



The Gospel News

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

(USPS 223-480)

January, 1984

Volume 40, No. 1

God of Our Life

God of our life, through all the circling years, We trust in Thee;
In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, Thy hand we see.
With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,
We own Thy mercies, Lord, which never fail.

God of the past, our times are in Thy hand; With us abide.
Lead us by faith to hope's true Promised Land; Be Thou our guide.
With Thee to bless, the darkness shines as light,
And faith's fair vision changes into sight.

God of the coming years, through paths unknown We follow Thee;
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone; Our refuge be.
Be Thou for us in life our Daily Bread,
Our heart's true Home when all our years have sped.

Hugh T. Kerr

The World Missionary Conference

By Rosanne J. Scolaro, *GMBA Assistant Editor*

The week of August 20th through August 26th, 1983, was a time of great rejoicing, great fellowship, and even great progress in the history of The Church of Jesus Christ. For this was the week we as a Church met together in a World Missionary Conference, the first of its kind. In the beautiful camp setting of Eagle Eyrie, a few miles from Lynchburg, Virginia, U.S.A., saints from throughout the world gathered for one week to meet and share missionary experiences of the past and present . . . and realize our hopes for the future.

Many hours of diligent preparation, both naturally and spiritually, had gone into making this Conference an experience not to be forgotten. The General Missionary Benevolent Association pooled all its energies, resources, and knowledge from previous campouts to collaborate with the efforts of the General Church. Auxiliaries (such as the Ladies' Uplift Circle) and districts eagerly answered the call for help with support and contributions. Every branch, every mission, every outpost, every member was notified and invited to come and dine. Provisions were made for brothers and sisters of the Church in foreign lands and mission fields to share their experiences, to bring home a revived spirit, to make this truly a **World Missionary Conference**. And, of course, much fasting and prayer went into inviting the Lord's Spirit to descend upon His Church as it met, that He would conduct each meeting, that He would make known His will, that He would be pleased.

The flicker of an idea had become a dream shared by the brothers of the General Church Mission Board. And now the dream was to become reality.

Everyone came to Conference expecting a blessed time and surely no one was disappointed. For it was made apparent, even at the moment of entrance, that this was to be something very unique. The sign of greeting read, "The Church of Jesus Christ Welcomes You To The World Missionary Conference", with words of welcome in other languages, as well—Benvenuto, Bien Venido, Ekabq, etc. And flags were proudly displayed representing the foreign lands where the Church is firmly established. We were coming together as very different people; different na-

tionally, culturally, and physically—but united spiritually, as the body of Christ.

This contrast and harmony was made manifest throughout the week in many ways. As brothers and sisters from Nigeria, Italy, India, Mexico, etc., were introduced to the congregation, many had to make use of interpreters in order to be understood. Many marveled at the very different and very beautiful apparel of Brother and Sister Arthur (as they must have marveled at our more western clothing). And we enjoyed the very unique rhythms of the Nigerian music. Indeed, the differences were many and great.

But the love of God which was shared by the saints melted these differences and broke down our cultural barriers. On Sunday morning, Brother Arthur opened the service with his son, Brother Joseph, interpreting. It was interesting to hear the sounds and syllables of his foreign dialect, but how much more precious these sounds became when interpreted into, "The harvest is great, but the laborers are few." Here was the President of the Church in Nigeria, preaching the **same** Gospel of Christ, sending the call for laborers in the vineyard of the Lord. His sermon was the same as any which would be preached in the Church in America! This scripture became a theme for the Conference as over and over in our meetings and personal conversations, in English, Italian, Spanish, Indian, and Nigerian, even in Japanese, the call was sent out to tell the world of this beautiful Gospel, the Restoration.

This theme also spilled over into our morning seminars and in the thirteen exhibits presented by the various nations and auxiliaries. The commitment to do more for the Lord and tell others of His goodness was conveyed most clearly in the self-sacrifice and hardships many of the missionaries have endured simply because they believe so strongly in the work of the Lord. Hearing the missionaries from Anadarko, South Bend, Ghana, the Muncey Mission, Meaford, Red Lake, the Inner-City work, Italy, Etc., where just a handful of saints meet, and feeling their determination to press forward in spite of much discouragement, served as beautiful sermons. Truly, we were made to examine ourselves and ask, "Am I doing my best?"

The exhibits of the auxiliaries were also very rewarding as they displayed what our efforts have enabled us to do through the years and see how far we have come. The funds and projects of the GMBA and Ladies' Uplift Circle have allowed us to grow closer as a people and work in support of the various missionaries around the world. They encouraged us to continue in our activities for they are truly worthwhile.

