christ,
James Curry

If God Should Go on Strike

How good it is that God above has never gone on strike,

Because He was not treated fair in things He didn't like.

If only once He'd given up and said, "That's it, I'm through.

"I've had enough of those on earth, so this is what I'll do:

"I'll give my orders to the sun—cut off the heat supply!

"And to the moon—give no more light, and run the oceans dry.

"Then just to make things really tough and put the pressure on,

"Turn off the vital oxygen till every breath is gone!"

You know, He would be justified, if fairness was the game,

For no one has been more abused or met with more disdain,

Than God, and yet He carries on, supplying you and me,

With all the favor of His grace, and everything for free.

Men say they want a better deal, and so on strike they go,

But what a deal we've given God to whom all things we owe.

We don't care whom we hurt to gain the things we like;

But what a mess we'd all be in, if God should go on strike.

Anon.

Branch and Mission News

Modesto, CA

By Pam Cole

The people of God are blessed so greatly, that words cannot express our gratitude. What a feeling it is to know that Jesus loves us with such a profound and perfect love. How can we ever sufficiently thank Him? All we can do is give Him all we have...all of our love and devotion, and pray that we be the example He would want us to be. The Modesto Branch would like to take this time to share briefly with you what's been going on out our way.

In August, the California District MBA held the annual campout (in Yucaipa). This drew several young people from back East. Most of them spent time here in Modesto before camp. From Detroit were Sister Laura Mangiapane, Sister Karyn Vitto, and Brother Larry Champine. From Lorain we had Sisters Anita Calabrese and JoAnn Palacios. A large group of young people (those from back East and the young people from this area) took the church bus to campout. It was nice making the trip together. Our thanks to our bus drivers, Brother Tony DeCaro and Brother Sam Camarda.

Very soon after campout, some young men decided to make California their home. From Detroit, Brothers Roy Verstraete and Keith Mangiapane moved to this area. From Arizona, Brother Tommy Smith has moved to Modesto. We've also been seeing a lot of Brother Bruce Picciuto (from Lindsay) since he is currently living and working in Modesto. We hope that the Lord will bless these young brothers in their service to the Lord.

We've had the opportunity to sing the hymn, *New Names Written Down in Glory* a lot and really mean it! On September 15, husband and wife, Larry and Jody Wilcoxon, and Kathy Lovalvo were baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ. All three were baptized by Brother Leonard Lovalvo. Brother Larry was confirmed by Brother Joe Lovalvo, Sister Jody was confirmed by Brother Mark Randy, and Sister Kathy was confirmed by Brother Joe Bologna.

(Continued on Page 7)

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The Gospel News is published monthly by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE. Subscription price is \$6.00 a year. Entered as second class mail at Bridgewater, Mich. under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

"Bumper Crops and Depressed Markets"

The words in the above title were gleaned from an article by an Associated Press writer that appeared in the Pittsburgh Press on Sunday, October 10, 1982. The article began, "Bountiful crops of corn, sorghum and soybeans being harvested in the central United States have warehouse operators scrambling to find storage space."

Abandoned plants, old schools—even an ammunition depot—are being used. Government analysts, grain elevator operators and farm groups disagree on the severity of the space shortage for fall row crops. But they agree efforts to find storage space have improved the picture recently.

BOUNTIFUL CROPS

Bumper crops and depressed markets combine to cause grain to back up and clog the supply pipeline, generating demand for storage space. A record 8.3 billion bushel corn crop is approaching harvest and above average production of milo and soybeans is forecast. A survey of Illinois Feed and Grain Association members showed that a 30 million bushel capacity of new space was added recently in anticipation of the largest corn crop in that state's history.

Regrettably, some grain operators and farmers will have no recourse but to dump grain on the ground in huge piles, covering it with plastic or canvas and attempting to protect the grain as best they can from harsh weather, bugs and rot.

On October 15, 1982, President Ronald Reagan made public his administration's offer to triple the tonnage of grain that the United States would sell the Soviet Union—with an embargo-free guarantee—if the Soviets would buy before November 30 and take delivery within 180 days. The reason for the special six-week offer, the administration said, is that the United States had a bumper grain crop and needed to know what to do with the harvest.

However, contrasting this good news on the agricultural front was the news on the economic front as noted in the weekly Washington Calling column of October 10, 1982. In a survey of 1500 chief executives by Conference Board, a business research group, it was found that business confidence was growing in anticipation of economic recovery. On the other hand, their survey of consumers found them still shelving plans to buy autos, homes and appliances due to their lack of confidence in the economy.

RENEWED GRATITUDE

In view of the record-breaking and overflowing crops from farm and field, the people of our beloved country should bestir themselves to renewed gratitude and praise to the Hand of Providence. Additionally, it behooves us to humbly pray that God will bless leaders in government, management and labor with direction, skill and fairness in seeking ways and means to speed the recovery of our troubled economy, thus enabling everyone to share in God's continuing and overflowing bounties.

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



God Blesses Good People and Good Kings

Dear Girls and Boys,

During the reign of King Emer, the Lord poured His blessings on the promised land. The Jaredite people enjoyed all sorts of fruits, grains, silk and linen fabric, gold, silver and precious things, as well as herds of cattle, sheep, and goats. They had animals to help them like the horse, ass, elephant, and the curelom and cumom (which some *Book of Mormon* scholars think might have been the llama, alpaca and their cousins).

Emer was a Godly man who judged in righteousness and even saw Jesus Christ. He died in peace after living many years, and anointing his son, Coriantum, to rule. Coriantum walked in the steps of his father. He built many cities across the land and led the people in Godly ways. Coriantum and his wife had no children. When she was one hundred and two years old, she died, and he took another wife, much younger. Together, they had many children before he died at the age of one hundred forty-two years.

The new king was Com, who ruled forty-nine years and had many children. One of his sons was Heth, who was a wicked man. He wanted to be king, and plotted to murder his father. There was a growing wickedness among the Jaredite nation at this time also, and after Heth murdered his father with his own sword, they gladly accepted him as their new king.

God sent prophets to warn the people to repent of their evil ways or he would curse the land, and they would be destroyed by a great famine. But, the people did not believe the prophets, and they refused to listen to them. King Heth encouraged the people to

persecute the prophets. Some of the prophets were cast out of the land; others were thrown into large pits and left to starve to death.

It came to pass that the words of the prophets were fulfilled; there was no rain upon the face of the earth. The people began to die in great numbers from starvation and lack of water. There also came forth poisonous serpents all over the land which bit and killed even more of the evil people. The poisonous serpents also terrified the animals that the people relied on. The animals began to flee the serpents in great numbers, traveling to the south towards the land later called Zarahemla by the Nephites.

When the animals reached the land southward, the Lord caused the snakes to stop chasing them and to stay there, forming a living wall so that the people who followed could not pass, for fear of being bitten to death.

The people following the herds ate the carcasses of the animals that died en route until they had eaten all the animals on their side of the snake-filled land. There was nothing left to eat. Realizing finally that they were going to die, they were filled with sorrow and regrets for all the evil things they had done, and they began to cry unto God for forgiveness.

When they had cried enough and humbled themselves before God, he heard, answered them, and sent rain. The people began to revive again. Fruit started to grow in the land northward, and all the country about. The Lord showed His power and this small group of remaining Jaredites began to believe in Him, and serve Him. Once again the Promised Land had been cleansed and

left for those willing and desiring to serve God.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH: ETHER 9

Find the following words:

S T A R V E M	Curelom
E H H D M O O	Cumom
L M E R L U C	Sheep
T O H E T H D	Herd
T M R H P U O	Com
A U N I A R G	Cattle
C C S N A K E	Rain
S N O I T A N	Starve
	Snake
	God
	Heth
	Nation

In Days of Old

In the Bible we are told,

*Of those who lived in days of old,
And the Book of Mormon too,
Many brave ones were true, true, blue,
Abinadi told of God's Word,
Tho' in the fire he was cruelly hurled,
Samuel brave spoke from the wall,
And many heard the Master's call.*

It's recorded in God's Word,

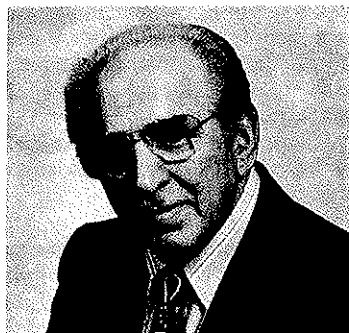
*All of these stories you have heard,
Noah, Moses, Esther brave,
Found God was near, mighty to save,
Strong and tall stood for the Lord,
Found promises in the Word,
God's Word,
We all can go on our way,
He too will watch o'er us today.*

Now the half has not been told,

*Of those who lived in the days of old,
They have served their Master well,
Now today's message we must tell,
Show our trust and live as they,
Set the example and showed the way,
'Tho the skies be blue or gray,
God's help we need, need it today.*

Mabel C. Bickerton

"It Is Written"



By V. J. Lovalvo, Apostle

SUBJECT: The Lord's Supper and Why Closed Communion?

Jesus Christ established the doctrine of the Lord's Supper prior to His death, and instituted it as a memorial to His flesh and blood (His body) which was going to be offered as the ultimate sacrifice on Calvary's cross. On the night when he ate the last supper with His Apostles, "He took break, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is My body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of Me. Likewise, also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you." (Luke 22:19, 20) Prior to this occasion, He had hinted of this "Communion Service" when He said to the multitude, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven: If any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world...Whoso eateth My flesh, and drinketh My blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is meat indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He that eateth My flesh, and drinketh My blood, dwelleth in Me, and I in him." (John 6:51-56) His admonishment was, "Do this in remembrance of Me". Hence, the bread that is eaten, and the wine that is drunk, signifies, in a spiritual sense, the "eating of His flesh, and the drinking of His blood", with the wonderful reward that, "Whoso doeth this will have eternal life".

When Jesus visited the Nephites on the land of America, He gave them the Sacrament of bread and wine in commemoration of His body and blood. His commandment to them was, "And this shall ye do in remembrance of My body...and of My blood". (III Nephi 18)

He also indicated that there was a very important thing that those who partook of the bread and wine, in remembrance of Him, would be doing. He said, "...And it shall be a testimony unto the Father that ye do always remember Me. And, if ye do always remember Me, ye shall have My spirit to be with you." Also, "...that ye may witness unto the Father that ye are willing to do that which I have commanded you." (III Nephi 18)

There are, therefore, two very important reasons why the Lord's Supper is administered and received: to bear testimony to the Father that we will always remember Him, and that we may witness unto the Father that we are willing to do that which He has commanded us. The benefits of partaking of the Lord's Supper are expressed in the words of Jesus to the Nephites: "And He said unto them, he that eateth this bread eateth of My body to his soul; and he that drinketh of this wine drinketh of My blood to his soul; and his soul shall never hunger nor thirst, but shall be filled." (III Nep 20:8) The *Book of Mormon* records that during His stay with the Nephites, Jesus did administer bread and wine to them often. It is also stated that "they did meet together oft to partake of bread and wine, in remembrance of the Lord Jesus". (Moroni 6:6)

Paul the Apostle, speaking by revelation given to him by the Lord says, "for I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; He brake it, and said, Take, eat, this is My body which is broken for you; this do in remembrance of Me. After the same manner also He took the cup, when He had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in My blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till He come". (I Corinthians 11:23-26)

Therefore, according to the above scriptures, there is a very beautiful and solemn blessing in partaking of the Lord's Supper. It will enhance the spirituality of the participant; it will satisfy the soul so that it will not hunger nor thirst; and it will assure one that the Lord's Spirit will always be with the partaker who does so worthily.

However, there is also a penalty for partaking of the Lord's Supper unworthily. Paul, in his admonition to the Corinthians says, "Wherefore, whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup

of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep." (I Corinthians 11:27-29) The *Book of Mormon* confirms the above statements as follows: "And now behold, this is the commandment which I give unto you, that ye shall not suffer anyone knowingly to partake of My flesh and blood unworthily, when ye shall minister it. For whoso eateth and drinketh My flesh and blood unworthily eateth and drinketh damnation to his soul." (III Nephi 18:28, 29) Moroni, the son of Mormon, had this to say, "...see that ye partake not of the sacrament of Christ unworthily".

The conclusion of the matter is that, if we partake of the Lord's Supper unworthily, we shall suffer the consequences of weaknesses, sicknesses, deprivation of the spirit of God, and possible death (sleep). On the other hand, if we partake of the Lord's Supper worthily, we shall enjoy the blessings of the Lord, be filled with His holy Spirit, and have His life within us. So, as the Apostle Paul admonished the Corinthians: "But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup." (I Corinthians 11:28)

(To be continued)

BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS continued . . .

On September 19, Brother Louis Ruiz was ordained into the office of deacon. His feet were washed by Brother Matt Picciuto, and he was ordained by Brother Dan Picciuto.

As of November 2, Duane and Kathy Wann are now Brother Duane and Sister Kathy! Kathy was baptized by Brother Dan Picciuto and confirmed by Brother Mark Randy. Duane was baptized by Brother Joe Lovalvo and confirmed by Brother Joe Bologna.

On November 14, Tina Picciuto gave her life to the Lord! Sister Tina was baptized by her father, Brother Dan Picciuto, and was confirmed by Brother Joe Lovalvo.

May God bless our brothers and sisters in their new lives dedicated to the Lord.

In November, we had so many visitors (what a blessing)! In one Wednesday night meeting, we had with us Sister Dora Palacios and Brother Joe Calabrese from Lorain. He spoke to us and showed a slide presentation about India—his recent trip there and also of HOINA.

From Anaheim, we've had Brother Rudy and Sister Harriet Meo, Brother John Capone, Sr. and Brother John Capone, Jr. We've had Brother Mike and Sister Maria Knutson, Brother Jess and Sister Mary Ann Guerro, and Brother Tony and Sister Lydia Picciuto, all from Lindsay. From Casa Grande, Arizona, Brother Philip VanAllsburg, Sr. and his wife, Sister Catherine, spent time here.

On November 27-28, we celebrated the 25th anniversary and dedication of our remodeled building. It was quite a large gathering of people consisting of the first charter members and present members of the Modesto Branch (along with many friends and relatives). On Saturday evening there was a program presented and refreshments afterwards. On Sunday we had our service, and then a very nice meal together. There were so many brothers and sisters and friends from other Branches that we would not be able to mention them all, but we would like to share with you those who came from out of state. From Detroit, we had Brothers Dominic Thomas and Nicholas Pietrangelo. From Aliquippa, PA we had Brother Paul Palmieri. From Arizona, we had Brother Tim Scolaro. We are indeed thankful for all of our visitors and invite them to visit again soon.

The very same weekend, Sister Laura Mangiapane from Detroit moved to Modesto, and Sister Cindy Dulisse moved back to Modesto from Anaheim. The group of young people here seems to really be growing, and we're very thankful.

On Sunday, December 5, we made the trip to the river's shore once again! Aldo Lambert and his wife, Hilda, were baptized by Brother Dan Picciuto. Sister Hilda was confirmed by Brother Mark Randy, and Brother Adolfo was confirmed by Brother Jim Lovalvo (who, by the way, was visiting with us that day).

Brother Adolfo and Sister Hilda are among a group of Spanish people from Oakland who have been attending the Branch frequently. Brothers and sisters from our Branch have been visiting

there also. They have held meetings in the homes, and two other baptisms recently have been the result: Sister Sofia Duarte and Sister Maria Duarte. Now they have found a building in Oakland in which to meet. Brother Mark Randy is in charge. May God richly bless this new mission.

"Greenoak Christian Preschool" is off and running to a good start. This is The Church of Jesus Christ's first preschool (in the U.S.). It opened in September, and it is held at the church building. Brother Phil and Sister Valerie VanAllsburg (both experienced teachers in this field) are in charge of the program and are doing a fine job. Sister Valerie is the head teacher and has several volunteers from the Branch to assist her.

We truly are very thankful for all of the wonderful things God does for us, though we are so undeserving. May the Lord be with each and every one of you, and may you work for Him in your own special way.

Mexico

By Brother and Sister Perdue

Greetings from Mexico. On November 21 we had some visitors to Tijuana, whom we enjoyed very much, namely Brothers Dominic Thomas, Nick Pietrangelo, Jim Lovalvo and Leonard Lovalvo. We heard some lovely sermons. Brother Jim Lovalvo was so full of the spirit he just kept praising God. They stayed with us for about two hours and had to go to visit another branch, as they had a very tight schedule, desiring to visit all the branches on the West Coast. They left about 12:15, but we kept on going until 3:00 in the afternoon. We had five baptisms, making a total of 46 so far this year.

We pray that God will bless us in the year, 1983, with as many or more souls for Him. There were about 250 adults that attended and many children. One sister came out of the water and declared that she was healed of a heart condition which had troubled her a long time. Also, the following Wednesday she gave the same testimony declaring that the Lord had healed her. Brother Eugenio Mora had been very ill, and as the ministers were praying over him, Brother Zavala's mother saw a cloud envelop all of the ministers, and at that moment she was healed of a sore back.

A couple of weeks ago six of our

brothers and sisters went to Sinaloa where a hurricane left the people without homes. They lost everything. Our people went by train and took 21 sacks of clothing, which they gave out to the people who were left destitute. They also gave out food and lumber, and had services at the church, which needed repairs. Our people in Sinaloa were very happy because someone cared. This hurricane was the worst that ever hit this part of Mexico.

The following is an experience had by a young sister told in her own words:

"My name is Alma Catalina Solise. I am a member of The Church of Jesus Christ in Tijuana. I was born and raised in The Church of Jesus Christ and know it is the true Church. The Lord has done many things for me. I cannot pay Him for all He has done. Approximately two years ago, my head was injured. About four months ago, I suffered the consequence of that accident. I had a blood clot in my head which had given me a lot of pain. I went to a doctor who took x-rays of my head, and he told me the blood clot was getting larger and larger. I had faith in God and never wanted to lose that faith because I knew that God had a lot of power and is a God of miracles. I kept on going to the doctor, and he said it had grown too large, and he could not do anymore for me, and that he could not operate on me and everything would be in vain; but I knew that God would have to perform a miracle on me so that I would have more faith in Him and that this might be a test for me. I accepted this with all my heart. Everyone prayed for me and had faith that the Lord would heal me. One Sunday, Brother Joe Ciarolla was in Tijuana with us, and I asked him to pray for me. When he started to pray for me, I felt very much alone for a moment. Then I felt the brother's hands on my head, and I felt seven drops fall on my head and also a crown. As brother Joe was wiping his eyes, I thought it was his tears. The following day an elder came to my house, and I told him what happened. He told me it could not have been Brother Joe's tears because his head was not over me; and then I thought, 'What could it have been?'. I wondered what those seven drops meant. The following day about 2 o'clock a.m., I woke up and vomited blood seven times, and then I understood what the seven drops on my head meant. I am grateful and thankful for all the Lord has done for me. I feel like a different person. I feel free. I feel great joy in my heart and more love for my brothers and sisters. This experience was very beautiful for me, and it also has increased my faith

much more."

I was in the church recording this tape when I stopped for a while and saw many beautiful children in the church, and they were singing the hymn, *Damos Gracias al Señor* (We Are Giving Thanks to God).

A young boy about seven or eight years old had much trouble with his eyes. The mother could not afford a specialist. One night the Lord appeared to this child in a dream and said, "Be healed".

A brother who had a leg amputated because of sugar diabetes gave thanks to God because, when they tested him to see if he still had sugar in his system, they found that he did not have any trace of sugar.

We thank God for all the wonderful things He is doing among the Seed of Joseph. May God bless all of our people everywhere and for our wonderful Church. We send you our love.

Omaha—Bedford

By Valarie Wells, Mission Editor

We thank God for His constant mercy and love upon us as we express our joy and prayers to our brothers and sisters in Christ. We delight in sharing our beautiful experiences of this past summer, which includes two trips and receiving visitors.

Our trip to South Bend, Indiana on June 19 and 20 represented an annual spiritual gathering of both missions. This year's gathering also brought many saints and visitors from all parts of God's vineyard. It was also a blessing for some of us to meet Brother Dominic Thomas for the first time.

Our second trip was to St. John, Kansas on August 14 and 15. This trip was God's answer to the prayers of our Sister Dorothy Miller, who had many experiences concerning St. John. Quickly her desire became that of the Mission's, as the Spirit of God gave us the liberty to behold "Zion's Valley" and learn of its history in The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Alex Robinson took us on a tour of the land, including the cemetery. Many of our brothers and sisters played an important role in the early history of this Church in this area.

As always, the spirit of love was pre-

sent on both trips. In addition to our trips, we received visits from saints with whom we equally shared God's blessings.

On May 29 and 30 we received saints from South Bend, Indiana, including Brothers Vince Gibson, Mitchell Edwards, and John Genaro, all from Ohio.

On July 18, 1982, we received Sister Janet Beckett and her family from South Bend, Indiana.

Our last visitors brought a special blessing to our mission. We received Brother George and Sister Peggy Johnson of Arizona on Sunday, September 5, 1982, to hold services to bless Kerra Lynn Siefert, daughter of Sister Peggy and Rodney Siefert of Bedford, Iowa. Brother George Johnson referred us to St. Matthew 19:13 concerning the blessing of children who have no need to be baptized. We then sang *When Mothers in Salem* while Kerra Lynn was brought forward by her parents. Prayer was given by Brother Johnson. Our services were followed with a beautiful fellowship at dinner.

As we receive the blessings of God, our work increases here in Omaha and Bedford. Only with the grace of God can we strive to grow and remain in this Gospel. We ask that you continue to pray for us, remembering the family of Brother English Webb, which has sacrificed so much, and we shall pray for you and that day "when we meet to part no more, on Zion's happy shore".

Rochester, NY

By Carmella D'Amico

We were privileged to attend the Spiritual Conference at the auditorium. They were four wonderful days that will long be remembered.

On Saturday, at the opening of the afternoon service, I saw a vision. I saw the Heavens open and Jesus descending from them blessing us. When the apostles went down by the sacramental table to break bread and pour wine for communion, Jesus was there all the while the brothers administered sacrament, and then He disappeared. We, the saints, all witnessed the sweet, sweet spirit and the presence of God in our midst.

When we returned home from Con-

ference, I thanked God for the wonderful blessings He gave us for the four days we were there. I prayed for all the brothers and sisters who cooked and served all those people. At this time, I saw a vision. I was transported to the auditorium, and I saw a man all dressed in white having a basin full of coins in his hands. He gave a coin to each brother and sister that worked in the kitchen, and then he disappeared. I felt a wonderful blessing upon me.

Warren, OH

On Saturday, September 10, 1982, many saints from the Ohio District, Detroit, and Brother Jim Lovalvo from California met here at the Warren Branch to welcome the saints from South Bend, Indiana who had traveled here to worship and fellowship with us this weekend.

Our Saturday evening service was opened with prayer by Brother Wayne Martorano. Brother Frank Calabrese spoke on the promises of God and the covenant He made with His people.

Brother Jim Lovalvo sang *Fill My Cup Lord*. Brother Jim continued, speaking from I Nephi 22:22-27 concerning the miracles of God. He asked us the questions, "Do we believe in the promises and miracles of God?" and "How strong is our faith?"

The saints from South Bend sang the closing hymn. As they were singing, a vision of a rainbow was seen over them. The words given were, "Serve me and I will bless you."

Sunday service was opened by Brother Frank Giovannone. He spoke from III Nephi 27:3. Brother Ron Genaro followed from I Nephi 14:12. Brother Frank Calabrese followed, recapping that which was said. Dinner was prepared and served by the sisters. The brothers and sisters from South Bend sang several inspiring hymns after dinner.

It was a beautiful weekend. Everyone spoke of how they enjoyed themselves throughout the weekend.

Thank God for His rich blessing unto us, His children.

Imperial, PA

October 3, 1982, was a day of rejoic-

ing for all present at the Imperial Branch. Many visitors were present from Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan to witness the baptism of Paul Ciotti, Jr.

Our Sunday School service was turned over to Brother Eugene Amormino, who led us in singing *The Songs of Zion*. Our preaching service was introduced by Brother Chuck Jumper, who read to us from Revelations 7:9-17. Brother Chuck spoke many wonderful words of inspiration and comfort. He portrayed the great hope that we have when the redeemed of all ages shall gather around the throne of God giving honor and glory to the Lamb of God. He was followed by Brother Frank Calabrese, who continued to encourage the saints.

We then gathered at the waters of baptism to witness this wonderful ordinance. Paul Ciotti, Jr. was baptized by Brother Jimmy Moore. We then gathered back in church to witness the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost. This was performed by Brother Frank Calabrese. We trust the Lord will continue to bless our young brother. He stated in his testimony that he desires to work for the Lord. Praise God!

Vanderbilt, PA

Our Branch has been the scene of much activity during the past year, with special meetings and visits by the Spirit of God, on the spiritual side, and painting, cleaning and repairing on the natural side.

We hosted the February Pennsylvania District Conference, and God blessed our efforts by allowing His Presence to be with us during the preparations. How wonderful is the feeling that exists when the saints are collectively involved in any effort.

We enjoyed His Spirit in our revival meetings held in May. Many of the District elders and evangelists assisted us in presenting the Word of God, centering on the Restoration of the Gospel. Powerful preaching, praying, and praising was the spiritual food served to all who would partake. What a blessing was extended to Brother John Olexa, visiting us from Monongahela Branch during our Saturday night meeting! He preached to us in great power, telling us, among other things, that we must rely on the Spirit, no matter how determined we might be. Brother Olexa spoke for about twenty

minutes, then said, "I'm going to give way now, I feel tired." He took his seat, fell over against Brother Fuller, and never regained consciousness. He died preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There were strangers among us that remarked that that indeed was the way to die.

Five weddings occurred at our Branch, three children have been blessed, and God continued to prove to us that He is still on His throne.

One of the great blessings God has extended to us is His blessing to our Sister Rose Smouse. Sister Rose has had cancer this year, very bad. She is only twenty-two years old, one who has given her life to the Lord, determined to serve Him no matter what. From early reports that she had little or no chance of survival to present reports that 100% recovery is probable, has been the story of Sister Rose and the Lord. When the early reports went out, many prayers ascended to the throne of God, and He has heard our cries in her behalf.

We want to share also the story of a young man who came to us to learn of the Gospel. He approached the situation with the desire to know more, attending all our meetings and classes. Finally, the day came when he said, "I'm ready to be baptized". We took Brother Richard Lowther down into the waters of baptism, and God came into his life to stay. We praise Him for the great things He does for our souls. November 14, 1982, will always be a day of remembrance for our Brother Richard.

Truly, the Spirit of God has been with us in these blessings, and that same spirit has carried over into our natural endeavors around our building. We have accomplished more in 1982 in painting, cleaning, repairing, building, than we have in several years past.

The saints in Vanderbilt are determined to serve God. Our prayers continue to be with all those everywhere who share a like determination.

Youngstown, OH

By Annette Corrado, Branch Editor

Sister Lena Pallante Ciaglia of the Detroit Inner-City Branch had a desire to make a set of sacramental cloths for Youngstown Branch. On Sunday, April 25, Sister Ciaglia was visiting with us

and had the following experience:

In a vision she saw the Lord enter the building carrying the sacramental basket and cloths for the communion table. After setting the table, He served communion and then talked to His people as the table shone with splendor. The sacramental cloths Sister Lena saw the Lord use were the ones she had made.

We were privileged to have Brother Giuseppe LoRicco of Patti, Sicily in our midst on Wednesday, May 5, and also on Sunday, May 9. On both occasions Brother Anthony Corrado was the interpreter for Brother LoRicco. On Sunday Brother LoRicco spoke on the conversion of the Apostle Paul and what happened to him on the road to Damascus. He paralleled this to an experience that he had when he was first baptized. Brother LoRicco wasn't fully converted and felt that it wasn't necessary to attend the meetings regularly. One day the Lord visited him, and he felt punches all over his body. These punches didn't cease until he and his late wife, Sister Lina, knelt down in prayer. Needless to say, Brother LoRicco became more fervent in his service.

Sunday, May 23, 1982 was a memorable day for Mike and Linda Italiano, for this was the day they made their covenant with the Lord. Brother Michael and Sister Linda were baptized by Brother Henry Cardillo and confirmed by Brother A. A. Corrado. Sister Italiano is the granddaughter of the late Brother Carl and Sister Anna Damore, the first converts baptized in Youngstown, Ohio.

Visiting with us that day were Brother Bob Buffington and family of Imperial, PA and Brother Russell and Sister Lena Martorana of Niles; their son, Brother Brian, came during our afternoon service after being directed by the Spirit to do so. During our morning service, Brother Bob Buffington spoke on the prophet, Abinadi, who refers to Isaiah 53. Our brother's discourse was well received. Truly it was a day well spent in the Lord.

On Sunday, September 12, 1982 we again enjoyed a portion of God's blessing as we welcomed Brothers V. James and Anthony Lovalvo into our midst. Brother Jim honored us with several selections, and the Youngstown Quartet sang a medley of hymns. Brother Tony, by coincidence, used as his text Isaiah 53. He also spoke about his missionary

efforts among the Seed of Joseph at Six Nations. While Brother Lovalvo was speaking, Elaine Moore arose and asked for her baptism.

Brother Jim followed, stating that "If I (Christ) be lifted up I'll draw all men to me" means that Christ will give all men the opportunity to find salvation. He will force no man to serve Him. We were thankful to see our new sister enter the fold and family of God. Sister Elaine Moore was baptized by her father, Brother Ralph Berardino, and confirmed by Brother A. A. Corrado.

May God bless our new members as they strive to serve Him.

Muncey, Ontario

By Rosanne Scolaro

Sunday, September 19, was a day of remembrance and celebration on the Muncey Indian Reserve in Ontario, Canada, as saints from throughout the Church gathered to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of this established mission.

The large group of brothers, sisters, and friends representing Michigan, Windsor, California, Arizona, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Ohio, and the Muncey and Six Nations Missions, met at the Mt. Elgin School on the reserve. This visit to Muncey was the first for some. Others had made the journey many times before and came equipped with a collection of memories and experiences from years gone by. Everyone anticipated a day filled with the blessings of God.

After some community singing, Brother Paul Whitton, Chairman of the Michigan-Ontario District Mission Board, turned the meeting over to Brother Lou Vitto, who acknowledged those members of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles, the 70 Evangelists, the General Church Mission Board, and the Michigan-Ontario District Mission Board that occupied the pulpit. He especially welcomed Ether Deleary, Chief of the Chippewa Band on the reserve, who expressed his appreciation for the Church's community support through the years. Brother Lou then related a history of the Muncey Mission.

The Church of Jesus Christ was first introduced to the Muncey Reservation in the fall of 1932. Brothers William H. Cadman, Alma Cadman, Anthony

DiBattista, and Paul Love were traveling on Highway 2 looking for the Six Nations Reserve. They were told that a number of Indians resided just a short distance from where they were. Upon inquiring as to where to find the chief, they were directed to the home of George Nicholas, one of the three chiefs in the area, and his wife, Julia.

Brother Cadman began preaching the Restored Gospel with Julia acting as his interpreter. As he endeavored to teach the faith of the Church, she would translate these teachings into the Chippewa language.

Sister Julia Nicholas was the first person baptized by the Church in Muncey. Others followed, including Chief George, which led to the establishment of the present mission—the **first** mission of the Church among the Seed of Joseph!

The Lord blessed and prospered the mission, and it became apparent that a building was needed. In the October, 1939 Conference a resolution was passed requesting all members of the Church to donate \$1.00 each within 30 days to pay for the building's construction. In the spring of 1940, the building was finished, paid for, and dedicated to the service of God on April 28, 1940.

Along with Brother Tom Anderson, Brother George Nicholas was ordained a minister of the Gospel in 1940. The Lord truly has directed this work, and those who were converted have witnessed many miracles and healings.

Through the years, the Muncey Mission has been blessed with a number of resident missionaries as well as those brothers, sisters, and friends who have faithfully made the weekly trip. Currently, the members enjoy the presence of Brother Rodney and Sister Judy Dyer. Brother Rodney is the missionary in charge, and it is interesting to note that his grandfather was Brother Anthony DiBattista (one of the initial missionaries) while Sister Judy's grandmother was Sister Julia Nicholas, the first member of Muncey. (Later in the meeting, it would be announced that Sister Judy gave birth to a baby boy on this morning of the 50th Anniversary. The mission continues to grow!)

After this brief history, the current members and friends of Muncey sang two hymns for us. Sisters Lillian Dolson and Marie Lunham presented a song in the Chippewa language and testified of God's goodness in their lives.

Brother Dominic Thomas then addressed the congregation. He pointed out the many brothers, sisters, and friends who have given their time, resources, talents, energy, love, and prayers to keep this mission alive and prosperous. The mission could not exist if it were not for the united efforts of these missionaries and members down through the years.

Brothers Mark Randy and Joe Lovalvo followed Brother Dominic by relating many beautiful experiences from their years on the Muncey Reserve. Both expressed their great



love for the Indian people and how they came to truly feel as brothers and sisters in the family of God.

Brothers Walt Cihomsky, Frank Calabrese, and Dominic Moraca also expressed their gratitude in being part of this special day. They related the importance of bringing the Restored Gospel to God's chosen people. Truly, the most powerful and effective force we have for doing this is the gift of God's love.

Brother Paul Whitton again express-

ed his pleasure and gratitude for the many in attendance that day. We reflect on the past 50 years with thankfulness and fond remembrance. But more importantly, he said, we must look to the future for an even greater outpouring of God's Spirit and direction in our work among the Seed of Joseph.

The meeting was brought to a close, and we were treated to a beautiful luncheon provided by the saints of the Muncey Mission. The time too quickly passed as we spent the afternoon

together in fellowship and reminiscence.

Our prayer is that the Lord would continue to bless the Muncey Mission and His work everywhere as the Gospel spreads to the four corners of the earth.

And blessed are all they who do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled with the Holy Ghost.

III Nephi 12:6

* WEDDINGS *

LIGHT—MARTORANA

Brother Stacey Light and Sister Carolyn Martorana were united in marriage on August 28, 1982 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Youngstown, Ohio. Brother Russell Martorana, the bride's father, officiated at the wedding ceremony and was assisted by Brother Wayne Martorana, the bride's brother.

Musical selections were presented by Brothers Steve, Gary and Claude Champine of Michigan, and they were accompanied by the pianist, Brother Eugene Amormino, also of Michigan.

The newlyweds are residing in Erie, PA. May God's richest blessings be upon them as they begin their new life together.

DiNARDO—FLEMING

Brother Paul DiNardo of the Hollywood, FL Branch and Sister Barbara Fleming of the Vanderbilt, PA Branch were married on October 23, 1982 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Vanderbilt, PA.

Brother Paul Palmieri, assisted by Brother John Ali, officiated at the ceremony. Soloists were Sisters Carol Jumper and Melissa Cherry, who were accompanied by the pianist, Sister Bertha Jean Bilsky.

The DiNardo's are making their home in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

SIGNORELLI—RANDY

Mr. Virgil Signorelli and Sister Sharnée Randy were united in marriage at The Church of Jesus Christ in Modesto, CA on December 14, 1982. Officiating at the ceremony was Brother Mark Randy.

Musical selections were presented by Brother Leonard Loyalvo, soloist, and Brother Tommy Smith, pianist.

May God bless these two young people as they begin a

new life together.

New Arrivals

Congratulations are in order to the proud parents for the indicated new members of their families:

Natalie Anne to James and Cynthia Sciarretta of Aliquippa, PA;

Robert Herbert to Robert and Michelle Joswiak of Imperial, PA;

Adam Joseph to Anthony and Linda Vadasz of Metuchen, NJ;

Linda Mae to Joel and Edna Calabrese of Lorain, OH;

Jason Allen to Craig and Rosemary Smouse of Vanderbilt, PA.

OBITUARIES

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

MARK BUFFINGTON

Mr. Mark Buffington, son of Brother Bob and Sister Arlene Buffington of the Imperial, PA Branch, passed away from this life on October 1, 1982. He was born on December 6, 1963.

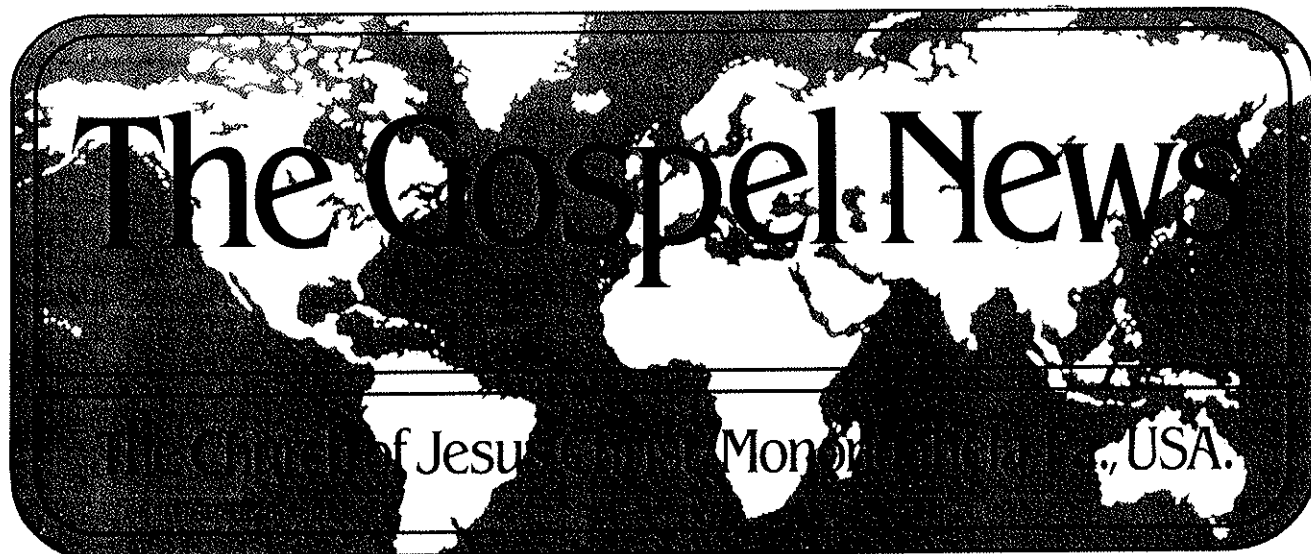
Apostle Russell Cadman conducted the funeral services held at The Church of Jesus Christ in Imperial, PA.

Mark is survived by his parents, one sister and two brothers.

JOSEPH ZINZI

Joseph Zinzi, a resident of Yonkers, NY, passed away on June 30, 1982. Born on March 4, 1916, he was baptized into the Church on November 13, 1938.

Surviving are his wife, Veronica, one son, one daughter, one grandchild, one brother, and one sister.



March, 1983

Volume 39, No. 3

Lest We Forget

By Mark Randy, Evangelist

A tribute to George Nicholas, Chief of the Muncey, Ontario Reservation Chipewas and Minister of The Church of Jesus Christ.

It was my good fortune to know this beloved brother—perhaps better than most—during my eight years of association with him as the Presiding Minister. We shared a common love—love of God and love of our people. The fact that I was never taught discrimination, I did not judge any by nationality, color or religion but by character and the sacred conviction.

Brother Nicholas had a very unique character. His word was his bond, his friendship true, and his convictions the highest. The compassion for the hardship of his people was very real in his heart. Often he would come to the church, where we had a small bedroom and kitchen. There I stayed many weekends and sometimes several days (19 at one time) with Brother W. H. Cadman, holding meetings every night for whoever would come. When Brother George and I were alone, he would confide the needs for education for his people. Though there were schools in Muncey, most children did not go very far with their education, and the opportunities for them were very limited.

We, as a Church, were unprepared to help much at that time. We prayed together as father and son for the poor of the area. There was much sickness in the winters. There was poor housing, inadequate clothing and food, and limited heat for the hard winters.

Sometimes we wondered how they survived, and some did not survive, especially the children.

Often we prayed for the sick, anointing them with oil as the *Bible* teaches. We cried to God with much compassion. Many were miraculously healed. Even those who did not belong to the Church came to be anointed, and they were healed. I could feel the love that Brother George had for his people. Often he would point out to me the needs of the destitute and the sick.

What a beautiful relationship we had with our little Church people and friends, all because of Jesus Christ's love towards all of us—pure love, impartial and fulfilling love.

There was very little that Brother Nicholas could do for his poor people, since the Indian agent had the overseeing rule over them. The Indian agent and his wife were compassionate people. Sometimes they came to hear me speak on Sundays and would take care of our little son.

The most inspiring sermon that Elder Nicholas preached was from Isaiah 29. As he would pick up the *Book of Mormon*, he would say, "This is the voice that speaks from the dust to us and our children. Some day our people will hear this voice of hope, voice of promise." I would watch him and feel the deep conviction of his heart.

One day the children of Joseph will hear and understand the familiar voice of their fathers. Our hope is from God for true deliverance; indeed it is.

Is there another George Nicholas in Muncey? Is there one with the same

firm hope and faith in the promises of God? I prayed with Brother George that one of his children would follow his footsteps.

"Muncey to glory and nothing to pay", was our theme song. "Go up and down to Muncey and bring the Redmen home."

I praise God for the opportunity to labor there and be associated with such humble and lovable people such as the Delearys, the Nicholases, the Frenches, the Halls, the Fishers and many others. I love the memories of such beautiful people.

Remember Joseph? He was reported dead. His brothers thought that they had gotten rid of him forever, but what a surprise it must have been when they heard the voice of their brother saying, "I am Joseph whom you have sold." The cry filled the house of Pharaoh. The second voice shall fill the whole world. Then shall be as life from the dead as Paul writes:

"For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?" (Romans 11-15)

Conference Notices

Saturday, March 26, 1983

Ladies Circle Conference in
Greensburg, PA

Saturday, May 21, 1983

GMBA Conference in Greensburg,
PA

June 23-26, 1983

General Church Conference in
Greensburg, PA

A Tribute to Bro. James Curry

Brother James Curry passed away on January 24, 1983, after a long illness. Surviving him are his wife, Dorothy, three sons, James, Richard, and Timothy, and five grandchildren.

Brother Curry was a member of the Church for fifty years, and he served as a teacher and elder for over forty years. At the time of his passing, he was a member of the Monongahela Branch.

Brother James Grazan officiated at the funeral service, which was held in the Monongahela Church. He also offered a eulogy, and tributes were paid by Brother Curry's three sons and a nephew, Donald Curry. In tribute to him also, the choir beautifully sang two hymns composed by Brother Curry.

During his long affiliation with the Church, Brother Curry spent a great deal of his time and energies thinking, teaching, and writing about what he termed fundamental truths of religion. A gifted writer, speaker, and poet, he strove to formulate and teach what he believed to be certain religious truths which would uplift the Church.

As an idealist, he looked into the future for the perfection and fulfillment of the basic principles and goals of the Church. His idealism is reflected in his many articles on such subjects as "Christ Made Under the Law", "The Restoration of Israel", "The Founding of Zion", and "The Restoration of the Ancient of Days". These articles, written over a period of many years, are preserved for us in his recently printed book, *Fundamental Truths of the Gospel of Christ*.

Brother Curry was a visionary man who related many experiences which inspired him in his work in the Church. He once had a vision in which he saw a long series of stage curtains parting in succession and revealing the Peaceful Reign of the future. He was given to understand that in this Peaceful Reign men would utilize the sum total of their talents and knowledge for the development of good.

The Lord showed Brother Curry very early in his life what was in store for him. When he was twelve years old, he had a dream that he was standing on a seashore, and, looking across the water, he saw a beautiful city which he knew

was his heavenly home. Several boys were standing behind him, and he turned around and told them what he saw. He then started to walk across the water toward the city, and he looked down at his feet and was amazed that his shoes were still dry. As he proceeded, he noticed that the other boys were following him.

He was very much impressed with the similarity between the words in the chorus of *O Beulah Land* and his dream:

*O Beulah Land, sweet Beulah land,
As on thy highest mount I stand
I look away across the sea,
Where mansions are prepared for me,
And view the shining glory shore,
My Heav'n, my home forevermore!*

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your prayers, the beautiful cards and phone calls during my recent knee surgery.

I know that it was your prayers that helped me through this ordeal. What a comfort to know that we belong to this beautiful Church, where there is so much love.

Almost every day the nurse would bring me a handful of cards, and she remarked, "Boy, you sure do get a lot of cards. You must have a lot of friends."

I told her that they were from my brothers and sisters in the Church and that we all love one another like one big happy family.

She said it must be nice to have so many people love you.

Thanks to you all once again, and may God continue to bless each and every one of you.

Sister Ina Giovannone

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am happy to send my greetings to everyone in the Church. May God bless everyone in our glorious Church.

I would also like to say, God has

spared me in many ways during my afflictions; so, I want to praise the Lord for all things. I have been in the service of our Lord for sixty-three years (baptized on December 14, 1919). Except for Brother Lloyd of Kent, Ohio, I am the oldest member of the Church. Praise God, Brother Lloyd has also been a faithful member to this day. We have our ups and downs, but Jesus has always been there too.

I have one son and one daughter, two grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and my beautiful spiritual family.

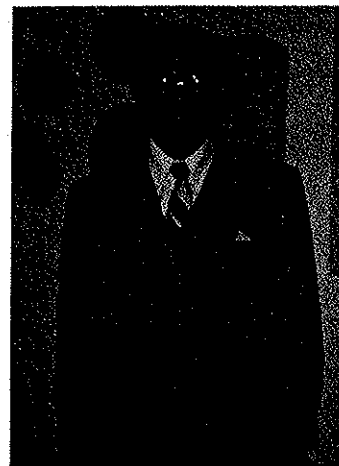
God bless you one and all, and my love to you all.

Sister Minnie DePiero
Youngstown, Ohio

50th Anniversary

By Betty Alessio

Brother Alfred—This Is Your Life



Brother Alfred Dominico

On April 27, 1915, in Monesson, Pennsylvania, a child was born. He was named Alfred Dominico. As a youngster, you moved to Lorain, Ohio to live with your sister, Carrie, and brother-in-law, Joe Altomare. It wasn't long after that, they met The Church of Jesus Christ, and you were blessed by Brother Rocco Biscotti at the age of 8.

Do you recall some 52 years ago when you became very ill at work—so ill that you were rushed to the hospital and the doctors performed emergency surgery? Your family was given little hope that

you would survive. Many prayers were offered up to God that you would pull through, and when the doctors saw that you were hanging on to life, they performed a second surgery to clear out the peritonitis that had set in. More prayers were offered up to God and you finally rallied on to a miraculous recovery. The handkerchief that was anointed by the elders of the Branch was placed on your body, and when the doctor gave you a final checkup, he said, "There's a mystery in you that I don't understand, as I thought for sure that you would have a job playing a harp with the angels." What a miracle!

During a prayer service your sister, Carrie Altomare, saw a vision that you were being lifted from a coffin and she spoke the gift of tongues. Brother Jim Aquilino interpreted it, "He is in My hands." This brought joy and comfort to the brothers and sisters who were assured that you were in God's hands.

Do you recall that after some time had passed and you were feeling ill again, you sought the help of the doctor and he told you that you were lucky to be alive—that you should make out the best you could for the rest of your life? This got you to do some serious thinking in the right direction. You began pleading with God for the spirit of repentance, and you shed many tears for days. Your family began to wonder what was wrong, but they realized what had happened when on that beautiful Sunday, November 20, 1932, at the age of 17, you asked for your baptism. Fifty years ago! After what you went through in your earlier years, it was hard to visualize that you would live to see your 50th spiritual anniversary.

Can you recall the three sisters who walked faithfully to church Sunday after Sunday with their parents and how you walked with your aunt and uncle to church and many times you would meet and walk together? During these walks and as you grew older you experienced a fondness in your heart and you realized that one day, Sister Josephine Aquilino would be your bride. That day came on April 19, 1936, in the little building on 22nd Street. Many witnessed this young couple sitting in the front of the church during the afternoon testimony meeting waiting for the moment when they would have their wedding ceremony. Can you recall any of those testimonies, or were you thinking of that moment when you would hear the words "I now pronounce you man and wife"? You and Sister Josephine were blessed with two beautiful, healthy

sons, and since then have six grandchildren and some great-grandchildren.

The next big event in your life came on July 23, 1944 when you were ordained an elder in The Church of Jesus Christ by Apostle Rocco Biscotti, not to forget that prior to this you were ordained a teacher. Then on April 19, 1959, you were ordained an evangelist.

We all recall the many offices that you filled in the Sunday School, MBA and the Branch. We can't forget your untiring efforts as Presiding Elder and also treasurer during the construction of our present church building. You had many sleepless nights wondering if there would be enough finances and helpers (workers) and when it was all done, the joy of seeing it dedicated to the Lord in June of 1948. We all shared in this great blessing.

Many lives were touched by you in the services you rendered in the Branch and for the Church and God. You anointed many, blessed many children, baptized many brothers and sisters and had the privilege of uniting many young couples in marriage. The shut-ins can recall the times you visited them and offered prayer or took them sacrament.

Another experience was when you were visiting at Brother Joe and Sister Vickie Calabrese's home. Brother Frank and Sister Romie were there also. They had little Tony with them, who was just starting to walk. Sister Vickie had prepared coffee and asked everyone into the kitchen to have some refreshments. However, Tony had gone in and reached for a hot cup of coffee and spilled it on his body, scalding him. Very quickly, we asked you, being the only elder present, to anoint him. As we recall, you did not have time to pray, but applied oil to the area that was scalded, and the burn was healed.

We also remember the time that you anointed Brother Frank Thomas. It was your first experience in anointing. The power of God fell so strong upon you that it made your knees almost buckle.

We recall all the trips you made to Lima, assisting in that work. I am sure that you will recall December, 1958, when we had Brother Cadman speaking in Lorain. You came home in time to tell us that you had baptized Brother Joe and Sister Pat Tata in Lima that Sunday.

Another experience was when Brother Joe Calabrese became very ill

and you were called to the hospital to anoint him after his surgery. No one had expected this from Brother Joe; however, when you came into the room, all he could say was "make it good". As he tells it, he saw a picture of his entire life before him while you were praying, which caused him to repent and ask for his baptism. Sister Vickie, all the family, and brothers and sisters were surprised and very happy. When his sister, Alice, was told of this, she questioned Sister Vickie, "Was he out of the anesthetic?" Although he was not able to be baptized immediately, when he was ready, there were three others that asked to go with him.

We will treasure the many years that you have spent in the Lorain Branch. May God continue to bless you with good health and many more years of continued blessings.

Sister Josephine, although the major portion of this biography is about Brother Alfred, we note that on December 29, 1932, you were baptized, making it your 50th spiritual anniversary also. Many of our lives were also touched by you. You, too, held many offices, secretary and teacher for the Sunday School, MBA and Ladies Circle, also president of Ladies Circle for many years, and even Sunday School Superintendent at one time. These offices are important, but your calling into the office of deaconess on July 24, 1949, is the most rewarding and treasured. Surely, it is evident that you and Brother Alfred have always put God first in your life and for your efforts, He has richly blessed and rewarded you.

In All Things God

*Each time I see a tree in spring
each time I hear a bluebird sing
each time I see a budding flower
or hear the rhythm of a summer shower.*

*Each time I feel the rays of the sun
or the evening breeze when day is done
when I gaze at white clouds in the blue
or the silver in the morning dew.*

*Each time I rest from daily chores
and look and listen at the great outdoors
I think what a wondrous world and fair
and I know that God is always there.*

Sylvia Schooler Brandt

MBA Highlights

Meaford MBA

By Bertha Ford, Mission Editor

We of the Meaford Mission are enjoying the blessings of God in this part of the vineyard, and since we now have a small building to worship in, we have a number of visitors.

On the weekend of July 31, we had visiting with us the Kinsman, Ohio MBA. While they were here, Brother Richard Elzby took them to visit the Seed of Joseph at Cape Croker Reservation. We have taken baskets of food and clothing to this reservation and have tried to reach them spiritually for a number of years. Brother Richard and Sister Jane Elzby have also been taking food and clothing to the Seed of Joseph in the Meaford trailer park.

While Kinsman's MBA visitors were here, we had beautiful fellowship together on Sunday. We were blessed to have three elders expound God's Word to us. Brother Jack Ford opened our service by asking what is in a name and what a name means. He went on to tell how our Church took on Christ's name. Brothers Philip and Howard Jackson continued on the same theme. Our brothers left us with much food for thought and left us with many blessings.

Branch and Mission News

Fredonia, PA

By Ethel Cadman, Branch Editor

Sunday, January 9, 1983, we felt the wonderful blessings of God, as Brother Alvin Gehly opened the meeting by reading Matthew 13. Brother Alvin was inspired in speaking upon the parable of the tares. He stated that all would be gathered; both tares and good. By removing the tares, there would be more nourishment for the good and they, therefore, would become stronger. All that Christ asks is for us to take up our crosses and follow Him. Brother Russell Cadman followed by stating that we must exercise ourselves in faith. In

We then met together for refreshments before our brothers and sisters left us. We are grateful that God leads our saints our way.

On the weekend of November 6, we had visiting with us the Windsor, Ontario MBA. On Saturday night, we gathered in our little building for a singspiration of *The Songs of Zion*. I can truly say the Spirit of God like a fire was burning in each heart through these beautiful songs. After the meeting, we enjoyed some refreshments and a time of fellowship together.

On Sunday, we again gathered to be fed on the Word of God from our teachers, Brothers Richard Elzby, Sam Cuomo and Larry Henderson. We sang many more beautiful *Songs of Zion* which inspired our brothers to speak. Brother Henderson chose *Weighed in the Balance* to open our service, teaching that evil cannot rob justice, and that in weighing our lives in the balance, we must not be found wanting before the Lord. Brothers Cuomo and Elzby continued on the same theme.

Our Windsor saints have been a big help to us in the Meaford Mission. They provided canned goods and clothing for the work. Brother Richard Elzby is starting among the Indian people here. We wish to thank the brothers and sisters of the Windsor Branch for their help and support. We truly enjoyed their company and enjoyed a time of fellowship before our visiting saints departed.

this way we will grow spiritually and become stronger.

The afternoon feet washing meeting was opened with selections from *The Songs of Zion*. Brother Arthur Gehly spoke concerning the early establishment of the Church and the various offices established. Highlighting the afternoon service was the ordination of Brother Gary Martin into the office of teacher. Brother Russell Cadman washed Brother Gary's feet, and Brother Arthur Gehly ordained him into the office of teacher. We feel that Brother Gary will fill his new office with all diligence and sincerity. Guests for the afternoon meeting were Brother Joel and Sister Ruth Gehly from the Erie Branch.

Red Lake, AZ

By Larry Watson

On Sunday, December 19, we of the Meaford Mission presented our Christmas program. Each one of us had a part in portraying the birth of Christ. Sister Jane Elzby read us redemption's plan and Brother Richard Elzby read from Luke 2. We had encouraged our visiting Indian family to participate also, and Freddie Richie helped us out.

We then had our lunch and Brother Rick and Sister Olive Elzby, along with Brother Doug and Sister Bertie Ford, drove 53 miles to the Cape Croker Indian Reservation where they delivered five boxes of food and a large quantity of winter clothing. We are always warmly welcomed here.

On Monday evening, December 20, we visited chronic care patients of the Meaford Hospital and gave out Christmas favors we had made.

On Christmas Eve Brother Rick and Sister Jane delivered food boxes to two needy Indian families of the Meaford trailer park.

We in the Meaford area are surrounded by the Seed of Joseph and in our small way, we are trying to show these people our love for them, that some day they may want to know more about us and our Church. Pray for us as we strive, through these various MBA projects, to shine the light of the Gospel on our corner of the world.

We, of the Red Lake Branch, would like to keep you informed on the work of the Church amongst the Navajo Nation. The following is a summary of some of our activities during the latter half of 1982.

1. Church Building Project

The primary thrust of our Branch continues to be the construction of our church building. This has been very demanding on all of us—financially and otherwise. On September 6, 1982, we had our ground-breaking, and we were especially pleased to have several of our Navajo friends in attendance. Some of them shared this day with us, even though they were in mourning over the loss of their brother (whose death was related to excessive drinking). Up to this point, we have done most of the work

(Continued on Page 9)

*Editorial Viewpoint . . .***Awake and Sing***By Dominic Moraca, Guest Editorialist*

The Prophet Isaiah proclaimed the glad news of the resurrection:

**"Awake and sing, ye that dwell in the dust: for thy dew
is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead."**

The words of Jesus show that those who have done good in this life will have reason to sing, while the unjust will lament: . . . *for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice; and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*

Every reasonable person, who believes in God, will want to come forth in the resurrection of the just. The question then arises, what does it mean to do good? Jesus said: *But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, and the blind; and thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee, for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.*

Surely, feeding the hungry and caring for the lame and blind are deeds which God does not forget and blesses those who do them; providing, however, that those doing so are motivated by love and love alone. The Apostle Paul reminds us of this fact: . . . *Though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.*

The Scriptures are very plain that something else, in addition to doing good, is needed in order to have part in the resurrection of the just. We are taught that "to obey is better than sacrifice, and to harken than the fat of rams". Jesus said: . . . *Thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations . . .*

In His final commission to His Disciples, He said: *Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature, He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*

SCRIPTURES ABUNDANTLY CLEAR

The Scriptures make it abundantly clear that in order to arise and sing in the resurrection of the just, one must obey the Gospel of Jesus Christ by Faith, Repentance and Baptism and remain faithful until the end, doing "good works" and keeping His commandments. Other Scriptures seem appropriate:

Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; yea, saith the spirit, that they may rest from their labours and their works do follow them.

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.

Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of everlasting life.

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

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The Gospel News is published monthly by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE. Subscription price is \$6.00 a year. Entered as second class mail at Bridgewater, Mich. under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



The Jaredite People Rebuild

Dear Girls and Boys,

Nearly all the Jaredite nation had been wiped out during the rule of wicked King Heth. When the people refused to listen to the words of the holy prophets and repent of their ways, God cursed the land. The rain stopped falling; poisonous serpents chased the herds of living animals far to the land southward. Until the people repented, there was no food growing, and none to capture.

Every one of King Heth's family perished in the famine except Shez. As the new king, Shez had a difficult job to do. He must rebuild a broken kingdom. Shez called on the Lord to help him. He remembered what God had done years before in bringing the first Jaredites across the ocean. Shez also remembered the destruction of his people when they had become ungodly. He built up a righteous kingdom and walked in the ways of the Lord.

King Shez ruled many years and lived to a very old age. He had many sons and daughters. Everything was not always peaceful for this good man; at one point his son, also named Shez, tried to take over as king. This son was killed by a robber for his great riches.

When King Shez was finally an old, old man, he chose his son, Riplakish, to be the next king of the Jaredite people. Riplakish was a man who loved gold, women, and precious things rather than God. In order to buy even more beautiful things, he forced his people to give him money by taxing them heavily. If anyone could not pay the taxes, or if they refused to, King Riplakish threw them into work prisons. There he built refineries to melt gold, and the prisoners produced the costly gold objects that the king so loved. Riplakish had a fabulous throne and many spacious, large buildings made for him. He cared not at all if his people suffered.

For forty-two years, the people endured this evil man's greed and cruelty before they rebelled. They put the wicked Riplakish to death and drove all of his descendents out of the land.

The people had had enough of unjust kings, taxing them to death and imprisoning them. For many years they chose their own rulers, until a man named Morianton, who was one of the descendents of Riplakish, returned, fought a battle and gained back control of some of the land. Year after year, Morianton continued to fight until he had gained back the whole kingdom.

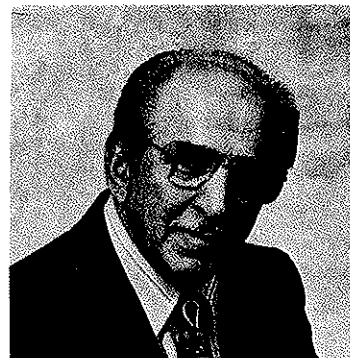
But Morianton was a smart king. He lowered the people's taxes and treated them fairly. They began to feel it was not too bad to have a king again. Once the warfare stopped, King Morianton built up the cities again. In so many ways, this man was a good king who did right by his people. Yet, Morianton did not choose to do right by himself; he never chose to serve God, and in his private life was not God-seeking and did not have that peace and joy.

Thus we see that as the Jaredite nation grew and prospered, the ancient fears of the brother of Jared were fulfilled. He had not wanted the people to set up a government of kings, because kings so often led their people astray. We also see that God blessed His people whenever they called on Him and did their best to humbly serve Him, just as He still does for us today, so many centuries later.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

"It Is Written"

By V. J. Lovalvo, Apostle



SUBJECT: Closed Communion
Continued from last Issue.

When people visit The Church of Jesus Christ and are told that the Lord's Supper, which is going to be administered, is only for baptized members, there is sometimes a negative reaction to this announcement. The question is often asked, why do we have "Closed Communion"? Why do we prohibit other people of Christian persuasion from partaking of the Lord's Supper with us.

"Closed Communion" is not a modern innovation, as it originated with the Church in the Apostolic time and thereafter also. Paul, the Apostle made it very clear when he told the Corinthian saints that "... a man examine himself" before he partakes of the Sacrament of bread and wine. For to partake of it unworthily would be eating and drinking damnation to himself, because he did not discern the Lord's body. The historian, Moshier, writes: "Neither those doing penance, nor those not yet baptized, were allowed to be present at the celebration of this (Lord's Supper) ordinance." (Moshier's Ecclesiastical History, Page 252)

THE LORD'S BODY

The Apostle Paul certainly had a very good reason for exhorting the saints of Corinth to "discern" the Lord's body. Apparently, some did not thoroughly understand the true significance of being part and particle of the body of our Lord Jesus Christ. Discerning the Lord's body means to understand the construction, organization, and government of the Church of whom He was the head. It is recorded, "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the

church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all." (Ephesians 1:22, 23) To the Roman saints, Paul writes, "For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another." (Romans 12:4, 5) It is written also: "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, and through all, and in you all . . . And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the **body** of Christ: . . . That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." (Ephesians 4:4-16) As concerning the body of Christ (the Church), it is also recorded: "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: And those members of the body, which we think to be less honorable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.

For our comely parts have no need; but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular." (I Corinthians 12:12-27)

The above Scriptures sufficiently describe what the body of Christ is. It is the Church, composed of those who took upon them the name of Jesus Christ, by repentance, baptism, and the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost. Therefore, to "discern the body of Christ" means to understand the composition of the Church: its nature and its function, its purpose and its reason for existing.

"Not discerning the Lord's body", simply means that one does not fully comprehend the sanctity, the meaning, nor the spiritual structure and composition of the Church; nor the holiness attributed to the Lord's Supper (Sacrament), which is to be taken with all due honour and respect to the Lord Jesus Christ, and in memory of His body and blood, which was offered as a sacrifice for the human family.

The *Book of Mormon* is very clear on who should partake of the Lord's Supper. Jesus Christ spoke the following words to the Nephites, regarding the participation in the Sacrament of the bread and wine: "And this shall ye always do to those who repent and are baptized in my name; . . . that ye may witness unto the Father that ye do always remember me." (III Nephi 18:11) This answers the question, unequivocally, as to who should partake of the Lord's Supper! He said, ". . . to those that are baptized in my name".

Another salient point to remember is, that by partaking of the Lord's Supper, one is, in fact, acknowledging and assenting that the church, where the Sacrament is being administered, is truly The Church of Jesus Christ. One also is acknowledging that the ministers who are administering it are endowed with the Holy Priesthood, and are authorized to "break bread in remembrance of His body, and offer the wine in remembrance of His blood". The prayer that was offered in the ministering of the Lord's Supper on this land of America among the Nephites is so beautiful and so significant that it is requisite to be

printed. However, the following prayers were not (and are not) intended to be recited verbatim:

"And they did kneel down with the church, and pray to the Father in the name of Christ, saying: Oh God, the Eternal Father, we ask thee in the name of thy Son, Jesus Christ, to bless and sanctify this bread to the souls of all those who partake of it; that they may eat in remembrance of the body of thy Son, and witness unto thee, O God, the Eternal Father, that they are willing to take upon them the name of thy Son, and always remember him, and keep his commandments which he hath given them, that they may always have his Spirit to be with them. Amen." Also concerning the administering of the wine, they prayed thusly, "Behold, they took the cup, and said: O God, the Eternal Father, we ask thee, in the name of thy Son, Jesus Christ, to bless and sanctify this wine to the souls of all those who drink of it, that they may do it in remembrance of the blood of thy Son, which was shed for them; that they may witness unto thee, O God, the Eternal Father, that they do always remember him, that they may have his Spirit to be with them. Amen." (Moroni 4 and 5)

The Disciples of Jesus Christ, on this land, went about (as the book says) baptizing many, many people; and as many as were baptized, their names were recorded among the people of the Church, "that they might be remembered and nourished by the good Word of God". It further says, "And they did meet together oft to partake of bread and wine in remembrance of the Lord Jesus". (Moroni 6:6)

According to the words of Jesus Christ, none were to be administered the bread and wine unless they were baptized in His name. Therefore, without a shadow of a doubt, the Nephites, like the saints in the land of Palestine, had Closed Communion. Consequently, unless one is baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ, and understands the structure, nature, government, and organization of it, and accepts and acknowledges the authority of its ministers who officiate in the ordinance of the Lord's Supper, and also believes and acknowledges that there has been a Restoration of the Gospel and the Church, one cannot, in good conscience, partake of the Sacrament. Also, in partaking of the Lord's Supper, one is acknowledging the divini-

(Continued on Page 8)

ty of The Church of Jesus Christ, restored in these last days, and as the representative of His body.

Closed Communion, therefore, means that only those who are baptized in water, by immersion, and have had "hands laid upon them" for the reception of the Holy Ghost by the men who have divine authority given them of Jesus Christ, may partake of the Lord's Supper.

Visitors at the Sacramental meetings of The Church of Jesus Christ, though they may be devout Christians, are asked to be indulgent with us if they are counselled to refrain from partaking of the Lord's Supper. The Church does not exclude visitors from the Sacrament for an ulterior motive except that it adheres to the written Word of God as recorded in *Bible* and *Book of Mormon*. The Church of Jesus Christ acknowledges the fact that its visitors may be living lives above reproach and their righteousness unquestionable; nor does the Church cast any reflection whatsoever upon their goodness when it restricts the participation of the Communion to its members who have met all the qualifications and requirements as commanded in the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon*.