With the call for laborers, the love of God abounding, His Spirit manifesting itself in visions, healings, and tongues, it quite naturally followed that the spirit of repentance would come forth. And it did. By the end of the week, nine persons in all had requested baptism.

The testimonies of these new converts and all the young people were very inspiring. On Wednesday night, the GMBA was allowed to present the young people of the Church to our visiting missionaries. Many beautiful expressions came forth as young brothers and sisters shared their desire to labor for the Lord and carry on the mission of the Church.

The love of God enveloped the camp throughout the week. In every activity and seminar, in our conversations and recreations, we were truly the family of God. As the days passed, our singing became stronger and our convictions more deeply united. By the final evening service on Thursday night, the brothers and sisters from Italy, Mexico, Nigeria, India, and America embraced in the joy of the Lord. The barriers of culture had completely broken down. Brother Thomas also recognized the efforts of the domestic missions—small groups of saints scattered across the continent who boldly wave the banner of Christ in their communities. May God continue to bless them!

Too quickly the week had passed and it was time to take our leave. But the spirit of The World Missionary Conference was planted in our hearts to take home and nurture—to grow. Each of us came away with a deeper understanding of the Gospel and a greater commitment to share it with the world. It had not merely been a week of fellowship and observation, but greater still a very personal experience for each individual attending. The plan of God had been laid before us and the call to labor sent out.

HIS TRUTH IS MARCHING ON!

Faces

By Donald Ross

This individual's dramatic conversion is a testimony of The Church of Jesus Christ. He experienced a beautiful transformation. He was a Lamanite king and ruled over the land of Ishmael. His name—Lamoni.

He was one of Ammon's many converts. Before Ammon appeared on the scene, Lamoni was a ruthless monarch. Lamoni governed the land of Ishmael under the watchful eye of his father who was the sovereign over all the Lamanites. There is no doubt that Lamoni yearned for absolute authority and power. King Lamoni was a harsh and wicked ruler. Many times he executed servants who displayed carelessness with the royal herds. Lamoni was ignorant of Jesus Christ, the Gospel and even his heritage.

A missionary named Ammon fasted and prayed that he would have an opportunity to teach the Gospel to Lamoni and his people. God intervened and Ammon became a servant to King Lamoni. He protected the king's property and by faith converted Lamoni, his wife the queen, many servants and people.

The story of these wonderful conversions is told in Alma, Chapters 18 and 19. It illustrates the redeeming power of God. The episode concludes with these words:

“. . . they did declare unto the people the self-same thing—that their hearts had been changed; that they had no more desire to do evil.

“. . . and as many as did believe were baptized; and they became a righteous people . . . thus the Lord did begin to pour out his Spirit upon them: and we see that his arm is extended to all people who will repent and believe in his name.”

King Lamoni repented and accompanied Ammon to nearby Middoni. Their mission was to help free Ammon's three brothers who were imprisoned for preaching the Gospel. Enroute, Lamoni met his father, who was irate and attempted to slay his son for having accepted Ammon's friendship. Ammon overcame the angry monarch and won. He secured a pledge for the land of Ishmael's complete liberty.

(Continued on Page 4)

Greetings in Christ,

“To love others is to love oneself.”

We love one another more because of the fellowship we share together as God's children. We cherish the memories of those who have left us the heritage of a pure doctrine. They were not theologians, but they were an example of everything that is called Christian—pure, lovely and ethical. Their theology was manifest in their practical Christian living. There is scarcely an error in the doctrine they practiced and kept, or a failure in applying Christian ethics that cannot be traced finally to imperfect or ignoble thoughts about their God. Among the sins to which the human heart is prone, hardly any other is more hateful to God than idolatry. The essence of idolatry is the entertainment of thoughts about God that are unworthy of Him, as God wants us to know Him above everything else and to love Him.



Inasmuch as God is love, anything that is written that denotes and encourages us to love, respect, and worship God, and Him alone, is worthy of note. Remember when the disciples of Jesus returned from the mission among the cities of Israel? John said to Jesus, “Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name; and we forbid him, because he followeth not with us.” Jesus said, “Forbid him not: for he that is not against us is for us.” It is also written every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus is Lord.

Love is giving, and the giving of ourselves is the greatest, sacrificial, unconditional, Christlike love that is described in I Corinthians 13. This chapter is “incomparably the greatest and the most psychotherapeutic agent; something that professional psychiatry cannot of itself create, focus, or release.” It is the attribute of God's love which led Him to care for us and to send His beloved Son, Jesus of Nazareth, to earth so that we may become personally acquainted with His **Divine Nature**—love and forgiveness. The word of God never “covers over” sin or denies its prevalence and destructiveness. God hates sin and punishes the unrepentant sinners.

In contrast, we who are in Christ Jesus are not condemned. God's Son, Jesus Christ, came to pay for our sins.

When we sin, therefore, there is a way to be forgiven completely. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. “This is a liberalizing realization.” God doesn't want sacrifices and penance. He wants confession and a desire to change. When we confess our sins and truly have a broken heart and sorrow for our ungodliness, He forgives and remembers our sins no more. God also instructs us to confess our sins to one another. This is not done to get divine forgiveness since God alone forgives, and only when we confess to Him directly. Confession to others can be therapeutic, however. Often it stimulates others to forgive us and sometimes it helps us to forgive ourselves.

Confession to others can also be accompanied by the healing power of prayer. In Ephesians 5:18 it is written, “Be you filled with the Spirit.” This helps us to overcome all our sinfulness and to live in the Spirit of God. May God's love be in your heart always and help you overcome the destroying angel.

You shall be victorious by the grace of God in Christ Jesus. May you be dead unto sin, but alive in God, through Christ Jesus our Lord. Read Romans 6:11-13. Grace be to you that love life and our Lord Jesus Christ. Again I say, “I love you in Christ.”

Ever humble,
Brother Mark Randy

Ohio District Spiritual Service

Over 100 brothers and sisters gathered in the Niles Branch for a District Spiritual Service on October 23, 1983.

The meeting was opened with singing many beautiful selections from *The Songs of Zion*. The ministry then felt to ask all of the deaconess sisters to bear their testimonies. What a blessing it was to hear how the Lord has brought our sisters into the Church and how He has protected and healed them many times. Although many of our sisters were not born and raised in the Gospel, they told us of how the Lord has given them the desire to serve Him and His Church. We don't often realize how vital our sisters are and what an important part they play in His Church. It was a joy to set them aside and lift them up that, through their testimonies, they might lift us up to "a little higher spiritual mind".

Brother Jim Moore, Jr. of Imperial, Pennsylvania spoke a few words of encouragement telling us that, whether we were born and raised in the Church or not, we all had to choose to serve God. Once we made that decision to serve Him, we all began the race at the same point. He told us of his parents and how they taught him the things of God. At age 17 or 18 his mother, Sister Eva, would put little notes on his mirror in his bedroom about serving God and walking in His paths. He admitted that it bothered him, but he didn't take them down; and his father, Brother Jim, would have a word of prayer before going into his fields, as he was a farmer, and then he would ask his son to offer a word of prayer. He admitted that it bothered him, but he did as his father had asked. Yet when he raced home one day from work to tell his parents that he wanted to be baptized, he told his father that he would carry him into the land of Zion.

This is our desire—that we might see our children and our children's children come to the Gospel and all those who would, that together we might serve God and cross over that line into the land of Zion.

Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands: Sing forth the honour of his name: make his praise glorious.
Psalm 66:1,2

MBA Highlights

Florida MBA 25th Anniversary

By Dianne Maddox

Twenty-five years! That is how long we in Florida have been blest to have the MBA as a part of our worship.

To commemorate this occasion, on October 15, 1983, Sister Carmela Mazzeo, along with the Florida Area Choir, presented a beautiful program. The theme was "Wave the Banner of Zion". The Lord truly blessed our sister in her endeavors as she has been very afflicted lately but had strength to present this. The choir was made up of about thirty brothers and sisters, but when they sang the Lord blessed all to sound like a great multitude.

Many brought friends and relatives who had never been to The Church of Jesus Christ who enjoyed it very much. One was even heard to say, "Now I know why you say this is so beautiful."

We thank God that His Spirit was among us and will be as long as we endeavor to serve Him in the 26th year of our MBA.

A Pleasant Visit

By Letti Obradovich, Lake Worth, FL

Knowing that Brother Alvin and Sister Viola Swanson were coming for dinner, I made preparations. I cooked all day Saturday, loving every minute. No chef took more pains or more delight in his culinary ability than I.

Sunday I realized I had to serve this meal. My usual helpers were gathered round the dining room table with their spoons catching each delicious morsel falling from Brother Alvin's scholarly mouth. No one wanted to miss a word.

As I brought the courses to the table, I caught bits and pieces of this fascinating conversation. I felt like Martha in the story of Martha and Mary, and I had chosen the lesser. The dinner table was so deeply engrossed in the discussion of Isaiah, Chapter 19, that they took little notice of the food and who served it, or so I thought.