The Church of Jesus Christ also excludes little children from the Sacramental participation as it believes that little children are alive in Christ and need no baptism. It is written that Christ took little children and blessed them. Nowhere in the *Bible* is there any indication that children are to be baptized. The *Book of Mormon* is very plain on this matter. It reads, "Listen to the words of Christ, your Redeemer, your Lord and your God. Behold, I came into the world not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance; the whole need no physician, but they that are sick; wherefore, little children are whole, for they are not capable of committing sin; wherefore the curse of Adam is taken from them in me, that it hath no power over them . . . and their little children need no repentance neither baptism. But little children are alive in Christ, even from the foundation of the world . . . Behold, I say unto you, that he that supposeth that little children need baptism is in the gall of bitterness and in the bonds of iniquity, for he hath neither faith, hope, nor charity; wherefore, should he be cut off while in the thought, he must go down to hell." (Moroni 8)

If then little children need no baptism,

and are **alive** in Christ, neither are they eligible to partake of the Lord's Supper, for the Sacrament of eating bread in commemoration of His body, and the drinking of wine in commemoration of His blood is a covenant that only those who are baptized in the name of Jesus Christ make to God; and that covenant is, "that they eat in remembrance of His body, and drink in remembrance of His blood; and witness unto the Father that they are willing to take upon them the name of Jesus Christ, His Son, and keep His commandments." Therefore, little children cannot make this kind of covenant or commitment to the Father as there is no sin and/or repentance involved. Only those who are capable of making a commitment to God, the Father, and a covenant with Him to "remember the body and blood of His Son", (after repentance, baptism, and reception of the Holy Ghost) may partake of the Holy Communion.

The Church of Jesus Christ invites all of its friends and visitors to continue to come to all of its services, including the service of the Lord's Supper; extending to them a warm and brotherly welcome. All the Church asks of its visitors is to be patient and indulgent as its members observe "Closed Communion".

Quincy, FL

"Someday the Lord Is Going to Bless You", was the theme that caused the saints to gather in the home of Brother Horace and Sister Yoshi Huggins of the Quincy, Florida Mission. What was the occasion? The occasion was to "bring to mind things that are past and things to come, and to unfold"; to reflect on events that occurred in the life of Sister Margaret Baldwin, as she was made to recount her twenty-seven (27) years baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ. Yes, September 25, 1955 she bore witness and received that blessing, "Someday the Lord Is Going to Bless You".

The children, in their proficient manner, portrayed in a drama the day she was born, some outstanding events of her life in the world, her marriage to Brother Cleveland, her calling into the Church, some experiences, trials, afflictions, also some of the blessings of being a member of The Church of Jesus Christ. Then, "reflecting on things to come", Sister Margaret had a dream: She saw herself standing before the Great Judge of the Quick and Dead. The Judge asked her, "Is your name

Margaret Baldwin?" Trembling before Him, she replied, "Yes". Slowly, yet carefully, the Judge ran His finger down the pages of the large book that was before Him. Anxiously waiting, she watched Him. The Judge then looked up to her announcing with pleasure, "Your name is written here, come on in, come on in." Great relief and joy overcame her soul. Yes, the Lord did bless us all as we brought to mind things that were past in the life of Sister Margaret and reflected on things to come and to unfold. We were all made to rejoice. The song is real, a reality, *For It's Good To Be a Saint of Latter Days*.

After a wonderful blessing, a great feast was served, and the hospitality of our brother and sister reflected the joy of being a saint of the most high God.

Erie, PA

By Stacey Light, Branch Editor

On Sunday, October 10, 1982, the Spirit of God prevailed in the Erie Branch, and we were blessed with a new sister in Christ.

Our morning meeting was opened by Brother Harold Burge, who spoke on Christ's blessing of the little children. He elaborated on the innocence of the little children and the compassion that our Savior has for them.

Following the sermon, Brother Harold's nephew and wife came forward to have their two children blessed in the Church. A beautiful spirit continued through the service. During testimony, Ruth Gehly asked to be baptized. In her testimony, Sister Ruth related that while praying the night before, she had asked the Lord to humble her like a child. Sister Ruth did not know that two children would be blessed in the Branch the following morning. Many of the saints testified of God's blessings in our midst and of the love that we have shared with Sister Ruth since she has been in Erie.

Our meeting was closed, and we gathered back at the church at 4:30 p.m., having allowed enough time for the saints from Fredonia to travel to Erie to share in the baptism. Sister Ruth's husband, Brother Joel, was raised in Fredonia.

Our baptismal site is about 25 minutes from the Branch, so we traveled in a caravan to the waters. Sister Ruth was

baptized by Brother Mark Kovacic, with approximately 40 saints there, both from the Erie Branch and the Fredonia Branch. We reconvened at the Branch for the Laying on of Hands. Sister Ruth was confirmed by Brother Joel's grandfather, Brother Russell Cadman. Many of the saints had the opportunity to testify of God's goodness and blessings.

The Erie Branch is grateful for God's blessings and the outpouring of His Holy Spirit that we have felt. We pray that there are others that have the same desire that our new sister has. "And again I say unto you, ye must repent, and be baptized in my name, and become as a little child, or ye can in nowise inherit the kingdom of God." (III Nephi 11:38)

RED LAKE continued . . .

ourselves, under the direction of Brother Sam Randy; although we have received some well-appreciated help from a few individuals from California and some Navajo friends. We were able to complete the foundation and the concrete floor before bad weather forced us to discontinue our work until spring. At that time, we will need all the help we can get from both skilled and unskilled volunteers to complete the job this year.

2. Summer Community Education Program 7/82-8/82

Last summer, many of our people participated as teachers, babysitters, and/or students in Side by Side's annual community education program. A wide variety of classes and workshops which were offered at the Red Lake Demonstration Farm facilities included baking, cake decorating, ceramics, piano and guitar lessons, sewing, pillow making, and photography. This makes the ninth consecutive year we have been offering these classes, and we are delighted with the continued enthusiastic support we have received from the surrounding community. We were especially pleased by the fact that this was the first year that some of the members of our teaching staff were from the Red Lake Chapter.

3. Eightieth Birthday Celebration.

One of the highlights of the past six months turned out to be Sister Nancy Watson's 80th birthday celebration, which was at the Calabrese's home. Sister Nancy, who is the oldest member of our Branch, is the only representative of her generation we have; however,

she still seems to have enough youthful vitality to keep up with the best of us. Her sense of humor and remarkable memory have remained unabated through the years. Several of our Navajo friends came to honor "Grandma" (as she is affectionately called by everyone here). As the evening drew to a close, we formed a circle and Kee Wauneka, a Navajo Minister from Red Lake, was asked to offer the prayer. As we listened to him pray, the impact of what was taking place began to affect us each very deeply—Mr. Wauneka was crying out to the Lord on behalf of **our** Church as though it were his own! He was earnestly petitioning God that He would use us to help recover the lost sheep of Israel. We could feel the barriers between us breaking down as the Spirit of God flowed from vessel to vessel leaving no one untouched. We all embraced each other in the love of God realizing that something very special had taken place that night.

4. Jail Ministry

We are still continuing to minister to the needs of the prisoners at the Window Rock jail. For nearly nine years, we have been making these weekly visits, which have enabled us to come into contact with hundreds of the Seed of Joseph at a time when they are very receptive to the Word of God.

5. Thanksgiving Banquet

On Thanksgiving weekend, we held our 10th Annual Thanksgiving Banquet. We were very encouraged by the largest turnout of guests from the Red Lake community we have ever had for these dinners.

6. Christmas Activities

Once again, the Christmas season found us all very busy with holiday preparations. One Sunday, a group of us went to the local hospital to carol and distribute gifts to the patients. We also went to our local Senior Citizens Center at the invitation of the Program Director to bring a bit of Christmas cheer there as well.

7. Tragic Accident

This year, our holiday season was marred by a terrible tragedy that touched many of us very deeply. This is because the Ashley family, who are close friends of ours, were involved in a major auto accident only a few miles from the Church property. The mother and two children were killed, as well as

all five young men in the other car. Only the father and one son survived the crash. The driver of the other car had been drinking heavily. What added to Mr. Ashley's grief was the fact that he had already lost two younger brothers in a similar accident, also alcohol related. A couple of ministers visited him at the hospital and anointed him as well as his son. We also attended the funeral and reception and offered our assistance to the family.

This tragedy underscores a harsh reality of life here on the reservation. The human suffering related directly and indirectly to alcoholism is incomprehensible. Virtually every family has been hurt very deeply by it. They have lost loved ones, families have been broken up, lives destroyed. The cost of drinking has been very high indeed. This is one problem area that the Church is definitely going to have to address in our efforts with the Seed of Joseph.

Once again, we would like to convey thanks to those of you who have contributed financially, or otherwise, to our Church building project. Your support for the work here means more to us than you can imagine. Please continue to pray for us that soon we will have a permanent place of worship to invite our friends and associates to; where they can sit at the Lord's Table and feast along with the rest of us from God's abundance.

Muncey, Ontario

By Ilene Coppa

These past several weeks we have experienced unseasonably wet weather. This time last year we were blanketed with 70 inches of snow. This Christmas season our land is oozing with water and our rivers are swollen over their banks. Whatever the season, the Lord still calls, and it has proven true once again as a witness to the believer and unbeliever alike.

At 7:00 a.m., we left home to travel the 105 miles to the Muncey Mission. The station wagon was laden with gifts from the employees of the Comerica Bank of Detroit, being sent our Muncey children. Brothers Anthony Scolaro and Silverio Coppa have been sharing the Muncey work with Brother Rodney Dyer for sometime now. What a delightful, refreshing, rewarding work it has become.

Today was only different from other Sabbath Days in that we were traveling together and delivering gifts. Upon our arrival we had a hot cup of coffee, and we were set for the day.

The bus arrived on time with the children, and our Sunday School classes convened, after which the children were given gifts, candy, and oranges. The sparkle and excitement was sent over the children in a wave of delight.

Morning service was opened with Brother Anthony speaking from Revelations 4:20, "I stand at the door and knock." Brother Silverio Coppa followed in the same theme.

After opening for testimony, Shirley Grosbeck stood and said, "I don't know if this is how, or the place, but I want to be baptized." Shirley has been a regular visitor on Sundays for well over a year.

We went to check our usual point of baptism along the Thames River, and found the water was very high, over the banks, and rushing by with great speed. Next we went to the piece of property, owned by our Church, known as the Muncey farm. There the river was over its banks, but much quieter. The water was about 50 feet down an embankment, very steep and muddy. Even with all this, everybody present went to the river, young and old alike.

It was beautiful. Shirley's husband, George, and her two children assisted her down the embankment where Brother Silver officiated with Brother Tony assisting.

When we arrived back at the church building, Brother Tony took care of the confirmation of our new Sister Shirley, and another soul has taken upon her the name of Christ.

We are most happy to welcome Shirley and will help her in her chosen road wherever or when she needs us. Thank you Lord, for we all were refreshed and renewed once again in Your service.

Modesto, CA

By Pam Cole, Branch Editor

Brothers and Sisters, I know that the Lord is alive and working in our lives. I thank God for this. I'd like to take this time to update you on what's going on in the Modesto Branch.

On May 10, 1982, Brother John and Sister Pauline Dulisse from San Diego spent a day with us. All the way from the Sunshine State (Florida), Sister Diana Salinas shared some of that sunshine. Also visiting from Lindsay Branch were Brother John Vela, Brother Tony Picciuto, and Sister Cheryl Cervone from Anaheim.

On June 14, Brother Dan Picciuto was ordained into the office of teacher by Brother Joe Lovalvo. His feet were washed by Brother Mark Randy.

Spending a few weeks of August here in Modesto were Brother Lou Vitto, his wife, Sister Shirley, and their daughter and son, Sister Karyn and Greg, from Sterling Heights, Michigan. Also from Michigan, were Brother Paul and Sister Mary Vitto of Detroit. From Windsor, Canada, we had Sister Pauline Rinaldi and her daughter, Mary Lynn.

On August 12 and 19, consecutive Wednesday nights, Brother Tony Picciuto held seminars on "Family Life". Brother Tony did a wonderful job. He is really blessed with the ability to speak and counsel. He brought out how the family unit should work together, and could work together. It was enlightening to all those who attended.

Brother Walter Laird from McKees Rocks, PA spent Sunday, August 16, here in our Branch. Also here from the East were Brothers Jim and Doug Hufnagle of Cleveland, Ohio. We thank God for these young brothers and their sincere desire to serve the Lord.

Modesto membership has gone up one since California Campout. Brother Dan Picciuto, Jr. made a covenant with God to serve Him all the days of his life. He was baptized on August 29 by Brother Emmett Hood and confirmed by Brother Frank Ciotti. God bless our new brother.

San Diego, CA

By Violet Thomas

Greetings from San Diego! God is truly good to us. His blessings are with us, and our praise and thanksgiving are all unto Him. God has called two souls into our midst. Sister Rhonda Ross, living in California, was called into the fold of God at our California Area Campout. Also, Brother Darron Surdock asked for his baptism at the end of a Sunday meeting. Brother Joseph Calabrese was

visiting with us the Sunday Brother Darron asked for his baptism.

We thank God for the many visiting elders and brothers and sisters to San Diego. We are miles apart, but it seems as though we really aren't that far away. The same spirit prevails, and it's always such a blessing.

God is so good. We can't thank Him enough! He recently spared the life of one of our elders. Brother Lou Ciccati was working at his barber shop when he was held up at knife point. He cried out to God in prayer before his assailants bound, gagged and robbed him. They then fled the shop, leaving Brother Lou to try and free himself enough to get help. God is alive! He listens to our every prayer.

Brother Jon and Sister Pam Molinat recently had a beautiful answered prayer. Brother Jon was finishing his term in the Navy and was concerned about employment after his discharge. He tried to find employment and couldn't find anything. He asked the Branch to pray. Glory to God, the answer was there. From San Diego, he went to Chicago for an interview. The job will be in San Diego. God is there to help. What is impossible to man is possible to God.

San Diego hosted the California Area Ladies Circle Conference. The peace and blessings of God prevailed. Our theme was "Time". We had all types of clocks on all the tables with flower arrangements. Now is the **time** of the Lord. **Time** is God's gift to each of us. **Time** passes but once. Making use of **time** was the theme for the entire weekend, and we thank God for our sisters' efforts.

We thank God for the recent visit of our General Church President, Brother Dominic Thomas, as well as the First and Second Counselors, Brothers Nick Pietrangelo and James Lovalvo, along with the California District President, Brother Leonard Lovalvo. We enjoyed their preaching and felt the sweet spirit that only God can give.

We recently celebrated Brother Alfred Dominico's 50th anniversary in the Church. It seems this year marks quite a few brothers and sisters reaching that point: Sister Lena Liberato, Brother William DiFranco, and Sister Josephine Dominico. We thank God for these and others who are the pillars of the Church and have beautiful testimonies to the greatness of God.

Last month (November), the San Diego Branch hosted a reception for Brother Domenic and Sister Jennie Castelli, honoring them on their 60th wedding anniversary. Congratulations and God's blessings to them.

On Sunday, December 26, we were so happy to go to the water's edge and witness a beautiful scene. Arturo Tostada, a Spanish gentleman, was baptized. It was the first time I witnessed two elders officiating a baptism. Brother Arturo is a large man, and our two elders, Brothers Paul and Tom Liberto, officiated. It was such a moving scene! The waters were still, and the sun shone so brightly in the blue, blue sky. The three walked into the water arm in arm in their white coveralls. Comments from the shore—"Their outfits were exceptionally white." "Such a Holy Season when the world is celebrating the birth of our Saviour, a soul is born in Christ." It was a special feeling.

May the New Year bring many souls to Christ, and may the New Year also be a beginning of great things for our Church!

Yucaipa, CA

By Josie Genaro

Yucaipa wishes to introduce and welcome our newcomers. Many have passed and gone, and we miss them dearly because of their many experiences they've shared of years past. As we hold onto the old and cherish the bridges put up to help us cross over, we are excited about the new events that are happening.

We welcome Brother Bill Auburn and Brother Randy Lee into the Yucaipa Mission and into the family of Christ. Brother Bill was baptized at our August Campout on August 8 by Brother Dwayne Jordan and confirmed by Brother Mark Randy. Brother Bill has been attending our mission for the past two years with his wife, Kathy, and son, Nicholas. Our prayers have been for them, and we thank God for touching their hearts, and we continue to pray for his family that someday we may share a spiritual family as well.

Brother Randy was baptized at our Anaheim Conference on October 3, 1982 by Brother Leonard Lovalvo and confirmed by Brother Walt Jankowsky. Brother Randy has been attending the

Yucaipa Mission for several months from the Palm Springs area. His search for guidance in his life has led him to read the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon* with great interest. We thank God for directing him and for placing a desire in his heart to serve Him. We know that the road ahead is rough and long, but the blessings we receive far surpass the bumps and smooth the road as we go. We thank God for our new converts and trust that God will use them in His work according to His will. We thank God that He has allowed our older saints of Yucaipa to witness our new members come in, for this has been their desire and prayer. We continually seek God's guidance and direction and praise Him for His love.

Detroit, Branch 1

By Diana Stigleman

On Sunday, November 9, the morning was crisp displaying a glorious, azure sky. As we assembled in God's house, we should have already known that indeed it was to be a special day.

Sister Anne Lovalvo from Branch 4 was invited to set the table for the Lord's Supper. This was followed by a short period of community singing, after which Brother Frank Vitto, from Branch 3, was asked to open our meeting in prayer. Our brother's prayer expressed thankfulness to God for His love and strength He has given to carry on.

Brother V. James Lovalvo was our first speaker for the morning service. However, preceding his sermon, Brother Jim honored us by singing a hymn entitled *The Angels Up In Heaven Must Have Cried*.

Following Brother Jim's lovely hymn, he told of how his cup was filled to overflowing in seeing all of us. His eyes tenderly beheld the congregation as his thoughts drifted back just a few months short of 50 years—the time when he was first baptized in the Church. In the month of March, at 21 years of age, Brother Jim made his commitment to serve the Lord.

Brother Jim then approached his sermon by reading from Moroni 10. He emphasized the portions of scripture declaring "be perfect" and "deny all ungodliness" adding "even as Christ was perfect". Brother Jim extended an

invitation to all those who had not yet committed themselves, "Come to Christ and be part of that perfection".

After reemphasizing the importance of leading clean and spiritually productive lives, Brother Jim read from Matthew 11: "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

With vigor and the sound of urgency in his voice, Brother Jim once again extended an invitation to come learn of Christ. He told us, all men come under the condemnation of sin. There's not one person in the universe who is not burdened with trials, poverty or illness. Doctors' offices are filled with those seeking help. Little do they realize that there is someone greater than any doctor or psychiatrist. And it's **free!**

Brother Jim then spoke to the young people and those who had not yet accepted Christ. He said, "A king was willing to give all. What are you willing to give up for the Lord? Are you willing to give up your sins and transgressions?"

Going further, he stated that God does not ask you to give up your possessions, but only that you walk in the shadow of Jesus Christ.

In his closing remarks, Brother Jim directed his message to those already committed to doing God's work. He reminded us of what a great responsibility we have as we witness to the world; how also, the Church must be presented whole and pure in the sight of God.

Brother Tony Lovalvo, visiting from Branch 4, followed. His words to us were few, but equally as profound as Brother Jim's. He warned that this life is a time for preparation in meeting God, "Do not procrastinate the day of your salvation. Perform your labor now, while it is light."

Brother Tony warned also that the same spirit which possesses us now will possess us in the next world. He followed that statement with this question, "Will the devil have final power over you?"

Brother Tony told us that he will never be sorry with his decision to follow Christ, adding, "I would never deny the glory that fell upon me that

day".

Brother Peter Scolaro, our Presiding Elder, asked that the Lord's Supper be administered after which he extended visiting Brother Sam Randy an opportunity to give his testimony. Brother

Sam spoke very affectionately of his heritage in the Church, beginning with his grandparents to his present generation. Then our brother expressed to us how it was a most exciting time to be living in. Particularly, he said, seeing the work being done out West.

As Brother Peter made his closing remarks, he noted that there are many present who have not yet let the Lord into their hearts. "It's a good move," he said. He chose to serve the Lord 19½ years ago and feels it was the best decision he ever made.

* WEDDINGS *

KRICKLER—COLLIS

Mr. Christopher Krickler and Sister Lesley Collis were united in holy matrimony on October 9, 1982 in Arizona by Brother George Johnson.

Musical selections were rendered by Sam Hemmings, Donna Ciccatti and Michael Krickler.

SNYDER—DIVINS

Mr. William A. Snyder, Jr. and Miss Bobbi Divins were joined in marriage in Glassport, PA on September 18, 1982 by Brother David Nolfi.

PICCIUTO—LOVALVO

Brother Mark Picciuto and Sister Karen Lovalvo were united in marriage on Saturday, August 1, 1982 in Modesto, CA.

Brother Leonard Lovalvo, the bride's father, officiated at the wedding ceremony, and he was assisted by Brother Anthony Picciuto, the groom's uncle. Musical selections were presented by Sister Rose Lovalvo and Jennette York. Pianist was Lois Martinez.

The newlyweds are residing in Modesto.

New Arrivals

Congratulations are in order to the proud parents for the following new members of their families:

Jordan Paul to Steve and Kathy Champine of Sterling Heights, MI;

Gina Marie to Dominic David and Deborah Lyn DiBattista of Tampa, FL;

Karen Jennifer to Larry and Cindy Henderson of Windsor, Ontario;

David Michael to David and Carrie Gessner Hornfeck of Glassport, PA;

Rachael Ann to Richard and Bernice Wagner of Glassport, PA;

James Jesse to James and Nina Fiddler of Glassport, PA;

Tabitha Nicole to James and Donna Kinser of Phoenix, AZ;

Jared Ray to Ray and Cindy Bright of Vanderbilt, PA;

Michael Allen to Allen and Judy Gill of Vanderbilt, PA;

Milford Wade III to Milford and Hope Eutsey of Vanderbilt, PA.

Children Blessed

The following children were blessed on August 29, 1982 at the Glassport, PA Branch of the Church:

Renee Diane Gessner was blessed by Brother Alma Nolfi;

Jennifer Lynn Gessner was blessed by Brother John Ali.

Both are the daughters of Edward and Diane Humphrey Gessner.

OBITUARIES

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

ELI JACKMAN

Mr. Eli Jackman of the Aliquippa, PA Branch passed away on January 14, 1983. He was the son of the late Brother Anthony and Sister Philomena Jackman. Surviving are two brothers and one sister.

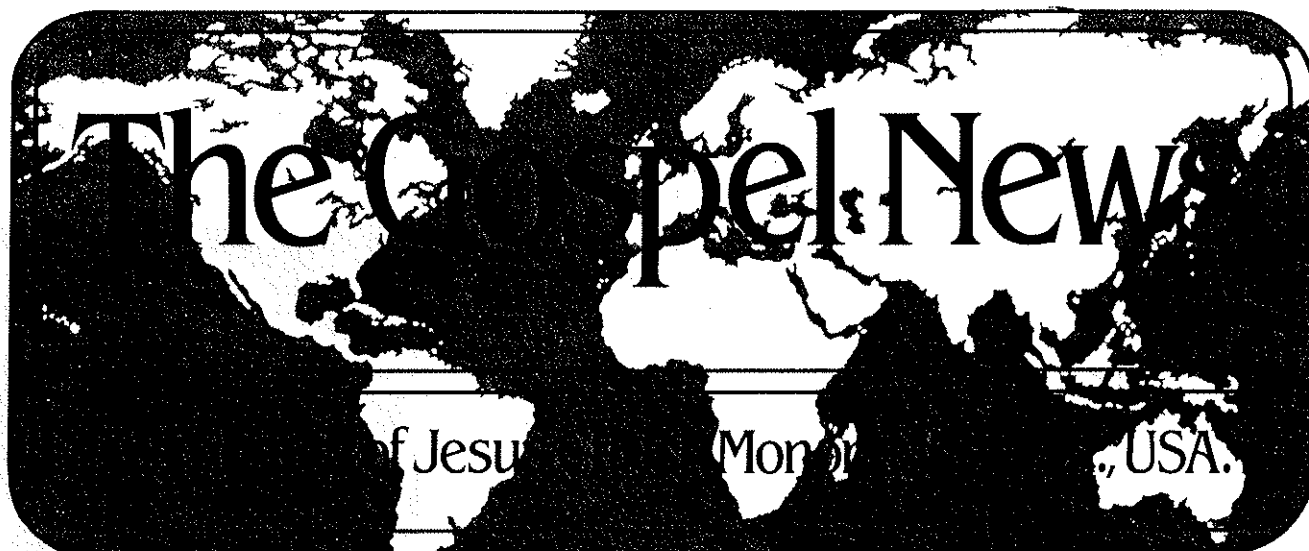
Brothers Thomas Ross and John Ross conducted the funeral services. He will be missed by his family and all the brothers and sisters of Aliquippa.

GEORGE SPATA

Brother George Spata passed on to his eternal reward on July 9, 1982. He was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on November 22, 1953. He held the office of deacon. Brother George attended the Anaheim Branch and then the Yucaipa Mission, where he held the first meetings of that area in his home.

The funeral services were conducted by Brothers Frank Genaro and Rusty Heaps.

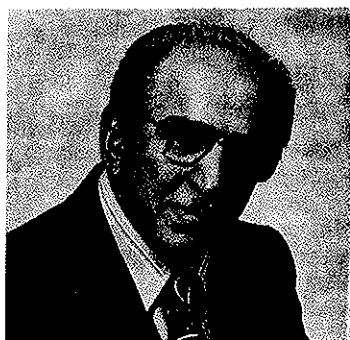
Brother Spata radiated a smile and love about him continually that will be treasured in many memories.



April, 1983

Volume 39, No. 4

"It Is Written"



By V. J. Lovalvo, Apostle

This will be the first in a series of articles on Alma 5 in the *Book of Mormon*.

In the 5th chapter, Alma asks more than forty questions. I will attempt to cover all of them by the help of God.

Numbers 1-3: "... have you sufficiently retained in remembrance the captivity of your fathers? Yea, and have you sufficiently retained in remembrance His mercy and long-suffering toward them? And moreover, have ye sufficiently retained in remembrance that He has delivered their souls from hell?"

The above chapter deals with a multitude of subject matter which should interest the reader, as the questions are applicable today as they were in Alma's day.

He first reminds the people of Zarahemla of the goodness of God in delivering those who lived in the land

of Mormon out of the hands of the wicked king Noah; then, how they were brought into bondage by the Lamanites, and eventually delivered from them.

The above is a three-part question: one, a reminder of their fathers' captivity; two, a reminder of God's mercy towards them; and three, the deliverance of their souls from hell.

Alma rehearses to them the events which brought their fathers out of bondage, physically and spiritually, by the word of God delivered to them by holy men such as Abinadi and Alma, his father. And how they, by faith in the Almighty, were "loosed from the bands of death and the chains of hell".

After reminding them of all these things, Alma asks whether they are "born of God"; "... received His image in their countenances"; "... experienced a mighty change in their hearts"; and, do they "exercise faith in God"; do they "look by faith to the resurrection?"

Let us return to Alma's three questions about "retaining in remembrance the captivity of their fathers, etc."

Many people can, in some measure, relate to these questions, for all, I dare say, have, to a degree, been held captive by the sins of the flesh; encircled by the chains of hell; and then, by the grace of God, have been delivered from these bonds to rejoice in the Lord. However, as is the nature of man, there are times when this spiritual deliverance is forgotten, and one becomes lackadaisical in the service of the Master until one is reminded by the word of God, or His ministers must awaken

them to a remembrance of His mercy and kindness.

Serving the Lord is a never-ending experience. One cannot let his guard down for even a moment, because this is what the enemy of the soul is waiting for. The greatest triumph of the evil one is to make the servants of God forget their allegiance to Him; to become lax in their worship; to become lukewarm in their service to the Master. Everyone, without exception, has, at one time or another, become aware that his service to God is lacking in zeal, in intensity, and in perseverance.

Several things happen to bring about a spiritual lethargy: indifference, rationalization for what was allowed, lack of fasting and prayer, lack of reading and studying the word of God, and allowing the mundane things of the world to attract and take hold in ones life. These things bring about a spiritual sleep by which the unsuspecting is kept in a mesmerized state by that old serpent, the father of lies, who soothes the conscience with a false and atonal lullaby until one is completely in his grasp and under his control.

But, thanks be to the Almighty, there comes a day of "awakening", a freeing of the bonds which held us, a liberation from the "chains of hell" by the inimitable way that God has to free us. And, once again the fire that had been allowed to dwindle to a small ember is ablaze by His Holy Spirit.

Therefore, the saints of God have to be alert and watchful, for Satan can, as the Lord told Peter, "sift us as wheat".

(Continued on Page 2)

Let no one ever think that he can outsmart the evil one. He knows all the tricks and all the ways to beguile the unwary, even to showing himself as an angel to deceive, if possible, the very elect.

Then, if the saints have been "born of God", "received His image in their countenances", "experienced a mighty change in their hearts", "exercised faith in God", and "looked by faith to the resurrection", let us be equal to the task before us and keep the commandments of the Lord, be simple in worship of God, and eschew that which has even the appearance of evil. For ours is only a "reasonable service" to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Master.

Ohio District Conference

The Ohio District Conference was held on February 5 and 6 at Youngstown, Ohio. Sunday morning, Brother Anthony Corrado, Apostle of The Church of Jesus Christ, reminded us of the Day of Pentecost, Acts 5:12-15. These verses record how the Spirit of God came upon the apostles of old, and Brother Corrado pointed out that they were **united** and in **one accord**. The greater the unity, the greater the blessing—this is what we must strive for in the Church. We must fast and pray in order to get closer to God. We must serve God in spirit and in truth and live righteous lives. If we do these things, miracles, healings and gifts will come forth. Our brother again reminded us that we **must** be a united people, striving for the greater blessings.

Brother Russ Martorana followed, stating that like Hezekiah, we must serve God, so that when we call upon His name, He will answer. Brother Martorana said that the sword of justice is hanging over the head of this country—we must make a decision to stand up and serve God today. We must unite ourselves to the Body and work that we might lengthen the arm of God, not shorten it.

Brother Henry Cardillo then reaffirmed the great responsibility of the priesthood of The Church of Jesus Christ. He emphasized that we must restore our souls daily in the footsteps of our Lord and Saviour. We must not let the scales of the evil one fall upon our eyes.

Brother Frank Giovannone followed with a number of beautiful experiences from his own life and how the Lord had healed his body many times. He stated that we must place our faith and trust in the Lord, just as the woman who baked the cake for Elijah; her barrel of meal and cruse of oil never went empty.

Brother Mitch Edwards then stated that we should be thankful for this Church—one which doesn't preach religion, but salvation. He said that we have all been called into the Church for a purpose, but we must show our Lord that we are worthy of His mercy and protection through our **love** for one another.

Brother Vince Gibson told us that the Ohio District missionary efforts have reached Omaha/Bedford, Nebraska, South Bend, Indiana, Cincinnati, Ohio, the Carolina's and that our brothers have planned to visit Alabama this month. We are truly thankful for the efforts of our brothers in the District!

Brother Elmer Santilli, President of the District, gave a few closing remarks, and as we closed our meeting singing *The Songs of Zion*, Brother Frank Altomare spoke under the Spirit of God: "Thank God for these wonderful songs that God gave the Church, and my sister, (turning to Sister Arlene Bufington) may God bless you and He shall give you more saith God. These are of God, of God on His throne."

The Spirit of God was truly felt this day in all that was said and done. We will surely pray that we would be a more united people, that we might move the hand of God and that we as a Church would further the Kingdom of our Lord here below.

Easter Is A Happy Day

*In April's blossoming we find
Awareness of new life;
Forgetfulness of winter's cold,
Of worries and of strife.*

*The lily breaks the cold hard sod
And in white beauty sings
Its silent praise to Christ, our Lord,
The Risen King of Kings!*

*No worldly problems at this time
Can dim the Christian's way,
For God's triumphant glory floods
Our souls, each Easter Day!*

Esther B. Heins

50th Anniversaries

By Rosanne Scolaro



Brother Concetto, Sister Rose and Brother Joe

The saints of Detroit, Branch 1 have had much to celebrate and much to be grateful for in recent months.

In the month of September, we honored Brothers Concetto Alessandro and Joseph Castelli, and Sister Rose Alessandro, as they marked 50 years of service in the Gospel. In their testimonies, their experiences, and their works down through the years, God's spirit truly has been evident in their lives. As a young person, I can reflect upon the influence these three individuals have had on my spiritual life, and thank God for the fine example He gives us in our brothers and sisters.

Each has brought something special to the Gospel. Brother Concetto stands out in his service as an evangelist strong in the word, firm in his faith, truly a pillar. His testimony (which can be found in The Church History Book) is one we at Branch 1 never tire of hearing. Brother Joe never fails in sharing his testimony of God's goodness and mercy. His work as a teacher of the Church has always been accompanied by a humble and gentle spirit. Sister Rose is a beautiful example of a sister who has truly been a worker in the Gospel. Her generosity has always been displayed lovingly and quietly. Although she has been greatly afflicted in recent years, she never complains, but gladly offers a cheerful smile to lift someone else up.

It is beautiful to reflect upon the perfect order of God in how He chooses such unique personalities and brings them together to become the body of Christ. We at Branch 1 pray for many more years of shared service with these pillars of the Church.

We are also grateful for the new faces that come to worship with us. After seven weeks among our people, Brother Jack Apollonio committed his life to the Lord. He was baptized December 19 by Brother Jerry Benyola and confirmed by Brother Peter Scolaro. Brother Jack testifies that it was the love of the saints which drew him to the Church. It is our prayer that the Lord would bless our brother in his new life.

Most recently, we rejoice as still another soul has come into the fold. During District Conference on February 13, Lisa DiFalco requested baptism. Sister Lisa is a perfect example of a young person who, having been raised in the Gospel, has chosen to simply obey the call in her youth. She was baptized by her uncle, Brother Sam DiFalco, and confirmed by Brother Louis Pietrangelo. May the Lord bless her with great energy and enthusiasm as she desires to do His will.

And so we thank God for the old and the new. It is wonderful to see those who have remained firm in the Gospel for over 50 years and to see also that the Church continues to grow. All thanks be to God!

A Comforting Experience

By Paul D'Amico, Apostle

On the night of January 4, 1983, when I was taken to the hospital because I had become ill that morning, I had a wonderful dream.

I dreamed I saw Paradise from here on earth. Many of the saints were there, among whom I saw my parents and brother, Alfred. Suddenly, a public announcement was made that Brother Paul D'Amico was coming to Paradise. Everyone was happy to hear this; but then another announcement was made that The Church of Jesus Christ on earth was requesting that an extension be granted because, as the message read, "We need him here." This

message was brought to two personages dressed in white—the Father and the Son. After a short consultation with each other, they sent a message to earth: "Extension granted to Brother Paul D'Amico." At this point I awoke.

I am grateful to God for sparing my life at this time, and though I had a setback, the Lord is still helping me. I know it's because of the prayers of the saints in my behalf that I am improving with His help. I want to extend my most heartfelt thanks to all of you for your prayers, calls, and lovely get well cards and your thoughts of me in all ways.

Please continue to remember me, because my desire is to work for the good of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. May God bless you all and richly reward you for your kindnesses.

Note of Thanks

I want to thank all my wonderful brothers, sisters and friends for your prayers, love, cards and calls. Your thoughtfulness has been a source of strength during my illness and will continue to be as we strive to live daily in the Lord. Please continue to remember me in prayer. My prayer is that God will bless each of you most abundantly.

Sister Joanne Frammolino
Detroit Inner-City Branch

We wish to thank the many brothers and sisters, the Ladies Circles and MBA's for their many cards and words of encouragement. Please continue to remember us in your prayers.

Brother Bob and Sister Wilda
Collison and Family
Fort Pierce Branch

I wish to thank everyone who sent cards and flowers and called me during my recent hospitalization. Most of all, I am thankful for all the prayers in my behalf, for the Lord was merciful unto me once again. Please continue to pray for me.

Sister Nancy Ensana,
Lake Worth Branch

I would like to thank all of my beloved brothers and sisters of The Church of Jesus Christ for their concern, cards and prayers during my recent sickness and operation. I also give thanks to our Heavenly Father and His beloved Son Jesus for the wonderful love and the miracle they performed upon me. I love all the saints very much, and your thoughtfulness was deeply appreciated.

Sister Rose Rogolino
Ft. Pierce Branch

Our Women Today

General Ladies Uplift Circle Memorial Fund

The General Ladies Uplift Circle established a Memorial Fund in June of 1960. The late Brother William H. Cadman had felt the need of a home for the aged brothers and sisters when his wife, Sister Sadie, passed away in 1959.

Anyone interested in donating toward this worthwhile fund may do so. If you would like to make a contribution in memory of a deceased member of your family, relative or friend, please mail your donation to:

Miss Dorcas Rossi
Memorial Fund Treasurer
822 Monaca Road
Monaca, PA 15061

At the present time, the contributions are kept in a savings account, and we also have two certificates in escrow.

We may see the fruition of this fund in the future, providing there will be sufficient funds to eventually build a home, with the approval of the Church.

May God bless you for your continued interest in the home for the aged.

"Many ideas grow better when transplanted into another mind than the one where it sprang up."

Oliver Wendell Holmes

Branch and Mission News

Memorizing the Scriptures

By Rosemary Scalise

Bell, CA

This article is being written as a friendly challenge to any member of the Church (or to any person for that matter) in regards to the memorizing of the word of God.

How many scriptures can you quote? Do you read the word of God and try to memorize it, or do you just forget it? How important is the word of God to you? Are you able to defend the faith of the Church by the written word.

Here are a few scriptures showing the importance of the word of God: Psalms 119:11, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."; Jeremiah 20:9, "... his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, ..."; John 17:17, "Thy word is truth."; Colossians 3:16, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom."; Isaiah 40:8, "The word of God shall stand forever."; Hebrews 4:12, "For the word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword."

A few years ago, Brother Harry Marshall (then of the Anaheim Branch) was challenged by our late Brother James Heaps to memorize some scriptures. Brother Harry took up the challenge and started studying and memorizing. When he was through, Brother Harry had memorized the entire book of Hebrews.

Just recently, Brother Harry once again jogged his memory and recited this book once again for the members of Bell Branch, one chapter at a time every Sunday for thirteen weeks. He commenced with chapter one on Sunday, October 17, 1982, and ended with chapter 13 on Sunday, January 16, 1983.

Brother Harry is sending this challenge out, not to see if you can equal him or do better, but to get you to read

the word of God and to be well prepared to defend the faith. Jesus had to defend Himself against the wiles of the devil by saying to him, "It is written". We, too, must say to the world, "It is written", so that we can have a basis for our cause. The Church of Jesus Christ is founded on the scriptures, and if we are to tell the world of the Restored Gospel, we must know where to find the proof. We must be able to tell them that an angel flew in the midst of heaven having the Everlasting Gospel. Jesus said in John 5:39, "Search the scriptures for in them ye think ye have eternal life and it is they that testify of me."

If you would like to write to Brother Harry Marshall and ask how he accomplished such a feat (memorizing the entire book of Hebrews) his address is 11307 Henshaw, Whittier, CA 90604.

May God bless all our brothers and sisters with much knowledge and understanding.

Sterling, MI

By Hazel Zoltek, Branch Editor

Sunday evening, November 7, Brother Jim Loyalvo was with us. Every Branch in the Michigan-Ontario District was represented, along with Ohio and California.

Brother Jim sang *Fill My Cup Lord*, and prayer was offered by Brother Nick Pietrangelo.

Brother Jim chose Matthew 4:1-11 as his text, in which Satan tried to tempt Jesus after He had fasted forty days and forty nights and was in a weakened condition, and He hungered. Brother Jim said for the baptized members to listen, to keep their eyes open, and for the unbaptized, their hearts as well. The evil forces will always try to tempt us in our weakest moment. The Devil knew Jesus was the Son of God, but he thought since Jesus was weak and hungry, He might forget. There are two elements here: the physical as opposed to the spiritual. We have to have food for our bodies, but Jesus told Satan, we do not live by bread alone.

Some people seek riches, thinking this will solve all their problems; but the rich man in the *Bible*, in his greed,

wanted more, and God told him that tonight his soul would be required of him. Is there a price tag on the soul? What will you give in exchange for your soul? The rich man looks no better in death than the poor man; death equalizes them. If you want to follow Jesus, you must have the desire to seek after something spiritual. You must remember there is no guarantee of a tomorrow. The word almost means not sure—it should not be in our vocabulary. Now is the time to make your confession to God.

Jesus told Satan that it was written that you should not tempt the Lord, thy God. If Jesus had given in to the Devil, He would have been the loser and the Devil would have been the victor. Jesus wants us to serve Him; but the Devil will cheat, lie, do anything to get us to listen to him. He wanted Jesus to worship him, then he could say, "You yielded to me."

Baptism is necessary for the remission of our sins. We are buried in a liquid grave and arise in the likeness of God. When the Devil caused the woman to go into the wilderness for 1,260 years, a famine came, not of bread, but of the Word of God; His spirit was no longer here. Then sprinkling was adopted in lieu of immersion. A little dirt put on a casket does not cover it; it has to be covered completely. So it is with baptism. The Gospel was restored when the angel flew in the midst of heaven. God restored His word that we might be saved, not almost, not tomorrow, but tonight. Today is the day of your salvation. To be healed, to have sight restored is wonderful, but the greatest of all is when a man goes down into the waters and his soul is healed. Tonight is God's tomorrow. If you come to Him now, you will be in God's tomorrow.

We sang *For Those Tears I Died*, and Brother Dominic Thomas spoke to us, saying Brother Jim had been a great influence in many of the lives in this Church. He had been with them at their first conference, their first fast and prayer service, even their first broadcast. He said he had often wondered how a man like Brother Jim could have given up a brilliant career in which he could have gained much wealth. He gave it all up for this Church. How tremendous, how wonderful, the impact of The Church of Jesus Christ can be. Brother Jim is a gifted individual, chosen by God.

(Continued on Page 7)

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The Gospel News is published monthly by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE. Subscription price is \$6.00 a year. Entered as second class mail at Bridgewater, Mich. under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Giving of Yourself

By Mark Randy, Guest Editorialist

Because God's loving kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise the Lord while I live.

The person who is wrapped in self, often will push and shove. He doesn't know his greatest need is love.

The giving a little of yourself for a righteous cause is of greater value than the giving of your silver and gold. It will enrich the kingdom of God and builds stronger temples and more enduring homes than precious stones.

A PERFECT GIFT

The giving of material things is of great value, but the giving of yourself to the service of others is a perfect gift, though often overlooked, unnoticed, or unspoken. The many little moments and the hours spent to visit, to comfort, to care and help, out of true intent of heart, build a lasting friendship. Giving to our children money and gifts will be wasted when we fail to give a little of our time to them, sharing our thoughts with them, our ideas and our affection.

No matter how busy we can be, we must find a few moments of quiet, whisper a few words of friendship. This will be of more value than all the gifts we give. "Where have I failed that my son should be as a stranger to me," said a father to a friend. "You are always too busy to spend a few moments with him. He does not know you," answered his friend.

INTEREST AND CARE

Have you thought, that could also be applied to us as ministers if we do not find some time to share a little of our life with our people in the quietness of their homes and speak softly to them and listen to them with interest and care? Perhaps this is what Paul meant when he wrote to the Corinthians, "Though you have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have you not many fathers." Would we not rather be fathers that care enough, than of the ten thousand instructors?

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The words of good King Benjamin are most appropriate here:

Behold, I say unto you that because I said unto you that I had spent my days in your service, I do not desire to boast, for I have only been in the service of God.

And behold, I tell you these things that ye may learn wisdom; that ye may learn that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God. Mosiah 2:16, 17

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



What Happened to the Jaredite Nation?

Dear Girls and Boys,

In the Book of Ether we learn that the Jaredite people grew in number until they covered the entire land northward, the land above the narrow neck of land that separates what we call South America from Mexico and North America. Where did all these thousands of people vanish to, and what caused their disappearance?

First we must remember that this land is a "Promised Land", God's own special land that is given to those who serve Him. It is a land choice above all others, a land rich in minerals and climate. God told the brother of Jared that He would give this land only to a righteous people. When the people of the land stopped serving Him, they would be wiped off the land and replaced by a people who would serve Him.

When the Jaredites forgot God's laws and began to fight for power, God used natural disasters like drought and famine, diseases and even poisonous snakes to make them remember the right way to live. Sometimes the kings of the land ruled their people fairly and taught them to serve God. Other times the kings murdered the people for wealth and led them away from the ways of God. The last Jaredite king we read about in the Book of Ether is Coriantumr.

Coriantumr was king of the whole land. He was a king who had studied all the arts of war and all the tricky ways of the world. When a group of mighty men rose up and tried to destroy him with secret plans, he and his sons gathered their armies and fought back.

Years before these battles began, God had begun to send prophets across the land telling the people to repent of their

evil ways or be judged by God and destroyed, leaving the land to a new people that God would bring from across the ocean. The people hated and rejected the prophets.

One mighty prophet who came forth in the days of King Coriantumr was Ether. Ether was a grandson of the past king, Moron, who had been overthrown many years before. Ether's father was a political prisoner all his life, and Ether was born to him in such a situation. Yet Ether did not hunger for the passing power of a king. He was moved by the many prophets which God had sent forth in the land.

Ether became a true servant and prophet of God. He preached to the people from morning until the sun went down. He told them of things to come and begged them to turn from their evil ways. Great and marvelous were the words of Ether, but the people did not want to hear him. He had such a powerful spirit of God that they could not stop him, so they threw him out of their city and he went to live in a cave. He hid himself there throughout the day and came out at night to view the people and their battles for the record he was keeping on twenty-four golden plates.

During the first year of Ether's hiding, the sons of King Coriantumr fought much and bled much. Many of the people were murdered by the secret enemies of Coriantumr.

In the second year, the Lord sent Ether out to warn the king. If Coriantumr and his household would repent, the Lord would give him his kingdom and spare his people. If not, then the people would destroy each other until only Coriantumr was left alive, and he would see the new group of people that God would bring to the Promised Land.

They would bury him.

Coriantumr and his household were furious. They tried to kill Ether for bringing them God's warning. Ether returned to his cave to watch and record the story of the Jaredite people.

Ether's record was found later in a land covered with the bones of many men and the ruins of many large cities. These twenty-four golden plates were taken to the seer, Mosiah, who translated the words into the language of his people, the Nephites.

This translation was kept for hundreds of years among the sacred records kept by the Nephite people. Finally it was entrusted to a man, Moroni, whose job it was to read and abridge the marvelous record. Our shortened record is not even one hundredth part of Ether's work.

Yet, we see plainly the rise and fall of a great nation. When the people chose to serve God they prospered wondrously. When they turned away from God, they were consumed by war and strife, and finally destroyed themselves off the face of the earth. Again, the Promised Land was left ready for a Godly people.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

(Taken from Ether 12 and 13)

Find the following words hidden in the puzzle:

nation	spare	seer
Coriantumr	Jaredite	Moron
king	people	hide
battle	repent	hid
men	sin	cave
war	prophet	twenty-four
murder	Ether	gold
her	man	plates
God	Moroni	

R E E S T N E P E R
U M O R O N I M P C
O J E R A P S U O T
F P E T I D E R A J
Y E I V B H I D E W
T O M G A A W E A P
N P E A N C T R J L
E L N T N I R T D A
W E U I H A K O L T
T M S M E E G J O E
R T E H P O R P G S

STERLING continued . . .

Brother Thomas told of how he loved to shake hands with everyone just for a few minutes, that he might have a sense of fellowship with them. He told of the last time he had visited Sterling, and the richness of that fellowship overwhelmed his soul.

He said many things Brother Jim said tonight seemed new. Everything Jesus did when He was tempted by the Devil became a little clearer to him. He said he would go away from here determined to serve God a little better. We ask God mentally to refresh our minds when we go to church that we might better be able to understand the Gospel.

We were dismissed by Brother Dominic Moraca.

Sunday, November 14, was another glorious, beautiful, wonderful day for the Sterling Branch. Brother Ralph and Sister Jeanne Frammolino were with us, bringing back many fond memories.

Brother Carl Frammolino offered prayer, and Brother Ralph spoke, his topic being action and reaction. He told a story of a shoe salesman who went to a certain place and sent back a message to his employer saying, "Send no shoes, no one here wears them." Another salesman went to the same place and his message read, "Send many pairs of shoes, everyone needs them." When a man is given a certain set of circumstances, he has a reaction. As we mature, we cannot always act—we are acted upon. Brother Ralph chose John 9 as his text; he did not read it, he commented on it. He told of the blind man's reaction when God said go to the pool. He was willing to act. Whose fault was it that the man was blind? Jesus said it was neither the fault of the man or his parents. When the parents were asked about their son's healing, they said, "Ask him, he is old enough." The Pharisees tried to strangle the good thing because Jesus healed on the Sabbath. The best reaction was when Jesus came to the man again and asked him if he believed on the Son of God.

Brother Ralph asked, "What is your reaction to The Church of Jesus Christ?" We have the simple Gospel. We believe in healing of the soul as well as of the body. Our reaction to bad news is to get on our knees and pray. We do not give up hope; we have determination. Are we worried about what our friends will say? Have we embraced this

Church with our whole heart? When the little children came to Christ, the disciples' reaction was to send them away. Jesus reacted to say, "Bring them to me". God does not judge by our actions, but by our reactions. It is a big step to say, "I am a sinner", to repent and go to the waters, and to have hands laid on you for the reception of the Holy Ghost.

We sang, *Something Beautiful*, and Brother Carl said how wonderful to have Brother Ralph with us. It was a surprise visit. He said it was his prayer that Brother Ralph would be like the second salesman. If we had only one chance to hear the Gospel, as did the thief on the cross, what would be our reaction? The rich man sold everything to get the pearl of great price, but to us that pearl is salvation, and we can get it without cost. We are all looking forward to eternal life. We have to become new creatures. We have to feel the love of God within us. We have many opportunities to accept Christ. It is too late when we find ourselves in the front line and realize that we have not been obedient to His call. We will be miserable when we turn away from Him. If you feel in your heart just a little bit that Jesus is calling, don't turn Him away. He might not call again for a long time. Remember, someday we will be in eternity forever and ever. What is your choice?

Brother Louis and Brother Carl sang *Sheltered in the Arms of God*, and Brother Ralph played the piano, just as in times past. Sister Jeanne gave her testimony, commenting on how Sterling had grown.

Brother Louis said if we are to become children of God, we must be born again. We sang *For Those Tears I Died*, and were dismissed by Brother John Buffa.

Then the reaction began. Mike Valenti stepped forward, asking for baptism, followed by his wife, Jo Ann. The spirit was here; God was calling. Brother Carl began praying, asking God to open the way. Rene' Woodburn, daughter of Brother Rusty Heaps, came forward, and from the rear of the church came much sobbing; Elaine Caruso, Sister Pierina DiFalco's sister, wanted to be baptized.

We went directly to the river, and Elaine was baptized by Brother Sam, Rene' by Brother Ralph, and Mike and Jo Ann by Brother Lou. Brother Ralph

came all the way from the warm climate of Dallas to the frigid waters of the Detroit River to perform his first baptism.

We came back for the night service and sang songs of praise, one being, *A New Name in Glory*, which was dedicated to the four new converts. Brother Lou said that through the labors of the saints, through the many fast and prayer services, we see the fruits of our labors. We have to continue if we want to keep that sweet spirit. Today was like the Day of Pentecost.

The new converts were then confirmed: Brother Mike by Brother Moraca, Sister Elaine by Brother Carl, Sister Jo Ann by Brother John Buffa, and Sister Rene' by Brother Paul Whitton. They were then served sacrament. Then young Mike Valenti was blessed. Mike had been attending catechism, and this was a problem to his parents. Brother Lou told them to let it ride; God would take care of it. On the way to the river today, Mike said, "Mom, Dad, I am not going back to catechism. I want to go to this Church with you." He made his own choice.

Brother Lou told of when he and Sister Shirley, visiting in the home of Brother Mike a couple of weeks ago, began discussing the worshipping of other Gods. All of a sudden, Mike rose up and began taking down religious pictures from the walls, and all other items pertaining to that other religion. After disposing of them he said, "Now I have finally gotten rid of Satan."

We sang *Because He Lives*, and were dismissed by Brother Dan Parravano. We convened in the basement for further fellowship and refreshments.

This writer interviewed the new converts. Sister Rene' said she first had the desire to attend this Church when she went to Anaheim for a reunion with her father in 1970. She had been brought up in the Catholic faith, but their doctrine did not agree with her beliefs. She met with Sister Joanne and Brother Jerry Chambers, and they encouraged her to come here. On her way to church today, her eleven year old son, Raymond, said, "Mom, why don't you get baptized so you can accept sacrament." How beautiful that a young child would notice this.

Sister Elaine told of a dream in which

(Continued on Page 8)

she saw Brother John Buffa in a building surrounded by birds. He was picking them up and placing them all over his body. Sister Elaine has always had a fear of birds, and her reaction was to run out of the building, but the birds were outside also. She thought the birds were sea gulls, but someone told her they were doves. She walked out among them, without fear, and felt a peace she had never before known. That peace came to her in reality today.

Brother Mike and Sister Jo Ann were on their boat one day when Mike told her there was something missing in their lives. Mike said he had known Brother Lou for twenty-three years, and when he felt down, he would go to the barber shop whether he needed a hair cut or not and confer with Brother Lou, and he would always come away comforted. When they decided they must make a choice of a church, Jo Ann suggested Brother Lou's church. They came the following Sunday. They enjoyed what they heard, felt the love of the saints. Everything seemed right and beautiful, and they kept coming. Sister Jo Ann said that Sister Diane Hawkins had been her backbone and Sister Shirley had been very influential. She said once she set foot in this building, she could not back away. She also said that both she and Brother Mike had felt the spirit calling when Brother Jim Lovalvo was here last week.

Sister Rosemary Paternoster related during the service, that she had dreamed of this couple asking for their baptism, and it happened just that way, first Brother Mike and then Sister Jo Ann. How beautifully the Lord works.

Ft. Pierce, FL

By Elsie Ensana

We have been blessed with beautiful meetings in the Fort Pierce Branch. We are enjoying many visitors from various places in the North and appreciate their interest in visiting us.

Also visiting us have been Mexican migrant citrus pickers who cannot speak English. We have supplied them with Spanish *Bibles* and *Books of Mormon*. Also, we have tried to assist them in their natural needs and supplied food baskets at Christmas and blankets when the cold weather came, as some of them were sleeping on the floors without

covering. We had a few cold days and tried to help them out. We don't know how long they will be in these parts, but we hope when they return to Mexico they will find our people there. It has been difficult due to the language barrier, but I think they feel the love of God among us and enjoy it. We hope the Lord will bless them.

Sister Pat Huggin's sister and her young son have been attending our meetings for some time, and on January 2, 1983, Sister Minnie Viola Casey requested her baptism and asked that her son be blessed. Sister Casey was baptized by Brother Frank Rogolino and confirmed by Brother Joseph Bittinger. We are so happy to have them join us. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

Lake Worth, FL

By Terri Benyola

On Sunday, October 24, 1982, we of the Lake Worth Branch went to Lake Osborne to witness the baptisms of Brother Buddy (Eugene Joseph) Perri and Brother Joseph Tisler. Buddy was baptized by Brother Gene Perri, Jr. and confirmed by Brother Eugenio Perri. Brother Joe was baptized and confirmed by Brother Gene Perri, Jr.

We had a beautiful meeting, including the ordinance of feet washing. Many experiences were given that day. Brother Stan Davis saw a glow of light on the head of each brother as they spoke. Brother Everett Jasmin saw a beam of light follow the brothers as they entered the water. Brother Phil Brown saw two names being written in the Book of Life in the blood of Jesus. Sister Margaret Benyola, Buddy's grandmother visiting from New Jersey, saw a white building with a table set with gold and silver and beautiful bouquets of flowers ascending. Sister Marilyn Carradi saw angels on the rostrum, and one went to sit near Brother Buddy Perri.

God has truly blessed us in this area of the vineyard, and our prayers are that the Lord will bless our two new brothers as they endeavor to serve Him.

Erie, PA

By Ruth Gehly

January passed very quickly for the

Erie Branch. We began the new year gathered together in fellowship at our annual New Year's Eve Watch. At midnight we entered into a circle of prayer to bring in 1983 united in faith, hope and love for each other, the Church and for God.

The love we felt in those special moments carried over throughout the coming weeks as we prepared ourselves and our branch to see Brother Mark Kovacic reestablish his ministry from Erie to the Miami Mission in Florida.

All of our meetings are beautiful in Erie, but we felt a special sense of closeness in the spirit during the Sunday and Wednesday night meetings held before Brother Mark left. Words cannot begin to express the beautiful testimonies shared and the opportunities for exhortation by both the priesthood and the young brothers of our branch. A time which could have been made very difficult was turned into a time of encouragement, renewed inspiration and spiritual vitality for the future of Erie, as well as the Miami Mission.

Truly the Lord blessed Erie through Brother Mark's teachings, counseling, and friendship; but it is not as if the Lord has taken these things away from us now that our brother is gone. Instead, the Lord has written our brother's ministry upon our hearts and we rejoice in his new calling to another portion of the vineyard. God bless you Brother Mark in the opportunities which await you. Our prayers will always be with you.

Now as we look forward to the months which lie ahead, we anticipate great blessings within our branch. Most of all, though, we look forward to the day when all the saints "shall meet at Jesus feet, to meet to part no more".

Dallas, TX

By Ralph Frammolino

Brothers and sisters from throughout the country have visited the Dallas Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ in recent months, leaving memories of close fellowship and bringing many refreshing insights into the Word of God.

On October 24, 1982, Brother Bob and Sister Sarah Watson of Red Lake, Arizona were in Dallas. Brother Bob, an

apostle, conducted Sunday School by expounding on the Divine Commission of the Church, our responsibility to the Seed of Joseph. He then opened the service, using the Book of Ether as his text for the morning. Brother Bob read about Jared, who anticipated the wrath of God during the construction of the Tower of Babel. Jared asked his brother to petition God not to confound the languages of their families and friends.

Brother Bob used the Tower of Babel as an example of the knowledge of man. "Building a tower, in itself, is not a bad thing," he said. "But when man tried to use the tower—that is, his knowledge—to make himself equal to God, then the effort was not good."

During testimony, Sister Sarah Watson related some of her experiences at Red Lake. On one occasion, she attended a funeral of a family divided by religion. When she arrived, both sides greeted her with love and enthusiasm. "Perhaps it is our place to simply show love," she said.

On October 31, Brother George Timms from Herndon, Virginia visited. He came to Dallas to bless the infant son of Ray and Sister Cindy Bright, who is Brother Timms' grand-niece. Brother George then exhorted the saints to lead pure lives before God. Reading from the epistles of Peter, Brother George expressed how God is pleased with pure hearts and spotless lives.

"I have always said, that if there is something wrong with what I am doing, let me know it now, so I can correct it, rather than when it is too late," he said.

Brother George also relayed to us many marvelous experiences he received while hospitalized in serious condition last year. He was quick to give God the glory for preserving his life.

After the Christmas holidays, Brother Jim King from Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania spent two Sundays with us, January 16 and 23. Brother Jim came to visit his son, Jeff, who lives in the Dallas area, and to attend a job seminar in nearby Fort Worth.

But he spent plenty of time with the saints. On January 16, he spoke in depth about the parable of the tame and wild olive tree, scripture found in the Book of Jacob in the *Book of Mormon*. On January 23, he spoke to us again, relating in his gentle fashion how God has been good to him during his life.

On January 30, we were glad to receive Brother Jim Huttenberger from Anaheim, California. Brother Jim, who has been newly ordained in the ministry, spoke about the word, **opportunity**. He encouraged us to take every opportunity to spread the Gospel, to tell our friends, and to seize the Love of God with all our hearts.

The saints in Dallas are grateful for our visitors. We encourage all who travel through Texas to stop and see our mission. Come and be spiritually refreshed as we talk about the things of God.

Perhaps you will want to stay!

Quincy, FL

Sister Maxine Barnes Smith became a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on October 31, 1982 at the Quincy, Florida Mission.

She was baptized by Brother Cleveland Baldwin and confirmed by Brother George Arthur.

Lorain, OH

By Renee' Alessio

Note: This was read at the beginning of our Watch Night Service.

The word for this moment is "retrospection"—a survey of past events or experiences. Human as we are, it is much easier to see from where we have come than to where we are headed. Retrospection allows us to put into perspective those tasks which at one time were seemingly insurmountable but have now become trifle. It also allows us to view the handiwork of God as He led us through the events in each of our lives. Tonight we will recount some of the events that transpired within our Branch of the Church.

Early in the year, we hosted the General Church Mission Board meetings and accommodated the Twelve Apostles of the Church. The way in which the saints rallied to prepare meals, provide housing, and to make the brothers and their wives comfortable showed the interest and love the saints of God have toward each other.

Weekly fast and prayer meetings have united the saints in prayer for the needs of the Church, whether for missionary work, afflictions, or the souls of mankind, etc. The effort was made and the determination was shown. Our efforts were not in vain. Many undutiful members have become active, and Sister Mary Jones was reinstated. We have visitors attending the meetings on a steady basis. Many have been healed of afflictions, spared through accidents, or have recuperated from surgeries. We still want to remember those who presently are in need of prayer: Sisters Mary Jones, Rosemary DeFoggie, Alice Portnick, Marcie Aquilino, Helen Presutto and Romie Calabrese.

In June, we celebrated the high school graduations of Todd Calabrese, Doris Johnson, and Susan Nardozi with a baccalaureate service featuring Brothers Dominic Thomas and Nick Pietrangelo as guest speakers. Five of our young adults are college students: Brian Alessio, Lisa Calabrese, Doris Johnson, Tammy Smith, and Kevin Naro, who will be graduating this Spring.

Many former Lorain Branch members have reached their 50th to 60th anniversaries in the Gospel. Sisters Alice Romano, Jeanette Velardi, Theresa Gennaro, Ann Lovalvo, Josephine Dominico, and Brothers Jim Acquilino and Alfred Dominico. Sister Filomena Cerone also has reached 50 years. One evening was spent recalling the life of Brother Alfred Dominico, and a tape recording of the meeting and pictures of the members were sent to him in California.

The Branch also hosted a District spiritual meeting, which brought visiting saints from Ohio and Pennsylvania.

The auxiliaries of the Branch have been active also. The Sunday School hosted a Vacation Bible School, which created opportunity for involvement for many. Thirty-one children learned lessons and songs and made new friends. These children were instrumental in bringing many visitors to church to view their program. The Christmas program also drew a large attendance of parents and relatives to see their children perform.

The MBA had two topic nights on Missionary Work. Brother Joe Calabrese presented his slides of India,

(Continued on Page 10)

and Brothers Tony Lovalvo and Norman Campitelli spoke of the Six Nations Reservation.

The Ladies Uplift Circle has kept busy visiting the sick, studying the scriptures and contributing to missionary needs. This summer they held a birthday potluck dinner.

The young people have continued to meet frequently to discuss various topics.

Many people received jobs or improved their employment status: Sisters Susan Nardozi and Betsy Velez, and Brothers Ron Dziak, Leonard Nardozi, Todd Calabrese, Dan Palacios, and Flip Palacios.

Two members have transferred into the Branch: Sister Tammy Smith from Pinetop, Arizona, and Sister Edna Calabrese from Imperial, Pennsylvania. Two members have transferred to other Branches: Sister Helen Tisler and Brother Frank Palacios, Jr.

We mourned the deaths of Sisters Nancy DeCredico and Lucy Calabrese. Both sisters were faithful members of the Church.

We celebrated the births and blessings of Linda Mae Calabrese and Daniel Raymond Coates.

Throughout the year, we welcomed numerous visitors from many branches of the Church in Pennsylvania, Canada, Michigan, California, Arizona, New Mexico, Florida, and Ohio.

This account is a small spectrum of the events relating to the past year. The memories recollected are good. God has blessed us and allowed us to prosper in a world that seemingly is crumbling. Our prayers for the future are that He will see us through another year, and that we will be blessed spiritually as well as naturally. Our prayers are for those in the world that they also may receive the Gospel, and for Israel that they may have eyes that will see and ears that will hear. One of the Psalms that seems appropriate is the 103rd, the first verse being, "Bless the Lord, O my Soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name."

I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. John 11:25, 26

Sterling, MI

By Hazel E. Zoltek, Branch Editor

On Wednesday, November 24, two more souls asked for their baptism at the Sterling Branch. Our meeting was scheduled to be a Thanksgiving service, and it truly became just that. The attendance was very good, and everyone had the desire to tell of God's goodness to them this past year, even the unbaptized.

Girard (Geri) Sourvelis, a neighbor of the Champine family, came to this Church, a broken man, both physically and spiritually. He had been in an automobile accident, and he was on crutches—both legs were in a cast. Geri was anointed on many occasions for the healing of his body; however, he began visiting other churches, six in all. Then about three months ago, he started coming regularly to every service.

On Wednesday evening, he gave his testimony and asked to be baptized. Brother Geri said that he had seen Jesus in a dream, and he then found himself in the Champine home with Brothers Larry and Steve, and they were both dressed in white shirts and they were telling him about the Gospel. As he began to attend here more frequently, he realized that he was hearing the full Gospel. He felt a peace, a serenity, a tranquility, he had never felt before. He still needs our prayers as he is going through a very difficult time as he still has health problems. Let us all pray that he will be uplifted, that his health will improve and that he will grow spiritually.

The presence of the Holy Spirit was felt by all of us. Nine o'clock, our usual dismissal time, came and went, and the testimonials continued. Then Deborah Busch, who was brought to this Church by Brother Spencer Everett a few weeks ago, called for her baptism. Heaven came down and glory filled our souls. As we sang a hymn, Brother Sam DiFalco, holding high a glass of water and talking above the music, implored others to come and partake of that living water.

Sister Denise Ruyle of Branch 1, having known Sister Debbie since the second grade, introduced her to this Church. Debbie was raised in a different religion and, at an early age, disagreed with their teachings, one being the baptism of little babies.

Sister Denise had two experiences concerning Debbie. One of her dreams placed her in a very expensive store where they stocked only top-line clothing. She purchased a beautiful suit, then on leaving, she met Debbie, who told her she wanted the exact same suit. They re-entered the store and Debbie made her purchase. Brother Spencer interpreted this as meaning that Debbie could see something beautiful in Sister Denise and she wanted the same thing for herself. In another dream, Denise and Debbie were in the attic of her grandparent's former home, and they were going through some old relics, and Denise was sharing the keepsakes with Debbie and she was very happy to receive them. As they came down the stairs, Sister Angeline Scolaro was waiting for them, and she was smiling and reached out and touched them.

Debbie said it seemed as if she was starving for something better in her life, and when she came to this Church, she felt so much love that she realized this was what she had been seeking.

We all joined hands around the room and sang *Alleluiah* and were dismissed by Brother Steve Champine. The hour was late, but we still lingered on, embracing one another in the love of Christ.

We met at the river on Sunday afternoon. It had been raining steadily all day, but the rain ceased miraculously as we neared the river—an answer to our prayers. Debbie was baptized by Brother Spencer Everett, and Geri was baptized by Brother John Buffa.

At our evening service, Brother Lou told of how we had exercised our faith in asking God to stop the rain until after the baptisms. He told of the beauty of our Wednesday night service; it was like being in the upper room with Jesus. Brother Eugene and Sister Donna Amormino sang *Give Me Understanding, Lord*, and Brother Richard Lobzun offered prayer. Brother Lou told us there were those at the Wednesday service that said the spirit was so intense they felt they would like to be baptized again. Together we will build Zion. None of us can do it alone. We need God and we need one another.

The elders knelt around the candidates, and Brother Moraca offered prayer. Then Sister Debbie was confirmed by Brother Sam DiFalco, and Brother Geri was confirmed by Brother Louis Vitto.

(Continued on Page 11)

The Lord's Supper, which had been saved for the night service so the new converts could participate with us, was served by Brother Sam DiFalco and Brother Mike LaSala. We sang *Blessed Be the Name* and were dismissed by Brother Pete Capone.

God blessed us with a beautiful day filled with sunshine, on December 12, and with many visitors; several came from Ohio to share the blessings with us. Brother Louis Vitto told of being carried away in the spirit at our prayer service on Saturday night. He saw the church filled to capacity, and the saints were lifting their hands toward heaven. The interpretation was given to him that the Lord would fill our cups on Sunday morning.

Prayer was offered by Brother Mike LaSala. We sang *Because He Lives*, and Brother Tony Lovalvo spoke, choosing as his text Isaiah 53:1-12. Isaiah was the greatest of the four prophets used by God to give His word. In the verses Brother Tony read to us, Isaiah was describing Christ. Many prophets in the Old Testament were killed, then God sent His Son. When Jesus was born, He was tutored by God. When Jesus chose

His disciples, He said to them, "Follow me", and they dropped whatever they were doing and followed Him. Jesus was setting up His kingdom. With all the miracles Jesus performed, He was still rejected by man. Many followed Him just for the fish and the loaves, then they dispersed. When Jesus was condemned to die on the cross, He said not a word, but went as a lamb to the slaughter. Yet, He said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." When Jesus resurrected and met with His disciples, He called them brethren. He breathed the Holy Ghost upon them, and they went forth to preach His Gospel. If we want to receive what God has to offer, all we have to do is go to Him and ask; He will answer.

We sang *Taste the Grass on the Summit*, and those who were to be ordained prepared themselves. Brother Spencer Everett read the duties of a teacher and of a deaconess in I Corinthians 12:28 and Romans 16:1.

We sang *Ye Who Are Called to Labor*, and the elders knelt and a special prayer was said by Brother John Buffa. Brother John then washed the feet of Brother Gary Champine, and he was ordained a teacher by Brother Mike LaSala. Sister Shirley Vitto washed the

feet of Sister Grace Buffa, and she was ordained a deaconess by Brother Spencer Everett. Sister Rose Gerry washed the feet of Sister Rose DiDonato, and she was ordained a deaconess by Brother Lou Vitto.

There were many experiences and confirmations about our brother and the two sisters. We sang *To the Work* and were dismissed by Brother Frank Altamore.

We came back in the evening for a songfest and further testimonies. Brother Louis told of the glorious morning meeting. He said it is the duty of the elders to feed the flock, but it is an inspiration to them to hear of the experiences of the saints. This is edifying to the priesthood.

Brother Eugene and Sister Amorino sang *Give Me Understanding, Lord*. Brother Louis and Brother Carl Frammolino sang *How Long Has It Been*, and the Lord's Supper, which had been held over from the morning service, was served. Brother Lou sang *For Those Tears I Died*, and we were dismissed by Brother Jerry Benyola.

We had a delightful social in the church basement, and refreshments were served.

Saline, MI

By Kerry Carlini

On December 2, 1982, The Church of Jesus Christ, Saline Mission, participated in the city of Saline Christmas Parade. The theme of the parade was "Old Fashioned Christmas".

Even though it had been cold and raining steadily the previous day and night, the Lord favored us with warm temperatures and a bright, sunshiny day for the parade. Judging of the float entries began at 9:00 a.m. at the Saline Fire Station. Fortunately, the judges, through the persistent urgings of the Church saints, waited 20 minutes for part of our entry to arrive, partly because it was a horse-drawn buggy which had started its journey to town at 8:30 a.m. some 5 miles away. (In experiencing that ride to town, my deepest regards go to the early settlers of this country who traveled many long, rough and bumpy miles by horse-drawn carriages to their destinations.)

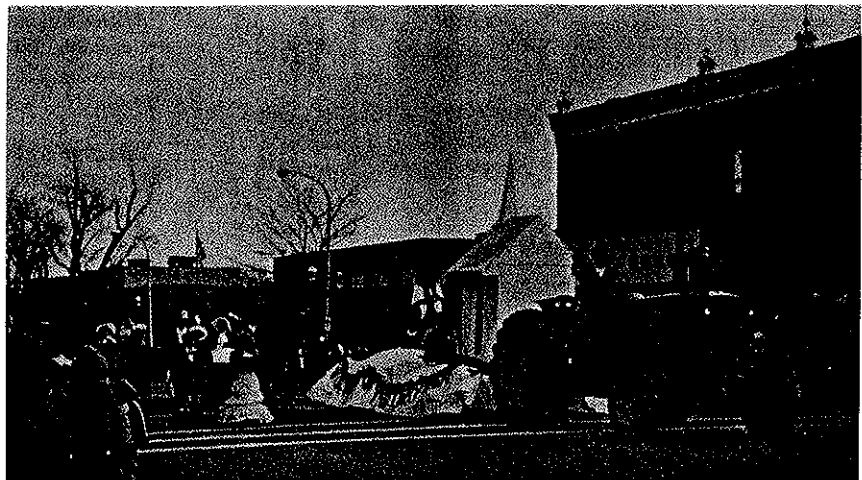
At 10:00, the parade began down the main street of Saline. Many spectators lined the sidewalks on both sides of the street. The Church's entry was placed at the head of the parade, just behind

the high school marching band. A huge, green John Deere tractor, operated by a neighbor friend, pulled our float, which was constructed on an old flat-bed hay wagon.

We had built a church building at the head of the float, in a wintry environment, with the saints, dressed in the 18th century attire, standing on the float as if they were walking toward the building. At the door of the church were two trumpet players who played continuously *O Come All Ye Faithful*. More of our saints and their children rode in the horse-drawn buggy and walked

along the street in similar attire. We believe this was the first time our Church has entered such an event. Out of a field of 13 float entries, the Saline Mission's float, "Worship of Yesteryear", took second place honors. This included our group being awarded \$150.00 prize money, which we later contributed to our building fund.

It was a beautiful sight to see The Church of Jesus Christ's banner being carried through the city streets of Saline, truly beckoning all to come that are faithful to behold the Restored Gospel, The Church of Jesus Christ.



* **WEDDINGS** *

BROWN-BOERNER

Mr. Michael Brown and Miss Melody Boerner were united in marriage on July 28, 1982 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Perry, Ohio by Brother Elmer Santilli.

Musical selections were presented by Sister Betty Santilli.

The Browns are residing in Painesville, Ohio.

BOERNER-POGOZELSKI

Mr. David L. Boerner and Miss Christine Pogozelski were joined in marriage in Painesville, Ohio on December 31, 1982.

Brother Elmer Santilli officiated at the ceremony.

The newlyweds are making their home in Dayton, Ohio.

New Arrivals

Congratulations are in order to the proud parents for the indicated new members of their families:

Melissa Dawn to Rocco and Terri Benyola of Lake Worth, Florida;

Cosette Renee to Tony and Pat Lepovich of Perry, Ohio;

Rebecca Ann to Tom and Sally Lepovich of Perry, Ohio;

Kristy Joy to Walter and Gail Vivian of Sterling Heights, Michigan;

Stevan Michael to John and Sharon Betcher of Sterling Heights, Michigan;

Jason Dean to David and Joanne Patello of Glassport, Pennsylvania;

Raychel Lynn Kay to Paul and Connie Robinson of St. John, Kansas.

Children Blessed

Timothy Lyle Casey, son of Townsend and Minnie Viola Swanson Casey, was blessed by Brother Anthony Ensana on January 2, 1983 at the Fort Pierce, Florida Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Marshall William Vance, son of Tony and Pat Lepovich of Perry, Ohio was blessed on October 3, 1982 by Brother Elmer Santilli.

OBITUARIES

CHRISTIAN E. GERACITANO

Brother Christian E. Geracitano, a member of The Church of Jesus Christ in Monongahela, Pennsylvania, passed away from this life on December 12, 1982. He was born on November 17, 1953.

Brother Idris Martin conducted the funeral services.

Chris is survived by his father, Brother Ernie Geracitano.

DOROTHY FRANCES KNIPPLE

Sister Dorothy Frances Knipple passed away on January 4, 1983. Born on April 27, 1898, she was baptized into the Church on April 15, 1973 and attended the Fort Pierce, Florida Branch.

Funeral services were officiated by Brothers Frank Rogolino and Joseph Bittinger.

SALLIE HAUSE

Sister Sallie Hause passed away on January 14, 1983. She was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ in Quincy, Florida. She was born on December 25, 1910 and was baptized on March 22, 1981.

Left to mourn her loss are one son, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were officiated by Brother Cleveland Baldwin.

The mighty change that transpired in Sister Sallie's life the short time she spent in the Church caused everyone who knew her to marvel and testify of that change. She was a great blessing to the Quincy Mission and a beacon light to all.

MINNIE GRIFFITH

Sister Minnie Griffith of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ, passed away on December 31, 1982. Born in 1904, she was baptized on February 17, 1935.

Sister Griffith is survived by two sons, two daughters, two step sons and one step daughter.

Brothers Richard Scaglione and Robert Nicklow, Sr. conducted the funeral services.

The Gospel News

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

(USPS 228-480)

May, 1983

Special Edition

Vol. 39, No. 5



The President's Message

A Gathering of the Family of God



The Church's first World Missionary Conference planned for the week of August 20-26, at Lynchburg, Virginia, will bring together the family of God from various parts of the world. What an exciting thought!

It will be a time to share together the Missionary Spirit and capture the essence of the true world mission of The Church of Jesus Christ. I urge everyone to plan to be a part of this great spiritual and social gathering.

This Special Issue of *The Gospel News* affords me the opportunity to express my personal gratitude to the many faithful Missionaries and their families, who throughout the years, have served in Mission fields here and abroad. Their dedication cannot be expressed in words. Nor will space permit the recording of the many sacrifices which they have made. They are reluctant to speak regarding some of their unpleasant experiences; they have, however, often spoken about the many blessings and miracles experienced, and the love received from the people they serve.

I also wish to mention the Church's appreciation for the untiring efforts put forth by the members and officers of the General Church Board of Missions and to everyone connected in any way with the missionary effort of the Church.

The Ladies Uplift Circle and the General Benevolent Association have contributed generous donations over the past many years and deserve our deepest gratitude.

It is my sincere prayer that all those who attend our Missionary Conference will experience a foretaste of some of the blessings awaiting the Church and the world when we shall experience the fulfillment of the words of Isaiah:

And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths; for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Sincerely,

Dominic L. Thomas

Dominic Thomas
General Church President

Greetings from the General Board of Missions

By Meredith Griffith

The Board of Missions was created in 1958 at the recommendation of Brother Meredith Griffith, who proposed it to the April Conference. Brother W. H. Cadman was elected Chairman, and Brother Griffith was elected Secretary.

The newly formed Board began functioning under severe conditions, with a Missionary Budget deficit. However, the Board members refused to be discouraged. Despite the deficit, they passed the following resolution: "Be it resolved, without reservation, the will of God is that the Gospel must be preached to all kindreds, tongues, and people for today is the day of salvation; and we are commissioned by Jesus Christ to preach the Gospel."

Twenty-five years later, the Board sees its goal unchanged. They continue to serve as an administrative body relying upon God's Holy Spirit for guidance and help.

Today, the General Board consists of three major committees:

1. The American Indian Committee.

This Committee devotes all of its efforts working with missionaries associated with the work among the Seed of Joseph.

2. The Foreign Missions Committee.

This Committee administers all Missions in foreign lands.

3. The Domestic Missions Committee.

This Committee works with Missions in all parts of the U.S.A.

The Board is staffed with brothers from all Districts, many of whom have worked in mission fields and are fully aware of their needs.

The Board has and always will look to the membership and auxiliaries of the Church for the financial support needed to assure the success of each mission and the establishment of new missions.

The Ladies Uplift Circle and the General Missionary Benevolent Association have played a major role in supporting the Church's missionary efforts. Throughout the years, they have assumed the responsibility of raising thousands of dollars for missionary endeavors. Also, they have supported welfare and educational programs, operated the lay-missions program, and assumed the costs of printing much of the literature used by missionaries.

The Board members were truly elated when the General Church accepted their proposal to host a World Missionary Conference. The Board members feel confident that all who attend will feel the warmth of brotherly love as they meet some of the saints from overseas, Canada, and Mexico, as well as from the Church in America.

The Missionary Conference will include many of the activities experienced in past GMBA Camp-outs, such as recreation, seminars, and spiritual meetings.

Its main thrust will be to acquaint everyone with the Church's Missionary efforts. Priesthood members from foreign missions will be attending the Conference. For many of them, it will be their first opportunity to visit with the Parent Church.

We hope to have all mission fields represented. Each mission will have an exhibit where visitors may ask questions and visibly see how and where your generous contributions are used in spreading the Restored Gospel.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Dominic Moraca, Guest Editor

This Special Missionary Issue of *The Gospel News* has been made possible through the cooperative efforts of many persons who were asked to contribute articles and material for this paper. Their graciousness in allowing me the freedom to edit their articles is sincerely appreciated.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to the officers of the Board of Missions, and *The Gospel News* Editor for allowing me to make this small contribution to the missionary effort of the Church. Their confidence and trust has made a difficult task very rewarding; for I feel that I have benefited the most from this experience. It has afforded me the opportunity to have close personal contact with many of the missionaries and officers of the General Church.

I must say a special thank you to the Print House Staff for their cooperation and many helpful suggestions, to Sister Jan Coppa for her many hours of typing, to Brother Ken Lombardo for the unique front cover, and to Brother Gary Coppa for other art work used in this paper.

As in any endeavor of this nature, it is impossible to provide space for every effort being done by many brothers and sisters throughout the Church. Any omission has been unintentional, and I am certain space will be available for missionary reports in future editions.

As Guest Editor of this Special Missionary Issue, it has been my aim to gather and present information about the Church's ongoing missionary efforts. We believe that all those who have supported the missionary endeavors of the Church are entitled to know how the

Church utilizes their contributions. Further, this Issue should demonstrate the continual need for financial support for missions here and abroad. For example, Nigeria needs a bus, while Ghana is in need of a public address system and portable generator. Old vehicles used in our mission fields, such as Muncey and Six Nations Reservations in Ontario, must be replaced from time to time. There is a continual need for buildings and equipment in Mexico as this work continues to grow.

Recently, I had the wonderful privilege of attending a service in the Mission at Santa Ana, California, and I was overwhelmed to see this little, rented, church building filled to capacity by Mexican brothers, sisters, friends,

and little children, singing and praising God in their native tongue. The meeting left an indelible impression upon my heart and mind. The need for a church building of their own is great.

As each of you review this Special Missionary Issue in the comfort of your homes, we urge you to consider the needs of the Church. We must have funds to send out missionaries, build churches, and operate vehicles to provide transportation to church in mission fields.

We urge every reader to give a little extra toward the Church's missionary efforts and have provided a separate form, in this Issue, to facilitate your special contribution.

What Each One Can Do To Assist the Church's Missionary Work

By Frank Ciotti, Chairman
General Church Finance Committee

The total 1982-83 Missionary Budget is \$132,360.00. Your contributions to the General Church Budget will cover most of the current missionary efforts of the Church. However, the missionary outreach of the Church is growing as we continue to receive requests to hear about the Restored Gospel. For example, the Church Correspondent recently received a request to have the Church established in Kenya.

In addition to the Missionary Budget, many more dollars are being expended at all levels of the Church to promote missionary activities. The allocation of the current budget is as follows:

Indian Missions (including U.S., Canada, and Mexico).....	\$ 62,500
Foreign Missions.....	54,060
Domestic Missions.....	12,700
General Board of Missions Administration.....	3,100
Total	\$132,360

The Board of Missions, General Church Officers, and the Finance Committee are keenly aware and sensitive of the difficult economic times in which we live. They will continue to use your contributions as wisely as possible. Everything that can will be done to reduce expenses. It is our sincere prayer that God may bless everyone with a desire to continue to give generously for the work of God.

Those desiring to make a special donation to God's work that the Gospel Restored might be preached throughout the world, may use the donation form provided in this Issue.

TO: The General Church Financial Secretary

Henry Cardillo
753 Orlo Lane
Youngstown, OH 44512

I was impressed with the Special Issue of *The Gospel News* highlighting the Church's missionary efforts.

I wish to make a special donation to the missionary endeavors of the Church. Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$_____ for the work indicated below:

INDIAN WORK

- ☐ San Carlos, Arizona
- ☐ Muncey, Ontario, Canada
- ☐ Six Nations, Ontario, Canada
- ☐ Mexico
- ☐ Urban Work
- ☐ Wherever needed
- ☐ Other (Specify) _____

☐ Domestic Missions

FOREIGN WORK

- ☐ Nigeria
- ☐ Ghana
- ☐ Italy
- ☐ India
- ☐ Wherever needed
- ☐ Other (Specify) _____

☐ Missionary Conference Expense

Please make your check payable to THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST.

☐ I want this donation to remain a private matter.

Name _____

Address _____

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The Gospel News is published monthly by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE. Subscription price is \$6.00 a year. Entered as second class mail at Bridgewater, Mich. under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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“ . . . To Every Nation, Kindred, Tongue, and People ”

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,

Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

Revelations 14:6, 7

The above scripture, along with several other notable scriptures, are often cited and referred to by The Church of Jesus Christ in support of our claim that the Gospel of Jesus Christ was restored to mankind by angelic ministration.

The coming forth of the *Book of Mormon*, along with the Divine Priesthood Authority, sustains the commission of The Church of Jesus Christ to declare the message of salvation to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, and also to unfold the promises, designs, and purposes of God regarding the Gentiles, and, more particularly, His ancient covenant people in these latter days.

EFFORTS MORE FRUITFUL

As so eloquently noted in the pages of this Special Issue of *The Gospel News*, the missionary efforts of the Church to reach people everywhere are gradually and increasingly becoming more fruitful.

We are reminded here of the stirring appeal by Nephi, “Hath he (the Lord) commanded any that they should not partake of his salvation? . . . Nay; but he hath given it free for all men; and he hath **commanded** his people that they should **persuade all men** to repentance. Behold, hath the Lord commanded any that they should not partake of his goodness? . . . Nay, but all men are privileged the one like unto the other, and none are forbidden.” II Nephi 26:27, 28

THEY SHALL SING

Abinadi is equally eloquent, “And now I say unto you that the time shall come that the salvation of the Lord shall be declared to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. Yea Lord, ‘thy watchmen shall lift up their voice; with the voice together they shall sing; for they shall see eye to eye, when the Lord shall bring again Zion. Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem; for the Lord hath comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.’ ” Mosiah 15:28-31, Isaiah 52:8-10

Finally, from the Apostle Paul's notable declaration on Mars' hill, “. . . God that made the world . . . and hath made **of one blood** all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation, that they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us.” Acts 17:22-27

Greetings from the Chairman of the American Indian Committee

By Joseph Lovalvo, Apostle

The pages which follow represent a brief account of some of the on going missionary efforts of the Church among the American Indian people and why the Church is so keenly dedicated and committed to this mission.

I wish to express the Church's gratitude to every missionary, past and present, for their dedication towards this great latter day work.

Great personal sacrifices have been made, and are yet being made, by many brothers and sisters throughout the Church. For example, some have traveled hundreds of miles every week for many, many, years to hold meetings on the reservations. Others have left their homes and good paying jobs and moved close to reservations so they could be near the Indian people. Still others are presently laboring in Urban Centers in major cities where there is much danger and violence. These brave saints must deal with serious problems on a daily basis, and they witness, first hand, the hardships and the many needs facing the Urban Indians.

Presently, many of us are laboring in Mexico where poverty is rampant and where we face a difference in culture and language.

We want everyone to know that God is blessing their efforts giving them experiences such as the gift of healing and revealing Himself. We are certain that in the near future there will be a great breakthrough, and many of the Seed of Joseph will come to the knowledge of the Gospel and their rich history and future destiny as proclaimed in the *Book of Mormon*. Yes, the day of the great ingathering of the House of Israel is close at hand, for God has decreed it and none can prevent or circumvent the ways of God.

We have God's promise which states: "And the time cometh speedily that the righteous must be led up as calves of the stall, and the Holy One of Israel must reign in dominion, and might, and power, and great glory. And he gathereth his children from the four quarters of the earth; and he numbereth his sheep, and they know him; and there shall be one fold and one shepherd; and he shall feed his sheep,

and in him they shall find pasture."

It is through these great promises that we are motivated to labor among the Seed of Joseph, for the Gentiles, too, shall have part in the great blessings which God has reserved for the last days.

In laboring among the Seed of Joseph, we are simply fulfilling the words of Isaiah, who said: "Thus saith the Lord God, behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people; and they shall bring thy sons in their arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders. And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers; they shall bow down to thee with their faces toward the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet; and thou shall know that I am the Lord; for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me."

Every effort, however small, which we make towards bringing the Gospel back to the sons of Israel, will hasten the day when Zion shall be established and the entire House of Israel will be gathered home. What a gathering that will be!

The American Indian Committee was formed for the specific purpose to weave a thread of continuity throughout the Districts of the Church. The Committee, composed of brothers from every District, helps provide a united front. Every facet of the Church must be working harmoniously towards the common goal of bringing the Restored Gospel message to the Seed of Joseph.

When the Committee meets, it provides a time to review the efforts of everyone as it relates to the preaching of the Gospel to the Indian people. We can learn more fully what each District is doing to advance this cause. The meetings also provide an opportunity to work out problems, discuss new programs and set goals for future work.

As Chairman of this Committee, and as President of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles, I urge every member of the Church to contribute towards this great work through whatever means you may have. The Committee pledges to use your contributions as wisely as we can.

San Carlos, Arizona Mission Established August, 1961

Young and energetic, I, Dan Picciuto, had a great desire to work for God. I had fasted and prayed for many months, seeking God's will for me. In the year of 1959, I had several experiences directing me to the work in San Carlos, Arizona. I saw the valley of San Carlos in a dream, a place I never saw or had been in. I saw a hand in white, high above the valley, pointing to the valley. I then heard a voice speak, saying, "This is the valley."

In the spring of 1960, my wife, Dolores, and I came to California for a visit. Upon returning home, we drove through Arizona taking the southern route. As we drove descending into the valley of San Carlos, I recognized the terrain, the river, the mountains, the bridge on Highway 70. The total setting was as I saw in my dream. I knew then that this is the place where I should return to work for the Lord.

We went on home to Ohio and sold all we had and returned to Arizona. I worked and lived in Scottsdale for one year. During this time, with the help of Brothers Ether Furnier, Phil Damore and others, we opened the Mission in Phoenix. I also traveled mid-week and weekends to San Carlos, establishing the work there. As we reached the people, God blessed the work with healings and miracles—even devils were cast out.

The Tribe granted us permission to build the Mission based on the testimony of the people who had received evidence in the workings of the Holy Spirit. One day as we worked putting in the foundation, an Indian lady by the name of Mrs. Steele, who lived across the street, came over to talk to me. She told me that one evening before sunset she saw balls of fire come down from the sky, rolling across the parcel of ground we had chosen for the Mission.

Brother Bob Ciarrochi and I were applying a metal roof on the Mission in the middle of August. The temperature was about 115 and the sky was sunny and clear. Brother Bob and I prayed and asked God to give us some relief so we could complete the roof. As we climbed up the ladder, we noticed we were over-shadowed. Looking up we saw a cloud

(Continued on Page 24)

The Spanish Mission Santa Ana, California

By Frank Ciotti

The work in Santa Ana started mainly through the efforts of Sister Santina Mercuri, a bilingual teacher in a local elementary school. Her position has opened many doors to Spanish speaking homes, as she is quick to invite people to church.

The mission was organized on January 1, 1981, in the home of Brother and Sister Mireles. Among the first visitors were Brother Lupe and Sister Flavia Rodrique, whose sons attend Sister Santina's class. When Brother Lupe came to the first meeting, he was anointed for an allergy. He related that as the elders began to pray, he felt a warm feeling start in his feet and move up his body. When this feeling reached his nose, it was like steam. He was healed! Meanwhile, Sister Flavia, while visiting Mexico, had a dream where she saw herself meeting with a group in a kitchen. When she came to the first meeting, we were meeting in the kitchen of the Mireles home, and she recognized it as the same kitchen she had seen in her dream. Later, they were both baptized, and today Sister Flavia is a deaconess.

The home soon became too small and neighbors complained to the city, so we began looking for a building. Sister Mireles had a dream which foretold many events that would take place in the mission. In a dream she saw a small church building. One day while driving through Santa Ana, she saw a church building, and it was the same one she had dreamed about. We learned that the building was being used only on Sundays. We inquired about the possibility of renting the building for Thursday evening services. I had set a figure of \$200.00 in my mind, and when we approached the pastor, we asked the amount and he replied \$200.00. We knew God had provided for us!

God has given many mission members



wonderful dreams and visions. The following are a few:

In 1981, Sister Lucy Hemp dreamed of Sister Julia D'Amico coming to the Anaheim Branch. Sister Lucy asked Sister Julia to relate how God used her and her husband to start the work in Detroit. While contemplating on this dream the next morning, a voice spoke to her and said, "This is the way the Lord is going to work with the Santa Ana Mission, and many missions will come out of it."

Sister Bennie Jones had a vision while Brother Joseph Lovalvo was praying for a sister at the mission. She saw the sister as a piece of fruit that was ripe and began to swell. Then the fruit exploded and seeds went in many directions and in each place a seed fell, a strong tree grew.

Brother Rodriguez dreamed that the freeway between the Anaheim Branch and the Santa Ana Mission had long tables covered in white instead of cars. He saw many people, with Brother Otto Henderson and myself inviting the people to come and dine.

Sister Rose Anderson, returning from a mission function and feeling the Spirit

of God, prayed before retiring that God would confirm this work. That same night she saw a vision of a beautiful cluster of flowers. They were so perfect in shape and so beautiful, but she did not recognize what type of flowers they were. She remembers saying, "How beautiful, oh, how beautiful." As she was looking at the flowers and admiring their beauty, they suddenly started to rise. Then there was a sudden burst of brilliance that filled the room. She then said, "Oh Lord, you heard my prayer."

While visiting at the Mireles home, she saw flowers embroidered on a tablecloth. To her great amazement, they were the same flowers that she saw in her vision. She asked Sister Kika what kind of flowers they were. Sister Kika responded that they were flowers that grow only in Mexico and were traditionally known as a symbol of the Mexican people.

God has truly blessed this mission. We are currently holding services on Sundays and Thursdays. We seek your prayers. Our hope and faith is that one day God will provide us with a church building of our own. We send our love from the Santa Ana Mission.

The Church in Mexico

By George Heaps

To vacationers, Mexico is called the "Land of Enchantment". It is a land of easy living where the pace is very slow and restful. Indian history is everywhere in the form of artifacts and monuments of days when Indians were the sole inhabitants.

To our missionaries who have made many trips into the interior of Mexico, it is a land of object poverty, strict government controls, strange customs, traditions, and superstitions.

It is in this setting that our missionaries must strive to present the Restored Gospel. They are often required to live in their homes, most of which lack all modern conveniences, and eat whatever is placed before them in order to gain their love and respect. Possibly, this is what Paul meant when he wrote, "When I am in Rome, I do as the Romans."

The work among the Mexican people did not begin in Mexico. It all started over 30 years ago in a small town in Southern California called Las Nietos,

where Brother Edward Perdue, a Pima Indian, and his wife, Sister Evelyn, a converted Jew, began their missionary endeavors. From this humble beginning, the work grew rapidly, and soon they found themselves visiting across the border in Tijuana. There, on a mountain top, they discovered a very humble people with a great need for Christ.

They were so touched by their temporal and spiritual needs that the Perdues decided to take up residence in a 12 by 12 shack so they could be nearby and help them daily. Roads to their humble homes were almost nonexistent, and the few roads available were often impassable. But as difficult as conditions were, the Perdues often recall that these were some of the happiest days of their lives.

Another great obstacle in their path was the fact that they had no church building in which to worship. This, however, did not deter this courageous missionary team.

Today, we see the results of their efforts. There are seven branches and missions in places such as Ahome, San Ysidro, Sinaloa, Pedranales, Michoacan, Mexico City, Mexicali, and of course Tijuana. Presently we have 13 Mexican elders, two evangelists, and many, many, wonderful brothers and

sisters in Christ.

Space will not permit the recounting of the many gifts and blessings which we have witnessed in Mexico. We have seen great miracles and manifestations of the Spirit of God working among them, for which we praise and honor His holy name.

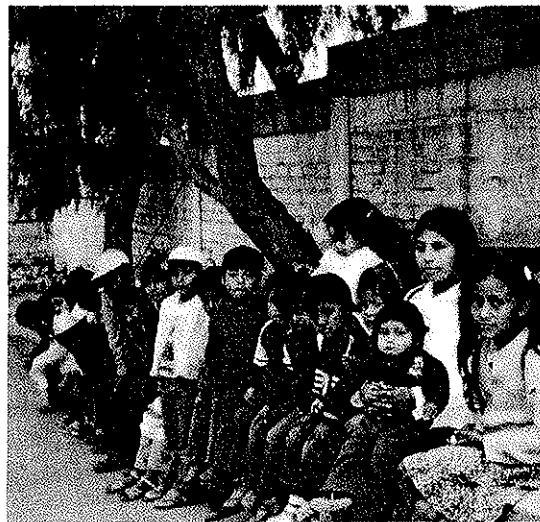
Many of the elders and members of the California District would like to do more for this work, but the language barrier is an obstacle. However, I must praise them for their generous donations in the way of food and money over many years. Without their help, the work would not have grown. You will notice from the pictures some of the buildings which we have been able to erect with the help of such dedicated workers as Brothers Sam Randy, Joseph Ciarolla, and others who spent many hours in manual labor in tremendous heat and primitive conditions.

Notice, too, the many children who are learning about the Restored Gospel in Sunday School. What great hope this holds for the days to come.

The most pressing needs today among the Seed of Joseph in Mexico are the lack of Spanish speaking missionaries and sufficient funds to reach the people wanting to hear the Restored Gospel.



Our Mexican Elders



Oaxacan Indian children who meet every Wednesday.

Saludos De Tijuana, Mexico

By Brother and Sister Perdue

We thank God that after 28 years in missionary work we are still on the firing line for the Lord. We have seen many souls come to the Lord. We have seen miraculous healings such as cancer, tumors, leukemia and many types of illnesses healed. There have been many beautiful experiences had by our dear brothers and sisters which has caused our hearts to rejoice to see the great things that have come to pass. We never cease to marvel at the greatness

of our wonderful Lord. We have many hymns that have been given to several of our brothers and sisters, which we sing and feel the Spirit of God in them.

We have nine ministers in Tijuana, and there are two couples at the present time who are desirous of taking the Gospel to the state in Mexico where they had come from. We are sure when the time is ripe the Lord will bring it to pass.

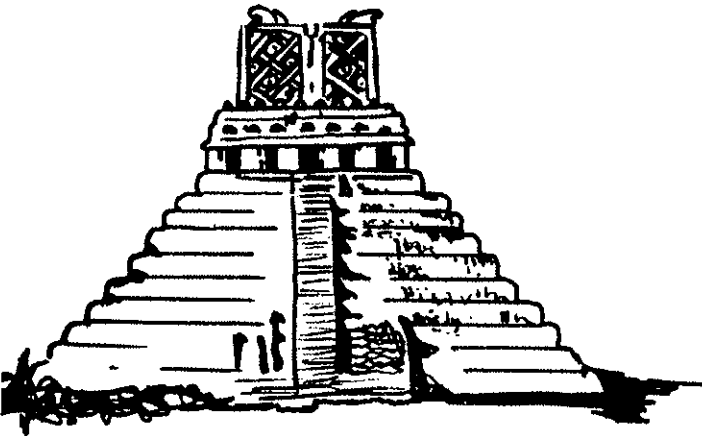
A dream was had by one of our sisters who saw Brother Perdue holding a *Book of Mormon* in one hand and with the other was tearing out pages that were scattered all over Mexico. Another

sister had a dream where she saw a tree loaded with fruit which exploded, and the seeds went all over Mexico.

We want to thank all who have helped us in any way. Surely the Lord will bless them.

When our mission is accomplished here on earth, we would like to be able to say as the Apostle Paul, "We have fought a good fight, we have finished our course, we have kept the faith and are now ready to meet our wonderful Lord."

May God bless all of our brothers and sisters everywhere.



Brother and Sister Perdue



Tijuana Sunday School Class

The Six Nations Reservation

By A. R. Loyalvo

The Six Nations Reservation, located near the city of Brantford, Ontario, is approximately 72 square miles in size and is the home of about 9800 Indians representing the following six nations: Mohawk, Cayuga, Onondaga, Tuscorora, Oneida, and Seneca. Some of the Delaware Indians also live there, although they are not members of the six nations.

The Restored Gospel was introduced to this reserve in 1937 when Sister Jane Dolson, from the Muncey Mission, gave her testimony to members of her family living at Six Nations.

For several years services were held in Indian homes. Sometimes it was necessary to hold concurrent services on both sides of the reserve. Later a community hall was rented to accommodate the many people attending the services.

In the 1950's the Church purchased a small building in the village of Ohsweken, near the center of the reserve. This building was renovated through the efforts of many saints from Detroit and Windsor who donated labor, material, and money. On July 7, 1957, the building was dedicated to the honor and glory of God. In 1974 the building was modernized to include a completely furnished two bedroom apartment where missionaries and visitors may live.

Space will not permit a full account of the many blessings and gifts manifested on this reserve over the many years.

The names of the many ministers and members from the Michigan-Ontario District, both past and present, who have faithfully made the bi-weekly trips are too numerous to mention. They went in blinding snowstorms as well as in good weather. Many of them used their own automobiles and personal finances. In the past 46 years since the mission was established, they have traveled some 600,000 miles without serious accidents or injury. Surely the

words of Jesus are so true, "Lo I will be with you always unto the end of the world."

There have been many outstanding Indian saints such as Sister Charlotte Hill, Brother and Sister Isaac, Sisters Irene Rigby and Sadie Jamieson, and many others. Many have now passed on to their eternal reward leaving behind a living testimony to the truthfulness of the Restored Gospel.

Having served this mission for 20 years, I personally want to express my gratitude to the Ladies Uplift Circle and the Missionary Benevolent Association, both at the general level as well as the district. Their generous donations, Christmas baskets, and gifts for the Sunday School children has enriched this mission. Also, a special thank you to the General Church for the financial assistance throughout the years and for supplying the vehicles necessary to make the trips.

Today, more than ever, the need for a permanent missionary is critical. A great deal could be accomplished at this reserve if we had an elder nearby.



Meaford, Ontario

The town of Meaford is located in the picturesque vicinity of Georgian Bay in Ontario, which is also home to the Indians of Cape Croker.

Some of the Windsor saints began visiting relatives in Meaford in 1940. Through the years, a few were baptized. At the present time, weekly meetings are being conducted by Brother Rick Elzby, who is an ordained teacher. The elders of the Windsor Branch make the five hour trip from time to time.

The members in Meaford are spending much time and effort among the Indians of Cape Croker and the Chippewa Hill Reserves. They are operating a program which includes social and welfare activities, as well as spiritual meetings.

Greetings from the Saints of the Muncey Mission

By Anthony Scolaro

How swiftly the years go by! It has been more than 50 years since the Restored Gospel was first introduced to the Indians of this reservation. Throughout the past one-half century, many have believed and accepted the Gospel of Jesus Christ and demonstrated the great change in their lives.

It is impossible to enumerate the vast number of children who attended Sunday School since 1932. Pictured on this page are some of the children of more recent years.

One of our former Sunday School students, Mr. Ether Deleary, is presently Chief of the Chippewa Band. He has played an active role in various affairs of the Muncey Reservation.

We are happy to report that today we have Brother Rodney Dyer presiding over this Mission. His wife, Sister Judy, a former Sunday School student, is now a very active member and very supportive of her husband's responsibilities.

Many have been the blessings witnessed at this Mission over the years. We have seen the lame walk, the blind see, and many sicknesses healed by God's anointing. But most of all we rejoice in the fact that many souls have come to the knowledge of Christ and have sung the songs of redeeming love, and many have passed on with a bright hope within their bosoms knowing that a crown of never failing glory was laid up for them.



The Muncey Choir.

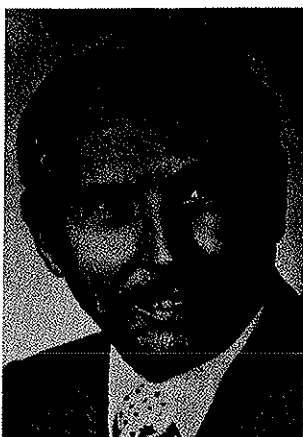


Sunday School Children.



Muncey Church Building

God's Covenant to Israel Is the Hope of the World



By Robert Watson, Apostle

of Joseph to this land in fulfillment of the words of Jacob: "Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well whose branches shall run over the wall."

Years before the discovery of America, it was thought that the world dropped off at the edge of the sea. Thus, in essence, the sea was a wall.

When Lehi and his family left Jerusalem, about 600 B. C., they came to the edge of the sea; to them it was indeed a wall. God commanded them to build a ship and He would bring them to a promised land, where they would grow into a fruitful bough.

Moreover, God told Lehi that should his descendants forget the Lord and dwindle in unbelief, God would bring another nation to take away their land and bring them into bondage.

The Gentiles

The *Book of Mormon* reveals that the Seed of Joseph did eventually forget God, and many turned to idol worship. Thus, God brought the Gentiles to America, and they did take the land from them just as God promised. Columbus, a *Bible* scholar, was directed to come here by the spirit of God, as Nephi records in the *Book of Mormon*. Also, history records that he may have discovered America more by prophecy than through astronomy. He wrote Queen Isabella: "Neither reason nor mathematics, nor maps were used by me." Today, we see that the Gentiles have become a mighty nation; however, they too have forgotten the Lord and are now facing destruction.

The Latter Days

God has promised to remember His covenant to Israel in the latter days. The first step in the fulfillment of His covenant was the restoration of the Gospel and the coming forth of the *Book of Mormon*. When Joseph Smith received the plates to the *Book of Mormon*, he was told that this record was to be taken to the remnant of the Seed of Joseph to show them what great things the Lord had done for their fathers and also that they might know the covenants of the Lord to Israel.

Since the organization of The Church of Jesus Christ in 1862, several at-

tempts were made to take the *Book of Mormon* to the Indian people; however, progress has been slow. Now in our day, we must accelerate our efforts with greater dedication than ever before. This mission must reach into every segment of the Church and tap every resource at our command. We need the expertise of those within our ranks who are educators, doctors, tradesmen, and representative of every facet of skill that can be employed to reach the Seed of Joseph at every level of life and communion. More importantly, we need to be filled with the pure love of God towards them for it will require love, patience, and self-sacrifice on the part of all.

This Committee is presently working on ways and means to reach all Indian people with the message of the Gospel. While much has been done, there remains much more to do. This Special Issue highlights some of the work being done on reservations, in urban centers, and in Mexico. We need, however, to locate missionaries on every reservation and throughout South and Central America; for only through the preaching of the Restored Gospel can we hope to see the fulfillment of the everlasting covenant made to the House of Israel.

Many are the prophecies which tell of the glories awaiting the world when God begins to gather Israel in the latter days. Sir Isaac Newton said:

"About the time of the end in all probability a body of men will rise up who will turn their attention to the prophecies and insist upon literal interpretation in the midst of much clamor and opposition."

The waiting period is past; the time to act is now! The *Book of Mormon* states that we must bring the Gospel to the Seed of Joseph and that through them He will raise up a prophet, the Choice Seer, who will be like a latter day Moses and who will deliver the Indian people. He will do a mighty work in convincing them to the truthfulness of the Gospel.

The World Missionary Conference should present a wonderful opportunity for everyone to acquire more information about this great Mission. I urge everyone who attends to do so with a fervent prayer that God may fit you into this work.

Perhaps some wonder why the Church is committed to preach the Gospel to the American Indians. Some may think that it is a social project created to alleviate economic depression or an attempt to soothe the pangs of an outraged conscience brought about by observing a people who have suffered through years of broken treaties and unbearable persecution. Indeed, the Indians have long fought isolation, loneliness, and the constant threat of extinction.

There are other more important reasons for bringing the Restored Gospel to the Indian people. Through the *Book of Mormon* we have learned that the Indians are descendants of Joseph, the son of Jacob. Thus, as a tribe of the House of Israel, they are participants in the great and everlasting covenant executed by God through Abraham.

The Covenant

"... And I will establish my covenant between me and thee in their generation for an everlasting covenant to be a God unto thee and to thy seed after thee ... and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed."

In order for this covenant to be everlasting, it must extend beyond the days of Abraham. The Church believes that the fulfillment and blessings inherent in this covenant will be realized only through the conversion of the House of Israel, beginning with the Seed of Joseph. Their conversion to Christ will result in the literal gathering of the House of Israel in the latter days.

The Seed of Joseph in America

We believe that God brought the Seed

The Work Among Urban Indians

By Richard Scaglione

For many years the Church focused its missionary endeavors primarily on Indian Reservations. In 1976, contact was made with the Council of the Three Rivers American Indian Center in Pittsburgh by brothers of the Pennsylvania District.

A pilot program designed especially for promoting the Gospel among urban Indians was developed. The program recognized that Indians living in urban centers are subjected to many prejudices and abuses by their city neighbors as well as many social and economic problems related to urban living.

To help overcome these prejudices, the program must encompass both the temporal and spiritual aspects. Thus, it must involve work assistance projects designed to demonstrate to the Indian people "the love of God in action", or as they often say, "We would rather see a sermon than hear one."

In 1977 the program was expanded on a General Church level and active programs are now in progress in every District of the Church. In working along side the Indian people, we have learned a great deal about their attitudes and culture enabling us to better understand how they feel and think.

Over the past five years, considerable work has been accomplished in various urban centers and a great and lasting friendship has developed between the Indian people and the Church workers. As a result, brothers have been asked to serve on the Board of Directors or on committees in several Indian centers. Also, on an individual basis, elders have performed weddings, blessed children, anointed the sick, as well as held informal meetings to discuss the faith and beliefs of the Church and how they relate to the Indian people.

In highlighting the efforts of the individual Districts, we do so only to inform the entire Church of one another's efforts and not to boast in any way. Since *The Gospel News* is sent to many Indian Centers, we trust our Indian friends will understand the need to keep the Church informed on all ongoing missionary activities. The following is a brief summary of some of the work ac-

complished by District committees:

ARIZONA

Considerable work has been done with the Yaqui Indians of Guadalupe. Food and clothing has been provided at their request. Involvement is starting on the Pima Reservation in Phoenix. Programs for the children, the alcoholics, and the needy are being instituted. The jails and hospitals are being filled with the sound of Gospel songs.

ATLANTIC COAST

Material and labor was donated to renovate the Philadelphia Center. As a result, elders have been permitted to occupy the pulpits of Indian churches and speak the Restoration message. Opportunities to hold church services at the Bridgeton Center continues. Many social activities are shared by our Church and our Indian friends.

CALIFORNIA

The District assumed the responsibility of renovating a large building for the Indian people. A brother wrote a project for an adult school program, approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. This led to summer school programs and a pre-school day care center. The California District is also deeply involved in work among the Indians of Mexico.

FLORIDA

The Brighton Reservation, located near the Church's Lakeworth Branch, is visited regularly. Picnics, singspirations, and fellowship are exchanged. Last Christmas, many from the Lakeworth Branch shared Christmas dinner with their Indian friends. Manual labor was donated to paint a large building on the reservation.

MICHIGAN—ONTARIO

The urban Indian efforts in Detroit resulted in the establishment of the Inner-City Branch where several hundred, including many Native Americans, are hearing the Gospel message every week and also benefit from the Branch's social programs.

OHIO

Involvement with several Indian centers continues. An Indian leader has endorsed our Church as the only one he would have working with his people. A pamphlet entitled, *The True Vine Jour-*

nal was printed and distributed telling the Restoration story.

PENNSYLVANIA

Manual labor was supplied for the renovation of the Three Rivers Center. Guest speakers were sent by the Center to speak in our Church about the Native American, his problems, hopes, and legends. A member of our committee was invited to give a lecture about the American Indians at a nearby college. The elders made a tape which was aired on radio by the Indian Center.

ANADARKO, OKLAHOMA

Brother and Sister Crall have won the trust and friendship of many Indians by their many charitable deeds. Much of our Church literature has been distributed by them. As a result, many of our ministers have spoken in their churches.

In summary, since the inception of the Urban Indian Program in 1977, many valuable contacts have been made on fifteen reservations, in six states, and in over twenty Indian Centers. At least seventy prominent Indian persons ranging from tribal chiefs, executive directors, presidents of Indian nations, religious leaders, editors of Indian publications, and many others in various arts have been reached with the story of our Church.

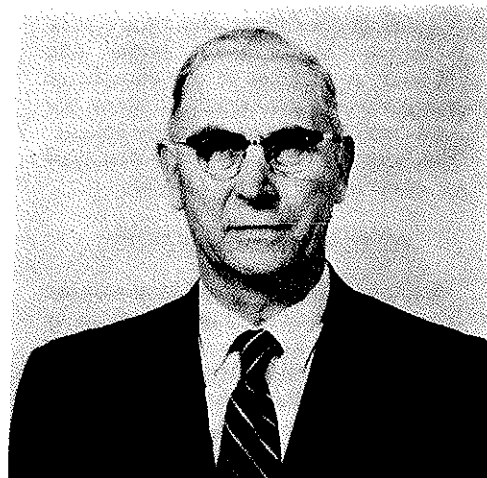
We pray that God will bless the Indian people with a desire to know the truths of the *Book of Mormon* dealing with their past history and how they are a part of God's ancient covenant people.



Brother Anthony Gerace baptizing an Indian woman from the Detroit, Inner-City Branch.

The Foreign Missions Committee

By Joseph Bittinger, Chairman



The Foreign Missions Committee is responsible for the administration of the missionary program in all foreign lands exclusive of the work among the Indians in the Western Hemisphere, which is supervised by the American Indian Committee.

It is most rewarding to see how the Church has prospered overseas. For example, if you visited Nigeria today, you would find more than 3,000 saints worshipping God much in the same manner as we do here at home. You would enjoy the Lord's Supper, witness baptisms, participate in feet washing, and hear the Word of God preached from the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon*.

The same would be true if you visited parts of Italy, Ghana, or India.

I hope the articles and pictures which follow will give our readers a perspective on the international scope of The Church of Jesus Christ.

I want to commend the saints everywhere for their generous contributions in past years which has made this all possible.

I must praise the efforts of many brothers and sisters who have made trips into these countries. Their names and accomplishments are too numerous and too great to mention in detail. I do, however, wish to make special mention of a few whose contributions have been exceptional:

Brother John Ross has made many trips to Nigeria, Ghana, and Italy. He has conscientiously taken care of the official correspondence and reports of the Church in Nigeria and Ghana for many years.

His wife, Sister Mary, accompanied Brother John to Nigeria in 1962 for six months and made a lasting contribution in working with the Nigerian sisters.

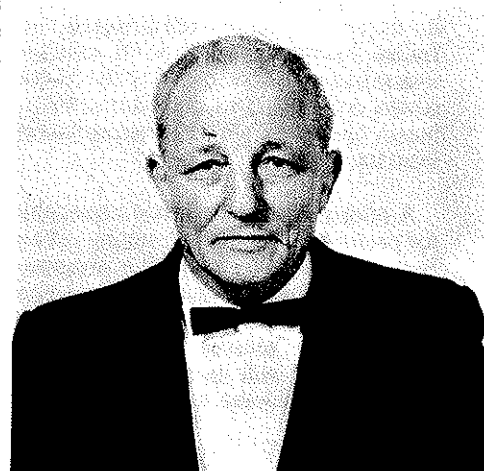
Brother Nephi DeMercurio, Sister Lorraine, and their young sons, Jared and Nephi, Jr., have spent nearly six years of their lives in Nigeria, during which time Brother Nephi has served both as an educator and missionary. During the time they have been in Nigeria, they experienced much sickness, as well as personal grief in the loss of their respective fathers.

I urge everyone to remember Brother and Sister Paul Carr and their children while they are in Nigeria.

As we look forward to meeting some of the missionaries from the various mission fields of the world, the following scripture seems very appropriate:

For behold, the Lord doth grant unto all nations, of their own nation and tongue, to teach his word, yea, in wisdom, all that he seeth fit that they should have; therefore we see that the Lord doth counsel in wisdom, according to that which is just and true. Alma 29:8

A Brief History of the Church in Nigeria



By John Ross

The Church of Jesus Christ was established in Nigeria in 1954 by Brothers W. H. Cadman and Joseph Bittinger. I became involved in the work through an impressive experience I received in 1953. In this experience, I was shown I was to go on missionary work in a foreign land, but I did not know the place. I was so impressed by this experience that I asked God to show me its meaning. The next day I was given the same experience again. This caused me to set my house in order and prepare myself to be ready if and when the Lord would cause my experience to be fulfilled.

In 1953 the Church received a message from a group in Nigeria who wanted to know about our Church. After the brethren returned and reported that the Church was established, an urgent appeal for missionaries was made in the April, 1959 Conference. I returned home from the Conference feeling that if my experience was truly from God, it would now be fulfilled.

I requested a six month leave of absence from my employer, which was granted. I offered my services to the Church. Brother Alvin Swanson and I were appointed as missionaries to Nigeria. In the meantime another group contacted the Church wanting to know about our Church; this group numbered about 10,000 members. We arrived in Nigeria in 1960 and began our missionary labors among our Church

members and the new group. We met frequently with the new group, and after expounding the scriptures and acquainting them with the faith of the Church, a large number was baptized. I personally baptized 891 persons, and Brother Swanson also baptized many. I returned home satisfied that my experience had been from God. I kept close contact with our Church in Nigeria with much correspondence.

In the year, 1962, it was essential that someone should go to Nigeria, and again I asked my employer for six months leave of absence, which was granted. At this time I took my wife with me; it was indeed good to have her with me.

In 1964, I was sent to Nigeria on a special mission for three and one half months. The Church authorized me to lay the ground work for the erection of a secondary school. The Church members in Nigeria donated over 44 acres of land near our Nigeria Church Center for the school. A land agreement was secured and plans for the school and mission home were developed. I returned home in 1965 with a sense of accomplishment and a yearning in my heart to return again as soon as possible.

In 1967, a civil war occurred and lasted until March, 1969. During this time we received no correspondence from the Church in Nigeria. We prayed to God that He would protect the saints during these hard times. After the war, we received word the Government had approved the application to build the secondary school. In 1970, Brother Gorie Ciaravino, President of the Church, and I went to Nigeria, and after considerable work, we were able to make all final preparations for the construction of the school.

It was a proud moment for Brothers Ciaravino, Bittinger, and I to attend the formal opening on March 30, 1974. The school is known as The Church of Jesus Christ Comprehensive Secondary School and is the source of pride to our people there. It represents a monument of love on the part of the General Church.

In 1976, Brother Nephi DeMercurio and I went to Nigeria, and we were privileged and honored to attend the first graduating class ceremonies. It was a festive and happy occasion. Today in Nigeria we have over 3,000 members in 42 branches.

In 1976, Brother Nephi DeMercurio

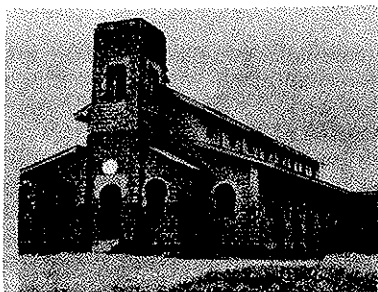
and I went to Ghana after we left Nigeria, and by the authority vested in us by the General Church, we established the Church in Ghana. At present we have a small Church there in comparison to Nigeria, but it is a good Church of which we are proud.

Another rewarding experience was the construction of our mission home on land donated by our people in Nigeria. The mission home was completed in 1977 and is and will be the source of much comfort to all who go to Nigeria.

To date, I have made eight trips to Africa for the Church, and in returning home, made three stops in Italy to visit some of our brothers and sisters. In 1981, I attended the first Church Conference ever held in Italy.

In concluding this brief history, I want to express my thanks to God and the Church for their trust and confidence in placing me in charge of this great work. There have been other dedicated elders who have gone to Africa to help with the work. I will not list their names due to lack of space and the fear I may omit some names. But I wish to express my gratitude to each of them for assisting me in this great work. Finally, I thank God for His strength and protection and for giving me an understanding wife, who accompanied me on some of the trips. She has stood by me and supported my efforts throughout the years.

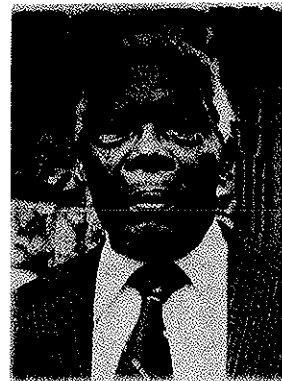
The saints of the Aliquippa Branch, where I worship, have been most kind and generous to me, and I pray that God will bless and reward them for their kindness toward me, together with all the brothers and sisters of the General Church. For surely without their prayers and financial support, I could not have done what I did for God and the Church.



Church Headquarters in Atai Otoro Abak.

The Church in Nigeria

By E. U. A. Arthur, President



I greet you all in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It has always been my desire to greet you through this medium, but as a result of work pressure, coupled with my age, I have been unable to do so before now.

There has been much progress in the work of The Church of Jesus Christ in Nigeria. We have forty-two branches and a total congregation that exceeds three thousand. We try our best to service and maintain all of the branches in spite of all the problems we face daily. There is hope for more converts in the years ahead.

The Headquarters of the Church is located in the town of Atai, Otoro of Abak Local Government Area in the Cross River State of Nigeria. At this location, we have a membership of over six hundred. All conferences, yearly conventions, elder's meetings, and Mission Days are held or celebrated at the Atai Otoro Center. From the Center the work of all the branches is coordinated.

We are struggling to overcome our problems which include transportation, finances and shortage of equipment for the school and the field work in Lagos.

Transportation

Since the Church has no transportation means of her own, it has been difficult to reach distant branches as often as we would like too. However, with the cooperation of the Parent Church and our branches here, over six thousand naira have so far been collected. We

(Continued next page)

CHURCH IN NIGERIA

hope, with further collections, to be able to purchase our own bus this year. It would be of great assistance to the work of God in these parts of the world. If this anticipation is fulfilled, our problem in this field will be greatly alleviated.

Finances

This is a difficult problem at the best of times, but more so at this time of economic recession. However, with the help of our Almighty God we shall overcome these problems which retard the work of God. We have branches far removed from the Headquarters which need to be strengthened. They include places such as: Lagos, Ekpe, Ekpe, and Idot Obio Ikpa. These branches should be visited more than we are able to do at present. We greatly appreciate the work of the Parent Church in assisting some of these branches in erecting their own church buildings. We pray always that our Heavenly Father will bless all of your efforts on our behalf.

Workers Needed in the Vineyard

The words of Jesus are so true that "the harvest is great but the laborers are few". Both the Parent Church and our elders here have contributed a great deal in this wise. But more glory goes to the Parent Church for sending us a missionary as humble and dedicated and hardworking as Brother Nephi DeMercurio. We greatly admire the untiring way he goes about his arduous duties, both as a teacher and a preacher of the Gospel here at the Atai Otoro Center. The entire Church in Nigeria deeply mourned the loss of his father-in-law, and more recently the loss of his own father, while he was in God's service in our country.

We fervently pray that God may grant him and his family the necessary Christian fortitude to bear these losses, until we all meet to part no more.

Brother Nephi will return home soon. Wish him and his family a safe journey and hope that, some day, he may be able to return again to Nigeria, as he has acquired a wealth of experience about the work here.

We wish to thank the Parent Church for their plans to send a replacement for Brother Nephi. There is a need for qualified elders and lay-members from the Parent Church to help our elders

(Continued on Page 24)

Greetings from the Church in Ghana, W. Africa

By Ford K. Boadu, President



Brother Ford K. Boadu
President of the Church in Ghana

July 18, 1976 was a memorable day in the history of the Church because it was the day when the Country of Ghana gave birth to the Restoration. The Church of Jesus Christ was set up here, when I, along with eleven others, was baptized.

Before this, I had corresponded with Elder John Ross on the tenets of the Church. My affiliation at this time was with the Christian Evangelical Church. In establishing the Church here, Brothers John Ross and Nephi DeMercurio ordained me an elder. They also ordained five young men as teachers, three young men as deacons, and three deaconesses. Thus the Church was established. Other converts were baptized later.

I have had many experiences since the office of an elder was conferred upon me by the Priesthood of The Church of Jesus Christ. The gifts of God have been very powerful. Upon whosoever my hand is stretched in anointing the sick receive healing. Furthermore, many events occurring in our country are revealed to me in dreams so that I am able to warn my people. Events both political and non-political have been revealed to me.

One wonderful thing which occurred in the history of the Church here was how God gave me an insight on the Restoration story. One day a brother

asked me, "Who is the woman mentioned in Revelation 12?" I answered that at one time a priest had told me that the woman spoken of in this chapter was the Virgin Mary. I told him not to repeat the priest's ignorance and mistake. I told him that I would consult God through prayers and He would answer me.

That night the Lord gave me wisdom and revealed everything about the Restoration of the Gospel. In Church that weekend, a teacher asked the same question, and I began to narrate and gave figures to prove the Gospel was restored, and it was what Jesus showed the Apostle John. After the lesson was over, the saints' faith was highly built and nothing could draw them from the Restored Gospel. God's spirit proved to the saints that what I taught them was true.

Later I received a parcel containing the *Book of Sermons* printed by the Church. In it were the facts about the Restoration, and what had been revealed to me was confirmed.

Though the Church in Ghana has suffered many ups and downs, my saying has been, "The dogs bark yet the wagon moves on".

One major event that happened in the Church which brought the Church down was the doctrines of other groups. Some leaders of other churches from neighboring towns and villages teamed together against us. They called us many names, saying that we believed in many false doctrines. This brought a great set-back to our Church, as some left to follow them, and it took me months to bring order in the Church through prayer and fasting.

Now the Church is highly developed. God has called into the Church young men consecrated and dedicated to the Restored Gospel. They are well versed in the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon*. These young men have vowed to defend the Church in every circle and never surrender to the devil's demands.

We have started to rebuild what the

(Continued on Page 24)

A Tribute to Our Returning Missionaries from Nigeria

The amount of effort we are willing to exert in pursuing our goals depends heavily upon how important they seem to us. Most of us tire quickly when our energies are directed toward goals we care little about. On the other hand, we devote tremendous effort and may even sacrifice our lives in the pursuit of goals that we really believe in.

Such dedication has characterized the missionary endeavors of Brother Nephi and Sister Lorraine DeMercurio and their two young sons, Jared and Nephi, Jr. They believed that their assignment for the Church and the Secondary School was of such importance that they were willing to devote six years of service in the country of Nigeria.

During these years, they experienced tremendous spiritual success in all of their endeavors. They exhibited remarkable versatility coping with a variety of challenges. Although the

years have also been marked with hardships, they stayed at their posts of duty as well disciplined disciples of Christ. We regret that during their tour of duty, their respective fathers passed away, and we pray they will find consolation in the fact that they are with the Lord in glory.

We welcome them home with open hearts and open arms, and pray that our Heavenly Father will always keep them in the palm of His Almighty hand. We know that wherever they make their home, they will continue to labor for the Lord.

We extend to each one of them the Church's sincere congratulations and thanks for a labor of love which, we are certain, will never be forgotten by the saints of Nigeria. The Parent Church will, of course, rely a great deal on the vast knowledge and experience they have acquired during this assignment.



Brother Nephi, Sister Lorraine, Nephi, Jr. and Jared

Our Missionaries to Nigeria

Brother Paul Carr has volunteered to serve as Missionary in Nigeria for a minimum of six months. He expects to leave in May. This will enable him to receive a few weeks of orientation from Brother Nephi, who is scheduled to return home in June.

Accompanying Brother Paul will be his wife, Thressa, and three of his five children: Paul Jr. age 15, Cheryl Ann age 13, and John Edward age 12.

Both Paul and Thressa have known the Church all of their lives. Their grandfathers, Brothers Isaac Smith and James Cowan, were apostles in the Church.

Brother Paul was baptized on January 27, 1957, and his wife was baptized on June 24, 1956. Brother Paul was ordained an elder on May 13, 1979. In November of 1980, Brother Paul made a trip to Nigeria. He fell in love with the work and was captivated by a missionary spirit. He stated, "I want to do more for the Lord while I am young and not wait until I am not able and then regret it. I feel we must put the Church first."



Brother Paul Carr, Sister Thressa, Paul Jr., Cheryl Ann, and John Edward

(Continued on Page 24)

Teachers Needed In Our Secondary School *By Joseph Ross*



Part of School Compound

Once in a Lifetime Experience

Interested in teaching school where the Government pays your travel expenses, your salary, and provides living quarters in town or on the school grounds? The opportunity and challenge is available for any certified teacher affiliated with The Church of Jesus Christ. The experience will surely enrich your life as you serve God and fellow human. Sound interesting? It is!

All Necessities Available

In Abak and nearby cities, nearly all necessities are available comparable to the U. S. There is all manner of fresh meat and fresh fruits, with a limited amount of fresh vegetables. However, canned fruits, meats and vegetables are unlimited. Bread, pastries, soda pop, coffee, tea, milk, and canned lunch meat, etc. are also plentiful.

Small and intermediate cars, prescription drugs, other drugs, vitamins, doctors, optometrists and dentists are there. Both a large and small hospital are within eleven (11) miles of the school. Very little is lacking.

Teachers Appreciated

The Nigerian Government, officials and citizens respect teachers from other nations. They appreciate efforts made to educate their children, both spiritually and naturally. Other churches establish and maintain Bible Schools, whereas The Church of Jesus Christ established an educational school teaching these subjects: sciences, math, accounting, English, music, economics, history, geography, physics, chemistry, French, auto repair, electricity, biology, typing and others. The Nigerian Comprehensive Secondary School serves as a worthwhile assistance to the Church. As students learn to read, write and speak English, they have the opportunity to read and learn about the *Bible*, *Book of Mormon* and Restoration Story. In fact, our Faith and Doctrine is being taught in the school by the Church's Resident Missionary, Nephi DeMercurio.

Missionary Assistants

Educational teachers from our Church would serve in another role, assisting the missionary in Church work. They can be utilized in teaching classes in Sunday School and Ladies Uplift Circle, accompanying the missionary in

his travels throughout the seven districts and fifty branches and missions located in West Nigeria, teaching our Faith and Doctrine, etc. A teacher would serve in a dual role, spiritually and naturally.

School's Origin and Growth

The Church of Jesus Christ built the school in 1973, investing \$28,105.60. Since then, we have not budgeted any funds for buildings. The Nigerian Government has given liberally by grants and aids making the present school's estimated value at \$1 million, with 1200 students attending.

The Church is still honored as the founder of the school, enjoying the recognition it receives from people and government. The Church of Jesus Christ's School is recognized as one of the best, excelling in academics and sports, winning many awards in education, track, soccer, volley ball and gymnastics.

Who Can Teach?

Teachers can be husband and wife, single men or women. The teaching term begins in September and ends in June. Travel expenses to and from Nigeria are paid by the Government, as well as housing. There are two apart-

ments in our mission home, for housing teachers, with air conditioning, water, electricity, and toilet facilities.

Temperatures range from (coolest) 80 degrees to (hottest) 120 degrees or more. Dress apparel is light weight, similar to our summer casual clothing. Men wear ties periodically, while women wear dresses and skirts with blouses, sweaters and jerseys while teaching in school. A teacher must be certified as in the U.S.

Buildings on the school compound include classrooms, dining hall, kitchen, assembly hall, dormitories for boys and girls, library and others. This school is quite comparable to some in our country.

Interested?

If interested, make it a matter of prayer for guidance. Remember the words of King Benjamin in the *Book of Mormon*, "when ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God." (Mosiah 2:17)

Contact person is:

Joseph Ross
#2 Ross Drive
Aliquippa, PA 15501



Some Teachers on School Staff with John Ross.

Italy

Missionary Trip to Italy

By Dan Casasanta

We received the approval and blessings of the Foreign Missions Committee to go to Italy. The four of us, Brother Dan and Sister Fannie Casasanta and Brother Bill and Sister Chris Colangelo, were given a warm and loving send-off by many brothers and sisters as we left the Greater Pittsburgh International Airport on October 25.

Our primary purpose was to assist Brother Joseph LoRicco, who is the elder in charge, in holding the second conference in Italy. This three-day conference was attended by twelve (12) members from the various missions and included six of the nine elders. We held two meetings each on Friday and Saturday and our final one on Sunday. In the business session on Friday, many items were discussed, including requests from the missions for Bibles. They also discussed the possibility of a newsletter for all the members in Italy to keep them up-to-date on the Church. We asked them to help us compile an address book for the Church in Italy, which has now been completed. Seminars on the Falling Away and Restoration were conducted, and feet washing was observed on Saturday morning, while our Sunday service was taken up with preaching, testimonies and communion. We returned to Patti with Brother LoRicco, where we held five meetings and rested in preparation for the secondary purpose of our trip, which was to encourage and strengthen our brothers and sisters throughout the Church in Italy.

Unlike previous trips where we traveled long hours by public transportation, we rented a car to make the trip somewhat easier for the five of us. Brother Bill was our driver and was of valuable assistance in driving and as a teacher as we visited every mission. In addition, we were able to see some of the saints who were unable to come to the meetings. This would not have been possible without the use of a car. Sister Fannie and Sister Chris, who are

deaconesses, were also of great assistance as we traveled. We had feet washing in many of the missions, besides our regular meetings, and served sacrament in most places.

Our first stop was San Demetrio, then Buccino, Basalice, and then to the Isle of Ponza, which was reached by a three-hour boat trip that left some of us very happy to see land again. We were able to visit some of our cousins in Sulmona, Popoli and Pescara and bring the Gospel to them. Brother LoRicco will follow up with subsequent visits to encourage them. Next we went and spent a day with Brother Anthony Palmieri's brother and sister-in-law, who received us warmly.

Rome was next, where we spent a few days to rest and see a little of this famous city. From there we flew to Sardegna, where we spent twelve (12) days, our longest visit, and held meetings every night. Our last stop was Cala Gonone and then back to Rome, where we left on December 13 to avoid the general strike called for December 15.

The potential for growth in Italy was evidenced by the visitors who attended many of our meetings and the interest they displayed. We left Italy with great hope for the future of the Church there.

There is a continual need in Italy for visits by elders from the Parent Church. A great work can be accomplished in

this country. Italian speaking elders who desire to visit Italy to encourage and strengthen the Church are requested to contact the Secretary of the Foreign Missions Committee, Brother Joseph Ross.