Finally, I had a chance to sit and listen, but not soon enough and not long enough. Since it was only weeks after Brother Alvin's operation, he was growing tired and they decided to leave. As the line formed to say good-bye and the farewells became lengthy, Brother Alvin walked over to me and took both my hands and said, "Sister Letti, our unsung hero." While all attention was on him, he was not so absorbed that my efforts had gone by unnoticed. And that is why Brother Alvin Swanson is such a treasure to us; he encourages the weak and makes time for the least.

I wish I could plan that dinner again. The only preparation I would make would be to check the batteries of my tape recorder.

Note of Thanks

A note of thanks to all the brothers and sisters for their prayers, phone calls, cards and notes of encouragement while I am ill.

Keep praying for me that God will give me the strength to carry on. He has been so good to me for the past sixty-one years.

May God bless you all.

Brother Rocco V. Biscotti

FACES continued . . .

After Lamoni secured Ammon's brothers' freedom, he returned home. He permitted the establishment of the Church. Churches were built so the people could be instructed. They were taught the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Lamoni told his people they were free. The former oppression was replaced with the truth, and "truth shall set you free." Lamoni instructed his people that they "have the liberty of worshipping the Lord their God according to their desires . . ."

Now King Lamoni was an instrument in the hands of the Lord for doing good among his people. The people of Ishmael became "zealous in keeping the commandments of God." From an oppressive and ruthless monarch to a zealous worker for the Church—what a conversion!

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Kenneth L. Staley
301 Pine Drive
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

**ASSISTANT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**
Thomas Ross
260 Division St. Ext.
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

MANAGING EDITOR
Joseph Ross

**ASSISTANT
MANAGING EDITOR**
Richard Scaglione

**EDITORIALISTS AND
CONSULTANTS**
Paul Palmieri
John Ross
John Manes

OFFICE MANAGER
Cathy Gentile

TYPISTS
Janet Gibson
Sharon Staley

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Janet Buffa

GMA EDITOR
Ryan G. Ross
305 Pine Dr.
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

**GENERAL CIRCLE
EDITOR**
Mary Tamburrino
100 Oak Drive
Aliquippa, Pa. 15005

DISTRICT EDITORS

ARIZONA
Dick Ackman
8403 E. Piceadilly Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

ATLANTIC COAST
Joseph Perri
3 Elizabeth Ct.
Edison, N.J. 08817

CALIFORNIA
Kenneth R. Jones
4682 El Rancho Verde Dr.
LaPalma, Calif. 90620

FLORIDA
Elsie M. Ensana
1921 S. E. Erwin Road
Port St. Lucie, FL 33452

OHIO
Frank Natoli
126 D Windsorshire Drive
Rochester, NY 14624
(716) 594-9321

MICHIGAN-ONTARIO
Louis Pietrangelo
5522 Bluehill
Detroit, Michigan 48224

PENNSYLVANIA
Malcolm Paxon
5304 Adobe Drive
Baldwin, PA 15236

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.

BUSINESS OFFICE
8423 Boettner Rd.
Bridgewater, MI 48115
313 429-5080

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

A New Year

The year 1983 has swiftly rolled away, and the New Year 1984 is ushered in. As we look back, we rejoice as we call to mind the joys and blessings that we were privileged to experience both materially and spiritually. On the other hand, we are saddened anew as we recall some of the sorrows and heartaches that we experienced.

However, we are comforted and strengthened in the knowledge that our heavenly Father has never forgotten us!

SUSTAINING GRACE AND COMFORT

Surely, many of us have been supported through varied situations of disappointment, distress and even tragedy, whether in our personal lives or in the lives of our families, our relatives, friends and others around us. In the loss of loved ones and friends, when grief and heartache seemed more than we could bear, God's sustaining grace and comfort were ever present.

It behooves us to endeavor to muster up a little more courage and to redouble our efforts in pursuing the tasks that await us in the New Year. As individuals and as a Church, we want to look forward with cheerful hearts and hopeful anticipation. May we diligently resist any thought that might tend to discourage us because of any past mistake or failure. Rather, let our attitude be such as to alert us to an increasing and continuing vigilance, watchfulness and prayerfulness. May we also look up to God, humbly and repentantly, seeking His pardon-grace for our shortcomings.

RENEWING OUR GRATITUDE

Additionally, let us renew our gratitude to our Heavenly Father for His guidance, strength and support that enabled us to successfully achieve some of our goals and to fulfill, in some degree, our duties and obligations to God.

With the dawn of a New Year, let us take new courage. Let us look forward with new hope and anticipation. Let us continue to put our trust in God.