Brother Joseph LoRicco



Members and friends of the mission in DiCala Gonone, Sardegna.

My Missionary Trip to India

By Alvin Swanson

My interest in India began in the July 1948 Conference where I met Brother Ghandru, from India, who had been ordained an elder. He passed away in 1954 before he could return to India to preach the Gospel.

A few years later, a sister told me an experience about India which indicated the Gospel would go there sometime in the future. I prayed many times about India. In 1973, the Church delegated two brothers to visit India in the hopes of establishing the Church there. They, however, were denied entry.

In 1974, Dr. David Baer Livingston came to America and visited the Church. He left very impressed and with the hope that the Church would eventually send brothers to India.

In 1981, the Church renewed efforts to visit India. In February, 1981, I had a personal experience that I would go to India; but I did not know when. I began to set my house in order making sure that all my earthly contracts were fulfilled, and I also made arrangements where to send my body should I pass away in a foreign land. I had a physical examination and was pronounced in good health.

Digressing from my travel account, I wish to express some personal thoughts on missionary work. The Seventy Evangelists are commissioned to carry the Gospel to all the world. Indeed, they are to be fishers of men. The scriptures provide many lessons on how to be successful fishers. Three incidents come to mind:

Acts 2:47 reads, "And the Lord added to the Church daily such as should be saved." It is the Lord's sovereign will to say who will come into the Church and not our thoughts who they shall be—they may be in another part of the world. Some may ask why I went to India to baptize people when there are millions at home who need conversion.

In Luke 5:1-11 and in John 21:3-11, we find the Apostles fishing all night and catching no fish; but when the Lord told them where to put down their nets, they caught so many fish their nets broke. It should be noted that these experienced fishermen could not catch any fish until the Lord told them where to let down their nets. They followed His

orders and caught abundantly. It seems the early Church was a dispensation of scattering while our time is a time of gathering. But the lesson is clear about Evangelistic work—only go where the Lord directs.

In 1981, Brother Joseph Calabrese and I were chosen to go to India to establish the Church, if we found favorable conditions. I asked God to inspire me for the work in India, which He readily endowed me. I went home from Conference with an inner peace, knowing I would have to quit my job and leave my family; but all fears disappeared. It is good to sever all worldly ties when going on Missionary work so that one can focus entirely on spiritual affairs.

Brother and Sister Ansel D'Amico wrote us relating some visions they both had pertaining to India. They saw two personages in white accompany Brother Joe and I throughout our travels. This was very encouraging.

The day for departure came, and as soon as we were airborne, I entered in prayer and dedicated all my strength and thoughts to our mission. The trip was tiring, but interesting. Upon arrival in India, we were faced with the language barrier, a different culture, immigration taxes, exchanging American dollars, and making hotel reservations.

Soon after arriving, we held a spiritual meeting, preaching, teaching, and waiting for the Lord to move upon the ones He had selected. It was not long until the people began testifying of having dreams and visions. Some saw a light over the elders, including Brother Dev, whom we had ordained. Others had visions after being baptized. One had a vision that Christ appeared to him in flowing white robes and invited him to kneel in prayer with Him. He had this vision while being confirmed. Another young man had a vision of a personage holding the golden plates. He was so overcome and could not speak for some time. He said the plates were so bright they blinded him and rendered him speechless. What joy we felt when we saw God was bearing witness to our testimony and how true it is that one plants, another waters, but God gives the increase. I thank God that I never converted anyone, but left that

to our Master.

In Madras, Southern India, where we spent most of our time, the land is very flat, with one exception: There is a small mountain, and at the crest is a small church building and a stone memorial erected to the Apostle Thomas. One day, we visited this site. Thomas was commissioned by the Lord to go to India, and here he sealed his ministry with his blood, for he was stabbed to death. What emotions we felt as we stood where our co-worker died for the cause of Christ!

While in India we witnessed the baptisms of fifty-four persons. I believe their number has more than doubled since our visit. When I reflect on how our Lord worked, it still amazes me. To accomplish His design, the Lord used Brother Dev, Brother Livingston, Sister Large, Sanyassi Paul, the two Angels, and Brother Joe and myself, as well as many others. Every time I recall some spiritual incident from there, I am blessed all over again, and I know it will continue my whole life.

In conclusion, I wish to relate a personal experience:

In going to India, our flight from London was through Sweden, across Russia then Afghanistan and Pakistan into India; but returning home, our flight was scheduled for Kuwait as our first stop. Due to a severe sand storm, we were obliged to go to Bahrain, Saudi Arabia. As a young man, I had dreamed of going to the Persian Gulf and to travel between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, northward through Mesopotamia. After a three hour delay, we flew to Kuwait, and suddenly I became aware that we were at the place where Lehi and Nephi built the ship to cross the Pacific. Looking down upon the place from the air, I could only marvel at the loving kindness of our Lord to fulfill even this secret desire of mine. It is good to be home again, and may all be done to the honor and glory of God.





Brothers Calabrese, Dev and Swanson



Scene at first baptism in India.



Brothers Calabrese, Swanson and Dev confirming new converts.



Brothers Calabrese and Swanson with first group baptized.

The Domestic Missions Committee

By Joseph Calabrese, Chairman

The Domestic Missions Committee is an arm of the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists.

One of the important functions of this Committee is to provide ministerial assistance to the many small missions which are scattered in various parts of the United States. For example, there are missions in such places as: Atlanta, Georgia; Rochester, New York; Quincy, Florida; Cincinnati, Ohio; Omaha, Nebraska; South Bend, Indiana; Bedford, Iowa; Gastonia, North Carolina; as well as others.

Some of these missions have one elder, but most do not have any, and the saints must rely on visiting elders for sacrament, anointings, and to hear the Word of God preached.

It has been the hope and aim of this Committee to place an elder at each of these missions. Elders desiring to relocate are encouraged to contact the Committee Chairman.

Another role of this Committee is at the District level. Here, they are called upon to help generate spiritual enthusiasm in District branches and established missions. The District officers may call upon them to conduct or assist in revival meetings from time to time. Also, evangelists are required to visit the branches to encourage the missionary spirit which is so vital to the growth of the Church.

Sharing the Gospel with others through means such as door to door contact, radio, television, distribution of tracts, and witnessing is of paramount importance. We are reminded of the words of the Prophet Alma:

"And behold, when I see many of my brethren truly penitent, and coming to the Lord their God, then is my soul filled with joy; then do I remember his merciful arm which he extended towards me."

Having strong missionary minded branches at home is of vital importance. For only through this means can we aid and abet the cause of world-wide missionary efforts.

We await the World Missionary Con-

ference with great anticipation. It is our constant prayer that God's richest blessings will crown this gathering so that everyone who can attend may capture the hopes and aspirations of The Church of Jesus Christ in these the last days.

I urge everyone to give generously towards the Church's missionary efforts. It is only through your generous efforts that we can visit and encourage the saints living so far from the main body of the Church. They must not be forgotten!

Evangelism

By The Quorum of Seventy



Christ sent out seventy evangelists to preach the Gospel. The primary task of the evangelist is to preach the Gospel throughout the world. However, at the same time that Christ charged the evangelists with this responsibility, he asked them to pray that the Lord would send laborers for the harvest. When we receive salvation and are converted, we have a living testimony. This testimony must be shared with others. Evangelism is the task of every true believer in Jesus Christ. All of us might not have the opportunity to preach in foreign lands or to large groups of people as the evangelists of old and some of our brothers today, but it is our responsibility to sow the seed and nurture it—God will grant the increase.

We are obliged to support the evangelistic work of the Church with whatever resources and talents God gives us. The member who stays home and helps finance the work of God is just as necessary and vital as those in

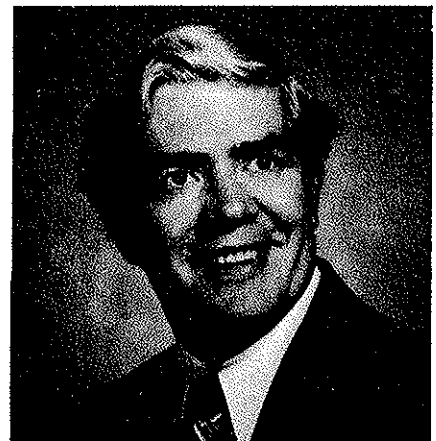
foreign lands. We are all one body and God uses us according to our desire and ability. God's Church, The Church of Jesus Christ, depends upon each and every individual laboring in the harvest of souls.

Our prayers, our energy, our resources, and our soul's desires should be directed toward the spread of the Gospel and the building of the kingdom that Jesus spoke of here on earth as it is in heaven. Let us join together in a continued effort to fulfill the will of God.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the brothers and sisters throughout the world striving to accomplish God's will. They have made many sacrifices, been separated from their families and loved ones, suffered illness and hardship, and yet are still determined to spread the Gospel as God leads them.

The Gospel by Letter

*By Richard W. Lawson,
General Church Correspondent*



A variety of means are often employed in spreading the Gospel. Included among these methods are preaching, personal testimony, literature and the use of radio and newspapers.

In 1965 the Church recognized a need for another way to be included with these methods. The office of General Church Correspondent was begun with Brother Joe Calabrese being elected to that position. His responsibility was to answer all of the letters the Church received. He capably filled that office for 15 years and replied to hundreds of letters from many states and foreign countries.

As a member of the General Church Board of Missions, the Correspondent occupies a unique position in the Church. That is due to the fact that he is often the first contact an outsider may have with the Church. It is extremely important that this initial contact imparts a favorable impression. A good deal of time and effort is spent in research to answer the many questions people raise. A large quantity of prayer is also added to the replies.

Many of those writing are high school and college students who want information for papers they are writing for school projects. Others who inquire want to use the information in books and articles they are writing for publication. The majority of people who write are seeking information about the Church and want literature to see what we believe and why. Some specifically mention that they do not want anyone to contact them.

Letters come in a wide variety, both in content and in the nature of the writer who is making a specific request or seeking a general understanding of the Church. Every first-time reply includes a *Faith and Doctrine* card. Other literature is included depending on the nature of the request and at the decision of the Correspondent.

Statistics are not always interesting, but the following should help the reader understand that the Church covers the

globe. In 1981 approximately 26 replies were written, while 47 inquiries have been answered in 1982. Since 1965, letters were sent to 43 states and the District of Columbia and to 21 foreign countries.

Very few of the requests received can be described as routine, while the majority are interesting and unusual.

Recently an inquiry came in from an instructor at a small college in upstate New York. He had searched the library at his school for information on religions dealing with the restoration but couldn't find any. He obtained the name of the Church from a reference book and wrote for some literature. After receiving the *Brief History*, he wrote again and requested five additional copies to place in the library.

A man from Belfast, Northern Ireland requested a copy of the *Book of Mormon*, which was sent. It is not known how he heard about the Church, but just imagine what this may mean in that strife-torn area of the world.

There has been ongoing correspondence with a couple in Kenya who obtained our address and wrote for information. Letters have gone back and forth since April of 1982, and the husband is out preaching the Gospel based on the literature we furnished. They stated in a recent letter that there is a group of people ready to be baptized. The Foreign Mission Committee is

now studying their request.

One very interesting inquiry came from a man in Utah who just requested some literature in his original letter. After that initial request was filled, he sent \$20.00 and requested that amount of literature. Since that was an unusually large request, it was assumed he was writing an article for publication which was asked in the reply sent to him. He stated in his response that he wanted the literature for his own benefit. He heard about the Church from a friend of his who had been in Nigeria and who heard about our efforts there. An unusual way to hear about the Gospel, but it clearly shows that God does move in a mysterious and wonderful way.

These examples are just a few of the many that arrive at our desk. It is increasingly obvious that people are searching for something. It is just as obvious that even when that person may be in a remote area of the world or in a large city where the Gospel hasn't touched yet, God will provide a way for the sincere in heart to obtain the address of the Church and begin a dialogue that will allow them to experience for themselves, the Pearl of Great Price.

We never know when that word of testimony, that piece of literature, or the copy of *The Gospel News* that we place somewhere may have long reaching effects.

The Sisters Are Missionaries Too

By Mabel Bickerton, President
General Ladies Circle



Yes, sisters are missionaries too. In the days of the Apostles, women filled this role, and today we see this repeated.

Phebe, who was a servant of the Church at Cenchera, showed the missionary spirit in her compassion for many. Priscilla, along with her husband, Aquila, opened their home for church services, and for a year and a half the great missionary, Paul, lived with them. He said of them: "They have, for my life, laid down their own necks."

Another women named Lydia, a seller of purple, heard the brethren preach and pray by the riverside. God touched her heart, and she and her household were baptized. She was able to sow seeds of joy and happiness through her testimony, another trait of a true missionary. Dorcas devoted her life in helping widows. She spent hours making coats and garments for them. When she died, the widows were overcome with grief. They showed Peter the items she had made. Peter was so touched by their grief and their love towards this beloved sister, that he actually resurrected her by the power of God.

Today we have sisters who are mis-

sionaries at home and abroad. For example, on many Indian Reservations the Lord has provided an elder with a wife to help with the work. They have seen the weakness and loneliness of many people and the needs both natural and spiritual. Thus, they understand the true meaning of being a missionary. The Church today could use many more dedicated sisters in this area.

Many of our sisters have gone across the seas, many miles from home, serving in as perfect help mates to their husband. They not only are mothers in their household, but mothers to the families they serve. These sisters now know more fully the words of Jesus: "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." They have felt the missionary spirit and now feel a greater compulsion to labor for the Kingdom of God.

We at home can be missionaries too. We cannot all go into the missionary field, so we must find our place at home.

(Continued next page)

Many great things for the Lord and His Church are being accomplished by "little missionaries" who let their lights shine before men in obscurity. Yes, there are many faithful servants among the sisters. We must not feel that the Church owes us anything; rather, we should think on what we owe The Church of Jesus Christ for the beauty of the Restoration. We can be on the "Prayer Line", trim our lamps so that they will shine more light, and be generous with our substance. It is a challenge to be a missionary and be a blessing to others. I urge every sister of the Church to get involved in some way. Jesus Christ is the strongest force in the world. When we serve the Church and all mankind, we are in His service. If we believe and do all these things, we can say **"Yes, sisters are missionaries too"**.

Finally, we rejoice in knowing that since the creation of the Ladies Circle by Sister Sadie Cadman, more than fifty years ago, the sisters have provided thousands and thousands of dollars to aid the Missionary Program. May we continue to be generous towards the Church as God prospers us.

MY DESIRE

*A missionary Lord, I want to be,
At home, abroad, across the sea,
Help me each day to become strong,
Be calm and patient, never wrong,
Give me courage, strength for the day,
Help me Jesus, to know thy way.
I'm only a woman, as you see,
I come to Thee on bended knee,
I pray to ease anothers pain,
Then my work will not be in vain.*

CHURCH IN NIGERIA continued . . .

here become more involved in the service of the Church, as well as the School. In addition to missionaries, we need experts in the sciences, masons, auto mechanics, carpentry, electrical, as well as other vocations to enhance the progress of our people.

The World Conference

The news of my invitaiton to the World Conference is very welcome. I know it is God that has revealed this to the Parent Church. I will be there with God's help. I implore each of you to pray that God will bring me there safely.

GHANA continued . . .

devil destroyed, but we encounter so many difficulties. In Ghana, the churches which were established by our colonial masters, and a few others established many years ago, beat drums and play instruments in their services. People delight in this, and it helps to build up large congregations. Because we do not beat drums and play instruments, we find it difficult to hold revivals. What does help us is the P. A. System, for it magnifies our beautiful singing and wonderful preaching so all can hear.

Before we can hold revivals we have to hire a P. A. System for C1,000.00 for three nights. We become discouraged because we are poor and so cannot afford to pay so much money every month. So in view of this, we pray that a request for a P. A. System and a portable diesel electric generator plant will touch someones heart or the Church in general and purchase them for the Church in Ghana.

OUR MISSIONARIES continued . . .

Brother Paul related how he was overcome with a desire to return to Nigeria as a missionary. He began praying and asking God to show him if this was his calling. In expressing himself before the Foreign Mission Committee, he stated:

"One night I had a short dream in which I found myself traveling from

place to place and found myself in Africa, along with my family. I awoke praising God that He had answered my prayers.

"I approached Brother John Ross and told him of my desire. Brother Ross asked me if I would like to take my wife along. Again, I knew it was from God as I had not told Brother Ross about my dream and that my wife was with me in Africa in the dream.

"I then discussed this with my wife, and she asked me not to press her about going with me. She was not sure she wanted to go. Shortly after the dream, I was hospitalized. One day while reading the Scriptures, I heard a voice saying, 'Ask her tonight.' I thought to myself, she is not coming to visit me this evening, but twice more the same voice said, 'Ask her tonight.' Shortly afterwards, to my surprise, my wife entered the room. I immediately asked her if she had reached a decision, and she replied that she would go with me."

Brother Paul is very grateful to God and to the Church for the privilege of serving in the missionary field. It will not be an easy task, for it will require a great adjustment on the part of himself, his wife, and the children. They will encounter a change in food, climate, culture, and the language barrier. They, however, have displayed a great love towards the saints in Nigeria, and we are sure God will take care of them and keep them safe and well.

Let us all remember them in prayer and with cards and letters from time to time.

All these good servants are looking forward to the day when the San Carlos vineyard will bring forth much fruit.

SAN CARLOS continued . . .

had formed covering the area of the Church. The only cloud in the sky, it stayed over us until the work was done.

Since Brother Dan Picciuto left the Mission at San Carlos, other brothers and sisters have taken turns spending years cultivating the vineyard here: namely, Brother Anthony and Sister Grace Brutz; Brother Joseph and Sister Rose Milantoni; Brother David and Sister Grace Majoros; and most recent, Brother Emmett and Sister Evelyn Dale. Everyone of these brothers and sisters have been good and faithful servants doing their share of the work to further the Gospel among the American Indian.



Sisters at Sister Anita Hopkin's home

The Gospel News

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

(USPS 223-480)

June, 1983

Volume 39, No. 6

Baptisms Highlight Michigan-Ontario District Conference

By Karyn Vitto with Anthony J. Scolaro

And He saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. (Matthew 4:19)

This was the theme of our District Meeting on February 13, 1983. Surely the Spirit of the Lord was in our midst as Brother Leonard A. Lovalvo opened our meeting with this passage. He spoke of Christ's calling of His twelve apostles, and the importance of serving the Lord. When he was about twelve years old, Brother Leonard remembered, a dying sister told him, "Remember the Lord, and serve Him." Brother Leonard took heed to this advice, and has never regretted the choice he made to follow Jesus.

Following Brother Leonard's message we sang, *Where He Leads Me, I Will Follow*. During the song, the spirit of conviction fell upon the heart of Bob Stigleman of the Inner-City Branch, and he rose to his feet and declared his desire to be baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ.

We then heard from Brothers Carl Frammolino and Mike LaSala, who each expressed their enthusiastic joy for our new Brother Bob, along with their deep love for the Church.

Before the meeting was over, Tammy Brown from Branch 3 and Lisa DiFalco from Branch 1 also asked for their baptism.

Directly after the service, we met at the water's edge, where brothers chopped through six inches of ice. While most of us watched from the shore, a

few (brave) family members ventured out onto the ice to witness the baptisms.

Brother Carl Frammolino baptized Brother Bob Stigleman, and Sister Tammy Brown was baptized by Brother Dan Parravano. Finally, Brother Sam DiFalco baptized his niece, Sister Lisa. Though the day was cold, the three candidates were now warmed by the Spirit of the Lord in their lives, and the weather didn't seem to make any difference at all.

We reconvened at Branch 1 again that evening to confirm our new members and to partake of the Lord's Supper together. Brother Norman Campitelle opened our evening service, speaking on leading our lives according to the direction of the Holy Ghost. Before our candidates were confirmed, Brother Alex Gentile called upon the Lord in mighty prayer to send His Holy Spirit down into our midst.

Brother Concetto Allesandro conferred the gift of the Holy Ghost upon his son-in-law, Brother Bob. Sister Tammy was then confirmed by Brother Peter H. Capone, and Brother Lou Pietrangelo confirmed Sister Lisa.

Afterward, we had the Lord's Supper, and as a District felt united in fellowship. We were especially blessed with the presence of a group of saints from Meaford, Ontario, who traveled many miles to worship with those of us in the Detroit area. We thank God for the blessings we felt on this day, and for His continued blessings in our lives.

Faith of Our Fathers

Faith of our fathers! living still

*In spite of dungeon, fire and sword,
O how our hearts beat high with joy*

Whene'er we hear that glorious word!

Faith of our fathers! holy faith!

We will be true to thee till death!

Our fathers, chained in prisons dark,

Were still in heart and conscience free:

How sweet would be their children's fate,

If they, like them, could die for thee!

Faith of our fathers! holy faith!

We will be true to thee till death!

Faith of our fathers! we will love

Both friend and foe in all our strife:

And preach thee, too, as love knows how,

By kindly words and virtuous life:

Faith of our fathers! holy faith!

We will be true to thee till death!

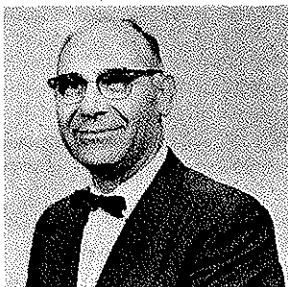
Frederick W. Faber

Greetings in Christ,

*Tongue cannot express the sweet comfort and peace,
Of a soul wrapt in Jesus' love.*

*Whether many or few, all my years are His due,
May they all be devoted to Him.* Charles Wesley

We enjoyed a special birthday celebration in honor of Brother John Santarcangelo, who marked his 90th birthday. For his advanced age, he enjoys good health and a good, clear mind. He has an exceptionally good memory. He still drives and has a valid driver's license. He loves to visit and to be visited.



Brother John's wife is near his age, and they have been faithful to each other and to God. He is dedicated, ever thankful, has an appreciation for life and everything that makes life meaningful.

Brother John is an example to both old and young, and has not been one to "sit in the seat of the scornful," not prone to find fault. Tonight he gave some good advice to each of us. To the young he said, "Pray that God will provide you a good companion in your life, for He knows what is best for you." To the rest of us he said, "Always be thankful to God." He is a good example of this, as every Sunday he is up on his feet to thank God.

As a deacon he has been faithful, always helpful to the young and old alike. Some who have known Brother John spoke of his good example and love. Those who knew him in Detroit attest to his love and faithfulness.

His secret for a long life is, "Be thankful, keep active, never allow sadness to dwell long within you, take good care of your body, learn to appreciate what you have and make the best of it." How could we improve on this?

When someone suggested that Brother John might live to be 104, with a ready smile he quickly answered, "More than that." When someone else remarked that he was 90 years old, Brother John replied, "No, 90 years young." Do you envy such an attitude?

We enjoyed a good evening in the presence of our delightful old (young) brother. He was presented gifts, and refreshments were provided for the occasion. A beautiful cake that was baked by Sister Nancy Camarda was served and enjoyed by us.

Some say, "It is not how long you live, but how you live." This is true, however, Brother John has done both. Happy birthday, Brother John!

*God granted you so much grace,
His favors you've always won.
Now, you can smile and still give praise,
Telling us, "Follow me on."*

Dedicated to Brother John Santarcangelo.

Brother Mark Randy

Ohio District Fast and Prayer

The Ohio District held a fast and prayer service March 12 in the Lorain, Ohio Branch, specifically for the sick of the Church.

Brother Russ Martorana, first counsellor, introduced our morning service, and Brother Frank Calabrese followed by reminding us of the experience from February, 1982, in the Cleveland Branch, where the Lord spoke to us and told us that we must fast and pray more as a Church. A beautiful season of prayer followed for the sick, the unemployed, the Seed of Joseph, and the Church. Before we closed this morning service, Brother Wayne Martorana encouraged us as a Church to realize the great need to fast and pray! He told us that when Alma went to the city of Ammonihah to preach repentance, he did so in fasting and prayer. Even though they rejected his words, the Lord sent an angel of God to encourage him and this angel told him that a way had been prepared (that of Amulek). Alma and Amulek did a great work for the Church, and so must we be prepared to give ourselves in fasting and prayer to the Lord.

In the afternoon, Brother Frank Calabrese said that we must not get discouraged in these troubled times—now is the time to draw close unto the Lord. We must pay heed to what God has told us, we must draw near, humble ourselves, and be more obedient in **all** things. Our brother was thankful to be living in these latter days when God has promised and given the Church so much. Our brother was thrilled by singing *The Songs of Zion*, and asked, "What did we do before *The Songs of Zion*?" The meeting was opened up to testimony, and a beautiful spirit came in among us. Almost everyone testified to God's honor and glory with a spirit of humility and with the desire to serve God more and live closer to Him. We truly thank God for His Spirit in "THESE, THE LATTER DAYS".

50th Anniversaries

SISTER ANNE LOVALVO

By Josephine Pepper



On Sunday, January 9, 1983, members of Branch 4, Redford, Michigan, visiting brothers and sisters, family and friends paid special tribute to Sister Anne Lovalvo, who marked her Golden Anniversary in The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Sister Anne was born July 16, 1917, in Youngstown, Ohio. She was baptized January 29, 1933, in Lorain, Ohio by Brother Patsy Fyre.

May 27, 1939, she married Brother Anthony Lovalvo and moved to Detroit, Michigan. They raised two children, namely, Brother Leonard Lovalvo and Sister Rosanne Batalucco. They are blessed with six lovely grandchildren.

On October 30, 1955, Sister Anne was ordained a deaconess by Brother Dominic Thomas, her brother. She served as secretary of the MBA in Lorain, Ohio and Branch 1 in Detroit, Michigan. For many years she taught Sunday School and held various other offices at Branch 4. For nearly 20 years she was by her husband's side as he ministered in the Six Nations Mission in Canada.

Brother Anthony commented how Sister Anne and he had a wonderful life together and how she stuck by him through the good times as well as the bad times by the help and love of God within their lives.

Sister Anne was presented with a lovely corsage, and then she stressed to the young people as well as those not baptized, that there is nothing in this world that could compare with this path we are walking in. She said it was a

great honor to walk in the path Christ took.

All enjoyed a luncheon and a beautifully decorated cake served in her honor.

Sister Anne who desires to serve the Lord is evident to all who know her. Her beautiful testimonies reflect her love of God. We are so thankful to God that He would allow us to celebrate with our brothers and sisters this most wonderful occasion. May the Lord always bless and guide our sister all the days of her life.

SISTER CATHERINE GAMMACHIA



March 13, 1983, was a special day for Sister Catherine Gammachia; she celebrated 50 years in The Church of Jesus Christ. After being presented with a beautiful corsage, she spoke a few words of testimony, thanking God for all His goodness over the years.

Sister Catherine was baptized on March 5, 1933 by Brother Patsy DiBattista, when Branch 2 in Detroit was still a mission. Except for a period of about four years, during which she spent time at Branch 3 and in California, she has been a strong and faithful member of Branch 2.

Over the years, Sister Catherine has had many beautiful experiences, the most prominent one being a visit from two of the Three Nephites. The experience is as follows:

Sister Catherine's desire was that she could see the Three Nephites and prayed about it often. One day two men came to her door. She let them in and prepared something for them to eat. After they ate, she wanted to give them money, but they told her that they were

going far, far away and would not need money. After they left, a voice spoke to her saying, "Those were the Nephites that you always wanted to see." She rushed to the door to see them again, but they had disappeared.

Even though Sister Catherine is now very old and unable to do much, she still retains the same vigor and enthusiasm about The Church of Jesus Christ that she had when she first obeyed the Gospel.

SISTER ROSE IMPASTATO

Our Sunday service on January 30, 1983 at Branch 3 in Detroit was used in part to honor Sister Rose Impastato, who has been a faithful member for the past 50 years. There were many of her children and grandchildren in attendance. Brother Pete Capone invited Brother Frank Conti up to lead the congregation in singing. Brother Frank is Sister Rose's son-in-law. During this time, Sister Rose, who is a deaconess, set the sacrament table. She was assisted by Sister Ida Napolitano. Many were moved to tears of joy while witnessing our Sister Rose perform her duties once again, as she has been inactive in this office. Brother Pete Capone, our Presiding Elder, then presented Sister Rose with a corsage on behalf of the brothers and sisters of the Branch.

Brother Capone then spoke from Timothy and noted what the virtues of a deaconess should be. During his sermon, he told of how many times when he went to visit the sick, he found that Sister Rose had already been there ahead of him. He emphasized what a good example her 50 years in the Church had been.

During testimony, Sister Rose was encouraged to face the congregation so all could hear her. She thanked God for strengthening her and keeping her faithful all these years in the Church. Her son, John, also testified and related a wonderful dream he had. He found himself in a long line of people waiting to enter a large doorway. As people approached the front of the line, there were people checking the credentials of each individual. He recognized many great people of the earth, and each of them had many fine credentials. Brother John also saw that the majority were being turned aside and not allowed to enter the doorway, despite

(Continued next page)

their fine credentials. This created turmoil and confusion among them. Brother John said to himself, "What am I doing here? I have no credentials." Then a voice said within him, "Stay in line." As he finally approached those who were checking credentials, they asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "I'm Brother John Impastato." Immediately the man said to another, "Open the door, and let him enter." Once inside, Brother John was greeted by many of the saints of God and a wonderful peace settled over him.

There were other testimonies, but Brother John's stood out as an encouragement to us all to stay in line as his mother had for over 50 years. Surely the reward will be great for those who endure.

Our meeting was closed in prayer, and we went home much encouraged.

An Urgent Plea from the General Church Historian

By Robert A. Watson

I am urgently requesting that anyone who has in their possession any documents that are pertinent to the history of our Church, to please contact me.

The acquisition of this kind of documentation can be vitally important to our historical files, and to the future effectiveness in writing a comprehensive history.

If you wish to keep the original document(s), I will xerox copies and pledge to return the original(s) back to you.

Please send all material(s) to:

Robert A. Watson
P.O. Box 672
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Change of Address

To our readers who may have occasion to communicate with Brother Robert A. Watson, please be advised to use his current address:

Robert A. Watson
P.O. Box 672
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Our Women Today

General Circle at Greensburg, PA

By Mary Tamburrino, Editor

The General Ladies Uplift Circle Conference was held at Greensburg, Pennsylvania, on March 26, 1983. The sisters present were from Canada, California, Florida, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

The Greensburg Circle presented a program entitled, "God's Strength". They read the Scripture, sang songs and told experiences. Sister Mabel Bickerton, the President, was happy to see so many Circles represented. She said the Circles should continue sending layettes, for many have heard of the Church through this project.

The business of the conference began with the roll call of officers. The minutes of the last meeting held at New Brunswick, New Jersey, were read and accepted. The reports of the Districts of California and New Jersey were read. From the delegates' reports: the Circles met in the Church building or in their homes; the *Bible*, *Book of Mormon*, or *Church History* were read; money was sent to Africa relief, Greenoak Christian School; cards and seeds were sent to India, and layettes were sent to the Indian reservations.

The questions and answers assigned last General Conference were: Why didn't Mormon write the names of the three who were never to taste of death? (III Nephi 28:25) What man's face shone with a luster as Moses' did on Mt. Sinai? (Mosiah 13:5) What is carnal minded and spiritual minded? (II Nephi 9:39) What is the vineyard of the Lord? (II Nephi 15:7) All answers were found in the *Book of Mormon*.

Contributions were made to the Memorial Fund in memory of Brother Marco Piersanti, Ronald Kirkpatrick, Rose Onorito, Rose Mary James, Sister Mabel McKay, Sister Cora Fowler, Sister Minnie Griffith, Mr. Christian Van Bree, Brother James Curry, Sr., and Sister Jennie Scolaro.

The Cook Book Fund is being phased out. The balance of \$1510.00 was

donated to the General Church Indian Missionary Fund. The printing of the cook book, "Come and Dine", will be taken care of by the Vanderbilt Circle.

Donations were made from the conference to Africa, India and General Church Indian Missionary Funds.

The next General Conference will be held in Youngstown, Ohio on October 3, 1983. A vote of thanks was given to the Greensburg Circle and the Pennsylvania Area for their hospitality.

The remainder of the conference was spent by hearing from the brothers and sisters that are engaged in missionary work. The Ladies Circle helps in so many different ways.

MBA Highlights

Hollywood, Florida

By Candace Obradovich, Editor

In our endeavors to build *Our Church* in Hollywood, Florida, our local MBA has gone *To the Work* to help raise funds.

One Day on September 10, Sister Fran DiNardo invited the brothers and sisters to *Come and Dine*. She hosted a Mexican Fiesta to *Bring Them In* from Hollywood, Miami, and Lake Worth for *Supper Time*.

Farther Along Brother Alvin Swanson expounded on the history and journeys of the Lamanites. Our many thanks to Sister Fran and her family, along with all of the brothers and sisters who helped make this such a joyous occasion. *After All*, it was a huge success.

Soon after the saints, again, took *Courage to Go On*, and on October 12 we were *Ready* for our long awaited and anticipated craft sale, which was held at the Broward Mall. Many of the brothers and sisters *Pulled for the Shore* to create *Something Beautiful* for our sale. We all have *Precious Memories* of working together with each other for the benefit of the Church.

What a *Blessed Assurance* it was in

(Continued on Page 7)

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The Gospel News is published monthly by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE. Subscription price is \$6.00 a year. Entered as second class mail at Bridgewater, Mich. under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

General Church World Missionary Conference "Come and Enjoy It"

It is with pleasure and anticipation that this page is dedicated to the encouragement of our readers as well as others who might be interested, to seriously and prayerfully consider attending the first General Church World Missionary Conference to be held Saturday, August 20, to Friday, August 26, 1983 in the Eagle Eyrie Conference Center, Lynchburg, Virginia.

PURPOSE AND OBJECT

The purpose and object of the Church in hosting the World Missionary Conference is primarily to acquaint members and friends alike with the missionary efforts of the Church. Priesthood members from foreign lands will be attending the Conference, representing Canada, Mexico, Nigeria, Ghana, India and Italy. There will also be representations from Indian Reservations in Canada and the United States, as well as a representation from the Domestic Missions.

Additionally, each mission field will have an exhibit every afternoon with scheduling so arranged as to afford everyone an opportunity to attend each exhibit at least once. This feature of the Conference is intended to make everyone fully aware of the effective use of their continuing financial support in the spreading of the Restored Gospel.

Recreation facilities are also available and should serve as an attraction for all who are inclined and able to participate in various recreational activities.

WONDERFUL TIME AND PLACE

The Conference should also prove to be a wonderful time and place to renew acquaintances and to make new ones. Where else could so many of the saints, their loved ones and friends share a week-long round of getting better acquainted; dining together; engaging in, as well as witnessing, various recreational activities; and last, but by no means least, worshipping together!

Eagle Eyrie Conference Center is located not far from the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. The area is rich in Early American history—Monticello, Patrick Henry's house and other Revolutionary War sites. Several other tourist attractions are Skyline Drive, Blue Ridge Parkway, Natural Bridge and Appomattox.

Finally, to quote in part from General Church President, Brother Dominic Thomas' recent letter dated March 2, "I recommend you begin to make plans to attend the **First** General Church World Missionary Conference; it will prove to be a memorable occasion. Your prayers are needed for God to bless this gathering that we might have a season of rejoicing. I look forward to greeting you in Virginia."

Come and enjoy it.

Come and help make it more enjoyable.

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



God's Words Are Fulfilled

Dear Girls and Boys,

The Scriptures tell us there was never a nation upon the earth as blessed as the Jaredite people, who came to North America after the Tower of Babel. God's only requirement of those people who would live in this Promised Land was that they care for one another, serving God. The Promised Land belongs to a righteous people.

The last king of the Jaredites, the mighty warrior, King Coriantumr, knew this. Yet when the prophet Ether came to warn him and his people to repent of their evil ways or be destroyed, they tried to destroy Ether.

Many strong men rose up in the land and tried to take Coriantumr's kingdom away from him. He and his fair sons fought back, yet as one enemy leader was killed, another, even more ferocious, would rise up. As Coriantumr's years passed, many bloody battles were fought.

Finally, Coriantumr's enemies were being led by a violent man by the name of Shiz. As Shiz passed through the cities of Coriantumr's followers, he murdered man, woman, and child, burning and destroying all before him. A great fear of Shiz went across the land. Soon, for protection, everyone was forced to make a choice and join one army or the other.

Killing and bloodshed spread across the land. Fighting hand to hand, Shiz wounded Coriantumr, and he passed out from loss of blood and was carried from the battle. As Coriantumr recovered from his wounds, he remembered the warnings that Ether had brought him from the Lord. Unless Coriantumr and his people repented of their evil ways, every Jaredite would be destroyed except for Coriantumr, who would live to

see another group of people come to inherit the Promised Land.

Coriantumr began to repent of the evil he had done and wrote to Shiz offering to give up the kingdom if Shiz would spare the people. Shiz agreed to this only if Coriantumr would also give himself up to be killed by Shiz's sword.

So the battles continued. It was Jaredite against Jaredite. The prophet Ether hiding in a cave by day, came out at night to record these great happenings. He watched the final gathering of the great Jaredite Nation.

Coriantumr's army chased Shiz's army south, and then they pitched their tents by the hill, Ramah, (known by us as the Hill Cumorah in New York state). Each leader began to search across the face of the land, gathering every extra person they could find to add to the strength of their army.

Four years passed in the gathering until finally all were dressed for battle. Every woman, every child, every man was armed with weapons and dressed for war, wearing breastplates, headplates, and carrying shields. The two armies marched forth one against another to battle; they fought all that day, yet neither won. When it was night, they returned exhausted to their own camps, filling the air with a great howling and crying as they thought of their dead loved ones.

So went the second day. Again Coriantumr wrote Shiz a letter offering him the kingdom if he would spare the lives of the people. Shiz refused; Satan had full power over the hearts of the people. They fought a fourth and a fifth day until all had fallen by the sword except for fifty-two of Coriantumr's people and sixty-nine of Shiz's people.

The people slept with their swords in hand and fought another day until only twenty-seven of Coriantumr's followers and thirty-two of Shiz's followers lived. They ate and slept and prepared for death the next day. They were large and mighty men, and they fought for about three hours until they fainted from loss of blood. And it came to pass that when their strength returned enough to walk, the men of Coriantumr were about ready to flee for their lives when Shiz arose with his men and swore in his anger that he would slay Coriantumr, or kill himself.

So Shiz did chase them that seventh day, fighting until all were dead but the two desperate leaders. Shiz fainted with loss of blood; Coriantumr leaned on his own sword until he had enough strength to pick it up and chop off the head of Shiz.

Every Jaredite was dead except the prophet, Ether, whom the Lord sent out as a witness to write the book of Ether, and this once great warrior, Coriantumr. The bones of the dead lay in heaps; the cities lay in waste to be discovered years later by a new group of settlers.

Coriantumr wandered alone until he was discovered by the people of Zarahemla that God had brought from Jerusalem. He lived with these people for nine months, and they engraved his story on a large stone, later interpreted by the prophet, Mosiah. (See Omni 20-22)

How the mighty had fallen! Of all that great, blessed nation, none lived to inter-mingle and marry with the new inheritors of the land. God's words to the brother of Jared, the first Jaredite people, and the last Jaredites, were fulfilled.

We see how each group brought to the Promised Land were admonished to serve God and love their fellow man. As the fourth group of inheritors of the Promised Land, we Gentiles must see also that the Lord expects us to love and serve Him and do what is right. Each of us has that responsibility today, just as in days of old.

"It Is Written"



By V. J. Lovalvo, Apostle

SUBJECT: Alma 5 continued.

Alma continues his powerful exhortation to the people living in the area of Zarahemla by asking them whether or not they could imagine themselves before the Lord and hearing His voice of welcome or rejection. He asked them whether they could visualize God saying to them, "Come unto Me ye blessed, for behold, your works have been the works of righteousness upon the face of the earth." Or whether they thought that they could lie to God?

Alma reminded them that no one could stand in the presence of the Almighty and lie about their lives and works. No one could tell anything but the truth, because they would have a perfect knowledge of their guilt and wickedness; that no one could face the Lord with anything but a "pure heart and clean hands". He asked them whether they could imagine themselves before the Lord with "...garments stained with blood and all manner of filthiness"; or to "sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of God; with all the holy prophets whose garments are cleansed and are spotless, pure and white." Alma answered all of these questions with a resounding "Nay, except ye make Our Creator a liar from the beginning, or suppose that He is a liar from the beginning..."

He emphasized his words by telling them that such persons would be cast out of the presence of God because they were the "children of the kingdom of the devil". With a certainty born of great faith in the Lord and with assurance in the knowledge that the Lord had given him, Alma decries their wickedness and preaches that only righteousness is the key to eternal salvation.

Very clearly, in his exposition of wickedness to the people of Zarahemla, and others, he spans the countless years to our time also. Sin has not diminished; wickedness has not ebbed; unrighteousness has not waned; and human beings have not changed. The changes are only in the mode of dress, speech, and technology. Regardless of the advancements in art, science, or human inventions, sin is as prevalent today as in the yesteryears. It is written that, "...there is no new thing under the sun." (Ecclesiastes 1:9)

We are living in a generation of lassitude, an apathetic mental condition, devoid of any spiritual ambition, as reflected in the rationales of those who live in sin and transgression. The "new morale" calls good an evil thing and evil a good thing. Sins of various degrees are acceptable to many, such as living together without the benefit of a formal marriage; "open marriages" have become the "in" thing to do. Infidelity has increased to alarming proportions, and divorces and re-marriages have become common occurrences.

It is important that men of God rise up as Alma and denounce these works of evil today which are sapping the moral fibers of individuals and nations, and proclaim the righteousness so necessary for salvation. The ministers of The Church of Jesus Christ must not be unaware of sin and transgression, but "abhor" it as quoted in the Book of Alma, 13th chapter. They must denounce it from the pulpits, and privately as well. The *Book of Mormon* declares that "the Lord cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance." (Alma 45:16) The ministers must continue to preach that, only by having the garments cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ and living a life that is pure, spotless, and unblemished by sin can one hope to "sit" with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of God.

There can be no compromise with the word of God found in *Bible* and *Book of Mormon*; nor in the revelations of the Lord to "keep His Church clean and spotless". In the early years of the Church, God revealed that "His people should put away the use of tobacco, (smoking or otherwise) as it was an evil in His sight". Very few accepted the above revelation, yet, in approximately eighty years from that time, smoking has been labeled as injurious to the health by prominent doctors. If there are any in the Church who are smokers, take heed to the revelation of God.

God has restored the Church in these last days for the purpose of giving the world the same Gospel, the same Church as He established in Jerusalem and upon this land of America. He has also revealed that, "only the pure and unadulterated Gospel" shall go to the Seed of Joseph. The same type of Gospel shall go to the Gentile nations as well.

(Continued next month)

MBA Highlights

Hollywood, FL continued . . .

knowing that *God Can Do Anything But Fail*, as we saw from the tremendous success of our sale.

God Is So Good to us in our efforts to raise funds for our building. *Our Hope Is Built* on knowing that *Some Day*, through God's grace, we will have our own place of worship.

MBA Organized in Tampa, FL

By Pearl Zinzi, Editor

The Tampa Branch welcomed the Area MBA Officers in establishing the MBA in Tampa. Organizer, Dennis Moraco, Area President, Jim Miller, Vice President, John D'Orazio and Chaplain, Joe Catone, were the officers in charge of organizing the MBA.

Our service was opened by singing *I Love Him*. Prayer was offered by Brother Joe Catone. Brother Moraco then requested that anyone who wanted to be a member of the MBA stand up and give their name. A wonderful spirit took place as twenty-three (23) persons arose to become members of the MBA. The next order of business was the election of officers. Officers elected are:

President	—Ike Smith
Vice President	—Gregg Swanger
Chaplain	—Howard Noble
Teacher	—Duane Lowe
Secretary	—Wendy Risola
Ass't. Secretary	—Joanne Stransky
Financial Secretary	—Sandy Smith
Treasurer	—Betty Ann Lowe
Librarian	—Dana Lowe
Editor	—Pearl Zinzi
Auditors	—William Tucker
	—Carol Corey
Historian	—Josephine Noble

(Continued next page)

Brother Joe Calabrese from Lorain, Ohio, then installed all the new officers and offered up a beautiful prayer for them. We were privileged to have Brother Calabrese with us, as he wanted to express himself as to his trip to India.

Brother Calabrese showed slides of the people in India and explained the many experiences our members had relative to the people of India. His discourse gave us a wealth of information of the conditions that prevail in India and what we could do to try to alleviate those conditions. We want to thank Brother Joe for showing us the slides and for his enlightening comments.

Brother Bill Tucker, our Presiding Elder, then gave a few closing remarks and invited all to partake of the three (3) C's, coffee, cake and conversation. Brother Duane Lowe then closed the meeting with prayer.

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The ordeal Brother Frank had to go through could not have been endured without the prayers of the brothers and sisters. How can we possibly thank all of you for the many cards, letters and, most important, prayers!

Since Brother Frank's heart surgery, he has been progressing and improving daily. We want to thank God for His mercy towards us. God bless all of you for your concern during our time of need.

Brother and Sister Frank Vitto

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

We would like to sincerely express our gratitude for your prayers in our behalf. We would also like to thank everyone for all the calls, cards, gifts and visits.

Love and God Bless You All,
Brother Walter and
Sister Margaret Donkin
Glassport, PA Branch

Branch and Mission News

Aliquippa, PA

By Andrew Gula

A DREAM FULFILLED . . . In 1981 I had a dream. I would periodically pray to the Lord that He would let me know when the dream would be fulfilled. Recently it was made known to me that the dream would come to pass soon. Now I will relate my dream:

In the dream there were two buildings. One was very large and was adorned with silver and gold. The other building was much smaller and all white. I had to bend down to enter the smaller one. Once inside, my eyes beheld a woman dressed in white. On her head was a crown, and her feet were not touching the ground. Also, she was holding a baby in her arms. Facing the woman was a young man. The woman presented the baby to the young man. I recognized the young man as Paul Aaron Palmieri, Brother Paul and Sister Eleanor Palmieri's son. My feelings were that the Lord revealed to me that Paul Aaron would request baptism, which he recently did on February 27. I thank God for such a wonderful blessing through this dream.

By Dora Rossi, Branch Editor

On Sunday, February 27, 1983, Paul Aaron was attending the Imperial Branch, as Brothers Paul Ciotti and Dan Buffington were to be ordained elder and teacher, respectively. At the commencing of the afternoon service, the Aliquippa Trio sang *Make Me A Living Sacrifice*. The spirit of repentance fell upon Paul Aaron, and without hesitation he leaped to his feet and asked to be baptized. Words can scarcely capture the beauty of a soul set free. Brother Paul Palmieri baptized his son at the conclusion of the afternoon service.

A special meeting was held at the Aliquippa Branch at 5:00 p.m. for the confirmation, since Paul Aaron had to return to college that evening. Many beautiful testimonies were offered in thanks to God's goodness, especially in calling another soul into the fold. Paul Aaron's parents testified of an incident that had occurred earlier in the week.

Paul Aaron had confided in his parents a concern he had about his schedule for the summer semester. It so happened that his proposed classes fell on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings, which perfectly conflict with the weekly meetings of our branch. Paul Aaron further explained the reason for his concern as he stated to his parents, "I do hope to become a member soon".

We are ever indebted to our good God for the beautiful way in which he moves upon and works with people. Our prayer is that God will grant Brother Paul Aaron a good spiritual life in the Gospel.

Miami, FL

By Eileen Katsaras, Branch Editor

Miami Mission welcomes Brother Mark Kovacic officially as of March 1, 1983. He has moved here from Erie, Pennsylvania.

We are a small mission, and we prayed for the Lord to send us someone. We are glad to have another elder in our midst. We know God had a hand in bringing him here.

Cape Coral, FL

By Bertha Constantine, Editor

God has been so good to our people in the last year. We had Brother and Sister Ray Cosetti visiting from Ohio for three months, and Brother and Sister Joseph Calabrese from Lorain, Ohio. Brother Joe showed slides of our missions in India, which all of us enjoyed.

Also, Sister Bertha Constantine celebrated her fiftieth spiritual birthday on March 12. Brother and Sister Bert Scheffler from Labelle, Florida visit with us on some Wednesday and Sunday meetings. We do enjoy all our visiting Brothers and Sisters—it is certainly uplifting!

On March 19, we held a joint meeting with the Miami Mission and enjoyed spiritual blessings with the saints there. We also have a covered dish supper on the last Saturday of the month, 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Anyone in this area

at the time is cordially invited. We can say anytime we get together with the saints of God, there is truly a blessing, no matter where we are. Remember us in prayer.

We thank God for our Presiding Elder, Brother Mike Hildenbrand. Despite his physical handicap, God has blessed him with the spirit of acceptance and the fortitude to carry on the work of our mission and as our pastor. We are thankful to the Lord for all His tender mercies to all of us.

Lake Worth, FL

Before we opened our meeting on Sunday, January 30, a group of young brothers sang *I Want to Be More Like Jesus*. Their voices sounded beautiful in praise to God. We then opened the meeting by singing *There Is Power in the Blood*; Brother Gene Perri, Jr. offered prayer.

Next we sang *When Mothers in Salem*, as Crystal Gayle Aldus was brought to the front to be blessed. Our hearts filled with joy as Brother Eugene Perri, Sr. stood to offer the prayer. It truly was a beautiful prayer, and our prayers along with his were that God would bless this little one.

Brother Mike Radd spoke on the sunshine that we feel in our soul; how that the Gospel of Christ is our peace and our strength. He then referred to the choice land, America, a land of blessing where the Gospel would be restored. After reading from the book of Romans, Brother Mike said that we must be careful in what we ask of the Lord, that we might not ask amiss. We must also never glory in the misfortunes of anyone. Brother Mike assured us that God will answer our prayers in His due time—we must exercise patience. We must also be willing to give of ourselves, giving obedience and allegiance to Him that we might gain the victory over the adversary.

Brother Jessie Carr followed speaking about the requirements for entering the Kingdom of God; how we should be able to tell who is a part of the family of God by the portion of His Spirit that we carry. Our commission is that we must not hold the Gospel back, but we must tell everyone about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We must keep God first in our hearts and in our minds. We must close every day in praise to God because

we never know when He's calling us home.

Brother August D'Orazio was our final speaker, talking on the goodness of God—the best part that Mary chose. He also told of some experiences that he had during his youth in the Church. "How beautiful it is to be brought to glorify God." He also reminded us that many times weaknesses are given to humble us that God might use us. He finished by saying, "God is glorious. Amen."

Brother John D'Orazio closed the meeting in prayer after we sang *Will Jesus Find Us Watching?*

We were filled spiritually as we broke for our natural nourishment, but anxious to return in the afternoon for our Testimony/Sacrament meeting to partake of more spiritual food.

Quincy, FL

By M. Martin

On February 25, 1983, as the elder brothers began to arrive for the Domestic Missions Committee Meeting and the Evangelistic Meeting at Quincy, Florida, our spiritual awakening and anticipation became a joyful reality. That evening, Brother Joseph Calabrese entertained us with a slide presentation showing the establishment of The Church of Jesus Christ in India. We were moved with compassion that disturbs the heart, at the same time, fills the heart with gratitude in abundance for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. A minister from The Church of Christ and other visitors were in the assembly. After the presentation, our fellowship continued in the dining area over coffee and cake.

Saturday morning, February 26, 1983, many of the elder brothers and saints from various parts of the Church joined in the fasting and prayer meeting. That afternoon, the Domestic Committee Meeting took place. That evening, the children from Quincy Mission dramatized Revelations 12. Brother Eugene Perri, Jr., President of the Florida District Evangelists, took charge of the meeting. Brothers Eugene Perri, Sr., Dominick Rose, Joseph Calabrese, and Matthew Rogolino spoke briefly; all centered their comments around spreading the Restored Gospel throughout the world.

The elders sang, *Go Ye Messengers of Glory*.

Sunday morning after the children completed a program entitled "The Greatest Story That Ever Was Told", it seemed as though a generation of strength filled the building as the elders took their places on the rostrum, looking upon the saints. The meeting was opened by Brother Richard Christman of Arizona, who opened the Scripture unto us, speaking from St. Luke 10:30-37. He produced evidence that the Church plays the role of the Good Samaritan, a light and example, a help to the world. Brothers Frank Rogolino, Joseph Calabrese and John Manes continued, confirming these words in testimony and works of the Gospel.

Brothers and sisters were present from Florida, Georgia, New York, New Jersey, Arizona, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

After lunch the services were continued. Brother Arthur Searcy from Edison, New Jersey Branch of the Church spoke. Many beautiful testimonies were shared revealing the goodness, might and power of God. A young lady visiting, one who had been blessed in the Church in her youth, stood weeping, stating, "I need this Church." She pleaded for the prayers of the saints.

Brother Cleveland Baldwin closed the meeting in prayer. This young lady continued weeping. Brothers Joseph Calabrese and Cleveland Baldwin both expressed the feeling that one should pray for this visitor. Brother Joseph prayed. A beautiful and humble spirit prevailed. During the entire Evangelistic Meeting a feeling of urgency prevailed to go and tell others that The Gospel of Jesus Christ has been Restored.

Tampa, FL

By Pearl Zinzi, Editor

I would like to relate to you about our Sunday meeting, March 13, 1983, in which we had a good representation of brothers and sisters from Hollywood, Lake Worth and Cape Coral. Our meeting was opened by singing *Alone*, as the sacrament table was set. Brother Dennis Moraco of Hollywood, offered prayer, and we sang *Fill My Cup*.

Our cups were really filled with blessings as Brother Joe Calabrese, our evangelist from Ohio, gave a wonderful sermon on Hebrews 1. His theme was on God sending His only Begotten Son so that mankind may have an opportunity to become heirs of His Kingdom by doing the will of His Father, that we may be purged of our sins. Brother Joe spoke on the birth, baptism, and ministry of Christ and also the Restoration.

Brother John D'Orazio, from the Lake Worth Branch, followed by telling of the experience he had at a campout while teaching a teenage class where he heard the voice of God saying, "Believe and keep my commandments and ye shall see Zion." We then sang *Make Me a Blessing*.

Brother Joe Catone from the Hollywood Branch followed, also saying that if we do the Lord's commandments we will be heirs of His Kingdom.

Brother Mike Hildenbrand of the Cape Coral Mission told an experience he had. He never had trouble sleeping, and before retiring to bed he asked God why did he have all these afflictions. While asleep, God awakened him in the wee hours of the morning and said to him, "Thy will be done", which made him understand that the will of God is all that matters. Brother Mike suffered an eye injury while at work and was nearly blinded, and after this accident, he contracted M. S., a neurological disorder which made it difficult for him to ambulate. He then said that he would not question God anymore and that "His will be done".

We then sang *If Jesus Goes With Me*. Brother Dennis Moraco spoke on the same theme of being heirs of the Kingdom.

After testimony, in which many experiences were given, sacrament was served and we closed our meeting with prayer by Brother William Tucker. Our cups were really filled this day as the Ladies Uplift Circle prepared a wonderful meal for all the brothers and sisters as everyone praised the Lord for the two days of blessings.

On February 20, 1983, we were happy to have with us at our feet washing service, Brother Jesse and Sister Ruth Carr and Brother John (Bucky) and Sister Norma Kendall, all from the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch, and also Brother Tim Hemmings from Lakeside, Arizona Branch, and Sister Fenisia Vac-

caro from the Bronx Branch and her sister, Gemma Ciarletta from Yonkers, N.Y., and last but not least, Sister Gentile, Brother Alex's mother, who gave a very inspiring testimony and was a great uplift for all of us.

Rochester, NY

By Carmella D'Amico

On Sunday, October 31, 1982, we had the joy of having Brother Mark Kovacic from Erie, Pennsylvania, as per visitation schedule.

The meeting was opened by singing *The Lord Did Raise Up Joseph Smith*. Brother Mark chose for his text Hebrew 1, Christ preferred above angels. God revealed to Joseph Smith to bring back the Restored Gospel that confounded the religion of men. There are many churches in the world, but we are The Church of Jesus Christ, who stand firm on the true principles and doctrines of Christ.

We sang *The Love of God*. Brother Ansel D'Amico followed on the same subject and said, "I am glad when they said to me, 'Come to the House of God and praise the Lord!' The Lord always provides, seek ye first the Kingdom of God and everything else will be added unto you."

It was opened for testimony. Sacrament was administered. We were dismissed by singing *Amazing Grace*. Closing prayer by Brother Andrew Lacci.

On Sunday, November 14, 1982, we had Brother and Sister Patsy Marinetti from Tucson, Arizona with us.

The meeting was opened by singing *He Lifted Me*. Brother Patsy chose for his text Acts 10, Peter's vision and Cornelius sending for Peter. It was the beginning of the conversion of the Gentiles. Peter saw the sheet with all kinds of animals and a voice spoke, "Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean." Like the good Samaritan took in the stranger and helped him, while the priest and Levite failed to help him, who was the good neighbor? Christ came to fulfill the law. The first shall be last and the last shall be first.

We sang *Amazing Grace*. The meeting was opened for testimony. Sacrament was administered. Brother Ansel D'Amico gave the concluding remarks that Peter took several witnesses to Cornelius' house to verify that the Gentiles had received the Holy Ghost. God is no respecter of persons. He will pour His Holy Spirit upon all those whose hearts are set on Him.

We dismissed by singing *God Bless You Everyone*. Closing prayer by Brother Emanuel Palazzo.

On April 9 and 10, we had five carloads from the Ohio District come for Revival Meetings. Brother Vince Gibson and Brother Russ Martorana were in charge. On Saturday they passed out fliers, inviting people to come to church. Saturday evening, the choir sang beautiful Songs of Zion.

Brother Gibson spoke, enlarging on the words of the prophet Jeremiah.

Sister Kathy Brooks sang a solo, *The Flowers Still Bloom*. Brother Russ Martorana was the next speaker. He felt good in passing out the fliers and to give the testimony of the Restored Gospel. Who shall separate us from the love of God? Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus.

Brother Ansel D'Amico gave the concluding remarks, that the love of God is greater far than any tongue or pen can express, that our brothers and sisters traveled many miles to share the love of God with us. We were dismissed by singing *Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessings*. Closing prayer by Brother Jim Hufnagle.

On Sunday morning, we had community singing and went right into MBA class. Brother Stacey Light was in charge of the class. We studied Nephi 4, the 200 years of peaceful reign. We then went into preaching service.

Brother Wayne Martorana chose for his text Acts 3, how Peter exhorted repentance and the persecution of the disciples. He noted that God used Joseph Smith in restoring the Gospel, that is the power of God unto salvation. The Church is founded upon the principles of the Gospel. We are looking forward for the Choice Seer to come, where He will convert and bring many nations unto the Lord. We should be the

living testimony in the Church.

Brother Russ Martorana emphasized on the same subject, especially the importance of feet washing. Jesus told Peter, if I do not wash your feet, you will not have part in My Kingdom. My spirit will be with you until the end.

Brother Vince Gibson spoke next, "Isn't the love of Jesus wonderful? Jesus said, be ye perfect even as I am. He set the standards before us. We have a hope to be in glory some day and be with Him for all Eternity. He that endures until the end, he shall be saved."

Brother Ansel D'Amico spoke in Italian and emphasized on the same subject and how happy he is to be in the Gospel and to share the joy of the saints.

We sang *Give of Your Best to the Master*, after which wonderful testimonies were given. The spirit of God was felt in our midst.

Sacrament was administered. We were dismissed by singing *Jesus Set My Heart To Singing*. Closing prayer by Brother Emanuel Palazzo.

We met in the basement for lunch. We had two wonderful days filled with the spirit and blessings of God and are looking forward to meet again.

We want to thank the Ohio District for loving, caring and sharing God's blessings with us all.

Aliquippa, PA

By Dora Rossi, Branch Editor

The Aliquippa Branch celebrated the 25th Anniversary of their present church building on April 13, 1983.

A covered dish dinner in the church basement began the celebration.

Brother Thomas Ross then gave us a brief history for the past 25 years, mentioning the highlights of the happenings during those years.

Brother John Ross gave us the figures on the cost of construction and mentioned those who labored so diligently doing various jobs to complete the church building. Members donated toward the expense incurred and some loaned money toward the completion of the building.

Brother Anthony Ross showed slides from the day of groundbreaking to the completion of the church building.

The Aliquippa saints first met in homes of the brothers and sisters until they were financially able to purchase their first church building on Erie Avenue, West Aliquippa. Later, they sold that building and purchased another one on Main Street, West Aliquippa. In 1957, that building was sold, and they began the construction of their present building on a plot of ground donated by Brother John Ross, Sr. The church was dedicated February 28, 1958. The members reminisced as they heard the history for the past 25 years read and viewed the slides as the church was being constructed.

The Lord has blessed our Branch through the years. Many have come to hear the Gospel preached and many have obeyed the Gospel. Our prayers are that God will continue to bless us and give us strength to endure to the end.

Niles, OH

By Kathy Brooks

On March 13, 1983, the Niles, Ohio Branch was full of brothers and sisters from all over the vineyard. Visitors from Lorain, Imperial, Erie, Youngstown, Windsor, and Sterling Heights were among the many who had gathered with the desire to be blessed.

The morning service was opened by Brother Paul Ciotti of Imperial (only ordained 2 weeks earlier) with II Nephi 31:19-21. These verses speak about the pathway which has been prepared for us after we enter that gate. Our brother used the comparison of the Jaredite expedition to this Promised Land to show us how God prepared a way for the Jaredites and how He has prepared a way for us. He has established His Church that we as a body might be able to cross that great deep. He has given us the written word of God to lighten our journey, as the Jaredites had stones touched of God to give them light. He has given us the hope of Zion, just as He had given the Jaredites the hope of arriving at a Promised Land. He has given us the Holy Ghost to direct our lives, just as the great winds pushed the vessels toward the Promised Land. He has given us all of what is needed to enable us to reach that eternal Kingdom of God. We must follow His teachings

and His ways and stay by His side as we travel along this pathway of life.

Brother Frank Calabrese followed, stating that there are many roads to travel on, but we must stay on that straight and narrow road which leads us to the Kingdom of God. His Church has been established that we may stay on this course and follow His ordinances as He set them up.

After lunch, Brother Frank Calabrese washed the feet of Brother Frank Natoli, who was going to be ordained a deacon. The ministry then knelt in a circle around Brother Frank Natoli, and Brother Wayne Martorana offered a word of prayer that God would bless our new deacon and bless the ministry in the ordination with the power and authority. Brother Bob Ciarrochi ordained Brother Frank, and after the ordination, Brother Steve Champine stood up and told us that he heard the Lord speak to him while Brother Wayne was praying. The Lord said, "I am satisfied". Immediately, the gift of tongues came forth, and Brother Russ Martorana stated that he was given to know that the gift of tongues would come forth as a confirmation to what our brother had heard. The meeting was opened for testimony, and many beautiful experiences were stated concerning our brother's ordination.

The Niles Branch is thankful for the support of the many Branches of the Church who visited and made our day a beautiful one. Most importantly, we thank God for His Spirit and for the callings in His Church. We ask for your prayers in behalf of our newly-ordained deacon, that God would mold and shape the lives of those who wish to serve Him.

Hopelawn, N. J.

By Mary Perri, Editor

As Editor of the Hopelawn Branch, it has given me a great deal of joy and happiness as I write this article.

On February 6, 1983, my youngest sister, Judy Benyola, was baptized. She is the daughter of Sister Margaret Benyola and the late Brother Joseph Benyola, a brother who was dedicated to the Lord's work.

Judy was only 3½ years old when my Dad received his reward—but God has surely helped my Mom in his absence. Her consolation is reading her *Bible* and

Book of Mormon every morning—words to help her get through each day—and to this day you will always find them on her kitchen table.

Judy has always attended Church on Sunday but never made much comment about it until the Lord began to touch her heart around October of 1982. She started to ask questions relating to the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon*, and said she knew she would be baptized some day soon.

The Monday before she was baptized, she had a dream in which she saw a beautiful angel by her bed looking at her. When she awoke, she ran to my Mom saying she wanted to be baptized. She quickly called my brother, Brother Paul Benyola, and my sister, Sister Flo Perri, and they were both taken by surprise as they didn't expect this so soon. We were overjoyed! We can never underestimate the power of God. His way is surely the best! She had quite a struggle with the enemy of her soul but God, who is Almighty, helped her through that week.

It was a beautiful Sabbath Day as we gathered at the waters edge. It was cold, but worth it all. Brother Paul Benyola baptized her, and it was a beautiful sight. Judy invited four of her friends to witness her baptism, and afterward they came to church to witness her confirmation.

Brother Paul opened the meeting by using a favorite hymn of our Dad's, *How Great Thou Art*. Everyone felt a beautiful spirit. As the elders gathered round her, Brother Jim Benyola offered a special prayer in her behalf, and Brother Joe Perri confirmed her as a member of the Church.

It was also a special day for my Mom, as she has offered many prayers for Judy. She is thankful God granted her the privilege to see her daughter baptized.

Judy is becoming involved with all the functions of the Church and as you look upon her, you can see a special glow—one you can experience as a child of the King.

We pray that God will continue to bless Judy and that she might always be an example to those around her.

Vacation Bible School Lessons

The Vacation Bible School Lessons prepared for this year are entitled *Jesus Cares*. They are available in Primary, Intermediate, Jr. & Sr. High, Song Books and Color Sheets.

Place your orders with the following address:

The Church of Jesus Christ
Print House
8423 Boettner Rd.
Bridgewater, MI 48115

* WEDDINGS *

COLLISON—DUNATHAN

Mr. Mark Leslie Collison and Miss Valeri Dunathan were joined in marriage at The Church of Jesus Christ in Fort Pierce, Florida on February 26, 1983.

Brother Charles Smith, uncle of the groom, officiated at the wedding ceremony.

New Arrivals

Congratulations are in order to the proud parents for the indicated new members of their families:

Jordan Michael to Pete and Wendy Giannetti of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania;

Richard Caleb to Kenneth and Karen Dillon of Lorain, Ohio;

Matthew to Michael and Lydia Auteritano of Rochester, New York.

OBITUARIES

ROBERT NOBLE

Mr. Robert Noble passed away from this life on February 25, 1983. He was born on April 8, 1919.

Brother Russell Martorana conducted the funeral services.

Mr. Noble is survived by his wife, Sister Erma Noble, and his daughter, Sister Susan Noble Benovic, who both attend the Erie, PA Branch of the Church.

GENNARO (JOSEPH) CALABRESE

Brother Gennaro (Joseph) Calabrese of the Lorain, Ohio Branch, passed away on February 25, 1983. Born on April 28, 1902, he was baptized into the Church on April 13, 1930.

Brother Frank Calabrese officiated at the funeral services.

Brother Gennaro is survived by his wife, Sister Lena, five children, eleven grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, three brothers and two sisters.

SEFERINO R. (HAROLD) CAMPOS

Brother Seferino R. (Harold) Campos, a member of the Church in Bell, California, left this life on March 9, 1983. He was born on August 26, 1911 and was baptized into the Church on September 22, 1968.

Left to mourn his loss are his wife, Sister Frances, two daughters and two sons.

Brothers Harry Marshall and Vincent Scalise officiated at the funeral services.

The Gospel News

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

(USPS 228-480)

July, 1983

Volume 39, No. 7

A Tribute to Brother Eugenio Mora

By Brother and Sister Perdue

Husband, father, hymn writer, minister and evangelist. This was Brother Eugenio Mora of Tijuana, Mexico. Some 23 years ago, Brother Eugenio, his wife and mother-in-law moved into our lives. They were three of the original eight people baptized in the new work in Mexico. His ability as a contractor was recognized as he helped other young men build our first church building.

He had come out of a religious background in southern Mexico. He had seen his father and uncle stoned to death because they dared to leave the church of their youth. They had paid the price, and he was willing to pay it also. The Lord blessed him and his family, from the time they came to the Gospel, with healings. His wife, Angela, was healed three times: once of skin disease, once of a stroke and once of gall bladder trouble. One time Brother Mora was very sick. A blessed handkerchief was sent to him. When he received it, he was healed immediately.

Feeling the call to evangelize, he was quick to go to Mexico City, Pedernales, Michoacan, and Ahome, Sinaloa to spread the Gospel. Living conditions were not easy, but our brother stayed with it, coming home now and then, but always with a desire to return. Finally, we got word Brother Eugenio was dying in southern Mexico. Brother Perdue and Brother Sam Randy went down to get him. He was anointed, and God gave him the strength he needed to make the long journey home. From then on he

was in one hospital after another. Some doctors thought it was this, and some doctors thought it was that. The final decision was kidney failure. If he wanted to live, he had to be on a kidney machine.

Again the Lord gave him enough strength to make it from the hospital in northern California to Tijuana. In the next few weeks in between hospitals, he tried to come to church, weak and full of pain; he tried to preach, but could hardly talk. He tried to sing, but the voice wasn't there. Knowing that the time was very short, he sent a farewell to his family and to the Church, and on the way from one hospital to another, he died.

Our funerals in Tijuana are conducted a lot different than in the states. When someone dies, they have an all-night wake. It continues until the funeral, usually the next day. They sing, they pray, they comfort the family. If any elders are present, they have preaching. The wake is at the church, a fitting place for a saint of God.

The church was almost full for the funeral, a mixture of sadness and joy, of tears and smiles. Brother Eugenio was at peace at last. About 25 beautiful flower arrangements covered the front of the building. A tear had to trickle down the eye when you looked at the flowers, for next to the beautiful arrangements were mayonnaise jars and odd containers with flowers that people had gathered from somebody's yard and

brought for the wake. Some of them drooped and some were dead, but the love they showed could not be bought with money. All of the ministers were called up front by Brother Perdue. Those from Tijuana and Anaheim, and Brother Sam Randy from Modesto, took part in the service. One brother, under the spirit of God, spoke directly to Brother Eugenio's sons inviting them to come to Christ and asking the question, "Who will take up Brother Eugenio's ministry, who will write the hymns, who will preach the sermons, who will sing the hymns, who will take up the gifts our brother laid down?" Among the gifts our brother had were the gift of preaching, the gift of interpreting dreams, and the gift of writing hymns. The Lord had inspired him with over 300 hymns and the gift of singing.

We watched the hearse and the other cars pull slowly away. Never more would his voice ring out from the Tijuana hills. Never would the Word of God fall from his lips; but as Brother Eugenio Mora stands before the Lord, he can say as the Apostle Paul, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith, henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord the righteous judge shall give me at that day, and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

Goodbye dear friend. The mission will miss you.

Message to the Saints

*By George Frank Arthur
The Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida*

The time is drawing very near,
When the Saints shall meet
To worship the most High God,
Here in the Land of America,
Where the foundation for The Church of Jesus Christ was laid.

From here, like the thunder in the sky,
Like a swift current in the depth of the sea,
Thrusts out and forward with a tremendous effect,
To carry the Gospel to all the nations of the world,
With Monongahela City, USA the headquarters administering the growth.

To the Eastern nations, where Christ was born,
Where the King was crucified, where the first Church was begun,
Where the Gospel became polluted and where the Saints were persecuted.

To the Western countries, where the victims sought refuge,
Where the True Gospel was Restored,
Where Joseph Smith was an instrument,
Where Cadman and others were the Presidents.

What about the North and the South?
What about you and me?
What impact will the Gospel make?

Let us all bow our heads in prayer for peace,
And the glory of our Lord to be established in our lives.
While all of us wait with great expectation for the glorious day of the Lord.

Let us pray for God's protection,
To bring all of our Brothers and Sisters from all over the world,
To the General Church World Missionary Conference,
Hosted by The Church of Jesus Christ in Lynchburg, VA in August, 1983.

50th Anniversary

By Hazel Zoltek

On April 3, at the end of our service, Brother Sam DiFalco called Sister Mary Castelli to come forward, as she was celebrating her spiritual anniversary. She has given fifty beautiful years of her life to Christ.

She chose the better part on April 2, 1933, and was baptized by Brother Ishmael D'Amico.

Sister Shirley Vitto pinned a corsage on her, and Sister Mary then gave her testimony.

Several members of her family were present to join her in commemorating this wonderful anniversary.



Sister Mary Castelli

Thoughts on America

I believe in America.

I believe it became great because of its faith in God, its hope for independence, and its love of freedom.

I am grateful for America's glorious past; I am awed by its unbelievable present; I am confident of its limitless future.

I am not ashamed to take my hat off and to stand at attention when Old Glory passes by. I do not apologize for the lump in my throat when I repeat the Pledge of Allegiance. I am not embarrassed by the tears in my eyes when I hear *The Star-Spangled Banner*.

Like millions of Americans, I want a free choice, not a free handout. I prefer an opportunity to prove my abilities on the job rather than a license to demonstrate my frustrations in the street.

I am an old-fashioned American with a new-found determination to do my part to make democracy work.

William Arthur Ward

*Editorial Viewpoint . . .***"Go Ye Therefore . . ."***By W. H. Cadman*

(Reprinted—March, 1958)

The words of Jesus Christ as recorded in St. Matthew 28:13-20: "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

This is very plain, I am sure. The Saviour is speaking to those who had already obeyed His will and who were to carry the Gospel to the whole world and teach mankind His will—to observe all things which He had taught them, and by doing so, He would be with them through all time. For men to cease, or not to do His will in all things, would void the promise He made, that, He would be with them.

DILIGENT, NOT DILATORY

I have always contended, that if the people of God would persevere in carrying out God's will as best they know, undoubtedly God will direct them in paths and ways for the salvation of man, otherwise if they are slothful, the Lord will choose others to carry on, if not, the sacrifice on Calvary's Cross would be in vain. And, even as men or women are dilatory in their professions of an earthly nature, the more diligent will be in line for promotion, and the others are left standing in the rear, and probably wonder why. I firmly believe that if a person is energetic in his or her profession—either in the material or the spiritual side of their lives, opportunities will be presented. Slothfulness will breed its kind.

Had John and Peter sat idly by somewhere, the poor man at the Beautiful Gate might never have been made whole—but it was the hour of prayer—they were energetic to be there, and on the way an opportunity presented itself—yea, one of the great things of all time happened—the lame man at the gate of the temple was made to leap with joy.

Look at another instance in the word of God. If Saul of Tarsus had not been active in his faith—even though he was dreaded by the poor Saints of that day, he was making havoc of the Church, binding the Saints and casting them into prison. He was determined at all costs that the traditions of his fathers would prevail, and not be trampled or destroyed by those whom he regarded as blasphemers. Yea, if it had not been for the man of Tarsus, it is possible that we might not have had the Apostle Paul. Reasonable minded men surely can catch the trend of my thought, the prize is not to the dilatory, but to the diligent. The *Book of Mormon* and the *Bible* abound with so much that verifies my thoughts.

GOD IS UNCHANGEABLE

Has time made a change with God? Does He not deal, or will He not deal with His servants in modern times as well as in the more ancient times? Or have we reached the day of an enlightened age—yea, a wicked age wherein God will bless drones and cast off the workers? I say, God forbid. If the people of the Restored Gospel can become so dilatory and try to escape the reproach of Christ, for the sake of what we may call the more popular and social side of life, then they are far from being men as were Peter, James, and John. Let us not forget the man who once said to his Brothers and Sisters in Christ: "What mean ye to weep and to break my heart? For I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." Paul in another place in referring to Christ says: "Who loved me and gave His life for me." Amen.

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The Gospel News is published monthly by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE. Subscription price is \$6.00 a year. Entered as second class mail at Bridgewater, Mich. under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock

Too Small to Fight

Dear Girls and Boys,

When Solomon was king, he gradually disappointed God, and led his nation astray. As an old man, he let one of his new young wives talk him into building a temple for the statues of her false gods.

Soon a great many of the people began to serve all sorts of idols. They built temples, statues, and planted groves of trees in high places in the hills to worship. They forgot the good laws of God, and forgot his promises made to them, his chosen people.

When Solomon died, and new kings came to power, the nation continued to serve their idols. Many wars broke out among these people and their neighboring countries.

Finally, a king named Asa was born who chose to lead his people back to God. Asa took away the altars of the strange gods, the high places, broke down the idols, and cut down the groves. He even removed his own mother from being queen and leader because she made an idol in a grove to worship.

Thirty years Asa ruled and struggled with his people to serve the one, true, living God. When he died, his son, Jehoshaphat, also chose to follow the commandments of God, and walk in his father's footsteps.

Therefore, God blessed this young king richly. The fear of the Lord fell upon all the kingdoms of the lands that were round about Judah, so that they made no war against Jehoshaphat. They brought him gifts so he would not be their enemy. Some of the Philistines brought him silver, the Arabians brought him thousands of rams and goats. King Jehoshaphat's kingdom grew richer and more important.



Still, he never forgot what was more important than gold and silver...God's love. King Jehoshaphat sent Levite priests throughout the land to teach the laws of God to all the people. He built up the cities and set honest judges up to rule the people.

Again the Israelite people began to flourish, and word of God's rich blessings on this people traveled throughout the world. Then, a terrible message was brought to King Jehoshaphat: a huge army from across the sea was on its way to attack Jehoshaphat's kingdom. There were three countries coming: the Ammonites, the Moabites, and the people from Mount Seir.

Against such a multitude, the small nation of Judah had no chance. Jehoshaphat feared and set himself to seek the Lord. A fast throughout all the land was planned. No one ate or drank; all of Judah, the mothers, children, and fathers stood before the Lord and prayed for their lives.

King Jehoshaphat stood in the congregation and said to God, "O Lord, we have no might against this great company which is coming against us. We don't know what to do, but our eyes are upon you." They trusted in God to save them, and He spoke to them by sending His Spirit to one of the Levite priests.

The Lord told them, "Be not afraid or dismayed by this great multitude of enemies that is coming upon you, for this battle is not yours but is the Lord's."

He told them that tomorrow they should go down to the cliff of Ziz where they would find the enemy at the end of the brook, before the wilderness. And again the Lord told the people, "Fear not, you shall not need to fight in this battle. Stand still and see how the Lord will save you."

King Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all the people of Jerusalem fell before the Lord, worshipping Him also.

And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness where God had directed them. On the way, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Believe in the Lord your God, and you will prosper!" Then he appointed singers unto the Lord that went out before the army praising the holiness of God and saying, "Praise the Lord; for his mercy endureth forever!"

King Jehoshaphat and his people did this in faith, believing that God would fight their enemies for them. At this moment, when they began singing and thanking Him, God began His work. The huge armies began to fight with each other. The Ammonites and Moabites attacked the people from Mount Seir, and when they had utterly killed them, they began to fight among themselves.

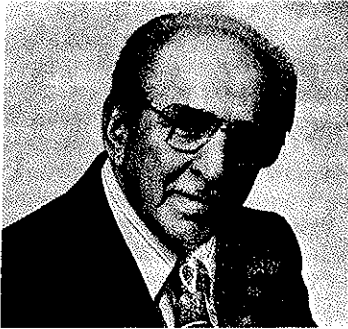
The people of Judah marched closer. They came to the edge of the wilderness, and they looked unto the multitude. Of that huge and great army, not one was left to attack Judah. They had killed one another. Bodies lay in heaps, and when Jehoshaphat's people went in among the bodies, they discovered precious jewels and much gold and silver lying there.

For three days they gathered the riches of their dead enemies. On the fourth day, they returned to Jerusalem to sing praises to God, who had delivered them. A great fear of God was on all the kingdoms of the countries around when they heard that the Lord fought against the enemies of Israel. So the kingdom of Jehoshaphat was quiet, and the people lived in peace during the days they served God, and this is our God, too, the God of yesterday, today, and forever.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan



"It Is Written"



By V. J. Lovaalvo, Apostle

SUBJECT: Alma 5 continued.

Among the many questions Alma asked the Church members in Zarahemla, one stands out as the most significant and very provocative:

"And now, behold, I say unto you, my brethren, if ye have experienced a change of heart, and if ye have felt to sing the song of redeeming love, I would ask, can ye feel so now?" (Alma 5:26)

Prior to this, Alma had asked the Zarahemlites whether they had truly received the experience of being born of God and the sublimity of a "change of heart". And, after those experiences which enabled them to sing the song of redeeming love, were they able to continue doing so now. If I may be so bold as to read the mind of Alma, he is asking, "If you cannot do so, there must be specific reasons why you can't."

The following verses are filled with questions that infer and imply that, perhaps the people forgot their spiritual birth, and allowed the devil to strip them of those noble attributes which are the legacies of "born again" saints. Alma mentions a few: Keeping blameless before God; sufficiently humble; cleansed in the blood of Christ; stripped of pride; not making a mockery of his brother; and many more.

How could they keep themselves blameless? Very simply; by merely keeping the commandments of the Lord. Blameless means to be "free from guilt of blame". It also means to be "free from sin". As John, the Apostle writes, "Sin is the transgression of the law". (I John 3:4) Paul, in writing to the Ephesians says, "...that we should be found holy and without blame before Him in love". (Ephesians 1:4).

Alma asks whether they have been sufficiently humble. One may ask, "What is humility?" The definition is not difficult. Humility is that Godly attribute which causes one to be quickly reconciled to the will of God first, and then to a brother or sister under any and all circumstances. Humility encompasses meekness and lowliness of heart; the characteristics which the Lord Jesus Christ exhorted His followers to reach out for. "Learn of Me", He once said, "for I am meek and lowly of heart."

Next, Alma asks whether their garments have been cleansed and made white through the blood of Christ which was to come. White garments represent the inward and outer man, which has been cleansed of sin and transgression whereby purity and holiness become the outstanding characteristics. Having the garments washed in the blood of Christ is symbolic of our hearts and consciences cleansed from the impurities of sin; of righteousness replacing ungodliness; of obedience replacing transgression; of the love of God replacing love of self; and of honesty replacing guile and/or deceit. It is written, "...These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." (Revelations 7:14) Also, "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" (Hebrews 9:14).

The next question to the Zarahemlites was, "Are ye stripped of pride?" There are two distinct kinds of pride. One is of an evil nature; one is of personal dignity and self-respect. The one that Alma is referring to is of an evil nature. Webster's dictionary defines pride as "inordinate self-esteem; arrogance; high opinion of one's importance or worth; and undue sense of superiority". Taking the above definition into consideration, it is no wonder that Alma asked whether they had been stripped of pride. Remember that the Nephites, after almost two hundred years of peace, lost that blessing because pride entered into the hearts. (Read Nephi 4.) Alma is asking whether the church at Zarahemla had stripped themselves of arrogance, self-esteem, self-importance, etc., which things tended to rob them of the blessings of the Lord. If they had not, they were told that they were not ready nor prepared to meet God.

Satan has a very subtle way of putting pride in the heart of a person while

letting him think that he is humble. For example: If a person does one or many good deeds and then boasts about what he is doing or has done, if he is not watchful, the evil one can make him believe that all those accomplishments were the product of his own abilities. Or, one who achieves academic degrees and keeps reminding others of one's scholastic achievements is a form of self-esteem.

Another example of pride is when a person has accumulated much wealth and is not mindful of exhibiting it with a facade of humility. The devil can make such a one firmly believe in his own abilities being responsible for his riches. Pages upon pages could be written on examples of pride and how the evil one can blind the eyes and the mind of man causing him to put trust and confidence in the "arm of flesh", losing, in the interim, sight of the spiritual blessings promised to the meek and humble.

The 4th Book of Nephi describes eloquently the reason why their reign of peace ended: "And now, in this two hundred and first year there began to be among them those who were lifted up in pride...And from that time forth they did have their goods and substances **no more common** among them."

The questions that Alma asked the Zarahemlites can also be addressed to us. Each person must be able to answer for himself in soul-searching and self-analysis whether or not we can reply in the affirmative or negative to the questions posed by Alma. I have a firm belief that those who have been truly born of God and have sung the song of redeeming love after our acceptance of Jesus Christ as our Redeemer can still do so regardless of the years that have passed since we became reconciled with God through faith, repentance, and baptism.

There must be a constant endeavor on the part of each member of The Church of Jesus Christ to take a daily analysis of ourselves to see whether we have been stripped of pride, whether we are walking blameless before God, whether we are sufficiently humble, and whether our garments which have been made white through the blood of the Lamb are being kept that way by continually living in and by His commandments. A poet once penned:

*There is a fountain filled with blood
Drawn from Immanuel's veins,
And sinners plunged beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains.*

Thus it is written.

MBA Highlights

Michigan-Ontario Area MBA

By Rosanne Scolaro, Editor

The Michigan-Ontario Area MBA has been very busy in recent months sponsoring a variety of meetings and activities for all age groups.

On the weekend of February 25-27, an enthusiastic group of 50 teenagers and adults gathered at Camp Hi-Scope for our annual winter retreat. This year's camp theme was "Our Church...Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow". And everything we did—our singing, seminars, meetings and conversations—centered around where the Church has come from and where it has to go.

Throughout the weekend, our roles as young people in the Church were presented in different ways. The Saturday morning seminars stressed our expectations for the future and how we can reach our goals. In order to grow together, it is important to know and learn from the past. Many discussions involved looking at ways to understand and appreciate each other's differences. And that by respecting the unique abilities and gifts we each bring to the Church, we **will** be able to move forward.

The afternoon was spent in recreation. Although normally we look forward to skating, tobogganing, skiing, and snowball fights, winter this year has been especially kind to us. With no snow or ice on the ground, many took advantage of the mild weather to play football, and others took the opportunity to tour the beautiful campsite.

On Saturday evening, we met together and enjoyed a time of much singing and fellowship. Everyone took a turn in the group skits which presented the lessons learned earlier in seminar. And although many of them were quite humorous, the messages came through loud and clear from behind the laughter.

On Sunday morning, we again enjoyed a season of singing (something we never tire of!) and were able to listen to the teachings of the Area MBA Chaplain, Brother Dan Parravano. We also enjoyed the expressions of our Area

President, Brother John Buffa, his vice president, Brother Larry Champine, and Brothers Emil Lambert and Gary Carlini. These brothers related how good God has been to them and how important it is to use the energy, talents, and time God grants each of us to serve Him. With a strong and united commitment, we can move mountains.

Too quickly it was time to say good-bye, but everyone was able to take a portion of the closeness and hope of the weekend home with them.

On Sunday, March 20, the Area MBA sponsored a singspiration at Detroit, Branch 2. Many took the opportunity to call favorite hymns, and we were also able to enjoy some selections from different groups and soloists. It was especially nice to hear from the handful of brothers and sisters who had just returned from missionary work on the Six Nations Reserve (about four hours from Detroit). The group was allowed to express themselves and, though none denied the energy required in this work, they all agreed that their missionary efforts are greatly rewarded. Each recounted the blessings experienced that weekend among the Seed of Joseph. Their testimonies were truly inspirational to go out to labor for the Lord.

Finally, the Michigan-Ontario Area MBA has enthusiastically planned and practiced a program which will be presented at this May GMBA. We pray that the Lord would season our voices with His Spirit that all would experience the blessings we as a choir have felt in learning and understanding so many of *The Songs of Zion*.

Many more activities are planned for the coming year, and we as an Area hope to continue to be active servants of the Lord. Truly, our joy is in meeting together often and in sharing the love which God so richly bestows!

April 24, they would meet at the Inner City Branch, not knowing at the time what a great blessing was in store for them.

Brother Eugene Amormino was ordained an elder on this date, and we were pleased to witness this wonderful ordinance. His feet were washed by Brother Carl Frammolino, and he was ordained by Brother Nick Pietrangelo. There were forty-two elders present, and they gathered around Brother Eugene as he was being ordained. Sister Gail Vivian from Sterling, said she beheld an Indian, dressed entirely in Indian regalia, with his arms outstretched, standing within the circle.

Sister Arlene Buffington was introduced to the congregation, and she gave her testimony, praising Brother Eugene for the help he has been to her in putting her songs to music.

Brother Joe Milantoni requested the members of the Ladies Uplift Circle to come forward and sing, and we sang *There's No Rainbow*. Brother Joe told us that sixty-two years ago on April 20, 1921, the first five converts in Detroit were baptized. This information can be found in our *Church History Book* on Page 150.

We were all invited to Branch 1 for a social on Sunday evening in order to honor Brother Eugene, as this was where he received his start. Brother Eugene was physically and emotionally drained; it had been a great spiritual day in his life, a day he will always remember, and we as well who had the privilege of sharing the blessings with him.

It was a wonderful day for we sisters and the many others, and we thank God for having been at Inner City on this memorable occasion.

Change in Date of General Ladies Circle Conference

Please be advised that the date for the General Ladies Uplift Circle Conference has been changed from October 1, 1983 to **October 8, 1983** in Youngstown, Ohio.

Sister Mary Tamburrino
General Circle Editor

(Continued on Page 9)

Our Women Today

Area Ladies Uplift Circle Gathering

By Hazel Zoltek

The Michigan Area Ladies Uplift Circle decided some months ago that on

OUR WOMEN TODAY continued...

Hollywood, Florida Organizes a Ladies Uplift Circle

By Susan Coppa

The Ladies Uplift Circle has found a new home in the Hollywood Branch. Our organization meeting took place under the direction of Sister Flo Perry and her officers of the Lake Worth Branch Circle.

Sister Flo began the meeting by discussing the importance of light in both the natural and spiritual sense. We then compared the circle to a spiritual light illuminating the word of God and directing us in our daily living, that we

might be a blessing to others.

Several experiences were then related pertaining to the organization of our Circle. Sister Louise Lloyd also related a dream involving the sisters of the Church. In this dream, someone was building white marble stairs reaching up to heaven, and the sisters of the Church would ascend these stairs as they were built, until they reached up into the clouds. She felt we were walking upwards in the Lord by meeting together and learning more of God's way. This experience was very uplifting to the sisters present.

It seemed only fitting that we completed our organization meeting by forming a circle as we closed in prayer. The sisters from the Hollywood Branch are thankful for the opportunity we now have to meet as a Circle, and our prayers are that God will continue to bless us for we know that, "Where two or three gather in my name there will I be in the midst of them."

MERCY OF GOD continued . . .

and Christian. I began apologizing for all sorrow and worry I had caused. I asked her if she believed in miracles because I was sure that the car hit little Christian hard enough to kill him. She said she knew that it was truly a miracle. She said she and her mother have had a lot of problems in the recent past and would like to come to the Church and tell the story. Praise God for His goodness and miraculous power.

Since this great miracle, I have visited the mother and grandparents, who say this has changed their lives and they want to come to Church. Also, they have borne witness to the neighborhood for the miracle that took place. I also have had opportunity to tell others of this miracle.

I thank God for His mercies unto one so unworthy as I.

Branch and Mission News

Lorain, OH

By Renee Alessio

On Saturday, March 19, the General Church Mission Board and American Indian Committees met in Lorain, Ohio to prepare their reports for Conference. Sunday, March 20, we were fortunate to have visiting with us Brothers Robert Watson, Duane Jordan, Sam Randy, Richard Scaglione and his family, Dennis Calabrese and his son Cameron, Sister Candice Genaro and her daughter Angela, along with many other visiting brothers and sisters.

Brother Bob Watson was given the opportunity to instruct the Adult Sunday School Class, which engaged in some very interesting discussions.

Brother Duane Jordan addressed the congregation Sunday morning speaking on "The Lord's Will" and "Our Own Will", using the Lord's Prayer, "...Thy will be done..." and Exodus 14:13-16, wherein Moses stood before the Red Sea contemplating the crossing. Brother Duane stated that many times we use our self will to obtain substances, other times we pray and seek God's will in our lives, and then there are times in which we must act instantly, knowing what we must do and calling upon God

for His power to be with us. This is the situation Moses encountered with the parting of the Red Sea.

Brother Robert Watson followed, adding that we are responsible for our successes in our spiritual and temporal existence, and we will succeed or fail depending upon our will and actions. Brother Bob completed his thoughts by relating the experience when his son, Larry, who was just a youngster and was dehydrating, and near death. He stated how the doctors were not able to help him and all looked hopeless. His wife desperately and audibly pleaded with God to take her son or heal him. Shortly thereafter Larry showed signs of improvement and activity once again. (Larry is now an elder in the Church.) This experience showed how God works when we place life completely in His hands, letting His will be done.

Brother Dennis Calabrese also related a few thoughts concerning the Indian work in which he has been involved and the church building that is being erected in Red Lake. He expressed a gratefulness to the brothers and sisters for their support and encouragement in various ways.

During the testimony service, Brother Frank Altomare related an experience concerning his grandson, Trevor, that

had occurred this past week. Trevor was taken to the emergency room and blood tests were taken which showed the presence of appendicitis. When Brother Frank was notified of his grandson's condition, he began to pray for him. In the meantime Trevor was being prepared for emergency surgery. When the surgeon entered the operating room, he re-examined Trevor and observed that he was no longer showing symptoms of appendicitis and not in need of surgery. Brother Frank was very thankful for Trevor's recovery.

On March 27, we were blessed with many visitors from Niles, Ohio and Sterling Heights, Michigan. Also, Brother Alfred and Sister Josephine Dominico, former members of our Branch for many years, were visiting from San Diego, California.

Brother Alfred Dominico, our visiting elder, opened the meeting using for his text St. John 4:5-15, the situation in which Jesus was conversing with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well concerning "Living Water". Brother Alfred related an experience that he had one morning. As he was lying in his bed, he heard the word *draw* spoken. He was pondering about it all day and was inspired to read the afore-mentioned

(Continued next page)

LORAIN, OH continued . . .

scripture. Brother Alfred expressed the need for us to draw from our Lord, Jesus Christ, the spiritual sustenance that will sustain us through all times.

Jesus, in His own words said, "Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up in to everlasting life."

Brother Alfred continued speaking on the simplicity of obtaining this living water through obeying the commandments of God and surrendering our life unto Christ.

The meeting proceeded with many wonderful testimonies. We are very thankful for the words of life that the Lord gives unto us and to be witnesses of the presence of His Spirit.

Perry, OH

Brother Paul Vinsick of the Perry, Ohio Branch was ordained as a teacher on April 10, 1983.

His feet were washed by Brother Mario Milano, and he was ordained by Brother Frank Giovannone.

Brother Vinsick was baptized into the Church on January 9, 1966.

Herndon, VA

Brother Edward Whelan was ordained a deacon on November 21, 1982. His feet were washed by Brother Chatham Young, and he was ordained by his father-in-law, Brother Paul Carr.

Brother John Andrews was ordained a deacon on July 18, 1982. His feet were washed by Brother George Timms, and he was ordained by Brother Paul Carr.

Sister Tressa Carr was ordained a deaconess on November 21, 1982. Sister Hythia Young washed her feet, and Brother George Timms ordained her.

Three essentials for happy living:

1. A faith to live by
2. A self to live with
3. A purpose to live for

Author Unknown

Sterling, MI

By Hazel Zoltek, Branch Editor

On March 13, Brother Larry Sourvelis was baptized by Brother Louis Vitto and confirmed by Brother Spencer Everett. Brother Larry is the twin brother of Brother Gerri, who was baptized a few months ago.

Brother John Buffa's theme for the day was the kingdom of God. He told of the creation of Adam and Eve and how God communed with them, how the earth was once destroyed by water and how God dealt with Moses as he went up into the mountain to talk with Him.

We sang *Singing on the Mountain*, and the meeting was left open for testimony. At the end of the meeting, after we had sung *The King Is Coming*, Brother Larry stood and invited everyone to go to the river.

Since his baptism, he testified that he never knew what it meant when he heard the elders speaking about being born again, but since that great event took place in his life, he now realized its true meaning. May God bless Brother Larry in his new journey through life.

Detroit, Inner-City

And he gave some apostles; some prophets, and some evangelists; and some pastors and teachers. Ephesians 4:11

On Sunday, February 20, 1983, Brother Daniel Cotellesse was ordained into the office of teacher, for the edification of the Detroit Inner-City Branch. The Branch was filled with many visitors, but more importantly, with the Holy Spirit of God.

Seasoned with the Spirit of God, Brother Dominic Moraca spoke on the duties, many discouragements and blessings that Brother Daniel will experience in his new office. Brother Dominic's exhortation to Brother Daniel was to totally rely on God's Spirit. He used many examples of his own experiences, and how God's Spirit gave him the knowledge to help others. Following Brother Dominic, a beautiful selection, *I Will Serve Thee*, was sung by Brother Eugene and Sister Donna Amormino, and Sisters Karen Milantoni and Inez Caldwell.

Brother Daniel then came forward to have his feet washed by his natural brother, Brother Jim Cotellesse. All present felt the humility and love Brother Jim experienced as he knelt before his brother. Tears of joy were shed as the two brothers embraced in the love of Christ. The ordination was performed by Brother Joseph Milantoni. Our souls were filled as we felt the power and glory of God in Brother Joseph's prayer.

Brother Dan, in testimony, thanked God for His goodness and for enabling his family to be a part of this blessing. He solicited everyone's prayers that he may fulfill the role set before him. His mother, Sister Julie Cotellesse, glorified God on this day of her son's ordination and mentioned how proud her husband, Brother Dominic, would have been today. Brother Dominic has gone on to his reward. Brother Daniel's brothers, Jim, Matthew and Joe, expressed their love and gratefulness to God for calling their brother into the service of the Lord.

During the testimony service, Sister Lena Ciaglia told of the experience she had during the ordination. While Brother Daniel's feet were being washed, she saw his father, Brother Dominic Cotellesse, washing his son's feet. While he was being ordained, she witnessed his father performing the ordination. As our sister looked upon Brother Dan Cotellesse's face, she saw and felt the love and pride that Brother Dan's father felt for his son this blessed day.

Words cannot express the love and praise we felt for our God on this memorable day. Our Brother Daniel is a quiet, loving, charitable brother in Christ, but more importantly, he lives what he teaches. May God bless him as he strives to edify the saints of the Detroit Inner-City Branch.

McKees Rocks, PA

By Ruth Rogalla, Branch Editor

Sunday, February 20, was a day well worth remembering in the McKees Rocks Branch. Approximately 150 brothers, sisters and friends from Pennsylvania, Ohio and Detroit gathered to witness the ordination of Brother Bill Colangelo to the office of elder.

Our morning started with Sunday School, in which we studied the life of

Christ as He followed the will and plan of God.

This seemed to set the mood for the day as Brother Louis Pietrangelo from Detroit, Branch 1 opened the morning meeting by reading from James 1, expounding on how we should conduct our lives. We, as individuals, are tested every day by the environment in which we live and the people we come in contact with. Through God's Spirit, convincing us of the truth, we are refined to hopefully be a "finished product" to meet the Lord. If God abides in our lives, we **do** have the promise of eternal life.

Brother Fred Olexa of Roscoe, PA followed by reminding us that we **all** have been called to do something in the Gospel. He noted how the Apostle James says we have to count it a joy when we come across diversities. Our patience is developed by the trying of our faith. He related to Brother Lou's topic by reinforcing the fact that the Gospel gives us an opportunity of eternal life.

Brother Tony Corrado of Youngstown, Ohio was given the opportunity to relate some of the many experiences he has had regarding the spreading of the Gospel. He also reminded each of us of our part in the Gospel...to be active and find joy every day. To attain the fullness we should devote much time to fasting and praying, and attend as many meetings as possible.

During the afternoon service and prior to the ordination, Brother John Manes related the importance of the office of a minister. A minister is ordained by God and is devoted to caring for his flock. A wonderful spirit was felt as Brother Chuck Jumper of Aliquippa, PA offered a special prayer, calling on God

to bless this ordination.

After Hymn 401, *Ready*, was sung, Brother Dan Casasanta of McKees Rocks washed Brother Bill's feet. The elders formed a circle around Brother Bill as he was ordained by Brother Joe Calabrese of Ohio. Brother Joe implored God to open the windows of Heaven and witness this act and give Brother Bill a portion of His Spirit.

The congregation sang, *Ye Who Are Called to Labor*, after which Brother John Manes of McKees Rocks read the duties of the priesthood from the Minister's Manual.

We then enjoyed hearing Brother Bill praise God for this calling and express the feeling that he doesn't feel worthy of such an office. He related an experience he had previously confirming his calling. Brother Bill then participated in the passing of the Holy Communion.

Our meeting was brought to an end by singing *God's Tomorrow*, and prayer was offered by Brother John Griffith of Monongahela, PA. We all were very grateful and thankful to God for enabling us to be part of such a rewarding day.

April 3, 1983 was another day of happiness in the McKees Rocks Branch.

Brother Chester Nolfi, who had been away from the Church for some time, asked to be reinstated. He expressed how thankful he was to God for the opportunity to have another chance to serve Him, and acknowledged the importance of the Gospel in each of our lives.

He was reinstated to membership by the laying on of hands.

Keep America In Your Care

*We are faced with many problems
that grow bigger day by day
And, as we seek to solve them
in our own self-sufficient way,
We keep drifting into chaos
and our avarice and greed
Blinds us to the answer
that would help us in our need...
Oh, God, renew our spirit
and make us more aware
That our future is dependent
on sacrifice and prayer,
Forgive us our transgressions
and revive our faith anew
So we may all draw closer
to each other and to You...
For when a nation is too proud
to daily kneel and pray
It will crumble into chaos
and descend into decay,
So stir us with compassion
and raise our standards higher
And take away our lust for power
and make our one desire
To be a SHINING SYMBOL
of ALL THAT'S GREAT AND GOOD
As You lead us in our struggle
toward NEW-FOUND
BROTHERHOOD!*

Helen Steiner Rice

Pennsylvania.

* WEDDINGS *

SHAWKEY-GEHLY

Mr. Robert Shawkey and Miss Julie Gehly were united in marriage on April 1, 1983 in Fredonia, Pennsylvania by Brother Arthur Gehly, the bride's uncle.

Musical selections were presented by Miss Lorie Toomy.

The newlyweds are making their home in Clarks Mills,

LOBZUN-HALE

Brother Richard Lobzun, Jr. and Sister Faith Hale were joined in matrimony on March 12, 1983 at the home of the bride in Elizabeth, Pennsylvania.

Brother David Nolfi officiated at the ceremony.

The Lobzuns are residing in Windsor, Ontario.

CARTER—FILSON

On April 16, 1983, Mr. Thomas Carter and Miss Susan Filson were married at The Church of Jesus Christ in Glassport, Pennsylvania by Brother David Nolfi.

Sister Maryanne Donkin was soloist and pianist.

LaROSA—FRENCH

Mr. Raymond Anthony LaRosa and Miss Kimberly Ann French were joined in holy matrimony on April 30, 1983 in Gastonia, North Carolina by Brother Rodney Dyer, the groom's cousin.

Musical selections were presented by Brother Ken Staley, pianist; Edith Kersh, organist; and Myra Jenkins, soloist.

The LaRosa's are presently residing in Gastonia, North Carolina and attend the Carolina Mission of the Church.

New Arrivals

Congratulations are in order to the proud parents for the indicated new members of their families:

Stephen Tayler to Donald and Claudia St. Pierre of Detroit, Michigan;

Joshua Aaron to Robert and Chris Nicklow of Monongahela, Pennsylvania;

Leah Michele to Leon and Terri Nath of Monongahela, Pennsylvania;

Nicole Ann to Thomas and Virginia Davis Martinak of Roscoe, Pennsylvania;

Kevin Michael to Michael and Patty King of San Fernando Valley, California;

Raychel Lynn Kay to Paul and Connie Robinson of St. John, Kansas;

Bethany Jo Rae to Isaac and Sandy Low Smith of Tampa, Florida.

OBITUARIES

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

ARTHUR RAYMOND NICKLOW

Brother Arthur Raymond Nicklow, a member of the Church in Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania, passed away on January 19, 1983. He was baptized on August 24, 1980.

Brothers James L. King and Lawrence E. King officiated at the funeral services.

Left to mourn Brother Nicklow's loss are his wife, Delilah, one son, two daughters, one sister and four brothers.

JOHN WARD

Brother John Ward of the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch of the Church passed away from this life on March 14, 1983. He was born on October 30, 1912 and was baptized on May 8, 1977.

He is survived by his wife, Agnes, his mother, two sisters, one daughter, and three grandchildren.

The funeral service was conducted by Brothers Paul Carr and Idris Martin.

JOSEPHINE THOMAS GENARO

Sister Josephine Thomas Genaro passed on to her eternal reward on April 26, 1983. She was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on December 23, 1928 in Niles, Ohio and was ordained a deaconess in 1929. She attended the Lindsay and Modesto, California Branches.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Tony Picciuto and James Lovalvo.

Sister Josephine is survived by two brothers, seven children, twenty grandchildren, and seventeen great-grandchildren.

Our sister was loved and respected greatly, and we will surely miss her strong testimony and example that she was to all.

THOMAS BALDWIN

Brother Thomas Baldwin, a member of the Church residing in Perry, Georgia, passed away from this life on May 9, 1983. He was born on May 28, 1914 and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on December 3, 1961.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Frank Calabrese and Joseph Calabrese.

Brother Baldwin is survived by his wife, Sister Eunice, four sons, two daughters, ten grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and one brother.

MARY JONES

Sister Mary Jones passed away on May 9, 1983. A member of the Church in Lorain, Ohio, she was born on May 19, 1915 and baptized on April 7, 1963.

She is survived by her husband, George, two daughters, five grandchildren, and one brother.

The Gospel News

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

(USPS 221-180)

August, 1983

Volume 39, No. 8

Television Evangelism

By T. D. Bucci, Evangelist

In the past six or seven years, I took advantage of public service television broadcasting in Youngstown, Ohio to propagate our faith and the Restoration of the Gospel, especially the Choice Seer (American Indian Moses). I'm a firm believer in utilizing the news media in every respect, such as newspapers, magazines, radio, and television. There is no better way to spread the Restoration, Faith and Doctrine of The Church of Jesus Christ and the fulfillment of prophecies in the near future, especially concerning the House of Israel and the American Indians.

Even the poorest of families possess television. It is an excellent medium to reach thousands of homes and many thousands of people. If there is any inquiry, we can send out literature and, if necessary, make personal contact.

We are aware that television is used as an instrument of evil in many instances; however, let us look at the good which surpasses the evil, to name a few such as news, educational programs and the potential aspects of spreading The Gospel of Jesus Christ. We as the people of God can use discipline and discretion when using the television in our homes.

Science and technology have made tremendous gains and achievements in these last days, such as medicine, the telegraph, telephone, radio, television, jet plane, space craft and the landing of man on the moon. All of this has been accomplished since the Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We, the people of God, are looking for a better world of tomorrow: the coming forth of the Choice Seer (American Indian Moses), the New Jerusalem and the Peaceful Reign in America.

We in Youngstown have initiated through the Quorum of Evangelists of the Ohio District and their financial support along with the Youngstown Branch MBA and Sunday School, a television program. The Ladies Uplift Circle has contributed to newspaper ads, and I pray that the Branches and Missions consider seriously to utilize the television medium in propagating the Restoration and the Faith and Doctrine of the Church.

The television message on Sundays through September 11 is on about 8:55 a.m. and on Thursdays between 10:00 and 10:30 a.m. on station WYTV, Channel 33 Youngstown. Many surrounding towns can receive it. Here are the messages. Perhaps other cities can use it, especially Urban Indian Centers and where Indian Reservations are located. These messages are 60 seconds.

SUNDAY'S MESSAGE:

AMERICANS, abomination and sin is abounding. The judgment of God is coming upon this nation. **Repent** and be **baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the Gift of the Holy Ghost. The Church of Jesus Christ.

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST proclaims the Restoration, faith in God

and in Christ, repentance, adult baptism by immersion, laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost, Ministers authorized from heaven.

The Church of Jesus Christ
Restored Gospel

THURSDAY'S MESSAGE:

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST believes that the American Indians are from the House of Israel. We also believe that an American Indian Moses will come out of the Indian nation in the near future. He will be great and mighty, an instrument in the hands of God. He will bring to the Indian people unity, peace, salvation and a restoration to their land, America. He will be called a Choice Seer. America is the land of their inheritance.

Americans, the threat of a nuclear war is a reality. The world is an armed camp. Famine, pestilence, crime, violence, war and earthquakes in divers places is the current situation. A nuclear world war will cause the death of millions. God will not cause the human family to be exterminated; He will spare the righteous.

This nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom and righteousness. A government of the people of God, by the people of God and for the people of God shall not perish from the earth. There shall be an everlasting peace.

And it shall come to pass that the Lord God shall commence his work among all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people, to bring about the restoration of his people upon the earth. II Nephi 30:8

Greenoak Christian Preschool

Greenoak Christian Preschool, a pilot Christian Education Program operating in the Modesto Branch, has been licensed and recently incorporated, two of many giant steps in this pilot process.

In October, 1981, the California District sought permission from the General Church to establish a Christian Education Program. This program is servicing the community as well as Church members.

Following General Church approval, the Modesto Branch underwent physical remodeling to accommodate and accentuate a preschool environment, trusting in the Lord for financial means, educational direction, and all unforeseen difficulties. The Lord blessed the Modesto Branch members with enough money, skilled and unskilled laborers, and determination to totally renovate the building within six months.

In December of 1981, Brother Phil and Sister Val Van Allsburg made a trip to Modesto as a result of a dream and God's direction to Brother Phil. These people had not been to Modesto in 8½ years, and assumed this would be of spiritual benefit. They had known nothing of Modesto's plans.

After arriving in Modesto, Brother Phil and Sister Val, both being teachers, were told of the project that had been started and the hopes of a preschool program in the near future. No one knew Brother Phil had experience as a Curriculum Director of a Christian School before becoming a member of The Church of Jesus Christ, nor that Sister Val had been a director of a preschool for two years in Arizona. By January 4, 1982, Brother Phil and Sister Val contacted the Modesto Branch offering to relocate to Modesto to become involved with the Church's Christian Education Project if Modesto could use them. A school for our Church had been a dream of the Van Allsburgs since 1974. With no promises of financial support to the Van Allsburgs, only spiritual, emotional, loving support and hard work to assist in helping this pilot project succeed.

The Van Allsburgs moved to Modesto in June, 1982. Brother Phil immediately found a permanent teaching position in a nearby school district, assuming Administrative Director responsibilities

for the Preschool in his spare time. Sister Val assists Brother Phil and is the Educational Director for the Preschool.

Greenoak Christian Preschool opened its doors on September 13, 1982 with four children enrolled, a completely voluntary staff, and tremendous enthusiastic support from the Branch members.

Currently, the school has 24 children and four part-time teacher aides. The physical facility is complete, with needs for playground equipment and additional educational equipment and supplies. The Preschool has established a Christian curriculum, monthly field trips and specialized readiness for kindergarten. Brother Phil is preparing a Preschool Packet to assist other Branches in organizing a preschool of their own.

The Preschool also has initiated a scholarship program to offer financial assistance for those who would otherwise miss this preschool experience. We wish to express a sincere **thanks** to all of those who have financially helped in this scholarship program. As a result, we currently have three Spanish-speaking children, and have recently been blessed with a Spanish-speaking volunteer aide.

We also thank God for the two families who had enrolled children into the Preschool and have since been baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ. We are glad the Preschool adds another dimension to our Christian lives. Praise God!

Thank you to all those who have supported the Preschool endeavor in so many ways, especially those volunteering their labors of love: Brother Phillip Van Allsburg, Administrative Director; Sister Valerie Van Allsburg, Educational Director; Sister Barbara Parravano, Annette Camarda, Sister Cindy Dulisse, Teacher Assistants; Mirna Topia, Spanish-speaking Teacher Aide; Brothers Leonard Lovalvo, President of the Board; Larry Wilcoxson, Vice President; Louis Parravano, Secretary; Mark Picciuto, Treasurer; Joe Randy, Louie Ruiz, Matt Picciuto, and Harry Okada, Board Members; Dan Picciuto, Joe Lovalvo, and Jim Dulisse, Advisory Committee.

Direct future correspondence, questions and assistance to:

Greenoak Christian Preschool
329 Briggsmore
Modesto, CA 95350

"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard,...the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." I Corinthians 2:9

FUND-RAISING EVENT

On a cold, crisp January morning, the saints of God enjoyed the thrill of victory over the agony of dee-feet.

The Modesto Branch held their first annual Jog-a-thon on January 14, 1983. The monies raised will be used for purchasing land for increasing our school and church grounds.

Toby Kendail and Brother Phil Van Allsburg headed the project: all participants to run almost 500 miles, or 2000 laps around a ¼ mile high school track. There were over 100 spectators during the day-long event. An Aid Station was set up in a motor home, tables and chairs were provided, while sisters and friends brought food and drinks for all to share. A stereo was set up on the straight-away for music to run by, and a TV was stationed on the back of a truck to catch the football game as you passed by on the curve.

Little ones from 2½ years old to adults 77 years of age all participated. Such a tremendous spirit was felt by all as, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., we fellowshiped in a way that no others before had done. We started the day singing *Walking on the Kings Highway* and *We Are Marching to Zion*, and ended the day singing *When I've Gone the Last Mile of the Way* and *Precious Lord Take Me Home*.

Six participants ran 100 laps, while one 10-year-old boy completed 101 laps. One brother ran 82 laps and dropped out due to injuries.

101 Laps: Ramon Lopez Martines.
100 Laps: Dave, Matt, Mark and Danny Picciuto, Sam Camarda, Phil Van Allsburg.
82 Laps: Dan Ciarolla.

(100 Laps = 25 Miles)

Over \$8,500 was raised in this six-hour Jog-a-thon. Pledges from 12 different states and 7 different Church Districts were donated, for which we are truly thankful.

(Continued next page)

A beautiful spirit was felt by all and a great sense of accomplishment was felt in doing something for the Lord and for His Kingdom here on earth. The young children raised over \$1,000 of the monies. We opened in prayer and we closed in prayer, a little older, a little more tired, a little sore, a little wiser, but a lot more blessed.

California Spiritual Conference Includes Ordination

We all enjoyed a beautiful day Sunday, October 3, 1982 at our Spiritual Conference in Anaheim, California. It was also the day Brother Jim Huttenberger was ordained into the ministry.

The Church was full at 9:30. We sang hymns until 10:00, while the ministry met in one of the Sunday School rooms to pray. The meeting began with the Santa Ana Mission followed by the Anaheim Choir. The meeting was opened in prayer by Brother Tom Liberto from San Diego.

Brother Joe Lovalvo began speaking about the responsibility placed upon the ministry. We then sang *To the Work*, while Brother Frank Ciotti prepared to wash Brother Jim's feet. After a beautiful prayer, we continued singing *To the Work*. Hands were laid on Brother Jim's head by Brother Lou Ciccati as he offered a beautiful prayer of ordination. The Spirit of God filled the room like a cloud, and the love and peace of God's presence was felt by everyone. Brother Jim's wife, Lynette, was very much blessed throughout the ordination. Brother Jim spoke concerning his life in the Church and related some experiences to his calling.

Brother Lou Ciccati then spoke giving God glory for preseving his life this past week while being robbed at his barber shop.

Brother Jim Lovalvo commented on the responsibility of the young ministers carrying forth the work of building Zion. Brother Frank Ciotti spoke a few words and likened himself, Brothers Jim Huttenberger, Walt Jankowski and Ken Jones unto the four sons of Mosiah when they went out to preach the Gospel.

We were closed in prayer by Brother

Tom Jones. After the service, a young man, Randy Lee, asked for his baptism. Randy attends the Yucaipa Mission. After the baptism we had another service where the blessings of God prevailed and our cups were running over. We thank Him for this day of His love and peace and many blessings.

50th Anniversaries

By Michele Davella, Branch Editor

Sunday, April 24, 1983 was a special day for the brothers and sisters of the Hopelawn Branch. We shared with ten brothers and sisters a joyous day marking their 50th year or more since being baptized into the Church, a total of 515 years of dedication in the service of God.

A corsage was given to those present at our meeting. The names of the ten brothers and sisters are as follows:

Antonette Mercurio	— 1925
Jennie Purkall	— 1931
Margaret Benyola	— 1930
Anna Hertneky (mother)	— 1933
Anna Hertneky (daughter)	— 1933
Elizabeth Sabo	— 1933
Andrew Hertneky	— 1933
Sam Benyola	— 1933
Dominick Calabro	— 1931
Louis Benyola	— 1933

Each brother and sister who was present bore testimony, thanking God for His blessing during the years that have passed.

We have a good number of young peo-

ple in our Branch who have expressed their desire of one day being baptized into the Church. Many of these young people were present and certainly can take an example of our older brothers and sisters whom we consider pillars in the Church.

Brother James Benyola, our Presiding Elder, gave a small account of each brother and sister that was honored.

Brother Joseph Perri led the group in singing some of the songs (the old tune) that were sung from the Red Hymnal at the time the Church first came to New Jersey.

After our meeting, we retired to our church basement where a dinner was prepared by the sisters of the Hopelawn Branch.

We are certainly proud of the older brothers and sisters of the Church and our earnest prayer is for God's blessings to follow them the remaining days of their lives.

Below is a picture of some of the brothers and sisters that were present when the picture was taken.

Brother Andrew Hertneky and Brother Sam Benyola were not present because of illness. They both have experienced lengthy afflictions in the past year. May we continue to pray for them.

This special Sunday will long be remembered in the history of the Hopelawn Branch.



Greetings in Christ,

I thought this might be of interest to our people and readers. Just think, Mary and I in cap and gown at our age!

This city has been very kind to us and our family. I am to give the invocation at the graduation, and Mr. Hartley has a special speech prepared on our behalf.

We are humbly grateful to God and the many who are so kind to us.

Our love to you,
Mark and Mary Randy

A Couple of ageless graduates

By Brian Clark
Bee Staff Writer

Mark and Mary Randy aren't your typical high school graduates, not by a long shot.

Mark is 70 and Mary is 67, in most cases 50 years older than their fellow students at Modesto Evening High School.

But that's not the only reason the couple is unusual. Both have had long and successful careers in business and have done extensive work with their church. Mark Randy has been a minister with The Church of Jesus Christ for 47 years.

According to Art Hartley, the evening school's principal, the Randys came to him last spring and told him they were interested in finally getting their diplomas.

Mark Randy grew up in Sicily. He moved to Detroit in 1930 and attended high school there. But he left a few classes short of graduation because it was the midst of the Great Depression and he had to work, he said.

His wife, who was born in Michigan, left school to help raise the other children in her family.

"I loved school, but back in those days, they didn't really believe in women having an education or careers outside the home," she said.

After they were married in 1937, the Randys did missionary work on an Indian reservation in Canada for several years. Next, they established a successful construction business near Detroit.

But in 1951 they left Michigan to start a new Church of Jesus Christ and settled in Modesto.

"We've always been very busy people. With our businesses and three children and our church work, we always had more than enough to do," said Mrs. Randy.

"And when the children grew up and were married, we took in foster children and had seven of them in our home over the years. We really didn't have time to think about education," she said.

Both Randys have taken courses at Modesto Junior College. Mr. Randy has taken classes from the University of Michigan, Stanford and several other universities.

"But we never got our high school diplomas and we'd always wanted them," Mrs. Randy said.

"So one day last year, we saw an article in *The Bee* about finishing high school and we inquired. And now here we are. We're very happy about this," she said.

Hartley said the couple had enough credits from their high school days 50 years ago to need but a few more courses to get their diplomas.

"It was exciting. The history courses were especially good because it was like we were rediscovering part of our lives.

And our teacher, John Madden, did an excellent job," Mrs. Randy said.

"Some of the kids gave us funny looks and asked us why we were there. But they accepted us and we enjoyed each other," said Mr. Randy.

Mrs. Randy said she encourages senior citizens to take classes, too.

"It can be lots of fun. You are never too old to learn," she added.

The principal said he was pleased with the Randys' performance in the evening high school.

"They were excellent students. They both got A's in American government and U.S. History II. But she beat him and got an A, while he got a B in the first American history course," Hartley said with a laugh.

He said the Randys will receive social science achievement awards and both will be admitted to the National Honor Society during the graduation ceremony June 9.

"They have had a marvelous attitude. And they've been a tremendous inspiration to the students and the instructors," he said.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Congratulations from *The Gospel News* Staff, and surely from our many readers. May God bless both of you in your continuing service to Him and others.



The Class of '83's Mark and Mary Randy at their East Modesto home.

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The Gospel News is published monthly by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE. Subscription price is \$6.00 a year. Entered as second class mail at Bridgewater, Mich. under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

"Sweet Land of Liberty"

At this writing, our beloved country has just marked the annual observance of Independence Day.

The above title was taken from the first line of Samuel Francis Smith's inspiring and time-honored anthem, *America*. This beautiful and stirring verse seems to come to our minds spontaneously as we commemorate the adoption and signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

Pastor and poet Smith was truly inspired in composing this beloved and patriotic hymn in the year 1832 at age 25 while he was a ministerial student. His simple and yet lovely reference to our beloved America as a "sweet land of liberty" is an eloquent testimony of his love of country, as well as his gratitude to God, the Author of Liberty.

We are also reminded of those who wrote prophetically of our nation as "a land of liberty" centuries before its founding. In the *Book of Mormon*, II Nephi 1:7, the Prophet Lehi writes, "Wherefore, this land is consecrated unto him whom he shall bring. And if it so be that they shall serve him according to the commandments which he hath given, it shall be a 'land of liberty' unto them . . ."

THIS LAND FORTIFIED

Lehi's son Jacob prophesied also, "And this land shall be a 'land of liberty' unto the Gentiles, and there shall be no kings upon the land, who shall raise up unto the Gentiles. And I will fortify this land against all other nations." II Nephi 10:11, 12.

Mosiah 29:32 reads, "And now I (Mosiah) desire that this inequality (rule of Kings) should be no more in this land, especially among my people; but I desire that this land be a 'land of liberty', and every man may enjoy his rights and privileges alike . . ."

A MIGHTY NATION

Nephi, another son of Lehi, also predicted the rise of our nation, ". . . the Lord God will raise up a mighty nation among the Gentiles, yea, even upon the face of this land . . ." I Nephi 22:7.

Finally, our Lord Jesus Christ who visited His people on this land shortly after His resurrection, foretold the founding of our nation, "For it is wisdom in the Father that they should be established in this land, and be set up as a 'free people' by the power of the Father . . ." III Nephi 21:4.

As we sing the poet Smith's hymn anew, we are grateful to our Heavenly Father for this "sweet land of liberty". Too, we are saddened by the memory of those who bore the burden of battle, many of whom laid down their lives in devotion to the cause of freedom and liberty.

Let us be mindful of the prophecy of Lehi, "And if it so be that they shall serve him according to the commandments which he hath given, it shall be a 'land of liberty' unto them."

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock

A Missionary of Old

Dear Girls and Boys,

In the days of King Mosiah, there rose up a great dissension in the Church. When Mosiah investigated, he learned that his four sons, Aaron, Ammon, Omner and Himni, were going about with their friend, Alma, one of the sons of the High Priest, secretly stirring up trouble. Young Alma was a man of many words, and he led many of the people to follow his sinful ways. The four sons of Mosiah also joined him to lead the people in breaking the good laws of God, and King Mosiah.

One day as they were going about rebelling against God, the angel of the Lord appeared unto them, descending as it were in a cloud. When he spoke, it was with a voice like booming thunder that shook the ground. Alma and his friends were so astonished that they fell to the ground without understanding the angel's words.

Again the angel spoke to them saying, "Alma, arise and stand forth. Why do you persecute the Church of God? The Lord has said this is His Church and He will not let anything overthrow it unless it is the wrong-doing of its members. I am here to convince you of the power and authority of God because of the prayers of Alma your father, who has prayed with much faith that you would be convinced."

The angel continued, asking Alma, "And now, can you argue that God has no power? Doesn't my voice shake the earth? Don't you see me? Now I tell you Alma, go your way. Stop trying to destroy the Church. The Church people have been praying for you, and if you don't stop, you will cause yourself to be cast off." With these last words the angel departed. Alma and those with him fell to the earth again. They were



shocked they had actually seen and heard an angel, a messenger sent from our powerful God.

Alma was so overcome he could not talk. He lay on the ground so weak that he could not even move his hands. His friends carried him helpless to his father and told Alma, the high priest, what had happened.

Now Alma, the father, was over-joyed that the power of God had touched his son. He caused a great multitude to gather and see what God had done for his son and those who were with them.

As the multitude waited, Alma also called all the leaders of the Church to come together and fast and pray to the Lord that he would open the mouth of Alma so that he could speak, and to return the strength to his body.

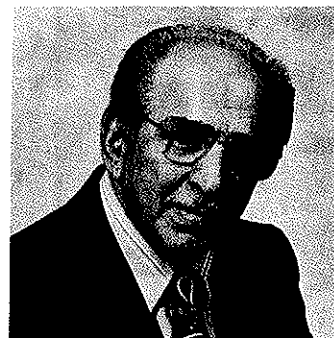
For two days and two nights, they fasted and prayed. At last Alma's limbs received their strength and he stood up a changed man. He began to speak to the crowd, telling them to be comforted. He had repented of his sins. No longer would he reject the true beliefs of his father and the Church. Now he wanted to carry the glorious message of God's love, peace and power to all.

From that day forward, Alma and those who were with him began a mighty work. They travelled throughout the land telling everyone how God had sent an angel to them, to the convincing of them of His wonderful love and promises.

The *Book of Mormon* tells us that they were hated by unbelievers. Yet, even though they were beaten and at times thrown into prison, they kept their hearts right. With much joy, they brought many hundreds of people to also love and serve God.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

"It Is Written"



By V. James Lovalvo, Apostle

Question asked of me by a brother: Why is the Church (in the Book of Mormon) called, at times, the Church of God or Christ?

Before I answer this question, let me convey to all a very important thing, and that is the full name of the Son of God. He said to the brother of Jared, "Behold, I am Jesus Christ..." (Ether 3:14).

Please note that the Lord did not give half of His name, nor part of it; He gave His full name, Jesus Christ. In many places, both *Bible* and *Book of Mormon*, He is referred to by many titles and/or names such as Wonderful, Counsellor, Prince of Peace, The Everlasting Father, and The Mighty God. He is also referred to as the Son of God, Son of Man, Holy One of Israel, the Good Shepherd, etc. The list is endless. The above, however, are merely subtitles, subnames, and attributes. His complete and full name is **Jesus Christ**.

Even the names of human beings are given subtitles and subnames at times. For example, my name is Vincent James Lovalvo; yet, at times I am referred to as Brother Lovalvo, Brother Jim, etc. But legally, my name is as I have given it above. Therefore, any references and/or subnames given to Christ notwithstanding, His full name is Jesus Christ.

This likewise applies to the Church. He said to the Nephites while He was sojourning with them, "...And how be it My Church save it be called in My name? For if a church be called in Moses' name then it be Moses' church; or if it be called in the name of a man then it be the church of a

man; but if it be called in My name then it is My church, if it so be that they are built upon My gospel." (III Nephi 27:8). In conjunction with the above statement, Jesus also said to Peter, "...thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church..." (Matthew 16:18).

Please let the reader note carefully: Sometimes the Lord referred to Himself by part of His name as in III Nephi 27:5, "...ye must take upon you the name of Christ..." And to the Scribe in Matthew 8:20 He said, "...The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man hath not where to lay His head."

The angel told Joseph, the husband of Mary, that he should call the child that was to be born of Mary by the name of "Jesus". Now this appears to be only part of His name. Jesus is the name given to Him because He was born in the flesh. The surname, Christ, is given to Him denoting the fact that He is the Anointed of God. Peter, in his confession said, "Thou art the CHRIST, the Son of the living God." (Matthew 16:16). One name, JESUS, means Saviour; the other name, CHRIST, means Anointed. Put both names together and they form one name, JESUS CHRIST, which means the SAVIOUR who is ANOINTED of God. Now you have His legal name and title, JESUS CHRIST. And that is the name He called Himself to the brother of Jared.

The same reasoning applies to His Church. It can be referred to as the Church of God, Church of Christ, Church of the Son of God, Church of the Redeemer, Church of the First Born, Church of the Holy One of Israel, etc. But, when it comes to give the legal and full name to His Church, it must have His complete name: **The Church of Jesus Christ.**

If anyone would like to look up some subtitles given to the Church, following are a few references:

BOOK OF MORMON

Church of the Lamb of God: I Nephi 14:10

Church of the Lamb: I Nephi 14:12,14

Church of God (or Christ): Mosiah 18:17; III Nephi 26:21; III Nephi 28:23; IV Nephi 1:1; IV Nephi 1:26, 29; Moroni 6:4.

BIBLE

Church of God: Acts 20:28; I Cor. 1:2; 10:32; 11:22; 15:9; Gal. 1:13; I Tim. 3:5.

Church of the First-Born: Hebrews 12:23.

But remember, His Church must have His full name: The Church of Jesus Christ.

P.S. As this seemed to be a very important question, I have asked the Editor of *The Gospel News* to print it prior to my next article on Alma 5.

Tapes and Books of *The Songs of Zion* Are Available

For books, please contact:

Brother Eugene Amormino
21138 Ardmore Park
St. Clair Shores, MI 48081

For tapes, please contact:

Sister Arlene Buffington
R.D. #1, Moore Road
Imperial, PA 15126

Change of Address

Joseph Bittinger
2119 Sunrise Drive S.W.
Vero Beach, FL 32962

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to thank each of you for your cards, phone calls, visits, and most of all for your prayers while I was sick. The people of The Church of Jesus Christ are truly a "unique" people. May God bless you for the love and concern you showed towards me.

Please continue to pray for me, as I still need your prayers.

Love in Christ,
Sister Leona Buffa
Detroit, Branch 2

MBA Highlights

Hollywood, FL MBA News

By Candace Obradovich, MBA Editor

"Many Blessings Ahead" is the theme of our Hollywood MBA. The brothers and sisters have shared many praiseworthy blessings at the beginning of each MBA service.

The saints come prepared weekly to introduce their MBA meeting on a positive note by sharing in brief testimonies as to what good deed God has done in their lives. Through these good tidings, we have witnessed that our God is an unchanging God and works those mighty miracles of old, today. As long as we are faithful and dedicate our service to Him, He will never forsake us.

During these testimonial briefs, we have learned of healings, of His constant protection, of His provisions for us according to our individual needs.

We have been strengthened in hearing these experiences and we anxiously await the next MBA meeting in sharing our enthusiasm in expressing that "God is Good".

Psalm 105:1, "O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the people."

Our Women Today

Aliquippa Ladies Uplift Circle Marks 60th Anniversary

By Dora Rossi, Branch Editor

On May 25, 1983, the Aliquippa Ladies Uplift Circle celebrated their 60th anniversary at a special meeting in the church building.

The Aliquippa Circle was organized

May 20, 1923 in the home of the late Sister Filomena Jackman, West Aliquippa. Sisters Hanna Skillen and Conchetta Dintino, of the General Circle, helped the organizing of the new Circle.

Sister Domenica Tamburrino, formerly of Aliquippa, who is now residing in Detroit, is the only living Charter member.

The sisters presented a program, and all were invited to attend. Sister Eva Ondik, President, welcomed everyone. We sang *The Longer I Serve Him*, and Sister Erma Rossi said the opening prayer. We then sang *One Day at a Time*. The history of our Circle was read by Sister Joyceann Jumper.

Sister Josephine Ross read Proverbs 31:10-20 and 25-31. Then seven sisters of our Circle gave a short story of seven women of the *Bible*.

We sang *The Family of God*. Six of our sisters who have been members for 50 or more years were presented a pin for their many years of service. They are Sisters Philomena DeLuca, Philomena Palmieri, Sabina D'Antonio, Mary Ross, Antoinette Giannetti and Josephine Ross. May God bless these sisters for their efforts and good examples they have set before us as pillars of the Church.

Brother Thomas Ross gave a few closing remarks and said the closing prayer.

The committee, Sisters Marty Jumper and Dora Rossi, served refreshments in the church basement. We all had an enjoyable time socializing with one another.

May God continue to bless our Circle for their many accomplishments and for helping the General Church Missionary work.



Left to right: Sisters Antoinette Giannetti, Mary Ross, Filomena DeLuca, Sabina D'Antonio, and Josephine Ross.

Branch and Mission News

Dallas, TX

The Dallas congregation of The Church of Jesus Christ, April 9, officially became an "established mission" under the Arizona District.

The new status allows the mission to submit reports directly to district officers on all matters. The new degree of independence marks another step of progress for the mission, where meetings have been held for ten years.

Brother Dick Christman, Evangelist and former Arizona District President, conducted the organization meeting during a special Saturday evening service. Brother George Benyola, Evangelist, was elected Presiding Elder, and other members of the mission took on multiple responsibilities. Among those present were Brother Bill

and Sister Evelyn Crall, members of the mission who reside in Anadarko, Oklahoma.

Brother Dick completed his weekend in Dallas by opening the Sunday, April 10, service. He read from Psalm 103 and exhorted the saints to reach out to their neighbors and loved ones in kindness.

As an example of how the Lord can move upon our hearts, Brother Dick related how one time he was seated in a restaurant and noticed a young couple looking at his food. Their glances told him they were hungry, he said, so the Spirit prompted him to buy dinner for the couple. We must be sensitive to the needs of all human beings, even if they are expressed in a momentary glance, he said.

Brother Christman was only one of

several visitors the Dallas Mission has enjoyed in recent weeks. On Easter weekend, the saints received an unexpected surprise—a visit by Brother Nick and Sister Yolanda Pietrangelo from Detroit.

The saints entertained Brother Nick, Apostle, after he, Sister Yolanda, and their relatives, Chris and Dora Trovato of Rochester, New York, were stranded in Dallas for a few days because of a traffic accident. They were traveling north from Arizona.

But the mishap blossomed into a blessing.

Brother Nick and his traveling companions were able to spend many hours of fellowship with the saints in Dallas. We are thankful that God has put such a concern and love for one another in our hearts.

Brother Nick opened the Easter service and spoke about the crucifixion and

resurrection of Christ. He explained how Christ was the "true vine", and that in his name many miracles are still wrought. One experience he related was how an unborn child, declared dead in his mother's womb, came back to life through the prayers of the ministry. This happened recently in Detroit, Branch 1.

The Dallas saints were also happy to see Sister Teresa Gennaro from Youngstown, Ohio in our midst March 27. Sister Teresa and her late husband, Brother Bill Gennaro, Apostle, were instrumental in encouraging the work in Dallas during the early years of the mission.