How many wonderful times God has helped us in our time of need! Thank you, Lord. We are reminded here of the opening lines of Isaac Watts' grand hymn:

*O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.*

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock

The Boy Jesus

Dear Boys and Girls,

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

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

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

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

The *Bible*, in Matthew 13:55 tells us that Jesus had sisters, and that His brothers were named Joses, James, Simon and Judas. Counting Jesus, there were at least seven children in His fami-

ly. It's not always easy being the oldest. We can imagine there was a lot of responsibility on the shoulders of the oldest child, the boy Jesus.

We do know that at the age of twelve, Jesus was allowed to go with His parents to celebrate the feast of the Passover at the great temple. When it was time to leave, His parents traveled a day towards home thinking that Jesus was also walking somewhere nearby with their relatives or friends. When they found Him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem very upset. They were amazed to find Him sitting in the middle of the great men listening to them and asking them questions about God. His mother asked him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have looked for you sorrowing." Jesus said unto them, "How is it that you sought me? Don't you know that I must be about my Father's (God's) business?"

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

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

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

Living Creature: WHO AM I?

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

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

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

Branch and

Lakeside, AZ

By Bonnie Smith, Branch Editor

Through the inspiration of God and the teachings of our elder brothers, many have found ourselves involved in working among God's chosen people—the purpose of the Restoration.

This is how the mission began at Whiteriver, Arizona among the White Mountain Apache Indians. The Lord has placed such a strong feeling of the Restoration in our lives that we have found an overwhelming desire to share His Gospel with the Seed of Joseph. The hymn, *Zion's Border Line*, captures the feeling as it states, "What is that haunting melody? Its beauty never sets me free; when I would faint, it prods me on, the music of a brighter dawn."

Throughout the history of the Church we find experiences charging us with the responsibility and prodding the Church to proceed with the restoration of the Gospel to Israel. We also have found stories of discouragement and defeat, at which Satan rejoices with glee. I dare say that disappointment has been a part of everyones life at one time or another. However, with the strength of the Lord and His complete purpose as our inspiration, what chance does Satan have? Eventually God's work will be victorious. It is then only our individual decisions that will either make us a part of the glorious work of the Restoration or exclude us.

We continue to put our hope and trust in God that His work will be accomplished, and we receive much strength through the prayers and efforts of the saints everywhere. Your kind words of encouragement are sincerely appreciated. The true spirit of the Restoration will carry us in this work. May God add His blessings to each and every one.

Sterling, MI

By Hazel Zoltek

Sunday, September 4, Lisa Champine was baptized by Brother Sam DiFalco. Sister Lisa called for her baptism at the World Missionary Conference but because her parents, Sister Angela and

lission News

Brother Claude, were not there she waited until she arrived home so they could attend.

Brother Greg Vitto was baptized at the Conference on August 25 by his father, Brother Louis, and was confirmed by Brother Ralph Frammolino. The Sterling Branch held a special night meeting in honor of these young people, including three other new converts, Sister Tracey Francione and Brother Andrew Parravano who were baptized at Conference, and Sister Patty Collison of the Windsor Branch who was baptized today. All these young people are attending high school, and it is going to be very difficult for them. They will need the saints to pray for them.

Prayer was offered by Brother Peter Scolaro, and we sang *Ready* as all the elders knelt around Sister Lisa. Brother Bob Stanek led in prayer. She was confirmed by Brother John Buffa. Brother Carl Frammolino and Brother Louis Vitto served sacrament to the newly baptized.

Brother Carl Frammolino told of the many converts throughout the country and said God has much power and there is so much for us to be grateful for. The Gospel has already been preached in many lands. It is so beautiful to look upon these young people. They will need much wisdom. Brother Carl asked that we all kneel, and he said a special prayer that other souls may have the desire to serve God.

Sister Tracey played the piano and sang a song she had written. The five young people then gave their testimony. Brother Greg said he had made the greatest choice of his life, and he felt so good that he advised those that hadn't yet committed themselves to try it; it is great. Sister Lisa related that it had been a long two weeks since she first asked for her baptism until it became a reality today. Brother Andrew thanked God that he had been brought up in the Church and his desire is to go forward. Sister Tracey told of the great feeling she receives when she walks into the church knowing that she now belongs. Sister Patty told of the spirit being so strong upon her that she asked God that if it was her time to be baptized that she would break down and cry. This did happen. Now they all belong to Jesus.

Brother Sam DiFalco said as he looked at the elders on the rostrum, there was something he could remember about each of them, especially Brother Tony Scolaro. Brother Tony baptized Brother Sam. He never thought the day would come that he too would be performing a baptism.

Sister Gail Vivian and Sister Sally Dubreuil gave their testimonies, both having had a dream relating to Sister Lisa's baptism.

We sang *Heaven Came Down and Glory Filled My Soul*, and it was dedicated to the five new converts. We were dismissed by Brother Eugene Amormino. We then proceeded to the basement for refreshments and fellowship.

Sunday, September 18, God's Holy Spirit once again reigned supreme in the Sterling Branch. There was a representation of the two kinds of birth: the natural birth, as the infant son of Gloria and Delbert Rau, Anthony Joseph, was blessed by Brother Louis Vitto, and the spiritual birth, as Louise Dougard asked for her baptism.

Sister Diane Hawkins sang *God's Touch* and dedicated it to her new cousin. Brother John Buffa offered prayer, and Brother Lou Vitto continued with the service. He said that we cannot thank God enough for what He has done for us. It seems we are continuously asking Him for something. We sometimes take Him for granted because we know He is always there. Unless we become as a little child, likened unto the infant that was blessed today, we cannot inherit the kingdom of God. A little child has no sin. Jesus took upon Himself the sins of the world. He blessed the children; He did not baptize them. It is we, as parents, that are accountable.

Brother Lou read from St. Mark 10:17-21. It was a tremendous task for the rich man to sell everything he owned and follow Jesus. He turned away. Let us not do this; let us exalt him. He gave us a free choice—we can have eternal life or be eternally damned. Through His blood He made us free. He won the victory on the cross when He said, "It is finished." It takes a spirit of humility to choose Him for our Lord and Savior. The world has nothing to offer us. Nothing can surpass the beauty of this Gospel.

At this point, Louise, a friend of the Soave family, stood and asked for her baptism. Brother Lou implored others to follow her example that they might proclaim the war to be over. You can be free from sin.

Brother John Buffa said God's work must go forth. Just as the potter molds the clay, so God molds our life if we allow Him. We are all clay in the hands of the Omnipotent One. Where will you spend eternity, with God or with the adversary? Baptism is the doorway to salvation.

Brother Sam thanked God for His presence here today, and he talked of the miracle of the birth of a child. We sang *Just As I Am* and were dismissed by Brother Sam. He asked that we not leave until the elders talked to the new candidate. After a few minutes, they advised us that the baptism would be performed. It was questionable as to whether she had enough knowledge of the Church, but she had been attending Branch 1 for some time and through her association with the Soave family, she had come to know much about the Church.

Our new sister was baptized by Brother Louis Vitto. At the night service, we sang many beautiful songs of praise. Brother Carl Frammolino offered prayer. Brother Sam read from the book of Moroni about the laying on of hands for reception of the Holy Ghost. The elders knelt around Sister Louise and Brother Lou gave his gratitude to God for another soul having come to Jesus. She was then confirmed by Brother Sam DiFalco. Brother John Buffa administered sacrament to her. She then gave her testimony. She said she first came to this Church seven years ago, and she knew then that she wanted to become a part of it. She had a dream on Wednesday night that Sister Mary Jane Soave told her to go get her *Bible* and Sister Angela told her to wait by the water. She could hardly wait for Sunday to ask for her baptism. She told of being anointed at Branch 1 last winter, and one of the sisters saw a pair of hands over her head. She later told this writer that as she lay on her bed that night, she observed a pinpoint of light near the ceiling and it became brighter and brighter and these words came to her mind: "Patience is a virtue." She said these were words she had never spoken, and she knew they came from God.

(Continued on Page 8)

STERLING continued . . .

Brother Carl said they felt at Branch 4 today that there would be a baptism, and they were waiting for the call. They had discussed it in their Sunday School class and one of the sisters said we should sing the song, *Come to the Savior*, more often. He said Brother Frank Vitto had offered a special prayer at his Branch today, asking God for a baptism. He felt this was an answer to his prayer, along with Sister Angela's, as she had testified that she had prayed for our new sister, Louise, repeatedly, and she would not be satisfied until all the others on her list had given their heart to God.

A few weeks ago, our Sister Mary Jane Soave asked that the elders lay hands on her that she might be used by God. This was also an answer to her prayer.

Brother Carl and Brother Lou sang *How Long Has It Been*. We sang *Lovest Thou Me* and were dismissed by Brother John Buffa.

We then proceeded to the basement for refreshments and further fellowship.

McKees Rocks, PA

On Sunday, September 26, 1983, we were privileged to have two Apostles of the Church with us in McKees Rocks: Brother Bob Watson and Brother Joe Bittinger. The members of the Fredonia, Pennsylvania Branch met with us for this occasion.