Sister Teresa's visit was especially sweet because she was accompanied by Sister Jane Ardinger, her daughter. Sister Jane had been unable to attend the services for more than a year, and during the meeting she declared her intention to resume fellowship with the group. Her testimony was an answer to many prayers.

Imperial, PA

By Eva Moore, Branch Editor

February 27, 1983, will long be remembered as a special day seasoned with God's Holy Spirit. We started our morning service with Brother Eugene Amormino leading us, using *The Songs of Zion* for the first 40 minutes.

Then Brother Frank Calabrese offered prayer. Brother Russel Cadman used Alma 13. He said the callings come according to the order of the Son of God to those who have faith and good works. He stressed the importance of the office of elder and teacher and a state of humbleness and wisdom is very necessary.

Brother Frank Ciotti, from Santa Ana, California, spoke next on Jeremiah's calling even before his birth, and he said, "God is the same today, yesterday and forever." Brother Chuck Jumper spoke next and said, "God is still on His throne and He hears the cries of His people." We sang *Give Me Understanding, Lord*, and Brother Fred Olexa closed our morning service with prayer.

After lunch, we opened our afternoon service with several of *The Songs of Zion*. Then the Aliquippa trio sang *A*

Living Sacrifice. The power of God fell upon 18 year old Paul Aaron Palmieri, and he jumped to his feet and said, "I want to be baptized." Many cries of joy rose from the congregation of over 200. Brother Fred Olexa offered a beautiful prayer for our blessings thus far and for the balance of the day. A quartet from Detroit, Brother and Sister Mangiapane and Brother And Sister Amormino, sang *Vessels of Gold*:

*There's a potter at work on a small piece of clay,
And He never grows tired working day after day;
'Round and 'round on the wheel, He forms me gently with love,
And earthen vessel below made by the Master above.
He says I have to be gold and that the fire will refine
And what He wants me to be, He says His hands will design.*

*There's a potter who molds all His children of clay,
He's been working for years, He's still at it today.
'Round and 'round on the wheel all His dear children go,
His pretty pitchers to fill, His shining vessels below.
He says they have to be gold, into the furnace they go
He says they have to be pure to do His work here below.*

By Sister Arlene Buffington

Lamentations 4:2: "The precious sons of Zion, comparable to fine gold, how are they esteemed as earthen pitchers, the work of the hands of the potter."

This song was dedicated to the two brothers to be ordained and also to our new Brother Paul Aaron. Brother Paul Palmieri opened our afternoon service full of joy and expressing his great love for his only son. He spoke of the great heritage that is passed on to our children, The Gospel of Jesus Christ. He said, "We have a well of water that springs up in us unto eternal life." He was full of praise and thanksgiving to God for his life and the privilege of baptizing his son.

Brother Paul Ciotti's family sang *Like a Child*. Brother Jimmy Moore read the duties of elders and teachers and the authority that is given from God, also the importance of spreading this Gospel to all people. He said, "God will supply power as it is needed in these the last days." Then all the elders knelt down

to pray for the two brothers to be ordained. Brother Tony Corrado offered prayer for unity in ordaining the two brothers, and he asked for God's blessings to rest upon them.

Brother Bill Colangelo washed Brother Paul Ciotti's feet, and Brother Frank Altomere washed Brother Dan Buffington's feet. Brother Frank Calabrese ordained Brother Paul into the office of an elder, and Brother Bob Buffington ordained Brother Dan Buffington into the office of a teacher. Isaiah said, "How beautiful are the feet of him that publishes salvation."

Communion was then served, and Brother Wayne Martorana closed the meeting with prayer. We all walked to the baptismal site to witness the baptism of our young Brother Paul Aaron. It was a beautiful sunny day, and as Brother Paul led his son down into the waters, we all rejoiced to see a young man willingly surrender all to Jesus. He was later confirmed in his Branch in Aliquippa. We can say, "Thank you Lord for your beautiful Church."

Lockport, NY

By Carmella D'Amico

Due to my husband's illness, we could not attend the General Church Conference. I fasted and prayed in behalf of the Conference, for the Priesthood, and especially to bless all the brothers and sisters who cook for all those people. I saw a vision.

I was transported to the Auditorium. I greeted many of the saints. I saw two men dressed in white supervising in the kitchen and dining room. While the Priesthood was in session, I saw the rostrum all illuminated, and Jesus came down and blessed them. This vision was with me during the four days of Conference.

On Sunday evening, I thanked God for His wonderful blessing that He gave me during these four days. I had a dream that I was at the Auditorium and saw all the saints. I spoke with the two men dressed in white. I asked them, "Are you the Nephites, and what are your names?" They said, "We cannot tell our names; we are out to do God's will!" They shook hands with me and blessed me and disappeared.

June 29 will be 50 years that I was baptized. Last week I spoke on the radio and gave my testimony of 50 beautiful and wonderful years in the service of God.

Niles, OH

By Kathy Brooks, Branch Editor

Niles Branch held a special Wednesday night meeting on May 14 in honor of our older brothers and sisters. The Psalmist, David, instructed us as to whom we should consider old; the time allotted unto man is three score and ten years, or 70 years old. We currently have nine members in our Branch whom the Lord has blessed beyond their allotted time. We are so thankful for their wisdom, their knowledge, their patience, and their love that we have felt to recognize them.

Brother Wayne Martorana reminded us that these brothers and sisters have truly born the heat of the day—having to endure the great depression and persecutions of their day—they have proven faithful. We, the young and middle aged, have seen their good works, and they have become great examples unto us. Brother Wayne reminded us of the Three Nephites and of their desire; they would go among men and bring souls unto Christ. These men are types and shadows of the lives we **should** live—of the lives that our older brothers and sisters **have** lived.

Brother Russ Martorana stated that he remembered many who have gone on to their reward. Many of their lives were threatened and persecuted because of The Church of Jesus Christ. We have much to learn from our older brothers and sisters. We should learn by listening to the many experiences, of their determination, and of their faithfulness.

While we sang *Second to God*, our older brothers and sisters came up front to bear a testimony. Among these were: Sister Libby Pandone, Sister Lucy Rossi, Sister Margaret Smith, Sister Jennie Ciarrochi, Brother Lou Pandone, Brother Bill Galucci, and Sister Ann Galucci. Due to sickness, Brother Dan and Sister Lorreta Corrado were not present.

Brother Bob Ciarrochi followed, stating that the testimonies of our older brothers and sisters have kept the

Church alive. It is through them that the hope of Zion lives today. Let us be thankful for them, remembering that they are a great asset to our Church.

We, of the Niles Branch, are pleased to recognize those whom the Lord has blessed and extended their lives. We truly feel blessed to have known them and to have served God with them. It is our prayer that we might serve God as they have, with eyes singled upon Him—**The Author and Finisher of Our Faith.**



Modesto, CA

By Pam Cole, Branch Editor

Psalm 105:1 reads, "O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people."

Brothers and sisters, this is exactly what we want to do! We want to praise the Lord and let you know some of the wonderful things He is doing for us. He's filling us with His blessings and we are very grateful. Much has happened lately, so we would like to briefly share some of the highlights of our Branch news:

We had the opportunity to have Brother Eugenio Mora and his wife,

Sister Angela, in our midst on Sunday, March 6, 1983. We were very saddened to hear of Brother Eugenio's serious illness and passing away soon after his visit to Modesto. What a blessing it was to hear our brother and sister sing so sincerely unto the Lord! We will truly miss our Brother Eugenio, but we know he is in a better place. Our prayer for Sister Angela is that her constant companion is Jesus Christ and that He would always walk beside her.

On Sunday, March 13, Brother John A. Capone from Anaheim was visiting with us. We're thankful for this young brother and his sincere heart and strong desire to serve the Lord.

On Saturday night, March 19, Brothers Tony DeCaro and Bruce Pic-

ciuto gave a very enlightening presentation on today's music, and how some of it is "messaging with your mind". We only wish that more young people from other areas of the Church could have been in attendance. It was really an eye-opener.

The following morning, we gathered once again, to worship the Lord together, to participate in the ordinance of feet washing, and to witness three ordinations. Also, we were very pleased to see a group of young people visiting from other Branches. From Lindsay, we had Brother Bruce Picciuto and Sister Kathleen Biddle; from Anaheim, we had Sisters Amaya Genaro and Cheryl Capone; and from Yucaipa, we had Brother Randy Lee. (Incidentally, all of these young people have been baptized

into the Church less than a year. We're so happy to refer to them as our "brothers and sisters"!)

Brothers Philip Van Allsburg and David Picciuto were ordained teachers, and Brother Jim Dulisse was reactivated as deacon. We surely felt the presence of the angels of God in our midst that day.

The same great spirit we felt returned the next Sunday (March 27) as four young people asked for their baptisms. Gary Stemple, his wife, Marlyn, Regina Picciuto, and Mirna Tapia were all to be baptized the next Sunday, which was also Easter Sunday. In the meantime, (during the week), another young man, Bret Martin, repented and decided that he, too, wanted to serve God the rest of his life.

During the meeting on the 27th, Brother Joe Lovalvo had the following experience:

"We were having a great outpouring of the Spirit of God and two young people had asked for their baptisms and another asked the elders to lay hands on him for an affliction.

"While one of the ministers was praying, an angel appeared to me and said, 'Tell them (meaning the brothers and sisters) that there are others who are going to ask for their baptisms'. I said to myself, 'I'm not going to say anything, they might think I am pushy'. The angel turned to me and said very emphatically, 'You tell them.' As soon as the minister finished praying, I, being filled with the Spirit of God, told the congregation that there were others whom God was calling. I had no sooner finished my words, when two more young people requested to be baptized, and later another young man requested to be baptized."

On Saturday morning, (day before Easter) the young people of the Branch and elders met together for fasting and prayer. The young people requested a weekly fast and prayer meeting to be held every Saturday morning...and we're so glad we did! The Lord was with us that day. Nearly all of the young people present poured out their hearts to God that He might bless us with unity and the spiritual gifts.

Brother Joe Lovalvo had the following experience in the fast and prayer meeting:

"After reading the 12th chapter of 1st

Corinthians and explaining the value and the purpose of the Gifts of God to the Church, we went into our prayer service. The young people offered sincere and fervent prayers crying out to God to bless and answer their desire. While Brother Sam Camarda was praying, I saw two funnels in the shape of a cone. The small ends were in Heaven, while the large ends which were about ten feet each in diameter kept moving towards our building. The large ends were now in the building, and while I was looking, many angels robed in white stepped into our auditorium. Some walked down the aisles and others sat in the pews. The glory of God came down upon me and everyone present. The prayers were like honey in rocks and after everyone had prayed, we formed a circle and held hands. Without a question or a doubt, heaven came down in our midst and glory filled our souls. It was difficult for us to separate because we all knew for a surety that the angels of Heaven were with us."

The next day was Easter Sunday, of course, and we had all anticipated a wonderful day. Visiting with us from Lorain, Ohio was Sister Tammy Smith. (She and her twin brother, Tommy, were reunited for their 20th birthday!) This day was truly blessed as we watched five souls immersed in the river and become as new creatures. The new members of The Church of Jesus Christ are as follows: Sister Regina Picciuto, baptized by Brother Dan Picciuto and confirmed by Brother Leonard Lovalvo; Brother Bret Martin, baptized by Brother Dan Picciuto and confirmed by Brother Lou Parravano; Brother Gary Stemple, baptized by Brother Leonard Lovalvo and confirmed by Brother Mark Randy; Sister Marlyn Stemple, baptized by Brother Leonard Lovalvo and confirmed by Brother Joe Lovalvo; Sister Mirna Tapia, baptized by Brother Dan Picciuto and confirmed by Brother Lou Parravano. Let us be prayerful that God will strengthen our new brothers and sisters in their new lives—and that they will be instrumental in His work.

California District Ladies Uplift Circle Conference was held in Modesto, April 16-17. Saturday morning was the usual business meeting, and in the afternoon, there was a seminar given by Sister Sharon Parravano. The topic was how each of us are "special" to the Lord. It was enjoyed by all those in attendance. Saturday evening there was a program put on by the Modesto Ladies Uplift Circle. There were special selections sung and a skit presented. The skit

focused on our neglecting the Lord. So many times we feel like we can handle everything without taking it to the Lord in prayer, but then we come to the realization that we can't. The Lord waits patiently for us to call on Him when we need him...He loves us so much.

Sunday was a wonderful day of worship together. We had much representation from almost every Ladies Uplift Circle local in the District. We were also honored to have Brother Joe Genaro from Niles, Ohio in our Branch. Brother Joe spoke very enthusiastically about "growth" and how our faith needs growth. He chose scripture from II Thessalonians 1:2. "We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of everyone aboundeth."

We want to thank the Lord for the honor it was to know Sister Josephine Genaro. Sister Josephine passed away on April 26, 1983. Words cannot express the love we felt for our sister, for she was truly a servant of God. Her life and her example will be treasured forever in our memories.

Sister Josephine will be greatly missed by seven children, twenty grandchildren, seventeen great-grandchildren, and many brothers and sisters in Christ. Many of the relatives and friends of Sister Josephine traveled great distances to attend the funeral held in Modesto on April 29, 1983. Most of these brothers, sisters and friends of the Church stayed the following Sunday and worshipped with us. Visiting on May 1 were Brother Frank and Sister Edith Genaro from Yucaipa, California; Brothers Pete Genaro and Joe Krasnasky of Red Lake, Arizona; Brothers Joe Genaro, Armand Genaro, and Sister Jean Genaro from Niles, Ohio; Pete and Sister Mary Krasnasky, Brother Enos and Sister Elyse Genaro, all from San Fernando Valley, California; Sister Sandy Scarna of New Orleans, Brothers John Capone and Jeff Meo of Anaheim, and Sister Sue Andruccioli of Sterling Heights, Michigan. It was so good to be with all of our visitors that day.

Since December, 1982, the Branch has been involved in fund raising activities to raise money towards our preschool, and the purchase of the land west of the church building. So far we've been involved in rummage sales,

(Continued next page)

calendar sales, a jog-a-thon, a coin roll, cookbook sales, and candy bar sales. These activities have been very profitable financially and spiritually. The next event will be a barbecue on May 6.

For these reasons and more, we want to "make known His deeds among the people". God is so good to us! We thank Him for everything. He gives us much more than we could ever be worthy of.

See you at the World Missionary Conference August 20-26, 1983

* **WEDDINGS** *

EUTSEY—BOWLER

Brother Dwayne Eutsey and Sister Colleena Bowler were united in marriage at The Church of Jesus Christ in Vanderbilt, PA on April 23, 1983. Brother Milford Eutsey, Sr., the groom's father, conducted the wedding ceremony.

Sisters Iva Fedorka and Nina DiCenzo presented musical selections.

The newlyweds are residing in Grindstone, PA.

LaROSA—BRAY

Mr. William Joseph LaRosa and Miss Annette Yvonne Bray were joined in marriage on June 11, 1983 in Gastonia, North Carolina by Brother Jonathan Molinatto.

Sister Florence LaRosa, the groom's mother, was soloist, and was accompanied by the organist, Sister Esther Dyer.

The LaRosa's are making their home in Gastonia, NC.

MURPHY—BROWN

Mr. Ronald Russell Murphy and Miss Patricia Lynne Brown were married on June 18, 1983 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Hopelawn, New Jersey by Brother Joseph Perri.

Miss Sharon Gross presented musical selections.

Linden, NJ will be the residence of the newlyweds.

WOLFF—PERRI

Brother Scott Marshall Wolff and Sister Cynthia Lee Perri were married at The Church of Jesus Christ in Hopelawn, New Jersey on May 21, 1983.

Brother Joseph Perri, father of the bride, officiated at the wedding ceremony, and he was assisted by Brothers Paul Benyola and Eugene Perri, Sr., uncle and grandfather of the bride, respectively.

Musical selections were presented by Sister Joann Arcuri, Brother Philip and Sister Linda Benyola, and Brother Richard Benyola, organist.

The Wolff's are making their home in Keasby, NJ.

New Arrivals

Congratulations are in order to the proud parents for the indicated new members of their families:

Ashlee Collison to Paul and Arlene Holan of Niles, OH;

Jeffrey Eugene Adam to Daniel and Susan Coates of Lorain, OH;

John Daniel to John and Janice Huttenberger of Anaheim, CA;

Jonathan Michael to Lloyd Franklin and Karen Marie Elzby of Bell, CA.

OBITUARIES

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

MAE NATERELI

Sister Mae Natereli, a member of The Church of Jesus Christ in New Brunswick, New Jersey, passed away from this life in December, 1982. She was baptized in 1935 and was ordained as a deaconess in 1972.

She is survived by her husband, Brother Tony, and her daughter, Elaine.

Brother Frank Mazzeo conducted the funeral services.

ROBBIE POWELL

Robbie Powell of Detroit, Branch 2, passed away on April 6, 1983. He was born on June 19, 1978.

Robbie is survived by his father, Brother Kevin, and sister, Rachael.

Brothers Dan Parravano and Alex Gentile officiated at the funeral services.

The Gospel News

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

(USPS 223-480)

September, 1983

Volume 39, No. 9

Greetings in Christ,

*Though more righteous, yet
they needed repentance.*

"O all ye that are spared because ye were more righteous than they, will ye not now return unto me, and repent of your sins, and be converted, that I may heal you?" III Nephi 9:13

At my age, I still feel the living flame in my heart that makes me go on. Though my desire was to attend the June General Church Conference, and I had purchased my plane ticket, I decided instead to go to Portland, Oregon, where I had not visited for some time.

On June 26, we met in the home of Brother Eugene and Sister Mabel Lassen. Also present was Brother Dean Longrie of Vancouver, Washington. As usual, we feasted on the sweet spirit of our Beloved God.

We broke bread and partook of the Lord's Supper, sharing our joy in Jesus Christ, the Lord. How marvelous is our God whom we love, in imparting of His Spirit to us.

"Can two walk together, except they be agreed." Amos 3:3

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments." Psalm 133:1,2

So we felt joyful in being together,

testifying and partaking of the flesh and blood of Jesus the Lord. Please pray for these three here. They have a good spirit within them, though they are far removed from the main body of the Church. Portland and Vancouver are two beautiful cities on opposite shores of the Columbia River.

It takes younger men to take the toil and sacrifice of these trips, yet my spirit still urges me to go on. "Marco, do not stop, go on my son," says the spirit within me. So, I go on as a pilgrim and a stranger.

I met some new people in Vancouver and while this was our first meeting, we felt good to be together. We joined our hands in prayer, as though we were one family.

Sometimes I think, "How long will it be till the doors of mercy are opened wide for many to come and hear the pure Restored Gospel?" Yet, as long as we live, we must go on and on till death do us part.

You who read these my words, "Be you not moved because the cause is just and our God is LOVE. He will sustain and keep you. No, never give up, there is no turning around, nor looking back, but to look to that which is before."

This was the spirit of Jesus, the true founder of all Righteousness, and with Him leading, we will go on.

How about you, my brother, my sister—how do you feel inside of yourself? Our covenant is to serve God in spirit and in truth till the end of our lives.

Isaiah wrote of "the Holy One of Israel", and Jesus also said, "I am the Good Shepherd, my sheep hear my voice, a stranger they will not follow."

Brothers Eugene, Dean and Sister Mabel send their love to all of our readers.

Draw nigh unto God and He will draw nigh unto you.

With love,
Your humble brother,
Marco Randy

Thankful

*To be ever thankful to God
For all blessings divine.*

*Freedom, peace, and good will.
Hope, happiness and love sublime,*

*To be ever thankful to Him
Who gives us all.*

*The Flowers, trees and golden sunshine,
Summer, winter, spring and fall.*

*To be ever thankful for skies
That cheer us with clear bright blue,*

*And most thankful to God,
For loved ones,*

*Family, and friends
Loyal and true.*

Minna Lee Thomas



G.B.M. Has Conference Highlights

By Mark Kovacik, Editor

Three special events highlighted the General Board of Missions report to the annual General Conference on June 25, 1983 in Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

The first was the personally delivered report on the work in Nigeria by Brother Nephi DeMercurio, who was recently returned after six years of service as the resident missionary of the Church in Nigeria.

Brother DeMercurio related many aspects of his stay and stressed to the Conference the needs and desires of the saints in that part of the Lord's vineyard. He noted how they, too, love the Restored Gospel and want to be a full part of the Church. His wife, Sister Lorraine, also expressed her heartfelt feelings on being in Nigeria and serving God and the Church. The Church extended to them its sincere appreciation for the great effort they put forth for the latter day work.

The second highlight was the request and unanimous approval to send two seasoned missionaries to Kenya, East Africa to meet with a group of people who have been corresponding with the Church. Brothers John Ross, who just turned 75, and Joseph Calabrese, one of the missionaries to India, will be leaving for Kenya in early November of this year. The people there accept our faith and support our teachings of the Gospel and have organized two congregations to promote our beliefs.

The third highlight was the presentation and acceptance of the new Missionary Outreach Program. Its in-

troductory states, "This special outreach program is intended to be a vehicle for infusing new life and fresh ideas into the missionary work of the Church amongst the **Seed of Joseph**. It is hoped that this will provide a means for channeling the **creative energies, rich talents and abundant resources of both young and old** who are **desirous of serving the Lord**." The program encompasses training through study and in-field experience. The outline, one of the most comprehensive that the Church has adopted, can be the means of helping many to satisfy their desire to labor for the Lord.

For each of you who is interested in this program and all of the Church's missionary endeavors, contact your District Mission Board, that we may all be "seasoned" missionaries!

Ohio District Spiritual Meeting

On Sunday, July 10, a large group filled the Warren Branch to capacity. Prior to the service, many beautiful hymns from *The Songs of Zion* were sung.

Brother Joe Calabrese introduced the service by reading from Romans 1:16. He told of the persecutions of the early saints by the Apostle Paul and how Paul was smote down in order to serve God. Brother Joe spoke of the "power and authority" that was given to Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon when the Gospel was restored.

Brother E. Santilli continued on the same subject and related the experiences that took place in the early church and how Sidney Rigdon baptized many souls in the Chagrin River in Kirtland, Ohio.

Brother Ron Genaro followed by emphasizing that we must exercise faith and works that we may be worthy of the manifestation and spirit of God. At the conclusion of his talk, the young people were called forward to sing, *Weighed in the Balance*.

Brother Brian Martorana gave a short talk concerning the Ohio MBA Retreat, that had been held in Perry on the July 4th weekend. Renee Vinsick gave her testimony thanking God that He had come to her aid, as she had surgery for removal of four wisdom

teeth and that she was able to attend the service without any pain. A nice spirit prevailed as these testimonies were given.

Sister Rose Palacios gave her experience concerning the hymn, *The Traveler*. She related that an old man appeared unto her, as she was feeling discouraged, and he told her to go into the house and read Hymn No. 53.

While Brother W. Martorana closed the meeting in prayer, Brother S. Lepovich had the following vision:

"I saw a personage dressed in pure white (robe). This personage was very happy; He put His right hand up and then He put His left hand up high in the air as if He was blessing the congregation. He was high above the ministry, and He was surrounded by clouds. Then I closed my eyes and shook my head. When I opened my eyes again, I saw His left hand up in the air as if He was expressing that He was happy and overjoyed. Then the vision disappeared."

Conference Tijuana, 1983

By Brother and Sister Perdue

We had a beautiful conference in Tijuana from the 1st of June to the 5th. One brother, from Ahome Sinaloa, was ordained a minister. There also were seven baptisms (two from Mexicali). Since then, several more have asked for their baptisms. The following are visions had by some of our people on Sunday, June 5.

Vision of Sister Gloria Rivas: I was looking at the ministry, and on one side I saw a white dove coming down with a small straw in its beak and laid it on the pulpit, and when he left it on the pulpit, it turned into the *Book of Mormon*, which was opened to III Nephi 27.

Sister Anita Tafoya Fuente: When Brother Zavala was washing the feet of Brother Eleazar, who was being ordained a minister, I saw the Lord Jesus Christ putting His hands on the head of Brother Zavala.

Sister Estrada: When Brother Eleazar was being ordained, I saw a rainbow divided into strips and each minister was grabbing for a color making a circle and in the middle was

Brother David Alcaraz (from Michoacan), Brother Joe Lovalvo, and Brother Perdue.

Samuel Martinez: I saw when our Brother Joe Lovalvo was embracing another brother, he was standing with his head tilted back. I saw him all in white and also his hair was all white and his face was shining brightly, and when he turned himself around, I saw him as his natural self.

On June 19, six young men were ordained deacons. The ministers surrounded them when the spirit and power of God fell upon Brother Perdue and, with his arms raised high, he cried out, "May the mantle of Elijah fall upon these young brothers." The following experiences were had:

Sister Ramona Rodriguez: When the ministers began to pray for the young brothers to be ordained deacons, the ministers were kneeling down and Brother Vicente Arce was praying. When they ordained Daniel Mora, I began to see in the distance reaching the sky that it was the Lord Jesus Christ. He had in His hands a white mantle and it opened out in His hands as if He were going to put it on something, and after that I began to see some large tables that rose to the sky and had cups with white saucers. I thought He was ready to serve, but instead I saw small flowers falling into the cups of the young brothers to be ordained.

Sister Gloria Rivas: When they were ordaining the second brother to be a deacon and when Brother Perdue cried in a loud voice with arms raised that the mantle of Elijah fall upon these young brothers who were being ordained, I saw that it wasn't Brother Perdue, but that it was the Lord Jesus Christ all dressed in white and with His arms embracing all of these young men.

Sister Maria Soto: When they were ordaining one of the brothers to be a deacon, I saw a mantle come in and it stopped where Brother Perdue was at this moment saying that the mantle of Elijah fall upon these young brothers who were to be ordained deacons, and I also saw a star in the corner of the mantle. Praise God!

We thank God that He is raising up young strong men who will be a great asset to the Church in the future. We have some of our ministers from Tijuana active in other parts of Mexico. Remember us in your prayers. We are

very grateful to God that He is gathering in the House of Israel, and we know that His work will continue on.

On July 10 when a brother minister was praying, Sister Angelina Benites had a vision where she saw the Lord place a crown on the heads of Brother Isidro Gonzales and Brother Jose Alvarado. Both of these are ministers who were ordained about a year ago.

May God bless all of our brothers and sisters everywhere.

We send you our love.

Why Such a Change?

By William H. Cadman

(Reprint from the *Book of Sermons*)

The Apostle Paul informs us that The Gospel "...is the power of God unto salvation..." (Romans 1:16). If we take a few moments for thought, however, we soon observe the contrast between The Christian World of today and the immediate followers of Christ. The contrast is sufficient to cause thinking people to wonder and ask the question: "Why such a change?"

We are plainly taught in The Scriptures that Our Heavenly Father is always the same. We read that He changes not; and, indeed, such a Father is necessary, for, if God is changeable, He absolutely could not be depended upon.

The unchangeableness of God is evident everywhere in His Word. One needs only to read and learn for himself. When God's people were faithful to Him, He blessed them abundantly. On the other hand, if they did not serve Him faithfully, He withheld His Blessings from them and, very often, let His Displeasure fall—and fall heavily.

In St. Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus says:

...All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Teaching them to observe all things

whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

If Jesus means what He says—and, surely, if we bear His Name as the author and finisher of our salvation, we will not dispute what He teaches—we must concede that this is true. We may differ sometimes as to what He means, but we should not question or dispute what He has taught. If language means what is said, then we must conclude from His Own Words that, if we do not teach and practice all that He taught, at least inasmuch as we know He taught, He will not be with us until the end of the world. His Promise is that He will be with us inasmuch as we teach and observe all things which He taught. Otherwise, He does not promise to be with us. The responsibility is on His Creatures for not abiding in Him. He does not waver.

The Saviour came in due time, as prophets had foretold, and He taught His Precepts among men—precepts which were expedient for the saving of the soul. He taught:

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

These words are found in St. Matthew 7:24, 25. A different story is told in Verses 26 and 27 about who heard His Sayings and did not do them.

In Acts 2:37-39, those under the sound of Peter's voice cried out, "...what shall we do?" Peter replied unto them:

Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

From the foregoing scripture, one must conclude that the promise is made to all people who will respond to The Master's Will. The Saviour has promised that The Holy Ghost will not only

(Continued on Page 4)

WHY SUCH A CHANGE? continued...

comfort our souls, but It will lead and guide us into all truths and show us things to come.

From what is written, The Gifts of The Spirit are many and are not confined only to the peace and comfort of the soul. In the days immediately following The Ascension of Christ, the afflicted were made whole by the power of God's Spirit, and the followers of The Nazarene were caused to speak in tongues they had not learned. Some were gifted to interpret tongues, and some had heavenly visions and heavenly dreams. Others were moved upon to prophesy, and even the dead were raised; and, by the power of The Holy Spirit, the middle wall of partition (pride and prejudice between nations) was broken down and the hearts of both Gentiles and Jews were filled with God's Love for one another. Selfishness took its flight, and love, or The Divine Nature of God, filled a long needed blessing in their souls, which also caused them to love one another, even as Christ loved them. With this instance, I am caused to refer to the lines attributed to the pen of Mr. Charles Wesley. They are as follows:

*Happy the souls that first believed,
To Jesus, and each other, cleaved;
Joined by the unction from above,
In mystic fellowship of love.*

*Meek, simple foll'wers of the Lamb,
They lived and spake, and tho't the same;
They joyfully conspired to raise
Their ceaseless sacrifice of praise.*

*With grace abundantly endued,
A pure, believing multitude;
They all were of one heart and soul,
And only love inspired the whole.*

*Where shall I wander now to find
Successors they have left behind?
The faithful, whom I seek in vain,
Have vanished from the sons of men.*

*Ye diff'rent sects, who all declare,
"Lo, here is Christ! or Christ is there!"
Your stronger proofs divinely give,
And show me where the Christians live.*

CHORUS:

*O what an age of golden days!
O what a choice, peculiar race!
Washed in the Lamb's all-cleansing
blood,
Anointed kings and priests to God.*

In this composition, Mr. Wesley recognized the happy lot of the primitive followers of Jesus. He observes that they were joined together with The Love of God. They were meek and simple followers, and their talk and thoughts were the same. They were a pure believing multitude of one heart and soul; love inspired the whole. You know, when a poet feels prompted to use his pen, he gives vent to the thoughts of his heart and soul, and especially is this so of a man who was so devoted as was Mr. Wesley. He is made to exclaim, "...O what an age of Golden days!..." Yea, they were a choice people so wonderfully blessed, being washed in the all-cleansing blood of The Lamb of God.

The poet then exhibits and exposes a feeling of disappointment. Yea, might I say a feeling of DESPAIR? He proceeds in this sense, "Where shall I find a people like they? I seek in vain for them. Yea, they have vanished." In the anguish of his soul, he cries out, in effect, to the different sects, the churches of his day, who say, "Christ is here, and Christ is there."

He asks, "Where are your proofs that ye are washed in the blood of Jesus? Where are the gifts of The Gospel and that love for one another which was so preeminent in The Primitive Church in the days of The Apostles?"

According to Mr. Wesley's composition, he was unable to find successors they had left behind. Mr. John Wesley also says concerning the gifts: "...This was the real cause why the extraordinary gifts of the Holy Ghost were no longer to be found in the Christian church—because the Christians were turned heathens again, and only had a dead form left."

If, as Mr. Wesley says, the lack of The Spiritual Gifts of The Gospel is evidence that the Christians were turned heathens again, he would seem to be much in accord with II Thessalonians 2:3,4:

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, (meaning the day of Christ) except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, (The Church) shewing himself that he is God.

Here, the Apostle says plainly that the day of Christ will not come until after a FALLING AWAY takes place. Also, Mr. Wesley in his day declares: "...the Christians were turned heathens again." I will add that, if they have turned heathens again, they certainly have fallen from The Grace of God. It appears that Mr. Wesley and Paul are much in accord in this matter.

In St. Matthew 11:12, Jesus says: "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force."

The Apostle Paul, in Acts 20:29, 30, says:

For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

He further admonishes them to watch and remember.

In view of the divided conditions of The Christian World today, one must conclude that a great Apostacy, or a Falling Away, from The Pure Teachings of Christ and His Apostles has taken place. Yea, even Mr. Wesley in his day was unable to find successors they had left behind. Jesus invites all in St. Matthew 11:28-30:

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

The Church of Jesus Christ believes in a Falling Away of The Gospel, and I shall delve deeper into this subject in later talks. Our position is that for centuries The True Church was not to be found upon the earth. Yea, because of transgression and wickedness creeping into The Church, God withdrew from The Church.

The Gospel's having been taken away from men, because of wickedness, absolutely creates a need for a "Restoration of The Gospel" in these last days; for it is evident from The Teachings of Christ that, in order to save our souls, we must obey The Law of The Gospel.

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The Gospel News is published monthly by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE. Subscription price is \$6.00 a year. Entered as second class mail at Bridgewater, Mich. under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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"Back to School"

The summer season is swiftly rolling away, and the month of September is upon us. This means "back to school" for many children and young people. Now that the long summer vacation is over, many students are prepared for this transition, some of them joyfully and with anticipation, while others perhaps reluctantly. Still, for many other children, this month marks the beginning of their formal schooling as they are enrolled in kindergarten or the first grade.

Education is a very important part of a person's life and begins in the home, long before a child goes to school. Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary defines education: Act or process of educating; discipline of mind or character through study or instruction. Webster also defines educate: (Latin educatus, past participle to educare to bring up a child, educate, from Latin educere to lead forth); to develop or cultivate mentally or morally. Thus, the very word educate is derived or formed from the original Latin root or meaning—to bring up a child and to lead forth.

SERIOUS RESPONSIBILITY

This interesting and important fact points up the serious responsibility that rests upon parents, as well as teachers, in training and educating both child and student.

Parental tutoring of a growing child, both by word and example, is most essential in getting the child off to a good start in life; in stimulating the initiative or desire to learn, whether in spiritual things or in the field of secular education. The role of the teacher, at whatever school level, is likewise vitally important in the process of instructing the student; in stressing the seriousness and importance of acquiring an education; in encouraging self-discipline to stick to the task at hand; and in skillfully and patiently endeavoring to promote mental and moral cultivation and development.

ADVANTAGEOUS AND REWARDING

An education, both informal and formal, becomes increasingly advantageous as a child matures and eventually reaches adulthood. The educated person is better equipped to face life's challenges and to pursue various fields of endeavor, many of which not only provide an income, but are additionally rewarding when they prove serviceable to other people.

History abounds with the names of men and women whose knowledge, wisdom and talents were skillfully employed in varying degrees and influenced people, governments, institutions, sciences and arts.

Scripture, too, names many wonderful men and women whose knowledge, learning and wisdom served them well in their service to God.

Finally, to all students, God bless you, as you resume your schooling or whether you are just beginning. As the teacher endeavors to lead forth, may you strive to follow and adhere to the task at hand with tenacity.

Your life will be enriched, and your rewards will be many.

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



The People of Zarahemla are Discovered

Dear Girls and Boys,

When Lehi and his people left Jerusalem and crossed the Pacific Ocean, they landed on the western shore of South America, probably in the country that today we call Peru. They had no idea that God was going to bring other believers and descendants of Joseph to this "Promised Land".

From the very beginning of their journey, the prophet Lehi's sons were split into two groups. His son Nephi's group kept the ancient written history of their people, followed the laws of God, and believed their father's prophecies that if they did not leave Jerusalem they would be destroyed. His son Laman's group did not keep, have, or believe a written history of their people. Instead, they believed it was a mistake to leave their homeland and they hated all those who trusted God and came willingly.

The Nephites were forced to form their own nation and live apart from the Lamanite nation. For the first three to four hundred years of their history, they stayed near the area where their forefathers had first landed. They called their country Lehi-Nephi. When this nation served God, He blessed them richly. When they forgot their God, they lost their many battles with their Lamanite enemies until time passed and they would call again on God. God blessed the Nephite nation greatly. They built wonderful cities richly decorated with gold and silver, and owned huge numbers of rich fields and flocks.

Yet the more God blessed them with riches, the more their enemies attacked and robbed them. Finally, it became so serious that the Lord came to a good man, Mosiah, and told him to gather those Nephites that would go, and depart into the wilderness. God planned to bring them through heavy

jungles and across the high mountains (Andes) down to a new land.

There was not a good road through this wilderness, and no one knew which way to go except God. He led the people through preaching and prophecy, and they followed through faith.

You can imagine how shocked the Nephites were when one day along their wandering, they discovered a new group of people! These people did not look like Lamanites or Nephites; they never spoke the same language either.

As days passed, Mosiah caused that these new people should be taught in the Nephite language. They learned from the king of this new land that these people had no written records, only one that was memorized. The king told Mosiah a long list of his ancestors, and all were amazed to learn that these people had also come from Jerusalem about eleven years after Lehi had left. They had brought one of the sons of King Zedekiah, a boy named Mulek, with them also. This new nation also was descended from Joseph of old.

Both nations were overjoyed. Finally, there was proof for the Nephites that God's prophecies to Lehi were fulfilled and Jerusalem had been destroyed. For the new nation discovered, who called themselves the people of Zarahemla, there was now a good record explaining their religion. There was a written form of their original language, but most of all there was a people to teach them about the God that had first brought their parents to this Promised Land.

Mosiah was further amazed when the people of Zarahemla brought him a large, ancient stone with engravings on it. With the gift and power of God,

Mosiah was able to interpret the strange writing. The stone told the beginning and the end of a great nation called the Jaredites, who were brought to the Promised Land after the Tower of Babel. When this nation stopped serving the Lord, His spirit of love left them and one by one, the Jaredites killed one another, leaving only their king, Coriantumr. He lived long enough to see the new people God had brought to the Promised Land, residing with them nine months and engraving the record of his people.

God had preserved this land for a righteous people who would choose to serve Him. He also had promised Joseph of Egypt many centuries before that his descendants would be "A fruitful bough...even a bough whose branches go over the wall." (See Genesis 49:22) Now God had brought together both nations descended from Joseph, using the Nephites to spiritually strengthen and bless the Zarahemlites, and using the Zarahemlites to prove that God's ancient prophecies through Lehi were in fact the truth. Truly a strong branch stood ready to serve the Lord, and God promised them that as long as they loved and served Him, they would prosper in the "Promised Land".

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

Our Women Today

Lake Worth, FL News

In the past few years, efforts have been made to take the Gospel to the Seed of Joseph on the Brighton Indian Reservation. As part of these efforts, the Ladies Uplift Circle tries to help in its small way. The layette program has been very successful in making friends and showing our love to the Indians in all areas of the missionary field.

In September, 1977, we began by taking three layettes and leaving them at the Administration Building to be delivered by the Councilwoman of the tribe. Today, we are able to deliver them personally, note their gratitude and many times hold their newborn babies.

The layettes can be made up of just

about any item, but we try to keep them all the same. They consist of a short and long kimona, plastic pants, pins, bottle, powder, vaseline, 30 disposable diapers, a sleeper, pair of socks, booties or shoes, receiving blanket, undershirt, dress outfit, toy and a hand-crocheted blanket.

We have a few pictures of the babies, and more are expected. Forty-one (41) layettes have been presented on this reservation in the name of The Church of Jesus Christ.

We are well accepted and continue to put forth our love in as many ways as possible. While many have aided this cause with money, donations, and tangible items, others have assisted with thoughts and prayers. All are important for the furtherance of the Gospel and success with the Seed of Joseph.

MBA Highlights

Lorain MBA News

As a treat to our local, the activities committee invited Brother Dominic Moraco to speak to our MBA. Brother Dominic was given liberty to choose his topic, and his discourse was well received by those who listened. Brother Dominic first met the Church at the age of ten in an MBA meeting. During his many years of involvement with the Gospel, he has seen the Power of God exhibited among the saints which has grounded him firmly as a member.

Brother Dominic urged us to discern the "signs of the times". By using the scriptures, we can better understand God's timetable in determining where we are today as a people and nation, as well as in the future. No one can predict the exact year or hour that event will occur, but we can be aware of their sequence and signs that foretell of their arrival.

For example, in Daniel 12:4 it states, "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." Today we can witness man traveling thousands of miles within the space of hours. It is also possible for man to travel outerspace, which was inconceivable several decades ago. The knowledge that man has gained in this

generation was unheard of in the previous generation and will be obsolete in the next.

We are witnessing an increasing prevalence of tempests on the face of the earth, which can be explained by using the scripture of II Nephi 27:1-4 of the *Book of Mormon*, "But, behold, in the last days, or in the days of the Gentiles—yea, behold all the nations of the Gentiles and also the Jews, both those who shall come upon this land and those who shall be upon other lands...of the earth, behold, they will be drunken with iniquity and all manner of abominations—And when that day shall come they shall be visited of the Lord of Hosts, with thunder and with earthquake, and with a great noise, and with storm, and with tempest, and with the flame of devouring fire."

Brother Dominic concluded with positive thoughts urging us to engage ourselves in the promises of God and to build our foundation on Jesus Christ. In doing this we needn't have fear for calamities that may occur. If we are serving God, He will take care of our needs.

Ohio Area MBA Retreat

By Sister B. Santilli

For several years, some brothers had been contemplating holding a retreat on the church grounds in Perry. After much planning, it finally had its fulfillment.

On Friday evening, July 1, beginning at 7:30 p.m., Brother R. Dziak, President of the Ohio Area MBA, greeted everyone and stated that he looked forward to spending a few days with the saints and the young people away from the cares and trials of the world.

Brother W. Martorana, Ohio MBA Chaplain, gave a short inspiring talk urging all assembled to leave the things of the world behind and enjoy the fellowship with one another. He encouraged everyone to enjoy the weekend and in return we would receive blessings from God. We were directed to partake of the seminars, prayer service (chapel), singing, recreation, and other activities planned. Brother Wayne further stated to use our time wisely in order to enjoy every aspect of the camp.

Brother B. Martorana, Camp Director, read the camp rules and also explained about the seminars that were planned for the various age groups. The theme of the camp was "So You Want to Be Used of God?" Brother Brian told of the experience that he had concerning the retreat. He went to God in prayer, feeling somewhat discouraged because of having to start a new career, graduating from Youngstown U., and then the responsibility of organizing the retreat was put upon him all at the same time. As he prayed to the Lord, the words, "So you want to be used of God?", came to him and he knew that he must go forward and that everything would fall into place with God's help. He commended the Perry saints for taking the responsibility of getting the grounds, the food, etc., organized which in turn helped him carry out the other necessary tasks for a successful retreat. Brother Brian was very happy to see so many young people and brothers and sisters come to spend the weekend to fellowship and become spiritually refreshed in the Gospel.

After the service, refreshments were served in the church cafeteria. A bonfire was set up near the pavilion, where many gathered to sing songs of praise to the Lord, renew old acquaintances, and make new friendships. This was the start of a very beautiful and peaceful weekend spent in the Lord.

Saturday Morning:

Breakfast was served by the Perry sisters from 8:00-9:00 a.m. The Lord's presence was felt as all assembled for the Chapel Service at 9:00. Brother W. Martorana gave a few opening remarks. Brother Brian went over the schedule for the day's activities, including the rules and regulations of the church grounds.

Brother Joe Genaro was the speaker for the chapel service, and he spoke on the scripture pertaining to Elisha. Elisha wanted a double portion of the spirit of God that was bestowed upon Elijah. Brother Joe told of the faithfulness and persistence that Elisha had in going about receiving the blessings that had been given to Elijah. Brother Joe exhorted everyone there to serve God faithfully, the same way as Elijah had and to seek the blessings of the Lord persistently. While he was speaking, the spirit of the Lord spoke to Brother Bob Quinn and these were

(Continued on Page 8)

the words that were given: "If My people are faithful today, they shall receive the same blessings." This was a verification of Brother Joe's message to all assembled.

After chapel, each age group went to their respective seminars. The Adult Class was taught by Brothers R. Martorana and F. Calabrese. Fifteen to 35 age group was taught by Brothers J. Calabrese and W. Martorana. Unbaptized Class was taught by Brothers R. Genaro and B. Prentice. Young Children Class was taught by Sisters Cindy Prentice and Brenda Gibson.

The theme of the camp, "So, You Want to Be Used of God?", was used for discussion in all of the classes. The Spirit of God was made manifest as many bore their testimonies, gave experiences and discussed the things of God. It seemed that the time went by so quickly and many remarked that they felt peace and blessings in their class.

Lunch was served buffet style from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Recreation began at approximately 1:30 p.m. which consisted of baseball, volleyball, shuffleboard, and games for the younger children. The young people and all those participating in the games enjoyed themselves. The weather was very hot, but it did not seem to discourage anyone from having a nice time together. Many of the older brothers and sisters sat under the shade trees and talked about the things of God and had an enjoyable afternoon in fellowship with one another. After recreation, many went to the nearby YMCA to shower and prepare for the supper hour and evening service. Supper was served from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Everyone enjoyed the food that was prepared and some even commented that the food seemed to multiply. There were approximately 65 people in attendance, including young children. Everyone helped each other from the serving of the food to taking care of the younger children. We truly felt like "one big family of God."

The Saturday evening service began at 7:00 p.m., with Brother W. Martorana using his text from Alma 31 from the *Book of Mormon*. He spoke concerning the preaching of the Gospel and how important it is. Brother Wayne stated that we "take for granted what the Lord has blessed us with." Verse 5 reads as follows: "And now, as the preaching of the word had a great tendency to lead the people to do that which was just—yea, it had had more powerful effect upon the minds of the

people than the sword, or anything else, which had happened unto them—therefore Alma thought it was expedient that they should try the virtue of the word of God."

We continued in singing *The Traveler* from *The Songs of Zion*, and a nice spirit was felt as this song was being sung. Brother E. Santilli was the next speaker, and he asked the question, "Wouldn't it be nice if the whole world would be able to enjoy the fellowship of the saints?" He said that the world is missing the most important part. We are all travelers in this world and while we are here, we must seek and we will find the way. Also, the most important goal in our life should be in "serving God", and we should thank God that we have the health and strength to work for Him. We all should be working by getting involved in the MBA, Sunday School, working with the young people, missionary work, and all the other various functions within the Church. He read from Corinthians 3:1-12. These verses referred to building our foundation upon the things of the Gospel and not of the world. The choice is up to us, we have to prepare our own foundation and it should not be upon wood, hay, or stubble, but upon Christ who is the solid foundation.

Brothers Ron Genaro and Wayne Martorana continued upon the same theme of building our foundation upon Christ and working for the Gospel. The young people then came forward and sang several selections from *The Songs of Zion*. Several gave their testimonies and many tears of joy were shed by many in attendance at this service. Brother Brian made the closing remarks and stated that he felt a "small portion of what Zion will be like." A campfire was set up again, near the pavilion, and hot dogs were roasted on the fire and everyone enjoyed being together under God's beautiful canopy of stars and His heavens.

On Sunday morning, breakfast was served from 8:00-9:00 a.m. Sunday School was held for the various age groups with approximately 65 people in attendance. Prior to the morning service, the little children and the young people sang several selections. Brother R. Martorana opened the service by stating he had felt a blessing the entire weekend and he thanked all those who labored to help make the retreat a success. He asked us, "What can we do to become missionaries for God?" He stated that we had become closer to one another for a few days and especially

closer to the Lord.

Brother Russ read scripture from Alma 26 in the *Book of Mormon*, concerning the many miracles of God. Verse 12 states: "Yea, I know that I am nothing; as to my strength I am weak; therefore I will not boast of myself, but I will boast of my God, for in His strength I can do all things; yea, behold, many mighty miracles we have wrought in this land, for which we will praise His name forever." Brother Russ asked the question, "Are you ready to give your service to God?" He told of how the Lord had used many young people throughout the ages of time. He said that "When we are in the service of our fellow man, we are in the service of the Lord."

Our next speaker was Brother Joe Ross of Aliquippa, PA. Brother Joe continued upon the same theme of "how we can be of service to our fellow man." One way that we would be of service is to introduce them to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He also stated that we must dedicate our life and work together and be completely committed. The most important service we can offer to our fellow man is that we must "provide spiritual services" to them in order to bring them into the Church. Brother Joe urged all to begin now by training ourselves so that we can be used of God. Brother John Ross stated that we need fresh blood and young blood to do the work of the Kingdom of God on the earth. Brother John commended the young people in their efforts to want to work for the Lord. He related the experience that he had in his "call to go to Africa to work for the Church." The Lord provided for him and he was even granted 6 months leave from his job so that he could go with Brother Swanson on this special mission.

Brother Joe Calabrese spoke a few words about "working for the Lord" and he related several experiences. The service was then turned over to testimony and the serving of sacrament. Reluctantly, the retreat was brought to a close with many tears of joy being shed for the beautiful time spent together.

At the conclusion of the service, everyone (about 75) was invited to stay for a buffet-style luncheon in the church cafeteria. The Lord truly blessed us that weekend and we all look forward to next year's retreat. May we all remember the words, "So You Want to Be Used of God", and put them to good use is our prayer.

Branch and Mission News

Detroit, Inner-City

By Brother Mark Mancinelli

- WHO? Brother Eugene Amormino
- WHAT? Being ordained into the Priesthood
- WHEN? April 24, 1983
- WHERE? The Detroit Inner-City Branch
- WHY? Called of God to further the work of building the Lord's kingdom here on earth

That wonderful Sabbath Day will be long remembered by the saints from coast to coast. The "family of God" came from California, Florida, Ontario, Ohio and Pennsylvania, as well as from most of the local branches in the Michigan-Ontario District.

The day began with Brother Joseph Milantoni leading us in singing *The Songs of Zion*. There were twelve elders in attendance, one of whom was Brother Bob Buffington from Imperial, PA. He spoke from Alma 13, stressing that God bestows this great privilege of working for Him to those who are "willing". Although we cannot all be elders, each one of us has a very important task to perform.

We sang *Sing Hallelujah*. Brother Joe kept motioning to Brother Eugene at the piano to repeat the chorus. We sang it over and over again. (It is interesting to note that up to this point, the church was illuminated by a gray light from a cloudy sky; but as we kept singing the chorus, rays of sunlight burst through the windows as if the Lord were showing His approval.)

Brother Frank Ciotti from Anaheim, CA spoke a few words, pointing out how God chose Brother Eugene to be a part in bringing forth *The Songs of Zion*. He added, "What a great help it is to have a loving wife." He noted how his own wife puts notes of encouragement in his clothing when he is traveling, and what a help these small gestures of love are to him in his service to God. Brother Frank also said our Father blessed Brother Eugene with his wife, Sister

Donna, and that she would also be a strong support to him.

All morning the spirit of our Father lay softly over us, but the best was yet to come...

The 108 year old building never housed so much joy. No fewer than 400 saints witnessed the ordination of another of the Lord's workers. Our General Church President, flanked by some 40 elders, began the service with words of admonition and encouragement to Brother Eugene, his family and all the Church. Brother Dominic Thomas read from Luke 4:16-20 where Jesus stood in the synagogue and read from the prophet Esaias (Isaiah 61:1,2), "The spirit of the Lord is upon me because he hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted; to preach deliverance to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." (Note: When Brother Eugene was asked to express himself at a home gathering the night before the ordination, he read from the Scripture this very same verse, saying how these words expressed his own heart's desire.)

The ordination then followed. The elders formed a circle that stretched across the entire front of the church building. Brother Carl Frammolino washed Brother Eugene's feet, and he was ordained by Brother Nicholas Pietrangelo.

A vision was had by Sister Gayle Vian from the Sterling Heights Branch. As the elders were calling upon God for direction in choosing the one to ordain Brother Eugene, she saw an Indian Chief dressed in pure white standing in the midst of the circle with his arms outstretched toward the heavens.

Tears of joy trickled down the faces of the saints. It took Brother Eugene at least 15 minutes to go around the circle of elders, each one of them embracing him with arms of support and encouragement for the tremendous task that was now set before him.

Earlier in his address, Brother Dominic Thomas stated, "You are not done with Brother Eugene yet; you

must pray for him." He went on to say, "We must remember to pray for our elders."

And so with another added to the Lord's Ministry, and with a renewed inspiration and dedication experienced among all those present on that special day, we can say, "TO THE WORK!"

Sterling, MI

By Sister Hazel Zoltek, Branch Editor

Our evening service on June 5 was a farewell to Sister Joanne and Brother Jerry Chambers and children, Keith and Jill. They are moving to Lake, Michigan where they will reside with Sister Joanne's parents until their new home is built. They will be attending the Harrison Mission and will be most welcome, as the membership there is small. They will be a great asset to the Mission.

Brother Louis Vitto offered prayer and Brother Spencer Everett presided at the meeting. He said many hours have been invested in this young couple, and this investment of time and effort is going to bear fruit. This couple has been sowing seed for many years, and some of these seeds are ready for harvest. In the beginning, God—in every beginning He was there, as He will be with the Chambers family in their new location. With such a crowd of witnesses tonight, let us honor this couple; our life is a little richer in having known them.

Brother Spencer went on to say that Brother Jerry was baptized fifteen years ago at Branch 1, and Sister Joanne was baptized ten years ago on March 25, while our Branch was still a mission in a school gymnasium. Where they are today, is a result of following Jesus. Brother Spencer told of how and when Sterling Heights first started. He then called on Brother Louis Vitto and Brother Carl Frammolino to sing. They obliged by singing *What a Day That Will Be*, departing from their favorite, *Sheltered in the Arms of God*. (Brother Ralph will be surprised to read this.)

Brother Eugene and Sister Donna Amormino sang *There's a Potter Who Molds*, and Sister Diane Hawkins sang with the Champine Brothers, *I Wasn't There, I Didn't See, Yet I Believe*. All the songs were dedicated to Sister Joanne

(Continued on Page 10)

STERLING, MI continued . . .

and Brother Jerry, but this last one, was especially for Brother Jerry. Then Brother Spencer, Sister Donna, Brother Eugene and Sister Barbara Straccia sang *He Touched Me*. Sister Barbara read the poem about The Old Violin, and this was dedicated especially to Sister Joanne.

Brother Spencer called Brother Jerry and Sister Joanne to the rostrum. She was presented with a beautiful corsage, a gift from her Sunday School Class of preschoolers.

She has been teaching this class for a few years and has had great success with them. At Christmas, she always has them in the program, and they are very entertaining. Sister Shirley Vitto pinned the corsage on her, and Brother Jerry was given a boutonniere. The two then gave their testimony.

Brother Paul Whitton said, "Let us not just write to them in their new home, let us visit with them. They are only three hours away." As members of the Harrison Mission, they will now be under Branch 3. They have been a great blessing to Sterling, and likewise, they will be a blessing at the Harrison Mission.

Brother Sam DiFalco said God's Spirit has surely been here tonight. He said the Chambers family will receive their reward from the Lord for what they have been to this Branch. Our prayers, our love, goes with them.

We sang *God Be With You*, and were dismissed by Brother Tony Gerace. We then proceeded to the basement where refreshments were served. Sister Angela Champine baked and decorated a beautiful cake for the occasion.

Sister Joanne has been President of our Ladies Uplift Circle for the past few months, and we will certainly miss her.

Lockport, NY

By Carmella D'Amico

On May 29, 1983, the semi-annual gathering of Rochester and Lockport was held in the Lockport Mission. We also had Brothers Ralph Berardino and Tony Corrado of Youngstown, Ohio and a carload from Erie, PA. Following community singing, Brother Paul

D'Amico welcomed the saints and we were looking for a day of rejoicing.

We sang *Wasted Years*, and Brother Berardino chose for his text John 15, "I am the true vine and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit, he purgeth that it may bring forth more fruit." He spoke on the separation of the goats and the sheep at the last day. Those who love God, don't find it hard to serve Him. We have many benefits in serving the Lord. He is the true vine, and we are the branches. Jesus will come at the sound of the trumpet and the dead will rise and Christ will change them in a twinkling of an eye.

We sang *Make Me a Blessing*, and Brother Tony Corrado spoke in English and in Italian and emphasized the same

topic, that we should remember the covenant that we made to God and be a blessing to some one each day.

Brother Harold Burge also stressed that Christ is the vine and we are the branches and we **must bear fruit**. God loves all men, that He sent His only begotten Son to die that we may all be saved.

Brother Ansel D'Amico emphasized the wonderful words of life that the brothers spoke, "they were like apples of gold in a basket of silver".

At the Cross was sung and Sacrament was administered. We were dismissed by singing *Praise God*.

A delicious lunch was served by the sisters, and it was enjoyed by everyone.

Metuchen, NJ

By Jo Ann Arcuri, Branch Editor

On Sunday afternoon, February 20, 1983, the Metuchen Branch, along with other area church choirs, was invited by the town of Metuchen to sing at the local high school in a program presented in honor of Brotherhood Week.

We had the opportunity to share with those who came to listen, one of *The*

Songs of Zion, Taste the Grass on the Summit, and God's Wonderful People.

After the presentation, some of the brothers and sisters were able to stay and share their testimonies with those from other churches.

We pray that the Lord would continue to bless us, as we pray for all of you, that we might be a shining light in the community.

P.S. The picture shown here was printed in a local newspaper.



Bell, CA

By Rosemary Scalise, Branch Editor

On Sunday, January 30, 1983, Bell Branch had its continuing Sunday night Spanish meeting. God truly did bless us because we had two new souls added to our membership: Sister Cecilia Esquivel and Brother Raymond Toscano. We met the following Sunday, February 6, down at the ocean along with the Santa Ana Mission, because Brother Raymond Toscano was baptized through the Mission. Sister Cecilia was baptized by Brother Harry Marshall, and Brother Raymond was baptized by Brother Ken Jones.

On returning to the Branch, Brother Marshall opened our service reading from John 1, relating that God's mercy and love is for all people because Jesus died for all of mankind.

Our teacher, Brother Raymond Zamora, translated this chapter for our Spanish-speaking members.

Brother Vincent Scalise followed Brother Harry and continued in the same line of thought.

Our new member was confirmed by Brother Vincent Scalise, and then we had the Lord's Supper with her. Truly God is blessing our Branch from time to time with our Spanish people.

Saturday, March 12, Brother Joseph Lovalvo and his wife, Sister Virginia, came down from Modesto and spent the weekend with us. We enjoyed a beautiful visit with our brother and sister.

On Sunday, March 13, Brother Joe attended our meeting and read from Isaiah 9. He explained that of the kingdom of Jesus Christ there would be no end, because He, Jesus Christ, would be the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Brother Joe was very inspired in preaching of the coming kingdom of Jesus Christ.

Brother Tom Jones followed, explaining that we could have some of the blessings of God's coming kingdom at the present time if we live in the spirit of that kingdom. With all the trials that we may have in life, God's blessings are here to be had now.

Our Spanish speaking members then sang a hymn for us. Brother Joe got up again and spoke in the Spanish

language for the benefit of those members who do not understand English.

At the close of our meeting, we retired to our kitchen and enjoyed a wonderful lunch.

On Sunday, March 20, 1983, we were visited by another of our apostles, Brother Jim Lovalvo, and his wife, Sister Mary. Brother Jim read from the Gospel of Luke, chapter 10. This was about the Good Samaritan. Brother Jim explained that we should not be like the priest and the Levite who refused to help, but we must pattern our life after the Good Samaritan (Jesus Christ) who came to help all of mankind.

Brother Jim was followed by Brothers Tom Jones and Harry Marshall, both continuing in the same theme of Brother Jim Lovalvo.

Our Spanish members then sang a hymn for us after which the meeting was left open for testimony.

We were truly blessed, a day enjoyed by all.

Sunday, May 1, 1983, we of Bell Branch witnessed two more baptisms, Sisters Barbara Leto and Augustina Lopez. These two sisters were both baptized by Brother Harry Marshall. Sister Barbara was confirmed by Brother Tom Jones, and Sister Augustina was confirmed by Brother Vincent Scalise.

On returning from our baptismal site,

Brother Marshall opened our service reading from the Gospel of Matthew. He was followed by Brother Tom Jones, who talked on the hymn, *Rose of Sharon*, directing his words toward our newly-baptized members.

Brother Raymond Toscano then sang a hymn with his three sons in the Spanish language.

Our meeting was left open for testimony, which was followed with the administering of the Lord's Supper.

God is truly blessing Bell Branch, and we truly thank Him. Our prayers are that the Lord will bless our two new sisters as they endeavor to serve Him.

On May 8, 1983, Bell Branch started the day with a beautiful Mother's Day breakfast. We honor our mothers in the Church because of the love and support they give to everyone. We have been having this Mother's Day breakfast for about three years. We are especially thankful to Brother Walt Jankowski of Anaheim for donating all of the food.

Besides our breakfast, we of Bell honored six members for being baptized for fifty years or more in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Sister Catherine Sherwood Clowers, was born on November 7, 1892, and baptized by Brother James Skillen in

(Continued on Page 12)



BELL, CA continued . . .

1913. Sister Catherine was blessed as a young child by Brother William Bickerton. She was baptized in Zion's Valley, Kansas (St. John).

Sister Anna Flow was born on March 5, 1900 and baptized into the Church on February 19, 1928 by Brother Tony DiBattista in Glassport, PA.

Sister Benadetta Perotta was born in February of 1899 in Italy. She was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ in 1932 by Brother Johnson and confirmed by Brother Joe Campetelli.

Sister Rose Scalise was born on March 11, 1895 and was baptized on April 30, 1933 by Brother Joseph Johnson.

Sister Connie Meo was born on December 28, 1913 in Italy and was baptized on December 10, 1933 by Brother Patsy DiBattista.

Brother John Capuzzelli was born in Italy on May 18, 1895 and was baptized in Youngstown, Ohio by Brother Tony Corrado in 1924.

Brother Walt Jankowski opened our Mother's Day service, speaking on Joseph of Egypt. Brother Harry Marshall followed on the same theme. Our meeting was closed with a few remarks from our Presiding Elder, Brother Vincent Scalise, acknowledging all Mothers present and thanking God for their prayers.

Erie, PA

By Ruth Gehly, Branch Editor

March 6, 1983, was a day overflowing with the Spirit of God in Erie as Brother Joel Gehly was ordained into the office of teacher. Sharing in this special day were brothers and sisters from Fredonia, Lorain, and Imperial.

Brother Del Lockwood opened the meeting, giving way to Brother Russell Cadman and the visiting elders. Deeply touched by his grandson's calling, a fifth generation to be ordained, Brother Russell reflected on how each passing generation brings us closer to fulfilling the Word of God among the children of men. The generations now entering the Gospel of Jesus Christ and carrying on

the work to which they have been called will see many more accomplishments in the spreading of the Gospel among the nations of this world; a desire deeply implanted in the hearts of the mature saints.

Referencing the epistle of Ephesians, Chapter 4, Brother Russell went on to expound on how there is only one Lord, one faith, and one baptism. There is only one Church having its foundation from the beginning of time. The ministry ordained in the days of Adam and carried down through the ages through the priesthood of Melchizedek was the same ministry glorified and fulfilled by the presence of the Son of God. The officers of the Church are ordained and will remain so for the edifying of the body of Christ "until we all come into the unity of the faith of the Son of God unto a perfect man unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ".

Brother Jim Moore continued with many words of encouragement regarding the responsibility which falls upon the shoulders of those called into the priesthood and their families. There will be times of great joy in helping to bring others closer to repentance and yet times to weep for the responsibilities now carried. Nevertheless, always count it a blessing and a privilege to be in the service of the King, carrying the Standard of Liberty along the borderlines of Zion.

Brother Jim related a beautiful experience had by Sister Martha Laird (McKees Rocks) regarding Brother Joel's ordination. Not knowing Brother Joel was to be ordained, she dreamt that she saw him standing in the front of a small auditorium upon a slightly raised platform. There were many saints filling the building but Sister Martha Gehly, Joel's mother, particularly stood out in view. As Brother Joel stood up front, he was teaching with authority from the Bible. What a beautiful confirmation of the authority which has been restored to The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Del Lockwood continued by exhorting Brother Joel and the saints on the duties of a teacher. Brother Art Gehly, Joel's father, officiated in feet washing, followed by the laying on of hands by Brother Russell. A beautiful sharing of testimonies followed the ordination, after which time the saints gave way to a time of fellowship and a plentiful luncheon prepared by the ladies of the Branch. Needless to say, it was a day rich with the blessings of God as passed down from generation to

generation.

On a personal note, Joel and I would like to thank each one of you for your love and prayers extended in our behalf. It is our greatest desire that we will always prove faithful and strong in defending the pure doctrine and sound revelation of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Lake Worth, FL

The members of the Lake Worth, Florida Branch were privileged to have two Apostles visiting this past month.

Brother Nick Pietrangelo delivered an enlightening sermon on **LOVE**. He instructed us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us so that we may become the sons of our Father in Heaven. God makes His sun to shine on bad and good people alike and gives rain to those who do good and those who do evil. God will not reward us if we love only the people that love us. We must try to be perfect—just as our Father in heaven is perfect. If God is for us, who can be against us? He pleads with God for us! Who, then, can separate us from the love of Christ? **Nothing** can separate us, neither death nor life; neither angels, nor other heavenly rulers or powers; neither the present, nor the future; neither the world above, nor the world below will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Brother Joseph Bittinger and Sister Edna also visited our Branch, and he expounded the parable of the "tree and its fruit". Every tree is known by the fruit it bears. A healthy tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a poor tree bear good fruit. Just as a good man brings out a treasure of good things in his heart; an evil man brings a treasure of bad things. For a man's mouth speaks what is in his heart. If we are a good tree, the Lord expects to receive good fruit. Don't allow weeds, thorns, etc. to grow in our life, which will disappoint the Lord. We truly enjoyed the visit of Brother Nick and Brother Joe.

The Gospel News

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

(USPS 228-480)

October, 1983

Volume 39, No. 10

Doozo Watakushino Kunini Idasha Tenshi Onigashimasu

By Sister Yoshi K. Huggins



This is my plea. Sister Yoshi K. Huggins: **"Please, please come to my country and tell my people about the angel."**

I am a member of The Church of Jesus Christ, Quincy, Florida Mission. My country, my birthplace, a large island in Japan called Okinawa.

I would like to share my testimony. It all began as Brother James Curry so beautifully illustrated with his pen, filled with inspiration. "But Oh, the heart-felt pain and consternation, as from the fiery pit I see released, a great dark tide of evil degradation, spread o'er the beauty," of a quiet peaceful family, dwelling in a comfortable home, strongly knitted together by the traditional structure of a Japanese household.

That great dark tide of evil degradation was the violence and terror of war. It came with all its hosts of sorrow and

fear in October, 1941. I was nine years old. From that day on, I lived with the shadow of death hovering over me, surrounded by perilous dangers, my body ached with hunger and disease, and my soul longed many times for death. May this testimony produce a profound understanding of God's goodness and divine providence, His unlimited love for His creation. I did not claim Him as my Creator; I did not know Him. I was in love with Buddha. Buddhism was my faith and my God, yet the true and living God watched constantly over me.

You see why my soul rejoices? I was transformed from the power of Buddhism to the power of Christ through the resurrection of the truth, the Restored Gospel.