Brother Joe opened the meeting in prayer, asking God to bless us during the meeting. The McKees Rocks Quintet followed by singing, appropriately, *Come Holy Spirit*.

Brother Bob then spoke, mentioning first about the things of God always being current; God's workings never fade into insignificance. We, as a people, should find comfort in this and also in the fact that we're all drawing from the same point of reference—God.

Brother Bob also spoke of perseverance, relating experiences both from the *Bible* and personal life, where perseverance in prayer has worked in obtaining our needs. God has **promised** to answer us; therefore, we should continue to pray if God doesn't answer us

the first time we come to Him. We should also continue in perseverance to obtain our ultimate goal—eternal life.

Brother Joe Bittinger followed, continuing on the subject of perseverance and how fortunate and blessed we are to have God to rely on. We're given the hope of eternal life, which is our ultimate goal. We should persevere and continue to pray to this end.

Brother Art Gehly of Fredonia followed, stating that we as individuals will receive more of God's blessings if we give more and of the hope and joy God brings into our lives.

After a session of testimony, we had a buffet lunch which was enjoyed by all.

We all agreed that it was a day well spent in God's service.

Erie, PA

By Ruth Gehly, Editor

Nothing can compare to the Spirit of God as it burns within a soul to cleanse and purify it for a greater work. "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." And for those who allow, the Lord designs each soul as a special member within the body of the Church. "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." (Ephesians 4:11-12) Although our cluster is small in this portion of the Lord's vineyard, the Branch of Erie is growing in other ways. The Lord has allowed His Spirit to burn within us and two more have been called unto greater works: Brother George Kovacic as an elder and Brother Stacey Light as a teacher. Truly their ministries will be of one accord and with a single eye in striving to be what the Lord has created and designed them to be.

The weekend of their ordinations (September 3-4), Erie was especially blessed in hosting the Ohio District Fast and Prayer Meeting and Brother Livingston from India. Brothers and sisters gathered in from Fredonia, Lorain, Niles, Warren, Youngstown, Imperial, Rochester, Cleveland, and India. Words cannot express the love and unity felt as we fasted and prayed together and shared the work being done in India.

Our Brother Russ Martorana read to us before our Fast and Prayer Service from Alma 34. Yes, we should fast and pray and cry unto the Lord. Why? That we might be cleansed and purified! Our brothers spoke many encouraging words to us throughout the day, while the evening was given to Brother Livingston. Such love, such humility—truly the Lord blessed him as he related experiences of how the Lord had protected him throughout the many trials and problems of his country. Yet now he preaches and teaches the Word of God in a land where Jesus Christ is not even recognized as the Saviour of the world. Truly, through his speaking, it was confirmed that the message of faith, hope, and charity abounds worldwide.

The Spirit of God continued to prevail as Brother Russell Cadman opened the Sunday morning meeting in exhortation on the foundation and history of the Priesthood and its authority. Brother Dom Bucci reflected upon the Restoration and the joy received as we sit under the sound of our brothers ordained into the Priesthood. Brother Paul Ciotti continued by likening our brothers about to be ordained to Joshua of old. With their desire, determination, and dedication focused with a single eye upon the Lord, they too will carry the good report and aid in the journey across the borderlines of Zion.

Brother Wayne Martorana washed Brother Stacey's feet, and he was ordained by Brother Joe Calabrese. Brother Del Lockwood washed Brother George's feet, and he was ordained by Brother Dom Bucci. We were all deeply touched by the beautiful prayers poured out in their behalf.

So much more could be said, for the Lord manifested Himself unto us not only in word but in vision. His Spirit lifted us to that higher plane. The challenge and responsibilities of service have been clearly defined and as we are reminded, the pathway is very straight and narrow. Our prayer for all the brothers called to labor and minister for God is that their lives will continually be sanctified in the purity and wisdom of the Lord for "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."

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Psalm 27:1

Detroit, Branch 2

Since the *Bible* is a best selling book, one would conclude that people are well aware of God's laws. However, simple research into the lives of the human family will indicate that they understand very little about the Ten Commandments and even less about the rest of the *Bible*. In this era of time, perhaps more than at any other point in history, it is critically important that some accept the responsibility to teach others about the laws of God.

On Sunday, September 18, 1983, Brothers Joe Vargo, Joe Cotellesse, and Emil Lambert accepted the responsibility to work for the Lord as teachers of his law.

Brother Leonard Lovalvo introduced the morning meeting, speaking on the Prophet Isaiah. In a vision the prophet saw a seraphim leave the throne of God and touch Isaiah's lips with a coal of fire, cleansing him of his iniquity. Isaiah also heard the voice of the Lord say, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me."

Brother Leonard remarked that the Prophet Isaiah was willing to accept the responsibility to work for the Lord just as our young brothers who were called as teachers are willing to work for the Lord.

In the afternoon service, there were many visitors from other Branches in the Michigan-Ontario District. Brother Alex Gentile spoke on the role of a teacher. He said that a teacher must learn to listen, and the first person a teacher must listen to is God. Brother Alex reminded all of us that it was also our responsibility to support and pray for our brothers so that they can be effective in their office.

The ordinations then took place as follows:

Brother Joe Vargo's feet were washed by Brother Jim Cotellesse, and he was ordained by Brother Reno Bologna.

Brother Emil Lambert's feet were washed by Brother Jan Veltman, and he was ordained by Brother Peter Scolaro.

Brother Joe Cotellesse's feet were washed by Brother John Straccia, and he was ordained by Brother Dan Parravano.

There was a beautiful spirit felt in all

the prayers that were offered in these ordinations. Sister Clara Gentile testified that as Brother Dominic Moraco offered a special prayer before the ordinations, she saw a tongue of fire encircle the elders.

We all left the meeting feeling sure that the Lord would bless our brothers in their calling and all of us, as well, who are striving to serve Him to the best of our ability.

Tampa, FL

By Pearl Zinzi

On Saturday, November 19, 1983 the Tampa Branch hosted the Area MBA Singspiration. Sixty-three (63) members from Lake Worth, Fort Pierce, Miami, Hollywood, Cape Coral and Quincy and Sister Judy Andrasik and her son Larry from Aliquippa, Pennsylvania and her sister, Helen, were all present at this Singspiration, plus a Seminar on "Love", which is the common ground. The classes and teachers were as follows: Sister Rose Risola, ages 3-9; Sister Florence Perri, ages 10-13; Brother John D'Orazio, ages 13-17; and Brother Sam Risola, Jr., adults.

Our meeting was opened by Brother Jim Miller, President of the Area MBA. We sang *He Did It All For Me*, and were led in prayer by Brother Dennis Moraca. The meeting was turned over to the teachers of the different classes.

Brother Sam Risola, Jr. then requested Brother Nick Zinzi to read a poem on the meanings of "Love", after which Brother Sam then asked questions and read many pieces of scripture relating to "Love" from the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon*, but the greatest "Love" is the "Love" that Christ gave to all of us is the bond that all of us have in common. We closed this part of the meeting by singing *We're Marching to Zion*, with closing prayer by Brother Alvin Swanson.

Brother Jim Miller then called upon each of the Locals to sing hymns for the Singspiration part of the meeting. All Locals sang for the enjoyment of all present, but the highlight of the singing was little Anthony Moraca when he sang, with the help of Brother John D'Orazio, *Sing Hallelujah*.

We then welcomed all to enjoy the

four C's, Christ, Conversation, Coffee and Cake in our fellowship room.

On Sunday, the next day, we met for the Spiritual food. Present were eleven (11) elders, including our Apostle Joseph Bittinger, who was in charge of the meeting. Brother John D'Orazio read from Matthew 16:24 which says though we gain the whole world and lose our souls we have gained nothing. We must deny ourselves in order to receive the greater things from God. The theme of "Love" was followed by Brother Frank Rogolino and continued by Brothers Sam Costarella, Eugene Perri, Jr., Tony Ensana, Sam Risola, Sr. and Billy Tucker.

Many hymns were sung in between the different speakers. Sacrament was then served with the singing of *Break Thou the Bread of Life* and *Nearer My God to Thee*. Brother Alvin Swanson spoke a few words thanking all the brothers and sisters for their prayers, cards and telephone calls for his health. He was a blessing to all of us just by being at this meeting. He then closed the meeting with a beautiful prayer.

My Daily Prayer

*Dear God, as I begin this day,
Let me turn my thoughts to You,
And ask Your help in guiding me
In everything I say and do.
Give me the patience that I need
To keep my peace of mind.
And with life's cares, I hope Dear God,
Some happiness to find.
Let me live but for Today,
Not worrying what's ahead.
For I have trust that You will see
I get my "Daily Bread".
Give me Courage to face life's trials
And not from troubles run,
Let me keep this thought in mind,
"Thy Will", not "Mine", be done.
And if some wish I do not get,
Though I have prayed to Thee,
Help me to believe and understand
You know what's best for me.
I've failed You many times, I know,
But when tonight I rest
I hope that I can kneel and say,
"Dear God, I've tried my best."*

Helen Smith

Niles, OH

By Ron Genaro

On Sunday, November 27, saints con-