There's a great longing within me, a longing difficult to control, a hope that someday, one day, my people may also be transformed, therefore, I beseech: **"Please, please come to my country and tell my people of the angel."**

The true and living God would not let me die. He had a place in His great plan of salvation for even me.

I'll never forget the day the Americans came and bombed the city of Okinawa. Everyone began running, great was the howling and the cries of anguish, bomb shells dropping everywhere, the sky lit as a ball of fire and smoke, firebombs flying in the sky. It was horrible, like a nightmare, only it was reality. All were running for the bushes, the mountains, darting in bet-

ween bombshells looking for caves, holes, seeking a hiding place. I saw a man, a flame of fire rolling down the mountain. The sound of his cry rang in my ears. I felt so sorry for him, I wanted to help him.

The Americans began to bomb the Island every day. There was so much destruction, little children running, crying for their parents.

The day we dreaded came upon us as my father gathered us together to give the final instructions of separation. I was to try and escape with my sister-in-law and her children, ages one and three, to the nethermost part of the woods and do all I could to keep the children from crying that we would not be discovered. We proceeded with success and found an emptied, bombed house where we hid. I went out one morning to hunt food. I found a man that gave me some horseskin. I was so happy, I ran all the way back to the house. We cooked the skins night and day trying to get them soft. They got hard like leather on a shoe, but we ate them. It was all the food we had for days.

As the Americans drove closer, we began to run. We were driven from village to village, spending days and days without food or water.

We found a house and moved in with twenty-five people. I guess because of the activity and noise we were spied out

(Continued on Page 2)

by the Americans and the next day all of us were taken to a concentration camp. We lived outside under a rubber tree. I would sneak out early in the morning and catch grasshoppers in a can. We made a fire and cooked them. That's what we had to eat for days and weeks, either grasshoppers or snails. Once I ate seedweeds, for I was so hungry. I became deathly sick. I drooled uncontrollably all night, but life remained in me, as a sovereign Protector had His Eye upon me, and a great destiny awaited me that I knew not of. Once I found a piece of an orange. Believe me, it was like I had found a million dollars. I divided and shared it with my sister-in-law and children.

The war continued. Death claimed many souls daily through dysentery and starvation. I became sick with dysentery, and they put me in the bushes to die. My sister-in-law found me, and there was still life in me. I got better. I developed a condition similar to polio, then developed malaria. When the malaria came, it felt like my back was broken in half, then chills, fever and delirium. This lasted a couple hours, then I would be all right. I would get up and go to the dump looking for food. I ate anything and everything I could find to eat. I was covered with inflamed sores, but life remained in me. When you are hungry, you don't care about anything, only to get something to eat, anything.

That great dark tide of evil degradation lifted; the war was over but it left its damage to body, soul and mind. We were united again as a family. I was around 13 years old.

A stream of healing water began to flow, wash away and blot out the bleak, dismal, gloomy past, lifting the mantle of heaviness, hopelessness and helplessness.

I met, fell in love and married an American soldier, Horace Huggins, and in 1957 I was blessed to come to the land of America.

Time went on. My husband became interested in the Evangelistic Church. I went with him several times, but I didn't like it. I still carried the spirit of Buddha within me. We experienced rough times, but it was nothing like what I had experienced. We have seven children. I knew nothing about the Living God, and no one told me of Him. I

spoke and understood very little English, therefore, I was only involved with my household.

We were living in Fort Pierce, Florida next door to Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Hatch. They were good neighbors to us, but we tried not to have anything to do with them. Mr. Hatch invited my husband to visit The Church of Jesus Christ one Friday evening. He came home and told me all about the service. He enjoyed it. I decided to go with him Sunday. The stream of healing water had flowed and washed away the dross and imperfections as this was the beginning of a great new life for me.

I walked in the Ft. Pierce Branch with my five children. I felt condemned. I was all painted up like a Japanese doll. The people I saw were so plain and simply beautiful. I felt like I had committed a crime. Mixed feelings began to develop. My husband began to cry. I thought, he's getting crazy. I said to myself, "I'm not coming back here." After the meeting I told my husband that he had embarrassed me. I was not going back to that Church.

The following week, desire to return to the meeting place urged me. Something was driving me with desire to return even though I said I never would go back. I went, praise the Lord. I cried and cried. I was happy, yet there were moments I felt embarrassed. I couldn't stop crying. I looked out the window. I saw the old oak tree beckoning me to come. I cried the more. I requested baptism that day, June 20, 1965.

Now I must exclaim, "Oh beautiful beyond my expectation, as ancient splendors hid from eyes of men, gleam through the brightening skies of Restoration", to me, only such a Gospel, the resurrected Truth, the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ, could dispel the sorrow of my soul, erase the cries of anguish that rang in my ears, remove the ache of a starving body and obliterate from the mind that heartfelt pain and consternation produced by the great dark tide of evil degradation, for it had captured my life.

God spared my life that I might enjoy the fruits of Christ's Latter Day Kingdom on earth. I have enjoyed the blessings of God, receiving many experiences from Him.

In 1967, my family moved to Blountstown. Brother Cleveland Baldwin and family at the time were living in New

Jersey. Around 1968 or 1969 they came to Florida to visit with us. Before he arrived, I had the following experience. I did not know that there was a black elder in the Church. In my dream, Brother Cleveland came to my house and introduced himself and his wife, Sister Margaret, to me. I recognized him to be a black man. I took his wife, Sister Margaret, to be an Oriental lady. When they arrived at my home in Blountstown, it was just as my dream.

The Lord has been good to me, the providence of God has directed and protected me. Of all the people in my Country and the many who have migrated to this land of America, I'm the only one rejoicing in the Restored Gospel, therefore, I plead with earnest desire, **"Doozo Watakushino Kunini Idasha Tenshi Onigashimasu. Please, please, come to my country and tell my people, tell them of the glorious news, the greeting of the angel who has come for every nation, kindred, tongue and people."**

EDITOR'S NOTE: In addition to Sister Huggins, we also have a member of Japanese ancestry in Modesto, California, Brother Okada.

Note of Thanks

We wish to take this opportunity to thank all the Brothers, Sisters and Friends of The Church of Jesus Christ for all their love and concern shown to our family during the illness and passing away of our beloved, Sister Mae.

Love in Christ,
Brother Tony Natareli
and Family

Notice

The General Board of Trustees are requesting bids on the General Church Blanket Insurance Coverage of ALL Church properties.

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All bids must be submitted by November 15, 1983. The General Church Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Faces by Donald Ross

Except for Jesus Christ, no greater personality walked the Americas than this prophet. He was true as steel, never wavering, full of integrity, faith and zeal. For example, he stated "the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them . . ." He was born of "goodly parents" and "taught somewhat in the learning" of his father. Also, he was the first writer in the *Book of Mormon*. His name—Nephi.

Nephi was a prophet of the first rank of the Lord. As all prophets, his trials were large, but he exhibited and maintained a zealous devotion to serve God. Nephi predicted events to come. He was a true revelator, interpreting dreams and making plain the teachings of the Gospel. In approximately 600 B.C., Nephi saw in a vision that many parts of the Gospel "which are plain and precious" were altered, or removed from the Jewish scripture—the *Bible*. Nephi knew the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. He saw the baptism of Christ. A significant result of this experience, Nephi taught and preached the necessity of baptism.

A natural leader whose heart overflowed with compassion for his family and friends, Nephi humbly sought and secured God's direction in everything. Nephi spent his entire life preaching repentance. And yet he was a skilled craftsman. By divine guidance, he built a ship to carry his father's people to the Western Hemisphere. He fashioned tools and weapons; taught the women how to make wool and taught men how to build and farm.

Nephi was true to his heritage—courageous when confronted by danger—patient and loving with those who rejected his counsel—tireless in his opposition to evil. Many times he stood alone, while those he loved most abused, reviled and persecuted him. On several occasions he pleaded with his brothers to repent and humble themselves before God. Sometimes he was successful.

In his youth he was visited by the Lord who told him that because of his devotion and faithfulness he would "be made a ruler and a teacher over thy brethren." Nephi was asked by his followers to be their king because of their love for him. He accepted, but did so with great reluctance.

Nephi's character is a study of charity. He stated that he had charity for the Jew and Gentile. Full of charity, he exclaimed, "I pray the Father in the name of Christ that many of us, if not all, may be saved in his kingdom at that great and last day." His faith was so great that he was confident that he would meet many spotless souls at the throne of God.

Due to his unwavering faith, Nephi's father, Lehi, told him ". . . and thou shalt be favored of the Lord, because thou hast not murmured." Was Nephi favored of the Lord? The only answer is yes. He saw the Lord; he saw the Apostle John; he heard the voices of the Father and the Son. What a man of faith!

Ohio District Conference

August 7, 1983, Youngstown, Ohio

The young people of the Ohio District as well as the Youngstown choir sang a number of selections from *The Songs of Zion* to introduce this Spiritual Conference.

Brother Phil Jackson of Kinsman opened our service by relating countless experiences of the spiritual and physical growth of Tijuana, Mexico; the beautiful miracles, the beautiful sight of seeing the seed of Joseph coming in by the

tens and by the hundreds. Brother Phil then began to shed tears for the Gentile people because we weren't experiencing the **greater** blessings. Immediately the Word of the Lord came forth stating, "When the Gentiles shall purify themselves, saith the Lord, then, I will show my power even in the last days upon this, my Church, saith the Lord."

Our Brother then read Romans 12:1-2 concerning the people of God making a living sacrifice unto our Father. As the Word of the Lord came forth in the January Conference of 1870, "It is by sacrifice that you are acceptable as a servant. It is by sacrifice that you may obtain to the things that you are seeking such as the healing of the sick, and

workings of miracles in the name of the Lord Jesus."

So let us remember, if we speak of the Choice Seer, the Peaceful Reign, Zion, or the Gathering of Israel, let us first sanctify ourselves that we, as a people, might receive the **greater** blessings.

Brother Paul D'Amico followed with a thankful heart for the health and strength that the Lord has given him. He said that we must be a people willing to work, we must promote the Church wherever we go . . . sure, we might be persecuted or mocked, but weren't the apostles of old? Are we any better than they? Let us testify openly of what God has done. Let us thank God for what He has done for us!

Brother Paul related the dream he had the first night while in the hospital after having his stroke. The Lord showed him that He would extend his life. Once again, Brother Paul thanked those who prayed for him and asked to be continued to be remembered in prayer.

Brother Frank Calabrese followed, telling us of the many blessings that he too had witnessed in Mexico. Brother Frank related one experience after another—the dead raised, cancer healed, tumors taken away, just one beautiful experience after another. He told us to place our minds on heavenly things, not on the treasures of this life! Let us trim and prune ourselves of what it will take to be a vessel fit for the Master's use. He asked Brother Brian Martorana to relate his dream concerning these **greater** blessings.

"One night, Brother Brian was praying to the Lord concerning the three Nephites, and having a desire to see them, the Lord gave him a dream where he saw Brother Frank Calabrese preaching under the Spirit of God concerning the **greater** blessings of the Gospel. Brother Wayne Martorana followed with the same spirit of preaching. Brother Brian looked at the brothers' and sisters' faces and could see that they were receiving a beautiful blessing. Brother Wayne then pointed to the back of the church building and said, 'BEHOLD, NEPHI'. All of the brothers and sisters turned around and **everyone** could see Brother Nephi. One by one, starting with Brother Frank, then the entire ministry, and finally each brother and sister went and embraced and kissed Brother Nephi."

(Continued on Page 4)

OHIO CONFERENCE continued . . .

Brother Joe Genaro followed, telling us that from the beginning of time, people have always sacrificed the best that they had, one without blemish, pure and perfect. Even God gave the purest sacrifice ever given—His Son Jesus Christ. Let us sacrifice unto God if we want Him to show us these **greater** blessings, just as the prophets of old did.

Finally, Brother Bob Buffington of Imperial, Pennsylvania spoke concerning how beautiful it is that we desire these **greater** blessings. He asked us, "Who believes in the literal gathering of Israel like we do? Nobody. Who believes in the building of the Kingdom of Zion like The Church of Jesus Christ does? Nobody. Who is looking forward to the coming of the Choice Seer like we do? Nobody. This is why we must strive harder that we might see these latter-day events."

MBA Highlights

Lake Worth MBA

By Dianne Maddox

On Sunday, May 8, the members of the Lake Worth MBA spent an enjoyable evening together as Brother Buddy Perri presented a program on Mother's Day. It emphasized the importance of the role of our mothers both naturally and spiritually. We also realize that we have many "spiritual mothers", but most importantly, the Church is our spiritual mother.

It was a job well done, and we thank the Lord for this active brother he has given us. We are also thankful for our MBA and the good it has done.

May GMBA 1983

By Ryan G. Ross, GMBA Editor

With newly elected officers John Griffith (President), Charles Jumper (Vice President), and Mark Kovacic (Chaplain) at the helm, the GMBA Conference of May, 1983 featured a smooth transition of leadership on a steady course. With areas such as the Atlantic

Coast, Florida, Michigan-Ontario, Ohio and Pennsylvania represented, business began mid-morning on Saturday, May 21. After Brother John opened the meeting with greetings to those attending, he indicated a desire to streamline the normal business of conference in order to allow more time for the spiritual aspects of meeting together. And on that note, we proceeded quickly.

Unfinished Business included the following:

1. Report by Brother Fred D'Antonio, Jr. on the purchase of cassette recording and duplicating equipment which purchase had been previously authorized by the GMBA for use at the General Church Auditorium. (It was used that night extensively to record and mass reproduce cassette recordings of Michigan-Ontario's choral program.)
2. A proposal by the McKees Rocks local MBA to change GMBA Conference dates to coincide with the new June/December fiscal year was presented to the floor. As per the recommendation of the GMBA Activities Committee, the Conference voted to hold firm our meeting dates until the General Church Conference date changeover is well established first.
3. In a related area of discussion, a request by the Glassport local MBA to return back to the old fiscal reporting dates was addressed. For the same reasons pertaining to conference dates (above), the conference recommended that the GMBA adhere to the new fiscal timetable.
4. The Book of Mormon Concordance project was brought to the floor by librarian, Brother Frank Morle. A review of cash outlays by the GMBA towards this project was reviewed, and a new, time-estimated-date-of-completion was discussed. Details may be found in the GMBA Minutes available to all MBA locals.

5. Sister Nina DiCenzo, representing a committee (including Brother Ken and Sister Sharon Staley), authorized to purchase a new piano for the General Church Auditorium, reported on the beautiful grand piano that was used that day for the first time. Brothers Gary and Claude Champine delivered and tuned the piano, and their efforts were acknowledged by Sister Nina.

Officer's reports were then given. Noteworthy items are the reorganization of the Greensburg local MBA and the organization of the Tampa local MBA. Financial reports presented by Brothers James Link and Kenneth Staley indicated that, as a result of cash outlays over the preceding months, balances were lower than normal, but healthy. (See your local's copy of the GMBA minutes for details.)

Under New Business, the GMBA Editor was given the responsibility to generate a GMBA activities calendar of events for all areas of the GMBA for each six-month period. Also discussed was the Book of Mormon Concordance project (see GMBA minutes) and the design of a new GMBA letterhead, to be designed by Brother Ken Lombardo.

Of course, the main attraction of the business portion of GMBA Conference was campout. Since the GMBA relinquished to the General Church its scheduling of a campout for 1983 in lieu (and in support) of the World Missionary Conference, attention was focused on the 1984 campout. Consideration was given to three potential campsites:

1. Eagle Eyrie—Site of this year's World Missionary Conference; located near Lynchburg, VA. Available dates: August 18-24, 1984. Prices: \$23-\$26 per day.
2. Massanetta Springs—Site of previous 5 GMBA campouts; located near Harrisonburg, VA. Available dates: July 7-14, 1984. Prices: \$20-\$25 per day.
3. Camp Wonderland—Located in Wisconsin, north of Chicago, IL. Available dates: July 14-21, 1984. Prices: \$22-\$23.50 per day.

Following a report by Brother Joseph Ross of the Camp Procurement Committee, a slide presentation of camps was given. A vote was taken, and the majority favored "Camp Wonderland" in Wisconsin for 1984's GMBA Campout.

On Saturday evening, the Michigan-Ontario Area Choir presented a program featuring *The Songs of Zion*. Brother Eugene Amormino, who assisted Sister Arlene Buffington in arranging these God-given songs, told a hushed audience that we were about to go on a "time journey" through the events leading to the establishment of

(Continued on Page 6)

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The Gospel News is published monthly by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE. Subscription price is \$6.00 a year. Entered as second class mail at Bridgewater, Mich. under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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"Salty Folks"

By George A. Neill

(Reprint)

The story is told that back in the first century of time, a rich merchant of Sidon stored up a great quantity of salt in a house or houses. The salt, next to the earth which was the floor of these houses, lost its saltiness or its savor. It was then used to make a road bed. This reminds us of Jesus' words, "Good for nothing but to be cast out and to be trodden under foot of men." I'm wondering if Jesus knew of this incident of the merchant of Sidon when He told them, "Ye are the salt of the earth."

PRECIOUS AND NECESSARY ELEMENT

Salt is a precious and necessary element of the earth. When Jesus used this phrase, salt was no doubt used far more extensively than it is today. I remember when I was a small boy it was rubbed into meat to preserve it; in fact, it is still used as a preservative today, although not as it was in Christ's day, since we have refrigeration as a means of preservation. When Jesus told His disciples that what He would give unto them, what He would teach them, above all it must be preserved. He was simply asking the disciples to be God's preservatives. Salt becomes a preservative only by its application to the thing to be preserved. Who but the saints have preserved the standard that Jesus gave, and by which the world will be judged? Unless we project our lives into the affairs of this life, neither you nor I can be a vital force in helping to build a better civilization.

If salt was a sign of friendship and hospitality in ancient times, as some declare, then Jesus was pointing out to the disciples how they were to treat other people. He was describing the mood and spirit that they were to possess. Salt was also a symbol of purity in ancient days; thus Jesus was saying, "Be ye clean every wit, both inside and out." The disciples knew as well as you and I that salt adds zest to food. Jesus was, in a few words, telling them to add zest to life; have joy, demonstrate hope, show courage, be trustworthy, and help to flavor the world. We may feel that we are so small and the world so large; what can we do? But have you ever noticed how a pinch of salt can flavor a large lump?

HOW SALTY ARE WE?

Salt has its antiseptic factor also. A missionary tells of African natives who were broken out with ulcers because their bodies were lacking the purifying and health-giving salt. We are all aware that men who work the furnaces in the mills are furnished with salt tablets by the company for whom they work. Various mineral salts are vital to the body, and the common use of table salt supplies man's need for this material. As long as salt retains its vital ingredients, it will prevent corruption. Jesus was just as much as saying, "Go ye out into the world and become an antiseptic force." It's probably because of the salty folks in America today that we, as a nation, are still enjoying some of the blessings of God. Nevertheless, let the salty folks beware lest the world rob them of the very substance that is to flavor and save the world." As members of The Church of Jesus Christ, let us lick our lips a bit to see just how salty we are as Saints.

There is a legend to the effect that a king asked his three daughters how much they loved him. The one declared she loved him better than silver. The second was certain she loved him more than gold. The youngest daughter said, "O, Father, I love you more than salt, because nothing is good without you." Thus it is, in a spiritual sense, with those of us who have come to know Christ and have experienced His meeting us at every turn of the road. When in sorrow He is there to comfort; if we rejoice He rejoices with us. If we stumble and fall He is there with a willing and helpful hand. Even though we sin, if we repent He is present to forgive; and so we have come to realize NOTHING IS GOOD WITHOUT HIM.

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



The Reign of Judges Begins

Dear Girls and Boys,

There was once a time in the Promised Land in the country of Zarahemla when the people were ruled by kings. Their last king was a godly man named Mosiah. His four sons had spent the early years of their lives leading other people to follow sinful paths.

Finally the prayers of King Mosiah and other people of the Church were heard. God sent an angel of the Lord to warn the four princes and their wicked friends to either stop trying to destroy the Church or be destroyed themselves.

The angel shook the ground with a voice more powerful than booming thunder. The friend of the four princes, Alma, was so overcome he fell down in a trance, unable to move or speak. It took two days of fasting and praying before Alma's body returned to normal and he could stand up and speak. But from that time on, Alma, the four sons of King Mosiah, and their friends with them all believed fully in God, and were broken-hearted over all the bad things they had tried to teach others in their past.

All were baptized and began to retrace their previous journeys so they could tell all they met that they had lied and that God was real and loved everyone dearly.

Not everyone wanted to hear the truth. Unbelievers sometimes punched and hit them. But still the four brothers, Aaron, Ammon, Omner, and Himni continued to tell others of the Lord. As time passed, the four princes grew to love God more. They wanted to leave their country and travel back to where the Lamanites lived to tell them about God also.

For many days they pleaded with

King Mosiah to let them go. He knew the Lamanites needed to hear about God, but he also knew how greatly the Lamanites loved to hurt and kill any Nephites they met. So King Mosiah went and asked the Lord if he should let his sons go among the Lamanites.

The Lord told Mosiah to let the four princes go to the land of the Lamanites. Many there would believe their words and have eternal life. The Lord also promised Mosiah that He would not allow his sons to be murdered.

With much rejoicing, all four princes left to preach. However, now there was not anyone to be the next king, and Mosiah was getting old. He asked the people what they would have him do, and they wanted him to make his son, Ammon, king. But Ammon, nor any of his brothers, were interested.

Mosiah gave this matter great thought, then listed all the reasons against giving one man great power as king. He told the people that an evil king can make laws to rob, imprison and even kill any that disagree with him. He can hurt those that serve God, and lead a whole nation to be evil.

He also told the people that it was not fair for one person to have to bear the burden of a whole nation. The people were convinced. Mosiah's idea was for the people to look among themselves and choose wise, good men to be judges.

Following the laws of the ancient prophets, everyone would be equal. Lower judges and higher judges would decide what to do when laws were broken. People who lied, robbed, murdered or hurt someone because of his religious beliefs were punished. Lower judges could join together to correct any high judge who

did wrong. With many careful plans, a new way of rule was set up; one of the first democracies on the face of the Promised Land. Thus the reign of Kings ended, and the reign of Judges began.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

MAY GMBA continued . . .

God's Kingdom on earth and the gathering of Israel, God's covenant people. Everyone in the choir was featured with a speaking or singing part. As usual, their performance was magnificent! All in attendance felt a blessing.

Sunday's meeting was filled with more singing and speaking concerning "latter day" prophecies and events from both the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon*. Brother Wayne Martorana opened, followed by Brother Russell Cadman (Apostle) and Brother Alma Nolfi. All in all, it was another nice weekend spent in fellowship with saints from all parts of the Church. May God bless you all until we meet again!

Notice

Anyone interested in securing Song Numbers 66 through 78 of *The Songs of Zion*, please contact:

Brother Eugene Amormino
21138 Ardmore Park
St. Clair Shores, MI 48081
313-776-4528

Publication Notice

The Gospel News publication #223480 is published month—12 issues per year at \$6.00 per subscription. It is owned by The Church of Jesus Christ with headquarters at Sixth and Lincoln St., Monongahela, PA 15063 and published by The Church of Jesus Christ Print House at 8423 Boettner Rd., Bridgewater, MI 48115. The Editor is Kenneth Staley, 301 Pine Drive, Aliquippa, PA 15001. The Managing Editor is Joseph Ross, 2 Ross Drive, Aliquippa, PA 15001. Thirteen hundred copies are printed, 1030 subscriptions are paid, and a total of 1207 subscriptions are mailed monthly.

Branch and Mission News

McKees Rocks, PA

By Ruth Rogalla, Branch Editor

On May 28 and 29, 1983, the McKees Rocks, PA Branch chartered a bus to Detroit, Branch 2. Many brothers and sisters and friends from various surrounding Branches accompanied us on the trip. We had a safe, successful trip, enjoying singing on the bus as a group and by individuals. Our driver sang a few solos, his favorite being *How Great Thou Art*.

We arrived at Branch 2 on Saturday afternoon and enjoyed a delicious dinner fixed by the hosting sisters. After dinner, we gathered for a singspiration. After opening remarks by Brother Dan Paravanno, the Presiding Elder of Branch 2, we enjoyed songs by the Branch 2 choir. Many other selections were presented by individuals and groups from Detroit and Pennsylvania. Brother Alex Gentile closed the meeting with prayer, after which we went to various brothers and sisters homes for the night.

Our Sunday morning meeting was opened by Brother John Manes of McKees Rocks, reading from I Peter. Peter spoke of the people of God being a peculiar people. Our desire as a Church should be to give the people of the world the opportunity to hear our testimonies and share in the peculiarity with us.

He also stated how much we feel at home in Branch 2 because of the same spirit prevailing throughout the Church.

Brother Reno Bologna from Saline followed, saying that even though we are far apart physically, we are together spiritually. He continued with Peter's words of calling the elders a royal priesthood, proclaiming a royal message. He spoke of the blood of the Lamb doing away with sins and how God has set us free.

Brother Bill Colangelo of McKees Rocks followed. He stressed the importance of being persuaded instead of **almost** persuaded. He advised to not waste your life; instead take Jesus in to your heart.

After communion was passed,

Brother Dan Casasanta of McKees Rocks spoke extending regards from the brothers and sisters in Italy to all of us in America.

We certainly enjoyed the theme of the day...being a peculiar people and showing this to the world. We were reminded of an important point...not conforming to the world but being transformed into the likeness of Christ.

We sincerely thank the brothers and sisters of Branch 2 and surrounding Branches for their hospitality and love.

Lorain, OH

By Renee Alessio, Branch Editor

On May 4, Brothers Russell Cadman and Anthony Corrado met with us during our MBA meeting before traveling to Detroit to join the Apostles. Brother Russell Cadman spoke for the majority of the service acquainting us first with a couple of the many experiences that he has had. One of the experiences occurred in his childhood. He dreamt that his father, Brother Alma, was reading the scriptures to his wife, who was listening and agreeing with what she had heard. An angel was standing nearby nodding his head with approval. This proved to Brother Russell that the Gospel that his father preached was the truth.

Brother Russell taught a lesson on a Mighty Gentile Nation, taking his text from I Nephi 22 of the *Book of Mormon*. Brother Russell told of the greatness of the Israelite nation when they had exiled from Egypt and that they would have remained great in blessings and materials had they not disobeyed God's Commandments. He recollected the years when they had entered the Promised Land and their harvests were so great that the sixth year's reaping was enough to provide for the seventh year also. For in the seventh year the ground was not to be worked but set aside to be holy unto the Lord. And the forty-eighth year's harvest fed them through the fiftieth and fifty-first years. (Leviticus 25) Israel's greatness in blessings was equaled by their misery when they departed from the ways of God. The transformation occurred so insidiously that the people didn't realize

the effect it was having upon them. They eventually found themselves dispersed to the isles of the seas.

God raised up the Gentiles to perform a Marvelous Work and Wonder. He started this work when another angel flew through the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth. (Revelations 14:6,7) For 1260 years men and women had lived under the influence of the Abomination of Desolation. Evil had controlled their lives until God, remembering the promise He had made to John, restored His Church in the year 1830 through the instrumentality of Joseph Smith.

Brother Russell asked if we were able to comprehend this great event. Could we imagine the activity that was occurring in heaven? Or the great rejoicing of the heavenly beings? This was a time when the Dark Ages would no longer exist upon the earth and God would bring light to men and women once again! Surely words cannot adequately express the nature of this event.

Another topic of his discourse was the Making Bare of God's Holy Arm. (Isaiah 52:10) Brother Russell stated that unless the Lord made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations, they could not be blessed. The charter Apostles accompanied by God's power and blessings had success in spreading the Gospel throughout many nations. Several years later heresy led to an apostasy and God covered His arm, withdrawing the blessings from man. Slowly the Lord began to roll up His sleeve allowing many immigrants to sail to America to seek religious freedom. God made bare His arm once more when He remembered His words to Isaiah, "but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word", utilizing William Bickerton to preach the Gospel and maintain the authority of the Priesthood, after a division occurred at the death of Joseph Smith. God will completely uncover His arm when the 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, . . ." (Ether 4) Then the natural fruit, spoken of in Jacob 5, will be gathered in.

(Continued on Page 8)

LORAIN, OH continued . . .

Brother Tony Corrado, being afflicted with laryngitis, spoke a few words relating an experience that occurred during his baptism. A sister of the Church saw an angel remove a mantle from the baptizing elder and give it to Brother Tony. He also related his most recent experience which occurred during the past week. His daughter was leaving for work during a heavy thunderstorm. Brother Tony was concerned for her and suddenly felt the Power of God and rebuked the rain, which caused it to stop. Brother Tony was given liberty in spite of his affliction and told several other experiences. Our time was well spent and we greatly appreciated the words that were spoken this night.

We are happy to report that another soul, Kelly Pritchett, asked for her baptism during the testimony service of the Sunday meeting on June 12.

Kelly first attended our Church as a teenager, being invited to Sunday School by Sister Katherine Cocco and her daughter. As she developed more interest, she began to attend the Worship Service also. Kelly seriously began exercising her faith and seeking God's direction in her life, which has helped her in making important decisions in her life. She is now a junior in physical therapy school at Ohio State University and is engaged to be wed this September. We welcome Sister Kelly with open arms into the family of God.

Once again Bible School time has come. This year nineteen children participated in the week's activities and in presenting a program. It was so exciting to see the children assembled at the front of the church eagerly awaiting the moment when they would tell of the lessons they had learned.

The theme this year was "Miracles", and the children told of the miracles that Jesus performed, such as turning water into wine, feeding the multitude of 5000 with two fish and five loaves of bread, healing the ten lepers, raising Lazarus from the dead, and walking on the water. Many songs were sung pertaining to the theme. Jennifer Calabrese, a student of Bible School, accompanied her peers on the piano as they sang *It's A Miracle*.

At the conclusion of the program, each child was presented with a Certificate of Merit for the efforts they had displayed. The parents were then invited to the church basement for refreshments and to view the crafts that their children had made. The expressions on the children's faces depicted the joy and pride that they had felt in participating in Vacation Bible School.

Hollywood, FL

By Doug Obradovich, Branch Editor

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.
Psalms 133:1

Those of us in the Hollywood Branch know just how good and how very pleasant it can be when dwelling in unity. The promise of summer begins with the warmth of March and April, and our promise of continued unity was evidenced by our many planned activities and the number of visitors.

The excitement of the area campout was still in the hearts of those who attended and this same enthusiasm continued for many weeks. How nice it is to live in an area that our brothers and sisters to the North find comfortable to visit during these months. We are thankful for these brave pioneers who have ventured south, but let it be known that we accept transfers as cordially as we accept visitations.

Hollywood has taken an active part in the monthly fast and prayer meetings along with all of you. Until we have our own building, we are privileged to meet in the homes of the brothers and sisters. At the conclusion of one of these meetings, Sister Angie Stone asked to be anointed. After Brother Dennis Moraco, our Presiding Elder, had finished his prayer, he felt inspired to ask all of us to share a healing experience with each other. We all related one incident in which God had healed us. And isn't it beautiful that we had to choose which experience to tell? The unity we felt in each testimony drew us closer to one another and to our Lord.

On March 8, Brother Joe and Sister Vi Catone put out their "Welcome Mat" as the saints gathered in their home. The occasion was a brief visit with Brother Joe and Sister Vickie Calabrese from Lorain, Ohio. Brother Calabrese showed slides from his recent trip to India. It was exciting to be introduced to

our new brothers and sisters from the East, even if only in pictures. How helpful it would have been if Paul, the apostle of old, could have enjoyed the modern technology we often take for granted. Brother Calabrese's presentation gave us hope to some day meet with these saints in person. Hollywood certainly enjoyed our meeting with Brother Joe and Sister Vickie.

The Sunday School held its annual picnic on April 2 and invited our friends from the South, the Miami Branch. As the children searched for Easter eggs, we searched the scriptures for answers to Sister Bonnie Miller's short program. After filling ourselves with delicious food, our picnic was highlighted with a brief talk by Brother Alvin Swanson. Brother Alvin spoke about the miracle of the resurrection and how nature coincides with this beautiful holiday season.

We are thankful for the good and the pleasant times we have enjoyed in March and April. And we are thankful for the peace and unity we experience in Hollywood. Again, we invite all to visit...because who knows where one visit might lead you. Just ask "our own" Brother Mark Kovacic.

Sterling, MI

Sunday, July 24, was proclaimed Brother Louis Vitto Day by our Presiding Elder, Brother Sam DiFalco, in honor of his having been ordained an Evangelist. He was ordained by his natural brother, Brother Paul Vitto, at Branch 1 on July 17, and his feet were washed by Brother Frank Vitto.

Brother Louis was baptized October 26, 1958 by Brother Concetto Allesandro, ordained a teacher March 27, 1966 by Brother Nick Pietrangelo, and ordained an elder April 28, 1968 by Brother Spencer Everett.

Brother Lou presided at our morning service, using John 9:11-25 as his text. This concerned the blind man whose eyes were anointed by Jesus with clay made of spittle. Jesus told him to go wash in the pool of Siloam. The man, having faith in Jesus, obeyed and he received his sight. The blind man was not ashamed to tell the people that it was Jesus who healed him.

Brother Lou said Jesus was never too

(Continued on Page 9)

STERLING, MI continued . . .

busy to hear his prayers, even when he was in the world. We have all been blind spiritually at one time, but one day Jesus came our way, removed the scales from our eyes so that we could see Him in all His glory. We have to prepare ourselves to receive His blessings, we have to be born again to see the kingdom of heaven, we have to be obedient to His Word, He took our sins away and will never remember them. If we remain faithful, we will see Him and He will give us eternal life.

We sang *Taste the Grass on the Summit*, and many testimonials followed. Brother Sam said one of the things that stood out in his mind was what one of the sisters said, that she wanted to adjust her time that she might have more time for the Lord. This is something we should all try to do.

In our evening service, we had many visitors from other branches, among them being Sister Vienna Carrabia who celebrated her fiftieth year in the Gospel at Branch 3 today. Her sister, Velia, and her niece, Nina DiCenzo, were here also, visiting from McKees Rocks, PA Branch.

We spent a pleasant evening singing songs of praise, and much talent was displayed in the singing of solos, duets and quartets. There is a lot of untapped talent in the Church yet to be discovered. We witnessed a very good example of this as Brother Jim Carrabia sang in a deep baritone voice, a song he had composed himself entitled *I Never Want to Go Back*. We have known Brother Jim for many years but did not know he was in possession of such a beautiful singing voice. He was accompanied at the piano by his cousin, Sister Nina DiCenzo. The highlight of the evening was a duet by Brothers Lou and Paul Vitto. They sang *The Longer I Serve Him*. Brother Paul said he was filling in for Brother Carl Frammolino, who was away in New York.

Brother Lou sang *For Those Tears I Died*, and we were dismissed by Brother John Buffa.

We were then served refreshments prepared by the sisters. The evening was enjoyed by all, and we are praying that Brother Louis will continue bringing new souls to Christ as he serves in his calling as an Evangelist.

Vanderbilt, PA

By James King

We continue to feel God's Spirit in our Branch and in our individual lives. Sometimes He gives and sometimes He takes away.

Among the things that He gave us is the life of our Sister Rose Smouse. Sister Rose had cancer, at the age of twenty-one, with a new husband and a newborn child. After much prayer and fasting throughout the Church, and after many agonizing treatments, we are happy to report that our sister is healed of this dread affliction. How could we praise Him enough, even for this one miracle!

Another of the things He has given us is our new "baby brother", Brother Edward Stroko. After being exposed to the Church for a long time, our new brother spoke up in a Sunday School class, "I want to be baptized." He was led into the water on June 12, 1983, by Brother Lawrence King, and in the presence of all gathered there, made his covenant with the Lord to serve Him the remaining days of his life. Brother Edward (or "Tex", as he is known to everyone) is the son-in-law of Brother Joseph Bittinger and the husband of Sister Huldah Stroko.

On the same day, June 12, our Brother Wilmer Barron was ordained as a deacon in the service of the Lord. Brother Barron occupies a special place in all our hearts, and we are sure the Lord will continue to use him in doing His work.

And sometimes He takes away. On June 3, our beloved Sister Irene Beeman was taken home to be with the Lord, just fifty-seven years old. We will surely miss her, because she was so active in everything that went on in the Church. There is also an unusual testimony regarding Sister Irene, as follows:

Two years ago, about May of 1981, Sister Beeman was critically ill in the Intensive Care Unit with major heart problems. Her doctor advised us to prepare for the worst; they really did not expect her to live. Brother James King anointed her, and in his prayer asked the Lord to "let us have her for a little while longer", and the Lord answered the prayer and allowed us to have her for another two years. During the two years, it seemed that she drew

closer and closer to the Lord, and when she was close enough to touch Him, He took her.

We have lost several saints from our Branch this year, and they all leave vacancies that cannot be filled. We miss Sister Irene Beeman, Brother Ray Nicklow, Sister Stella Cole, and it causes us to realize more fully that this is the way of all flesh.

We continue to feel God's Spirit among us, and look forward to the day when Zion will be a place and a condition, more than just the hope of our hearts.

Meaford, Ontario

By Jane Elzby

Sunday, July 17, 1983 was a memorable day for the brothers and sisters and children in Meaford, Ontario.

We welcomed Brother Daniel Paravano from Detroit Branch 2, along with his son, Andrew. Brother Dan was in Meaford to collaborate with Brother Richard Elzby on a Canadian Indian Exhibit for the General Church World Missionary Conference.

We began our meeting by singing a few selections from *The Songs of Zion*. Brother Dan used for his text the 4th chapter of II Corinthians expounding on the courage that we as saints must have and that we are never distressed or forsaken in our service to God. The Spirit of God was with our brother and he had much liberty in bringing this subject forth to us. Brother Richard followed with a few words and he then turned the meeting over for testimony. During this portion of our service, Brad Juniper, who has been attending our meetings for some time, also rose to give his testimony and while he was doing so the Spirit of God poured down on him and he asked for his baptism.

We gathered on the shore of Georgian Bay in front of the home of our late Sister Mabel McKay, and Brother Dan baptized our new brother into Christ. We met again in our church building. Brother Dan confirmed Brother Brad, and we then partook of the Lord's Supper.

We can truly say our cups were filled

(Continued on Page 10)

this day. Brother Brad is the first member of The Church of Jesus Christ to actually be baptized here. Our other members, Brother Doug and Sister Bertha Ford, and Sister Alverna Greer, were baptized in other branches and then returned home, and Brother Richard and myself were baptized before we relocated here. Please remember Brother Brad in prayer. He is a single parent raising three young sons. Also, remember us in Meaford. We are a small group, but our fervent prayer and desire is to work among the Seed of Joseph who are all around us.

We thank God for allowing Brother Dan to be in our midst, and invite the saints to visit us here.

Miami, FL

By Diana Salinas

Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth. Luke 15:10

After enjoying a most beautiful time at the Missionary Conference in August, Tina Katsaras was called by the Lord to become a member of The Church of Jesus Christ. Tina arrived in Miami Saturday night after the Conference and on Sunday, August 28, 1983, all the brothers and sisters from the Miami Mission along with some visitors from the Hollywood Branch gathered at the waters edge. It was 9:00 a.m. and a most joyous morning for us.

Sister Viola Catone from Hollywood had a dream where she saw Tina falling from a very high building crashing to earth, and Brother Joe Catone, Sr. caught her and put her gently down, so Tina felt to have brother Joe baptize her. Back at the building where we meet for church, Brother Mark Kovacic confirmed her.

Tina has always attended church with her parents, Brother George and Sister Eileen, and her brothers Peter and Nicky. She is also a very good student and has always brought all her friends to church.

Needless to say, this was a very happy day for the Katsaras family and for the Miami Mission because we all love Tina very much and pray that God will bless her in her life.

We thank God for another baptism and for all His blessings in our small mission.

Dallas, TX

By Ralph Frammolino

He is thousands of miles away from his homeland and his children, and although in his native country he is a chief with leadership duties, he has spent the last six years in the United States as a student, often working to pay his expenses by washing dishes in a restaurant.

But these circumstances do nothing to dampen the spirit of Brother George T. Inyang of Nigeria. Despite the potential for homesickness and discouragement, he is always quick to give an enthusiastic testimony:

"I am very, very happy to be a member of The Church of Jesus Christ."

Brother Inyang, 43, has been attending services at the Dallas Mission for almost two years, while he has completed his degree in business administration at nearby Amber University.

He left Nigeria in 1976 to begin his education in this country, first attending Northeastern Junior College in Philadelphia before transferring to Amber University in 1979.

And now, his hard work has paid off. Brother Inyang was graduated in June with his degree. He currently is working to save money to travel home to Ikwe, in the Eket Division of Southeast Nigeria.

"I feel very happy to be at Dallas with the members because of the care, the love, and they minister the right type of Christian religion," said Brother Inyang.

Brother Inyang met the Church during a revival service six miles from his home in Nigeria. He said he went to see a church that many people were talking about.

"One wonderful thing was that so many people were taken to the church," he said. "Some of them were half dead; they were taken from the hospital, where the doctor said they would no longer live."

"Among that group were people who were being oppressed by the power of witchcraft and people who were crazy."

"Then, the prayers that were in the

church, through that people were healed," he said.

Although Brother Inyang was raised in a Presbyterian mission home, he said he became convinced about the power in The Church of Jesus Christ. He was baptized in August 1969 by Brother Don Ukpon, an elder.

Brother Inyang said that he holds the rank of chief in Ikwe, an area like a county in our local governments. As such, he said, he was responsible for keeping the peace and administering programs for 4,000 people.

Yet his position did not allow him to progress in his career with the federal government farther than the position of executive officer in the Ministry of Work and Transport. That is when he decided to come to the United States to complete his education.

"When I came here to America, I used to hear that America was a very big nation in the eyes of the world," he said. "I have come to discover that when an American talks of democracy—even though in America there are bad men as well as in Nigeria—the real democracy is practiced here."

God has blessed Brother Inyang with many experiences in America. One outstanding example happened last Easter, after he had been receiving threatening phone calls during the middle of the night from a man who claimed the United States government was going to deport him for no cause. Brother Inyang, naturally, became concerned and took the matter to God in prayer.

Then, some weeks later, he was busy at his job in the restaurant when one of the waitresses walked by. Brother Inyang said that when he looked at her, he saw a light glow on her face and around her head.

Immediately, Brother George exclaimed: "Why are you giving me these phone calls? I have done nothing to you, so why are you doing this?"

Ashen-faced, the woman went to her supervisor and confessed: Her boyfriend had been making the threatening phone calls to Brother Inyang as a prank. After a stern warning from the boss, the telephone calls stopped.

(Continued on Page 11)

"I believe in the power of prayer," explained Brother Inyang. "It is the number one key to my lifestyle. With the power of prayer in this country, I can get anything I want, as long as I don't think the unthinkable. I know that I cannot be President."

The Dallas Mission has given Brother Inyang a King James Version of the *Bible* and a copy of the *Book of Mormon* to help him study. They are helping him understand even more the deep meaning of the *Book of Mormon* and the Restoration. He said this and other observations are the memories he will bring back to Nigeria when he is finally able, after six years, to join his family.

"I'll tell them (members of the Church) how the Church is being conducted, the services. How the *Book of Mormon* is being interpreted. The organization of the Church."

Within the last couple of months, Brother Inyang has acquired a car that he says he will use to bring people to church services in Nigeria. His desires are to put his natural and spiritual education to work for the Church, wherever God leads him.

"I have an evidence, an abiding confidence with the *Holy Bible* and the *Book of Mormon*," he said.

Detroit, Branch 1

By Anthony J. Scolaro

Sunday, June 19, 1983 was a special day for us at Detroit Branch 1 as our Sister Nicoletta Lombardo observed 50 years in the Gospel. As we presented her with a flower at the beginning of the service, she expressed to us the blessed assurance she has known since she gave her life to Christ 50 years ago. Her desire, she said, was to continue to serve God in spirit and in truth all the days of her life.

Sister Lombardo's son-in-law, Brother Carl Frammolino, opened the preaching meeting, reminiscing about the many years he spent as a member of Branch 1. He especially remembered how all the children in the Sunday School were required to learn the Beatitudes, and he proceeded to recite to the congregation that same portion of the 5th chapter of Matthew; no longer a child in Sunday School, stumbling over the verses he had memorized, but as a minister of the Lord's word, who held these promises deep within his heart. Brother Carl read on in Matthew, where Christ called his followers the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Our souls were filled as these wonderful words of life were rehearsed to us

by our Brother Carl. He exhorted each of us to understand that all things are possible through Jesus Christ.

We were privileged also to have in our midst the family of Brother Dick Christman from Phoenix, Arizona. Brother Dick related to us how this day marked 28 years for him in The Church of Jesus Christ, and how the Lord has never forsaken him in all that time. Brother Dick told us of many perilous situations from which God delivered him. As long as we are willing to persevere in our commitment to serve God, Brother Dick pointed out, the Lord will always be with us.

His words of testimony served to uplift each one of us, and as we came out of the Lord's house, we knew that we had truly been filled that day with His Spirit.

I was given this poem when I was in the hospital in May, 1983:

*He died for me, on Calvary's tree.
His blood He shed, the Bride to wed.
No love like His, is.*

*To save from sin, our souls to win,
Cast out your pride, in Him abide,*

*His name to praise, all voices raise,
To Christ the King, everything.*

Sister Melissa Matthew
Windsor, Ontario

* WEDDINGS *

NATOLI—BROOKS

Mr. Frank Natoli and Miss Kathy Brooks were united in marriage on Saturday, August 13, 1983 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Youngstown, Ohio.

Brothers Russell Martorana and Frank Calabrese officiated at the wedding ceremony.

Musical selections were presented by Brother Eugene and Sister Donna Amormino and the Champine brothers, all of Michigan.

The newlyweds will make their home in Rochester, New York.

KOVACIC—WARDEN

Brother Mark Kovacic and Sister Kelly Warden were united in marriage in Fort Lauderdale, Florida on August

6, 1983. Brother T. D. Bucci and Brother Alvin Swanson conducted the ceremony.

Sister Marlea Bucci Frenzoz presented musical selections.

The newlyweds are making their home in Miami, Florida.

New Arrivals

Congratulations are in order to the proud parents for the indicated new members of their families:

Chelsea Leigh to Larry Dale and Leisha Marie Hender-shot Collison of Fort Pierce, Florida;

Michael David to Michael David and Danette Serino Pastorelli of Fort Pierce, Florida;

Jason Nathaniel to Patty and Frank Machnik of Detroit, Branch 1.

OBITUARIES

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

MARY LEATA FORD

Sister Mary Leata Ford of the Windsor, Ontario Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ passed away from this life on June 1, 1983 at the age of 85. She was born on July 22, 1897. Sister Ford was a member of the Church for 46 years and served as an ordained deaconess for 44 years.

The funeral service was conducted by Brothers Don Colison and Tony Gerace.

Sister Ford was preceded in death by her husband, the late Brother John Franklin Ford. She is survived by a son, four grandchildren, and one brother.

"Aunt Leata", as she was known to all of us, will be greatly missed. Her knowledge and the care she showed to each one will always be remembered.

IRENE BEEMAN

Sister Irene Beeman, a member of The Church of Jesus Christ in Vanderbilt, PA, passed away on June 3, 1983. She was born on October 25, 1926 and baptized on July 6, 1952.

Sister Irene is survived by one daughter, two sons and two grandchildren.

Brother Lawrence King conducted the funeral services.

CHARLOTTE HILL

Sister Charlotte Hill passed away on July 5, 1983 at the age of 98 years old. She was born on the Six Nations Reservation in Ontario, Canada on September 3, 1885 and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on May 8, 1938 by the late Brother William H. Cadman.

She is survived by three sons, six daughters, forty grandchildren, eighty-three great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Anthony R. Lovalvo, Norman Campitelle, Paul D'Amico and Richard Lobzun.

A True Inspiration

She was the pillar of our Church for many years, Speaking of her Lord her eyes would fill with tears. "I can't thank Him enough," she often would say.

*With thanks in her heart, each day she would pray.
Her testimonies were always a joy to hear.
"Live your life for the Lord, He is so dear."
"My Lord is so good, My Lord is so kind."
"There's no better friend that I could find."
A true inspiration to all that she met,
She is someone we will never forget.
We will always have a special spot in our heart,
For our dear Sister who had to depart.
She is gone to dwell in a better land,
Guided there by her Lord's own hand.
While here on earth she gave her all,
Right until she heard her dear Lord call.
He called her from a world of strife,
Where she had lived a righteous life.
She never faltered, her faith was so strong.
She was truly blessed, and would never do wrong.
A beautiful Sister, a wonderful friend,
One of the best that God could lend,
To spread the Gospel, to all that she could.
She was so gentle, so loving and good.
Ninety eight years she was here on loan,
Then God called her to Heaven to be His own.
She lived a good life, she gained her reward,
Sister Charlotte has gone to live with her Lord.*

Written with much love and respect as a Tribute of Remembrance to Sister Charlotte Hill, who passed away July 5, 1983.

Barbara Jacques

DIANA GESSNER

Sister Diana Gessner of the Glassport, PA Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ passed away on July 17, 1983. She was born on September 11, 1937 and baptized on July 24, 1955.

She is survived by her mother, Sister Dorothy Humphrey; her husband, Edward; two sons and three daughters; three sisters, one brother and one grandchild.

Brothers David and Alma Nolfi officiated at the funeral services.

FLORENCE (DiBATTISTA) TONACHELLA

Sister Florence Tonachella of Detroit, Branch 1 passed away on June 3, 1983. She was born on July 28, 1899 and was baptized into the Church in 1932.

Brother Nick Pietrangelo officiated at the funeral services, assisted by Brother Sam DiFalco.

A true pillar of our Church, Sister Florence left behind four children in the Church, as well as thirteen grandchildren and many great-grandchildren, in addition to the brothers and sisters in Detroit who will miss her dearly.

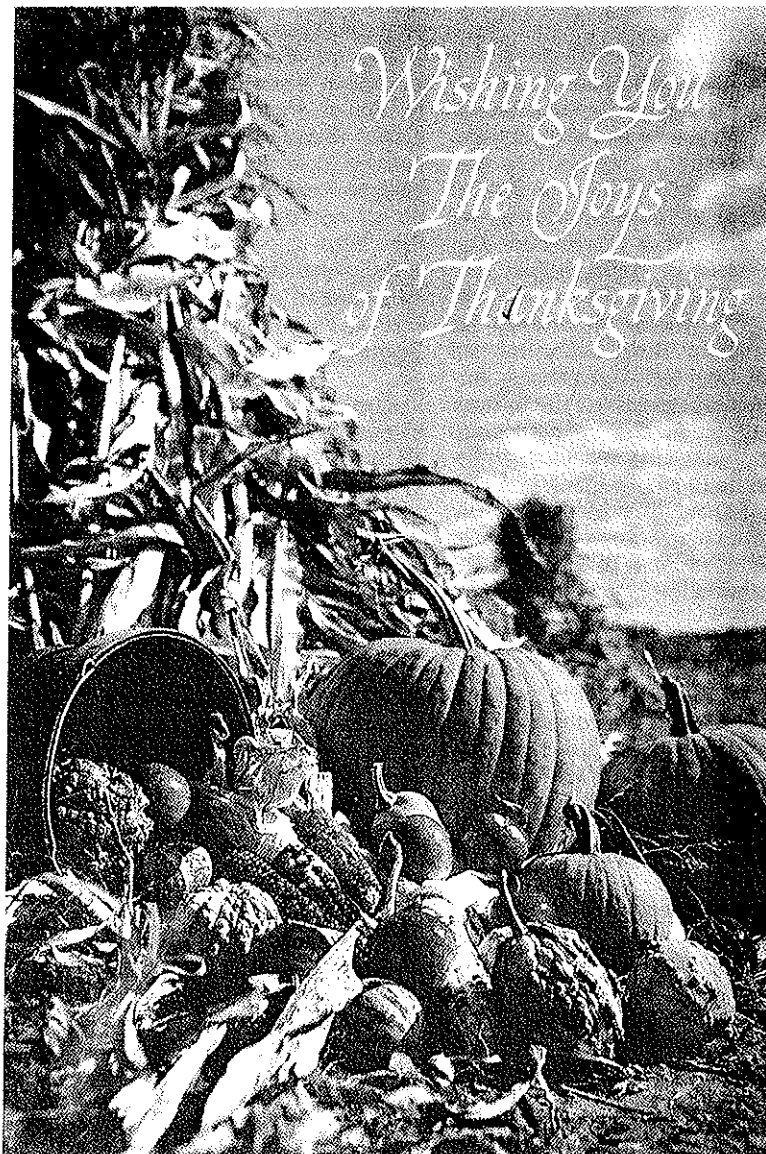
The Gospel News

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

(USPS 223-480)

November, 1983

Volume 39, No. 11



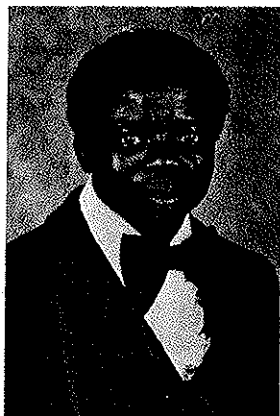
*Wishing You
The Joys
of Thanksgiving*

*May the
Thanksgiving season
bring many joys . . .
many blessings . . .
and all life's best to you!*

*Have a
Nice Thanksgiving*

A Message to the Saints

By George Frank Arthur



My beloved co-partners of the faith in Christ, may the blessings of our Lord be with each and every one of you. I thank you for whatever contribution you have made for the success of the first World Missionary Conference of The Church of Jesus Christ. The Lord has answered our prayer by bringing our Conference to a success—"Message to the Saints", publication of July, 1983.

It is my pleasure to furnish you as much as possible with the issues of the first World Missionary Conference as follows:

General Concepts

1. The Church of Jesus Christ is a true Church whose doctrine and principles are fundamentally based on the teachings of the New Testament.
2. The *Book of Mormon* is a sacred book and should be studied as well as the *Bible*.
3. Love is the pillar of The Church of Jesus Christ. We must express love in all our lives.

Background Information

I am indebted to the Parent Church, the Florida District, Brother and Sister Joseph Bittinger for the various parts they played to enable me and my family to participate in the week-long Conference. Through them it became easy for me to get involved in recapitulating the activities of the Conference for reading by the saints everywhere, especially those who were neither

privileged to attend nor being represented. It is worthy of comment concerning Brother and Sister Joseph Bittinger.

This couple (Joseph and Edna Bittinger) make their home at Vero Beach and they attend the Fort Pierce Branch of the Church. Brother Bittinger is one of the Twelve Apostles. He has been involved in the work of the Church both in the U. S. and abroad from the early years of his life. He is one of the pioneer missionaries in Nigeria, as well as being the current chairman of the Foreign Missions Committee. Though living in Florida, there is nowhere in the U.S. that he would not be present when the Church duty calls. He and his wife kept me and my wife abreast of the activities and plans of the Parent Church concerning the Conference by their regular writings, phone calls and personal visits.

To make sure that we attended the Conference, they left their house at Vero Beach and slept at Daytona Beach on August 18. Early morning on the 19th, we packed our luggage into the station wagon and started the trip at 8:00 a.m. After 400 miles of driving, we stopped at a motel in North Carolina where we passed the night. Before 7:00 a.m. on the 20th, we were on our way to Lynchburg, where we arrived at 12:45 p.m. After the Conference on August 26, we left Lynchburg for Florida, wherein we arrived the following day, August 27. The entire driving to and from Lynchburg was done by the brother, as the Lord had given him the strength. Sister Edna had given so much attention to my family throughout the period. She had been a model mother to my wife.

Reception

Brother Joseph Ross and others were very hard working at Lynchburg. They had completed every necessary arrangement to make ready the rooms and the cafeteria that we used. My family and I enjoyed a well furnished, air-conditioned and spacious room.

Arrival of the President of the Nigerian Church

At 7:00 p.m., Brother E.U.A. Arthur, the President of the Nigerian Church (who has held this post right from the inception of the Church in Nigeria in 1960) arrived at Lynchburg. He was accompanied by Sister Rachael Arthur, his wife, and Brother Joseph E. Arthur, his son. He had arrived in the U.S. on August 13 and was received by Brother

John Ross into his house until the commencement of the Conference and after the Conference as well. Brother and Sister Arthur and their son returned to Nigeria after a few weeks of stay.

Brother E.U.A. Arthur and other missionaries from various places gave some highly inspiring and motivated sermons during the meetings. Sister Rachael Arthur made an appeal to the Ladies Uplift Circle of the Parent Church not to center their interest only on the financial support of the missionary activities, but also to get involved in personal missionary journeys in order to get acquainted with ladies from other lands.

Attendance

Well over 700 persons turned up for the Conference. Representatives from Nigeria, India, Italy, Mexico and other places, together with the United States members, were present. It is interesting to realize that The Church of Jesus Christ comprises people from various nations, colors and races and that the geographical and linguistic differences do not create any barrier in any way. The Spirit of the Pentecost was present throughout the entire period. We had all things in common.

Meetings and Seminars

Meetings were held both morning and evening each day throughout the week. Hymns from hymn books specially prepared for the Conference use were sung. Prayers were offered requesting the Lord to bless everyone for the ministry of the Lord. Prayers were also made for our sick brothers and sisters who were in the hospital. Inspiring sermons were made by various brothers at different times, and passages were read from the Holy Bible as well as from the Book of Mormon. Seminars were conducted with moderately sized groupings. Everyone had the opportunity to discuss and ask questions during the seminars.

The Work of Love for the Church

Brother Alvin Swanson who is a missionary both to Nigeria and India was not present on the first few days of the Conference. He had been seriously ill in body and flesh. But his spirit and soul were so much inclined to the activities of the Church that he could not bear up the pain of being absent from the Conference. He communed with His Lord,

(Continued on Page 3)

A MESSAGE continued . . .

and the Lord answered him. He stood up with strength, accompanied by his dear wife, Sister Viola, and his spiritually devoted family, and came to the Conference. With strength he testified of what God has used him for and his desire to continue in the service of the Lord throughout his life.

The Role of the Youth

The Sunday School youth of the Quincy Mission from Florida demonstrated beautifully their wisdom of the Restoration story. This religious morale of these children should encourage us to get our children and grandchildren involved in religious lessons beginning in the early parts of their lives. When they grow up, they will never forsake God.

Exhibits

Throughout the week, we were exposed to the artifacts from various countries that our members represented. These handiworks had a lot to convey to our minds.

Feeding

Each day meals were served three times. Like Christ's feeding of the multitude and having twelve baskets left over, we ate to our satisfaction each time. The cafeteria was sufficiently large to accommodate all the members. Meal time was also a time of friendly meetings. We had the opportunity of seeing and talking with our brothers and sisters from other countries.

The Farewell Night

The last and more eventful meeting was held on the evening of August 25. Not only the meeting of the usual procedures was held, but events became more and more enforced, both spiritually and physically. Some members were moved toward prophesying. We enjoyed the testimonies of our American Indian brothers. Gifts were made to some of our missionary brothers and sisters. Among these beautiful gifts were the large umbrella hats of the Mexican products.

Conclusion

I have been very brief in presenting the matters of the Conference to you. But I hope this information is sufficient as a clue to what went on. The Conference was very successful, and its effects were sure to be tremendous. I

hoped the Conference had strengthened the support that the home and foreign missions and branches might give to the Parent Church activities. The activities of the Parent Church are the clear examples of how the Gospel is preached. Our deeds must be in reality with what the Gospel demands. Remember what is stated in James 2:17. It isn't enough just to have faith. You must also do good works to prove that you have faith. Faith that doesn't show itself by good works is no faith at all; it is dead and useless.

I thank God for all His loving kindness and pray for another World Missionary Conference. Peace be with you.

Our Women Today

Area Ladies' Circle Visits Muncey

By Melissa Matthew

The Michigan-Ontario Area Ladies' Uplift Circle sisters met with the brothers and sisters of the Muncey Reserve on Sunday, July 10, 1983.

Joining Brother Rodney Dyer on the rostrum were Brothers Paul and Louis Vitto and Brothers Mario and Silver Coppa.

Brother Mario Coppa spoke from the scriptures in Luke 10:25-27, encouraging us to continue to love and serve God to the best of our ability that we might find eternal rest with the Saviour when we finish our course on earth.

Brother Silver told us of how God, after observing Adam for some time, decided that he needed a help meet and created Eve. As Eve was a help meet to Adam, so is the Ladies' Uplift Circle a help meet to The Church of Jesus Christ. The Church is a place where our sisters are able to use their special talents to serve God and help others.

Brothers Paul and Louis Vitto spoke of God's great love for His creation; so great is this love that He gave "His only begotten Son" to seal the covenant that He made with His servants, bestowing upon them the gift of eternal life if they prove faithful to the end.

Brother Rodney concluded by saying that until we have the fullness of God's love in our lives, His perfection will be beyond our reach. We could feel God's spirit in the many moving testimonies that were shared with us.

As sacrament was passed, the hymn *The Old Rugged Cross* was played causing us once again to remember God's great sacrifice for us.

Three of our Indian sisters sang a hymn for us in the Indian language and Brother Rodney and Sister Judy Dyer sang *The Greatest Story Ever Told*, and Sister Judy sang the stirring song, *Living for Jesus*, as part of her testimony of God's love in her life.

Before closing the meeting, Brother Louis read the poem, *Footsteps*, reminding us that in the times of greatest trial the Lord carries us through.

Safely Home

*I am home in Heaven, dear ones;
Oh, so happy and so bright!
There is perfect joy and beauty
in this everlasting light.
All the pain and grief is over,
Every restless tossing passed;
I am now at peace forever,
safely home in Heaven at last.
Did you wonder I so calmly trod
the valley of the shade?
OH! but Jesus' love illumined
every dark and fearful glade.
And He came Himself to meet me
in that way so hard to tread;
And with Jesus' arm to lean on,
could I have one doubt or dread?
Then you must not grieve so sorely,
for I love you dearly still!
Try to look beyond earth's shadows,
pray to trust our Father's Will.
There is work still waiting for you,
so you must not idly stand;
Do it now, while life remaineth—
You shall rest in Jesus' land.
When that work is all completed,
He will gently call you Home;
Oh, the rapture of that meeting,
Oh, the joy to see you come!*

We wish to thank all the brothers and sisters and good friends who sent cards and flowers, those who called to give words of encouragement, those who sent gifts and food to our families, and most of all for your prayers during our mother's recent illness and subsequent passing away. May God bless each of you is our prayer.

The family of
Sister Marietta Giovannone

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to all of you for your prayers, cards and calls during my recent hospitalization. I thank God above all for my life. My gratitude and prayers are yours.

Sister Ida Sona
Detroit, Branch 3

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to express to you my sincere appreciation for the many prayers said on my behalf. The Lord has truly heard the prayers of the Saints, and once again has been merciful to me. My prayer is that He would bless each and every one of you as you endeavor to carry out His will.

Love in Christ,
Sister Rose Allesandro

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I feel to write this to all of you for the thoughts and prayers in behalf of our son Ammon. I know it was your prayers to God that have truly blessed him and us with health and the strength to continue in the right direction.

Ammon's health and development are progressing remarkably. We are now seeing a new physician who has diagnosed Ammon as having unidentified allergies. He has now referred us to an allergist in Buffalo, New York. We ask for your prayers as we go to the allergist and for continued progress.

Thoughts and prayers,
Sister Jill and Brother George
Kovacic, Erie, PA

I have always believed that this anointed land was set apart in an uncommon way, that a divine plan placed this great continent here between the oceans to be found by people from every corner of the Earth who had a special love of faith and freedom.

President Ronald Reagan
November 25, 1982

(From *Newsweek*, December 27, 1982)

Notice

The following items are available for purchase:

Number	Description	Cost (includes shipping)
001	Cassette Tape—May, 1983 GMBA Program, <i>Songs of Zion</i> .	\$3.50
002	Cassette Tape—June, 1983 General Church Conference Saturday Meeting	\$3.50
003	Cassette Tape—June, 1983 General Church Conference Sunday Meeting	\$3.50

Information in future issues of *The Gospel News* regarding cassette tapes of the World Missionary Conference.

Those interested in obtaining the above cassette tapes, contact either:

Walter Laird
1604 Charlton Hgts.
Coraopolis, PA 15108
Ph. 412-264-8027

Joseph Ross
#2 Ross Drive
Aliquippa, PA 15001
Ph. 412-375-1648

½ inch Beta or V.H.S. Video Tapes in color of the World Missionary Conference. Two (2), five hour tapes (total—10 hours viewing time) for \$42.00. This includes shipping and handling. Contact either:

Carl Amato
119 Broadway
Coraopolis, PA 15108
Ph. 412-264-1178

Joseph Ross
#2 Ross Drive
Aliquippa, PA 15001
Ph. 412-375-1648

Notice

Anyone interested in submitting photographs of the **World Missionary Conference** for publication in a **SPECIAL MEMORIAM EDITION BOOK**, please send to:

Joseph Ross
#2 Ross Drive
Aliquippa, PA 15001
Ph. 412-375-1648

These photos will be used to supplement those taken by Brother Dirk Large, World Missionary Conference Photographer.

Thank you

Thankful

*To be ever thankful to God
For all blessings divine.*

*Freedom, peace, and good will.
Hope, happiness and love sublime.*

*To be ever thankful to Him
Who gives us all.*

*The flowers, trees and golden sunshine,
Summer, winter, spring and fall.*

*To be ever thankful for skies
That cheer us with clear bright blue,*

*And most thankful to God,
For loved ones,*

*Family, and friends
Loyal and true.*

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The Gospel News is published monthly by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE. Subscription price is \$6.00 a year. Entered as second class mail at Bridgewater, Mich. under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Let Us Give Thanks

Sing unto the Lord with thanksgiving; sing praise upon the harp unto our God. Who covereth the heaven with clouds, who prepareth rain for the earth, who maketh grass to grow on the mountains. He giveth to the beast his food, and to the young ravens which cry . . . Praise ye the Lord.

Psalm 147:7,8,9,20

The psalmist's beautiful and stirring exhortation to return thanks and praise to God for His blessings and providence are most fitting and timely during this autumnal and harvest season. May we note the language of the psalmist—that God not only provides for man, but for the beasts of the field and the fowl of the air.

THE HAND OF PROVIDENCE

President Reagan will shortly issue the traditional Presidential proclamation designating the last Thursday of November as a national day of Thanksgiving. It is fitting and proper that our nation pause and give thanks to the Hand of Providence for another bountiful harvest and manifold blessings throughout the Year of our Lord, 1983.

Happily, many other countries also observe a national thanksgiving and harvest festival, and rightly so. The season of harvest and ingathering serves as a timely reminder of how much we depend upon God for our everyday needs. We are also stirred to renew our gratitude to the God and Father of us all, who gives so freely and liberally to the human family.

FEAST OF INGATHERING

We are reminded of an earlier national thanksgiving celebration, the autumnal feast at the end of the Hebrew year, called the Feast of Ingathering. It was observed for seven days, and it began on the night of the September full moon (the Harvest Moon). Exodus 23:16 and 34:22.

This was the Jewish harvest-home, when all the year's produce of every kind had been gathered. It also commemorated their deliverance from Egypt and their wanderings through the desert until they reached the Promised Land. The Feast of Ingathering was a time of great joy and thanksgiving for the harvest safely ingathered, and a time of petitioning God for His continued blessings.

As it was fitting and in order for the ancient Jewish nation to pause at the close of their harvest and joyfully return thanks to their God for all His bounties and blessings, so is it our national duty and privilege to likewise pause and reverently offer thanks to the same God, as we observe our annual festival of **Thanksgiving**.

Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! (Psalm 107:21)

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



The First Five Years of the Reign of Judges

Dear Girls and Boys,

Before King Mosiah's death, he convinced his people of Zarahemla to quit having kings to rule them and change to a government of elected judges. Alma was the first Chief Judge when a large, powerful man named Nehor was brought to trial.

Nehor had been busy forming his own religion. In his church he told everyone not to worry about sin because on the last day, everyone would be saved anyway. Many weak people wished that was true and decided to follow Nehor.

Nehor also told them that all priests (like him) and all teachers should not work with their hands, but should be supported by the people of the church. He became popular and dressed in very costly clothes. He began to be lifted up in pride and established his church after the way he preached.

In this land of Zarahemla, liars were punished, but the law had no power on anyone for their sincere belief. Thus, if a wicked person pretended he truly believed the lies he was saying, no one would punish him for it. Nevertheless, murderers were punished by death, and thieves and robbers also were punished.

One day the proud Nehor was traveling to preach to those who believed in his word; he met an old man named Gideon who was a teacher in God's Church. Nehor began to debate with Gideon hoping to win to his side more of the followers of God. But, Gideon stood up to him, speaking true words of God. Nehor was so furious he drew his sword and began to strike him. Being an old man, Gideon did not have the strength to stand up to the blows, and he died.

The people of the Church took Nehor before the Chief Judge, Alma, to be judged according to the crimes he had committed. The evil Nehor argued boldly for his life, but the law insisted that a murderer be put to death. Nehor was then put to death, but before he died, he confessed that what he had taught the people was against the word of God.

This was the first time priestcraft had been introduced among these people, and the first time someone had tried to enforce their beliefs with a sword. Yet, even with the death of Nehor, this did not put an end to the spreading of priestcraft through the land. Many others rose up to continue the work Nehor had started. Many were the people who loved the pretty, ornamental things of this world more than they loved the pure, simple beliefs of God.

By the second year of Alma's reign, there was much trouble in the Church. Those outside the Church began greatly persecuting those in the Church.

It was against the Church's laws for any Church person to persecute anyone for their beliefs. Nevertheless, there were some in the Church who were proud-hearted and began to fight back when they were persecuted. This became a great trial with the Church. The hearts of many became hardened also and their names were blotted out. Others chose by themselves to leave the Church.

Those remaining stood fast and bore with patience the persecution heaped upon them. And when the priests (elders) left their work to preach the word of God unto them, the people also left their labors to hear the word of God. No one was better than another. All

labored according to their strength, and shared what he had with the poor, the needy, the sick and the afflicted. The Church people did not wear costly clothes, yet they were neat and attractive.

Soon this group began to have continual peace, even though they were persecuted. And because of the steadiness of the Church, they began to be extremely rich. There was an abundance of food, grains, gold, silver, silk and fine cloth. Yet, the people did not set their hearts on riches, but shared with all, young and old, in and out of the Church. And they prospered and became far more wealthy than those who did not belong to their Church.

Those who did not belong to their Church did indulge themselves in all sorts of evil and unhealthy ways. When they went so far as to commit murders and lyings, they were punished according to the laws of the land. Little by little, the peace of God gained among these people, and by the fifth year of the judges, there was much peace among the people of Nephi.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

50th Anniversaries

SISTER PEGGY BENYOLA

By Dianne Maddox, MBA Editor

On August 17, 1933, Sister Peggy Benyola made her commitment to serve the Lord. On the same day she also made her commitment to be the wife of Brother Rocco Benyola, who has now gone to his reward.

On July 25, 1983, the Lake Worth MBA, along with her family, honored Sister Peggy for the good example she has shown to all. She was a good wife to Brother Rocco and still is a faithful sister in the Church. She raised six children through times that were not always easy. She is also a deaconess in the Church.

Fifty years of serving the Lord is surely a measure of time that must be commended. It is our desire in the Lake Worth MBA that we might follow in our sister's footsteps in always putting God

(Continued on Page 7)

first. We are thankful to have this sister in our midst, for God has surely blessed her.

**BROTHER THOMAS ROSS
BROTHER CARMINE ROSSI
SISTER ROSE DeVENCENTIS**

By Dora Rossi, Branch Editor

On Sunday, September 4, 1983, the Aliquippa Branch honored Brothers Thomas Ross and Carmine Rossi and Sister Rose DeVencentis by having a luncheon and a special evening meeting to commemorate their fifty-plus years in the Gospel.

We had visitors from the Pennsylvania District, North Carolina, Florida, Ohio, Detroit and New Jersey, also the visitors from Nigeria and Ghana.

The Sunday School was opened by singing *All That Thrills My Soul*, followed in prayer by Brother Dominic Moraca. We sang *Sheltered in the Arms of God*.

Brother Joseph Perry taught our Sunday School Adult Class. He stated that eternal life should be our goal. Brother Ford Boadu closed with prayer.

Brother Ford also opened the morning service with prayer, and Sister Karen Progar sang a selection.

Brother Moses Akpan expressed his thanks to the brothers and sisters of the Aliquippa Branch for their prayers and concern during his illness. He said he was able to worship God with the saints because He made him well. Brother Moses used Samuel 1:6 and John 14:1-2, 15-22 for his text. He mentioned that Christ told His disciples, "If you love me, keep my commandments".

Brother Dominic Moraca followed by making a few comments. He was happy to have spent time with the missionaries from Nigeria and Ghana. He reminded us that "Whatever we ask in the name of Christ, it shall be granted". Brother Dominic felt to have a special prayer in behalf of Brother Moses, and Brother Paul Palmieri offered the prayer. Brother Charles Jumper then anointed Brother Moses.

Brother Thomas Ross made some comments, and the communion was served by Brother James Gibson and

Brother Charles Jumper.

Brother Paul Palmieri acknowledged the presence of the families of the brothers and sister with 50 years of service in the Gospel. The service was closed by singing *There's Something About That Name*. Brother Norman Campitelli

said the closing prayer.

We pray that God will continue to bless our members with 50 or more years in the Gospel. They have been as fathers and mothers to us who are younger in the Church.



Brother Carmine Rossi, Sister Rose DeVencentis, and Brother Thomas Ross

**BROTHER ANSEL D'AMICO
SISTER CARMELLA D'AMICO
SISTER ANTOINETTE GIANSAANTI**

On September 11, 1983, the Semi-Annual Gathering of the Lockport and Rochester Branches was held in Rochester. We also had with us Brother and Sister Harold Burge from Erie, PA. We sang *Amazing Grace*.

A special tribute was paid to Brother Ansel D'Amico, Sister Carmella D'Amico, and Sister Antoinette Giansanti, who had marked their fiftieth anniversary in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They were presented with corsages and boutonnieres. They were then called up in the front of the congregation, and

(Continued on Page 8)



Sis. Antoinette Giansanti, Sis. Carmella D'Amico and Bro. Ansel D'Amico.

ANNIVERSARIES continued . . .

Brother Paul D'Amico offered a beautiful prayer in thanks to God for their faithfulness and for future blessings upon their lives.

Sisters D'Amico and Giansanti are both ordained deaconesses, and Brother Ansel is an ordained evangelist. All three of them have been very active in their Mission, serving in many capacities. Brother Ansel has been active in missionary work in many areas of New York and Canada.

We also welcomed Brother Frank and Sister Kathy Natoli from Niles, Ohio, who were recently married and are making their home in Rochester, NY.

We sang *Rejoice Ye Saints of Latter Days*, and Brother Harold Burge opened the service speaking from I John 5, reminding us that if we love God, we will keep His commandments.

We then sang *Still Sweeter Every Day*, and the three celebrating their fiftieth anniversary in the Church all bore their testimonies concerning God's goodness in their lives.

Brother Paul D'Amico then spoke, both in the English and Italian languages, reminiscing about his and his brother's baptisms.

We were dismissed with prayer by Brother Frank Natoli, and a delicious dinner was served by the sisters, along with a beautifully decorated anniversary cake.

We had a wonderful day in the Lord!

SISTER NICOLETTA LOMBARDO

Sunday, June 19, 1983 was a special day for us at Detroit Branch 1 as our Sister Nicoletta Lombardo observed 50 years in the Gospel. As we presented her with a flower at the beginning of the service, she expressed to us the blessed assurance she has known since she gave her life to Christ 50 years ago. Her desire, she said, was to continue to serve God in spirit and in truth all the days of her life.

(Continued on Page 12)

Branch and Mission News

Rochester, NY

On July 31, 1983, the Rochester, NY Mission had the joy and pleasure of having two chartered buses, one from the Ohio District and one from the Atlantic Coast, as well as one car from Glassport, PA and one car from Erie, PA. They attended the Hill Cumorah pageant and fellowshiped with us on Sunday.

We had community singing, and the choir sang the beautiful *Songs of Zion*. Brother Ansel D'Amico welcomed the saints and expressed that he was looking for a day of rejoicing.

Sister Kathy Brooks and Brother Bob Batson sang a duet, *Good Morning, God*. We sang *When the Angel Moroni*, and Brother Elmer Santilli, Ohio District President, opened the meeting with Isaiah 29 as his text. He spoke concerning the siege of Jerusalem and the contempt for God's Word. He also spoke about how God used William Bickerton, an unlearned man, to further the Church.

Brothers Domenick Rose, Jerry Valenti, and Alma Nolfi all followed Brother Santilli. We sang *Amazing Grace*, and Brother Salvatore Feola then spoke to us. We sang *An Angel Came Down*, and then heard from Brothers Richard Santilli, Sam Risola, Joe Faragasso, and James Link.

At this point, Sister Laessig related an experience in which she saw a light glowing around each elder. A personage was behind them, and one stood out more brilliant than the other. Sister Carmella D'Amico then related that at the beginning of the service, she saw a vision. The skies opened, Jesus came down and blessed us. We all witnessed the spirit and the blessings of God in our midst.

Brother Ansel D'Amico gave the concluding remarks and asked to be anointed for his affliction. We dismissed by singing *When Shall We All Meet Again* and prayer by Brother Tony Santilli. We then had lunch together and were happy to socialize with the saints.

On August 7, 1983, we had visiting with us from Tucson, AZ Brother Patsy and Sister Connie Marinetti and

Sister Grace Francione. We sang *O Jesus, I Have Promised*, and Brother Patsy introduced the service, using Daniel 1 for his text. He spoke concerning Daniel's life, his belief and trust in God, and his deliverance from the lion's den.

We sang *Heaven Came Down and Glory Filled My Soul*, and the meeting was opened for testimony. Many beautiful testimonies were given, followed by the anointing of Sisters Grace Francione and Ada Locci for their afflictions.

The Lord's Supper was administered, and we were dismissed in prayer by Brother John D'Amico.

Windsor, Ontario

Sister Patricia Louise Collison was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ in the Windsor, Ontario Branch on September 4, 1983. The baptism was performed by Brother Don Collison, Sister Patricia's father. She was then confirmed by Brother Allen Henderson.

May God's blessings and guidance be upon our new sister in her new walk of life.

Bronx, NY

By Linda Benyola, Branch Editor

The weekend of July 30-31 will be a happy memory for some fortunate saints from the Atlantic Coast. Under the direction and organization of Sister Lydia Link, Bronx Branch, a bus load of brothers and sisters from New York and New Jersey congregated early Saturday morning, destined for the pageant at Hill Cumorah. The Lord was with us from that point until our safe return Sunday evening. Perhaps you think the pageant was the only highlight of the weekend? Not exactly—while traveling, our voices rang out with our Lord's beautiful spirit! Brother Philip Benyola recorded 135 minutes of favorite hymns, by playing them on his piano, and it sounded like we were ac-

(Continued on Page 9)

BRONX, NY continued . . .

tually sitting in our church building. A booklet of hymns was distributed to every person on the bus, so we had 100% participation. Among those selected were *The Songs of Zion*, and as usual, caused a oneness in spirit "like a blanket wrapped around us."

The pageant was indeed magnificent, and to visualize these wondrous events on the very ground where they occurred, was a feeling beyond description. Thank God for the tremendous power of prayer. We must never underestimate that; for it was through the simple prayer of a young boy in a quiet sacred cove that enabled generations of people to come to know God's teachings and the history of His people. If ever you want to be renewed with a desire to recall the events of the *Book of Mormon*, a trip to Hill Cumorah will do it! That 90-minute presentation has inspired many hours of reading and recollection for those of us who attended.

But that's not all! There were some other brothers and sisters who had the same idea as us; upon our arrival we met another bus load of saints from the Ohio District. It was reassuring to be sharing this experience with each other, among the many thousands who were present from other faiths.

And there's more. Our blessings continued on the Sabbath, where we all enjoyed the words of many different elders as we met together at the Rochester, NY Branch. Our many thanks are extended to our brothers and sisters there for their hospitality; it was not an easy task to prepare lunch for all of the visitors from both districts. May God bless them for their efforts.

Accompanying Jesus as His co-pilot was our very own Brother Nick Davella, who just happens to drive chartered bus trips as his vocation. Thank you, Brother Nick, for a comfortable and safe trip. And thank you, Lord, for everything.

Dallas, TX

The Dallas Mission received a double blessing August 13 when Ernest and Adeline McLellan were baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ.

Sister Adeline asked for her baptism during the week, and explained to the

members of the Dallas Mission that she had been thinking seriously about the step for several months. Brother Ernest decided the night before his wife's baptism to join Sister Adeline in taking this step.

Both were baptized by Brother Ralph Frammolino. Sister Adeline was confirmed by Brother George Benyola, Evangelist, and Brother Ernest was confirmed by Brother Ralph Frammolino.

The converts are the parents of Brother Doug McLellan, who joined the Church in Arizona in 1961 and has been a faithful member since. In moving to the Dallas area in 1967, Brother Doug found himself isolated from the Church but kept an unflinching faith in the Restored Gospel. Brother Doug has never missed an opportunity to testify about the Gospel to all those who would hear, including his family.

Through the prayers of the brothers and sisters, God has touched the heart of Brother Doug's wife and daughter last year. His wife, Sister Pat, was renewed in the Church August, 1982 after his daughter, Sister Bonnie, was baptized.

Although their interest seemed only mild, Brother Doug continued to testify about the goodness of God to his parents, who are now in their twilight years. Sister Adeline began to attend services with her son on a regular basis, while her husband, who is infirmed, also knew about the Church.

We thank God for hearing our prayers. Brother Doug McLellan, who once worshipped without his family, now brings a van full of people every Sunday.

Hollywood, FL

Song of Solomon 2:11,12—" . . . the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come . . . "

There are moments when I enjoy a quiet room, a cup of coffee and my memories. And it seems that often these nostalgic ponderings are inspired by my different senses. Such is the case as I sit alone on this September morning and my sense of smell awakens a part of my past I assumed had left my memory. It isn't the distinct sounds from the birds or the insects, but instead it is that fresh

smell that accompanies the new coolness in the air. I can remember this same sweetness when it would drift into my fourth grade classroom many Septembers ago. I can almost hear Mrs. Hoffman's voice, "Our assignment for this week is to write an essay entitled 'How I Spent This Summer' in 500 words or less." I wonder what I would write now if I were still in that class . . .

This summer I spent a good part of my time with the people from my Church. I traveled as far as Virginia and as close as my phone just to be with them.

On a weekly basis, I attended our Sunday meetings, our Thursday evening MBA meetings, our fast and prayer meetings and every other Tuesday I would drive with my wife to Ladies' Circle. Hollywood Branch has been a good place to spend my summer.

Our Sundays have been beautiful throughout all the meetings because the Lord has attended them with us. Sundays begin with Sunday School and Brothers Paul DiNardo and Johnny Catone open each meeting with a verse from scripture. Often the "Thought-for-the-Day" coincides perfectly with the sermon our God delivers through the ministry. Sundays have been a good way to spend my summer.

The MBA has also been a good place to be this summer. Our teacher, Brother Joe Catone, Jr., has been a blessing to us in our lessons. He involves all who are present and closing each meeting is the only disappointment. We have also enjoyed the "Family Nights" when one family would have direction over the meeting to present a short program. My Thursday evenings have been well spent this summer.

The Ladies' Circle has completed its first summer in Hollywood and has been an upliftment to all. Every other Tuesday they meet in the sisters' homes and their meetings are reported to be beautiful. Already, many experiences have been had by the sisters during these classes. How wonderful it is when God confirms our actions with His approving Spirit. Tuesdays have also been spent well this summer.

As the sisters would meet, the brothers also found a good way to get together. A few of these Tuesdays were spent working at our lot, the future site

(Continued on Page 10)

HOLLYWOOD, FL continued . . .

of the Hollywood Branch. It was exciting to trim the trees away from the future spot where our rostrum will be. Cutting the grass in the future Sunday School room, pulling bushes out of the future kitchen, and even dragging stumps through the future auditorium were a good way the brothers spent their summer. Our work parties went smoothly under the direction of Brother Joe Catone, Sr. and Brother Alex Marchando and his electric chain saw. We also are very thankful for Ottavio (John) DiNardo and all the hours and work he has given so freely.

This summer also witnessed a wedding attended by Miami, Hollywood, Erie, and Lorain, four "neighboring" Branches of the Church. Brother Mark Kovacic and Sister Kelly Warden became Brother and Sister Kovacic on Saturday, August 6. Who could deny that this was a beautiful way to spend a part of their summer.

In late August we ventured away from the safety of home to Virginia to experience the long-awaited World Missionary Conference. Earlier mentioned that Erie and Miami or Lorain and Hollywood could be "neighboring" Branches, we learned in this unsuspecting land of Lynchburg that Nigeria and San Carlos, Italy and Levittown, India and Monongahela are also "neighboring" Branches. I spent part of my summer in Africa, part of my summer in Mexico, part of my summer in Detroit's Inner City and part of my summer in Canada. And I visited all these places in one short week.

I spent my summer in many different places. I spent my summer with many different people. I spent my summer doing many different things. I spent my summer well, because for the most part, I spent my summer with the saints of God.

. . . yes, if I were still in Mrs. Hoffman's fourth grade class, I could still fulfill her requirements; of course, the contents of the essay would have changed substantially, because my summers have changed substantially. And I am assured that your summers, too, have changed since you and our Lord have found each other. In fact, how did you spend this summer?

Cincinnati, OH

By Joe Furnari

September 4, 1983, will be a day long remembered in the Cincinnati Mission. Sister Patricia Licata was baptized by Brother Vince Gibson of Cleveland Ohio on a beautiful Sunday morning. Brother Vince and his wife, Sister Syl, had made a special trip for the baptism. Our sister was confirmed by Brother Vince upon our return from the water.

Brother Jim Boerner of the Cincinnati Mission was also baptized September 4, 1983 at Perry, Ohio. Brother Jim was baptized by Brother Elmer Santilli and confirmed by Brother Frank Giovannone. Brother Jim is the son of Brother Don and Sister Kathy Boerner formerly from the Perry, Ohio Mission. Brother Jim is our Mission Librarian. In one day our Mission grew from six to eight baptized members. We are truly grateful to the Lord for our new brother and sister.

Sister Patricia has been attending our Sunday School and afternoon services for over a year. She has acted as our Sunday School and Mission Secretary and has proved herself a willing worker in the Gospel. Sister Patricia is the wife of Brother Charles Licata. Brother Charles' mother, Sister Rose (Amormino) Licata came to Cincinnati twenty-nine years ago and was the only member here until May, 1981. In May of that year, I came here with my wife, Sister Mary, from Detroit, Michigan.

Sister Rose has also testified of a wonderful healing after she petitioned the Lord. In May, 1981, she noticed a lump on her left leg. The lump continued to grow and after a time became painful. She was anointed in March and June of 1983. She had preferred to rely on the Lord in the matter. She left for vacation in early July of this year and while on vacation noticed the lump beginning to disappear. By the time she returned home, all that was left was a small scar. Truly we can testify that the Lord is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Our prayer is that we will see our Mission grow as we labor for the Lord in this area. We extend an invitation to all our brothers and sisters who travel through the Cincinnati area to come and visit with us. Please call:

Brother Joe Furnari
(513) 941-6442

Aliquippa, PA

By Dora Rossi, Branch Editor

Sunday, August 28, 1983, was a day of rejoicing and blessings in the Aliquippa Branch. Visitors from Detroit, Monongahela, Fredonia, and Clairton were present, along with Brother Effiong A. U. Arthur, President of the Church in Nigeria, his wife, Sister Rachel, their son, Elder Joseph, all of Nigeria, and Brother Ford Boadu, President of the Church in Ghana.

Our morning service was opened by singing the Missionary Conference theme song, *Send Hunters and Fishers*. Brother Nephi DeMercurio opened with prayer, and Brother Joseph Arthur read from Matthew 26. His father then enlarged upon this scripture and emphasized that if we work for the Lord, He will be pleased with us. Brother Ford Boadu of Ghana made a few comments on how God gave him the opportunity to come to America. He thanked God for being so good and allowing him to be a part of the Church. He used Philemon 1:9-17 for his topic. He stated that he was like Onesimus; the Gospel changed his life. Brother Ford related that God gave him wisdom to preach the Gospel to the people in Ghana.

Brother Thomas Ross commented and said that our goal is to spread the Gospel to all countries so that they may enjoy the blessings of God as we do. We then sang *Send Hunters and Fishers* to close the morning service. Brother Russell Cadman closed in prayer.

The afternoon service was opened by Brother Joseph Arthur. We sang *The Valleys Are Green Sir*. Brother Fred Olexa said the opening prayer. We sang *Is It Nothing to You?* Brother Joseph Arthur made a few remarks. Christ paid the price for all sinners. If we humble ourselves, He will use us for His glory.

After the anointings, Brother Joseph Ross and Brother Paul Palmieri administered sacrament. Following sacrament, we observed the ordinance of feet washing. There was a peaceful spirit felt in our midst while the saints washed feet.

Brother Russell Cadman made a few closing remarks and the meeting was brought to a close. We trust that God

(Continued on Page 11)

ALQUIPPA, PA continued . . .

will continue to bless His people and missionaries from all countries.

On Tuesday, September 6, 1983, the Aliquippa Branch held a farewell meeting for Brother E. A. U. Arthur and Sister Rachel Arthur, their son, Brother Joseph, and Brother Ford Boadu.

The evening service was opened by singing *Our Church*. Brother Bill Colangelo offered the opening prayer, and we sang *Faith of Our Fathers*. Brother Paul Palmieri used Genesis 12 for his opening remarks. He thanked God for Brother Arthur joining The Church of Jesus Christ. He is a blessing to our people. Brother Paul presented gifts to Brother Effiong, his son, Joseph, and Brother Ford Boadu. Each of them expressed themselves thanking the Aliquippa Branch for their kindness and love they have shown them during their stay at Brother John and Sister Mary Ross' home.

Sister Eva Ondik, Branch Circle President, presented Sister Rachel Arthur with a pin from our Ladies Circle. Sister Arthur thanked the sisters and said that she will always remember us by the love we have shown her.

Brother John Ross exhorted the brothers from Nigeria and Ghana to keep The Church of Jesus Christ the same as in America. The congregation then gave Brother John and Sister Mary Ross a standing vote of thanks for their love and for opening their home to the missionaries from Nigeria and Ghana. May God reward them one hundred fold for making the brothers and sister comfortable.

Brother Thomas Ross made a few closing remarks. He also thanked God for the missionaries being able to spend time with the saints in America.

Our prayer is that God will prosper the Church in Nigeria, Ghana and all other lands where missionaries are working and promulgating the Gospel.

Brother Moses Akpan spent some time with the saints in Aliquippa part of August and September, 1983. He was planning to attend the World Missionary Conference in Virginia; however, due to his illness was unable

to do so. He was hospitalized for a short time and returned to the home of Brother John and Sister Mary Ross until he was feeling better.

Brother Moses was able to worship with the saints of the Aliquippa Branch on Sunday, September 18. He opened the Sunday morning service with prayer. The Aliquippa Trio sang *Thank You Lord*. Brother Moses used Matthew 5:14-16 and Matthew 9:14-17 for his text. He reminded us that Christ tells us that we cannot hide a candle under a bushel. We as Christians should let our light shine by doing good works so that others will know we serve God.

Fasting and praying is important in our lives. Fasting is the key to success, and if we have confidence in God, He will grant us what we need and desire.

Brother Moses told us of his stay in the hospital and how the doctors were concerned about him. He thanked all the brothers and sisters for their kindness during his illness and the Ross family for their care and goodness.

Brother Joseph Bittinger made a few comments. He emphasized that we as saints must be an example to our brothers and sisters and our fellowmen. Brother Paul Palmieri made a few comments. He stated that God extended the life of Brother Moses as He did King Hezekiah. Brother Thomas Ross added a few remarks. He prays that God will go with Brother Moses as he returns to Africa. We sang *Taste the Grass on the Summit*, and Brother John Ross closed with prayer.

The afternoon service was opened by singing *The Valleys Are Green Sir*. Brother Charles Jumper opened with prayer. The women's ensemble sang *Whispering Hope*. Brother Charles praised God for His goodness. The Lord's Supper was served. Brother Paul Palmieri thanked God for the World Missionary Conference and that all went well with the help of all those that served on the committees.

As editor, I would like to add my comments on the World Missionary Conference. I feel that it has brought the saints a little closer to the missionaries from other countries. May God continue to bless our people from other countries as they strive to serve our God.

The Aliquippa Branch held a joint meeting with Imperial. We were

honored to have Apostles Joseph Lovalvo, Russell Cadman and Paul D'Amico visit us.

Visitors came from McKees Rocks, Detroit, and Youngstown.

The morning service was begun with the Imperial saints singing *Wave the Flags of Zion*. Brother Russell Cadman offered the opening prayer. Sister Inez Caldwell of Detroit favored us with a solo, *There's No Rainbow Can Shine Like Jesus*.

Apostle Joseph Lovalvo spoke to us using Isaiah and Luke for his sermon. He reminded us that when Christ was born, the angels sang because the King of the world was born. Brother Lovalvo told us of his conversion and how the Lord called him into the Gospel. He mentioned the first time the Muncey Reservation was visited by Brother William H. Cadman. The work with the Indians began back in 1929 and is growing. He also mentioned the work in Mexico. God has blessed our brothers in the missionary work. He related many wonderful experiences since he has been in the Gospel.

Communion was administered by Brothers Anthony Ross and James Gibson. Brother Thomas Ross said a few closing remarks. The meeting was brought to a close with prayer by Brother Paul D'Amico.

We can truly say we felt the Spirit of God in our midst as our brother spoke to us.

The sisters of our Branch served lunch in the church basement. All enjoyed each others fellowship.

May God continue to give our Apostle brothers the strength and power to preach to all those who are in the Gospel and those who are seeking to know the Lord.

. . . *The Lord will be our God and delight to dwell among us, as His own people, and . . . command a blessing upon us in all our ways.*

John Winthrop,
aboard the Arbella, 1630

ANNIVERSARIES continued . . .



Sister Nicoletta Lombardo

* WEDDINGS *

MONAGHAN-KIMMEL

Mr. Scott Monaghan and Sister Lori Jean Kimmel were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, August 6, 1983 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Lake Worth, Florida.

Brother John D'Orazio officiated at the wedding ceremony. Musical selections were rendered by a trio, Brothers Rocco Benyola and Jerry and Michael DiFede.

The newlyweds are residing in West Palm Beach, Florida.

PALMIERI-DiBARTOLA

Barbara Jean Palmieri and Wayne DiBartola were united in holy matrimony on July 30, 1983 in Heinz Memorial Chapel, Pittsburgh.

Brother Paul Palmieri and Rev. James Armstrong officiated in the wedding ceremony.

May God bless the new couple as they begin a new life.

New Arrivals

Congratulations are in order to the proud parents for the following new members of their families:

Jessica Margaret to Rick and Faith Hale Lobzun of Windsor, Ontario;

Stephen Michael to Michael and Joann McGuire of N. Kingston, Rhode Island.

OBITUARIES

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

MARIETTA TOTO GIOVANNONE

Sister Marietta Toto Giovannone of Vero Beach, Florida passed on to her reward on August 25, 1983 in St. Joseph Hospital, Lorain, Ohio. She was born on September 25, 1902 in Bungnara, Italy and resided in the Niles and Warren, Ohio area before moving to Vero Beach, Florida in 1964. She was a member of the Church in Ft. Pierce, Florida.

Sister Giovannone was baptized on November 12, 1922 and was ordained a deaconess in 1923, which office she held until death.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Brother Dominico, five sons, and one daughter. Left to mourn her loss are four sons, one daughter, one brother, thirty grandchildren, and twenty-eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Apostle Anthony Corrado and Brother Robert Ciarrochi.

RALPH SCHROEDER

Mr. Ralph Schroeder passed away from this life on June 6, 1983. He was born on July 30, 1904.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth, one son, three daughters, nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Brother David Nolfi of the Glassport, PA Branch of the Church conducted the funeral services.

MILDRED KITTLE

Mildred Kittle passed away from this life on June 19, 1983. She was born on August 16, 1928. She is survived by her husband, Merle, one son, two grandchildren, three sisters and one brother.

Funeral services were conducted by Brother David Nolfi of the Glassport, PA Branch of the Church.

The Gospel News

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

(USPS 223-480)

December, 1983

Volume 39, No. 12



AND THE ANGEL
SAID UNTO
THEM
FEAR
NOT: FOR,
BEHOLD,
I BRING
YOU GOOD
TIDINGS OF
GREAT
JOY, WHICH
SHALL BE
TO ALL
PEOPLE.

*May He who long ago was born
In Bethlehem on Christmas morn
Be very near today and bless
Your Christmas time with happiness.*

*Have a
Wonderful Christmas*

The Gospel News Staff

The World Missionary Conference

By Ralph Frammolino

More than 700 brothers, sisters and friends left their homes on four continents and gathered at the Eagle Eyrie Conference Center in Lynchburg, Virginia August 20-26 for the Missionary Conference of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The long-awaited conference featured missionaries from Africa, Canada, India, Italy and Mexico, and domestic outposts in the United States—an assembly that has been unmatched in Church history.

Perhaps the most obvious symbol of the gathering were the flags that hung from the balcony of the two-story meeting center. Flags from Europe, Africa, Asia and North America represented almost every country where the Restored Gospel is preached and prospering. But a more subtle symbol emerged after a week of seminars, preaching, testimony and fellowship: a Church, clothed in Latter-Day authority, that cuts across cultural and linguistic barriers only through the Spirit of God. As a special blessing, nine souls yielded the call to be missionaries and were baptized into the Church. They were as follows:

1. Ted Leinbach II from San Diego, California was baptized by Brother Luis Pacheco and confirmed by Brother V. J. Lovalvo.
2. Lisa Champine from Sterling Heights, Michigan returned to her branch for baptism.
3. Gregg Vitto from Sterling Heights, Michigan was baptized by Brother Louis Vitto and confirmed by Brother Ralph Frammolino.
4. Tracy Francione from Detroit, Branch 3 was baptized by Brother Dominic Thomas and confirmed by Brother Paul Whitton.
5. David Jordan from Red Lake, Arizona returned to his branch for baptism.
6. Tina Katsaras from Miami, Florida returned to her branch for baptism.
7. Paul Vensick, Jr. from Cleveland, Ohio was baptized by Brother Elmer Santilli and confirmed by Brother Walter Cihomsky.

8. Kelly Sochin from Cleveland, Ohio was baptized by Brother Vince Gibson and confirmed by Brother E. A. U. Arthur.

9. Andrew Parravano from Detroit, Branch 2 was baptized by Brother Dan Parravano and confirmed by Brother Alex Gentile.

The theme of missionary zeal was introduced to the Conference Sunday, August 21, by President Dominic Thomas, Apostle. He recapped the history of the Church from the days "Brother Bickerton had his original experience to preach the Gospel Restored." Brother Thomas recounted how the Church spread from the Monongahela Valley throughout the Northeast United States, into the Midwest, Canada and then to the West Coast. From there, missionaries ventured into Mexico.

At the same time, he said, the Church was developing an administrative structure to match her spiritual progress. The General Church organized a Mission Board and committees to deal with American Indians and other domestic work.

Brother Thomas also said the Missionary Conference was an outgrowth of the Church's 1980 Spiritual Conference, held in the General Church Auditorium in Pennsylvania. "We are more determined now than ever before," he said. "The gathering in 1980 demonstrated to me that we are willing to make many sacrifices for the Church."

Brother E. A. U. Arthur, Evangelist and President of the Church in Nigeria, followed by reading Matthew 9:37-38. Speaking in his native Efik language, which was then interpreted by Joseph Arthur, his son, Brother Arthur continued the theme. "When the Lord Jesus came to the earth, He worked very diligently," said Brother Arthur, a man 101 years old who nevertheless preached enthusiastically. "He made the blind to see, the deaf to hear. A number of people, including the Pharisees, didn't believe in Him. Then, He looked around and said, 'The harvest is plentiful, the laborers are few.'"

Brother Arthur then read from Ephesians 4:12, where the Apostle Paul

wrote about the different offices of the Church. He said the scriptures show a division of labor among God's people. "Everyone's happy for the harvest," he said, "but when it is time for the harvest, everyone's lazy."

Brother David Livingston, an Elder from India, also expressed himself. He expressed his thanks for being part of the Church and related some of his experiences about preaching in his native land. "So many people, when I introduce the *Book of Mormon*, they say it is a history of the American Indian, why should I bother with it," he said. "But is the Gospel restricted to any one nation?"

Speaking about the missionary efforts in Mexico, Brother Luis Pacheco talked about the miracles experienced in the vineyard there, like the time a man joined the Church after his child was brought to life through prayer. Moved to tears, he said, "The Holy Ghost tells us and your love shows us you are saints."

After dinner, the congregation returned to receive sacrament from the nine Apostles present at the Conference. The Quorum was assisted by three Elders chosen to help.

Sunday set the tone for the entire week, as those who attended the Conference followed schedules that brought them to different seminars in the mornings. The seminars touched on such topics as "Preparing to be a Missionary," one section of which was taught by Brother Nephi and Sister Lorraine DeMercurio, who had returned to the United States after six years of work in Nigeria. The interest in their class became so widespread that Brother Nephi and Sister Lorraine held extra sessions during free time.

Other topics included "Sensitivity in Church and Home" and "The Faith and Doctrine of the Church".

In the afternoons, everyone had a chance to tour special exhibits sponsored by visiting missionaries. The exhibits were designed to further show the breadth of cultures embraced by the Church. For instance, there was singing in Spanish and a taste of Mexican food at the Mexican exhibit, which featured Sister Evelyn and Brother Eddie Purdue, an Evangelist, Brother George "Rusty" Heaps, Evangelist and four sisters from Tijuana.

(Continued on Page 3)

CONFERENCE continued . . .

There were exhibits on India, where slides were shown by Brother Joe Calabrese, Evangelist, to demonstrate the adversity of life in that teeming nation. Helping in the exhibit was Sister Darlene Large, who runs an independent relief organization in that country called HOINA.

Other exhibits showed the countries of Nigeria and Ghana, where our brothers discussed the volatile political situations and fervent desire of Church members; on Italy, where members learned about the efforts of Brother Giuseppe LoRicco, who it was said would rather sleep on a bench in a train station than spend any of the small stipend given to him by the Church for a hotel during missionary travel.

There were exhibits about the Ladies' Circle, where Sister Mabel Bickerton told about the group's efforts to publish Church literature. Also, there were slide shows about the domestic mission of Omaha-Bedford and South Bend, Indiana.

There were slide shows about how the Church ministers to the poor and downtrodden in the New York Bowery and the Inner-City of Detroit. The presentation for Detroit, prepared by Brothers Mark Mancinelli and Eugene Amormino, was especially touching and forced many people to wipe tears from their eyes.

In addition, exhibits showed missionary efforts among Indians in Oklahoma, Canada and Arizona. These exhibits showed many hand-crafted items, such as the beautiful handmade shawls given to Brother Bill and Sister Evelyn Crall by Indian friends in Anadarko, Oklahoma, or a clock made out of leather given to Brother Anthony Lovalvo by an Indian man from the Six Nations Reservation in Canada.

The exhibits were an instant education about the Church's activities. Preaching at the morning chapel and evening meetings provided increased inspiration about the Church's progress.

For instance, Brother Robert Watson, Apostle, underscored the need for redoubled missionary efforts during the Monday chapel meeting. He read from Alma 29:1-4 and 9, and expounded on how Alma, who seemed to be consumed with the missionary spirit, had to realize that he could not convert the

entire world. "Can we do it all?" asked Brother Watson. "No. That's why we must bring others in." Brother Watson used mathematics to prove his point. With 4.5 billion people on the earth and only 300 elders in the Church, simple division meant that every elder had to preach to 15 million people. If we considered only the population of the United States, the breakdown would be 800,000 people for every elder. For the 1.8 million American Indians in the country, it would be one elder for every 60,000 Indians.

On Tuesday morning, Brother Joe Calabrese discussed the unique "vision" of the Church. He talked about a growing yearning in the hearts of the members to spread the Gospel and to see the day of the Peaceful Reign. "For the last decade or so, I've seen a new spirit and vision," he said. "I've seen a new enthusiasm. I've seen a new excitement. Who has the vision of Zion, or the establishment of Zion, like we do in this Church? Nobody," he said. "Who gets excited about the Choice Seer? Others still think it is Joseph Smith, but we know better. God has given us an insight, a vision. So get excited," he exhorted. "Put your spiritual eyeglasses on. Get the vision of the promises of The Church of Jesus Christ."

Tuesday night, the congregation heard the testimony of Brother Alvin Swanson, Evangelist from Miami, Florida. Brother Swanson has been one of the staunchest missionaries of the Church, and he recalled how, during a night of soul-searching, he decided in the quiet of a Pennsylvania farmhouse to dedicate his life to telling others about Jesus Christ.

He said he remembered asking himself, "Do you have any ulterior motives?" When he was satisfied that he had only "pure desires," he heeded the call for missionary work, a career in the Church that has brought him to Africa and India, among other places. He advised missionaries to learn about the natives, geography and culture of the land they will evangelize. "Your whole mind will be enlightened," he said.

Wednesday night, Brother Thomas asked the General Missionary Benevolent Association, an auxiliary of the Church, to take charge of the meeting. Brother Mark Kovacic, elder from Miami, Florida and GMBA Chaplain, read from I Timothy 4:12-16, to encourage youthful participation in spiritual matters.

On Thursday night, the Conference finished as it began—with a show of solidarity. Brother Thomas called up all the visiting missionaries, a group that included Brother Rodney Dyer, Elder from Muncey, Canada, and Brother Dev, Elder from India. The evening was capped by a most striking sort of cultural exchange. Brother Heaps, representing the California District and its interest in the Mexican missionary work, presided over a presentation of sombreros and serapes to brothers from foreign lands. Those who received the colorful sombreros included Brother E. A. U. Arthur, who said he would put the sombrero on the wall of his living room in Nigeria, and Brother Russell Cadman, Apostle from Pennsylvania.

The exchange offered a light-hearted moment during a week that few will forget, a time that marks another point of maturity in The Church of Jesus Christ.



(Continued on Page 4)



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The Gospel News is published monthly by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE. Subscription price is \$6.00 a year. Entered as second class mail at Bridgewater, Mich. under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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The Nativity

It is the season again to commemorate our Lord's holy birth. It is the season to renew our joyful devotions to our Heavenly Father for His greatest of gifts to the human family, even our Lord Jesus Christ. It is the season when we are reminded of the greatness of God's love:

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

A SAVIOUR, CHRIST THE LORD

It is the season when we are stirred to review Saint Luke's eloquent account of the nativity of our Lord: "And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." (Luke 2:6-14)

GOLD, FRANKINCENSE, AND MYRRH

It is the season when we are also reminded of Saint Matthew's moving account of our Lord's birth and the notable visit of the wise men. On arriving in Jerusalem, they inquired, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."

On being sent to Bethlehem, " . . . they departed; and lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh." (Matthew 2:1-11)

It is the season for us to praise God as did the shepherds, the wise men, and the heavenly hosts; to praise Him for, "A Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

It is the season to sing Isaac Watts' stirring hymn to the resounding music of George F. Handel:

*Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing!*

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock

Following Jesus

Dear Girls and Boys,

The *Book of Mormon* tells us that people had waited for Jesus since the earliest days of man. After the Tower of Babel days, the brother of Jared saw the Lord in a vision hundreds and hundreds of years before He was born.

Finally the time came when an angel told Mary she would have a baby who would be the Savior of the world, so long awaited. As a young boy, Jesus sat in the temple and spoke with the priests there until they were astonished by His understanding. That understanding of people and God's love grew and grew until the time came when multitudes of people followed Jesus wherever He went. Often he healed many; always He taught them more about living a peaceful, loving life.

Jesus picked twelve men to go with Him—to learn from Him. He called them apostles. His plan was for these men to continue spreading the good news about God's love and power after the time of Jesus' death. Later some of these twelve wrote down their experiences of the days they walked with the Lord. These books in the *Bible* are called the New Testament. You can read what the Apostle Matthew remembered about a day with Jesus and then read in the other books what the Apostles Mark or John remembered.

In the *Book of Mormon*, we learn that Jesus picked another twelve special followers in the Americas. He called them His twelve disciples. They also wrote a record of the things Jesus had taught them.

One thing that Jesus Christ made plain to all from the very beginning was that following Him and being a true Christian was not an easy job. Jesus taught people to think about doing



things that would make their souls strong. For example, He told them that they were to love their enemies! They (and we) were to forgive people who hurt them even if they hurt them the same way over and over, seventy times seven. But best of all, we are to love everyone, all people, like we love ourselves.

His own apostles had trouble controlling their feelings at times. When the night came that Jesus knew the soldiers would come to arrest Him to be put to death, He was praying for strength. The soldiers came with Judas and took Jesus. The Apostle Peter leaped up and with his sword hit one of the enemy on the side of his head, cutting off his ear. You and I probably would have wanted to fight too, but the Lord took the ear of this man, touched it and healed him.

Jesus was our example to follow. When things get too tough for us and we don't think we can control ourselves, He will help us. He had all power—to heal, to do anything—yet He allowed His body to be put to death to prove to us there is a heaven, a better way of life that strengthens our souls and leads to peace. No matter who you are or how old you are, He is the one Lord; and He has a special job for you and a special love for you, too.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

Our Women Today

General Ladies' Circle Conference

By Mary Tamburrino, Editor

The General Ladies' Uplift Circle Conference was held at Youngstown, Ohio on October 8, 1983. There were two bus loads of sisters, one from Aliquippa and Imperial, Pennsylvania Branches and the other from the Michigan-Ontario District. Other sisters were from New Jersey, Ohio and other Circles in Pennsylvania. Sister Mabel Bickerton, the President, gave an account of how and when the Circle was first organized. There were two Circles organized in the last six months: Muncey, Ontario and Hollywood, Florida.

The roll call of officers was taken with most of the officers present. The minutes of the last meeting held at Greensburg, Pennsylvania were read and accepted. The delegates' reports of the local Circles and Districts in the Atlantic Coast, California and Michigan were read.

Donations were given to the Memorial Fund in memory of Sister Nilda Buosco, Mark Buffington, Brother William Cadman, Sister Sadie Cadman, Brother Clement Cafaro, Brother Jim Curry, Sister Leata Ford, Brother Otto H. Gehly, Sister Ruth Griffiths, Sister Jennie Scolaro, Brother John Ward, and Sister Florence Tonachella.

The questions and answers assigned last General Conference were: Who said, "O that I were an angel, and could have the wish of my heart, that I may go forth and speak with the trump of God," found in the *Book of Mormon*, Alma 29:1; Who said, "Behold the Lord slayeth the wicked to bring forth His righteous purposes. It is better that one man should perish than that a nation . . .", found in the *Book of Mormon*, I Nephi 4:13; When is the "time to reap", found in the *Bible*, Revelation 14:15; and "Behold to obey is . . .", found in the *Bible*, I Samuel 15:22, 23.

The *Come and Dine* cookbook is on sale for \$7.50. The Vanderbilt Circle is in charge of this project.

(Continued on Page 7)

OUR WOMEN continued . . .

The Youngstown Circle began the afternoon meeting with a program entitled "Miracles for Today". They sang songs and gave testimonies on the miracles that were performed in their lives.

Monies were donated to the Printing Fund for the cookbook, Africa, India and to the General Church Missionary Funds.

The newly-elected officers for the coming year are:

President	— Mabel Bickerton
Vice President	— Ruth Akerman
Secretary	— Lucetta Scaglione
Fin. Secretary	— Joyceann Jumper
Treasurer	— Dora Rossi
Librarian	— Betty Ann Manes
Editor	— Mary Tamburrino
Historian and Card Sender	— Mary Criscuolo
Auditors	— Joan Gibson
	— Sara Palmieri

A vote of thanks was given to the Youngstown, Ohio Circle for their hospitality. The next General Circle Conference will be held at Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, on April 7, 1984. The October Conference will be held at Monongahela, Pennsylvania, on October 6, 1984.

Brother Silver Criscuolo spoke to the sisters saying he was impressed by hearing the activities of the General Circle.

Election of officers was taken up, and the following were elected to serve for a one year term:

President	— David DeLuca
Vice President	— Paul J. Ciotti
Chaplain	— Paul Ciotti
Secretary	— Denise Fleming
Ass't. Secretary	— Carol Jumper
Treasurer	— Ed Donkin
Historian	— Sandy Bittinger
Auditors	— Ryan Ross
	— Jon Olexa
Editor	— Joyceann Jumper

A special vote of thanks was extended to Brothers Jon Olexa and Richard Scaglione for their service as Vice President and Chaplain.

Following the meeting, a potluck lunch was served and we spent some time socializing.

On Saturday, September 24, 1983, the Pennsylvania Area MBA sponsored a hayride at the home of Brother John and Sister Carolyn Griffith. Saints from Michigan, New Jersey, and Ohio joined the brothers, sisters, and friends of Pennsylvania for an evening of fellowship and recreation. There was a good turnout.

Upon arriving everyone entered the barn and enjoyed the delicious food, including hot dogs roasted by Sister Joyce Koegler and Sister Paula McCartney.

Hayrides were offered for everyone to the campfire. Brother Ken Staley led us in singing our favorite hymns.

We ended the evening with one last hayride after which everyone headed home satisfied that our time together had been well spent.

On Sunday, September 25, 1983, an Area Spiritual Meeting was held in Monongahela. Brother Lou Pietrangelo introduced our service using I Corinthians 13 as his text. He stated that the love of God will supersede all things. Brother Lou told of an experience he had shortly after he was called into the Church.

Sisters Iva Fedorka and Carol Jumper sang *Jesus Is Passing By*, followed by the Monongahela Quartet singing *Vessels of Gold*.

Brothers John Griffith and Paul Ciotti followed on the same topic. Brother Paul said we all have a testimony and opened the meeting for testimony. Many brothers and sisters expressed

their thanksgiving to God for all His goodness. Our service was closed by singing *God's Still On His Throne*. We all retired to the basement for refreshments and a time of socializing.

Note of Thanks

This is a note to thank all of the brothers and sisters for their concern, cards, phone calls, and most of all for their prayers in my behalf since I broke my ankle. Thank you, and God bless you.

Mrs. Helen Nolfi
Glassport, PA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I want to use this means to convey to you my sincere thanks to all who sent cards, wrote letters and for your phone calls, but most of all for your prayers. I know it was your prayers that cushioned the blow when the sad news was told me concerning the death of my son, Tony.

Your demonstration of love at the Missionary Conference was just beautiful. Each in your own particular way expressed your love and sympathy as no one could, only they that are of the family of God. May our dear Lord bless you for your kindness. I love you all.

Sister Carmella Mazzeo
Lake Worth, FL

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I wish to thank all of you for your many prayers, cards and phone calls that I received during my husband Jim's confinement. I knew that all would go well, for he had the best people in the world praying for him, and for this I thank my Lord for answering your prayers for us.

Jim is progressing slowly. He is now at home. Praise God! Please remember us in your prayers, and I will remember you, as I always do.

*I felt so alone in my sorrow,
But God quickly came to my aid.*

(Continued on Page 8)

MBA Highlights

PA Area MBA

By Joyceann Jumper, Area Editor

The Pennsylvania Area MBA held its annual business and organization meeting in Vanderbilt on Saturday, September 10, 1983. President, Brother David DeLuca, conducted the meeting, and Brothers Jon Olexa and Richard Scaglione took their places as Vice President and Chaplain, respectively.

Officers' and Local Reports of the Area were taken care of, and various activities were discussed.



Evangelism at Home, Work and Play

By Elmer Santilli
Quorum of 70 Secretary

The above title was the theme of the Quorum of 70's Domestic Missions Committee exhibit at the recently concluded World Missionary Conference held at the Eagle Eyrie campgrounds during the week of August 20-26.

Brothers Paul Benyola, Elmer Santilli and Lou Vitto, assisted by Russ Martorana and Dominic Moraca, presented the exhibit in three separate segments entitled:

1. We Are Working with a Total Involvement
2. Everyone Is a Missionary
3. We Are One Church Worldwide

Charts of all seven Districts of the Church were made and posted on the wall showing the location of each branch/mission with pictures of branches and congregations taped along side of their respective locations. A slide presentation, accompanied by the song, *This Land Is Your Land*, told of the coming forth of our Church along with scenes of Church members, baptisms, campouts, etc.

In the three segments, an attempt was made to instill in the minds of our listeners the concept that we must utilize all the resources of our Church to spread the news of the Gospel Restored. This means using people, offices, auxiliaries, printed material, radio, TV, slides, etc.; all working together to promote the news of the Church.

It was stated that the word, missionary, must be redefined because too often in the past when one heard the word, missionary, one thought of a far away work. Experiences were related showing that a missionary work can be done right in ones own home, at work, in ones neighborhood and in ones own branch/mission. A soul is as important before God regardless of where it meets the Gospel. Every one cannot travel many miles to spread the Gospel, but that should not stop one from doing God's work, because there is work to be done all around us and sometimes right under our feet!

Likewise, everyone can be a worker for the Lord regardless of age, experience, sex, etc.; even those who are not as yet members can be used of God in promoting the Gospel.

Finally, The Church of Jesus Christ is one wherever it's located because we have all obeyed the same set of laws and ordinances. We have all tasted of that same love and are thereby joined together through the blood of the Lamb.

It was a pleasure to work together at the World Missionary Conference in telling of the role we can play in this great latter-day work.

Notice

The Jaredite Story Book, Activity Book and Teacher's Guide for Children are now available for purchase. Contact GMBA Librarian:

Frank Morle
8751 Warner
Saline, MI 48176

THANKS continued . . .

*I heard Him whisper so softly,
"I'm nearby, so don't be afraid.*

*I've seen you through all of your trials.
I'll see you through this one too.
For your faith in Me will sustain you.
What I promised My children, I'll do."*

*I thank you, dear Heavenly Father,
For being so kind to me.
I knew you would never desert me.
All my love, honor and glory I now
offer to Thee.*

Your Sister in Christ,
Nell (Honey) Kohler

Change of Address

Milford and Shirley Eutsey, Sr.
Milford and Hope Eutsey, Jr.
Dewayne and Colleena Eutsey
2125 S.E. Bolado Parkway
Cape Coral, FL 33904
Telephone (813) 574-8254

Earth Gave Him No Welcome

*Earth gave Him no welcome,
No shelter, no home;
He slept in a stable—
The inn had no room:
No bed but a manger,
No pillow but hay;
No friends but the oxen
Who watched where He lay.*

*To seek and to rescue
The dying and lost,
He came—to save sinners
At infinite cost.*

*Despised and forsaken,
Rejected was He:
Earth gave Him no welcome
But dark Calvary.*

*Earth gave Him no welcome,
No home—But e'er long
Sin's night shall be ended
And morn hailed with song.
Then earth shall not know Him
Rejected again—
Triumphant in glory
He cometh to reign!*

Margaret Clarkson

Three Evangelists Ordained in Detroit

By Anthony J. Scolaro
Josephine Pepper

July 17, 1983 was a day to remember in Detroit. The weather was already hot and humid that morning as approximately 400 brothers, sisters, and friends from the Michigan-Ontario District, as well as scores of visitors from out of town, filled Branch 1 to overflowing. Each of us anticipated God's blessings as we met together in His house to observe the ordination of three brothers into the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists.

After a season of community singing, the meeting was opened and we heard from Brother Joe Milantoni, newly-elected President of the Evangelists. He presented a plaque to each of two Evangelists in our District, Brother Concetto Allesandro and Brother Ralph Leet, who were giving way to their younger brethren to carry out the work of the Church.

In their earlier years, both of these men devoted much of their time to carrying the message of the Gospel's Restoration to the Seed of Joseph, as well as to many others, making many personal sacrifices along the way. Each of these brethren was thankful for the opportunity to be used of God. Brother Allesandro, ordained an Evangelist on July 15, 1945, stood before us today giving God all the honor and glory for any progress he might have made in spreading the Gospel. Brother Leet expressed his appreciation for the beauty of the pure Gospel and his desire to continue in God's service for the remainder of his days. He had been one of the Seventy since October 21, 1956.

Brother Spencer Everett, President of the Evangelists in our District, opened to Ephesians 4 where the Apostle Paul explains how the Lord delegated authority and responsibility in different ways to different people, "... for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ ..." Brother Spencer pointed out that the calling of an Evangelist is a gift from God for the benefit of His Church. He went on to say how Brother Concetto and Brother Ralph have worked diligently over the past years and have endeavored, to the best of their ability,

to help the Church grow and to bring people to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and the Restoration of His Gospel on the face of the earth. Brother Joe Milantoni added that these brothers have consistently shown their sincere devotion and loyalty to the calling which God bestowed upon each of them years ago.

Our meeting continued with the setting aside of Brothers Carl Frammolino, Leonard A. Lovalvo, and Louis Vitto by the washing of feet. This ordinance was administered to them by Brothers Dominic Moraca, Dominic Thomas, and Frank Vitto respectively. After the Quorum members formed a circle around our three brothers, Brother Paul Vitto asked the Lord to send His Spirit down to ordain these brethren into the Seventy. Brother Jim Lovalvo ordained Brother Carl, Brother Tony Lovalvo ordained Brother Leonard, and Brother Paul Vitto ordained Brother Louis as we all prayed silently for the Lord's Spirit to accompany these three brothers as they took on this added responsibility in God's service.

With the ordinations done, Brother Spencer exhorted our new Evangelists to study God's word and consecrate themselves for His work.

50 YEARS IN THE GOSPEL

After Sister Karen Progar from Ali-

quippa, PA sang *Amazing Grace*, District President, Brother Dominic Moraca, took the rostrum as we observed fifty years in the Gospel for Brothers Jim and Tony Lovalvo, who were baptized in Detroit on July 16, 1933 along with their brother, Joe, who unhappily was not able to be in our midst this morning.

Brother Nick Pietrangelo and Brother Dominic Thomas presented our two brothers with flowers, and a brief synopsis of their work in the Church was read. Truly our brethren have labored much in the Lord's Vineyard throughout the past fifty years. Among many other things, it was pointed out that Brother Tony had spent twenty-one years as Missionary-in-charge of the Six Nations Indian Reservation, making frequent trips there to promote the Gospel.

As we reflected upon the diligent labors of these and many other brothers and sisters, both in years past and in our own lifetime, we were reminded of that perfect example, our Lord Jesus Christ, and what He did for all of us. We realized that we each owe Him a lifetime of service for His infinite mercy toward us, and today we were able to understand more fully the exhortation of the Apostle Paul, that we present our bodies "a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God," which is our reasonable service.



Brothers Leonard A. Lovalvo, Carl Frammolino and Louis Vitto

50th Anniversary

By Dawn Francione

July 2, 1983 marked Sister Vienna Carrabia's fiftieth year in The Church of Jesus Christ. Sister Vienna was born in Bugnara, Italy on October 21, 1914 and was baptized on July 2, 1933 at the age of 19 by Brother William H. Cadman and confirmed by Brother Vincent Genaro.

At our meeting, we were honored to have Sister Francis Capone pin a carnation on Sister Vienna to show her our

appreciation for all her years of service in the Church.

We also had the pleasure of having Sister Vienna's sister present with us, Sister Velia DiCenzo of McKees Rocks, PA. Sister Velia will also be celebrating fifty years in the Gospel on October 8, 1983.

They both told us of how much they love the Lord and all the wonderful experiences they have had. It is wonderful to see how the Lord works and provides for His children.

May God continue to bless all of you.



Sister Vienna Carrabia and
Sister Velia DiCenzo

Branch and Mission News

Tucson, AZ

By Grace Brutz, Editor

We thank God for bringing us through so much sickness in our Branch. Brother Anthony Brutz and Brother Paul Francione are feeling much better. Sister Debbie Roache has been very afflicted and is still in need of your prayers.

Although we are few in number, we enjoyed God's blessings and His sweet spirit in our midst. Last winter we had many visitors in Tucson. We enjoyed having Brother Nick Pietrangelo in our

meetings, along with his sweet wife. Also visiting last winter were Brother Alex Gentile and his family, Guido and Sister Antoinette Marinetti, Chris and Dorothy Trovato, Mike and Sister Elsie Marinetti, and Sister Julia and Brother Daniel Cotellesse. Each one of them brought a blessing and encouragement to us. We are looking forward to having them again this winter.

We would also like to thank God for our new convert, Brother Richard Roache.

Baptisms

Kelly K. Pritchett of the Lorain, Ohio Branch was baptized on June 12, 1983 by Apostle Frank Calabrese and confirmed by Brother Frank Altomare.

Sister Emma Wright was baptized at the Freehold, New Jersey Branch on August 28, 1983 by Brother Willie Brown and confirmed by Brother James Crudup.

On July 3, 1983, Holly Crosier became a member of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. She was baptized in the Monongahela River by Brother John Griffith and was confirmed by Brother James Moore, Jr. Holly is the daughter of Brother Jim and Sister Ethel Crosier.

Levittown, PA

By Dottie Benyola, Editor

We had the privilege of having Brothers Dev and Livingston visit our Branch. They shared with us their calling into The Church of Jesus Christ and how God has worked with them in spreading the Gospel in India. They highlighted the hardships that our fellow brothers and sisters must endure, and they stressed that they are preaching the Gospel to convert those who are truly dedicated to the calling of God and not to just adding numbers to the Church.

Our prayers are with the saints in India.

The Levittown MBA had a combined car wash and cake sale which was a great success. Many gathered to wash and buff dry cars while others shared in selling cookies, cakes, pies, etc. The day was enjoyed by all.

Cleveland, OH

By Margaret Abbott, Editor

The first week of August, Cleveland held Vacation Bible School. We had thirty children from our area and also two children visiting from Michigan. Sunday morning, August 7, 1983 the majority of the Bible School presented the Branch a program of songs and some of the lessons of Bible School. Our topics were on "Brave Ones", with solos by

Liza and Douglas Miller. All who participated in Bible School enjoyed every day with the children and received many blessings for a job well done.

In our morning service, Brother Vince Gibson spoke on love—love of God and our fellow man.

Sister Roberta Hufnagle sang a selection from *The Songs of Zion, He Planted Me Deep*.

Brother Bill Hufnagle continued on the theme of love. Brother Mario Milano spoke of love and obedience.

After closing hymn, *Count Your Blessings*, and closing prayer by Brother Prentice, we adjourned to the basement to partake of a lovely lunch served by the sisters of the Branch and to fellowship with our many visiting saints and friends.

Afternoon services began with Brother Bill Prentice speaking of how God asks no man to do more than he is able. The Lord provides the way and means when we are about His work. We must examine ourselves daily to live His way.

Brother Milano then spoke of the feelings of being ordained, how patience and understanding are the backbone of every office in the Church. We as members must do the same.

Brother Bill Hufnagle, our Presiding Elder, called Brothers Al Mayher and Jim Hufnagle forward. He then explained the duties of a teacher: they must be counselors, peace makers, assist the elders, always be prompt and hold all confidences to only themselves.

Brother Albert Ventura washed Brother Al Mayher's feet, and he was ordained by Brother Mario Milano. Brother Jim Hufnagle's feet were washed by our visiting brother from Cincinnati, Ohio, Brother Joe Furnari, and he was ordained by Brother Bill Hufnagle.

We all pray that the Lord will use our two young brothers. May he continue to guide and protect them.

Closing hymn was *Take My Life*, and closing prayer was offered by Brother Tony Lombardo.

It was a wonderful day filled with blessings and the Lord's presence. God bless all of you is our prayer.

Sterling, MI

By Hazel Zoltek, Editor

Sunday, August 7, Brother Dick Lobzun, his wife and daughter visited with us. Brother Dick said he had been here several times before and sat on the rostrum but had not had the opportunity to speak to us.

Brother Louis Vitto offered prayer. Brother Dick followed, stating that he wanted to speak today of the things that had brought us into this Church. The spirit we carry within us makes us all brothers and sisters. We come here because of the love we feel. There are many brothers and sisters who live a distance from the church and cannot attend every Sunday, and they are very happy when the elders visit with them. This is especially true in upper Canada.

Brother Dick spoke from the *Book of Mormon*, stating that he had not read the book before his baptism, but he finds it so beautiful, so easy to understand. It is the clearest, most perfect book. It becomes a hindrance to us with our friends—there is opposition. We have to defend it. He read II Nephi 29, the entire chapter. This tells of the people saying all they needed was the *Bible*. *Our whole existence in this Church is the revelation of the Book of Mormon*. In most churches the theme is practically the same, but in this church you can hear something different and you can feel it as well as hear it. The love is felt—even with the small children. We love them as if they were our own.

When one is baptized, it takes some time to adjust, but our sins are washed away; we are clean. The love of God keeps us together as a family. Brother Dick said the *Book of Mormon* came to him at an opportune time in his life. The brothers and sisters are very special to him. They stayed around him during the tragedy (death of his son). We need to reach out and visit with people who have had trouble in their life; they should not be left alone. It is fine to pray for one another, but it sometimes becomes necessary to go further. He prays that he will be able to respond to anyone who needs him. We might heal to the point where we can be used by God, but the hurt is still there. He thanked God for our patience, our prayers and our love.

Brother Sam said the *Book of Mormon* has opened our eyes to many things. It tells of the New Jerusalem that will be

built on this land of America. Some people in the world do not want to give it a chance. The *Bible* teaches us that God never lies. He will direct us and show us this beautiful Gospel. It is so clear to us and someday Jesus will make it more clear.

The meeting was left open for testimony. Sister Cindy Dulisse from California said that she had some trouble with accepting the *Book of Mormon* and God had revealed certain personages to her whom she had never seen. Today, as she saw Brother Dick and Brother Sam on the rostrum, she realized they were the ones who had been revealed to her. She had never seen either of them before, and this was her confirmation.

Brother Dick later told Brother Sam that it was good for him to be here today and hear the testimonies of those who had also had tragedy in their life. Brother Sam told us that as one of the sisters was testifying, God told him to tell Brother Dick and family that He was with them as they came here today.

We sang *What A Day That Will Be* and were dismissed by Brother Jim Dulisse from Modesto, California.

Another experience I would like to relate was told to us by Brother Steve Champine last Wednesday. He and Sister Cathy had found a house they wanted to purchase and they put a down payment on it. Then one of the sisters who they asked to pray that they might find a home to their liking called him and said, "Don't buy that house; there is something wrong with the walls." She had never seen the house, but God gave her a dream. Upon further investigation, Brother Steve found that the house had formaldehyde insulation in it. God is so good.

Give a Gospel News

Subscription for

Christmas.

* **WEDDINGS** *

JOSEPH—COLLINS

Mr. Paul Scott Joseph and Miss Cynthia Collins were united in marriage on Saturday, August 6, 1983 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Monongahela, PA.

Brother Robert Nicklow officiated at the ceremony. The newlyweds are residing in Monongahela, PA.

NARO—JORDAN

Mr. Kevin Naro and Miss Denise Jordan were united in holy matrimony on August 20, 1983 by Brother Joseph Calabrese in Lorain, Ohio.

Sister Carla Naro, the soloist, was accompanied at the piano by Sister Renee Alessio.

The Naros are making their home in Lorain, Ohio.

LEWANDOWSKI—PRITCHETT

Mr. Andrew Alan Lewandowski and Miss Kelly Pritchett were married at The Church of Jesus Christ in Lorain, Ohio on September 9, 1983 by Brother Joseph Calabrese.

The newlyweds are making Columbus, Ohio their residence.

PENNELL—RICCO

Mr. Andrew Joseph Pennell and Miss Denise Ricco were united in marriage by Brother Paul Ciotti on October 1, 1983 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Lorain, Ohio.

Sister Carla Naro and the Champine brothers presented musical selections. The pianist was Sister Renee Alessio.

The Pennell's are making their home in Grafton, Ohio.

BATSON—GENARO

Mr. Robert Batson and Sister Ruth Ann Genaro were joined in marriage on Saturday, August 27, 1983 at the Warren, Ohio Branch of the Church.

Conducting the ceremony were Brothers Ron Genaro, the bride's brother, and Robert Buffington.

Brother Eugene and Sister Donna Amormino and the Champine Brothers presented musical selections.

The Batson's are making their home in Niles, Ohio.

New Arrivals

Congratulations are in order to the proud parents for the indicated new members of their families:

Anthony Joseph to Delbert John and Gloria Jean Rau of Sterling Heights, Michigan;

Aubrey Lynn to Thomas and Nancy Lombardo of Detroit, Michigan, Branch 1;

Nicholas David to Richard and Rachel Everett of Detroit, Michigan, Branch 1;

Brian James to James and Vicki Staley of Michigan City, Indiana;

Brandy Lynn to Thomas and Cindy Kubala of Glassport, Pennsylvania;

Robert William, Jr. to Robert and LuAnne Seighman Taylor of Monongahela, Pennsylvania;

Chester Paul to Kenneth and Florence Lombardo of Metuchen, New Jersey;

Megan Mary to Bob and Renee Shaloo of Metuchen, New Jersey;

Athena to Peter and Florence Van Exter of Metuchen, New Jersey;

Jamie Lynne to Steven Alan and Lynne Francione Munger of Detroit, Michigan, Branch 3;

Anthony Joseph to Ron and Chris Dyer of Tucson, Arizona;

Patricia to Richard and Debbie (Christman) Roache of Tucson, Arizona;

Max Tobias to Jim and Arlette Brutz of Tucson, Arizona.

OBITUARIES

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

TONY MAZZEO

Mr. Tony Mazzeo of Lake Worth, Florida, passed away from this life on July 24, 1983. He was born on December 18, 1931.

Funeral services were conducted by Brother Frank Mazzeo.

Left to mourn Tony's loss are his mother, Sister Carmella Mazzeo; two brothers, Frank and Gabe; and one sister, Palma Coppa.